

Strengthening supply chain capacity in Bhutan

Contextual challenges

As a land-locked country located in the eastern Himalayas, Bhutan has limited access and connectivity despite its direct proximity to major economic powers. Seventy percent of its land area is covered by forests located across six agro-ecological zones. With altitudes ranging from 100 to 7,500 meters above sea level, Bhutan's geographical terrains are challenging but also offer great economic opportunities. Bhutan is rich in natural resources, however it remains exposed to seismic activities and hydrological-related hazards.

Bhutan's vulnerable mountain roads and bridges, commonly impassable during the monsoon season, impact negatively on the effectiveness of the delivery of Government programmes and pose a major concern in the event of a natural disaster. The domestic road network is only connected to India. The only international airport, located in Paro, is considered one of the most dangerous in the world.

Capacity strengthening engagements

WFP prioritises its efforts in strengthening government capacity towards achieving long-term results and critical goals focused on national development. These priorities focus on the three main areas of humanitarian logistics, school feeding and nutritional development and agricultural resilience. WFP considers that strengthening nationally led supply chain coordination mechanisms with strong government leadership increases legitimacy and leads to robust supply chain capacity, both at national and sub-national levels, thus contributing to sustainable economic growth.

National supply chain and logistics preparedness

a flexible logistics response and to meet the immediate storage needs for food and emergency supplies. Investing in preparedness saves lives, response time and costs during emergency situations and reduces the need for international assistance mobilisation. Independent research has demonstrated that supply chain accounts for 73 percent of humanitarian response costs. WFP seeks to utilise its global network of partners and technical expertise to localise and strengthen national supply chain capacity in accordance with SDG 17 and WFP Bhutan's Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023). Empowering national responders and promoting collaboration and partnerships among stakeholders to address potential logistics constraints will lead to effective humanitarian assistance during disaster situations.

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