



WFP Nepal Country Brief May 2024

World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

A health mother's group member displays a tray of nourishing food during a nutrition training. WFP/Skanda Gautam

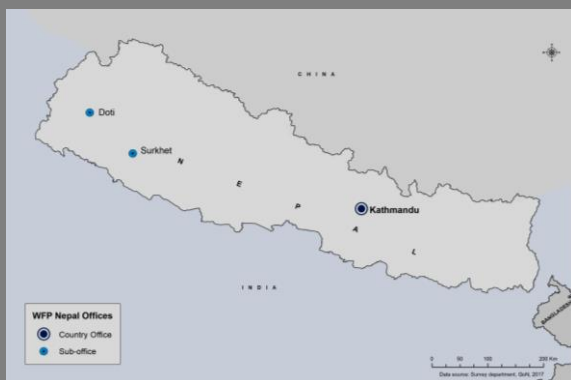


Operational Context

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. 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**

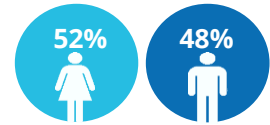
Chronic malnutrition: **25% of children between 6-59 months**

In Numbers

204 mt of food distributed

US\$ 11.44 million net funding requirements (June – November 2024)

90,765 people assisted



Operational Updates

- An 11-member delegation from Nepal, led by the National Planning Commission and including members from various ministries, visited Bangladesh in May to learn about **large-scale rice fortification**, food-based social protection programmes and the public distribution system.
- With technical support from WFP, the Rajapur Rice Mill in Lumbini Province has produced **1,500 mt of fortified rice** as of May 2024, since it started operating in October 2023.
- As part of the **Mother and Child Health and Nutrition Programme** in Karnali Province, nutrition-specific social and behavioural change activities such as nutrition training, led by health mother's groups, were conducted in communities and public service announcements in Nepali and other local languages were aired through five radio stations.
- WFP and the United Nations' Children's Fund led technical sessions on Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition and the five pillars of emergency nutrition at a three-day provincial training on **Nutrition in Emergency** organized by the Family Welfare Division of the Ministry of Health and Population for key health workers in Karnali Province.
- The National Planning Commission, with technical support from WFP and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development and provincial agriculture ministries, organized the **Provincial Food Systems Review and Planning Workshop** in Lumbini, Karnali and Bagmati Provinces in May. This wraps up the successful completion of the reviews in all seven provinces. These workshops reviewed the 2023-2024 food systems transformation activities and discussed proposed actions for the 2024-2025 plan, focusing on coordination, information sharing, localization, climate resilience, production increase and investment in research and innovation.

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Country Strategic Plan (2024-2028)

Total Requirement (US\$)	Allocated Contributions	Net Funding Requirements
139.29 m	70.48 m*	11.44 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.

Operational Updates (contd.)

- Following the completion of the **Emergency Preparedness and Response Project-III** in March 2024, a workshop was organized with partners including the Ministry of Home Affairs, the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority, donors and WFP staff to assess the project's performance and discuss lessons learned and recommendations. The project has helped strengthen the Government’s emergency logistics and telecommunications capacity to provide life-saving assistance during emergencies.

- WFP successfully conducted the **Logistics Capacity Assessment** across all seven provinces. The [report](#) provides detailed information on infrastructure and services for contingency planning, to reduce emergency response time. The report includes valuable information such as the distance from every provincial capital to major towns and details on all 52 domestic airports in Nepal.
- Agreements have been signed with six women's farmer groups, comprising of 180 female members, and six schools in Saptari district to facilitate the implementation of Home-Grown School Feeding under the **Rural Women's Economic Empowerment II Joint project**.
- Under the **Local Infrastructure Support Project** in Karnali and Lumbini Provinces, 102 co-financing schemes have been completed and the remaining 42 schemes near completion. These initiatives have provided employment opportunities for 8,432 households impacted by the 6.4 magnitude earthquake that struck western Nepal in November 2023.

Monitoring

- WFP released the [April Market Update](#) where prices of most food commodities monitored across the country remained mostly stable, with a few fluctuations. Across the 37 districts monitored, food and non-food commodities were reported as sufficiently available by almost all traders monitored. With the onset of the monsoon season, prices for staple foods, fruits, and vegetables are likely to rise, while prices for edible oils, pulses and winter crops are expected to remain stable due to smooth supply, harvest, and above-average rainfall.

Karnali Earthquake Recovery

- The Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office is supporting WFP in earthquake recovery efforts in Karnali Province. With the UN Resident Coordinator's Office, UNICEF, UNFPA and IOM, WFP is implementing the **Joint Recovery Action Plan** in the districts of Jajarkot and West Rukum to provide food security and nutrition support to 16,700 households through conditional and unconditional cash assistance and nutrition cash top-ups. Secondly, the **Recovery of Earthquake Damaged Infrastructure Project** will create jobs for 5,932 households affected by the earthquake. This will involve rehabilitating and reconstructing 54 community infrastructures, such as irrigation schemes, water supply systems, rural roads, and school buildings in Jajarkot and Salyan districts.

Donors

Australia, Canada, China, European Commission, 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.