



World Food Programme

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LIVES

# WFP DPR Korea Country Brief September 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". Eighty-one 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 crisis-affected people if needed. WFP has been present in DPR Korea since 1995.



Population: **25 million**

Life expectancy: **70.34 years**

Income Level: **Low**

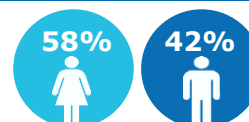
Chronic malnutrition: **28% of children between 6-59 months**

## In Numbers

**992 mt** of food distributed

**US\$ 10.41 m** six months (Oct 2018– Mar 2019) net funding requirements

**475,996 people assisted** in September 2018



## Operational Updates

- WFP distributed 992 mt of fortified food to 475,996 pregnant and breastfeeding women and children under-five in nine provinces.
- WFP continued work on its Interim Country Strategic Plan (2019-2021) in September. It will be presented to WFP's Executive Board in February 2019 for approval. The ICSP aims to support the country in ending hunger and malnutrition with three Strategic Outcomes: 1) children under 7 years of age, pregnant and lactating women and girls, and tuberculosis patients in targeted counties have stabilized or improved nutrition, particularly micronutrient status, by 2025; 2) people vulnerable to disasters and food insecurity in targeted counties are able to meet their food and nutrition needs during and after shocks and stresses by 2021; and 3) Crisis-affected people in DPR Korea have access to food all year.
- WFP's Food Security Assessment preparation continued in September. The Food Security Assessment is planned to provide a snapshot of the food security situation from a food systems lens and will focus on the collection of qualitative data (planned for November-December 2018). The assessment will be conducted in tiered approach; tailored for DPR Korea context and is expected to contribute in enriching WFP's strategy and programme designs.
- WFP conducted pre-assessments of six autumn disaster risk reduction projects. Sustainable DRR projects are vital to improve resilience and food security situation in DPR Korea as the country is prone to natural disaster and climatic shocks. The projects are planned for October.
- WFP, along with the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) in DPR Korea conducted two assessment missions in flash floods-affected North and South Hwanghae provinces. Based on the field observations and primary assessment of the emergency needs, the HCT is preparing for emergency response to the flood affected population.

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Further information: [www.wfp.org/countries/korea-democratic-peoples-republic](http://www.wfp.org/countries/korea-democratic-peoples-republic)

## Transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan (2018) and Interim Country Strategic Plan (2019-2021)

Total Requirement (in US\$)	Allocated Contributions (in US\$)	Oct 2018 – Mar 2019 Net Funding Requirements (in US\$)
52.39 m	23.6 m	10.41 m

### Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

**Strategic Outcome 2:** Vulnerable people in disaster-prone areas have access to food all year round.

**Focus area:** Resilience Building

#### Activities:

- 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 Result 1: Everyone has access to food

**Strategic Outcome 3:** Vulnerable people in disaster-prone areas have access to food all year round.

**Focus area:** Crises Response

#### Activities:

- Provide in-kind food assistance to crises affected people (immediate response / rehabilitation and recovery)

### Strategic Result 2: No one suffers from malnutrition

**Strategic Outcome 1:** Children and pregnant and lactating women in DPRK have improved nutrition by 2030.

**Focus area:** Nutrition

#### Activities:

- Nutrition assistance to children and pregnant and lactating women, 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.)

## Challenges

- Critical funding shortfalls persist.
- The lack of a banking channel remains a serious challenge. To mitigate its impact, WFP minimizes the amount of in-country expenditure and procures all required food and non-food commodities internationally.
- Unintended impact of sanctions on supply chain remains a major constraint. Six months lead-time is required for international procurement and shipping.
- Access to valid and accurate data continues to be a challenge; but this needs to be understood within the country context. WFP closely works with the Sector Working Groups and the Humanitarian Country Team to share information and collect data from the most credible and available sources.

## Monitoring

- Monitoring missions continued in September to WFP programme sites, ports, warehouses and factories. Field monitors collected data from the visited institutions, households and county and provincial authorities for programme assessment and evaluation. Monitors also received feedback from the field to improve programming.

## Partnerships

- WFP co-chairs the Food Security and Agriculture Working Group. Its main aim is to share information and provide real time technical forecasts of crop growing season. Additionally, it acts as a coordinating body during emergencies for assessment and response. Participants include FAO, Deutsche Welthungerhilfe, Concern Worldwide, Premiere Urgence, 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, Russian Federation