WFP DPR Korea
Country Brief

WFP Assistance

Nutrition Support for Children and Women and Strengthening Community Capacity to Reduce Disaster Risks

<table>
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<th>E-month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)*</th>
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*January 2017 – June 2017

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 (2011-2015), which was extended to 2016.

WFP’s nutrition assistance is part of the Humanitarian Country Team’s 2016 Needs and Priorities document, which outlines humanitarian needs and programmes by the humanitarian community in DPRK. Life-saving interventions in DPRK target 13 million people in 2016.

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

WFP DRR Korea

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Month YYYY
May 2016

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PRRO 200907
(July 2016 - Dec 2018)

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In Numbers

18 million people in DPRK do not eat a sufficiently diverse diet

680,249 People Assisted
December 2016

Credit: WFP/Mats Persson
Caption: WFP maize is loaded onto a train wagon in the port of Nampo for transportation to a local factory in Pyongyang.

Caption: Young patients in a WFP-supported paediatric ward in Songchon county, South Pyongan province.

Credit: WFP/Mats Persson

Main Photo

In Numbers
Operational Updates

- During December, WFP assisted 680,249 people with 2,952 mt of food.

- Regular nutrition support was provided to 649,431 pregnant women, nursing mothers and children. As part of WFP’s flood response, 30,818 women and children were reached in December with nutrition support in the three worst flood-affected counties of Musan, Yonsa and Hoeryong, in North Hamgyong province. WFP does not have sufficient funding to reach all 95,000 people in need of nutrition support in all six flood-affected counties.

- Food for Disaster Risk Reduction (FDRR) projects were completed on schedule, but food rations will be distributed in January.

- WFP monitoring staff conducted 59 field monitoring visits in December, including to paediatric wards of hospitals, and pregnant and nursing women’s households.

Challenges

- In anticipation of a break in assistance at the end of April 2017, WFP has reduced fortified biscuit rations. This is a precautionary measure recognizing that, even if new funding is available immediately, WFP faces a lead time of four to six months to procure food and to locally produce fortified biscuits. The reduction will not be implemented in the flood-affected areas in the north of the country.

- The Public Distribution System (PDS) ration in December was an average of 400 grams per person per day. This was a slight increase (20g) over the previous month and equals 69 percent of daily caloric requirements.

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 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 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 anemic. 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.

Donors in 2016

Canada, China, India, Liechtenstein, multilateral donors, private donors, Russian Federation, Switzerland and UN CERF

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