Operational Update

• A KOICA Bangladesh team led by the Country Director visited Bhutan on 06 to 10 November for a project monitoring mission. The KOICA officials and WFP visited schools and farmers groups in Zhemgang and Trongsa districts where KOICA-supported activities are implemented.

WFP, in partnership with the Department of Disaster Management (DDM) and the Ministry of Agriculture and Forests (MoAF), facilitated several workshops and trainings on disaster preparedness, supply chain, geoinformation systems (GIS) and incident command systems (ICS).

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.

Highlights

Officials from the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) Bangladesh visited Bhutan for a monitoring mission. The KOICA officials and WFP visited schools and farmers groups in Zhemgang and Trongsa districts where KOICA-supported activities are implemented.

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Operational Update

• A KOICA Bangladesh team led by the Country Director visited Bhutan on 06 to 10 November for a project monitoring mission. The United Nations (UN) Resident Coordinator, Ms Karla Hershey, and a WFP team led by the Country Director joined the mission. The mission met with district officials, visited women smallholder farmers groups and observed the preparation of school meals at central schools in Zhemgang and Trongsa districts. With support from KOICA and WFP, the Ministry of Education implements the project ‘Consolidating a fully integrated universal National School Nutrition Programme in Bhutan’.

• WFP supported MoAF to deliver two regional workshops on humanitarian supply chain and logistics management. The workshops were conducted in Punakha and Trashigang districts from 07 to 18 November, with the participation of 60 officials from 13 districts in the central and eastern regions who are the focal points for emergency logistics response. The consultations compiled logistics capacity information on locally available assets in each district to develop consolidated district-level logistics preparedness action plans.

• WFP delivered two learning sessions for 24 participants, comprising UN officials and members of the National Logistics Preparedness Working Group, to introduce the concept of humanitarian supply chains during emergencies through a board game called ‘Business on the move - humanitarian edition’.
## WFP Bhutan Strategy

### Country Strategic Plan (2019 – 2023)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Requirement (in US$)</th>
<th>Allocated Contributions (in US$)</th>
<th>Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US$)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>8.94 m</td>
<td>6.64 m</td>
<td>0.35 m</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### 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

- WFP, in partnership with DDM, carried out a week-long sensitization programme on disaster risk management, ICS training and a tabletop simulation exercise in Sarpang District for 168 participants. The programme aimed to build the disaster preparedness and response capacity of district administration officials, regional officials, newly elected local government leaders, and representatives from the De-Suung (national service volunteers) and Bhutan Red Cross Society.
- WFP and DDM organized a GIS digitization workshop in Pemagatshel District from 21 to 25 November for 22 officials representing key agencies. A free spatial data repository ‘Open Street Mapping’ was used for data collection. The data, primarily on critical infrastructure, can be used for studies and analysis, including disaster preparedness and response.
- WFP presented the results of its nutrition social behaviour change (SBC) research to SBC Taskforce members for validation on 25 and 26 November. The Taskforce comprises representatives from the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Education and MoAF, as well as the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and WFP. The research will inform the development of an action plan to implement SBC activities in 2023.

Photo Page 1: KOICA officials are welcomed by students of Yebilaptsha Central School in Zhemgang District © WFP/Kencho Wangmo

Photo Page 2: Officials from the National Logistics Preparedness Working Group learned about the concept of humanitarian supply chains through the “Business on the Move” game at the UN House in Thimphu © WFP/Kinley Wangmo