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$ 1.9 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.

Operational Update

• With support from the education ministry, WFP arranged a school visit for KOICA Country Director for Bangladesh, Young-Ah Doh, who was in Bhutan in June. Yangchen Gatshel School is one of the beneficiaries of the national school feeding and nutrition programme. The school's menu was designed using WFP's School Meal Planner PLUS tool. During the visit, officials from the education ministry, the Gross National Happiness Commission, WFP and the KOICA Country Director discussed areas of KOICA support in tackling malnutrition among children.

• The five-episode children's TV show Pinda's Magic Bowl started airing on BBS channel 3. This WFP-supported show targets school-aged children and advocates for healthy and nutritious diets.

• A drone training for emergency preparedness and response, the first of its kind for Bhutan, was conducted for frontliners and key institutions involved in disaster management. The training was organized by WFP in collaboration with the Department of Disaster Management. Over 30 participants attended the training on the thematic applications of drones, manual flights, mission planning, and data processing. They also participated in a disaster simulation exercise. Besides skills development, the training was also crucial in maximizing interoperability between actors and gaining insights into the use of drones in humanitarian settings.

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WFP Bhutan Strategy

Country Strategic Plan 2019 – 2023

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Total Requirement (in USD)</th>
<th>Allocated Contributions (in USD)</th>
<th>July-Dec 2022 Net Funding Requirements (in USD)</th>
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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.
- For awareness on sexual exploitation and abuse, WFP supported a two-day workshop on Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) for civil society partners. The workshop was organized in partnership with other UN agencies in Bhutan.
- Two Nissan Patrol vehicles were donated to the education ministry and emergency frontliners. The vehicles will be instrumental in supporting frontliners in disaster management and search and rescue operations, and in supporting school health and nutrition officials in monitoring works.
- WFP organized a Fill the Nutrient Gap (FNG) inception workshop with support from the World Bank to consult stakeholders from government and international agencies. WFP’s FNG tool identifies barriers faced by the most vulnerable to access and consume nutritious foods.
- Contracts of farmers’ groups and schools in Lhuntse, which are linked to each other for supply and demand of agricultural produce, were renewed with assistance from the Regional Agriculture Marketing and Cooperatives Office (RAMCO). There are 26 farmers’ groups and 16 schools, of which two are new. The linkage encourages domestic agricultural production, creates job opportunities for youth, and helps provide nutritious meals to children.
- WFP conducted a training for enumerators and a training of trainers in preparation for social behaviour change formative research to be carried out across the country in July. Pre-tests were also carried out in three schools in the capital.

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