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WFP2030

Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) Interim Country Strategic Plan (2019–2021)



World Food
Programme

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Executive Summary

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea continues to face a wide range of challenges, despite the fact that for several years, the country's food supply has been remarkably stable. However, the protracted humanitarian situation continues to pose significant challenges, together with recurrent natural disasters that exacerbate vulnerabilities.

Food insecurity is widespread. Around 10.3 million people – more than 40 percent of the population – are undernourished¹. A 2017 multiple indicator cluster survey 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.

Meanwhile, a lack of recent data continues to hinder contextual analysis and the monitoring of progress towards Sustainable Development Goal targets. The limited information available appears to show modest gains towards Sustainable Development Goal 2 targets, although progress is uneven, and the evidence is inconsistent.

WFP will support the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in achieving zero hunger in a manner that protects the food security and nutrition gains made so far while preventing undernutrition, especially among children, pregnant and lactating women and girls and other nutritionally vulnerable groups and while helping men and women become more resilient to natural disasters.

This 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, in line with Sustainable Development Goal 2 and Strategic Objective 2 of WFP's Strategic Plan (2017–2021).

WFP will support the country in ending hunger and malnutrition through three strategic outcomes:

Strategic outcome 1: Children under 7, pregnant and lactating women and girls, and tuberculosis patients in targeted counties have stabilized or improved nutrition, particularly micronutrient status, by 2025;

Strategic outcome 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;

Strategic outcome 3: crisis-affected people have access to food all year.

While maintaining its current strategic orientation under the interim country strategic plan, WFP will work towards renewed strategic and operational engagement with the Government and will be prepared to scale up activities or shift its programmatic focus should circumstances permit.

In a four-phase approach, WFP will explore options for a tailor-made national strategic review; plan for programme shifts informed by analyses and assessments that integrate gender and age; use a tiered approach to conducting assessments; and engage with the Government in multi-disciplinary areas relevant to food security such as disaster risk reduction, climate change and the environment.

Following a particularly tense year, 2018 ushered in renewed diplomatic activity and commitments aimed at achieving peace. While it is difficult to predict how the peace process will progress, this interim country strategic plan is designed to take any developments into account. It is of paramount importance that humanitarian assistance remains independent of political considerations.

¹ Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and others. 2017. [State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2017](#).

1. Country Analysis

1.1 COUNTRY CONTEXT

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea continues to face a wide range of challenges. There is, however, room for cautious optimism, and the country has opportunities to make progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and fulfil its aspirations for economic development.

Although the Democratic People's Republic of Korea has one of the least open economies in the world and vulnerabilities persist, the country has seen some signs of economic growth in recent years. Changes in the public sector and agricultural practices, paired with growth particularly in the semi-private economy, have helped the country recover from the shocks of the 1990s. Estimates of actual annual economic growth vary but generally range between 1.5 and 5 percent.² For several years, the food supply has been remarkably stable compared to the 1990s and early 2000s – the years when the scarcity of food reached its peak. Food has become more available to segments of the population thanks to increased market freedom and more flexibility for farmers to decide how to produce and sell their goods (including how to procure inputs such as fertilizer), as well as an increase in the volume and consistency of imports from China.³

There have also been modest improvements in other important areas such as the prevention of child and maternal mortality, gender parity in primary and secondary education and women's participation in the labour force. However, development efforts have been curtailed by the volatile political and security context combined with challenges such as climate change, enduring gender inequalities, accountability concerns and lack of transparency. Moreover, the protracted humanitarian situation continues to pose significant challenges,⁴ along with recurrent natural disasters that exacerbate vulnerabilities. In general, women, children, the elderly and people with disabilities are more affected by disasters and shocks because they have limited

mobility and access to resources, distribution locations and institutional decision making.

After a particularly tense 2017 regarding relations with the international community and several new restrictive United Nations Security Council and bilateral sanctions, 2018 ushered in renewed diplomatic activity and commitments aimed at achieving peace. While it is difficult to predict how the peace process will progress, WFP's interim country strategic plan (ICSP) for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea is designed to be flexible enough to adapt to the changing environment. However events unfold, it is of paramount importance that humanitarian assistance remain independent of political considerations.

1.2 PROGRESS TOWARDS SDG 2

Contextual analysis and the monitoring of progress towards all the SDGs is hampered by a lack of access to recent data on food security and nutrition and data disaggregated by sex and age.⁵ Based on the information available, the country appears to be making modest gains towards the achievement of SDG 2 targets, although progress seems uneven and the evidence is inconsistent.

Access to adequate food all year round. Food insecurity is widespread according to the SDG indicator on undernourishment and supplemental indicators. Undernourishment, which peaked during the famine years in the 1990s and early 2000s, currently stands at 41 percent and affects 10.3 million people.⁶ According to the 2017 Global Hunger Index, hunger in the country is "serious".⁷

2015 WFP food security and nutrition assessment found that only 19 percent of households – most headed by men – have acceptable diets in terms of quantity and diversity. Similarly, monitoring results over the past five years show that households regularly have inadequate dietary diversity.⁸ Local diets provide 25 percent less

² Bank of Korea [press release](#), July 2017.

³ More detailed data on the impacts of improvements related to food availability and markets, including any differential impacts by gender and age, are not available at the time of writing.

⁴ Humanitarian country team and partners. 2018. [2018 DPR Korea Needs and Priorities: March 2018](#).

⁵ The Democratic People's Republic of Korea does not have a Gender Inequalities Index (GII) ranking and is not included in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's Social Institutions and Gender Index due to a lack of data.

⁶ Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and others. 2017. [State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2017](#). Data disaggregated by sex and age are not available.

⁷ International Food Policy Research Institute and others. 2017. [2017 Global Hunger Index: The Inequalities of Hunger](#).

⁸ "Minimum diet diversity" refers to the consumption of least four out of seven food groups for children under 5 and at least four out of nine food groups for adults.

protein and 30 percent less fat than they should.⁹ Lack of protein in the diet has particularly negative impacts on women of reproductive age, and even more so among pregnant and lactating women and girls (PLWG), who have higher requirements for protein-rich foods. WFP monitoring in 2017 among beneficiary households with PLWG indicated that proteins were consumed on average only two or three days a week.¹⁰

End all forms of malnutrition. In 2017, a national multiple indicator cluster survey (MICS) was carried out at the household level by the Government's Central Bureau of Statistics in partnership with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). A report on the survey was released in June 2018 and highlights that despite some national improvements for boys and girls under 5, many rural areas continue to face a nutrition crisis and require sustained support.¹¹

The survey shows national average rates of chronic malnutrition (stunting) of 19 percent, a significant fall from the 28 percent reported in 2012.¹² Meanwhile, the prevalence of acute malnutrition (wasting) among children under 5 has dropped from 4 to 3 percent.

However, the survey shows marked disparities between rural and urban areas, wealth groups and provinces. For example, Ryanggang province has the highest national stunting rate at 32 percent – 22 percentage points higher than Pyongyang. Four other provinces have stunting rates above the national average.¹³ Furthermore, only one in three children consumes a minimally acceptable diet, reflecting imbalances in the quality and quantity of food given to children.¹⁴

According to UNICEF mid-upper arm circumference screening results from 2011, acute malnutrition spiked sharply to 17.4 percent following localized drought. Despite improvements in wasting and stunting indicators, mother-and-child undernutrition remains a significant risk; young children and PLWG in particular suffer from malnutrition because their diets lack essential micronutrients such as vitamins, minerals, proteins and fats.

Double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers. Total food production (in

cereal equivalent) in 2017 was 5.5 million mt, a 7.4 percent decrease from 2016 production.¹⁵ The Democratic People's Republic of Korea has implemented a number of measures to achieve food security, including agricultural research and extension services aimed at increasing national food crop production and initiatives for livestock farming, fisheries and horticulture.¹⁶ A complementary strategy for maximizing agricultural production by mitigating pre- and post-harvest losses still needs to be put in place, as approximately 16 percent of national cereal production is currently lost.¹⁷

The high level of engagement of women in the national labour force (47.8 percent)¹⁸ is largely limited to specific sectors such as the service sector, agriculture (including collective farms and food processing), teaching, nursing and lower to mid-level civil service. Women are largely responsible for the unpaid jobs of gardening and raising livestock,¹⁹ as well as for the care and domestic work that underpins household food security.

Sustainable food systems. The majority of the country is mountainous, and only 17 percent of land is considered arable.²⁰ Agricultural production is largely dependent on traditional farming methods. Food production is hampered by a lack of inputs such as high-quality seed and fertilizer, equipment and fuel for machinery, as well as by post-harvest losses. The situation has been exacerbated by the limited availability of critical agricultural inputs and fuel. Changing weather patterns have left the country vulnerable to droughts and floods, which affect agricultural production. During the 1990s deforestation accelerated as forests were exploited for firewood and food, leading to soil erosion, soil depletion and an increased risk of flooding and landslides.

Environmental degradation and the effects of climate change are thought to increase the workloads of women and girls in particular, given that they are responsible for gardening and water collection, along with their work in the agricultural sector and in livestock raising.

MACROECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT

Data from the Bank of Korea (the Republic of Korea's central bank)²¹ show that the economy of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea grew by nearly 4 percent in

9 WFP. 2014. Mid-term review of the 2013–2015 protracted relief and recovery operation.

10 WFP. 2017. Quarterly monitoring report (4th quarter).

11 UNICEF et al. 2017. Multiple indicator cluster survey (MICS).

12 UNICEF, WHO, WFP and Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. 2012. National nutrition survey.

13 According to the 2017 MICS report, four provinces have stunting rates above the national average: Ryanggang (31.8 percent), Jagang (23 percent), North Hamgyong (21.5 percent) and Kangwon (21.4 percent).

14 The lack of disaggregated data means that it is not possible to determine which children are not consuming a minimal acceptable diet.

15 Humanitarian country team and partners. 2018. *2018 DPR Korea Needs and Priorities*: (March 2018).

16 Refer to points above on the lack of disaggregated data.

17 FAO/UNDP. 2014. *Project: Reduction of Post-Harvest Losses for Food Security*.

18 *World Bank data*. Labour force participation is 87 percent for male and 74 percent for female.

19 Democratic People's Republic of Korea Central Bureau of Statistics. 2009.

20 Humanitarian country team and partners. 2018. *2018 DPR Korea Needs and Priorities*: (March 2018).

21 The Economist Intelligence Unit.

2016 and contracted by 3.5 percent in 2017, mainly because of significant contractions in the manufacturing and utilities sectors.

KEY CROSS-SECTORAL LINKAGES

Although there has been remarkable progress in bringing down morbidity and mortality caused by conventional communicable diseases, the country is not fully prepared for newly emerging infectious diseases, and it does not yet have the core capacities required under the International Health Regulations (IHR 2005) to which the Government has committed.

There has been progress in respect of water, sanitation and hygiene, but there is still a significant shortfall, especially in access to and the quality of sanitation facilities. The 2017 MICS report indicated that 61 percent of the population used safely managed drinking water services, with a large variation between urban (71 percent) and rural (44 percent) areas. In terms of basic sanitation services, around eight out of ten people have access to improved facilities not shared with other households. Around 72 percent of rural people use at least basic sanitation services, compared with 88 percent in urban areas. Widespread inappropriate use of pit latrines, the use of fresh excreta as fertilizer²² and poor hygiene practices pose further threats to human health and exacerbate undernutrition in children. As a result, much of the population is regularly exposed to the risk of waterborne diseases such as diarrhoea, which is among the leading causes of child mortality in the country.²³

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea is party to several of the most important environmental conventions: The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Kyoto Protocol to the Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants and several others. Recently, it signed the Paris Agreement, committing to prepare its own intended nationally determined contribution to global efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and curtail global warming. The country is also party to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. However, like many countries, it struggles to implement the commitments it has made under these and other treaties.

Historical data shows that the Democratic People's

Republic of Korea has been affected by natural disasters of varying severity in most years. Between 2004 and 2016, over six million people were affected by natural disasters, mostly floods and droughts, including in 2015 and 2016 when drought and flooding occurred in many parts of the country.²⁴

Given its vulnerability to extreme weather events, the country will benefit from the support provided by WFP in building its capacity for disaster preparedness, vulnerability mapping and risk reduction, as well as the management of the national response when a disaster occurs.

1.3 HUNGER GAPS AND CHALLENGES

Undernutrition and the public distribution system. The Government determines average ration sizes for cereals, cooking oil and pulses under the public distribution system (PDS) on the basis of production estimates and planned imports. Rations for eligible households vary considerably depending on the age and occupation of household members, the time of year and whether food is consumed elsewhere, for example at school. Cereals are distributed through public distribution centres, while non-cereals are provided through state shops. While the Government continues to report²⁵ a consistently reduced cereal ration – an average 50–60 percent of the Government-established target of 573 grams of cereals per person per day, there is generally not enough information about the PDS available to permit an analysis of food sufficiency. However, it is evident that mechanisms other than the PDS also contribute to household sustenance, including markets and social support networks.²⁶

Agricultural production. Most food is produced on 3,900 cooperative farms, with 100 state farms focusing on specialized activities such as poultry or pig breeding.²⁷ Cooperative farms are responsible for national self-sufficiency in the staples of maize and rice and, increasingly, potatoes. Members of cooperative farms are reportedly entitled to larger rations and have access to kitchen garden plots (of approximately 60m²), which help diversify their diets. In urban areas, plots of land near apartments are cultivated by small groups, while “sloping lands”, initially deforested and cultivated during the mid-1990s, have been assigned to user groups to contribute to informal agricultural production. While agricultural performance has stabilized in recent years,²⁸ total production still falls short of national requirements – the

22 Called “virtual open defecation”, this is the use of undecomposed faecal matter to make compost manure. It has a negative impact on the health and nutritional status of the population.

23 Humanitarian country team and partners. 2018. 2018 DPR Korea Needs and Priorities: (March 2018). The lack of sex- and age-disaggregated data prevents analysis of access to water and sanitation services, hygiene practices and impacts on unpaid labour for women, men, girls and boys in various parts of the country.

24 Ibid.

25 WFP 2017 monitoring reports based on interviews with county officials.

26 FAO and WFP 2013 crop and food security assessment mission.

27 Humanitarian country team and partners. 2018. 2018 DPR Korea Needs and Priorities: (March 2018).

28 Ibid.

country is included in the list of low income and food-deficit countries of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).²⁹

Access to markets. In addition to swaps and bartering, markets involve large numbers of small transactions, often by women.³⁰ Markets where households can sell produce from their kitchen gardens and small livestock are springing up. There is, however, insufficient data for a comprehensive understanding of the extent to which they meet the daily food and non-food needs of the population.

Micronutrient deficiencies. Micronutrient deficiencies, particularly deficiencies in iron, zinc, vitamin A and iodine, are common. A 2014 Ministry of Public Health report noted that 31.2 percent of pregnant women were anaemic, and that the prevalence of low birth weight stood at 5 percent.³¹ A 2012 national nutrition survey³² indicated that, on aggregate, 74 percent of pregnant women received multi-micronutrient supplements, with rates ranging from 55 percent in Ryanggang province to 88 percent in Pyongyang province. However, only 26.9 percent of mothers took multi-micronutrient tablets for the recommended period of six months during pregnancy, and 26.4 percent took the tablets for only one month. Vitamin A supplementation for children aged 6–59 months has a large impact on child survival and is one of the most common public health programmes targeting children, usually provided twice a year during nationally organized child health days through nurseries and household doctors. An iodine deficiency disorders survey concluded that 51.3 percent of schoolchildren consumed less than the minimum iodine requirement.³³ The same survey revealed that the total goitre rate, another indicator of iodine deficiency, was 19.5 percent (mild) at the national level but 31 percent (severe) in the northern and mountainous provinces.

Access to basic services (e.g. in health, nutrition, sanitation). Food insecurity and undernutrition are compounded by a lack of access to basic services, including health care, water and sanitation, that jeopardizes the well-being of a sizable proportion of the population, particularly young children, PLWG, the elderly, people with disabilities and those with communicable and

non-communicable diseases. This lack of access also makes the domestic work largely done by women more difficult. Water supply systems in most parts of the country are not fully functional, compromising the quality and quantity of water. At least 13.7 million people have limited access to safe and readily available water. This situation and the associated health risks are compounded by the fact that around 23 percent of the population does not have access to basic sanitation.³⁴

Disease. Communicable and non-communicable diseases are major health concerns. Tuberculosis (TB) remains a challenge, with a recent survey showing prevalence at 641 per 100,000, with many cases involving drug-resistant TB and relapse following treatment.³⁵ There is an established relationship between poor nutrition and increased susceptibility to TB and other diseases.³⁶ Undernutrition weakens the immune system, which worsens the effects of infection, which then increases the likelihood of undernutrition. Particularly in instances of poverty and food insecurity, this synergistic relationship between undernutrition and TB often leads to a high prevalence of undernutrition among people with TB. Nutritional care and support services for in- and outpatients with TB are needed to support the Government's efforts to tackle the disease.

Natural disasters. Existing vulnerabilities are compounded by the frequent natural disasters that affect the country. The Inter-Agency Standing Committee Index for Risk Management ranks the country 41st out of 191 countries in terms of disaster risk.³⁷ Floods and droughts regularly affect the country, sometimes in the same year. Droughts have become increasingly common over the past decade, destabilizing agricultural production and affecting food security in the long term. Major droughts occurred 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. Since then, the country has seen severe floods in August 2015 and August 2016 and a drought in the central provinces in 2017. Communities in these disaster-prone areas are continuously threatened by both chronic malnutrition and shocks associated with disasters.

Gender. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea has achieved a 12-year compulsory universal education; this

29 See <http://www.fao.org/countryprofiles/lifdc/en/>.

30 According to WFP's 2013 Food Security and Nutrition Atlas, women outnumber men in certain sectors, particularly wholesale and retail trade (68 percent female workers) and to a lesser extent in agriculture, forestry and fishing (53 percent female workers). Participation in the market to sell goods or food from gardens is often restricted to older women. The sectors in which men dominate include manufacturing, mining and quarrying and public administration.

31 Ministry of Public Health. 2017. *Medium Term Strategic Plan for Development of the Health Sector 2016-2020*.

32 UNICEF, WHO, WFP and Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. 2012. National Nutrition Survey.

33 Central Bureau of Statistics, Institute for Child Nutrition, and Ministry of Public Health. 2010.

34 Humanitarian country team and partners. 2018. *2018 DPR Korea Needs and Priorities: (March 2018)*.

35 Ibid.

36 Given the nutritional vulnerability of PLWG, this population is similarly susceptible to TB and other diseases.

37 See <http://www.inform-index.org/>.

38 Humanitarian country team and partners. 2018. *2018 DPR Korea Needs and Priorities: (March 2018)*.

is of particular importance because it highlights the importance of gender parity in education and has helped increase the presence of women in the labour force and their access to health care. By contrast to primary education, only 28 percent of women are enrolled in tertiary education.³⁸ Successfully addressing gender issues in tertiary education, as well as supporting women's empowerment in all areas of domestic, social and economic life, will foster a more balanced labour force in areas where women are not currently well represented. Such measures will also help reduce the high rates of maternal mortality (82 deaths per 100,000 live births³⁹) and high levels of malnutrition among PLWG. Women's public participation and leadership also need to be strengthened; women currently have a limited presence in decision making, as seen, for example, in the gender distribution of province and county-level managerial positions. These facts highlight the need for a more nuanced, gender-responsive strategy (based on a gender analysis) that will address gender inequalities as one of the underlying causes of food insecurity and malnutrition. Gender disparities in income also need to be further assessed.

Availability of data. The availability of and access to data in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea is a persistent challenge. There is a chronic shortage of timely, verifiable, disaggregated data related to food security and nutrition. The last crop and food security assessment mission was conducted by FAO and WFP in 2013. WFP has begun planning a qualitative assessment, as the first step in the implementation of the tiered approach. Annual qualitative assessments and a nationwide quantitative assessment during the term of the ICSP are under discussion with the Government. The collection of output and outcome level data with regard to adherence to WFP's corporate methodologies, as well as the verification of data, also needs to be strengthened. All information in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea is controlled by the Government, particularly through the Central Bureau of Statistics.

Despite WFP's sustained work on nutrition support for young children and PLWG over the last decade, the organization continues to be regarded mainly as a "food aid" provider. Interactions with the Ministry of Public Health and the Institute for Child Nutrition during 2018 have started to change the perception and strength of WFP's role in food assistance. Future negotiations on a

strategic review and a country strategic plan (CSP) will seek to address this, in line with WFP's needs-based programming approach.

1.4 KEY COUNTRY PRIORITIES

GOVERNMENT PRIORITIES

The Government has endorsed the SDGs and stated its commitment to achieving food security and improving the well-being of its people. The Government's management of the development process is particular to its political, economic and social system, which is based on the philosophy of complete self-reliance.⁴⁰

The central source of national strategies, policies and priorities is the five-year strategy delivered by the Leader at the seventh Workers' Party congress, in May 2016, and the Leader's New Year address in January 2018. In his speech at the seventh congress, the Leader outlined priority areas as follows: "The energy, or power, and food problems are of key importance in achieving the independent and sustainable growth of the national economy".⁴¹

In the strategy, the Government has prioritized more hygienic living conditions and a healthier environment. This includes a requirement that the agricultural sector adopt scientific and technological farming techniques to increase crop yields.

The national nutrition strategy and action plan for 2014–2018 aims to reduce malnutrition among women and children. The national agroforestry strategy and action plan for 2015–2024 recognizes that deforestation, land degradation and natural disasters threaten people's livelihoods. Meanwhile, the country's 2015 law on disaster prevention, relief and recovery provides guidelines for protecting people's lives and state property.

UNITED NATIONS AND OTHER PARTNERS

The United Nations country team comprises six resident agencies⁴² and eight non-resident agencies.⁴³ The United Nations strategic framework for 2017–2021 governs the work of the United Nations in supporting the Government. The framework identifies four strategic priorities, which the United Nations will seek to address at the country level working in support of Government programmes on food and nutrition security, social

38 Humanitarian country team and partners. 2018. *2018 DPR Korea Needs and Priorities: (March 2018)*.

39 WHO and others. 2015. *Trends in Maternal Mortality: 1990-2015*.

40 The Democratic People's Republic of Korea is a signatory to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and, by endorsing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, has endorsed SDG 5, on achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls.

41 The Leader's speech, seventh party congress, May 2016, Part 3. "Building an economic giant and the strategy for developing the national economy". (Not available online.)

42 FAO, UNICEF, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Population Fund, WFP and the World Health Organization.

43 The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the United Nations Office for Project Services, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, the United Nations Economic Commission for Asia and the Pacific and the International Fund for Agricultural Development.

development services, resilience and sustainability and data and development management. Through its work, the United Nations aims to contribute to the Government's efforts to achieve gender equality.

According to the 2018 report *The Democratic People's Republic of Korea: Needs and Priorities*,⁴⁴ demand for the treatment of severe acute malnutrition through UNICEF's community management of acute malnutrition programme continues to rise. In 2016 the programme was scaled up to cover 90 percent of children under 5, up from 16 percent in 2015.

In 2005, the Government announced that non-governmental organizations should leave the country, but it was agreed that some would continue to operate as European Union programme support units.⁴⁵ The Red Cross and several bilateral organizations remain.⁴⁶

The food security and agriculture sectors support the Government's goal of improving living standards by increasing crop yields, livestock, fish farming and the production of fruit, mushrooms and vegetables. This is fundamental to broadening people's access to adequate and nutritious foods. In 2018, the food security sector will prioritize nutrition-sensitive activities to enhance the dietary diversity and food security resilience of the population in the face of climate-related disasters; the provision of agricultural inputs such as fertilizer, improved seeds, small farming equipment and small livestock, particularly in areas vulnerable to the impact of climate change; support for communities in their efforts to restore degraded lands; the provision of assistance for sloping land management; food assistance; and capacity building for agriculture-based resilience and disaster risk management.⁴⁷

Under local coordination mechanisms, the food security and nutrition sectors work closely together. The food security sector provides quantitative and qualitative information through periodic reports and technical bulletins. By sharing information on changes in agricultural production, the sector facilitates a better understanding of the links between malnutrition and food security.

The nutrition sector working group will maintain its proactive approach to addressing undernutrition through a focus on the first 1,000 days of life, which lies at the heart of nutrition-related advocacy. Nutrition-specific interventions, such as the promotion of optimum infant

and young child feeding practices and dietary supplements for children and PLWG to prevent acute and chronic malnutrition, will continue. Nutrition support for TB patients will be initiated in collaboration with the Government and the World Health Organization (WHO).

44 Humanitarian country team and partners. 2018. *2018 DPR Korea Needs and Priorities*: (March 2018).

45 Première Urgence, Concern Worldwide, Deutsche Welthungerhilfe, Triangle and Handicap International.

46 The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the International Committee of the Red Cross.

47 Humanitarian country team and partners. 2018. *2018 DPR Korea Needs and Priorities*: (March 2018).

2. Strategic Implications for WFP

2.1 WFP'S EXPERIENCE AND LESSONS LEARNED

Since 1995, through emergency operations and protracted relief and recovery operations, WFP has delivered 4.6 million mt of food in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. WFP's food assistance helped feed millions during and after the famine years.

WFP support has traditionally focused on nutrition interventions and food assistance for assets (FFA) activities, mainly in disaster risk reduction areas, reaching up to 8.5 million beneficiaries in 2001.⁴⁸ The nutrition interventions have been aimed at helping children and PLWG to enhance their food security through the provision of locally processed foods fortified with added micronutrients, fats and proteins. FFA projects have focused on dredging rivers, repairing embankments, planting trees, levelling land and improving soils in line with the Government's priorities for disaster risk reduction and agroforestry. Elements of capacity strengthening have been integrated into local food production activities with the aim of improving food safety and quality.

Oversight missions and a 2017 internal audit⁴⁹ have highlighted risks posed by limitations on operational monitoring, data and regular assessments and access to line ministries. WFP's agreement with the Government defines the minimum operating conditions for WFP's work, including standards for monitoring and access to data, which are premised on the "no access, no assistance" principle, irrespective of the size of WFP's programme. A lack of up-to-date food security and other disaggregated information (including at the county level) needed for targeting has been a considerable challenge to programme design and implementation. Nationally representative quantitative assessments are required in order to understand the needs of children at risk of malnutrition beyond the counties and institutions WFP currently supports.

To manage these risks under the ICSP, WFP will establish a joint project management team with the Government that will address operational and programmatic issues as they arise.⁵⁰ The team will conduct annual reviews of the ICSP implementation plan.

Currently, WFP coordinates its activities mainly with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Stronger and more regular contact will be established with technical line ministries such as the Ministry of Public Health and the Ministry of Land and Environmental Protection. This will enable the country office to take full advantage of the Government's expertise and specialized knowledge to implement and fine-tune its programme.⁵¹ It will also ensure that interventions are in line with national priorities and provincial and county budgets.

Considering the data gaps, WFP will stress upon the Government the importance of collecting and analysing sex- and age-disaggregated data to obtaining a better understanding of food choices, access, labour and intake for women, men, girls and boys as a basis for better supporting mothers, fathers and other caregivers in ensuring an adequately diverse diet for their children. This will also inform the food security and nutrition programming of the Government and other stakeholders.

2.2 OPPORTUNITIES FOR WFP

Recent geopolitical developments have led to cautious optimism that humanitarian access could be expanded. WFP will use its reach as the largest humanitarian operation in the country to rapidly extend its assistance to the most vulnerable populations in additional counties should the political, operational and funding environment allow. All WFP activities in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea will be implemented in accordance with United Nations Security Council resolutions.

The Government's declared prioritization of economic and social development creates a favourable environment for a future transition from humanitarian to development assistance to address the shifting challenges of food and nutrition security in the country should circumstances permit. WFP is well equipped to quickly mobilize not only operational support, but also extensive technical capacity and expertise to support the Government in its efforts to create resilient communities in areas such as supply chain management, programme design and disaster risk management).

48 [WFP Standard Project Report](#) (Project 05959.2). 2001.

49 Internal audit of WFP operations in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. 2017.

50 The project management team will have terms of reference and its members, including those seconded to WFP, will have the requisite technical profiles. The team responsible for programme implementation and monitoring will include Korean speakers.

51 Ibid.

2.3 STRATEGIC CHANGES

While maintaining its much-needed humanitarian orientation under the ICSP, WFP will take action towards renewed strategic and operational engagement with the Government and will prepare to scale up activities and shift its programmatic focus when circumstances permit. The ICSP is also an opportunity to include capacity strengthening work, which is essential to ensuring the sustainable impact of WFP operations. WFP envisions a four-phase approach: first, exploring options for a tailor-made national strategic review; second, planning for programme shifts informed by analyses and assessments under the ICSP that systematically integrate gender and age; third, implementing the tiered approach to conducting assessments; and fourth, engaging with the Government in multi-disciplinary areas of food security, disaster risk reduction, climate change and the environment.

3. WFP's Strategic Orientation

3.1 DIRECTION, FOCUS AND INTENDED IMPACTS

Considering the challenging operational environment in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, as well as the fluidity and limitations of the international geopolitical situation (particularly with regard to sanctions regimes and donor funding), WFP does not envision an immediate strategic reorientation of its programme under the three-year ICSP. WFP's overarching goal under the ICSP will be to support the country in working to achieve zero hunger in a manner that protects the food security and nutrition gains made so far and prevents undernutrition, especially among those most at risk.

In line with the analysis of gaps and challenges, country priorities, lessons learned and opportunities, and in collaboration with line ministries and United Nations humanitarian and development partners, the country office will focus on three interrelated strategic outcomes under SDG 2 in the following areas:

Strategic Outcome 1: Stabilized or improved nutrition;

Strategic Outcome 2: Resilient livelihoods; and

Strategic Outcome 3: Crisis response in the event of natural disasters.

The country office is committed to mainstreaming cross-cutting issues related to gender, age and disability across all strategic outcomes.

At the same time, the ICSP offers an opportunity for including capacity strengthening work that will ensure that WFP operations are sustainable.⁵² This is reflected in the proposed design of the interventions for strategic outcomes 1 and 2, through increasing the focus on capacity strengthening for counterparts (including study tours), incorporating nutrition messages into training and information materials for targeted stakeholders and exploring innovative localized technical solutions in areas such as food fortification, FFA activities and impact measurement.

WFP will prepare for a potential scale-up of its activities and a programmatic shift in the event that the operating

environment becomes conducive to such changes. Any programmatic shift will be set out in a revised ICSP. Contingency planning for scaling up work or preparing for a change in WFP's strategic approach will take place during the course of the ICSP.

WFP will employ a four-phase approach. First, as part of its enhanced strategic engagement, WFP will pursue opportunities to develop a tailor-made national strategic review of food security and nutrition or an alternative road map for achieving SDG 2 that fully considers the country context. WFP will also explore the need and opportunities for new programme modalities, targeting and monitoring approaches and an expansion of geographic coverage.

Second, based on the results of the strategic review, WFP will consider programmatic shifts, also taking into account the results of other analyses and assessments.

Third, WFP will introduce a tiered approach to obtaining better access to data and carrying out needs assessments and analysis in order to better understand the food systems in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and any systemic disparities associated with sex, age and disability status. As part of the tiered approach to assessments, WFP will finalize one qualitative assessment before the start of the ICSP and will conduct yearly qualitative assessments thereafter. A quantitative food security assessment is planned to take place during the ICSP. Results from these analyses will complement information from the 2017 MICS and the planned census supported by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) to inform evidence-based design and targeting in case of revisions to the ICSP.

Finally, informed by the results of analyses and assessments and based on the findings of the strategic review, WFP will consider programmatic shifts that would enable the organization to optimize the impact of its activities. Any changes will be applied in parallel with enhanced engagement with the Government and with agreements setting out the required operating conditions.

⁵² This refers to the capacity to implement food security programming and not the transfer of dual-use technology.

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

STRATEGIC OUTCOME 1: CHILDREN UNDER 7, PREGNANT AND LACTATING WOMEN AND GIRLS, AND TUBERCULOSIS PATIENTS IN TARGETED COUNTIES HAVE STABILIZED OR IMPROVED NUTRITION, PARTICULARLY MICRONUTRIENT STATUS, BY 2025.

To address the effects of reduced crop productivity and the reduced PDS cereal rations, and to maintain the improvements made in tackling malnutrition (evidenced by the results of the 2017 MICS), under strategic outcome 1 WFP will focus its efforts on helping PLWG to make the most of the 1,000-day window of opportunity and supporting children in nurseries, kindergartens, boarding institutions and hospitals. WFP will also assist TB patients⁵³ as part of the effort to improve TB recovery rates and to help household members to achieve innate immunity against TB. This support will consist of supplementing the diets of the target groups with essential macro and micronutrients, thus enabling beneficiaries to stabilize and maintain their nutrition status.

This outcome will contribute to the national nutrition strategy and action plan for 2014–2018, which aims to reduce malnutrition among women and children. It will also contribute to strategic area 1 (food and nutrition security) and strategic area 2 (resilience and sustainability) of the United Nations strategic framework for 2017-2021. As it seeks to have an impact on malnutrition, it is in line with WFP Strategic Result 2 and SDG Target 2.2. Work under this strategic outcome will also contribute to WFP Strategic Result 1 by strengthening local production capacity.

FOCUS AREA

Strategic outcome 1 focuses on resilience building.

EXPECTED OUTPUTS

The outcome will be achieved through the following two outputs:

- Targeted children under 7, PLWG and TB patients receive high-quality, nutrient-dense foods that improve their nutrition status.
- Local factories benefit from improved infrastructure and improved capacity to produce safe, high-quality foods.

KEY ACTIVITY

Activity 1: Provide nutrition assistance to children under 7, PLWG and TB patients and strengthen the capacity of local

food processors.

Through this outcome, WFP will continue to provide locally produced food supplements in line with established rations to maintain nutritional status and prevent malnutrition among beneficiaries. The target groups will comprise PLWG, children in nurseries (aged 6 months to 4 years), children in kindergartens (aged 5 and 6) and children in paediatric hospitals (aged 6 months to 17 years) in targeted counties.⁵⁴

In addition to nutrient supplements, WFP will provide essential training on infant and young child feeding practices, with special emphasis on exclusive and continued breast feeding, complimentary feeding and balanced diet. The design of this component will be coordinated jointly with the Government's Institute for Child Nutrition, the Ministry of Public Health and the Re-Training Institute.

Under the TB component of this outcome, WFP in collaboration with WHO will support women, men, boys and girls diagnosed with TB during their treatment, whether in-patient or out-patient. This activity will complement the WHO treatment cycle.

WFP will continue to support 11 local food production factories in the manufacture of fortified food for its beneficiaries by providing spare parts and packaging materials, upgrading equipment to improve food quality and providing technical training to factory staff.

STRATEGIC OUTCOME 2: PEOPLE VULNERABLE TO DISASTERS AND FOOD INSECURITY IN TARGETED COUNTRIES ARE ABLE TO MEET THEIR FOOD AND NUTRITION NEEDS DURING AND AFTER SHOCKS AND STRESSES BY 2021

WFP will build on its experience in providing assistance in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, paving the way to recovery through gender-responsive activities aimed at enhancing the self-reliance of people vulnerable to natural disasters and food insecurity. WFP will support vulnerable and food-insecure people in targeted areas with low agricultural productivity and underinvestment in rural infrastructure where development gains are lost as a result of disasters. Targeted vulnerable households will benefit (women and men equitably) from the creation of rural infrastructure and disaster risk reduction, which should lead them to become more self-sufficient, consume more nutritious food and be better able to cope with shocks.

⁵³ Covering both drug-susceptible and multi-drug-resistant TB cases.

⁵⁴ School attendance (starting from kindergarten) is obligatory and therefore the activities related to targeting children of 5 and 6 years of age and children in boarding schools are linked to nutrition outcomes rather than educational objectives. The support provided by WFP is aimed at strengthening the continuum of care for early childhood development and the prevention of undernutrition.

This outcome will contribute to the national agroforestry strategy and action plan for 2015–2024 and the 2015 law on disaster prevention, relief and recovery. It also contributes to strategic area 1 (food and nutrition security) and strategic area 2 (resilience and sustainability) of the United Nations strategic framework for 2017–2021. In line with WFP Strategic Results 1 and 4 and SDG 13, it aims to have an impact on access to food and food systems.

FOCUS AREA

Strategic outcome 2 focuses on resilience building.

EXPECTED OUTPUTS

The outcome will be achieved through the following output:

- Food-insecure people benefit from gender-responsive livelihood support that enhances their self-reliance, reduces risks and supports stability.

KEY ACTIVITY

Activity 2: Provide conditional gender-responsive livelihood support for food-insecure population groups in WFP-targeted areas.

Through this outcome WFP will provide direct support in the form of cereals, pulses and vegetable oil to food-insecure households to improve their dietary diversity. Through FFA activities, assets will be created that contribute to enhancing livelihoods, improving food security and nutrition, and reducing the risk of disasters.

In the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, FFA activities are implemented in partnership with the Government, whereby WFP contributes to rural public work programmes. Priorities for project selection will be identified in collaboration with line ministries and provincial and county government officials. This will be achieved by establishing a direct link to the line ministries throughout project cycles and strengthening their capacity to design and implement innovative localized technical solutions for FFA. WFP will work with the Ministry of Land and Environmental Protection to implement sustainable gender-responsive disaster risk reduction activities.

FFA projects will include the creation and rehabilitation of dams, water reservoirs and irrigation canals, agroforestry activities (including the creation of hillside tree plantations and community orchards), the reinforcement of river embankments and the creation of assets related to post-harvest losses and fish farming. As part of the FFA strategy, WFP will advocate the development of model sites for building the self-reliance of supported

communities and will encourage other communities to use them to enhance their livelihoods. Attention will be given to ensuring equitable outcomes for women and men. New and rehabilitated assets will be designed to minimize environmental damage.

The prioritization of projects will aim at increasing partnerships with operational stakeholders. For example, preparedness will be included in FFA activities with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and a project to reduce post-harvest losses will be piloted in collaboration with FAO. Together with the Government, WFP will update the FFA guidelines to broaden the scope of FFA activities and enhance their beneficial impact on gender equality.

This activity will be a partnership between the Government and WFP in which WFP will provide food and essential non-food items (such as tools); facilitate mapping and planning exercises; and support the design of technical solutions as required. The Government will arrange for other non-food items, identify FFA participants and facilitate coordination with line ministries and provincial and county officials.

STRATEGIC OUTCOME 3: CRISIS-AFFECTED PEOPLE HAVE ACCESS TO FOOD ALL YEAR

Considering the complex and protracted situation in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, one important way to ensure access to food and nutrition will be to enable vulnerable women, men, girls and boys to meet their food and nutrition needs during and immediately after emergencies, thereby achieving SDG Target 2.1. This support will be required by people affected by natural disasters, who will need assistance whenever emergencies occur during the period 2019–2021.

This outcome is in line with the 2015 law on disaster prevention, relief and recovery and contributes to strategic area 1 (food and nutrition security) and strategic area 2 (resilience and sustainability) of the United Nations strategic framework for 2017–2021.

FOCUS AREA

Strategic outcome 3 focuses on crisis response.

EXPECTED OUTPUTS

The outcome will be achieved through the following output:

- Crisis-affected people receive food that meets their basic food needs.

KEY ACTIVITY

Activity 3: Provide unconditional in-kind food assistance to crisis-affected people.

In close coordination with the Food Security and Agriculture Cluster, the United Nations country team and government entities, WFP will provide unconditional in-kind food assistance to crisis-affected people. The immediate response ration will consist of fortified biscuits that are provided to meet nutrient requirements during the first week after a crisis. A monthly ration of cereals, pulses and oil will be distributed through general food distribution to the affected population thereafter. The provision of this assistance will be guided by principles of gender equality, protection and accountability to the affected population and will be adapted to the particular needs of women, men, girls and boys, with consideration for people with disabilities.

3.3 TRANSITION AND EXIT STRATEGIES

During the ICSP, WFP will commence a strategic review, including gender and age analysis, to examine the nature of the national zero hunger challenge. Based on the review findings and forthcoming negotiations, WFP will reassess its engagement in the country as part of the CSP design process.

4. Implementation Arrangements

4.1 BENEFICIARY ANALYSIS

WFP’s assistance will continue to target provinces and counties⁵⁵ vulnerable to food insecurity, undernutrition and natural disasters, selected in consultation with the Government on the basis of food security and nutrition criteria. A larger quantitative nationwide food security assessment planned under the tiered approach to assessments is expected to provide data for fine-tuning targeting exploring opportunities for including additional counties and beneficiaries beyond institutions. Children and PLWG will be the primary groups receiving WFP assistance because of their vulnerability to food insecurity and undernutrition.⁵⁶ Boys and girls will have equal access to fortified blended food and fortified biscuits.

To maximize their impact, WFP’s nutrition and FFA projects will be implemented primarily in the same counties. Emergency response will be implemented wherever needed.

During the joint mapping exercise with line ministries that will align WFP’s FFA activities with government plans, additional priority areas are expected to be identified and

considered for inclusion in the FFA strategy for the ICSP. The qualitative nationwide assessment planned under the tiered approach is also expected to inform the targeting of FFA activities under the ICSP. Alignment with the work of other agencies operating in the country will be taken into consideration.

FFA participants in targeted counties will be selected in accordance with the food security criteria stipulated in the FFA guidelines,⁵⁷ with equitable participation of women and men.

The potential beneficiaries of activities that seek to strengthen government capacity to implement nutrition support activities are provincial and county officials, as well as staff at the targeted child institutions and hospitals who will participate in annual training sessions. WFP will continue to train staff at supported factories in the production of safe and high-quality fortified products. At the national level, government officials from selected line ministries and academia will take part in training and study tours in relevant WFP-supported countries. The country office will explore opportunities to facilitate this information exchange through South–South cooperation.

TABLE 1 - BENEFICIARIES BY STRATEGIC OUTCOME AND ACTIVITY

STRATEGIC OUTCOME	ACTIVITY	GIRLS	BOYS	WOMEN	MEN	TOTAL
1	Malnutrition prevention for	405,388	421,934	406,500	-	1,233,822
	Malnutrition prevention for TB	25,713	26,762	63,973	59,052	175,500
2	Asset creation and livelihood	154,275	160,572	383,840	354,313	1,053,000
3	Unconditional resource transfers to support access to food	51,425	53,524	127,947	118,104	351,000
TOTAL WITHOUT OVERLAP		636,800	662,792	982,259	531,470	2,813,322

55 Sixty counties in nine provinces will be supported by WFP. WFP covers all provinces in the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea except Jagang province, the city of Pyongyang and the city of Nampo.

56 PLWG selection will be based on the lists of PLWG provided by county officials, which included pregnant women and girls starting from the fourth month of pregnancy and mothers of children up to 6 months old. All children in targeted nurseries, kindergartens, boarding institutions, hospitals and pediatric wards will be covered by the nutrition support. Once a year the Government will update the global implementation plan, which lists the beneficiaries of nutrition support by province and county.

57 Updated criteria will take into account the following categories included in the current FFA guidelines: families with limited sources of food or income to purchase food; families with very limited possibilities of cultivating their own kitchen gardens or raising their own livestock; families with no support from relatives; families with few members assisted by WFP under vulnerable group feeding activities; households led by women; and large families, which will be given priority during selection.

4.2 TRANSFERS

WFP will provide in-kind food assistance to its beneficiaries. PLWG will be provided with fortified cereals. Children and TB inpatients in targeted institutions will receive fortified cereals and biscuits; TB outpatients and FFA participants will be given household rations of cereals, pulses and vegetable oil. Crisis-affected populations will be provided with fortified biscuits, pulses, oil and cereals.

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea does not have a free market for cereals and is a food deficit country. The fortified cereals and biscuits will be produced using imported raw materials at WFP-supported factories, which is more cost-effective than importing ready-made products. Neither cash nor voucher-based transfer modalities are planned under the ICSP.

TABLE 2 - FOOD AND CASH-BASED TRANSFERS

TABLE 2: FOOD RATION (g/person/day) BY STRATEGIC OUTCOME AND ACTIVITY													
	Strategic outcome 1:						Strategic outcome 2:			Strategic outcome 3			
	Activity 1						Activity 2			Activity 3			
	PLWG	Children aged 6-59 months in nurseries	Children in orphanages	Children in hospitals	Children aged 5-6 in kindergartens	TB in-patients	TB out-patients (household ration)	FFA participants (household ration)			Immediate response	General food distribution	
	Food												
Fortified cereal	200	100	100	100	100	100	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fortified biscuit	-	60	60	60	60	60	-	-	-	250	-	-	-
Cereals	-	-	-	-	-	-	1 000	1 000	1 000	-	-	-	400
Pulses	-	-	-	-	-	-	350	350	350	-	-	-	60
Oil	-	-	-	-	-	-	150	150	150	-	-	-	25
Total kcal/day	740	514	514	514	514	514	1 402	1 402	N/A	1 000	1 000	1 937	-
% kcal from protein	10.80	14.80	14.80	14.80	14.80	14.80	14.6	14.6	N/A	8.30	8.30	10.20	-
Cash-based transfers (USD/person/day)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Number of feeding days per year	30 days/month for 12 months ⁵⁸	25 days/month for 12 months	30 days/month for 12 months	30 days/month for 12 months	25 days/month for 12 months	30 days/month for 4 months	30 days/month for 5 months	180 days/year	7 days	30 days	30 days	30 days	-

58 Support to PLWG will be provided from the fourth to the ninth month of pregnancy and for the first 6 months of lactation.

TABLE 3 - TOTAL FOOD/CASH-BASED TRANSFER REQUIREMENTS AND VALUE

Food Type/Cash-based transfer	Total (mt)	Total (US\$)
Cereals	142,001	52,104,909
Pulses	23,790	14,369,391
Oil and fats	13,521	10,816,598
Other	19,602	31,313,089
Sub-Total (food)	198,915	108,603,986
Sub-Total (cash-based transfers)	-	-
TOTAL (food and cash-based transfers)	198,915	108,603,986

4.3 CAPACITY STRENGTHENING, INCLUDING SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION

Capacity strengthening activities will be designed to strengthen WFP partners' national and subnational capacity to implement nutrition assistance programmes and livelihoods activities. They will include engaging in policy discussions in the areas of food security and nutrition and designing gender-responsive guidance for WFP-supported institutions. WFP will conduct annual training sessions for staff at the child institutions and hospitals in the nutrition assistance programme. In addition, informative materials will be provided to facilitate improved food preparation, hygiene, sanitation and child care practices. No transfer of technology is planned under the ICSP.

WFP will support study tours with the participation of government partners and academia to WFP-supported countries to foster the exchange of opinions and experiences in addressing food insecurity and undernutrition. Opportunities for food fortification will be explored jointly with the Government, UNICEF and WHO (including through landscape analysis). Partnerships with national academia will be sought for technical advice on food fortification. Recurrent training sessions on local food production will be conducted to improve food handling practices, which could result in better safety and quality assurance.

A capacity-strengthening activity matrix will be developed together with the ICSP project management team to indicate baselines, monitor the progress of activities and measure achievements for each category of targeted stakeholders.

4.4 SUPPLY CHAIN

WFP will provide targeted beneficiaries with in-kind food assistance consisting of locally fortified processed foods. The food and vitamin and mineral pre-mixes used to produce the fortified foods must be sourced internationally and require a procurement lead time of four to six months, and another month is required for the local manufacture of the fortified foods.

The Government is responsible for transporting food from the port of entry to the local food production factories and warehouses. They are also responsible for delivering food to the child institutions and other beneficiaries, with technical support from WFP.

To address the challenges related to food processing,⁵⁹ the country office will continue to work with the Government to build its capacity to produce nutritious foods, including through technical capacity strengthening and the provision of milling equipment and spare parts. The country office will continue to address food quality and safety issues during the implementation of the ICSP. Port and entry point capacities will be regularly reviewed to enhance supply chain management.

4.5 COUNTRY OFFICE CAPACITY AND PROFILE

No major changes are envisaged from the transitional ICSP to the ICSP. The size, structure and staffing profile of the country office are planned to be similar to those under the transitional ICSP. WFP has no sub-offices or field offices in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. The country office has a support unit based in Beijing. National staff are seconded by the Government.

⁵⁹ Food processing challenges arise mainly from a lack of spare parts, adequate maintenance and adherence to quality assurance and quality control mechanisms.

As part of capacity-strengthening activities,⁶⁰ as well as to establish direct links with ministries, WFP is exploring opportunities to strengthen its internal capacity by engaging national experts in nutrition assistance, reforestation, disaster mitigation, asset creation, fish farming and gender equality.

4.6 PARTNERSHIPS

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs National Coordinating Committee is the coordinating agency for WFP and facilitates links with relevant ministries. WFP also works with the Ministry of Public Health and the Ministry of Land and Environmental Protection at the provincial and county levels.

WFP is an integral member of the humanitarian country team for emergency response. WFP coordinates with UNICEF and WHO on nutrition, co-chairing the food security working group with FAO and the nutrition working group with UNICEF. WFP is a member of inter-agency working groups on monitoring and evaluation and data management. It also works closely with the other members of the gender task force, including UNDP, FAO, UNICEF and UNFPA.

There are five international non-governmental organizations based in Pyongyang, as well as the International Federation of the Red Cross, the International Committee of the Red Cross, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, the European Union Food Security Office, the Finnish Agriculture and Health Rehabilitation Programme of Fida International, and French and Italian cooperation offices. WFP will continue to negotiate with the Government regarding opportunities for partnering and implementing joint projects with the agencies working in food security, nutrition and disaster management.

⁶⁰ Capacity strengthening activities are planned under strategic outcomes 1 and 2.

5. Performance Management and Evaluation

5.1 MONITORING AND EVALUATION ARRANGEMENTS

Monitoring needs to be viewed in the light of WFP's objectives and the operational environment in the country. Although operations are constrained by difficult working conditions, including restricted access that hampers output and outcome monitoring and regular assessments, WFP does have access to its operational areas and has an agreement with the Government that allows it to make use of Korean-speaking international monitoring experts.

WFP will continue to have access to beneficiaries, institutions and factories. Furthermore, WFP will strengthen its capacity to conduct assessments, reviews and evaluations in line with the ICSP monitoring, review and evaluation plan. In the event of a scale-up of operations, additional prerequisites will ensure adherence to monitoring arrangements. For the ICSP, the country office, with support from the regional bureau, will streamline and harmonize data collection by switching from E-WIN to the mobile data collection and analytics tool, MDCA.

In 2018, WFP designed a monitoring and evaluation plan to enhance the monitoring arrangements under the transitional ICSP currently in place. A follow-up exercise will be conducted at the end of the transitional ICSP to measure progress in monitoring and evaluation and identify opportunities for further improvements under the ICSP. The exercise will include a review of opportunities for gender- and disability-responsive monitoring and will reflect the monitoring needs for each of the strategic outcomes, in line with the Corporate Results Framework (2017–2021) and WFP's monitoring strategy. The review will also aim to ensure that monitoring tools reflect corporate requirements.

All monitoring activities will be performed jointly with the Government. Monitoring arrangements will be integrated into the terms of reference and activities of the joint project management team. Opportunities for complementary or joint monitoring with other United Nations agencies and other agencies in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea will be explored. Following an assessment of the evaluability of WFP operations in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, a decentralized evaluation will be scheduled for 2019 on a topic of particular interest, and a country portfolio evaluation managed by the Office of Evaluation will be planned for 2020 to inform the implementation of the ICSP and the design of the subsequent CSP.

A capacity-strengthening needs analysis planned for the end of 2018 will inform the design of a capacity-strengthening plan in the area of monitoring and evaluation for WFP staff and Government staff seconded to WFP.

5.2 RISK MANAGEMENT

STRATEGIC RISKS

WFP will monitor contextual risks such as natural disasters and the impact of sanctions on WFP operations. The country office has prepared a contingency plan to respond to disasters, and the emergency preparedness and response plan is updated periodically. The country office monitoring teams collect information related to droughts and floods. Due to the sanctions, the current banking channel remains closed; a continued absence of regular cash supply may severely affect WFP's operations on the ground.

Lack of funding also represents a key risk area for WFP. Currently, WFP country office has an active and dynamic relationships with donors to secure funding for the ongoing operations, while exploring opportunities to broaden the donor portfolio via non-traditional donors.

OPERATIONAL RISKS

Operational risks include pipeline breaks, which reduce the nutritional benefits of WFP assistance for children and PLWG, who need a continuous supply of supplementary food to safeguard any gains made; delay the production of fortified foods; and reduce the number of staff available for managing and monitoring operations. These risks may often arise as secondary risks of insufficient funding, and dedicated mitigation measures are required to minimize their impact on WFP's beneficiaries.

The absence of updated assessment and county-level disaggregated data continues to pose risks to targeting and thereby to ensuring that support is rendered to those most in need. Mitigation strategies that promote access to line ministries for coordinating programme support and aligning it with regional plans and budgets will help to avoid the risk of duplicating support efforts. WFP will seek to establish partnerships with relevant ministries and partners, holding joint mapping exercises with line ministries and facilitating the secondment of staff to WFP. The tiered approach to assessments and the further integration of gender into programme design based on the gender analysis will also help address these risks.

6. Resources for Results

6.1 COUNTRY PORTFOLIO BUDGET

TABLE 4 - COUNTRY PORTFOLIO BUDGET (US\$)

STRATEGIC OUTCOME	2019	2020	2021	TOTAL
1	39,776,527	39,909,848	39,546,241	119,232,617
2	13,315,186	13,330,887	13,289,457	39,935,531
3	634,660	634,783	632,943	1,902,386
TOTAL	53,726,374	53,875,519	53,468,642	161,070,534

WFP aims to have a fully resourced operation in order to assist the full caseload. Funding constraints are expected, however, so the country office will allocate resources so as to have maximum impact on the nutrition status of the highest priority beneficiaries. The prioritization strategy will outline parameters for scaling back activities in the event of funding shortfalls.

6.2 RESOURCING OUTLOOK

There has been an atmosphere of cautious optimism in 2018, which could provide the conditions for increased international cooperation and support. This ICSP has been tailored to adapt to changes in the resourcing situation.

6.3 RESOURCE MOBILIZATION STRATEGY

The objective of the resource mobilization strategy for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea is to secure sufficient and predictable funding. The country office will strengthen its excellent relationship with the donor community while exploring opportunities to broaden the donor portfolio.

Annex I:

Logical Framework for DPR Korea Strategic Plan (2019-2021)

Strategic Goal 1: Support countries to achieve zero hunger	
Strategic Objective 1: End hunger by protecting access to food	
Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food	
Strategic outcome 1: Children under 7 years, pregnant and lactating women and girls, and tuberculosis patients in targeted counties have stabilized or improved nutrition, particularly micronutrient status, by 2025.	Outcome category: Maintained/enhanced individual and household access to adequate food
	Focus area: Resilience Building

Assumptions

Inputs are available for the production and timely distribution of fortified blended foods and biscuits. Factories are well maintained and in good working order.

Outcome indicators

Proportion of eligible population that participates in programme (coverage)

Proportion of target population that participates in an adequate number of distributions (adherence)

Activities and outputs

1. Provide nutrition assistance to children under 7 years of age, pregnant and lactating women and girls, and tuberculosis patients and strengthen capacity of local food processors (NPA: Malnutrition prevention activities)

Local factories benefit from improved infrastructure and improved capacity to produce safe, good-quality foods (B: Nutritious foods provided)

Targeted children under 7 years, pregnant and lactating women and girls, and tuberculosis patients receive high-quality, nutrient-dense foods that improve their nutrition status (A: Resources transferred)

Strategic outcome 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

Outcome category: Maintained/enhanced individual and household access to adequate food

Focus area: resilience Building

Assumptions

Natural disasters do not disrupt asset creation and agricultural production activities. Context-specific technical standards for infrastructure design and construction are established to ensure that assets are relevant to communities' needs.

Outcome indicators

Consumption-based Coping Strategy Index (Percentage of households with reduced CSI)

Activities and outputs

2. Provide conditional gender-responsive livelihood support for food-insecure population groups in WFP-targeted areas. (ACL: Asset creation and livelihood support activities)

Food-insecure people benefit from gender-responsive livelihood support that enhances their self-reliance, reduces risks and supports stability (A: Resources transferred)

Food-insecure people benefit from gender-responsive livelihood support that enhances their self-reliance, reduces risks and supports stability (D: Assets created)

Strategic outcome 3: Crisis-affected people have access to food all year

Outcome category:
Maintained/enhanced individual and household access to adequate food
Focus area: Crisis Response

Assumptions

Sufficient food stock is available in country for timely response.

Outcome indicators

Food Consumption Score

Activities and outputs

3. Provide unconditional in-kind food assistance to crisis-affected people. (URT: Unconditional resource transfers to support access to food)

Crisis-affected people receive food that meets their basic food needs (Strategic Result 1) (A: Resources transferred)

Annex II:

Indicative Cost Breakdown

	STRATEGIC RESULT 1 / SDG 2.2	STRATEGIC RESULT 1 / SDG 2.1	STRATEGIC RESULT 1 / SDG 2.1	TOTAL
	STRATEGIC OUTCOME 1	STRATEGIC OUTCOME 2	STRATEGIC OUTCOME 3	
FOCUS AREA	RESILIENCE BUILDING	RESILIENCE BUILDING	CRISIS RESPONSE	
TRANSFER	102,846,080	33,983,377	1,612,274	138,441,731
IMPLEMENTATION	3,933,870	1,781,417	91,434	5,806,722
ADJUSTED DIRECT SUPPORT COSTS (4%)	5,175,558	1,733,358	82,570	6,991,485
SUBTOTAL	111,955,509	37,498,151	1,786,278	151,239,938
INDIRECT SUPPORT COSTS (6.5%)	7,277,108	2,437,380	116,108	9,830,596
TOTAL	119,232,617	39,935,531	1,902,386	161,070,534

Annex III:

Acronyms

CSP	Country Strategic Plan
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FFA	Food Assistance for Assets
ICSP	Interim Country Strategic Plan
MICS	Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey
PDS	Public Distribution System
PLWG	Pregnant and Lactating Women and Girls
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
TB	Tuberculosis
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
USD	United States Dollar
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization



World Food Programme | DPR Korea | wfp.org
21 Munsundong, Pyongyang, DPR Korea | Tel. +850 2 3817219