



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
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LIVES

WFP Nepal Country Brief April-May 2025



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

156 mt of food distributed

US\$ 11.93 million net funding requirements (Jun-Nov 2025)

91,011 people assisted



Operational Updates

- In May 2025, Nepal's Cabinet formally approved the **Food Systems Transformation Strategic Plan (2022–2030)**, a milestone following over two years of joint efforts by the National Planning Commission, and WFP as focal agency. The Plan provides a national framework for sustainable, resilient and inclusive food systems, aligning with Nepal's commitments under SDG 2 and its constitutional right to food. The framework will include the institutionalization of food systems into government planning, from policy frameworks to budgetary cycles, with WFP and FAO supporting integration and capacity building.
- WFP continued to provide technical assistance to the national **Mid-day Meal Programme**, with support from multiple donors. During the annual education sector budget review in May 2025, home-grown school feeding remained a key focus for the Government and development partners. As a result of WFP's continued advocacy, the Ministry of finance announced an increased allocation per child per day in the national budget of NPR 20 (US\$ 0.15) nationwide and NPR 25 (US\$ 0.18) in five mountainous districts in the upcoming fiscal year (starting mid-July), marking a key step towards improving the programme quality.
- WFP's advocacy with various ministries and the Karnali Province Planning Commission has led to **the inclusion of rice fortification in their second five-year plan (2024/25-2028/29). This is a game changer in addressing micronutrient deficiency in the country.** WFP continues to advocate for incorporating fortified rice into education and health policies and programmes.
- WFP Nepal has initiated **the transition of 11 Humanitarian Staging Areas to the Government.** The phased handover began in April 2025 by providing training to 24 provincial representatives. By early June, 10 of 12 sites were successfully handed over, including infrastructure, operational systems and prepositioned stocks. The full transition will conclude by June 2025. WFP will continue managing the Kathmandu Humanitarian Staging Area, providing technical assistance and logistics services as required.

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Country Strategic Plan (2024-2028)		
Total Requirement (US\$)	Allocated Contributions	Net Funding Requirements
140.4 m	79.39 m	11.93 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: <i>Crisis Response</i> 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: <i>Root Causes</i> • 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: <i>Resilience Building</i> 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: <i>Resilience Building</i> 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 Nations, United States of America, World Bank, and private donors.

Cover photo: Students enjoying nutritious school meals in Karnali Province, where WFP supports local governments implement the home-grown school feeding approach (WFP/Bishal Gautam)

- WFP supported the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Law in coordinating food security, logistics and health and nutrition cluster meetings as part of **monsoon preparedness efforts**, integrating key nutrition elements into Karnali Province's monsoon and disaster preparedness and response plans.
- In Madhesh Province, WFP conducted an orientation and advocacy session for 90 municipal officers on **nutrition-friendly local governance and health facilities**. As a result, local authorities in Saptari district allocated **dedicated funding of nearly US\$1,500 per ward** (smallest unit of local government) for nutrition in the upcoming fiscal year, with two additional municipalities also pledging budget allocations for nutrition activities.
- Additionally, 83 female community health volunteers were trained on the recipe book for **nutritious meals and complementary feeding for children aged 6–23 months** using locally available foods. They will conduct cooking demonstrations during Health Mothers' Group meetings to share these practices during community visits.
- Under the **Rural Women's Economic Empowerment (RWEE)**, a Joint Programme implemented by WFP and other UN agencies (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, International Fund for Agricultural Development, and UN Women), 24 nutrition and healthy eating orientations for 665 participants were conducted. Through nine insurance sessions, RWEE educated 259 participants on crop and livestock insurance, subsidies and claims. Market-based production planning training was also provided to five women's groups, benefiting 150 participants, helping align production with local markets and school feeding demands.
- As part of the **Global Agriculture and Food Security Programme (GAFSP)**, 122 participants (51 percent women) were trained as facilitators for Farmer Nutrition Schools across five provinces. GAFSP aims to improve food and nutrition security and rural livelihoods for vulnerable communities in Nepal. Among the participants were 58 government agriculture technicians who will play a key role in rolling out the programme at the local level.

Monitoring

- WFP released the [March 2025 Market Update](#) where prices of most food commodities showed a slight increase as a result of relative lean season of some food items. On average, the cost of the food basket was 25.7 percent higher in March 2025 than the reference month of April 2022. The cost of the food basket in Karnali Province was 22.2 percent higher than the national average.