

World Food Programme (WFP)

- Food Assistance
- Nutrition
- Food Security

Present in DPRK since 1995

Covering: 9 out of 10 Provinces; 85 out of 209 counties

Funding Summary (2013)

Required: US\$ 93 million

Received: US\$ 33.5 million



World Food Programme

WFP: Global Perspective

WFP is the world's largest humanitarian agency fighting hunger. Since its establishment 50 years ago, WFP has shifted from a food aid agency to a food assistance agency, with a more nuanced and robust set of tools to respond to critical hunger needs. Its overarching goal is to reduce dependency on food aid and to support governmental and global efforts to ensure long term solutions to the challenge of hunger.

The policies governing the use of World Food Programme food assistance are based on five strategic objectives:

- Save lives and protect livelihoods in emergencies
- Prevent acute hunger and invest in disaster preparedness and mitigation measures
- Restore and rebuild lives and livelihoods in post-conflict, post-disaster or transition situations
- Reduce chronic hunger and under-nutrition
- Strengthen the capacities of countries to reduce hunger, including through hand-over strategies and local purchase

These objectives reflect the changing nature of food aid and hunger, and WFP's history, experience, and comparative advantages.

Overview of WFP Operations in DPRK

Over the last seventeen years, WFP has delivered around 4.6 million metric tons of food assistance to millions of the most vulnerable people in DPRK. Despite improvements in agriculture since the mid-1990s, DPRK suffers widespread food shortages. Food Production is limited by shortages of fuel and fertilizers and by extreme variations in weather and environmental degradation. The immediate consequence is high levels of under-nutrition. According to the Government, the majority of the population receives state rations through a public Distributions System. The reported PDS rations differ from each age group and have fluctuated considerably over time, never reaching the Government's own average target.

Young children and pregnant and lactating women are more vulnerable to food insecurity.

The 2012 CFSAM concluded that there are 2.8 million vulnerable people, two thirds of whom reside in the most food-insecure northern and eastern provinces: Ryanggang, North Hamgyong, South Hamgyong, Chagang, and Kangwon. Most of the remaining vulnerable people live in the food-deficit counties of North and South Pyongan, and in North and South Hwanghae provinces.

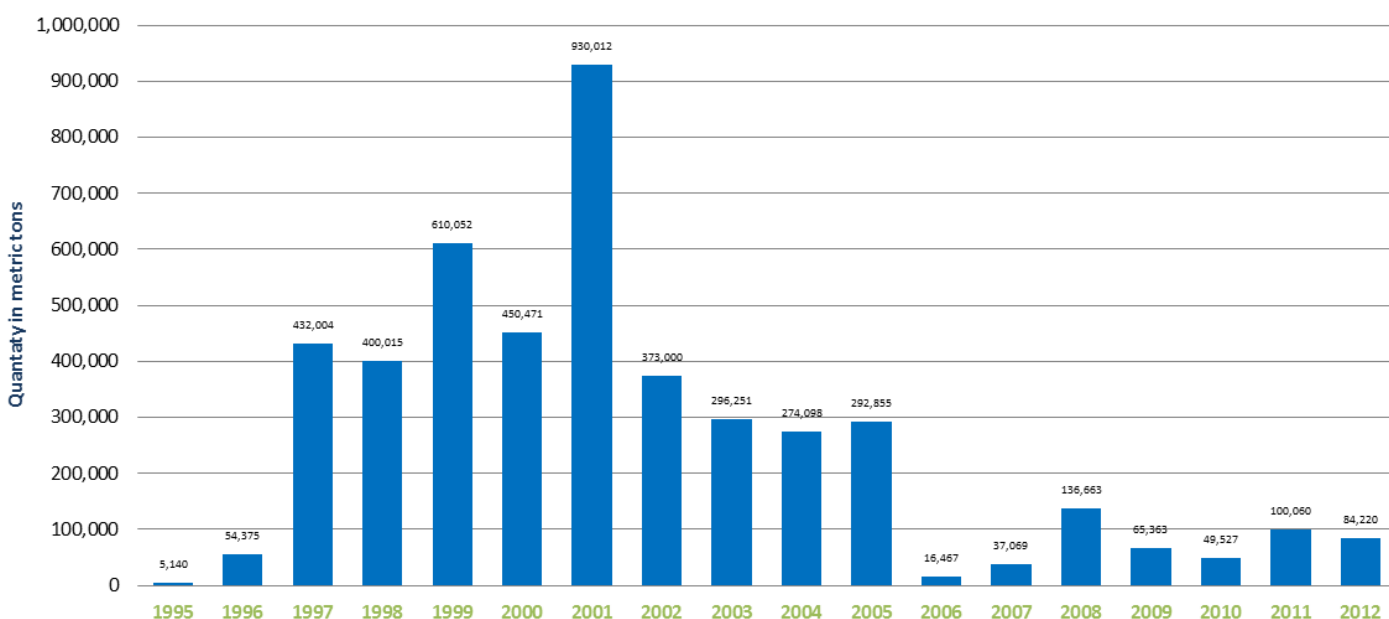
In DPRK, the agricultural lean season lasts from May to October. The months of August and September are the peak of the lean season and are the toughest months for the most vulnerable people. This difficult period may last until November, as the harvest needs to be processed, transported and distributed in the entire country.

As a coping mechanism during periods with limited access to food, the most vulnerable rely on food assistance from relatives living on cooperative farms. Other coping strategies include a reduction in the number of meals and of portion sizes, as well as an increased reliance on wild foods.

Given the current precarious nutrition and food security situation, the likelihood of an increase in acute malnutrition is strong. Without a proper diet, children who are now moderately malnourished can rapidly become severely malnourished, decreasing their chances of survival or the possibility of reaching their full human potential.

Over the last three years, a number of assessments and sector analyses have been conducted in DRPK leading to a better overview and clearer understanding by the UN agencies of the needs and enabling better response planning. The most recent assessment "Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission" (CFSAM) was carried out in October 2012 jointly by FAO and WFP. The objectives of the CFSAM were to assess the 2012 main-crop harvest, forecast the 2013 production of winter and spring crops, estimate the cereal import requirements, assess the household food security situation and estimate the level of food assistance required. The CFSAM concludes that, despite an expected better harvest for the 2012/2013 marketing year, the decrease in the soya bean (access to protein) production by over 30 percent and last years poor early harvest continue to put the most vulnerable households at risk of malnutrition.

Year-wise allocation of WFP food to DPR Korea



The CFSAM concluded that targeted nutrition assistance should be provided to 2.8 million vulnerable people (children, pregnant and breastfeeding women, elderly and disabled or chronic ill), of which the majority reside in the five most food-insecure northern and eastern provinces. Although households have improved access to carbohydrates following the harvest of main crops, sources of protein (soya beans) and fat continue to be very limited. The CFSAM recommends that in order to improve food security in the short and medium term, national and international support is needed to increase production of protein commodities, mainly through soybean cultivation and fish pond development, revitalising double cropping programmes and provide assistance to household garden production.

Programme Details

Nutrition Support to Women and Children in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

In June 2012, the Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO) "Nutrition Support to Women and Children in DPR Korea - PRRO 200114" was revised in geographical coverage, beneficiary numbers and prolonged for 12 months till June 2013. The prolongation allowed WFP to continue its work to enhance the food security of vulnerable people in food-insecure areas and safeguard the nutritional status of women and children. WFP's nutritional intervention is designed to target almost 2.4 million women and children in the 85 most food insecure counties mainly in the northeastern parts of the country.

WFP plans to distribute cereals, vegetable oil, pulses Super Cereals (fortified blended food enriched with vitamins and minerals) and biscuits according to the rations specifically composed for each beneficiary group. Malnutrition is widespread among children in DPRK. WFP is prioritizing the provision of assistance to young children to combat the consequences of inadequate nutritional intake on physical and mental development.

WFP food rations are mainly served as ready-to-eat meals through pediatric wards/hospitals and children's institutions (orphanages, kindergartens, nurseries, and primary schools). Only pregnant and lactating women receive take-home rations. The fortified blended food and biscuits are produced in fourteen local food production facilities. While the Government covers the overheads and running costs, WFP provides raw food commodities, spare parts and packaging materials.

WFP continues to strictly enforce its policy of "no access, no food" in DPRK. The modalities of WFP operations are agreed in a "Letter of Understanding" (LoU), which is agreed for each operation. The long standing cooperation and relationship with the Government has led to a significant improvement in operating conditions. As a result, the operating conditions of the PRRO have slightly improved compared to the terms and conditions of the LoU of the emergency operation.

The goal of PRRO 200114 is to enhance food and nutrition security in urban areas and the mountainous inland regions, with a strong emphasis on women and children.

Another year of food deprivation will have a serious impact on the health and nutrition of vulnerable groups. WFP recommends a package of food-based nutrition interventions to address deficits of protein and fats in the diet of the population.



United Nations
World Food
Programme

Democratic People's Republic of Korea
Newly Proposed PRRO Operational Coverage 2012 - 2013

