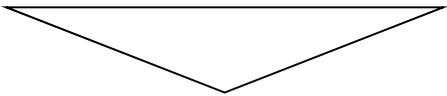




**DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA TRANSITIONAL INTERIM
COUNTRY STRATEGIC PLAN
(YEAR 2018)**

Duration (starting date – end date)	1 January – 31 December 2018
Total cost to WFP	USD 52,638,593
Gender and Age Marker Code	2a

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



The humanitarian situation in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea has improved slightly in recent years, but it remains fragile and the causes of vulnerability persist due to chronic food insecurity and recurring natural disasters. As a result of the restrictions on international trade and investment under the United Nations Security Council sanctions, food security outlook is negatively affecting the population.

Providing an adequate well-balanced diet for the population of 24.8 million is the central element of the country's development strategy. But, over 18 million people do not have sufficiently diversified diet. The 2012 national nutrition survey showed that chronic malnutrition among children had fallen from 32.4 percent to 27.9 percent since 2009, but indicated a rapid increase in stunting among children under three years. Among children under five years, 28 percent suffer from chronic malnutrition and four percent from acute malnutrition; the lack of dietary diversity in the average household has not changed over the past five years.

In addition, the effects of natural hazards are exacerbated by deforestation and weak infrastructure; building community resilience through disaster preparedness, mitigation and response is a government priority, but a challenge.

World Food Programme (WFP) will continue to support the Government through the Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation 200907 (1 July 2016 - 31 December 2018) in addressing chronic and acute malnutrition among children and pregnant and lactating women, and helping men and women become more resilient to natural disasters in line with Sustainable Development Goal 2 and World Food Programme's Strategic Objective 2 under World Food Programme's Strategic Plan (2017-2021). The transitional interim country strategic plan (1 January - 31 December 2018) supports the first strategic priority – food and nutrition security – of the United Nations Strategic Framework 2017–2021 for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

World Food Programme's engagement in the country in 2018 will support the country in ending hunger and reducing malnutrition by 2030 through three strategic outcomes: i) improve children and pregnant and lactating women's nutrition status in the targeted areas by reducing micronutrient deficiencies through increased consumption of quality and nutrient-dense food; ii) reduce risks and enhance food security and resilience to the vulnerable people in the disaster prone areas; and iii) improve access to food to the crisis affected people all year round.

A Letter of Understanding between the Government and World Food Programme is expected to provide favourable operating conditions. World Food Programme will continue key partnerships with the Government, United Nations agencies and European Union Units including with Rome-based agencies, and coordination efforts to successfully implement the transitional interim country strategic plan.

1. COUNTRY ANALYSIS

1.1. COUNTRY CONTEXT

1. Despite efforts to achieve agricultural self-sufficiency, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPR Korea) does not produce enough food to feed its population. The country has experienced widespread food shortages since the mid-1990s. Food and nutrition security remains a significant challenge. Food consumption at the household level is limited in quantity, and 73 percent of the population does not eat a sufficiently diverse diet. WFP's mid-term review in July 2014 of the ongoing operation found that the population consumes 25 percent less protein and 30 percent less fat per person than the required amount for a healthy life. One in three children aged 6-59 months, and nearly half of children aged 12-23 months, are anaemic.
2. The Government's Public Distribution System (PDS), established over seven decades ago, continues to provide food rations, but consistently at lower levels than its target of an average of 573 grams per person per day. In 2016, DPR Korea had a global hunger index score of 28.6, classified as "serious" and largely unchanged from the previous year¹. Food production in DPR Korea is constrained by both human-induced and natural factors.
3. Insufficient arable land, over-cultivation, low levels of irrigation, low mechanisation, and scarcity of quality fertilizers and pesticides are all underlying causes of food insecurity. In addition, inclement weather shortens the cropping season and droughts are common. Mountains and upland slopes comprise 80 percent of the country's terrain, and historic food and energy shortages have forced people to cultivate on steep slopes, as well as cut trees for fuel. As a result, the country is prone to flash floods, landslides and dangerous flows of debris, which undermine the country's food security outlook further. In 2016, heavy rainfall at the end of August in the north led to some of the worst floods the country has recently experienced. It affecting 143,000 people who either partially or completely lost their homes.
4. DPR Korea's political and economic isolation from the rest of the world also negatively affects its food security outlook. During the first six months of 2016 when the Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO) 200532 was active, the country was under sanctions mandated by United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1718 (2006), 1874 (2009), 2087 (2013), 2094 (2013) and 2270 (2016). On 30 November 2016, the United Nations Security Council passed Resolution 2321, which strengthened sanctions on DPR Korea.

1.2. PROGRESS TOWARDS SDG 2

Progress on SDG 2 targets

5. **Access to Food.** WFP's 2015 Food Security and Nutrition Assessment (FSNA) found that in households with a child aged 6–23 months, the quality and quantity of food consumed were limited; this finding was consistent with WFP's mid-term review of PRRO 200532 in November 2014. Food diversity in the average household has been regularly below acceptable levels for the past five years. A particular concern is that the population consumes 25 percent less protein and 30 percent less fat than are required for a healthy life. Diets are generally poorer in towns because access to kitchen gardens is limited. Markets are of increasing importance for household access to food.
6. The most recent nationwide crop and food security assessment by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and WFP in coordination with the Government was in 2013. It is supplemented by FAO's periodic early-warning report on

¹ The 2016 Global Hunger Index, the International Food Policy Research Institute.

agricultural production and food security, which shows limited national production and a lack of diversity.

7. In urban areas, PDS dependants without kitchen gardens or relatives at cooperative farms are particularly vulnerable to food insecurity, especially during the May - August lean season. Coping mechanisms include reliance on family support, collecting wild foods, reducing serving sizes and adding water to meals. At harvest time, cooperative farmers receive an average annual cereal allocation of 260 kg/person; farmers are generally better protected against food shocks than PDS dependants.
8. **End Malnutrition.** Food security and nutrition status in DPR Korea are linked. Indicators of mother-and-child undernutrition remain high: young children and pregnant and lactating women in particular suffer from chronic malnutrition because their diets lack vitamins, minerals, proteins and fats.
9. The 2012 national nutrition survey by the Government, WFP, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Health Organization (WHO) found that 85 percent of children under two years and 50 percent of pregnant and lactating women had insufficient dietary diversity. Rates of anaemia are 29 percent among children and 31 percent among women. Without nutritional care, stunted and wasted children will continue to suffer from poor growth. Regional disparities are significant: stunting rates are close to the WHO 40 percent "critical" level in some north-eastern areas.²
10. WFP's 2015 FSNA showed the same general picture. The assessment, which focused on children aged 6–59 months in WFP-supported nurseries located in 85 counties in eight provinces, found that the overall rate of stunting was 25.4 percent and that the prevalence increased rapidly during the first three years of life. Little difference was found in nutritional outcomes for boys and girls. The need for prevention of stunting in the first 1,000 days of life is evident. Of the children in WFP-supported nurseries, 81 percent consume most of their daily food there, largely rice, soya milk, fruits, vegetables and fortified blended food. This constitutes a generally adequate diet because fortified blended food provides additional fats, nutrients and minerals.
11. **Disasters Affect Food Security.** Droughts have affected agricultural production since the 1990s and contributed to the removal of forests on hilly land where farming was extended to meet food and fuel needs. Vulnerability to food insecurity was particularly evident in the 2015 drought following several years of below-average rainfall; this was followed by severe floods in August 2015 and August 2016. Below-average precipitation associated with the 2015 El Niño could also affect DPR Korea.
12. **The United Nations Assurances.** The United Nations system is committed to address the most immediate needs of food and nutrition security in a variety of tried and tested ways, focusing especially on the most vulnerable groups, including children, pregnant and lactating women, and the elderly. It will do this by providing institutionally-targeted supplementary feeding, and by promoting a more diversified diet. It will also treat moderately and severely malnourished children, promote optimal infant and young child feeding practices, address micronutrient deficiencies, and support de-worming.
13. Similarly, enhanced processing can improve basic livelihoods and the wherewithal to buy supplementary supplies when necessary. Improving livelihoods and increasing productivity is thus likely to enhance the ability of the population to exercise better nutrition and food choices. Support to Government efforts in all these areas will be a major focus of the United Nations efforts in the coming years.

² <http://www.who.int/nutgrowthdb/en/>

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14. ***Sustainable food systems.*** Government figures show that the 2015 crop yield was 11.4 percent less than in the 2014 yield, following two years of low rainfall leading to droughts and shortages of irrigation water. The declining food-security situation is reflected in the decrease of the rations provided by the PDS for 18 million people: 30 percent of PDS consumers are cooperative farmers, and 70 percent are dependent on the PDS for access to food. The Government determines PDS ration sizes for cereals, cooking oil and pulses on the basis of production estimates and planned imports. Cereals are distributed through Public Distribution Centers; non-cereals are provided through state shops.
 15. In order to achieve food security, the DPR Korea has implemented a number of measures aimed at increasing national food crop production. However, an additional strategy remains to be actively pursued, namely that of maximizing agricultural production by mitigating pre- and post-harvest losses, which are currently estimated to account for approximately 16 percent of national cereal production. The problem is even more acute when considering losses from other links in the postharvest chain.
 16. Strategically, the most important priority is to expand the country's own food production, so that supply levels are sufficient to feed the population properly and to carry it through short-term shortfalls and ensure that all citizens have the right to food. This priority therefore extends beyond food crop production to include livestock, fisheries and horticulture. It encompasses household production, as well as that of cooperative farms, and it requires a focus on agricultural research and extension.

Macroeconomic environment

17. Data from the Bank of Korea (Republic of Korea's central bank)³ shows that economy of the DPR Korea contracted by 1.1 percent in 2015, mainly owing to significant contractions in the manufacturing and utilities sectors. It is estimated a modest pick-up in economic fortunes in 2016, owing to improvement in the agricultural sector.
18. The forecast accounts for the United Nations Security Council sanctions, which will continue to hurt local businesses and government revenue in 2017-18. It is important to note that, on the whole, the sanctions will not push the DPR Korea into recession, as the country has already been isolated for many years.
19. Despite the creation of new special economic zones and more market-oriented management, the lack of substantial reform means that the economy may remain weak. In addition, some countries have expanded their bilateral sanctions against DPR Korea.

Key cross-sectorial linkages

20. DPR Korea has made progress in the area of gender equality in education, labour force participation and access to health care. Nevertheless, significant gaps remain with only 28 percent of girls enrolled in tertiary education, a clustering of women in traditionally gendered occupations, a high rate of maternal mortality (65.9/100,000 live births) and high levels of malnutrition among pregnant women (28 percent) and girls. This reflects issues of equality and inclusiveness in the delivery of health and education services which leaves women and girls more vulnerable to the effects of the ongoing underfunded humanitarian situation. At the same time, it highlights the need for a more nuanced gender responsive strategy that can address underlying causes of gender-based disparities and inequalities.

³ The Economist Intelligence Unit

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21. To date, efforts made by international agencies have focused on addressing gender issues through women-centered activities, including quotas for women beneficiaries and trainees in capacity building initiatives. Whilst these targeted interventions to protect the rights of women and girls have been beneficial and will continue, it requires adopting a more strategic approach to gender mainstreaming taking into consideration different experiences, needs, abilities and priorities of women, girls, boys and men. To this end, it is important to sustained collection and use of data disaggregated by sex, age and other variables, as well as thorough gender analyses. A Gender Task Force comprising agency gender focal points, established in 2016, will support and monitor these efforts.
 22. Although there has been a remarkable progress in bringing down morbidity and mortality caused by conventional communicable diseases, the country is not fully prepared for the emergence or importation of newly emerging infectious diseases. Nor has it yet been able to meet the core capacities required under the International Health Regulations (IHR 2005) to which the Government of DPR Korea has committed.
 23. Progress in the water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) sector has continued, but there is still a significant shortfall, especially in access to, and the quality of sanitation facilities. While 77 percent of households have access to piped water, only about 50 percent of schools and health facilities do so, and for nurseries, the figure is as low as 38 percent. Moreover, an estimated 20 percent of the population do not have access to adequate sanitation facilities, with other related challenges in terms of waste management. “Virtual open defecation”, a condition resulting from the use of undecomposed faecal matter to make compost manure, has a negative impact on the health and nutritional status of the population.
 24. DPR Korea is a state party to several of the most important environmental conventions: the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Kyoto Protocol, the Montreal Protocol, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, and several others. Recently, it signed the Paris Agreement, with its commitment to prepare its own Intended Nationally Determined Contribution to global efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and curtail global warming. However, like many countries, it struggles to implement the commitments it has made under these and other treaties.
 25. Historical data shows that DPR Korea has been affected by natural disasters of varying severity most years. Between 2004 and 2016, over six million people have been affected by natural disasters, mostly floods and droughts, including in 2015 and 2016 when the country was affected by both drought and flooding in many parts of the country.
 26. Given its vulnerability to extreme weather events, DPR Korea also needs the United Nations' support to build its capacity for disaster preparedness; vulnerability mapping and risk reduction; as well as the management of the national response when a disaster occurs. Furthermore, awareness of heritage protection in facilitating the formulation of an inclusive, sustainable and resilient urbanization shall be emphasized at both national and community levels, with a vision to achieve participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlements.

1.3. HUNGER GAPS AND CHALLENGES

27. According to the 2016 Global Hunger Index (GHI), published by the International Food Policy Research Institute, Concern Worldwide and Welthungerhilfe, which measures and tracks hunger worldwide, DPR Korea has a score of 28.6, classified as ‘serious’ and ranks

98th out of 118 countries. Chronic food insecurity, early childhood malnutrition and nutrition insecurity are widespread in DPR Korea.

28. The majority of the country is mountainous. Only 17 percent of land is good for cultivation. Agriculture also remains dependent on traditional farming methods. Food production is hampered by a lack of agricultural inputs, such as quality seeds, proper fertilizer and equipment. In addition, changing weather patterns have left DPR Korea vulnerable to droughts and floods, which have affected agricultural production.
29. In nutrition, the 2013 CFSAM recommended that efforts should go toward improving dietary diversity and feeding practices for young children and women through strategies such as behavioural change, market reform and encouraging livestock and fish production; strengthening treatment of severe and moderate acute malnutrition; and better hygiene and sanitation practices.
30. Dietary quality for many people in DPR Korea is poor, with limited consumption of foods that are rich in protein, fat and micronutrients, resulting in problems related to undernourishment including physical and cognitive development concerns. According to the last National Nutrition Survey, conducted in 2012, the prevalence of chronic malnutrition (stunting) among under-five children was 27.9 percent and the prevalence of acute malnutrition (wasting) was four percent. In addition, 23.3 percent of women of reproductive age were also malnourished.
31. Micronutrient deficiencies, particularly iron, zinc, vitamin A and iodine, are common. A 2014 Ministry of Public Health Report noted that 31.2 percent of pregnant women are anaemic and the prevalence of low birth weight was five percent. In addition to a lack of access to diverse and sufficient food, undernutrition is exacerbated by inadequate health, water, sanitation and hygiene services.
32. In DPR Korea, around 18 million people, or 70 percent of the population, including 1.3 million under-five children, depend on the PDS for rations of cereal and potatoes. However, even with PDS support most people do not consume an adequately diverse diet that includes sufficient proteins and fats needed for healthy development. During 2016, average monthly PDS rations were reduced from 380 grams/person/day at the beginning of the year to 300 grams/person/day between July and September; the equivalent of just over 50 percent of the daily calorific requirements for an adult. During January to March 2017, the rations were increased to 400 grams/person/day. Fluctuations over the year are normal, but overall, PDS rations are consistently lower than the Government target.
33. In addition to the PDS, households are increasingly reliant on markets for their foods, except cereals. Farmers' markets are distribution channels for a wide range of foods and basic necessities. In addition to swaps and bartering, markets involve large numbers of small transactions, often led by women.
34. Markets enable households to sell produce from their kitchen gardens; vegetables, maize and potatoes, as well as some small livestock. Most food is produced on some 3,900 cooperative farms, with 100 state farms focusing on specialized activities such as poultry or pig breeding. The cooperative farm sector is responsible for ensuring national self-sufficiency in the staples of maize and rice, and increasingly also potatoes. Members of cooperative farms are not eligible to receive PDS rations, but have access to kitchen garden plots (approx. 30m²), which provide essential vegetables, maize and some livestock, helping diversify peoples' diet. In urban areas, plots of land near apartments are cultivated by small groups while 'sloping lands', initially cultivated during the 1990s,

have been organized into users' groups in order to contribute to informal agricultural production.

35. Compounding existing vulnerabilities are the frequent disasters that hit DPR Korea. The International Association for Statistical Computing (IASC) Index for Risk Management ranks DPR Korea 39 out of 191 countries in terms of disaster risk. Floods and drought, sometimes both in the same year, regularly strike the country.
36. Droughts have become increasingly common over the past decade, destabilizing agricultural production and food security in the long term. Long dry spells recur in the period from March to June 2015, which is a peak time for crop planting as well as rice transplanting. Major droughts affected DPR Korea most recently in 2014 and 2015 when humanitarian partners responded by providing life-saving assistance to 1.3 million people in the four worst affected provinces.
37. In 2012, the Ministry of Land and Environment Protection estimated that over the period 1918 to 2000, average temperatures rose by 1.9°C, one of the highest rates of temperature change in the world. In DPR Korea, climate change has already produced visible impacts, with the degradation of natural resources negatively affecting agricultural production.
38. In addition, an increase in the frequency of heavy rains in recent years has contributed to recurrent floods. Major floods have hit the country every year from 2010 to 2016. These floods, combined with land and mudslides, caused extensive damage to agricultural production, further exacerbating food insecurity and creating new humanitarian needs.
39. There are ongoing challenges in availability and access to data in DPR Korea, including a chronic shortage of timely, verifiable data related to food security and nutrition. The last Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission (CFSAM) was conducted by FAO and WFP in 2013. Since then, the Government has not agreed to a new CFSAM, justifying that it has the capacity to conduct its own equivalent process. Similarly, the last National Nutrition Survey was conducted in 2012. However, UNICEF is planning a Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS) for 2017, and UNFPA a census in 2018. All information in DPR Korea is controlled by the Government, particularly through the Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS).
40. Despite WFP's sustained focus on nutrition support for young children and pregnant and lactating women over the last decade, official recognition by the Government of WFP's mandate in the area of nutrition is still weak. Rather, WFP is viewed as a 'food aid' provider and is assessed by the commodity tonnages that are brought into the country. To date, WFP has not been able to establish a stable relationship with the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH), which is critical in order to evolve our operation beyond providing 'food aid'. Changing WFP's perceived role in the Government's development plan will require a strategic shift at the highest level. Future negotiations for a Country Strategic Plan (CSP) should take into consideration to ensure that the Government agrees with WFP's needs-based programming approach.

1.4. KEY COUNTRY PRIORITIES

Government priorities

41. The DPR Korea Government has endorsed all Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and has stated its commitment to achieving food security and improve the well-being of its people. The Government's management of the development process is particular to its political, economic and social system based on the philosophy of complete self-reliance.

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42. The central source of national strategies, policies and priorities is the Five-Year Strategy delivered by the Leader at the Seventh Party Congress in May 2016 and the Leader’s New Year address in January 2017. The Government of DPR Korea has prioritized the improvement of living conditions; this included a requirement that the agricultural sector adapts scientific farming to increase crop yield. Farming, animal husbandry, fishing, and production of fruits, mushrooms and vegetables sectors are encouraged to contribute to enriching people’s diets, and agricultural workers are urged to maximize production.
43. The National Nutrition Strategy and Action Plan (2014–2018) aims to reduce malnutrition among children and women. The National Agroforestry Strategy and Action Plan (2015–2024) recognizes that deforestation, land degradation and natural disasters threaten people’s livelihoods. The 2015 Law on Disaster Prevention, Relief and Recovery provides guidelines for protecting people’s lives and state property. All information in DPR Korea is controlled by the Government, particularly through the CBS, with which WFP works and which releases official data when required for specific purposes.
44. The lack of updated data makes it difficult to accurately estimate the number of food insecure people in DPR Korea. In the absence of a better measure, partners are working on the understanding that 18 million people who depend on the PDS for monthly rations, in view of the fluctuations in ration size, are vulnerable to food insecurity. In addition to general food insecurity most people do not consume an adequately diverse diet, which reinforces cycles of undernutrition particularly amongst women and children. It is estimated that around 10.5 million people, or 41 percent of the country’s population, is undernourished.

United Nations and other partners

45. The United Nations country team comprises six resident agencies⁴ and eight non-resident agencies. The United Nations Strategic Framework (UNSF) for 2017–2021 governs the work of the United Nations in supporting the Government. UNSF for 2017–2021 identifies four strategic priorities, which the United Nations will seek to address at the country level, working in support of Government programmes:
- Food and nutrition security
 - Social development services
 - Resilience and sustainability
 - Data and development management
46. Through the interventions, the United Nations aims to contribute to the Government’s effort in achieving gender equalities.
47. According to 2017 DPR Korea Needs and Priorities, at the request of the Government, UNICEF in collaboration with the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) scaled up and expanded the coverage of the Community Management of Acute Malnutrition programme from 16 percent of the under-five population in 2015 to 90 percent in 2016. UNICEF field observations and Government data over this time period show significant increase in demand for treatment of children affected by severe acute malnutrition (SAM). Some 60,000 SAM children are expected to be treated in 2017.
48. In 2005, the Government announced that non-governmental organizations should leave DPR Korea, but it was agreed that some would continue to operate as European Union

⁴ FAO, UNICEF, the United Nations Development Programme, UNFPA, WFP and WHO.

programme support units.⁵ The Red Cross and several bilateral organizations remain in the country.⁶

49. The food security and agriculture sector supports the Government's goal to improve people's living standard by increasing crop yields, livestock, fish farming, and production of fruits, mushrooms, and vegetables. This is fundamental to broaden people's access to adequate and nutritious foods. In 2017, the Food Security Sector will prioritize: provision of agricultural inputs, such as fertilizer, seeds and small farming equipment and small livestock, particularly in areas vulnerable to the impact of climate change; support for communities to restore degraded lands to increase food production; provision of assistance in nutrition-based agriculture and sloping land management; food assistance to vulnerable population groups; and capacity building for agriculture-based resilience and disaster risk management.
50. Food Security and Nutrition sectors work closely together to improve the nutritional situation in DPR Korea. In particular, the Food Security sector provides quantitative and qualitative information through Food Security and Agriculture reports published three times per year, as well as through periodic technical bulletins. By sharing relevant information on the evolving situation in agricultural production the sector creates a better understanding of the links between malnutrition and food security.
51. The Nutrition Sector will maintain its proactive approach to addressing undernutrition with a focus on the importance of the first 1,000 days of life, which is at the heart of nutrition related advocacy. A focus on maternal and adolescent nutrition will also be integrated. Ongoing support for implementation and further scaling-up of nutrition-specific interventions, such as promotion of optimum Infant and Young Child Feeding practices, dietary supplements for children and women, micronutrient supplements and services for the prevention and treatment of severe acute malnutrition will be continued.

2. STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS FOR WFP

52. WFP partners with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' National Coordinating Committee to implement its nutrition assistance, disaster risk reduction programmes and emergency responses. The partnership facilitates WFP's access to the 60 counties in nine provinces and links WFP with the relevant ministries. Fortified blended foods and fortified biscuits are produced in eleven factories in eight provinces and cities in partnership with the Government.

2.1. WFP'S EXPERIENCE AND LESSONS LEARNED

53. WFP has delivered 4.6 million mt of food assistance to DPR Korea since 1995 through emergency operations and PRROs. WFP's assistance, which focused on children and pregnant and lactating women aimed to enhance food security through nutrition support, local production of fortified blended foods, and food for community development. The fortified foods provide micronutrients, fats and proteins to promote physical and intellectual development.

⁵ Première Urgence, Save the Children, Concern Worldwide, Deutsche Welthungerhilfe, Triangle and Handicap International.

⁶ International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), the International Committee of the Red Cross, and Red Crescent.

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54. Local production has been central to WFP's work since 1998: up to 14 factories have produced fortified biscuits and fortified blended foods. Since 1996, food for community development projects have focused on dredging rivers and repairing embankments, planting trees, levelling land and improving soils, in line with the Government's priorities for disaster risk reduction and agroforestry. Communities, particularly women had a significant role in the projects, which were implemented in spring and autumn; the Government provided significant in-kind contributions. To improve the gender gap, WFP involved 60 percent women participants in FDRR activities. Moreover, women were given priorities for the non-food items (e.g. boots, gloves, tools etc.) to encourage their participations.
 55. A monitoring and evaluation (M&E) process review in July 2016 led to the adaptation of monitoring tools in accordance with the 2017-2021 Corporate Results Framework (Outcome and Output Indicator Compendium); and electronic tablets for monitoring were introduced in June 2015.
 56. Negotiations for the current PRRO resulted in an informal agreement where WFP focuses 70 percent of its resources on nutrition assistance and 30 percent on Food for Disaster Risk Reduction (FDRR). The underlining conditions of this agreement are stipulated in a prioritization strategy. WFP will only implement FDRR activities when nutrition assistance is fully funded.

2.2. OPPORTUNITIES FOR WFP

57. WFP has the largest international programme of any agency in DPR Korea, including the widest monitoring outreach in the country. The current operation targets 60 counties in nine provinces, down from 87 counties in the previous operation. The reduced outreach reflects the shrinking resources for WFP in DPR Korea. A Letter of Understanding (LoU) between the Government and WFP provides favourable operating conditions in the country, similar to those in place for previous operations. It also includes an agreed prioritization strategy to guide the allocation of resources in the face of funding constraints.
58. The volume of food commodities that WFP delivers has an impact on the operations' geographical outreach. Therefore, increased funding may create further opportunities to expand our operations in additional counties.

3. WFP STRATEGIC ORIENTATION

3.1. DIRECTION, FOCUS AND INTENDED IMPACTS

59. PRRO 200907 has a duration of 2.5 years, from July 2016 to December 2018, and the Transitional- interim Country Strategic Plan (T-ICSP) will be implemented during the final year of the PRRO (January - December 2018). The shift from the PRRO to the T-ICSP does not require a major change in the funding requirements for WFP's activities in DPR Korea. Unless a significant natural disaster takes place or if the operation faces major funding shortfalls, no budget revision is foreseen for PRRO 200907 between 2017 and end 2018.
60. This T-ICSP aims to continue efforts to prevent undernutrition and reduce micronutrient deficiencies among boys, girls and pregnant and lactating women, and to support the Government through local production of fortified blended food and FDRR with a view to improving household dietary diversity. In the case of disasters, WFP will provide emergency responses. The T-ICSP will contribute to the UNSF 2017-2021 to achieve food and nutrition security and resilience and sustainability, and is in line with the Government priorities. T-ICSP will bring WFP DPR Korea on the track and direction of integrated road map (IRM) to achieving SDG 2 by 2030.

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61. Country strategic review is essential to develop a CSP. Given the special context in DPR Korea, a suitable country strategic review will need an advance planning with adequate timeframe.

3.2. STRATEGIC OUTCOMES, FOCUS AREAS, EXPECTED OUTPUTS AND KEY ACTIVITIES

STRATEGIC OUTCOME 1: Stabilized or reduced undernutrition, including micronutrient deficiencies among children aged 6–59 months, pregnant and lactating women, and school-aged children

Outcome Description:

62. Children and pregnant and lactating women in DPR Korea have improved nutrition by 2030.

Focus Areas:

63. The outcome focuses on resilience building

Expected outputs:

64. Increased consumption of quality, nutrient-dense foods among targeted individuals; and
65. Local food production factories to improve quality and safety of locally produced food.

Key activities:

66. Activity 1: Nutrition assistance to children and pregnant and lactating women, and capacity strengthening of local food production (650,000 children in child institutions and pregnant and lactating women are provided with a ration of fortified biscuits and cereals each month, in sixty counties of nine provinces; capacity strengthening is provided to local food production factories to improve quality and safety of locally produced food.)

STRATEGIC OUTCOME 2: Improved access to livelihood assets has contributed to enhanced resilience and reduced risks from disaster and shocks faced by targeted food-insecure communities and households

Outcome Description:

67. Vulnerable people in disaster-prone areas have access to food all year round.

Focus Areas:

68. The focus area of this outcome is resilience building.

Expected outputs:

69. Increased consumption of quality, nutrient-dense foods among targeted individuals (men, women, boys and girls); and community assets built

Key activities:

70. Activity 2: Food assistance for disaster risk reduction (Community asset creation and disaster risk reduction support activities through food assistance for assets – in kind food transfer modality in the targeted project counties).

STRATEGIC OUTCOME 3: Stabilized or improved food consumption over assistance period for targeted households and/or individuals

Outcome Description:

71. Crisis affected people in DPR Korea have access to food all year round.

Focus Areas:

72. The focus area of this outcome is crisis response

Expected outputs:

73. Crisis affected men, women, boys and girls receive food in order to meet basic food needs

Key activities:

74. Activity 3: Provide in-kind food assistance to crisis affected people (immediate response/rehabilitation and recovery)

3.3. TRANSITION AND EXIT STRATEGIES

75. During the cycle of T-ICSP, WFP will review the status of the national zero hunger challenge in the country. Based on the review’s findings and upcoming negotiations, WFP will review its engagement in the country. Furthermore, a CSP may be developed for WFP’s further engagement, which may be anchored in the national strategic review.

4. IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

4.1. BENEFICIARY ANALYSIS

76. WFP’s assistance targets provinces and counties vulnerable to food insecurity, undernutrition and natural disasters selected in consultation with the Government on the basis of food security and nutrition criteria. To maximize the effects, WFP’s nutrition and FDRR projects will be implemented in the same counties, while emergency response will be implemented wherever there are needs to respond to natural disasters.

77. Children and pregnant and lactating women will be the primary groups receiving WFP assistance because of their vulnerability to food insecurity and undernutrition. Boys and girls will have equal access to fortified blended food and fortified biscuits.

78. FDRR activities will be aligned with Government priorities and will complement the disaster risk reduction initiatives of other agencies. Participants will be selected in accordance with food-insecurity criteria stipulated in the FDRR guidelines; most will be PDS dependents in targeted counties.

TABLE 1: FOOD & CASH TRANSFER BENEFICIARIES BY STRATEGIC OUTCOME & ACTIVITY				
Strategic Outcome	Activities	Female	Male	Total
Strategic Outcome 1	Malnutrition prevention	414,880	268,424	683,304

Strategic Outcome 2	Asset creation and livelihood support	59,670	57,330	117,000
Strategic Outcome 3	Unconditional resource transfers to support access to food	765	735	1,500
TOTAL (excluding overlap)		475,315	326,489	801,804

4.2. TRANSFERS

4.2.1. FOOD AND CASH-BASED TRANSFERS

79. WFP will provide in-kind food assistance to the beneficiaries. Beneficiaries will be provided with a ration of fortified cereals and biscuits through nutrition assistance, cereals, pulses and vegetable oil through FDRR, and fortified biscuits or pulses, oil and cereals through emergency response.

80. DPR Korea does not have a free market for cereals and is a food deficit country. There is neither cash nor voucher based transfer modality implemented in DPR Korea.

TABLE 2: FOOD RATION (g/person/day) or CASH-BASED TRANSFER VALUE (USD/person/day) BY STRATEGIC OUTCOME AND ACTIVITY									
Strategic Outcome	Strategic Outcome 1: Stabilized or reduced undernutrition, including micronutrient deficiencies among children aged 6–59 months, pregnant and lactating women, and school-aged children.					Strategic Outcome 2: Improved access to livelihood assets has contributed to enhanced resilience and reduced risks from disaster and shocks faced by targeted food-insecure communities and households	Strategic Outcome 3: Stabilized or improved food consumption over assistance period for targeted households and/or individuals		
Activity	<i>Activity 1:</i> Nutrition assistance to children and pregnant and lactating women, and capacity strengthening of local food production					<i>Activity 2:</i> Food assistance for Disaster Risk Reduction	<i>Activity 3:</i> Provide in-kind food assistance to crisis affected people		
Beneficiary type	Pregnant and Lactating Women	Children 6-59 months in Nurseries	Children in Orphanages	Children in Hospitals	Children aged 5–6 in Kindergartens	FDRR	Immediate response	General Food Distribution	
modality	Food	Food	Food	Food	Food	Food	Food	Food	
Fortified cereal	200	100	100	100	100				

Fortified Biscuits		60	60	60	60		250	
cereals						1,000		400
pulses						350		60
oil						150		25
total kcal/day	787	634	634	634	634	NA	1,000	1,937
% kcal from protein	16.60%	13.30%	13.30%	13.30%	13.30%	NA	8%	11.20%
cash (USD/person/day)								
Number of feeding days	30 days/month: 4th – 9th month of pregnancy and first 6 months of breastfeeding	30 days/month	30 days/month	30 days/month	30 days/month	180 days/year	7 days	30 days

Food type / cash-based transfer	Total (mt)	Total (USD)
Cereals	40,432.79	15,166,854
Pulses	11,359.38	6,861,067
Oil and Fats	3,948.25	3,158,599
Other	5,850.38	8,932,695
TOTAL (food)	61,590.80	34,119,215
Cash-Based Transfers (USD)	0	0
TOTAL (food and CBT value – USD)	61,590.80	34,119,215

4.2.2. CAPACITY STRENGTHENING INCLUDING SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION

81. WFP will continue supporting the eleven local food production factories to produce fortified food for the beneficiaries, including providing spare parts and packaging materials, upgrading equipment to improve food quality, and providing technical trainings to the factories' staff. Study tours will be considered for the Government staff and the WFP seconded national staff in the areas of local food production, nutrition and FDRR.

82. The Government of DPR Korea has consulted with WFP on the possibility of rice fortification in the country. A technical consultation will take place in 2017. South-South Cooperation could be considered as one of the options for the Government capacity building.

4.3. SUPPLY CHAIN

83. WFP will provide in-kind food assistance to the beneficiaries. All food commodities and vitamin and mineral pre-mix have to be sourced internationally and require a procurement lead time of five to six months, as well as one month for local food production.

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84. The Government is responsible to transport food commodities from port to the local food production factories and warehouses. They are also responsible for food delivery and distributions to the child institutions and beneficiaries with technical support and supervision of WFP.
 85. The country office has made efforts to build capacity of the Government to produce nutritious foods in DPR Korea including providing technical and capacity strengthening training, milling machines and spare parts. The country office will continue addressing food quality and safety issues during the implementation of T-ICSP.

4.4. COUNTRY OFFICE CAPACITY AND PROFILE

86. WFP has one country office (CO) and there is no sub-office or field office in DPR Korea. The CO has a support unit based in Beijing, China. The CO in DPR Korea has 16 international staff and 36 national staff seconded by the Government of DPR Korea.

4.5. PARTNERSHIPS

87. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs National Coordinating Committee is the coordinating agency for WFP and is facilitating links with the line ministries.
88. WFP coordinates with UNICEF and WHO on nutrition. Currently, UNICEF is complementing WFP's maternal and child nutrition activities with vitamin A, zinc, micronutrient powder, iron and folic acid for children and women, and is supporting treatment for severe and moderate acute malnutrition at hospitals. WHO is supporting deworming of children aged 6–16.
89. WFP's FDRR activities are coordinated with FAO, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and IFRC.
90. WFP is a part of the Humanitarian Country Team for emergency response. WFP is also closely working with the other members of the Gender Task Force including UNDP, FAO, UNICEF and UNFPA.

5. PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT AND EVALUATION

5.1. MONITORING AND EVALUATION ARRANGEMENTS

91. WFP has the broadest monitoring reach among humanitarian agencies operating in DPR Korea, working under an agreement with the Government of “no access, no assistance”. The Letter of Understanding (LOU) gives WFP access to the WFP assisted operational areas, households, children's institutions, hospitals, warehouses, FDRR projects and local food production factories for monitoring and assessment.
92. WFP's monitoring is based on the results-based management approach. The current M&E plan has been established under the PRRO 200907 since July 2016 and will be adjusted according to the requirement of the new T-ICSP to measure progress towards the strategic outcomes, ensuring accountability, providing evidence of results achieved and making necessary adjustments. Food security and nutritional data will be collected through WFP monitoring checklists, joint food security and nutrition related surveys with other United Nations agencies under the DPR Korea UNSF 2017-2021. The CO will continue implementing a robust process monitoring system and produce monthly internal monitoring reports as well as quarterly monitoring reports, which will be publicly available.

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93. Revised monitoring checklists and forms, including protection and sex disaggregated data, for child institutions, hospitals, households and FDRR projects under the current PRRO 200907 will be used for the T-ICSP to ensure that assistance reaches intended beneficiaries. Consolidated provincial distribution reports will be submitted to WFP on a monthly basis. Gender-responsive feedback will be taken into consideration in monitoring reports and recommendations will be addressed.
 94. Performance monitoring data and information will be collected through regular field visits to beneficiary households, child institutions, hospitals, public distribution centres, WFP-supported FDRR project and local food production factories. The field monitors collect quantitative and qualitative information through interviews and observations. The data collected during the field visits will be entered into tablets by the WFP field monitors, then transferred to the eWIN database for further analysis and to generate monthly reports. M&E internal monthly report will list the findings and actions will be taken by the responsible units. WFP will regularly follow up to ensure the actions are taken in timely manner.
 95. WFP has applied corporate Country Office Tool for Managing Effectively (COMET) since January 2016. WFP will continue using COMET to monitor the effectiveness of the T-ICSP. Monitoring data collected from PRRO 200907 in 2017 will be used as baseline data for the T-ICSP in DPR Korea. As per the CSP Policy and Evaluation Policy, the T-ICSP's review will be managed by DPR Korea's CO at the end 2018 with supports from the Regional Bureau Bangkok (RBB) and the Headquarters (HQ). Based on the lessons learnt and recommendations from the review, WFP will refine WFP's interventions and plan for development of the ICSP, starting from January 2019.

5.2. RISK MANAGEMENT

Contextual Risks

96. WFP will monitor contextual risks such as natural disasters including droughts and floods, and impacts of sanctions on WFP operations. The CO has prepared contingency plan to respond to disasters and is updating the emergency preparedness and response plan. The CO monitoring teams collect information related to drought and floods from the field.

Programmatic Risks

97. The greatest programmatic risk is lack of funding; this would: i) result in pipeline breaks, which would reduce the nutritional benefits for children and pregnant and lactating women, who need a continuous supply of supplementary food; ii) affect the production of fortified foods; and iii) reduce the number of staff for managing and monitoring the operation. Currently, WFP is maintaining relationships with the traditional donors to secure funding for the ongoing operations and exploring opportunities to broaden the donor portfolio.

Institutional Risks

98. Due to sanctions, the current banking channel is not sustainable. If the current banking channel is closed, WFP operations will be negatively affected.

6. RESOURCES FOR RESULTS

6.1. COUNTRY PORTFOLIO BUDGET

	2018	Total
Strategic Outcome 1	38,865,264	38,865,264
Strategic Outcome 2	13,435,250	13,435,250
Strategic Outcome 3	338,079	338,079
TOTAL	52,638,593	52,638,593

99. WFP aims to have a fully resourced operation for distributing full rations to all beneficiary groups identified for the entire cycle of T-ICSP. However, expected funding constraints require the CO to prioritise the allocation of resources to aim for the maximum nutrition impact for the highest priority beneficiaries. Therefore, there is a prioritisation strategy, effective from the start of PRRO 200907, that outlines the prioritization parameters for scaling back in case of funding shortfalls.

100. The prioritisation strategy is based on geographical targeting which prioritizes provinces in the north of the country, which according to the most recent assessments, are characterised by higher levels of malnutrition and food insecurity.

101. WFP prioritizes the first 1,000 days, and prioritizes the nutrition assistance over FDRR activity.

6.2. RESOURCING OUTLOOK

102. WFP is reliant on a number of government and private donors. Although the resourcing trend is decreasing, it is expected that the resourcing for T-ICSP period (2018) will be similar to 2016 and 2017.

6.3. RESOURCE MOBILIZATION STRATEGY

103. The objective of the resource mobilization strategy for DPR Korea is to secure sufficient and predictable funding for WFP's operations in the country. Apart from maintaining relationships with the traditional donors, the strategy also allows WFP to explore opportunities to broaden the donor portfolio.

104. A sort of "survival strategy" can be considered to be developed jointly by the CO, RBB and Government Partnerships Division on how to engage with the key international players in the coming months to retain core resourcing and implementation capacity.

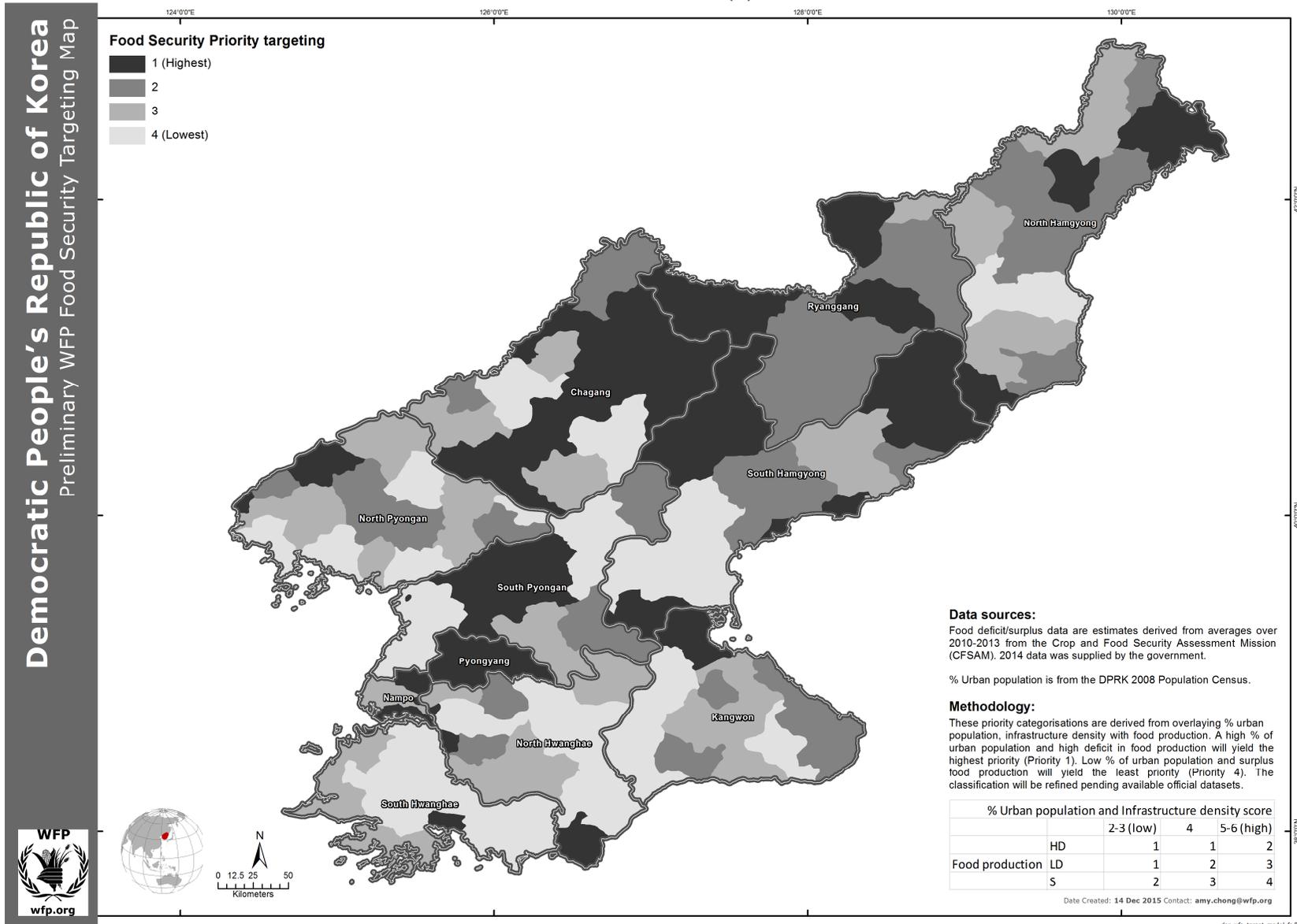
**ANNEX I: SUMMARY OF LOGICAL FRAMEWORK OF DPR KOREA
TRANSITIONAL INTERIM COUNTRY STRATEGIC PLAN (YEAR 2018)**

See Comet version.

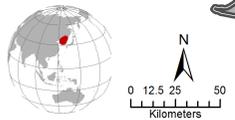
ANNEX II: INDICATIVE COST BREAKDOWN

INDICATIVE COST BREAKDOWN ALONG STRATEGIC OUTCOMES (USD)				
WFP Strategic Results / SDG Targets	SR 2 – No one suffers from malnutrition (SDG Target 2.2)	SR 1 – Everyone has access to food (SDG Target 2.1)	SR 1 – Everyone has access to food (SDG Target 2.1)	Total
WFP Strategic Outcomes	Strategic Outcome 1	Strategic Outcome 2	Strategic Outcome 3	
Focus Area	Resilience Building	Resilience Building	Crisis Response	
Transfer	32,820,502	11,299,162	242,441	44,362,105
Implementation	1,462,890	552,192	55,782	2,070,863
Adjusted DSC (%)	2,039,284	704,956	17,739	2,761,979
Sub-total	36,322,676	12,556,309	315,961	49,194,947
ISC (7%)	2,542,587	878,942	22,117	3,443,646
TOTAL	38,865,264	13,435,250	338,079	52,638,593

ANNEX III: MAP(S)

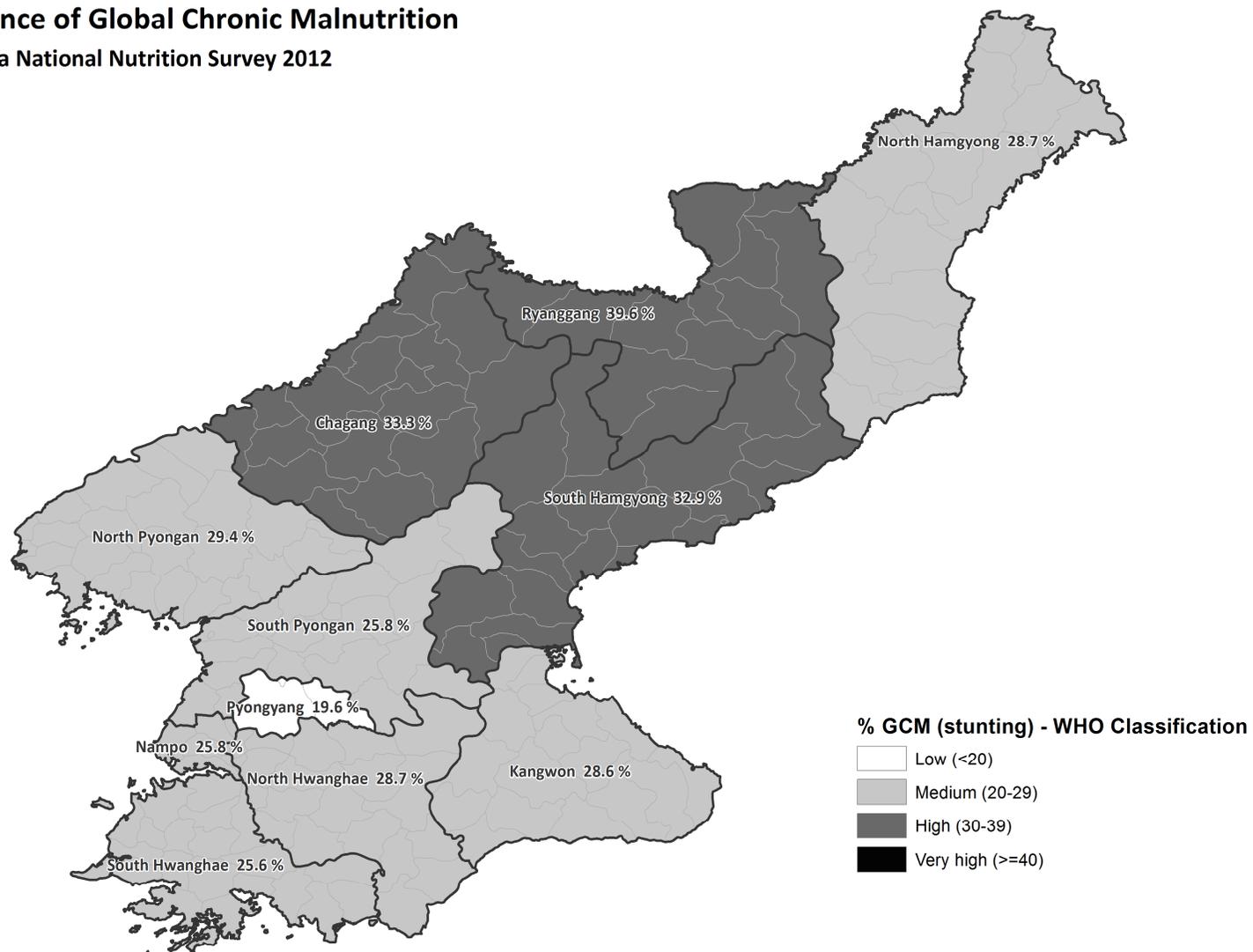


Democratic People's Republic of Korea
 Preliminary WFP Food Security Targeting Map



Prevalence of Global Chronic Malnutrition

DPR Korea National Nutrition Survey 2012



ANNEX IV: ACRONYMS

CBS	Central Bureau of Statistics
CBT	Cash-based Transfer
CFSAM	Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission
CO	Country Office
COMET	Country Office Tool for Managing Effectively
CSP	Country Strategic Plan
DPR Korea	Democratic People’s Republic of Korea
FAO	United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization
FDRR	Food for disaster risk reduction
FSNA	Food security and nutrition assessment
GHI	Global Hunger Index
HQ	Headquarters
IASC	International Association for Statistical Computing
ICSP	Interim Country Strategic Plan
IFRC	International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
LoU	Letter of Understanding
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MICS	Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey
MoPH	Ministry of Public Health
OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
PDS	Public Distribution System
PRRO	Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation
RBB	Regional Bureau Bangkok
SAM	Severe acute malnutrition
SDC	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNSF	United Nations Strategic Framework
USD	United States Dollar
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization