

SAVING
LIVES

CHANGING
LIVES



Bhutan

Annual Country Report 2018

Country Strategic Plan

2018 - 2018

ACR Reading Guidance



World Food
Programme

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Summary

The year 2018 has been a unique one for WFP in Bhutan. While WFP considered phasing out of the country from 2019, the Royal Government of Bhutan requested WFP's continued partnership based on assessed needs and to ensure that Bhutan graduate sustainably from least developed country to middle-income country status by 2023.

Accordingly, WFP developed its new Country Strategic Plan for 2019-2023, submitted for approval to WFP's February 2019 Executive Board.

Although WFP continues as a partner to the Government beyond 2018, it remains true to its promise of ending provision of in-kind food assistance. With that, 2018 marked the year of a successful handover of WFP's school feeding programme (SFP) to the Government after more than 44 years of assistance to Bhutan. System building, policy advice, technical assistance and capacity strengthening were delivered by WFP in 2018 to enable the Government to fully manage and implement the national school feeding programme. By the end of 2018, the new Government decided to and budgeted for taking over WFP's remaining 14,000 school children from 2019 and onwards.

Moreover, through WFP's advocacy, the Government decided to initiate a scale up of the national SFP and, in 2019, will deliver food to an additional 10,000 school children to support their cognitive and physical development.

Through a Transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan (2018), WFP worked to deliver two Strategic Outcomes:

1. School-aged children in vulnerable areas have sustainable access to food by 2019; and
2. The Government of Bhutan has strengthened capacity to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030, both fully aligned with government and United Nations Development Assistance Framework (2014-2018) priorities.

Besides delivering school meals to about 14,000 school children, WFP provided institutional and capacity strengthening in the areas of national rice fortification; transition of the national school feeding programme to a national school nutrition programme; strengthening national capacity to prepare for and respond to disasters; and monitoring and reporting.

WFP helped the Government assess their existing food rules and regulations for fortification, drafted an action plan for the development of a national regulatory and compliance framework for food fortification, supported the Government in setting up a rice fortification blending facility, and trained government officials on quality assurance.

WFP expanded its role in emergency preparedness and response and initiated the development of a national earthquake/disaster preparedness road map with the Government, along with starting to set up the 72-hour post disaster need assessment approach. WFP also provided logistics and preparedness assistance such as supporting a government visit to the WFP Humanitarian Staging Area in Nepal. In addition, WFP procured and trained government officials in using mobile storage units, and carried out an ICT Capacity Assessment of ICT infrastructure for an emergency response.

Finally, WFP supported the development of a school-based, real-time, integrated nutrition, health and education monitoring and reporting system. This was to replace the current paper-based system and reduce waste of food and nutrition supplements, generate more sex-disaggregated data, and show dietary diversity of school children to design more nutritious meals.

13,897
total beneficiaries
in 2018

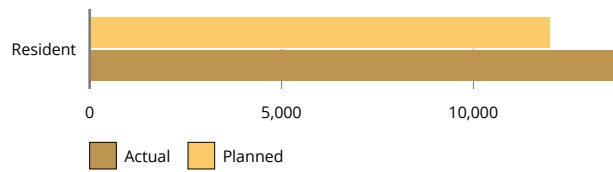


50%
female

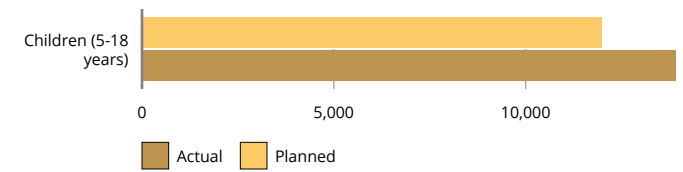


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male

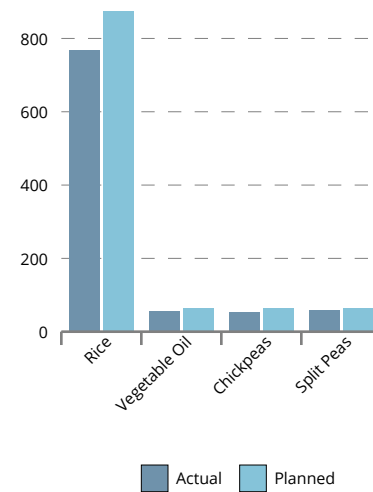
Beneficiaries by Residence Status



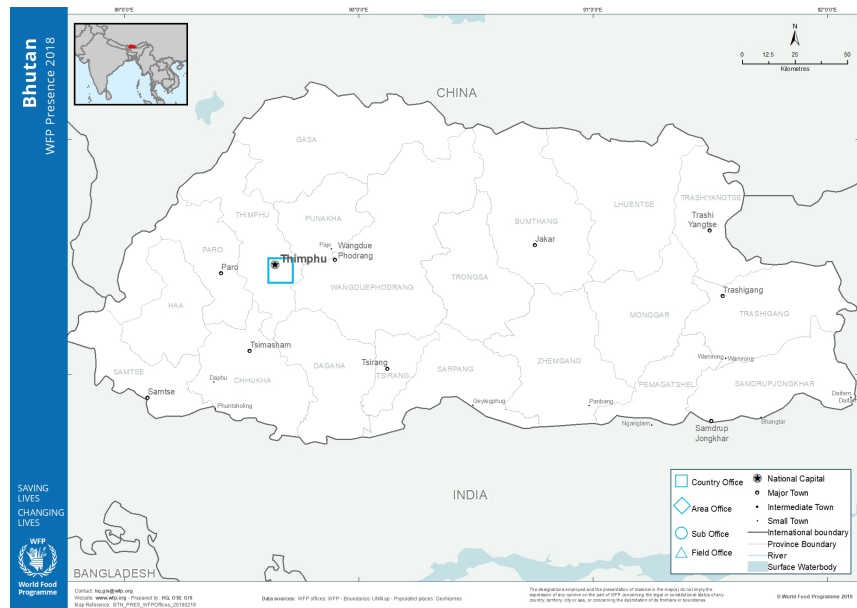
Beneficiaries by Age Group



Annual Food Distribution (mt)



Context and Operations



Bhutan's development policies and plans are guided by the concept of Gross National Happiness, which stresses the achievement of equitable and sustainable development over economic growth. The country peacefully transitioned to parliamentary democracy in 2008. In 2018, Bhutan had its third parliamentary election, and the winning party won a majority of seats with the slogan “narrowing the gap”, determined to further reduce inequalities in the country. Addressing malnutrition is a strong focus in this agenda, which includes provision of mid-day meals to school children and initiatives to “nutritionize” the national school feeding programme.

Bhutan made an impressive reduction of its national poverty rate from 23 percent in 2007 to 12 percent in 2012, and further to 8 percent in 2017, as measured against the international poverty line of USD 1.90 per person per day [1]. With the recent economic development, Bhutan is to graduate from least developed country to lower-middle-income country status by 2023.

That said, the country is still challenged by its mountainous terrain and poor road access isolating rural populations from markets and social services and limiting their livelihood opportunities. Close to one-fourth of the population suffers from seasonal food insecurity, especially during the months before the harvest. Bhutan ranks 132 out of 188 countries in the 2016 Human Development Index, placing it in the “medium human development” category. Economically, Bhutan relies upon India for about 82 percent of its imports (2016) and limited export earnings are not sufficient to finance all foreign exchange requirements.

In addition, as a result of climate change, the country's topography and geotectonic movements, natural disasters threaten to reverse Bhutan's progress to date. The 2015 earthquake in Nepal, which claimed more than 9,000 lives and inflicted severe economic damage, focused attention on the urgent need to enhance the Government of Bhutan's preparedness to respond to disasters.

The Government considers education as key for alleviating poverty and empowering people and therefore has made impressive progress in pursuit of achieving universal primary education with a 92.9 percent net primary school enrolment rate (2018). Bhutan continues its efforts to make progress in terms of gender equality and women's empowerment. In terms of gender parity at the primary education level, it stood at 1.01 in 2018; for every 100 boys, there were 101 girls enrolled.

Although food security and nutrition have improved overall, health problems related to a lack of balanced diets, including micronutrient deficiencies, and lifestyle changes continue to pose challenges to achieving Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2. Non-communicable diseases are a growing health concern that affects all age groups. In fact, these diseases now account for almost 70 percent of the reported burden of disease and are responsible for

more than half of all deaths in the country.

Addressing micronutrient deficiencies is another challenge in Bhutan. While data on micronutrient deficiencies in both children and adults is scarce, peripheral neuropathy outbreaks have been a common occurrence among boarding school children across the country over the past five years. Likewise, anaemia remains a severe public health issue according to World Health Organization criteria. The prevalence in women and girls of reproductive age stood at 34.9 percent in 2015 – nearly five percentage points above the global average. The 2015 national nutrition survey found that nearly one in three adolescent girls in Bhutan was anaemic – an important indicator of future health as six percent of girls are married by the age of 15 and 26 percent by age 18.

Although stunting of children aged 24-59 months has improved significantly from 33.5 percent in 2010 to 21.2 percent in 2015, stunting remains a persistent public health issue in all wealth quintiles in Bhutan.

In contribution towards SDG 2, Strategic Outcome 1 focuses on providing sustainable access to food for school-aged children in vulnerable areas. This includes direct support to about 14,000 school children; institutional strengthening and capacity strengthening to the Government to enable full management and implementation of the national school feeding programme (SFP); testing a model for the national SFP; and setting up a school based digital, integrated and real-time monitoring and reporting system for a cost-efficient and continuously improving national SFP.

Working towards SDG 17, Strategic Outcome 2 focuses on strengthening the capacity of national institutions. This includes a range of nutrition activities focused on strengthening the policy and legal framework for fortification of food as well as setting up the required infrastructure and capacity in the Government to scale-up fortification in Bhutan. WFP also took a stronger role in emergency preparedness and response in 2018 and supported the Government with capacity strengthening on coordination, disaster needs assessment, logistics and ICT preparedness activities as well as disaster awareness building with a visit to Nepal to see how the country prepared for and responded to the 2015 earthquake.

Programme Performance - Resources for Results

WFP Bhutan's Transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan (T-ICSP) was very well-funded in 2018, thanks to generous contributions from donor partners such as Australia, Canada and Germany as well as private sector funding from the Japan Association for WFP and River Star Foundation (RS Group). This allowed WFP to procure and handover all necessary food commodities on time. WFP was able to carry out the necessary complementary activities as required for an efficient implementation of the national school feeding programme.

Although the planned figure for school children was only 12,000 beneficiaries for 2018, upon the request of the Government, WFP added around 2,000 additional school children into its feeding programme. The addition of these children was necessary due to a delay in the approval of the National Education Policy, that stipulates that all children in schools shall be provided with at least one balanced and nutritious meal per day, and therefore hindered the Government absorbing the non-boarding school but day-school children into its feeding programme. However, this did not result in additional food tonnage for WFP, as towards the end of the academic year, children in lower grades were released earlier than planned. In fact, from the planned tonnage for distribution, only about 88 percent was actually distributed.

As agreed in the T-ICSP, the Royal Government of Bhutan continued to contribute 50 percent of the total internal transport, storage and handling costs. The Government fully covered the transportation costs for porters (both people and animals) that carried food commodities from the extended delivery points to the schools with no road connections.

In WFP-assisted boarding schools, the Government continued to provide a third meal for all boarding students in addition to the two provided by WFP. In all government-assisted boarding schools and the "central schools", the non-perishable commodities were centrally procured and distributed. Fresh commodities for students were procured by the schools through a cash-based stipend system, which was managed by the school feeding management committee of individual schools. In all schools, the Government covered the salaries of cooks, electricity and firewood for fuel. The task of preparing the dispatch and transportation of WFP procured food commodities to WFP assisted schools was taken over by the Ministry of Education in 2016 and continued to function smoothly with oversight from WFP.

Through the provision of school meals, WFP contributed to maintaining the high enrolment rate and retention of primary level schooling for both girls and boys. WFP assisted the Government in enhancing its school feeding programme through system building, policy advice, technical assistance and capacity strengthening activities. These included reviews and studies of the existing aspects of the school feeding programme, such as documenting and

standardizing its policy and strategic approaches, improving nutrition in school meals including support to establish a blending facility to produce fortified rice locally, developing an action plan for food fortification and necessary regulatory and enforcement capacity, and food safety and quality assurance.

Further, WFP assisted the Government in accelerating digitization of monitoring and reporting systems to reduce labour-intensive analogue paper systems, increase cost-efficiencies and close the learning loop. A school-based real-time, integrated nutrition, health and education monitoring and reporting system, using the Mobile Data Collection and Analytics platform, has been developed and piloted in two districts. It will be rolled out nationwide with the start of 2019 academic session, and a training of trainers training programme has been completed to support the roll-out.



Programme Performance

Strategic Outcome 01

School-aged children in vulnerable areas have sustainable access to food by 2019

Strategic Result 1 – Everyone has access to food

Activity 1: Provide nutritious meals to school children in vulnerable schools.

Activity 2: Provide technical assistance to the Government of Bhutan to enhance critical aspects of school meals management.

Since the beginning of its operation in Bhutan in 1974, WFP has been implementing the school feeding programme (SFP) in partnership with the Ministry of Education to support the cognitive and physical development of the children of Bhutan.

In 2018, WFP continued to provide school meals to 13,897 schoolchildren aged 6-18 years to enhance learning, support access to education, and promote health and nutrition, particularly in rural and remote areas. WFP supported schools that are not covered by the national SFP, mostly situated in the most vulnerable parts of the country. WFP support was provided to day-time students who do not receive support through the Government's national SFP, which prioritizes boarding students.

For all schools under its support, WFP distributed fortified rice procured in Bangladesh and India, as well as yellow split peas, chickpeas and fortified vegetable oil, complemented with fresh vegetables and occasionally meat or eggs provided by local communities, the Ministry of Education and through the School Agriculture Programme. Both breakfast and lunch were given to the students to ensure provision of 1,303 kcal, 62 percent of the required daily energy needs and 58 percent of the daily protein needs.

By the end of 2018, WFP discontinued its support for school meals, and the Government decided to and budgeted for taking over WFP's remaining 14,000 school children from 2019. With that, 2018 marked the year of a successful handover of WFP's SFP to the Government. Moreover, through WFP's advocacy, the Government decided to initiate a scale up of the national SFP and will, in 2019, deliver food to an additional 10,000 school children.

WFP continued system building, policy advice, technical assistance and capacity strengthening throughout 2018 to enable the Government to fully manage and implement the national SFP. By providing capacity strengthening to the responsible agencies, WFP is enhancing the Government's capacity to ensure SFP sustainability. In particular, WFP's support to the dietary assessment of school meals, participation by senior government officials in the Global Child Nutrition Forum events and training specific staff for school feeding management not only

facilitated the handover from WFP but also convinced the Government about the importance of continuing its support to the programme.

WFP provided a range of technical assistance and piloting activities to support the development of a national school feeding model, to support a cost-efficient scale-up of the national SFP and transforming it into a national school nutrition programme. This included the Integrated Approach pilot of interventions to strengthen linkages between the school meals and ongoing school health, school agriculture programme and nutrition education activities; improving the food basket for the school meals including use of fortified rice; the development of food and dietary guidelines for schools to facilitate nutrition education and to ensure that school children eat a variety of food with the correct servings; support to finalize the national school feeding and nutrition strategy; and support to develop a school feeding monitoring and reporting system integrated into the monitoring/evaluation system of the Ministry of Education.

WFP also supported better coordination of interventions and partners with the Ministry by mapping experiences and best practise nationwide across three themes: a) link to farmers; b) nutrition education/social and behaviour change communication; and c) menu improvements. As a result of the workshop and subsequent work, policy and operational recommendations were formulated to inform future school feeding policy decisions and the evolving model for the national SFP.

With the handover of the SFP to the Government by 2019, the Government will fully handle the supply chain. Given a 300 percent cost increase in the supply chain from 2015-2017, and the planned scale up of the national SFP from 2019, WFP commissioned a study by HELP Logistics, and held a workshop with government partners on supply chain optimization. Based on this, WFP and the Government agreed to launch a number of initiatives to increase the cost-efficiency and effectiveness of the school feeding supply chain. These included a review of the payment structure and real cost of the supply chain towards paying a rate/MT to simplify costing and drive down costs; a pilot of logistics initiatives including hub-and-spoke networking and the milk-run method; and development of a transport plan template and Excel-based commodity tracking system with monthly submission by Food Corporation of Bhutan Limited to the Ministry of Education for analysis and optimization.

The Integrated Approach brought in new realizations in bringing about better results from nutrition related school programmes. With support from WFP, the School Health and Nutrition Division, under the Ministry of Education, ventured into collaborating with the school curriculum agency to review the nutrition content in the school syllabus and link the curriculum with extra-curricular school activities to enhance learning on nutrition and health related subjects.



The School Feeding Technical Committee comprising members from various government stakeholders, which WFP helped establish in 2015, is fully functional and has increasingly taken over the management and decision-making roles related to the SFP. WFP continues to participate in its quarterly meetings.

Since WFP-supported schools are part of the national SFP, data for enrolment and retention were sourced from statistics of the Ministry of Education. Starting from 2015 to 2017, these indicators were calculated based on the age data from the Department of Civil Registration and Census due to lack of reliable population data. However, for 2018, the Ministry used Population and Housing Census of Bhutan 2017 data to compute these indicators. The decrease in both enrolment and retention rate from the past year is therefore due to a change in the approach that the Ministry of Education used to produce the data for 2018.

Strategic Outcome 02

Support the Government of Bhutan in achieving the SDGs by 2030

Strategic Result 5: Developing countries have strengthened capacity to implement the SDGs.

Activity 3: Provide policy and technical assistance to the Government of Bhutan to scale up fortification in the country.

Rice fortification was introduced in the school feeding programme (SFP) by WFP in 2017 due to the high levels of micronutrient deficiencies and frequent outbreak of beri-beri (peripheral neuropathy) among school children caused by deficiency of Vitamin B1 (thiamine). Following WFP's introduction of fortified rice, the Government started providing fortified rice to all government supported schools by the end of 2017. Currently, all 73,000 school children under the national SFP receive rice fortified with iron, folic acid, zinc, niacin, Vitamins B1, B6, B12, and Vitamin A. Since the introduction of fortified rice in schools, no cases of beri-beri have been reported.

The fortification programme is implemented by a national taskforce led by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forests. The taskforce consists of members from the ministries of health, education, agriculture and forests along with specialized government agencies such as the Bhutan Agriculture and Food Regulatory Authority (BAFRA), Food Corporation of Bhutan Limited (FCBL), and WFP. The taskforce was renamed the Food Fortification Taskforce (FFT) to expand its scope and allow oversight and implementation of not only fortified rice but fortification of other food commodities. WFP provides technical support to the taskforce and also facilitates the capacity and knowledge enhancement of the members of the taskforce.

In 2018, WFP continued its role as the lead agency on fortification and deployed a rice fortification expert to assess the existing national food rules and regulations for fortified foods. In collaboration with the Government, the expert developed a 2018-2020 action plan for a regulatory and compliance framework for food fortification, endorsed for implementation by the Government. The expert also trained BAFRA and FCBL officials on quality assurance activities required during the production (blending) and post production for fortified rice and integrated checks for fortified rice in BAFRA's standard operating procedures for food quality assurance.

As part of supporting national capacity in fortification, WFP initially established capacity with a private company to blend rice with fortified rice kernels. Upon request from the Government, WFP provided financial and technical support in setting up a blending facility to be operated by FCBL, intended to first produce fortified rice to cover the growing demands from the SFP and later to other social protection programmes. WFP also supported government officials and the FFT with exposure visits to India and Bangladesh as well as participation in regional rice fortification knowledge and experience sharing workshops as a part of strengthening the South-South cooperation. The trip helped government officials to better understand options for blending and where to source the fortified rice kernels for Bhutan.

Advocacy and awareness on the benefits of fortified rice and guidance on how to handle fortified rice in schools continue to be implemented with a fortification awareness workshop held for the school principals and district education officials, and inclusion of a session on rice fortification in all trainings or workshops organized for school teachers whether by the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health, or the Ministry of Agriculture and Forests.

Activity 4: Strengthen the capacity in emergency preparedness of the Government of Bhutan.

In view of its geologically vulnerable position in the eastern Himalayas, and as a result of climate change, Bhutan is prone to natural disasters with earthquakes being the biggest threat to reverse Bhutan's progress to date. The 2015 earthquake in Nepal focused attention on the urgent need to enhance the Government's preparedness to respond to disasters. It is thus essential that responsible Government agencies have necessary capacities to respond to such an event.

Taking the lead — and in coordination with other United Nations agencies — WFP organized an earthquake simulation exercise with participation from various ministries, the police and the Royal Bhutan Army, testing national response to an earthquake at the same magnitude as the one that hit Nepal. The exercise demonstrated significant gaps in national preparedness readiness

across coordination, needs assessments, decision-making structures, logistics and other important areas. Following the exercise, WFP initiated the development of a national earthquake/disaster preparedness road map with the Government, to coordinate disaster preparedness initiatives across the United Nations, World Bank, non-governmental organizations and government partners.

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 for and response infrastructure to major disasters. Following the visit, the Government decided to prioritize setting up an HSA in its international airport in Paro.

Together with the Department of Disaster Management, WFP 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. Further, an ICT Capacity Assessment was deployed to provide an overview of the ICT infrastructure and how communication technologies can be leveraged in an emergency response to a disaster.

To enhance national logistics preparedness capacity, WFP procured three mobile storage units, which can quickly be erected and serve as emergency warehouses. This was followed-up with practical emergency logistics training with particular focus on handling the mobile storage units for various government partners. WFP also carried out a broader emergency logistics training for government partners and other agencies, and assisted the Department of Disaster Management with tailored international emergency logistics training to enhance their knowledge and national coordination capacity on logistics. The various logistics initiatives carried out in 2018 will also allow the Government to respond to smaller emergencies like those brought about by climate change — windstorms, drought and floods. WFP's role in emergency preparedness and response has established it as a partner of choice for the Government.

Cross-cutting Results

Progress towards gender equality

Improved gender equality and women's empowerment among WFP-assisted population

Ranking at 117 of 160 countries on the 2017 Gender Inequality Index, Bhutan continues to make progress on gender equality and women's empowerment, but challenges remain in terms of the gender gap in decision-making positions, adult literacy rates, the gender distribution of unpaid domestic labour, gender-based violence and early marriage.

WFP continued to support and advocate for progress towards gender equality in education. In 2018, the enrolment rates for girls were slightly higher than those for boys. The retention rates for girls at primary level were also higher than for boys. Overall, these high enrolments and retention rates are in line with the Government's goal of ensuring gender parity in primary education.

Gender sensitisation continued to be included in all WFP activities, with a special focus on school feeding management training for teachers, both men and women, and cooks' training, where the participants were sensitised on gender equality and the importance of its application at schools.

WFP continued to promote equal representation of boys and girls, men and women in all school feeding management committees in WFP assisted schools with 50 percent of these committee members being women. These committees, present in each supported school, oversaw and ensured proper management and provision of meals, supporting women's empowerment and providing leadership and decision-making opportunities, creating a platform for their ideas and concerns to be heard. This positive example created by WFP is now replicated in all schools as part of the national school feeding programme.

WFP's school-based real-time, integrated nutrition, health and education monitoring and reporting system — to be rolled out nationwide with the start of 2019 academic session — has been a strong platform to promote gender equality. With this system, WFP has proposed sex-disaggregated school data that previously was missing in the national monitoring and evaluation system across areas such as distribution of micronutrient supplements to school children by sex or food diversity by sex. The Government has accepted these changes, which will enable, for example, improved school menus to ensure adolescent girls receive sufficient protein, given the rising trend of vegetarianism across the country.

Protection

Affected populations are able to benefit from WFP programmes in a manner that ensures and promotes their safety, dignity and integrity

In the past, protection issues faced by children in the school feeding programme related primarily to safety to and from school and occurred primarily in rural and remote areas. These were due to lack of infrastructure and exposure to wildlife. More specifically, these included rugged terrain, dense forests and rushing streams, and even possible endangerment by wild animals during their journey. With the investment by the Kingdom of Bhutan in improving rural infrastructure and road connectivity for better access, and an overall increase in the number of schools across the country, including additional boarding schools, safety risks faced by children have significantly reduced.

Overall, in 2018 there have not been any significant protection issues with WFP beneficiaries since WFP's food assistance activities are designed and carried out in a manner that does not increase protection risks, but rather contributes to their safety, dignity and integrity. For instance, WFP encouraged recruitment of female cooks in schools and to serve the children in separate lines which helped girls avoid teasing and longer wait times. The assistance WFP provides is procured through corporate systems, which includes rigorously checking for quality assurance, and specific standards for transportation and storage. These efforts safeguard the health of children and promote their retention in school.

Accountability to affected populations

Affected populations are able to hold WFP and partners accountable for meeting their hunger needs in a manner that reflects their views and preferences

The main channel for WFP to interact with beneficiaries is through school teachers who are trained on engaging with children and informing them on WFP activities. They receive the food at the school, take care of storage and provide timely reports. During monitoring visits, WFP met with some of the children privately and talked with them about the quality and quantity of food. In 2018, the responses from the children were positive and no complaints were received. In addition, a communication channel has been established between the schools, the Ministry of Education and WFP where issues with the assistance, such as delay of food or damage to food commodities, are reported. As a result of this, schools have received food on time or, when necessary, were guided to carry out a proper disposal of the damaged food.

WFP has advocated with schools and the Ministry of Education the importance of informing beneficiaries of their entitlements. As a result, most schools in 2018 had ration scales and daily menus displayed on the board making beneficiaries aware of their entitlements.

WFP has a long history of working in the Kingdom of Bhutan and doing so by working closely with communities. As a result, both beneficiaries and their



families were aware of their entitlements. WFP's monitoring visits also indicated that children were aware of WFP's work and familiar with the logo.

In 2018, WFP piloted, at first, and started rolling out the school-based real-time, integrated nutrition, health and education monitoring and reporting system. This system helps improving the monitoring and reporting mechanism for the school feeding programme and ultimately supports accountability to beneficiaries.

Environment

Targeted communities benefit from WFP programmes in a manner that does not harm the environment

Environmental sustainability is one of the four pillars in pursuit of Gross National Happiness and Bhutan is classified as the only carbon neutral country in the world. WFP's operation in the country supports Bhutan's efforts towards environmental conservation howsoever small it may appear.

In collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and Forests, WFP supported the training of Focal Agriculture Teachers in integrated agricultural practices using sustainable methods of agriculture — use of minimum pesticides, crop rotation, etc., which reduce the harmful impact to the environment.

WFP is supporting its logistical counterpart in its supply chain optimization by advising on how to have more efficient transport contracts — such as using bigger trucks to deliver the food instead of using smaller pick-ups for repeated delivery resulting in more costs and emissions.

Besides, as a part of One United Nations House, WFP is very much part of the office greening efforts engaging private firms to regularly collect recyclable paper materials, participating in community cleaning campaigns, etc. The United Nations House has also installed solar panels for heating in winter, ensuring electrical energy saving.



Digital Monitoring

Looking at the school feeding programme (SFP) in Bhutan, using the SABER (Systems Approach for Better Education Results) tools, it became apparent that there was no standardized system for reporting and monitoring.

The current, paper-based monitoring and reporting system with persistent delays in receipt of reports and frequent errors was not able to provide the information necessary to ensure timely and effective delivery of school health and nutrition services. It was difficult to demonstrate the effectiveness of the interventions since the data flows were cumbersome, slow, susceptible to errors and misrepresentation and did not promote easy analysis. According to a performance audit of the national SFP by the Royal Audit Authority of Bhutan, there was around two percent of food waste in schools due to infestation and long storage because of excess supply of food to schools with inadequate storage capacity. This was due to the absence of timely reports from schools on stock balance. Similarly, waste of nutrition supplement (Vitamin A, Iron, and deworming) was observed. The report highlighted the need for a mechanism to monitor the nutritional status of schoolchildren.

WFP supported the design and development of a school-based online and integrated nutrition, health and education monitoring and reporting system. A mobile-friendly, web-based data entry portal was developed covering the four identified areas — education, school health, school agriculture programme and school feeding.

The system was developed on a WFP platform called Mobile Data Collection and Analytics with plans to integrate it in the overall national Education Management Information System. Based on pilot testing in two districts with positive feedback from the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Agriculture and Forests, the system will be rolled-out nationwide in early 2019 with roll-out cost shared between WFP and the Ministry of Education.

The Ministry of Education aims to expand the SFP to cover more students and strengthen the integration between school feeding, school health, school agriculture and nutrition education activities. In this regard, to ensure strong coordination and efficiency, having timely and correct information will become even more critical, also improving its capacity to demonstrate impact of the programme, reduce labour-intensive analogue systems, increase cost-efficiencies and close the learning loop.

By getting more real-time stock data, the dispatches of food to schools will be based on actual needs rather than assumptions. This reduces the burden of storage on schools. With a better reporting and monitoring system, the efficiency and effectiveness of the SFP both in terms of cost (due to reduced waste) as well as in terms of service delivery (due to improved quality of food for the school menu) will be easier to demonstrate and enable the Ministry of Education to

advocate for the necessary resources, thus ensuring the sustainability of the SFP.

Sierra Leone is looking to use the Bhutan model and there is strong corporate interest in the system as it has the potential to promote stronger education, health and nutrition integration using schools as a platform as well as monitor the impact of school feeding over successive years.



Figures and Indicators

Data Notes

Summary

Cover page photo © WFP/Photolibrary
Schoolchildren in Bhutan enjoy a meal.

Context and operations

[1] Bhutan Poverty Assessment, 2014

Beneficiaries by Age Group

Beneficiary Category	Gender	Planned	Actual	% Actual vs. Planned
Total Beneficiaries	male	6,112	6,951	113.7%
	female	5,873	6,946	118.3%
	total	11,985	13,897	116.0%
By Age Group				
Children (5-18 years)	male	6,112	6,951	113.7%
	female	5,873	6,946	118.3%
	total	11,985	13,897	116.0%

Beneficiaries by Residence Status

Residence Status	Planned	Actual	% Actual vs. Planned
Resident	11,985	13,897	116.0%

Annual Food Distribution (mt)

Commodities	Planned Distribution (mt)	Actual Distribution (mt)	% Actual vs. Planned
Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food			
Strategic Outcome: School-aged children in vulnerable areas have sustainable access to food by 2019			

Commodities	Planned Distribution (mt)	Actual Distribution (mt)	% Actual vs. Planned
Rice	873	769	88.0%
Vegetable Oil	64	57	89.0%
Chickpeas	64	53	83.9%
Split Peas	64	60	94.3%

Output Indicators

Detailed Indicator	Unit	Target Value	Actual Value	% Achieved
Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food				
Strategic Outcome 01: School-aged children in vulnerable areas have sustainable access to food by 2019				
Output A: Food, including fortified foods, and non-food items, distributed in sufficient quantity and quality and in a timely manner to targeted schools.				
Act 01. Provide nutritious meals to vulnerable school-aged children to ensure equitable access to education.				
Average number of schooldays per month on which multi-fortified foods or at least 4 food groups were provided	Days	25.0	25.0	100.0
Number of schools assisted by WFP	school	165.0	164.0	99.4
Value of non-food items distributed	US\$	85000.0	89180.0	104.9
Output C: National school feeding policies and frameworks are in place				
Act 02. Provide technical assistance to the Government of Bhutan to enhance critical aspects of school meals management.				
Number of capacity development activities provided for advocacy on School Feeding.	activity	1.0	1.0	100.0
Output C: Technical support provided to enhance management of school feeding.				
Act 02. Provide technical assistance to the Government of Bhutan to enhance critical aspects of school meals management.				
Number of technical assistance activities provided	unit	5.0	5.0	100.0
Strategic Result 5: Countries have strengthened capacity to implement the SDGs				
Strategic Outcome 02: Support the Government of Bhutan in achieving the SDGs by 2030				
Output C: Contingency plan created for multiple emergency scenarios and tested during simulation exercise				
Act 04. Strengthen the Government of Bhutan's capacity in emergency preparedness.				
Number of mobile storage tents/units made available	unit	3.0	3.0	100.0
Number of people trained	individual	200.0	191.0	95.5
Output C: Country capacity strengthened for regional and local sourcing of fortified food and infrastructure and technology transferred to enable domestic production of fortified food				
Act 03. Provide policy and technical assistance to the Government of Bhutan to scale up fortification in the country.				
Number of technical assistance activities provided	unit	4.0	9.0	225.0
Output C: Regulatory framework and quality control mechanism established to regulate the national production and import of fortified food				
Act 03. Provide policy and technical assistance to the Government of Bhutan to scale up fortification in the country.				

Detailed Indicator	Unit	Target Value	Actual Value	% Achieved
Number of national response plans developed with WFP support	policy	2.0	2.0	100.0

Outcome Indicators

Target / Location	Modalities	Activities	Gender	Base Value	Latest Follow Up	Year End Target	CSP End Target	Date/Source/Means of Collection
Strategic Result 1 - Everyone has access to food								
Strategic Outcome 01: School-aged children in vulnerable areas have sustainable access to food by 2019								
Outcome Indicator: Enrolment rate								
Bhutan	CSI: Provide technical assistance to the Government of Bhutan to enhance critical aspects of school meals management., SMP: Provide nutritious meals to vulnerable school-aged children to ensure equitable access to education.	Capacity Strengthening, Food	male	93.70	92.40	=97.00	=97.00	Base Value: 2017.12, Secondary data, CP Report Latest Follow-up: 2018.12, Secondary data, CP Report Year end Target: 2018.12 CSP end Target: 2018.12
			female	96.00	93.40	=98.00	=98.00	
			overall	94.80	92.90	=97.50	=97.50	
Outcome Indicator: Retention rate								

Target / Location	Modalities	Activities	Gender	Base Value	Latest Follow Up	Year End Target	CSP End Target	Date/Source/Means of Collection
Bhutan	CSI: Provide technical assistance to the Government of Bhutan to enhance critical aspects of school meals management., SMP: Provide nutritious meals to vulnerable school-aged children to ensure equitable access to education.	Capacity Strengthening, Food	male	97.90	94.40	=100.00	=100.00	Base Value: 2017.12, Secondary data, CP Report Latest Follow-up: 2018.12, Secondary data, CP Report Year end Target: 2018.12 CSP end Target: 2018.12
			female	99.10	98.70	=100.00	=100.00	
			overall	98.50	96.60	=100.00	=100.00	

Cross-cutting Indicators

Target / Location	Modalities	Activities	Gender	Base Value	Latest Follow Up	Year End Target	CSP End Target	Date/Source/Means of Collection
Progress towards gender equality								
Improved gender equality and women's empowerment among WFP-assisted population								
Cross-cutting Indicator: Proportion of food assistance decision-making entity – committees, boards, teams, etc. – members who are women								
Bhutan	Capacity Strengthening, Food	CSI: 2 Provide technical assistance to the Government of Bhutan to enhance critical aspects of school meals management., SMP: 1 Provide nutritious meals to vulnerable school-aged children to ensure equitable access to education.	male	-	-	-	-	Base Value: 2017.12 Latest Follow-up: 2018.12 Year end Target: 2018.12 CSP end Target: 2018.12
			female	-	-	-	-	
			overall	50.00	50.00	≥50.00	≥50.00	

World Food Programme

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Cover page photo © WFP/Photolibrary
Schoolchildren in Bhutan enjoy a meal.

<https://www1.wfp.org/countries/bhutan>

Annual Country Report - Donor Version

Bhutan Country Portfolio Budget 2018 (2018-2018)

Cumulative Financial Overview as at 31 December 2018 (Amount in USD)

Strategic Result	Strategic Outcome	Activity	Needs Based Plan	Allocated Contributions	Advance and Allocation	Allocated Resources	Expenditures	Balance of Resources
1	School-aged children in vulnerable areas have sustainable access to food by 2019	Provide technical assistance to the Government of Bhutan to enhance critical aspects of school meals management.	133,230	340,370	0	340,370	288,430	51,940
		Provide nutritious meals to vulnerable school-aged children to ensure equitable access to education.	679,750	715,166	0	715,166	662,340	52,826
		Non Activity Specific	0	4	0	4	0	4
Subtotal Strategic Result 1. Everyone has access to food (SDG Target 2.1)			812,981	1,055,541	0	1,055,541	950,770	104,771
5	Support the Government of Bhutan in achieving the SDGs by 2030	Provide policy and technical assistance to the Government of Bhutan to scale up fortification in the country.	179,271	47,801	0	47,801	39,011	8,790
		Strengthen the Government of Bhutan's capacity in emergency preparedness.	19,910	80,235	0	80,235	80,234	1
Subtotal Strategic Result 5. Countries have strengthened capacity to implement the SDGs (SDG Target 17.9)			199,181	128,036	0	128,036	119,245	8,791
		Non Activity Specific	0	18,759	0	18,759	0	18,759
Subtotal Strategic Result			0	18,759	0	18,759	0	18,759
Total Direct Operational Cost			1,012,161	1,202,336	0	1,202,336	1,070,015	132,320

This computer generated report is certified by the Chief of Contribution Accounting and Donor Financial Reporting Branch (RMFC)

Annual Country Report - Donor Version

Bhutan Country Portfolio Budget 2018 (2018-2018)

Cumulative Financial Overview as at 31 December 2018 (Amount in USD)

Strategic Result	Strategic Outcome	Activity	Needs Based Plan	Allocated Contributions	Advance and Allocation	Allocated Resources	Expenditures	Balance of Resources
			129,345	64,154	0	64,154	44,311	19,843
			1,141,506	1,266,490	0	1,266,490	1,114,327	152,163
			74,198	91,898		91,898	91,898	0
			1,215,704	1,358,388	0	1,358,388	1,206,225	152,163

Columns Definition

Needs Based Plan

Latest Approved Version of Needs Based Plan in USD

Allocated Contributions

Allocated contributions include confirmed contributions with exchange rate variations, multilateral allocations, miscellaneous income, resource transferred, cost recovery and other financial adjustments (e.g. refinancing); excludes: internal advances.

Advance and allocation:

Internal advanced/allocated resources but not repaid in USD.

This includes different types of internal advance (IPL or MAF) and allocation (IRA).

Allocated Resources

Sum of Allocated Contributions, Advance and Allocation

Expenditures

Cumulative monetary value of goods and services received up to the reporting period.

Balance of Resources

Allocated Resources minus Expenditures

Annual Country Report - Donor Version

Bhutan Country Portfolio Budget 2018 (2018-2018)

Annual Financial Overview for the period 1 January to 31 December 2018 (Amount in USD)

	Needs Based Plan	Implementation Plan*	Expenditures
Bhutan	1,215,704	1,215,152	1,149,587
<i>*Original Implementation Plan as per the Management Plan 2018</i>			