



WFP Nepal Country Brief January 2025

World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



A food assistance for assets participant in Jajarkot district.
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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 2024, the GDP growth rate increased to 3.9 percent, from 1.9 percent in 2023. This increase was due to increased remittances and hydropower production and improved performance in agriculture and the tourism sector. According to the World Bank, growth is set to rise to five percent in 2025, driven by gradual monetary policy relaxation. As of October 2024, 16.5 percent of the population was food insecure—0.9 percent higher than March 2024 but 6.4 percent lower than the April 2020 peak—while 4.81 million people had inadequate food consumption, with stable food prices overall but higher costs in mountain regions, worsening access challenges.

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:
146 out of 191 countries

Income Level: **Least developed**

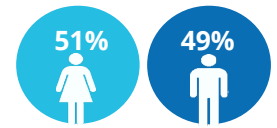
Chronic malnutrition: **25% of children between 6-59 months**

In Numbers

171 mt of food distributed

US\$0.49 million net funding requirements
(February–July 2025)

164,814 people assisted



Operational Updates

- Through the collaborative efforts of the Ministry of Education, Science, and Technology, UNICEF, and WFP, the **Global Partnership for Education Multiplier Grant** was approved in January, unlocking an additional US\$11 million for the **national Mid-day Meal programme**. This follows the Government's approval of the first national **Home-Grown School Feeding Framework** in late November 2024, with WFP supporting a gradual rollout and updating operational guidelines in the first half of 2025.
- WFP supported the Government's Food Management and Trading Company in producing and supplying 200 mt of **fortified rice** to food-insecure districts of Karnali Province. WFP also trained 76 food inspectors on **fortified rice safety and quality regulations** and held consultations with over 45 private rice millers in Koshi Province on the prospects of rice fortification in Nepal and the role of the private sector.
- As part of the **Mother and Child Health and Nutrition Programme**, WFP distributed vegetable seeds to 4,050 households and mobilized 73 female community health volunteers to conduct cooking demonstrations and offer nutrition guidance. WFP also facilitated health mother group meetings and home visits and provided support for antenatal/postnatal care and nutrition counselling.
- WFP reached **104,500 children** with **daily school meals** across 1,039 schools in Sudurpaschim province. WFP, through local Governments, distributed 149 mt of rice, 18 mt of vegetable oil, 4 mt of salt, and 67 mt of vegetables and lentils purchased directly from local smallholder farmers. The **home-grown school feeding** modality has created a reliable market for farmers and contributed to improved nutrition.
- Under the **Joint UN Recovery Programme** in Karnali Province, WFP completed community infrastructure projects through food assistance for assets (FFA), transferring over USD 1.7 million to 9,838 households. The programme is implemented in collaboration with other UN agencies, including the International Organization for Migration, UNICEF, and the United Nations Populations Fund.

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Country Strategic Plan (2024-2028)

Total Requirement (US\$)	Allocated Contributions	6-month Net Funding Requirements
140.4 m	78.4 m	0.49 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.

- As part of the **Local Infrastructure Support Programme (LISP)**, WFP provided training to technical teams of 31 local governments in Karnali and Lumbini provinces. The orientation covered feasibility studies, surveys, design and estimation for local infrastructure construction, aimed at enhancing local capacity and oversight to build and rehabilitate resilient infrastructure.

Empowering Women Farmers by Boosting Market Access



Women farmers delivering their produce in Laxmipur Patari Rural Municipality in Siraha district. ©WFP/Srijana Bhatta

In Siraha district, women farmers are transforming local food systems by supplying schools with fresh, local produce. The newly established agriculture products collection centre provides 150 members from five **women's farmers' groups** with a dedicated platform to aggregate and sell their harvest, improving market access and bargaining power.

To ensure the sustainability of such initiatives, WFP supported the formation of a Construction Management Committee (CMC), which led the construction of the agricultural collection centre.

Notably, the **Laxmipur Patari Rural Municipality provided land for the construction of the collection centre and contributed 30 percent of the cost.** The CMC fostered transparency and local ownership while overseeing climate-resilient infrastructure development. Through public meetings and pre-construction training, WFP reinforced community engagement in building sustainable assets.

Another breakthrough achievement was 38 women farmers' groups in Siraha and Saptari districts signed agreements with 37 schools to **supply locally grown produce for students' mid-day meals.** These forward contracts have created stable markets for women farmers, enhancing their incomes while also improving nutrition.

To further support farmers, WFP provided training on resilient agriculture practices and helped them adjust their crop production cycles in line with peak market seasons. By shifting their planting schedules, they now earn higher market prices, **ensuring both economic stability and food security.**

The **Rural Women's Economic Empowerment (RWEE)**, a joint programme implemented by WFP, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, International Fund for Agricultural Development, and UN Women, is strengthening the economic capacity and resilience of rural women in the Madesh province to address structural barriers that prevent their socio-economic inclusion.