



WFP Nepal Country Brief July 2023

World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

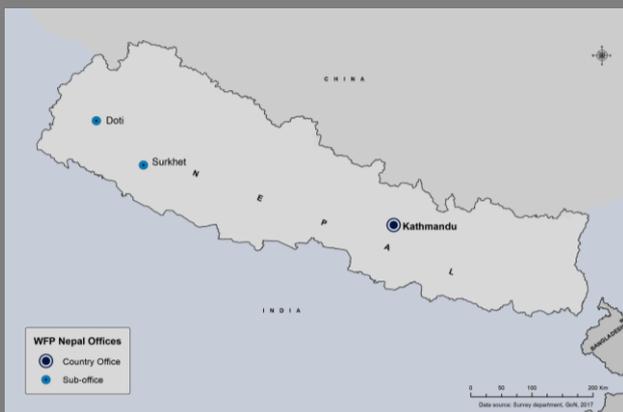


Operational Context

Nepal promulgated its new constitution restructuring the country as a federal democratic republic, creating an excellent opportunity to achieve economic growth, reduce poverty, and pursue the 2030 Agenda. With COVID-19 all but declared an endemic, Nepal has started its economic and social recovery from the secondary impacts of the pandemic. While there was strong economic growth in FY22, this appears to have slowed down in the first quarter of FY23, reflecting higher international prices and continuation of import restrictions.

Following the federal elections in November 2022, former Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal, also known as *Prachanda*, was once again appointed in late December 2022 for the third time. As part of the deal reached with a coalition party, Prime Minister Dahal will head the new government until 2025.

WFP has been operating in Nepal since 1963, supporting the Government to achieve greater food security and nutrition among vulnerable communities and respond to disasters while also building resilience.



Population: 29.1 million (2022)

2022 Human Development Index: 143 out of 191 countries

Income Level: Least developed

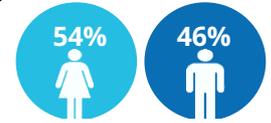
Chronic malnutrition: 25% of children between 6-59 months

In Numbers

395 mt of food distributed

US\$ 1.69 million net funding requirements (August 2023 – December 2023)

184,467 people assisted in July 2023



Operational Updates

- WFP Report "[An Assessment of the Impact of the Global Crisis and Other Shocks on Household Food Security in Nepal](#)", released in July 2023, showed food insecurity decreased in April 2023, with approximately 4.26 million people (14.6 percent) in Nepal not consuming an adequate diet - a 2.2 percent decrease compared to October 2022 and a 1.4 percent increase compared to June 2022. WFP also released its June [monthly Market Update](#), where most retail prices showed an upward trend compared to previous months.
- The **national standard for fortified rice** was published in the Nepal Gazette this month. Rice fortification – the process of enhancing the minerals and vitamins' content of rice – is a cost-effective, life-changing strategy towards achieving a nutritious diet and help curb micronutrient deficiencies. The drafting of this standard was initiated in 2019 under the leadership of the Department Food Technology and Quality Control. It was endorsed by the Food Standard Fixation Committee of the Government of Nepal in September 2022 and notified to the World Trade Organization in January 2023. The final Cabinet approval was received in July 2023. This achievement will allow both public and private sectors to begin production and sales of fortified rice in the country.
- Under the **Local Infrastructure Support Programme (LISP)**, the construction of 89 climate resilience infrastructure has been completed. Through this, a total of 159,000 employment days have been created for 4,532 households. Infrastructure schemes included but were not limited to micro-hydropower rehabilitation, small irrigation, slope and rural road improvement, and water supply systems.
- Social and Behaviour Change Communication (SBCC) under the **mother and child health and nutrition programme** continued this month in both Madesh and Koshi provinces, with the aim of improving the knowledge and practices of mothers and caretakers in maternal, infant, and young child feeding. SBCC activities included interpersonal counselling, Health Mother Groups, and support to the Local Governments to roll out public awareness campaign on nutrition, health, and WASH through mass media.
- WFP Nepal's **informal consultation with the Executive Board** members for the new Country Strategic Plan 2024-2028 was completed in July, a key milestone ahead of its approval in November 2023.

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Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)

| Total Requirement (in US\$) | Allocated Contributions (in US\$) | August 2023 – Dec 2023 Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| 169.92 m | 121.88 m | 1.69 m |

Strategic Result 1: Access to food

Strategic Outcome 1: Affected populations in Nepal have timely access to adequate food and nutrition during and in the aftermath of natural disasters and other shocks.

Activities:

- Provide food assistance to targeted and shock-affected people, including food and cash-based transfers (CBTs) and specialized nutritious foods and related services for the treatment and prevention of malnutrition in children aged 6-59 months and pregnant and lactating women and girls.

Strategic Result 2: End Malnutrition

Strategic Outcome 2: Food-insecure people in targeted areas have improved nutrition throughout the key stages of their lives by 2025.

Activities:

- Support the strengthening of national nutrition-sensitive, gender-responsive social safety nets for vulnerable populations and provide specialized nutritious foods, technical assistance, logistics and social behaviour change communication for the prevention of malnutrition.
- Provide gender-transformative and nutrition-sensitive school meals and health packages in chronically food-insecure areas and strengthen the Government's capacity to integrate the national school meals programme into the national social protection framework.
- Provide technical support to the Government for the development of a rice-fortification policy framework and supply chain system for use in social safety nets.

Strategic Result 4: Sustainable Food Systems

Strategic Outcome 3: Vulnerable communities in remote food-insecure areas have improved food security and resilience to climate and other shocks by 2030.

Activities:

- Develop and improve risk-resilient infrastructure and strengthen local capacity to identify climate risks and implement adaptive strategies.

Strategic Result 5: Nepal has Strengthened Capacity to Implement the SDGs

Strategic Outcome 4: The Government has strengthened capabilities to provide essential food security and nutrition services and respond to crises by 2023.

Activities:

- Strengthen preparedness capacity, establish emergency logistics and institutional platforms, and improve access to food reserves to enable government and humanitarian partners to respond rapidly to crises.
- Provide technical assistance to enable the Government to strengthen the food security monitoring, analysis and early-warning system and align it with the federal governance system.

Strategic Result 6: Nepal has enhanced policy coherence on FSN

Strategic Outcome 5: Government efforts towards achieving zero hunger by 2030 are supported by inclusive and coherent policy frameworks across all spheres of government by 2023.

Activities:

- Provide technical assistance and support evidence generation for government and multisector partners to enhance rights-based food security and nutrition plans, policies, regulatory frameworks, and service delivery.

Strategic Result 8: Enhance Global Partnerships

Strategic Outcome 6: Humanitarian and development partners have access to reliable common services by the end of 2023.

Activities:

- Provide on-demand service provision to all stakeholders in the country to support effective humanitarian response.
- Provide on-demand cash-based transfer management support to all humanitarian and development partners to enable them to provide efficient cash transfer services to the affected population to meet their essential needs.

- Under WFP's **emergency preparedness and response** (EPR) activity, the surface asphalt and Reinforced Cement Concrete (RCC) work at Bhairahawa Provincial Humanitarian Staging Area (HSA) has been completed. The upgrade will ensure good traction for vehicles and machinery, which is crucial for preventing accidents and ensuring the safe movement of people and vehicles within the HSA and preventing water from seeping into the ground and causing erosion or structural damage.

Story of the Month: UN Food Systems Stocktaking Moment



A high-level delegation from the Government of Nepal, led by the Right Honourable Prime Minister, attended the UN Food Systems Stocktaking Moment in Rome from 24-26 July 2023 and shared Nepal's progress and experiences in food systems' transformation actions under the constitutional provision of the Right to Food and Food Sovereignty Act (RtF Act).

The Prime Minister addressed the Official Opening Ceremony of the event as the chair of the Least Developed Countries (LDC) and delivered opening remarks at the School Meals Coalition session. In his speech, he emphasized the crucial role of the School Meals Programme in Nepal, highlighting its positive impact on students' health, academic performance, and overall well-being, and acting as a catalyst for positive change in food systems. He emphasized that the programme has successfully integrated agriculture, education, food security, nutrition, health, and sanitation, resulting in direct benefits for around 3.3 million children across the country, including girls.

Nepal's Food Systems Transformation Strategic Plan (2022-2023) was also highlighted by the Prime Minister as a key tool to streamline the food systems actions with the SDGs and transform Nepal's food system to a more equitable, resilient, and sustainable one under the legal framework of RtF Act.

Donors

Adaptation Fund, Australia, Canada, China, ECHO, France, Germany, Ireland, Japan, Joint SDG Fund, Nepal, Norway, United Kingdom, United Nations, Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), United States of America, World Bank, and private donors.