

**[UN BHUTAN COUNTRY FUND]**

**BI-ANNUAL PROJECT/PROGRAMME UPDATE**

**AS OF [31st December 2010]**

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| **Participating UN Organization(s)** | UNICEF, WFP | | |
| **MDTF Programme Number** | 00073276 | | |
| **Programme Title** | **Education** | | |
| **Approved Budget**  **(by PO, if applicable)** | **UNFPA: 29,729**  **UNICEF: 153,363**  **WFP: 227,278** | | |
| **Expenditure**  **(by PO, if applicable)** | UNFPA: 29,729  UNICEF: 153,363  WFP: 227,278 | **% of Approved Budget**  **(by PO, if applicable)** | UNFPA: 100%  UNICEF: 100%  WFP: 100% |
| **Forecast Final Date:** | 31 December 2010 | **Delay**  **(if applicable)** | NA |

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| **Achievements till date:** |
| **Training of Trainers on life skills education**: A total of 159 teachers including principals, school health coordinators and counsellors from 68 schools were trained under two Training of Trainers programme on life skills education in Thimphu and Mongar.  **Strategic plans for increasing literacy rate:** 16 Head teachers, 8 Gups (village head men), Dzongdas (district administrators) and non-formal education instructors in 10 districts, including districts with low literacy rates like Samtse, Samdrup Jongkhar and Chukha, are set to accomplish the government’s target of achieving 70 percent literacy by 2013, through development of strategic plans.  International literacy day observed through publications, advocacy and competition in reading, writing and extempore among NFE learners from remote areas. Most of them were female learners.  **Construction of toilets in schools:** Toilets constructed in 15 schools in Zhemgang, Chukha and few other districts are benefitting over 1,000 girls and boys.  **School Feeding Programme**: 3 students, 6 teachers and 2 programme officers from the Ministry of Education (MoE) and the Ministry of Agriculture and Forests (MoFA) learnt vegetable farming with organic principles and other technologies during a two-week study trip to West Bengal districts and Sikkim. In Sikkim with similar climatic conditions to Bhutan, the participants had the opportunity to see agricultural activities carried out with EM applications and organic farming, which could be replicated in their own school gardens. In addition, the programme officer from MoAF studied the database used by Maple Org. Tech India Ltd. in Kolkata and learnt how to manage and keep track of various agricultural tools, seeds etc, that is being distributed to the schools from the CoRRB, MoAF.    257 mt of rice and 37 mt. of Yellow Split Peas (YSP) was purchased for the school children. The food commodities purchased fed some 35,500 students two meals a day of rice for a month and one meal a day of YSP for 52 days. The commodities were distributed to all 221schools assisted by WFP in 2010. Seventy percent of these schools are inaccessible by road and located in remote, food insecure areas.  In addition, the newly constructed hostels in one of the remote schools in Zhemgang district are benefiting 75 girls and 57 boys. They now enjoy the hostel facilities inclusive of toilets and shower blocks. The school also has a matron's and warden's quarters attached to the hostels.  **Trainers on Human Values in Education:** Seventy persons consisting of Teachers, Principals, Curriculum Officers and Education Monitoring Officials were trained as core trainers at Sathya Sai School in Thailand on integrating human values in education. The practice at Sathya Sai school is very similar to Bhutan’s Educating for Gross National Happiness (GNH). After their return from the training the principals and teachers implemented some of the practices experienced in Thailand in their schools. The monitoring officials aligned the School Self Assessment Tool to performance management system, incorporating human values-based educational practices and management tool. The curriculum officials have begun looking at realigning school curriculum to human values-based education both through curricular and co-curricular activities. These core trainers will now be responsible for rolling out educating for GNH national initiative to all the teachers in Bhutan during 2011-12, using the three day training module developed during the December workshop.  **Launching Website on Educating for GNH:** The Ministry of Education has launched a website called [www.educatingforgnh.com](http://www.educatingforgnh.com) as a platform to share practices on educating for GNH initiatives amongst wider stakeholders in and outside Bhutan. UNICEF supported a technical assistance to train the web administrators on maintenance of the website. The website is logged on frequently by many users, especially teachers to share the practices on educating for GNH in schools. The national initiative of educating for GNH has received positive feedback from people within and outside the country. |