



WFP Nepal Country Brief November 2024

World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



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**

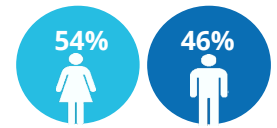
Chronic malnutrition: **25% of children between 6-59 months**

In Numbers

163 mt of food distributed

US\$ 2.1 million net funding requirements
(November 2024 – April 2025)

122,312 people assisted



Operational Updates

- A representative from the Nepal Planning Commission, serving as the National Food Systems Convenor, participated in the **Food Systems Solutions Dialogues** in Rome. The Commission emphasized home-grown school feeding as a key priority for transforming local food systems and appreciated WFP's technical support. The dialogue united stakeholders to develop and share actionable solutions for sustainable food systems.
- Under the **Joint Programme for Rural Women's Economic Empowerment (RWEE)**, implemented together with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Fund for Agriculture and Development, and UN Women, 150 smallholder farmers gained digital skills for improved access to agricultural information, while 180 farmers were trained in agro-meteorological services and climate risk management.
- In Madhesh Province, 51 female community health volunteers were trained to prepare **complementary foods** for children aged 6–23 months using locally available ingredients. They also conducted 203 cooking demonstrations, reaching 5,661 households through health mothers' groups, promoting healthy and nutritious recipes.
- WFP supported the Government's Food Management and Trading Company Limited (FMTCL) to produce 1,112 mt of **fortified rice** at four facilities. WFP also procured 40 mt of fortified rice kernels from India for blending with regular rice and producing an additional 4,000 mt of fortified rice.
- In addition, WFP also collaborated with the FMTCL to organize **sensitization workshops on rice fortification** for leaders from 21 local governments from Karnali Province.
- In food-insecure districts of Karnali Province, 40 metric tons (mt) of **WSB+** was distributed to 4,286 pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls and 8,371 children aged 6-23 months.

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Country Strategic Plan (2024-2028)

Total Requirement (US\$)	Allocated Contributions	Net Funding Requirements
140.4 m	78.3 m*	2.1 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.

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.

Photo: As part of the UK-funded Recovery of Earthquake Damaged Infrastructure (REDI) project, WFP is rebuilding four schools and a ward office in hard-to-reach locations of Karnali province. Innovative solutions are required to transport the construction materials across unforgiving landscapes, in this case by using an excavator to stabilise a tractor as it navigates the Bheri river in Karnali province, in the absence of a reinforced concrete (RCC) bridge. © WFP/WFP Engineering

- In coordination with Karnali Province's Ministry of Social Development and Lions Clubs International, WFP organized a provincial level information sharing event to promote the Lions International Clubs Foundation and WFP USA-funded project aiming to enhance the **national mid-day meals programme** through a **home-grown school feeding approach**. The event convened leaders from all 14 local governments from the programme districts. This initiative is particularly timely, aligning with the Government's recently approved national framework for home-grown school feeding.
- A workshop held in Sudurpaschim Province brought together 30 participants from local governments to enhance their understanding of **food safety in school kitchens**. The workshop participants visited a school implementing the government-supported mid-day meal programme, where they observed a hands-on demonstration of key inspection practices within a school kitchen.
- WFP delivered 347 mt of food, including rice, vegetable oil and salt, to three districts in Sudurpaschim Province for the **school meals programme**. This will support mid-day meals for over 110,500 students in grades 1 to 8 across 1,039 schools, promoting health and learning among school-aged children.
- As part of the earthquake **Joint Recovery Action Plan**, implemented with the International Organization for Migration, UNICEF and United Nations Populations Fund, WFP is providing a mix of conditional and unconditional cash assistance to 16,700 households in western Nepal. Training in plumbing, masonry and electrical wiring has been provided to 945 beneficiaries, including 180 women. The first cash transfer for 9,160 conditional beneficiaries engaged in public infrastructure rehabilitation of 25 assets has been successfully processed.

Floods Emergency Response

Between 27 and 28 September, heavy and continuous rainfall across Nepal caused widespread flooding and landslides, resulting in extensive devastation affecting 21 districts and more than 147,000 households.

In Kavrepalanchowk district, the registration of 2,641 households has been approved by the local governments and preparations for cash transfer is underway to ensure valuable support to 3,400 affected families by the end of December.

Through the **United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund Anticipatory Action** in the Terai region, 500,000 people were reached with early warning messages and 30,900 received cash assistance.