



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP DPR Korea Country Brief February 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. An estimated 11 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**

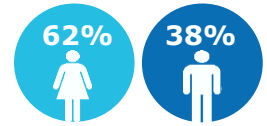
Chronic malnutrition: **19 % of children between 6-59 months (MICS 2017)**

In Numbers

US\$ 9.1 m March – August
Net Funding Requirements

1,543 mt of food distributed in February 2019

486,350 people assisted
in February 2019



Operational Updates

- In February 2019, WFP assisted 486,350 people across DPR Korea, distributing 1,543 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.
- WFP's Interim Country Strategic Plan (ICSP) for 2019-2021 was approved unanimously by WFP's Executive Board on 27 February 2019. It lays out how WFP will meet humanitarian needs, address malnutrition, build resilience to disasters and respond to crises in DPR Korea, and requires US\$161 million over three years. The ICSP shows how WFP will address malnutrition and improve the micronutrient status of women, children and Tuberculosis patients through the production of locally-produced fortified nutritious foods, which WFP delivers to households and through local institutions. WFP's Disaster Risk Reduction programme is uniquely targeted to support households to improve their diet diversity through food assistance for assets while protecting against climate shocks through small-scale household and community projects. Finally, the ICSP is designed to allow for a rapid scale-up when necessary, to address new and evolving humanitarian needs, leveraging WFP's extensive experience and presence in the country.
- WFP is working with the Government and FAO to carry out a survey of humanitarian needs in DPR Korea, in the wake of flooding and a heatwave last year.
- As part of WFP's food assistance for assets and disaster risk reduction, eight projects were preselected for interventions, including activities such as tree planting and small-scale riverbank repair. A field visit with international field monitors will evaluate the feasibility of the projects.

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

Photo Caption: A young girl at a WFP-supported institution holding fortified biscuits that WFP provides across the country. WFP/Colin Kampschoer

WFP Country Strategy

Interim Country Strategic Plan (2019-2021)

Total Requirements (in US\$)	Confirmed funding (in US\$) including carry-over from 2018	March – August Net Funding Requirements (in US\$)
161 m	19.3 m	9.1 m

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

Strategic Outcome 1: Children under 7, pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls, and tuberculosis patients in targeted counties have stabilized or improved nutrition, particularly micronutrient status, by 2025.
Focus area: *Nutrition*

Activities: Provide nutrition assistance to children under 7, pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls (PLWG) and TB patients, and strengthen the capacity of local food processors

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

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.
Focus area: *Resilience Building*

Activities: Provide conditional gender-responsive resilience-building support for disaster-prone communities in WFP-targeted areas.

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

Strategic Outcome 3: Crisis-affected people have access to food all year.
Focus area: *Crisis Response*

Activities: Provide emergency in-kind food assistance to crisis-affected people in the event of humanitarian crises.

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.

Donors

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

Challenges

- 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 February covering nutrition and food assistance for assets interventions. WFP field staff monitored nutrition activities in child institutions, nurseries, households and paediatric wards.

Partnerships

- A field mission to Rinsan County with the Swedish embassy visited WFP-supported communities including nurseries and households. The Swedish representatives and WFP met also with county officials.
- The DPR Korea UN Country Team published the [2019 Humanitarian Needs and Priorities](#) in March, seeking US\$120 million, of which WFP's needs of US\$53 million represent 45 percent.
- WFP co-chairs the Food Security and Agriculture Working Group with FAO, and acts as the coordinating body for assessments and response during emergencies. Members include FAO, Deutsche Welthungerhilfe, Concern Worldwide, Premiere Urgence, the Food Security Office, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, and the Italian Development Cooperation.
- WFP also co-chairs the Nutrition Sector Working Group with UNICEF. Sector members include UNICEF, Save the Children, Deutsche Welthungerhilfe, and Triangle Génération Humanitaire.