



# WFP DPR Korea Country Brief April 2019

World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES



## 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.

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 32 percent. WFP has been present in DPR Korea since 1995.



Population: **25 million**

Life expectancy: **71.6 years**

Income Level: **Low**

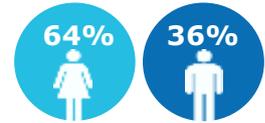
Chronic malnutrition: **19 % of children between 6-59 months (MICS 2017)**

## In Numbers

**US\$ 19.9 million** May – October  
Net Funding Requirements

**982 mt** of food distributed in April 2019

**448,790 people** assisted  
in April 2019



## Operational Updates

In April 2019, WFP assisted 448,790 people across DPR Korea, distributing more than 980 mt of fortified foods. That includes nutrition assistance for 6,310 children in boarding school, 324,990 children in nurseries, 2,970 children in paediatric wards/hospitals, and 114,510 pregnant and breastfeeding women. 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.

In April 2019, WFP began the production of fortified biscuits for children in kindergartens, an activity that will be resumed in May 2019, having been temporarily suspended in 2018 due to funding shortfalls. WFP will also start also distribution of fortified food to tuberculosis (TB) patients in provincial hospitals.

Mid-term assessments have been carried out by WFP for the new asset creation projects (FFA). Two missions visited projects in North Pyongan and South Hwangae provinces and met with province and county officials, visiting project sites and monitoring the ongoing work. A total of eight projects have been selected and are currently being implemented, reaching about 100,000 people. Food assistance will be delivered to workers after completion of the agreed work and after a final monitoring visit from WFP field monitors. The average duration of the FFA projects is 30 days.

The joint FAO/WFP rapid Food Security Assessment mission ended in April and the report was published in early May. The assessment provides an independent analysis of the food security situation in the country, including data on harvest production and estimated people in need of urgent food assistance.

Within its collaboration with the Ministry of Public Health and the Tuberculosis (TB) Department, WFP is planning monitoring activities, and training for TB sanatorium about WFP fortified food. WFP is also strengthening its collaboration with WHO for nutrition/health-related activities.

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**Photo Caption:** WFP-supported nursery in DPRK. WFP/Colin Kampschoer

## WFP Country Strategy

### Interim Country Strategic Plan (2019-2021)

Total Requirements for 2019 (in US\$)	Confirmed funding (in US\$) including carry-over from 2018	May – October Net Funding Requirements (in US\$)
53.7 m	29.8 m	19.9 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 DPR Korea 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 5, as well as pregnant and breastfeeding women in areas outside the capital where food and nutrition security is 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.

DPR Korea is vulnerable to natural disasters, such as drought, heatwaves and flooding, which affect agricultural production and livelihoods. WFP's 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 DPR Korea include Canada, France, Liechtenstein, the Russian Federation, Sweden, Switzerland, and the UN's Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF).

## Challenges

- Disruption to banking channels limit access to cash for operations. To mitigate this, 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. Lead times for international procurement and shipping can last many months, with ship owners reluctant to send vessels to DPR Korea 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 April. WFP carried out 20 field visits in April 2019, including six visits to FFA sites and six to the nutrition programme.
- During monitoring visits, international field monitors meet with local officials, institution staff and beneficiaries, including households. In addition, WFP has access to the supported institutions such as nurseries, boarding schools, hospitals, and to the food production factories.

## Partnerships

- WFP co-chairs the Food Security and Agriculture Sector Working Group with FAO and the Nutrition Sector Working Group with UNICEF. The Sectors include humanitarian actors such as UN, resident and non-resident NGOs, OCHA representative and donors.