



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP DPR Korea Country Brief October 2019



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-related risks.

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 and 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. WFP and FAO joint 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 weather conditions are also expected to have negatively affected the harvest of 2019. The early crop harvest that represents about 10 percent of the yield (wheat, barley, potatoes) is below the average due to low rainfall and lack of snow cover. The main crops (maize and rice) are being harvested in October-November and first results are expected to be known in December.



Population: **25 million**

Life expectancy: **71.6 years**

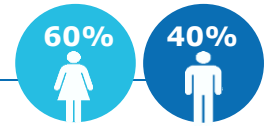
Income Level: **Low**

Chronic malnutrition: **19 % of children between 6-59 months**

In Numbers

US\$ 14.6 million November 2019 – April 2020 net funding requirements

558,800 people assisted in October 2019



1,502 mt of fortified food distributed in October 2019

Operational Updates

- In October, WFP nutrition programmes assisted 558,000 people, including children in nurseries, kindergartens, hospitals, boarding schools, pregnant and lactating women, and tuberculosis (TB) patients. Every month, WFP provides nutritional support in the 60 most vulnerable counties across nine provinces.
- Thanks to an increased volume of mobilized resources in 2019, WFP will provide full rations to its beneficiaries starting from November 2019. This includes providing 200 g of fortified cereal for pregnant and lactating women and providing 100 g of fortified cereals and 60 grams of fortified biscuits for children in nurseries. The increased ration will increase the daily intake for children in nurseries from 370 Kcal to 514 Kcal per day, while increasing the intake for pregnant and lactating women from 471 Kcal to 740 Kcal per day.
- In response to the increasingly volatile climate in DPRK, WFP is implementing disaster risk reduction activities through food assistance-for-assets (FFA) activities. Due to seasonal conditions the FFA activities are mainly implemented in spring and autumn. As October is the main crop harvest time there were no extensive FFA distributions this month and the activities will be resumed in November. Through the FFA, WFP achieves resilience outcomes contributing to the country's climate change adaptation goals.
- WFP established a multi-disciplinary project management team, which will serve as an inter-sectoral coordination mechanism, led by the National Coordinating Committee (NCC). This team will help implement the interim Country Strategic Plan (ICSP) 2019-2021 and address operational and programmatic issues as they arise.
- In October, in the context of the recent launch of National Environment Protection and Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy 2019-2030 by DPRK WFP has initiated a dialogue with the State Committee on Emergency and Disaster Management to jointly identify cooperation projects in emergency preparedness and response.

Photo Caption: WFP/Andrey Shirkov

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Interim Country Strategic Plan (2019-2021)		
Total Requirements (in US\$)	Allocated Contributions (in US\$)	November – April Net Funding Requirements (in US\$)
161 m	43.9 m	14.6 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 currently supports 11 factories (12 production lines) across DPR Korea to produce fortified products. Three production lines are producing Cereal Soya Milk (CSM), three production lines are producing Cereal Milk Blend (CMB), and six production lines are producing fortified biscuits. The fortified blended foods produced in factories are distributed among vulnerable children and pregnant/lactating women in 60 targeted counties.

Challenges

- The sanctions are having an unintended impact on WFP's operations because of the extended lead-time required for the procurement of food and transport. Imports of non-food items require additional time for the approval procedures. Suppliers are also averse to reputational risks and potentially higher costs. WFP is therefore working on 5-6 months of advanced planning to ensure a consistent pipeline and to explore ways to optimize supply chain processes.
- Access to information and data collection remain challenging. Despite sensitivities related to access to data in DPR Korea, WFP has designed a monitoring system in line

with WFP's corporate practices, integrating the tools and standard operating procedures into the programme implementation cycle. WFP has also improved its partnership on data management with the Government, in particular with the DPR Korea Central Bureau of Statistics, which allows WFP to use valuable data to inform programmatic interventions.

Monitoring

- WFP through its international and national staff, including international Korean-speaking staff, regularly conduct monitoring trips on the provision of food commodities and non-food items through the supply chain, from port to local production factory, to beneficiary. These trips include visiting households and institutions where specialized foods are provided to beneficiaries, as well as to sites where disaster mitigation projects are undertaken.
- WFP applies random selection of institutions and households for monitoring of the nutrition activities. This monitoring includes regular visits to households as well as project sites including fortified food production factories, warehouses. This also includes visits to WFP-supported public distribution centres, health facilities, nurseries and kindergartens.
- WFP's framework for monitoring of the food assistance-for-assets (FFA) activities ensures regular visits to all FFA sites at multiple stages from identification, to preassessment, to implementation and finally to the distribution. A post distribution monitoring is also conducted to assess the impact and achieved results.

Partnerships

- WFP's cooperation with the host government is regulated by the Letter of Understanding (LoU) with the National Coordinating Committee (NCC) for a period from 2019 to 2021. As WFP's main cooperating partner, NCC plays a coordinating role for WFP's engagement with the Government, and provides direct support in the form of national staff, assets (including office space) and transport services.
- WFP continues to engage its strategic partners in DPR Korea: Switzerland, Republic of Korea, Russia, Sweden, India and Canada. The support of these partners enables WFP to implement its humanitarian operations. WFP has organized field trips for delegations from Sweden and Canada to the operational sites, in order to further familiarize the key donors with the context and operations in DPR Korea.
- WFP co-chairs the Food Security and Agriculture Sector Working Group with the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), the Nutrition Sector Working Group, as well as monitoring and evaluation, and data management working groups.

Donors

WFP's resource partners in DPR Korea include Canada, CERF, France, India, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, Sweden, Switzerland and private sector partners.