



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP DPR Korea Country Brief January 2019



Operational Context

DPR Korea continues to face a wide range of food security and nutrition challenges despite the fact that 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 and malnutrition are widespread. Around 10.9 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. Recurrent natural disasters also have a major impact on agricultural production and food security. The heat wave and flooding of 2018 have resulted in a poor harvest and significant reduction in grain balance, according to the Government.

Although the 2017 Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) shows improvements in national rates of chronic malnutrition, there are clear and marked disparities between rural and urban areas, with five provinces having above-average stunting rates, some 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**

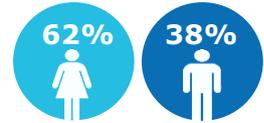
Chronic malnutrition: **19% of children between 6-59 months (MICS 2017)**

In Numbers

US\$ 5.5 m February – July Net Funding Requirements

1,012 mt of food distributed in January 2019

443,800 people assisted in January 2019



Operational Updates

- In January 2019, WFP assisted 443,800 people across DPR Korea, distributing 1,012 mt of fortified food. WFP's nutritional support is focused on areas of the country where food and nutrition security are fragile, and reaches 60 counties across nine provinces every month.
- We target some of the most vulnerable children under five (329,400 were assisted in January) in public institutions such as nurseries, paediatric hospitals and paediatric wards. WFP also assisted 114,000 pregnant and breastfeeding women in January.
- WFP provides these vulnerable groups with fortified cereal and biscuits enriched with micronutrients, fats and proteins crucial for healthy growth.
- WFP supports 11 food fortification factories (12 production lines) for the processing of fortified blended foods for vulnerable groups, ensuring quality and technical assistance.
- WFP's Interim Country Strategic Plan (ICSP) for 2019-2021 is being submitted to first session of WFP's Executive Board for approval in February 2019, with a tentative budget of USD 161 million. The programme of work outlines what WFP expects to achieve over the next three years, and is firmly based on the humanitarian support WFP is providing the country.
- Final assessment for three Food for Disaster Risk Reduction project was completed by monitoring team formed by national and international field monitors. Food assistance will be distributed to the participants and their families.
- In January, WFP field staff monitored Nutrition activities including child institutions, Nurseries, households and paediatric wards. Meetings were also held with county officials in each of the county.

Photo Caption: A WFP-supported factory in South Hamgyong produces fortified biscuits that will be distributed to WFP-supported institutions across the county. WFP/Colin Kampschoer

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WFP Country Strategy

Interim Country Strategic Plan (2019)*		
Total Requirements (in US\$)	Confirmed funding (in US\$) including carry-over from 2018	February - July Net Funding Requirements (in US\$)
161 m	19 m	5.5 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 2: No one suffers from malnutrition

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

Focus area: Nutrition

Activities:

- Nutrition assistance to children, and pregnant and breastfeeding 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).

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)

Operational Overview

WFP's humanitarian operations in DPRK target food and nutrition insecure communities every month with nutritional assistance and livelihood support across nine provinces. 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.

WFP's nutrition programme assists vulnerable women and children 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, paediatric wards 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. WFP Food assistance for assets (FFA) strategy works to mitigate the impact of natural disasters, rehabilitate productive rural assets and strengthen food security for rural vulnerable communities.

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/non-food commodities internationally.
- Unintended impacts of sanctions include the breakdown of supply chains, causing delays in the transportation of vital goods into country and hampering the production and distribution of fortified foods. There is a six-month lead time for international procurement and shipping, and ship owners are reluctant to send their vessels to DPRK because of lengthy cargo inspections and fines.
- The operating environment makes the collection of data on vulnerability and humanitarian needs extremely challenging. WFP works closely with the UN Resident Coordinator, the Humanitarian Country Team, Sector Working Groups, and UN agencies to share information and collect data from the most valid and reliable sources.

Monitoring

- Monitoring missions continued throughout January to nutrition support and Food for Disaster Risk Reduction sites. WFP field staff monitored Nutrition activities including child institutions, Nurseries, households and paediatric wards

Partnerships

- On 28 Jan-01 Feb 2019, WFP's Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific visited Pyongyang and Beijing, meeting with DPRK line ministries and the diplomatic community, promoting effective engagement with government institutions and advocating for international support for WFP operations in DPRK.
- WFP participated in the inter-sector working group to discuss the 2019 Needs and Priorities and compile assisted beneficiaries in 2018 and 2019 targets.
- 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

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