Operational Context

As Bhutan transitions from the Least Developed Country category by end of 2023, WFP’s support remains critical to the 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. In 2022, the poverty rate increased to 12.4 percent.

Although the population's overall nutritional status has improved, there is a ‘triple burden of malnutrition’ with 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 supporting Bhutan since 1974.

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<th>Population: 0.66 million</th>
<th>Chronic malnutrition: 21% of children under five</th>
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<td>Income Level: Low-income</td>
<td>2021/22 Human Development Index: 127 out of 191 countries</td>
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Highlights

A national logistics operation manual for Type III disasters was developed during a multi-stakeholder workshop co-organized by WFP. Thirty-three participants representing key emergency frontline agencies participated in the workshop from 29 May to 2 June in Paro. The manual was developed to improve coordination among frontline personnel to ensure effective, efficient, economical and timely response during disasters.

Operational Updates

- Learning from the challenges faced in the COVID-19 pandemic, key stakeholders involved in emergency logistics operation came together to develop a national logistics operation manual for Type III disasters (national level disaster). Thirty-three participants representing key emergency frontline agencies participated in the workshop from 29 May to 2 June in Paro. The workshop was organized by WFP, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MoAL) and Department of Local Governance and Disaster Management (DLGDM) with support from the Global Logistics Cluster. The manual was developed to improve coordination among responders to ensure effective, efficient, economical and timely response during disasters.

- To facilitate proposal development for the Adaptation Fund Large Innovation Grant, WFP and the Department of Agriculture under MoAL organized a task force meeting on 9 May. Findings and recommendations from a vulnerability assessment of climate-risk based crop suitability and insurance feasibility process were reviewed to determine the way forward. Based on the recommendations, four districts of Trashigang, Lhuntse, Tsirang and Dagana were selected for community consultations, which will result in an insurance feasibility report.

WFP participated and provided technical inputs to the National Disaster Management and Contingency Plan (NDMCP) during a national stakeholder consultation carried out on 11 and 12 May, organized by the DLGDM. The NDMCP is a dynamic, comprehensive, all-sector, multi-hazard plan, which outlines procedures and protocols for disaster prevention and mitigation, adequate
**WFP Bhutan Strategy**

### Country Strategic Plan (2019 – 2023)

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<td>8.94 m</td>
<td>7.04 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.

**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 the Ministry of Education and Skills Development (MoESD) organized a three-day training for 170 school cooks from 28 May in Monggar, Trashigang, Trashiyangtse and Pemagatshel districts. The training is supported by Korea International Cooperation Agency to strengthen capacity of school cooks on nutrition, food preparation, and storage and kitchen hygiene and management.

- As part of the environmental management system (EMS) rollout, a team from the WFP HQ carried out an environmental assessment from 14-18 May. The EMS aims to provide country offices with a systemic approach to identify and manage environmental risks through a continuous improvement cycle, with a focus on energy, waste and water management, sustainable procurement, and staff awareness.

- A two-day kick-off meeting for the rollout of social behaviour change (SBC) action plan for healthy eating among schoolchildren and adolescents was organized on 4 and 5 May in Thimphu. The meeting, organized between the multi-sectoral SBC working group and the creative agency, which is hired to implement the action plan, oriented the participants on the key messages and the communications materials to be developed. The SBC campaign will be piloted in 15 schools in Chhukha and Thimphu districts. A healthy eating campaign will also be carried out on social media.