

For the last eighteen months, a long period of abnormally dry weather has affected DPR Korea (DPRK) affecting agricultural production, reducing access to water and leading to a deterioration of health, nutrition and sanitary conditions.

According to official meteorological data, all provinces in DPRK have experienced less rainfall than the average, however the difference in the level of rainfall was most severe in May and June. In May 2015, total rainfall was 57% below the average. A partial failure of the early harvest of 18% is expected. If weather conditions persist, the main crop harvest (September/October) is also likely to be severely impacted.

Provinces produce specific crops, with some producing more than provincial requirements and some with less. Provinces then import or export depending on their production levels which is then complemented by the Government food ration provided through the Public Distribution System (PDS). As the drought has severely affected the major food producing provinces this has impacted the whole country.

The most vulnerable are:

18 million people

in PDS-dependent households who are vulnerable to food insecurity and malnutrition due to a lack of self-sufficiency.

1.8 million women and children

under five who require specialised nutritious food to combat malnutrition.

UN agencies and international NGOs are supporting the Government responding to the needs of 11 million people in four of the affected provinces - North and South Hwanghae, South Pyongan and South Hamgyong.



106% increase

in diarrhoea incidence in the four target provinces (between Jan-Jun 2014 and Jan-Jun 2015)



20% increase

in acute respiratory infection in the four target provinces

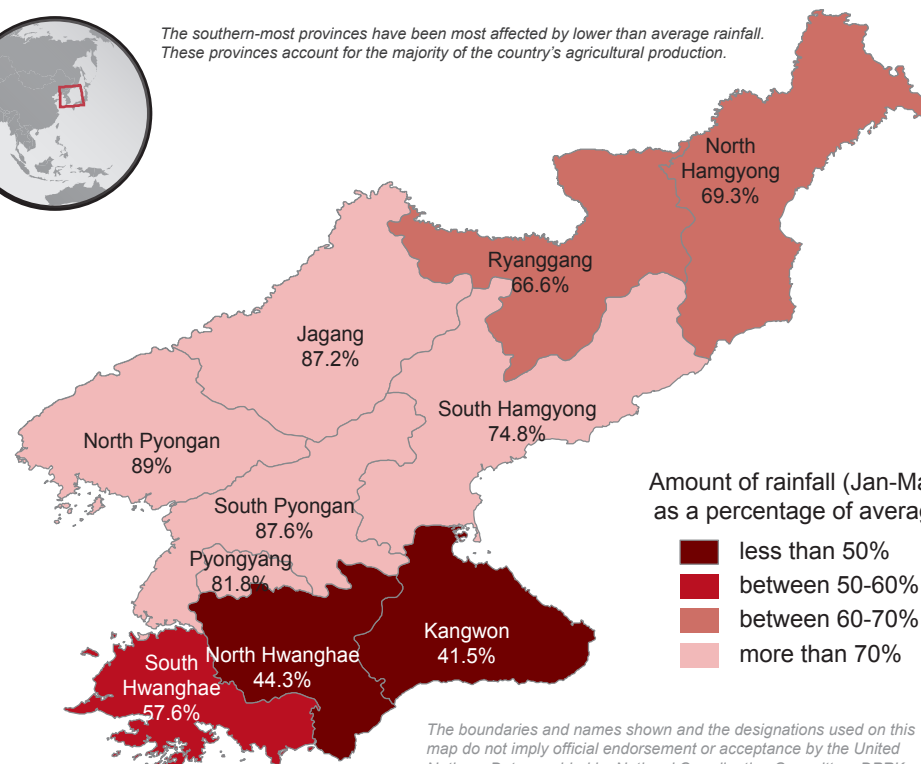


31% (136,245 ha) rice crops suffered from serious water shortages during planting

6.3% (34,339 ha) rice crops was not planted due to water shortages



The southern-most provinces have been most affected by lower than average rainfall. These provinces account for the majority of the country's agricultural production.



Amount of rainfall (Jan-May) as a percentage of average

- less than 50%
- between 50-60%
- between 60-70%
- more than 70%

The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Data provided by National Coordinating Committee, DPRK Government, June 2015.

EMERGENCY STOCKPILES DISTRIBUTED

Humanitarian agencies are supporting the Government to respond to the drought, addressing critical needs in food security, agriculture, nutrition, health and water and sanitation (WASH). As an initial response to the Government's request, humanitarian agencies released prepositioned emergency stocks to the four target provinces.

WASH



Water filtration kits for 20,000 people



200 diarrheal kits to four paediatric hospitals

HEALTH AND NUTRITION



Medical and emergency health kits for 170,000 people for three months

FOOD SECURITY AND AGRICULTURE



3,417mt food (pulses, oil, super cereals, biscuits) for 616,491 people for one month

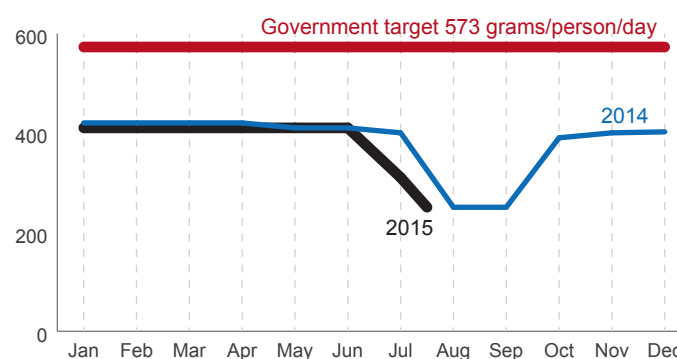


Portable water pumps for 18 farms (44,068 cooperative farmers)



Agricultural supplies (tractors, water tanks, shovels, picks, gloves, diesel fuel) for seven farms (10,310 cooperative farmers)

PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM RATIIONS



The PDS ration usually drops during the lean season (Aug/Sept) but in 2015 it dropped earlier than in 2014, raising concerns for the early harvest (Jun/Jul) and therefore food security and malnutrition rates. The PDS is a Government-managed system for food distribution. The centrally controlled system is based on national production estimates and planned food imports.

Source: The Government of DPR Korea

FUNDING STATUS

DPRK has faced chronic underfunding for humanitarian programmes for the past decade. The Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) has reprogrammed ongoing activities to target the four affected provinces. In 2015, the UN has requested US\$117 to address humanitarian needs in DPRK.

As of August 2015, UN agencies have received

\$40 million, including **\$6.3 million** from the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) Rapid Response Window.

