



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP Nepal Country Brief April 2024



Students receive nutritious school meals. 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 strengthening 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

4.8 mt of food distributed

US\$ 11.34 million net funding requirements (May – October 2024)

22,458 people assisted



Operational Updates

- Through the **rice fortification programme**, WFP produced 1,192 mt of fortified rice produced, of which 1,124 mt were dispatched to five food-insecure districts in Karnali province, through the Government's retail outlets. WFP also installed one of three sets of rice blending equipment at the Food Management and Trading Company's rice mill located in Janakpur, Madhesh Province.
- In Bajura district, the **Renewable Energy for Resilient Agri-Food Systems Project** has successfully constructed and/or rehabilitated six school kitchens and provided metallic improved cook stoves to ten schools. This initiative offers a green energy solution for the preparation of mid-day meals, benefiting 2,000 students. Transitioning from traditional fuels like liquified petroleum gas or firewood not only lowers carbon emissions, but also mitigates deforestation for fuel purposes.
- The National Planning Commission, in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development, with the support from WFP and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, hosted the **Provincial Food Systems Review and Planning Workshops** across four provinces. These workshops assessed the 2023-2024 progress and discussed budget allocation for food system transformation activities in 2024-2025 emphasizing localization, climate resilience, increased productivity, and research innovation. The ministry and WFP convened the inaugural **National Dialogue on Food Fortification** to explore strategies for narrowing the disparity between the recommended dietary intake and actual food consumption.
- The Government of Nepal's 10-year School Education Sector Plan 2022-2032, led by the Ministry of Education, Science, and Technology, aims to enhance education through a sector-wide approach. Biannual joint review meetings, including a recent budget review meeting, assess progress with development partners. At the April meeting, stakeholders observed a **Home-Grown School Feeding Programme** in Nuwakot district, supported by WFP. The meeting committed to establish a sustainable **Mid-Day Meals Programme**, with a focus on creating a national **Home-Grown School Feeding** guideline.

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Country Strategic Plan (2024-2028)

Total Requirement (US\$)	Allocated Contributions	Net Funding Requirements
139.29 m	54.92 m*	11.34 m

* Balance transfer ongoing from the previous strategic plan and thus this figure is likely to change soon.

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.

Monitoring

- WFP released the [March Market Update](#) where prices of most food commodities showed a mixed trend with marginal fluctuations. Prices of most cereals and pulses remained relatively stable while the cost of fruit and some vegetables slightly increased. The average cost of the food basket rose by 16.7 percent, exceeding the 15.7 percent increase recorded in February compared to the reference month of April 2022. The cost of the food basket in Karnali Province was 25.6 percent higher than the national average.

Supporting Resilient and Inclusive Emergency Recovery



WFP/Srawan Shrestha

Kali Pun, a 73-year-old resident of Jajarkot district, lost her home in the 6.4 magnitude earthquake which occurred in November 2023. She was among the 8,811 women who received emergency support from WFP through **unconditional cash-based transfers**.

Kali used the NPR 15,000 (US\$112) she received to facilitate her grandson's citizenship process, cover daily expenses, and save for potential healthcare needs. This initiative empowered recipients to determine their own financial priorities, ensuring they could address essential needs such as food, medical costs, or other outstanding obligations.

WFP, in collaboration with local governments, will continue to provide support in Jajarkot and neighbouring Salyan district through the **Recovery of Earthquake Damaged Infrastructure (REDI) project**. REDI aims to rehabilitate 54 community infrastructure, including irrigation schemes, water supply systems, rural roads, and school buildings to aid in the region's recovery. Approximately 38,990 households will benefit from this project, with around 5,932 households securing employment through the planned construction efforts.

Donors

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.