



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP Bhutan Country Brief October 2022



Operational Context

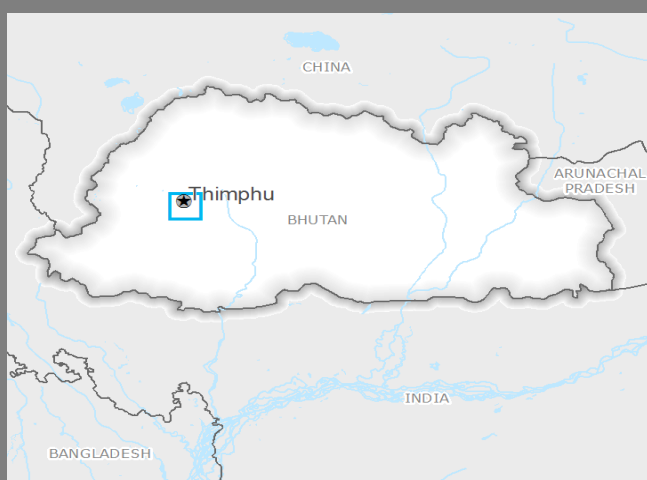
Bhutan will transition to lower middle-income status by end 2023 and considers WFP's support critical to this transition process.

The national poverty rate, as measured by the international poverty line of US\$1.9 per person per day, decreased from 23 percent in 2007 to 8.2 percent in 2017.

Although the population'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.



Population: **0.73 million**

2021/22 Human Development Index:
127 out of 191 countries

Income Level: **Lower middle**

Chronic malnutrition: **21% of children under five**

Highlights

WFP, in partnership with relevant government offices observed the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction and World Food Day.

WFP supported the development of an export facilitation centre in Gelephu, a town close to the Indian border. The centre aims to facilitate processing, sorting and packaging of agricultural foods that are to be exported.

Separately, WFP conducted a supply chain learning needs and capacity survey to inform the development of a supply chain training package for disaster responders.

Operational Updates

- WFP, in partnership with the Department of Disaster Management (DDM), jointly launched a social media campaign [#dadribaygay](#) (disaster preparedness) ahead of the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction. As part of the campaign, a jingle was produced and disseminated as a caller ring back tune for a TikTok challenge targeting Bhutanese youth. The challenge garnered over 132,000 views and 2,497 participants. Furthermore, an art competition for children with disabilities was also organised on the topic 'what would you do during a disaster'. A [video](#) was also launched to showcase WFP's work with DDM on disaster risk reduction in Bhutan.
- WFP joined the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the Ministry of Agriculture and Forests and the Ministry of Education to observe the World Food Day on 16 October. A video on [Linking Farmers to Schools in Bhutan](#) was launched at the event, which highlighted WFP's support to the ministries in linking smallholder farmers to the National School Feeding and Nutrition Programme.
- WFP provided financial support to the Regional Agriculture Marketing and Cooperatives Office (RAMCO) to develop an export facilitation centre in Gelephu town, Sarpang District. The centre is complementary to the dry port, providing exporters with reliable space for processing, sorting and packaging of renewable natural resources from other non-perishable and hazardous goods. WFP will facilitate exports of Bhutan's five major cash crops, benefiting exporters and farmers from six central districts. The centre will also support youth employment and local businesses. End-to-end, on-ground support will be provided to exporters who are trading overseas or are trying to gain access to foreign markets.

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WFP Bhutan Strategy

Country Strategic Plan (2019 – 2023)		
Total Requirement (in US\$)	Allocated Contributions (in US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$)
8.94 m	6.68 m	0.35 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 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.

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.

Donors

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

- In October, WFP conducted a supply chain learning needs and capacity survey, with the participation of 190 respondents from government ministries, state-owned enterprises, civil society organizations and development agencies. The survey ascertained the learning requirements and established a baseline of existing supply chain practices and capacities across Bhutan. Based on the survey findings, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forests, which leads the country's logistics desk, will establish an informed supply chain training package that consolidates existing training materials and introduces new resources. This initiative contributes to Sustainable Development Goal 17 through a multi-stakeholder partnership based on a common goal to strengthen national supply chain preparedness capacity.
- WFP provided advocacy posters on the standard operating procedures for safe handling and storage of food, kitchen cleanliness, and sanitation and hygiene to the Ministry of Education. The posters will be distributed to 498 schools under the National School Feeding and Nutrition Programme.



- WFP arranged bilateral consultations with government stakeholders to present its preliminary results of the ongoing Fill the Nutrient Gap (FNG) assessment funded by the World Bank.

Photo Page 1: Workers sorting oranges at the export facilitation centre in Gelephu ©RAMCO