



WFP DPR Korea Country Brief December 2018

World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



Operational Context

DPR Korea continues to face a wide range of challenges as it pushes to reform its economy, security posture and relations with its southern neighbour, the Republic of Korea. For several years, the country's food supply has been remarkably stable when compared with the famine years of the 1990s and early 2000s.

Food insecurity is widespread. Around 10.3 million people – more than 40 percent of the population – are undernourished. Low mechanization, limited arable land, lack of quality inputs and fertilizers hamper agriculture productivity. Changing weather patterns have also left DPR Korea vulnerable to droughts and floods, which often result in reductions in food production.

A 2017 Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) shows that despite improvements in national rates of chronic malnutrition, there are marked disparities between rural and urban areas, with five provinces having above-average stunting rates as high as 40 percent. WFP has been present in DPR Korea since 1995.



Population: **25 million**

Life expectancy: **71.6 years**

Income Level: **Low**

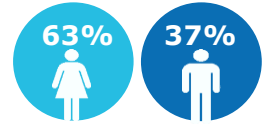
Chronic malnutrition: **19% of children between 6-59 months (MICS 2017)**

In Numbers

US\$ **32.1 m** 2019 Net Funding Requirements

1,060 mt of food distributed in December 2018

457,700 people assisted in December 2018



Operational Updates

- In December, WFP assisted 457,700 people across DPR Korea, distributing 1,060 mt of food. This assistance was focused on some of the most vulnerable children under five (332,000 were assisted in December), as well as pregnant and breastfeeding women in areas outside the capital where food and nutrition security are fragile.
- Data collection from WFP's qualitative Food Security Assessment was completed in December. The aim of the Food Security assessment is to provide a snapshot of the food security situation from a food systems lens, and to inform WFP's strategy and programme designs.
- Under the Food for Disaster Risk Reduction (FDRR) programme, all 2018 projects across the nine targeted counties were completed, and benefitted more than 23,000 participants. Project activities included tree planting, riverbed excavation, rehabilitation of embankments and agro-forestry, and terracing. These activities are vital to minimize or avoid the losses caused by natural hazards, strengthen resilience and improve food security in natural disaster-prone areas of the country.
- WFP participated in the Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) workshop organized by FAO, to identify and interpret the implications of Climate Change on food and nutrition security in DPR Korea. WFP presented its FDRR activities at the workshop, including key lessons learned related to risk management and resilience strengthening in DPRK.
- In December, WFP continued to visit Local Food Production factories to monitor the quality of the WFP food commodities produced, and to provide technical support to the factories.

Contact info: James Belgrave James.Belgrave@wfp.org
Country Director: Praveen Agrawal
 Further information:
www.wfp.org/countries/korea-democratic-peoples-republic

Photo Caption: Children enjoy their lunch in a WFP-supported boarding school in South Hwanghae province. WFP/Rein Skullerud

WFP Country Strategy

Interim Country Strategic Plan (2019)*		
Total Requirements (in US\$)	Confirmed funding (in US\$) including carry-over from 2018	Net Funding Requirements (in US\$)
53.7 m	11.6 m	32.1 m

*WFP's Interim Country Strategic Plan for 2019-2021 is scheduled for approval at the February 2019 Executive Board.

Transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan (2018)



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 in targeted 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 crisis-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 (ration of fortified biscuits and cereals in sixty counties of nine provinces).
- Capacity strengthening to improve local food production (in local food production factories to improve quality and safety).

Operational Overview

WFP's 2018 operation targeted food and nutrition insecure communities over 12 months with nutritional assistance and livelihood support across nine provinces in the country. WFP's work focuses on some of the most vulnerable children under five, as well as pregnant and breastfeeding women in areas outside the capital where food and nutrition security are fragile.

In 2018, WFP's nutrition programme worked to assist vulnerable women and children every month with fortified cereal and biscuits with micronutrients, fats and proteins crucial for healthy growth. This assistance is channelled through public institutions such as nurseries, hospitals and boarding schools. Fortified food is produced at 11 WFP-supported factories.

DPRK is vulnerable to natural disasters, such as drought, heatwaves and flooding, which affect agricultural production and livelihoods. When possible, WFP works to enhance the resilience of communities with risk-reduction measures, to assist in preparing for, preventing and mitigating the effects of natural disasters. These activities not only mitigate risk and strengthen

resilience, but also contribute to food security by addressing immediate threats to agricultural land and production.

Challenges

- Due to critical funding shortfalls, WFP implemented only high-priority programme activities in 2018.
- Disruption to banking channels limit access to cash for operations. To mitigate its impact, WFP minimizes the amount of in-country expenditure and procures all required food and non-food commodities internationally.
- Unintended impacts of sanctions include the breakdown of supply chains, which poses a major challenge, causing delays in the transportation of vital goods into country because ship owners are more reluctant to send their vessels to DPRK because of lengthy cargo inspections and fines. There is a six month lead time for international procurement and shipping.
- The operating environment makes the collection of data on vulnerability and humanitarian needs extremely challenging. WFP closely works with the Sector Working Groups, UN Agencies and the Humanitarian Country Team to share information and collect data from the most valid and available sources.

Monitoring

- Monitoring missions continued throughout December, to local production factories supported by WFP.

Partnerships

- Inputs for the new 2019 Humanitarian Needs and Priorities were provided to OCHA for the first draft of the document that will be reviewed in January.
- WFP co-chairs the Food Security and Agriculture Working Group with FAO, and acts as coordinating body for assessments and response during emergencies. Sector members include FAO, Deutsche Welthungerhilfe, Concern Worldwide, Premiere Urgence, Food Security Office, SDC, and Italian Development Cooperation.
- WFP co-chairs the Nutrition Sector Working Group with UNICEF. Sector members include UNICEF, Save the Children, Deutsche Welthungerhilfe, and Triangle Génération Humanitaire.

Donors

In 2018, WFP's funding partners included Canada, France, Liechtenstein, Sweden, Switzerland, the Russian Federation, and the UN's Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF).