



WFP Bhutan Country Brief November 2018

World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



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**

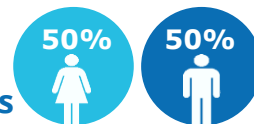
Chronic malnutrition: **21.2% of children between 6-59 months**

In Numbers

842 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 November 2018



Operational Updates

- Following the third Parliamentary elections in October, the Druk Nyamrup Tshogpa (DNT) party who won the elections formed the new government.
- There was an ICT Capacity Assessment mission to assess the infrastructure and services capacity at the country level and to provide the overview of the ICT landscape, and insights into how communication technologies could be leveraged in emergency response to any potential disaster.
- The Ministry of Education (MoE) in collaboration with the World Food Programme (WFP) organized a two-day workshop with the objectives of sharing experiences, best practices and ideas going forward across three themes: a) link to farmers b) nutrition education/social and behaviour change communication (SBCC) and c) menu improvements. The learning experiences captured from this workshop is aimed to help in better coordination of interventions and partners, mapping of what worked and what didn't work to better inform the way forward for developing a future model for the National School Nutrition Programme.
- A team from Rishso Kosei-kai (RKK) and Japan Association for WFP (JAWFP) visited Bhutan to see the impact of their support to WFP activities in Bhutan. They visited few schools and met with various government counterparts. Although small, RKK through JAWFP has been a regular donor to WFP Bhutan since 2002

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 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 is carried out by staff in the School Health and Nutrition Division for both WFP as well as government-supported feeding schools.
- Training has started for national roll-out of a real-time, integrated school-based nutrition, health and education monitoring and reporting system, using the Mobile Data Collection and Analytics (MDCA) platform.

Challenges

- Lack of technical capacity within the country has led to a delay in implementing some of the capacity development activities. Identifying qualified local consultants continues to be a bottleneck for programme execution.

Donors

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