COUNTRY STRATEGY

WFP has been working in Nepal since 1963 in response to frequent natural disasters, low agricultural productivity and slow economic growth. Fifteen percent of the country’s 26.5 million population remains undernourished, while school drop-out rates are as high as 30 percent. Within the Zero Hunger Challenge framework, WFP Nepal supports the Government of Nepal in strengthening the resilience of the most vulnerable communities by building long-term human capital and productive assets. While the 5-year Country Programme (CP) focuses on building social safety nets in nutrition, education and resilience for up to 492,909 people, WFP also continued to support 30,000 Bhutanese refugees (in 2014) living in eastern Nepal with food assistance through a Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO). WFP also assisted 80,000 people displaced by monsoon floods and landslides in 2014 through an Immediate Response Emergency Operation (IR-EMOP) in four mid-western districts. The operation was followed by an Emergency Operation (EMOP) that continued to assist up to 168,511 people in 2014. Additionally, WFP works to enhance the Government’s capacity to formulate and implement policies on food security, nutrition, education and emergency preparedness at the local, regional and central levels.

OPERATIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Duration</th>
<th>Planned number of people</th>
<th>Total requirements (in USD)</th>
<th>Total received (in USD)</th>
<th>Total Funded (%)</th>
<th>6 Months Net Funding Requirements (in USD)*</th>
<th>Top 5 Donors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan 13 - Dec 17</td>
<td>488,000</td>
<td>216,275,282</td>
<td>51,310,341</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>17,797,121</td>
<td>USA, Korea, Canada, Private donor and Nepal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 11 – Dec 14</td>
<td>70,000</td>
<td>30.2 mill</td>
<td>25.1 mill</td>
<td>83%</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>USA, European Commission, Australia, Canada and UN CERF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sep 14 - Mar 15</td>
<td>132,000</td>
<td>4,137,666</td>
<td>2,631,282</td>
<td>64%</td>
<td>1,475,049</td>
<td>UN CERF, USA, Japan and UK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 14 - Nov 14</td>
<td>40,000</td>
<td>468,131.00</td>
<td>468,131.00</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>USA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*RBB operational needs as at 17 March **February-July 2015

Summary of WFP assistance:

In 2014, WFP Nepal aimed to provide food assistance to 492,909 food-insecure people through Nutrition Support, Education Support, and Food Assistance for Assets (FFA) activities as a part of its CP, contributing to the WFP Strategic Objectives 3 and 4. Under the McGovern Dole funded Education Support component, WFP also enhanced the quality of primary education using information and communication technology (ICT) based teaching and learning methods, water and sanitation (WASH) projects in schools and supporting the capacity development of government staff. Food assistance to refugees from Bhutan (PRRO), ongoing since 1992, served about 30,000 people in 2014. An ongoing EMOP in its first phase, reached 168,511 flood and landslide affected people with General Food Distribution (GFD) in the Mid-Western and Far-Western Development Regions contribute to Strategic Objectives 1 and 2.

Three additional programmes, funded through trust funds, complement the WFP assistance. The Nepal Food Security Monitoring System (NeKsAP) monitors the food and nutrition security situation across 72 out of 75 districts of Nepal through District Food Security Networks (DFSNs). The Emergency Preparedness and Response (EPR) programme focuses on developing and implementing emergency preparedness and response plans in the area of logistics, telecommunications and food security. Finally, WFP participates in a study on low birthweight in South Asia under a trust fund project, together with the implementing partner, Mother and Infant Research Activities.
OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

**ACHIEVEMENTS**

- The first phase of the EMOP was completed in mid-December 2014, reaching 168,311 beneficiaries through GFD. A conditional cash transfer programme under FFA for 35 days started in February 2015.
- New PRRO (2015–17) has been approved. Negotiations are ongoing to secure funds; funding proposals have been submitted to ECHO and USAID.
- Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition (IMAM) guideline passed through the Child Health Division and now awaits approval from the Ministry of Health.
- The Nepal Food Security Monitoring System (NeKsAP) facilitated through WFP Vulnerability Assessment and Mapping (VAM) has disseminated the report on a Small Area Estimation of Food Insecurity and Under-nutrition in Nepal among government and development partners, donors and civil society.
- Under Emergency Preparedness Response, about 70 percent of construction work of the Humanitarian Staging Area at Tribhuvan International Airport has been completed. The preparatory work at a second site has started, while the site for a third one has been secured.

**ISSUES/CHALLENGES**

- Sequence of pipeline breaks are expected for the refugee operations as the current funding runs out from May 2015 onwards for different commodities. Also, as the quotas for third-country2 refugee resettlement are beginning to get saturated, the process has slowed down, creating some anxiety among the refugees.
- WFP is unable to expand MCHN to six districts due to the funding shortfall; even the three districts where the operations are ongoing can only stop from March 2015.
- With only USD 4.2 million available of the required USD 27 million, the FFA activities under the CP are adversely impacted. About 53,000 households cannot have access to employment opportunities as the programme is scaled down from 10 to 7 districts due to lack of funding. Even the 22,000 employed households are only able to receive 15 days of FFA instead of the planned 60 days.
- In anticipation of a possible large earthquake striking near the Kathmandu Valley, WFP is working together with the Government to develop response capacity and establish three Humanitarian Staging Areas, to serve as humanitarian entry points. However, for this three-year project, funds have only been secured for the first year; an additional USD 5.6 million is required for a three-year period.

PARTNERSHIPS

WFP continues to work closely with key government partners, United Nations agencies, NGOs and other stakeholders for the successful implementation of its project activities. In this regard WFP partners with Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development to support communities by providing employment opportunities aimed at creating sustainable protective and productive assets which improve livelihoods and food security. Under the education component, the Department of Education, UNICEF, the Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS) and a local NGO partner with WFP to enhance the quality of primary education using ICT-based teaching and learning and WASH projects. Under the nutrition component, WFP partnered with local NGOs for implementation of nutrition programmes, and continues to build a strong partnership with the Department of Health Services. This is a major achievement in terms of building strong coordination with the Government.

In terms of disaster management and emergency response, WFP collaborated with government organizations to ensure availability of a sound mechanism to respond to a major earthquake in Kathmandu. The National Planning Commission and Ministry of Agriculture Development were key partners in the food security monitoring and analysis (NeKsAP) programme. Funded by the European Union, the project also implemented different activities in partnership with agencies across several sectors, including the Central Bureau of Statistics. Women’s Group also worked together to support the Bhutanese refugees in nutrition related interventions in the PRRO. WFP also continues to work with NGO partners to implement PRRO activities. During the EMOP, WFP worked with the Ministry of Home Affairs in identifying and registering flood- and landslide-affected people, and the NRCS supported WFP with food management, handling and distribution.

COUNTRY BACKGROUND

Nepal is a least developed country, ranking 145th out of 187 nations in the 2014 Human Development Index. Of Nepal’s 26.5 million population, 70 percent are engaged in agriculture for livelihoods and subsistence, and accounts for 36 percent of GDP. However, only 16 percent of Nepal’s total land area is arable and the country suffers from frequent natural disasters, low agricultural productivity and slow economic growth. The isolated geography and lack of basic infrastructure complicates efforts to improve livelihoods, transport food and establish functioning markets that are essential for ensuring food security. Average food prices in the mountain and hill regions are over 100 percent higher than in major consumer markets, especially those in the lowlands or Terai. This further contributes to food insecurity. In this context, out-migration and inward remittances are a significant source of livelihoods and household income.

Malnutrition is a serious concern in Nepal: 41 percent of children under five are stunted, 29 percent are underweight and 11 percent are wasted. The prevalence of stunting in the mountainous Mid- and Far-Western Development Regions is extreme, with rates above 60 percent. Poor dietary diversity and poor hygiene and sanitation among young children and pregnant and lactating women are significant factors contributing to this situation.

With regard to education, enrolment rates for primary school education in the Nepal stand at 96 percent, with a ratio of 99 girls for every 100 boys enrolled. Many schools however do not meet the prioritised minimum enabling conditions set by the Government. They also lack adequate numbers of trained teachers, affecting the quality of education. Additionally, retention of students remains a significant concern, since 30 percent of children drop out before completing the eighth grade, 21 percent repeat the first grade and 6 percent repeat the eighth grade.

In this context, WFP’s strategic direction in the country is aimed at preventing malnutrition and enabling year-round access to food, through supporting sustainable food systems for vulnerable communities and community groups. These include pregnant and breastfeeding women, young children, as well as school-going children. These programmes make a direct contribution towards the five pillars of the United Nations’ global initiative on achieving zero hunger worldwide.

The Government of Nepal expected to have its country’s constitution drafted by 22 January 2015, but the process was delayed. Critical issues such as food insecurity and malnutrition, which are addressed in the existing Multi-Sector Nutrition Plan and draft Agricultural Development Strategy, are some of the key priority areas that will be addressed through the new legislation.

http://www.wfp.org/countries/nepal