

Standard Project Report 2015

Reporting Period: 1 January - 31 December 2015

NEPAL

Country Programme Nepal (2013-2017)

Project Number	200319
Project Category	Country Programme

Project Approval Date	14 Nov 2012
Planned Start Date	01 Jan 2013
Actual Start Date	01 Jan 2013
Project End Date	31 Dec 2017
Financial Closure Date	n.a.

Approved budget as 31 December 2015 in USD	
Capacity Dev.t and Augmentation	6,037,251
Cash-based Transfer and Related Costs	22,786,504
Direct Support Costs	27,183,429
Food and Related Costs	146,119,248
Indirect Support Costs	14,148,850
Total Approved Budget	216,275,282

Commodities	Metric Tonnes
Total Approved Commodities	116,945
Planned Commodities in 2015	26,015
Actual Commodities in 2015	4,332

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Country Overview



COUNTRY BACKGROUND

Nepal is a least developed country, ranked 145 out of 187 nations on the 2015 Human Development Index. Twenty-five percent of the population (28.2 million) live on less than USD 1.25 a day and nearly 8 percent are undernourished. An unstable political context, low agricultural productivity and slow economic growth has hindered the country's development, while the country's geographical location on a tectonic fault line increases the risk of being struck by major earthquakes.

More than 70 percent of Nepal's population works in the agriculture sector, which accounts for a third of the gross domestic product. About 29 percent of Nepal's total land area is arable. Isolated geography and poor infrastructure complicate efforts to improve livelihoods, transport goods and services, and establish functioning markets that are essential for ensuring food security. In this context, remittances from out-migration are a significant source of household income, and account for more than 25 percent of the gross domestic product (GDP).

Undernutrition is a serious concern: 37 percent of children under the age of five years are stunted, 30 percent are underweight, and 11 percent are wasted. The prevalence of stunting in mountainous districts is extreme, reaching up to 58 percent. Poor dietary diversity and poor hygiene and sanitation contribute to this situation.

Enrolment rates for primary school education stand at 96 percent, with 99 girls for every 100 boys enrolled. Many schools lack adequate numbers of trained teachers and do not meet minimum enabling conditions set by the government, affecting the quality of education. Around 5 percent of children drop out before completing eighth grade.

On 25 April 2015, a 7.8 magnitude earthquake struck Nepal, causing severe damage to infrastructures and livelihoods. This was followed by a 7.2 magnitude earthquake two weeks later. As a result of these earthquakes, 8,700 hundred people lost their lives, while 900,000 houses were fully or partially destroyed. It was estimated that 2.8 million people were affected and needed immediate humanitarian assistance. Fourteen districts, of the central and western development regions were the worst affected, accounting for 90 percent of the destruction.

Following eight years of deliberations, Nepal promulgated its new constitution in September 2015, leading to increased incidence of civil unrest, mainly in the Terai region along the Indo-Nepal border, as a result of opposition to the newly established federal border demarcations. Consequently, there has been a drastic reduction in cross-border trade with greatly reduced supplies of fuel, cooking gas and consumer goods coming into the country, contributing to rising market prices of essential commodities.

SUMMARY OF WFP ASSISTANCE

The earthquake in April caused almost 9,000 deaths and widespread damage to infrastructure. At the request of the Government of Nepal, WFP began three humanitarian operations; the emergency operation (EMOP) serving earthquake-affected populations with food and cash assistance; and two special operations to support the humanitarian response through the logistics cluster and common air services. Given the scale of the response, it was classified at severity Level Two requiring regional augmentation of capacity and resources. The humanitarian response was concentrated in 14 remote mountainous districts with access posing a major operational constraint due to the topography, poor road networks and frequency of landslides. Additionally, in 2015, WFP concluded an emergency operation started in 2014 to provide food assistance to flood-affected populations in Mid and Far Western Regions.

Working in Nepal since 1963, WFP also has an ongoing Country Programme (CP) and a Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO) serving Bhutanese refugees in Nepal. These operations aim to prevent undernutrition and enable year-round access to food for vulnerable groups, including pregnant and lactating women, and young children and directly contribute to four of the five pillars of the Zero Hunger Challenge. The CP (2013-2017) is implemented in the Far and Mid-Western development regions of Nepal, aligned with the United Nations Development Assistance Framework and the Country Programme Action Plan signed with the Ministry of Finance. There is also focus on social safety nets in nutrition, education and livelihoods.

Through the PRRO, WFP supports Bhutanese refugees in Nepal with food assistance. The project contributes to the support of the Government of Nepal and partners, such as the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR). In 2015 WFP, together with the Government of Nepal and UNHCR, put in place the foundation of a targeted, needs-based food distribution system which will increase efficiency and sustainability of relief to Bhutanese Refugees. It is planned to be initiated in January 2016.

WFP also works in partnership with UN Women, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) on a joint programme for Rural Women's Economic Empowerment (RWEE). WFP has worked together with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) to implement school-based water and sanitation activities and to develop a guideline for the Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition. Through the Adaptation Fund, starting in 2016, WFP will assist vulnerable households in the mountains to adapt to climate change through improved management of community assets for livelihoods.

WFP collaborates with the Ministry of Agricultural Development and the National Planning Commission to strengthen and institutionalise the nationwide Nepal Food Security Monitoring System (NeKSAP), enabling evidence-based decision making for food security policies and programmes. Additionally, WFP supports the Ministry of Home Affairs and other humanitarian partners in the Logistics and Emergency Telecommunication Cluster to augment their capacity to respond to a major earthquake in the Kathmandu Valley. This proved to be a vital example of preparedness when the earthquake struck in April 2015. Activities of the CP, PRRO and EMOP directly contribute to the Millennium Development Goals 1, 2 and 5.

Beneficiaries	Male	Female	Total
Number of children below 5 years of age	150,281	156,792	307,073
Number of children 5 to 18 years of age	484,893	498,402	983,295
Number of adults	579,661	616,415	1,196,076
Total number of beneficiaries in 2015	1,214,835	1,271,609	2,486,444
Total number of beneficiaries in 2014	257,455	267,498	524,953
Total number of beneficiaries in 2013	282,595	294,853	577,448

Distribution (mt)						
Project Type	Cereals	Oil	Pulses	Mix	Other	Total
Single Country PRRO	2,865	174	634	203	92	3,968
Single Country EMOP	15,147	393	1,565	366	6	17,476
Country Programme	1,052	258		2,801	221	4,332
Total food distributed in 2015	19,064	826	2,199	3,369	320	25,777
Total food distributed in 2014	8,842	686	791	4,071	619	15,009
Total food distributed in 2013	15,363	505	2,070	3,822	587	22,347

Operational SPR

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVES AND RELEVANCE

WFP supported the Government of Nepal to enhance the food and nutrition security of vulnerable communities and to increase resilience to disasters through the Country Programme (CP) 2013-2017. In line with the United Nations Development Assistance Framework for Nepal, and the government's Three-Year Development Plan 2013-2016, the CP was implemented through three components and contributed to WFP Strategic Objectives 3 and 4.

The Productive Assets and Livelihoods component contributed to improve household food security and resilience. It provided seasonal employment and livelihood training that enabled rehabilitation of rural roads, irrigation channels and other community assets and acted as a safety net for rural households with low income. Through these projects, people were assisted in applying available resources in their community in more sustainable ways.

The Education Support component aligned with the government's School Sector Reform Programme, intended to provide children with an education of better quality. WFP provided school meals to pre-primary and primary schoolchildren with the purpose of keeping children in school and encouraging more children to be enrolled, both girls and boys, and improving their attendance. WFP also built school infrastructure, rehabilitated kitchens, latrines, and water stations. WFP distributed non-food items, particularly energy-saving stoves, cooking utensils and school furniture among others in an effort to assist the government in developing child-friendly schools that attract more children to study in a better learning environment. WFP worked in partnership with the Food for Education Project (FFEP) under the Ministry of Education.

The Nutrition Component provided support to the Ministry of Health and Population to prevent chronic malnutrition among pregnant and lactating women (PLW) and children aged 6 to 23 months through the Mother and Child Health and Nutrition (MCHN) programme. The specialised nutritious food "Super Cereal" was given to PLW and children, complemented with key messages on health, nutrition and hygiene habits. WFP also planned to support the government to treat moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) in children aged 6 to 59 months, in partnership with UNICEF under the Integrated Management of Moderate Acute Malnutrition (IMAM) programme. In addition, WFP supported a study on low birth weight in two districts which was concluded in 2015.

Capacity Development was provided across the three components, to strengthen the government's ability to implement these and similar programmes. In particular, WFP provided technical assistance and supported the institutionalisation of a national monitoring system known as the Nepal Food Security Monitoring System (NeKSAP) into government structures at the national and sub-national level. A key WFP contribution to augment the government's logistics and telecommunications capabilities was the humanitarian staging area (HSA) constructed under the Emergency Preparedness and Response (EPR) project with resources provided through a Trust Fund, in the Tribhuvan International Airport. As envisaged, this proved to be an invaluable asset during the humanitarian emergency following the major earthquake in April 2015.

RESULTS

Beneficiaries, Targeting and Distribution

In 2015, significant resource constraints hampered WFP's efforts to support people with food distributions in the Rural Community Infrastructure Work (RCIW) project under the Productive Assets and Livelihoods component. However, the Samuael Zero Hunger Community (SZHC) project received timely resource contributions from the Korean International Development Agency (KOICA) and was able to fully assist the selected communities. For the RCIW, WFP had to further refine the selection of households and prioritised the most severely food-insecure populations within the seven districts of the mid and far-western regions of the country. Due to resource limitations, WFP had to reduce the number of workdays from 60 to 18 as well as the number of people selected for assistance from the initial 400,000 people to 130,000 in the selected districts. Consequently, the distribution of food was also not fully achieved.

A total of 21,350 households received either food assistance or cash transfers or a combination of food and cash together, for their participation in projects to create community assets such as irrigation canals, rural roads and community buildings. Thirty-six percent of the households were provided with cash transfers while 30 percent received a combination of food and cash. The remaining 34 percent were supported with food rations through the food assistance for assets (FFA) modality. Almost 80 percent of the cash transfers were implemented using the branchless banking system in partnership with private banks. In this approach, WFP's banking partners arranged the electronic transfer of funds to collection points where account holders could collect their entitlements upon swiping automated smart cards. The remaining 20 percent was done through a cash-in-hand medium. This is the second year that WFP implemented cash transfers through private service providers in a programme run by the government. The same bank accounts opened in the previous year were utilised in the 2015 transactions and each enrolled person was provided cash through the use of the smart card, giving them added flexibility to access their entitlements.

In the Education component, WFP assisted 272 Village Development Committees (VDC) in ten districts of the mid and far-western development regions. All the districts are characterised by high levels of chronic malnutrition, poverty and the lowest national school enrolment rates. In schools, WFP provided meals made of corn- soya blend, sugar and vegetable oil, cooked on site and served hot at lunchtime. Through the school feeding programme, WFP intended to encourage more children to be enrolled and improve girls' attendance. Although the Country Programme Strategy (2013-2017) proposed the coverage of schools from pre-primary up to eighth grade, the coverage was realigned to match the government's strategy of providing school meals to children up to the fifth grade. As a result, the original target of reaching 330,000 schoolchildren had to be lowered to 190,000. Of the revised operational target, the annual outreach through the school feeding programme has been over 90 percent; however against the original target, the achievement is only 52 percent. The community supported the transport of food from final delivery points (FDP) to their schools and the management of the programme, drawing from training sessions provided in previous years.

In order to enhance reading skills and the quality of education, WFP provided school supplies and materials, including laptops to support students in over 1,000 schools. In addition, WFP trained the teachers, school administrators, students, parents and government counterparts in teaching and management skills, collectively reaching over 3,000 people. The school infrastructure improvements using FFA activities were planned to be done in 2015, in which 5,000 participants would be supported with a total of 125 mt of rice as food rations; but the project did not start due to delays in finalising plans for selecting the activities. Implementation is expected to start in 2016.

In the MCHN programme under the Nutrition component, initially the government and WFP jointly selected 168 VDCs in six highly food-insecure districts located in the high hills and mountainous regions of the country for distributing the specialised nutritious food "Super Cereal" to 24,700 PLW and 85,300 children aged 6-23 months to prevent chronic malnutrition (stunting). Due to resource constraints, the government decided to implement the MCHN programme with a reduced total plan of 16,488 PLW and children aged 6 to 23 months in the districts of Mugu, Jumla and Solukhumbu, based on the high prevalence of stunting there (average prevalence of 41 percent) compared to other districts. In 2015, WFP assisted a total of 15,512 PLW and children (94 percent) out of the reduced plan with individual 3 kg monthly take-home rations of Super Cereal through the government's health facilities. This assistance was provided together with nutrition education and counselling on Maternal and Infant Young Child Nutrition (MIYCN).

Treatment of MAM in children aged 6 to 59 months was planned through the IMAM programme under which each child would be given a daily ration of Super Cereal Plus for a minimum period of 60 days. However, discussions with the government and UNICEF on the approval of the guideline are still on-going and the programme faced resource constraints as well. Due to these delays it was not implemented in 2015. WFP supported the implementation of the Low Birth Weight South Asia Trial led by the University College London in the districts of Dhanusha and Mahottari from 2012 to 2015. The study tested the impact of three interventions on birth weight and young child nutritional status. WFP supported a total of 7,804 pregnant women with Super Cereal during the study.

Beneficiary Category	Planned			Actual			% Actual v. Planned		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
ACT1 - Livelihoods and Asset Creation									
Number of adults	104,245	107,643	211,888	28,747	29,684	58,431	27.6%	27.6%	27.6%
Number of children 5 to 18 years of age	75,570	73,153	148,723	20,839	20,173	41,012	27.6%	27.6%	27.6%
Number of children below 5 years of age	25,189	24,535	49,724	6,946	6,766	13,712	27.6%	27.6%	27.6%
Total number of beneficiaries in 2015	205,004	205,331	410,335	56,532	56,623	113,155	27.6%	27.6%	27.6%
Total number of beneficiaries in 2014	205,004	205,331	410,335	84,330	84,465	168,795	41.1%	41.1%	41.1%
Total number of beneficiaries in 2013	205,004	205,331	410,335	4,692	4,700	9,392	2.3%	2.3%	2.3%
The total number of beneficiaries includes all targeted persons who were provided with WFP food during the reporting period - either as a recipient/participant in one or more of the following groups, or from a household food ration distributed to one of these recipients/participants									
ACT2 - Education Support									
Number of adults	2,500	2,500	5,000	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Number of children 5 to 18 years of age	154,229	154,229	308,458	71,226	81,510	152,736	46.2%	52.8%	49.5%
Number of children below 5 years of age	12,271	12,271	24,542	10,488	10,993	21,481	85.5%	89.6%	87.5%
Total number of beneficiaries in 2015	169,000	169,000	338,000	81,714	92,503	174,217	48.4%	54.7%	51.5%
Total number of beneficiaries in 2014	179,000	179,000	358,000	84,169	96,114	180,283	47.0%	53.7%	50.4%
Total number of beneficiaries in 2013	166,500	166,500	333,000	84,959	99,367	184,326	51.0%	59.7%	55.4%
The total number of beneficiaries includes all targeted persons who were provided with WFP food during the reporting period - either as a recipient/participant in one or more of the following groups, or from a household food ration distributed to one of these recipients/participants									
ACT3 - Nutrition Support									
Number of adults		24,700	24,700		3,966	3,966		16.1%	16.1%
Number of children below 5 years of age	42,650	42,650	85,300	5,884	5,662	11,546	13.8%	13.3%	13.5%
Total number of beneficiaries in 2015	42,650	67,350	110,000	5,884	9,628	15,512	13.8%	14.3%	14.1%
Total number of beneficiaries in 2014	42,650	67,350	110,000	5,478	10,634	16,112	12.8%	15.8%	14.6%
Total number of beneficiaries in 2013	42,650	67,350	110,000	2,068	3,836	5,904	4.8%	5.7%	5.4%
The total number of beneficiaries includes all targeted persons who were provided with WFP food during the reporting period - either as a recipient/participant in one or more of the following groups, or from a household food ration distributed to one of these recipients/participants									

Beneficiary Category	Planned			Actual			% Actual v. Planned		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
ACT1 - Livelihoods and Asset Creation									
Participants in Food For Assets	35,579	37,031	72,610	6,583	7,422	14,005	18.5%	20.0%	19.3%
Cash-Based Transfer Beneficiaries	118,087	122,907	240,994	32,940	37,142	70,082	27.9%	30.2%	29.1%
ACT2 - Education Support									
Participants in Food For Assets	2,500	2,500	5,000	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Children receiving school meals	166,500	166,500	333,000	81,714	92,503	174,217	49.1%	55.6%	52.3%
ACT3 - Nutrition Support									
Children 6 to 23 months given food under blanket supplementary feeding (prevention of stunting)	20,150	20,150	40,300	5,884	5,662	11,546	29.2%	28.1%	28.7%
Pregnant and lactating women given food under complementary feeding (prevention of stunting)		24,700	24,700		3,996	3,996		16.2%	16.2%
Children 24 to 59 months given food under supplementary feeding (treatment for moderate malnutrition)	15,750	15,750	31,500	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Children 6 to 23 months given food under supplementary feeding (treatment for moderate malnutrition)	6,750	6,750	13,500	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

Commodity Distribution

Commodity	Planned Distribution (mt)	Actual Distribution (mt)	% Actual v. Planned
ACT1 - Livelihoods and Asset Creation			
Rice	15,684	1,052	6.7%
Sum	15,684	1,052	6.7%
ACT2 - Education Support			
Corn-soya Blend (csb)	5,077	1,991	39.2%
Rice	125	0	-
Sugar	660	221	33.5%
Vegetable Oil	666	258	38.8%
Wheat-soya Blend (wsb)	923	367	39.8%
Sum	7,451	2,838	38.1%
ACT3 - Nutrition Support			
Wheat-soya Blend (wsb)	2,880	442	15.4%
Sum	2,880	442	15.4%
Total for 2015	26,015	4,332	16.7%
Total reported in 2014 SPR	25,890	7,767	30.0%
Total reported in 2013 SPR	28,295	3,743	13.2%

Cash-Based Transfer	Planned Distribution (USD)	Actual Distribution (USD)	% Actual v. Planned
Cash	3,620,293	571,850	15.8%
Total for 2015	3,620,293	571,850.22	15.8%

'Story Worth Telling'

For many women in the villages of Nepal's remote mountainous regions bordering Tibet, fetching water was a long and difficult chore. Women often did not have access to products for their personal hygiene and to make matters worse, their families often barred them from entering the home during the menstruation period, due to an existing discriminative cultural practice called "chhaupadi." Women often had to stay in a small shed outside their home until they were considered clean to engage in household and religious activities once again.

In the remote villages of Doti and Bajura districts, the situation began to change after teenage girls started making sanitary napkins to replace the traditional rags that they used. The girls began learning a new trade in the two community centres called "Women's Facility Centres" built with WFP support. Being a long-felt need in the community, the centres were built under a food and cash assistance for assets project. The buildings were installed with much needed conveniences such as piped water and proper toilet facilities. Solar powered heaters provided warm water. Women in the community began to regularly use these facilities for bathing and washing. This also helped them to maintain a high level of personal hygiene at all times.

As the women became more skilled, they took over the task of running the centres. The learning and training as well as the common facilities available to the community, were a significant step forward in resolving the water, sanitation, health and hygiene problems that most of them faced. By bringing rural women together and changing their daily life, the Women's Facility Centres in Doti and Bajura districts also helped to find solutions to more deep-rooted problems such as poverty, lack of education, social discrimination because of gender and caste that often kept rural women from participating in the development of their communities.

Ishara Bhul, chairwoman of the Doti Women's Facility Centre, recalled how she once walked three hours just to fetch water for her home. "But now I collect clean water from the taps at the Women's Facility Centre. I also save a lot of time when I wash clothes there," she added. Women own and run the centres, and also rent the space to other women and men for holding meetings, training sessions and other activities. The rent serves to cover the maintenance and operational costs, making the project self-sufficient. With these successes, a growing demand has arisen to construct such centres in other villages as well.

In addition to receiving food and cash as a payment for their work in the project in Bajura district, Sabita Thapa, a mother of three children, also appreciated the fact that that they could now bathe, fetch water and wash clothes all in the same place. "Our children like to bathe even in the winter now, because there is warm water. And a most important thing for us is that they play in a safe environment while we work," she added. As more women gain knowledge and skills and are empowered to challenge discriminatory social attitudes, practices such as chhaupadi will hopefully disappear.

Progress Towards Gender Equality

WFP ensured that women were involved when it was decided which community assets will be constructed in 2015. The women appreciated the fact that they were paid for their work at the same rate as men. Women were also selected as members in democratically formed User Committees (UC). During project monitoring, WFP found that women held more than one-third of the leadership positions in these committees. Furthermore, a total of 108 out of 205 UC members were reported to have received training on distribution management, record keeping, and personal safety and insurance. More than 50 percent of trainees were women.

Through community consultation and sensitisation, WFP issued household beneficiary cards in women's names and encouraged women to collect their food and cash entitlements. In over half of the households, men and women jointly made decisions regarding their resources. It is expected that joint decisions enabled better social and domestic harmony. The number of households where women had to bear the burden of making household decisions by themselves, was lower. Comparatively, household decision making by men have also slightly increased while it had surpassed the target previously. Electronic automated cards issued in women's names allowed them to directly use banking facilities, promoting women's financial inclusion.

In the food management committees in schools, women represented almost half of the membership in 2015. In addition, more women were being elected to leadership positions after they received training on the importance of women's involvement in the management of these committees. Though female teachers comprised only 38 percent at the primary level, WFP through its partners, ensured the participation of women teachers in trainings. In collaboration with other development partners, WFP advocated to recruit women teachers for primary grades and for creating space for girl children in schools. Similar to the trend observed in recent years, in general more girls are enrolled in WFP-supported target schools than boys. The gender ratio has remained in constant with a little over 50 percent of girls to boys and these numbers are consistent across all 10 school feeding programme districts. The negative rate of change in the enrolment for both boys and girls could be explained partly by the government's initiative to merge primary schools with lower secondary and secondary schools, which happens sometimes at mid-year, leading WFP to also re-align its coverage to match the government strategy. There are currently no studies or evidence to suggest why the rate of change in enrolment remains negative.

Due to remoteness of the villages, women usually walk for several hours on steep mountainous terrain to reach health clinics. To facilitate easier access, WFP in consultation with the government decided to increase the number of food distribution sites based on geographical and population size of VDCs. As a result, beneficiaries were able to reach clinics in much less time. The government recommended that the Super Cereal ration size should be set at 3 kg per month (the minimum of 100 gm a day per person) in consideration of the long-term cost-effectiveness of food procurement and logistics management for the government when they expand the programme from the current three districts to other districts with high malnutrition rates in the future. The 3 kg bag was also easier for women to carry while walking on the steep mountainous terrain. The government also recommended that WFP should help strengthen the health facility operational management committees (HFoMC) which are locally formed bodies responsible for implementing the health and nutrition programmes. As these normally have a majority of male members, WFP still faces challenges for promoting women in leadership positions. This has contributed to a reduction in women in leadership positions in 2015.

Cross-cutting Indicators	Project end Target <i>Target Val</i>	Base Value <i>(at start of project or benchmark)</i>	Previous Follow-up <i>(penultimate follow-up)</i>	Latest Follow-up <i>(latest value measured)</i>
ACT1 - Livelihoods and Asset Creation				
Proportion of households where females and males together make decisions over the use of cash, voucher or food				
Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, Post distribution monitoring report, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, Post distribution monitoring report, Programme monitoring.	50		39.33	48.3
Proportion of households where females make decisions over the use of cash, voucher or food				
Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, Post distribution monitoring report, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, Post distribution monitoring report, Programme monitoring.	25		19.33	7.3
Proportion of households where males make decisions over the use of cash, voucher or food				
Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, Post distribution monitoring report, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, Post distribution monitoring report, Programme monitoring.	25		41.33	44.3
Proportion of women beneficiaries in leadership positions of project management committees				
Base value: Dec-2012, Baseline report, WFP survey. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, Post distribution monitoring report, Programme monitoring.	50	34		38
Proportion of women project management committee members trained on modalities of food, cash, or voucher distribution				
Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, Post distribution monitoring report, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, Partners' output reports, Programme monitoring.	50		52	52
ACT2 - Education Support				
Proportion of women beneficiaries in leadership positions of project management committees				
Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, Post distribution monitoring report, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, Post distribution monitoring report, Programme monitoring.	50		13	24.4
ACT3 - Nutrition Support				
Proportion of households where females and males together make decisions over the use of cash, voucher or food				
Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, Post distribution monitoring report, Programme monitoring.	50			58
Proportion of women beneficiaries in leadership positions of project management committees				
Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, Post distribution monitoring report, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, Post distribution monitoring report, Programme monitoring.	50		27.6	24
Proportion of women project management committee members trained on modalities of food, cash, or voucher distribution				
Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, Government reports, Secondary data.	60			100

Protection and Accountability to Affected Populations

Asset creation projects are often located on steep mountain sides in the remote districts in the country. Some project locations have to be reached after walking for hours over treacherous terrain. WFP considered these and other protection concerns and provided FFA participants with orientations on workers' safety to promote safe working conditions at project sites. As an extra precautionary measure, WFP negotiated an insurance scheme so that FFA participants were covered in case of any injuries sustained while working at the project site. To facilitate a safe and secure environment for cash distributions, local police deployed personnel together with WFP and its partners to distribution points. During post-distribution monitoring (PDM), WFP examined these safety concerns and the results indicated that the majority of beneficiaries (over 95 percent) reported that they did not experience any safety problem when travelling to project sites or collecting their entitlements. WFP conducted sensitisation campaigns and community consultations to ensure that men and women who participated in asset creation projects were informed about their entitlements, scheduled work days and food distribution or cash transfer mechanisms. Such measures resulted in the majority of people collecting their entitlements in a timely and secure manner. Rehabilitated rural assets such as mule trails and feeder roads leading to medical facilities, markets and schools, also provided secure means of travelling to and from the distribution points. WFP's partners sometimes faced challenges in access, especially during rainy seasons, to remote VDCs to convey the message about the programme in advance, which may have contributed to some households reporting that they had not received information about the projects. Despite these challenges, WFP was able to achieve the planned target.

In schools and other education support activities, there were no significant safety concerns reported during 2015. WFP's PDM results indicated that 92 percent of beneficiaries had not faced safety problems when collecting their entitlement. However, when a local newspaper reported in November that food was not reaching the beneficiaries in a school in Bajhang district, WFP thoroughly investigated the issue through a joint task force with the FFEP and found no evidence of resource mismanagement. Results of the investigation were discussed with the concerned communities and also disseminated through different media outlets. To facilitate awareness about the school meals and education support programme, WFP partners conducted orientations for parents, students and teachers about distribution days, the type and quantity of food provided in schools, their roles and responsibilities, and who to contact in case of problems. WFP also advocated for regular meetings of the National Food for Education Steering Committee - a joint oversight committee for addressing community concerns. For example, following complaints about delays in food deliveries, WFP and the government set up six additional warehouses to overcome logistical constraints and make it easier for school management committees to transport food.

Women and children received counselling services and their Super Cereal entitlement in a safe environment at government health facilities. WFP, working with the Ministry of Health and Population, explored the possibility to reposition outreach clinics in remote VDCs to reduce the distance between the villages and health facilities. This measure would reduce health hazards particularly for pregnant women. Mothers and caretakers received information about the Super Cereal ration and services such as ante-natal care and post-natal care, growth monitoring and MIYCN counselling available at the health facilities, through mothers' groups and female community health volunteers (FCHVs).

Cross-cutting Indicators	Project end Target	Base Value <i>(at start of project or benchmark)</i>	Previous Follow-up <i>(penultimate follow-up)</i>	Latest Follow-up <i>(latest value measured)</i>
ACT1 - Livelihoods and Asset Creation				
Proportion of assisted people (men) informed about the programme (who is included, what people will receive, where people can complain)				
Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, Post distribution monitoring report, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, Post distribution monitoring report, Programme monitoring.	90		100	95.1
Proportion of assisted people (women) informed about the programme (who is included, what people will receive, where people can complain)				
Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, Post distribution monitoring report, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, Post distribution monitoring report, Programme monitoring.	90		100	91.4
ACT2 - Education Support				
Proportion of assisted people (men) informed about the programme (who is included, what people will receive, where people can complain)				
Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, Post distribution monitoring report, Programme monitoring.	90			79
Proportion of assisted people (women) informed about the programme (who is included, what people will receive, where people can complain)				
Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, Post distribution monitoring report, Programme monitoring.	90			93.3
ACT3 - Nutrition Support				
Proportion of assisted people (men) informed about the programme (who is included, what people will receive, where people can complain)				
Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, Post distribution monitoring report, Programme monitoring.	90			100
Proportion of assisted people who do not experience safety problems travelling to/from and at WFP programme sites				
Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, Post distribution monitoring report, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, Post distribution monitoring report, Programme monitoring.	100		100	100
Proportion of assisted people (women) informed about the programme (who is included, what people will receive, where people can complain)				
Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, Post distribution monitoring report, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, Post distribution monitoring report, Programme monitoring.	90		100	100

Outputs

The districts in which the CP was implemented, were not directly affected by the 7.8 magnitude earthquake which struck Nepal in April 2015 and thus project implementation continued through the partners. However, WFP staff working under the CP were immediately assigned to the corporate response emergency operation and continued to work in earthquake-affected areas for a few months. To bridge the gap, WFP assigned alternate staff to manage the CP activities. Although this initially slowed down the coordination of the CP projects, staff capacity was greatly improved from the experience, both for those who worked on the EMOP and for those who received exposure at different levels in the CP.

In September 2015, after the promulgation of the new constitution, political agitation in the districts bordering India led to a blockade of import trade into Nepal resulting in wide spread shortages of fuel, cooking gas and other essentials, reaching crisis levels. Although WFP adequately managed the food deliveries, some delays occurred in transporting the food to final distribution points.

Under the rural asset creation programme, about 60 percent of the schemes comprised new assets and 40 percent were rehabilitations of existing infrastructure. Over 50 km of rural roads contributed to improved road accessibility for more than 100,000 people. Some 41 hectares of irrigated land added an increase of 30 percent in agricultural production with two to three crops per year. A land area of 193 hectares was planted with non-timber trees, in order to provide forest cover and prevent soil erosion. Additionally, WFP trained 5,000 farmers in improved farming technologies, and several community buildings including schools, eight drinking water schemes and three micro hydro-power projects were built in 2015. To complement regular project monitoring, WFP introduced photo monitoring as an innovative way to capture the progress of community assets being created. Repeat photography at the beginning, mid-term and end of a project cycle, not only helped to show progress but also to identify problems that needed remedial action before the end of the project. Food and cash assistance provided additional income to over 21,350 households, motivating male household members remaining in the village and thus contributing to reduced migration for work. Although the number of beneficiaries and workdays had to be reduced due to resource constraints, by the end of 2015 WFP had created 366,879 days of work with short term employment, i.e., on average, 18 workdays per person. It is also important to note that due to reduced resources, the operational plan of outputs was also revised. WFP was able to achieve the target in the revised plan in line with the available resources.

For the Education component, the number of beneficiaries was reduced in 2015 to reflect actual students enrolled in pre-primary and primary schools as opposed to the original proposal of covering schools up to eighth grade (333,000 children). This was a deliberate revision to match the government's strategy. The selected schools following the revision, received full coverage and WFP assisted over 174,000 children with school meals in 2015. The participation of pre-primary children surpassed the expected plan as the government continued to strengthen the Early Childhood Development Centres, bringing them into the mainstream school education system. To improve learning outcomes, a package of 1,939 pieces of reading material were given to over 1,000 schools together with additional support to set up a library for students. Fifty-seven master trainers and 2,471 teachers were trained, with their improved teaching skills benefitting more than 66,000 students.

Five hundred laptops, providing access to 705 digital libraries, were given to schools in Bajhang district. The required digital architecture was created through 500 school servers, supported with solar panels and furniture. In 2015, an additional 20 schools in Bajhang benefitted from these outputs, bringing the total to 53 schools. WFP continued to give technical support and refresher teacher-trainings to 33 schools covered in previous phases. For the new schools, 121 teachers received an initial residential training on how to integrate laptops and digital learning materials into classroom teaching. WFP also carried out WASH training sessions and community awareness events with students, parents, teachers, school administrators and community members in four districts - over 35,000 indirect beneficiaries.

Due to significant resource constraints, the operational plan was reduced to assist only 16,488 PLW and children aged 6-23 months in only the three districts of Jumla, Mugu and Solukhumbu, against the original plan of 110,000 in six districts. Within this, the planned number of PLW was further reduced to 6,716, but WFP could not reach all of them mainly due to seasonal migration of PLW to the lowlands. Despite these challenges, WFP was able to assist 94 percent of the beneficiaries under the reduced operational plan through the stunting prevention programme in 2015. Sixty-eight percent of the women received ante-natal care and post-natal care and all children underwent growth monitoring. A reduction in the progress of post-natal care was noted, possibly as a result of permanent migration of people from the mountains to the lowlands.

Male family members also participated in orientation and training events at different levels - community, health facility, VDC, district, regional and central - held for a total of 1,626 participants. All men and women beneficiaries planned to be exposed to nutrition messaging received information on nutrition through counselling, education and communication materials available in the health centres when they attended the MCHN programme. WFP organized refresher courses for health facility workers, mothers' groups and FCHVs on nutrition and maternal child health. As per the national health protocol, the government distributed deworming tablets to 5,884 women to complement their general MCHN programme at the local health facilities during 2015. All the selected districts are remote, difficult to access and highly food-insecure in general. Any natural disaster or other food security related shocks would further lower their nutritional status and increase stunting and related health problems.

Under WFP's support to the Nepal Food Security Monitoring System (NeKSAP), over 1,000 government officials received training on food security response analysis, geographic information systems (GIS), the NeKSAP information platform (NeKSAPInfo), and market and price analysis at the central, regional, and district levels. Immediately after the earthquakes in April and May, WFP and the government mobilised NeKSAP staff and conducted a rapid assessment on food security and livelihoods and organized ad hoc District Food Security Network (DFSNs) meetings in the earthquake-affected districts. Findings of the assessment helped to make programme decisions in the earthquake response. Later, in September and October, WFP supported NeKSAP and other agencies, including FAO, UNDP and Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), to conduct a joint assessment of food security, livelihoods and early recovery.

At the Humanitarian Staging Area (HSA), equipment for the deployable humanitarian logistics hubs already in place were immediately distributed to meet post-earthquake needs. These items will eventually be collected, cleaned, dried, re-packed, and stored for future emergencies. Four trainings were conducted for 101 government and humanitarian participants, on emergency and food management logistics.

Output	Unit	Planned	Actual	% Actual vs. Planned
ACT1 - Livelihoods and Asset Creation				
SO 3: FFA				
Hectares (ha) of agricultural land benefiting from new irrigation schemes (including irrigation canal construction, specific protection measures, embankments, etc)	Ha	41	41	100.0%
Hectares (ha) of agricultural land benefiting from rehabilitated irrigation schemes (including irrigation canal repair, specific protection measures, embankments, etc)	Ha	195	193	99.0%
Hectares (ha) of forest planted and established	Ha	131	131	100.0%
Kilometres (km) of feeder roads built (FFA) and maintained (self-help)	km	44	44	100.0%
Kilometres (km) of feeder roads rehabilitated (FFA) and maintained (self-help)	km	7	7	100.0%
Kilometres (km) of mountain trails constructed	km	8	8	100.0%
Number of water springs developed	water spring	8	8	100.0%
ACT2 - Education Support				
SO 4: School Feeding				
Number of feeding days as % of actual school days	%	100	95	95.0%
Number of pre-school boys assisted by WFP	Individual	10,000	10,488	104.9%
Number of pre-school children assisted by WFP	Individual	20,000	21,481	107.4%
Number of pre-school girls assisted by WFP	Individual	10,000	10,993	109.9%
Number of primary school boys assisted by WFP	Individual	156,000	71,226	45.7%
Number of primary school children assisted by WFP	Individual	312,000	152,736	49.0%
Number of primary school girls assisted by WFP	Individual	156,000	81,510	52.3%
Number of primary schools assisted by WFP	school	3,800	2,210	58.2%
ACT3 - Nutrition Support				
SO 4: Nutrition: Prevention of Stunting				
Number of health centres/sites assisted	centre/site	88	85	96.6%
Number of pregnant/lactating women assisted	Individual	6,716	3,966	59.1%
Number of timely food distributions as per planned distribution schedule	distribution	276	243	88.0%
Proportion of men exposed to nutrition messaging supported by WFP against proportion planned	%	387	387	100.0%
Proportion of women exposed to nutrition messaging supported by WFP against proportion planned	%	906	906	100.0%

Outcomes

In addition to regular distribution and process monitoring, WFP carried out its annual monitoring of project outcomes during July and August 2015, covering the various CP components.

The results for the Productive Assets and Livelihoods component indicated that people benefitted from WFP's interventions through increased income and employment opportunities, reduced seasonal migration, improved access to markets and increased food production for household consumption. Though not yet at the target of 93 percent, there has been a steady increase in the proportion of households reporting an acceptable food consumption score (FCS) over the implementation period of the CP. In 2015, around 80 percent of both male and female headed households were reported to have an acceptable FCS. The availability of cash in hand or a combination of food and cash received by female headed households through participation in asset creation projects, appeared to have increased household purchasing power, ensuring better access to food and thus better FCS and diet diversity scores. In line with this outcome, a majority of the surveyed households reported that they did not have to take any measures such as reducing the frequency of meals or meal portions.

In 2015, the school attendance rate of both boys and girls significantly improved compared to the previous year. WFP's complementary activities and services such as early-grade reading support, distribution of laptops and digital materials alongside the school meals contributed to these positive results. However, a negative rate of change in the school enrolment numbers for both boys and girls in public schools was observed for the second year in a row. A government study (FLASH I Report, 2072) explains that the declining enrolment trend was due to a reduction in the fertility rate and the increased outmigration during the agriculture season, as well as increased enrolment in private schools. The removal of the school feeding incentive in merged schools could also be contributing to reduced enrolment and thus affecting achievement of WFP expected outcomes.

The achievement of ante-natal and post-natal care slightly decreased as the MCHN programme expanded into the most remote VDCs of Jumla, Mugu and Solukhumbu districts. Despite fuel shortages leading to delays in food transportation, government clinic records showed that 94 percent of women and children eligible to participate in the MCHN programme continued to come to the services, which is higher than the project target of 70 percent. The coverage was calculated through a desk review of the clinic attendance records provided by the government. WFP's monitoring findings indicated that 24 percent of women beneficiaries were in leadership positions in the HFoMC while over one-third of women members of the HFoMC were trained on food and service distribution in 2015.

The overall proportion of children who had a minimum acceptable diet consisting of at least four food groups in the districts of Jumla, Mugu and Solukhumbu significantly improved in 2015 which could be attributed partly to the nutrition counselling that families and caregivers received at the health centres. Outcomes of the MAM programme could not be measured as the programme was not implemented due to the IMAM guidelines not being approved in 2015. The low birth weight study was concluded in the last quarter of 2015, and the results will be disseminated at the end of February 2016.

WFP carries out the National Capacity Index (NCI) exercise every two years to measure the capacity of government agencies to take over project implementation in the future and sustain the outcomes. WFP measured the NCI for food security monitoring (NCI value 16) and EPR (NCI value 12) in 2015 and positive results were shown in policy and legislation, strong, effective, and accountable institutions as well as management of stakeholder participations. The overall values improved in comparison to the baseline of 12 for food security monitoring. The EPR project started in 2014 but the NCI was not measured at the start of the project due to limited capacity available at the time. WFP also conducted the Systems Approach to Better Education Results (SABER) exercise with the government to ascertain the current stage of the school feeding programme in Nepal and develop a roadmap, which laid out the steps needed to achieve the goal of creating a consolidated national programme and policy guideline. The results showed established capacities in the areas of institutional capacity and coordination, and community roles reaching beyond schools.

Outcome	Project end Target	Base Value <i>(at start of project or benchmark)</i>	Previous Follow-up <i>(penultimate follow-up)</i>	Latest Follow-up <i>(latest value measured)</i>
ACT1 - Livelihoods and Asset Creation				
Strategic Objective 3: Reduce risk and enable people, communities and countries to meet their own food and nutrition needs				
CAS: percentage of communities with an increased Asset Score				
Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, Post distribution monitoring report, Programme monitoring.	80			91
CSI (Asset Depletion): Percentage of female-headed households with reduced/stabilized Coping Strategy Index				
Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, Post distribution monitoring report, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, Post distribution monitoring report, Programme monitoring.	10.2		10.2	18
CSI (Asset Depletion): Percentage of male-headed households with reduced/stabilized Coping Strategy Index				

Outcome	Project end Target	Base Value <i>(at start of project or benchmark)</i>	Previous Follow-up <i>(penultimate follow-up)</i>	Latest Follow-up <i>(latest value measured)</i>
Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, Post distribution monitoring report, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, Post distribution monitoring report, Programme monitoring.	16.7		16.7	16.7
Diet Diversity Score (female-headed households)				
Base value: Dec-2012, Baseline report, WFP survey. Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, Post distribution monitoring report, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, Post distribution monitoring report, Programme monitoring.	6.5	3.8	4	4.94
Diet Diversity Score (male-headed households)				
Base value: Dec-2012, Baseline report, WFP survey. Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, Post distribution monitoring report, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, Post distribution monitoring report, Programme monitoring.	6.5	4	4.4	5.11
FCS: percentage of households with acceptable Food Consumption Score (female-headed)				
Base value: Dec-2012, Baseline report, WFP survey. Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, Post distribution monitoring report, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, Post distribution monitoring report, Programme monitoring.	93	60.6	66.1	79.6
FCS: percentage of households with acceptable Food Consumption Score (male-headed)				
Base value: Dec-2012, Baseline report, WFP survey. Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, Post distribution monitoring report, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, Post distribution monitoring report, Programme monitoring.	93	66.5	68.9	82.5
FCS: percentage of households with borderline Food Consumption Score (female-headed)				
Base value: Dec-2012, Baseline report, WFP survey. Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, Post distribution monitoring report, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, Post distribution monitoring report, Programme monitoring.	6	33.2	5	16.3
FCS: percentage of households with borderline Food Consumption Score (male-headed)				
Base value: Dec-2012, Baseline report, WFP survey. Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, Post distribution monitoring report, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, Post distribution monitoring report, Programme monitoring.	6	29.2	20.2	13.1
FCS: percentage of households with poor Food Consumption Score (female-headed)				
Base value: Dec-2012, Baseline report, WFP survey. Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, Post distribution monitoring report, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, Post distribution monitoring report, Programme monitoring.	1	4.3	28.9	4.1
FCS: percentage of households with poor Food Consumption Score (male-headed)				
Base value: Dec-2012, Baseline report, WFP survey. Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, Post distribution monitoring report, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, Post distribution monitoring report, Programme monitoring.	1	6.1	10.9	4.4
NCI: Food security programmes National Capacity Index				
Base value: Dec-2012, Baseline survey, WFP survey. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, NCI Consultation Workshop report, WFP survey.	20	12		16
NCI: Resilience programmes National Capacity Index				
Base value: Dec-2012, Baseline report, WFP survey. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, NCI Consultation Workshop report, WFP survey.	20	10		12
ACT2 - Education Support				
Strategic Objective 4: Reduce undernutrition and break the intergenerational cycle of hunger				
Attendance rate (boys) in WFP-assisted primary schools				
Base value: Dec-2012, Baseline report, WFP survey. Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, Post distribution monitoring report, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Jul-2015, McGovernDole baseline report, WFP survey.	90	72.3	71	81
Attendance rate (girls) in WFP-assisted primary schools				
Base value: Dec-2012, Baseline report, WFP survey. Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, Post distribution monitoring report, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Jul-2015, McGovernDole baseline report, WFP survey.	90	71.3	69	81
Enrolment (boys): Average annual rate of change in number of boys enrolled in WFP-assisted primary schools				
Base value: Dec-2012, Baseline report, WFP survey. Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, Post distribution monitoring report, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Jul-2015, McGovernDole baseline report, WFP survey.	1	-1.1	-5	-1.6
Enrolment (girls): Average annual rate of change in number of girls enrolled in WFP-assisted primary schools				
Base value: Dec-2012, Baseline report, WFP survey. Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, Post distribution monitoring report, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Jul-2015, McGovernDole baseline report, WFP survey.	1	-2.9	-4	-2.1
NCI: School Feeding National Capacity Index				
Base value: Dec-2012, Baseline report, WFP survey. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, SABRE Country Report (Nepal), Secondary data.	20	8		12
ACT3 - Nutrition Support				
Strategic Objective 4: Reduce undernutrition and break the intergenerational cycle of hunger				
Proportion of children consuming a minimum acceptable diet				
Base value: Dec-2012, Baseline report, WFP survey. Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, Post distribution monitoring report, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, Post distribution monitoring report, Programme monitoring.	70	39	56.9	66.4
Proportion of eligible population who participate in programme (coverage)				
Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, Post distribution monitoring report, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, Desk review of Government clinic attendance records of PLW and Children., Secondary data.	70		90	94

Sustainability, Capacity Development and Handover

The RCIW project had the institutional and operational structures in place within the Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development which ensured strong ownership by the government. WFP provided different types of training to the project management committees, user groups and cooperative members, such as leadership development, participatory planning, public audits, monitoring and effective communication among others, along with exposure visits. Various workshops were also organized to ensure the appropriate hand-over of activities including the management of the assets maintenance fund. After such capacity development measures implemented over several years, the government started independently establishing and managing their own food assistance programme in 14 out of the 21 RCIW districts. However, due to the resource constraints that WFP faced in 2015, planned technical trainings to government staff and annual exposure visits of Ministry officials to a third country, could not be carried out.

The coordination mechanism for the programme, led by the Ministry at the central level and expanding to the district level, ensured the smooth operation of projects as well as the timely resolution of problems as and when they arose. At the district level, the District Programme Support Unit led the organization and coordination of the implementation, assisted and complemented by partnerships with regional or area-based NGOs and innovative financial service providers.

Through the school feeding programme, WFP worked towards strengthening the government's financial and institutional capacity to effectively develop and manage a sustainable National School Feeding Programme. To further strengthen the existing programme and explore opportunities to improve and expand the current school feeding programme, the government approved two specific pilot studies: one to examine the efficiency and effectiveness of the school feeding modalities and another, to explore how to link nutrition literacy with school meals.

WFP also provided technical inputs and strategic support to develop a National WASH in Schools Guideline to standardise common minimum benchmarks for WASH implementation. WFP supported three high-level government officials from the Ministry of Education, Department of Education and Ministry of Finance to participate in the Global Child Nutrition Forum in Cape Verde, allowing them to exchange ideas and best practices on cash-based school feeding from across the world. WFP also supported five government officials, both from policy and implementation levels, to participate in a study trip to Lao People's Democratic Republic during which they exchanged ideas on strengthening programming from a monitoring and evaluation perspective.

Increasing ownership of the nutrition support programme in some of the most remote districts could be seen within the Department of Health Services as they started integrating the existing reporting and monitoring system of the MCHN into their regular Health Information Management System (HMIS) in 2015. Government health workers took a leading role in organizing the monthly clinics, food distribution, recording and reporting. This was seen by the increasing numbers of HFoMCs involved in overall programme implementation at the health facility level.

The government continued to provide local funds for recruiting additional MCHN health workers and for improving monthly MCHN clinics and also endorsed and approved the MCHN implementation guideline as an important step towards improving the quality of the programme in remote areas. In the last quarter of 2015, a system of mandatory provision of IYCF and MIYCN counselling was institutionalised.

WFP in partnership with the national NGOs conducted orientations, workshops and trainings for women's groups and FCHVs at the community level and other workers and officials at health facilities and district offices. WFP also supported senior government officials working in the Child Health Division to participate in an exposure visit to Thailand and Bhutan in support of the campaign for initiating the rice fortification programme in Nepal. Through relevant trainings, WFP worked to strengthen the government's capacity to be able to locally produce or procure fortified food.

Initiated by the WFP in 2002, NeKSAP is now jointly operated by the Ministry of Agricultural Development and WFP under the strategic guidance of the National Planning Commission. Based on the successful collaboration which began in 2009, the Ministry of Agricultural Development, WFP and the National Planning Commission signed a tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in 2012, with support from the EU to further strengthen the capacity of NeKSAP and institutionalise it within the government system by 2016. NeKSAP is currently being institutionalised within the government at the national, regional, and district levels.

The EPR project was designed to build the capacity of the government and support other humanitarian partners to be prepared to respond if a major earthquake occurs in the Kathmandu Valley. The HSA constructed with resources provided through a Trust Fund, served as the key logistics hub for the earthquake response in Kathmandu, enabling humanitarian partners and the Government to effectively store and transport relief items to affected districts. WFP trained government and humanitarian partners in emergency logistics, food management logistics and emergency telecommunications to ensure that all parties had the necessary knowledge and skills to expedite an unbroken supply chain of relief materials and smooth communications during the earthquake response. WFP will work on a plan for maintaining the project and ensure sustainability when the project is handed over to the government after three years.

INPUTS

Resource Inputs

The CP had a serious shortfall of funds in 2015 on the whole, which compromised WFP's ability to fully implement the planned activities and led to a reduced beneficiary coverage and reduced number of workdays. The funds received were mostly allocated towards the Education Support component, ensuring that this was sufficiently funded in 2015, but consequently leaving the Productive Assets and Livelihoods and the Nutrition components short of funds.

The Productive Assets and Livelihoods component assists the highest number of beneficiaries in the CP and serves to uplift rural communities in the mountainous regions and improve their livelihoods. Similarly, the Nutrition component serves to address high malnutrition rates especially in the Himalayan districts. As these components address nationally important development issues, adequate funding is a key element to sustain outcomes gained over the years.

Donor	Resourced in 2015 (mt)		Shipped/Purchased in 2015 (mt)
	In-Kind	Cash	
Australia		184	21
MULTILATERAL		1,039	457
Private Donors		124	355
UN CERF Common Funds and Agencies		28	
USA	4,010		4,517
Total:	4,010	1,375	5,350

See Annex: Resource Inputs from Donors for breakdown by commodity and contribution reference number

Food Purchases and in-kind Receipts

Most of the food used by the project was donated in-kind. Given the large volume of Super Cereal received as in-kind contributions for the school feeding programme, the amounts procured from local manufacturers were very limited.

To the extent possible, WFP prioritised the procurement of food from local suppliers in order to motivate and strengthen local markets, while considering cost-effectiveness, reduced lead time and availability of food. Out of a total 6,000 mt of food received, only 14 percent was procured locally and 11 percent was procured internationally based on cost-effectiveness.

Commodity	Local (mt)	Developing Country (mt)	Other International (mt)	GCMF (mt)
Corn Soya Blend	0	0	4,008	
Rice	0	651	129	
Sugar	289	0	0	
Vegetable Oil	41	0	380	
Wheat Soya Blend	503	0	0	
Sum:	833	651	4,517	

Food Transport, Delivery and Handling

Contributions of food were received at Kolkata port in India and the local purchases were received at WFP warehouses in the country. Most of the food were delivered to the external delivery points or final delivery points on time. However, there were a few delays in the deliveries due to the late arrival of in-kind shipments as well as the fuel crisis and political strikes that affected the country, hindering transport and road usage. Overland and in-country transport was carried out by commercial transport companies engaged through competitive bidding processes.

Post-Delivery Losses

Food commodity losses were kept to a minimum through regular warehouse inspections. WFP implemented best practices in warehouse management such as proper stacking, storing and food releasing procedures, as well as timely record keeping which contributed towards minimising the losses. WFP recovered the losses of food in transit by deducting the values from the transporters' invoices.

MANAGEMENT

Partnerships

The Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development was the key partner for WFP in the RCIW project which ensured a strong ownership by the government. WFP worked with NGOs and other government partners to further transfer the skills, knowledge and systems to the local government and to communities to prepare them for self-implementation of RCIW projects. The final aim was to enable government counterparts to ensure a transparent and efficient implementation of the FFA project without external support.

The Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development allocated matching funds up to USD 2 million through their financial resources and technical expertise particularly for the RCIW. In addition WFP benefitted from indirect contributions from local NGOs, such as Manahari Development Institute (MDI) and Support to Poor Producers of Nepal (SAPPROS), mostly in the form of non-food items to the projects. A MoU was also signed between WFP and the Nepal Poverty Alleviation Fund, to share projects and resources in selected districts. A complementary fund given by the District Development Committee, VDCs and other donor funded projects up to USD 300,000 was also received by WFP for joint FFA programmes. KOICA has been supporting WFP to implement SZHC activities in partnership with the cooperating partner, Good Neighbors International (GNI). WFP's partnership with GNI resulted in complementary funds and additional non-food items for implementing the programme in Doti district. Through these measures, WFP was able to implement the FFA activities even in the face of funding constraints in 2015.

The education programmes were implemented by national actors, including NGOs and government organizations to ensure a field presence and constant contact with the communities. To ensure government ownership of the school feeding programme, WFP continued to partner with the FFEP under the Ministry of Education, to deliver food to its programmed schools. Through strengthening this partnership, WFP was able to leverage a positive working relationship with the Ministry to advocate for scaling up a sustainable school feeding programme. In addition, WFP worked closely with development partners in the education sector, including USAID, World Bank, UNICEF, the Embassy of Finland, the Embassy of Norway and others to advocate for the inclusion of school feeding in the School Sector Development Plan. In addition, with resources from McGovern-Dole funding WFP also collaborated with USAID to support the Government's National Early Grade Reading Programme.

Good health is an important aspect for children to regularly attend school. With this outcome in mind, WFP partnered with the Nepal Red Cross Society to improve knowledge, attitudes and practice on the importance of water, sanitation and hygiene in reducing food and water-borne diseases. Activities included conducting street dramas, WASH training sessions with parents and teachers, community food fairs and finalisation of the training and orientation manual. WFP also partnered with World Education Inc. to develop activities and approaches for improved literacy outcomes among primary schoolchildren. A pilot reading programme focusing on grades one to three was implemented in six districts. The Department of Education's Curriculum Development Centre and National Centre for Educational Development in Nepal, as well as with the Centre of Excellence, Brazil also partnered with WFP to support the pilot project. WFP continued to work with Open Learning Exchange to provide digital learning materials to rural primary schools in difficult-to-reach areas to equip teachers with effective teaching tools.

WFP continued to work with the NGO partners Himalayan Health and Environmental Services Solukhumbu (HHESS), MDI and SAPPROS-Nepal and key stakeholders in Solukhumbu, Mugu and Jumla districts, and initiated discussions for potential joint collaborations to tackle undernutrition within the MCHN programme. As these are local organizations who were unable to generate extra funds of their own, WFP did not plan to receive any complementary funds from them into the programme. A constructive partnership with the Nutrition Section, Child Health Division, and Department of Health Services led to several initiatives to increase capacity and ownership of the MCHN programme by the government. WFP further helped strengthen the collaboration with VDCs and the entire network of FCHVs while implementing activities and mobilising local resources during the monthly clinics. Mothers' groups, child clubs, forest user groups, citizen groups and VDC secretaries were mobilised at the community level in the overall management of the MCHN programme.

NeKSAP is being implemented under the tripartite MoU between the National Planning Commission, Ministry of Agricultural Development, and WFP. WFP continued knowledge partnerships with two research institutions, namely with the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development on remote sensing for agricultural monitoring in NeKSAP, and with the International Water Management Institute through the CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security, on crop yield forecasting. NeKSAP also worked with FAO, OCHA, UNDP, REACH, various Clusters and the government on a post-earthquake joint assessment and with UNICEF on harmonising food security and nutrition monitoring systems as part of the government's multi-sector nutrition plan.

WFP worked with the Ministry of Home Affairs and other disaster risk reduction partners on a collective approach to disaster preparedness recognising the need to pool resources and efforts to capitalise on the awareness of the government and the public in preparing to face disasters with an increased sense of urgency. In addition, the Civil Aviation Authority of Nepal, Tribhuvan University and the Nepal Agriculture Research Council were other field-level government authorities with whom WFP worked in partnership to establish the HSA. The Nepal Food Corporation specifically supported the seismic assessment and retrofitting of their warehouses in two different locations in Kathmandu valley. RedR India conducted training on emergency logistics, food management and practical emergency training for government and humanitarian partners.

Partnerships	NGO		Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement	UN/IO
	National	International		
Total	5	4	1	5

Cross-cutting Indicators	Project end Target	Base Value <i>(at start of project or benchmark)</i>	Previous Follow-up <i>(penultimate follow-up)</i>	Latest Follow-up <i>(latest value measured)</i>
	Target Val			
ACT1 - Livelihoods and Asset Creation				
Number of partner organizations that provide complementary inputs and services				
Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, FLA's/WFP financial reports, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, FLA's/WFP financial reports, Programme monitoring.	3		4	4
Proportion of project activities implemented with the engagement of complementary partners				
Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, FLAs/ WFP reports, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, FLAs/ WFP reports, Programme monitoring.	100		100	100
ACT2 - Education Support				
Number of partner organizations that provide complementary inputs and services				
Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, FLA's / WFP financial reports, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, FLA's / WFP financial reports, Programme monitoring.	3		3	5
Proportion of project activities implemented with the engagement of complementary partners				
Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, FLAs / WFP reports, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, FLAs / WFP reports, Programme monitoring.	100		100	100
ACT3 - Nutrition Support				
Number of partner organizations that provide complementary inputs and services				
Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, FLA/ WFP financial reports, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, FLA/ WFP financial reports, WFP survey.	2		3	3
Proportion of project activities implemented with the engagement of complementary partners				
Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, FLAs/ WFP reports, WFP survey. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, FLAs/ WFP reports, Programme monitoring.	100		100	100

Lessons Learned

WFP had to spread limited resources over a large number of food-insecure villages in the RCIW programme. As a result, only small, generally single-season projects were implemented and support could not be guaranteed beyond a single season, which was not adequate to ensure a long-term impact. Under the SZHC programme, the total fund was utilised only in Ladagada and Pokhari VDCs in Doti district. While in general, the SZHC project was successful in reducing rural poverty and food insecurity through an integrated community development approach, the challenges included seasonal inaccessibility to project sites due to poor road conditions and the scattered locations of households around a large hilly area which was difficult to reach. Men's outmigration in search of work, reduced the members of working age in the households and increased the labour burden of women.

Based on the lessons learned from the exposure visits to Bangladesh and Cambodia in 2014, WFP advocated with the government to develop strategies that would enable the promotion of a national school feeding programme, instead of viewing the food modality and cash modality as two parallel lenses which has limited a collaborative institutionalisation of the school feeding programme over the past several years. A school meals modality pilot study is being conducted to support this stance, including development of an integrated programme guideline. This was further aided by the missions to the Global Child Nutrition Forum and Lao People's Democratic Republic, following which the delegations were resolute to strengthen the existing mechanism and find sustainable means of funding.

While access and equity in education has improved in Nepal over the past few years, quality remains an issue, as such numerous capacity development projects were introduced in 2015 to complement school meals for better integration of literacy, health and nutrition in the education programme, including literacy, digital learning as well as WASH projects in schools.

WFP will gradually integrate the MCHN programme into other national nutrition programmes, as recommended in the baseline survey of the CP in 2013. Upon approval of the IMAM Guideline both for SAM and MAM, WFP will support the government in piloting the MAM programme in one highly food insecure district and in another food secure district in 2016 given the availability of resources. Poor infrastructure and lack of storage facilities at health centres, the long absence of regular government health staff coupled with vacant positions not being filled were setbacks in the MCHN programme. Rough geographical terrain of the VDCs discouraged a segment of the female population from coming to receive regular health and nutrition related services at government health facilities.

Based on the need for an increased role in food procurement, WFP and the Ministry of Health and Population revised the MCHN programme, formulating a robust procurement and logistics handling process and finalising guidelines for the management of the MCHN programme. WFP engaged potential local transporters for the transport of Super Cereal to FDPs. The fuel crisis in 2015 contributed to high costs in the transport of food to the high hills and mountainous regions. Key problems of storage facilities at selected health centres throughout the programme districts were recognised. WFP will support future intensive training programmes in warehouse and commodity management to ministry staff, local NGO and health staff. Given the government's increasing ability to expedite timely food procurement and supply, the general public will be able to access other regular services from WFP besides food supplementation.

Nepal has embarked into the federal structure after the promulgation of new constitution in September 2015. Since food security is a key agenda in the constitution, it can be expected that the federal states will have specific roles and responsibilities to undertake in addressing the food security issues at the level of, or below the federal state. At the current stage, the core of NeKSAP is the district food security network (DFSN) which is represented by agencies working in the area of food security, nutrition, agriculture, health, and trade among others. Hence NeKSAP has brought key stakeholders into one forum collecting information and analysing the food security situation periodically. The District Agriculture Development Office functions as the secretariat of the DFSN. Importantly the NeKSAP information has started to link to the planning process through the response analysis exercise and the government has started allocating a budget for NeKSAP activities. Hence, based on the experiences and strong institutional arrangement of NeKSAP at the district level, it is expected that NeKSAP can adjust itself to the changing context, for further strengthening the capacity of stakeholders and continuing with food security monitoring and analysis.

OPERATIONAL STATISTICS

Annex: Resource Inputs from Donors

Donor	Cont. Ref. No	Commodity	Resourced in 2015 (mt)		Shipped/ Purchased in 2015 (mt)
			In-Kind	Cash	
Australia	AUL-C-00225-01	Sugar		184	21
MULTILATERAL	MULTILATERAL	Rice		691	0
MULTILATERAL	MULTILATERAL	Sugar		78	78
MULTILATERAL	MULTILATERAL	Wheat Soya Blend		270	379
Private Donors	WPD-C-02364-01	Sugar			188
Private Donors	WPD-C-02364-01	Vegetable Oil			41
Private Donors	WPD-C-02747-01	Sugar			2
Private Donors	WPD-C-02850-02	Rice			0
Private Donors	WPD-C-03045-04	Wheat Soya Blend		124	124
UN CERF Common Funds and Agencies	001-C-01295-01	Wheat Soya Blend		28	
USA	USA-C-01073-01	Corn Soya Blend			3,358
USA	USA-C-01073-01	Rice			129
USA	USA-C-01073-01	Vegetable Oil			380
USA	USA-C-01073-02	Corn Soya Blend	3,500		650
USA	USA-C-01073-02	Rice	130		
USA	USA-C-01073-02	Vegetable Oil	380		
Total:			4,010	1,375	5,350