

BHUTAN

OPERATIONS, FACTS AND FIGURES



WFP COUNTRY OFFICE
Thimphu

WFP Presence since 1974

WFP OPERATIONS IN 2008

WFP beneficiaries: 41,000

School Feeding – 41,000 children

FACTS AND FIGURES

Population: 670,000 (2008 est.)

Children Under 5 – 13.5%

Human Development Index Rank:
131

Per Capita GDP (PPP\$): 1,400
(2006)

Adult Literacy: 56%

Net Primary School Attendance:
88%

Children Under 5 Suffering From:

Underweight – 11%

Stunting – 37%

Wasting – 4.5%

HIV/Aids:

Est. no. of infected people – 200

Adult HIV prevalence rate <0.1 %

OVERVIEW

Bhutan is a least developed country where a majority of the population lives in rural mountain communities. Many in these communities live off what they can grow in the harsh mountain climate. About one-fourth of the population is considered poor, especially in remote villages. The primary challenge is access to services; road blocks are frequent during the monsoon and high passes may remain closed during the winter months.

For over thirty years, WFP has been working to improve the lives of people in Bhutan, providing food to school-going children, road workers, infants, pregnant and lactating women, hospital in-patients and rural communities. Besides school feeding, activities have included support through food-for-work programmes for the construction of roads and suspension bridges, and for health, forestry, irrigation and dairy development projects.

WFP's goal is to halve poverty in Bhutan by increasing the percentage of the rural poor who receive education up to grade 8, by improving school facilities and access to schools.

PROGRAMMES

Development Project 10579.0: "Improving Rural Children's Access to Basic Education with a Focus on Primary Education"

January 2008 – December 2012

WFP has embarked on a new initiative to improve the food-related infrastructure at remote, rural-off-road, schools. These initiatives will increase access to education and make the school feeding programme more self-sufficient and sustainable in rural areas. WFP is also handing over gradually the school feeding assistance, with the royal government taking over already successfully classes 11 and 12 in 2008 and 9 and 10 in 2009.