



WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME – BHUTAN
Annual Report 2005

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Students at the Galing School, Trashigang

Foreword



PRIME MINISTER

དཔལ་ལྷན་འབྲུག་གཞུང་།

ROYAL GOVERNMENT OF BHUTAN

Dated: 18 January 2006

Foreword

I would like to extend my congratulations and Tashi Delek to WFP and its Country Office staff on completion of 30 years of service in Bhutan.

Ever since WFP established its office here in 1976, Bhutan has benefited considerably from WFP assistance. For 30 years, WFP has supported Bhutan on its unique development path in areas of greatest need and priority with the programmes "Food for Education" and "Food for Work".

Besides providing daily nutritious meals to 41,396 students at 196 schools in all 20 Dzongkhags, WFP has supplied resources for the construction of hostels and sanitary facilities (permanent latrines, shower blocks, access to clean water), as well as the provision of fuel-efficient stoves at a number of needy schools. WFP resources have also reached our remote communities: in collaboration with Ministry of Works and Human Settlement, WFP has constructed mule tracks and assisted the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) in the construction of Power Tiller Tracks. These tracks have benefited 8,753 people by linking the rural communities to the national road network.

The Royal Government of Bhutan is pleased to be associated with WFP and its Annual report. WFP Bhutan has tailored its initiatives to meet the requirements of the Royal Government's planning and policy making, thus creating an exemplary working partnership. I look forward to continuing our relationship in the future.

Tashi Delek


Sangay Ngedup



Students at the Toksingma School in Trashigang

Preface

Kuzu Zangpo La!

Following the ideals of Gross National Happiness, WFP continues its support of the development of Bhutan's society and economy. In partnership with the Royal Government, WFP plays a key role in this national journey. By focusing our efforts on providing food in schools, we increase the likelihood that children will receive an education, a critical ingredient to bettering their lives.

In 2005, WFP provided 17 million meals to 41,396 school children at 196 schools throughout the 20 dzongkhags of Bhutan. WFP increased its emphasis on primary schools and enlarged its total of girl beneficiaries by 21%: girls now account for 45% of the total number of beneficiaries. The Royal Government of Bhutan's objective of building 137 new primary schools by 2007 is a testament to its commitment to the goal of achieving Universal Primary Education in that year, in line with the MDG 2.

In addition, 8,753 individuals in remote communities benefited from "food for work" support through rural access projects. A total of 9,095 national road workers are benefiting from our Road Workers' Welfare Scheme.

This year, we made substantial progress in finding additional cash resources to accompany the food that was provided. In total, we were able to programme approximately 100 million Ngultrum (US \$2.3 million) in cash and in-kind commodities through the different Ministries. Key donors for 2005 include Denmark, Norway, Australia, Japan, the Netherlands, USA, and the UK.

Working with sister UN agencies and other international agencies yielded tangible joint projects which greatly benefited the people we work for. For example, WFP collaborated with UNICEF on national iron and multivitamin supplementation programmes and water/sanitation, with UNDP (GEF) on the procurement and supply of fuel efficient stoves, and with SNV on the implementation and monitoring of Power Tiller Tracks.

Finally, I wish to extend my sincere gratitude to the continued support of our donors and the dedication and cooperation of the Royal Government. To all our partners, we hope you have found our collaboration in 2005 to be as worthwhile as we have. In the year ahead, we will uphold our conviction in good governance by continuing to strive for maximum transparency, efficiency, and effectiveness. We are always looking to find ways to do a better job: should you have any suggestions (big or small), please contact the undersigned.

Tashi Delek.

Gerald Daly
Representative
WFP Bhutan
March 2006

*What would 17
million plates of
food look like?*

They would span
4,250 km or
more than eleven
times the length
of the country!

Introduction: The World Food Programme



School buildings at the Chungphel School, Bumthang

- “Every day 800 million people go to bed hungry”
- “Every day, 24,000 people die from hunger or hunger related causes”

Established in 1963, the World Food Programme (WFP) is the frontline agency of the United Nations in the fight against global hunger. WFP's vision is of a world in which “everyone has access at all times to the nourishment they need for a full life”. It believes that the issue of hunger belongs at the top of the international agenda. During its 41 years of operations, WFP has invested \$27.8 billion or 43 million metric tonnes of food through the support of its donors in its fight against hunger. In 2004, WFP fed 113 million people in 80 countries, including most of the world’s refugees and internally displaced peoples.

The food aid mission of WFP is three-fold:

- *Food-for-Life*
In emergencies, WFP provides fast, efficient, life-sustaining relief to millions of people who are the victims of ever rising numbers of natural or man-made disasters. This includes refugees and internally displaced persons.
- *Food-for-Growth*
These projects target needy people at the most critical times of their lives - babies, school children, pregnant and breast-feeding women and the elderly. In these projects, WFP uses food aid as a preventive medicine.
- *Food-for-Work*
Where people are chronically hungry, WFP promotes self-reliance through food-for-work projects. Workers are paid with food aid to allow communities to devote more time to development.



Vegetables from WFP's School Agriculture Program

WFP in Bhutan



Two girls enjoying their snack at the Tang School, Bumthang

Upon the invitation of the Royal Government of Bhutan (RGoB), WFP opened a Country Office in 1976. Over the past thirty years, the RGoB and WFP have worked together on a range of activities. The cornerstone of WFP activities in Bhutan has been and continues to be the Food for Education Programme, through which thousands of children have been provided with school meals over three decades. In addition, WFP has supported road and bridge construction, health, agricultural re-settlement, forestry, irrigation and dairy development projects.

The focus of WFP's activities in Bhutan is currently:

- **Food for Education:** "Improving Rural Children's Access to Educational Services".
- **Food for Work:** "Improving Rural Households' Access to Agricultural Services."

WFP is actively involved in the management of a counterpart fund generated from road workers' salaries under "Improving Road Workers' Access to Education and Health Services" with a remaining balance of over \$700,000.

Improving Rural Children's Access to Educational Services

Schooling in Bhutan



The Gyelpozhing School in Mongar

In line with the Millennium Development Goals, the RGoB has set 2007 as its target for achieving universal primary education. Bhutan, with its complex topography and remote scattered communities, faces enormous challenges in bringing education to all school-aged children. The commitment to realising this ambitious goal is reflected in the RGoB's achieved objective of building 22 new schools nationwide during 2004 and 26 schools in 2005.

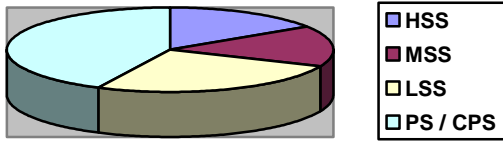
WFP Support to the RGoB



In the lunch line at the Tang School, Bumthang

WFP supports the RGoB in its policy of improving access to education by providing daily meals and snacks to school children - particularly to those from poor and food insecure families in remote areas. This activity supports the nationwide trends of increased enrolment and attendance rates and reduced drop-out rates. It also improves the nutritional status of school-going children and thus supports their concentration and learning achievements.

In 2005, WFP supported 41,396 students at 196 schools throughout Bhutan. As part of its commitment to supporting school feeding in Primary and Community Primary Schools, WFP began to supply biscuits at 26 new Primary and Community Primary Schools during 2005.



WFP support to schools by type in 2005

In addition to providing food commodities, WFP also supports the infrastructural requirements of the schools that it serves. During 2005, WFP supported the construction of new kitchens and stores in 14 schools.



New fuel-efficient stoves arrive at the Galing School, Trashigang

An area of continued focus during 2005 has been the provision of fuel efficient stoves in WFP-assisted schools. These stoves, which are locally manufactured, are beneficial at two levels. First, they consume less fuel than traditional-style ovens, thus contributing to the protection of local forest resources. Second, they emit less smoke than traditional-style ovens, thus reducing the negative impact of smoke inhalation on cooks, students and staff. During 2005, 51 fuel efficient stoves were provided to schools. The provision of these stoves was partially funded by JAWFP, a Japanese private donor.

Impacts of the School Feeding Programme

The direct impact of the School Feeding Programme on the lives of Bhutanese school children is reflected in a series of nutritional, educational and financial benefits:

Nutrition



Receiving lunch at the Gyelpozhing School in Mongar

The daily food basket supplied by WFP is made up of seven commodities: rice, kharang, pulses, vegetable oil, fish, CSB / PWB and sugar. This provides the students with up to 87% of the recommended daily calorie intake and up to 99% of the recommended daily protein intake.

Education



Two students studying at the Chungphel School, Bumthang

During 2005, Enrolment Rates increased by approximately 1% in WFP-assisted schools.

Over 2004-2005, the enrolment of girls in the same WFP-assisted schools has increased by almost 2%.

Attendance Rates in WFP-assisted schools also continued to be extremely high: the annual average for 2005 was over 90%.

Drop-out Rates nationwide remained under 5%: 2005's drop-out rate was approximately 4.3%.

These quantitative achievements are matched by the qualitative improvements in education that are enhanced through the School Feeding Programme. By relieving short-term hunger, students are able to better concentrate on their studies and achieve higher educational attainments.

The Food for Education Programme by Numbers

- During 2005, 41,396 students in 196 schools throughout Bhutan received food from WFP.
- 22,800 beneficiaries were boys and 18,596 beneficiaries were girls.
- 22,503 beneficiaries were boarders who received two meals and one snack per day and 14,902 beneficiaries were day students who received one meal and one snack per day.
- There were 287 feeding days for boarders and 225 feeding days for day scholars in 2005.
- Over 17 million meals were served during 2005.
- Food deliveries worth \$2,186,050 and weighing 3,740 metric tonnes were distributed to schools during 2005.

The School Painting Competition

In February 2006, WFP selected winners of the 2005 School Painting Competition held among all 170 WFP-assisted schools in Bhutan. Students from all twenty districts in the country participated in the competition. The winners of the competition will receive cash prizes from WFP.

The School Painting Competition was designed with the aims of promoting awareness about WFP's operations, agriculture, and food amongst school-going children and celebrating the creative talents of Bhutan's students.

The Competition was divided into two sections – the first for primary aged students and the second for secondary aged students. In 2005, the theme for Category A (Classes 4 – 8) was "WFP School Feeding Programme helps girls prepare for better life." The theme for Category B (Classes 9 – 12) was "The Role of WFP School Feeding Programme in helping to increase enrolment and gender balance." This year's first prize winner was Karma Loday, grade XI science, from the Rangjung Higher Secondary School in Trashigang; Karma's work is displayed on the inset of this annual report.

Improving Rural Households' Access to Agricultural Services

Many of the remote rural communities in Bhutan remain disconnected from urban centres where people can access vital infrastructural services such as schools, hospitals and markets. The access needs of the rural population are recognised in the Ninth Five Year Plan, and the RGoB is implementing an innovative programme of nationwide road construction. Through this programme, the access of remote rural households to educational, health and agricultural services will be improved.

Support to the National Work Force

For nearly 25 years, the RGoB and WFP have collaborated on improving the health and living conditions of the National Work Force - the road workers. Under this collaboration, the Department of Roads provided WFP-supplied food to road workers as part of their compensation. A portion of each worker's salary was then put into a counterpart fund. The fund has been used to make improvements to dwellings, water sources, and sanitary facilities as well as to meet other pressing social needs of the road workers and their families.

The Road Workers' Welfare Scheme of DoR is being established with the noble objective of encouraging comradeship among DoR road workers and helping them to access financial support in education and times of emergency. The criteria are currently being finalized. After thorough review by the Technical Coordination Committee, the scheme will start in early 2006 with seed money of Nu. 4.5 million from the education grant and the Counterpart fund of WFP.



Workers at the Autsho-Ganglapong Mule Track

Building Power Tiller Tracks and Improving Mule Tracks

Power Tiller Tracks: In Trongsa, 12 of the total 29 km of the Nabji-Korphu track had been constructed by the end of 2005.

Mule Tracks: Among the four mule tracks currently under construction in Zhemgang and Mongar, 54 km of the total 69 km length of track (or 78%) had been constructed by the end of 2005.

These tracks will help to enhance the agricultural livelihood and living conditions in remote communities.

Vulnerability Assessment Mapping (VAM)

During 2005, the RGoB and WFP completed the first ever Vulnerability Assessment Mapping (VAM) exercise in Bhutan. WFP committed \$35,000 towards this activity. VAM is a tool used globally to collect detailed information on food security and, in the case of Bhutan, drives programming choices.

Logistics and Procurement



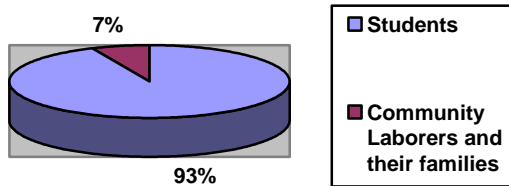
Two women at work on the Autsho-Gyelpong Mule Track

One of the key issues facing WFP in Bhutan is the logistical challenge of supplying food directly to beneficiaries in remote and isolated communities. The logistical aspects of WFP's operations are jointly handled by the Food Corporation of Bhutan (FCB) and by individual Dzongkhags. FCB receives commodities at one of its three regional warehouses, which are located in Phuentsholing, Gelephu and Samdrup Jonkhar. FCB then oversees the delivery of the commodities to one of seven Transit Stores or 45 "Extended Delivery Points" (EDPs), which fall under the authority of individual Dzongkhags.

The delivery of the food commodities from the transit warehouses and EDPs to the feeding centres that are not accessible by road is overseen by the Dzongkhag administrations, which organise and finance the transportation of the commodities. The commodities are carried by horse and / or porters for many hours or days before they reach their destination – the remotest school that WFP serves is an eight day walk from the road head!

Food Distribution for 2005

WFP Bhutan distributed a total of 4006 MT of food commodities worth \$2,261,270 for consumption during 2005. Under the Food for Education programme, 3740 MT of food commodities worth \$2,186,050 were distributed. Under the Food for Work programme, participants and their families received 266 MT of food worth \$75,220.



The distribution of WFP food commodities by type of beneficiary

Co-operation with other International Agencies and Donors

Co-operation with other Agencies

Collaboration between donor agencies helps WFP to target resources more effectively. WFP works closely with other UN agencies as well as with international donors in the implementation of a range of projects.

In 2005, WFP collaborated with UNICEF on the funding and implementation of national iron and multinutrient supplementation programmes and of a water/sanitation programme. The two agencies also worked together to conduct a series of trainings for District Education Officers, Head Teachers, WFP Incharges, and Health Incharges at WFP-assisted schools.

WFP also collaborated with UNDP (GEF) in the procurement and supply of fuel efficient stoves.

WFP and FAO worked together to conduct celebrations for World Food Day, which was celebrated on 16th October. WFP and FAO also cooperated on a national food security study.

During 2005, WFP has also collaborated with other international organisations, including the Dutch NGO SNV on the implementation and monitoring of Power Tiller Tracks.



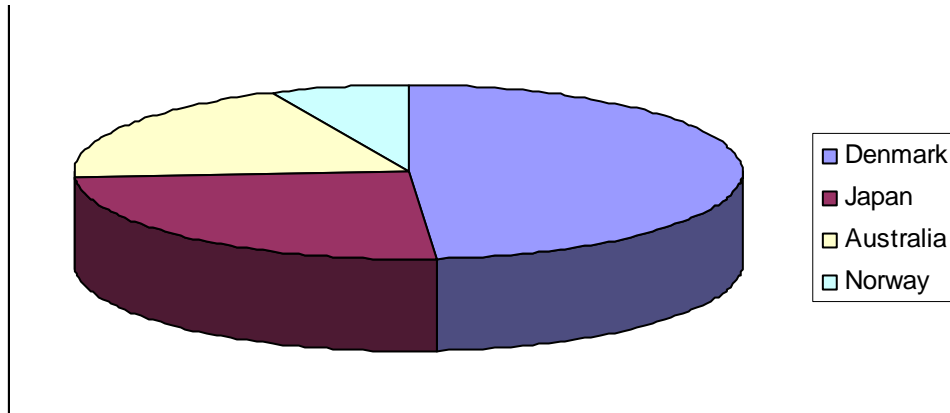
Co-operation with the Private Sector: JAWFP Monitoring Tour

WFP Bhutan has created new connections with the private sector, both in Bhutan and internationally. JAWFP, a private donor from Japan, donated \$34,210 towards the procurement and supply of fuel efficient stoves. In 2005, 51 stoves were supplied to 17 schools in collaboration with UNDP (GEF).

Donor Contributions

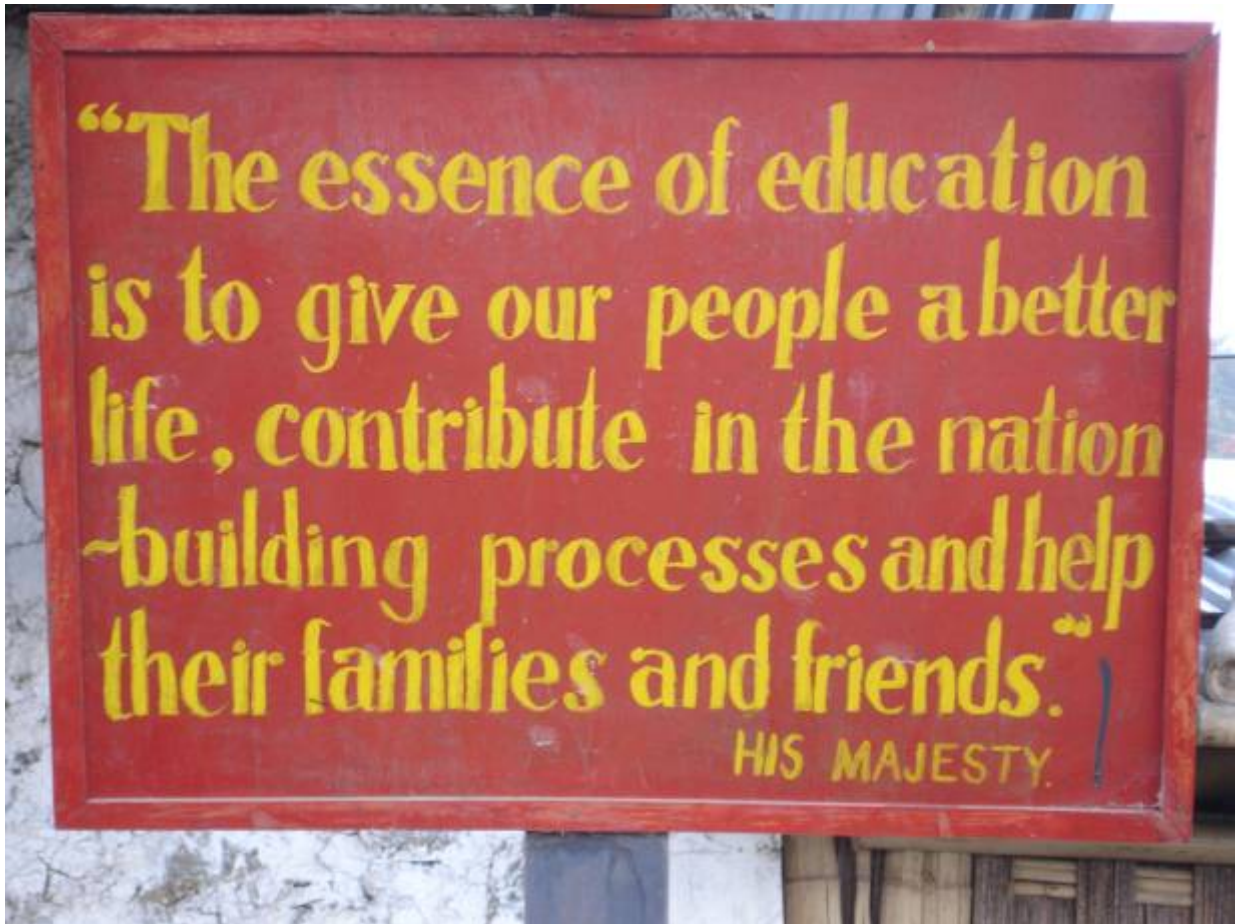
During 2005, cash and in-kind donations programmed by WFP totalled approximately 100 million Ngultrum or US\$2.3 million. The top four donor nations were Denmark, Japan, Australia, and Norway.

Top Four Donors to WFP in 2005



2005 WFP Staff





Tokshingma School in Trashigang

(Statistics for margins throughout the annual report):

**Average cost per day to feed a child through the School Feeding Programme:
US\$0.19**

**Average cost per year to feed a child through the School Feeding Programme:
US\$34**

What's in a WFP biscuit? (contribution of Denmark)

[how about using % of daily requirement instead of values?]

**Energy.....459 kcal
Fat.....15 g
Protein.....10-15 g
Moisture.....max. 4.5g
Calcium.....125 mg
Vitamin B6.....0.5mg
Magnesium.....75 mg**

Vitamin B12.....0.25mcrg
Iron.....6 mg
Niacine.....3 mg
Iodine.....35 mcrg
Vitamin C.....10 mg
Folic Acid.....40 mcrg
Vitamin A-Retinol.....125 mcrg
Panthothenic acid.....1.5 mg
Vitamine D.....1.0 mcrg
Vitamin B1.....0.25 mg
Vitamin E.....2.5 mg
Vitamin B2.....0.35 mg