

Table Of Contents

01

Introduction

02

Financial Highlights & Performance

03

Major Capital Works

04

Going Beyond the Mandates

05

Ad-hoc Activities

06

Greening Trashigang

07

Achievements & Recognition

08

Royal Visits

09

Dignitary visits

10

Promotion of Social Wellness

11

Challenges during the year

Priorities for Financial Year 2024-25

Message from Dzongdag

As required under the Section 256 (e) of the Local Government Act of Bhutan 2009, I take this opportunity to submit Annual Report 2023-24 of Dzongkhag Administration on the status of finance, achievements of plans and programs including any shortcomings, which is first of its kind.

As we endeavor to make great strides in the 13th FYP and in Financial Year 2024-25, it is equally important to reflect on the incredible journey we have endured in the past year and achievements made thus far. The dedication and commitment of each sector and unit have been instrumental in accomplishment of key milestones and words are not enough to express my gratitude.

A national goal of “Developed Bhutan” by 2034 have been pronounced. It is imperative to further realign and embrace approaches such as entrepreneurial mindset, results oriented and make sustained efforts. We live in a world full of disruptions and uncertainties. We need to adeptly address the challenges of the 21st Century to meet the rising expectations of citizenry.

Trashi Delek!



(Ugyen Dorji)
DZONGDAG



The challenges faced by Dzongkhag Administration is no different from other Dzongkhags and agencies. The high rate of attrition of human resources coupled with lack of key officials impede the operation and service delivery.

Taking solace from Buddhist sayings “nothing is permanent and last forever”, we will strive to do more with less and drive for positive changes towards realizing our vision of “Thrilling Trashigang”



Chapter I: Introduction

As we reflect on the Financial Year 2023-24, it becomes increasingly vital to not only acknowledge but to deeply reflect on the ranges of accomplishments and obstacles encountered by the Dzongkhag. Over the past year, our efforts have been anchored in a commitment to sustainable development, guided by our overarching vision, ***"Towards Thrilling Trashigang."*** This vision serves as a beacon, steering our Dzongkhag towards economic resilience, enhanced quality of life, and long-term socio-economic growth. Through this annual report, we aim to provide a comprehensive review of the key financial and operational activities executed during the year, critically examining the successes & identifying areas where further improvements are necessary.

Amidst these accomplishments, we cannot overlook the pressing issue of human capital attrition, which has emerged as a critical challenge for Trashigang Dzongkhag. Over the past few years, we have observed a growing trend of qualified civil servants and skilled professionals migrating to other countries, particularly to Australia. This phenomenon, while not unique to our Dzongkhag, has reached a point where it significantly impacts the public sector and our overall developmental trajectory. The migration of highly qualified individuals poses a risk to the long-term sustainability of public service delivery and governance. The loss of talent, especially in key sectors such as health, education, and administration, has created gaps in expertise, affecting our ability to efficiently meet the needs of our citizens.

Chapter II: Financial Highlights & Performance



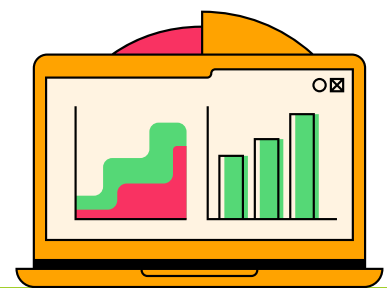
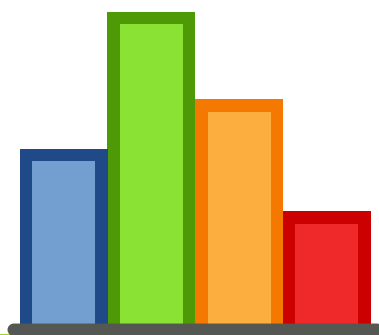
The budget for the FY 2023-24 was passed by the Parliament with the theme “*Building a stronger institution through strategic reforms while ensuring a sustainable fiscal path and smooth transition*” During the year, the Dzongkhag Administration was allocated the budget as highlighted below:

Approved Budget for FY 2023-24	Amount (Nu. in million)
Current Budget	
Mandatory Expenses	1,002.67
Controllable Expenses	63.122
Total Current Budget	1,065.792
Capital Budget	
RGoB Annual Capital Grant	66.6
UNDP- GEF <i>Mainstreaming Biodiversity Conservation</i>	3.129
CARLEP Agriculture sector	11.86
CARLEP Livestock sector	8.144
Common Minimum Infrastructures (CMI)	141.326
Total Capital Budget (RGoB and Donor funded)	231.059
Grand Total	1,296.851

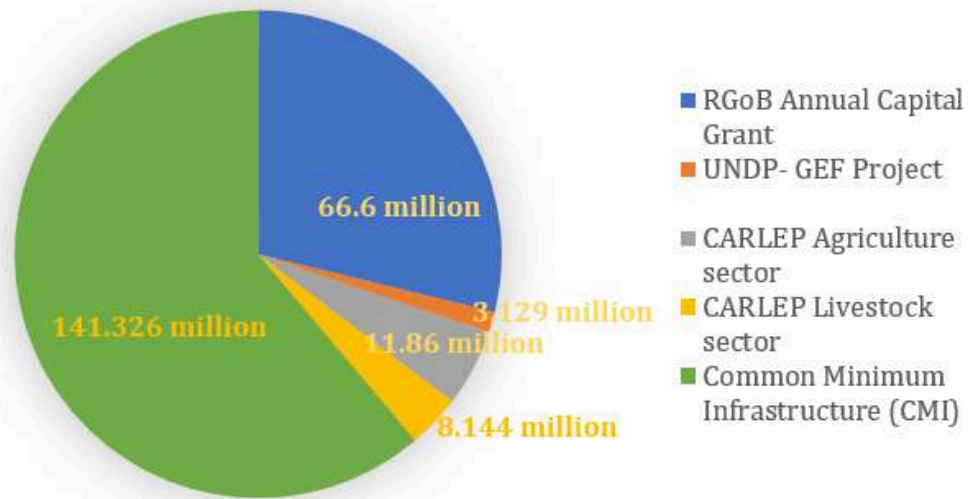


Revised Budget and Expenditure for FY 2023-24

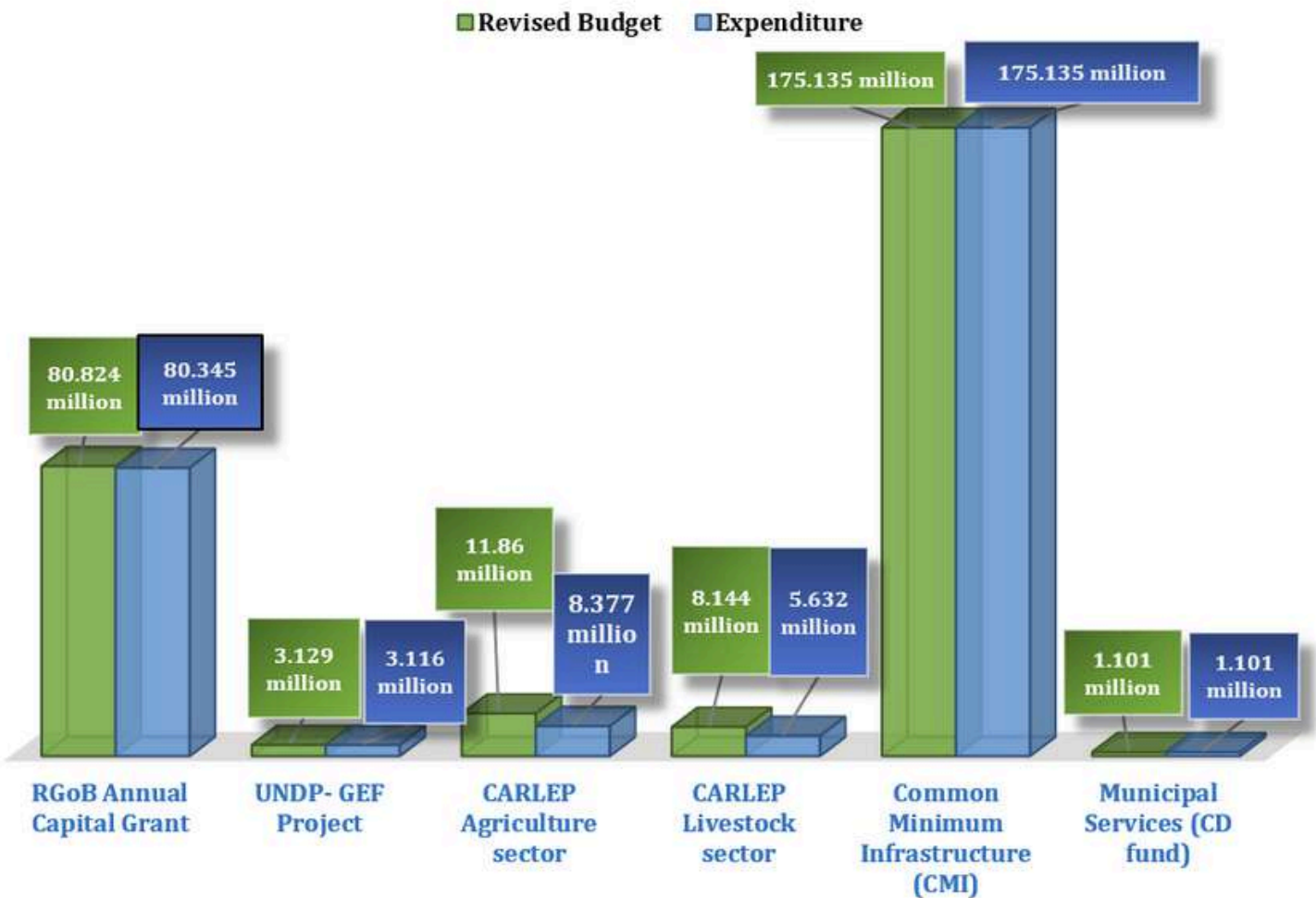
Revised Capital and Current Budget	Revised Budget (Nu. in million)	Expenditure (Nu. in million)	Fund Balance (Nu. in million)	Budget utilization in %
Revised Current Budget				
Mandatory Expenses	1,153.861	1,150.969	2.892	99.7%
Controllable Expenses	57.234	55.709	1.525	97.3%
Total Revised Current Budget and Expenditure	1,211.095	1,206.678	4.417	99.6%
Revised Capital Budget				
RGoB Annual Capital Grant	80.824	80.345	0.479	99.4%
UNDP- GEF <i>Mainstreaming Biodiversity Conservation</i>	3.129	3.116	0.013	99.6%
CARLEP Agriculture sector	11.86	8.377	3.483	70.6%
CARLEP Livestock sector	8.144	5.632	2.512	69.2%
Common Minimum Infrastructure (CMI)	175.135	175.135	0	100%
Municipal Services (CD fund)	1.101	1.101	0	100%
Total	280.193	273.706	6.487	97.7%



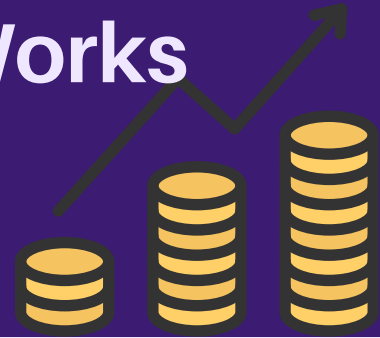
Approved Capital Budget for FY 2023-2024



REVISED CAPITAL BUDGET & EXPENDITURE



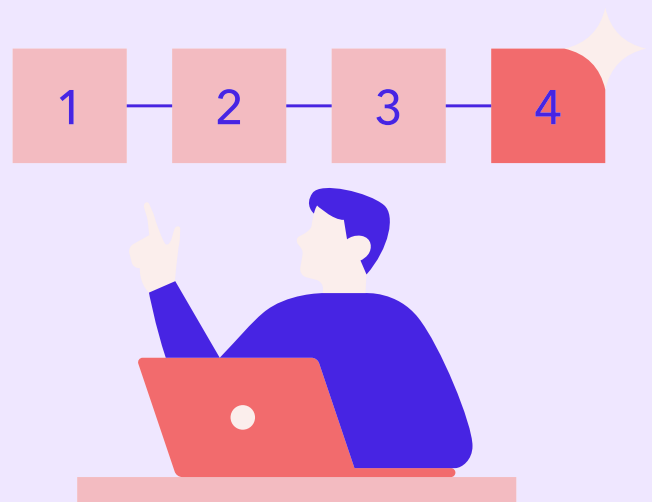
Chapter III: Major Capital Works



The Fiscal Year 2023-24 saw the Dzongkhag Administration effectively allocating and executing capital activities that were critical in nature and significantly contributed towards the sustainable economic development of the country. The budget allocated for this period was utilized with careful consideration, focusing on projects and initiatives that would have a lasting impact on the overall growth and progress of our nation.

The successful execution of these capital activities has had a positive effect on various aspects of our economy. Improved infrastructure have facilitated better connectivity and accessibility, leading to enhanced farm produce. Furthermore, efforts to support agriculture and tourism promotion have contributed to diversification of sources of income for rural population.

The prudent allocation and effective execution of the budget for FY 2023-24 have played an essential role in driving sustainable economic development within our Dzongkhag. These critical capital activities have not only addressed immediate needs but also set us on a path towards long-term prosperity.



1. Blacktopping of Merak GC Road

The completion of the blacktopping of Merak GC road from Khardung to Merak marks a significant infrastructure development project. The construction was carried out in two phases, with Phase I covering the stretch from Sheytami to Merak Gewog center and Phase II spanning from Khardung to Sheytami. The project was funded by the Government of India with the initial budget allocation of Nu. 148 million, that has contributed significantly to the Dzongkhag's development.



The total length of the road measures 37.16km which comprises of Phase I 19.9km and Phase II 17.26km. The road has had a positive impact on approximately 800 households in Merak and Radhi Gewogs, enhancing their livelihoods and overall well-being.

The successful execution of this project was made possible through the efforts of M/s Kharsa Construction and M/s Peljor Lhendup Construction Pvt Ltd.



2. Establishment of Bamboo-based Enterprise

In an effort to promote tourism and improve livelihoods, a bamboo-based enterprise was established at Wangkha, Pasaphu Chiwog, Kangpar Gewog, with funding from UNDP-GEF totaling to Nu. 2.997 million.

This included a machinery hall, bamboo crafting shed with storage space, and toilet facilities. Besides, five bamboo crafting machines were supplied to facilitate production activities.



There are eleven beneficiaries in the group who are working tirelessly towards sustainability and cultural preservation by producing various items such as bangchungs, (shangruru), lag chung, dapa-shaped containers, serving trays, pen cases, fruit baskets, bamboo-made caps, zepchu , sorey, thokay and bamboo cups.

This enterprise holds great promise for not only enhancing economic opportunities but also for preserving traditional Bhutanese culture through the production of these traditional bamboo crafts.

3. Construction of Milk Collection Centre (MCC) at Rangshikhar



The establishment of Milk Collection Center (MCC) at Rangshikhar, Samkhar Gewog, funded by CARLEP at a cost of Nu.1.50 million, is poised to significantly benefit the Tashi Tsheringma Nyamlay Tshogdey dairy cooperative. There are 47 active dairy farmers in Rangshikhar Chiwoog that supplies 320 liters of fresh milk daily to the Koufuku Dairy Processing Plant at Chenary.

The center is expected to play a crucial role in the dairy supply chain and other important functions that are vital for the efficiency, quality, and sustainability of the local dairy industry. These benefits extend to both producers and consumers in the locality.

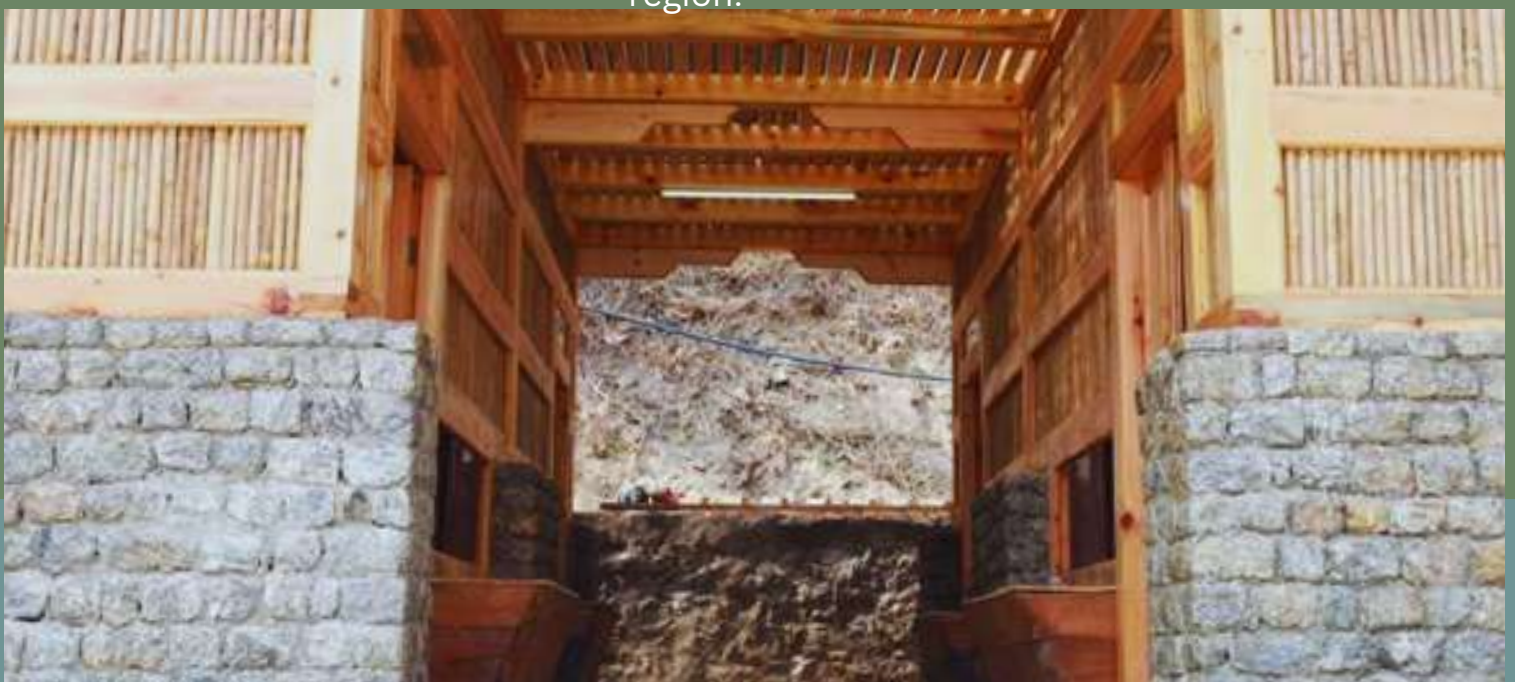
4. DEVELOPMENT OF KHABTEY MENCHU

Traditional hot spring baths, known as Menchus in Bhutan, have been cherished for centuries for their therapeutic and healing properties. These natural springs, rich in minerals like calcium, magnesium, and sulfur, are believed to have the power to alleviate various ailments. Soaking in these warm, mineral-rich waters is thought to improve circulation, relieve joint pain, and soothe skin conditions. The experience of a hot spring bath is not just physical but also deeply spiritual, providing a sense of relaxation and renewal. This initiative represents an important investment in cultural preservation and tourism development within the Dzongkhag, offering potential benefits for both locals and visitors.



With financial support from UNDP-GEF Eco-tourism amounting to Nu.3.129 million, the Dzongkhag had developed the Khabtey Menchu. This traditional Menchu is believed to have medicinal benefits such as, curing piles and joint pain, according to local beliefs.

The healing pond consists of two large and two small wooden ponds (waa), which are designed to accommodate at least eight and four people respectively. This development provides a significant opportunity for the community to access traditional healing practices in a comfortable and accommodating environment. Besides contributing to preserving traditional cultural practices also offers potential opportunities for eco-tourism in the region.



5. CONSTRUCTION OF INCLUSIVE TOILETS

The construction of inclusive toilets for the differently-abled children of Jigme Sherubling Higher Secondary School and Khaling Lower Secondary School is a commendable initiative. The Ministry of Education and Skills Development provided budget in the form of deposit work.

These inclusive toilets will provide essential support for students with disabilities, allowing them to use the facilities with ease and comfort. It's an important step towards creating a more accessible and inclusive environment within these educational institutions, promoting dignity and independence for all students.



6. CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE OF ECCD

Research have concluded that first years of life are critical to the development of a child because they shape cognitive, social and language skills, as well as lifelong approaches to learning. The Education Ministry accord top priority and importance in increasing access and investment in the quality of ECCD programmes.

Accordingly, the Dzongkhag Education Sector had secured additional funds during the year and facilitated construction in collaboration with the Dzongkhag Engineering Cell.



ECCD at Merak



ECCD at Joenkhar



ECCD at Trashigang

CHAPTER IV: GOING BEYOND THE MANDATES

In the last financial year, the Dzongkhag Administration demonstrated its commitment to community and inter-agency collaboration by extending support to various agencies. This was mainly aimed at leveraging technical expertise, and resources and assist other agencies in achieving their goals, by fostering stronger partnerships and contributing to the overall development of our community



Blacktopping of RLDC road



Maintenance of RENEW Community service center

The engineering and human settlement sector provided comprehensive design and cost estimates, ensuring that each project was financially viable and meticulously planned. Taking an active role in project implementation including supervision, guaranteeing that each initiative was executed to the highest standards. For instance, the land record sector played a crucial role in resolving legal disputes as required by the District Court and other agencies.

Stakeholders Benefitted

	<p>1. Divisional Forest Office, Trashigang</p> <p><i>Rendered Assistance for following:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Building a waste segregation facility and incense house2. Repair & maintenance of offices,3. Marking boundaries for timber extraction as a part of the National Thinning Program4. Maintenance of Red Panda trail
	<p>2. Dzongkhag Court, Trashigang</p> <p>Assisted in land demarcation and litigant related services</p>
	<p>3. RENEW Community Service Center, Trashigang</p> <p><i>Rendered Assistance for following:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Preparation of detail estimates.2. Supervision of maintenance work.3. Bills Verification.
	<p>4. Trashigang Cluster Hospital</p> <p><i>Rendered Assistance for following:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Detail Estimates for extension of the microbiology lab,2. Supervision of work execution3. Bills Verification



5. Koufuku International Ltd., Chenary.

Rendered Assistance for following:

1. Detail cost estimate of office store.
2. Internal partition walls.
3. Plumbing works.
4. Wash dug.
5. Electrification.
6. Supervision and bills verification.



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Department of Livestock
Ministry of Agriculture & Livestock

6. RLDC, Khangma

Rendered Assistance for following:

1. Detail cost estimate for road re-surfacing.
2. Modification and upgradation of infrastructure.
3. Supervision and bills verification.



7. BOC Hall, Trashigang

Rendered Assistance for following:

1. Development of Traditional Archery Range.
2. Drainage system.
3. Safety walls and footpaths.

Chapter V: Ad Hoc Activities



1. Million Fruit Tree Project Phase III

The third phase of the Million Fruit Tree Plantation project, which started from February 25 to July 23, 2024, successfully planted 15,623 temperate and 33,745 subtropical plants, incurring an expenditure of Nu. 0.195 million. With 11 different types of fruit trees planted, the project benefited 3,612 people, and almond trees being the highest number of fruit trees planted.

"Sow a seed, taste the future!"

2. VILLAGE HEALTH WORKER TRAINING



The Village Health Workers (VHWs) scheme, introduced in Bhutan in 1978, serves as a crucial link between the health system and communities, particularly in remote areas. Their role has been pivotal in delivering preventive, promotive, and basic curative health services to populations with limited access to formal healthcare.



Recognizing the growing concern of hypertension, which affected around 26,000 Bhutanese in 2022, a one-day training session was held on March 5, 2024, for 47 VHWs from 15 Gewogs. The training focused on blood pressure measurement, monitoring, and the referral of high BP cases to health facilities, aiming to enhance hypertension detection in the community.



3. GIN Network Project

Funded by the GovTech all government offices under the Dzongkhag are now connected to the Government Intranet Network (GIN) via fiber optic cable, except, three metrology units which are scheduled to connect in the second phase. The ICT unit is diligently working to provide these essential services, which are crucial for embracing digital transformation in the 21st century and fostering effective governance.



4. BYE-ELECTION



During the year, the Dzongkhag executed two bye-elections for the post of Mangmis and Tshogpas after resignation by the incumbents. The details of election held and results declared were as below:



Chiwog & Gewog	Date of By-Elections held	Post	Wining Candidates	Percentage of votes secured
Bidung Gewog	17.07.2023	Mangmi	Tenzin Chopel	40
Tongling Chiwog, Radhi Gewog	17.07.2023	Tshogpa	Sherab Jamtsho	69
Shongphu Gewog	29.04.2024	Mangmi	Dhendup Dema	61

As required, the winning candidates were administered Oath of Secrecy on 13 May 2024 and on 10 August 2024 respectively.

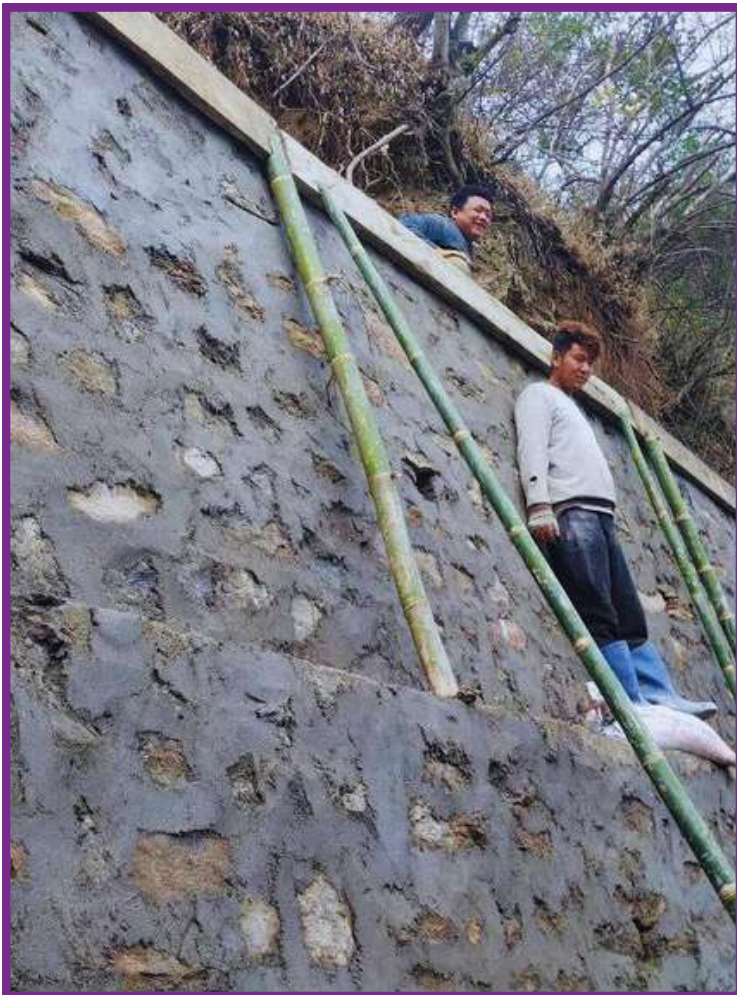


5. DISASTER MITIGATION ACTIVITIES



Construction of retaining wall at Samkhar Lobdra

To support disaster restoration activities, the Dzongkhag Administration has provided assistance to agencies in recovering from a potential disaster. This includes the construction of a retaining wall at Samkhar Lobdra, at the total cost of Nu. 0.30 million.



Construction of wall behind Bank of Bhutan (BoB)

A landslide, caused by leakage from the main water line, has resulted in significant damage to the shear wall, posing a serious threat. This has also led to instability in the pipeline, as well as cracks and weakening of existing retaining wall behind the Bank of Bhutan office.

In response to this urgent situation, the Dzongkhag has provided support for construction of a retaining wall at a cost of Nu. 0.348 million in order to safeguard the lives and properties.

6. Cattle Rally Show, Yangnyer



A "Cattle Rally" was held at Gongthung MSS ground in Yangnyer Gewog on May 10, 2024 on the theme ***"Dairy Renaissance: Pioneering Tomorrow's Success,"*** with a focus on breed improvement and enhancing dairy farming practices.

A total of 69 dairy farmers (28 men and 41 women) participated, gathering a total of 69 cows, including milking cows, gravid cows, dry cows, heifers, and calves, with a total value of Nu. 46,500.00

A total cash prize of Nu. 116,900.00 was awarded, which included Nu. 36,000.00 consolation prizes for the top 20 farmers, Nu. 5,000.00 for the highest milk supplier to KIL, and Nu. 27,600.00 for other participants.

Chapter VI: Greening Trashigang

1. Training to Women Group

With financial support from the Department of Tourism, Dzongkhag Administration organized 21 days training on innovative product development from waste for 30 women group to encourage and facilitate recycling and reuse of materials. The training focused mainly on recycling of rice bags and hard plastic covers. The women group has always been one of the active groups, advertising recycled products in any kinds of major events.



2. Supply of Toy-themed waste bins in town area

Bearing in mind the importance of community engagement and motivation, several toy themed waste bins are placed in strategic locations to encourage our adolescents in managing waste.

Theses Toy themed waste bins are also expected to promote environmental awareness and positive behavior among school going children



3. Mass Plantation of Flowers

"The environment is home to countless living things. Its beauty is unparalleled. We must do everything we can to protect it."

In a single day, we planted over 1,150 bougainvillea flowers, designating vibrant and hardy species as our signature flower plant. This initiative not only enhances the visual appeal of our surroundings but also underscores our commitment to sustainability and environmental stewardship. By selecting bougainvillea, a plant celebrated for its resilience and striking beauty, we aim to create enduring, picturesque landscapes that contribute to local biodiversity while fostering a deeper connection to nature within our community.

Event Snapshot



Planted on



Number of plants



number of participants



4. Friday Beautification work

Every Friday of the week is dedicated for beautification work in and around designated areas. The intention is to beautify our surrounding and dwelling place.

An area covering from Dzong till DVH has been divided into seven zones among Dzongkhag sectors to take up the beautification works.



5. Ban of plastic during major events

During Annual Tshechu and Moenlam Chenmo, the Organizing Committee decided to not use any of plastic cups and mugs to avoid littering of waste. The officials and publics were encouraged to carry their own utensils.

An example of replacing plastic plate with fig tree leaf is one such simple yet effective effort towards avoiding plastic pollution.



6. Waste marathon held

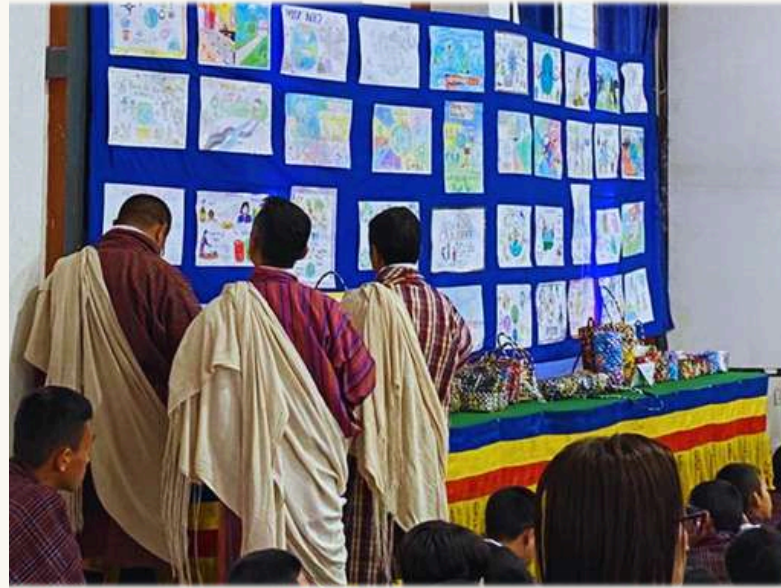
The Dzongkhag joyfully celebrated the auspicious birth of Royal Gyalsem on 9th September, 2023 with a three-day event, culminating in a Waste Marathon on the 11th September. The Dzongkhag staff, regional and corporate offices, along with the business community collected 814.75 kg of waste from four areas, with the Melphey team leading the team with total collection of 343.58 kg. Further, to commemorate the joyous occasion of the birth of the Gyalsem, the Dzongkhag declared September 11 as an Annual Waste Marathon Day to foster collective responsibility in waste prevention and management.

7. Observed International Zero Waste Day

The Dzongkhag observed an International Zero Waste Day on 30th March and carried out cleaning campaign that covered a vast area. This significant cleanup effort resulted in the collection of over 5,000 kilograms of waste, greatly improving cleanliness in the Dzongkhag.



Such programs not only promoted environmental awareness but also actively involved the community in zero waste practices, demonstrating our commitment to sustainability and youth engagement.



ART COMPETITION AND EDUCATIONAL AWARENESS

An art competition was held at Trashigang MSS, centered on the theme "Youth for Zero Waste." This initiative engaged students in creatively expressing their commitment to zero-waste practices, along with an awareness session on transforming waste into business opportunities, inspiring the students with practical insights on waste management entrepreneurship.

"Small acts, big impact—manage your waste!"

Chapter VII: Achievements & Recognition



1. Certificate of Environmental Stewardship

Certificate of Appreciation from the Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources for the outstanding efforts towards environmental stewardship, on World Environment Day (11th June). This recognition highlights our commitment to sustainable practices and environmental protection.

This recognition serves as a testament to our hard work and dedication, motivating us to further our environmental initiatives and set new benchmarks for excellence.

2. Certificate for 100% dog sterilization

With the support and guidance of the (NADPM) and the (RCP), the Dzongkhag successfully carried out a field campaigns for sterilization. As a result, the Dzongkhag achieved 100% sterilization of FRDs.

Altogether, 5,984 dogs were sterilized, and 1,233 pet dogs were microchipped and registered for digital identification.



Chapter VIII: Royal Visits

July 28, 2023

His Majesty The King granted an audience to the Heads of Dzongkhag Administration and Regional Offices at the Dzongkhag Tshogdu Hall from 10:00 PM to 11:50 PM. This audience was part of a nationwide effort to engage with the people of Bhutan about the Gelephu Mindfulness City project before its formal announcement on National Day. His Majesty shared a vision for Bhutan's future as a developed nation, with Gelephu at the heart of this transformation. The participants were deeply inspired by His Majesty's words, motivating them with a renewed sense of hope and commitment to be part of the journey towards a brighter and more prosperous future.

February 20, 2024

His Majesty The King granted an audience to ninety-eight public servants in the Dzongkhag Tshogdu Hall. This meeting was part of ongoing discussions with people across Bhutan about the Gelephu Mindfulness City project. His Majesty emphasized how Bhutan's location and its good standing in the world present a unique opportunity for the country to become a center of excellence. His Majesty's audience deeply inspired those in attendance, motivating them to actively participate in building Gelephu and contributing to Bhutan's future development, instilling a deep sense of commitment and pride.



Her Majesty The Gyalyum Ashi Dorji Wangmo Wangchuck Graces Lumang Gewog

Her Majesty The Queen Mother Ashi Dorji Wangmo Wangchuck visited Trashigang Dzongkhag from October 17-19, 2023 and inspected Tarayana projects.



On October 19th, Her Majesty graced the Exhibition of Local Products at the Lumang Gewog Centre. Her Majesty also inaugurated the Lumang Seed Bank, which supports organic farming and conserves native cereal seeds. Her Majesty interacted with local community and granted Soelra and Tokha to the public.





February 21, 2024

A Special Celebration : His Majesty's 44th Birth Anniversary in Kanglung

As Bhutan celebrated the 44th Birth Anniversary of His Majesty The King, Sherubtse College, Kanglung, had the great honour of receiving His Majesty The King who chose to spend the day with college students and faculty, and the people of Kanglung and Tashigang.

Thousands of people from 15 Gewogs gathered in Kanglung for the opportunity to celebrate His Majesty's Birthday with their King, coming as early as 3 AM in the morning. The celebration was marked by cultural performance by the students of Sherubtse College and the general public. His Majesty also granted a Tokha to the public.

Chapter IX: Visits by Dignitaries



April 6, 2024

The Hon'ble Prime Minister visited Dzongkhag on 6th April and updated officials and LG leaders on the 13th Five-Year Plan (FYP). Key priorities include boosting tourism, enhancing agriculture, and improving public infrastructure. An Economic Stimulus Plan of Nu 15 billion will aid economic revival. Dzongdags will oversee infrastructure quality and set tourism targets.



April 3, 2024

The Hon'ble Opposition Leader and four MPs visited Dzongkhag, where they focused on discussing the draft 13th Five Year Plan, addressing local issues, and enhancing collaboration among Parliament, Central Government, and the Local Government to enhance governance, and public services.



August 21, 2023

The Hon'ble Auditor General and team visited Dzongkhag for an advocacy program. The team emphasized on ethical standards, explaining the Fraud Triangle, and accountability in public sector operation.



September 22, 2023

The Hon'ble Commissioner, Dr. Ugyen Tshewang and team from RCSC held a consultation meeting at the DT Hall on the draft BCSR 2023. The meeting focused on proposed amendments and new provisions in the draft.



October 20, 2023

The Director and team from the National Land Commission (NLC) held a consultation with Dzongkhag on issues related to Tsamdro. The meeting highlighted the urgent need to resolve Tsamdro utilization and management issues.



December 6, 2023

The Dzongkhag Administration made a presentation to the Ambassador of India to Bhutan on an overview of implementation status of SDP/PTA projects and Dzong reconstruction funded by Gol.



June 25, 2024

The Dzongkhag Administration hosted the Hon'ble Attorney General (OAG) and team for a legal advocacy. The team presented on specific laws, legal aid provisions, and other important matters. The program was attended by approximately 74 individuals from various agencies.



CHAPTER X: PROMOTION OF SOCIAL WELLNESS

November 11, 2023



"**Brilliance Blossoms**" is a day-long educational festival organized to commemorate the Birth Anniversary of His Majesty the Fourth Druk Gyalpo and celebrate Children's Day. The event aimed at inspiring and encouraging brilliance among the young minds of Secondary schools of Trashigang Dzongkhag, nurturing them to become responsible and talented citizens of our nation.

In order to foster a culture of learning, innovation, and creativity among students the event provided a platform for students of Middle Secondary Schools (MSS) and Higher Secondary Schools (HSS) to showcase their knowledge, talents, and skills through engaging competitions and exhibitions.

The event included the following activities:

1. Singing Competition

The Singing Competition is a platform dedicated to showcasing their exceptional vocal talents and artistic expressions of young singers, while also celebrating the rich cultural heritage of Bhutan. Participants had the opportunity to display their prowess in three distinct areas of Bhutanese traditional music.

2. Science Innovation Exhibition:

"Technology and Tradition: Bridging the Gap"

The Science Exhibition aimed at inspiring young minds by encouraging the integration of modern technology with traditional Bhutanese practices. It sought to foster appreciation for Bhutan's cultural heritage and promote sustainable development through creative solutions. By bridging tradition and technology, students were expected to contribute to local communities and preserve cultural identity. The exhibition also allowed students to showcase their innovative projects and experiments, promoting curiosity and critical thinking among attendees.

3. Quiz Competition

The program is designed to be an engaging and intellectually stimulating event, aimed at evaluating students' knowledge across diverse subjects, fostering healthy competition, and enhancing their subject proficiency.

November 21-24, 2023

The 249th Annual Dzongkhag Tshechu began with a Thruel ceremony. The festival featured sacred mask dances that illustrated scenes from Guru Rinpoche's life and other Buddhist saints, imparting moral and spiritual lessons. Accompanied by traditional dances performed by local women, the Tshechu attracts thousands of visitors, including those from neighboring Dzongkhags.



As a religious festival, it is believed that attending the Tshechu accumulates merits. It also serves as a major social event where people gather in fine attire to celebrate and enjoy.

December 14, 2023

A session on titled "**Sharing Wisdom by Senior Citizens**" was conducted in Trashigang Town as part of a build-up program for the National Day celebration. It was aimed at motivating youths to learn and explore the rich history of Trashigang. This event was also organized to express deep respect and gratitude to our successive Monarchs for their hard work in creating a secured and peaceful country known as Druk Yul.





December 15, 2023

As a part of the build-up program for the 116th National Day celebration, a 14-kilometer health walk was organized, involving 169 participants from various agencies. The walk commenced at 8:30 AM from the Shingtala Kezang Eco-Trail, traversing through Samkhar and Shingkharthung, and ended at Trashigang MSS football ground. Following the walk, health professionals from Trashigang cluster hospital conducted screenings for non-communicable diseases.

December 17, 2023

The Dzongkhag Administration commemorated the 116th National Day with offering thousands of butter lamps in honor of our successive Monarchs for their profound leadership and sacrifices. The festivities were highlighted at Trashigang Middle Secondary School, where the celebration was marked with great pride. The event also featured a series of awards and rewards, adding a festive and celebratory atmosphere to the 116th National Day observance.



February 24, 2024

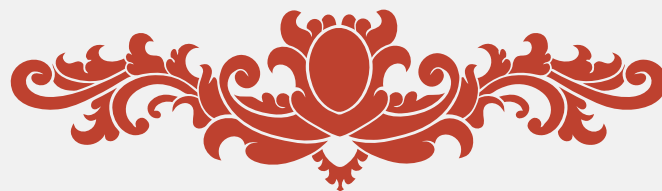
The 13th Dzongkhag Annual Moelam Chhenmo was conducted from 24-28 February, 2024. The Rabdey Lam Neten presided over the five days Moelam Chenmo.

The ceremony is organized to promote peace, prosperity, and for the well-being of all sentient beings.



May 18, 2024

A choeshey layrim on **Bardho Theodrel** was held from 18-31 May, 2024 presided over by Khenpo Tenzin Thinley of Phongmey Gewog. The program was attended by approximately over 157 heads comprising public servants, business community and local residents.





Chapter XI: Challenges

Some of the challenges that Dzongkhag encountered during the year were:

1. Resignation of teachers during the midst of academic year hampered academic session.

Dzongkhag has faced high attrition rate particularly in teaching faculties. Resignation of teachers in quick succession dented the morale of other colleagues in the functioning of schools. At one point of time, there were more than 80 vacant slots across fifty six schools. One of the Middle Secondary Schools functioned without both Principal and Vice Principal for the whole academic year.

2. Non-availability of key officials impeded service delivery

In an era of rapid transformation and rising societal expectations, the roles of Planning Officer and Economic Development & Marketing Officer (EDMO) are indispensable. Despite several submission to fill up the vacant posts of Planning Officer and EDMO, the post continued to remain vacant and impedes service delivery.

Similarly, against five approved post under Education Sector, there are only two officers running the Sector.

3. Old fleet of pool vehicles poses great risk to lives of end users

The Dzongkhag is known for good connectivity and accessibility. However, the current fleet of pool vehicles are old and there is imminent risk to lives of end users. For instance, the TOYOTA Hilux under Dzongkhag Veterinary Hospital is now running more than 23 years and one pool remain stranded at Sakteng road after mechanical failure apparently due to its age factor.

4. Complexity and time consuming regulatory functions of an Environment Section

The Dzongkhag Environment Section is maned by a single officer while the mandates cut across entire fifteen Gewogs and three Drungkhag Administration. Besides facing challenge in terms of regulatory compliance due to complexity and time consuming nature of environmental standards, the service delivery is hampered when the official is either on leave or undergo medical treatment. The demand for service of Environment Officer is on rising trend due to increasing developmental activities in the Dzongkhag.

5. Disasters resilience remain a distance dream

Devastating natural disasters have caused tragic losses of life and widespread destruction in other Dzongkhags. Trashigang Dzongkhag too is exposed to risk of disasters due to steep terrain and fragile landscape. Forest fires in winter season and landslides during monsoon are the two top disasters that remain widespread in the Dzongkhag. With lack of knowledge and trained personnel on disaster management, the Dzongkhag find itself ill prepare and lack of strengthen to response to crises.

The background of the image is a photograph of a traditional Chinese building, possibly a government or institutional structure, with multiple stories and a prominent roof. The entire image is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue filter. The text is centered and reads:

**PRIORITIES
FOR
FINANCIAL
YEAR
2024-25**

1. Celebrate Rhododendron Week at Sheytemi under Merak Gewog.

- In the month of April 2025, the Dzongkhag Administration will celebrate the Rhododendron Week at Sheytemi (2970 msl) under Merak Gewog. The event is to be recognized as the signature event to showcase its natural beauty and promote community based tourisms.
- Two highland Gewogs of Merak and Sakteng are known for 41 species of Rhododendron Flower.

2. Set up Craft Market cum Farmers' sales Outlet at Kheri, Pam

- By May 2025, the Dzongkhag will have a well set up Craft Market cum Farmers' sales Outlet at Kheri tri junction under Samkhar Gewog. The place is to become a point of marketing the locally available products.

3. Promotion of Chenla Nye as the main pilgrimage site

- Under UNDP-GEF funding, the basic amenities such as canopy, water supply, rest rooms etc. will be completed for the visitors to Chenla Guru Nye under Kangpar Gewog and promote as the much sought after pilgrimage site in the Dzongkhag.



4. Revitalize the Sunday market for sale of local vegetables

- The Sunday Market was initially started in February 2023 to encourage production and sale of local vegetables for income generation by rural populace. While there is huge surge in the sale of local vegetables, it is currently sold in an open place that causes inconveniences to both sellers and buyers.
- The Dzongkhag Agriculture Sector had secured Nu.1.50 million from CARLEP to revitalize the Sunday Market to create necessary ambience for both sellers and buyers. The construction of market sheds will be over and operationalize by October 2024

5. Hiking trail from Thromde to Deothjung.

- This trail will connect Trashigang town to Deothjung Resort, a popular destination for many tourists. It will offer visitors a scenic route to explore the natural beauty of the area, providing an alternative for those who wish to experience the region's rich landscapes and biodiversity up close.
- The trail will not only enhance the outdoor experience for tourists but also promote eco-tourism, supporting local businesses and encouraging longer stays. Additionally, it will serve as a recreational option for locals, contributing to healthier lifestyles and fostering a stronger connection with nature.

6. Establish Tshowoongpaktor LUC as an integrated farm

- In collaboration with line agencies, the Dzongkhag will revitalize the Tsowoongpaktor LUC as Integrated and a model farm in the Dzongkhag, focusing on sustainable agriculture and livestock production. The farm is strategically located and will be designed to address key challenges in agriculture and rural development towards achieving an overarching national goal of increasing the Livestock Sector's GDP contribution from Nu.5 billion to Nu.50 billion by the end of the 13th FYP.



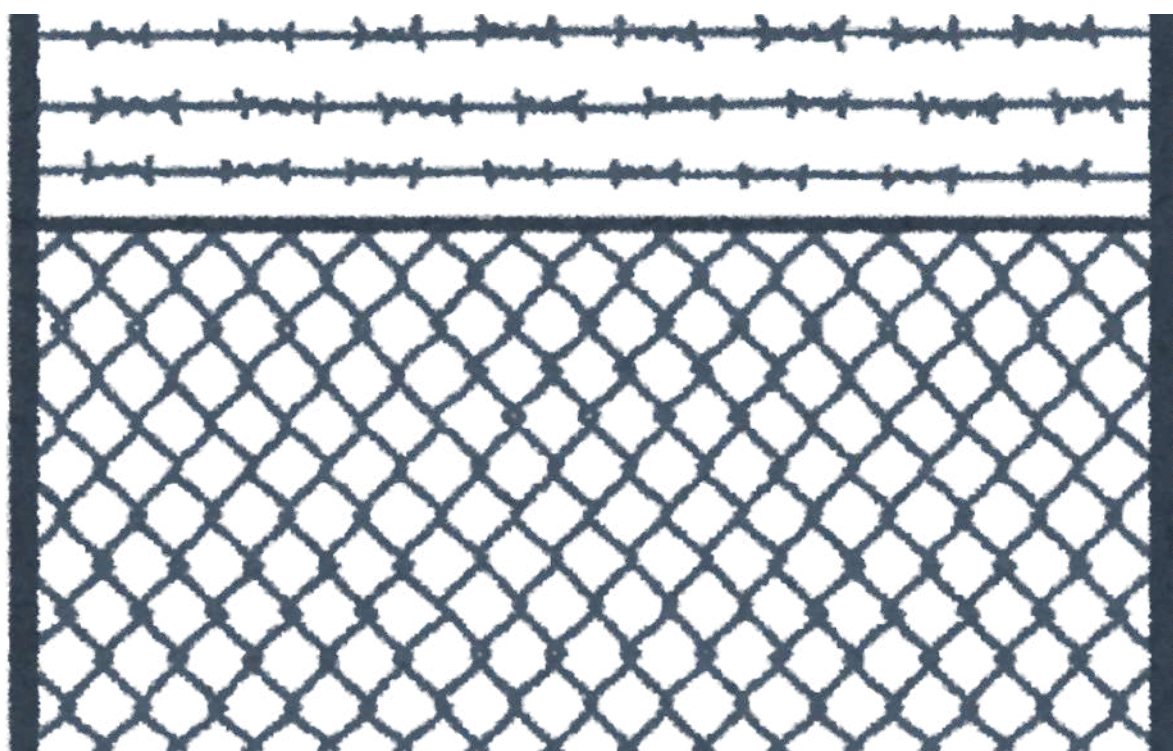


7. Chain link fencing in three prioritize locations

Rural communities are constantly facing the challenges of human-wildlife conflict. The provision of chain link fencing has huge scope to secure operation of the farms and to enhance agriculture and livestock productions.

Based on set criteria of the Ministry and fund allocated, the Dzongkhag has prioritized chain link fencing in three locations as tabulated below:

Sl.no	Gewog	Site	Crop prioritized	Length in KM	Fund (Nu. in million)
1	Radhi	Jekhar-Duwang	Paddy	3.5	5.30
2	Lumang	Khargoen	Maize	8	12.00
3	Kangpara	Upper and Lower Kangpara	Paddy	5.5	8.30
Total					25.6





Conclusion

The Annual Report for FY 2023-24 outlines both the progress made and the obstacles encountered. Our vision "Towards Thrilling Trashigang" remains strong, but it will require innovative solutions and collaborative efforts to ensure that the Dzongkhag thrives economically and socially. By addressing the core issues of human capital retention, investing in capacity building, and fostering economic growth, we can create a sustainable future for our community.

It is imperative that the challenges highlighted in this report are addressed, to not only stem the outflow of skilled professionals but also to ensure that Trashigang continues to be a vibrant and progressive Dzongkhag for future generations.

TRASHI DELEK!



Dzongkhag's Five Core Values

We should always guard against the ten (10) non-virtuous acts (**Me Gewa Chuu**) in our daily life, particularly the below-mentioned three:

- a) **BODY**: Never claim what is NOT admissible (**Ma-jin Pa Lenpa pang go**)
- b) **SPEECH**: Avoid telling lies or fabrication of documents (**Zuen pang go**)
- c) **MIND**: Never disrespect Laws, Rules, or instructions (**LokTa pang go**)





"Towards Thrilling Trashigang"

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