



WFP Bhutan Country Brief November 2021

World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



DAYS OF ACTIVISM
AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE



Highlights

WFP continued capacity building and technical assistance to the Government including – integrated school feeding and nutrition; PLUS School Menu; humanitarian supply chain and logistics management; school feeding supply chain. WFP country office is also vigorously pursuing efforts to mobilize resources particularly from climate funds.

Operational Update

- In collaboration with Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Agriculture and Forests, and Haa District together with funding support from KOICA, WFP conducted a four-day workshop on the PLUS School Menus digital tool. The workshop facilitated the roll-out of the digital tool across Haa district, potentially benefiting some 3,000 children.
- WFP also conducted an Integrated School Feeding and Nutrition Workshop in Haa district comprising of 13 school cooks and 17 teachers.
- Led by the Department of Curriculum and Professional Development, Ministry of Education in partnership with School Health and Nutrition Division, WFP, UNICEF and UNFPA, WFP participated in Curriculum Mapping workshop to integrate nutrition into the subjects of science, biology, English and Dzongkha for grades PP to 12.
- WFP conducted a Humanitarian Supply Chain and Logistics Management training from 15-19 November 2021 to equip disaster responders with key understanding on key concepts of humanitarian supply chain and logistics management. Moreover, the training also introduced the concept of operation approach through the introduction of a simulated case study (based on Nepal Earthquake) and equipped practitioners working in the development and emergency context with conceptual and practical knowledge on relevant logistics and support functions. The training was attended by the National Logistics Working Group which is comprised of more than 50 participants from 32 agencies from public, private, humanitarian, defence and academic sectors.
- WFP supported the Regional Agriculture Marketing and Cooperatives Office (RAMCO), Mongar to conduct a review of the farm to school linkage programme in Lhuentse district. Under this support, 14 schools have contractual agreements with 24 FGs (246 households) for the supply of agricultural products for the academic year 2021 under Lhuentse Dzongkhag.

Operational Context

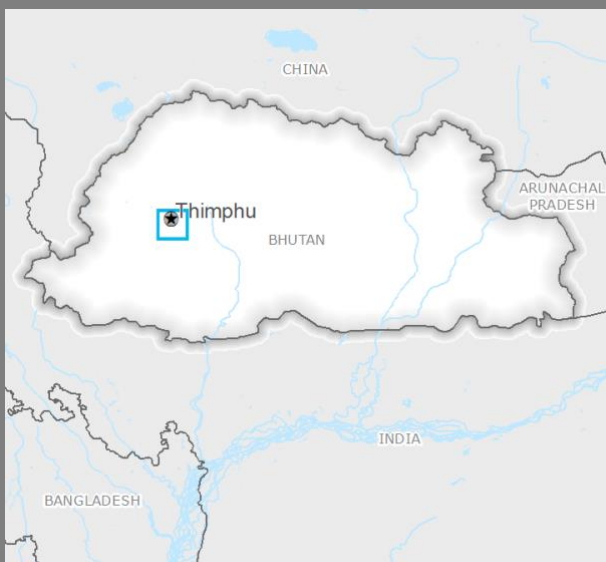
Bhutan will transition to lower Middle-Income Level status by 2023 and considers WFP's support critical to this transition process.

The national poverty rate, as measured by the international poverty line of US\$ 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**

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WFP Bhutan Strategy

Country Strategic Plan 2019 – 2023

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Dec 2021-May 2022 Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
8.94 m	5.98 m	0.00 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

- WFP is adapting its programmes to help mitigate the social and economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic in accordance with government directives. This has resulted in implementation delays of WFP planned activities.
- Cost escalation in construction materials and labour charges has hindered the timely implementation of WFP's support to school infrastructure requiring several revisions to the construction cost estimates.
- WFP is working with Government partners to increase national disaster awareness and how these potential risks may impact food security.
- 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.

- The Ministry of Education and WFP conducted a School Feeding Supply Chain workshop in Bumthang, supported by HELP Logistics. The workshop comprised of 62 participants from 20 schools and Government agencies. The workshop aimed to review school feeding supply chain KPIs, identify key challenges & opportunities, and establish a joint action plan.
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- WFP carried out field mission for the Evaluation of WFP's support to smallholder farmers through an expanded portfolio across agriculture value chains in Bhutan over the period January 2019 to June 2021. Recommended focus areas for WFP market system development include:
 - Cooperative enterprises and women's empowerment through market, group and business skills development;
 - Value addition, market facilitation and business incubation higher up the value chain;
 - Enhanced digital market information services and service contracts;
 - Supply chain development through enhanced transport and market infrastructure services.



Photo Page 1: Workshop on PLUS Schools Menu, Haa District @WFP/Phunthso Wangmo

Photo Page 2: School Feeding Supply Chain workshop in Bumthang @WFP/Gayjoong Bhutii

Donors

KOICA; IR-PREP; First line of Defence (USAID); Global Logistics Cluster support; WFP internal funds