



WFP DPR Korea Country Brief

Highlights

- In November WFP reached 558,057 women and children with nutrition support (regular nutrition assistance programme and support for 187,000 people affected by drought), delivering 1,668 mt of food.
- Critical funding shortfalls have forced WFP to suspend nutrition support for 190,000 children in kindergartens since November.
- WFP requires USD 14.65 million to maintain operations in DPR Korea for the next six months.
- WFP is in discussions with the Central Bureau of Statistics to plan for a nationwide Food Security Survey, tentatively to be held in spring 2018.

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 and T-ICSP** (July 2016 - Dec 2018)	128.6 m	45.72 m (36%)	14.65 m (56%)

Transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan**

*December 2017 – May 2018

GENDER MARKER **2A** PRRO 200907

WFP's Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO) 200907 was launched in July 2016 to provide nutrition support for children and women, and to strengthen community capacity to reduce disaster risks. In line with WFP's new strategic planning process, DPR Korea Country Office will implement a Transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan (T-ICSP) from January 2018. The ongoing PRRO 200907 has been adjusted accordingly to reflect the new program structure and will continue until December 2017.

The main areas of assistance are:

- i) Nutrition assistance: to stabilize or reduce undernutrition, including micronutrient deficiencies among children aged 6–59 months, pregnant women and breastfeeding mothers, school-aged children;
- ii) Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR): to address livelihood assets (access), enhance resilience and reduce risks from disasters and shocks faced by food-insecure communities and households.

In addition, WFP will provide emergency response assistance as needed (mainly floods and droughts).

WFP's operation contributes to the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2 -Zero Hunger, SDG 17 - partnerships and to the outcomes of the United Nations Strategic Framework for DPR Korea (2017-2021). The needs identified in the PRRO are reflected in the Needs and Priorities document as presented by the Humanitarian Country Team in DPR Korea.



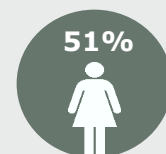
Credit: WFP/Yubaraj Bam
Caption: Children receive fortified biscuits in a nursery located in North Hamgyong province. WFP's fortified foods contain important micronutrients, fats and proteins vital for cognitive and physical development.

In Numbers

10.3 million

people in DPR Korea are believed to be undernourished

558,057
People Assisted
November 2017



Main Photo Credit: WFP/Colin Kampschoer
Caption: Children in a WFP-supported institution in South Pyongan province.



November 2017

Operational Updates

- In November, 11 factories produced 1,529 mt of food for distribution in December. Eleven WFP-supported factories produce 19,000 mt of fortified foods annually, including high-energy biscuits, cereal-milk blend and corn soya blend, all for women and children in need of nutritional support.
- A WFP food technologist conducted a routine mission to DPRK in November in order to evaluate the status of local food production, visiting factories and providing recommendations on improvements.
- Disaster risk reductions activities for 2017 were completed in November, including tree planting, rehabilitation of embankments and irrigation canals, and construction of small-scale dams. DRR activities took place in the spring and the fall, engaging 188,000 people.

Challenges

Critical funding shortfall remains the biggest challenge.

- Although sanctions are not intended to affect humanitarian operations, as per repeated UN Security Council statements, indirect effects are noticeable on WFP's operations, i.e. unstable banking channels which limit our access to cash for operations, and delays in logistics and procurement.
- It takes at least six months, once donations have been received, to buy food and transport it to DPR Korea, and for it then to be turned into fortified food at local factories and then to be distributed.
- With the onset of winter, physical access to parts of the country will become a challenge due to weather conditions.

Partnerships

- WFP is part of the Humanitarian Country Team and co-chairs the DPR Korea Food Security and Agriculture Sector Working Group and the Nutrition Sector Working Group.

Country Background & Strategy



DPR Korea 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 2017, DPR Korea had a Global Hunger Index score of 28.2, 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 DPR Korea'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 of age, 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.

WFP provides nutrition assistance to children and women, and implements Food for Disaster Risk Reduction (FDRR) 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 2017

Canada, CERF, France, Liechtenstein, Russian Federation, and Switzerland

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