



## WFP DPR Korea Country Brief

May 2018

### Operational Context

DPR Korea has experienced widespread food shortages since the mid-1990s. The country does not produce enough food to feed its population, largely because of insufficient arable land, scarcity of quality inputs, low mechanisation and inadequate irrigation. Recurring natural disasters affect agricultural production every year, leaving a larger number of people food insecure. In 2017, DPR Korea had a Global Hunger Index score of 28.2, classified as "serious". 81 percent of the population lacks dietary diversity. One in three children under five years of age are anaemic.

In 2018, WFP is providing nutrition assistance to children and women; aims to implement Disaster Risk Reduction (FDRR) activities and will provide food assistance to crises affected people if needed. WFP has been present in DPR Korea since 1995.



Population: **25 million**

Life expectancy: **70.34 years**

Income Level: **Low**

Chronic malnutrition: **28% of children between 6-59 months**

### Main Photo

Credit: WFP/Roselie Asis  
Caption: Children in Wonsan City Nursery eat WFP-provided fortified biscuits and porridge made from fortified blended cereals.

## In Numbers

**1,392 mt** of food assistance distributed

**US\$19.37 m** six months (June - November 2018) net funding requirements

**457,760 people assisted**  
in May 2018

### Operational Updates

- WFP's Executive Director visited to DPR Korea from 8-11 May and met with Senior Level Government Officials. Unprecedented access to field visits and first-hand experience and interactions with beneficiaries gave him a comprehensive overview of the situation on the ground.
- Operations – programmes are proceeding as planned, taking into consideration the supply chain challenges.
- WFP DPR Korea has established a relationship with the Institute of Child Nutrition (ICN) for the development of information, education and communication materials on nutrition for different stakeholders;
- WFP DPR Korea is in the process of reviewing/exploring micronutrient fortification of bean paste with iodine, to address iodine deficiency in the population;
- WFP DPR Korea is preparing the Concept Note on a three-year (2019-2021) Interim Country Strategic Plan (ICSP).
- In line with the ICSP, the WFP DPR Korea is building the nexus between Humanitarian and Development assistance to address medium and long term food insecurity

**Contact info:** Bushra Rahman ([bushra.rahman@wfp.org](mailto:bushra.rahman@wfp.org))  
**Country Director:** Praveen Agrawal  
Further information: [www.wfp.org/countries/korea-democratic-peoples-republic](http://www.wfp.org/countries/korea-democratic-peoples-republic)

## WFP DPR Korea Strategy

| Total Requirement<br>(in USD)  | Confirmed Contributions<br>(in USD) | June - November<br>Net Funding Requirements<br>(in USD) |
|--|-------------------------------------|---|
| <b>Transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan KP 01 (2018)</b>  |                                     |   |
| <b>52.39 m</b>   | <b>13.11 m</b>                      | <b>19.37 m</b>  |
| <b>Strategic Result 2: No one suffers from malnutrition</b>  |                                     |   |
| <b>Strategic Outcome 1:</b> Children and pregnant and lactating women in DPRK have improved nutrition by 2030. |                                     |   |
| <b>38.68 m</b>   | <b>13.11 m</b>                      | <b>12.72 m</b>  |
| <b>Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food</b>   |                                     |   |
| <b>Strategic Outcome 2:</b> Vulnerable people in disaster-prone areas have access to food all year round.      |                                     |   |
| <b>13.37 m</b>   | <b>0 m</b>                          | <b>6.35 m</b>   |
| <b>Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food</b>   |                                     |   |
| <b>Strategic Outcome 3:</b> Crises affected men, women, boys and girls have access to food all year round.     |                                     |   |
| <b>0.34 m</b>  | <b>0 m</b>                          | <b>0.31 m</b>   |

Figures provisional  
SO3 currently not active.

## Monitoring

- During May, monitoring missions were conducted to the programme sites, ports, warehouses and factories. Field monitors collected data to assess progress and received feedback from the field to improve programming.

## Challenges

- Critical funding shortfalls persist.
- Supply chain management:
  - Six months lead-time is required for international procurement and shipping.
  - Delays in procurement and shipping of food commodities due to the sanctions continue to hinder timely implementation.
  - No banking channel – this is the most serious challenge, mitigated as only a limited number of running costs at the CO are affected. All procurement/transport costs are paid externally.
- Data collection continues to be a challenge; but this needs to be understood within the country context. UN Sector Working Groups have been established where WFP is an active partner-providing information through field monitors.

## Partnerships

- WFP Co-Chairs the Food Security and Agriculture Working Group. Its main aim is to share information and provide real time technical forecast of crop growing season. Additionally, it acts as a coordinating body during emergencies for assessment and response. Participants include FAO, Deutsche Welthungerhilfe, Concern Worldwide, Premier Agence, Food Security Office, SDC, and Italian Development Cooperation.
- WFP Co-Chairs the Nutrition Sector Working Group which aims to share information, develop nutrition advocacy and communication materials. It also acts as a coordinating body during emergencies for assessment and response. Participants include, UNICEF, Save the Children, Deutsche Welthungerhilfe, and Triangle Génération Humanitaire.

## Donors

Canada, France, Sweden, Switzerland

GENDER MARKER **2A** 

## WFP DPR Korea Activities

**SO 1** Nutrition assistance to children and pregnant and lactating women, and capacity strengthening of local food production

**SO 2** Food assistance for Disaster Risk Reduction

**SO 3** Provide in-kind food assistance to crisis affected people.