



World Food Programme

SAVING  
LIVES  
CHANGING  
LIVES

# WFP Bhutan Country Brief April-May 2025



A rural farm in Zhemgang where WFP supports farmers develop strategic investments plans for dairy and coffee value chains. ©WFP/Galey Tenzin

## Operational Context

Since 1974, WFP has stood with Bhutan. Today, our partnership is more critical than ever, as the country faces mounting challenges—from limited arable land and climate shocks to rising food imports and malnutrition in all its forms. The 13th Five-Year Plan (2024–2029) lays out a bold vision for a food secure, resilient future. But big dreams need bold solutions—and strong partners.

WFP is delivering where it matters most:

- **Smarter Food Systems & Climate Resilience:** We build resilient value chains, reduce food losses, and support climate-smart agriculture for a sustainable future.
- **Markets that Work for Farmers:** We connect farmers to markets and shape smart food policies that drive inclusive growth.
- **Nutrition that Powers Potential:** Through school meals, we fight hunger, boost learning, and invest in Bhutan's next generation.
- **Preparedness that Saves Lives:** With real-time data and early warning systems, we help Bhutan act before crises strike.



Population: **0.65 million**

2023-24 Human Development Index:  
**125 out of 193 countries**

Income Level: **Lower middle-income**

Stunting: **17.9%** Wasting: **5.1%**  
Underweight: **8.8%** (Children under -5)

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## Highlights

- With the goal of empowering communities with context-specific and community-owned interventions in Trongsa and Zhemgang districts, WFP supported the development of strategic investment plans.
- In partnership with the Tarayana Foundation and the Government, WFP strengthened the technical capacity of agriculture officers and community mobilizers with a comprehensive training on climate-smart nutrition-sensitive agriculture

## Operational Updates

### Strategic investment plan for coffee and dairy value chains

- WFP supported the development of strategic investment plans for the dairy and coffee value chains in the Trongsa and Zhemgang districts. These plans are designed to strengthen partnerships among key stakeholders, including local governments, farmers' cooperatives, private sector entities, and civil society organizations. By fostering collaboration, the aim is to ensure inclusive, context-specific interventions that are fully owned by the community. The identified strategic investments are focused on addressing key drivers of food insecurity, such as limited access to productive assets, market inefficiencies, and climate vulnerabilities. Fifty-three (53) participants, including 21 women and 32 men, attended the workshop. Through this collaborative approach, WFP ensures that all stakeholders are involved in the planning and decision-making process, leading to sustainable outcomes for the community.
- The strategic investment plans will ensure farmers develop climate resilient farming practices while improving farmers' access to markets resulting in increased net income for them. This will not only enhance their livelihoods but also contribute to the national goal of achieving Zero Hunger by 2030.



Participants of the strategic investment plan workshop. ©WFP/Galey Tenzin

## WFP Country Strategy



### Country Strategic Plan (2017-2021)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
14.6 m	9.31 m	0.49 m

#### Strategic Result 1:

**Strategic Outcome 1:** Rural populations in Bhutan, particularly women smallholder farmers, young people, and persons with disabilities, achieve climate-resilient livelihoods and increased food security and nutrition by 2030

**Focus area:** *Resilience building*

#### Activities:

1. Provide technical assistance to national and local government institutions with the aim of strengthening the capacity of farmer-based organizations to manage climate shocks and introduce innovative risk management solutions for climate resilient and nutritious food production.
2. Provide technical assistance to national and local government institutions with the aim of strengthening the capacities of producer groups, small-scale agro-enterprises and other value chain actors that empower women and young people in targeted value chains.

#### Strategic Result 2:

**Strategic Outcome 2:** The citizens of Bhutan, particularly vulnerable population groups, benefit from enhanced human capital and a food system that is resilient to climate and other crises and shocks by 2030

**Focus area:** *Resilience building*

#### Activities:

3. Provide technical assistance to government and other stakeholders aimed at improving social protection provision, including by linking national school feeding programmes to farmers and suppliers, to facilitate the consumption of safe, healthy and nutrient-dense diets.
4. Provide technical assistance, including in relation to social behaviour change, in support of government and private sector efforts to promote fortified food products, and ensure that all school feeding programme beneficiaries, and the public consume safe, healthy and nutrient-dense diets.
5. Provide technical assistance and innovative solutions to government institutions for the expansion of people-centred disaster risk reduction programmes that integrate nutrition considerations and foster preparedness for and effective response to shocks and stressors.



Training on straw mushroom cultivation. ©WFP/Chimi Wangmo

#### Climate smart agriculture training and mushroom production

- To improve food and nutrition security among smallholder farmers facing climate challenges and limited access to nutrient-rich crops, the Tarayana Foundation and WFP and in collaboration with the Project Monitoring Unit under the Building Resilient Commercial Smallholder Agriculture Project, held a four-day training on climate-smart, nutrition-sensitive agriculture.
- The training involved 64 participants (3 women and 41 men), including Agricultural Extension Officers and *Sanam Jabchorpas* (community mobilizers), and focused on building their technical capacity to promote resilient, high-value farming systems that enhance dietary diversity and household nutrition.
- Participants received both theoretical and hands-on instruction in areas such as straw mushroom cultivation, hydroponics, polyhouse vegetable production, and Nutrition Model Gardens (NMGs), complemented by field visits for practical exposure. These efforts aim to ensure year-round access to nutrient-rich foods, integrate nutrition education into agriculture, and build climate-resilient systems. By equipping frontline actors to scale these practices in their communities, the initiative supports sustainable improvements in productivity and nutrition.
- WFP's initiative to connect schools and markets with local farmers helps guarantee access to balanced meals for schoolchildren and buyers.

#### Donors

Global Agriculture and Food Security Program, International Fund for Agriculture Development, the Royal Government of Bhutan