



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



WFP Bhutan Country Brief November 2019

Highlights

WFP
SAYS
NO to
GENDER
BASED
VIOLENCE

As part of WFP's new role in disaster risk management, WFP participated in a workshop aimed at strengthening glacial lake outburst flood (GLOF) monitoring and preparedness.

As part of its rice fortification activity, WFP supported a quality inspection training for the main food regulatory body of Bhutan.

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**

Operational Updates

- WFP participated in a seminar on climate change-induced risks and vulnerabilities of Glacial Lake Outbursts Floods (GLOF) organized by the National Center for Hydrology and Meteorology in collaboration with local government and funded by UNDP. The workshop was held to strengthen GLOF monitoring, preparedness and climate change adaptation. In the workshop, participants also explored the role of the Government and UN agencies in addressing the issue.

As part of WFP's strategy to enhance Bhutan's data preparedness, WFP is exploring a research project into the impact of GLOFs in collaboration with Newcastle University and Durham University. This research would seek to quantify potential triggers and undertake numerical modelling to translate GLOF hazards to downstream flood risks.

- WFP supported a three-day training for 22 food inspectors from the Bhutan Agriculture and Food Regulatory Authority to provide quality inspection services and control of fortified rice. This fortified rice, which has been blended and distributed for the national school feeding and nutrition programme since 2017, contributes to meeting multiple micronutrient requirements of school children.



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Country Strategic Plan 2019 – 2023

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Dec 2019-May 2020 Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
8.9 m	1.49 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.

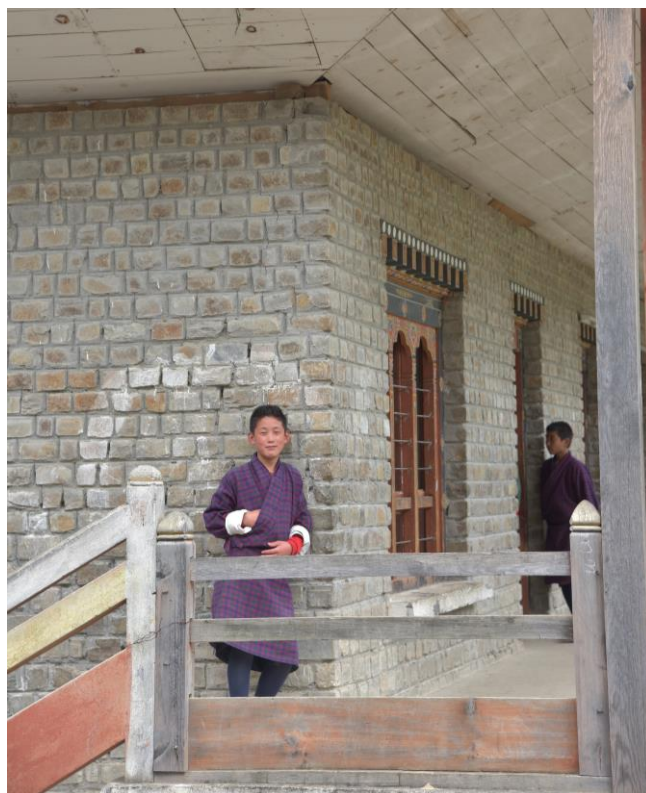


Challenges

- Bhutan lacks full awareness of disaster risks, partly compounded by the fact that the country has not faced major disasters in recent times. There is limited national disaster preparedness and response capacity in country. WFP is therefore working with government partners to increase national disaster awareness and capacity.
- While the implementing partners in nutrition are highly committed, their numbers are limited, which hinders their ability to support the implementation of national health and nutrition strategies. WFP is therefore supporting the School Health and Nutrition Department and the Ministry of Health in developing national nutrition strategies as well as strengthening capacities at the government level.

Donors

- Korean International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) – confirmed for the next four years
- Australia
- Canada
- Private Sector: (River Star Foundation, JAWFP)



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