



WFP DPR Korea Country Brief September 2019

World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



Operational Context

WFP has been present in DPR Korea since 1995, providing humanitarian assistance to vulnerable women and children, and working to build resilience to climate-related risks.

Food insecurity and malnutrition in DPR Korea are chronic and widespread, disproportionately affecting vulnerable women and children. Recurrent natural disasters limited arable land, low mechanization and lack of quality inputs hamper food production.

Unfavourable climatic conditions coupled with limited supplies of agricultural inputs had a severe impact on the yields of the 2018 harvest. WFP and FAO joint rapid Food Security Assessment conducted in April 2019 estimated that 10.1 million people (40 percent of the population) are in urgent need of food assistance, and country's uncovered food deficit is estimated at a level of about 1.36 million mt.

The weather conditions are also expected to have negatively affected the harvest of 2019. The early crop harvest that represents about 10 percent of the yield (wheat, barley, potatoes) is below the average due to low rainfall and lack of snow cover, The main crops (maize and rice) are being harvested in October and are also predicted to be lower than usual.



Population: **25 million**

Life expectancy: **71.6 years**

Income Level: **Low**

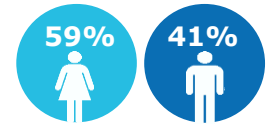
Chronic malnutrition: **19 % of children between 6-59 months (MICS 2017)**

In Numbers

US\$ 16 million October 2019 – March 2020
Net Funding Requirements

584,800 people assisted
in September 2019

1,905 mt of food
distributed in September 2019



Operational Updates

- WFP nutrition programmes assisted 558,000 people, including 435,000 children in nurseries, kindergartens, hospitals, boarding schools, as well as 114,510 pregnant and breastfeeding women, and 8,030 tuberculosis (TB) patients. Every month, nutritional support is provided in the 60 most vulnerable counties across nine provinces.
- WFP assisted a further 26,860 beneficiaries who were involved in food assistance-for-assets programmes. Individual participants received household food rations for taking part in the construction of community assets, such as planting trees or building river embankments. Through these programmes, WFP distributed 539 mt of maize in September.
- WFP in DPR Korea received 1,000 mt of food commodities in September. During this period, WFP continued to process commodities at 11 factories within DPR Korea to produce fortified blended foods for distribution. In September these included 872 mt of cereal milk blend, 594 mt of corn soya milk and 356 mt of biscuits that will be distributed in October. WFP is currently reviewing operational plans based on the findings of the rapid food security assessment conducted in April 2019. WFP has engaged with the Government and the donor community, urging donors to support humanitarian needs in DPR Korea; an estimated 300,000 mt of food is needed to support those most affected by ongoing food shortages.
- Tropical Cyclone *Lingling* made landfall on 7 September 2019, as a Category 1 tropical cyclone, inflicting heavy wind and rain damages on the provinces of North Hwanghae, South Hwanghae and South Hamgyong provinces. The early warning and preparedness measures, which have been widely employed by the government, have helped to save many lives and mitigate damage. However, the cyclone has caused five casualties, and damaged infrastructure and 46,204 hectares of arable land. In immediate response, WFP provided 5 mt of biscuits.

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Photo Caption: WFP/Andrey Shirkov

WFP Country Strategy

Interim Country Strategic Plan (2019-2021)

Total Requirements (in US\$)	Allocated Contributions (in US\$)	October – March Net Funding Requirements (in US\$)
161 m	39 m	16 m

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

Strategic Outcome 1: Children under 7, pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls, and tuberculosis patients in targeted counties have stabilized or improved nutrition, particularly micronutrient status, by 2025.
Focus area: Resilience Building

Activities: Provide nutrition assistance to children under 7, pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls (PLWG) and TB patients, and strengthen the capacity of local food processors

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

Strategic Outcome 2: People vulnerable to disasters and food insecurity in targeted counties are able to meet their food and nutrition needs during and after shocks and stresses by 2021.
Focus area: Resilience Building

Activities: Provide conditional gender-responsive resilience-building support for disaster-prone communities in WFP-targeted areas.

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

Strategic Outcome 3: Crisis-affected people have access to food all year.
Focus area: Crisis Response

Activities: Provide emergency in-kind food assistance to crisis-affected people in the event of humanitarian crises.

Operational Overview

- WFP's humanitarian operations in DPR Korea target food- and nutrition-insecure communities every month with nutritional assistance and livelihood support across nine provinces. WFP's work focuses on some of the most vulnerable children under 7, as well as pregnant and breastfeeding women in areas outside the capital where food and nutrition security is fragile. WFP also assists TB patients with fortified foods to achieve 'innate' immunity against tuberculosis.
- WFP's nutrition programme assists vulnerable women and children with fortified cereal and biscuits with micronutrients, fats and proteins crucial for healthy growth. This assistance is channelled through public institutions such as nurseries, kindergartens, hospitals, paediatric wards and boarding schools. Fortified food is produced at 11 WFP-supported factories.
- DPR Korea is vulnerable to natural disasters, such as drought, heatwaves and flooding, which affect agricultural production and livelihoods. WFP's food-assistance-for-assets (FFA) strategy works to mitigate the impact of natural disasters, rehabilitate productive rural assets and strengthen food security for vulnerable rural communities

Challenges

- A disruption to banking channels is limiting access to cash for operations. To mitigate this, WFP is minimizing the amount of in-country expenditure and is procuring all required food and non-food commodities internationally.
- The sanctions are having an unintended impact on WFP's operations because of the extended lead-time required for the procurement of food and transport. Imports of non-food items require additional time for the approval procedures. Suppliers are also averse to reputational risks and potentially higher costs. WFP is therefore working on 5-6 months of advanced planning to ensure a consistent pipeline and to explore ways to optimize supply chain processes.

Monitoring

- In September, WFP's international field monitors have completed 43 visits to households and institutions where specialized foods are provided. These monitoring missions focused specifically on nutrition assistance, the support of tuberculosis patients, and disaster mitigation project sites.

Partnerships

- On 7-11 September 2019, WFP's Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific, John Aylieff, made his first visit in this capacity to DPR Korea, engaging with the line ministries, UN country teams and the diplomatic community. He also visited WFP's operational sites and assessed the extensive damage created by the typhoon *Lingling* on crops.
- WFP's partnerships with the National Coordinating Committee (NCC), sectoral ministries and other government institutions are helping to increase its effectiveness in DPR Korea. The NCC provides national staff, assets and logistics services to deliver food to WFP-supported institutions. The collaboration with the Central Bureau of Statistics is also giving WFP access to more data on vulnerability and humanitarian needs.
- WFP has established sustainable resource partnerships to mobilize predictable and increasingly flexible assistance for the effective response. In addition, WFP has intensified the South-South and Triangular cooperation as an avenue to enhance support to DPR Korea, and has received a contribution from the Government of India of USD 1 million for its in-country operations.
- WFP co-chairs the Food Security and Agriculture Sector Working Group with the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), and the Nutrition Sector Working Group with UNICEF. These groups include humanitarian actors such as the UN, resident and non-resident NGOs. WFP is also a member of the Monitoring and Evaluation and Data management working groups which aims to address data and monitoring and evaluation needs.

Donors

WFP's resource partners in DPR Korea include Canada, France, India, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, Sweden, Switzerland and private sector partners.