



WFP Nepal Country Brief December 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**

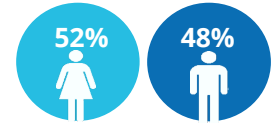
Chronic malnutrition: **25% of children between 6-59 months**

In Numbers

181,331 mt of food distributed

US\$ 458,000 net funding requirements (January – June 2025)

136,832 people assisted



Operational Updates

- In Madesh Province, WFP distributed **vegetable seeds** to 4,450 households and trained 105 female community health volunteers on the **preparation of complementary food** for children aged 6-23 months. The volunteers conducted subsequent demonstrations to health mothers' groups (community groups of women who share monthly health-related information), reaching 7,860 households.
- Under the **Rural Women's Economic Empowerment**, a Joint Programme implemented by FAO, IFAD and UN Women, WFP created employment opportunities for 32 marginalized women farmers through Food Assistance for Assets (FFA) activities. Additionally, an agriculture collection centre was constructed in Siraha district to improve market access for smallholder farmers.
- WFP supported the Government's **Food Management and Trading Company** to produce 2,873 mt of fortified rice for distribution and held sensitization workshops on the benefits of fortified rice in addressing micronutrient deficiency in Karnali Province, with policy makers and political leaders from the municipalities of Dolpa and Humla districts in attendance.
- In partnership with the local governments of 30 municipalities in Bajhang, Bajura and Darchula districts of Sudurpaschim Province, WFP distributed 158 mt of fortified rice, 19 mt of fortified oil, and 4 mt of salt for the provision of **daily school meals** benefitting 110,100 children.
- The National Planning Commission, in partnership with WFP and FAO, convened the **5th National Food Systems Dialogues** bringing together all three tiers of Government, development partners, and other stakeholders to review progress on the implementation of Food Systems actions. Review outcomes indicate that agencies allocated around US\$75.41 million on sustainable consumption with US\$62.15 million for home-grown school feeding (HGSF). The dialogues prioritized the formulation of the National Food Plan, scaling up HGSF, implementing the right to food act-by-laws, capacity strengthening on food systems, ensuring fair wages, and addressing gender gaps to guide the 2025 planning.

Contact info: Rakchhya Maharjan (rakchhya.maharjan@wfp.org)
Country Director: Robert Kasca
Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/nepal

Country Strategic Plan (2024-2028)

Total Requirement (US\$)	Allocated Contributions	Net Funding Requirements
140.4 m	79.2 m	457,949

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 1: Children having their mid-day meal in Darchula (WFP/Srawan Shrestha)

Photo 2: Mothers in Saptakoshi with their children. Their homes were flooded, causing some of the children to get sick. (WFP/Dale Rivera)

- Under the UK-funded **Recovery of Earthquake Damaged Infrastructure** Project in Karnali Province, construction of 60 public schemes is underway, with 52 percent completed so far. Notably, over half of the construction workforce employs women who receive pre-construction training on processes and management, health and safety protocols, quality assurance, first aid, safeguarding and complaint feedback mechanisms.

Floods Emergency Response



In September 2024, relentless rains caused rivers in the Koshi region to overflow, affecting **147,000 households and destroying more than 88,000 hectares of farmland**. WFP, in collaboration with the Government of Nepal and other UN agencies, activated **Anticipatory Action (AA)** in Sunsari and Saptari districts to mitigate the impact of the disaster through distribution of one-off multipurpose cash transfers of NPR 15,000 (USD\$113.3) per household.

WFP, in partnership with the Department of Hydrology and Meteorology (DHM), monitored flood forecasts to trigger preparedness actions. For AA activation, two thresholds had to be met: a three-day flood bulletin from DHM and either a high-water-level prediction from the Global Flood Awareness System or the crossing of danger levels in DHM’s flood warning system. Once these thresholds were met, early warnings were issued to half a million people in danger zones, enabling local governments to prepare and respond swiftly.

In Saptari district, families like Ranju Sada’s, who live near the river in Saptakoshi Municipality, faced immense challenges. The floods inundated their homes, destroyed their belongings, and claimed livestock, including goats. “Life has always been difficult for us, especially during the rainy season when floods occur every year. We are landless people and have no choice but to build our homes near the river,” shared Ranju, a cash assistance recipient. “The cash assistance from WFP really helped us, especially since our kids got sick because of the flood.”

Ranju used the cash to buy clothes and medicine for her children, who suffered from water-borne illnesses caused by the flooding. Her story reflects the **critical role of anticipatory action in saving lives and livelihoods**, offering timely support to those most vulnerable, and helping communities recover with dignity.