

# UN BHUTAN COUNTRY FUND

## Purpose

The UN Bhutan Country Fund is a common fund for mobilizing and allocating resources for UN activities at the country level. It serves as a vehicle for pooling and allocating resources to support outcomes of the Bhutan One Programme (2014-2018), and it supplements the internal funding of the UN agencies. The Fund enhances the flexibility of the UN system to address existing and emerging national priorities.

The objective is to enable coherent resource mobilization and allocation to support the realization of the Bhutan One Programme, as well as new initiatives responding to evolving needs.



Rinzin Wangmo was able to secure a loan, be trained as a tailor and set up her shop with the help of Income Generation Support Programme. Photo: UNDP Bhutan.

## How to support

Contributions are accepted from:

- The Royal Government of Bhutan
- Bilateral and multilateral development partners
- Non-governmental organizations
- Private sources and foundations

To ensure maximum flexibility and adaptation to national priorities, donors are encouraged to contribute with multi-year un-earmarked resources which would support the overall work of the UN in the country. It is also possible to earmark contributions by outcome, output and/or UN agency.

## Fund dates

Start date: 30 June 2009

End date: 31 December 2018

## 14 participating UN organizations

FAO, IFAD, UNAIDS, UNCDF, UNCTAD, UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNICEF, UN OCHA, UN Women, WFP

## Contributions

- Over USD 2,8 million in total (August 2014)
- Expanded Delivering as One Window, USD 2,419,000
- Government of Austria, USD 398,000
- Swiss Development Cooperation, USD 25,000

## Governance

The One Programme, including joint programmes and agency programme documents, is the programmatic planning document that serves as the basis for funding requests and allocations.

## Resident Coordinator

The overall management of the Fund is led and coordinated by the Resident Coordinator in consensus with the participating UN organizations. The Resident Coordinator's Unit serves as the Secretariat of the Fund and supports the strategic leadership role of the Resident Coordinator.

## Steering Committee

The Steering Committee comprises the UN signatories to the UN Bhutan Country Fund and the Gross National Happiness (GNH) Commission, and is co-chaired by the Secretary of the GNH Commission and the UN Resident Coordinator.

The Steering Committee is responsible for prioritization and allocation decisions of the un-earmarked contributions to the UN Bhutan Country Fund and guides the operations and management of the Fund.

## Administrative agent

The UNDP Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF) Office in New York receives contributions from donors, administers received funds, disburses funds to the participating UN organizations following the instructions from the Steering Committee, and consolidates statements and reports for each contributing donor and to the Steering Committee.



Civic education programme conducted by volunteers in remote villages of Southern Bhutan. Photo: UNDP Bhutan.

## Fund allocation criteria

Drawing on the results reports, financial report and the funding gap, the Resident Coordinator's Unit and the GNH Commission compile the suggested priorities for funding allocation and submit the proposal to the Steering Committee for prioritization and allocation decisions.

Upon receipt of funds, the Steering Committee makes the allocation decisions for un-earmarked funds. Decisions are based on a consultative process and documented jointly by the Resident Coordinator's Unit and the GNH Commission. The Bhutan One Programme serves as the basis for funding requests and allocations.

The criteria for allocation of un-earmarked resources include:

- One Programme relevance
- Resource gaps
- Joint programmes implemented by two or more UN organizations
- Agency comparative advantage
- Priorities which would not otherwise be funded
- Activities which support core UN development priorities, identified by the Steering Committee and the Country Programme Board at the start of the annual programme cycle
- Realistic outcome budget

## Monitoring and Evaluation

The Fund is monitored and evaluated in accordance with the One Programme Monitoring and Evaluation Framework.

The inter-agency UN Bhutan Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation (UNPME) Group provides technical advice and support on all aspects of results-based-management (RBM) related to the One Programme in Bhutan. The group is responsible for the quality assurance of the One Programme M&E Framework.

The UN in Bhutan has opted to use the national monitoring and reporting system which is in accordance with the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness. The UNPME Group ensures the linkages and alignment between the One Programme and national priorities, namely the 11<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan of the Royal Government of Bhutan.

***Delivering as One (DaO)** is the result of a UN Reform process that brings together the strengths of all UN agencies to increase efficiency and efficacy in a transparent and accountable manner for better service delivery to the beneficiaries. DaO aligns UN activities with national priorities in collaboration with the Government, development partners and implementing partners, including civil society. It also establishes a clear division of labour based on the comparative advantages and capacities of each UN agency.*



### For more information:

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MPTF Bhutan Factsheet

<http://mptf.undp.org/factsheet/fund/BT100>

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