

WFP Critical Corporate Initiative: Climate Response Analysis for Adaptation







Nepal December 2021

## **Acknowledgements**

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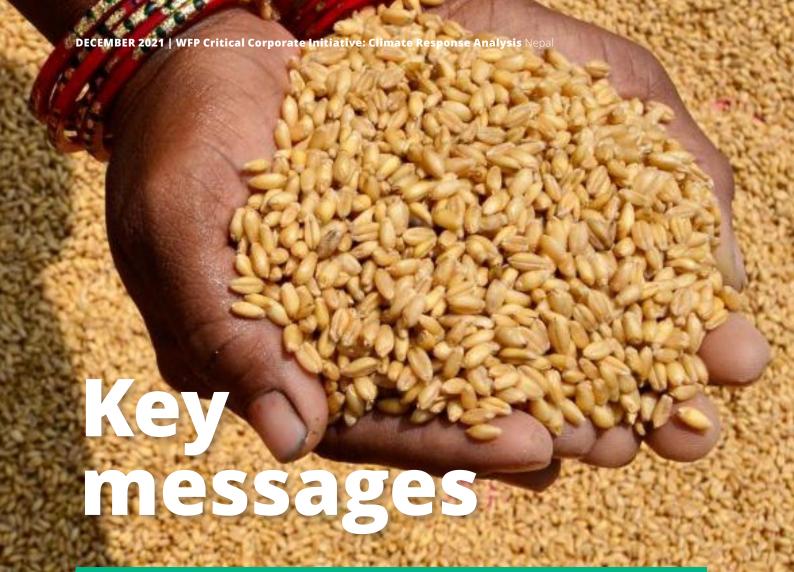
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## **Table of contents**

	2
Key messages	4
Acronyms and abbreviations	8
Introduction	9
Part 1: National Context	10
1.1 Geography	11
1.2 Agro-ecological characteristics	12
1.3 People and livelihoods	14
1.3.1 Socioeconomic characteristics	
1.3.2 Socioeconomic challenges	
1.3.3 Food and nutrition security	16
1.4 National climate profile	18
1.5 Economic analysis using IMPACT model	18
1.5.1 Supply-side impacts of climate change	
1.5.2 Climate change impacts on the diet trajectory	
1.5.3 Climate change impacts on prevalence of hunger and malnourishment	
1.5.4 Conclusions and recommendations based in the IMPACT analysis	23
1.6 National climate change policies and development strategies	24
1.6.1 National climate strategies and finance mechanisms	
1.6.2 National development strategies and finance mechanisms	
1.6.3 International alliances and finance mechanisms	
1.0.4 Gaps and opportunities	20
Part 2: Context within selected intervention areas	27
2.1 Intervention areas and crops of focus with rationale for selections	28
2.2 Climate risks by province	30
2.2 Climate risks by province 2.2.1 Mean climate projections	<b>30</b> 31
2.2 Climate risks by province	<b>30</b> 31
2.2 Climate risks by province 2.2.1 Mean climate projections	<b>30</b> 31
2.2 Climate risks by province 2.2.1 Mean climate projections	<b>30</b> 31
2.2 Climate risks by province 2.2.1 Mean climate projections	<b>30</b> 31 32
2.2 Climate risks by province 2.2.1 Mean climate projections	30 31 32 35 37
2.2 Climate risks by province 2.2.1 Mean climate projections	30 31 32 35 37
2.2 Climate risks by province 2.2.1 Mean climate projections	30 31 32 35 37 39
2.2 Climate risks by province 2.2.1 Mean climate projections	30 31 32 35 37 39
2.2 Climate risks by province 2.2.1 Mean climate projections	30 31 32 35 37 39
2.2 Climate risks by province 2.2.1 Mean climate projections	30 31 32 35 37 39 41 42
2.2 Climate risks by province 2.2.1 Mean climate projections	30 31 32 35 37 39 41 42 44 49
2.2 Climate risks by province 2.2.1 Mean climate projections	30 31 32 35 37 39 41 42 44 49 49
2.2 Climate risks by province  2.2.1 Mean climate projections	30 31 32 35 37 39 41 42 44 49 49
2.2 Climate risks by province 2.2.1 Mean climate projections	30 31 32 35 37 39 41 42 44 49 49 49 51
2.2 Climate risks by province  2.2.1 Mean climate projections	30 31 32 35 37 39 41 42 44 49 49



### **CONTEXT**

- Nepal is one of the countries that is most vulnerable to natural disasters and climate change. Climate change presents detrimental impacts on food and nutrition security. To better respond to and anticipate the needs of Nepal's population in relation to current and future climate challenges, this report assesses projections of climate change's effects on food and nutrition security and vulnerability indicators. This report also outlines recommendations for climate adaptation programming for World Food Program (WFP) operations in three selected provinces of Nepal namely Province 2, Karnali, and Sudurpaschim Province.
- The government of Nepal's policy focuses on climate change and disaster risk response - yet gaps in implementation exist, especially at the province and district levels. Insufficient funding, lack of capacity at the province and district levels, and administrative restructuring and decentralization due to the country's adoption of a new constitution in 2015 provide openings for WFP programming to support the government in addressing, designing, and implementing food and nutrition security policies for climate adaptation.

#### PROJECTED CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS THROUGH 2050

- Projected climate impacts, as well as recommendations for adaptation. differ between and within provinces. While climate projections suggest a general warming trend across the whole country, precipitation will likely become more erratic and unpredictable. Some parts of the country are projected to receive more precipitation in the future, and other parts are projected to receive less precipitation in the future. These changes depend on season and elevation, which varies from 60 m above sea level in the south to over 8000 m above sea level in the north. Summer monsoon rainfall is projected to increase in amount vet shorten in duration. Short and medium-term projections for the years 2030 and 2050 predict more intense rainfall during peak summer months across all assessed provinces. Projections foresee lower and upper mountain elevations becoming drier during the winter, while mid-hill areas might become wetter. Increasing winter droughts are especially problematic for high mountain districts, which have significantly less access to irrigation sources as compared to lower elevation districts. Drier winters will likely severely impact agricultural productivity and food and nutrition security in remote mountain areas, such as Karnali and Sudurpaschim Province.
- Climate change impacts specific locales through hazards such as floods, droughts, cold spells, and heat stress. Most of these hazards are projected to become more

- frequent and extensive in the future, with the exception of cold spells, which will likely become rarer due to warming temperatures. In addition, the population of Nepal is highly vulnerable, with food insecurity, inequality, poor health. little access to cities, and out-migration prevailing across the three provinces. Accordingly, projected increase climate hazards will likely have a disproportionately strong impact in those vulnerable areas - most notably in southern and lower hill districts across **Provinces** 2 and Sudurpaschim Province respectively, but also to some extent in all three provinces.
- While low elevation districts across Provinces 2 and 7 are currently highly suitable for cultivating maize and lentil, they are projected to become poorly suitable for maize cultivation and moderately to poorly suitable for lentil cultivation. Rice cultivation in both lowland and upland regions will remain largely unchanged; lowlands are moderately to highly suitable for rice cultivation, and uplands are poorly suitable to unsuitable, with the slight exception of low to mid-hill areas of Karnali and Sudurpaschim Provinces. This means that responders will need to consider shifting to alternative stress-tolerant crops in where maize and lentil cultivation declines and choosing varieties that are better adapted to new climate conditions. Where suitable. production can shift to higher areas.

### ECONOMIC ANALYSIS OF CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS OF AVAILABILITY AND STABILITY OF FOOD SUPPLY THROUGH 2050 (IMPACT)

- According to an economic analysis basedonafuturewithhighglobalcarbon emissions, few mitigation efforts, and improved technology, improvements in agricultural productivity and yield are projected to increase the availability and stability of food through 2050. This is expected to decrease levels of hunger and undernourishment. While these gains are in line with socioeconomic trends, they are due to rapid industrialization, technological innovation, and improving rather education, than improving climatic conditions. On the contrary, negative climate trends will prevent the agricultural sector from reaching its maximum potential. Maize and other cereal crops face the gravest threat, although the production of pulses, millet, sugarcane, vegetables, cotton, and wheat will all be adversely impacted by climate change through 2050.
- Improvements in productivity and yield may be distributed unevenly, leading to pockets of entrenched deprivation. A geo-spatial analysis of eight dimensions of vulnerability has found different types of vulnerability occurring in tandem across all provinces, with Karnali and Province 2 most likely to face overlapping vulnerabilities. Without effective intervention, current vulnerability indicates a preponderance for future vulnerability, indicating that gains in agricultural productivity or socioeconomic development may be felt less acutely in these areas.



# **Acronyms and abbreviations**

ACLED Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project

AFZ Agroecological zones
AF Adaptation Fund
CC Climate Change

**CDaFN** Community Development and Advocacy Forum

**CGIAR** Consortium of International Agricultural Research Centres

CIAT International Centre for Tropical Agriculture

**CLEAR** Consolidated Livelihood Exercise for Analysing Resilience

CSP Country Strategic Plan
EU European Union

FAO United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization

GCF Green Climate Fund

GDI Gender Development Index
GDP Gross Domestic Product
GEF Global Environment Facility

GIZ Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit

**HDI** Human Development Index

**IMPACT** International Model for Policy Analysis of Agricultural Commodities and Trade

KIIS Key Informant Interviews

**KIRDARC** Karnali Integrated Rural Development and Research Centre

**KVS** Koshi Victims Society

LAPA Local Adaptation Plan of Action
LDC Least Developed Country
LDCF Least Developed Country Fund

**Li-Bird** Local Initiatives for Biodiversity, Research and Development

MOFE Ministry of Forests and Environment
NARC National Agriculture Research Council
NGO Non-Governmental Organization
ODA Overseas Development Aid

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