

UNICEF HUMANITARIAN ACTION

DPR KOREA

DONOR UPDATE

4 SEPTEMBER 2006

UNICEF REQUIRES US\$ 6.6 MILLION TO MEET THE NEEDS OF CHILDREN AND MOTHERS

- 41% of the appeal requirements have been met to date, allowing for accelerated improvement in health, water & sanitation and education programmes
- More funds are urgently required in order not to compromise these progresses



The boundaries and names shown do not imply official UN endorsement.

1. ISSUES FOR CHILDREN

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea has an extensive health care system. The marginal improvements in the economy over the last two-three years however did not translate into additional investments to the health sector. This has led to general deterioration of infrastructure and especially shortages of essential medicines, medical consumables and other supplies. Child and maternal mortality rates have increased sharply since the early 1990s and malnutrition rates, while improved over the last decade, are still high by WHO standards. About 20% of children under the age of two suffer from diarrhoeal diseases caused by contaminated water and poor hygiene practices. Shortages of textbooks, school materials and fuel for heating during the long sub-zero winters remain another concern. Learning methods have also not evolved in step with international standards. All these factors have combined to affect negatively the quality of education.

The government's decision to discontinue humanitarian aid programmes in late 2005 has interrupted the large scale assistance and may compromise the progresses already made. By providing essential medicines and vaccines to protect children against common diseases, nutritional complements for malnourished children, iron/folic acid for women before pregnancy to prevent anemia and multi-micronutrients during pregnancy, clean water supply and other basic inputs for children, the UNICEF supported programmes have contributed to improving the lives of children, particularly the most vulnerable groups, such as young children and mothers. This needs to be sustained. There is a need, also, to strengthen government capacity at all levels to further improve the quality of inputs delivery and project implementation.

2. UNICEF RESPONSE: ACTIVITIES, ACHIEVEMENTS AND CONSTRAINTS (MAY-AUGUST 2006)

Addressing malnutrition and micronutrient deficiencies

Supplementation of multi-micronutrients targeting at 270,000 (80% of the total) pregnant women during the first six months of pregnancy is continuing in the accessible counties nationwide. Supplementation of iron/folic acid before pregnancy for prevention of anemia is on-going, targeting at about 225,883 women aged 23-28 years. 34,000 iodine oil capsules for pregnant women in high risk areas were distributed. Eligibility criteria for iodine capsules are being developed for better planning in future.

The production of locally produced blended food, a joint project between WFP and UNICEF, resumed in June 2006 with an aim to provide fortified food to 361,996 children attending nurseries and kindergartens, children in hospitals, and 52,896 pregnant and lactating women in 30 WFP focus counties, reflecting the reduction in number of target beneficiaries and geographical coverage. In 2006, it is estimated that 12,736 MT of fortified food will be produced.

A core group of six government trainers will undertake training in Singapore on child caring practice in September 2006. This group will further train provincial and county caregivers.

In May 2006, 1.3 million children or 97% of target group received de-worming tablets and 1.98 million or 97% of children aged between 6 months and 5 years old received vitamin A supplementation. The same group will receive the second dose of vitamin A and de-worming tablets in November 2006.

Supply of essential medicines and equipment

There are sufficient quantities of vaccines and devices up to October 2006. More vaccines need to be procured soon for November-December and to replenish the buffer stock. Cold chain systems were further strengthened in 50 counties. 600 bicycles were distributed to vaccinators in South and North Hwanghe provinces. After a decade of stagnation, DPT3 coverage has reached more than 80%. On 1 July 2006, a new combined vaccine (DTP+ HepatitisB) has been introduced nationally. The second multiyear plan (2007-2011) for EPI in DPRK has been developed.

During the first half of 2006, the Central Medical Warehouse (CMW) distributed more than 6000 medicine kits to 2,933 Ri (village) clinics/hospitals and district/county hospitals in six provinces and Pyongyang city and to 22 specialized pediatric and maternity hospitals nationwide. However the number of items and quantity of medicines has been significantly reduced due to financial constraints.

A total of 2.1 million sachets of oral rehydration salts sachets (ORS) were produced locally between January and June. This represents almost double the amount produced during the same period in 2005. The project is targeting 5 million sachets in 2006 or more than 60% of the local needs. Further assessment of factory is planned for the 3rd quarter.

The programme will continue to support further strengthening of the logistic capacity of the Central Medical

Warehouse and the Provincial Medical Warehouses, standardizing the management of essential medicines, sustaining regular quarterly medicine distribution, and upgrading the knowledge and skills of health staff on treatment of diarrhoeal diseases, acute respiratory infection, safe motherhood and delivery of immunization services.

During the first half of 2006, eleven monitoring visits by UNICEF Health Officers were conducted, as well as joint field visits with government counterparts. These are particularly useful in improving efficiency of distribution and use of essential medicines, and strengthening the managerial and technical capacity of the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH).

Maternal and child health

Printing of 300,000 sheets of partographs for use in monitoring the progress of labour and 300,000 ante-natal cards is completed. Additional midwifery kits for 150 rural clinics, as well as emergency obstetric care kits for seven focus county hospitals and four provincial hospitals have arrived. An evaluation of the second phase and preparation of plans for the extension of Integrated Management of Childhood Illnesses (IMCI) in two counties in North Hwanghae and South Pyongan provinces is scheduled to take place in September with the help of an external consultant from WHO regional office.

Extending clean water supply and sanitation

The water supply projects initiated in 2003 and 2004 for Hyesan, Hoeryong, Rinsan, Unryul and Yonsan counties were inaugurated in June 2006, benefiting about 320,000 people. Additional activities included installation of 40 deep water hand pumps in Unryul, Yontan and Yonsan counties at Ri level providing safe drinking water to childcare institutions and communities; provision of spare parts and 158 tons of calcium hypochlorite for water treatment for 5 provincial capitals to maintain safe drinking water supply; construction materials, pipes, and cement to provide safe drinking water to 20,000 people in Yontan county; and portable water quality monitoring laboratory for Yontan county AES station. Materials are expected to arrive in September.

Capacity building efforts continue, including participation of two officials from the Ministry of City Management in a regional training on water management in Thailand, and provision of IT equipment to the Design Institute for gravity fed water supply system designs. An international consultant is scheduled to arrive in October to carry out training for provincial and national design institutes on hydraulic modeling.

The WES review was completed under the technical guidance of an international consultant in cooperation with the Ministry of City Management. Draft report was shared with Government, awaiting their comments before finalization. A Survey for identifying candidate focus counties for the new country programme has been initiated.

Improving quality of education for children

The Ministry of Education presented its experience on a pilot learning assessment project at a regional meeting in Shanghai, showing positive outcomes. The project will be scaled up to cover provincial capitals using the Ministry's own resources. Further efforts are made to link the learning assessment project to education quality improvement, which will begin in the second half of the year.

100 tons of printing papers for primary school text book were received and delivered. Other consumables for printing such as ink were ordered in July. Two kindergartens and 1 primary school in Unryul, Yontan and Yonsan counties have been partially rehabilitated as part of the winterization support. School furniture (desks and chairs etc) have been locally procured and distributed to 7 schools in 7 focus counties covering about 9, 000 children.

The activity to develop hygiene promotion materials for use in schools as part of life skills based education has been initiated with technical assistance of a regional advisor visiting the country during 19 – 29 August.

3. APPEAL REQUIREMENTS AND RECEIPTS

Funding remains a constraint. In the absence of the Consolidated Emergency Appeal (CAP), UNICEF is seeking funds through the Humanitarian Action Report. To date, US\$ 4,607,945 or 41% of the total requirement of \$11,200,000 has been met. UNICEF would like to take this opportunity to express gratitude to the Governments of Australia, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea and Sweden as well as the German National Committee and Caritas Hong Kong, for their positive responses to support the programmes. The tables below show the current funding status of the requirements, by sector and donor.

Appeal Sector	Requirements by Sector (US\$)	Funds Received (US\$)	Unmet requirements	% Unfunded
Health and Nutrition	7,315,500	3,302,261	4,013,239	55%
Water and Environmental Sanitation	3,184,500	1,305,684	1,878,816	49%
Education	700,000	0	700,000	100%
Total	11,200,000	4,607,945	6,592,055	59%

Donor	Funds Received (US\$)	Sector
Republic of Korea Government	2,228,578	Health & Nutrition; Water and Environmental Sanitation
Sweden Government	970,899	Health & Nutrition; Water and Environmental Sanitation
Australia Government	775,190	Water and Environment Sanitation
German National Committee	322,119	Nutrition
New Zealand Government	186,159	Health and Nutrition (safe motherhood, essential medicines)
CARITAS Hong Kong	125,000	Nutrition
Total	4,607,945	

4. IMPACT OF UNDER-FUNDING AND CURRENT PRIORITIES

About 41% of funds were received during the first two quarters of 2006, which has allowed the country office to sustain crucial activities during this part of the year. **However more contributions need to materialize soon, so as not to compromise the progresses already made, for example funding gaps in the health sector will need to be filled to provide for the stock of vaccines for the remaining of the year and more complete set of essential medicines.** The table below outlines the most urgent priority requirements:

Project	Beneficiaries/coverage	Amount Required (US\$)
1. Child Health: provision of essential medicines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More than 13 million people in seven provinces/cities Children and pregnant women referred to provincial hospitals in three provinces and one city 	3,000,000
2. Safe-motherhood : provision of emergency obstetric care equipments and safe delivery kits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 180,000 Pregnant women in five provinces 	500,000
3. Expanded Programme on Immunization: vaccines, vaccine devices and cold chain equipment for one quarter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 400,000 Children under one year old 420,000 Pregnant women Nationwide 	300,000
4. Water and Sanitation in one focus county	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 150,000 people 	300,000
5. Education: textbooks and basic school materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 600,000 girls and boys in the most vulnerable provinces (north-east) as well as in orphanages in all provinces countrywide 	150,000
Total Priority Needs		4,250,000

Details of the UNICEF DPRK Emergency Programme can be obtained from:

Michel le Pechoux
 Officer-in-charge Representative
 DPR Korea
 Tel: + 850 2 381 7150
 Fax: + 850 2 381 7676
 E-mail: mlepechoux@unicef.org

Olivier Degreef
 UNICEF EMOPS
 Geneva
 Tel: + 41 22 909 5655
 Fax: + 41 22 909 5902
 E-mail: odegreef@unicef.org

Gary Stahl
 UNICEF PFO
 New York
 Tel: + 1 212 326 7009
 Fax: + 1 212 326 7165
 E-mail: gstahl@unicef.org