



World Food Programme

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LIVES

## WFP Bhutan Country Brief June-July 2025



Nutrition model garden beneficiary. ©WFP/Chimi Wangmo

### 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**

2015 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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### Operational Updates



Nutrition model garden set-up in Nubi gewog.  
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#### Nutrition-sensitive agriculture interventions

In July, WFP, in collaboration with the Building Resilient Commercial Smallholder Agriculture (BRECSA) project and the Tarayana Foundation, conducted a comprehensive capacity strengthening training for district livestock extension officers and community mobilizers from four districts – Tsirang, Sarpang, Trongsa and Zhemgang.

The training aimed to strengthen technical competencies in agricultural waste management, composting, biopesticide and enzyme preparation, and nutrition-sensitive agriculture (NSA) approaches. A key feature of the BRECSA initiative is the establishment of nutrition model gardens as practical learning platforms to promote NSA. These gardens serve as integrated tools that link food production with nutrition education and behaviour change communication, thereby contributing to enhanced household food and nutrition security.

The first nutrition model garden was established in Nubi Gewog, with an additional 24 gardens planned across the target districts. Through the training, participants gained knowledge on sustainable farming practices, including composting and waste recycling to reduce agricultural input costs. The gardens also promote the cultivation of diverse, nutrient-rich crops to improve dietary outcomes.

Enhanced communication skills and targeted capacity building have further enabled frontline actors to effectively mobilize communities and advance agriculture-nutrition linkages. These efforts contribute to resilient food systems and improved nutrition in rural areas, aligned with WFP's commitment to zero hunger and sustainable development.



Initial land before garden . ©WFP/Chimi Wangmo

## 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	0.5 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:

- 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.
- Offer 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:

- Extend 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.
- Support 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 including in relations to social behaviour change.
- Assist government institutions with technical and innovative solutions 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.

## Piggery Value Chain

From 12–14 June, WFP, in coordination with the Programme Management Unit of the BRECSA project, convened a multi-stakeholder platform (MSP) focused on the piggery value chain in Tsirang district. The platform brought together 30 key stakeholders, including farmers, traders, and government representatives, to identify challenges, explore opportunities, and align district-level piggery development efforts with the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock's Five-Year Plan.

The MSP facilitated collaborative dialogue around critical constraints such as unreliable piglet supply, limited biosecurity protocols, land access, and fragmented production systems. Proposed interventions included the establishment of production clusters, advocacy for land allocation, and the development of systems to enhance piglet availability and health standards.

The discussions underscored the rising domestic demand for pork, increased interest from youth, and supportive policy environments as enabling factors for sector growth. Looking ahead, the MSP will prioritize strategic implementation, progress monitoring, and capacity strengthening to promote a resilient and commercially viable piggery sector. These efforts contribute to Bhutan's 13th Five-Year Plan, reinforcing WFP's commitment to sustainable livelihoods and food system transformation.

## Logistics Capacity Assessment

WFP, in collaboration with *De-suung*—Bhutan's national volunteer organization—has completed the Logistics Capacity Assessment (LCA) for the country in general and for the 19 districts of Bhutan. The comprehensive dataset for the national-level assessment is accessible online via [Bhutan | Digital Logistics Capacity Assessments](#).

## Donors

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