



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
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LIVES

WFP Nepal Country Brief June 2024



Sanju Devi Labh, a female community Health volunteer from Madhesh province. 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.



The boundaries and names and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

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

149 mt of food distributed

US\$ 7.51 million net funding requirements (July – December 2024)

90,215 people assisted



Operational Updates

- Under the leadership of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development, WFP assisted in organizing provincial consultation meetings to collect valuable feedback on the **national food fortification strategy** in Gandaki and Lumbini Provinces, with Government stakeholders, civil society and the private sector. Additionally, sensitization meetings with the private sector in both provinces were held to raise awareness about the importance and cost-benefits of fortified rice for collaborations in the future.
- With technical support from WFP, 19,749 people benefited from 112 mt of **fortified rice** at a subsidized price in Karnali province through the Food Management and Trading Company Limited. WFP also reviewed the first ever national **fair price shop guideline** for finalization and approval by the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development.
- WFP has taken on the role of Chair of the **Social Protection Task Team (SPTT)** for the coming year, starting in June. The SPTT is developing an action plan to collaborate on social protection initiatives with the Government and other involved agencies across Nepal. The inaugural meeting under WFP's leadership was successfully held, with the World Bank serving as co-chair.
- A **food safety compliance assessment** was conducted at 12 schools across five districts across Sudurpashchim and Bagmati provinces. This assessment aimed to evaluate kitchen practices at schools, ensuring they meet the highest standards of food safety. The assessment was part of an ongoing initiative led by WFP across five countries: Bangladesh, Jordan, Mozambique, Lebanon and Nepal.
- WFP provided technical support at a week-long provincial level **comprehensive nutrition specific intervention training** for key Government health workers. This training, organized by the Health Service Directorate of Karnali Province, aimed at enhancing the capacity of participants in managing and delivering nutrition-specific programmes, covering infant and young child feeding, management of acute malnutrition, and social behaviour change, among others. The training includes practical sessions to ensure participants can effectively apply the knowledge and skills in real-world settings.

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Country Strategic Plan (2024-2028)		
Total Requirement (US\$)	Allocated Contributions	Net Funding Requirements
139.29 m	75.85 m*	7.51 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.)

- Three climate-resilient community infrastructures equipped with boreholes have been completed in Siraha district of Madhesh province under the **Rural Women's Economic Empowerment II Joint Project**. These infrastructures ensure year-round irrigation for nine hectares of land, benefiting 60 marginalized female farmers. Additionally, ten orientation events on improved nutritional and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) habits were conducted, benefiting 200 school children.

- WFP completed all 144 co-financing schemes under the **Local Infrastructure Support Project (LISP)** in Karnali and Lumbini Provinces. These initiatives have provided employment opportunities for 8,432 households impacted by the western Nepal earthquake in November 2023. In addition, 20 provincial governments in Lumbini and Karnali have been selected for the scale up of LISP.
- WFP organized 14 advocacy and programme orientation events in Madhesh province on the **Mother and Child Health and Nutrition** programme. These events successfully garnered commitments from elected officials to allocate budget for nutrition. There was a collective agreement to work in partnership with WFP-supported initiatives to enhance the overall nutritional status at the local level.

Food Security Monitoring



In June, WFP released the ninth national [Household Food Security, Livelihoods, and Vulnerability Report](#), conducted from February to March 2024. The report assessed the impact of the global crisis and multiple shocks on household food security and livelihoods in Nepal.

Inadequacy of food consumption slightly increased in March 2024 compared to April 2023. The survey reveals that 15.6 percent of the population consumes inadequate diets, and 13.5 percent of households are moderately to severely food insecure. Contributing factors include rising food prices, slow recovery from the global crisis and COVID-19, limited economic growth and localized shocks.

Overall, the findings indicated that households with a disabled member, an illiterate household head, informal sector workers, smallholder farmers, and those living in rural areas are more likely to be food insecure, with a higher prevalence of moderately and severely food insecure households.

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.