

SDC in DPR of Korea

2017 – 2020 Cooperation Strategy

Humanitarian Aid and SHA

April 2018

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, Disaster Risk Reduction 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. Since 2012 SDC has focused on a humanitarian programme, currently based on SDC's Cooperation Strategy 2017 - 2020. The emphasis is on an integrated and coherent approach to Food Security, WASH and DRR, which targets vulnerable communities.

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. From 2004 onwards, a sloping land management programme for improving agricultural use and stabilising sloping land has been implemented with the Ministry of Land and Environmental Protection (MoLEP), covering approx. 2200 ha. Under the new **Sustainable Livelihood and Disaster Mitigation (SLDM) programme**, the emphasis has shifted more towards **Disaster Risk Reduction** coupled with appropriate land-use techniques based on agroforestry, small livestock management, reforestation, soil conservation and **environmental protection**. 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 are used directly by the user groups themselves. Besides being an additional food source, planting tree groves on slopes controls erosion and is thus applied vegetation bio-engineering 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, securing the institutional structures to effectively manage the assets and guarantee water quality control. **Access to adequate sanitary installations** such as latrines and wastewater systems are an equal priority. 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 (2,170 mt in 2016; 1,600 mt in 2017) is processed

into blended food in local factories and dispensed to children under five, pregnant and lactating women through the WFP and the public distribution system of the DPRK government.

Background Information

After the collapse of the communist trading system and imposing successions of international sanctions, 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 Organization (FAO)'s 2015 State of Food Insecurity report, the proportion of people undernourished of the total population is 41.6 % in 2014-16.



Budget

Year	Budget CHF
2016	9'500'000
2017	8'100'000
2018	7'800'000

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