



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

Nutrition advocacy in 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 by WFP in Bhutan’s National School Feeding and Nutrition Programme, especially in improved dietary diversity in school meals, procurement of locally available nutritious foods, and the refurbishment or construction of school kitchens and stores. This support has led to the improved overall health and nutrition of school children. Linking Bhutanese schools to local farmers has opened opportunities for smallholder farmers, especially women and youth, to access markets and receive needed technical and infrastructure support.

Nutrition advocacy

WFP brings attention to the importance of school meals for schoolchildren and celebrates the efforts of school and kitchen staff to improve health and nutritional outcomes of the children through the organization of contests. In December 2022, as part of the global campaign, a “Healthy Meals We Prepare” contest was organized in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and Skills Development (MoESD) among schools under the National School Feeding and Nutrition Programme.

The top seven entries were shared through the School Health and Nutrition Bhutan social media pages. The healthy diets social media pages are jointly managed by WFP and MoESD’s Health and Wellness Division. The advocacy pages were created as a part of a 10-day social media campaign *Healthy Zheylya* to observe National School Nutrition Day on 28 March 2022.

The campaign targeted children and parents and caregivers. Social media in Bhutan continues to be an effective advocacy platform for promoting healthy eating.



A still from *Healthy Meals We Prepare* social media post



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 schoolchildren 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.



A still from Pinda's Magic Bowl, a TV show on healthy diets, shared on social media

Linking farmers to schools

Linking schools to local farmers has increased incomes of smallholder farmers and provided fresh food that nutritionally diversifies the menu of school meals. In 2022, WFP supported 2,855 farmers to supply fresh locally available food to schools and local markets.

The participating farmers earned over USD 1.49 million through the sale of their local produce. WFP's innovative tool, the School Meal Planner (SMP) PLUS, a digital platform that optimizes school menus to be more nutritious and cost-efficient using locally sourced food, was implemented in seven districts reaching 31,000 students in 145 schools.

School kitchens and stores

WFP, in partnership with MoESD and the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MoAL), continues to construct and refurbish school kitchens and storages. With technical assistance from SODEXO, an international company, WFP and MoESD developed a structural design layout for school kitchens and storages in 2020. Kitchens and storages in 13 schools were constructed and refurbished in 28 schools.



A newly constructed kitchen for Nangkhor Central School Photo: Nangkhor Central School

