



# WFP DPR Korea Country Brief

## Highlights

- Due to funding constraints, WFP will continue providing reduced rations (66 percent of the standard ration – the minimum to have a nutrition impact) to children and pregnant and nursing women (PLW) until the end of the year.
- According to the Government of DPRK, the current localized drought condition has affected agricultural production in four provinces and one city.

### 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	42 m (33%)	8.1 m (32%)

\*July 2017 – December 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/Bushra Rahman

Caption: Children in a nursery in North Pyongan province. WFP aims to reach approximately 650,000 children and pregnant and nursing women every month to provide nutrition support through the provision of fortified foods, produced at WFP-supported local factories and containing important micronutrients, fats and proteins vital for cognitive and physical development.

## In Numbers

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

**457,760**  
People Assisted  
June 2017



## Operational Updates

- In June 2017, WFP reached 457,760 people through nutrition support and delivered 1,335 mt of fortified foods containing vitamins, minerals and fats. WFP continued providing children and PLW with two-thirds (66 percent) of the standard rations of fortified cereals (66g per child, 132g per PLW) and biscuits (40g per child).
- The implementation of spring FDRR project activities concluded in June 2017. Activities included tree plantation, rehabilitation of embankments and riverbed excavation. The three-month project activities were implemented mainly in food-insecure and disaster-prone areas. This year, due to resource constraints, only five percent of the planned FDRR activities have been implemented so far.
- The government-provided Public Distribution System (PDS) ration in June was reported at an average of 400g of cereals per person per day. The target PDS ration is 573g per day per person.

## Challenges

- Currently, funding constraints are the major challenge for WFP's DPRK operations. Constant decreases in funding and delayed funding confirmation are significantly affecting WFP's ongoing operations in the country.
- It takes at least six months (including procurement time, shipping and local food production) from the date of confirmation of funding to when fortified foods reach beneficiaries. In this context, it is essential for WFP's DPRK operation to have consistent commitment from its donors.

## Partnerships

WFP partners with the National Coordinating Committee (NCC) under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. This partnership facilitates WFP to access 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 the 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

Canada, CERF, France, Russian Federation, Switzerland

Contact info: [bushra.rahman@wfp.org](mailto:bushra.rahman@wfp.org)

Country Director a.i.: Sven Thelin

Further information: [www.wfp.org/countries/korea-democratic-peoples-republic](http://www.wfp.org/countries/korea-democratic-peoples-republic)