

SAVING
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Bhutan

Annual Country Report 2019

Country Strategic Plan
2019 - 2023



World Food
Programme

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Summary

Bhutan has made great strides towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in recent years. However, health problems and non-communicable diseases related to the lack of balanced diets, micronutrient deficiencies and lifestyle changes continue to pose challenges to the achievement of SDG 2 (Zero Hunger). There is, therefore, an urgent need to strengthen the Government's capacity to improve nutrition. Additionally, the country's vulnerability to a myriad of natural hazards such as earthquakes, floods, glacial lake outburst floods (GLOF), landslides and forest fires, threaten to reverse Bhutan's progress. There is similarly an urgent need for strengthened government capacity to prepare for and respond to disasters.

After more than 40 years of direct programme implementation in Bhutan, WFP is now responding to the Government's request for support in travelling the "last mile" to graduate to lower middle-income country status. Accordingly, 2019 was a transitional year for WFP in Bhutan, with a revamped Country Strategic Plan (CSP) 2019-2023 that shifted away from direct implementation of school feeding, to instead focus on institutional support and country capacity strengthening around nutrition and disaster risk management.

The change was in recognition of the Government's achievements and plans for assuming full ownership of the school feeding programme by the end of 2019. WFP shifted focus to assume the role of an *enabler*, working towards the following two strategic outcomes:

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

In its first year of the transitional phase, WFP made progress towards Strategic Outcome 1 by supporting the Ministry of Education in scaling-up and transitioning to a national school nutrition programme which addresses malnutrition and its root causes. WFP's capacity strengthening activities aimed to ensure that children have access to quality meals in school, accompanied by a broader integrated package of health and nutrition services at a policy level and on the ground. Many of these initiatives used technology and innovation to improve nutrition outcomes, such as the roll-out of real-time monitoring and evaluation systems, and the introduction of a menu optimizer tool called PLUS.

In parallel, WFP engaged in initiatives to link local farmers to the school feeding programme, which not only enables school children to consume local fresh food items, but also provides income to farmers in rural areas where unemployment is often very high.

WFP also provided the Ministry of Agriculture and Forests with technical and policy advice for the establishment of a regulatory and compliance framework for fortified foods. This initiative will enable the wider population to benefit safely from fortified foods, which are a proven way to mitigate micronutrient deficiencies.

Under Strategic Outcome 2, WFP took the lead for the United Nations (UN) in disaster risk management and supported the Government in overall coordination and capacity strengthening, data preparedness, logistics, emergency telecommunications and food security. WFP made progress towards this outcome through the development of coordination platforms such as the Road Map for Disaster Risk Management in Bhutan and forming partnerships with national partners and international universities.

WFP also strengthened the Government's capacity in data preparedness related to disaster risk management, namely by developing an earthquake impact assessment model, facilitating the adoption of the 72 Hours Rapid Needs Assessment Approach, and beginning groundwork on a study into the impacts of GLOFs.

Context and Operations



Guided by the concept of “Gross National Happiness”, Bhutan's unique development philosophy emphasizes the importance of sustainable development and happiness rather than the pursuit of relentless economic growth. The country peacefully transitioned to a parliamentary democracy in 2008 and its third democratically elected Government came to power in 2018. Addressing malnutrition is a priority agenda of this Government; this includes provision of school feeding programmes and initiatives to ensure that children not only eat, but that they eat healthy food. The Government in 2019 published a white paper outlining plans for the national school and hospital feeding programme. This paper lists WFP and the Ministries of Education and Agriculture as important partners in the nutrition domain and in linking local, fresh and nutritious farm products to the school nutrition programme.

Over the last decade, Bhutan has made progress in addressing poverty, as seen in the decrease in the poverty rate, from 23 percent of the population living below the international poverty line in 2007 to 8 percent in 2017. [1] Despite the improvement, parts of the country still have high stunting rates, with one in three children aged 0-59 months in the eastern region stunted. [2] In addition, the country continues to face challenges due to poor road access to remote areas of the country, thereby limiting remote populations from opportunities such as access to the market and social services. Most development work is concentrated in urban centres with rampant rural-urban migration seen in recent years. The overall unemployment rate is 3.4 percent with the rate for urban areas (7.1 percent) four times higher than that of rural areas (1.8 percent). [3] The youth unemployment rate in the country stands at a high rate of 15.7 percent.

Bhutan is also vulnerable to many hazards such as earthquakes and glacial lake outburst floods (GLOF), which threaten to reverse the country's development and progress. Due to its mountainous terrain, risks of landslides are rampant while possible floods pose threats in valley areas. These would have adverse ramifications on progress in food security and livelihoods. After the devastating earthquake of 2015 in neighbouring Nepal, the Government of Bhutan renewed its focus on disaster preparedness measures in data preparedness, logistics and emergency telecommunications and food security.

While gains have been made in the state of food security and nutrition in Bhutan, there has been an increase in overweight, obesity and micronutrient deficiency. This has contributed to rising levels of non-communicable diseases, which are responsible for 69 percent of the reported disease burden in Bhutan. Anemia remains a major public health issue, with 44 percent of children aged 6-59 months and 31 percent of adolescent girls anemic. More than one in five preschool aged children and 17 percent of pregnant women are deficient in Vitamin A. The traditional Bhutanese diet is high in carbohydrates and animal fats, while low in fruits and vegetables, with 67 percent consuming low amounts of fruits or vegetables. [4]

Alleviating poverty and empowering people through education continues to be the main mandates of the Government and has led to notable progress in universal primary education with a 96.5 percent net primary school enrolment rate in 2019. 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 0.98 in 2019, which means for every 100 boys, there were 98 girls enrolled. [5]

In 2019, WFP continued supporting the Government's graduation from least developed country status to lower-middle income country status by 2023 by strengthening institutional capacity in nutrition and disaster risk management. WFP's country office in Bhutan is one of only a handful of offices in the Asia and the Pacific region working entirely on technical assistance.

In support of SDG 2, WFP under Strategic Outcome 1 focused on providing sustainable access to food for school-aged children in vulnerable areas. Having successfully handed over the school feeding programme's operations to the Ministry of Education in 2018, WFP in 2019 stepped into the role of an *enabler*, working towards capacity strengthening initiatives in the fields of nutrition development and disaster risk management.

Working towards SDG 17, Strategic Outcome 2 has seen WFP take the lead for the United Nations in supporting the Government's renewed focus on disaster risk management. This involves strengthening the Government's disaster risk management capacity in coordination, data preparedness, logistics, emergency telecommunications, as well as their capacity to respond to food security challenges.

CSP financial overview

By the end of 2019, WFP had mobilized the majority of resources required for the year. This enabled WFP to make significant progress in its first year of implementing the CSP 2019-2023.

WFP was able to mobilize all of the funds for Strategic Outcome 1, which includes activities of school nutrition and food fortification. With these resources, WFP was able to achieve significant gains for both these activities, particularly in the preliminary stages of planning and partnership building.

Strategic Outcome 2, which focused on strengthening disaster risk management capacity, however, was slightly underfunded. Due to these circumstances, WFP utilized residual, un-earmarked funds to mitigate the shortfall. These funds were critical as WFP undertook its new role as the UN lead for disaster risk management in 2019. In this capacity, WFP focused on coordination and building partnerships, reflecting on lessons learned and planning for programmes which will extend until 2023. This preliminary phase required less funds since it involved positioning WFP as a leader in disaster risk management, as well as extended deliberations with stakeholders and strengthening their understanding of national disaster risks.

Overall, WFP's utilization of resources in 2019 was lower than initially anticipated. This is partly due to the above-mentioned initial investments in repositioning and partnership building and because there was a delay in the recruitment of planned staff required to successfully implement the CSP, resulting in partial implementation of all the planned activities. In response to these challenges, WFP has fast-tracked recruitment processes and the country office should therefore be fully staffed in 2020.

WFP received funding for the school nutrition activity from Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) for four years. WFP also secured internal funds for disaster risk management, Strategic Outcome 2.

These activities have the full support from the Government and are aligned to the national priorities, and working on the funding opportunities has enhanced partnerships with government agencies other than the line ministries that WFP has been working with for the last half a century.

As WFP has shifted its focus from implementer to enabler, it undertook intense deliberation and planning with partners. WFP has taken measures to meet all potential donors and inform them about the new role WFP has taken to support the Government. These donors have appreciated WFP's potential to bring new perspective in its support to Bhutan. WFP will continue pursuing partnerships with all potential donors where opportunities arise.

Programme Performance

Strategic outcome 01

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

Needs-based plan	Implementation plan	Available resources	Expenditures
\$1,568,740	\$1,478,447	\$1,950,233	\$355,217

Having successfully handed over operations of the school feeding programme to the Government of Bhutan after 44 years of implementation, WFP in 2019 repositioned itself to strengthen government-owned nutrition, health and agriculture programmes contributing to enhanced nutrition and health benefits for the Bhutanese population. The Government has committed itself to counter malnutrition, with WFP acknowledged as a key partner in achieving these goals. The Government's focus in this area reflects growing concern in Bhutan around rising obesity, overweight and non-communicable diseases in addition to micronutrient deficiencies and high rates of anemia.

Under Strategic Outcome 1, WFP supports the Government in strategy and policy development to improve nutrition, counter non-communicable diseases and enhance school performance and cognitive development of Bhutan's primary and secondary school children. WFP assists the Government in increasing healthy diets, diverse foods and in developing nutrition education. WFP also strengthens the Government's capacity to monitor the safety and quality of fortified foods and thus ensure that vulnerable populations' basic food and nutrition needs are met. WFP designed the Strategic Outcome in alignment with WFP's core mandate of achieving Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2 (zero hunger).

Strategic Outcome 1 was well-funded in 2019, enabling WFP to meet its targeted plan which focussed on planning and partnership building. WFP mobilized all of the funds for the activity around support to the government-owned school feeding programme, which meant that most of the targets were reached. While the activity around food fortification was underfunded, WFP was still able to make progress. The expenditure under this Strategic Outcome is low since it is still WFP's first year of implementing the CSP, there was a high focus on planning and partnership building, and delayed recruitment also affected activities.

Activities

Activity 1: School Nutrition

WFP supported the scale-up and transition of the national school feeding programme to a national school nutrition programme in line with the Government's enhanced focus on addressing malnutrition and its root causes. WFP, in collaboration with various ministries, developed and implemented a broad range of policies and programme interventions. In 2019, this includes the development of the National School Feeding and Nutrition Strategy (2019-30), the National Health Policy, the health and nutrition school curriculum, and food and dietary guidelines. WFP also launched the first National School Nutrition Day which further raised awareness on the country's nutrition situation. To support local agricultural development and increasing farmers income while providing fresh, local and nutritious food to schools, WFP started an initiative with the Government to link local farmers to schools. This is supported by an online menu optimizer platform, called PLUS, which designs cost-optimized nutritious school menus based on local and seasonal food.

Through the consumption of nutritious school meals, school children are developing an appetite for healthy food. To further promote improved dietary habits and health practices of Bhutan's school children (6-18 years), WFP has contracted a company to develop a nationwide social behavior change communication campaign. This is reinforced through an improved nutrition and health school curriculum developed with the Royal Education Council and a digital game-based learning platform called "EduTritition", which is under development.

In 2019, WFP enhanced programme effectiveness through the roll-out of a monitoring and evaluating system using real-time, integrated nutrition, health and education data from schools, which feed into evidence-based policy decisions. With the roll-out of the system, there has been a reduction in damage and waste of food items in schools from 2 percent in 2017 to 0.5 percent in 2019 as more frequent, accurate and timely stock reports are available for subsequent delivery of food by the Ministry.

To produce healthy and safe meals, schools require appropriate infrastructure. To facilitate this, WFP and the Ministry of Education, with support from Sodexo, carried out a needs assessment of school kitchens, stores and kitchen equipment. This needs assessment will inform the Government's plans to expand school meals to additional rural schools where new kitchens and stores will be required.

WFP partnered with the Ministry of Health in developing the National Nutrition Strategy (2019-23). Through a life-cycle approach, this policy aims to increase national targets and expand the multi-sectoral collaborations with a broader



range of sectors required for effective health and nutrition programmes.

Activity 2: Food Fortification

Fortified rice, which was introduced in school meals in 2017, helps meet multiple micronutrient requirements of school children with Vitamins A, B1, B3, B6, B12, Folic acid, Iron and Zinc. Fortified oil with Vitamins A and D also forms part of the school feeding food basket.

With the introduction of food fortification as a strategy to address micronutrient deficiencies in Bhutan in 2019, WFP supported the multi-sectoral Food Fortification Taskforce by starting the process of developing a regulatory and compliance framework for the Food Fortification Programme. For smooth enforcement of the regulations, WFP strengthened the capacity of the relevant agencies on quality inspection services, ensuring the right blending ratio is maintained during production and that tests are conducted at regular intervals to check that required micronutrients are present in the fortified rice. Since the introduction of rice fortification in Bhutan, there have been no new reported cases of “beri-beri” caused by Vitamins B1 deficiency among school children which, until 2017 was a national issue.

Outputs and Outcomes

Five national food security and nutrition policies, programmes and systems components were enhanced by WFP as per the annual target. Throughout the year, WFP also reached its target to engage 148 cooks, teachers, education officers and other government officials in training programmes and workshops. Additionally, WFP engaged 48 individuals in training related to food fortification. A number of these trainings started in 2019 and will continue in coming years. WFP developed five tools or products in support of the national school nutrition programme such as the monitoring and reporting system and guidelines and manuals. WFP also developed two other tools related to rice fortification.

The dietary diversity for boarding students receiving school meals improved in 2019, with dietary diversity scores slightly exceeding targets. This score indicates that there is medium dietary diversity among boarding students in Bhutan. As for the number of national food security programmes and policies supported throughout the year, WFP also met targets, with an overall improvement in results.

While the results showed steady improvement from the baseline, some targets remained unmet. These included the rehabilitation or construction of infrastructure for schools and food fortification blending facilities. Among the key reasons for not achieving 100 percent of the targets includes the Government’s decision to defer the process. WFP will address this challenge by following up on this in early 2020.

Partnerships

Most of the country strategy activities under Strategic Outcome 1 were carried out with guidance from the Gross National Happiness Commission with the Ministry of Education functioning as the lead implementing agency in nutrition-related initiatives along with the Ministry of Agriculture and Forests, Bhutan Agriculture and Food Regulatory Authority (BAFRA) and Food Corporation of Bhutan Ltd (FCBL).

In addition to strengthening existing partnerships, in 2019, WFP built new partnerships with the Ministry of Health and the Royal Education Council in support of PLUS and EduTritition. Furthermore, WFP initiated a partnership with the World Bank, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) to strengthen the Government’s capacity to link smallholder farmers to schools and with UNICEF to develop the National Nutrition Strategy, Health Policy, school curriculum and Education Management Information System.

Gender and Age Marker Monitoring

Gender and age were fully integrated into the implementation of WFP’s Strategic Outcome 1 as evidenced by the Gender and Age Marker Monitoring code of 4. WFP helped the Government establish a school digital monitoring and reporting system which disaggregates all data by sex, age and disability and facilitates the integration of gender consideration into analyses, assessments and research.

WFP Gender and Age Marker	
CSP Activity	GAM Monitoring Code
Activity 1: 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, environmental and social safeguards across all activities, strengthened supply chains and school nutrition infrastructure optimization.	4

Activity 2: 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.	4
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Strategic outcome 02

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.

Needs-based plan	Implementation plan	Available resources	Expenditures
\$301,972	\$189,880	\$156,209	\$82,165

Bhutan is vulnerable to a myriad of natural hazards including earthquakes, floods, glacial lake outburst floods (GLOF), landslides, windstorms and forest fires. Underlying vulnerabilities of Bhutan, such as poor construction techniques, rapid urbanization and low understanding of disaster management practices further compound the hazards. Despite these challenges, the Government of Bhutan has made progress in disaster risk management with the 2013 Disaster Management Act that established the National Disaster Management Authority and disaster management and contingency plans developed in all 20 *dzongkhags* (districts). Nevertheless, the country lacks the necessary data and information systems, infrastructure, response plans and coordination systems to adequately prepare for and respond to disasters.

Under Strategic Outcome 2, WFP is strengthening the Government's disaster risk management capacity to respond to these challenges. With a new role as United Nations (UN) lead in this area, WFP in 2019 focussed on strengthening the Government's disaster risk management capacity in coordination, data preparedness, logistics, emergency telecommunications and food security.

Despite Strategic Outcome 2 being slightly underfunded for 2019, WFP was able to make progress on results using donors' flexible, unearmarked funding. Since 2019 was the first year WFP took a role in disaster risk management in Bhutan, WFP focused on building partnerships with key stakeholders. Accordingly, the low expenditure is due to WFP's focus on coordination, partnership building and planning during this first year of the CSP, as well as delayed recruitment which affected implementation.

Activities

Coordination, Logistics and Emergency Telecommunications

WFP assisted the Government in developing a Roadmap for Disaster Risk Management in Bhutan as a coordination platform which sets out priority actions for the Government, UN agencies and other development partners to respond to identified gaps in disaster risk management. The Roadmap has six focus areas: disaster awareness; data preparedness; governance; coordination; resourcing; and sector preparedness. Under each of these sectors, the Roadmap articulates a set of actions with a corresponding timeline, budget, outcome and set of partners. In addition to the Roadmap, WFP strengthened coordination by training government officials and sponsoring a trip to Nepal to strengthen logistics capacities and cooperation.

WFP undertook a humanitarian logistics infrastructure needs assessment to review and update the existing logistics capacity assessment, clarify roles and coordination mechanisms, and identify capacity gaps and corresponding training requirements for the Department of Disaster Management and other relevant stakeholders. The assessment also reviewed warehousing options for prepositioning of humanitarian cargo, advised on the development of potential physical logistics infrastructure and identified relevant emergency standard operating procedures.

As part of WFP's leadership of the emergency telecommunications cluster, WFP organized a stakeholder consultation workshop in collaboration with the Ministry of Information and Communications. This workshop focused on strategic components and operational requirements to ensure uninterrupted telecommunications during disasters. WFP shared the outcomes of this workshop in a comprehensive report with government partners and in-country stakeholders, and on this basis has started developing a national roadmap for emergency telecommunications with the Ministry.

Data Preparedness

WFP supported the development of an earthquake impact assessment model with Durham and Newcastle Universities. Working with the Government, the team collected detailed information on impact indicators such as the number of people living in buildings, differing scenarios during day and night and in rural or urban areas, among others. This will provide a suite of detailed earthquake scenarios and their likely impacts at national and district levels to inform

contingency planning and disaster risk management. The impact model and associated data will be handed over to the Department of Disaster Management in early 2020 along with training of their officials on how to use and update the model, thus strengthening Bhutan's preparedness capacity to respond to earthquakes in the years to come.

To further strengthen data preparedness, WFP is supporting the Government in implementing the 72 Hours Rapid Needs Assessment Approach by establishing spatial data infrastructure which provides the best estimate of the likely impacts of a disaster within 72 hours. In 2019, WFP in collaboration with the Department of Disaster Management worked on the data preparedness phase where WFP supported in preparing a geo-referenced central data repository and sensitizing stakeholders on the data availability and information gaps in disaster management. WFP facilitated a consultation workshop with the Government to select vulnerability indicators around areas such as food security, access to road, health and education facilities, and demographics to be used for this approach. One of the major challenges identified while setting up the central data repository was the lack of standardized geographical boundary data at the community level. In 2020, WFP and partners will overcome this challenge by supporting the national partners in standardizing the boundary files.

The third component of WFP's strategy to enhance Bhutan's data preparedness is a proposed collaboration with Newcastle University to study the impact of GLOFs. WFP and partners conducted a preliminary ground survey by visiting a glacial lake with flood potential. The proposed project seeks to quantify potential GLOF triggers and subsequently undertake numerical modelling to translate GLOF hazards to downstream flood risk. This is vital in Bhutan as the majority of the population and infrastructure are concentrated along the main river valleys. With 2,674 glacial lakes in Bhutan that are increasingly likely to burst due to climate change-induced temperature increases, GLOFs are occurring regularly, causing both casualties and infrastructural damage.

Outputs and Outcomes

Performance remained consistent throughout the year, with WFP's capacity strengthening initiatives enhancing three policies, programmes and systems components in this domain, as per target. WFP met or exceeded targets in terms of the number of tools developed, such as the earthquake impact assessment model to strengthen national systems for forecast-based early action. Throughout the year, WFP trained government officials in various areas, such as earthquake modelling, the 72 hours approach and emergency telecommunication. WFP as a member of the Simulation Exercise (SIMEX) Coordination Team, also supported the Department of Disaster Management in the planning of the next simulation scheduled for early 2020.

While the results in many indicators showed steady improvement from the baseline, the number of government officials and stakeholders engaged in training fell short compared to planned figures. Being the first year of CSP implementation, there was a need for more clarity and consultation to implement the activities. WFP will address this issue by establishing a robust plan to engage with the Government more meaningfully in the coming year.

Partnerships

Most of the country strategy activities under this Strategic Outcome were carried out with guidance from the Gross National Happiness Commission with the Department of Disaster Management, Ministry of Home and Cultural affairs functioning as the lead implementing agency in disaster and preparedness related activities. In addition to strengthening existing partnerships, in 2019, WFP built new partnerships with the National Centre for Hydrology and Meteorology and the Department of Information Technology and Telecom for activities related to emergency telecommunications. WFP's partnerships with academia such as Newcastle and Durham University were also important in strengthening data preparedness.

Gender and Age Marker Monitoring

Gender and age were partially integrated into the implementation of WFP's Strategic Outcome 2, as evidenced by the Gender and Age Marker monitoring code of 1. WFP will leverage its global leadership in emergency logistics and telecommunications, to integrate gender equality in Bhutan's disaster preparedness and response mechanisms.

WFP Gender and Age Marker	
CSP Activity	GAM Monitoring Code
Activity 3: 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.	1

Cross-cutting Results

Progress towards gender equality

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

Bhutan ranks 99 out of 162 countries on the 2019 Gender Inequality Index. The country has been seeking to strike a balance in gender representation in all its projects and portfolios. There has also been an increasing number of women civil servants, with seven of ten women candidates victorious in the last election. However, Bhutan still faces challenges in achieving gender equality, such as the gender distribution of unpaid domestic labour, gender-based violence and early marriage, especially in remote areas.

WFP has included gender sensitization in all activities in line with the cross-cutting indicator of the Corporate Results Framework that aims for: "improved gender equality and women's empowerment among WFP-assisted population."

The school feeding management training for female and male teachers and cooks focused on acquainting participants with the concept of gender equality and its importance at schools. WFP supported the Government in drafting the School Feeding Manual in 2019, which advocates for equal representation from female and male students in the school feeding management committee. In 2019, 50 percent of the student committee members were female. These committees in each school are responsible for not only ensuring management and provision of meals, but also for supporting women's empowerment and providing leadership and decision-making opportunities. This example has been recognized as a positive development in the education sector and is replicated throughout the nation.

WFP's capacity strengthening support in the areas of nutrition, health and agriculture, also includes an emphasis on gender equality, highlighting how both genders have a role in breaking the intergenerational cycle of malnutrition. This includes a focus on bringing about behaviour change, in not only improved nutrition and health practices, but also in transformed gender norms and roles to achieve these nutrition goals.

WFP's school-based real-time, integrated nutrition, health and education monitoring and reporting system was rolled out nationwide in the beginning of the 2019 academic semester. It has been a useful platform to measure gender equality. This system facilitates the collection of sex-disaggregated school data that were previously missing in the national monitoring and evaluation system, across areas such as distribution of micronutrient supplements to school children and dietary diversity.

In 2019, this disaggregated data contributed to gender equality by uncovering trends which informed the improvement of school menus according to girls' dietary patterns. For example, WFP found that many girls were vegetarian and that these girls were more overweight than non-vegetarians. This prompted further discovery that this trend was due to unhealthy feeding patterns in schools for vegetarians, where meat items were replaced with butter. WFP further addressed this finding in the food and dietary guidelines for school-aged children in Bhutan.

Environment

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

While Bhutan's record in environmental conservation is strong, adaptation and mitigation systems for dealing with the negative impacts of climate change are not yet fully established. Bhutan still needs to improve its data and information systems, response plans and coordination systems for ensuring adequate preparation for disasters. The Government of Bhutan emphasized these data gap challenges in its mid-term review of the 11th five-year plan.

Bhutan's 12th five-year plan, which is known as the "last mile" plan, reflects a convergence between poverty eradication efforts and wise environmental management in both rural and urban areas. As the Government begins the transition from least developed country status towards lower middle income country by 2023, it has reflected the two focus areas of poverty eradication and environmental management in its approach to the Sustainable Development Goals.

WFP's support to the Government's approach also aims to promote environmental sustainability. Under Strategic Outcome 1, WFP aims to link local farmers to schools so that more local and nutritious food reach the plates of children instead of imported food. Being able to procure local food means a reduction in the transportation needs for import items, thereby bringing about a noticeable decline in fuel consumption and carbon emissions.

Under Strategic Outcome 2, WFP is providing technical support to the Department of Disaster Management in preparedness activities to simulate disaster scenarios and generate impact reports and maps using Geographic Information Systems (GIS) technology. This advanced information and mapping system can help relevant logistical partners such as the Food Corporation of Bhutan take the fastest route to schools for regular or emergency food delivery, thereby reducing travel time and fuel consumption. WFP embeds environmental safeguards in its activities, as evidenced by the work in addressing data gaps in glacial lake outburst floods (GLOF), which would have tremendous impacts on programmes, the environment and human lives.

The country office completed an office space expansion to enable accommodation of additional staff in 2019. The office expansion was done with locally built furniture and with double-glazed energy-efficient windows and thereby contributed to reducing our overall carbon footprints in line with the United Nations House's campaign of "greening the blue".



Menu Optimizer Tool (PLUS)

The menu optimizer tool PLUS was initiated and implemented by WFP in support of the national school and nutrition programme. It has been selected as a Global Best Practice project to be showcased at the World Expo 2020 in Dubai in October 2020. Bhutan is the lead country for implementing the tool. Expo will showcase simple yet effective projects at a country level that have provided tangible solutions to the world's biggest development challenges. The announcement was made at the United Nations General Assembly on 26th September 2019.

WFP Bhutan is piloting the PLUS tool in partnership with the School Health and Nutrition Division, Ministry of Education, to design menus for the national school nutrition and feeding programme. The tool is online software that, through an advanced algorithm, calculates the most nutrition-rich menu at the lowest cost and with the highest proportion of local food. It will help substitute imported goods with locally produced food to stimulate the local economy. This tool is also expected to contribute to the discussion on the importance of consuming healthy and balanced diets.

In Punakha, a pilot of the PLUS tool was used to design a new school menu with the same nutrient content as the previous school menu but which was 20 percent cheaper and sourced 17 percent of food directly from local farmers, compared to 10 percent previously. Thus, PLUS is an example of an innovation that can facilitate local rather than imported food consumption, but also reduce the cost of national programmes, thereby enabling the Government to reach more children with locally sourced and nutritious food.

PLUS will also support the Government's national plans to enhance local agriculture and the country's self-reliance in food production. This tool will support local agricultural production by converting micronutrient deficiency into agriculture demand, thereby linking local farmers to schools and helping to address the high unemployment rates in rural Bhutan.

The project is currently at a data compilation stage with various inputs still required from different sources, such as food prices, cropping calendars, age-appropriate nutritional requirements, and sources of food. In 2020, the tool will be used in full scale across one district (Trongsa) based on the Government's pilot plan of linking farmers to schools, and subsequently expanded to several other districts for full nationwide deployment. It is expected that PLUS will define the amount of nutritious local food needed for all 86,000 children enrolled in the national school feeding and nutrition programme. This will increase to 100,000, which will cover 59 percent of all school children in Bhutan, according to government plans for 2020.

Considering the usefulness of the tool, the Ministry of Health is also interested in using it for the national hospital feeding programme.

Data notes

Context and operations

[1] World Bank, Global Poverty Working Group, <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SI.POV.NAHC?locations=BT>

[2] National Statistics Bureau, 2018

[3] National Nutrition Survey (NNS) 2015

[4] Ministry of Education, Annual Education Statistics, 2019

Figures and Indicators

WFP contribution to SDGs

 SDG 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture										
WFP Strategic Goal 1: Support countries to achieve zero hunger					WFP Contribution (by WFP, or by governments or partners with WFP Support)					
SDG Indicator	National Results			SDG-related indicator		Direct			Indirect	
		Female	Male			Overall	Female	Male		Overall
Prevalence of stunting among children under 5 years of age	%			21	Number of people reached (by WFP, or by governments or partners with WFP support) with stunting prevention programmes	Number				86,913
Prevalence of malnutrition among children under 5 years of age, by type (wasting and overweight)	% overweight			8	Number of people reached (by WFP, or by governments or partners with WFP support) with interventions to prevent and treat malnutrition (overweight programmes)	Number				86,913
					Number of people reached (by WFP, or by governments or partners with WFP support) with interventions to prevent and treat malnutrition (moderate acute malnutrition)	Number				67,677
					Number of people reached (by WFP, or by governments or partners with WFP support) with interventions to prevent and treat malnutrition (micronutrient programmes)	Number				67,677
Prevalence of malnutrition among children under 5 years of age, by type (wasting and overweight)	% wasting			6	Number of people reached (by WFP, or by governments or partners with WFP support) with interventions to prevent and treat malnutrition (micronutrient programmes)	Number				67,677
					Number of people reached (by WFP, or by governments or partners with WFP support) with interventions to prevent and treat malnutrition (overweight programmes)	Number				86,913
					Number of people reached (by WFP, or by governments or partners with WFP support) with interventions to prevent and treat malnutrition (moderate acute malnutrition)	Number				67,677



SDG 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

WFP Strategic Goal 2: Partner to support implementation of the SDGs			WFP Contribution (by WFP, or by governments or partners with WFP Support)			
SDG Indicator	National Results		SDG-related indicator		Direct	Indirect
		Overall			Overall	
Dollar value of financial and technical assistance (including through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation) committed to developing countries	US\$	21,028,860	Dollar value (within WFP portfolio) of technical assistance and country capacity strengthening interventions (including facilitation of South-South and triangular cooperation)	US\$		399,891

Strategic Outcome and Output Results

Strategic Outcome 01	School-age children, women and vulnerable groups in Bhutan have improved nutrition in line with national targets by 2023	- Nutrition Sensitive - Root Causes						
Activity 01	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, environmental and social safeguards across all activities, strengthened supply chains and school nutrition infrastructure optimization.	Beneficiary Group	Activity Tag		Planned	Actual		
Output C, M	Targeted primary and secondary schoolchildren, including adolescent girls, benefit from healthy diets consisting of diverse foods, gender transformative nutrition education and health services provided to boys and girls in order to improve their nutrition, combat non-communicable diseases and enhance school performance.							
C.4*	Number of people engaged in capacity strengthening initiatives facilitated by WFP to enhance national food security and nutrition stakeholder capacities (new)							
	Number of government/national partner staff receiving technical assistance and training		Institutional capacity strengthening activities	individual	147	148		
C.5*	Number of capacity strengthening initiatives facilitated by WFP to enhance national food security and nutrition stakeholder capacities (new)							
	Number of technical assistance activities provided		Institutional capacity strengthening activities	unit	6	6		
C.6*	Number of tools or products developed or revised to enhance national food security and nutrition systems as a result of WFP capacity strengthening support (new)							
	Number of tools or products developed		Institutional capacity strengthening activities	unit	8	5		
C.8*	USD value of assets and infrastructure handed over to national stakeholders as a result of WFP capacity strengthening support (new)							
	USD value of assets and infrastructure handed over to national stakeholders as a result of WFP capacity strengthening support (new)		Institutional capacity strengthening activities	US\$	50,000	0		
M.1	Number of national coordination mechanisms supported							

	Number of national coordination mechanisms supported		Institutional capacity strengthening activities	unit	2	2		
Activity 02	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.	Beneficiary Group	Activity Tag		Planned	Actual		
Output C, L, M	Vulnerable populations benefit from the Government's increased capacity to monitor the safety and quality of fortified foods and thus to ensure that their basic food and nutrition needs are met.							
C.4*	Number of people engaged in capacity strengthening initiatives facilitated by WFP to enhance national food security and nutrition stakeholder capacities (new)							
	Number of government/national partner staff receiving technical assistance and training		Institutional capacity strengthening activities	individual	30	48		
C.5*	Number of capacity strengthening initiatives facilitated by WFP to enhance national food security and nutrition stakeholder capacities (new)							
	Number of technical assistance activities provided		Institutional capacity strengthening activities	unit	5	5		
C.6*	Number of tools or products developed or revised to enhance national food security and nutrition systems as a result of WFP capacity strengthening support (new)							
	Number of tools or products developed		Institutional capacity strengthening activities	unit	1	2		
L.1	Number of infrastructure works implemented, by type							
	Number of infrastructure works implemented		Institutional capacity strengthening activities	unit	1	0		
M.1	Number of national coordination mechanisms supported							
	Number of national coordination mechanisms supported		Institutional capacity strengthening activities	unit	1	1		
Outcome results				Baseline	End-CSP Target	2019 Target	2019 Follow-up value	2018 Follow-up value
School-age children, women and vulnerable groups; Bhutan; Capacity Strengthening								
Dietary Diversity Score								

Act 01: 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, environmental and social safeguards across all activities, strengthened supply chains and school nutrition infrastructure optimization.	Institutional capacity strengthening activities	Female	5.20	≥6	=5.30	5.30
		Male	5.20	≥6	=5.30	5.30
		Overall	5.20	≥6	=5.30	5.30

Number of national programmes enhanced as a result of WFP-facilitated South-South and triangular cooperation support (new)

Act 01: 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, environmental and social safeguards across all activities, strengthened supply chains and school nutrition infrastructure optimization.	Institutional capacity strengthening activities	Overall	0	≥5	=2	2
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School Children, women and vulnerable groups; Bhutan; Capacity Strengthening

Number of national food security and nutrition policies, programmes and system components enhanced as a result of WFP capacity strengthening (new)

Act 01: 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, environmental and social safeguards across all activities, strengthened supply chains and school nutrition infrastructure optimization.	Institutional capacity strengthening activities	Overall	0	=8	=6	5
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Strategic Outcome 02		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.		- Emergency Response - Resilience Building			
Activity 03	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.	Beneficiary Group	Activity Tag		Planned	Actual	
Output C, G, M	Food-insecure and other vulnerable people benefit from the Government's enhanced knowledge of vulnerability, emergency logistics and best practices for supply chain systems (including storage and decentralized strategic grain reserves) and enhanced ability to minimize losses and improve food security in times of need.						

C.4*	Number of people engaged in capacity strengthening initiatives facilitated by WFP to enhance national food security and nutrition stakeholder capacities (new)							
	Number of government/national partner staff receiving technical assistance and training		Institutional capacity strengthening activities	individual	139	94		
C.5*	Number of capacity strengthening initiatives facilitated by WFP to enhance national food security and nutrition stakeholder capacities (new)							
	Number of technical assistance activities provided		Institutional capacity strengthening activities	unit	6	4		
C.6*	Number of tools or products developed or revised to enhance national food security and nutrition systems as a result of WFP capacity strengthening support (new)							
	Number of tools or products developed		Institutional capacity strengthening activities	unit	3	3		
C.7*	Number of national institutions benefitting from embedded or seconded expertise as a result of WFP capacity strengthening support (new)							
	Number of national institutions benefitting from embedded or seconded expertise as a result of WFP capacity strengthening support (new)		Institutional capacity strengthening activities	Number	1	1		
G.7*	Number of tools developed to strengthen national systems for forecast-based early action							
	Number of forecasting tools developed		Institutional capacity strengthening activities	tool	1	2		
M.1	Number of national coordination mechanisms supported							
	Number of national coordination mechanisms supported		Institutional capacity strengthening activities	unit	2	2		
Outcome results				Baseline	End-CSP Target	2019 Target	2019 Follow-up value	2018 Follow-up value
People vulnerable to disasters; Bhutan; Capacity Strengthening								
Number of national food security and nutrition policies, programmes and system components enhanced as a result of WFP capacity strengthening (new)								

	Act 03: 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.	Institutional capacity strengthening activities	Overall	0	=7	=3	3
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Cross-cutting Indicators

Improved gender equality and women's empowerment among WFP-assisted population									
Proportion of food assistance decision-making entity – committees, boards, teams, etc. – members who are women									
Target group, Location, Modalities	Activity Number	Activity Tag	Category	Female/Male/Overall	Baseline	End-CSP Target	2019 Target	2019 Follow-up value	2018 Follow-up value
School-aged children, women and vulnerable group; Bhutan; Capacity Strengthening	Act 01: 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, environmental and social safeguards across all activities, strengthened supply chains and school nutrition infrastructure optimization.	Institutional capacity strengthening activities		Overall	50	=50	=50	50	

World Food Programme

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Village girls in Bhutan

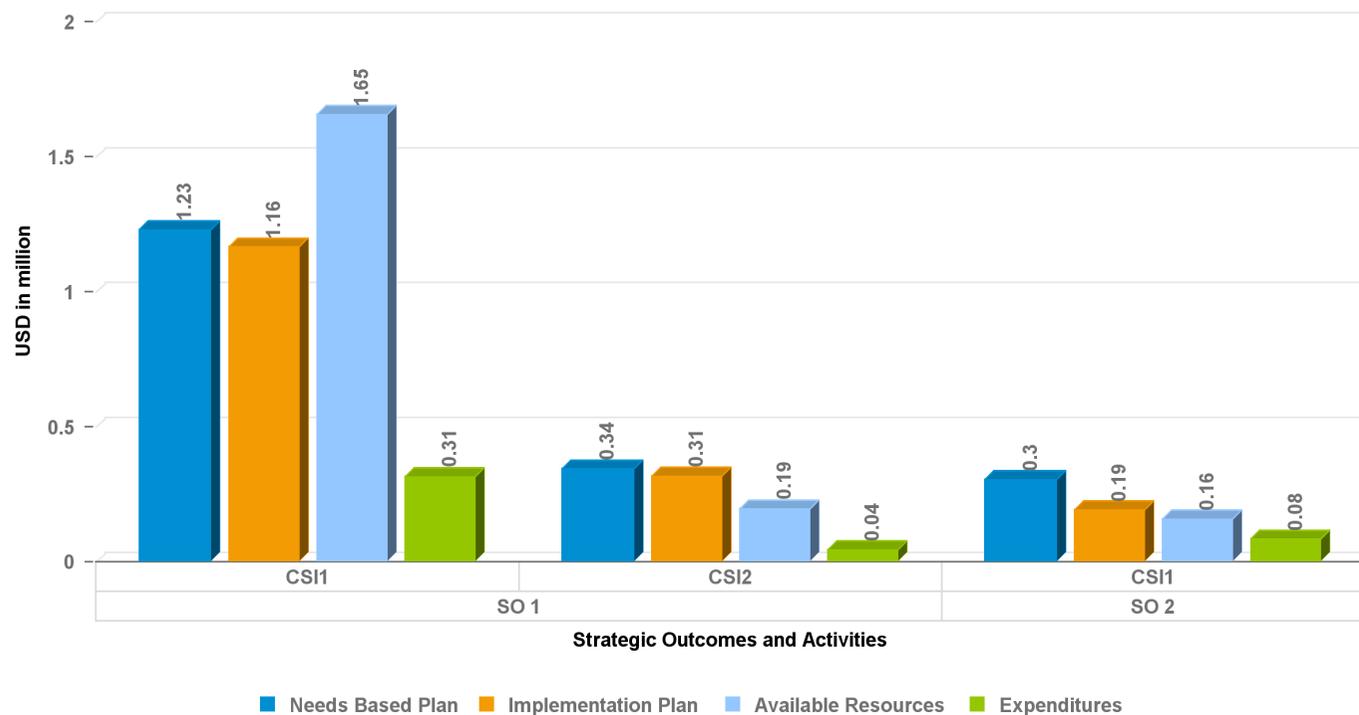
<https://www.wfp.org/countries/bhutan>

Annual Country Report

Bhutan Country Portfolio Budget 2019 (2019-2023)

Annual Financial Overview for the period 1 January to 31 December 2019 (Amount in USD)

Annual CPB Overview



Code	Strategic Outcome
SO 1	School-age children, women and vulnerable groups in Bhutan have improved nutrition in line with national targets by 2023
SO 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.
Code	Country Activity Long Description
CSI1	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, environmental and social safeguards across all activities, strengthened supply chains and school nutrition infrastructure optimization.
CSI1	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.
CSI2	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.

Annual Country Report

Bhutan Country Portfolio Budget 2019 (2019-2023)

Annual Financial Overview for the period 1 January to 31 December 2019 (Amount in USD)

Strategic Result	Strategic Outcome	Activity	Needs Based Plan	Implementation Plan	Available Resources	Expenditures
		Non Activity Specific	0	0	2,411	0
2	School-age children, women and vulnerable groups in Bhutan have improved nutrition in line with national targets by 2023	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, environmental and social safeguards across all activities, strengthened supply chains and school nutrition infrastructure optimization.	1,227,507	1,163,791	1,654,026	312,942
		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.	341,233	314,656	193,247	42,275
		Non Activity Specific	0	0	102,960	0
Subtotal Strategic Result 2. No one suffers from malnutrition (SDG Target 2.2)			1,568,740	1,478,447	1,952,644	355,217

Annual Country Report

Bhutan Country Portfolio Budget 2019 (2019-2023)

Annual Financial Overview for the period 1 January to 31 December 2019 (Amount in USD)

Strategic Result	Strategic Outcome	Activity	Needs Based Plan	Implementation Plan	Available Resources	Expenditures
5	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.	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.	301,972	189,880	156,209	82,165
Subtotal Strategic Result 5. Countries have strengthened capacity to implement the SDGs (SDG Target 17.9)			301,972	189,880	156,209	82,165
		Non Activity Specific	0	0	88,000	0
Subtotal Strategic Result			0	0	88,000	0
Total Direct Operational Cost			1,870,712	1,668,327	2,196,853	437,383
Direct Support Cost (DSC)			194,767	109,825	91,095	84,001
Total Direct Costs			2,065,479	1,778,152	2,287,948	521,384
Indirect Support Cost (ISC)			134,256	115,580	79,838	79,838
Grand Total			2,199,735	1,893,732	2,367,786	601,222



Brian Ah Poe
Chief
Contribution Accounting and Donor Financial Reporting Branch

Columns Definition

Needs Based Plan

Latest annual approved version of operational needs as of December of the reporting year. WFP's needs-based plans constitute an appeal for resources to implement operations which are designed based on needs assessments undertaken in collaboration with government counterparts and partners

Implementation Plan

Implementation Plan as of January of the reporting period which represents original operational prioritized needs taking into account funding forecasts of available resources and operational challenges

Available Resources

Unspent Balance of Resources carried forward, Allocated contribution in the current year, Advances and Other resources in the current year. It excludes contributions that are stipulated by donor for use in future years

Expenditures

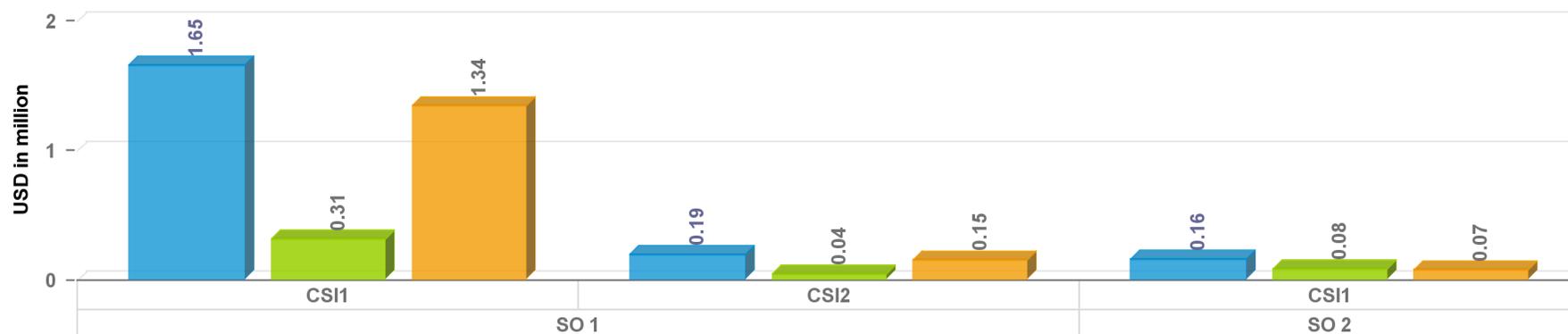
Monetary value of goods and services received and recorded within the reporting year

Annual Country Report

Bhutan Country Portfolio Budget 2019 (2019-2023)

Cumulative Financial Overview as at 31 December 2019 (Amount in USD)

Cumulative CPB Overview



Strategic Outcomes and Activities

■ Allocated Resources ■ Expenditures ■ Balance of Resources

Code	Strategic Outcome
SO 1	School-age children, women and vulnerable groups in Bhutan have improved nutrition in line with national targets by 2023
SO 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.
Code	Country Activity - Long Description
CSI1	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, environmental and social safeguards across all activities, strengthened supply chains and school nutrition infrastructure optimization.
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CSI2	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.

Annual Country Report

Bhutan Country Portfolio Budget 2019 (2019-2023)

Cumulative Financial Overview as at 31 December 2019 (Amount in USD)

Strategic Result	Strategic Outcome	Activity	Needs Based Plan	Allocated Contributions	Advance and Allocation	Allocated Resources	Expenditures	Balance of Resources
2	School-age children, women and vulnerable groups in Bhutan have improved nutrition in line with national targets by 2023	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, environmental and social safeguards across all activities, strengthened supply chains and school nutrition infrastructure optimization.	1,227,507	1,654,026	0	1,654,026	312,942	1,341,083
		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.	341,233	193,247	0	193,247	42,275	150,973
		Non Activity Specific	0	102,960	0	102,960	0	102,960

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Annual Country Report

Bhutan Country Portfolio Budget 2019 (2019-2023)

Cumulative Financial Overview as at 31 December 2019 (Amount in USD)

Strategic Result	Strategic Outcome	Activity	Needs Based Plan	Allocated Contributions	Advance and Allocation	Allocated Resources	Expenditures	Balance of Resources
2		Non Activity Specific	0	2,411	0	2,411	0	2,411
Subtotal Strategic Result 2. No one suffers from malnutrition (SDG Target 2.2)			1,568,740	1,952,644	0	1,952,644	355,217	1,597,427
5	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.	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.	301,972	156,209	0	156,209	82,165	74,043
Subtotal Strategic Result 5. Countries have strengthened capacity to implement the SDGs (SDG Target 17.9)			301,972	156,209	0	156,209	82,165	74,043
		Non Activity Specific	0	88,000	0	88,000	0	88,000
Subtotal Strategic Result			0	88,000	0	88,000	0	88,000
Total Direct Operational Cost			1,870,712	2,196,853	0	2,196,853	437,383	1,759,470
Direct Support Cost (DSC)			194,767	91,095	0	91,095	84,001	7,094
Total Direct Costs			2,065,479	2,287,948	0	2,287,948	521,384	1,766,564
Indirect Support Cost (ISC)			134,256	165,954		165,954	165,954	0

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Annual Country Report

Bhutan Country Portfolio Budget 2019 (2019-2023)

Cumulative Financial Overview as at 31 December 2019 (Amount in USD)

Strategic Result	Strategic Outcome	Activity	Needs Based Plan	Allocated Contributions	Advance and Allocation	Allocated Resources	Expenditures	Balance of Resources
Grand Total			2,199,735	2,453,902	0	2,453,902	687,338	1,766,564

This donor financial report is interim



Brian Ah Poe
Chief

Contribution Accounting and Donor Financial Reporting Branch

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Columns Definition

Needs Based Plan

Latest approved version of operational needs. WFP's needs-based plans constitute an appeal for resources to implement operations which are designed based on needs assessments undertaken in collaboration with government counterparts and partners

Allocated Contributions

Allocated contributions include confirmed contributions with exchange rate variations, multilateral contributions, miscellaneous income, resource transferred, cost recovery and other financial adjustments (e.g. refinancing). It excludes internal advance and allocation and contributions that are stipulated by donor for use in future years.

Advance and allocation

Internal advanced/allocated resources but not repaid. This includes different types of internal advance (Internal Project Lending or Macro-advance Financing) and allocation (Immediate Response Account)

Allocated Resources

Sum of Allocated Contributions, Advance and Allocation

Expenditures

Cumulative monetary value of goods and services received and recorded within the reporting period

Balance of Resources

Allocated Resources minus Expenditures