



DPR KOREA: SITUATION BULLETIN

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- **JOINT FAO/WFP CROP AND FOOD SUPPLY ASSESSMENT MISSION REPORT – DPRK STILL NEEDS SUBSTANTIAL FOOD ASSISTANCE**
- **EMERGENCY FOOD AID OPERATIONS**
- **UNICEF – NATIONAL IMMUNISATION DAY**
- **ECHO AND NGO COMBINE EFFORTS TO PROVIDE WINTER RELIEF ITEMS**
- **KANGWON PROVINCE FLOOD UPDATE**
- **UNDP - SUPPORTING THE ENVIRONMENT**
- **UNDP/CARITAS LOCAL FOOD PRODUCTION PLANT OPENS**
- **UNDP – GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY**

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OCTOBER 2001 FAO/WFP CROP AND FOOD SUPPLY ASSESSMENT MISSION TO DPR KOREA

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

A joint FAO/WFP Crop Mission visited DPR Korea from 25 September to 5 October 2001 to assess the country's food outlook. The report's main findings were:

- ◆ Despite a significant recovery in 2001, the domestic production will fall well below the minimum food needs and the country will again have to depend on substantial external food assistance for next year as its capacity to import commercially remains highly constrained.
- ◆ This year's food production in DPR Korea has shown a substantial recovery compared to last year's reduced output, despite the impact of the spring drought on crops in earlier stages of growth.
- ◆ The factors behind this strong recovery include favourable performance of rains from mid-June through August, international assistance with the provision of fertilisers, improved and timely availability of farm machinery and other inputs, intensified national endeavours including increased budgetary allocation for agriculture and a mobilisation of people's efforts.
- ◆ The 2001 cereal production is forecast at 4.26 million tonnes (or 3.54 million tonnes in milled basis), one of the best harvests since 1995/96, and larger by 38 percent compared to last year's reduced harvest.
- ◆ The cereal deficit for 2001/02 (November/October) is estimated at 1.47 million tonnes compared to 2.2 million tonnes in the previous year. With commercial imports anticipated at 100 000 tonnes, 1.37 million tonnes will need to be covered by food aid and concessional food imports.
- ◆ Based on vulnerability analysis and existing targeting capacities, the Mission recommends the mobilization of 610 000 tonnes of food aid during 2001/02 for the population groups who are particularly at risk.

CONSOLIDATED APPEAL 2001 UPDATE (as at 8 November 2001)

Compiled on the basis of information provided by the respective appealing agency to OCHA Headquarters, Geneva

Appealing Agency	Appeal Requirements (US\$)	Pledges/Contributions (US\$)	Shortfall (US\$)	% of Needs Covered (%)
(Jan - Dec 2001)				
FAO/UNDP	40,049,304	1,444,381	38,604,923	3.61
OCHA	1,301,275	489,880	811,395	37.65
UNFPA	750,000	100,000	650,000	13.33
UNICEF	10,502,940	3,169,888	7,333,052	30.18
WFP	315,920,424	219,964,649	95,955,755	69.63
WHO	8,350,280	1,355,379	6,994,901	10.68
NGOs	7,110,691	418,848	6,691,863	5.80
GRAND TOTAL	383,984,914	226,943,025	157,041,889	59.1

NGOs have received funding outside of the Consolidated Appeal.

**EMERGENCY FOOD AID OPERATIONS - WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME**

The joint FAO/WFP Crop Mission, which visited DPRK 25 September to 5 October 2001, assessed the country's food outlook. The Mission found that, despite the impact of the particularly severe drought in spring on some crops, this year's food production in DPR Korea has shown a substantial recovery compared to last year's reduced output. DPR Korea will produce about 3.5 million MTs of cereals in 2001-2002, representing an increase of 38 percent as compared with last year's results. The 2001 cereal production is forecast by the joint mission at 4.26 million MTs (or 3.54 million MTs on a milled basis). This is one of the best harvests since 1995/96, representing an increase of 38 percent as compared to last year's harvest. Rice output will rise 22 percent against last year's figure, and maize by 42 percent.

The good harvest is attributed to several factors, including favourable weather from mid-June through August; international assistance with the provision of fertilisers; improved and timely availability of farm machinery and other inputs; intensified national endeavours including increased budgetary allocation for agriculture and a mobilisation of people's efforts. Despite this strong recovery, the Mission concluded that the domestic production will fall well below the minimum food needs and the country will again have to depend on substantial external food assistance for next year as its capacity to import commercially remains highly constrained.

The cereal deficit for 2001/02 (November/October) is estimated at 1.47 million MTs compared to 2.2 million MTs in the previous year. With commercial imports anticipated at no more than 100,000 MTs, 1.37 million MTs will need to be covered by food aid and concessional food imports.

Food Supply Situation in October 2001

In Kangwon Province farmers and workers were salvaging paddy from the fields in counties struck by the October floods. WFP emergency food aid (1,850 MTs of wheat) arrived 26 October for distribution to 145,000 people in worst flood affected areas. The *Food for Work* project list for the late autumn/early winter season is being prepared. WFP will allocate some of the remaining quantity of food (4,450 MTs) earmarked for the 2001 food-for-work projects to flood damaged areas requiring rehabilitation work.

By the end of October, the harvest of potato, maize and rice was nearly finished. However, in some parts of the country harvesting was still ongoing and was expected to finish by the first week of November. WFP Emergency Officers reported that milling was delayed due to a lack of electricity. October PDC rations were recorded at 250 gm/p/d of potatoes for 20 - 31 days or 250 gm/p/d of maize and rice for 31 days. Vegetables were also distributed.

During their field monitoring visits WFP Emergency Officers continued to observe malnutrition, particularly amongst small children and expecting mothers. One of the indicators that point to the problem is the high prevalence of low birth weight babies. Their nutritional status and growth is further impaired in cases when the mother is malnourished and therefore has a reduced ability to breast-feed. Similar problems occur when the family or the institution is unable to secure appropriate weaning foods. Consequently, acute

malnutrition is found to be the highest in infants and young children. Moreover, Emergency Officers also noted a large portion of stunted children in institutions visited, indicating a situation of chronic malnutrition that needs to be addressed.

While cases of malnutrition continued to be observed, there is the impression that overall, the health and nutritional status of vulnerable groups has improved. It is assessed that WFP's food aid interventions have made a significant contribution toward reducing the incidence of malnourished children at assisted child institutions. Regular supply of WFP food aid is also believed to have improved the general health situation among pregnant and nursing women.

Planning for Food Aid in 2002

Based on the findings of the joint FAO/WFP Mission, a WFP Emergency Operation is being planned for 2002, targeting approximately 6.4 million beneficiaries. The total food aid requirements are estimated at approximately 611,000 MTs. The key objectives of the operation are:

- Saving lives,
- Maintaining or improving nutritional status, and
- Supporting agricultural recovery through relief and rehabilitation FFW projects.

As in previous years, WFP's assistance will be targeted to the most vulnerable groups. A high prevalence of malnutrition among babies and pregnant women indicate the need to continue to maintain a food safety net for these groups. Younger children in institutions (orphanages, nurseries and kindergartens), as well as pregnant and nursing women, will continue to be the main beneficiary groups

There will be a reduced need during 2001/02 to support the rural population due to the improvement of domestic food production. Priority therefore will be given to the urban population, in particular those living in food insecure provinces. Urban populations, being unable to routinely access food outside the public distribution system, remain the most vulnerable. Because of this programming shift, a relatively greater share of WFP assistance will be directed to the dense urban areas of the country's North East.

WFP will continue to implement Food for Work (FFW) projects in 2002. Through FFW, WFP supports relief and rehabilitation strategies that benefit communities and promote agricultural recovery and rehabilitation, while at the same time improving the food security situation of vulnerable communities. Whilst most activities are carried out under the AREP Programme, other opportunities for collaboration with UN agencies and NGOs will continue to be sought.

WFP assistance to local food production activities has grown from one factory, installed in Pyongyang in early 1999, to 18 facilities in six locations. By the end of this year, it is estimated that the total yearly food production will be 32,500 MTs. In 2002, the total production of locally processed foods (biscuits, blended foods and fortified noodles) is projected to reach 45,000 MTs.



Disaster Preparedness

In co-operation with other UN agencies and the IFRC, preparations are being made to ensure that the humanitarian community can adequately respond to an emergency, such as the recent Kangwon Province floods. Contingency disaster preparedness stocks would be established, including WFP food resources. A contingency provision has also been made to provide a food safety net during the lean season to vulnerable groups.

Inter-Agency Collaboration

Food resources are also earmarked to facilitate joint activities with (UN and other international) partner organisations based on each other's comparative advantages. This amount is largely included under resources allocated to Food for Work (FFW) activities as activities are usually of that nature. However, some food will also be utilised to selectively support local food production initiatives that parallel WFP's own objectives.

UNDP and WFP are exploring possibilities of joint collaboration in implementing projects in the reforestation sector in 2002. Several labour intensive activities, which are an inseparable part of the rehabilitation programme, have been identified. These include: preparation of the land, top soil laying, weeding, fencing, and preparation of the seed beds. All of these activities can be supported under WFP FFW assistance. The two agencies are already working together in activities such as salt pan rehabilitation. FAO and UNDP are developing new agriculture rehabilitation activities for the coming years which may also offer scope for collaboration and joint project activities with WFP.

Increase in Accessible Counties

WFP's policy of "no access, no food" will continue to be followed. Until September 2001, the number of accessible counties/districts stood at 167, out of a total of 211. However, the Government recently advised that by the end of October 2001, a new county (Sakju in North Pyongan Province) would be declared accessible, thus increasing the number of accessible counties to 168.

Improved Monitoring

Some progress has been made over the years in the monitoring of the distribution of WFP assistance. The Government has agreed to provide WFP with a list of all beneficiary institutions. It has also further agreed that for each monitoring visit within a county, WFP will identify a long list of institutions, from which it will actually visit a lesser number. This will provide a greater degree of randomness in the monitoring process.

WFP currently has six offices in DPR Korea. The main office is in Pyongyang with five sub-offices located in the Provinces, including three in the more remote north-east. The average monitoring visits per month has increased in 2001 with more international staff now dedicated to monitoring. In mid-2001, WFP introduced a more simplified monitoring system that places emphasis on qualitative indicators and provides an improved knowledge base on the food security situation in the country. With this new system, continuous assessment of needs is incorporated into daily monitoring activities. Food arrivals are monitored from discharge at port to institution/family level. All information gathered through monitoring activities is entered onto a database and used for subsequent analysis of the effectiveness of assistance.

According to UNICEF, there has been a slight improvement in the figures for acute malnutrition. Even so, about 40 percent of the children under five year remain malnourished. This, coupled with the high rate of malnutrition among mothers, is the rationale for WFP directing about 90 percent of its assistance to women and children.

A more thorough assessment of the nutritional status of DPRK's population, and vulnerable groups, in particular, requires a nutritional survey to follow-up the one conducted in 1998, which found that the incidence of acute malnutrition was alarming. Through a follow-up survey an assessment can be made of the impact of international food aid to the country over the past three years. The government has agreed that such a follow-up survey will be carried out in 2002. WFP and UNICEF would prepare a proposal outlining the methodology and timing.

FOOD AID LIAISON UNIT.

A shipment of 10,000MT of Yellow Peas, donated by Canadian Food Grains Bank, arrived in Hungnam Port on 22 October on the vessel Royal Pacific. Handling of the shipment was undertaken in cooperation with Caritas Hong Kong. Distribution of the yellow peas has already started and is targeted at all WFP beneficiaries in Kangwon, North and South Hamgyong and Ryangang Provinces. WFP beneficiary institutions include nurseries, kindergartens, residential child institutions, PNWs, Provincial Pediatric hospitals, primary and secondary schools, as well as the elderly. It is estimated that this shipment should last for five months.

HEALTH AND NUTRITION

UNICEF – OVER 95% OF ALL DPR KOREAN CHILDREN BELOW THE AGE OF FIVE YEARS HAVE RECEIVED POLIO VACCINE IN 2001.

The first of two polio **National Immunisation Days** (NID) planned for October and November, was successfully carried out on 20 October. Early estimates indicate that over 95% of all children below the age of five years, which amounts to more than 2.2 million children, received polio vaccine on that day.

(Total vaccination coverage is still being calculated and will be reported next month)

The polio National Immunisation Day is carried out as part of the country's effort to eradicate polio. De-worming medicine is given to reduce the heavy burden of intestinal parasites in children - which contributes to malnutrition and anaemia. Vitamin A supplements are given to improve children's immune status and to reduce morbidity and mortality.

The Minister of Public Health formally opened the National Immunisation Day at a ceremony in Pyongyang, attended by UNICEF, WHO, and several ambassadors of donor countries.

Field monitoring visits were made by teams of international agency staff in Pyongyang and in eight provinces. UNICEF fielded monitoring teams in five of the eight provinces and WFP fielded staff in the other three provinces. UNFPA teams also participated.

Before the NID could take place a significant amount of preparatory activities needed to be completed. These activities included the supply of vaccine to several thousand immunisation posts around the country, printing of public information posters and broadcasting of television and radio spots.

A second national immunisation day will take place on 20 November. On that day children below 5 years of age will receive de-worming medicine (children between 2 years and five years of age) and a vitamin A supplement (children between 6 months and 5 years of age) together with another dose of polio vaccine.

As part of the immunisation programme a review of the national immunisation cold chain will take place between 3 and 17 November. The review, which will be carried out jointly by the Ministry of Public Health, UNICEF and WHO, will prepare a medium term plan for revitalisation of the national cold chain system. This is essential to ensure that all vaccines used in the immunisation programme remain fully potent right up to the time of administration.

CAD. Rehabilitation of priority departments of the Hamhung Provincial Maternity Hospital has neared completion. Priority departments include the operating theatre and washrooms. WFP have been supporting this Sida funded project through a Food for Work project for hospital staff. This has involved providing wheat to staff working on the construction and rehabilitation activities. An additional 3.6 MTs of wheat was recently provided by WFP bringing to a total of 6 MTs of wheat provided.

IFRC- Emergency Programme Update

The final report from the IFRC DPRK Health Review team was launched in Geneva on 24 October. The key recommendation from the review is that the programme is on track and should continue without major changes.

IFRC Drug Distribution Project. The drug consignment, which was due to arrive in Nampo October 10, has still not arrived. Patient attendance in many health institutions has reportedly decreased due to lack of drugs. In cooperation with UNICEF, WHO, UNFPA and Cap Anamur proposals for new medical kits for 2002 has been developed. In accordance with the WHO guidelines, a basic kit covering primary health care for a catchment population of 1000, as well as a supplementary hospital kit, has been designed.

UNICEF- Distribution Of Iodised Salt. Field monitoring in October confirmed that the distribution of iodised salt, recently provided by UNICEF using a contribution from the Government of Italy, is going well. This iodised salt, supplied as an emergency measure to meet part of the shortfalls in national supply, is being provided to households in the 5 provinces most affected by iodine deficiency, as well as to all baby homes, boarding schools and orphanages nation-wide.

Caritas - 60 MTs of Multipurpose Soap arrived on 23 October for distribution to residential children's Institutions and county hospitals in Kangwon, Ryangang, South and North. Hamgyong provinces. The soap will meet the needs of the institutions for over 2 months. This shipment is managed by the Food Aid Liaison Unit.

ECHO AND NGOs COMBINE TO PROVIDE WINTER RELIEF ITEMS

In late October, the European Community Humanitarian Office allocated Euro 1.275 million to four NGOs for the provision of winter relief items to children in DPR Korea. The four NGOs implementing the project are Concern World Wide, CESVI, German Agro-Action and Children's Aid Direct.

Concern will target their winter support to two counties in South Pyongan, Hoichang and Songchon. The project will supply winter clothing to 15,500 children in kindergartens and nurseries. Concern have conducted appraisal visits to the targeted children's institutions and have completed the tendering operation completed and contracts signed with suppliers/manufacturers.

CESVI aim to provide assistance 18,400 children in the nurseries and kindergartens of Munchon, Ichon and Sepo Counties, which are all in Kangwon Provinces. Items to be delivered are: padded pyjamas, winter clothes, winter shoes, mattresses and blankets. CESVI, after conducting an international tender, selected three companies to provide the relief goods. The DPRK company, *Women's Trading & Garment Centre*, founded in 1999 with the assistance of **UNDP/UNIFEM**, was selected by CESVI to supply the majority of the winter clothing. The goods should be available in Wonsan by the end of November, and consequently distributed to nurseries and kindergartens before the onset of the first winter snow.

CAD has also commenced their winter project and aim to provide outdoor winter clothing sets and boots for 20,000 kindergarten and primary school children in South Hamgyong province.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES DURING OCTOBER

- On 20 October, Mr. Michele Roversi, Country Representative CESVI departed and was replaced by Mr. Federico Paoli.
- The UNFPA Country Director for DPRK, Mr. Sven Burmester, retired in October. Ms. Junko Sasaki is currently the acting Country Director.

**KANGWON PROVINCE FLOOD UPDATE**

As detailed in the UN OCHA Situation Bulletins, dated 12 and 15 October, Kangwon Province suffered extensive localised damage caused by of torrential rains accompanied by strong winds and sea surges. A number of inter-agency assessment missions, coordinated and supported by OCHA, confirmed that parts of Kangwon Province had experienced flash flooding causing extensive damage to infrastructure, agricultural production, housing as well as causing a significant loss of life.

The impact of the flood was exacerbated by deforestation coupled with reduced coping mechanisms available to Government authorities. The limited capacity of the Government to respond to the disaster required the provision of emergency relief assistance from the international community.

Humanitarian Coordination

OCHA has played an important role in coordinating the in-country natural disaster response by the humanitarian community. The Humanitarian Coordinator established an inter-agency Flood Damage Working Group to coordinate and monitor the response to flood affected areas. The Group, with the participation of the Government's Flood Disaster Rehabilitation Committee, is coordinating international assistance to ensure it is targeted at the most vulnerable whilst also developing linkages, where possible, to ongoing and planned rehabilitation programmes in the flood affected areas.

Immediate Response

The humanitarian community responded rapidly to the disaster. The Kangwon Province Red Cross Branch, supported by IFRC, quickly mobilised in response to the flood and deployed significant numbers of volunteers for rescue, evacuation, relief and first aid duties, whilst undertaking rapid assessments. A joint disaster assessment team comprising DPR Korea Red Cross and the Federation Disaster Preparedness delegate conducted an initial appraisal of the damage within 20 hours of the disaster. On 11 October, resident UN Agencies and humanitarian organisations also conducted a separate assessment. Additional assessments were conducted in the subsequent weeks by international organisations and their Government counterparts.

The first inter-agency report on the flood damage was released by OCHA on 12 October to assist in disseminating information on the humanitarian situation to the international community.

The Red Cross was the first organisation on site and the first to respond. On 12 October several relief items were released from the DPR Korea Red Cross regional warehouse in Wonsan City and distributed to 1,200 of the worst affected families. Items distributed included: 100MT of wheat; 3,600 blankets; 192 kitchen sets; 132 first aid kits; 1,200 water containers; 110,000 water purification tablets; and 50 rolls of plastic sheeting.

The Federation, along with DPRK Red Cross, has been working since the disaster to provide materials to urgently needed vulnerable people.

Relief items distributed in the immediate aftermath of the flood to the beneficiaries by IFRC so far include:

Wheat	:	100 Metric Ton
Blanket	:	12,000 PCs.
Cooking Set	:	2,700 Kits
Water Container	:	4,290 PCs.
Water Purification Tablets	:	1,000,000 Tablets
Plastic Sheetting	:	353 Bales

The IFRC launched an international appeal for CHF 815,000 on 16 October to help 12,000 people for 4 months (more information on the appeal is available at www.ifrc.org).

On 19 October OCHA allocated an Emergency Grant of US\$30,000 for the local purchase of relief items. This was supplemented by an additional grant of US\$20,000 by the Government of Norway, through OCHA, for the same project.

The Church World Service has provided 5704 quilts and 5402 sewing kits to people who lost their homes in Anbyon Kosan, Thongchon, Munchon, and Wonsan City. OCHA, in coordination with the Red Cross, will provide winter clothing to 3,294 people flood-affected counties.

Contributions to Flood Response as at 8 November 2001

Organisation	Response
IFRC	US\$387,400
OCHA	US\$50,000
UNFPA	US\$100,000
WHO	US\$30,000
UNICEF	US\$33,900
WFP	US\$469,160
Total	US\$1,070,460

Meeting the Health Needs of Flood Victims

After assessment and coordination with other agencies, UNICEF, WHO, UNFPA and the Federation have provided medical assistance to the flood affected area. On the 13 October UNICEF handed over 40 basic hospital medicine kits, oral rehydration sachets, water containers and 160,000 water purification tablets to 40 Ri hospital directors from the most affected areas of the province. In the following days, additional medicine supplies were provided to 5 county hospitals and to 100 clinics. The total value of this response by UNICEF was US\$33,900.

The IFRC is planning to provide some dressing materials and stretchers to institutions in the most affected counties of Tongchon and Anbyon and Wonsan City. Small first aid kits to replace the 300 distributed from the Red Cross Disaster Preparedness warehouse will also be procured.

This severe localised emergency has put additional pressure on an already over stretched health system. According to the director of the Munchon City People's Hospital the staff has had to work long days to treat patients suffering from a variety of ailments including: broken bones, induced abortions, diarrhoea, coughing, and respiratory problems.



The hospitals in the Province suffer from a severe lack of medicines. According to UNFPA, there is an urgent need of various types of medicines and drugs to prevent abortions and pelvic inflammations, to treat anaemia, diarrhoea, and other diseases. There is also additional requirement for antiseptics, cotton wool, bandages, dressing material, water filters, water purification tablets, blankets, bed sheets, food, as well as material for repair and maintenance of the hospital buildings. UNFPA HQs responded to an emergency appeal for severe flood damage in Kangwon Province and approved an emergency grant of US\$ 100,000.

UNFPA, in coordination with other Agencies, will use this assistance for the Munchon City Area, which includes Munchon City People's Hospital, 2 Ri People's Hospitals, and 38 Polyclinics with the catchment population of 110,000 people. Items to be provided include essential reproductive health drugs, medical equipment, and expendable supplies including transport, monitoring, evaluation and project support.

UNICEF is also planning to provide essential medicines and equipment to cover additional short-term needs as to replace health facility stocks damaged by flooding.

WFP has provided 1,85 MTs of emergency food aid, which arrived 26 October for distribution to 145,000 people in worst flood affected areas.

Water and Sanitation

UNICEF, after consultation with the Red Cross and the Ministry of City Management, are still undertaking a detailed needs assessment. Likely flood response activities in this sector include replacement of pipes, cleaning of wells and provision of a limited number of water containers if required. The Red Cross, in the immediate aftermath of the flood, provided 3,800 m of water pipe to reconnect sections of Wonsan City to the water supply system.

Emergency Housing Reconstruction

UNDP has allocated US\$100,000 to assist the local authorities to respond to the emergency created by the floods. This assistance will include inputs to reconstruct and rehabilitate damaged dwellings before winter sets in. OCHA, in coordination with UNDP, will also assist with emergency housing reconstruction.

REHABILITATION ACTIVITIES

FOOD SECURITY

The official inauguration of the starch extraction processing plant installed under the **UNDP/CARITAS** project for Sweet Potato Cultivation occurred on 9 October. The plant, which is located in Pangyo County in Kangwon province, aims to increase local food production. CARITAS provided funds of US\$155,000 for the project, part of the UNDP/AREP programme, which assists 3 co-operative farms to locally produce noodles from sweet potatoes grown by the farms. This will significantly improve the local diet and improve the income of the farms.

As part of the same project, four DPRK officials undertook a two-week training course at the Shandong Academy of Agricultural Sciences in Jinan, China in October. Subjects included: sweet potato cultivation, tissue culture for virus free production of planting material and starch extraction from tubers.

As part of UNDP/AREP's capacity building initiatives, an international consultant was fielded for three weeks in October to provide support to the Ministry of Agriculture in farm planning. This support was provided in the context of UNDP support to the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) Uplands Food Security project.

The UNDP-funded UNOPS consultant assisted the national Project Management Unit in the Ministry of Agriculture, and the Cooperative Farm Management Committees, in the preparation of farm plans. A whole-farm development plan was prepared for one farm in collaboration with the Project Management Unit and the Cooperative Farm Management Committees. It is hoped that this plan will serve as a model for other farms in the preparation of their own plans. A small element of training was included in the mission in the form of a half-day workshop.

Children's Aid Direct. The 455 greenhouses (DGDEV funded) provided to South Hamgyong province in 2001 have been planted with autumn vegetable crops. Over 70 of these greenhouses in Sinpo sustained serious damage during the severe weather conditions on 10 October. CAD provided replacement plastic sheeting within 2 days of the damage occurring.

The first technical support training course (funded through the OCHA NGO funding mechanism) was facilitated by the Pyongyang Vegetable Research Institute on 24 and 25 October at the Vegetable Institute in Hamhung City. Participants included technical instructors and work-team heads from the 12 co-operative farms where CAD/DGDEV greenhouses are sited in Hamhung, Sinpo, and Danchon. The course covered the technical character of vegetable seed cultivation in greenhouses, including the preparation of the soil, preparation of the nursery bed and transfer of seedlings.

Concern are continuing their FSU/EuropeAid (ex-DGDEV) funded food security project in 6 counties in South Pyongan Province (Anju, Dokchon, Pukchang, Pyongsong, Sinyang, Yangdok) The project involves providing agricultural input support to 36 co-operative farms. Most recent activities include: improvement of potato storage, procurement and sowing of winter wheat seed (Jin Dong 8). This Project's will continue until November 2002.

CESVI. The on-going eighteen-month project is funded by DGDEV – Food Security Unit. The project, which started in March 2001, is supporting seven co-operative farms in Kosan County (7,426 farmers, 3,121 ha of arable land and a population of 15,019 persons). By the middle of October, a tender advice was published on Chinese press for the purchase of fertilisers and agricultural material to be used in the next agricultural season.



Concern is implementing a Sida funded Environmental Protection & Rehabilitation project, which involves providing input support in the form of seed, nursery equipment, protective clothing and chemicals to 14 tree nurseries.

Most recent activities include the production of a Training Manual in Korean for Tree Nursery personnel. This project, which was funded through the 2001 Consolidated Appeal, finishes in December 2001. Concern will seek funding for a Phase-2 project in 2002 through the 2002 Consolidated Appeal. (The 14 tree nurseries are located in Anju, Dokchon, Pukchang, Pyongsong, Sinyang, Songchon, Yangdok Counties, also Forestry Management Department central nursery, Sunan District).

WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL SANITATION

CESVI. Currently CESVI are in the final design stages for a water and sanitation rehabilitation project in Kangwon Province. Ms Annalisa Bortoluzzi, the new Cesvi Water Engineer, carried out a second assessment in Kangwon Province to further define the project. The assessment, which was conducted with a local expert of the Ministry of City Management, took place in Chonnae, Popdong and Tongchon counties. CESVI will submit the project to ECHO in November for consideration.

IFRC Water and Sanitation Update

The Water and Sanitation, and Health team is working together to create an assessment protocol covering water usage and hygiene practices. The protocol will assist in achieving an integrated approach when health and water projects are introduced in a village.

The distribution of pipes, cements and pumps is now going on to 18 villages in South and North Pyongan Province.

Training on Ecological Sanitation - Two staff members from Water and Sanitation Department of DPRK Red Cross are participating Ecological Sanitation Training in Nanning, China.

UNDP – SUPPORTING THE ENVIRONMENT

A Project Steering Committee meeting was held for the UNDP project "Conservation of Biodiversity at Mt. Myohyang" on 24 October at the project office in Pyongyang. This project, which is funded through the Global Environment Facility (GEF) is managed by UNOPS and implemented by the Ministry of Land and Environmental Protection.

The Project Steering Committee, chaired by the Vice-Minister of Ministry of Land and Environmental Protection and attended by project stakeholders, including Academy of Sciences, Ministry of Culture, and UNDP, reviewed progress to date and planned activities for the coming year. The Steering Committee meetings are held every 3 months and provide guidance and direction to the work of the project. In October, work on surveys of plants and animals in Mt Myohyang was undertaken, including installing camera traps.

Work is continuing on the joint UNDP/UN Environment Programme project to assist the Government in preparing the first ever **State of the Environment report** for DPRK. The National Coordination Committee is undertaking this for the Environment in collaboration with the DPRK Environment Development Centre. Some national officials have already received training on the process from UN Environment Programme staff in the Regional Office, Bangkok

HEALTH AND NUTRITION

HIV/AIDS study visit to Thailand, 22-25 October 2001

UNICEF regional office for East Asia and the Pacific in Bangkok, Thailand hosted a two-member DPRK delegation from the National Coordinating Committee (NCC) for UNICEF for an HIV/AIDS study visit. According to Government reports there is reportedly no HIV in the DPRK, however, the delegation acknowledged that close proximity to its neighbours, especially China, warranted a better understanding of the disease in order to effect policy development and to deter a serious potential spread of HIV.

The delegation met with Thai NGOs, UNAIDS, and Thailand's line ministries for health, education, and social welfare. Topics of discussion covered counselling and support, testing and treatment, multi-sectoral approaches for the prevention of mother-to-child transmission, affected orphans, programme funding, AIDS rights and discrimination issues as well as monitoring, geographical and social mapping. As a result of the study visit, the Government aims to develop focussed prevention activities in 2002, including relevant proposals for supplementary funding, in cooperation with the UN Theme Group on HIV/AIDS.

Regional Consultation for the Second World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children, 16-18 October 2001

A two-member DPRK delegation from the National Coordinating Committee for UNICEF participated in a preparatory consultation for the Second World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children to be held in Yokohama, Japan from 17-20 December 2001. The consultation was attended by 252 representatives from governments of East Asia and the Pacific, UN bodies and specialised agencies, inter-governmental organisations, donors and NGOs.

Participants met the following objectives of the consultation: review of progress in the implementation of the Stockholm Agenda for Action; highlight and share good practices; identify priority concerns for further action; and formulate a Regional Commitment and Action Plan to be presented to the Second World Congress in December.

Some main points from the delegates' exchanges included: poverty reduction was crucial to prevent Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children; efforts were needed to reduce demand for sex with children; as well as the need for improved law enforcement, including training of personnel in social work skills so that they could respond more sensitively to child victims. DPRK delegates listened to the deliberations but indicated that Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children was not an issue of concern in the country.



UNDP sponsored the participation of two officials from the Ministry of Health, at the International Congress on AIDS in Asia and Pacific, held in Melbourne, Australia 5 – 10 October. This participation was organised as part of a UNDP regional project on HIV/AIDS for North-East Asia.

IFRC Health Promotion

Workshops on Acute Respiratory Diseases, which were attended by 220 health professionals, were held on 11 October. So far this year IFRC has trained 360 nurses and midwives in health promotion for the treatment and prevention of Acute Respiratory Diseases. The participants came from all 49 accessible counties in the Federation operational area

IFRC – DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

In order to strengthen the National Society's capacity in terms of their skill and knowledge, a three-day Disaster Preparedness and Disaster Response Training and Workshop was held on 3-5 of October 2001.

The Workshop were attended by 30 Participants from the different Counties/City of Chugging Province. Its main objective was to give participants a better overall understanding of the Disaster Preparedness and Response. At the provincial, county and city levels the training, extending over three-day period, was linked with the exercise of establishing a disaster preparedness plan and response at the community level. Other topics included into the workshop were VCA, Sphere, Community Based Disaster Preparedness, Red Cross and Red Crescent movement, and Community Based First Aid.

The Italian Development Co-operation Office

Eight DPRK students recently left for Italy to undertake a variety of academic courses:

- ◆ Two students will undertake a 12-month course in Urban Planning.
- ◆ Two students will study for a one-year Master's Degree in Banking and Finance.
- ◆ Four students will undertake a four-month advanced Italian language course.

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME - GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY

UNDP is currently finalising a new Global Environment Facility project with the Government. From 20 to 27 October a UNDP/ Global Environment Facility advisor visited DPRK to prepare the project. The project, Coastal Bio-Diversity Management of the West Sea, based at Mundok, has already received funds from Global Environment Facility and will amount to US\$ 1 million with co-financing.

The West Sea coast of DPR Korea has high national and global significance for ecosystem and biological diversity. The numerous wetlands form an important link for many species of migratory bird between northern breeding areas and wintering sites in Japan, China and South East Asia, including two of the world's rarest and most threatened birds (black-faced spoonbill and Chinese egret.)

Coastal bio-diversity is threatened by a number of processes, the most significant of which is unplanned coastal area management for agricultural land, which results in the reclamation of highly productive wetland areas.

In 1994 DPR Korea took an important step in its ratification of the Convention for Biological Diversity (CBD) and in recent years, the CBD has provided an important platform for a new wave of commitments and effort towards biodiversity conservation by the Government.

This new UNDP Global Environment Facility project will assist the Government to develop and implement an integrated coastal zone management plan for South Pyongan Province, thus securing a balance between protection of natural resources and environmentally-sound development. The project, which will be implemented by the Ministry of Land and Environmental Protection, in collaboration with the National Coordinating Committee for the Environment and the Academy of Sciences, has four main objectives:

- ◆ Planning process for wetlands management effective at national and local levels;
- ◆ Public awareness of natural resources and bio-diversity values achieved through increased participation in protected areas management;
- ◆ Implementation of the Integrated Coastal Area Management Plan in Mundok County to demonstrate bio-diversity conservation with sustainable development;
- ◆ Management practices in agriculture and other sectors with potential environmental impacts improved.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

More information on DPR Korea is available at the Reliefweb Site: <http://www.reliefweb.int>

Electronic copies of this Bulletin (Adobe Acrobat PDF format) can be obtained by e-mailing ocha.dprk@wfp.org.

Bilateral Donors and NGOs, in particular regional NGOs from Japan and RO Korea, with programmes in DPR Korea, are invited to contribute to the Bulletin.

Submissions on humanitarian activities can be emailed to ocha.dprk@wfp.org

Contributions for the November Bulletin should reach OCHA DPRK by 3 December 2001.