



World Food
Programme

Securing Food Systems and Mitigating the Effects of COVID-19 and Climate Change on Food Security

Hyung-Joon Lim
Director, WFP Seoul on behalf of
Mr. Praveen Agrawal,
Representative/Country Director of
WFP Pyongyang

*Roundtable Discussion on Agriculture in the
Democratic People's Republic of Korea*

Seoul, September 2020





TABLE OF CONTENTS

COVID-19 Impact Channels on the Global Food Security

COVID-19 Preventive Measures in DPR Korea and Food Systems

WFP's COVID-19 Response: Immediate Needs

Three Pillars of WFP's COVID-19's Global Response

Climate Change and DPRK Food Security

WFP's Nutrition Assistance in DPR Korea

Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience Activities

COVID-19's Impact Channels On The Global Food Security



COVID-19 IMPACT ON THE GLOBAL FOOD SECURITY

- The COVID-19 crisis unfolds at a time when the number of acutely food insecure people in the world had already risen nearly 70 percent over the past four years, largely due to man-made conflicts, climate change and economic downturn.
- The spill-over effects of COVID-19 will further increase the number of people facing acute hunger due to three primary “impact channels”:
 - 1) loss of jobs;
 - 2) decline in remittances;
 - 3) disruption of food systems.
- Low and middle-income countries will be disproportionately affected by three primary “impact channels”.

THE GROUPS HIT HARDEST BY DISRUPTION OF FOOD SYSTEMS

Households already in acute food insecurity pre-COVID-19	Nutritionally vulnerable groups and people with chronic illness at risk of inadequate nutrition	Households dependent on income from the informal sector – including many in urban areas	Households with migrant workers and dependent on remittances and/or seasonal migration	Small farmers and informal workers in rural areas affected by COVID-19 movement restrictions	Migrants and displaced populations likely to be left out of national social protection systems and often living in densely populated conditions.	Additional groups face punctual food security challenges, including persons in quarantine or under lockdown prevented from accessing their regular sources of income and food
---	--	---	--	---	---	---



Three Pillars of COVID-19's Global Response



PILLAR 1

National Social Protection Systems

WFP is helping governments to adapt, design and implement **social assistance interventions that respond to COVID-19 and to strengthen shock-responsive social protection** systems.



PILLAR 2

Basic Service Delivery

WFP is continuing to provide **direct or technical assistance to school children through school feeding programmes, even amid school suspensions**. In many cases, this has meant adjusting the delivery modality, by providing take-home rations, for example.

WFP also continues to deliver **lifesaving nutrition programmes** in the majority of cases, often with modified modalities.



PILLAR 3

Food Systems

WFP is sustaining, protecting, and improving **food systems** during the crisis, to **reduce economic and food insecurity risks**.

In many countries, WFP **has modified asset creation activities** to ensure that beneficiaries still receive support.





COVID-19's Preventive Measures In DPR Korea and Food Systems

The DPR Korea Preventive Measures in respect to COVID-2019:

- Closure of international borders for entries by humans
- Restricted travels and other movements within the country
- Restricted cross-border overland and sea cargo traffic
- Tight regulation of foreign trade by one entity - the Central Emergency Anti-Epidemic Headquarters
- Extended holidays for child institutions (nurseries, kindergartens, schools etc) from January to 3 June
- In the end July the government has re-introduced the restrictions related to and group gatherings, as well as other anti-epidemic requirements.

THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC and DPR Korea FOOD SYSTEM

- No confirmed COVID-19 cases in-country, yet **the impact is expected** due to the Global Pandemic and National Government Preventive Measures
- **No data yet to estimate the impact, only anecdotal evidence**, but following impact channels can be identified

• The impact on agricultural production

- ✓ Access to imported inputs (seeds, fertilizer, agro-chemicals, plastic etc) – no evidence
- ✓ Availability of labour force for agricultural works – no evidence

• The impact on nutrition:

- ✓ Institutional feeding (meals for children at nurseries, kindergartens and schools) were **not available for over 5 months**.
- ✓ All programs have been **impacted by restricted movement and shutdown of institutions**, where **the majority of the population receives their daily in takes** – this is case for schools, nurseries etc. **WFP's nutritional assistance fortified with micronutrients is ready to respond with in country stocks**, and has been doing so in a limited manner.

• The impact on coping opportunities:

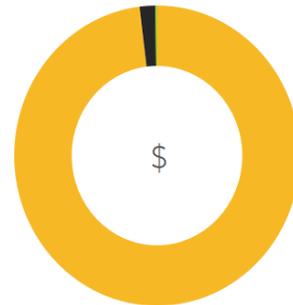
- ✓ **Reduced access to kinship exchanges, markets and foreign trade** due to travel restrictions and closure of borders.

WFP's COVID-19's Response: Immediate Needs



DPR Korea:

- The DPR Korea COVID-19 financial requirements are estimated in the **Global Humanitarian Response Plan** at **\$ 40 million**.
- **WFP** has proposed **\$ 2.1 million** for **food security interventions through resilience building, and USD 2 million for nutrition support to vulnerable populations** impacted by COVID-19 as a result of lockdown and supply chain disruptions.



WFP's IMMEDIATE RESPONSE

- The evolution of COVID-19 and containment measures **remains unpredictable**.
- The impact of the COVID-19 crisis on the **most vulnerable populations requires more than ever that WFP sustains critical assistance** and wherever possible **continues to safeguard investments in resilience**.
- As part of the DPRK GHRP – **19m was for direct health activities and with ref to indirect 5.1m was assigned to Food Security and Nutrition**; WFP due to the lack of information WFP proposed 2.1m of the 5.1 to address needs in targeted counties.
- The quarantine measures and **longer turnaround time at ports as a result of COVID-19 are expected to increase the cost of sea charter and containerized cargo by as much as 30 percent**
- These increasing costs to deliver exacerbate preexisting resource shortfalls for WFP operations.
- **WFP seeks to mitigate supply chain interruptions and minimize rising operational costs.**

**All \$ values shown throughout are in USD.*

Climate Change and DPR Korea Food Security



OVERVIEW

- DPR Korea is **highly vulnerable to increasing climate risks and recurrent natural disasters: droughts, heat waves and flash floods**

* *The INFORM Global Risk Index ranked DPR Korea at position **39 out of 191** countries in terms of their level of disaster risk*

- Climate-related disasters in DPR Korea have **profound humanitarian impacts on both food production and people's access to food**, undermining progress towards achieving Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2.
- ✓ **The food production levels significantly fluctuate from year to year due to climatic factors**
- ✓ **2018** – worst yield in a decade mainly due to climatic factors (4,9 million mt)
- ✓ **2019**--the Government reported a record high harvest of over 6,6 million mt – not yet assessed by WFP.

CLIMATE FACTORS AFFECTING FOOD SECURITY IN 2020

DRY SPELL:

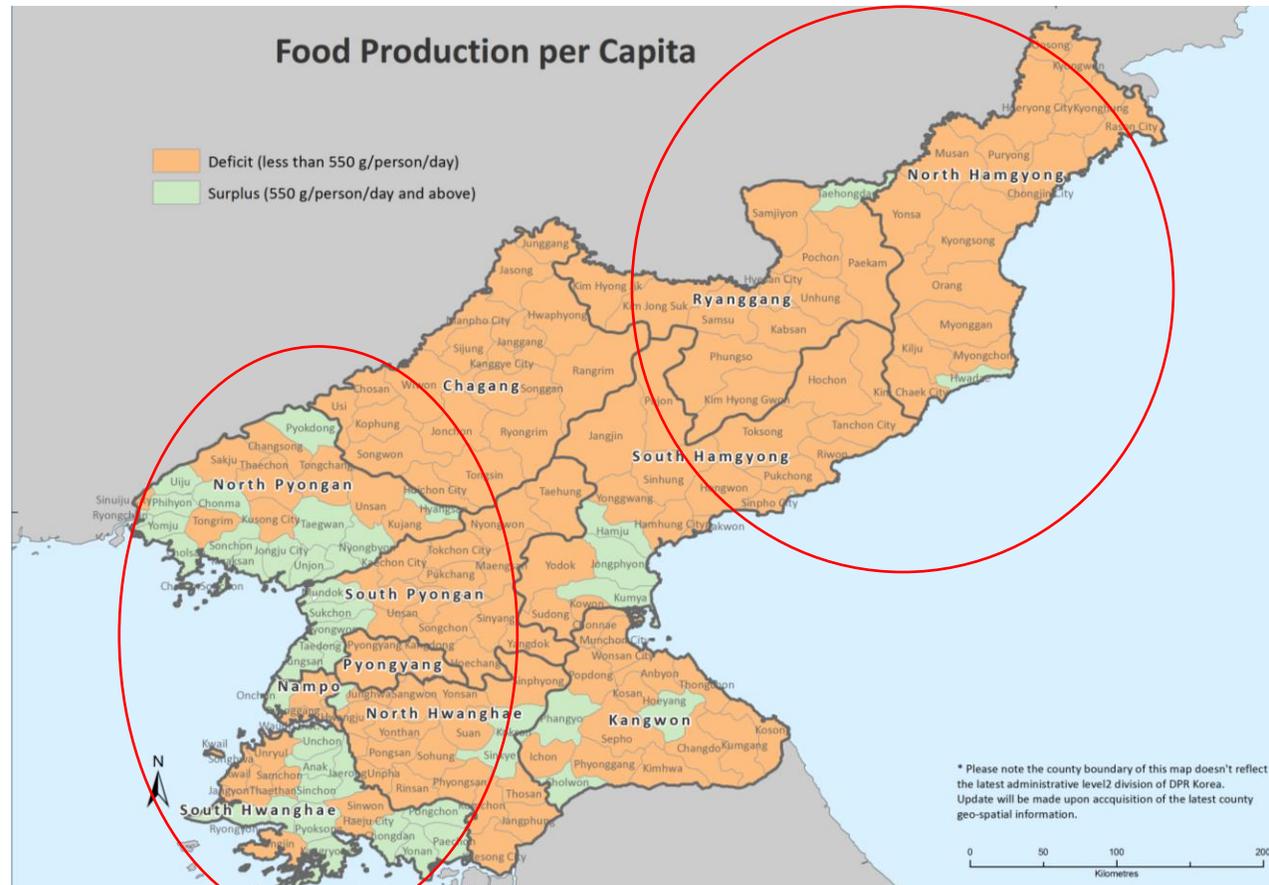
General weather conditions remained unfavorable: According the **satellite data in March main cereal-producing regions (southern, southwestern, and western) received 40-60 percent less rainfall**, while **in less fertile northern region and east coast areas rainfall exceeded the average by 60 to 80 percent**. From the end of March to early April, a dry spell prevailed over most of the country.

RAINS and STORMS:

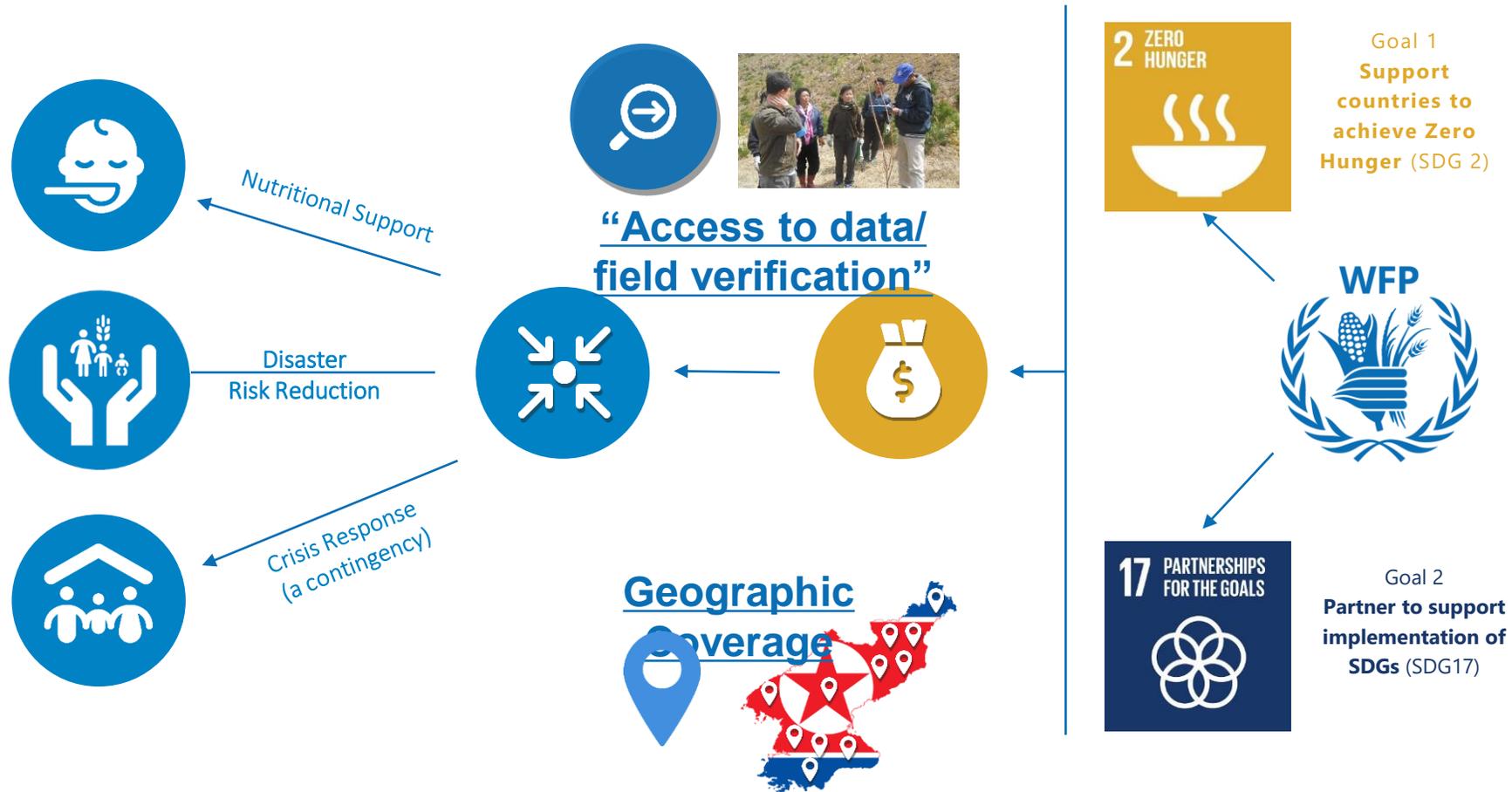
Torrential rains and storms in July/August have inflicted **a substantial damage: flooded hundreds of houses and vast areas of agricultural land in southern rice-producing areas of DPRK**. The impact of on the main crop harvest and resulting food balance is unclear, the **government has responded with internal resources**. Impact from Tropical cyclone BAVI-20 which hit the country at the end August is pending review, rains were the heaviest in the northwestern regions.

Highly vulnerable and recurrent disasters

- **Droughts, heat waves and flash floods** (Global risk index 39th out of 191)
- **Dry spell:** according to **satellite data in march**, main cereal producing regions (southern, s-western, western) **received 40-60% less rainfall**, while in less fertile northern region/east coast - rainfall **exceeded the average by 60-80%**. From end March to early April, dry spell prevailed over most of the country

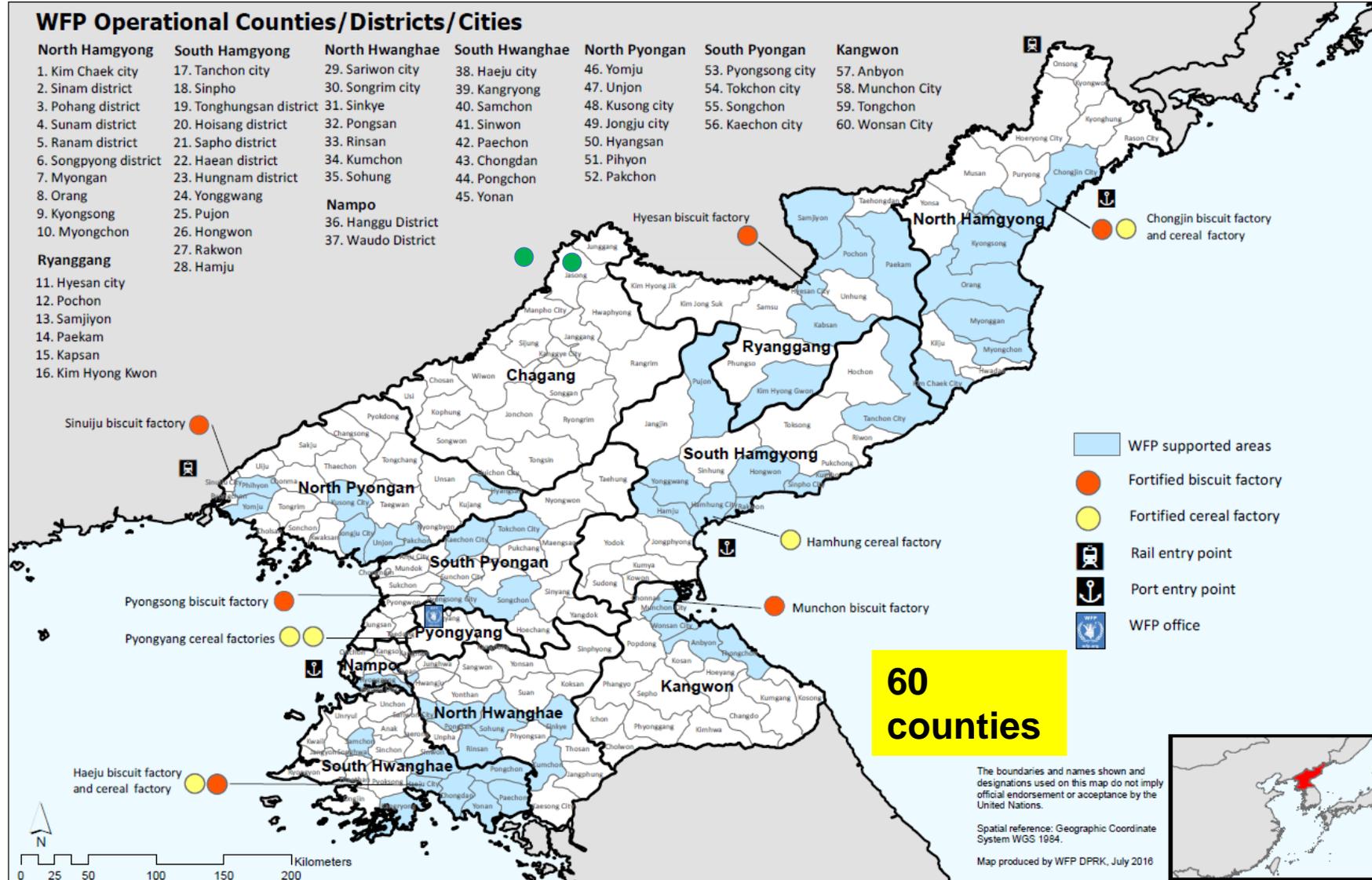


Towards achieving Zero Hunger (SDG 2)



60/210 operational areas and 9/11 provinces

Supports local factories for fortified cereals & fortified biscuits





Nutrition Assistance

**WFP Interim Country Strategic Plan
2019-2021**

Total Requirement - \$161 million

Pregnant and Lactating Women	Children in nurseries	Children in kindergartens	Children in boarding schools	Patients in hospitals/paediatric wards and tuberculosis patients
------------------------------	-----------------------	---------------------------	------------------------------	--



Through nutrition activities WFP provides beneficiaries with **nutritious fortified cereals and biscuits** which help to prevent malnutrition by providing for their macronutrient and micronutrient needs.

The food items distributed in the **children's institutions are consumed as snacks in-between main meals** and are usually prepared **as bread, pancakes and porridge** depending on the children's preferences. The food distributed to **pregnant and lactating women and girls (PLWG) complemented their regular diets to meet their daily nutrient requirement** for healthy growth and development.

In addition, WFP distributes **hygiene and nutrition-related messages, printed on beneficiary cards and WFP logbooks**, to beneficiary institutions in order to increase beneficiary understanding on healthy diets and hygiene practices.

In 2019, WFP provided **nutrition assistance to 662,573 beneficiaries, with children aged 6-59 months and PLWG** as the largest categories.

From February to June 2020 **child institutions have been on extended holidays and not accessible for distributions. Institutions reopened on 3 June** however, kindergartens continue to be on vacation – expected to open in September.

In 2020, WFP has carried out **distributions, to some 448,000 beneficiaries in child institutions** (boarding schools, nurseries, paediatric wards and hospitals, as well as, to **pregnant and lactating women in nine provinces**, using **prepositioned fortified biscuits and cereals produced in local factories**.



Hidden Hunger – 1st 1000 days

nourished

undernourished

If children don't receive **nutritious** food in their **first 2 years**, they may be stunted for life.

WFP
wfp.org

CHRONIC MALNUTRITION



NAME	Age (in Years)	Weight (Kg.)	Height (cms.)	Status
Johnny	11.3	28	120	SEVERE MALNUTRITION
Glenda	9	21	117	MODERATE MALNUTRITION
Daniel	5.8	19	112	NORMAL



Hamhung CMB Factory



Sinuiju Biscuit Factory





- **Invest \$1 in nutrition, one can save average \$45 and up to \$166 (health cost etc)**
- **Invest \$1 in nutrition, ROI (Return on Investment) is 16.**
- **Impact to National GDP: 2~3% and up to 11% in case of some African and Asian countries.**



Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience Activities

WFP Interim Country Strategic Plan 2019-2021
Total Requirement - \$161 million

In 2018-2019, climate conditions remained challenging:

- Winter 2018-2019: low snow coverage, lack of soil moisture**
- September 2019: Typhoon Lingling** inundated thousands of hectares of farmland and crops, causing serious damage to irrigation infrastructure, human settlements, rail-tracks, roads, schools and hospitals.

Through **the Food assistance for assets (FFA) activities** WFP responds to climatic challenges, reinforcing household and community resilience, builds and rehabilitates productive and protective assets, providing conditional food transfers (maize).

WFP **significantly expanded FFA activities in 2019** compared to previous years:

- resumed activities suspended since autumn 2018
- launched **five additional projects in the areas hit by Typhoon Lingling** (distribution of 5 mt biscuits – immediate response)
- provided **working tools to participants** (including stretchers, shovels and pick-axes)

ACTIVITIES

Rehabilitation of damaged river embankments	Desilting of riverbeds and community water reservoirs	Restoration of adequate irrigation water for agricultural production, protection of public infrastructure and communities along the rivers	Fruit and wood tree planting
--	--	---	-------------------------------------



2019 OUTCOMES/FIGURES

- improved the food security situation to **268,080 household members** (*distributed 5,251 mt of maize maize rations in return for work*);
- 3,949 hectares of agricultural land** benefitted from rehabilitated irrigation schemes
- 12.94 million fruit and wood trees were planted across 3,350 hectares**

2020

despite continued restrictions, WFP continues to support vulnerable beneficiaries of resilience activities. In July, WFP distributed **over 1,170 mt of maize to about 95,000 beneficiaries.**



WFP's assistance to Republic of Korea



○韓國政府代表(右)與WFP代表(左)在東京簽署援助協定。

每日經濟新聞

本報社址：東京市丸の内區千代田
 電話：3141
 發行所：東京市丸の内區千代田
 電話：3141
 訂價：每月1000日元
 零售：每份100日元
 廣告部：東京市丸の内區千代田
 電話：3141
 每日經濟新聞社
 1965年 7月10日

- 本報社址：東京市丸の内區千代田
 電話：3141
 發行所：東京市丸の内區千代田
 電話：3141
 訂價：每月1000日元
 零售：每份100日元
 廣告部：東京市丸の内區千代田
 電話：3141
 每日經濟新聞社
 1965年 7月10日

本報社址：東京市丸の内區千代田
 電話：3141
 發行所：東京市丸の内區千代田
 電話：3141
 訂價：每月1000日元
 零售：每份100日元
 廣告部：東京市丸の内區千代田
 電話：3141
 每日經濟新聞社
 1965年 7月10日

WFP 世界食糧計劃 援助協定に調印

總事業費43億圓以上

4道15郡78面に 27萬町步選定

【東京10日電】世界食糧計劃(WFP)と韓国政府が、東京で援助協定を調印した。この協定は、WFPが韓国に食糧援助を行うためのものである。協定の総事業費は43億圓以上と見られる。WFPは、韓国の食糧不足を解消するために、食糧の供給と生産の増進を支援する。この協定は、WFPの韓国での活動の重要な一歩である。WFPは、韓国の食糧不足を解消するために、食糧の供給と生産の増進を支援する。この協定は、WFPの韓国での活動の重要な一歩である。

總有 1천3백94만名

中央選管委 選舉人名簿완사

【ソウル10日電】中央選舉管理委員會(中選管委)が、今日の選挙人名簿を完了させた。この選挙人名簿は、今日の選挙に参加する選挙人の名簿である。この選挙人名簿には、1千3百94万人の名前が記載されている。中選管委は、この選挙人名簿の完了を歓迎し、選挙の公正な実施を期している。

Koreans
received
WFP food aid
until 1984





**Food for Work
취로/사방사업
(새마을운동 with
WFP from 1971)**

Food for Assets



(FAO/Boonserm, 1968)



Land Reclamation and Cultivation 간척 및 개간

From 1964 to 1975, WFP provided food assistance to people engaged in eight land reclamation and cultivation projects in the ROK.

ROK graduated from WFP assistance in 20 years, became a major donor only after one generation!

3차 W.F.P. 지원차 FLOOD CONTROL PROJECT OF 3RD WF.

공사명 : 동천 개수공사
위치 : 경남 울주군 농소면 지내
공사개요 : 축제: 11.220M 배수문: 17개소
시행기간 : 1971~1974
효과 : 농토보호: 490ha. 인가보호: 170호
시행청 : 경상남도



Food For Community Development (FFCD) Activities in DPR Korea

FFCD is an important component of WFP's operations in DPR Korea. The immediate objectives of the FFCD projects are:

- **To provide food for household consumption for the food-insecure people.**
- **To enable increased agricultural production by improving irrigation infrastructures and increase area of cultivation**, as well as improved access to market places, so as to encourage agricultural activities.
- To rehabilitate and maintain community-based assets and infrastructure.
- To create temporary employment of the vulnerable people and provide subsistence to their livelihood.

FFW /FFCD activities in DPRK 2002-2011

Main activities	Unit	Output
Tree Planting	Ha	13,608
Tree Nursery	Seedlings	173,575,000
Land Reclamation /Rehabilitation	Ha	1,334
Embankment	Km	1,411
Excavation	Km	241
Dams or Reservoirs	No	23
Drainage systems	Km	20
Water supply systems	Km	955
Irrigation system rehabilitation	Km	285

Types of activities for WFP FFCD support

- **Tree planting** on degrade hillsides, to reduce the erosion and to increase the water infiltration in the soil.
 - **Construction/rehabilitation of embankments**, to protect the lives/assets and arable land.
 - Excavations/rehabilitation of beds of **small-scale drainage/irrigation canals/rivers** to prevent or mitigate flooding.
 - **Irrigations system** rehabilitation.
 - Land development/soil conservation activities
- 



Tree Planting





Embankment Construction





Irrigation Systems



Micro-basins



**FFCD Midterm
Land Reclamation
in Sudong
Hamhung, S. Ha
7-Jun-0**

New Soil

2007 6 7

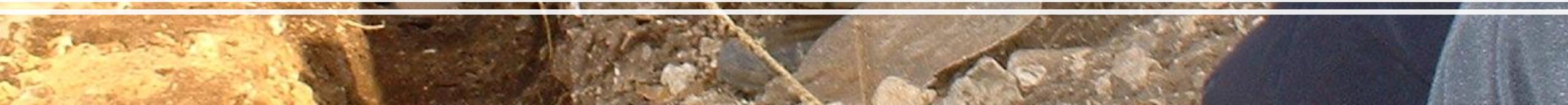


Basic Tool ("A" level)





Construction of Contour Ditches





Contour Ditches





Soil Conservation

WFP's Disaster Risk Reduction project activities in photos



Photo: Preparation for tree plantation.



Photo: WFP supported reforestation project.



Photo: DRR project participants waiting on a line to collect food ration.



Photo: DRR project participants collecting food ration.

Agroforestry

- Agroforestry is an **integrated and sustainable land management system** that **combines trees, crops and other economic grass plants, and livestock, making maximum use of the land** and increasing production while protecting the environment and **reducing natural disaster risks**.
- It is also an important **economic strategy to provide food, improve diet diversity and reforest the mountains**, and to contribute to overall environmental protection and disaster risks reduction.
- Alignment with the **National Environment Protection and Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy for 2019-2030** and agroforestry priorities
- Agroforestry activities (including the creation of hillside tree plantations and community orchards) – the focus will be placed on **supporting county tree nursery capacity, tree planting and intercropping**;
- Project areas
 - food deficit and insecure
 - in line with Government agroforestry priorities;
 - degree of degradation of sloping lands and readiness for afforestation; and
 - no support from other agroforestry initiatives.
- Have been in discussion with **Climate Change Center**





World Food Programme



Thank You

