



WFP Nepal

Country Brief

February-March 2025

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 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.



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**

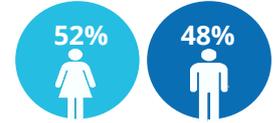
In Numbers

290 mt of food distributed

US\$1.45 million of cash-based transfers distributed

US\$7.8 million net funding requirements (April – September 2025)

134,782 people assisted



Operational Updates

- In Sudurpaschim province, **104,000** students (54,500 girls and 49,600 boys) from 1,039 schools received **nutritious school meals** through WFP's school feeding programme. Students received fortified rice, vegetable oil, iodized salt and locally sourced beans and fresh vegetables through the Home-Grown School Feeding approach. The **Home-grown school feeding modality** has created a reliable market for farmers and promoted better nutrition. WFP distributed 264 mt of rice, 34 mt of vegetable oil and 7 mt of salt to 30 local governments to prepare the school meals.
- In Lumbini Province, WFP, in collaboration with the Food Management and Trading Company Limited (FMTCL), organized a province-level workshop on **rice fortification**, with representatives from provincial and local governments and other stakeholders to raise awareness and promote the rice fortification programme. To enhance the Government's capacity to undertake quality assurance of the fortified rice produced, WFP provided laboratory reagents, equipment and glassware to the Department of Food Technology and Quality Control and the FMTCL.
- In Madhesh province, nearly **250 cooking demonstrations** were conducted involving health mothers' groups, led by WFP-trained female community health volunteers. These sessions reached over **7,300 households**, teaching families how to prepare healthy and nutritious meals for children aged 6-23 months using locally available foods. Additionally, 160 government health workers were **trained on collecting quality data and verification**, strengthening overall capacity to monitor the mother and child health and nutrition programme.
- WFP transported and facilitated the storage of around **91 mt of government relief items**, including tents, mattresses and pillows, from the Kathmandu Humanitarian Staging Area to the Provincial Humanitarian Staging Areas in Biratnagar, Bardibas, Pokhara and Bhairahawa for **prepositioning for emergency response**.

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Country Strategic Plan (2024-2028)

Total Requirement (US\$)	Allocated Contributions	Six-month Net Funding Requirements
140.4 m	78.5 m	7.8 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

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: Students enjoy school meals in Darchula district (WFP/Srawan Shrestha)

- As part of the **Local Infrastructure Support Programme (LISP)**, survey design and cost estimates for **268 public schemes, co-financed by the local governments** in Karnali and Lumbini provinces, have been completed. Five local governments in Karnali Province and 15 in Lumbini Province have endorsed the policy framework-related guidelines for local infrastructure construction and rehabilitation through their executive committees.
- The **Recovery of Earthquake Damaged Infrastructure (REDI)** project in Karnali Province, financed by the UK Government, was completed, with 100 percent of all planned schemes constructed or rehabilitated. These included ten irrigation schemes providing access to year-round irrigation for 335 hectares of land, 19 drinking water systems providing clean water to 1,350 households, three-foot trails covering 14 km, six micro-hydro projects generating 225 kw of electricity and 15 rural roads, covering 127 km, which have improved access to basic social services and increased mobility and energy access for local communities. The project engaged **6,085 people, half of whom were women**, and transferred **NPR 197 million (US\$1.4 million)** to participating households through food / cash assistance for assets activities, supporting their livelihoods and food security.
- Under the **Rural Women's Economic Empowerment**, a Joint Programme implemented by WFP, FAO, IFAD and UN Women, WFP supported a series of climate-resilient agriculture initiatives in Siraha and Saptari districts, of Madhesh Province, aimed at strengthening the adaptive capacity of smallholder farmers. WFP trained 150 farmers on **climate-smart agriculture**, enhancing their ability to respond to the effects of climate change. In Siraha, **25 women** received training and input support to establish mushroom cultivation enterprises, which were successfully linked to local markets. Additionally, **780 women farmers** were trained in developing market-based crop calendars, focusing on adjusted planting seasons, nursery management and improved cultivation practices, along with support in accessing appropriate agricultural technologies.
- WFP supported the development of a Farmers Nutrition School (FNS) manual to enable the rollout of nutrition-focused **training for 400 farmers across five provinces**. This was done as part of the **Global Agriculture and Food Security Programme** which aims to improve food and nutrition security and livelihood improvement for vulnerable communities in Nepal. The manual, along with the training of facilitators curriculum, has been officially endorsed by the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development.