



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP Bhutan Country Brief September 2018



## Operational Context

Bhutan is classified as a lower middle-income country and ranks 132 out of 188 countries in the 2014 Human Development Index with an HDI index of 0.607.

National poverty rate has been reduced from 23 percent in 2007 to 8.2 percent in 2017, as measured by the international poverty line of USD 1.90 per person per day (PPP).

Although people's overall nutritional status has improved in general, health problems related to a lack of nutritional and balanced diets remain a challenge, including micronutrient deficiencies.

Bhutan remains highly vulnerable to earthquakes but lacks the necessary data information systems, response plans and coordination systems to adequately prepare for emergencies.



Population: **0.73 million**

2015 Human Development Index: **132 out of 188**

Income Level: **Lower middle**

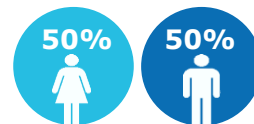
Chronic malnutrition: **21.2% of children between 6-59 months**

## In Numbers

**722 mt** of food assistance distributed

WFP Bhutan's operations are fully funded for 2018, thanks to the generous contributions of our partners.

**13,897 school children assisted**  
in September 2018



## Operational Updates

- WFP Bhutan has developed the Bhutan Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023) following a series of consultations with partners. The CSP is submitted for Executive Board members comments and approval by WFP's February 2019 Executive Board.
- With the new CSP, WFP Bhutan will no longer provide direct implementation but instead act as an enabler, capacity builder and knowledge broker for the Royal Government of Bhutan.
- As part of WFP Bhutan's new role, it has, on behalf of the development partners in Bhutan, initiated the development of a national emergency preparedness action plan with the Government following the findings of the Earthquake Simulation Exercise held in June 2018.
- WFP is in the process of contracting Durham University to build an earthquake impact model for Bhutan as part of enhancing the Government's national disaster preparedness capacity.
- The United Nations Sustainable Development Partnership Framework (UNSDPF) 2019-2023 has been completed and submitted to the Government for endorsement. WFP is leading UNSDPF outcomes on setting up national rapid post-disaster needs assessment capacity; national rice fortification programme; transition of the National School Feeding Programme to a National Nutrition Programme; and strengthening national capacity to prepare for and respond to disasters.
- WFP Bhutan is assisting the Government in accelerating digitization of monitoring and reporting systems and management information systems to reduce labour-intensive analogue systems, increase cost-efficiencies and close the learning loop. A real-time, integrated school-based nutrition, health and education monitoring and reporting system, using the Mobile Data Collection and Analytics (MDCA) platform, has been piloted in two districts. Training for roll-out to the whole country in 2019 has started.

## WFP Bhutan Strategy

### Temporary Interim Country Strategic Plan Jan – Dec 2018

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	August - January Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
1.2 m	1.2 m	0 m

#### Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

**Strategic Outcome 1:** School-aged children in vulnerable areas have sustainable access to food by 2019

**Focus area:** Root Causes

**Activities:**

- Provide nutritious meals to vulnerable school-aged children to ensure equitable access to education
- Provide technical assistance to the Government of Bhutan (RGoB) to enhance critical aspects of school meals management

#### Strategic Result 5: Countries have strengthened capacities to implement the SDGs

**Strategic Outcome 2:** National Systems to achieve the SDGs by 2018 are strengthened.

**Focus area:** Root Causes

**Activities:**

- Provide policy and technical assistance to the Government of Bhutan to scale up fortification in the country
- Strengthen the Government of Bhutan's capacity in emergency preparedness
- Provide technical assistance to the National Nutrition Taskforce to advance the nutrition agenda in the country, focusing on reducing the prevalence of micronutrient deficiencies

## Monitoring

- Regular field monitoring of school feeding is carried out by staff in the School Health and Nutrition Division for both WFP as well as government-supported feeding schools.
- Training has started for national roll-out of a real-time, integrated school-based nutrition, health and education monitoring and reporting system, using the Mobile Data Collection and Analytics (MDCA) platform.

## Challenges

- Lack of technical capacity within the country has led to a delay in implementing some of the capacity development activities. Identifying qualified local consultants continues to be a bottleneck for programme execution.

## Donors

Australia, Canada, Private Sector (River Star Foundation, JAWFP)