

# WFP DPR Korea Country Brief

## 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	36.7 m (28.5%)	8.24 m (32.5%)

\*May 2017 – October 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.

## Highlights

- The implementation of spring Food for Disaster Risk Reduction (FDRR) project activities started at the beginning of April 2017.
- Due to funding constraints, WFP continues to provide reduced rations to children and pregnant and nursing women (PLW). Since February 2017, WFP has been distributing two-thirds (66 percent) of the standard ration – the minimum to have a nutrition impact.

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



Credit: WFP/Colin Kampschoer

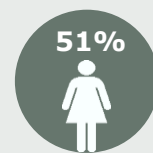
Caption: Children in a nursery in South Hamgyong province.

## In Numbers

**18 million**

people in DPRK do not eat a sufficiently diverse diet

**760,382**  
People Assisted  
April 2017



## Operational Updates

- WFP reached 760,382 people with 1,933 mt of food in April, including through nutrition support, and FDRR projects.
- Nutrition assistance reached 649,431 children and PLW in April with 66 percent of the standard ration.
- WFP conducted training workshops for Government counterparts on nutrition and local food production.

## Challenges

- Due to funding constraints, WFP is providing children and PLW with two-thirds of the standard ration (66 percent) of fortified cereals and biscuits. Below is the summary of the main beneficiary groups and food rations distributed in April:

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

- Delays in funding have hindered the timely arrival of commodities. As a result, nutrition support will be temporarily withdrawn from May 2017 for 190,000 children in kindergartens across all 60 counties where WFP is operational.
- It takes approximately six months (including procurement time, shipping and local food production) from the date of confirmation of funding to when fortified foods reaches beneficiaries. If no new funding is received before the end of May, WFP will be forced to reduce geographic coverage. This will leave the most vulnerable children and women without vital nutritious food and at risk of malnutrition in the excluded areas. WFP is reaching out to donors to mobilise additional resources.

## 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, Multilateral Fund, Russian Federation