



# WFP Nepal Country Brief July 2024

World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES



Students enjoy a school lunch in Sudurpaschim 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**

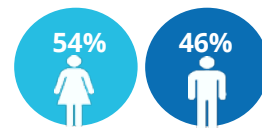
Chronic malnutrition: **25% of children between 6-59 months**

## In Numbers

**159 mt** of food distributed

**US\$ 7.3 million** net funding requirements (August 2024 – January 2025)

**97,988 people** assisted



## Operational Updates

- WFP distributed 41 mt of specialized nutritious food to 13,544 beneficiaries, including 5,146 pregnant and breastfeeding women/girls and 8,398 children aged 6 to 23 months under the **Mother and Child Health and Nutrition** programme in Karnali Province. The distribution schedule was disrupted due to continuous rainfall. WFP will resume distribution activities once the monsoon season ends in August.
- With the support from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, WFP completed the installation of blending equipment and the **trial production of fortified rice** at the Food Management and Trading Company (FMTC) warehouses in Kathmandu and Surkhet districts. After installation, trials were conducted at both locations to test the performance and quality of the machines. **This expansion brings the total to four operational locations**—Bardiya, Janakpur, Surkhet, and Kathmandu—equipped for blending and packing of fortified rice. The existing Rajapur Mill produced 1,688 mt of fortified rice, of which 1,616 mt has been dispatched to five programme districts in Karnali province.
- WFP provided **transportation services** for the Ministry of Home Affairs to move relief items received at Tatopani Customs from the Government of China. These relief items, including tents, sleeping bags and mattresses, were delivered to seven humanitarian staging areas in (Biratnagar, Bardibas, Kathmandu, Bhairahawa, Nepalgunj, Surkhet, and Dhangadhi) for prepositioning for future emergencies.
- Under its capacity as the lead of the **Social Protection Task Team**, WFP organized the first meeting with the members to plan for the **upcoming conferences on social protection** in September: i) the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific-supported workshop on Social Protection and ii) the International Conference on Social Protection.

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## Country Strategic Plan (2024-2028)

Total Requirement (US\$)	Allocated Contributions	Net Funding Requirements
<b>140.4 m</b>	<b>76.2 m*</b>	<b>7.3 m</b>

\* 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.

## Donors

Australia, Canada, China, European Commission, France, Germany, Ireland, Japan, Joint SDG Fund, Nepal, Norway, United Kingdom, United Nations, Central Emergency Response Fund, United States of America, World Bank, and private donors.

- Under the Accelerating Progress towards Rural Women's Economic Empowerment (RWEE) project in Madhesh Province, WFP reached 242 smallholders' farmers, enabling them to access crucial information on weather conditions, agro-advisory services, and market systems. The training aimed to expand their access to financial and business development services, Information and Communication Technology, and other essential products and resources.
- WFP conducted a launch event, '**Enhancing the National Mid-Day Meals Programme**' in Kathmandu on 18 July, in collaboration with the Government of Nepal, the Lions Clubs International Foundation, and WFP USA. This initiative aims to enhance the existing School Feeding Programme by integrating the **home-grown school feeding approach** to benefit 90,000 students in Karnali Province.

## Spotlight on Food Security

WFP published a "**Food Matters**", a documentary series on food security and nutrition. This three-part series aims to raise awareness and increase the understanding of a broad audience in Nepal and beyond about issues and solutions around food security and nutrition.



The [first episode](#) tackles the importance of local food production and the National Mid-day Meal Program aimed at addressing food security and the challenges faced by farmers.

The [second episode](#) highlights climate change and Nepal's economic challenges, particularly on the paradox of exporting human labour while importing food.

The [final episode](#) on rice fortification urges the Government, private sector, and other stakeholders to expand efforts in combating malnutrition in Nepal.

## Monitoring

WFP released the [June Market Update](#) where prices of most food commodities continued to show a slight upward trend, with sharp increases in the prices of some vegetables and eggs, while most cereals and pulses showed a marginal increase. The average cost of the food basket was **18 percent higher** than in May 2024 (16 percent). Due to the lean season and fluctuation in supply brought by the monsoon, the cost of the food basket in Karnali Province was **23 percent higher** than the national average.