



WFP DPR Korea Country Brief

April 2018

Operational Context

DPR Korea has experienced widespread food shortages since the mid-1990s. The country does not produce enough food to feed its population, largely because of insufficient arable land, scarcity of quality inputs, low mechanisation and inadequate irrigation. Recurring natural disasters affect agricultural production every year, leaving a larger number of people food insecure. In 2017, DPR Korea had a Global Hunger Index score of 28.2, classified as “serious”. 81 percent of the population lacks dietary diversity. One in three children under five years of age are anaemic.

In 2018, WFP is providing nutrition assistance to children and women; aims to implement Disaster Risk Reduction (FDRR) activities and will provide food assistance to crises affected people if needed. WFP has been present in DPR Korea since 1995.



Population: **25 million**

Life expectancy: **70.34 years**

Income Level: **Low**

Chronic malnutrition: **28% of children between 6-59 months**

Main Photo

Credit: WFP/Roselie Asis
Caption: Children in Wonsan City Nursery eat WFP-provided fortified biscuits and porridge made from fortified blended cereals.

In Numbers

1,264 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$16.76 m six months (May - October 2018) net funding requirements, representing 70% of total

457,760 people assisted in April 2018

Operational Updates

- WFP and UNICEF jointly organized a field mission in Ryanggang and North Hamgyong provinces for representatives of the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) and Swedish Embassy in DPRK on 17-20 April. The mission facilitated the representatives to have a first-hand experience of WFP and UNICEF’s programme activities on the ground, receive direct feedback from beneficiaries and get insights from local authorities who are involved in the implementation.
- 341,799 children in nurseries, boarding schools and paediatric wards in hospitals received fortified blended cereal and fortified biscuits and 115,961 women received fortified cereals. This will contribute to reduce the prevalence of malnutrition and micronutrient deficiencies. Due to lack of funding, nutrition support to 195,000 children in kindergartens is on hold since November 2017.
- No funding has been received for 2018 disaster risk reduction (DRR) projects. As a result, WFP was unable to plan 2018 spring (typically starts in April) DRR projects. To plan for autumn DRR projects, WFP requires funding by June 2018. These projects are crucial to WFP’s programme; and generally implemented in the most disaster-prone areas. DRR projects in DPR Korea operation are designed to increase community resilience and improve food security status by protecting agricultural lands in the project areas.
- Discussion is ongoing with the DPR Korea Government to schedule a nation-wide food security survey in 2018.
- WFP is exploring a partnership opportunity with the Institute of Child Nutrition (ICN) in DPR Korea to improve advocacy and information sharing with beneficiaries and partners. In April, WFP and ICN discussed a set of advocacy activities, e.g. health and nutrition information for nutrition beneficiaries and child institution management.

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WFP DPR Korea Strategy

Total Requirement (in USD)	Confirmed Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
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Transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan KP 01 (2018)

52.39 m	52.39 m	52.39 m
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Strategic Result 2: No one suffers from malnutrition

Strategic Outcome 1: Children and pregnant and lactating women in DPRK have improved nutrition by 2030.

38.68 m	38.68 m	38.68 m
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Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

Strategic Outcome 2: Vulnerable people in disaster-prone areas have access to food all year round.

13.37 m	13.37 m	13.37 m
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Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

Strategic Outcome 3: Crises affected men, women, boys and girls have access to food all year round.

0.34 m	0.34 m	0.34 m
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Figures provisional
SO3 currently not active.

WFP DPR Korea Activities

SO 1 Nutrition assistance to children and pregnant and lactating women, and capacity strengthening of local food production

SO 2 Food assistance for Disaster Risk Reduction

SO 3 Provide in-kind food assistance to crisis affected people.

Monitoring

- During April, monitoring missions were conducted to the programme sites, ports, warehouses and factories. Field monitors collected data to assess progress and receive feedback from the field to improve programming.

Challenges

- Funding shortfalls continued to add challenges in WFP's operation in DPR Korea.
- At least six months lead-time is required for international procurement and shipping.
- Delays in receiving funding affect efficiency of the procurement process and jeopardise timely food production and distribution.
- While sanctions exempt humanitarian assistance, many service providers and suppliers are reluctant to engage due to fears of blacklisting and reputational risks.
- Data collection on nutritional status continues to be a challenge, but needs to be understood within the country context.

Partnerships

- WFP Co-Chairs the Food Security and Agriculture Working Group. Its main aim is to share information and provide real time technical forecast of crop growing season. Additionally, it acts as a coordinating body during emergencies for assessment and response. Participants include FAO, Deutsche Welthungerhilfe, Concern Worldwide, Premier Agence, Food Security Office, SDC, and Italian Development Cooperation.
- WFP Co-Chairs the Nutrition Sector Working Group which aims to share information, develop nutrition advocacy and communication materials. It also acts as a coordinating body during emergencies for assessment and response. Participants include, UNICEF, Save the Children, Deutsche Welthungerhilfe, and Triangle Génération Humanitaire.

Donors

France, Switzerland, Sweden

GENDER MARKER **2A** 