



WFP DPR Korea Country Brief

June 2019

World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



Operational Context

Food insecurity and malnutrition in DPR Korea are chronic and widespread, disproportionately affecting the most vulnerable women and children. An estimated 10.1 million people – more than 40 percent of the population – face food shortages after the worst harvest in 10 years in 2018. Low mechanization, limited arable land, lack of quality inputs and fertilizers hamper agriculture productivity. Recurrent natural disasters, which affect the country every year, also have a major impact on agricultural production and food security.

Despite 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, providing humanitarian assistance to vulnerable women and children, and working to build resilience to climate hazards.



Population: 25 million

Life expectancy: 71.6 years

Income Level: Low

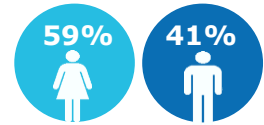
Chronic malnutrition: 19 % of children between 6-59 months (MICS 2017)

In Numbers

US\$ 31 million July – December 2019
Net Funding Requirements

2,287.34 mt of food distributed in June 2019

615,066 people assisted
in June 2019



Operational Updates

- In June, WFP nutrition programmes assisted 6,316 children in boarding schools, 324,996 children in nurseries, 101,100 children in kindergartens, 2,972 children in paediatric wards/hospitals, 114,513 pregnant and breastfeeding women, and 8,034 Tuberculosis (TB) patients. Nutritional support is focused on areas of the country where food security and nutrition are fragile and reaches 60 counties across nine provinces every month. In June, 1,522.94 mt fortified foods were distributed.
- WFP assisted a further 57,135 beneficiaries who were involved in food-assistance-for-assets (FFA) programmes. Individual participants received a food ration for their family for taking part in building community assets like tree plantations and river embankments. Physical implementation of all eight projects has been completed and verified by WFP monitoring teams. Food distribution is expected to be completed within the month of July. 764.40 mt of maize were distributed in June.
- Operational plans are currently being updated following the May 2019 rapid food security assessment. WFP will focus its efforts on assisting more people in more places, while maintaining its focus on children and pregnant and breastfeeding women – those most vulnerable to food insecurity and malnutrition.
- On 19 June 2019, WFP [urged](#) donors to support humanitarian needs in DPR Korea, estimating that 300,000 mt of food is needed to scale up humanitarian assistance in support of those most affected by ongoing food shortages.

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Photo Caption: WFP-supported food fortification factory in DPRK. WFP/Colin Kampschoer

WFP Country Strategy

Interim Country Strategic Plan (2019-2021)

Total Requirements (in US\$)	Allocated Contributions (in US\$)	July – December Net Funding Requirements (in US\$)
161.07 m	65.65 m	31 m

Note: NBP will be increased after the approval on the budget revision. Budget revision is currently ongoing.

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 7, 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, kindergartens, 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 vulnerable rural communities.

Challenges

- Disruption to banking channels limits access to cash for operations. To mitigate this, WFP minimizes the amount of in-country expenditure and procures all required food and non-food commodities internationally.
- Unintended impacts of sanctions include the breakdown of supply chains and delays in the transportation of vital goods to the country. Sanctions have also hampered 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, fines and the risk of being embargoed from other ports.
- While the new partnership with the Central Bureau of Statistics has facilitated better access to data on vulnerability and humanitarian needs, the operating environment remains challenging in this regard. This partnership was particularly appreciated during the recent rapid food security assessment.

Monitoring

- Monitoring missions continued throughout June, visiting FFA and nutrition programme sites. During monitoring visits, international field monitors met with local officials, institution staff and beneficiaries. In addition, WFP had access to supported institutions such as nurseries, boarding schools, hospitals, TB sanatoriums and food production factories.

Partnerships

- WFP is grateful for the generous announcement of a 50,000 mt contribution of rice from the Republic of Korea, this will complement their recent contribution of US\$ 4.5 million in cash, both will support the humanitarian response to food needs in the DPR Korea.
- 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.

Donors

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