



WFP DPR Korea Country Brief

Highlights

- Due to lack of resources, and in order to scale up the fortified blended food ration to 100 percent during the lean season starting from May, WFP has been forced to reduce its rations for children and pregnant and lactating women to two-thirds until April.
- If no new funding is received before the end of April, the ration of fortified biscuits for children will continue to be reduced to two-thirds during the lean season and will be ceased entirely by the end of October.
- Delay in funding has forced WFP to cease fortified blended food assistance to 190,000 children in kindergartens during March and April.
- Nutrition assistance in the flood-affected areas concluded by the end of March and reached 30,818 people with 100 percent food rations.

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	36.6 m (28%)	8.9 m (35%)

*April 2017 - September 2017

GENDER MARKER 2A  PRRO 200907

WFP's protracted relief and recovery operation (PRRO) 200907, which plans to assist 1.7 million women and children, was launched in July 2016 for a period of 2.5 years until December 2018.

The PRRO has two components:

1. Nutrition support for children and pregnant and lactating women (PLW), which aims to prevent undernutrition and reduce micronutrient deficiencies, including through the local production of fortified foods; and
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 United Nations 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 Sector Working Group and the Nutrition Sector Working Group.

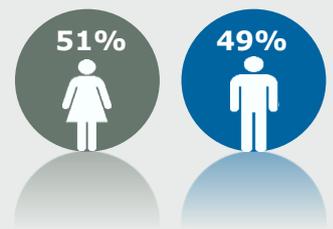


Credit: WFP/Mats Persson

In Numbers

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

680,249 People Assisted March 2017



Operational Updates

- WFP reached 680,249 people with 1,768 mt of food in March, including through nutrition support, and flood recovery support in North Hamgyong province.
- Nutrition assistance, as part of WFP's flood recovery support, reached 30,818 children and PLW in March with full rations. Nutrition assistance in the flood-affected areas concluded by the end of March 2017.

Challenges

- Funding constraints have forced WFP to reduce its rations for children and PLW to two thirds. Two-thirds of the standard ration (66 percent) of fortified cereals and biscuits is being provided – the minimum to have a nutrition impact. In order to scale up fortified blended food rations to 100 percent during the lean season starting from May, this assistance with reduced rations will continue until end of April. The fortified biscuits ration for children will remain at 66 percent if further resource is not confirmed before the end of April.
- Delay in funding has also hindered the arrival of vitamin premix - an essential ingredient for WFP's fortified cereals. As a result, it has required WFP to cease its fortified blended food assistance to 190,000 children in kindergartens starting from 1st of March until the end of April, across all 60 counties where WFP is operational. Below is the summary of the main beneficiary groups and food rations distributed in March:

Beneficiary group	Ration of fortified blended food	Ration of fortified biscuits
Nursery children	66%	66%
Kindergarten children	0	66%
PLW	66%	N/A

- Until March, WFP continued to provide a full ration and reached all beneficiary groups, including children in kindergartens, in the three worst flood-affected counties in the north of the country. The arrival of vitamin premix, which is currently expected in April, is crucial to continue local food production.
- If no new funding is received before the end of April, rations will be ceased entirely by the end of October. This will leave the most vulnerable children and women without vital nutritious food and at risk of malnutrition.

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 blended food and fortified biscuits. The Government contributes by providing factories, warehouses, staff, electrical power and maintenance. The Government is also responsible for transporting ingredients from ports to factories, and distributing fortified foods directly to the WFP-supported institutions, or through the Public Distribution System (PDS) for PLW.

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 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.

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, CERF and Multilateral Fund

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