



WFP Nepal Country Brief January 2024

World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



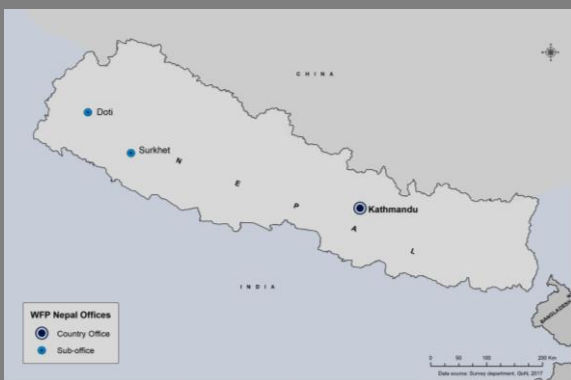
Chitra (45), seen here in her mustard fields, is a smallholder farmer who joined WFP's 'Women in Value Chain' programme in 2020 and now successfully runs a small business selling vegetables and chicken eggs, primarily to local schools. WFP/Samantha Reinders

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

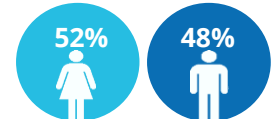
Chronic malnutrition: 25% of
children between 6-59 months

In Numbers

189 mt of food distributed

US\$ 2.19 million net funding requirements
(February 2024 – July 2024)

94,026 people assisted in
January 2024



Operational Updates

- The construction and/or rehabilitation of 52 out of 107 schemes started under the **Local Infrastructure Support Programme (LISP)**, while feasibility assessments and design estimates for the remaining schemes is underway. Under the LISP, WFP provides technical assistance to 15 local governments in Karnali province to generate and document evidence on effective and replicable operational modalities on green recovery job creation and climate-resilient local infrastructure development.
- Under the **Joint UN Project on Rural Women's Economic Empowerment II**, implemented with FAO, IFAD and UN Women, 349 participants (98 percent women) from 12 farmers groups were trained on nutrition, food diversity, and sustainable consumption of healthy foods. An additional 531 participants (97 percent women) from 19 farmers' groups were also trained in using climate information, agricultural advisories, and market information systems.
- WFP co-led the consultations at national and sub-national levels focusing on developing Bylaws on the **Right to Food and Food Sovereignty (RtF) Act**. Following the consultations, the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development submitted the bylaws to the Cabinet for final approval after receiving clearance from the Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Law Justice and Parliamentary Affairs.
- The **rice fortification programme, implemented with WFP's technical and financial support**, was officially launched on the 10 January with attendance from the government UN agencies, the media, private sector and other stakeholders. The launch marked a crucial step in the national effort to combat micronutrient deficiencies through rice fortification.
- WFP conducted **Emergency Preparedness Capacity Index (EPCI)** endline workshop in Koshi, Gandaki, Karnali and Sudurpaschim provinces. WFP assessed and identified the capacity and progress of provincial governments in emergency preparedness and response, as well as humanitarian supply chain management, compared to 2021/22 results. The EPCI results will help identify new areas or reaffirm key areas of focus, investment and efforts needed from provincial governments and development actors working in these Provinces.

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Country Strategic Plan (2024-2028)

Total Requirement (US\$)	Allocated Contributions	Net Funding Requirements
169.92 m	112.67 m	2.19 m

Strategic Result 1: Access to food

Strategic Outcome 1: Affected and at-risk populations in Nepal meet their food, nutrition and other essential needs before, during and after shocks and other stressors.

Focus area: *Crisis Response*

Activities:

- Provide assistance to meet the immediate essential needs of crisis-affected populations, including food, nutrition and livelihood recovery, before, during and after shocks and other stressors.
- Provide capacity strengthening and coordination support to the Government, communities and humanitarian actors for evidence-based emergency preparedness and effective response.

Strategic Result 2: End Malnutrition

Strategic Outcome 2: School-age children and adolescents and nutritionally deprived groups in Nepal have improved education and nutrition outcomes and greater access to affordable, nutritious and safe diets, including through social protection programmes, by 2028.

Focus area: *Root Causes*

- Provide nutrition-sensitive school meals in targeted food-insecure areas and technical and operational assistance to strengthen the Government's capacity to implement the national school meals programme as part of the national social protection framework.
- Assist national institutions and the private sector to strengthen and deliver effective and sustainable health and nutrition-focused social protection programmes to meet the needs of vulnerable populations.

Strategic Result 4: Sustainable Food Systems

Strategic Outcome 3: Smallholder farmers and climate vulnerable populations in Nepal benefit from climate-resilient and equitable food systems, sustainable livelihoods and climate-proof assets and services by 2028.

Focus area: *Resilience Building*

Activities:

- Provide technical assistance to national institutions and an integrated package of livelihood support activities, skills, services and assets to communities vulnerable to climate and other risks to build resilience to shocks and stressors.

Strategic Result 5: Enhance Global Partnerships

Strategic Outcome 4: Communities vulnerable to and affected by crises in Nepal benefit from improved common services and enhanced capacities of the Government and humanitarian and development actors by 2028.

Focus area: *Resilience Building*

Activities:

- Provide on-demand services, including supply chain, cash-based transfers, engineering, analysis and evidence generation to the Government and humanitarian and development partners.

Operational Updates *(continuation)*

- As part of the support to the **Maternal and Child Health and Nutrition (MCHN) Programme** in Koshi and Madhesh provinces, WFP provided support to the Health Directorates of both provinces in planning for provincial level nutrition activities for the upcoming fiscal year 2024/25 (2080/81 of Nepal's calendar). The provincial governments included in their plans the screening, identification and management of malnourished children, the continuation of Home-Based Growth Monitoring programme, orientations on School Health and Nutrition and the procurement and distribution of specialised nutritious food to pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls, among others.

Photo Story of the Month



Unika, 10, lives a few minutes' walk from Shree Shiv Bhawani School in Bajhang district of Sudurpaschim province. Her mother is one of the farmers that grow vegetables for sale and to be used in the mid-day school meals programme that she and her classmates receive. Rice is served with dhal and fresh vegetables grown locally and sourced from local farmers.

Shree Shiv Bhawani School has 207 students. The school plans to transition from having a fully WFP-funded home-grown school meals programme to one that has cash-based government support for supplementary locally grown lentils and fortified rice with vegetables (paying farmers to supply schools). WFP/Samantha Reinders

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.