



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP Nepal Country Brief August 2023



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**

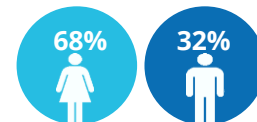
Chronic malnutrition: **25% of children between 6-59 months**

In Numbers

70.5 mt of food distributed

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

28,890 people assisted in
August 2023



Operational Updates

- WFP continued to implement capacity strengthening activities under the **Women in Value Chain** (Phase 2) project. This included seven training sessions to women farmers and teachers on various topics including nutrition, 19 orientations on water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and nutrition activities, and gender equality and social inclusion. Through this project, WFP aims to improve the resilience of smallholder farmers to climate change, natural hazards, price volatility and other shocks.
- To build capacity of **female community health volunteers (FCHV)** under WFP's nutrition activity, a total of 110 cooking demonstrations were conducted in three districts – Jhapa, Morang and Sunsari. The demonstrations used a recipe book developed by WFP which incorporates locally available, nutritious food that can be prepared at the household level. Equipped with these skills, FCHV will then deliver cooking demonstrations at the community level to expand on the knowledge of nutrition food among targeted communities.
- Under the **mother and child health and nutrition (MCHN)** programme, WFP distributed 68.3 mt of specialised nutritious food to 22,760 beneficiaries in 134 health facilities in Karnali Province. The MCHN programme focuses on the treatment and prevention of malnutrition among pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls and children aged 6-23 months through the provision of nutritious food and nutrition education.
- Under the **Local Infrastructure Support Programme (LISP)**, WFP's continued advocacy resulted in the allocation of some US\$3 million by local governments for the construction/rehabilitation of around 400 community schemes. Of this, 144 schemes will be co-financed by the LISP through an additional allocation of US\$3.4 million. Once completed, the LISP will improve the ability of local governments to create green recovery jobs to stimulate their economies and build climate resilience.
- WFP released its [July market update](#). Key findings included a marginal increase or relatively stable prices of the most essential commodities compared to June 2023. On average, the overall cost of a standard WFP food basket was 19 percent higher in July 2023 than in April 2022.

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Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)

| Total Requirement (in US\$) | Allocated Contributions (in US\$) | Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 169.92 m | 124.02 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 the **emergency preparedness and response** (EPR) activity, WFP successfully delivered a four-day Operational Emergency Logistics Training for 24 participants (21 percent women) from various government and humanitarian agencies. As the leading agency in humanitarian logistics, WFP's objective is to help prepare skilled staff from various agencies and organizations to make rapid, informed decisions at the onset of an emergency.

Nepal's school meals score a goal against hunger



WFP Programme Officer Akira Kaneko (L) faces stiff competition from these primary school children at Shree Kakani Ganesh Primary School, in central Nepal. Photo: WFP/Srawan Shrestha

The Government of Nepal has largely taken over the WFP-supported school meals programme that delivers payoffs for children, women farmers and entire communities.

A tattered football sails off the field at Shree Kakani Ganesh Primary School, in the central Nepalese village of Kakani. The game pauses, as 12-year-old team captain Ravi stops and strains his ears. The school bell is ringing, signalling the end of the gym class and summoning the players to lunch.

Here, in one of Asia's poorest countries, children like Ravi and his fellow students often walk for hours to get to school or miss it entirely. With more than one-fourth of Nepal's children under 5 suffering from malnutrition – which can leave lasting effects when they get older – WFP-supported school meals can be a game changer.

School meals are also part of a broader effort to give young school children a healthy start. Under WFP's Home-Grown School Feeding initiative, supported by partners like Japan and the United States, raw ingredients for the lunches at Ganesh primary are sourced from local smallholder farmers, who make up two-thirds of Nepal's workforce.

Full story is available [here](#).

Donors

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