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 and again increased to 12.4 (2022).

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 disaster event but lacks the necessary data information systems, response plans and coordination systems to adequately prepare for emergencies.

WFP has been in Bhutan since 1974.

Operational Update

- WFP and the MoESD trained 30 teachers from 15 schools in Thimphu and Chhukha districts where the “Eat Khe-ta, Be Se-ta” Healthy Diets social behaviour change project will be piloted. The official launch on 14 July was attended by Minister for Education and Skills Development Jai Bir Rai and UN Resident Coordinator Karla Hershey. The multi-media campaign involves both school and extra-curricular activities including ten participatory emotional demonstrations (Emo-Demos) to illustrate five key nutritional messages. For younger students in pre-primary to class III, the campaign includes a giant “Snacks and Ladders” game, a workbook with interactive, nutrition-related educational exercises, and post-viewing worksheets for the Pinda’s Magic Bowl series produced in 2022. In addition to the Emo-Demos, older students will benefit from a school contest and event guide, posters, and reorienting school home science clubs towards healthy cooking. A full social media campaign targeting both students and their parents and caregivers will reiterate and amplify key messages.

- WFP and the MoESD organized four batches of three-day training for 168 school cooks in Trashigang, Trashiyangtse and Pemagatshel districts. The training will strengthen capacity of school cooks on nutrition, healthy food preparation, hygiene, and the management of school kitchen and storage. The training sessions were conducted with funding support from the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA).

Highlights

- WFP and the Ministry of Education and Skills Development (MoESD) launched a multi-media campaign to spread key messages on healthy eating.

- WFP and the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock conducted community consultations in four eastern districts as part of proposal development for the Adaptation Fund’s Large Innovation Grant.

Contact info: carrie.morrison@wfp.org
Country Director: Carrie Morrison
Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/Bhutan
A mission from the Korean Embassy visited Bhutan from 13-16 July. On 14 July the mission visited three schools of Laptshakha and Logodama Primary Schools and Punakha Central School. Made possible with funding from KOICA, WFP supported Logodama and Punakha schools with kitchen and store refurbishment and new constructions that ensured kitchen hygiene, proper cooking of nutritious meals for school children, and reduced damages to the food stored.

On 6 July, during the virtual regional bi-monthly meeting among heads of supply chain, WFP Bhutan shared its experience from the Logistics Operation Manual Workshop carried out with the national logistics working group who were instrumental in developing the first ever operation manual for the logistics desk in Bhutan. This manual is also one of the first for the regional bureau in Asia. WFP plans to replicate this manual to the other humanitarian desks in Bhutan.

---

**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), First-line of Defence (USAID), Global Logistics Cluster support, WFP internal funds, Global Agriculture and Food Security Programme

*Children dressed in healthy food costumes for the launch of the Eat Khe-ta, Be Se-ta’ Healthy Diet campaign. Photo: WFP/Yeshey Tsheltrim*