



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP Bhutan Country Brief August 2025



WFP team with the KOICA delegation.
©WFP/Tashi Lhundup

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)

Contact info: peter.rodrigues@wfp.org

Country Director: Peter Rodrigues

Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/bhutan

Operational Updates



WFP Bhutan Country Director Peter Rodrigues thanks KOICA Bangladesh Deputy Country Director and the Korean government for supporting Phase One of the school feeding project, while presenting plans for Phase Two. ©WFP/Tashi Lhundup

KOICA Delegation Undertakes Mission to Bhutan to Advance School Nutrition and Local Agriculture

A nine-member delegation from the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), led by the Deputy Country Director of KOICA Bangladesh, is currently undertaking a two-week mission to Bhutan aimed at conducting a comprehensive analysis to support school nutrition and promote local agriculture through the Home-Grown School Feeding (HGSF) initiative.

This mission marks a critical step toward the potential launch of the second phase of KOICA's support to Bhutan under a USD 9.5 million cooperation framework. This phase will begin in 2026 and will focus on the refurbishment of school kitchens and storage facilities including in monastic institutions. It will also support improved supply chains by linking farmer groups and cooperative groups to the schools and the monastic institutions.

During the current mission, the delegation is engaging with key government stakeholders such as the Prime Minister of Bhutan, the Minister for Agriculture and Livestock, as well as conducting field visits to remote districts to assess implementation needs and opportunities. Notably, the proposed second phase will extend support to monastic schools, ensuring that children in these institutions also benefit from improved kitchen infrastructure and access to safe, nutritious meals.



KOICA delegation and government participating in a school lunch programme . ©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	0.498 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.

Strengthening Climate-Resilient Agriculture and Nutrition through Targeted Training and Demonstration Initiatives

With the support of WFP and Building Resilient Commercial Smallholder Agriculture (BRESHA), and facilitated by the Tarayana Foundation, a series of capacity-building trainings were conducted for farmers. A total of 276 farmers from the districts of Sarpang, Trongsa, Tsirang, and Zhemgang participated in specialized sessions focused on:

- Climate-smart agricultural production,
- Climate-smart livestock management, and
- Mushroom cultivation.

These trainings are designed to enhance local competencies in sustainable and climate-resilient food production systems, contributing to long-term food security and environmental stewardship.

In addition, Nutrition Model Gardens (NMGs) have been established in Trongsa and Zhemgang districts to promote improved nutritional outcomes. These gardens function as interactive learning hubs, demonstrating diverse crop varieties, encouraging healthy dietary practices, and inspiring household-level gardening for enhanced nutrition and self-sufficiency.

School Menu Planner Plus Tool

The Ministry of Education and Skill Development (MoESD), in partnership with WFP conducted a three-day workshop on the School Menu Planner Plus (SMP Plus) tool for district nutritionists and dietitians under the Ministry of Health. The training focused on resource-based menu planning aligned with national nutrition standards and seasonal availability.

Participants engaged in hands-on exercises, developed district-specific school menus, and addressed nutrition-related challenges through peer learning and technical exchange. The workshop concluded with strategic recommendations to improve school meal quality and programme implementation. Key outcomes included enhanced technical skills, documented menus, and insights to inform future policy and planning.

Donors

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