



# WFP DPR Korea Country Brief

July 2019

World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES



## Operational Context

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.

Food insecurity and malnutrition in DPR Korea are chronic and widespread disproportionately affecting vulnerable women and children. Recurrent natural disasters limited arable land, low mechanization, lack of quality inputs hamper food production.

Unfavourable climatic conditions coupled with limited supplies of agricultural inputs had a severe impact on the yields of the 2018 harvest. The last year crop production is estimated at 4.9 million, at the lowest level since 2008/2009.

Overall, WFP's rapid Food Security Assessment conducted in April 2019 estimated that 10.1 million people (40 percent of the population) are in urgent need of food assistance, and country's uncovered food deficit is estimated at a level of about 1,36 million mt. The situation may further deteriorate depending on the results of the early crops harvested in June and main crops to be harvested in September/October. The post-harvest losses are also expected to be higher than usual due to shortages of fuel and electricity.



Population: **25 million**

Life expectancy: **71.6 years**

Income Level: **Low**

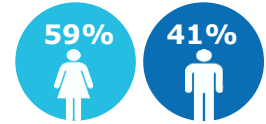
Chronic malnutrition: **19 % of children between 6-59 months (MICS 2017)**

## In Numbers

**US\$ 16 million** August 2019 – January 2020  
Net Funding Requirements

**618,400 people** assisted  
in July 2019

**2,188 mt** of food  
distributed in July 2019



## Operational Updates

- In July WFP reached a total of 618,400 people (59 percent female and 41 percent male), having distributed 2,188 mt of food.
- Among these, 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. In total WFP distributed 1,418 mt of fortified foods. WFP focuses its nutritional support on areas of the country where food security and nutrition are fragile and reaches 60 counties across nine provinces every month.
- WFP assisted a further 60,469 beneficiaries through its food-assistance-for-assets programmes, distributing 769 mt of maize. Individual participants received a food ration for their family for taking part in building community assets such as tree plantations or river embankments.
- WFP, the National Coordinating Committee and the Ministry of Public Health conducted a Training of Trainers on Nutrition for TB patients. Eight officials from Kangwon and South Hamgyong provinces received the training, which built their capacity to understand and implement the nutrition for TB activity and improved their general nutrition awareness.
- 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.

Contact info: [Andrey Shirkov, andrey.shirkov@wfp.org](mailto:andrey.shirkov@wfp.org)  
Country Director: Praveen Agrawal  
Further information:  
[www.wfp.org/countries/korea-democratic-peoples-republic](http://www.wfp.org/countries/korea-democratic-peoples-republic)

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\$)	August – January Net Funding Requirements (in US\$)
161.07 m	35.85 m	16 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:** Resilience Building

**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 insecurity are high.
- WFP's nutrition programme assists vulnerable women and children with cereal and biscuits fortified 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 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 delays in the transportation of vital goods to the country as ship owners are 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 July, 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

- Despite the unstable political context surrounding the Korean peninsula, WFP has intensified collaboration with the host government and outreach to donors to build new partnerships and mobilize additional resources to address the worsened food security situation in DPRK.
- 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, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, Sweden, Switzerland and the private sector partners.