



## WFP DPR Korea Country Brief

## Highlights

- In May, WFP provided food assistance to 624,275 young children and women, and continued its Food for Community Development (FFCD) activities. WFP reached 60 percent of the planned recipients.
- WFP will launch a new operation in July 2016, which is planned for 2.5 years, it aims to reach a total of 1.7 million women and young children with nutrition assistance.

### WFP Assistance

PRRO**	Total Requirements (in USD)	Total Received (in USD)	6 Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)*
200532 (July 2013 - June 2016)	195.8 m	99 m (51%)	4.1 m (20%)

\*\*WFP will launch a new operation starting in July 2016 \*June - November 2016

WFP's Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO) 200532 has three objectives: (i) reduce hunger and undernutrition among children and women by providing nutrition support to improve dietary diversity through school and pre-school meals and targeted nutrition support; (ii) restore and rebuild livelihoods to enhance food security through food for community development (FFCD); and (iii) support the Government in reducing hunger and undernutrition through local production of fortified food.

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. Through a budget revision, the PRRO was extended to June 2016, with an overall budget increase to USD 196 million. This increased the number of people by 373,000, to a new total of 2.2 million people over three years.

WFP also provides assistance through FFCD projects, which aim to build livelihoods of communities and to enhance food security.

WFP's operation contributes to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 2, Zero Hunger, and to the outcomes of the UN Strategic Framework for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (2011-2015), which was extended to 2016.

WFP's nutrition assistance is part of the Humanitarian Country Team's 2016 Needs and Priorities document, which outlines humanitarian needs and programmes by the humanitarian community in DPRK. Life-saving interventions in DPRK target some 13 million people in 2016.

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

## In Numbers

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

**624,275** people reached by WFP in May 2016

People Assisted

51%



49%



Main Photo

Credit: WFP/Colin Kampschoer  
Caption: A young boy at a WFP-supported nursery in North Hwanghae province.



May 2016

## Operational Updates

- The current operation (PRRO 200532) will end in June 2016 and a new operation (PRRO 200907) is expected to be launched in July. The new operation is planned for 2.5 years and will have a continued focus on providing nutrition assistance to women and young children, aiming to reach a total of 1.7 million people in eight provinces and 60 counties. The total budget of the new operation is USD 126 million.
- In May 2016, WFP provided 1,610 metric tons of food (blended flour fortified with micronutrients and fortified biscuits) to 625,000 pregnant women, nursing mothers, children in nurseries, orphanages, schools and in paediatric hospitals. A total of 62 monitoring visits to people assisted in 14 counties were conducted in May.
- WFP field monitors visited six FFCD projects in six counties in May. All FFCD projects, which include tree planting and the embankment of riverbeds, will be completed in June.

## Challenges

- WFP in DPRK is completely reliant on international purchases for all food commodities. While humanitarian aid to DPRK is exempted from United Nations and bilateral sanctions, WFP continues to monitor the impact of sanctions on its operation, in particular regarding the arrival times of new food aid shipments to DPRK.
- The most serious food security challenges in DPRK include the quality and diversity of the diet for a large proportion of the population, and recurring natural disasters including floods and droughts.
- The average Public Distribution System (PDS) food ration provided by the Government in April and May was 360 grams/person/day—63 percent of daily calorie requirements for adults. The average of 360 grams is the lowest rate for any June since 2011.

## Partnerships

WFP partners with the National Coordinating Committee (NCC) under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. This partnership facilitates WFP access to the counties covered by the operation. WFP supports 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 responsible for transportation of ingredients from ports to factories, and distribution of fortified foods directly to WFP-supported institutions, or through public distribution centres for women and nursing mothers.

## Country Background & Strategy



DPRK has experienced widespread food shortages since the mid-1990s. In spite of 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 2015, DPRK had a Global Hunger Index score of 28.8 and was 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 are anaemic. In 2015, WFP conducted a Food Security and Nutrition Assessment among children in WFP-supported nurseries, which showed that the 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 Community Development 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 2016

Canada, India, multilateral donors, Russian Federation, Switzerland and UN CERF