Operational Context

Bhutan will transition to lower middle-income status by 2023 end 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 decreased from 23 percent in 2007 to 8.2 percent in 2017.

Although people’s overall nutritional status has improved, there is a ‘triple burden of malnutrition’ – undernutrition, overnutrition and micronutrient deficiencies. These are related to a lack of knowledge and access to nutritious and diversified foods.

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

On 27-28 September, WFP supported a swift water rescue training for 16 personnel from the Special Reserve Police Force, Fire and Rescue Services Division and the Department of Disaster Management participated in a swift water rescue training. Meanwhile, the National Humanitarian Supply Chain and Logistics Preparedness Working Group worked together to develop a national humanitarian supply chain preparedness portal and a learning needs assessment.

Highlights

WFP continued to strengthen the capacity of key agencies in humanitarian supply chain and logistics preparedness in Bhutan. In September, search and rescue teams from the Royal Bhutan Police, Fire and Rescue Services Division and the Department of Disaster Management participated in a swift water rescue training. Meanwhile, the National Humanitarian Supply Chain and Logistics Preparedness Working Group worked together to develop a national humanitarian supply chain preparedness portal and a learning needs assessment.

Operational Update

On 27-28 September, WFP supported a swift water rescue training for 16 personnel from the Special Reserve Police Force, Fire and Rescue Services Division and the Department of Disaster Management (DDM). The training aimed at enhancing knowledge and building capacity of the frontline rescue personnel, which included the use of rafts and river rescue equipment.

- WFP, in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture and Forests (MoAF) and DDM, organised a three-day workshop for the National Humanitarian Supply Chain and Logistics Preparedness Working Group in Thimphu on 14-16 September. The workshop is part of WFP’s field-based preparedness project to facilitate Working Group members to review their progress and prioritise tasks included in the Logistics Action Plan. During the workshop, participants provided inputs to develop a national humanitarian supply chain preparedness portal, as well as a learning needs assessment survey. The survey will be jointly launched by MoAF and WFP in October.
### WFP Bhutan Strategy

#### Country Strategic Plan (2019 – 2023)

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Total Requirement (in USD)</th>
<th>Allocated Contributions (in USD)</th>
<th>October 2022-March 2023 Net-Funding Requirements (in USD)</th>
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<td>8.94 m</td>
<td>6.68 m</td>
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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 national school nutrition programme based on an integrated approach to school feeding that connects school feeding with nutrition education, school health and school agriculture, 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 the supply chains.

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#### 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 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.

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### Donors

Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA); First-line of Defence (USAID); Global Logistics Cluster support; WFP internal funds

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### Monitoring

- WFP, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health and MoAF, carried out a joint monitoring mission to eight schools in two districts of Wangdue Phodrang and Haa on 15-20 September. The mission aimed to review and monitor the implementation of diversified and nutritious school menus developed using WFP’s School Menu Planner (SMP) PLUS tool in the schools. Under the SMP PLUS, which was rolled out in early 2022, new nutritious menus based on locally available foods were introduced to the schools. During the mission, the team met with school principals, mess in-charges, mess captains and kitchen staff to identify strengths, challenges, and opportunities in the implementation of the PLUS menus, including sourcing non-perishable food items from local farms and market. WFP officials visited schools in Trongsa and Zhemgang districts to monitor kitchen and store refurbishment works and review the implementation of farm-to-school linkages. Findings indicated that different modalities of farm-to-school linkages were being successfully implemented in the two districts. Farmer groups in Trongsa were producing and delivering the produce directly to the schools, while an aggregator was involved in linking the farmers to the school.

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[Photo Page 1: Policemen participated in a swift river rescue training. © WFP/Kinley Wangmo]

[Photo Page 2: Participants of the National Humanitarian Supply Chain and Logistics Preparedness Working Group workshop. © WFP/Kinley Wangmo]

[Photo Page 2: The joint WFP-Government monitoring team inspected a school kitchen store in Wangdue Phodrang. ©WFP/Phuntsho Wangmo]