



Country strategic plan revision

Democratic People's Republic of Korea interim country strategic plan, revision 04

Gender and age marker code: 3

	Current	Change	Revised
Duration	1 January 2019 - 31 December 2024	1 January 2025 - 31 December 2025	1 January 2019 - 31 December 2025
Beneficiaries	5,222,724	803,134	6,025,858
Total cost (USD)	247,717,223	37,341,719	285,058,941
Transfer	206,036,598	28,788,917	234,825,516
Implementation	11,006,509	3,409,579	14,416,088
Direct support costs	15,555,224	2,864,150	18,419,374
Subtotal	232,598,331	35,062,647	267,660,978
Indirect support costs	15,118,892	2,279,072	17,397,964

DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY FOR APPROVAL: Regional Director

1. RATIONALE

1. The purpose of this budget revision is to extend the Democratic People's Republic of Korea interim country strategic plan (ICSP) (2019-2024) to 31 December 2025.
2. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea closed its borders to goods and people in February 2020 as part of the nation's strategy to prevent the spread of COVID-19.
3. The last international personnel for WFP and the United Nations left the country in March 2021. Since then, there has been no WFP or United Nations international presence in the country and hence no distribution of WFP assistance. Furthermore, WFP has not been able to conduct any food security assessments since 2020 or field monitoring since 2021.
4. While outside the country, WFP has not been able to consult with the Government to inform the formulation of the next country strategic plan.
5. The United Nations Strategic Framework (UNSF) 2017-2023 has been extended until 31 December 2025, at the request of the Government, to facilitate consultations with the Government for the preparation of the next Framework.
6. Extending the ICSP until 31 December 2025 will therefore align WFP's strategic planning timeline with the UNSF, while also allowing WFP to maintain readiness to resume operations promptly and efficiently once international staff return and food security in the

country can be assessed. This will also help to define the country's requirements and set the foundation for a coherent and focused new phase of WFP's engagement in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

7. This budget revision carries forward the 2024 needs-based plan into 2025, with minor changes to account for prevailing commodity prices and shipping costs. Due to the way in which WFP counts beneficiaries, it was necessary to increase the number of targeted beneficiaries by approximately 800,000 to account for newly eligible girls, boys, women and men in the WFP supported counties, even though none have been assisted since 2021.
8. This revision also includes an increase in funding allocated for monitoring, given changes in WFP's assurance standards since the most recent budget revision, noting however that changes in monitoring procedures will require discussions with the Government.

2. CHANGES

Strategic orientation

9. This budget revision does not entail any changes in the strategic orientation of the ICSP.
10. The ICSP has already undergone three budget revisions:
 - Budget revision 01, approved in December 2020 by the Regional Director, extended the ICSP until the end of 2022 and increased the budget by USD 21,357,653.
 - Budget revision 02, approved in March 2022 by the Regional Director, extended the ICSP to the end of 2023, with an additional budget increase of USD 32,563,349.
 - Budget revision 03, approved in November 2023 by the Regional Director, extended the ICSP to end 2024 and increased the budget by USD 32,725,686.

CSP outcomes

11. The ICSP will continue to target 60 counties in nine provinces vulnerable to natural disasters, food insecurity and undernutrition. Beneficiary groups will remain the same for nutrition activities: children in kindergartens, nurseries, boarding schools, paediatric hospitals and wards; pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls; and tuberculosis (TB) patients. WFP will continue to assist vulnerable populations to strengthen their resilience through food assistance for assets (FFA) and crisis response activities for disaster-affected provinces, and counties identified through need assessments once border restrictions are lifted.
12. WFP will continue actively participating in the United Nations Country Team with other United Nations agencies and coordinate closely with international non-governmental organizations and donors. WFP will continue to co-chair the Food Security and Agriculture Working Group with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Nutrition Working Group with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).
13. WFP has a detailed resumption plan to ensure an efficient and effective restart of its operations once international staff can return to the country. Once access to the field is allowed, WFP and FAO plan to conduct an assessment to analyse the changes in food security experienced by vulnerable households. The assessment's results will inform WFP programming.
14. Considering the long lead times to procure and ship food commodities and ingredients for the fortification of cereals and biscuits in Democratic People's Republic of Korea, WFP will

explore the possibility of importing finished nutritional products to accelerate the resumption of operations under Activity 1.

15. WFP will continue providing technical support to strengthen the Government's capacities in local food production and fortification.
16. WFP will continue supporting disaster risk reduction while increasing communities' resilience.
17. The following risks and mitigation measures are identified:

Strategic Risks

- Until international staff can return to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, enabling WFP to monitor operations, it will not be possible to resume distribution of assistance. WFP continues to coordinate closely with the United Nations Country Team and other partners to encourage the Government to provide entry and access for international staff.
- Potential changes in the food security situation in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea since the 2019 food security assessment and WFP's departure may require adjustments to targeting and budgets. Upon the resumption of operations, an assessment will be conducted to determine current needs and inform a process of prioritization.
- Securing sufficient resources after borders reopen may be difficult given global constraints on funding. To manage this risk, WFP maintains regular contact with key donors and will, if needed, undertake an evidence-based prioritization exercise to focus on the most vulnerable among its proposed beneficiaries based on the findings of a food security assessment.

Operational Risks

- As several years have passed since WFP commodities were processed into nutritious foods, it is possible that the factories' production capacity, facilities, equipment, and personnel may have changed. Once access is gained, WFP will conduct on-site verifications to assess machinery, facilities and personnel capacity. WFP will strengthen support and oversight to meet food safety standards, if necessary.
- Although the Government has gradually restarted the import of goods through road, sea and rail, the quarantine and disinfection requirements, as well as cargo prioritization procedures, may affect lead time predictability. Together with the United Nations Country Team, WFP will continue to advocate with the Government to streamline processes and prioritize critical imports.
- Global supply chain obstacles remain which may cause delays in procurement and shipment. To enable WFP's efficient and timely resumption of operations, and to shorten lead times, WFP has identified potential suppliers in the region.

Financial Risks

- Insufficient liquidity in-country due to the absence of a viable banking channel affects the smooth implementation of WFP activities. WFP is collaborating with the United

Nations Country Team on measures to mitigate this risk and minimize in-country expenditures.

Beneficiary analysis

TABLE 1: DIRECT BENEFICIARIES BY CSP OUTCOME, ACTIVITY & MODALITY							
CSP Outcome	Activity	Period	Women (18+ years)	Men (18+ years)	Girls (0-18 years)	Boys (0-18 years)	Total
CSP 1	1 (Malnutrition prevention for children and PLW)	Current	799,043	-	650,077	614,604	2,063,724
		Increase/decrease	135,500	-	69,156	71,978	276,634
		Revised	934,543	-	719,233	686,582	2,340,358
	1 (Malnutrition prevention for TB)	Current	128,465	117,589	51,595	53,351	351,000
		Increase/decrease	21,410	19,602	8,598	8,890	58,500
		Revised	149,875	137,191	60,193	62,241	409,500
CSP 2	2 (Assets creation and livelihood)	Current	770,796	705,510	309,582	320,112	2,106,000
		Increase/decrease	128,466	117,585	51,597	53,352	351,000
		Revised	899,262	823,095	361,179	373,464	2,457,000
CSP 3	3 (Unconditional resource transfers to support access to food)	Current	256,952	235,190	103,134	106,724	702,000
		Increase/decrease	42,842	39,215	17,139	17,804	117,000
		Revised	299,794	274,405	120,273	124,528	819,000
TOTAL <i>(without overlap)</i>	Current	1,955,256	1,058,289	1,114,388	966,050	5,222,724	
	Increase/decrease	328,218	176,402	146,490	152,024	803,134	
	Revised	2,283,474	1,234,691	1,260,878	1,118,074	6,025,858	

Transfers

TABLE 2: Food ration (g/person/day) or cash-based transfer value (USD/person/day) by CSP Outcome and Activity

CSP Outcome	CSP 1							CSP 2	CSP 3	
Activity	Activity 1 (Malnutrition prevention for children and PLW, and TB patients)							Activity 2 (Assets creation and livelihood)	Activity 3 (Unconditional resource transfers to support access to food)	
Beneficiary type	PLW	Children aged 6-59 months in nurseries	Children in orphanages	Children in hospitals	Children aged 5-6 in kindergartens	TB in-patients	TB out-patients	FFA participants (household ration)	Immediate response	General distribution
Modality (food or cash)	Food	Food	Food	Food	Food	Food	Food	Food	Food	Food
Fortified cereals	200	100	100	100	100	100				
Fortified biscuit		60	60	60	60	60			250	
cereals							1,000	1,000		400
pulses							350	350		60
oil							150	150		25
salt										
sugar										
Supercereal										
Supercereal Plus										
micronutrient powder										
lipid-based nutrient supplement										
total kcal/day (to be completed for food and cash modalities)	740	514	514	514	514	514	1 402	N/A	1 000	1 937
% kcal from protein	10.8	14.8	14.8	14.8	14.8	14.8	14.6	N/A	8.30	10.2
cash (USD/person/day; use average as needed)										
Number of feeding days per year	30 days/month for 12 months	25 days/month for 12 months	30 days/month for 12 months	30 days/month for 12 months	25 days/month for 12 months	30 days/month for 4 months	30 days/month for 5 months	180 days/year	7 days/1 month	30 days/1 month

TABLE 3: TOTAL FOOD/CASH-BASED TRANSFER REQUIREMENTS AND VALUE						
	Current budget		Increase/decrease		Revised budget	
	Total (mt)	Total (USD)	Total (mt)	Total (USD)	Total (mt)	Total (USD)
Cereals	206,386	73,668,348	24,294	6,791,449	230,679	80,459,796
Pulses	33,331	20,531,666	3,448	2,482,410	36,778	23,014,075
Oil and Fats	19,267	17,246,110	2,121	2,252,715	21,388	19,498,825
Mixed and blended foods	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other	29,335	46,053,913	3,775	6,038,905	33,110	52,092,817
TOTAL (food)	288,318	157,500,036	33,638	17,565,479	321,956	175,065,514

3. COST BREAKDOWN

TABLE 4: COST BREAKDOWN OF THE REVISION ONLY (USD)				
WFP strategic outcomes	SO 2	SO 3	SO 1	Total
CSP outcomes	CSP 1	CSP 2	CSP 3	
Focus area	Resilience Building	Resilience Building	Crisis Response	
Transfer	22,598,107	5,485,723	705,087	28,788,917
Implementation	2,990,241	403,338	16,000	3,409,579
Direct support costs				2,864,150
Subtotal				35,062,647
Indirect support costs				2,279,072
TOTAL				37,341,719

TABLE 5: OVERALL CSP/ICSP/LEO COST BREAKDOWN, AFTER REVISION (USD)				
WFP strategic outcomes	SO 2	SO 3	SO 1	Total
CSP outcomes	CSP 1	CSP 2	CSP 3	
Focus area	Resilience Building	Resilience Building	Crisis Response	
Transfer	178,597,134	52,553,467	3,674,915	234,825,516
Implementation	10,769,918	3,497,829	148,341	14,416,088
Direct support costs	14,121,871	3,992,460	305,043	18,419,374
Subtotal	203,488,923	60,043,755	4,128,299	267,660,978
Indirect support costs	13,226,780	3,902,844	268,339	17,397,964
TOTAL	216,715,703	63,946,599	4,396,638	285,058,941