

## UNICEF Humanitarian Action 2010

# DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA

### SITUATION UPDATE

As predicted in the 2010 Humanitarian Action Report, the shortage of rainfall will produce a yield 18 per cent lower than in 2009, according to the World Food Programme. The reduction of food aid due to lack of funding will translate in alarming consequences for the nutritional status of children under five and pregnant and lactating women. Although UNICEF has encountered challenges in carrying out comprehensive assessments, field observations strongly suggest an increase in acute malnutrition.

In parallel, the outdated water and sanitation equipment which cannot produce safe drinking water supplies poses a real threat to the health of the population. This is coupled with inadequate medical supplies and equipment, making the health care system unable to meet basic needs. In such conditions, even a moderate size natural disaster is likely to have severe impact on people's life, raising the need of large scale humanitarian assistance. The number of people in need of humanitarian assistance could also rise as a result of a recent Government limitation of private enterprise through currency reform. The reforms were intended to stabilize the weakening won and all hotels, restaurants and shops were closed for several days while the reforms were being put in place.

### KEY RESULTS FOR CHILDREN

As a result of continuous advocacy UNICEF was able to enter into an agreement with the government to undertake a Multiple Indicators Cluster Survey (MICS) after a gap of about ten years. The field work was carried out in October 2009 and the report is expected to be released by October 2010.

#### Health:

- In coordination with the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) UNICEF is continuing its support with life saving interventions for 900,000 children under five and 2.6 million women of reproductive age, of which 50 per cent has been met through UNICEF support. As a part of this effort, 200,000 children under one year old received life-saving vaccines against six vaccine-preventable diseases, and 220,000 pregnant women received two doses of Tetanus toxoid vaccines nationwide.
- To support safe delivery at the primary level, obstetric kits were provided to three county hospitals, and 214 midwifery kits were provided for 176 rural clinics.
- Child Health Day was observed on 20 May throughout the country, during which 1.7 million children under 5 years of age received the first dose of vitamin A, while 1.1 million children aged 24-59 months received de-worming tablets supplied by UNICEF.

#### Nutrition:

- In close collaboration with the MoPH, UNICEF supports a nutrition program and monitoring of nutritional status of children under five and pregnant and lactating women. Around 7,000 children out of 15,000 targeted children with severe acute malnutrition were treated with F-100 and ready- to-use therapeutic food packets.
- All 14 Baby Homes in the country received Sprinkles, a micronutrient powder supplementation to improve complementary feeding for six to 24 month old children.
- Multiple micronutrients have been distributed through routine essential medicine kits supported by UNICEF and IFRC to serve 200,000 pregnant women out of 400,000 targeted women in the country for six months.
- A special health awareness package known as "newlywed couple package" with a wide range of topics such as nutrition in pregnancy, pre-natal care and HIV/AIDS, was developed and distributed in 10 focus counties, reaching 11,000 couples or 90 per cent of target.

#### Water, Sanitation and Hygiene:

- Two community water supply systems were fully rehabilitated benefiting 25,532 people (out of 120,000) including 8,900 children (out of 40,000).
- Feasibility study and designs were developed for two county town water supplies for 47,000 people as a part of the overall plan for HAR.

- Technical trainings were provided on the construction, rehabilitation and operation and maintenance of water supply systems to local technicians, and a pilot water quality monitoring and surveillance system was established in one county town.

#### Education:

- A proposal and an action plan were prepared for the Education sector to strengthen the capacity of government counterparts in emergency preparedness and response action.

Monitoring arrangements that are in place include regular field visits by technically qualified international staff that check on the availability and use of the support provided. As of mid-year, there has been improvement on access to programme monitoring activities, with North Hamgyong province in the north-east now accessible. Joint field visits with counterparts (MoPH) are also planned to track the quantity, quality and timeliness of the supply, to review progress and to identify project constraints as well as for end-use supplies monitoring.

#### KEY CHALLENGES

Lack of funds remain the biggest challenge to meet the humanitarian needs of children in DPRK, as no new funds apart from USD\$1.23 million from the UN Central Emergency Fund (CERF) have been received during the reporting period. Given the ailing and dilapidated condition of WASH infrastructure, lack of donor support in this sector will have a direct impact on increased occurrence of diarrhoea in children and in infant deaths.

#### INTER-AGENCY COLLABORATION

UNICEF is the chair for the Education, Health and WASH Theme Groups. The Theme Groups just reviewed and updated the interagency contingency plan. Theme Group leaders coordinated with member agencies in developing plans for replenishing emergency stocks. UNICEF's Health, Education and WASH team participated in a two day simulation exercise facilitated by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs Regional office in Pyongyang. The theme groups also organized a number of meetings and workshops with government agencies on emergency preparedness and response. A CERF team also visited Pyongyang.

#### FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

Funding flows continues to be a concern. The Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) has provided some funding in 2010 for the health sector. The CO has not received any additional funding from any other funding source. The lack of funding has meant that operations have been downsized, with several areas and millions of people no longer receiving international assistance. All UNICEF sectors have significant funding gaps, and if not met within the next two to three months, UNICEF will not be able to fulfil the humanitarian needs of children and women. Lack of funding presents a serious handicap to the continuation of humanitarian support to the DRPK, ranging from preparedness to recovery.

Funds received against the HAR 2010 (US\$)				
Sector	Original 2010 HAR requirements	Revised HAR requirements	Funds received	Funding gap
Health	4,000,000	4,000,000	1,229,486	2,770,514
Nutrition	2,000,000	2,000,000	0	2,000,000
Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	3,000,000	3,000,000	0	3,000,000
Education	1,000,000	1,000,000	0	1,000,000
<b>Total*</b>	<b>10,000,000</b>	<b>10,000,000</b>	<b>1,229,486</b>	<b>8,770,514</b>

\*The total includes a maximum recovery rate of 7%. The actual recovery rate on contributions will be calculated in accordance with UNICEF Executive Board Decision 2006/7 dated 9 June 2006.

#### EMERGENCY PROGRAMME PRIORITIES: JULY – DECEMBER 2010

##### Health:

- Six EPI vaccines will be provided to 350,000 children under one year old, which will achieve 95 per cent of the routine immunization coverage throughout the country.
- Another 6,000 life-saving essential medicine kits will be secured for the second half of the year, in addition to ten complete sets of Inter-Agency Emergency Health Kits.
- Support Child Health day in November will focus on children prevention of ARI/pneumonia

- The second Child Health Day, to take place on 22 November, will be organized country-wide. The objective is to reach 1.8 million children under five with their second dose of vitamin A and de-worming tablets.

**Nutrition:**

- Fifty metric tons of F-100 will be distributed for the treatment of 15,000 severely malnourished children. The procurement and distribution of multi-micronutrients tablets will be completed.
- An additional 200,000 lactating women and adolescent girls (16 and 17 years old) will receive multiple micronutrient and iron or folic tablets.
- Sprinkles will continue to be distributed to moderately malnourished children aged six to 24 months in 14 Baby Homes and nurseries in eight of the focus counties.
- The pilot phase for the use of the special newlywed health-awareness package will be evaluated in the next few months, prior to scaling up of distribution.

**Water, Sanitation and Hygiene:**

- In case of an emergency, WASH Cluster members and their partners will respond to the needs of up to 8,000 families. UNICEF support will be in the form of spare parts, family water kits and calcium hyper chloride.
- The emergency response capacity of the Ministry of City Management at the central and provincial level will be strengthened as a result of staff training in rapid assessment, design and cost and quantity estimation.
- The rehabilitation of five rural and one county town water supply schemes will be completed, benefiting approximately 48,000 vulnerable people in rural areas.
- Coordination will be enhanced concerning timely replenishment of emergency stock to avoid duplication among agencies.

**Education:**

- Ministry of Education officials, response action school principals and teachers will be trained on emergency response. In total, 300 education managers and teachers will be trained.
- A workshop on emergency planning will be conducted at the national level.
- Translation of the emergency education training materials and advocacy materials will be completed.
- Around 20,000 school children will benefit from the procurement of emergency supplies.
- A small-scale project on hygiene and sanitation with children's participation will be piloted in focus county schools. A range of materials will be printed for the school subjects of Morality and Health and Hygiene. There will be extracurricular activities for children.