



KOICA's support to Bhutan for a healthier tomorrow

School feeding and nutrition

Through the generous support of the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), key achievements have been made in Bhutan's National School Feeding and Nutrition Programme, especially in improved dietary diversity in school meals, procurement of locally produced nutritious foods, and the refurbishment or construction of school kitchens and stores. This support from the Republic of Korea has led to the improved overall health and nutrition of school children. Linking these Bhutanese schools to local farmers has opened opportunities for small holder farmers, especially women and youth, to access markets and receive needed technical and infrastructure support.

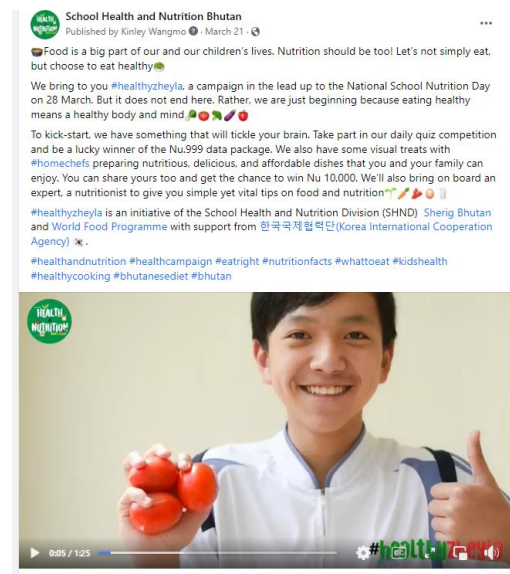
Nutrition advocacy

To make learning about nutrition fun and active, a game-based learning platform for children called EduTrition was developed. The prototype will be tested in November 2022.



Due to Bhutan's COVID-19 related lockdowns during the first months of 2022, a 10-day social media campaign #healthyzheyla (healthy eating) was organized by WFP, in partnership with MoE, to observe National School Nutrition Day on 28 March. The campaign was carried out on a newly created School

Health and Nutrition Bhutan Facebook and Instagram pages. It targeted children and parents or caregivers, and advocated on healthy diets. Social media in Bhutan continues to be an effective advocacy platform for promoting healthy eating.

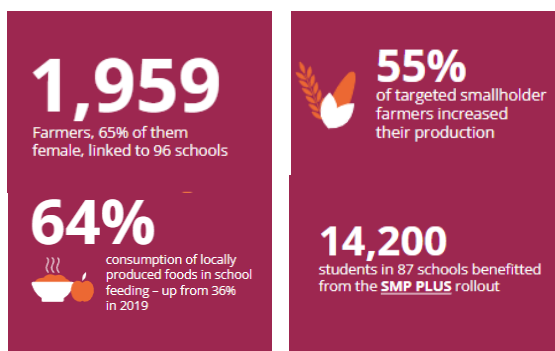


Pinda's Magic Bowl, a five-episode nutrition education television programme, produced in English and Dzongkha languages, was aired on the national television channel (BBS 3) from June to July 2022. The show targeted school children from five to 18 years. Edutainment is an effective medium to conduct nutrition education that helps children and their families make informed food choices and practice healthy eating habits. The TV show was rebroadcast in September 2022 and has been uploaded onto YouTube channels.



Linking farmers to schools

Linking school meals to local farmers has increased incomes of the smallholder farmers and provided fresh food to nutritionally diversify the menu of school meals. WFP's innovative tool, the school meal planner (SMP) PLUS, was implemented in five districts, reaching 87 schools. The combined impact of linking farmers to schools and introducing SMP PLUS menus in schools has resulted in increased production and income for farmers, and increased diversity in school meals.



School kitchens and stores

Throughout the WFP Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023), KOICA has supported WFP's partnerships with the Ministry of Education (MoE) and the Ministry of Agriculture and Forests (MoAF) to deliver a National School Feeding and Nutrition Programme in Bhutan. With technical assistance from SODEXO, an international French company with expertise in catering meals, WFP and MoE developed a structural design layout for quality school kitchens and stores. A review is currently underway to ensure their optimal functionality prior to adoption as a national standard by end 2023. At this time, 36 schools will be refurbished by WFP and MoE. To date, 15 were refurbished while another three are underway.

