



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP Bhutan Country Brief July 2018



Operational Context

Bhutan is classified as a lower middle-income country and ranks 132 out of 188 countries in the 2014 Human Development Index with an HDI index of 0.607.

National poverty rate has been reduced from 23 percent in 2007 to 8.2 percent in 2017, as measured by the international poverty line of USD 1.90 per person per day (PPP).

Although people's overall nutritional status has improved in general, health problems related to a lack of nutritional and balanced diets remain a challenge, including micronutrient deficiencies.

Bhutan remains highly vulnerable to earthquakes but lacks the necessary data information systems, response plans and coordination systems to adequately prepare for emergencies.



Population: **0.73 million**

2015 Human Development Index: **132 out of 188**

Income Level: **Lower middle**

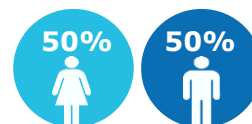
Chronic malnutrition: **21.2% of children between 6-59 months**

In Numbers

327.30 mt of food assistance distributed

WFP Bhutan's operations are fully funded for 2018, thanks to the generous contributions of our partners.

13,897 school children assisted
in June 2018



Operational Updates

- A dietary assessment of school meals shows that the school children are not receiving adequate nutrition through the meals provided at the schools. The study has become a basis for decision makers to plan and initiate improvement efforts.
- Fortified rice is now a major food commodity in the school feeding food basket. The international standards for fortified rice are currently being used until Bhutan has its own standards. WFP supports the Food Fortification Taskforce in the implementation of the rice fortification programme as well as in developing a regulatory framework for food fortification.
- WFP supported the establishment of a 5mt/hour blending unit to the Food Corporation of Bhutan Limited to initially produce fortified rice to adequately cover the national school feeding requirements and later to other social programmes.
- WFP facilitated the training of two School Health and Nutrition Division officials on school health and nutrition programme management at the Mahidol University in Bangkok, Thailand.
- With support of the WFP Regional M&E Team and Bangkok Competence Center (BCC) WFP Bhutan and the School Health and Nutrition Division (SHND) of the Ministry of Education developed a monitoring system using Microsoft Excel software as a mock-up of an online system for data collection in order to lead towards the development a real-time data collection system (with mobile phone and web based applications for data entry). The system was tested in 10 schools in 2017.
- Based on the tested MS Excel tools mobile app and web based data collection system using Mobile Data Collection and Analytics (MDCA) platform has been developed. User training is underway to roll out to two districts from August.
- Following the emergency logistics training and earthquake scenario table top exercise, preparations are underway to conduct a training on 72 hours assessment and data preparedness for emergency preparedness and response.

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Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/Bhutan

WFP Bhutan Strategy

Temporary Interim Country Strategic Plan Jan – Dec 2018

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	August - January Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
1.2 m	1.2 m	0.0 m

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

Strategic Outcome 1: School-aged children in vulnerable areas have sustainable access to food by 2019

Focus area: Root Causes

Activities:

- Provide nutritious meals to vulnerable school-aged children to ensure equitable access to education
- Provide technical assistance to the Government of Bhutan (RGoB) to enhance critical aspects of school meals management

Strategic Result 5: Countries have strengthened capacities to implement the SDGs

Strategic Outcome 2: National Systems to achieve the SDGs by 2018 are strengthened.

Focus area: Root Causes

Activities:

- Provide policy and technical assistance to the Government of Bhutan to scale up fortification in the country
- Strengthen the Government of Bhutan's capacity in emergency preparedness
- Provide technical assistance to the National Nutrition Taskforce to advance the nutrition agenda in the country, focusing on reducing the prevalence of micronutrient deficiencies

Monitoring

- Regular field monitoring of school feeding programme is being carried out by staff in SHND for both WFP as well as government supported feeding schools.
- Online monitoring and reporting system for school feeding programme is being developed and plans to use Mobile Data Collection and Analytics (MDCA) with support from the regional bureau.

Challenges

- Delay in the procurement of fortified rice kernels on time – logistical challenge since it has to be brought from outside the country

Donors

Australia, Canada, Private Sector (River Star Foundation, JAWFP)