Lengthy dry spells, floods and typhoons are driving crop yield losses and reducing the availability of food. Sanctions, fuel restrictions and lack of or out-of-date machinery and equipment are worsening the humanitarian situation, stressing communities’ already limited coping capacities.

Objectives

- Bridge humanitarian assistance and resilience building.
- Promote risk-informed agricultural production and diversification.
- Improve natural resource management to underpin sustainable agricultural production and enhanced resilience.

Activities

**Increase availability and access to locally produced nutritious food**

- agricultural kits
- greenhouse inputs
- home gardening kits
- plastic sheets
- small ruminants
- animal health services
- crop-livestock integration
- cooperative farms support
- post-harvest equipment
- technical maintenance training

**Reduce vulnerabilities to climate-induced disasters**

- capacity building for disaster risk management
- information management and early warning systems
- cooperative and farm level preparedness

**Improve natural resource management**

- soil and crop suitability testing
- conservation agriculture practices
- agroforestry schemes
- reforestation programmes
- irrigation pumps
- small-scale rehabilitation schemes

Democratic People’s Republic of Korea

Needs and Priorities 2020

Investing in the agriculture sector remains critical in 2020, as communities brace themselves for reduced yields from the 2019 main harvest.

**to assist**

513 000 people

**FAO requires**

USD 10 million

**period**

January–December 2020

FAO in the 2020 humanitarian appeals
Democratic People’s Republic of Korea
Impact on food security

Chronic food insecurity and malnutrition in the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea are driven by insufficient agricultural production and land, lack of access to inputs, machinery and fuel, and poor infrastructure. Disease outbreaks, such as the coronavirus, a global health emergency, add increasing pressure to the complex situation due to quarantine measures set up to control the disease. Each year the agriculture sector falls short of meeting food needs by 1 million tonnes. The country has not been producing a sufficient and diverse range of agricultural products due to continuous monocropping, leading to unsustainable environments.

The limited capacity to cope with frequent climate-induced disasters, poor food consumption and inadequate dietary diversity have left 40 percent of the population food insecure and in urgent need of assistance. Young children and women who are pregnant or nursing are most vulnerable to malnutrition. Their diets require more essential nutrients, such as minerals, proteins and vitamins.

Erratic rains and low reservoir levels experienced in the summer could mean a below-average 2019 main harvest in the principal cereal producing areas of South/North Hwanghae and South Pyongan. Reduced production for a third year in a row could result in food shortages during the winter months. This could have serious food security implications, particularly affecting vulnerable populations who rely heavily on local food production and the public distribution system.

The implementation of nutrition-sensitive and climate-smart approaches is critical in addressing the chronic food production deficit in the country. To safeguard the sustained supply of food and other essential services, productive assets need to be enhanced or restored. Scaling up proven agricultural technologies toward sustainable production and diversification, and laying out foundations for integrated farming systems will strengthen national capacities to cope with the impacts of climate change. These efforts will not only restore depleted natural resources base, but also enhance the resilience of ecosystems and dependent vulnerable communities.