# Abridged Project Progress Report (Period: July 1, 2022 - December 31, 2022)

## 1. Basic Project information & Milestones

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Nepal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Project name and acronym</td>
<td>Vegetables in Hilly Areas Project</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supervising Entity (SE)</td>
<td>WFP</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| SE Primary/secondary team contact for project | • Krishna JOGI, Deputy Head of Programme and Strategic Programme Manager  
• Laura Ballester Nieto, Head of External Relations |
| GAFSP Approval date | 12/02/2021                                 |
| Expected date to submit draft Project Appraisal Document (PAD)\(^1\) to the GAFSP Steering Committee for its review | March 2023 |
| GAFSP Grant Amount | $3 Million                                |
| Expected project approval date by SE (June 2022’s SMR reporting) | Approved in December 2022 |
| If the approval is delayed compared with June 2022’s reporting date above, why? | As per the design and intervention logic of the approved project, the project document needs to be developed in line with ADB-financed Nuts and Fruits in Hilly Areas (NAFHA) project which underwent various stages of changes and revisions. WFP collaborated with the NAFHA team, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development (MoALD) to ensure synergy and complementarity with NAFHA. Hence, the project design document was finalized and approved by WFP management in December 2022 after which the final project design document was submitted to Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development (MoALD) as the line ministry for their endorsement and receiving concurrence from Ministry of Finance (MoF). Due to recent changes in government following the November elections, the concurrence process has taken longer; however, it has now reached in its final approval stage. |
| Newly expected SE approval date | NA                                        |
| Expected date of first disbursement | 30 April 2023                             |

\(^1\) Note that other SEs have different names for this document. For example, Project Design Report by IFAD, Project Appraisal Report by AFDB, Report and Recommendation of the President to the Board of Directors by ADB, etc.,
For projects under preparation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Next planned mission</th>
<th>Not applicable</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

1. Provide a paragraph or two describing the status progress of project preparation.

The final Project Design Document for the WFP-led Technical Assistance (TA) component of the GAFSP-approved project 'Vegetables in Hilly Areas of Nepal’ has been prepared in consultation with ADB-financed Nuts and Fruits Development in Hilly Areas of Nepal (NAFHA) project, MoALD and other stakeholders. The project design document has been prepared in line with the proposal approved by the GAFSP Steering Committee in December 2021 and it has considered the feedback and recommendations from the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and the further guidance contained in the notification of approval letter. The project design document has been finalized and approved by WFP management in December 2022. WFP, through MoALD, is now in the process of obtaining the concurrence from MoF before its submission to the GAFSP Steering Committee for review and final approval. The final design document is expected to be submitted to the GAFSP Steering Committee through the Coordination Unit in March 2023.

2. Is project preparation on track according to SE’s own policies?
   - YES ☒ NO ☐

3. If you answered No above, explain main challenges faced by the project team (including any Food crisis impact if applicable).

4. If you answered No above, explain key actions taken by the Supervising Entity to address the main challenges faced by the project team.

5. Action taken on Steering Committee approved TAC Recommendations for project preparation: please confirm that the project document to be submitted to the Steering Committee for final approval will contain the following?

   a. Clear identification of the causes or “drivers” of fragility that the project intends to address? YES ☒ NO ☐
   b. A thorough risk analysis with mitigation measures, including evidence that the project team used a “do no harm” approach in designing activities? YES ☒ NO ☐
   c. Detailed analysis and action plan for gender transformative development with clear gender equality outcomes and budget allocations? YES ☒ NO ☐
   d. Identification of capacity development activities based on completed institutional analyses and needs assessments. YES ☒ NO ☐

6. Are there any modifications to the design detailed in the original project proposal that are being undertaken in Response to the current Food crisis or not in the project preparation document?
   - YES ☐ NO ☒
7. If you answered yes to (6) above, please highlight the foreseen changes to the GAFSP Steering Committee approved Proposal (2021) by answering the following questions, and noting which adjustments are owing to current Food crisis, and which are owing to other factors:
   a. Are the Project Development Objectives being adjusted? **YES ☐ NO ☒**  
      If YES, please briefly describe below.

   b. Are any components/subcomponents/activities/sub-activities of the project being adjusted? **YES ☐ NO ☒**  
      If YES, please describe below.

   c. Are there any significant financial reallocations proposed? **YES ☐ NO ☒**  
      If YES, please describe below.

   d. Is the target population of the project being revised? **YES ☐ NO ☒**  
      If YES, please describe below.

8. Response to food crisis and flexibility needs: What are the main challenges faced by your project, and emerging priorities, if any due to the current/ongoing food crisis?

WFP’s latest Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (VAM) survey report (October 2022) indicated that food insecurity increased significantly with approximately 5.21 million people (17.8 percent) in Nepal are not consuming an adequate diet, which is the highest since the onset of the COVID-19 Pandemic in 2020. About 1 in 7 households (14 percent) – a five-fold increase compared to June 2022 – reported that they did not have enough food to meet their daily needs in the week before the survey. Increased food prices (43 percent) and lack of money (43 percent) were the main reasons reported. Approximately 1 in 4 households (27.5 percent) reported using at least one food-based coping strategy (such as consuming less expensive food) in the week prior to the survey because they did not have enough food or money to buy food. More than 45 percent of children aged 6-23 months did not meet the minimum dietary diversity. Around 1 in 3 households (34 percent) reported that their income had decreased in the previous three months, a finding similar to the June 2022 survey. Workers employed in the tourism sector appear to be rebounding whereas daily wage labourers (agriculture and non-agriculture) continue to report income losses. Such recent findings have increased the relevance and need for the supporting smallholder farmers to increase production of nutritious foods. Accordingly, the project design has included activities for supporting smallholder households for increasing the production of diverse and nutritious foods at the household level.
For projects under preparation

9. GAFSP’s Communication Team may wish to contact you in the future to gather stories about the project in order to support the production and dissemination of project results and progress. Please provide the name and email address of the contact person.

Name: Krishna Jogi,
Position: Deputy Head of Programme and Strategic Programme Manager, WFP Nepal CO
E-mail: krishna.jogi@wfp.org

10. Any feedback to the GAFSP Coordination Unit

NA

*************** Thank you for your cooperation! ***************

Please submit this form back to the GAFSP Coordination Unit accompanied by the following materials.

1) (mandatory) Most recent Preparation mission aide-memoire\(^2\) and recent Supervising Entity mission reports
2) (optional) Draft Project Results Framework\(^3\)
3) (optional) Any relevant Food crisis modification documentation
4) (optional) any proposed impact evaluation design and approach related documents

\(^2\) Different SE have different names for this document e.g., Technical Mission, Supervision Mission
\(^3\) Different SE have different names for this document e.g., LogFrame, Logical Framework, Results Framework