



WFP DPR Korea Country Brief

Highlights

- Due to funding shortages, WFP has been forced to reduce its rations for children and pregnant and nursing mothers. If no new funding is received by the end of March, WFP will have to stop assistance to kindergarten children and eventually to reduce its geographic scope in DPRK.
- Nutrition assistance in the flood-affected areas continued in January and reached 30,818 people. This assistance will continue until the end of winter in March, with a 100 percent food ration.
- Final food distributions for food for recovery activities took place in January in three flood-affected counties in North Hamgyong province, reaching 114,312 people.

WFP Assistance

Nutrition Support for Children and Women and Strengthening Community Capacity to Reduce Disaster Risks	Total Requirements (in USD)	Total Received (in USD)	6-month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)*
PRRO 200907 (July 2016 - Dec 2018)	128.6 m	24.7 m (19%)	9.9 m (40%)

*February 2017 – July 2017

GENDER MARKER **2A**  PRRO 200907

WFP's Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO) 200907 was launched in July 2016 for a period of 2.5 years until December 2018. WFP plans to assist 1.7 million women and children.

The PRRO has two components:

1. Nutrition support for children and pregnant women and nursing mothers, which aims to prevent undernutrition and reduce micronutrient deficiencies, including through the local production of fortified foods.
2. Food for Disaster Risk Reduction (FDRR) activities which focus on mitigating the impact of natural disasters on local communities.

In addition, if food needs increase because of natural disasters such as floods or droughts, WFP will allocate resources for an emergency response.

WFP's operation contributes to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 2, Zero Hunger, and to the outcomes of the UN Strategic Framework for DPRK (2017-2021).

WFP's nutrition assistance is part of the Humanitarian Country Team's Needs and Priorities document, which outlines humanitarian needs and programmes by the humanitarian community in DPRK.

WFP co-chairs the DPRK Food Security and Agriculture Working Group and the Nutrition Working Group.



Credit: WFP/Colin Kampschoer

Caption: WFP field monitoring staff interview a new mother who receives fortified cereals in South Hamgyong province.

In Numbers

18 million

people in DPRK do not eat a sufficiently diverse diet

823,687
People Assisted
January 2017

51%



49%



Main Photo

Credit: WFP/Colin Kampschoer
Caption: Mi Kyong's husband participated in an FDRR tree planting activity in South Pyongan province. Her family and she received a ration of oil and soya beans.

Operational Updates

- Funding constraints have forced WFP to reduce its rations for children and pregnant and nursing mothers. Now two-thirds of the standard ration (66 percent) of fortified cereals and biscuits is being provided – the minimum to have a nutrition impact. If no new funding is received by the end of March, WFP will be forced to first stop rations to kindergarten children, and eventually to reduce the geographic scope of its assistance in the country. This will leave the most vulnerable children and women without vital nutritious food and at risk of malnutrition.
- WFP reached 823,687 people with 2,566 mt of food in January, including through nutrition support, Food for Disaster Risk Reduction (FDRR) activities, and flood recovery support.
- Nutrition assistance, as part of WFP's flood recovery support, reached 30,818 children and pregnant and nursing women in January. Assistance is provided to the three counties worst affected by the floods of August-September 2016: Musan, Yonsa and Hoeryong in North Hamgyong province. Nutrition assistance in the flood-affected areas will continue until March 2017, with a 100 percent food ration.
- Final food distributions took place in January for food for recovery activities in the three flood-affected counties. Take-home rations of soy beans and cooking oil were provided to 114,312 people. Rations aim to diversify families' diets with protein and fat. A total of 13.6 km of river embankments were rehabilitated through the recovery activities. WFP's assistance contributed both to rebuilding assets in flood-affected counties and helping to offset future disaster risks.

Challenges

- It is estimated that crop production improved in two out of every three counties that WFP visited during the last quarter of 2016. However, there was an estimated 20 percent reduction in the potato harvest in Ryanggang province, due to continuous rainfall between August and September, which is seasonally an important period for potato growth. The actual situation will be confirmed as soon as the national harvest figures are provided by the Government.

Partnerships

WFP partners with the National Coordinating Committee (NCC) under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. This partnership facilitates WFP access to the counties covered by the operation. WFP supports 11 local factories, which produce fortified cereals and fortified biscuits. The Government contributes by providing factories, warehouses, staff, electrical power and maintenance. The Government is responsible for transporting ingredients from ports to factories, and distributing fortified foods directly to WFP-supported institutions, or through Public Distribution Centres (PDC's) for pregnant women and nursing mothers.

Country Background & Strategy



DPRK has experienced widespread food shortages since the mid-1990s. Despite efforts to achieve agricultural self-sufficiency, the country does not produce enough food to feed its population. Production is largely constrained by insufficient arable land, over-cultivation, a scarcity of quality fertilisers and pesticides, low mechanisation and low levels of irrigation. These factors leave the agricultural system prone to climate shocks. In 2016, DPRK had a Global Hunger Index score of 28.6, classified as "serious".

The 2012 National Nutrition Survey confirmed that the nutritional status of children had improved since 2009, with chronic malnutrition falling from 32.4 to 27.9 percent. Nonetheless, WFP's 2014 mid-term review of PRRO 200532 revealed that 81 percent of DPRK's population do not have acceptable diversity in their diet. People consume 25 percent less protein and 30 percent less fat than required for a healthy life, according to international standards. One in three children under five years, and almost half of children between 12 and 23 months, are anaemic. In 2015, WFP conducted a Food Security and Nutrition Assessment among children in WFP-supported nurseries, which showed that a 25.4 percent stunting prevalence in WFP-supported nurseries is at moderate to high levels.

In support of the Government's efforts to reduce hunger, WFP provides nutrition assistance to children and women, and implements Food for Disaster Risk Reduction (FDRR) activities.

WFP has been present in DPRK since 1995.

Population: **24.8 million**

Chronic malnutrition: **25.4% of children between 6-59 months in WFP-assisted nurseries**

Donors in 2017

Russian Federation

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Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/korea-democratic-peoples-republic