



## WFP DPR Korea Country Brief

## Highlights

Funding constraints impact WFP's nutrition assistance in DPRK. To stretch resources, WFP will not distribute fortified blended food to 190,000 children in kindergartens in March, while reduced rations will continue to be provided to nursery children, pregnant women and nursing mothers.

WFP will provide full rations of fortified blended food during the months June-August, to mitigate the impact of the lean season. During the lean season people have less access to food.

- The monthly Public Distribution System (PDS) ration in January to February 2017 was an average of 400 grams/per person/day (69 percent of daily calorie requirements).

## 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	32.4 m (25%)	13.7 m (51%)

\*March 2017 – August 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: Boarding school children in Chongjin City, North Hamgyong province, are supported with WFP fortified food each month.

## In Numbers

**18 million**

people in DPRK do not eat a sufficiently diverse diet

**680,249**  
People Assisted  
February 2017



## Operational Updates

- WFP reached 680,249 people with 1,504 mt of food in February, including through nutrition support and flood recovery support in North Hamgyong province.
- Funding gap impacts WFP's nutrition assistance in DPRK. To stretch resources, WFP will not distribute fortified blended food to 190,000 children in kindergartens in March, and reduced rations will continue to be provided to nursery children, pregnant women and nursing mothers. Women and nursery children receive only two thirds of the standard ration of fortified cereals and biscuits – the minimum to have a nutrition impact.
- Nutrition assistance, as part of WFP's flood recovery support, reached 30,818 children, pregnant women and nursing mothers in February. Nutrition assistance in the flood-affected areas will continue until the end of March this year with a 100 percent food ration.

## Challenges

- If no new funding is received by the end of March, WFP will continue to exclude assistance to children in kindergartens and will eventually have to reduce the number of counties covered by its assistance. While the nursery children will continue receiving 66 percent of the planned quantity of fortified biscuits, full rations of fortified blended food will be provided to all the beneficiaries during June-August, to mitigate the impact of the lean season, when people have less access to diverse food.
- The monthly Public Distribution System (PDS) ration in January and February 2017 was an average of 400 grams/per person/day (69 percent of daily calorie requirements), which was higher than in the same months in 2016 when the ration reached an average of 370 grams. This is likely to be linked to the expected improved harvest in 2016-2017, in comparison to 2015.

## 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, UN CERF