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**Executive Board  
Third Regular Session**

**Rome, 23 - 26 October 2000**

# **COUNTRY STRATEGY OUTLINES**

**Agenda item 6**

***For consideration***



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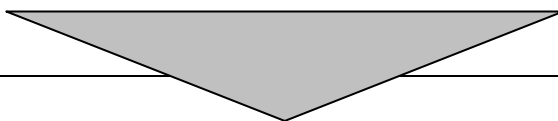
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## **COUNTRY STRATEGY OUTLINE— NEPAL**

# Note to the Executive Board



**This document is submitted for consideration to the Executive Board.**

The Secretariat invites members of the Board who may have questions of a technical nature with regard to this document, to contact the WFP staff focal points indicated below, preferably well in advance of the Board's meeting.

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# Executive Summary

Nepal is one of the poorest countries in the world. Forty-two percent of its population of 22 million live below the poverty line. It is a least-developed and low-income, food-deficit country, with an annual per capita GNP in 1998 of slightly over US\$200. In 1999, the country ranked 144<sup>th</sup> on UNDP's Human Development Index (HDI). More than one third of its population consumes fewer than 2,250 Kcal a day. The maternal mortality rate is one of the highest in the world: 475 per 100,000 live births; the under-5 mortality rate is 118 per 1,000. Despite their high labour input to the household economy, women's access to assets and services and their involvement in decision-making are restricted by rigid socio-cultural norms and practices.

Food insecurity in Nepal manifests itself in: 1) insufficient per capita availability because of production and internal redistribution problems; 2) insufficient access to food because of lack of purchasing power; and 3) poor nutrient utilization by expectant and nursing mothers and infants due to diseases and lack of micronutrients.

Through its Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (VAM), WFP has identified the most food-insecure areas: the far western hills and mountains. The food-surplus-producing *Terai* (plains bordering India) region is relatively less vulnerable, although many food-insecure people live there.

The goal of the Country Programme (2002–2006) will be to sustainably improve food security for the most disadvantaged, particularly women and children in highly food-insecure areas. In accordance with decision 1999/EB.A/2 of the Executive Board, WFP focuses its development activities on five objectives. The Nepal Country Programme will address objectives 1, 2, and 3 (enable young children and expectant and nursing mothers to meet their special nutritional and nutrition-related health needs; enable poor households to invest in human capital through education and training; and make it possible for poor families to gain and preserve assets).

WFP's long-term targeting strategy is to gradually phase out of the *Terai* and focus on hill and mountain areas while aiming at synergies by converging programme activities geographically. Programme activities will focus on all three dimensions of food insecurity: a) *availability*: through creation of community assets related to increased food production and improved physical access to remote areas; b) *access*: through support to community-based rural infrastructure investments, increasingly those that benefit women, and through incentives for pre- and primary education, especially girls', to prevent child labour and create human capital; and c) *nutrient utilization*: through the provision of micronutrient-fortified foods to expectant and nursing mothers, and children, complementing UNICEF's programme, which focuses on child care and feeding practices.

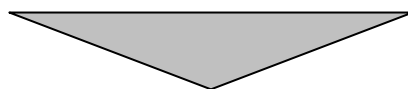
Attention will be paid to the establishment of results-oriented monitoring and



evaluation systems. WFP's Commitments to Women will be addressed through the provision of fortified foods to mothers and children, increasing women's involvement in decisions on the creation of community assets and the provision of special incentives for girls' education. WFP will engage in advocacy efforts for the establishment of a national food security policy, for the micronutrient fortification of food, and for overcoming practices that discriminate against women.

The proposed strategy is strengthened by partnerships with United Nations agencies, bilateral donors, NGOs as well as collaborations with government agencies. The outlined programme is compatible both with the Common Country Assessment (CCA) undertaken in 1999 and with the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) currently under formulation.

## Draft Decision



The Board endorses the Country Strategy Outline for Nepal (WFP/EB.3/2000/6/1) and authorizes the Secretariat to proceed with the formulation of a Country Programme, which should take into account the comments of the Board.



## FOOD INSECURITY AND THE HUNGRY POOR

### National Indicators

1. Nepal has a population of 22 million. It is an overwhelmingly mountainous Himalayan kingdom. Ecologically it is divided into mountains, hills and the plains of the *Terai*. The mountains and hills are sparsely populated. The *Terai* covers 23 percent of the total area and is home to about half the country's population. In large parts of Nepal, the lack of physical access, with a corresponding lack of access to markets and services, is one of the major development constraints.
2. Nepal is one of the world's poorest and least developed countries (LDC). It is a low-income, food-deficit country (LIFDC) with a per capita GNP slightly above US\$200 (1998). It ranks 144<sup>th</sup> out of 174 countries on UNDP's Human Development Index (1999) and lags behind all countries in the region in adult literacy, children's education, mother and child mortality, food consumption, safe drinking-water, sanitation and health services.
3. Forty-two percent of the population live below the poverty line,<sup>1</sup> 76 percent on less than US\$1 per day, in purchasing power parity terms. Most of the people rely on subsistence farming to make a living. The agricultural sector absorbs more than 80 percent of the labour force and accounts for 41 percent of the GNP.
4. Total Official Development Assistance was estimated at US\$469 million in 1998; WFP development assistance was valued at nearly US\$5 million, comprising 12,230 tons of food aid.<sup>2</sup> Additional WFP assistance of US\$5.4 million was provided for delivering food to Bhutanese refugees in eastern Nepal. Of the total food aid received during 1998, WFP supplied 87 percent; Canada, France and Japan provided the remaining 13 percent under bilateral schemes.

### The Situation of Women

5. There are serious gender gaps in Nepal. The country's Gender Empowerment Measure (GEM),<sup>3</sup> which assesses women's participation in economic, political, and professional spheres, is only half the global average and the second lowest in South Asia. Its Gender-related Development Index (GDI) is only 82 percent of the HDI. The labour involvement of women is high, with 75 percent of the farm work in addition to domestic chores being performed by them. Women work three to four hours a day longer than men. They contribute about two thirds of the total crop, vegetable and livestock production. In fact, there is an increasing feminization of Nepal's agriculture because of the seasonal migration of men. Nevertheless, rigid socio-cultural norms and practices severely restrict women's access to resources, and they are frequently denied control of marketing decisions. Women are also excluded from decision-making within social institutions. Intra-household eating customs are likely to disadvantage them; women are typically the last to eat, and their portions are determined by the amount left over by the other family members.

<sup>1</sup> 2,250 Kcal per capita per day; NPC and the 1996 Living Standards Survey.

<sup>2</sup> In 1999, WFP development assistance increased to 17,560 tons and is expected to be 23,400 tons in 2000.

<sup>3</sup> UN-CCA 1999.



6. Gender disparity with respect to literacy rates is high, with 54 percent for men and only 19 percent for women.<sup>4</sup> On average, girls attend school for only one year, while boys attend for three.<sup>5</sup> Nepal is one of the few countries where women's life expectancy is lower than men's and where there are fewer females in every age group. The maternal mortality rate is one of the highest in the world, at 475 per 100,000 live births. About 75 percent of all expectant women suffer from anaemia. The tetanus immunization rate for expectant women is only 42 percent.<sup>6</sup> Women's lack of decision-making power extends to the point that, often, their use of health services is determined by their husbands or other family members rather than their own judgement. Hence, gender inequity relating to literacy and health is not simply a matter of resources, but as much a reflection of the social value system.

### Food Insecurity at the National and Household Levels

7. Food insecurity in Nepal has three critical dimensions:
- a) insufficient per capita food *availability* due to low production and internal redistribution problems;
  - b) insufficient *access* to food due to lack of purchasing power; and
  - c) poor *nutrient utilization* due to lack of micronutrients for expectant and nursing mothers and infants, health care and nutrition knowledge as well as diseases.

#### ✦ **Insufficient Food Availability**

8. Nepal has shifted from a position of national food grain surpluses to chronic deficits: from a maximum surplus of nearly 500,000 tons in 1988/89 to a production deficit of as much as 485,000 tons in 1994/95. Since the early 1990s, food imports have increased substantially; in 1996/97 they were about 67,000 tons.<sup>7</sup> A ten-year projection of the food balance situation, considering population and food production growth rates, shows that Nepal will continue to have negative food balances of more than 250,000 tons per year.<sup>8</sup>
9. Existing land distribution and tenancy arrangements have been very counterproductive: the wealthiest 6 percent of agricultural households control over 33 percent of the arable land, while the poorest 40 percent control only 9 percent. On the larger landholdings in the *Terai*, low wages for labourers and insecure tenancy arrangements have hampered efficient land use. The holdings in the mountains and hills are extremely small, and the cropping intensity and productivity are low. At the same time, lack of physical access to markets limits the available food. This is aggravated by crop losses caused by natural disasters.
10. There is a trend of rising numbers of food-deficit districts: in 1975, 32 of the total 75 districts were considered to be food-deficit; currently this is estimated for 45 districts. The pattern is clear: all 16 districts in the mountain region are food-deficit, 26 out of 39 hill, and only 3 of the 20 *Terai* districts are food-deficit districts. The *Terai* is the only

<sup>4</sup> World Bank, Country Assistance Strategy 1999.

<sup>5</sup> UNDP, 1998 Human Development in South Asia. The Education Challenge.

<sup>6</sup> Department of Health Service, Ministry of Health. 1997/98.

<sup>7</sup> Agriculture Marketing Development Division, Department of Agriculture.

<sup>8</sup> Special Programme on Food Security in Nepal / SPIN Report, FAO, 1996.



major surplus-producing area, but Nepal's open-border policy with India leads to food flows across the border.

### ✦ **Insufficient Access to Food**

11. The second dimension of food insecurity for a large portion of the population is a low per capita calorie intake caused by low purchasing power, a food access problem caused by poverty. Thirty–six percent of the population is estimated to consume less than the minimum caloric requirement of 2,250 Kcal a day. In 1990 the National Planning Commission (NPC) estimated that poverty affected 42 percent of Nepal's population, a figure based on a poverty line corresponding to the income needed to supply the minimum caloric requirement.
12. Poverty in Nepal is still mainly a rural phenomenon. It is largely related to small landholdings, insecure tenancy arrangements and underemployment. The percentage of people living below the poverty line is highest in the mountains (56 percent). However, the absolute number of people living in poverty is highest in the *Terai*. Landless occupational castes increasingly have been driven into poverty as a result of the growing trend of importing manufactured goods.
13. The frequent recurrence of floods, droughts, landslides and earthquakes provides an added risk. The flow of food grains from surplus to deficit regions is limited; consequently, price variations are high. To cope with this, poor rural households diversify their incomes, but since their asset levels are very low, many can only partially accommodate threats to their livelihoods. When the rural poor are forced to reduce their calorie intake, a “silent emergency” occurs. It disproportionately affects women and children.
14. Local wage labour opportunities are extremely limited. Hundreds of thousands of men seasonally migrate from the mountains and hills to the *Terai* and into India in order to work as unskilled labourers. Their wives remain behind, burdened with being the sole providers for their families. Their children have to perform household chores. More than 42 percent of the 5–14 age group, especially the girls, work regularly. Children's (net) primary school enrolment is low: 79 percent for boys and 60 percent for girls. Low school attendance, high drop-out and repetition rates are serious problems and far more prevalent among girls than boys.

### ✦ **Poor Nutrient Utilization**

15. The third and most complex dimension of food insecurity in Nepal is poor nutrient utilization. It manifests itself in a high malnutrition rate among children, with its negative and generally irreversible consequences on human development. The under-3 infant mortality rate is about 75 per 1,000 live births, among the highest in the world. Two thirds of all under-5 deaths are associated with malnutrition.
16. About half of all children under 3 are underweight (low weight for age) and half are stunted (low height-for-age), without gender differences. This situation can be largely attributed to lack of energy-, protein- and micronutrient-rich foods for expectant and nursing mothers, as well as for infants, but it is also the result of the following utilization factors: poor health conditions of women during their pregnancies and while nursing; child diseases, causing as much as a 20 percent loss in calories consumed; and inadequate child care and feeding practices caused by lack of education and knowledge and the heavy workloads of mothers. Malnutrition is highest in the mid and far western mountain and hill regions, while a small number of districts in the central and western *Terai* also have fairly high rates.



17. Poor maternal nutritional status and inadequate health care result in low birth weight for infants and high maternal mortality rates. Iodine deficiency causes impaired intellectual development in children and goitre; vitamin A deficiency results in immune deficiency, decreased resistance to diarrhoea, measles and early blindness; iron deficiency (anaemia) causes reduced learning ability in children and diminished future work capacity. Three quarters of expectant women suffer from significant iron deficiency. These problems are generally more serious in the hill and mountain areas.

### Rationale for the Use of Food Aid

18. The significant incidence of malnutrition, regional food deficits and inadequate market access all provide a rationale for the use of food aid, particularly in the mountains and hills. There remains one critical aspect: food assistance in the agricultural surplus-producing *Terai*, where lack of purchasing power prevents large numbers of people from affording the required daily calorie intake. From a household point of view, these people are willing to accept food as remuneration or incentive, and thus increase their level of food consumption or free up scarce income for other purposes.
19. Although the role of food aid in targeting the poorest is recognized, it would be inefficient and counterproductive from a macroeconomic point of view to continue to bring food aid into surplus-producing areas. Hence, WFP will favour the increased involvement of government and other agencies in cash-based development programmes in the *Terai*. The use of fortified foods in targeted interventions, however, would still be appropriate for addressing poor nutrient utilization in these areas, since these foods are neither locally produced nor readily available on local markets.

### The Target Population

20. A national vulnerability assessment survey was conducted during 1999 and early 2000 to identify and characterize WFP's target population. The survey concluded that the populations most likely to be vulnerable and food-insecure are those belonging to households of bonded labourers,<sup>9</sup> landless and displaced households, households in drought- or flood-prone areas, those of occupational castes, smallholder farmers and livestock herders, and those belonging to marginalized ethnic groups. Within food-insecure households, women and children were identified as the most vulnerable. These population groups will constitute the targets of WFP assistance.

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## GOVERNMENT PRIORITIES AND POLICIES ADDRESSING POVERTY AND FOOD INSECURITY

21. **Ninth Five-year Plan (1997–2002).** The current plan envisages a 20-year development period with reduction in the incidence of poverty from 42 to 32 percent. It foresees policies which address poverty and which are of importance for WFP's role in Nepal: employment generation, economic growth through agriculture, infrastructure development, basic education, skills development, nutrition, social mobilization and targeted programmes

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<sup>9</sup> Bonded labour is the result of a complex system of interlinked labour, land and credit contracts with long working hours for low wages, high levels of indebtedness and limited mobility for exploring other income options.





directed to remote areas, tribal groups, disadvantaged communities, landless households, marginal farmers, bonded labourers and the unemployed poor.

22. **Decentralization.** The new Local Self-governance Act of 1999 is seen as a sign of the Government's commitment to the devolution of central authority in that it would allow locally elected District Development Committees (DDCs) to set up their own sector management units, thus replacing the central-line agencies. Government funds are now directly allocated to the lowest level of people's representation, the Village Development Committees (VDCs).
23. **Gender mainstreaming.** During the World Conference on Women in 1995, the Government expressed its commitment to the Beijing Platform for Action. A national plan of action for gender equality and women's empowerment was formulated. The Amendment to the Local Self-governance Act provided the legal basis for greater participation of women in local-level decision-making bodies, reserving 20 percent of all seats in VDCs and DDCs for women.
24. **Agricultural Perspective Plan and Special Area Development Programme.** The 20-year Agricultural Perspective Plan (APP) focuses on the acceleration of the agricultural growth rate in order to obtain strong multiplier effects on employment, both in and outside agriculture. The Ministry of Local Development (MLD) has formulated a Special Area Development Programme covering remote districts. One of its objectives is to overcome the economic and social differences between people living in these special and other areas. Programme elements include feeder roads, mule trails, rural irrigation works, skills development and income-generation activities.
25. **Basic and Primary Education Project.** The right to education is guaranteed in Nepal's constitution, but education is not compulsory. In 1992 a multi-donor-funded five-year Basic Primary Education Project (BPEP) was launched in order to increase access to primary schooling in 40 districts, placing major emphasis on the construction and repair of classrooms. Recently, BPEP was extended to 2004 to focus on improving the quality of learning and on increasing girls' school enrolment and attendance. In 1997 the role of the Ministry of Education was expanded to cover the pre-school age group (3 to 5 years); Community-based Child Development Centres (CBCDC) will be set up for these children.
26. **National Plan of Action for Nutrition.** Following the International Conference on Nutrition in 1992, Nepal prepared a National Plan of Action for Nutrition (NPAN). Policy components include ensuring people's food security at the household level, preventing and controlling micronutrient deficiencies through food-based approaches and dietary supplementation, and improving nutrition education and awareness.
27. **Food-security policy.** The Government has not yet formulated an integrated national food security policy. However, it has pursued the strategy of improving food availability in remote areas through the Nepal Food Corporation (NFC). NFC procures 40,000 to 50,000 tons of food grains per year from the *Terai* and sells it at subsidized prices in the mountain and hill districts. Since 1999, as part of an overall policy of deregulation and structural adjustment, the Government has initiated a reform of NFC. According to a South Asian Association for Regional Cooperations (SAARC) agreement, NFC's operational focus is planned to be shifted to the maintenance of a national strategic food reserve of about 30,000 tons of cereals. In terms of targeted food aid interventions, the only activities carried out are those assisted by WFP.



## ASSESSMENT OF WFP'S PERFORMANCE TO DATE

### The Interventions: Evolution, Strengths and Weaknesses

28. WFP's current assistance to Nepal covers two development projects, primary school feeding and food for work, both reflecting a development that began almost three decades ago.<sup>10</sup> Relief and rehabilitation have also played an important role.

#### ✦ *Education: Primary School Feeding*

29. The current School Feeding Project (SFP) reflects the evolution of an intervention that started in 1972, aiming to address the nutritional needs of mothers and children. Evaluations in 1988 and 1995 concluded that beneficiary targeting was poor and that nutrition interventions through health posts over-stretched the public health structure, resulting in the project's acting as a relief channel for food rather than facilitating the provision of medical services. As a result, WFP re-oriented its assistance towards the basic education sector only, while encouraging community participation and parental involvement. A gender-sensitive community motivation programme was started in 1998 to provide training in basic health and nutrition, savings and micro-credit, skills and management development and to enhance community and parental participation in the schools' Food Management Committees (FMCs). This programme is implemented by the Nepali NGO Manushi.

30. Since 1998 the SFP has focused exclusively on public primary schools, mainly in rural areas. Its immediate objectives are to reduce the incidence of drop-outs and absenteeism; stimulate regular attendance, particularly of girls; relieve short-term hunger; and improve learning ability and performance. The project aims at providing a mid-morning snack (fortified blended food) to 250,000 primary school students in 12 food-deficit districts that have high educational needs and are assisted under BPEP. Gender-sensitive baseline surveys were carried out in 1999 in preparation for a project expansion and for launching the pilot girls' incentive scheme. A mid-term programme and management review is planned for mid-2000.

#### ✦ *Rural Infrastructure: from Food for Work to Community Asset Creation*

31. WFP assistance to rural infrastructure goes back to 1976 under a food-for-work project that supported the rehabilitation, construction and improvement of trails and tracks in poor, remote and hilly areas. In the 1980s, food-for-work projects were implemented through a highly centralized structure; their key weakness was the lack of community participation. WFP learned that to promote the building of sustainable and relevant assets, those assets had to be identified and managed by the local communities themselves, and that organizational and technical assistance had above all to aim at strengthening community ownership.

32. The ongoing Rural Community Infrastructure Works (RCIW) project aims to improve community infrastructure related to physical access and food production in rural, food-deficit areas and the capacity of communities to plan, construct, operate and maintain assets. RCIW is a joint project of MLD, WFP and the German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ), in which WFP provides rice and non-food items. MLD gives technical

<sup>10</sup> See Annex I for a summary of WFP assistance since 1963, including details on ongoing projects.



personnel and construction materials, and GTZ provides technical assistance, including social mobilization services. Infrastructure created by the project belongs primarily to the communities and has included the construction of trails and rural roads, river training, flood-control measures, small-scale irrigation and fish ponds. Areas for improvement have been clearly identified<sup>11</sup> and are reflected in the new RCIW project, designed as a “bridge” between the end of the current phase (December 2000) and the beginning of the Country Programme.

### ✧ *Protracted Relief and Emergency Operations*

33. Since 1992, WFP has assisted Bhutanese refugees in collaboration with UNHCR, the Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS) and other NGOs. The total cost to WFP has been about US\$59 million. The current operation provides food rations for more than 96,000 refugees. Nepal is susceptible to natural calamities requiring emergency relief. In 1993, WFP provided food assistance to almost 500,000 drought-affected people in the *Terai*, and in 1994 it managed bilateral drought assistance from Canada.

## Assessment in Light of WFP’s Enabling Development Policy and Commitments to Women

### ✧ *Targeting*

34. In the SFP all primary, government-run schools within identified districts are eligible for inclusion. For RCIW, the 1999 Impact Assessment concluded that the project had succeeded in targeting activities to the most food-insecure VDCs, and that within these activities, self-targeting mechanisms had worked well to attract the neediest villagers, including a large proportion of women. Still, it is recognized that sustainably improving the poor’s access to food requires more refined targeting that also considers their ability to benefit from the assets created.

### ✧ *Project Convergence and Synergies*

35. The country office has aimed at achieving synergies by implementing different projects in the same districts. To date, there are nine districts where both RCIW and SFP operate.

### ✧ *Programme Design*

#### Participation

36. The SFP is managed by FMCs in consultation with local education authorities. Further training and sensitization are required through NGOs to achieve the active participation of FMCs in such tasks as transporting food from roadheads and cooking. RCIW places great emphasis on strengthening the self-help capacity of rural communities. The project’s mid-term review found that food aid has been useful in mobilizing the participation of the poor to help build community infrastructure.

#### Women’s and girls’ participation

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<sup>11</sup> 1997 Joint WFP/German Government Mid-Term Evaluation; 1999 Impact Assessment; and VAM studies.



37. WFP has made substantial gains in facilitating women's and girls' access to resources and participation in activities. At least 25 percent of the FMC members in SFP are women. In 2000, the proportion of women in FMCs will increase to 35 percent. SFP has also overcome some of the barriers to girls' education. However, at the end of 1999, only 37 percent of school feeding recipients were girls; this is roughly equivalent to the proportion of girl students in remote districts. RCIW has moved from an all-male to a 30 percent, on average, female workforce, ensured equal access and pay rates and approved at least one women-only scheme per district. The concept of gender equity has been included in the orientations of all decision-makers. District Gender Action Plans have been developed, and district officers provide backstopping to gender mainstreaming in their target communities. The 1999 Impact Assessment commended the "jump ahead" for greater gender equity, especially for women's participation in local-level decision-making committees. More attention will still be required to assist communities in the identification of assets that directly benefit women.

#### Partnerships

38. Three weaknesses exist in RCIW's current partnership structure. First, MLD has been unable to provide a sufficient number of experts for certain scheme types; only recently has progress been made in establishing partnerships with new government agencies. Second, MLD has had difficulty in attracting and retaining the required staff in remote districts. However, new partnerships are now being established with agencies that offer implementation support at the district level. Third, there is more scope for WFP resources to act as a catalyst, bringing together government line agency, donor and NGO resources. However, it has not yet been feasible to form such relationships in the SFP, beyond the existing partnership with the World Health Organization (WHO) for the de-worming programme.

#### Monitoring systems

39. Both projects have developed monitoring systems that include participatory approaches. Monitoring formats have been revised to capture gender-disaggregated statistics. Key counterparts and WFP staff have been trained in gender-sensitive monitoring. There is still a need to develop systems that focus more strongly on the effects that interventions have on beneficiaries' lives.

#### Achievement of results



40. So far only limited results can be demonstrated for the SFP. One rapid assessment, conducted in 1999, shows an increase in attendance by 12 percent for girls and 5 percent for boys since 1995/96. RCIW effects are documented in the 1999 Impact Assessment: the roads, trails and irrigation infrastructure constructed were found to have the strongest economic effects; fish ponds managed by women had high rates of return where groups were small and technically well supported; and VDCs were strengthened in identifying and “claiming” rural infrastructure investments. RCIW also demonstrated that infrastructure projects could be planned and implemented by communities with accountability and transparency. However, it was found that local government capacities were not yet strong enough to take over on a sustainable basis. Another key challenge that remains is to enable the poorest, especially women, to grasp the economic opportunities created by improved physical access.

### 📌 *Market Impact of Food Aid*

41. The small quantities of local purchases and food aid imports have had a favourable effect on local markets, smoothening price fluctuations for consumers while not distorting price incentives to farmers. The bulk of food aid has been distributed during the agricultural lean season (December to August), when local purchasing power is low and food prices rise.

### 📌 *Conclusions*

42. WFP-assisted projects have focused on supporting human development and improving the food security of the poor. Overall, these interventions have been well implemented and have given rise to participatory processes with wider implications. However, WFP has not yet systematically addressed all dimensions of food insecurity in order to maximize the effects of its interventions. Neither has poor nutrient utilization been addressed, except for the de-worming initiative in SFP.<sup>12</sup> There also is scope for further improving targeting mechanisms and programme design, especially with respect to the establishment of results-measurement systems and increasing women's benefits from the assets created.

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## FUTURE ORIENTATION OF WFP ASSISTANCE

### Country Programme Goal, Strategic Objectives and Approach

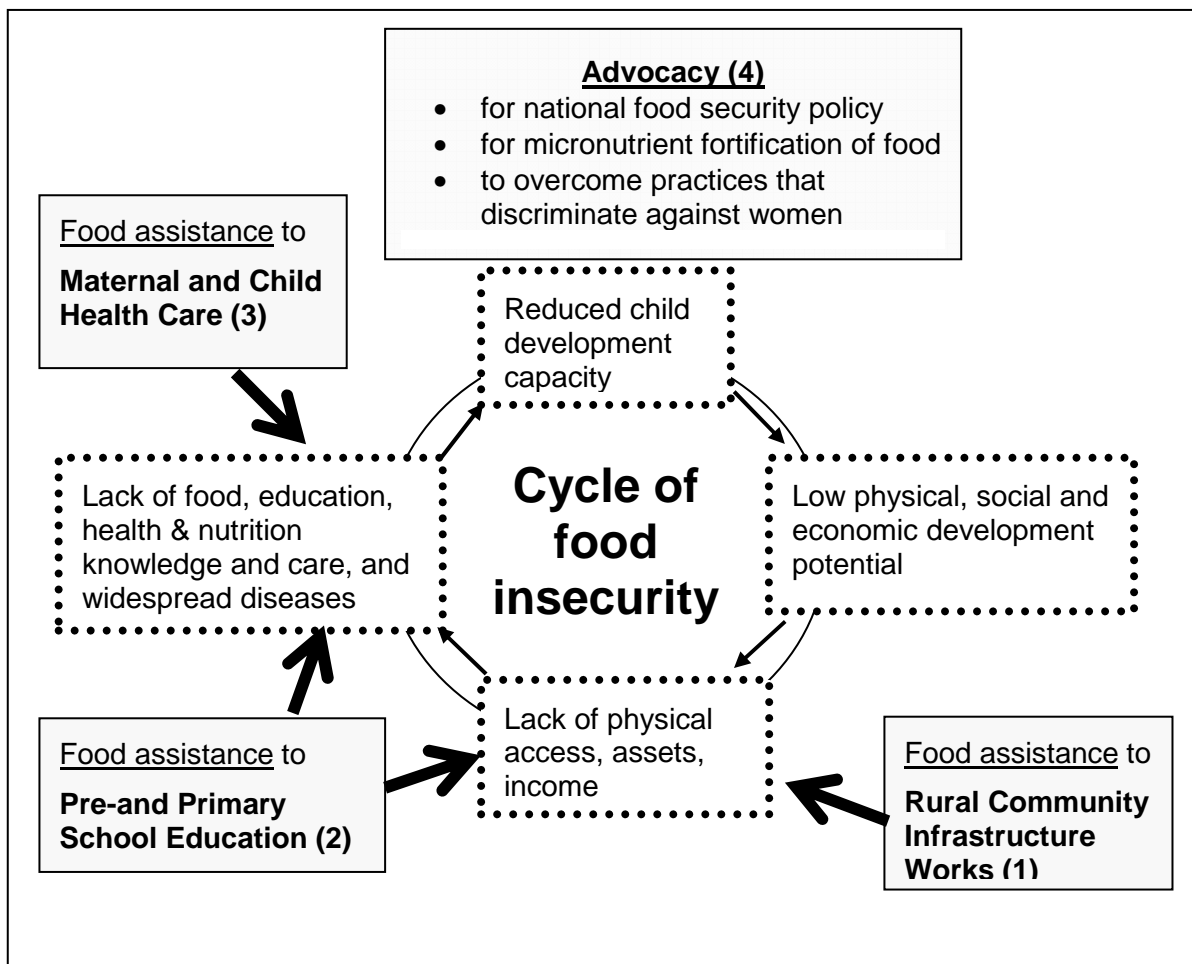
43. The programme goal will be to improve food security in a sustainable way for the most disadvantaged, particularly women and children, in highly food-insecure areas of Nepal. In order to contribute to this goal, and in accordance with decision 1999/EB.A/2 of the Executive Board, the Nepal Country Programme (2002–2006) will address the following strategic objectives: make it possible for poor households to gain and preserve assets; enable poor households to invest in human capital through education and training; and enable young children and expectant and nursing mothers to meet their special nutritional and nutrition-related health needs.

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<sup>12</sup> Since parasites compete actively with the body for nutrients, micronutrient levels are improved by de-worming.



44. The circumstances of Nepal require that the first objective be addressed before the second and third can be addressed—i.e. the creation of rural community infrastructure will be a pre-condition, as remote communities will first need to be linked to markets and services before education and nutrition support can be effectively delivered.
45. Three direct food aid intervention activities, complemented by advocacy efforts, are proposed for the Country Programme. The convergence of these activities in the same areas is expected to have synergy effects in breaking the cycle of food insecurity for the most disadvantaged. As illustrated in the diagram below, this cycle is characterized by the following causal relationships: lack of physical access, access to markets and services, assets and income—leading to lack of food, education, health and nutrition knowledge, and care, and widespread diseases—leading to reduced child development capacity—leading to low physical, social and economic development potential—leading to low physical, social and economic development potential.
46. Since women and children are the most affected, it will be mainly through empowering and supporting them that this cycle can be broken.



47. The envisaged Country Programme activities and their specific objectives are summarized in Annex V. They will be integrated so that community infrastructure can also be built to support ongoing educational interventions, such as improved school facilities. The approach for programme formulation and implementation will be based on gender mainstreaming and on the principles outlined in WFP's Enabling Development policy: participation, partnerships, the cost-effectiveness of programme delivery and



results-orientation. Monitoring systems are being formulated with a view towards measuring performance and outcomes at both the programme and the activity level.

## Targeting

48. WFP will adopt a two-stage targeting strategy. **Stage 1: Geographical targeting.** The first stage identifies the geographic pattern of vulnerability to food insecurity, assesses other factors to be considered for geographical targeting and attempts to link the characteristics of vulnerable populations to the opportunities afforded by the appropriate use of food aid in Nepal's context.
49. Based on 12 district-level indicators related to food security and involving gender-disaggregated data, WFP prepared a composite vulnerability map of the country (Annex II). Populations in the far and mid western mountain and hill regions are shown to be most lacking in basic capabilities to cope with natural, social and economic threats to their livelihoods, and are least able to secure adequate access to food and other resources. Pockets of high vulnerability persist in the eastern and central mountains and in the western *Terai*.
50. WFP's long-term geographical targeting strategy is a progressive phasing-in of the far western mountains, a corresponding phasing-down and phasing-out in the *Terai*, and a maintained and increased assistance to the far and mid western hills. However, two factors will need to be considered:
- **Cost-effectiveness of programme delivery.** WFP's Enabling Development policy mandates that WFP work in the most food-insecure areas. In Nepal, these are the hills and mountains that have the highest delivery costs. WFP is tackling this issue by maintaining a geographical mix of programme areas (see Annex VI, Table 1) and introducing a "food-for-portering" component in remote areas, thus involving some of the poorest (porters) in food delivery.
  - **Partnerships and government implementation capacity.** The Enabling Development policy places emphasis on partnerships with those who can provide complementary technical and financial assistance. Although WFP will continue its efforts to attract partners for the most vulnerable areas, some targeting compromises may need to be made, especially where government implementation capacity is limited and potential partners do not exist. Some consideration will also need to be given to those areas where WFP is able to attract both technical and financial assistance.
51. The reorientation in geographic targeting is shown in Annexes III and IV. These changes are in line with the Government's priorities. The presence of RCIW will become the "pulling factor" for other activities to move into new areas. Shifts in geographical targeting will be:
- WFP will phase out RCIW assistance from the western *Terai* and some mid western hills within two years; assistance will newly begin in the mountain districts and will be increased in the hill districts in the far and mid west.
  - WFP will phase out SFP/PPSE assistance from the urban centres in the *Terai* within two years but continue in parts of the rural *Terai* where the enrolment rates for girls are still extremely low (30 percent). It will continue providing assistance in the far western hills and will follow the RCIW's move up into the far western mountains, but not to the remotest districts, as government implementation capacity is very limited there.



- The new MCHC activity will be implemented in the most vulnerable mountain and hill areas of the west, where both RCIW and SFP/PPSE are operating.
  - The number of districts with convergence of at least two programme activities will be increased from nine to eleven, and synergies will be fostered where convergence already exists.
52. **Stage 2: Targeting of programme participants.** Guidelines and criteria for the targeting of participants will be defined according to the objectives of each activity:
- For RCIW, a participatory method for identifying the most food-insecure communities within each of its target districts was developed during early 2000, with technical assistance from a mission funded by the German Government. The system has been successfully piloted in three districts. Investment proposals from the target communities are assessed at the district level on the grounds of technical merit, potential economic effects and the assurance that vulnerable households or individuals, particularly women, will benefit from both the employment generated and the assets created.
  - Under assistance to PPSE, resource allocation within selected districts will be driven by the location of schools and the objective of stimulating the participation of girls. As in the successfully completed pilot activities, targeting will be according to age and gender cohorts. At present, other than location within a vulnerable district, no household income threshold or other means test is planned to refine targeting.
  - The new MCHC activity has been designed to address the needs of expectant and nursing mothers and infants under 3. These individuals will be eligible for benefits through health posts and outreach clinics within the target districts. Again, other than location within a vulnerable district, no means test is planned to refine targeting.

### Key Areas of WFP's Future Involvement

53. Three food aid interventions complemented by advocacy and capacity-building activities are proposed (for objectives, see Annex V):

#### ➤ **Creating Assets for Poor Men and Women: Assistance to Rural Community Infrastructure Works (RCIW)**

54. RCIW assists poor people in creating productive assets based on their self-help capacity. WFP food assistance will enable the poor to invest time in creating those assets, leading to improved food security; improve rural access, agricultural production and natural resource management; and enhance skills, capacities and income opportunities at the local level, especially for women. In addition, some RCIW activities will directly serve to prevent or mitigate the effects of disasters, as with river-control schemes in the *Terai*.
55. RCIW will carry out an integrated food security approach linking the construction of community infrastructure and the improvement of physical access with a range of complementary interventions. By integrating food aid with technical assistance, including social mobilization, RCIW addresses the low availability of food and the lack of employment and income. RCIW also acknowledges and acts upon the fact that the poorest need extra assistance to develop the skills and capital required for them to take full advantage of the opportunities that physical access and community infrastructure offer. The new strategy is:





- RCIW will work with the same beneficiary households for three years, rather than one, in order to achieve the desired capacity-building effects and facilitate training investments.
- An integrated food security approach will combine community-constructed and managed infrastructure with smaller productive interventions, training and capital formation for the poorest, especially women.
- The proportion of women in the labour force will be increased from 30 to 50 percent, but not higher, as most women have other work obligations.
- Based on successful empowerment programmes supported by WFP elsewhere, food-for-training schemes will be formulated with a focus on women's needs. These schemes will build on an existing pilot initiative for informal literacy classes for women and on the RCIW training manual for the gender motivators.
- A stronger framework for women's participation in decision-making will require that 50 percent of User Committee (UC) members be women, at least one of two key positions on each UC be held by a woman and at least 50 percent of training opportunities be available to women. Ensuring that women have decision-making roles throughout project selection and implementation is expected to contribute to meeting WFP's commitment of having at least 25 percent of the assets created benefit women.
- RCIW will actively seek partnerships with a wider range of government line agencies, NGOs and donors to complement, enhance, extend and expand the expertise and resources that MLD and GTZ are able to offer.

#### ➤ ***Enabling the Poor to Invest in their Girls' and Boys' Education: Assistance to Pre- and Primary School Education (PPSE)***

56. Assistance to PPSE will be located in districts that have high educational needs, particularly for girls, and in which household food insecurity is an obstacle to children's education. Food assistance for primary school education has an advantage in reducing the opportunity cost of school attendance, preventing child labour and ensuring that short-term hunger does not inhibit children's capacity to learn. The provision of fortified blended foods to pre-school children at the Community-based Child Development Centres (CBCDCs), through the same delivery and preparation system as the support to primary education, is expected to encourage enrolment and regular attendance while improving children's nutritional status. WFP's assistance to PPSE will place special emphasis on the education of girls. Education improves economic growth and leads to greater care of the environment, but educating girls brings the added advantage of improving the quality of life both for the educated girls/women and for their future children.



57. Several changes in the approach are envisaged, while some have already been implemented:
- In order to provide a stimulating environment for pre-school children, and thus a sound basis for further education, the present school feeding activity will be extended to CBCDCs for children between 3 and 5 years of age. Expanded food assistance to pre-school children will benefit girls' participation at the primary-school level because the girls will be released from the responsibility of taking care of their younger siblings—a widespread practice in Nepal. The Department of Education will implement PPSE in coordination with NGOs, local bodies and communities.
  - An "incentive scheme for girl students" will be added. It will focus on reducing gender-related inequality while improving the average monthly attendance of girls, increasing their yearly enrolment in each grade and reducing their drop-out rates after the first year. These results will be achieved with the provision of a monthly take-home ration of oil directly to the mother of each girl student from grade two to grade five who will have had an average monthly attendance of at least 80 percent. This approach is being implemented as a pilot initiative in two far western districts and will be expanded depending on the outcome of the evaluation planned for the end of 2000.

➤ ***Enabling Mothers and Infants to Meet their Special Nutritional Needs: Provision of Fortified Food Under Maternal and Child Health Care (MCHC)***

58. Responding to the high rates of malnutrition among the vulnerable populations, a WFP/WHO mission conducted a nutritional assessment in 1999. The mission confirmed the need for a significant increase in caloric and micronutrient intake among expectant and nursing mothers and children from 6 to 36 months old. In response, a Maternal and Child Health Care (MCHC) pilot initiative has been designed that aims to combat the intergenerational effects of malnutrition by providing micronutrient-fortified flour.
59. The far western hill region has been identified as the implementation area based on food deficiency, poor nutritional status and health-related indicators. The decision to implement the pilot initiative in Dadeldhura district took into account the presence of RCIW and SFP/PPSE and UNICEF's nutrition activities. Based on the success of this pilot initiative, more plans for expansion in the far western hills will be developed.
60. The MCHC initiative has taken steps to ensure the presence of appropriate channelling structures, increased access to health services for expectant and nursing mothers and the application of a participatory approach. This activity will complement UNICEF's Decentralized Planning for the Child Programme (DPCP). The micronutrients included in the flour provided will immediately address the severe micronutrient deficiency rates in women and young children. There will be two main activity components, one for expectant and nursing mothers and one for children from 6 to 36 months old.
- Expectant and nursing mothers are targeted through the local health system and UNICEF's DPCP, which assists families, communities and local bodies in building their capacity to improve the nutritional situation of children and women.



- In the first channel, the women receive a take-home food ration when visiting an outreach clinic. The aim is to increase the usage of services covering antenatal and postpartum care for mothers while improving their nutritional status. The other channel is through the DPCP community organizations, that provide nutrition education on the dietary needs of expectant and nursing mothers and young children. To contribute to the positive effects of the fortified flour in reducing the high rates of anaemia among expectant mothers, a de-worming component will be added. This unprecedented activity in Nepal is strongly supported by the Ministry of Health and UNICEF.
- The nutritional needs of infants are addressed by providing complementary foods fortified with essential micronutrients. Take-home rations will be distributed through the DPCP community organizations for children from 6 to 36 months old. The DPCP activities will include training in growth monitoring and health education for the caretakers of these children.

### ➤ *Advocacy and Capacity-building*

61. The strategic directions and programme priorities outlined above will be complemented by a proactive advocacy of the country office in the following key areas:

- **Advocacy for a national food security policy:** WFP will advocate for the formulation of a national food security policy, including targeted food aid interventions. The country office contribution to the WFP publication “Food Security and the Role of Food Aid in South Asia” is part of this consultation and sensitization vis-à-vis concerned national authorities.
- **Advocacy against women’s discrimination:** Within the joint United Nations commitment in the CCA and UNDAF, the country office will advocate for overcoming discriminatory practices against women and for women’s increased role in local decision-making bodies.
- **Advocacy for increase in female staff in partner agencies:** As it is extremely difficult to attract women to jobs that would require them to live and work in remote areas, there is little gender balance among local government counterparts. WFP will advocate for an increase in female staff in local offices and will focus training efforts on female professionals.
- **Social marketing of fortified blended food:** The country office will advocate the use of self-targeting and micronutrient-fortified blended foods to address the nutritional deficiencies of the most vulnerable. Social marketing of blended foods is being formulated in coordination with the Canadian Micronutrient Initiative Programme.
- **Local capacity-building:** The involvement of rural communities and local administrations in assisted activities, along with technical inputs from partners, has a strong local capacity-building effect. WFP support in this regard is maximized by joint initiatives with UNDP and UNICEF, building on a common decentralized planning approach.
- **Exit strategy for WFP assistance:** WFP will continue to strengthen government capacity. The continuation of food assistance to Nepal will be justified as long as all three dimensions of food insecurity are prevalent and the positive effects of WFP-assisted interventions on the food security of beneficiaries can be demonstrated.



## Major Changes and Key Issues in WFP's Interventions

62. This strategy envisages changes in resource allocation and programme design:
- **Change in area-wise resource allocation:** There will be a shift in the proportion of WFP assistance provided towards areas most vulnerable to food insecurity. Resources allocated to people in the hill areas will increase from 77 to 84 percent and to those in the mountains from 0 to 5 percent (see Annex VI, Table 1).
  - **Change in resource allocation to different activities and groups:** WFP's focus will shift in line with the increasing need to address the utilization as much as the access aspects of food insecurity. Table 2 in Annex VI indicates the shift towards a direct nutritional intervention for mothers and infants that will reduce the relative weight of the community asset component from 75 to 50 percent. Overall, the proportion of food that will reach women and girls will increase from 50 to 60 percent, thus fulfilling WFP's Commitments to Women.
  - **Strategic changes and key issues for Country Programme:** Table 3 in Annex VI gives a summary of strategic changes and the actions that have been or will be taken in this regard.

## Partnerships and Joint Programming

63. This CSO is the result of a consultative process with the Government. A series of meetings have been held with the NPC and line ministries and workshops have been conducted involving main stakeholders. The guiding principle has been to streamline WFP-assisted interventions towards the most food-insecure areas, at first by focusing, in close collaboration with WFP's technical partner GTZ, on the preparation of an RCIW expansion phase covering mid-2000 to mid-2002. RCIW is now used as a "pulling factor" for readjusting PPSE's priorities and focus, and additionally involving MCHC.
64. Starting from the formulation of the CCA in 1999, WFP has expanded collaboration within the decentralized planning approach with both UNDP and UNICEF, as reflected in their Participatory District Development/Local Governance Programmes (PDDP/LGP) and the DPCP. The integration of interventions is facilitated through the selection of a single line ministry, MLD, to ensure overall coordination and management responsibility, and the centring of implementation activities towards the same community organizations through DDC and VDCs. As a result, operational collaboration has been initiated in the far western region, where two districts have been identified for setting up a joint poverty assessment and action plan. The involvement of bilateral donors and NGOs is envisaged.
65. WFP has actively pursued a policy of fostering partnerships with national and international NGOs and bilateral aid agencies. Pilot initiatives for RCIW are being implemented with United Mission to Nepal (UMN), the Netherlands Development Agency (SNV), Lutheran World Federation (LWF), UNDP and UNESCO, while further collaboration is envisaged with the Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation (SDC), the Department for International Development (DFID) of the United Kingdom, AsDB and IFAD. For MCHC, there are plans for involvement of Helen Keller International and Plan International.
66. WFP is an active participant in the formulation of the UNDAF (2002–2006) that is to be completed in 2000. As the UNDAF cycle will coincide with the Government's Tenth Five-year Plan, WFP's programming cycle will harmonize with plans that all United Nations agencies begin their programmes in January 2002. The UNDAF exercise is being carried out as a "rights-based" approach to the basics of human life: food, health and



education. In this context the rationale for WFP interventions would be that these rights were perceived first as rights to have access to physical, economic and human/social services. WFP's focus on gender equity is reinforced by gender's being one of the cross-cutting UNDAF themes.

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## RISKS

67. **Natural disasters.** A variety of natural disasters could significantly disrupt WFP operations.
68. **Internal security problems.** Several districts have experienced disruptions caused by political insurgency. To date, WFP has not experienced direct implementation problems. However, the potential for greater disturbances exists.
69. **Partnerships.** WFP requires continued and new partnerships with the Government, NGOs and donors in order to implement the strategy contained in this document. However, if required partnerships do not materialize, there will be negative effects.
70. **Local implementation capacities.** Overloading of decentralized government structures is a concern. Many donors work through these structures, especially in remote districts, and there is a risk to implementation when political elected local bodies, such as DDCs, have responsibility for technical activity implementation.
71. **Women's participation.** There is a risk that, despite all efforts, the large gender gaps with respect to nutritional status, education, and participation in decision-making and access to the benefits from the assets created will be reduced only marginally. Therefore, during the formulation of the Country Programme, WFP will carefully consider the possibility of setting "conditionalities" for increasing the likelihood of meeting its Commitments to Women.
72. **Cost of improved programme design.** The costs of implementing fully the desired participatory approaches where they do not already exist and of establishing results-oriented monitoring systems on programme and activity levels are likely to require further financial support, which may not be easily available.



## ANNEX I

## WFP ASSISTANCE TO NEPAL FROM 1963 TO 1999

Type of assistance	Value* (in million US\$)	%
<b>Development projects</b>		
Rural community infrastructure and food security, 1995–present	20.812	
Roads and public works, 1965–1995	20.125	
Vulnerable group feeding, 1971–1995	58.874	
Primary school feeding, 1995–present	38.678	
Resettlement of internally affected populations, 1966–1977	10.802	
Dairy development, 1963–1986	7.290	
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>156.581</b>	<b>64</b>
<b>Refugee and emergency operations</b>		
Assistance to refugees, 1992–present	58.958	
Drought relief operation, 1972–1986	19.757	
Earthquake emergency, 1986	0.110	
Other disaster relief operations (floods, landslides, etc.), 1993–1998	2.611	
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>81.437</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>Quick-action projects</b>		
Rehabilitation of damaged infrastructure, 1996	2.141	
Road construction, 1982–1984	1.825	
Small-scale irrigation works, 1984	0.182	
Supplementary Feeding Programme, 1979	0.838	
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>4.986</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSISTANCE</b>	<b>243.004</b>	<b>100</b>

\* Value refers to WFP projects approved until 31 December 1999.

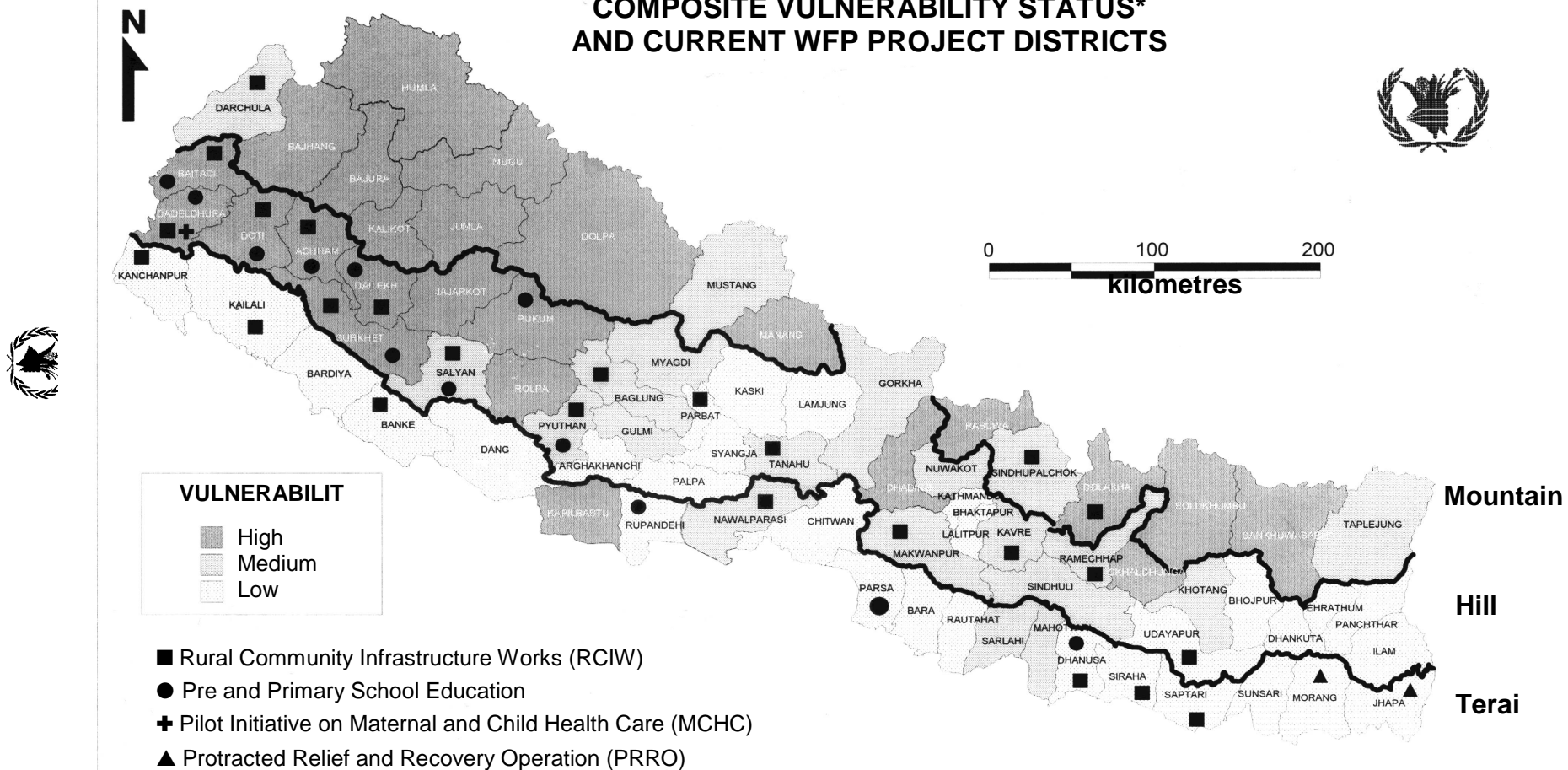
## ONGOING PROJECTS AS OF JULY 2000

Project 5572.00, "Rural Community Infrastructure Works" Duration: 14/12/199–31/12/2000;	20.81
Project 3718.01 "Assistance to Primary Schools" Duration: 15/04/1998–15/08/2002;	15.03
PRRO 6151.00 "Assistance to Bhutanese Refugees in Nepal" Duration: 01/01/2000–31/12/2000;	7.01
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>42.85</b>



ANNEX II

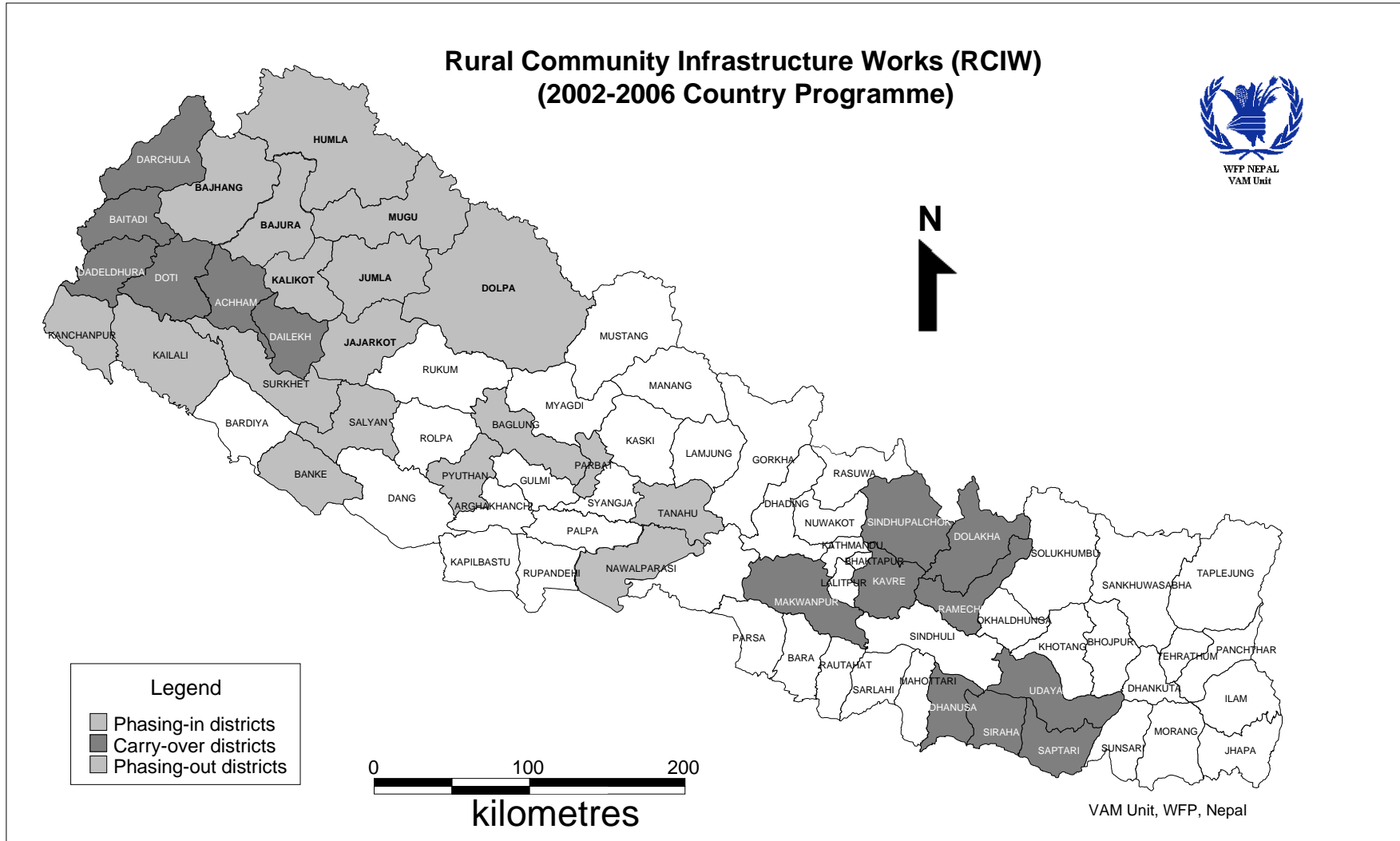
NEPAL  
COMPOSITE VULNERABILITY STATUS\*  
AND CURRENT WFP PROJECT DISTRICTS



The designations employed and the presentation of material in this publication do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the World Food Programme (WFP) concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its frontiers or boundaries

### ANNEX III

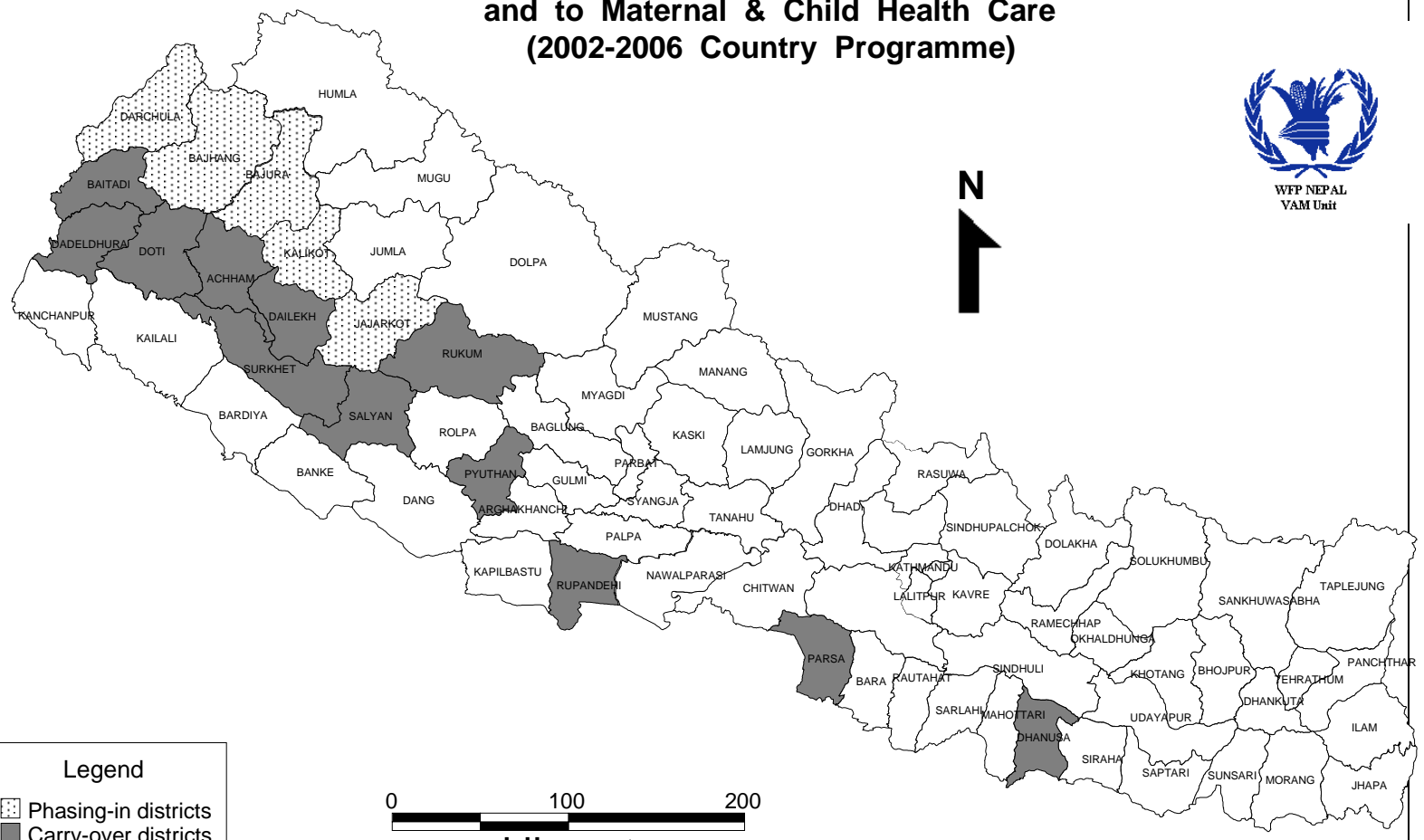
## Rural Community Infrastructure Works (RCIW) (2002-2006 Country Programme)





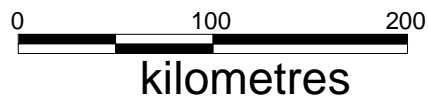
# ANNEX IV

## Food assistance to Pre and Primary School Education and to Maternal & Child Health Care (2002-2006 Country Programme)



**Legend**

- Phasing-in districts
- Carry-over districts



VAM Unit, WFP, Nepal

## ANNEX V

### ENVISAGED COUNTRY PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES AND THEIR OBJECTIVES

1. Food assistance for Rural Community Infrastructure Works (RCIW), which aims to:
  - open up remote areas to markets and services and increase food availability through production and trade;
  - provide cash and food to food-insecure households through short-term infrastructure works;
  - create community assets (irrigation structures, road and trails), which lead to longer-term income increase, food security and disaster mitigation;
  - prevent child labour through the creation of employment and assets for adults.
2. Food assistance for Pre- and Primary School Education (PPSE), with special incentives for girls, which aims to:
  - prevent child labour by providing incentives to families to send their children to pre-and primary schools, with special consideration for girls;
  - contribute to improved psychosocial development and increased education, thus building capacities for improved understanding of health and nutrition issues, which is especially important for girls and women.<sup>13</sup>
3. Food assistance to Maternal and Child Health Care (MCHC), which aims to:
  - improve the nutritional intake of women and children at critical times in their lives through energy and protein rich and micronutrient-fortified blended foods;
  - increase the use of health services and improve the health and nutrition status of women and children, along with UNICEF's provision of health, nutrition and child care education to expectant and nursing mothers.
4. Advocacy efforts which aim at wider effects in specific areas such as:
  - the formulation and implementation of a national food security policy;
  - the production and consumption of micronutrient fortified blended foods; and
  - the reduction of discriminatory practices that prevent women from fully participating in and benefiting from development efforts.

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<sup>13</sup> The more educated women are, the more likely that they will ensure antenatal and delivery care, childhood immunization and better diets for their children. Hence, the education of girls plays a crucial role in sustainably breaking the cycle of food insecurity and chronically hampered child development.



## ANNEX VI

## MAJOR CHANGES AND KEY ISSUES FOR WFP'S INVOLVEMENT IN NEPAL

TABLE 1: CHANGES IN REGIONAL TARGETING: RELATIVE RESOURCE ALLOCATIONS FOR DIFFERENT AGRO-ECOLOGICAL AND VULNERABILITY ZONES

Relative vulnerability (according to map in Annex II)	Agro-ecological zone	Current share in overall resources (2000) - %	Projected (average) share in resources under Country Programme (2002–2006) - %
Low	Terai	23	11
Medium	Hills	77	84
High	Mountains	0	5

TABLE 2: CHANGES IN RELATIVE RESOURCE ALLOCATIONS FOR PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES

Strategic objective	Country Programme activity	Current share in overall resources (2000) - %	Projected share in resources under Country Programme (2002–2006) - %
Creating assets for poor men and women	Assistance to rural community infrastructure works (RCIW)	75	50
Enabling the poor to invest in their girls' and boys' education	Assistance to pre- and primary school education (PPSE)	25	30
Enabling mothers and infants to meet their special nutritional needs	Provision of fortified foods under maternal and child health care (MCHC)-as complement to UNICEF's DPCP	0	20



TABLE 3: STRATEGIC CHANGES FOR THE NEPAL COUNTRY PROGRAMME 2002–2006

Strategic change	Action required
Objective analysis	Assessment and analysis of food insecurity and vulnerability through VAM Focus on understanding reasons for food insecurity, with a corresponding improved identification of Nepal's most vulnerable people
Improved targeting	Progressive shift to most food-insecure areas (mountains and hills), to the extent possible given considerations of cost-effectiveness, government capacity, partnerships, synergies, and absorption capacities; Improved local-level targeting within districts  Corresponding phase-down and -out from food-surplus-producing districts by 2006
Increased focus on the specific needs of disadvantaged women and children	New interventions on maternal and child health care and on early childhood development – social marketing of micronutrient-fortified blended foods  Percentage of overall development resources allocated to women and girls as direct programme participants to be increased from 32 to 55 percent, and as food aid beneficiaries from 50 to 60 percent  Strengthening of community awareness of and commitment to gender equity and women's involvement in decision-making  Advocacy against women's discrimination and for more female field staff
Aiming for synergies	Pulling interventions together in the same areas: programme convergence increased from nine to eleven districts  Acting as a "catalyst" for development partners and assistance to these areas
Improvements in programme design and implementation	An integrated food security approach taken and refined, combining physical asset creation with human development  Use of participatory approaches in all stages of programme implementation cycle; broadening of technical support and services  Development and implementation of results-oriented M&E systems for the programme as a whole and for individual activities; respective logframe training
Advocacy and food aid	Advocacy for higher donor support for WFP food aid for development assistance to Nepal  Use of WFP food aid as leverage for increased government contribution to food-assisted development and promotion of the establishment of a national food security policy
Decentralization	Implementation through local-level government and community structures
Joint UN situation analysis, strategies, and programming	Common Country Assessment and UNDAF Harmonization of programme cycles within UN Programme collaborations with other UN agencies



## LIST OF ACRONYMS USED IN THE DOCUMENT

AsDB	Asian Development Bank
APP	Agricultural Perspective Plan
BPEP	Basic and Primary Education Project
CBCDC	Community-based Child Development Centre
CCA	Common Country Assessment
CSO	Country Strategy Outline
DFID	Department for International Development (United Kingdom)
DPCP	Decentralized Planning for the Child Programme
DDC	District Development Committee
FMC	Food Management Committee
GDI	Gender-related Development Index
GEM	Gender Empowerment Measure
GTZ	German Agency for Technical Cooperation
HDI	Human Development Index
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
LDC	Least developed country
LGP	Local Governance Programme
LIFDC	Low-income, food-deficit country
LWF	Lutheran World Federation
MCHC	Maternal and Child Health Care
MLD	Ministry of Local Development
NFC	Nepal Food Corporation
NPAN	National Plan of Action for Nutrition
NPC	National Planning Commission
NRCS	National Red Cross Society
PRRO	Protracted relief and recovery operation
PPSE	Pre- and Primary School Education
RCIW	Rural Community Infrastructure
SAARC	South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
SDC	Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation
SFP	School Feeding Project
SNV	Netherlands Development Agency
UMN	United Nations Development
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
VAM	Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping
VDC	Village Development Committee

