



# WFP DPR Korea Country Brief

## Highlights

- In April, WFP provided food assistance to 641,530 young children and women, as well as to people benefiting from food provided through Food for Community Development (FFCD) activities. WFP reached 62 percent of the planned recipients.
- The food security situation in DPRK appears to be deteriorating, with reduced food production in 2015 and a growing food gap. More data on the overall food security and nutrition situation is needed to better understand the impact of the food deficit on the most vulnerable.

## WFP Assistance

PRRO 200532 (July 2013-June 2016)	Total Requirements (in USD)	Total Received (in USD)	6 Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)*
	195.8 m	99 m (51%)	7.7 m (34%)

\*May- October 2016 \*New PRRO to be submitted for approval in June

WFP's Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO) 200532 has three objectives: (i) reduce hunger and undernutrition among children and women by providing nutrition support to improve dietary diversity through school and pre-school meals and targeted nutrition support; (ii) restore and rebuild livelihoods to enhance food security through food for community development (FFCD); and (iii) support the Government in reducing hunger and undernutrition through local production of fortified food.

The original plan was to assist 2.4 million women and children through a two-year, USD 200 million operation. However, due to persistent underfunding, the programme was scaled down to target 1.8 million women and children - excluding over half a million primary school-aged children. Through budget revision, the PRRO was extended to July 2016, with an overall budget increase to USD 196 million. This increased the number of people by 373,000, to a new total of 2.2 million people over three years.

WFP also provides assistance through FFCD projects, which aim to build livelihoods of communities and to enhance food security.

WFP's operation contributes to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 2, Zero Hunger, and to the outcomes of the UN Strategic Framework for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (2011-2015), which was extended to 2016. Through the United Nations Country Team, WFP contributes to the 2017-2021 UN Strategic Framework.

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



Fortified blended food for children and pregnant and nursing women is stacked-up high in the Pyongyang factory. WFP currently works with six local food factories. Under the new operation, which will be launched in July 2016, WFP will work with up to ten local factories.

## In Numbers

**18 million**

people in DPR Korea that do not eat a sufficiently diverse diet

**641,530**

people assisted by WFP in April 2016

**People Assisted**

51%



49%



April 2016

**Main Photo**

Credit: WFP/Colin Kampschoer  
Caption: This photo was taken in an orphanage in the city of Nampo. The orphanage is home to 124 children who receive three meals per day, from WFP food.

## Operational Updates

- In April, WFP provided 1,948 mt of food (blended flour fortified with micronutrients, and fortified biscuits) to 624,275 pregnant women and nursing mothers, children in nurseries, orphanages, primary schools (in the northern provinces only), and in paediatric hospitals. A total of 68 beneficiary field visits to 17 counties were conducted, following the 307 beneficiary visits during the first quarter of 2016.
- FFCD projects implemented in April reached 17,255 people with food for work activities including tree planting and the embankment of riverbeds. WFP field monitors visited six FFCD projects in six counties in April.
- Humanitarian partners released the 2016 DPRK Needs and Priorities plan, seeking financial support for humanitarian response activities in DPRK including USD 23.3 million for food security and USD 54.7 million for nutrition. WFP's nutrition assistance requires USD 46 million in 2016.

## Challenges

- Although humanitarian aid to DPRK is exempt from sanctions, WFP continues to monitor the impact of recently adopted United Nations and bilateral sanctions on its operation. In particular, WFP closely follows the arrival times of new food aid shipments to DPRK.
- Reduced funding has necessitated a reduction of assistance from the planned number of approximately 1 million people per month, to 625,000.
- New analysis by FAO of the Government's food production data, shows that food production decreased by 9 percent in 2015 compared to 2014, while the food gap is almost four times larger than in 2014. With the reduced food production and growing food gap, the food security situation in DPRK appears to be deteriorating. However, more data on the overall food security and nutrition situation is needed to better understand the impact of the food deficit on the most vulnerable.

## Partnerships

WFP partners with the National Coordinating Committee under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. This partnership facilitates WFP access to the counties covered by the operation. WFP supports local factories, which produce fortified blended foods and fortified biscuits. The Government contributes by providing factories, warehouses, staff, electrical power and maintenance. The Government is responsible for transportation of ingredients from ports to factories, and distribution of fortified foods directly to WFP-supported institutions, or through public distribution centres for women and nursing mothers.

## Country Background & Strategy



DPR Korea has experienced widespread food shortages since the mid-1990s. In spite of 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 2015, DPR Korea had a Global Hunger Index score of 28.8 and was 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 of age and almost half of the 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 the stunting prevalence in WFP-supported nurseries is at moderate to high levels with 25.4 percent.

In support of the Government's efforts to reduce hunger, WFP provides nutrition assistance to children and women, and implements Food for Community Development activities. WFP has been present in DPR Korea since 1995.

Population: **24.8 million**

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

## Donors in 2016

Canada, India, Multilateral donors, Russian Federation, Switzerland and UN CERF