



# WFP DPR Korea Country Brief

## Highlights

- UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) approval for rapid response was confirmed in August. CERF assistance of USD 2.5 million will enable WFP to provide nutrition support to 186,012 children and women for four months (September – December) in 23 worst drought-affected counties.
- Due to funding constraints, WFP will continue providing reduced rations (66 percent of the standard ration – the minimum to have a nutrition impact) until the end of the year to children and pregnant and nursing women.

## 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)	76 m	42 m (55%)	8.1 m (41%)

\*September 2017 – February 2018

GENDER MARKER 2A PRRO 200907

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

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 with fortified foods produced in the local factories; and
2. Food for Disaster Risk Reduction (FDRR) activities, which focus on mitigating the impact of natural disasters on local communities.

In addition, WFP will allocate resources for emergency response if food quantity are increased because of natural disasters, such as floods or droughts.

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 Nampo City. WFP aims to reach approximately 650,000 pregnant and nursing women and children every month with nutrition support. Through this intervention, women and children receive a provision of fortified foods produced at WFP-supported local factories, 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

**649,431**  
People Assisted  
August 2017



Main Photo

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



August 2017

## Operational Updates

- In August 2017, WFP reached 649,431 people through nutrition support activities and delivered 1,650mt of fortified foods. WFP continued providing children and pregnant and nursing women with two-thirds of the standard rations (66 percent) of fortified cereals (66g per child, 132g per pregnant or nursing woman) and biscuits (40g per child).
- The ration of the government-provided Public Distribution System (PDS) was 300g per person per day in August, which is lower than the target of 573g per person per day. PDS rations generally consist of maize, rice or potatoes, depending on the produce available in each province.

## Challenges

- Funding constraints remains as the major challenge in WFP's DPR Korea operations. Decreased funding has already affected WFP's ongoing operations and any further decrease in funding due to the current political situation will significantly affect WFP's ability to continue the lifesaving interventions in DPR Korea in 2018.
- It takes on average six months (including procurement time, shipping and local food production) from the date of confirmation of funding to when fortified foods reach those in need. Due to this context and the fact that the rations of fortified blended food and biscuits cannot be further diminished while retaining a nutritional impact, it is essential for WFP's DPRK operation to have a continued 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 foods 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 to pregnant and nursing women through the Public Distribution System (PDS).

## 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

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