



# WFP Bhutan Country Brief December 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**

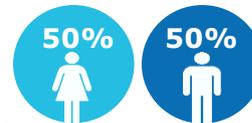
Chronic malnutrition: **21.2% of children between 6-59 months**

## In Numbers

**938.7 mt** of food assistance distributed

WFP Bhutan's operations require an additional USD 0.6 million for the next six months.

**13,897 school children assisted** in December 2018



## Operational Updates

- The UN Sustainable Development Partnership Framework (UNSDPF) for 2019-2023 that lays down the partnership framework between the Royal Government of Bhutan (RGoB) and the United Nations Funds and Programmes in Bhutan has been finalized and signed. WFP's Country Strategic Plan aligns very well with the UNSDPF.
- WFP and the Department of Disaster Management carried out a practical emergency logistics training, which focussed on handling of mobile storage units during emergencies. Participants included government staff who will be in the forefront in the event of a major disaster.
- To address the issue of limited national disaster needs assessment capacity, WFP has together with the Department of Disaster Management (DDM) initiated a three-year project to set up the 72-hour post disaster need assessment capacity in the Government to enable a response within 72 hours.
- WFP supported the participation of a delegation from the Government, led by the Home Secretary at the 14th Regional Consultative Committee meeting at Kathmandu. As part of building stronger national disaster awareness, WFP facilitated a visit to the WFP Nepal Humanitarian Staging Area (HSA) to demonstrate the required preparedness and response infrastructure to major disasters. Following the visit, the RGoB has decided to prioritize setting up a HSA in its international airport in Paro.
- Together with other resident UN Agencies and in collaboration with the various government counterparts, the Annual Work Plan (AWP) for 2019 was prepared. The AWP aligns with the UNSDPF and WFP is party to all the four Outcomes.

## WFP Bhutan Strategy

### Country Strategic Plan 2019 – 2023

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Jan-Jun Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
<b>8.9 m</b>	<b>1.3 m</b>	<b>0.6 m</b>

#### Strategic Result 2: No one suffers from malnutrition

**Strategic Outcome 1:** School-age children, women and vulnerable groups in Bhutan have improved nutrition in line with national targets by 2023

**Focus area:** Root Causes

**Activities:**

- Assist the Government in its transition to a national school nutrition programme based on an integrated approach to school feeding that connects school feeding with nutrition education, school health and school agriculture and embeds gender across all activities, strengthened supply chains and school nutrition infrastructure optimization.
- Provide technical assistance to the Government and the national food production and trade sectors to ensure that sound policies are in place and ensure quality and safety of fortified foods, especially rice, throughout their supply chains.

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

**Strategic Outcome 2:** Government has strengthened capability to address food security and nutrition challenges and prepare for and respond to crises, including those resulting from climate change, by 2023

**Focus area:** Resilience building

**Activities:**

- Provide the Government with gender-informed and vulnerability-focused capacity strengthening relevant to its management of national emergency resources, development, enhancement and testing of national emergency response plans and coordination systems, through WFP's leadership of the emergency logistics and communications sectoral working group.

## 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)