

SDC in DPR of Korea

2012 – 2016 Medium Term Programme
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Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
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Swiss Agency for Development
and Cooperation SDC

SDC in the DPRK

SDC's Humanitarian Aid (HA) in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) is currently executing bilateral projects in the sectors of Food Security and Public Health, and contributing to the operations of the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) through the delivery of Swiss milk powder. SDC started its activities in DPR Korea in 1995 and opened a permanent office in Pyongyang in 1997. In 2012, SDC reduced its focus to a humanitarian programme based on its medium-term programme 2012 - 2016. The aim is to improve **food security, water supplies, waste water management and environmental protection**.

Due to chronic food shortages in the 1990s, people started to deforest and cultivate slopes, mostly using unsuitable methods which cause land degradation, soil erosion and the risk of flooding. Addressing this, a project for **stabilising sloping land and improving its agricultural use** is being implemented in collaboration with the Ministry of Land and Environmental Protection (MoLEP), which covers an area of approx. 2200 ha. SDC promotes more appropriate land use techniques based on agroforestry, including agriculture, small livestock, reforestation, soil conservation, **disaster risk reduction and environmental protection measures**. The cultivated crops include upland rice, potatoes, maize, soy beans, fruits and vegetables. Other than the harvest on official agricultural land, the crops produced on sloping land can be used directly by the user groups themselves. Besides being an additional food source, planting tree groves on slopes checks erosion and is thus applied as an effective disaster prevention measure.

Clean and sufficient water is essential to public health. Numerous diseases accrue from a lack of clean drinking water and poor sanitation. In response, SDC's **Water Sanitation and Health (WASH) programme**, launched in 2012 in collaboration with the Ministry of City Management (MoCM) is constructing or restoring and modernising mainly rural drinking water facilities with the intention of establishing sufficient supply and securing the institutional structures to effectively manage water quality control. Access to adequate sanitary installations such as latrines and wastewater systems is also being improved. These activities are designed to arrest widespread dysentery, positively affecting both the nutritional situation of individuals and the overall health of targeted communities, with particular focus on children.

Swiss milk powder delivery contributes to the operations of the **World Food Programme (WFP)** of the United Nations. Together with cereal, corn, soy and rice, milk powder (1,050 mt in 2015; 1,200 mt in 2016) is processed into blended food in local factories and dispensed to children, pregnant and lactating women through the

WFP and the public distribution system of the DPRK government. Close to 1 million beneficiaries receive a daily ration for 3.5 months per year, thus contributing to lower under- and malnutrition.

Background Information

After the collapse of the Soviet Union and the communist trading system, DPR Korea was deprived of its markets, import/export partners and main sources of technology and knowledge exchange. A series of droughts, floods and hail storms damaged crops and infrastructure in the mid-1990s, the government appealed for international assistance for the first time in order to respond to the widespread famine. Since then, the country has been struggling to recover. According to UN Food and Agricultural Organisation's (FAO) 2015 State of Food Insecurity report, the proportion of people out of the **entire population who were undernourished was 41.6 %** in 2014-16.



Budget

Year	Budget CHF
2015	9'090'000
2016	(forecast) 8'000'000

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