

Standard Project Report 2015

Reporting Period: 1 January - 31 December 2015

DPR KOREA

Nutrition support for Children and Women in DPRK

Project Number	200532
Project Category	Single Country PRRO
Overall Planned Beneficiaries	1,787,400
Planned Beneficiaries in 2015	1,287,000
Total Beneficiaries in 2015	1,084,770

Project Approval Date	06 Jun 2013
Planned Start Date	01 Jul 2013
Actual Start Date	01 Jul 2013
Project End Date	30 Jun 2016
Financial Closure Date	n.a.

Approved budget as 31 December 2015 in USD	
Direct Support Costs	20,562,845
Food and Related Costs	162,464,747
Indirect Support Costs	12,811,932
Total Approved Budget	195,839,523

Commodities	Metric Tonnes
Total Approved Commodities	201,815
Planned Commodities in 2015	65,951
Actual Commodities in 2015	28,204

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Country Overview



COUNTRY BACKGROUND

DPR Korea 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, scarcity of quality fertilisers and pesticides, low mechanisation and low levels of irrigation. These factors leave the agricultural system prone to climatic shocks. DPR Korea had a global hunger index score of 28.8 in 2015, a 12.4 increase compared to 2014 and classified as "serious." The country is currently under sanctions mandated by United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1718 (2006), 1874 (2009), 2087 (2013) 2094 (2013) and 2141 (2014).

WFP's mid-term review in July 2014 of the ongoing operation revealed that a staggering 81 percent of the population do not have an acceptable diet in terms of quality and diversity. The population consumes 25 percent less protein and 30 percent less fat per person than the amount required for a healthy life. One in three children under five years of age, and nearly half of children between 12 and 23 months, are anaemic. Regional disparities are also significant, with stunting rates nearing 40 percent in some areas of the country's northeast, a level designated as "critical" by WHO.

The 2015 WFP Food Security and Nutrition Assessment found stunting prevalence in WFP-supported nurseries in WFP operational counties to be at moderate to high levels, at 25.4 percent overall. The overall incidence of wasting was 1.1 percent, and as such, is considered a low public health concern. These results indicate an adequate nutrition situation in WFP-supported nurseries during the time period immediately preceding the survey. However, stunting rates are at a level of medium to high public health concern, indicating a less than optimal longer-term nutrition outlook for nursery-aged children. Though not a precise comparison, these results fall below those observed during the last national nutrition survey conducted in 2012, which found national stunting and wasting prevalence at 27.9 and 4 percent, respectively. Acknowledging the limitations of comparing the results from previous nutrition surveys, the current data suggests an encouraging decline in malnutrition figures, in line with the trend over the past 15 years. However, dietary diversity remains a serious problem for households.

SUMMARY OF WFP ASSISTANCE

Since 1995, WFP has provided over 4.6 million mt of food assistance to vulnerable people in DPR Korea. This assistance has played a significant role in moderating hunger and malnutrition within the country. The original objective was to broadly address under-nutrition for a large portion of the population. In recent years, however, WFP has transitioned its assistance to focus more on addressing the nutrition gap among children and pregnant and lactating women. WFP has consequently curtailed the distribution of bulk cereals, and now primarily distributes specialised foods fortified with micronutrients. Local production of fortified blended cereals and biscuits continues to be a central feature of the operation, bringing significant cost savings.

The Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation, "Nutrition Support for Children and Women" (PRRO 200532), is a reflection of WFP's re-focused approach. The original plan was to assist 2.4 million women and children through a two-year, USD 200 million operation. However, due to persistent underfunding, the programme was scaled down to target 1.8 million women and children - excluding over half a million primary school-aged children. Another budget revision was carried out to extend the PRRO by six months, from 1 July to 31 December 2015, with an overall budget increase from USD 138 million to USD 168 million, to target 1.8 million people. The latest budget revision was approved in December 2015, enabling the PRRO to be extended for an additional six months (1 January to 30 June 2016) with a total budget of USD 196 million of the PRRO. This also increases the commodity requirement by 32,255mt and expands beneficiaries in 2016 by 373,000, to a new total of 2.2 million people. WFP also provides assistance through Food for Community Development (FFCD) schemes, which aim to support communities with building assets that are damaged or require rehabilitation.

WFP's operation contributes to Millennium Development Goals 1, 4, 5 and 7, i.e., eradicating extreme hunger and poverty, reducing child mortality, improving maternal health and ensuring environmental sustainability, and to the outcomes of the United Nations Strategic Framework for Democratic People's Republic of Korea (2011-2015), which has been extended to 2016.

Beneficiaries	Male	Female	Total
Number of children below 5 years of age	238,021	247,737	485,758
Number of children 5 to 18 years of age	122,628	127,634	250,262
Number of adults	22,714	326,036	348,750
Total number of beneficiaries in 2015	383,363	701,407	1,084,770
Total number of beneficiaries in 2014	717,172	1,065,499	1,782,671
Total number of beneficiaries in 2013	900,935	1,137,288	2,038,223

Distribution (mt)						
Project Type	Cereals	Oil	Pulses	Mix	Other	Total
Single Country PRRO	17,559	2,783	5,269		2,594	28,204
Total food distributed in 2015	17,559	2,783	5,269		2,594	28,204
Total food distributed in 2014	22,771	2,004	1,741		3,293	29,809
Total food distributed in 2013	36,714	1,941	4,133		3,638	46,426

Operational SPR

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVES AND RELEVANCE

Many children under 5 years of age in DPR Korea suffer from chronic malnutrition. The average household consumes diets below acceptable levels of food diversity on a regular basis and this has not changed significantly over the past 5 years. This problem is particularly severe among young children, and pregnant and lactating women (PLW). The 28 percent national prevalence of chronic malnutrition based on the 2012 National Nutrition Survey is considered to be at a moderate to high level of public health significance according to the WHO threshold. Food security and nutritional status are interlinked, and poor water, sanitation and sub-optimal hygiene conditions are other contributing factors to the undernutrition situation, and the situation in DPR Korea is no exception.

Although there has been steady improvement over the past few years, indicators of maternal and child undernutrition remain high and are of particular concern. This starkly underscores how crucial the WFP programme is as a safety net for the most vulnerable people: PLW and young children.

In line with both the government's strategic priorities for social development, nutrition and the environment, and WFP's Strategic Objective 2, the PRRO aims to enhance food and nutrition security by: i) reducing hunger and undernutrition among children and women by improving dietary diversity through school and pre-school meals and targeted nutrition support; ii) supporting the government in reducing hunger and undernutrition through local production of fortified blended food (FBF); and iii) restoring and rebuilding livelihoods to enhance food security through Food for Community Development (FFCD) interventions. Governed by a Letter of Understanding signed with the government in 2013 and renewed in 2015, WFP's operating conditions are unparalleled among international organizations working in DPRK and grant WFP access for monitoring and oversight in all 87 counties WFP operates in.

RESULTS

Beneficiaries, Targeting and Distribution

Approximately 70 percent of the population in DPR Korea are reliant on the government's Public Distribution System (PDS) for the provision of staple food rations. Although the government PDS ration target is 573g per person per day, actual rations have varied between 150-420g in the past eight years. As drought took its toll in July 2015, rations fell to just 250g per person per day until September, providing less than 50 percent of people's minimum daily caloric needs. Rations for PDS-dependent households vary in composition, according to availability. In some counties in July and August 2015, PDS-dependents received on average 250g of only potatoes per day per person. In urban areas, PDS-dependents without kitchen gardens or relatives at cooperative farms are particularly vulnerable to food insecurity, particularly during the April-September lean season.

Though the country was experiencing the aforementioned food security situation, due to insufficient funding, the cumulative number of WFP beneficiaries under the PRRO was still reduced to 1.8 million (from 2.4 million) through a budget revision in mid-2014. Continued funding constraints led the Country Office to prioritise allocation of resources in line with vulnerability levels in May 2015, in order to maximise and focus the programme's impact on maintaining the nutritional status of the highest priority beneficiaries, namely young children and PLW, with the objective of preventing and treating malnutrition.

Due to the funding shortage, WFP adjusted its geographic coverage and target beneficiary groups based on a prioritisation strategy agreed with the government, and developed in line with the results of the 2012 National Nutrition Survey. Beginning 1 May 2015, WFP scaled down its operations from 87 counties to 69, in nine provinces, and also halted food assistance to all preschool-aged children and most primary schoolchildren (except in the two priority provinces). From August, with the support of the United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), WFP re-expanded its operation to 13 drought-affected counties to assist children under 5, sick children and PLW, which allowed WFP to work in a total of 82 counties until the end of December 2015.

WFP provided the raw material (included in the commodity table) to local food production factories for the transformation into FBF and fortified biscuits. In addition to FBF and fortified biscuits, WFP also provided pulses and oil to prevent moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) among children and PLW. Children under 5 were provided with FBF, pulses and oil through institutional feeding while PLW received the same commodities as a take-home ration through the public distribution centres.

The pilot project on treatment of MAM for children under 5 in Kangwon province also provided take-home rations of 3kg FBF on top of the institutional feeding. The beneficiary number for MAM was reduced as the institutions that implemented MAM treatment identified fewer cases.

Pre-school children in kindergartens were included as part of the planned school feeding beneficiaries. However, due to funding shortfalls, WFP had to prioritise other groups of children considered more vulnerable. This prioritisation resulted in an exclusion of kindergartens throughout DPRK from May 2015 onward.

In the two provinces with the highest food insecurity and undernutrition problems, locally produced fortified biscuits were only provided to the primary schoolchildren.

Owing to both funding shortages and operational constraints, beneficiaries often received reduced rations, or the number of feeding days were reduced. The direct distribution of oil and pulses was halted for most of the year.

WFP supported local food factories to produce cereal-milk blend (CMB), corn-soy blend (CSB), and a small amount of rice-milk blend (RMB). This allowed flexibility in producing FBF using various ingredients, based on the availability of resources and the pipeline status. During 2015, WFP DPR Korea distributed a slightly lower amount of food commodities than the previous year. Commodities included FBF, fortified biscuits, maize, pulses and vegetable oil.

In line with the national priority to promote agricultural production, WFP carried out 11 small-scale Food for Community Development (FFCD) schemes through the food assistance for assets approach in the spring and autumn seasons. FFCD scheme participants were PDS-dependents from food-insecure families. While creating community assets to mitigate disaster risk and increase agricultural production, workers received 2kg of take-home rations (maize) per workday for their families.

Beneficiary Category	Planned			Actual			% Actual v. Planned		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Number of adults	21,600	336,400	358,000	22,714	326,036	348,750	105.2%	96.9%	97.4%
Number of children 5 to 18 years of age	196,000	204,000	400,000	122,628	127,634	250,262	62.6%	62.6%	62.6%
Number of children below 5 years of age	259,000	270,000	529,000	238,021	247,737	485,758	91.9%	91.8%	91.8%
Total number of beneficiaries in 2015	476,600	810,400	1,287,000	383,363	701,407	1,084,770	80.4%	86.6%	84.3%
Total number of beneficiaries in 2014	472,400	812,400	1,284,800	717,172	1,065,499	1,782,671	151.8%	131.2%	138.8%
Total number of beneficiaries in 2013	728,000	990,000	1,718,000	714,036	980,209	1,694,245	98.1%	99.0%	98.6%

The total number of beneficiaries includes all targeted persons who were provided with WFP food during the reporting period - either as a recipient/participant in one or more of the following groups, or from a household food ration distributed to one of these recipients/participants

Beneficiary Category	Planned			Actual			% Actual v. Planned		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Children 24 to 59 months given food under blanket supplementary feeding (prevention of acute malnutrition)	156,000	162,000	318,000	142,813	148,642	291,455	91.5%	91.8%	91.7%
Participants in Food For Assets	24,000	24,000	48,000	9,595	9,219	18,814	40.0%	38.4%	39.2%
Pregnant and lactating women participating in blanket supplementary feeding (prevention of moderate acute malnutrition)		308,000	308,000		303,778	303,778		98.6%	98.6%
Children receiving school meals	193,000	201,000	394,000	121,286	126,237	247,523	62.8%	62.8%	62.8%
Children 24 to 59 months given food under supplementary feeding (treatment for moderate malnutrition)	4,000	4,000	8,000	1,894	1,971	3,865	47.4%	49.3%	48.3%
Children 6 to 23 months given food under blanket supplementary feeding (prevention of acute malnutrition)	103,000	108,000	211,000	95,209	99,095	194,304	92.4%	91.8%	92.1%
Children 6 to 23 months given food under supplementary feeding (treatment for moderate malnutrition)	2,000	2,000	4,000	1,262	1,314	2,576	63.1%	65.7%	64.4%

Commodity Distribution

Commodity	Planned Distribution (mt)	Actual Distribution (mt)	% Actual v. Planned
Beans	23,463	5,269	22.5%
Dried Whole Milk		1,045	
Maize	8,029	7,035	87.6%
Plain Dried Skimmed Milk	2,419	345	14.3%
Rice	247	88	35.6%
Sugar	3,128	1,203	38.5%
Vegetable Oil	10,303	2,783	27.0%
Wheat	18,362	7,810	42.5%
Wheat Flour	0	2,626	-
Total for 2015	65,951	28,204	42.8%
Total reported in 2014 SPR	51,810	29,809	57.5%
Total reported in 2013 SPR	51,689	21,118	40.9%

'Story Worth Telling'

Kim Yong Sil works at a nursery in Kumran Ri in Thongchon County, Kangwon Province. Together with seven other staff members, she cares for 87 children under 5 years of age. On a regular basis, the nursery receives food such as rice, vegetables and soymilk from a cooperative farm nearby. The children also receive nutrition assistance in the form of FBF, pulses and oil from WFP. Children identified to be suffering from MAM are given an additional take-home ration of 3kg of FBF per month.

"Since we started MAM treatment, the number of acutely malnourished children has been significantly reduced," Ms. Kim said. "Mothers of the MAM children are informed of the poor nutritional status of their children and what they can best do to improve it."

"With the take-home ration, mothers prepare the FBF to supplement other foods in the household to make it more appetising for their children," she added. Since MAM treatment was launched in 2014, Ms. Kim has noticed that a MAM child can easily recover to their normal weight within one to three months with the extra rations.

Nursery staff are now well informed of the nutrition messages from WFP MAM treatment materials, and UNICEF hygiene and sanitation posters. Interest in making children well-nourished is increasing and the nutrition situation has improved in the community. Ms. Kim said that measuring children's mid-upper arm circumference, weight and height - in addition to keeping separate records for MAM treatment - are new roles for her. Despite the additional work and responsibilities, Ms. Kim is proud of working for the children and thankful for the nutritional support from WFP, both for the prevention and treatment of MAM. In 2015, about 6,400 malnourished children benefited from WFP MAM treatment in Kangwon Province.

Progress Towards Gender Equality

PLW in DPR Korea, as well as young children, are particularly affected by chronic malnutrition due to a poor diet lacking in essential proteins, fats, vitamins and minerals. WFP's nutrition programme therefore prioritises food assistance to women. In 2015, women comprised 93 percent of adult beneficiaries and 65 percent of beneficiaries overall.

Nearly all children's institutions are headed by women, who also form the majority of employees involved in food distribution, record keeping, care-giving and cooking at such institutions. At WFP-assisted local food production factories, women comprised 46 percent of management committees, the same as 2014. The percentage of female team leaders at FFCD project sites rose 4.6 percent from the previous year. WFP continued to encourage the government and local stakeholders to assign more women to leadership roles in FFCD projects.

Through discussions with beneficiaries of FFCD projects in 2015, WFP found that men and women had equal access to project benefits. As women are always the ones who consume less food whenever there is a shortage in the household, food assistance through FFCD projects have improved food security in families, particularly for women.

During monitoring visits, PLW and women's groups continued to share detailed information, showing a growing understanding of their food security and nutritional situation. There is also better awareness around FBF. County officials consistently commented on the link between the provision of WFP food and healthier mothers and young children. They also observed that WFP distributions had led to better breast-feeding practices among young mothers. In October 2015, WFP collaborated with the Government of DPR Korea to conduct a food security and nutrition assessment in order to generate updated information about WFP's primary beneficiary group: nursery children aged between 6 to 59 months. The assessment collected sex-segregated data and little difference was found in the nutritional outcomes of boys and girls.

While there has been progress, a more systematic approach to gender reporting needs to be developed and maintained. WFP continues to hold discussions with counterparts in order to build awareness of and promote gender equality in all aspects of programme implementation.

Cross-cutting Indicators	Project end Target	Base Value	Previous Follow-up	Latest Follow-up
	Target Val	(at start of project or benchmark)	(penultimate follow-up)	(latest value measured)
Proportion of women beneficiaries in leadership positions of project management committees				
Base value: Jun-2013, programme monitoring, Programme monitoring. Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, programme monitoring, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, programme monitoring, Programme monitoring.	50	22	46	46
Proportion of women beneficiaries in leadership positions of project management committees				
Base value: Jun-2013, WFP assisted FFCD projects, Programme monitoring. Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, Programme monitoring, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, FFCD final review report, Programme monitoring.	50	46	56	58.6

Protection and Accountability to Affected Populations

Most WFP activities are implemented through children's institutions, which are regularly monitored by WFP international food assistance monitors to ensure that operations are running as per agreements, protocols and standards. Information dissemination through ration cards and posters, monitoring visits and orientation by WFP pre-assessment teams at the beginning of projects, promoted awareness of relevant entitlements among PLW and FFCD beneficiaries. Information on the importance of feeding practices, healthy diets to warrant healthy pregnancies, and nursing, was also disseminated.

WFP endeavoured to collect and analyse data related to crosscutting issues during the food security and nutrition assessment and end-of-project review. Both missions concluded that crosscutting indicators related to protection cannot be collected as per corporate WFP guidelines. Therefore, no data is available for these indicators. However, WFP field monitors did not find any indication of safety problems encountered while traveling to, from or at programme sites in 2015. Visits to households confirmed that safety is not a concern for the men and women participating in projects. WFP field monitors' household visits to the PLW also provided informal mechanisms through which the beneficiaries could provide feedback about WFP's programme.

Outputs

Despite the severe funding shortfalls that plagued the PRRO in 2015, WFP was able to sustain its unique partnership with the government for the production of FBF through the WFP-supported factories. As local production is cheaper than importing food, the factories produced 18,718 mt of FBF for distribution to more than 1 million vulnerable beneficiaries. In light of the funding shortage, WFP, in close collaboration with the government, adopted a prioritisation system to ensure assistance to the most vulnerable population groups and geographic areas. The programme's end-of-project review confirmed the effectiveness of this system. Conducted in November, the review noted that beneficiary groups determined to be most in need received more food assistance than lower priority groups, except PLW (it was acknowledged PLW should be accorded higher priority than the primary schoolchildren in Ryanggang and North Hamgyong provinces). Children aged 5-6 years attending kindergartens, as the group of lowest priority, were entirely removed from the project from May 2015 onwards. The two northeastern provinces of Ryanggang and North Hamgyong, considered the most food-insecure, were accorded top priority.

WFP was also effective in providing food support to children in orphanages, hospitals, and nurseries (including those nurseries participating in the pilot MAM treatment project). The plan to expand MAM treatment to three other northern provinces was not implemented, however, due to the funding shortfall and operational challenges. WFP thus decided to focus on quality improvement in existing operations during the reporting period, and revised the annual planned target accordingly. In 2015, about 6,400 children were treated under the MAM pilot, a 36 percent decrease over the previous year, and also lower than the 2015 planned figure.

WFP carried out a very limited number of FFCD projects. Due to nutrition being placed in higher priority than FFCD, projects were limited in size as more cereal was allocated to food production for nutrition programme. FFCD focused on 11 counties, selected according to their prevailing food insecurity situation, proneness to natural disasters and quality of activity proposals. Through FFCD schemes in 2015, around 6,000 hectares of agricultural land was protected through rehabilitating irrigation and embankments, dredging reservoirs and planting trees on 1,900 hectares of mountain land.

WFP has greater monitoring access within DPR Korea than any other international agency operating in the country. WFP staff, including international Korean-speaking monitors, were given access to beneficiary institutions and the homes of PLW, allowing WFP to verify food deliveries, interact with beneficiaries to understand food utilisation and acceptability, and strengthen the overall implementation of the PRRO. The nature and degree of WFP's access continued to underpin WFP's level of assurance in food reaching its intended beneficiaries.

Output	Unit	Planned	Actual	% Actual vs. Planned
SO 2: FFA				
Hectares (ha) of agricultural land benefiting from rehabilitated irrigation schemes (including irrigation canal repair, specific protection measures, embankments, etc)	Ha	6,047	6,047	100.0%
Food for work was implemented in eleven sub-districts in eleven counties of six provinces and the planned figures were based on the allocated resource for food for work activities.				
Hectares (ha) of forest planted and established	Ha	1,907	1,907	100.0%
Tree planting through food for work was implemented in seven sub-districts in seven counties of four provinces and the planned figures were based on the allocated resource for food for work activities.				
SO 2: Nutrition: Prevention of Acute Malnutrition				
Number of pregnant/lactating women assisted	Individual	308,000	303,778	98.6%
SO 2: School Feeding				
Number of feeding days as % of actual school days	%	260	191	73.5%
Number of pre-school boys assisted by WFP	Individual	133,753	64,757	48.4%
Number of pre-school girls assisted by WFP	Individual	139,213	67,400	48.4%
Number of pre-schools assisted by WFP	school	4,512	1,943	43.1%
Number of primary school boys assisted by WFP	Individual	57,016	57,016	100.0%
Number of primary school girls assisted by WFP	Individual	54,781	54,781	100.0%
Number of primary schools assisted by WFP	school	444	444	100.0%

Outcomes

WFP field monitoring visits to children's nurseries, hospitals and households confirmed a consistently positive picture of beneficiaries' appreciation of WFP food assistance. Nursery staff and PLW interviewed mentioned that the quality of WFP food was good and that it helped to improve their nutritional status. In all nurseries, children were observed eating bread, pancakes and gruel produced from WFP FBFs.

WFP conducted a food security and nutrition assessment in WFP supported nurseries in October 2015. The assessment found that global chronic malnutrition among the target population is 25.4 percent, falling in the medium severity category (between 20 percent and 30 percent). For children in the highest age group (48-59 months) in the WFP-supported nurseries in Ryanggang province it reaches high severity (between 30 percent and 40 percent). Only WFP-supported nurseries in the province of South Pyongan had a recorded prevalence of below 20 percent. No sex difference for stunting was observed in the overall sample, at geographic level or for the different age groups. A relatively typical accumulative process of increasing stunting rates over the first three years is observed. This means that overall every fourth child in the sample is stunted and that the most effective way to prevent this is to focus on tackling the increase in stunting in the first years of life.

The prevalence rates for acute malnutrition show low severity of global acute malnutrition (GAM) of 1.1 percent. As no severe acute malnutrition (SAM) was detected, MAM equates to the GAM in this case. With the very low overall prevalence of GAM, little differentiation in prevalence rates between provinces was observed, with WFP supported nurseries in Ryanggang showing a slightly higher rate and South Pyongan the lowest. Rates are somewhat higher in age groups up to 35 months and lower thereafter.

The malnutrition rates of children in WFP-supported nurseries in the provinces covered by the assessment vary between the provinces, with Ryanggang province showing the highest and South Pyongan the lowest malnutrition rates. This is most pronounced for acute malnutrition and could be influenced by having measured only children attending the nurseries, thereby excluding sick and potentially wasted children who were absent or not registered.

Food consumption is a key factor in measuring food security. For households with a child aged 6-23 months, the assessment found that food consumption at home was limited in quantity and quality. Diets are generally poorer in urban settings, where fewer households have access to "kitchen gardens" and rely more on support from relatives and friends in rural areas. Markets are becoming increasingly important for accessing food. The very low level of animal-based protein and fat consumption is of particular concern. This highlights the importance of a well-funded WFP pipeline, given the programme's focus on the provision of specialised foods which make up a high proportion of the nutritional deficit in young children and women.

The MAM treatment pilot project achieved good results, based on reports submitted from the areas of implementation. Despite limited resources, WFP managed to reach all eligible participants in pilot project areas. The project was found effective with the performance indicators found within the acceptable cut-off rates in reference to the Sphere Standards. An unfortunate setback was the inability to expand the pilot project's geographic coverage.

During monitoring visits and the end of project review, WFP beneficiaries at all levels, as well as local government officials, commended the results of WFP's activities. Directors of children's institutions noted maintenance in attendance and better concentration among children, as well as appreciation and satisfaction among parents.

The FFCD programme achieved positive results, with high quality projects being completed on time. A greater proportion of arable land was protected within the very limited geographical area covered in 2015. This achievement will help to mitigate against future shocks, provided that the necessary agricultural inputs are available to enable the utilisation of the land. The trees planted as part of FFCD projects will contribute significantly to localised reforestation and disaster risk reduction.

Outcome	Project end Target	Base Value <i>(at start of project or benchmark)</i>	Previous Follow-up <i>(penultimate follow-up)</i>	Latest Follow-up <i>(latest value measured)</i>
Strategic Objective 2: Support or restore food security and nutrition and establish or rebuild livelihoods in fragile settings and following emergencies				
Average number of school days per month when multi-fortified foods or at least 4 food groups were provided				
Base value: Jun-2013, monitoring, Programme monitoring. Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, programme monitoring, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, programme monitoring, Programme monitoring.	16	14.4	9.68	21.47
Diet Diversity Score				
Base value: Jun-2013, end of project review (PRRO 200114), WFP survey. Previous Follow-up: Jul-2014, mid term review, WFP survey. Latest Follow-up: Oct-2015, food security and nutrition survey, WFP survey.	4	3.88	4	4
FCS: percentage of households with acceptable Food Consumption Score				
Base value: Jul-2013, end of project review for PRRO 200114, WFP survey. Previous Follow-up: Jul-2014, mid term project review, WFP survey. Latest Follow-up: Oct-2015, food security and nutrition survey, WFP survey.	50	35	19	47
FCS: percentage of households with borderline Food Consumption Score				
Base value: Jul-2013, end of project review for PRRO 200114, WFP survey. Previous Follow-up: Jul-2014, mid term project review, WFP survey. Latest Follow-up: Oct-2015, food security and nutrition survey, WFP survey.	30	40	53	34
FCS: percentage of households with poor Food Consumption Score				
Base value: Jul-2013, end of project review for PRRO 200114, WFP survey. Previous Follow-up: Jul-2014, mid term project review, WFP survey. Latest Follow-up: Oct-2015, food security and nutrition survey, WFP survey.	20	25	28	19
MAM treatment default rate (%)				
Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, cooperating partner report, Secondary data. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, cooperating partner report, Secondary data.	15		3	1
MAM treatment mortality rate (%)				
Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, cooperating partner report, Secondary data. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, cooperating partner report, Secondary data.	3		0	0
MAM treatment non-response rate (%)				
Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, cooperating partner report, Secondary data. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, cooperating partner report, Secondary data.	15		3	1
MAM treatment recovery rate (%)				
Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, cooperating partner report, Secondary data. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, cooperating partner report, Secondary data.	75		94	98
Percentage of arable land protected in selected communities				
Base value: Mar-2015, programme monitoring, Programme monitoring. Previous Follow-up: Jun-2015, programme monitoring, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, programme monitoring, Programme monitoring.	100	24	75	100
Percentage of monthly production quota achieved, by product				
Base value: Jun-2013, Cooperating partner reports, Secondary data. Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, Cooperating partner reports, Secondary data. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, Cooperating partner reports, Secondary data.	60	60	69	72
Percentage of monthly production quota achieved, by product				
Base value: Jun-2013, Cooperating partner reports, Secondary data. Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, Cooperating partner reports, Secondary data. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, Cooperating partner reports, Secondary data.	60	60	49	100
Proportion of eligible population who participate in programme (coverage)				
Base value: Jul-2013, Cooperating partner reports, Secondary data. Previous Follow-up: Dec-2014, Cooperating partner reports, Secondary data. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, Cooperating partner reports, Secondary data.	50	80	100	70
Proportion of eligible population who participate in programme (coverage)				
Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, Cooperating partner, Secondary data.	70			61
Proportion of target population who participate in an adequate number of distributions				
Latest Follow-up: Nov-2015, Cooperating partner, Secondary data.	66			74

Sustainability, Capacity Development and Handover

Capacity development activities were carried out at various levels. In 2015, WFP conducted a training needs assessment and, based on the results, identified and prioritised the most requested and needed training courses. Government staff seconded to WFP participated in a training course in Beijing on administration, finance and property inventory management. WFP also combined a retreat with basic food security training for all WFP staff. Nutrition training was provided through three sessions in order to ensure each trainee had sufficient time to participate in information sharing and discussion. Logistics staff and the newly recruited or assigned External Relation Officer, Monitoring and Evaluation Officer and Resource Management Officer attended different functional and technical trainings, organized by either WFP Headquarters or the Regional Bureau and knowledge and information were then shared with the government staff seconded to WFP.

WFP maintained an effective staff hand-over mechanism which enabled operations to run smoothly and with continuity throughout staff transfers. The hand-over process for key staff members included not only comprehensive notes, but also physical hand-over and discussions by both outgoing and incoming personnel. As part of this mechanism, thorough orientation sessions were organized for new arrivals. New programme staff were trained in the methodology of a new data entry tool, called eWIN (Electronic WFP Information Network).

During the food security and nutrition assessment, conducted jointly by WFP and the Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) and the National Coordinating Committee in October 2015, WFP and CBS provided training and demonstration to CBS enumerators and team leaders before they went to the field. The training sessions were conducted in Korean and were facilitated by well-trained CBS experts. WFP also provided equipment for measuring children's height, weight and mid-upper arm circumference.

WFP conducted a comprehensive monitoring and evaluation process review to strengthen and promote a well-functioning monitoring system. Monitoring tools and guidelines were revised in line with WFP's 2014-2017 Strategic Results Framework and Minimum Monitoring Requirements. Regular meetings for relevant staff to share ideas, experiences, and lessons learned and challenges related to supply chain monitoring have been established. Engagement of seconded staff from the government in these capacity development activities continued to bring progress and improvements in programme quality and sustainability. Food production in government-owned factories contributed towards enhanced and sustainable food security. As such, the government continued to implement various measures to boost food production and achieve self-sufficiency, despite many challenges and limitations.

Throughout 2015, WFP continued its support for the local production of FBF and biscuits. Over the years, WFP has seen increased levels of capacity and skill becoming integrated into the national production network. This is consistently supported by the regular coordination among the factory managers, local authorities and WFP. The use of a local food production database, standardised logbooks, checklists and guidelines on warehouse management have also strengthened production, distribution and reporting channels. WFP provided spare parts for the production lines and a milling machine in the local production factories in 2015.

INPUTS

Resource Inputs

Directed multilateral cash and in-kind contributions played an instrumental role in allowing WFP to implement the PRRO. Monthly distribution of FBF for the nutrition programme and two seasonal rounds of cereal distribution for FFCD were conducted. A CERF grant enabled WFP to resume the acute undernutrition prevention programme in 13 counties when they suffered from drought but had earlier been dropped because of underfunding. The DPR Korea Government supported the operation through taking responsibility, under WFP oversight, for maintenance of the local food production factories, port operations, warehousing and transportation of raw ingredients. The government also handles distribution of the locally produced fortified foods directly to children's institutions, and to PLW through the public distribution centres using WFP ration cards.

Donor	Resourced in 2015 (mt)		Shipped/Purchased in 2015 (mt)
	In-Kind	Cash	
Australia		2,838	2,559
Canada		3,158	3,158
China		336	371
Ireland		556	556
Kuwait			384
Liechtenstein			168
MULTILATERAL		1,204	1,372
Norway		895	895
Private Donors		861	861
Republic of Korea		3,636	8,446
Russian Federation		7,413	7,413
Switzerland	1,050	1,425	2,475
UN CERF Common Funds and Agencies		6,595	6,595
Total:	1,050	28,917	35,252

See Annex: Resource Inputs from Donors for breakdown by commodity and contribution reference number

Food Purchases and in-kind Receipts

Dried whole milk was the only type of in-kind contribution received by WFP DPR Korea in 2015. Owing to the impossibility of purchasing food commodities locally in the country, all food commodities were purchased on global markets through international tenders. The lead time required to purchase all the pre-mix ingredients can range from three to six months. An additional month is required for production before any final product can reach the beneficiaries. In order to reduce lead times and pipeline breaks, WFP established long-term agreements with suppliers for pre-mixes and packing materials for FBF.

Commodity	Local (mt)	Developing Country (mt)	Other International (mt)	GCMF (mt)
Beans	0	6,776	0	
Dried Whole Milk	0	0	325	
Maize	0	8,626	0	
Plain Dried Skimmed Milk	0	0	1,050	
Rice	0	225	0	
Sugar	0	0	1,656	
Vegetable Oil	0	3,110	0	
Wheat	0	6,072	4,602	
Wheat Flour	0	0	2,811	
Sum:	0	24,809	10,444	

Food Transport, Delivery and Handling

Under WFP oversight, the Government of DPR Korea managed the handling, storage and transport of commodities from the port to the local food production facilities to the beneficiary institutions. The government continued to meet these costs, plus those associated with FBF and fortified biscuit production, amounting to an estimated USD 7.6 million in 2015.

Post-Delivery Losses

To implement loss-mitigating measures, monitoring of the supply chain was carried out according to the Letter of Understanding signed between WFP and the government. WFP procured additional non-food items such as pallets and storage tents to minimise the risk of post-delivery losses. Logistics staff conducted on-site warehousing training for all WFP-assisted local food production factories and government-owned warehouses where WFP food commodities were stored.

MANAGEMENT

Partnerships

WFP partners with the National Coordinating Committee under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, for the coordination and implementation of WFP's food assistance programme in DPR Korea. The strong partnership with the National Coordinating Committee facilitates WFP's access to the 87 counties. WFP robustly upholds the principle of "no access, no assistance" which is enshrined in the Letter of Understanding between the government and WFP.

In partnership with the government, WFP supported 8 local factories, which produced fortified blended foods and biscuits. The government contributed to the project by covering the cost of the factories, warehouses, staff, electrical power and maintenance. Under WFP oversight, the government is also responsible for the transportation of raw ingredients from the ports to the factories, as well as for the distribution of fortified biscuits and cereals directly to institutions such as nurseries, kindergartens, primary schools and hospitals, or through public distribution centres for PLW using a WFP ration card system. Through these activities, the government makes a significant contribution to the programme.

In turn, WFP provides the basic raw materials for fortified biscuit and cereal production, including a cooking mix (iodised salt and baking soda) and a micronutrient pre-mix (vitamins and minerals) to fortify the food. WFP also supplies packaging materials, spare parts and technical expertise in food processing and fortification. Local production is considerably cheaper than sourcing these specialised products from outside DPR Korea.

WFP DPR Korea continued to co-chair with UNICEF the inter-agency Nutrition Sectoral Working Group and with FAO, the inter-agency Food Security Sectoral Working Group. There was progress in joint programming in 2015 as reflected in positive outcomes in resource mobilisation. A WFP, UNICEF and WHO joint proposal was approved by UN CERF through the underfunded window by harmonising target areas and programme inputs for nutrition and health activities in the beginning of 2015. More recently, a joint nutrition proposal by WFP and UNICEF was funded by through the CERF rapid response window from August 2015. This joint drought response allowed WFP and UNICEF to provide nutrition support to children under 5 and PLW for acute malnutrition prevention and treatment in the four most drought-affected provinces. WFP and UNICEF interventions are complementary.

Bilateral and multilateral programme discussions and consultations are commonly conducted with international organizations such as: Save the Children, Concern Worldwide, Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC) and International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. Intensive discussions and meetings with FAO and SDC have provided WFP and partners with opportunities to exchange information and technical support on disaster risk reduction which will benefit WFP's new PRRO (July 2016 - December 2018). Disaster risk reduction will be one of the two pillars in the new PRRO.

As drought, torrential rain and flooding threaten lives and livelihoods in DPR Korea, WFP participates in inter-agency joint assessments which provide fundamental data and analysis for WFP and other United Nations agencies to respond to the emergency needs. WFP has also actively participated in the development of the United Nations Strategic Framework (2017-2021) in DPR Korea.

WFP and FAO jointly organized a World Food Day gathering on 16 October 2015 which was the first time for both organizations to organize this event. It was cost-efficient and also had broader reach in terms of increasing awareness of food security and the visibility of WFP and FAO among local partners and the Government. It has been agreed that more local audiences will be invited to other joint events in the future, particularly senior level government officials, professors and university students.

WFP DPR Korea has established close collaboration on information and communication technology (ICT) with other United Nations agencies. Due to limited United Nations ICT personnel in DPR Korea, WFP works with UNICEF and UNDP to provide ICT services and support to all United Nations agencies. Under a Business Continuity Plan signed by the Heads of United Nations agencies in DPR Korea, this collaboration enables United Nations agencies to temporarily move to other United Nations premises to continue their activities if and when their internet connectivity is disabled.

To achieve the maximum impact of the various projects in DPR Korea, WFP will also continue pursuing close cooperation with functional line ministries, such as: the Ministry of Public Health and Ministry of Land and Environment Protection.

Partnerships	NGO		Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement	UN/IO
	National	International		
Total		2	1	3

Lessons Learned

Continued funding constraints led the Country Office to prioritise the allocation of resources in line with vulnerability levels for the nutrition programme. In the past, various approaches have been taken to this end, including many which involved cutting ration sizes while still maintaining a broad geographical focus. The project's mid-term review suggested that this approach leads to sub-optimal nutritional impact.

Based on lessons learned from previous years, WFP created a prioritisation strategy which included three key aspects:

- 1) Geographical targeting which prioritises provinces in the north and north-east of the country, which, according to the most recent assessments, are characterised by slightly higher levels of malnutrition and food insecurity.
- 2) Parameters for a scale-up of coverage, should additional resources be put at WFP's disposal.
- 3) Beneficiary targeting which prioritises the most vulnerable groups. As WFP had predicted forthcoming resource constraints, the programme was scaled back from 87 counties to 69 in 9 provinces from 1 May 2015. These 69 counties are referred to as the "core programme." The designation of the core programme has also taken into consideration the location of orphanages, a priority group for both WFP and the government.

A guideline for scaling up of the programme was readied, should the resource situation of the PRRO improve. According to the guideline, if WFP's resource situation and supply chain allows an additional "group of counties" to be covered for a four month period, WFP will resume distribution for that period. For purposes of this exercise, a "group of counties" will be considered as ten or more. If coverage would be less than four months for any additional group of counties, WFP will not scale up, given the undesirability of frequently commencing and curtailing distributions and reduced nutrition impact. In August 2015, WFP received funds from CERF which allowed WFP to expand its nutrition programme coverage to 13 more counties - taking the total to 82 counties. Priority was also given to distribution during the lean season, for example: pulses and vegetable were mainly distributed to the beneficiaries during the lean season. The reason is that the PDS rations went to the lowest level of 250 grams per person per day against the target of 573 grams during the lean season in 2015. A beneficiary prioritisation system was adopted. Beneficiary groups in priority order are as follows: children suffering from MAM; children in baby homes, children's centres and boarding schools (collectively referred to as "orphanages"); children in paediatric wards/paediatric hospitals; children attending nurseries (6 months-4 years); pregnant and lactating women; children attending primary schools in Ryanggang and N. Hamyong provinces; kindergarten children (5-6 years); and children attending primary schools in other provinces. WFP acknowledged that PLW were not always accorded higher priority than the primary school children in Ryanggang and North Hamgyong provinces during implementation of this strategy, but has since corrected that approach.

In 2015, WFP further improved its monitoring and reporting system. The monitoring guideline was updated with introductory information about the WFP e-WIN database management system, which uses tablets to record and upload data. In addition to regular external Quarterly Monitoring Bulletins and Country Briefs, WFP also began producing internal monthly monitoring summaries and weekly monitoring highlights (during the lean season). The monthly and weekly monitoring reports provide timely information on food security, nutrition, natural disasters, field observations, monitoring challenges and recommendations. The rapid feedback has helped WFP to understand the operation's latest progress, challenges and field situation.

Based on the lessons learned from FFCD projects, WFP has decided to adopt a food for disaster risk reduction initiative into the next PRRO and is preparing an implementation plan to this effect.

OPERATIONAL STATISTICS

Annex: Resource Inputs from Donors

Donor	Cont. Ref. No	Commodity	Resourced in 2015 (mt)		Shipped/ Purchased in 2015 (mt)
			In-Kind	Cash	
Australia	AUL-C-00204-01	Maize		18	18
Australia	AUL-C-00204-01	Wheat			144
Australia	AUL-C-00223-01	Beans		1,953	1,953
Australia	AUL-C-00223-01	Maize		35	35
Australia	AUL-C-00223-01	Vegetable Oil		408	408
Australia	AUL-C-00235-01	Dried Whole Milk		423	
Canada	CAN-C-00505-09	Maize		1,321	1,321
Canada	CAN-C-00505-09	Sugar		253	253
Canada	CAN-C-00505-09	Wheat		1,584	1,584
China	CHA-C-00037-02	Vegetable Oil			371
China	CHA-C-00043-01	Dried Whole Milk		336	
Ireland	IRE-C-00169-02	Maize		4	4
Ireland	IRE-C-00169-02	Wheat		552	552
Kuwait	KUW-C-00010-01	Wheat			384
Liechtenstein	LIE-C-00027-01	Wheat			168
MULTILATERAL	MULTILATERAL	Beans			0
MULTILATERAL	MULTILATERAL	Dried Whole Milk			0
MULTILATERAL	MULTILATERAL	Maize		928	928
MULTILATERAL	MULTILATERAL	Sugar		276	276
MULTILATERAL	MULTILATERAL	Wheat			168
Norway	NOR-C-00251-03	Beans		299	299
Norway	NOR-C-00251-03	Maize		21	21
Norway	NOR-C-00251-03	Sugar		23	23
Norway	NOR-C-00251-03	Wheat		552	552
Private Donors	WPD-C-02719-03	Beans		418	418
Private Donors	WPD-C-02719-04	Beans		418	418
Private Donors	WPD-C-02769-01	Dried Whole Milk			0
Private Donors	WPD-C-02769-01	Maize		25	25
Republic of Korea	KOR-C-00089-01	Beans			2,438
Republic of Korea	KOR-C-00089-01	Dried Whole Milk		16	325
Republic of Korea	KOR-C-00089-01	Maize		1,704	1,704
Republic of Korea	KOR-C-00089-01	Sugar			506
Republic of Korea	KOR-C-00089-01	Vegetable Oil			1,057
Republic of Korea	KOR-C-00089-01	Wheat			504
Republic of Korea	KOR-C-00103-01	Beans		1,254	1,250
Republic of Korea	KOR-C-00103-01	Vegetable Oil		663	663
Russian Federation	RUS-C-00037-01	Wheat Flour		2,811	2,811
Russian Federation	RUS-C-00047-03	Wheat		4,602	4,602
Switzerland	SWI-C-00434-01	Maize		1,425	1,425
Switzerland	SWI-C-00444-02	Plain Dried Skimmed Milk	1,050		1,050
UN CERF Common Funds and Agencies	001-C-01221-01	Maize		405	405
UN CERF Common Funds and Agencies	001-C-01221-01	Rice		225	225
UN CERF Common Funds and Agencies	001-C-01221-01	Sugar		69	69
UN CERF Common Funds and Agencies	001-C-01221-01	Wheat		576	576
UN CERF Common Funds and Agencies	001-C-01293-01	Maize		2,740	2,740
UN CERF Common Funds and Agencies	001-C-01293-01	Sugar		529	529
UN CERF Common Funds and Agencies	001-C-01293-01	Vegetable Oil		612	612

Annex: Resource Inputs from Donors

Donor	Cont. Ref. No	Commodity	Resourced in 2015 (mt)		Shipped/ Purchased in 2015 (mt)
			In-Kind	Cash	
UN CERF Common Funds and Agencies	001-C-01293-01	Wheat		1,440	1,440
Total:			1,050	28,917	35,252