



World Food Programme

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LIVES

# WFP Nepal Country Brief November 2023



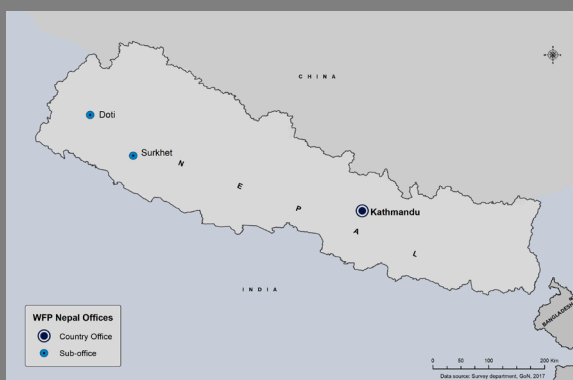
These houses were destroyed by the 6.4 magnitude earthquake in Jajarkot district. WFP/Skanda Gautam

## Operational Context

Nepal has undergone significant changes since the promulgation of its constitution in 2015, which transformed the country into a federal democratic republic. This constitutional shift has presented a promising opportunity for Nepal to focus on economic growth, poverty reduction, and the pursuit of the 2030 Agenda.

In 2023, the GDP growth rate dropped to 1.9 percent, the lowest since 2020, and well below the 10-year average growth rate. This decline was primarily due to economic measures to curb inflation. The industry and services sectors experienced sluggish economic activity, whereas agriculture remained relatively stable. According to the World Bank, growth is set to rise to 3.9 percent in 2024 and five percent in 2025, driven by the delayed effects of lifted import restrictions and gradual monetary policy relaxation.

WFP has been operating in Nepal since 1963, supporting the Government to achieve greater food security and nutrition among vulnerable communities and respond to disasters while also building resilience.



Population: 29.1 million (2022)

2022 Human Development Index:  
143 out of 191 countries

Income Level: Least developed

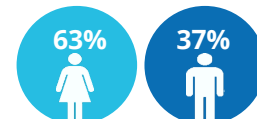
Chronic malnutrition: 25% of  
children between 6-59 months

## In Numbers

75.2 mt of food distributed

US\$ 3.5 million net funding requirements  
(December 2023 – May 2024)

32,420 people assisted in  
November 2023



## Operational Updates

### Jajarkot Earthquake Response

- On 3<sup>rd</sup> November, a **strong earthquake struck Nepal's Jajarkot and West Rukum districts of Karnali province**, resulting in over 150 deaths and over 360 injured, and causing significant damage to buildings and other infrastructure. WFP immediately distributed 8 metric tons (mt) of its prepositioned ready to eat emergency food to over 10,000 people affected in Jajarkot and West Rukum Districts of Karnali Province. WFP also started **preparations for multi-purpose cash assistance** to over 3,000 affected families in Barekot Rural Municipality and Nalgad Municipality (Jajarkot) and Aathbiskot Municipalities (West Rukum).
- WFP, on behalf of the **national logistics cluster**, facilitated dispatch of 86 mt of relief items from Government and humanitarian partners, transported 64 mt of relief materials from Ministry of Home Affairs to the affected districts, and received and stored another 271 mt of relief items at the humanitarian staging areas (HSA) in Kathmandu and Surkhet. Additionally, WFP loaned two prefabs to the District Administration Office of Jajarkot to set up a temporary office for the earthquake response.

### WFP Programmes

- The National Planning Commission (NPC), in collaboration with WFP and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), completed the **localization of food systems pathways** pilot in seven selected municipalities across all seven provinces of Nepal. Since September, NPC, WFP and FAO have been organizing right to food and food systems strategic planning trainings for government officials and other key stakeholders to support the pilot. During the trainings, NPC reiterated Nepal's commitment on the transformation of food systems to contribute to achieving the Agenda 2030 and assured its inclusion in the 16th Plan (2024-2029). Mayors and Chairpersons across all pilot Municipalities committed to finalize this 5-year strategic plan and start allocating resources from the next fiscal year 2024/25.
- As part of WFP's support to the **national midday meal programme**, WFP oriented over 890 participants, including school management committees (SMC) members, education officers and head teachers, on the Midday Meals Monitoring Platform in Nuwakot District. The goal was to strengthen the monitoring and accountability mechanisms of schools in delivering a diverse nutritious school meal to children.

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## Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)

| Total Requirement (US\$) | Allocated Contributions | Net Funding Requirements |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>169.92 m</b>          | <b>119.49 m</b>         | <b>3.5 m*</b>            |

\* New CSP starts in January 2024, resourcing figures will be revised accordingly.

## Strategic Result 1: Access to food

**Strategic Outcome 1:** Affected populations in Nepal have timely access to adequate food and nutrition during and in the aftermath of natural disasters and other shocks.

## Activities:

- Provide food assistance to targeted and shock-affected people, including food and cash-based transfers (CBTs) and specialized nutritious foods and related services for the treatment and prevention of malnutrition in children aged 6-59 months and pregnant and lactating women and girls.

## Strategic Result 2: End Malnutrition

**Strategic Outcome 2:** Food-insecure people in targeted areas have improved nutrition throughout the key stages of their lives by 2025.

## Activities:

- Support the strengthening of national nutrition-sensitive, gender-responsive social safety nets for vulnerable populations and provide specialized nutritious foods, technical assistance, logistics and social behaviour change communication for the prevention of malnutrition.
- Provide gender-transformative and nutrition-sensitive school meals and health packages in chronically food-insecure areas and strengthen the Government's capacity to integrate the national school meals programme into the national social protection framework.
- Provide technical support to the Government for the development of a rice-fortification policy framework and supply chain system for use in social safety nets.

## Strategic Result 4: Sustainable Food Systems

**Strategic Outcome 3:** Vulnerable communities in remote food-insecure areas have improved food security and resilience to climate and other shocks by 2030.

## Activities:

- Develop and improve risk-resilient infrastructure and strengthen local capacity to identify climate risks and implement adaptive strategies.

## Strategic Result 5: Nepal has Strengthened Capacity to Implement the SDGs

**Strategic Outcome 4:** The Government has strengthened capabilities to provide essential food security and nutrition services and respond to crises by 2023.

## Activities:

- Strengthen preparedness capacity, establish emergency logistics and institutional platforms, and improve access to food reserves to enable government and humanitarian partners to respond rapidly to crises.
- Provide technical assistance to enable the Government to strengthen the food security monitoring, analysis and early-warning system and align it with the federal governance system.

## Strategic Result 6: Nepal has enhanced policy coherence on FSN

**Strategic Outcome 5:** Government efforts towards achieving zero hunger by 2030 are supported by inclusive and coherent policy frameworks across all spheres of government by 2023.

## Activities:

- Provide technical assistance and support evidence generation for government and multisector partners to enhance rights-based food security and nutrition plans, policies, regulatory frameworks, and service delivery.

## Strategic Result 8: Enhance Global Partnerships

**Strategic Outcome 6:** Humanitarian and development partners have access to reliable common services by the end of 2023.

## Activities:

- Provide on-demand service provision to all stakeholders in the country to support effective humanitarian response.
- Provide on-demand cash-based transfer management support to all humanitarian and development partners to enable them to provide efficient cash transfer services to the affected population to meet their essential needs.

- Under the **mother and child health and nutrition** programme, WFP organized 93 cooking demonstrations in Jhapa, Morang and Sunsari districts of Koshi province. The events, chaired by the chairperson of the health mother's group and facilitated by female community health volunteers, aimed at increasing the knowledge of participants in the preparation of different nutritious meals for children using locally available foods.
- WFP's **Women in Value Chain** Project organized 108 farmer field trainings with the participation of 2,656 women farmers in Sudurpashim Province. The focus of the trainings was on providing female farmers with information, knowledge, and tools to implement climate resilient farming practices.
- As part of efforts towards **planet-friendly schools**, WFP completed the installation of a solar energy system and induction stoves for the preparation of school meals and other school-related activities in two schools in Nuwakot and Sindhupalchok districts. The solar system will enable the preparation of 35kg of food, enough to feed 100 children, and any surplus power can be used for other school electric devices and irrigate the kitchen garden for 2 hours daily.

## Approval of WFP's new Nepal country strategic plan 2024-2028



WFP Nepal's new country strategic plan (CSP) 2024-2028 was officially approved by WFP's Executive Board in mid-November 2023.

The new CSP, which will commence on 1st January 2024, will see WFP continue to work towards achieving SDGs 2 and 17 through providing support under three main focus areas - crisis response, addressing root causes, and building resilience, with country capacity strengthening central to all areas.

All activities will be integrated, with synergy and results concentrated on providing effective humanitarian assistance, improved social protection systems, climate change adaptation and food system transformation.

## Donors

Adaptation Fund, Australia, Canada, China, ECHO, France, Germany, Ireland, Japan, Joint SDG Fund, Nepal, Norway, United Kingdom, United Nations, Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), United States of America, World Bank, and private donors.