



World Food Programme

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# WFP Bhutan Country Brief April 2019



## Operational Context

Bhutan will transition to lower Middle-Income Level status by 2023 and considers WFP's support critical to this transition process.

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

Although people's overall nutritional status has improved, 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.

WFP has been present in Bhutan since 1974.



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**

## Highlights

WFP undertook a Logistics Capacity Assessment mission for Bhutan, including site visits to all the major cities along the southern border which could be used as potential logistics hubs in an emergency. The team also visited the Paro airport to identify the capacity of the airport for establishing a Humanitarian Staging Area.

WFP is exploring possibilities of funding support for Emergency Preparedness and Response from Japan, Australia and the UK.

## Operational Updates

- A delegation from the Parliament of the Republic of Korea visited Bhutan and met with WFP staff. The delegation visited one of the nearby schools and praised WFP's activities in Bhutan. KOICA has approved USD 4 million to WFP Bhutan for the CSP (2019-2023).
- The Logistics Capacity Assessment team visited major cities along the southern border to identify sites for potential logistics hubs in an emergency. The team reviewed the capacity of the Paro airport and found there is already good existing capacity which could easily and quickly be made available as a humanitarian staging area in an emergency. Meetings were held with several ministries to support the development of SOPs to expedite visa and customs processes, coordination activities and logistical activities. The feedback from the Secretary of Home Affairs was very positive and in line with government priorities.
- Based on the request by the School Health and Nutrition Division, a data analysis and visualization training was conducted at Paro to enhance the capacity of the Ministries (MoE, MoAF, MoH) on data cleaning and analysis, provide hands on training on data visualization for resource prioritization and monitoring and provide user management training in the Mobile Data Collection and Analytics (MDCA) and handover of user management to School Health and Nutrition Division (SHND) of MoE. 6 female and 11 male officials were trained on data analysis and visualization. It was agreed that MDCA user management will be handed over to the SHND starting from May. The training also reviewed the reporting process and data from February till April.

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## WFP Bhutan Strategy

### Country Strategic Plan 2019 – 2023

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	May-Oct 2019 Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
8.9 m	1.3 m	0.0 m

#### Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

**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:** Root Causes

##### 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

- In order to improve the monitoring and reporting system related to the school feeding/nutrition programme, WFP supported the Ministry of Education in the design, development and 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.
- In April WFP provided training on data analysis and visualization to central level officials from MoE, MoAF and MoH for data collected through MDCA for school health, nutrition, school agriculture programme.
- Monitoring of pilot activities related to the integrated approach continues as and when necessary.

## Operational Updates

- The School Health and Nutrition Division of the Ministry of Education organized a workshop to review the school curriculum for better integration of health and nutrition education through school academic curriculum with facilitation by technical experts from the Royal Education Council, and in collaboration with WFP.

## Challenges

- The partners of the school feeding team in the MoE are highly committed, but have limited time and a high attrition rate. It will be important to find a balance between the need to develop capacity and their regular work obligations. The Department for Disaster Management also has limited capacity – both technically and financially – which may limit the response capacity in an emergency.
- There is a possibility that WFP does not receive enough resources to fund the shift in direction of its work and have a meaningful impact on the achievement of SDG 2. This applies particularly to the EPR component of the CSP.

## Donors

Korean International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) – confirmed for the next four years; contribution balances from Australia, Canada, Private Sector (River Star Foundation, JAWFP)