



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



WFP DPR Korea Country Brief November 2019

In Numbers

2,897 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$14.8 million six months (Dec 2019-May 2020) net funding requirements

584,000 people assisted in November



WFP SAYS NO to GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

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 early crop harvest that represents about 10 percent of the yield (wheat, barley, potatoes) is reported to be higher than in 2019. The results of the main crops (maize and rice) harvested in October-November are expected to be reported in December.



Population: **25 million**

Life expectancy: **71.6 years**

Income Level: **Low-income country**

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

Operational Updates

- In November, WFP nutrition programmes assisted 549,000 people, including children in nurseries, kindergartens, hospitals, boarding schools, as well as pregnant and lactating women. Every month, WFP provides nutritional support in the 60 most vulnerable counties across nine provinces.
- Through its nutrition activities, WFP provides fortified cereals and biscuits which supplement beneficiary diets with essential macro and micronutrients. Starting from November, WFP resumed provision of full rations to its beneficiaries as per the Interim Country Strategic Plan 2019-2021. This includes 200 grams a day of fortified cereals for pregnant and lactating women; 160 grams a day of fortified cereals and biscuits for children in nurseries, paediatric hospitals and paediatric wards; and 60 grams a day of fortified biscuits for children in kindergartens and boarding schools.
- To increase the resilience of vulnerable communities against the impacts of recurrent natural disasters and climate change, WFP distributed 675 mt of maize to 35,000 beneficiaries through food assistance-for-assets (FFA) activities. In November, WFP continued the implementation of these activities in Ryanggang and South Hwanghae. This included one tree-plantation, four river bed excavations and embankment rehabilitations and one road and embankment rehabilitation. WFP has also started the implementation of activities funded by the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) in the South Hwanghae and South Hamgyong provinces (of the small-scale river bed excavation and embankment rehabilitation).

Monitoring

- As a part of its supply chain monitoring activities, WFP visited factories in Hamhung and Pyongyang to see production corn soya milk biscuit factories in Munchon, and Pyongsong, while routinely overseeing the shipments of food commodities (wheat, maize, sugar) and premixes at Nampo port.

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Country Strategic Plan (2017-2021)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
161 m	43.7 m	14.8 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.

Monitoring (continued)

- WFP closely monitors institutions and households taking part in nutrition activities according to a monitoring schedule. Monitoring activities include regular visits to randomly sampled public distribution centres, health facilities, nurseries and kindergartens supported by WFP.
- WFP's framework for monitoring of (FFA) activities ensures multiple visits to all FFA-supported sites. WFP's FFA monitoring includes identification, preassessment, implementation, distribution, and post-distribution visits. These visits allow WFP to monitor the impact and results.

Challenges

- Although humanitarian assistance is expressly exempt from UN sanctions, the international sanctions and unilateral restrictions have some unintended impact on WFP's operations. Suppliers are averse to reputational risks, which results in higher costs and extended time for the procurement and delivery transactions, as well as cumbersome approval procedures for

the import of non-food items. WFP has tailored its supply chain solutions to this context, in many cases reducing the lead time compared to previous years, while ensuring a consistent pipeline.

- Access to information and data collection remain challenging. Despite sensitivities related to access to beneficiaries in DPR Korea and a lack of digital data, WFP manages its monitoring operations in line with WFP's corporate practices. This includes using mobile data collection applications, integrating tools and standard operating procedures into the programme implementation cycle, as well as conducting additional data collection activities.
- WFP has improved its partnership on data management with the government institutions to obtain more data for impact measurement. This could mean potentially including birth weight and quarterly anthropometric data of children in the ration cards of pregnant and lactating women. This data would provide insights on correlations between mothers receiving WFP's nutrition assistance and the birthweight and nutrition indicators of their children.

Partnerships

- As an active member of the UN country team, WFP is currently working with partners on consolidating the Humanitarian Needs and Priorities for 2020. WFP continues to co-chair the food security and agriculture sector, the nutrition sector, as well as the monitoring/evaluation and data management working groups.
- WFP continued to expand its donor base, mobilizing support from traditional resource partners such as France and Liechtenstein, as well as reengaging with new partners such as Bulgaria, which provided its first contribution to WFP in DPR Korea and Norway. There is also a renewed interest of the Republic of Korea's private sector donors in supporting WFP's operation. Seeking to further familiarize donors with its work in DPR Korea and the operational environment, WFP has organized field trips for delegations from Bulgaria, Qatar and Norway to the operational sites.
- WFP's main cooperating partner in DPRK is the National Coordinating Committee, which plays a coordinating role with other government institutions and provides direct support to the WFP operation in the form of national staff, assets (including office space) and transport services. They facilitate the work of the Multi-Disciplinary Project Management Team, an inter-sectoral coordination mechanism designed to help implement the Interim Country Strategic Plan and address operational and programmatic issues.

Donors

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