



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP Nepal Country Brief February 2024



Menuka picks vegetables from her garden. She participated in WFP's training on vegetable gardens. 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. 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

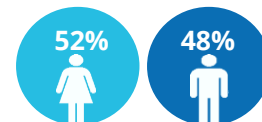
Chronic malnutrition: 25% of
children between 6-59 months

In Numbers

174 mt of food distributed

US\$ 6.5 million net funding requirements (March 2024 – August 2024)

92,487 people assisted in
February 2024



Operational Updates

- The **rice fortification programme**, implemented with WFP's technical and financial support, was launched in Karnali province on the 21st of February in the presence of the Honourable Chief Minister of Karnali Province as well as other high-level representatives from the provincial and local governments, and from the Food Management and Trading Company Ltd. Thus far, under this programme, Nepal has produced 703 metric tons (mt) of fortified rice, out of which 357 mt has been supplied to target districts for sale at a subsidised price through government's retail outlets.
- Under the **local infrastructure support programme** (LISP) being implemented in 15 local governments of Karnali Province, construction and/or rehabilitation of 19 out of 144 planned schemes has been completed, while an additional 67 schemes are currently under construction and feasibility assessments and design estimates for the remaining are underway. The programme has generated 85,600 employment days for 3,210 vulnerable households.
- WFP has distributed agro-based input support such as seeds, crates, water delivery pipes, or weighing scales to 2,800 women farmers in Sudurpaschim Province under the **women in value chain project**, with the aim of helping farmers increase their production.
- WFP released the [January 2024 Market Update](#) where prices of most food commodities showed a declining trend as a result of improved supply and stable functioning of markets across the country. On average, the cost of the food basket was 17.7 percent higher in January 2024 than the reference month of April 2022.
- As part of its **on-demand service provision**, WFP signed an agreement with UNFPA for the provision of 522 m² of storage space at the humanitarian staging area (HSA) in Kathmandu for the prepositioning of relief items. WFP has a network of 11 HSAs strategically positioned across the country for the Government and humanitarian partners to preposition relief stocks to enable a quicker response to shocks.

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Country Strategic Plan (2024-2028)

Total Requirement (US\$)	Allocated Contributions	Net Funding Requirements
169.92 m	111.84 m	6.5 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*)

- The **Joint Project for Rural Women's Economic Empowerment**, implemented by WFP, FAO, IFAD and UN Women, hosted a high-level donor visit in Madhesh Province, with representatives from Norway and Sweden along with representatives from the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development. The mission interacted with project participants and monitored activities. Under the same project, WFP supported formal contracts with four school and farmer groups to supply vegetables and nutritious foods through the home-grown school feeding for the national midday meals programme.

Mother and Child Health and Nutrition Project in Koshi and Madhesh Provinces



WFP/Skanda Gautam

Madhesh and parts of Koshi province have a high prevalence of undernutrition and widespread micronutrient deficiencies which are compounded by acute poverty and low socioeconomic status. Under the mother and child health and nutrition (MCHN) project funded by the Government of Japan, aimed at improving access and availability of nutritious food and increasing demand for healthy and diverse diets, WFP has been working to reduce malnutrition in pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls, and children 6-23 months of age.

One of the participants of the MCHN project is 45-year-old Sanju Devi Labh, resident of Saptari district of Madhesh province. Sanju is an active and dedicated female community health volunteer (FCHV). Her commitment to her role intensified when her mother-in-law suffered an unfortunate accident, breaking her leg. Determined to uphold the community's health initiatives, Sanju Devi stepped up to continue the work. She is a mother of three daughters, with two of them pursuing studies in Kathmandu, alongside their father.

Sanju Devi decided to remain in Saptari despite her family's relocation to Kathmandu. Her dedication stems from her desire to serve as an FCHV and contribute to improving the nutritional status of children in her community. She conducts regular meetings showcasing how locally available foods can be used to prepare nutritious meals for children, emphasizing the importance of healthy eating habits.

The project was implemented from March 2021 to February 2024. The Government of Nepal and WFP organized a national project closure and evidence dissemination workshop which brought representatives from the Ministry of Health and Population, the National Planning Commission as well as representatives from development partners and United Nations agencies from the health and nutrition sector.

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.