



World Food Programme

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WFP Bhutan Country Brief August 2022



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, has fallen from 23 percent in 2007 to 8 percent in 2017.

Although people's overall nutritional status has improved, health problems related to a lack of nutritional and diverse diets remain a challenge. Bhutanese children are currently affected by the triple burden of malnutrition - undernutrition, overnutrition and micronutrient deficiencies.

Bhutan remains highly vulnerable to hazards like earthquakes, glacial lake outburst floods, landslides and forest fires, 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**

2020 Human Development Index:
129 out of 189

Income Level: **Lower middle**

Chronic malnutrition: **22% of children between 6-59 months**

Highlights

The new WFP Bhutan Country Director and Representative, Ms Carrie Morrison, presented her credentials to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr Tandri Dorji.

WFP finalised and submitted the Disaster Risk Management Roadmap for Bhutan to the Royal Government of Bhutan (RGoB) for endorsement.

Operational Update

- On 31 August, the new WFP Country Director and Representative, Ms. Carrie Morrison, presented her credentials to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr Tandri Dorji. A [press release](#) from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs stated that the appointment of a WFP Country Director in Bhutan after a gap of more than a decade was indicative of WFP's renewed commitment to support Bhutan. Today, WFP partners with the RGoB in climate change resilience, disaster risk reduction, food systems strengthening and nutrition security, including support for school feeding and nutrition.
- WFP, with support from the Gross National Happiness Commission, submitted a concept note to the Adaptation Fund for innovative adaptation financing to build the resilience and adaptive capacity of smallholder farmers in Bhutan. WFP and the Ministry of Agriculture and Forests (MoAF) aim to enhance the resilience of smallholder farmers to key climate risks and food insecurity, through:
 - Strengthening climate-resilient agricultural practices to underpin integrated climate risk management by smallholder farmers;
 - Rolling out innovative climate risk transfer mechanisms and building smallholder farmers' resilience through an integrated approach; and
 - Institutionalising innovative climate risk management for long-term sustainability.
 - Under this initiative, WFP and MoAF are planning to support climate-vulnerable and poor smallholder farmers in up to six districts, with an emphasis on women, youth and the most vulnerable groups in 10,000 households.

WFP Bhutan Strategy

Country Strategic Plan (2019 – 2023)

Total Requirement (in US\$)	Allocated Contributions (in US\$)	Sep 2022- Feb 2023 Net Funding Requirements (in US\$)
8.94m	6.63m	0.13m

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.

- Key preliminary findings from WFP's formative research on social and behaviour change (SBC) for nutrition were presented to the Ministry of Education. The qualitative research was carried out with school-aged children and their influencers to gain insights into their food consumption behaviour. The research involved 25 schools in three cultural and climactic regions across the country, and the results will inform the national social behaviour change strategy for nutrition.



Photo page 1: WFP Bhutan Country Director and Representative, Ms. Carrie Morrison, presents credentials to the Foreign Minister, Dr Tandi Dorji. @WFP/Kinley Wangmo

Photo page 2: Students of Wangdicholing Lower Secondary School in Bumthang @WFP/Kinley Wangmo

Donors

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