

NEW Video from The UN World Food Programme Shows North Koreans Struggling From Effects of Drought and Floods:

WFP News Video
Release 19-Sep-2012
TRT: 3:41

:00-:30

Anju, DPRK

Shot: 19Aug, 2012

200 women, mostly housewives, hauling mud in 5 hour shifts have been mobilized to build a dam protecting their corn fields from a flood damaged sewage system.

:30-:46

Anju DPRK

Shot: 19Aug, 2012

Ruined corn fields. Lack of rain damaged 40% of the spring harvest, now floods threaten the main fall harvest.

:46-:55

GV's mountains near Wonsan, DPRK

Shot: 19Aug, 2012

The DPRK is mostly mountains . Only 1/5 of the country is arable.

:55-1:04

GV's Wonsan, DPRK

Shot: 20Aug, 2012

1:04-1:34

Wonsan Pediatric Hospital

Shot: 20Aug, 2012

Malnourished babies being treated. WFP supplies them with a special cereal fortified with milk powder, minerals and vitamins.

1:34-1:49

Wonsan, DPRK

Shot: 20Aug, 2012

Wonsan secondary School.

Revolutionary Studies class

1:49-2:04

Wonsan, DPRK

Shot: 20Aug, 2012

Wonsan secondary School.

Kim Gwang Song- 13- year old boy (very short and thin, looks like 8 years)

At grade four. He has some hearing difficulty. He likes sports especially running.

The subject he is most interested is the history, particularly the revolutionary history of Korea.

He wants to be farmer when he grows up. He wants to do some good deeds for the father land

2:04-2:20

SOT Claudia vonRoehl

Country Director WFP DPRK

Shot: Pyongyang on 21Aug, 2012

“WFP is looking particularly after mothers and their young babies because they are in a moment of their life when they really need a special nutrition booster and we see this as our humanitarian task to help them at this very special moment in their life.”

2:20-2:34

Wonsan Elementary School

Shot: 20Aug, 2012

School meals being prepared with WFP supplied wheat and rice that is made into noodles.

2:34-3:05

Wonsan, DPRK

Munchon Biscuit Factory

Shot: 20Aug2012

In addition to one truck (7mt of capacity) and a mill, WFP provides all the raw materials (i.e. wheat flours, minerals, vitamins, oil, sugar, salt and soda) and spare parts. Government provides workers, technicians and other running costs. The biscuits are fortified with vitamins and minerals which are essential for the mental and physical growth of a child.

3:05-3:41

Wonsan Kindergarten

Shot: 20Aug, 2012

Young children receive four pieces of biscuits per school day (60gr). The biscuits are served as snacks at the kindergartens, primary schools, children centres and boarding schools.

ENDS

Edited News Story is available here:

<http://youtu.be/dmRY-CRqxs>

DPRK Talking Points

19 September 2012

Key Messages

- **WFP is very concerned about the long-term intellectual and physical development of young children, who are malnourished, mainly due to a monotonous diet, lacking in key proteins, fats and micronutrients.**
- **WFP's work in DPRK is tightly focused on providing specialised food products, to address the nutritional needs of young children and their mothers.**
- **The full impact of this year's dry spell and then flooding on food stocks will be better understood with the completion of a Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission (CFSAM). The fieldwork will start in mid to late September.**

Assessments

- A Crop and Food Security Assessment will take place in DPRK in late September and early October. It is a joint effort of WFP, FAO and local counterparts.
- The mission will be made up of four teams who will carry out their work in eight provinces. The teams will have both international and national staff, as well as international Korean speakers.
- The eight provinces are North and South Hwanghae, North and South Hamgyong, Kangwon, North and South Pyongang and Ryanggang.
- The final report is expected in November.
- UNICEF, WFP, WHO and the Central Bureau of Statistics will carry out a National Nutrition Survey consisting of 10 individual province-level surveys, starting mid-September.
- The main indicators to be assessed among children under five will be malnutrition, anaemia, morbidity, vitamin A supplementation and child feeding practices. Pregnant and nursing women will also be part of the survey.
- A final report is expected by the end of the year.

On the recent floods

- WFP has provided emergency food assistance to 102,000 flood-affected people in 23 counties in response to the floods of late June/July.
- Following government reports of additional damage beyond initial assessments, WFP is monitoring the situation closely.
- WFP has released emergency food from its own stocks, but around 4,000 metric tons (US\$ 3.2 million) is required to continue emergency food distribution, pre-positioning of food stocks and early recovery (Food for Community Development) projects.

On reports of drought

- This year's dry spell on the Korean Peninsula had a significant impact on annual early crop. Government data recently released indicates that at just over 207,000 metric tons, it is 40 percent down on last year. It is also about half the estimation of the 2011 Food and Crop Assessment (CFSAM) report.
- Although the early crop (mainly potatoes, wheat and barley) accounts for only about 10 percent of annual production, this amounts to a significant impact on the food supply situation. The most vulnerable have been disproportionately affected.
- The majority of DPRK's agricultural production is rain-fed (i.e. not irrigated) and farmers are unable to compensate for a lack of precipitation, even despite massive mobilisation of the local population to help with watering crops using buckets and other rudimentary vessels.

Operations

- WFP's current operation targets about 2 million children and their mothers in 82 countries. It takes into account the recommendations of the 2011 CFSAM addresses the lack of proteins and micronutrients in the regular diet.
- WFP DPRK provided food assistance to over 1 million children and their mothers in July, over 1.8 million in May and June, and to more than 2 million in February, March and April.
- WFP requires an additional US\$49 million in order to reach all those targeted for assistance until the end of the current operation in mid-2013. Funding is particularly necessary to buy about 50,000 tons of maize.
- The operating conditions for WFP's new operation are unchanged. WFP is able to use Korean speakers, has immediate access to the full length of the operational supply chain, as well as to markets, households and places where WFP food is distributed.

Food security and nutrition situation

- Continued food insecurity, mainly in terms of decreased food intake and poor dietary diversity, puts the most vulnerable – especially children - at risk of malnutrition.
- There is an increased risk of higher malnutrition rates during the current annual 'lean season', from May to September.

Impact of Chronic Malnutrition & WFP's response

- Good nutrition builds the brains and bodies of the next generation. Children will only reach their full adult potential if they receive proper nutrition in the first 1000 days of life.
- In the first two years of life, chronic malnutrition (or 'stunting') can slow learning, lead to poorer school performance and lower income-earning potential in adulthood. It also carries a higher risk of chronic disorders such as diabetes and cardiovascular disease.
- Mothers who were stunted as children are at a higher risk of their children dying within the first five years of life, highlighting the inter-generational effects of inadequate nutrition.
- A daily ration of WFP biscuits or specialised blended foods provides about two-thirds of daily micronutrient needs and 90 percent of fat and protein requirements – as well as contributing around 400 Kcal to the daily diet.

2011 CFSAM Key Messages

- A joint Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission by WFP and FAO (published November 2011) found that the 2011 harvest was better than the previous year, but a significant cereal import requirement remains, meaning the overall food supply continues to be problematic in the medium to long term.
- Expected cereal production gains due to improved availability of key agricultural inputs were not realised, largely due to adverse weather conditions.
- A lack of seeds available for the 2012 early crop following the poor 2011 harvest has raised concerns for the forthcoming season.

- WFP is concerned that gains in the nutrition situation up to 2009 – as reported in the UNICEF MICS report of that year – could be reversed by the on-going cycle of food shortages and the prolonged deprivation of the past season. The provision of fortified blended foods and protein-rich pulses is essential to ensure the nutrition situation does not deteriorate further.

- A decline in bilateral assistance and commercial imports over the past three to four years has hit DPRK's ability to provide sufficient cereals through the Public Distribution System. Humanitarian food assistance has also fallen.

- The northern and eastern provinces of DPRK remain the most food-insecure regions, but vulnerable people living in food-deficit counties in other areas also require assistance.

- Coping strategies to deal with food shortages for many North Koreans included reducing the number of meals, depending on relatives in rural areas, collecting wild foods and using informal local market mechanisms. A new development was the widespread group collection of wild foods organised by places of work.

- Many cooperative farm households were forced to compromise their own food security to assist relatives dependent on the Public Distribution System (PDS), which provided only one third (200 grams/person/day) of the full ration from between May and September.

2011 CFSAM – in numbers

- The main 2011 harvest is estimated at 5.5 million metric tons (MT) – 9 percent higher than 2010.

- Planned commercial imports of 325,000 MT leave a 413,000 MT uncovered import requirement.

- The CFSAM recommends the provision of 120,000 MT of fortified blended food, high-energy biscuits and other high-protein food products to 3 million vulnerable people.

- The mission was divided into four teams, and spent ten days gathering data in 40 counties and cities in all nine agricultural provinces.

Other Operational Information

In addition to Pyongyang, WFP field offices in Hamhung, Wonsan and Chongjin are now connected by fibre-optic cable, allowing full data connectivity and the use of WFP's food commodity tracking software.