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# DPR KOREA

## Common Country Assessment

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## NOTE ON THE CCA

In 1997, the Secretary-General of the United Nations set out a number of reforms designed to enhance the capacity to implement the UN's development mandate and to secure greater integration and cohesiveness in UN activities. The Common Country Assessment (CCA) constitutes one of the components of the Secretary-General's agenda. It is aimed at increasing the coherence and effectiveness of the UN System at the country level. The CCA should also be seen as the first step in the process of preparing the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF). UNDAF is a planning and programming document which is expected to bring together the activities of UN Funds, Programmes and Agencies.

The CCA is a UN System document. It is prepared through a consultative process of reviewing and analysing the prevailing situation at the country level. It is expected to identify the key issues which would form the basis for a policy dialogue within the UN System and with the Government and then lead to the subsequent UN programmes. The CCA is expected to focus particularly on the status of implementation of the various declarations, goals and action plans agreed upon at global conferences convened by the UN System. Millenium Development Goals (MDGs) will be a particular area of concern for the CCA.

The CCA is expected to achieve several objectives. It should lead to a common understanding of the major development challenges and Government priorities. This is important, not only for the UN System, but also to other development partners, especially those engaged in development cooperation activities in the country. The CCA should therefore be viewed as an important tool for stimulating development cooperation activities. The CCA would provide the conceptual framework, which would subsequently lead to the UNDAF process. The CCA should lead to a common database, with agreed definitions and interpretation, on the basis of which subsequent work can proceed. The CCA is a learning tool which can strengthen the analytical capacity of the partners involved. It can contribute to capacity building at the local level. The preparation of the CCA should include collaboration and coordination with UN bodies within the country. It should also bring the Government and the UN System closer together as partners in a common cause. It should facilitate a clear understanding of the issues involved in achieving MDGs and making connections with external development partners to achieve those goals.

This is the first CCA of DPR Korea. The CCA is a product of the UN Country Team. The CCA process was pursued jointly with the Government and other development partners in a manner that promotes partnerships and alliances to support national priorities and the achievement of internationally agreed goals. The joint UNCT / Government Steering Committee (JSC), co-chaired by the UN Resident Coordinator and the Secretary General of the National Coordinating Committee was responsible for overseeing and managing the preparation of the CCA. Seven Joint Thematic Working Groups (JTWGs) – Food Security, Health and Nutrition, Water and Environmental Sanitation, Education, Gender, Development Cooperation, and Energy and Environment were established. Relevant UN Agencies were represented in these JTWGs. Every effort has been made to consult with non-resident agencies, and several of them have been associated in the preparation of the CCA. Also associated in the process were NGOs present in the country. Consultations were also undertaken with other external development partners. Draft thematic papers were prepared by these groups, and these were submitted to the Government for comments. Meetings took place between the JTWGs and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs acted as the focal point with the

respective Line Ministries. The final draft of the CCA was presented to the Government. (See Terms of Reference, annexed to the CCA Document for more details of the process and expected outcomes).

## AN OVERALL PERSPECTIVE

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Until the late 1980s, DPR Korea was part of a group of centrally-planned economies. Within that group of countries, DPR Korea enjoyed extensive economic and trading relations. DPR Korea's trade within the group was partly based on barter arrangements. DPR Korea also had trading relations outside this group, especially with China. DPR Korea was also a part of the network of development assistance and cooperation arrangements of the group, being both a recipient, and also a donor of development assistance.

By the beginning of the 1990s, with the end of the centrally-planned economic system, DPR Korea was faced with major difficulties in adjusting to a new set of external economic relations. This was the time when the rest of the world embarked on a process of rapid globalisation, not only in the economic sphere, but also in other ways, with the rapid rise of new information and communication technologies. In the 1990s, DPR Korea's economic and trading relations were confined largely to neighbouring countries and others in the region, in addition to a few traditional economic partners. DPR Korea is committed to the philosophy of Juche, and it has relied on its own strengths and resources to a large degree for its development. (It is important to note that Juche calls for development through "import substitution" rather than "export promotion").

DPR Korea has embarked on a process of domestic economic adjustment. A more flexible system of economic management and operations is being introduced. Agricultural and industrial sectors and enterprises are witnessing the introduction of flexible practices. The country is also moving from a situation where external economic relations were limited to a select group of countries, to a more extensive engagement with the region, and with partners beyond the region. In development cooperation, it is engaged in a process of establishing a comprehensive set of relationships aimed at stimulating predictable forms of development assistance.

### Current State of the Economy

The 1990s were an extremely difficult time for DPR Korea. The disruption of economic and trade links with its old economic and trading partners, and the lack of any effective substitute led to a sharp fall in economic growth. The worsening situation has also been attributed to a series of natural calamities which seriously disrupted the agricultural and energy sectors. These factors led to a massive contraction in the size of the DPRK economy. As compared with 1989, the DPR Korea economy in 2002 is probably about half its size. Current GDP per capita is estimated at US\$ 480. This would translate into a total national GDP of US\$ 11 billion. The national budget for the year 2001 is stated to be US\$ 9.9 billion.

External trade has declined sharply and the estimate for the total of import and exports for the year 2000 is US\$ 2.4 billion, of which three quarters is accounted for by imports. The trade gap is partly met through the provision of official assistance from some of its trading partners in the region. Exports as a proportion of GDP appear to be very low, probably not more than 4 or 5% of GDP, which itself indicates that the potential for greater engagement with the world economy is large. After about a decade of economic stagnation and decline, the last two years appear to have reversed the trend, and the economy has probably grown by 2 to 3% annually. Economic constraints (and natural calamities) have led to a rapid erosion in the quality of the economic infrastructure. The energy sector has been severely disrupted, partly due to the

flooding of coalmines, and partly due to a lack of fuel supplies. This has led to a severe disruption of agricultural and industrial production. Although having recovered since 1997, agricultural production is around half what it was in the 1980s. The reduced capacity of the country to obtain commercial imports has led to a sharp decline in the availability of food, and to a great deal of food insecurity.

### Impact on Human Development

DPR Korea had achieved remarkable progress in human development by the end of the 1980's. By most human development indicators – access to health, water and sanitation, educational achievements, mortality rates – DPR Korea had reached remarkable standards. Women and children and other vulnerable groups had a degree of protection seen in few other developing countries. DPR Korea had achieved many of the MDGs by the end of the 1980s. The decade of the 1990s witnessed a rapid decline in these high standards. Food insecurity has led to malnutrition, particularly in women and children. Standards of health care have declined appreciably, especially in the rural areas, and there are acute shortages of medical and hospital supplies. This has been compounded by the disruption of energy supplies. Women and children are at risk, especially in times such as pregnancy and lactation. Access to water and sanitation also has suffered, contributing to an increase in water-borne diseases. TB and malaria have reappeared. The bright spot is that of HIV/Aids, where the country is virtually disease-free, although preventive action to ward off the risk of its spreading is vital. Educational standards also appear to have declined. There is little investment in the social sectors, in view of financial constraints. Greater attention needs to be focused on addressing the needs of vulnerable groups. A more general issue is the capacity of the country to maintain its social infrastructure, which was a creation of better economic times. It needs adjustment and modernization to keep up with global trends, particularly in health and education.

### *New Economic Directions*

The Government has signalled a shift in the direction of the economy. In the policy agenda set out in the joint New Year's Day editorial in the main newspapers, it expressed an interest in greater cooperation with the outside world, and the intention to modernize the economy. It is aimed at rebuilding the economy through technological modernization and improving the infrastructure. Technological modernization is to be effected in the transport sector, in the iron and steel industry and in the energy sector. Since then, there have been other shifts in economic policies. In July 2002, a new price structure for food, services and utilities and transport was put in place. There has been a major increase in wage levels, to offset the rise in prices. There is greater flexibility and incentives to dispose of agricultural and industrial production. Exchange rate revisions have been undertaken. Important changes have been made in the public distribution system and in the operation of farmer marketing channels. Incentives in terms of salary differentials have been introduced in sectors such as mining. Generally there is distinct movement towards a monetised economy, allowing prices to play a more extensive role in allocation of resources. The impact of these shifts in economic policy cannot yet be measured. However, they seem to be aimed in the right direction.

## *Key Challenges*

DPR Korea is at the proverbial crossroads. Major decisions are imperative to regain the momentum of economic growth and development, and to improve social conditions. The Government has recently taken important steps to mark out new directions, although the details are not clearly evident to external development partners. (Improved communications with external partners is essential for a more purposive dialogue, for the international development community to be more intensively engaged in DPR Korea's development processes). What is critical is a renewed and revitalized process of economic growth, thereby creating the resources which alone could ensure food security and accelerated human development. This would require an increased level of export orientation in DPR Korea's economy. It would also call for intensive efforts to modernize agriculture and food production, thereby ensuring food security. Energy shortfalls have been an important obstacle to economic growth and to ensuring increasing standards of human development. They have also been a destabilizing factor on the environment. This is another prime area for government action. Such actions would contribute to achieving the Government's aim of ensuring high standards of human development and protecting vulnerable groups in the population. Many of these measures are in the AREP\* concept.

**Food Security** – Ensuring food security is an urgent and high-priority task. The Government has embarked on national programmes to achieve this aim. Ensuring food security is not confined to any one defined sector such as agriculture and food production. Food security can be achieved only through concerted action across sectors, and through economic development and growth. Energy supplies are a key factor in ensuring agricultural and food production. Similarly, sustaining environmental resources is a key element in long term food security. DPR Korea, would have to maintain a level of food imports even with a dynamic agricultural sector. The capacity to import food depends on trade and economic growth. To ensure food security therefore demands a multifaceted, parallel and simultaneous approach to a wide spectrum of economic and social issues. AREP has been the identified vehicle for this, with mixed success in terms of funding support.

**Economic Modernization** – DPR Korea, to engage itself more actively with the world and regional economies, will be required to pursue new approaches, and improvements in decision-making. As noted above, there has been a significant shift in economic policy. This is largely internal economic policy. The momentum that is now building up has to be maintained, allowing for greater flexibility and transparency in economic transactions and methodologies. Apart from the policy level, the economic infrastructure (transport, energy and communications) has to be modernized to be compatible with an expanded level of interaction with the regional and global economy. This would require major capital investment, and building of capacities for their installation and operation.

**Human Development** – DPR Korea is committed to the maintenance of the high standards in human development it achieved until the late 1980s. Economic growth is essential to achieve this aim, and it is through economic modernization that growth can be ensured. The current social infrastructure (education, health, water and sanitation and food distribution systems) requires restructuring and improvement. Recent trends in the social sectors illustrate the under-utilization of current capacities, and the relatively outdated nature of these capacities in the context of changing practices and technologies elsewhere. Within the health system, many

\* AREP – Agricultural Recovery and Environmental Protection

hospital practices require modernization. There needs to be a review of current arrangements to provide access to education, health, and water and sanitation so that cost-effective, affordable systems are in place.

**External Economic Relations** – Major benefits would accrue to DPR Korea through new approaches to its external economic relations. Recent years have witnessed a significant intensification of its economic and political relations with neighbouring countries and within the region. There are extensive opportunities to accelerate and deepen the process further. Opportunities could also be sought outside the region, as the DPR Korea economy modernizes itself, and trading prospects consequently increase. Current levels of international trade are yet too low, for the DPR Korea economy to obtain optimal benefits from global exchange. Therefore, the priority would be to promote exports.

**Capacity Building** – Capacity building is a critical factor in the modernization of the economy and of the social sectors. Apart from technological upgrading, the DPRK workforce at all levels could benefit from a more intensive process of capacity building to improve skills and methodologies. This would require an extensive training effort, at the national level, within public administration, at the enterprise level, and in provincial and district institutions. DPR Korea's external development partners can contribute to an appropriately designed capacity building programme. What is required at this early stage is to define priorities for capacity building, especially in those areas which require external assistance.

One key area for capacity building is in the field of statistics. A modernized and updated system of national statistics is vital to efficient systems of planning, resource allocation, economic management, and to negotiations with external development partners. From the perspective of human development, statistical improvements are critical to the recording and achievement of MDGs. Statistical and data constraints constitute an impediment to evidence-based planning and programming, and also to the monitoring of MDGs. (The UN has a particular responsibility in this regard under multilaterally agreed conventions). The Government is also anxious to improve its statistical operations. It has so far received assistance from UNFPA, UNICEF, UNDP and WFP. There is considerable scope for early action to strengthen statistical capacities in the country.

**Development Cooperation** – Increased trade is essential to obtain more resources and to enhance growth. Such resources could be complemented by flows of development finance, especially concessional finance, for which DPR Korea could be eligible. Multilateral financial institutions could be an important channel of investment in DPR Korea, and an important aspect of policy should be to explore the feasibility for, and circumstances of, their engagement to join the International Financial Institutions (IFIs). These institutions can stimulate other forms of private foreign investment. Similarly, DPR Korea has the potential to expand its development cooperation arrangements with the bilateral donor community. A start has been made and the process needs to be accelerated.

The overwhelming proportion (over 90%) of external assistance received by DPR Korea is humanitarian, and development assistance is on a modest scale. However, it should be noted that DPR Korea is a recipient of IFAD and OPEC loans as well food security assistance from

the EU. Humanitarian assistance has to continue for a few more years, meeting fully the requirements identified in the Consolidated Appeal Process (CAP). Equally important, is development assistance on a larger scale, since this is an essential component of sustainable economic recovery. A seamless transition from humanitarian to development assistance has to be managed over the next few years.

The UN System has a unique opportunity in DPR Korea. The UN System can be the catalyst for enlarged and extended forms of development cooperation, and for engaging multilateral financial institutions and bilateral donors. It can facilitate a more dynamic role for DPR Korea in the international development system. It has a key role in ensuring the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The international development community has an obligation to assist developing countries to achieve MDGs. The UN System can facilitate DPR Korea's interaction with the international development community within the framework of MDGs.

# FOOD SECURITY

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## Definitions

The 1996 World Food Summit defined the concept of food security, as follows :

*Food Security exists when all people, at all times, have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food which meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life.*

This definition includes the three key dimensions of food security:

- sufficient availability of food
- adequate access to food
- appropriate utilisation of food

Food Insecurity is defined as :

*A situation that exists when people lack secure access to sufficient amounts of safe and nutritious food for normal growth and development and an active and healthy life. It may be caused by the unavailability of food, insufficient purchasing power, inappropriate distribution, or inadequate use of food at the household level.*

Vulnerability with respect to food security can be defined as:

*The presence of factors that place people at risk of becoming food insecure or malnourished, including those factors that affect their ability to cope.*

Vulnerability is therefore a result of exposure to risk factors, and of underlying socio-economic processes, which serve to reduce the capacity of populations to cope with those risks.

## International targets

DPR Korea, as an active member partner of the United Nations and its broader system, has committed itself to the pursuit of the goals and targets of MDGs and several International Conferences and Conventions related to food security.

**UN Millenium Development Goal No.1** - Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger.

**World Food Summit** (Rome, 1996) – By 2015 hunger in the world should be reduced by 50 per cent.

**Universal Declaration of Human Rights** (1948) – Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and his family, including food.

**UN Convention on the Rights of the Child** (1989) – In particular “Article 24”. This Convention was ratified by the Government in 1990.

At the follow-up meeting of the World Food Summit in June 2002 (Rome) a draft was introduced of the **Anti-Hunger Programme** that proposes a twin-track approach, combining:

- resource mobilisation for agricultural and rural development which creates greater opportunities for the poor and hungry to improve their livelihoods, with
- measures to meet the immediate food and nutrition needs of the seriously undernourished.

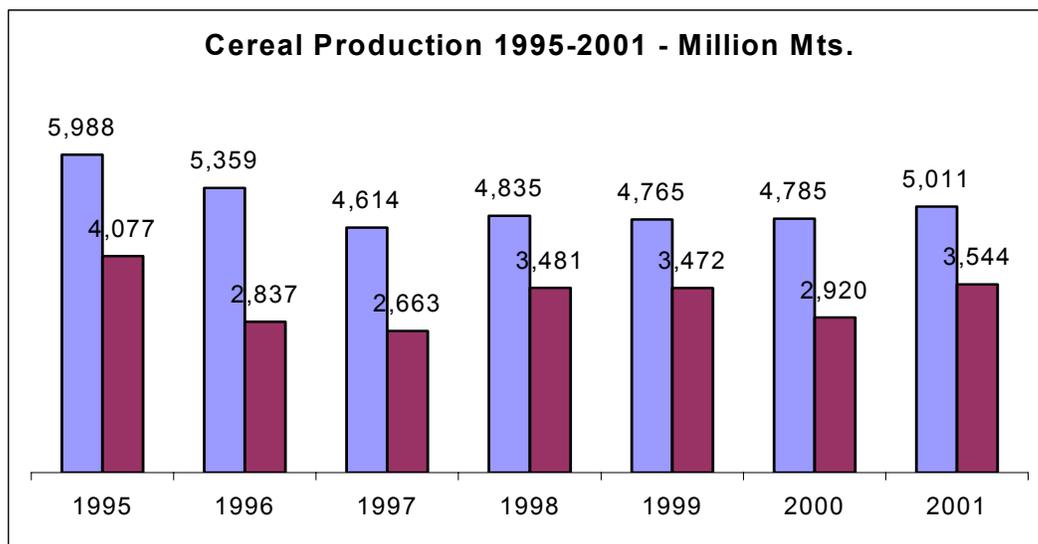
The draft Anti-Hunger Programme calls for greater public investment in five interrelated action areas: improvement of farm productivity in poor rural communities; development and conservation of natural resources; improvement of rural infrastructure and market access; strengthening of knowledge generation, learning and information; and ensuring access to food for the most needy.

### Food security at national level

The total cultivated land in the DPRK is estimated to be less than 20 per cent of the total land area, i.e. 1.85 million hectares. Approximately 1.4 million hectares is considered suitable for cereal cultivation with double and intensified cropping, 300,000 hectares are under vegetable crops, 160,000 hectares are devoted to orchards and 90,000 are devoted to other permanent crops (mulberry). There is very limited scope for expanding cultivable areas.

The FAO/WFP Crop and Food Supply Assessment Mission (2001) estimated that total domestic cereal production available for the 2001/02 marketing year amounted to 3.54 million tons. Food use based on an estimated population of 23.5 million and other utilisation needs were estimated at 5.01 million tons, leaving a deficit of 1.47 million tons to be covered by food aid, commercial and concessional imports.

Cereal production between 1995 and 2001 remained well below the minimum consumption needs of the country.



Source: FAO/WFP

Blue: requirement; Purple: production

Cereal requirements fluctuate annually because of adjustments to population figures, changing import requirements and feed use.

All available agriculture land is organised and cropped within 3,295 cooperative farms.

The persistent food shortages over the past seven years have brought the cultivation of fragile soils on hill slopes with very high gradients and marginal potential. As a result, deforestation,

soil erosion and soil degradation processes have often increased together with silt deposits in rivers and reservoirs.

### **Food security at sub-national level**

According to the Ministry of Agriculture, food production follows more or less the following pattern:

In the East Coast Region, three provinces, namely North Hamgyong, South Hamgyong and Kangwon have approximately 24% of the country's overall area under cereal production<sup>1</sup>. 28 % of the Region's areas under production can be found in North Hamgyong; 46 % in South Hamgyong and 28 % in Kangwon.

The West Coast Region is the bread basket area of the country comprising five provinces, namely North Pyongan, South Pyongan, North Hwanghae, South Hwanghae and Nampo Municipality. This Region has approximately 65% of the nation's area under cereal production. Within the West Coast, North Pyongan accounts for 26 % of the regional production, South Pyongan - 22 %, North Hwanghae - 6 %, South Hwanghae - 32% and Nampo Municipality - 3%.

There are four Provinces in the Inland Region, namely Ryanggang, Chagang, Pyongyang Municipality and the Kaesong municipality. This Region has about 11% of the total area under cereal production. Within the Region, the areas under production are distributed as follows: Ryangan - 19 % of the regional production, Chagang - 33 %, Pyongyang Municipality - 29 %, and Kaesong Municipality - 13%.

*Where can food insecurity be found? WFP's vulnerability ranking exercise considered three components of food security : availability of food, access to food and utilisation of food. A vulnerability map was composed based on availability indicators (average grain production per capita, paddy field as percentage of main crops and access to sea food); access indicators (level of PDS dependency, PDS distribution priority and the average gap between expected and actual arrival time of food aid consignments); utilisation indicators (number of persons per medical staff); proneness to natural disasters (proneness to drought and flooding). The geographical distribution of the vulnerable population shows a broad contrast between the most food insecure Northeast and the Southwestern part of the country with (relatively) low levels of food insecurity.*

**Northeastern** DPRK, hardest hit by economic decline and recurring natural disasters, should be a priority zone from the food security perspective. The region accounts for over one-fifth of the country's population. The population in the provinces of Ryanggang, North Hamgyong and South Hamgyong once industrial strongholds is facing a precarious livelihood on the very limited marginal land available in this mountainous flood- and drought-prone part of the country. The region is facing serious food insecurity. Urban-based workers and their families are facing high levels of food insecurity, since they are not able to fall back on the coping mechanism that rural dwellers have.

On a per capita basis, cereal production in the Northeast – much of it on very steep slopes – is 30 percent below the already inadequate national average. Poor transport infrastructure aggravates the region's food supply situation in many ways, not least by reinforcing its

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<sup>1</sup> Including potatoes converted to cereal equivalent (4:1)

isolation. During the lean season, which begins a month earlier than in other regions, shortages of locally-grown cereals and vegetables are most acute.

### **Public Distribution System**

The Public Distribution System (PDS) is managed by the Food Administration Ministry (FAM) of DPR Korea. It has been the main mechanism used by the Government to equalize food availability throughout the country. Since the late 1990s, however, the role of the PDS in ensuring basic food needs has been drastically affected by resource constraints. Currently the PDS is mainly used for the provision of grains to the non-farming population, at a low ration level.

Pre-determined rations are provided to the population at heavily subsidized prices and distributed through the Public Distribution Centres (PDCs). According to statistics provided by the Government in 1999, there are about 3,600 PDCs throughout the country. The PDS serves approximately 15.6 million people or 70 % of the total population.

Cooperative workers (or farmers) representing 30% of the population receive a yearly allocation of cereals from their harvest and sell the balance to the Government at pre-established prices. The Government provides seed, agricultural chemicals and machines, fuel and spare parts to the farms at pre-established prices. The food availability situation of farmers is generally better than the rest of the population. For the 2001/2002 marketing year, their grain allocation corresponded to an average of 219 kg/person/year, or an average 600 grams of cereals/person/day. Cooperative workers are allowed to retain quantities of their harvested produce at the equivalent of PDS ration levels. The remainder is sold to the State.

During the current marketing year, there have been no interruptions in the provision of cereals through the PDS. Ration scales are generally standardized throughout the country although they vary by month. In May 2002, the ration was distributed at 250 grams/person/day whereas in the same month last year, the ration was 150 grams/person/day.

Food rations are usually distributed twice a month, although the dates and the frequency will often depend on the availability of food. The PDS ration is usually composed of maize, rice, potatoes, wheat and/or barley, depending on the season and Government stocks. Potatoes are distributed on a cereal equivalent basis.

Based on the FAO/WFP Crop and Food Supply Assessment mission, a person requires 458 grams of cereals/day (or 167 kg/year) to meet 75% of daily calorific needs (1,600 kcal). The low level of PDS rations means that the non-farming population has to rely on other sources of food to meet their needs, including WFP food aid. Through WFP's targeting mechanisms, emphasis is given to vulnerable groups with limited ability to access food outside the PDS.

In the early years of the food shortages, the Government was supplementing PDS cereal rations with 'alternative food', targeting this support to the most vulnerable families. This was usually composed of cereals mixed with edible grass, maize cobs and acorns, and produced at PDS processing facilities. However, due to lack of electricity and other necessary inputs, the Government has been unable to maintain this form of support throughout the country.

The Government confirmed that the recent adoption of reforms will not affect the state rationing system. The PDS will continue to distribute food, but will also be used to sell food

commodities. Since food resources are still scarce, the Government clarified that there is still a need to control distribution. The PDS will therefore be maintained until food production in DPR Korea is completely restored.

### **Nutritional concerns**

The nutritional survey conducted in 1998 by the Government in cooperation with UNICEF, WFP and EU showed that more than 50 % of children <5 years were underweight, among them more than 20 % severely. Acute malnutrition or wasting had the highest prevalence in the age group 1-2 years, i.e almost 30 % including more than 3 % severe cases. More than 70% of children of age 4 -5 years were acutely malnourished and almost 50 % of them were severely malnourished. These data reflect a situation that almost every child was suffering from a form of malnutrition. It seems that the situation has improved, but still there are observed cases of severe malnutrition and the majority of children are suffering from moderate malnutrition and micro-nutrient deficiencies.

In times of food insecurity, households resort to various types of coping mechanisms which take advantage of normally unused opportunities, such as collection of wild foods and farming of marginal areas, apart from other ways of meeting food gaps. Some of the foods available through these means might not be suitable for children. In the particular circumstances of DPR Korea, more research is needed on coping mechanisms.

In late 2001, the DPRK authorities agreed to begin applying internationally recognized standards for nutrition surveillance, allowing for consistent monitoring of the population's nutritional status. The Government has also agreed to conduct a multi-agency comprehensive multi-indicator cluster survey (MICS) during 2002, similar to the 1998 survey that applied internationally recognized survey methodologies. This will allow the humanitarian community to scientifically assess the impact of food aid and facilitate further interventions. The survey took place during the second half of 2002.

### **General constraints**

The country, due to its topographical characteristics and harsh winter conditions, is limited in its agricultural potential. These two factors are the main constraint in agriculture. Horizontal expansion - increasing the amount of land for agricultural production - would require gigantic resources. This leaves only one other possibility of increasing production and that is of enhancing its vertical frontier - increasing productivity in the same unit area of land (double cropping, new technologies, best crop for the best land, etc.).

The efforts to develop and improve agriculture are also constrained by unfavourable weather conditions, limited areas for cultivation, insufficient Governmental budgetary support due to reduced economic ability of the country as a whole. Although progress has been made, and whereas agriculture has been a priority of the Government, agricultural production and distribution structures need further improvements in flexibility and incentive systems. The country might have to continue depending on international assistance to maintain its low level of food security for a considerably longer period of time until the structural problems have been overcome or until economic recovery will enable it to import commercially all the food required.

Increasing agricultural production through the provision of critical inputs would lead to reducing food insecurity in DPRK. In 2001, the availability of fertiliser amounted to some 190,000 tons of NPK nutrient equivalent, which along with other complementary factors, has significantly contributed to increased yield levels. More than 71% of the fertiliser availability was covered by donations from the international aid community. Even though the total availability of fertiliser in 2001 was about 17% more than the previous year, it remained at about one-third the levels recorded before 1989.

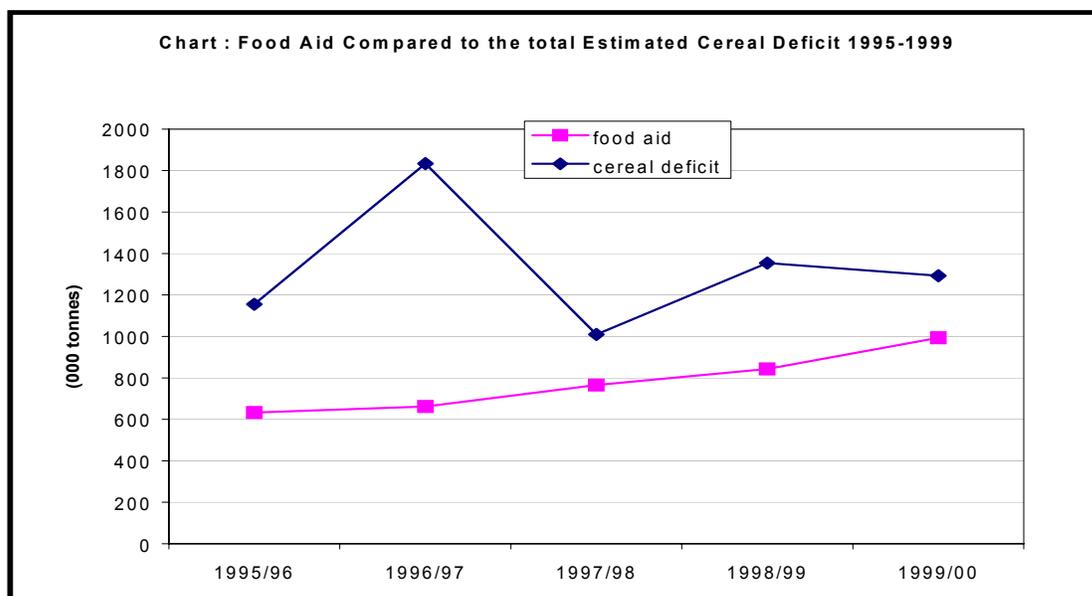
Warehousing facilities is another constraint on food security. Considering the nature of the food shortage experienced by DPRK, and in view of the recurrence of natural disasters, the creation of strategic reserves of food and other relief items could be considered. This would require the establishment of storage facilities (warehouses) at strategic locations. Having these facilities would allow for a timely and coordinated response. The Government's administrative structure is considered to be capable of speedily mobilising local authorities and communities. However, emergency teams do not have sufficient resources. Improved documentation of losses and needs would also greatly improve the speed and appropriateness of the emergency response. International agencies should build into their programmes budgetary provisions which would allow for contingencies to be tapped when the need arises.

A further constraint in its agricultural production base is that with the loss of its traditional partners in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union which were the country's preferential sources of trade and barter, raw materials for the production of agricultural inputs have been steadily declining since 1990. This is compounded by consecutive natural calamities that hit the country between 1994 to 1998 destroying coal mines, seriously affecting factories that produced agricultural inputs, and destroying arable land which had to be reclaimed at high cost.

### **External agency assistance**

About one third of the food security related external assistance is provided under WFP emergency food aid. Excluding the WFP food aid, it can be noted that most of the past cooperation is oriented towards the provision of agricultural inputs. About 20 % is directed to capacity building initiatives. The remaining external assistance also includes two large soft loans from IFAD and OPEC.

The chart below shows that a gap remains between DPRK's food requirements and the food aid delivered to the country. This difference is not covered by commercial imports, and consequently in most years a large part of the deficit was left unmet. At the height of the emergency in 1996/97 – taking into account actual food aid – net domestic production and reported imports, estimated cereal availability per capita was about 25 percent below minimum requirements.



The timely provision of a massive volume of food aid has prevented the food shortages from developing into widespread starvation. However, food aid alone will not lead to establishing food security for the country's population. Economic recovery and growth are required to increase agricultural production and ultimately build up the national capacity to procure foodstuffs needed to feed the population. In the interim, food aid will continue to be needed to assist the most vulnerable groups. Such assistance is also required to ensure a nutritional safety net while the country adjusts to new economic circumstances.

There is an early need to focus more on development and capacity building, with more emphasis on addressing issues to overcome the food deficit in the longer term. There has to be a move towards food aid for development activities while addressing emergency food needs.

Absence of adequate data limits the effectiveness of efforts of targeting assistance to the most food insecure areas and population groups. Moreover, targeting is a necessity in view of the scarce (cooperation) resources available. A more in-depth understanding of the vulnerability of (selected) population groups to food insecurity is also dependent on the availability of accurate indicators.

In the second half of 2002 a UNDP Food Security evaluation is scheduled, which will be more focused on evaluating food production than on the food security situation in DPRK. There is a need for a proper food security evaluation, looking into greater detail at the underlying causes, both at the national and household level.

Two other important mechanisms for external cooperation have been UNDP's Agricultural Recovery and Environmental Protection Programme (AREP) and bilateral cooperation with the Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation (SDC).

UNDP's AREP project is divided into four main sectors: (a) The Inputs Programme aims to provide basic agricultural inputs to ensure decent levels of production in the shortest possible time. (b) Through the Rural Rehabilitation Programme land is recovered and the efficiency of irrigation systems increased. (c) The Forestry and

Environment Programme enhances sustainability in the forestry sub-sector while protecting the environment. (d) The AREP Capacity Building Programme assists the build-up of agricultural know-how in DPRK.

Swiss humanitarian aid to DPRK started in 1995. Since 1998, SDC, partly through development cooperation and partly through humanitarian aid, has engaged in several activities, especially in the Miru Hill region (potato crop improvement, maize and soya seed production), and in small projects in animal husbandry in Ryonsong near Pyongyang. Since 2002, SDC has been consolidating these activities into a new agricultural programme, along with other partners.

# HEALTH AND NUTRITION

## HEALTH AND NUTRITION

### *Introduction*

The health and nutritional status of the population improved remarkably in the five decades after 1945. The country prioritised the development of the public health system as part of its reconstruction effort, built an extensive network of health care facilities and institutions, gave priority to primary health care services for children and women and deployed tens of thousands of section doctors to work at the family level. As a result, access to preventive and curative health care soared. At the same time, large investments were made in the other basic social services including water and sanitation and education, and by the 1980s the DPRK had met many of the present-day international goals in health and nutrition. The health and nutritional status of the population was among the best in the region.

With the onset of economic difficulties, in the 1990s, the situation has deteriorated sharply and many of the former gains have now been reversed. Child and maternal mortality rates have increased sharply since the early 1990s, and life expectancy has fallen. So far no surveys have been conducted to verify precise figures. Considering the extent of the country's problems, infant, child and maternal mortality rates are thought to be significantly higher.

The health and nutritional status of the population is now less satisfactory. A heavy disease burden and widespread underlying malnutrition, poor health and nutritional practices, and the limited capacity of the health services to respond, all contribute to this situation. These problems are all severe, complex and inter-related. Considering the country's economic situation, very rapid gains in health and nutrition cannot therefore be expected and the outlook is one of gradual improvement. As the baseline for MDGs is 1990, some of the relevant MDGs might not be achievable since the situation during that period was very favourable.

### *National Policy*

Universal and free health care is guaranteed in the country's Constitution of 1960 and the Public Health Law of 1980. The Public Health Law particularly emphasises commitment to a health care system that is equally preventative and curative and gives special priority to the needs of women and children. The Government's policy objective in the 1950s and 1960s was to rapidly expand health services for the majority of the population and this was achieved in the 1970s. The main policy objective then shifted to reducing inequities in health care provision and services for farmers and remote rural areas were developed. Remarkably, universal access to health care was achieved by the 1980s. With the planned expansion of the health services completed, the 1980 law on public health marked a further shift in policy towards developing the *quality* of the health care system and emphasising *prevention*. The main policy objective of improving quality remains the same to this day, although a number of challenges have emerged, limiting progress.

### *International Commitments*

The DPRK's longstanding pledge to universal and free health care has been reaffirmed through the adoption of a number of international instruments and the international goals and targets of major conferences over the past decade. As a State Party to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), the DPRK recognizes the right

of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health. The recent accession to the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) in early 2001 affirms the government's legally binding commitment towards guaranteeing women's reproductive rights as well as recognising that women's equal social and biological status underpin good health. The DPRK's notable commitment to reproductive health rights is further demonstrated by its adoption and partial implementation of the platform of action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in 1994.

### **DPRK International Commitments in Health and Nutrition**

- |  |      |
|--|------|
| • International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR)            | 1981 |
| • Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)  | 1990 |
| • World Summit for Children  | 1990 |
| • International Conference on Nutrition  | 1992 |
| • International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD)                      | 1994 |
| • World Summit for Social Development  | 1995 |
| • World Food Summit  | 1996 |
| • Millenium Summit (Millenium Development Goals)                                     | 2000 |
| • Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) | 2002 |
| • UNGASS for Children (World Fit for Children)                                       |      |

### **Millennium Development Goals – Health and Nutrition**

#### **Eradicate hunger**

#### **Reduce child mortality**

#### **Improved reproductive health**

#### **Improved maternal health and reduced maternal mortality**

#### **Combat malaria and other diseases**

Targets	Indicators	Status (See CCA annexes for data)
Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prevalence of underweight children under five years of age</li> <li>• Proportion of children with low weight at birth</li> </ul>	Does not appear achievable
Reduce by two-thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the under-five mortality rate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Under five mortality rate</li> <li>• Infant mortality rate</li> <li>• Proportion of one year old children immunised against measles</li> </ul>	Does not appear achievable

Universal access to reproductive health services and information by 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contraceptive prevalence rate</li> </ul>	Readily Achievable
Reduce by three-quarters, between 1990 and 2015, the maternal mortality ratio	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maternal mortality ratio</li> <li>• Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel</li> </ul>	Does not appear achievable
Have halted by 2015, and begun to reverse, the incidence of malaria and other major diseases	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prevalence and death rates associated with tuberculosis</li> <li>• Proportion of TB cases detected and cured under Directly Observed Treatment Short Course (DOTS)</li> <li>• Prevalence and death rates associated with malaria</li> <li>• Proportion of population in malaria risk areas using effective malaria prevention and treatment measures</li> </ul>	Achievable

***Key Areas of Concern***

*Children – the burden of malnutrition*

Some recent gains for children included reducing the impact of vaccine preventable diseases. Despite this, significantly more children below five years of age will still die this year compared to 1990. Diarrhoeal disease which has increased because of a run down in water and sanitation systems (see WES Chapter) and acute respiratory infections, compounded by underlying malnutrition, are together responsible for the majority of child illnesses and deaths.

There is widespread malnutrition among children, less than five years of age. The last reliable survey, carried out in 1998, showed that 16% of children were moderately and severely wasted (acute malnutrition), that over 60% were moderately malnourished (chronic malnutrition) and that micronutrient deficiencies were widespread.

Although the number of acutely malnourished children is now down from the peak of five years ago, the overall number of chronically malnourished children remains high, continuing to make them vulnerable to illness, worsening malnutrition and increased risk of death. Less obvious but of great significance is the negative effect that malnutrition has on child growth and development potential and on the general quality of human capital.

The high level of child malnutrition in the DPRK is not the result of food shortages alone. The nutritional status of children is closely linked to a combination of frequent illness, inadequate access to quality health care, poor childcare practices such as breast-feeding, stimulation and good hygiene as well as the compromised health and nutritional status of women during pregnancy. Malnutrition in childhood leads to malnutrition in adolescence, subsequent malnutrition in pregnancy and stunted and low birth weight babies. With multiple contributing factors, reducing child malnutrition will require an intensive and sustained effort. There will need to be a shift in emphasis from *treatment* of the estimated 50,000 severely malnourished

(acute) children to *prevention* for more than 1 million children moderately malnourished (chronic) and the additional 1 million children at risk. Programmes to address child malnutrition must be broad-based and include actions to improve the nutritional status of mothers, both before and during pregnancy. Actions will need to be earlier, targeting very young children less than two years of age and improving the health and nutritional status of women before and during pregnancy. Programmes are in place to begin to address the widespread micronutrient deficiencies of iron, vitamin A and iodine as well as to treat severely malnourished children admitted to hospitals but there are currently no effective programmes in place to reduce chronic malnutrition. This will be one of the main challenges for the country and the UN system over the next decade.

### *Women's status – the risks of pregnancy*

Women's health, reproductive health and nutritional status improved markedly in the period up to the early 1990s. Women's care was given a very high priority alongside childcare and their special needs were addressed. By 1949, women's literacy increased to universal levels, as part of the national literacy effort, and as early as the 1950's, compulsory, free education ensured that almost all girls had at least secondary level schooling. As a result the average age of marriage, age of first birth and fertility rates all improved favourably. Food security was good, basic water and sanitation systems in place and women enjoyed a health and nutritional status on a par with the best in the region. Unfortunately, since the early 1990's the situation for women has considerably worsened.

The health and nutritional status of women has deteriorated considerably over the past decade. Many women are now malnourished and micronutrient deficiencies, notably iron (anaemia) and vitamin A, are frequent. During pregnancy, a precarious nutritional status, poor care and heavy workload further compounds the poor status. For the child, the result is poor intra-uterine growth and low birth weight, malnutrition at a very young age and continued malnutrition into adolescence. The result is an increased risk of death during pregnancy. The number of maternal deaths has increased sharply in the past ten years, in part, because of a poorer health status but mainly because of the reduced ability of the health system to respond. Although a high priority is given to regular health care during pregnancy and the extensive Ri clinic / section doctor system means that antenatal care checks are common (on average 9 to 18 checks in each pregnancy), the quality of antenatal care is low. Simple equipment for antenatal assessment including for anaemia is often not available. Iron supplementation during pregnancy and lactation is not yet national policy and the quality of health advice given is variable. (The planned reproductive health survey in three provinces this year, with UNFPA support will give a detailed quality assessment). Positively, a trained worker attends almost all deliveries but when complications arise during pregnancy or childbirth, the capacity of the health services to respond is poor. Basic items for immediate management of complications are usually not available. Staff skills also need improvement. Lack of transport often delays or prevents referral to the county hospital. Access to safe blood, when blood transfusions are required, is limited, and even access to safe intravenous infusions is inadequate. Funds have now been received by WHO to start the upgrading of blood transfusion services, although this will require long-term investments as well as training and capacity building.

### ***Re-emerging Diseases - TB, Malaria and other Communicable Diseases***

Recent years have seen a dramatic increase in TB case notifications from 38 / 100,000 population in 1994 up to 207 in the DOTS Programme areas at the end of 2001. There were

an estimated 47,000 TB cases in 2001. With a mortality rate of 10 per 100,000 population, controlling TB is an important health priority.

This explosion of cases is the result of the overall deterioration in health and nutrition status of the population as well as the run down of the public health services. DPR Korea has a long commitment to tuberculosis control through a vertical National TB Programme (NTP). A draft five-year “Plan of Action for the Implementation of DOTS, 1998-2003” was drawn up by the TB Section of the Department of Communicable Diseases, Ministry of Public Health, with the assistance of WHO in early 1998.

Initially the DOTS Programme was implemented from November 1998 in seven pilot sites covering a population of 1.4 million (6% coverage). Two phased expansions of the programme have occurred since, and to date 2/3 of the country (15 million population) is covered under the DOTS Programme. Case notification rates are increasing, with high smear conversion and cure rates being maintained during the expansion. National guidelines for the control of TB in DPRK were developed in 2000 and a second 5-year “Plan of DOTS Expansion in DPR Korea, 2002-2006” was drawn up in 2001, with a target date of 2004 for nationwide coverage. The WHO has supported the implementation of the DOTS Programme with on-going technical and logistical assistance from 1998. With funding recently received from the Global Drug Facility (GDF) and Global Fund fighting AIDS, TB and Malaria (GFATM), DOTS can be expanded to cover the whole country in 2003.

In the 1990s, vivax-malaria has re-occurred in parts of the country, particularly in the rice-field river plains north of the de-militarised zone. The number of reported cases increased from 204,428 in 2000 (107/10,000) to nearly 300,000 (150/10,000) in 2001. The number of cases reported for the first seven months of 2002 suggests a reduction of malaria cases, probably as a result for the control efforts initiated. Adults are more affected than children and men more so than women. The re-emergence of malaria can be contributed to several factors. The floods in 1995-96 have provided increased breeding grounds for the specific species of mosquito transmitting malaria, and the main breeding places for this mosquito are the rice fields. Change in agricultural practices with less use of pesticides and the way the rice fields are irrigated, as an adaptation to the energy problems, might also have contributed to increased breeding of the vector. Around 10 million, or 40% of the population, are now at risk.

A “Roll Back Malaria” programme has been implemented for the past three years focusing on improving prompt diagnosis and treatment through improved diagnostic facilities and availability of anti-malarial drugs. Furthermore, vector control measures using insecticide treated screens or curtains, as door or window covers, with insecticide-impregnated bed-nets is an economic and effective method to reduce the chances of mosquito bites. Mass prophylaxis with the drug “primaquine” was carried out this year in 7 selected high-risk counties. There is a need to strengthen the epidemiological surveillance for other communicable disease control and to improve the functioning of the Hygiene and Anti-epidemic Station.

### ***Family Planning – Unmet Demand for Services***

Total fertility rate, as quoted by UNFPA, was 2.1 in 2000, declining from 2.4 in 1990 (2.2 in 1993, 2.1 in 1996, 2.0 in 1999). Reports and observations from field visits indicate that fertility is gradually increasing since 1999 as the country recovers from the crisis of the mid-

1990s. The contraceptive prevalence rate for married couples, according to a 1997 Government survey in three provinces, supported by UNFPA, was 52% using modern methods and 67% by other methods. Intra-uterine device (IUD) was the most popular method (75%), followed by unspecified natural methods (17.7%) and female sterilization (6.5%). There is no additional information on access to family planning services in other provinces, or on the type of services available. Contraceptives are often not available at Ri-level. According to field reports condom use is increasing but is still insignificant. The exact data will be obtained from the government/UNFPA reproductive health survey this year. The figure for condom use among couples in 1997 was 0.4 %. Condoms can be obtained free of charge from reproductive health services. Condom use for protection rather than family planning is likely to be very limited. According to a recent UNFPA document, 23 per 1000 pregnancies are terminated (induced abortion).

There is thought to be a large unmet demand for modern family planning services but services and methods are not generally available. Considering the country's extensive health services infrastructure, there seems to be no reason why national family planning services cannot be put into place quickly. Expanding family planning services and broadening the choice of contraceptive methods should be a priority for UN System support.

### ***Ensuring access to basic health services***

Resource scarcities have led to under-utilization of capacities and to difficulties in operating and maintaining the level of services which prevailed up to about 1990. Current health expenditures (2001) are 5.9% of the National Budget as compared with 7.6% in 1990 and 8.4% in 1985. A higher level of spending is vital to the maintenance of an effective health system.

Access to first level health services at the Ri-level continues to be high but access to referral health services (county and provincial hospitals) has become increasingly difficult. Economic problems have limited the Government's capacity to provide transport and food for hospital patients and families now often have to make their own arrangements. With almost no public transport services these constraints are major barriers to referral, including for emergencies.

### ***The quality of health care of immediate concern***

It is the poor *quality* of the health services which is of most immediate concern. Much of the extensive health services infrastructure is poorly effective because of low quality.

Health staff knowledge and skills are low by international standards. Medical education has suffered because of a lack of resources as well as of little exposure to new developments in international best practice. There is an urgent need to fill this knowledge gap. One priority is to urgently invest in re-training of the current health workforce in line with international norms and standards. A second priority would be to adjust the current workforce to increase the intake of nurses (currently only 0.8 nurses per doctor).

A chronic shortage of medicines and supplies at all levels is an ongoing constraint to quality care. Local production of drugs has largely declined and there is insufficient budget or foreign currency for importation. Unlike most other countries, medicines cannot be purchased in local

pharmacies and the population therefore solely depends on the supply through the Government clinics or hospitals. International agencies provide substantial support for import of essential medicines and for limited local production, but it is necessary that the Government assume a greater responsibility to ensure better access to essential medicines at Ri- and county-level. Continued prioritization based on essential medicine principles and distribution systems will be important.

**Box Number 1**

***Traditional Medicine - An Asset***

*DPR Korea has a strong tradition in traditional medicine called Koryo Medicine, which is widely practiced alongside modern medicine. This has contributed to the health promotion of the people and treatment of diseases for thousands of years, and is well accepted by the community. Consequently, traditional medicine is one of the strong elements of the health care system in the country. At the central level there is a General Hospital of Koryo Medicine; all of the 12 provinces have Koryo Medicine Hospitals and each county hospital has a Koryo treatment department. During the difficult economic period, traditional medicine has filled in some of the gaps of modern medicine, but clearly does not replace the need for access to modern essential medicines.*

Most of the health services infrastructure is now in need of repair or rebuilding. Some exceptions are specialized hospitals in the capital, Pyongyang, which appear to have been maintained. Over the medium term therefore, extensive investment in new building will be needed to bring facilities up to an acceptable standard. The irregular supply of water and electricity continually restricts the capacity of the existing medical infrastructure to provide medical care beyond a basic minimum. The functioning of the health services therefore depends on the ability to solve the energy and water-sanitation problems of the country.

***Health system development – an increasing priority***

DPR Korea has developed an extensive health care system throughout the country, including in remote areas. The number of hospitals and hospital beds is higher than in many other countries. However, there is a need to review the health care system within the context of the current economic situation to make it more efficient and affordable. Adaptation of modern treatment also requires new approaches. For example, the DOTS strategy to control tuberculosis does not any longer require that patients stay in sanatoria as in the past. Also in order to improve the quality of maternity services, it may be beneficial to review the number of hospitals and institutions responsible for emergency obstetric care. In line with global trends, strengthening of community based care for psychiatric and mental health patients might be more cost-effective and improve their quality of life. Therefore, health system development should be a priority to improve the quality of the health care and make it more adapted to the current environment.

***Improving the health information system for better assessment, analysis, and planning***

There is a need to improve systems to generate and analyze health information. This will be crucial to support the revision of national health policies and health system development.

### ***Emphasising health education***

The high adult literacy rate and the extensive “section doctor” network are unique opportunities for effective health education. Many problems can be effectively *prevented or treated* at the family level. Areas of special attention are child-care practices, nutrition, reproductive health and tobacco use. A recent survey confirmed that 59.8 % of males above 16 years of age smoke, with an average daily consumption of 11 cigarettes.

#### ***BOX Number 2***

#### ***Keeping DPR Korea ‘Aids-free’***

HIV/AIDS is, so far, a limited problem in DPRK. However, more emphasis is needed on its prevention. As observed in neighbouring countries, HIV infections can spread rapidly after being introduced in the population. Risk factors for transmission of the disease exist in all populations. Particular risk factors in DPR Korea are poor injection practices and low quality of blood transfusion services. Blood is routinely tested for HIV, but economic constraints in the past several years may have compromised the capacity to test. Also, increasing cross border travel between the DPRK and China, a country with sharply increasing HIV infections, provides more potential exposure.

Experience from other countries shows that national strategic approaches, more awareness and knowledge, especially among young people, better access to condoms, prompt diagnosis and treatment of sexually transmitted infections, improved safe injections and access to a supply of safe blood, are essential for prevention. Global experience has also shown that public education and prevention are the only successful strategies for prevention of HIV/AIDS. Merely focusing on health aspects, without considering other aspects, like education and social conditions can hamper AIDS prevention. A UN Country Theme Group on HIV/AIDS has been established, with the participation of the Red Cross. The DPRK has a unique opportunity to take early preventive measures and avoid the severe economic and social consequences of AIDS. Clearly, HIV/AIDS is an area in which the UN system can provide support.

### ***External Assistance***

External aid is already playing a crucial role in maintaining basic health and nutrition services for a large part of the population. This has certainly saved lives, for example, provision of essential medicines and ORS has reduced the impact of diarrhoea and acute respiratory infections - the two main causes of childhood illness and mortality. There has as yet been little support to deal with systemic issues and to tackle underlying and basic determinants of ill health and malnutrition. However, humanitarian assistance has provided support for a significant improvement in essential public health programmes such as immunization and TB control. Polio eradication is well-on track. The national immunization system has been strengthened, although much more needs to be done, and is now in a position to support delivery of additional antigens and services including hepatitis B vaccine. In addition, these programmes are now ensured multi-year funding through access to various global funding mechanisms.

Although essential drugs and other supplies have been provided by international agencies, it has been irregular and has not covered full and actual needs. Reasonable coordination has

taken place between the agencies resident in DPRK, but much less coordination has taken place with non-resident NGOs that also provide substantial assistance to the health sector. It is therefore required to combine the efforts of the Government, international agencies and donors in a more decisive way to ensure that basic services are available and ensure better coordination under the leadership of the Government. The ad-hoc support, under the framework of emergency assistance, needs to be replaced with a development plan, aiming at restoration of basic health services. Such a plan will enable more effective use of the existing resources provided by the international agencies, and should be developed in cooperation with the Government, international agencies and donors.

***BOX Number 3***

***Access to New Global Funding Mechanisms***

Improvements in important public health programmes, such as immunization, control of malaria and tuberculosis, have been achieved with international assistance over the last three years. The universal immunization coverage was high with reported DPT3 coverage of 90% from 1989-95. In the 1998 Multi-Indicator Cluster Survey, the DPT3 coverage by card for children less than one year was found to be 37%. Since 1999, DPR Korea has been procuring EPI vaccines from abroad and immunization services have been re-established. In 2000, the Government of DPR Korea conducted the second MICS, as well as DPT3 coverage for children less than one year by card, which was found to be 62%. The introduction of DOTS has provided significant improvement in cure rates for patients with tuberculosis, and this will contribute to control of the disease in the country.

Support for strengthening the Immunization Programme is now ensured through the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI) and the DOTS Programme, with support from the Global TB Drug Facility (GDF) and the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM). These are multi-year funding mechanisms that will ensure resources over the next few years for these essential public health programmes.

# WATER ENVIRONMENTAL SANITATION

# WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL SANITATION

## **Introduction**

Over four decades after 1945, in line with the reconstruction of the country, the DPRK rapidly expanded its water and sanitation infrastructure, and universal access to safe water and adequate sanitation was almost achieved by the 1980s. At that time, access to safe water and sanitation was among the highest in the region and this underpinned the impressive gains made in the health and nutritional status for the population. This rapid increase in access was achieved, however, at the expense of spending on maintenance and upkeep of the already installed systems. Much of the present day water and sanitation infrastructure was installed thirty to fifty years ago and is now in poor condition throughout most of the country. In those areas where the water supply infrastructure is functioning, energy shortages are a major constraint to effective operation.

## **National Policy Framework**

Although the DPRK Constitution does not specify water and environmental sanitation as a right, it is recognized through international commitments and specific laws. The DPRK signed and ratified the International Covenant on Economic Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) in 1981, which guarantees standards of living as well as the right to health - both of which are closely related to water, sanitation and hygiene. The Public Law on Health articulates the State's duty in preventing the spread of disease and also mentions the importance of education for hygiene.

In the past, Government policy was to provide water and sanitation services to the entire population free of charge. Recently announced economic reforms will require people to pay. However, costs recovered on this basis will be marginal and inadequate for addressing the required scale of rehabilitation in the water and sanitation systems. Rehabilitation will require large-scale investment that will exceed the current capacity of the public sector. At best, user charges will contribute partially to some of the running costs of the system. The impact of the introduction of user fees will need to be monitored closely.

## **Key Issues**

### **Water Supply**

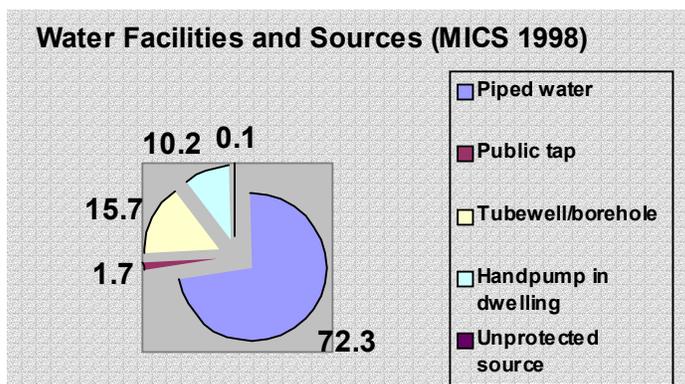
The deterioration of the water system has resulted in the significant decrease in the supply of potable water. This is evidenced by the decline in the daily water production from 304 litres per capita in 1994 to 289 litres per capita in 1998.<sup>2</sup> Access to piped water dropped from 83% to just 53% during this same timeframe according to the Government<sup>3</sup>. Reports from the international community indicate that access to piped water has continued to fall significantly. A 2002 assessment of water supply and sanitation needs in three counties (Kosan County in Kangwon province and Kowon and Jongpyong counties in South Hamgyong Province) indicates that 80% of the water supply needs of the population remain unmet. More

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<sup>2</sup>Government figures cited in OCHA DPRK Sector Report: Water And Environmental Sanitation, June 2002. Original citation still unknown.

<sup>3</sup> 5th Ministerial consultation for the East Asia and the Pacific region in May 2001

specifically, the water supply remains at 50 litres/day/person, which represents just 20% of the government target of 250 litres/day/per capita at the county level (where the majority of the institutions are situated). At the Ri level<sup>4</sup>, a 50% shortfall from the 100 litres/day/per capita Government target was noted during the same assessment. Ongoing assessments in different counties confirm these findings. The implications are grave since the majority of the population relies on piped water (72.3% in 1998) as its major water source.



Shortfalls in water supply have multiple causes that range from the inadequacy of water sources, which require re-planning, to the maintenance and rehabilitation of the water storage structures, pipeline (delivery and distribution) systems, and pumping systems. Leakage due to rusty pipes exacerbates supply problems. One estimate by the Snowy Mountains Engineering Corporation (SMEC)

suggests that over 50% of water produced could be lost due to leaking pipes<sup>5</sup>. The Ministry of City Management (MoCM) estimates a leakage ratio of 50% or more. In addition to aging motors and pumps that are incapable of distributing the maximum yield, key connections are lacking due to missing parts and maintenance of electrical equipment. Also restricted by recurrent power shortages, water-pumping stations are unable to supply adequate amounts of water. In 1998, the mean hours of piped water available in dwellings were 9.1 hours per day. Reports suggest that this has decreased significantly particularly in the North Eastern part of the Country. According to one estimate in Kangwon Province, electricity is only available for 5-9 hours per day.

The situation of water supply systems in rural areas is very similar to that in urban areas. In addition to the inadequacies of the water quantity, very old piped water supply systems have broken down mainly due to the natural oxidation and corrosion of the old galvanized steel pipes. As a result, most of the population relies on old traditional wells, quite often poorly protected and subjected to contamination. In some villages, the IFRC and NGOs have rehabilitated the water supply systems by installing new properly constructed wells and tanks on top of nearby hills, from where the water is supplied by gravity through new reticulated network systems constructed with non-corrodible polyethylene (PE) pipes. However, access to regular supply of electricity to operate pumps, continues to be a problem. In some localities, electricity is available only for 2 hours daily.

## Water Quality

Although official figures on water quality are not readily available, reports of sub-standard water quality and contamination are common. The Ministry of City Management (MoCM) notes that outbreaks of water borne diseases caused by secondary contamination of water in the pipelines remain a major problem.

<sup>4</sup> Government defined target

Low water pressure in supply pipes as a result of limited pumping capacity constrains efficient and effective treatment of water by allowing leakage of sewage in to the water supply pipes. The degeneration of sewage systems in most cities, provincial and county towns has resulted in the contamination of water systems. Leaking sewage and water pipes that are laid alongside each other are the major cause of contamination. The inadequacies of filtration systems and shortages in calcium hypochlorite are also immediate causes of water contamination.

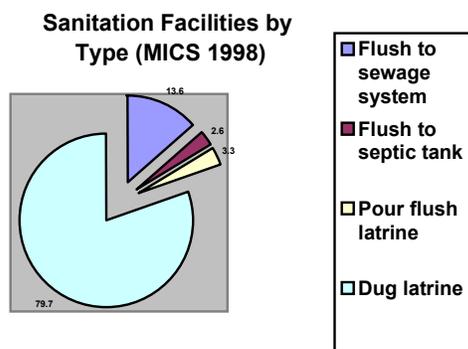
While the urban population is more vulnerable to waterborne diseases than the population in rural areas, because of their greater reliance on piped water and regular contamination. Inadequate water quality is also a problem in many rural areas.

A 1998 limited assessment by Oxfam U.K. revealed that all wells reviewed fell into the intermediate to high-risk fecal contamination categories. In many cases, rural areas are reliant on shallow wells that are just 3-10 metres deep and are, therefore, vulnerable to surface water run-off (flooding) and infiltration by rainwater. Moreover, the quality of water from shallow wells is sometimes diminished by the heavy use of fertilizers including human excreta, on adjacent agricultural areas. Furthermore, the proximity of latrines to wells is known to infiltrate and contaminate well water. For example, of 16 spot checks carried out on cooperative farms at water points around nurseries, kindergartens, schools, health clinics and hospitals, 50% (8) were notably contaminated. Groundwater protection zones of water sources is lacking largely due to understandable pressure for agriculture.

Testing and monitoring of water quality is regularly undertaken at anti-epidemic stations (AES) of the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH). Although DPRK standards for water supply and quality are comparable to the WHO guidelines and the European standards, the AES lack updated and appropriate equipment and supplies, and their capacity is restricted due to outdated reagents with reduced potency and inadequate capacity to collect and store water samples. Similarly, the staff capacity to collect and store water samples is limited, as is their capacity for data analysis and interpretation.

Regardless of capacity, there is an underlying gap between the collection, analysis and response to information. This must be developed at the county level where joint planning and action is needed by staff of all sectors involved.

### Sanitation



As demonstrated in figure 2, the majority of the population relies on dug latrines. (In 1998, the MICS reported 79.7%). The danger of transmitting vector borne diseases, overflow and contamination is significant with dug and open pit latrines. As previously mentioned the location and flooding of open latrines contribute to infiltration of the water supply systems.

Water shortages require the widespread change of flush toilets to either pour flush or dry composite latrines. The MICS survey noted that the condition

of latrines observed in targeted institutions was below the minimum standard established for such institutions.

## Hygiene Education and Practice

Reduced water supply and inadequate quality remains a challenge. Very little is known about hygiene practices such as hand washing in DPRK. The population appears to be highly dependent on tap water and modern soap as a disinfectant. It remains unclear how the population is adapting to the shortages of both water and soap. There are no known traditional alternatives to soap. Hygiene practices are likely to be compromised in urban areas that are most severely impacted by shortages in piped water supply. In rural areas, where human excrement is used as fertilizer and regular washing is of the utmost importance, hygiene is likely to be compromised by the shortages of water, soap and disinfectants.

Reduced standards of hygiene contribute to an increased disease burden, which is disproportionately borne primarily by women and children. Inadequate water supply and hygiene conditions are constraints to human development. Water-borne infections and diarrhoea frequently lead to prolonged illness and contribute to malnutrition. Diarrhoea accounts for 15% of deaths in children below the age of five. CONCERN Worldwide estimates that 40-50% of all illnesses in one county are related to inadequacies in water, sanitation and hygiene practices. This figure can rise to 60-70% in the rainy season. Skin diseases such as scabies have also been noted by international organizations. These too are related to the inadequate quantity and quality of water supply and to poor hygiene conditions and practices.

The social burdens of inadequacies in water quality and supply also fall upon women and children. Specifically, the collection of water and of fuel for the purpose of boiling water has added to women's workload. A short to medium term response to water quality contamination recommended by the MoPH is the widespread boiling of drinking water. Although there are no official figures and there is likely to be regional variation, it is estimated that women spend 1-2 hours a day collecting water.

Water shortages and the breakdown of sanitation systems also have a negative impact on children within institutions such as baby homes, nurseries and kindergartens. Caregivers report that collecting water and maintenance of basic hygienic conditions demand significant portions of their time and detract from their capacity for direct interaction with the children. With the already low ratio of caregivers to children (1:10), this has troubling implications for children's care and raises questions regarding the levels of hygiene in child care institutions. From international experience, inadequacies in water and sanitation systems in primary and secondary schools can contribute to increased absenteeism amongst girls. There is no reason to believe that the DPRK is an exception.

## External Assistance

The Government regards water and environmental sanitation as a priority. However, investment has suffered due to economic hardships and has been highly inadequate. Until 2000, the overarching emphasis was placed on the management of the humanitarian crisis and averting mass starvation. The role of international donors in the WES context was oriented towards the provision of supplies (such as pipes, water containers, and soap) and *ad hoc* repair. Donor support did not respond to assessment-based requests, nor did it contribute towards a systematic effort for increasing water supply. Technical involvement of external agencies in the application and use of the supplies was initially restricted.

An agreement was signed between MoCM and the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development in March 2002 for the rehabilitation of the Pyongyang city water supply by the Snowy Mountain Development Corporation, an Australian company. This is notable for two reasons. First, this is a rare and somewhat novel incidence of collaboration with a foreign private sector company and, second, because it represents a recognition that alternative investment is required to rehabilitate urban water systems of this scale and that humanitarian assistance cannot respond to this type of need.

Donor responses, although on a modest scale, have been co-ordinated. The key actors: Cooperazione e Sviluppo (CESVI), German Agro Action (GAA), CONCERN Worldwide, Triangle, and UNICEF are unified in supporting MoCM in undertaking local county-based assessment and responses. Through its work with the National Society, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is also responsible for significant progress in the development of the water and environmental sanitation systems. Notable strengths of IFRC and NGO activities rest in their field presence. IFRC works through the DPRK Red Cross, which has an impressive network of volunteers present at both County- and Ri-levels.

The current arrangements of development cooperation divide the country between IFRC and UNICEF in the water and environmental sanitation sector according to geographical sections (IFRC works in three provinces and one city with UNICEF working in 6 provinces and two cities). Although such a division based on geography might be suitable for a supply-oriented programme, it does not lend itself towards formulating development responses on a wider scale or promoting strategic upstream development based on donor cooperation.

County-level assessments represent a manageable and effective strategy at present. It establishes the model for responsive programming methods based on assessment and analysis. In doing so, the pilots are oriented towards integrated planning and development of the WES sector to support institutions that are critical to the overall well being of women, children and the entire community. They also focus on the behaviour of users and ensure that the knowledge attitudes, practices surrounding use of WES systems and hygiene practices are addressed.

Although useful and novel as demonstration models, piloting at the County level does not represent an adequate strategy for the scale of response for rehabilitation of the system nationwide. This is an area, which will undoubtedly require private sector expertise as well as larger-scale investments. These might come from bilateral donors or international financial institutions.

The long-term comparative advantage of the UNS rests in supporting MoCM in the ongoing rehabilitation effort through policy dialogue and the development of an enabling environment. This will complement the continual development of pilots, which can be used as models for demonstrating how the best and most equitable results may be achieved.

### **Lessons Learned**

A sustainable response to the control of diarrhoea, and malnutrition is inherently reliant on the investment and improvement of hygiene practices, water and environmental sanitation systems :

- The past preferential focus on water supply extension detracted from the accurate appraisal and understanding of technical requirements for rehabilitation.
- County-based diagnostic assessments provide the basis for rational and efficient resource use in rehabilitation in the immediate term. However, the wider-scale rehabilitation will be contingent on both the investment and the expertise of bilateral donors or the private sector and prospectively, one day, the international financial institutions.
- The piloting at the County level is valuable towards developing capacity for: (i) responsive planning based on assessment and analysis, (ii) integrated planning and (iii) addressing knowledge attitudes and practices that underlie hygiene. Lessons from these demonstration models can be brought to scale where appropriate or replicated in the future.
- The longer-term comparative advantage of the UNS is to support the development of an enabling environment and policy, while supporting the capacity building of MoCM through piloting.
- The progress made on the development of water and environmental sanitation systems thus far has been contingent on the quality of cooperation with MoCM. The development of water and environmental sanitation systems can be both accelerated and improved by the establishment of direct cooperation with MoCM.
- The disconnection between MoPH and MoCM in the monitoring of water quality and WES rehabilitation detracts from responsiveness and integration of the rehabilitation of the WES sector.

# EDUCATION

## EDUCATION

The DPRK has made impressive gains in education since 1945. By the 1970's, the country had met some of the key global education goals, including universal literacy and school enrolment. This success reflected the strong national commitment to free and compulsory education and the establishment of an extensive network of primary and secondary schools and institutions of higher learning. Unfortunately the quality of education has suffered, particularly since the early 1990's, due to a combination of the state's reduced capacity to maintain its large investments in the sector and an inadequate contact with recent international developments in education. The challenge for the education sector now is to shift from quantitative development to quality improvement and to increase its responsiveness to new national needs – a challenge that must not be underestimated.

### National Policies

Consistent with Socialist ideals, the Constitution provides a legal guarantee for the right to basic education and as early as the 1950's significant education policies were already in place.

#### *Key National Education Policies*

- Compulsory primary education and abolition of tuition fees 1956
- Compulsory secondary education and abolition of tuition fees 1958
- Free education 1959
- Compulsory 9 years education 1967
- Compulsory 11 years education 1972
- Law on Nursing and Upbringing of children 1976
- System of Socialist Education 1977

Underpinned by ideology, education in the DPRK promotes socialist pedagogy and engenders participation in public life and production. This motivation echoes throughout the legal and policy framework, which articulates the importance of building a new revolutionary generation through education and care of children and the building of socialism. The education system is considered a central pillar of nation building and national commitment to education and learning is strong. Education policy has evolved over the past four decades in response to the national vision. Policy development capacity will now be challenged by the need to increase the responsiveness of the education system, a challenge compounded by a resource-poor outlook.

#### *International Commitments*

Reflecting the strength of the national commitment to education the country has reconfirmed its commitments to basic education and to the achievement of international goals and targets at each of the major conferences in the past ten years, and as recently as this year.

#### *DPRK International Commitments in Education*

- World Conference on Education for All (EFA), Jomtien 1990
- Convention on the Rights of the Child, New York 1990
- International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights 1981

- World Summit for Children, New York 1990
- World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen 1995
- World Conference on Women and Development, Beijing 1995
- World Education Forum, Dakar (Framework for Action) 2000
- Millenium Summit (Millenium Development Goals) 2000
- UNGASS for Children, New York (World Fit for Children) 2002

The Dakar Framework for Action, April 2000, serves as the basis for the country's Education for All (EFA) national planning. Achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) for education, adopted later in 2000, is now an over-riding priority of the UN system and a reference for most of the international community. The MDGs are consistent with, but more focussed than, the Dakar Framework for Action, giving priority to primary education and to reducing gender disparities. The MDGs are currently little known at national level.

*Progress towards international goals and targets*

A national campaign in the 1940's achieved near universal adult literacy and by the late 1980s over 10,000 primary and secondary schools, 40,000 nurseries and pre-schools and almost 200,000 teachers were in place. An extensive network of "branch" schools met the needs of remote rural communities, including those on offshore islands and institutions opened for children in need of special care – including the orphaned and handicapped. With geographic and financial access barriers removed, enrolments and attendance increased sharply. Almost universal completion of primary and secondary schooling underpinned remarkable improvements in the health and nutritional status of the population. Mortality and fertility rates fell consistently over the period 1960 to 1990.

Access to basic education in the DPRK is now among the best in the region.

*Key Indicators DPRK*

Net enrolment in primary education	100%
Completion to grade 5	100%
Adult literacy	100%
Pupil : teacher ratio (primary)	23:1
Pupil : teacher ratio (secondary)	21:1

According to official figures, four of the six Dakar Framework for Action Goals have been achieved as well as all of the MDG targets. National priorities are now directed towards achievement of Dakar goals 3 and 6.

## Dakar Framework for Action Goals

<i>Goal</i>	<i>Status</i>
1. Universal free and compulsory education	Achieved
2. Eradication of illiteracy among adults, especially women	Achieved
3. Appropriate learning and life skills programmes for young people and adults	Not achieved
4. Removal of gender disparities in primary and secondary education	Achieved
5. Comprehensive early childhood care and education	Achieved
6. Improved quality of education	Not achieved

### *Millennium Development Goals*

*Goal: Achieve Universal Primary Education*

Goal: Eliminate Gender Disparities

<b>Targets</b>	<b>Indicators</b>	<i>Status 2000</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure that by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling</li> </ul>	• Net enrolment in primary education	100%
	• Proportion of pupils starting grade 1 who reach grade 5	100%
	• Adult literacy rate	100%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education, preferably by 2005, and to all levels of education no later than 2015</li> </ul>	• Ratio of girls to boys in primary, secondary and tertiary education	1:1
	• Ratio of literate females to males 15 – 24 year olds	1:1
		Source: MoE EFA Report 2000

Despite these remarkable achievements in education, a number of recent issues have begun to challenge and even reverse some of the impressive gains of the past three decades. Ministry of Education reports that fluctuating attendance is greatest in the north and northeast regions, especially during the winter months when the lack of school heating prevents regular class activities in extreme weather. Field reports from the international agencies confirm this. Overall, the national picture is of almost universal enrolment and very high attendance but a more detailed analysis is needed to identify the extent of the problem, especially for girls, who are known, by international experience, to suffer disproportionately in these types of situations and in the context of hardship.

### **Key Issues to be Addressed**

#### ***Focusing on Early Childhood Education***

Lessons from international experience in education demonstrate that early childhood is a critical window of opportunity for developing children's aptitude and capacity for learning

throughout their life. (Medical research and educational scores have undisputedly confirmed this). The DPRK is one of the few countries in the world that has established an impressive network of childcare institutions. The DPRK's policy of institutionalized care means that the majority of young children are in nurseries and kindergartens – the second year of kindergarten is compulsory - and this presents unique opportunities to contribute to optimum early development and school readiness. However, these institutions have been primarily centred on the guardianship of children. The existing ratio of caregivers to children is between 1:8 - 1:10, which is inadequate for providing the necessary psychosocial stimulation and the sophisticated care necessary for optimal development of young children. Shortages of toys and learning aids appropriate for early childhood also constrain the quality of nursery care. The Early Childhood Development (ECD) approach is a relatively new approach and, it is therefore not surprising that caregivers lack training in appropriate care and educational practices. Strengthening the links between the family and the child-care institutions must also be addressed in order to improve the quality of care for young children.

Ensuring school readiness through optimal early childhood development will require assessment and capacity building of the existing early childhood institutions. The DPRK's existing commitment and extensive institutional structures for childcare are positive factors that will support the success of this approach to education.

#### *Improving the relevance and quality of learning*

Improving education relevance and quality is a stated priority of the Government. The improvement in the overall quality of the education system will be central to modernization. Resources are limited so careful choices will have to be made and realistic implementation strategies selected. The country has a unique opportunity to place itself at the cutting edge of education by harnessing the best of the latest international developments in education.

Given the importance of the early years of education, primary education can be enhanced by emphasising analytical problem solving and the introduction of systematic assessments to monitor overall learning achievements and outcomes. Modernisation will require the re-examination of teaching methods, curriculum content and classroom materials, which have not kept pace with international learning in education. There will need to be a review of the length of primary schooling since, compared with international norms, the length of primary schooling could be extended. The educational system in the DPRK is oriented to recurrent teacher training. Enhancing teacher training with updated methods will improve the learning environment and achievement significantly. Over 200,000 pre-university teachers as well as education administrators will need to be re-trained in modern pedagogy and new concepts of learning. There has been a general decline in the school environment and many schools lack textbooks and basic student materials including textbooks, pencils, notebooks etc.

#### *Reducing the risks to girls' education*

The returns from investing in girls' education are very significant. Improvements in education quality for girls and in learning outcomes for girls will have significant socio-economic benefits for the country. In the DPRK there are a number of very positive factors in favour of girls' learning. It is encouraging to see, for example, many female teachers at nursery, kindergarten and primary grades. However, several negative factors lead us to conclude that overall, the risks to girls' education have increased over the past decade.

### *Ensuring adequate financing for basic education*

The national budget share for education has remained consistent at about 11% annually between 1994 and 1999 showing a strong commitment to education. However, economic difficulties have resulted in progressively reduced education spending over the past decades.

The overall result is a shortage of textbooks and basic school materials, run-down of school environments and reduced teacher training opportunities. Almost all the education budget is spent on staff salaries, leaving few resources for quality improvements - the Government's priority in education.

The economic outlook does not look favourable for an early return to high education spending and in this resource-limited situation sound education planning in the next few years will be critical. The current education system in the DPRK is extensive and costs are high. These will rise further with the envisaged increase in the education cohort. Maximising efficiency will be essential. The over-riding challenge will be to ensure adequate financing for basic education - pre-school and primary - in the face of multiple competing priorities. A second challenge will be to ensure the necessary resources for quality improvement. In this situation, it will be important to advocate increased national resources for education, targeted towards priority education areas. Considering the national economic outlook, a significant increase in external assistance for education over the next decade will be essential.

### *Increasing external assistance*

Aid funding to education from all sources is currently estimated at less than USD 1 million annually, mainly from UNICEF-UNESCO for textbook printing, basic school materials and IT equipment; from WFP/UNICEF for school feeding; from Italy (bilateral aid) for text books and basic school materials; from some non resident NGOs, including Caritas, for school materials. Occasionally, larger scale assistance is received from some of the DPRK's traditional partners, notably China.

This aid is all humanitarian, in response to the current crisis. This humanitarian aid is inadequate and irregular and insufficient even to respond to the immediate needs. Shortages of basic materials and textbooks continue. Although a modest increase in humanitarian aid to education is foreseen in the short term, on the back of improved DPRK-donor relations, significant increases in aid cannot be foreseen. In anticipation of a gradually improving development environment and co-operation, and increasing opportunities to access international funding for education, including from the IFIs, a sector review and planning process is now a priority. Clearly stated education priorities and a medium term strategic plan will be pre-requisites to secure the significant development funding needed.

The planned sector review "Planning for EFA", with UNESCO and UNICEF assistance, due to be completed in early 2003, will be critical to guide medium term priorities and external assistance. An education sector development plan to be finalised in early 2003 will outline medium term priorities and costs. Learning about past and from ongoing international experiences will be critical for the education sector to upgrade and modernise. The country has a unique opportunity to place itself at the cutting edge in education by harnessing the best of the latest international developments in education. Technical assistance to the DPRK will be critical to support the development plan and implementation of changes.

The UN System, particularly UNESCO and UNICEF will be able to play a role in linking the DPRK with the latest international experience and to help develop global partnerships. Direct funding through the UN system will be important but advocacy of increased aid from other partners will be even more so. This implies a greater emphasis on policy and strategy dialogue and building capacities in education rather than restricting the UN System co-operation to supply support. Investing in building the capacity of the Ministry of Education for policy development, planning and management in education will be critical. Current institutional arrangements for partnerships in education could be strengthened.

- UN Girls' Education Initiative (UNGEI) – a partnership of 13 UN entities under the leadership of UNICEF.
- Education for All (EFA) – a partnership of international agencies, coordinated by UNESCO. UNICEF is a founding partner.

The UN system is well placed to support the participation of the DPRK in international education initiatives, facilitating the exposure of DPRK specialists to international trends and best practices, promoting the expanded vision of EFA and publicizing and advocating for the MDGs.

#### *Challenges in Education*

- Increasing the effectiveness of early childhood development and school readiness
- Increasing responsiveness and quality of education in the new external context
- Ensuring basic education remains a priority
- Increasing quality of information for analysis
- Monitoring the special situation for girls
- Monitoring the impact of new socio-economic changes on education access and equity
- Ensuring adequate financing for education

**GENDER**

#### **Box Number 4      GENDER DIMENSIONS IN DEVELOPMENT**

*“Women are accorded equal status and rights as men.  
The state provides special protection to mothers and children  
Through maternity leave, shortened working hours for mothers of  
Large families, increasing the network of maternity hospitals,  
Preschools and kindergartens and other measures.  
The state creates various conditions for the advancement of women in society”*  
Article 76 of the Constitution of DPR Korea (April 1992)

DPR Korea has a long commitment to women's rights. Practices such as forced prostitution, buying and selling of women, forced marriages and polygamy have been abolished. Men and women are legally equal since 1946. In 2001 the Government acceded to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), reinforcing its commitment to ensuring the rights of women. DPR Korea has reportedly enacted several legislative measures to grant women preferential treatment in working life, and in the context of nursing and upbringing of children. The Labour Law, the Law on Nursing and Upbringing of Children and the Public Health Law contain provisions to ensure the protection of women and their health, and also to enable them to devote time and attention to the care of children. Women also play an active role, on equal terms with men in the political, economic, social and cultural arenas. One fifth of the Deputies to the Peoples Assemblies are women. Employment wise, 48% of the workforce are women. In 1998, female technicians and specialists numbered 726,000, an impressive figure for any developing country.

While the achievements of DPR Korea in ensuring the equality of men and women are impressive, there have been setbacks since the early 1990's due to economic constraints and natural calamities. Food insecurity has led to increased malnutrition, especially among women and children. Resource shortfalls in health and education sectors have resulted in declining access to health and education, particularly affecting women and children. Vulnerable groups, where women predominate have been severely affected by food scarcities. The effect on rural households of food and energy shortages have been more severely felt by women than by men. The quality of maternal health services appears to have declined. In 1996 maternal mortality was around 110 to 100,000 live births and this figure has increased subsequently. The general experience in other parts of the world has been that women bear the brunt of the adverse effects arising from resource scarcities, and evidence from DPR Korea is no exception.

UN Agencies have continued to support the Government to ensure that a gender perspective is fully integrated into humanitarian and development activities and programmes in DPR Korea. Based on their policy statement for the integration of a gender perspective in humanitarian and development assistance in DPR Korea, the Inter-Agency Forum (May 1999) pledged to implement strategies to ensure that gender issues are in the mainstream of their activities. This aim is to be achieved through ensuring the organisation of appropriate disaggregated data, undertaking gender-sensitive studies and preparing guidelines and checklists for programming and also in related monitoring and evaluation studies and building capacities to mainstream gender. The UN has also initiated activities to support Government in enhancing the role of women in economic activities.

The UNDP / UNIFEM / Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation project on improving the Economic Viability of Cottage Industry in Pyongyang is aimed at strengthening the capacities of the Pyongyang Women's Trading and Garment Centre in accessing International Markets and improving their entrepreneurial skills. Other UN activities are targeting women, including through food aid and humanitarian assistance, to improve their livelihoods and standards of living.

# ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY

## ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY

Environment and energy are important subject areas in their own right. There are also extensive linkages between the two and therefore it is appropriate to examine the issues involved together. The main energy sources for DPR Korea are coal and hydro-power. Coal utilization, has led to extensive pollution, affecting urban and rural environments. Hydro-power, being a renewable source of energy (although its generation might have some adverse environmental implications) can generally be considered as environmentally benign, and DPR Korea's significant potential for hydro-power is an important element in the environment and energy equation. Energy has also been the focus of an important mechanism of development cooperation, involving several external partners. Although UN interventions in environment and energy are not extensive, several UN projects (environmental pollution, biodiversity, and prospectively, rural energy) have an important catalytic potential. The difficulties since the early 1990's - major food deficits, energy shortages - have had a massive impact on food security, food production, access to food, environmental degradation, on health and education and, generally, on the quality of life in the rural areas, with major adverse consequences on women and vulnerable groups of the population.

### ENVIRONMENT

#### *The Overall Picture*

DPR Korea has major endowments in the form of water and forest resources, nearly 70% of its land area is covered by some type of forest. It has abundant water resources. A long coastline provides it with important maritime resources. DPR Korea has a rich heritage of biodiversity consisting of globally important, plant and animal life assets. 30% of the total land area is covered by alpine ecosystems. Recent estimates suggests that there are nearly 9,000 species of plants and nearly 1,500 species of vertebrates (fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, mammals), constituting 3.2% of vertebrate species globally. These rich natural assets need to be preserved, through appropriate policies and methodologies for their conservation.

DPR Korea has been seriously engaged with the global community in being a partner in managing the global environment. It is a party to all the significant global conventions on environmental issues, especially those following on the 1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED). It has signed and ratified Agenda 21, the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Vienna Convention to Protect the Ozone Layer, the Montreal Protocol for phasing out Ozone Depleting Substances and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. The Government of DPR Korea is committed to the implementation of these agreements. Even before these agreements, since the 1950's, the DPR Korea has been conscious of its responsibilities with regard to the environment, and has established over a hundred protected areas (biosphere reserves, nature parks, nature reserves, landscape reserves, plant reserves, animal reserves, seabird reserves, wetland reserves, special marine resource reserves, special freshwater reserves) covering nearly 20% of the country. This is an impressive array of natural assets closely monitored for conservation. Since being a party to global conventions, DPR Korea's commitment has been intensified. It has adopted the Law on Forest in 1992, the Law on Marine Products in 1995, the Law on Land, the Law on Water Resources and the Law on Marine Pollutant Control.

### *Key Environmental Issues*

**Forest Degradation** - A qualitative decline in the condition of DPR Korea's forests can be observed in the last decade. Problems associated with food scarcity and energy supplies have led to increased fuelwood consumption and the denudation of forest land for cultivation, especially on mountain slopes. Forest fires and other natural calamities have also led to a considerable decline in the area covered by forests. Forest degradation has affected the quality of living of the rural population, and women have been burdened with greater difficulties to access fuelwood. Recent economic difficulties have affected the rate at which new forest plantings and re-forestation is being undertaken.

Water Pollution – As noted earlier, DPR Korea is rich in water resources, with the total annual volume of precipitation estimated at 127 billion m<sup>3</sup>. The river systems, which are the main sources of water, have been considerably polluted in recent years, due to population pressures and the increasing release of untreated industrial effluent, by industrial establishments. Purification plants at these enterprises are outdated and the technology is highly deficient. The quality of the river water has also been affected by the degradation of forest land especially on mountain slopes aggravating soil erosion and floods. Cleaning up the river system and reducing water pollution therefore calls for an integrated approach. While laws have been enacted to improve the quality of water, what is urgently required is to ensure their implementation. This requires significant investments in new anti pollution technologies.

Air Pollution – Air quality has deteriorated particularly in urban areas. The heavy utilization of coal in power generation has led to emissions of coal dust. The use of coal in factories and households for heating and cooking is an important cause of air pollution. Clean coal technologies would probably make a significant contribution to decreasing air pollution.

Marine Conservation – Coastal provinces and cities account for 67% of land area and about the same proportion of the population lives there. The coastal environment is recognized by DPR Korea as an important natural and development resource. A joint GEF/UNDP/IMO regional project has supported the establishment of a national demonstration site for integrated coastal management in Nampo City. An important aim of the project is to control and reverse marine pollution, occurring especially from industrial waste.

Decline in Bio-diversity - Although, DPR Korea has policies and programmes in place to conserve bio-diversity, environmental degradation of all kinds – forest degradation, water pollution, air pollution – have combined to constitute a major hazard to the conservation of natural resources. The environment cannot be fragmented, and attention focused largely on bio-diversity will fail to deliver optimal effects, unless there is a more integrated approach to environmental issues.

**Box Number 5      Implementing the Convention on Bio-Diversity (CBD)**

Globalization is not exclusively an economic phenomenon. The structure of international conventions, which has emerged since 1992, is illustrative of the type of globalization processes in areas such as the environment. State parties to these conventions undertake their own measures to implement global agreements. Multilateral agreements of this type constitute the most appropriate way to manage global problems. In DPR Korea, UNDP in association with GEF has embarked on two projects to conserve bio-diversity. They are relatively small projects, although they have a large significance in terms of DPR Korea's commitment to implement global agreements. The project on Coastal Biodiversity Management of DPR Korea's West Sea is part of the implementation process of the CBD. The project will build on national diversity priorities by taking a comprehensive approach to all biodiversity values of global importance along the coastline of the gulf of West Korea and developing a strategic eco-system approach to managing biodiversity. Similarly, the project on Conservation of Biodiversity at Mount Myohyang in DPR Korea, considered a globally significant area for the conservation of forest types and plant and animal species, will aim at developing information systems and strengthen management capacities, while involving local stakeholders in managing biodiversity. In the long term, the project should result in the protected area obtaining national parks status (category II), as defined by the World Conservation Union. This again is a reflection of the application of international norms in the management of biodiversity practices locally. The project also associates as a cost-sharing and implementing partner, the New York-based Wildlife Conservation Society.

**ENERGY**

Energy supply scarcities are probably the most damaging constraint on DPR Korea's economic growth and social welfare since 1990s. Economic decline and natural disasters have combined to create a vicious circle of energy scarcities, low economic growth, declines in food and nutrition, all of which adversely affect the social safety network. It is estimated that the current consumption of energy is less than half of what it was in the early 1990s. DPR Korea's two main commercial energy sources are coal and hydropower, with oil accounting for only about 12% of total power supplies. Fertiliser production has been severely affected by power shortages, with production now at about 1/6 of the level of 1990. Resource scarcities have also resulted in delays in the replacement of outdated equipment in the power sector, and therefore to inefficient use of coal and hydropower. In the earlier sections, the environmental implications of the use of outdated technologies, especially in coal utilization were referred to. Several key aspects of the energy sector require urgent action.

Maintenance and repair of power plants and transmission and end-use equipment to obtain maximum efficiency in power generation and supplies is a key issue. Outdated technology, has to be phased out, and cleaner technologies introduced. Modernizing the power sector, and ensuring an adequate supply of power require major new investments, which are currently beyond the capacity of DPR Korea. Greater access to external development finance can make a major difference. This is the type of investment most appropriate for multilateral financial institutions and major bilateral donors.

Rural energy is a critical factor in the overall energy picture. Shortfalls in rural energy supplies have led to declines in agricultural production, under-utilisation of irrigation systems, disruption of transport and distribution arrangements, an adverse impact on rural health and education, and to a general decline in rural living standards. DPR Korea is in the process of developing a rural energy sector strategy linked to a follow-up investment programme. This is being undertaken with the assistance of UNDP. The sector study will need to be followed-up with the flow of more investments into the sector. Investments on a modest scale could make a large difference to the rural economy and to rural welfare, including significant improvements in the conditions of rural women.

- DPR Korea is relatively strong in the renewable energy sector. Hydropower accounts for a large proportion of generated power. The hydropower potential of DPR Korea is estimated at about 12,000 megawatts, of which only about 1/3 has so far been exploited. There are major opportunities for small, decentralized hydropower development. There have been efforts to establish cooperative arrangements between DPR Korea and China on small hydropower development. Wind power has an important potential, yet to be developed.

- DPR Korea's power development programmes can benefit considerably by being placed in the context of a wider North East Asian perspective. There are opportunities for inter-Governmental cooperation, bringing together, China, Japan, Mongolia, Republic of Korea and the Russian Federation. There have been some discussions for mutually beneficial inter-Governmental cooperation in the energy/electricity sector within North East Asia. An expert group in ESCAP has examined the feasibility of such cooperation. While it is too far-fetched to consider a common market for the power sector, it is probably feasible to explore initial steps in cooperating in the development of the power sector at the regional level. This is an area where the UN System has a comparative advantage in facilitating the start of what would inevitably be a long-term process. It could even be considered as a project along the lines of UN's long involvement in the Tumen River development in North East Asia.

# DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

## DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

### *Current Patterns*

Development Cooperation is an important and integral part of engaging in the world economy. Expanded arrangements for development cooperation can enable a country to take the initial steps in a more vigorous process of trading and economic interaction with the rest of the world. Currently, DPR Korea is engaged in development cooperation activities only with a selected number of countries, and therefore cannot be described as being fully engaged with the international development system. Up to nearly a decade ago, DPR Korea had extensive interactions with other centrally planned economies in Asia and Europe and various forms of development cooperation activities were in place. In recent years, there have been mechanisms for development cooperation, especially with neighbouring countries.

Apart from the above arrangements, development cooperation is currently limited in DPR Korea to a modest scale of interventions through UN System Agencies, several bilateral donors, also on a very restricted scale, and to a few NGOs. The bulk of the assistance that is obtained from the international community is humanitarian assistance. Most of the humanitarian assistance has been in the form of food aid, and only limited amounts have been allocated in other sectors such as health, water and sanitation, and education. A more detailed scrutiny of the Consolidated Appeals Process (CAP) reveals that humanitarian assistance includes items such as basic medical equipment and supplies of educational material. In the eye of the recipients, there is hardly a distinction between development assistance, especially those going into the social sectors and humanitarian assistance. Humanitarian forms of assistance can include rehabilitation measures, which are critical for a transition towards long-term development cooperation.

Between the years 1998 and 2001, an annual average of US\$ 202 million has been committed through the CAP process. An annual average of a further US\$ 91 million has been committed under the AREP framework by donor governments and NGOs. Development assistance from the UN System has averaged only about US\$ 10 million annually over the four year period. In addition, DPR Korea has received loans from IFAD and OPEC and food security assistance from the EU.

The CAP, which has been an important feature in the provision of humanitarian assistance to DPR Korea for the last eight years, is an important instrument in generating the interest of the donor community, and in establishing linkages between them and Government institutions. Since 1998, the CAP, as well as AREP, has contributed to an improved understanding of both humanitarian and development needs in the country. CAP and AREP documents have been consistently advocating the need for a dual track of humanitarian and development assistance, as the most productive and efficient form of external support to DPR Korea. The challenge is to ensure an early transition from humanitarian assistance to development cooperation.

**Box Number 6****AREP AND THE Round Table Process**

During 1998, the Government of DPR Korea, with UNDP and FAO assistance, formulated a cooperation framework for Agricultural Rehabilitation and Environment Protection (AREP). The framework was tabled for discussions with the international community at the first ever Roundtable Meetings organized for DPR Korea – in May and November 1998.

The AREP Framework was designed to meet two objectives:

- To restore food grain production to 5-6 Million tonnes, within three years, and
- To strengthen the framework for sustainable food production

The first objective relates to a package of intervention programmes aimed at (a) rehabilitating flood-damage irrigation and other infrastructure, completing on-farm restoration work; (b) assisting in the rehabilitation of two fertilizer plants and providing feedstock; and (c) extending the cropping intensity initiative, primarily the on-going double cropping programme.

Emergency rehabilitation and fertilizer production assistance was seen as a cost-effective, solution to grain production shortfalls. In addition, AREP contemplated immediate support for environmental protection and reforestation undertakings, as well as needs to strengthen sector institutions, including research and training centers, rural marketing channels, and the rural financial system. Two years into the second Roundtable Meeting (AREP-2, June 2000) donors have disbursed some 85% of the initial requests, against some 50% for AREP-1 (May-98).

AREP was also conceived as an exit strategy for much needed food aid. Although increased significantly since 1996-97, domestic production of cereals has reached 3.8 Million tonnes in 2001-02, still leaving a deficit of 1.1 Million tonnes. Energy shortages are now seen as a major bottleneck.

The Roundtable process is particularly noteworthy for its “upstream” dialogue and consensus building, as indicated by the new economic measures introduced by DPR Korea in July 2002, to reduce subsidies and plan distortions.

A critical gap in current development cooperation arrangements in DPR Korea is the absence of multilateral financing institutions (World Bank, IMF, Asian Development Bank - ADB). DPR Korea has made an application for membership of the ADB. Economic growth, trade expansion, and long-term improvements in infrastructure (energy, transport) and social sectors would be facilitated through flows of development finance from multilateral institutions, apart from bilateral donors.

DPR Korea has taken steps to interact with the global development community, through increasing engagement with key geopolitical actors. The Inter-Korean Summit in June 2000

was followed by a visit from the US Secretary of State and the opening of diplomatic relations with 13 of the 15 European Nations and with the European Commission, as well as several other countries. The opening of Embassies in Pyongyang is a first step in the wider development dialogue. The Government's commitment to expanded forms of development cooperation is also reflected in the agreement with the UN System to proceed with the CCA and UNDAF processes, and also in the recognition that its own capacities for managing development cooperation requires considerable enhancing.

***Box Number 7***

***Capacity Building for Development Cooperation***

UNDP is assisting the Government in implementing a project on Capacity Building for Enhanced Development Cooperation, which is aimed at promoting more effective Government ownership in the mobilisation and management of external development resource flows. This would be achieved through building capacities in key Government institutions concerned with development cooperation. The project will enhance the quality of interaction between Government and donors; increase the capacity of DPR Korea officials to collect, analyze and disseminate information and data; enhance capacities for evaluation and reporting, thereby improving accountability practices and enable improved donor coordination. An expected result of the project will be a more holistic and coordinated approach by Government and the donor community towards development cooperation policies and practices. The project is aimed at assisting the Government in organizing donor consultations and Roundtable Meetings and should be seen in the context of the transition from humanitarian and emergency assistance, to more dynamic forms of development cooperation, engaging an enlarged community of bilateral and multilateral donor institutions. The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), has been involved in the preparation of this project, and is now associated in its implementation through parallel financing arrangements.

**Towards Development Cooperation**

The challenge that faces DPR Korea is to build an effective system of development cooperation. Currently, humanitarian assistance is the predominant factor. Therefore, a parallel stream of development resource flows, to stimulate the processes of social and economic development, is a key requirement. The experience of DPR Korea clearly illustrates that humanitarian and development assistance are complementary. Both types of resource flows are needed in a special development situation, such as in DPR Korea, in order to save lives and to restore livelihoods.

DPR Korea is faced with a period of economic adjustment, and adjustment processes, as experience has shown in many countries, are replete with grave social risk, which particularly affect vulnerable groups. A period of adjustment requires social safety nets and even more particularly nutritional safety nets for these groups. Humanitarian assistance provides a cushion of support in times of economic adjustment. Such assistance can be a pre-investment for development.

An important handicap in all forms of humanitarian assistance, especially those obtained through the CAP process is its short term nature and the lack of predictability. With greater

interest and commitment on the part of key bilateral donors to DPR Korea, it is feasible that more predictable forms of humanitarian assistance will be forthcoming. There is then the prospect of incorporating a greater development dimension in such assistance. The UN System has to be on alert to these developments, so that effective and blended forms of humanitarian / development assistance can be designed.

### **Selected Key Issues**

DPR Korea has to improve its methodologies and capacities to interact with the international development community. The government needs to enhance its knowledge and familiarity with practices and concerns of the international donor community, including multilateral financial agencies.

***Improving the quality of the programming environment*** - Incremental improvements have been observed recently on the part of DPR Korea. More has to be achieved to improve the current programming environment to reach internationally acceptable standards. Security considerations in the country (which is technically still at war), restricts access to basic information which is essential for development programming.

***Strengthening Government's capacity for development planning and policy dialogue*** - The Government's lack of familiarity with current international development agencies, their approaches and practices, is a challenge to development cooperation. Policy and strategy dialogue is weak, programmes are mainly supply-driven, and knowledge transfer is restricted. Relationships with development cooperation partners has to be viewed as a learning process, apart from the volume of resources they bring to the country. This is particularly important when dealing with multilateral agencies, which are repositories of extensive development experience and knowledge. Improvements are also required in evaluation and auditing practices. There has to be improvements in capacities to ensure appropriate flows of information between the Government and donors.

***Donor Flexibility*** - External partners need to recognise the special characteristics of programming in DPR Korea. This would require them to adjust their practices to take account of national sensitivities and avoid standardised approaches. There has to be a significant degree of flexibility at the start of a new process of development cooperation. As Government agencies and external development partners learn more from each other, and are increasingly familiar with the practices that determine their conduct, there will develop improved partnerships, which could remove some of the operational constraints that currently prevail.

### ***Role of the UN System***

The UN System has both normative and operational functions in the field of development cooperation. In the 1990's the UN has played an active role in the evolution of a wide spectrum of norms in the broad area of development, including in poverty reduction, education, health, human rights, gender, environment, among others. With the enlargement of the normative role of the UN System, there has been a corresponding intensification of the linkage between the norms established at the global level, and their translation in terms of legislation and policies and programmes and practices at the country level. Field level operational activities of UN Institutions are now directly influenced by global norms. This is clearly evident in relation to MDGs, and more recently in relation to the decisions taken at the

World Summit for Sustainable Development (WSSD) in Johannesburg. DPR Korea has been engaged with other governments, in being party to these global agreements. Therefore, it is an imperative of the development process that UN System Agencies interact closely, in the spirit and letter of global agreements with the Government of DPR Korea in enabling it to implement policies and programmes to achieve agreed norms. That will be a clear task for UN Agencies.

The UN has made an early start in establishing offices in DPR Korea, and developing work programmes in the country. It is well placed to act as broker with the larger global development community. A start has been made through the organisation of Round Tables on subjects such as Agricultural rehabilitation, land and environment protection, where many donors have been brought together to examine feasible points of development intervention.

In circumstances such as in DPR Korea, UN System Agencies can play a unique role in enabling the country to be an active partner in the international development community. In the last few years UN Agencies have accumulated considerable experience in interacting with Government Agencies within the country and are aware of the needs of, and constraints on development cooperation. This experience can be built upon in making the practice of development cooperation more productive.

The UN System has an opportunity to be the catalyst for developing models and practices which the Government can then apply once larger volumes of funding are available, whether this be in the social sectors or in economic sectors. UN Agencies can be more pro-actively engaged in enabling Government in developing relevant methodologies and policies. UN Agency country programmes, for the next few years could gradually evolve in the direction of being a catalyst for development instead of being largely focused on humanitarian relief operations.

An important role for UN institutions in most countries is to facilitate capacity development, through various forms of technical cooperation. The experience in DPR Korea clearly indicates that this is an important role for the UN System. Technical cooperation involves transfer of knowledge and technology, and enabling DPR Korea officials to be familiar with appropriate practices outside the country in key development sectors. The value of technical cooperation does not only lie in the volume of finances made available but also in providing access to information and knowledge which can enable a major transformation in current practices, and contributing to higher productivity in economy and social sectors. There is more scope for DPR Korea to utilize technical cooperation opportunities more productively with the deeper engagement of UN institutions at the country level.

The role of the UN System in facilitating coordination of various assistance channels is illustrated in the role played by the various inter-Agency mechanisms operating in DPR Korea, which has stimulated a convergence between humanitarian assistance and other forms of development cooperation. The convergence of the mechanisms of the UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative, UN Humanitarian Assistance Coordinator and WFP Representative in the form of a common office holder is a positive experiment in coordination. It is symbolic of the complementarity of the many inter-link strands of humanitarian, emergency, developmental, capital and technical assistance.

## CONCLUSION

## CONCLUSION

Based on the analysis contained in the foregoing chapters this section of the CCA looks ahead to determine the most appropriate roles for the UN System (UNS) cooperation in DPR Korea. It reflects the considered view of the UN Country Team (UNCT), without any prejudice to subsequent determination that may be made in the UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), which the Government and UNCT are poised to undertake jointly.

As a first observation, it is clear that there are still urgent humanitarian needs in DPR Korea. International cooperation is needed for food, agricultural inputs, essential medicines and medical supplies, disinfectants, winter clothing, school supplies, and other humanitarian assistance. Thus the UN System must continue with its humanitarian response. At the same time synergies should be sought between the Consolidated Appeals Process and the envisaged UNDAF for a smooth and sustained transition towards long-term development.

In this transition, the Government's urgent priority task is to ensure food security. Four years ago, AREP was created to assist DPR Korea in reducing the food gap. However, long-term food security, as distinct from food self-sufficiency requires sustainable economic growth and energy security with environmental protection. Furthermore, it requires a concerted action across sectors to draw synergies for broad-based development. In this emerging development environment the UN System can play a vital role in support of the Government's effort in areas such as food security, sustainable rural energy, rural development and environmental protection. More specifically, the UN System could provide advice and technical support to the Government on future policies, strengthen technical and management capacities of Government Departments concerned, carry out appropriate sector studies for mobilising development resources for investment and technical assistance projects, undertake joint UN Agency programmes and develop a new communication strategy with a resource data base for sharing information with all the development partners and stakeholders. Currently, the Government is working towards developing such a broad-based development framework for mobilizing donor support and possible future collaboration.

In addition to food, the basis of human capacity lies in having a healthy and educated population and in protecting the most vulnerable groups. (Especially, 480,000 pregnant and lactating women, 2.2 million children under five years of age, and 2 million elderly people). While humanitarian action addresses this area, it is not designed for long-term sustainability. Therefore, it is vital to move forward towards development. The UN System should thus focus increasingly on rebuilding and improving the quality of basic social services: primary health care and essential medical services with particular focus on maternal, child, and reproductive health as well as family planning; public health; early childhood care; education; and water and sanitation. The approach should be a combination of training of professionals and strengthening institutional capacities, as well as those of families and communities. The wellbeing of children should be a particular focus in recognition of their own right to protection and services and in preparation of the new generation that will take the nation forward. Women too need special protection in view of their dual responsibilities in the productive sphere as well as being the primary caretakers of children. This will fit well with Government priorities, which place high emphasis on the welfare of the population, with specific promotive and protective provision for women and children, and the State's responsibilities thereto.

Looking forward to development, the UN System must recognize that it will be working with limited and constrained resources for development cooperation in the DPRK. With the exception of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), and the Organization for Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), the Government has no access to credit from the International Financial Institutions (IFIs). This implies that the role of the UN System should be highly focussed to achieve tangible impacts with limited resources. This focus should be placed on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which are a clear set of development targets that all member states of the United Nations have resolved to achieve as their commitment to the Millennium Declaration. Thus the MDGs, which reflect the priorities of the Government, would provide an appropriate benchmark for the United Nations Systems' cooperation in DPR Korea.

One clear role for the UN System, will be to facilitate more dynamic forms of development cooperation in the DPR Korea. This would involve both internal capacity building and external advocacy. The Capacity Building for Enhanced Development Cooperation project, which the Government has begun to implement, is one of the significant steps towards forging partnership with an enlarged international development community. In the transition from humanitarian to development cooperation, this project is designed to play a vital role in building national capacity to enable the Government to take more effective ownership in both mobilisation and management of external resources for development. A key challenge of this intervention would be to ensure that all external development assistance across sectors is attuned to capacity building and results based management.

All development activities will be highly dependent on the availability and quality of data and information. This is also essential for tracking progress on national and international goals, especially the MDGs. The UN System already provides some support in this area and it should be further strengthened and coordinated. The Central Bureau of Statistics is a natural central point for such support, but it needs to touch all parts of the Government, enhancing both the data collection and storing systems and its ultimate use in planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of development activities.

# ANNEXES

## STATISTICAL ANNEX

Table 1	Millennium Development Goals (MDGs): Relevant statistics for DPR Korea
Table 2	Contextual indicators
Table 3	Sectoral data

**Table 1 Millennium Development Goals (MDGs): Relevant statistics for DPR Korea**

Goals and Targets	Indicators	Earlier figure and year	Latest figure and year	Source
<b>Goal 1 Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger</b>				
<b>Target 1</b> Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people whose income is less than one dollar a day	1. Proportion of population below \$1 per day (PPP)			
	2. Poverty gap ratio (incidence x depth of poverty)			
	3. Share of poorest quintile in national consumption			
<b>Target 2:</b> Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger	4. Prevalence of underweight children (under-five years of age)	M 66% F 54% 1998 T 60%	M 28% F 28% 2000 T 28%	MICS-98 Govt/agencies (derived figures) MICS-00 Government
	5. Proportion of population below minimum level of dietary energy consumption			
<b>Goal 2 Achieve universal primary education <sup>1</sup></b>				
<b>Target 3</b> Ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling	6. Net enrolment ratio in primary education		100 % (2001)	EFA 2000
	7. Proportion of pupils starting grade 1 who reach grade 5		100 % (2001)	EFA 2000
	8. Literacy rate of 15-24 year olds		100 % (2001)	EFA 2000
<b>Goal 3 Promote gender equality and empower women <sup>2</sup></b>				
<b>Target 4</b> Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education preferably by 2005 and to all levels of education no later than 2015	9. Ratio of boys to girls in primary, secondary and tertiary education		1:1 (2001)	EFA 2000 (primary and sec. only)
	10. Ratio of literate females to males of 15-24 year olds		1:1 (2001)	EFA 2000
	11. Share of women in wage employment in the non-agricultural sector	49.5 % (1993)	49.3 % (1999)	Government
	12. Proportion of seats held by women in national parliament			
<b>Goal 4: Reduce child mortality <sup>3</sup></b>				
<b>Target 5:</b> Reduce by two-thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the under-five mortality rate	13. Under-five mortality rate	27 / 1000 (1993)	48 / 1000 (1999)	Government
	14. Infant mortality rate	14 / 1000 (1993)	23 / 1000 (1999)	Government
	15. Proportion of 1 year old children immunized against measles	34.4 % 1998	71.2 % 2000	MICS-98 Govt/agencies MICS-00 Government
<b>Goal 5 Improve maternal health</b>				
<b>Target 6</b> Reduce by three-quarters, between 1990 and 2015, the maternal mortality ratio	16. Maternal mortality ratio		105 / 100,000 (1996)	GFATM 2002
	17. Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel		96.7 % 2000	MICS-00 Government
<b>Goal 6 Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases</b>				
<b>Target 7</b> Have halted by 2015, and begun to reverse, the spread of HIV/AIDS	18. HIV prevalence among 15-24 year old pregnant women			
	19. Contraceptive prevalence rate		67% (1997)	Government/UNFPA
	20. Number of children orphaned by HIV/AIDS			
<b>Target 8</b> Have halted by 2015, and begun to reverse, the incidence of malaria and other major diseases	21. Prevalence of malaria (API –Annual Parasite Incidence)		15 / 1000 (2002)	GFATM 2002
	22. Proportion of population in malaria risk areas using effective malaria prevention and treatment measures			
	23. Mortality rate associated with tuberculosis		10 / 100,000 (2002)	GFATM 2002
	24. Case detection rate of new smear positive cases detected under DOTS (Directly Observed Treatment Short Course)		51 % (2001)	GFATM 2002

**Table 1 (continued) Millennium Development Goals (MDGs); Relevant statistics for DPR Korea**

Goals and Targets	Indicators	Earlier figure and year	Latest figure and year	Source
<b>Goal 7 Ensure environmental sustainability</b>				
<b>Target 9</b> Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reverse the loss of environmental resources	25. Proportion of land area covered by forest		74 % (1996)	SoE Report 2001
	26. Land area protected to maintain biological diversity			
	27. GDP per unit of energy use (as proxy for energy efficiency)			
	28. Carbon dioxide emissions (per capita)		7.7 tonnes	SoE Report 2001
<b>Target 10</b> Halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water	29. Proportion of population with sustainable access to an improved water source	99.9 % 1998	100 % 2000	MICS-98 Govt/agencies MICS-00 Government
<b>Target 11</b> By 2020, to have achieved a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers	30. Proportion of people with access to improved sanitation	99.2 % 1998	100 % 2000	MICS-98 Govt/agencies MICS-00 Government
	31. Proportion of people with access to secure tenure			
<b>Goal 8 Develop a global partnership for development</b>				
<b>Target 12</b> Develop further an open, rule-based, predictable, non-discriminatory trading and financial system	Indicators 32-36 : Official Development Assistance (ODA)  Indicators 37-40 : Market access  Indicators 41-44 : Debt sustainability	n/a		
<b>Target 13</b> Address the Special Needs of the Least Development Countries		n/a		
<b>Target 14</b> Address the Special Needs of landlocked countries and small island developing states		n/a		
<b>Target 15</b> Deal comprehensively with the debt problems of developing countries through national and international measures in order to make debt sustainable in the longterm				
<b>Target 16</b> In cooperation with developing countries, develop and implement strategies for decent and productive work for youth	45. Unemployment rate of 15-24 year olds			
<b>Target 17</b> In cooperation with pharmaceutical companies, provide access to affordable, essential drugs in developing countries	46. Proportion of population with access to affordable essential drugs on a sustainable basis			
<b>Target 18</b> In cooperation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communications	47. Telephone lines per 1000 people			
	48. Personal computers per 1000 people			

**Table 1 (continued) Millennium Development Goals (MDGs): Relevant statistics for DPR Korea**

Footnotes:

**1. MDG Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education**

*Data from MoE, EFA National Report 2000:* data from Government Report (MFA) May 2000 says that more than 90% reach Grade 4, 99.6% primary school attendance. Trend towards continued high enrolment, but decreasing attendance. No information collected/reported on boy/girl/geographic disparities. Additional work needs to be done in field of data collection and analysis. Primary school enrolments are the highest in the region. Need figures on attendance. Basic education is under-funded. Main issues – Education quality (relevance of curriculum, teaching methods, etc.)

*ICG:* Education for All

*NDG:* Based on EFA Goals to be finalized at the end of 2002.

**2. MDG Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women**

MoE data shows no disparities in enrolment – there is no data available on attendance. No gender disparity in enrolment, but in respect of attendance and learning achievements, it is probable that disparities exist.

**3. MDG Goal 4: Reduce child mortality**

*Convention on the Rights of the Child: article 6*

State Parties recognize that every child has the inherent right to life.

State Parties shall ensure to the maximum extent possible the survival and development of the child.

*National Public Health Law:*

Committed to a health care system that is equally prophylactic and curative, noting specifically deep concern and care for the protection of women and children.

**Table 2. Contextual indicators for DPR Korea**

<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Unit</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Value</i>	<i>Source</i>	
Land area	sq.km.		122,762	SoE Report	
Population	Total	1995	21,819,040	Govt.	
	Male	1995	10,634,215	Govt.	
	Female	1995	11,184,825	Govt.	
	Total	2000	22,963,422	Govt.	
	Male	2000	11,201,146	Govt.	
	Female	2000	11,762,276	Govt.	
Population:	million	1994	23.5	UNDP-1	
of which: Urban	million	1994	14.3 (61%)	UNDP-1	
Rural	million	1994	9.2 (39%)	UNDP-1	
Capital city - Pyongyang	million	1994	2.7	ASCW	
Population density	per sq km	1994	191	UNDP-1	
Annual population growth rate	% per annum	1998	0.9		
Total fertility rate		1990	2.4	UNFPA	
		2000	2.1	UNFPA	
Life expectancy at birth (Male / Female)	Years	1995	67.6, 75.2	Govt.	
		2000	63.0, 70.3	Govt.	
GDP	US \$ million	1992	20,875	SoE Report 2001	
		1993	20,935	CBS	
		1994	15,421	SoE Report 2001	
		1995	12,802	CBS	
		1996	10,588	SoE Report 2001	
		1998	10,273	CBS	
		2000	10,608	CBS	
GDP per capita	US \$	1992	990	SoE Report 2001	
		1993	991	CBS	
		1994	722	SoE Report 2001	
		1995	587	CBS	
		1996	482	SoE Report 2001	
		1998	457	CBS	
		2000	463	CBS	
Share of GDP by sector:	Industry	%	1996	45.1	SoE Report 2001
	Agriculture	%	1996	14.7	SoE Report 2001
	Construction	%	1996	4.8	SoE Report 2001
	Others	%	1996	35.4	SoE Report 2001
Exports	US \$ million	1993	1270	CBS	
		1998	859	CBS	
		2000	877	CBS	
Imports	US \$ million	1993	1474	CBS	
		1998	917	CBS	
		2000	933	CBS	
Hectares under arable land	million hectares	2001	2.35	Landsat TM & MSS	

**Table 3. Sectoral data for DPR Korea**

<b>FOOD SECURITY</b>									
<i>Key indicators</i>									
<b>Area of main crops planted and area of double cropping, by province and type of crop, 2001/2002</b>									
<i>Hectares</i>									
Province	<b>Main crops</b>					<b>Total</b>	<b>Double cropping</b>		
	Paddy rice	Maize	Potato	Wheat & barley	Others <sup>1</sup>		Winter wheat / Barley	Spring barley / Wheat	Spring potato
Pyongyang	26,496	14,002	824		300	<b>41,622</b>	3,000	2,650	1,182
South Pyongan	97,953	61,237	6,749		1,800	<b>167,739</b>	7,700	5,950	14,675
North Pyongan	103,054	87,383	11,046		5,200	<b>206,683</b>	3,500	3,650	11,849
Hagang	6,998	36,681	1,415	2,900	2,300	<b>50,294</b>	120	850	2,816
South Hwanghae	150,348	80,012	16,073		4,500	<b>250,933</b>	18,700	10,800	20,852
North Hwanghae	48,009	69,394	5,217		700	<b>123,320</b>	9,600	5,800	14,025
Kangwon	35,752	36,649	2,738		1,300	<b>76,439</b>	4,700	1,830	8,910
South Hamgyong	60,001	47,997	7,416	7,884	800	<b>124,098</b>	4,000	1,800	20,859
North Hamgyong	24,881	47,000	11,889	3,070	300	<b>87,140</b>			1,748
Ryanggang	1,949	3,436	22,475	20,000	2,000	<b>49,860</b>			
Kaesong	11,984	6,000	642		300	<b>18,926</b>	2,650	700	700
Nampo	15,432	6,961	2,547		500	<b>25,440</b>	3,300	1,600	1,128
<b>Total</b>	<b>582,857</b>	<b>496,752</b>	<b>89,031</b>	<b>33,854</b>	<b>20,000</b>	<b>1,222,494</b>	<b>57,270</b>	<b>35,630</b>	<b>98,744</b>

1. 'Others' include S. Potato, Sorghum, etc

Source: AREP project

<b>Cereals balance sheet<sup>1</sup> (millions MT)</b>						
	<b>1996</b>	<b>1997</b>	<b>1998</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2001</b>
Agricultural production	2.995	2.662	3.481	3.783	2.920	3.544
Food use	3.798	n/a	3.874	3.925	3.871	3.929
Other uses <sup>2</sup>	1.561	n/a	0.910	0.951	0.914	1.082
Total utilization	5.359 <sup>3</sup>	4.562	4.835	4.823	4.735	5.011
Negative balance	2.364	1.900	1.354	1.040	1.865	1.467

Notes: 1. Potatoes have been converted to cereal equivalent (4:1)  
2. Includes feed use, seeds, industrial use, post harvest and other losses  
3. At the end of 1996 Feed Use was calculated at 0.6 million MT and closing stocks were maintained at 0.314 million MT. From 1997 onwards, as grain-eating cattle were reduced by 50%, feed uses were reduced to 0.3 million MT and closing stocks were eliminated completely.

Source: Annual "Special reports" of FAO / WFP Crop and Food Supply Assessment Mission to DPRK.

**EDUCATION**

**Key indicators for DPR Korea**

<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Value</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Source</i>
Net enrolment in primary education	100 %	2001	Govt.
Ratio of girls to boys in primary education	100 %	2001	Govt.
Proportion of pupils starting grade 1 who reach grade 5	100 %	2001	Govt.
Ratio of girls to boys in secondary education	100 %	2001	Govt.
Literacy rate of 15-24 year olds	100%	2001	Govt.
Adult literacy rate	100%	2001	Govt.
Share of government budget devoted to education	6.8 %	1996	EFA 2000

**Table showing the distribution of total population, educational institutions, and children registered in them, by province and city**

<i>Provinces/cities</i>	<i>Population Jan, 2002</i>	<i>Pop. dist. %</i>	<i>Nurseries</i>		<i>Kindergartens</i>		<i>Primary schools</i>		<i>Secondary schools</i>	
			<i>Number</i>	<i>Children registered</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Children registered</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Children registered</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Children registered</i>
Pyongyang City	3,084,459	13.8	2,077	211,315	1,085	100,811	323	211,217	345	300,818
South Pyongan	3,050,686	13.7	3,671	184,491	2,127	98,557	543	226,742	518	317,713
North Pyongan	2,618,974	11.8	3,374	203,622	1,503	93,744	565	196,952	542	263,187
Chagang	1,239,218	5.6	961	88,648	264	41,805	146	89,100	141	121,989
South Hwanghae	2,224,006	10.0	4,272	170,970	1,152	86,193	448	177,723	448	217,345
North Hwanghae	1,655,401	7.4	2,992	110,375	1,714	57,904	376	131,912	396	173,173
Kangwon	1,406,088	6.3	1,035	94,281	727	54,781	255	115,789	237	152,843
South Hamgyong	2,929,841	13.2	2,284	195,928	1,483	95,989	565	211,220	526	295,348
North Hamgyong	2,221,290	10.0	1,484	145,755	1,093	66,370	432	162,174	435	225,335
Ryongyang	686,949	3.1	730	51,045	447	25,110	231	54,013	188	69,665
Kaesong City	363,163	1.6	625	22,948	215	13,168	79	26,565	79	36,947
Nampo City	792,322	3.6	573	43,991	230	22,759	100	51,776	119	77,867
<b>Total</b>	<b>22,272,397</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>24,078</b>	<b>1,523,369</b>	<b>12,040</b>	<b>757,191</b>	<b>4,063</b>	<b>1,655,183</b>	<b>3,974</b>	<b>2,252,230</b>

**HEALTH AND NUTRITION**

**Key indicators for DPR Korea**

<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Value</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Source</i>
Underweight (Wt/Age)	(6 months and under 7 years)	60.6 %	1998
	(6 months and under 5 years)	27.9 %	2000
Wasted (Wt/Ht)	(6 months and under 7 years)	15.6 %	1998
	(6 months and under 5 years)	10.4 %	2000
Stunted (Ht/Age)	(6 months and under 7 years)	62.3 %	1998
	(6 months and under 5 years)	45.2 %	2000
Under-five mortality	27 / 1,000	1993	Govt.
	39.3 / 1,000	1996	Govt.
	48.2 / 1,000	1999	Govt.
Infant mortality	23 / 1,000	1991	ASCW p.7
	14.1 / 1,000	1993	Govt.
	21.8 / 1,000	2000	Govt.
Proportion of one-year olds with a vaccination card at home	94.3 %	1998	MICS-1998
	98.8 %	2000	MICS-2000
Immunization (one-year olds with card):	BCG	63.9 %	1998
		96.3 %	2000
	DPT (third dose)	37.4 %	1998
		87.0 %	2000
	OPV (third dose)	76.5 %	1998
		86.5 %	2000
	measles	34.4 %	1998
		71.2 %	2000
Contraceptive prevalence rate, any method (3 provinces only)	67 %	1997	Govt / UNFPA
Contraceptive prevalence rate, modern methods (3 provinces only)	52 %	1997	Govt / UNFPA
Couples using condoms	0.4 %	1997	Govt / UNFPA
Women (with children under 5) registered for antenatal care	99.9 %	1998	MICS-1998
Mean number of antenatal visits to health personnel	10	1998	MICS-1998
Women registering for antenatal care in the first trimester	94.9 %	1998	MICS-1998
Anaemia in pregnant women	34.7 %	1998	MICS-1998
Deliveries taking place at home	1.1 %	1998	MICS-1998
Deliveries attended by skilled health personnel	96.7 %	1998	MICS-1998
Maternal mortality	70 / 100,000	1990	GFATM 2002
	105 / 100,000	1996	GFATM 2002
Pregnancies terminated (induced abortion)	23 / 1,000	2000	UNFPA
Low birth weight (< 2.5 kg)	9.0 %	1998	MICS-1998
	6.4 %	2000	MICS-2000
Rate of reported cases of malaria	89.5 / 10,000	2000	MoPH
	128.6 / 10,000	2001	MoPH
Rate of notification of tuberculosis cases (in DOTS areas – two-thirds of country)	38 cases / 100,000	1994	GFATM 2002
	195 cases / 100,000	2001	GFATM 2002
Total number of TB cases	47,000	2001	GFATM 2002
of which: Infectious sputum smear positive cases	16,000	2001	GFATM 2002
Mortality rate from TB	10 / 100,000	2001	GFATM 2002
Percentage of population covered by the DOTS programme	6 %	1998	GFATM 2002
	66 %	2001	GFATM 2002

**HEALTH AND NUTRITION (continued)**  
**Key indicators**

<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Value</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Source</i>
Health workers	121,188	2002	MoPH
Health worker/population ratio	1 : 200	2002	MoPH
Doctors per 100,000 population	297	2002	MoPH
Hospital beds per 100,000 population	1,383	2002	MoPH
Percent of national budget allocated to health	8.4 %	1985	MoPH
	7.6 %	1990	MoPH
	4.2 %	1995	MoPH
	6.0 %	2000	MoPH
	5.9 %	2001	MoPH
Hospitals: National, specialist and county	777	2002	MoPH
Provincial paediatric	12	2002	MoPH
Provincial maternity	12	2002	MoPH
Ri (rural) and Dong (urban)	908	2002	MoPH
Ri clinics	5,341	2002	MoPH
Nurseries	27,000	2002	MoPH
Baby homes	13	2002	MoPH

**WATER AND SANITATION**

**Key indicators for DPR Korea**

	<i>Value</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Source</i>
Households using protected source for drinking water	99.9 %	1998	MICS-1998
	100 %	2000	MICS-2000
Main source used: Piped water inside dwelling	72.3 %	1998	MICS-1998
Public tap	1.7 %	1998	MICS-1998
Tube well or borehole	15.7 %	1998	MICS-1998
Hand pump in dwelling	10.2 %	1998	MICS-1998
Piped water inside dwelling	79.7 %	2000	MICS-2000
Public tap	1.6 %	2000	MICS-2000
Tube well or borehole	6.6 %	2000	MICS-2000
Piped into yard	1.4 %	2000	MICS-2000
Protected dug well/spring	10.7 %	2000	MICS-2000
Average number of hours per day that piped water is available (mean)	9.1	1998	MICS-1998
Quantity of rehabilitated/constructed water supply systems that are functioning at optimal level (gravity-fed systems, pumping systems, water treatment stations): Daily production	304 litres	1994	Min. of City Management
	289 litres	1998	Min. of City Management
Households using adequate sanitation facilities	99.2 %	1998	MICS-1998
	100 %	2000	MICS-2000
Facilities used: Flush to sewage system	13.6 %	1998	MICS-1998
Flush to septic tank	2.6 %	1998	MICS-1998
Pour flush latrine	3.3 %	1998	MICS-1998
Dug latrine	79.7 %	1998	MICS-1998
Flush to sewage system/septic tank	19.6 %	2000	MICS-2000
Pour flush latrine	33.2 %	2000	MICS-2000
Improved pit latrine	47.2 %	2000	MICS-2000

**ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT**  
**Key indicators**

			Value	Year	Source
Forest:	Total forest area		8.96 million hectares	1996	SoE Report
	As a proportion of total land area		74 %	1996	SoE Report
Water:	Total annual volume of water precipitation		127 billion cu. m	1990	SoE Report
Air:	GHG Emissions into the air:	CO <sub>2</sub>	169 million tonnes	1990	SoE Report
		CH <sub>4</sub>	975,000 tonnes	1990	SoE Report
		N <sub>2</sub> O	39,000 tonnes	1990	SoE Report
		NO <sub>x</sub>	432,000 tonnes	1990	SoE Report
		CO	478,000 tonnes	1990	SoE Report
		SO <sub>2</sub>	4.17 million tonnes	1990	SoE Report
Biodiversity:	Higher plants:	Endangered	52	2001	SoE Report
	Vertebrate:	Endangered	38	2001	SoE Report
	Vegetation:	Endangered (of which endemic)	158 (48)	2001	SoE Report
	Animals:	Endangered (of which endemic)	159 (19)	2001	SoE Report
Energy:	Sources of energy:	Coal (million tonnes)	22.29	2000	SoE Report
		Electric power (billion KW/hour)	286	2000	SoE Report

**SOURCES OF DATA**  
**Key indicators**

EFA	Ministry of Education, <i>Education for All National Report 2000</i> , May 2000
ASCW	UNICEF, <i>An Analysis of the Situation of Children and Women in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea 2000</i> , Dec 1999
GFATM 2002	Ministry of Public Health, <i>Proposal to The Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria</i> , 2002
MICS-1998	UNICEF, <i>The Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, 1998</i> (MICS-1998 was conducted by the Central Bureau of Statistics, in collaboration with UNICEF)
Nutrition-98	UNICEF, <i>Report on the Nutrition Survey</i> , UNICEF, Pyongyang (Nutrition-98 was conducted by the Central Bureau of Statistics, in collaboration with UNICEF, WFP and the EU)
MICS-2000	<i>National Report on the Implementation of the Decision of the World Summit for Children</i> , DPRK, Jan 2001 (MICS-2000 was conducted by the Central Bureau of Statistics)
UNDP-1	UNDP, <i>1993/94 Development Cooperation Report for the DPR Korea</i> , undated.
SoE Report	DPRK Government, <i>State of the Environment, DPR Korea</i> , 1 November 2001

**HUMANITARIAN AND DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE TO DPR KOREA**

<b>Humanitarian assistance to DPR Korea <u>within</u> the framework of the UN consolidated inter-agency appeal, 1998-2001, by appealing agency and by sector (US\$million)</b>				
	<b><u>1998</u></b>	<b><u>1999</u></b>	<b><u>2000</u></b>	<b><u>2001</u></b>
<i>By appealing agency</i>				
WFP	202.7	177.9	145.6	240.1
UNICEF	5.7	6.2	2.5	3.5
WHO	1.2	1.9	1.3	1.6
FAO/UNDP	6.0	3.1	3.0	2.2
OCHA	0.3	0.8	0.7	0.5
UNFPA	-	-	-	0.1
Others	-	-	-	0.4
Total	215.9	189.9	153.1	248.4
<i>By sector</i>				
Food aid	202.7	177.9	145.6	240.1
Food security	6.0	3.1	3.0	2.3
Health	2.7	8.0	3.8	4.6
Education	0.6	-	-	0.2
Water & sanitation	3.6	-	-	0.3
Capacity building	-	0.6	-	-
Coordination	0.3	0.2	0.7	0.5
Total	215.9	189.8	153.1	248.4

Source: Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)

<b>Humanitarian assistance to DPR Korea <u>outside</u> the framework of the UN consolidated inter-agency appeal, 1998-2001, by donor (US\$million)</b>				
	<b><u>1998</u></b>	<b><u>1999</u></b>	<b><u>2000</u></b>	<b><u>2001</u></b>
<i>Donor</i>				
Governments/EU	92.1	41.6	58.4	59.5
NGOs	24.3	2.5	9.7	67.8
Red Cross	2.8	1.8	2.5	-
Total	119.2	46.0	70.6	127.3

Source: Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)

<b>Disbursements of development and other aid to DPRK (excluding humanitarian aid) by some major United Nations agencies, 1998-2001 (US\$million)</b>				
	<b><u>1998</u></b>	<b><u>1999</u></b>	<b><u>2000</u></b>	<b><u>2001</u></b>
<i>Agency</i>				
UNDP	6.1	1.9	1.5	1.1
UNICEF	4.8	4.4	3.5	2.7
UNFPA	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.8
WHO*		4.4		4.2

Note: These figures should be treated as indicative only. There is not always a clear distinction between humanitarian and development aid, and there is some risk of double-counting.

\*Aid from WHO is reported only on a biennium basis.

Source: Information supplied by agencies

# **TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE UNITED NATIONS COMMON ASSESSMENT FOR DPR KOREA**

## ***A. Background/Rationale for CCA***

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea is categorized as a special situation country. The loss of its traditional partnerships with Socialist Countries due to the collapse of the former Soviet Union at the beginning of the 1990s coupled with a series of devastating natural disasters since the middle of the 1990s have contributed to the severe economic deterioration of DPRK. Import prices of major industrial and agricultural inputs-fuel, fertiliser, and agrochemicals rose sharply since 1991. At the same time, industrial production and export earnings fell sharply because of disrupted trading ties and competitive external markets.

Agricultural production was also severely affected. Agricultural production is limited as arable land comprises only 20 percent of the country and the growing season is short due to the prolonged, severe winter.

The first food shortages appeared in the early 1990s as DPRK found it harder to import food and local production was affected by the shortage of inputs, particularly energy supply and fertiliser. Production was also affected by the aging agricultural equipment and shortage of fuel. Since the mid 1990s the shortages have been exacerbated by a series of natural disasters.

Furthermore, the imposition of economic sanctions and trade embargos have seriously hampered economic growth. Moreover, the floods of 1995, 1996 and 1998 destroyed or damaged roads, bridges, railroads, and communication facilities as well as factories and the coal mines that underpin national power generation. Therefore, GDP stagnated in 1993 and declined 50 percent from 1993 to 1996. Per capita income thus fell to US\$ 481 in 1996.

Much hardship and suffering was evident following a joint UNICEF/WFP/EU nutrition survey. The Survey Results indicated high rates of wasting (16%) and stunting (62%) among children under 7 years.

The severe food crisis and its effects particularly on vulnerable groups is inter-linked with the deteriorated public health and safe water supply and sanitation systems. Health delivery systems have also been affected by the lack of imported raw materials for the manufacture of medical supplies. Immunisation programmes have been affected and WHO reported the re-emergence of diseases that were previously controlled.

The Government addressed the food crisis and the other humanitarian concerns such as malnutrition among vulnerable groups (children and women), health and sanitation with the help of international emergency and humanitarian assistance, coordinated through the Consolidated Appeals Process (CAP) since as early as 1996.

Following successive CAPs, the UN System also initiated the Round Table Meeting Process to expand the resource base beyond CAP to address medium-term goals of

Agricultural Recovery and Environmental Protection as a means toward improving food security.

At this juncture, and in accordance with the national principle of “Juche”, or “self-reliance”, DPR Korea’s primary development vision remains self reliance, social solidarity and economic efficiency to restore the quality of life of its people to the pre-1990 level (i.e. the period before the economic downturn) and to ensure its sustained improvement over the long-term. The Government wishes to accomplish this development vision through attaining food security to enable all vulnerable members of the population to have a calorific intake of at least 2100 kcal per person, per day, by 2003. This has led the Government to continue with its priority thrust on agricultural recovery for restoration of the land, rehabilitation of the agriculture infrastructure and provision of agriculture inputs.

In view of the limitation of arable land in DPR Korea, the government has simultaneously adopted a pragmatic multi-sectoral programme that will run in tandem with agricultural recovery, to promote energy efficiency, develop sustainable transport systems and rehabilitate and restructure industrial enterprises for a sustained economic recovery and growth and increased export earnings. At the same time, the Government will continue to focus its attention on the critical social sectors such as health, water and sanitation and education to offer enhanced quality of life to the population.

DPR Korea, as a member partner of the United Nations is committed to contribute towards the follow-up and accomplishment of goals set by various international conferences and conventions. In particular DPR Korea affirmed its support in tracking progress with the Millennium Development goals that are relevant to its unique development situation.

By all accounts, DPR Korea now stands at the threshold of a new development cooperation era. This situation offers the Government a unique opportunity to set the stage for increased ODA by improving its aid coordination and absorptive capacity, through capacity building, transparency and accountability. The UN System as a neutral, universal, and flexible partner has an equally unique opportunity to offer assistance in this process.

The prospects of such partnership is further reinforced by the far-reaching reforms of the United Nations, announced by the Secretary General in 1997, at the insistence of Member States. That process has culminated in a combined effort by the UN System to increase the effectiveness and coordination of humanitarian and development activities, as explained herein.

Following that announcement, the Secretary General established the UN Development Group (UNDG) as a forum for coordination of development activities. The members of the UNDG are the executive heads of the member agencies, with the Administrator of UNDP holding the chair. Original member agencies included UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF and WFP. UNESCO and WHO also subsequently joined the UNDG.

As a conclusion of the Triennial Comprehensive Policy Review undertaken in 2001, the General Assembly has asked that UN funds and programmes should accelerate further simplification and harmonization of operational policies and procedures. The objective of this exercise is to support management efficiency and effectiveness of field operations of the UN funds and programmes. As a consequence, the Executive Boards of UNDP/UNFPA and of UNICEF have decided to harmonize procedures for the preparation of country programmes of

cooperation. These are now to be based on the findings of a Common Country Assessment and to follow common strategies laid out in a United Nations Development Assistance Framework.

### **Common Country Assessment**

The Common Country Assessment (CCA) by putting together elements of assessment and analysis that the government has already carried out in partnership with UN agencies and others, will allow a more holistic view of the state of human development within DPR Korea and a wider examination of linkages between sectors and themes. This will provide a better identification of underlying and basic determinants of sustainable development. It is important to note that the CCA will not replace specific analysis of situations in different areas of human development, e.g. on food security, the environment, population concerns, children and women. It will normally not involve any primary data collection, rather, it will draw on existing information, to enable the Government and the UNCT compile a succinct joint assessment and analysis of the situation of human development and identify those strategic areas most appropriate for UN development cooperation.

Since the UN is generally only one of a number of actors involved in development in any country, it will be useful to involve other stakeholders in the validation of the findings of the CCA.

### **United Nations Development Assistance Framework**

Based on the findings of the CCA, the Government and UNCT will then draw up the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF). The UNDAF has no dedicated resources and will not replace the country programmes of cooperation of individual UN agencies. The UNDAF will provide strategic guidance for the formulation of the individual country programmes of the respective UN Agencies by identifying :

- ◆ General strategic priorities for UN cooperation in the form of both priority sectors and important cross-sectoral themes.
- ◆ Overall result to be achieved through UN cooperation as a means of facilitating measurement of the general effectiveness of that cooperation.
- ◆ Areas of overlap between the mandates and activities supported by different UN agencies and opportunities for collaborative or joint programming.

As with the CCA, it will be useful to involve other stakeholders in the formulation of the UNDAF. This will allow for identification of how UN cooperation fits into the overall framework of national development and the activities of other actors in that framework. It will ensure that UN cooperation adds value to other actions for human development implemented by the Government and its multiple partners.

### **B. Objectives and Use of the CCA**

- ◆ The primary aim of the CCA process is to accomplish a deeper knowledge of the key development challenges based on a common analysis and understanding of the development situation in DPR Korea.
- ◆ The CCA will also develop a common understanding of the key internal and external risks to the development process, identify contingencies and recovery/rehabilitation

- needs to facilitate DPR Korea's transition from the current the humanitarian assistance phase to a long-term development programme.
- ◆ Most importantly, the CCA will lead to the joint preparation of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, through which the UN System will provide coordinated and concerted support to DPR Korea in addressing its key development challenges and harnessing its opportunities. The ultimate aim is to improve the quality of life of the population and achieve substantive progress in Sustainable Human Development.

### **Expected Results of the CCA**

The expected results of the CCA are:

- A CCA document;
- A common information base composed of relevant demographic and socio-economic measures to close existing data gap; and
- Improved UN collaboration.

The CCA process will be pursued jointly with the Government and other development partners in a manner that will promote partnerships and alliances in support of national priorities and needs and internationally agreed goals. It will also facilitate country level follow-up to UN Conferences and support for the implementation of UN Conventions and declarations. It will provide the foundation for policy analysis in light of past experience and lessons learned, as well as the forum for advocacy and dialogue among the Government of DPR Korea, the UN System and the broader development community. The CCA process is also expected to strengthen the analytical capacity of the development partners involved in the process and identify national capacity building needs/gaps, especially in the critical area of data development and statistics.

The CCA will draw on existing reports and databases, while the CCA generated data and document could be used for other reports including reporting on MDGs. Moreover, the assessment mechanisms and information base of the CCA could be used for on-going process of monitoring and tracking progress of MDGs and other goals/targets. The CCA will also serve as a useful mechanism in dealing with the spectrum of issues that link humanitarian and development assistance, such as risk and vulnerability assessment, disaster preparedness and mitigation and post-natural disaster recovery and rehabilitation.

### ***C. Scope of the CCA***

The primary focus of the CCA will be on national priority needs and the progress and status against 1990 baseline years indicators relating to Millennium Development Goals and International Conferences and Conventions, ratified by the Government of the DPRK. In doing so the CCA will juxtapose them with the national goals/targets, where available, and analyze those to determine their patterns and trends and implications against the benchmarks/targets set.

Within the context of the humanitarian assistance phase, the UNCT has identified several critical areas requiring urgent attention and support.

The CCA will pay particular attention to these in the context of a smooth transition to a sustained recovery and a long-term sustainable human development programme. These, among others, include:

- i) National Capacity Building for Enhanced Development Cooperation
- ii) Mainstreaming a national effort to mobilize additional ODA and external funding and to enhance National Capacity for all aspects of resource mobilization and donor coordination.

DPR Korea as an active member partner of the United Nations and its broader system has committed itself to the pursuit of the goals and targets of MDGs and several International Conferences and Conventions. In that spirit, the CCA will also concentrate on the status of follow-up to the following;

### ***MDGs***

#### **Goals :**

- 1 – Eradication of Extreme Poverty and Hunger
- 2 – Achieve Universal Primary Education
- 3 – Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women
- 4 – Reduce Child Mortality
- 5 – Improve Maternal Health
- 6 – Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and other diseases
- 7 – Ensure environmental sustainability
- 8 – Develop a Global Partnership for Development

### **International Conferences:**

1. World Conference on Education for All (EFA)	Jomtien	1989
2. World Summit for Children (WSC)	New York	1990
3. United Nations Conferences on Environment and Development (UNCED)	Rio de Janeiro	1992
4. World Conference on Human Rights (WCHR)	Vienna	1993
5. International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD)	Cairo	1994
6. World Summit for Social Development (WSSD)	Copenhagen	1995
7. World Conference on Women (FWCW)	Beijing	1996
8. Second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (HABITAT II)	Istanbul	
9. World Food Summit (WFS)	Rome	
10. Ninth Session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)	Medrand	

### **International Conventions, ratified by the Government of DPR Korea**

- i) International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR)
- ii) International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)
- iii) Convention on the elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CCDAW)
- iv) Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)

- v) Bio-diversity
- vi) Climate Change

#### **D. Content of the CCA**

The contents of the Common Country Assessment document will include the following:

- i) Forewords by the United Nations Resident Coordinator and the Secretary General of NCC, MFA, DPR Korea
  - ii) Consensus Statement by the UNCT
  - iii) Executive Summary
- a) Introduction giving an overview of the general development situation, the manner and the status of interventions by the Government and the donor community to address the development challenges.
  - b) An assessment of key development issues, progress relating to the humanitarian situation and to shift to recovery/rehabilitation and follow-up to Millennium Development Goals, International Conferences, and Conventions, with a focus on cross-cutting as well as sectoral themes. The assessment will include an overview of each of the lessons learned through the analysis of demographic, socio-economic and other relevant development trends/patterns.
  - c) An in-depth analysis of the selected priority areas, following the assessment exercise, to find out cause and effect relationships of the underlying problems and identify appropriate solutions.
  - d) Conclusions, on major development issues including lessons learnt. The issues and their cause and effect relationship will provide appropriate solutions and or guidance to problem solving interventions that will determine UN System's strategic focus for advocacy, advice and support. The strategic UN intervention areas will identify base line data to facilitate future tracking of outcome/output progress and accomplishment of goals.
  - e) Follow-up and continuation of the CCA process – This will essentially show how the CCA process will proceed on a sustained basis to fulfill its broader objectives as a common assessment framework drawing synergy and linking closely with other similar situational assessment and analysis such as reporting on MDGs, CAP, and DCR.

#### **ANNEXES:**

- i) Data for CCA indicators on all selected cross-cutting and sectoral themes, including DPR Korea's status and follow-up to MDGs and International Conferences and Conventions as well as contextual indicators
- ii) The terms of reference of the CCA
- iii) A detailed description of the methodology used for data collection and the analytical approaches adopted for assimilation interpretation and projection of future trends
- iv) A list of references and sources of data
- v) List of Abbreviations

## **E. Implementation and Management of the CCA Workplan**

The Joint UNCT/Government Steering Committee (JSC), co-chaired by the UN Resident Coordinator and the Secretary General of the National Coordinating Committee will oversee and manage the overall preparation of the CCA. The JSC will review the findings and work of the Joint Core Working Group (JCWG) and Joint Thematic Working Groups (JTWGs) and determine the key issues and priority areas of focus of the UN System within the CCA/UNDAF Framework. Furthermore, it will provide direction and guidance to the whole CCA/UNDAF exercise. The composition of the Joint Steering Committee is attached as an Annex to this document.

*The entire process at the working level and the day to day coordinating responsibilities will be entrusted to a Joint Core UNCT/Government Working Group. This JCWG, consisting of a small group of senior members of the Government and UNCT, will be tasked to coordinate and consolidate the work of the Joint Thematic Working Groups (JTWGs) and also provide guidance and advice as appropriate.*

The primary tasks of identifying the types and sources of data required for the CCA exercise, their collection, assembling, assessments and trend analyses will be carried out by the selected JTWGs. Each JTWG will have a core team and prepare its own terms of reference (TOR) and workplan, based on the generic TOR and overall CCA Workplan. JTWGs will also collect and exchange information with respective non-resident UN Agencies and other relevant regional and international bodies.

The UNCT will engage an external statistician and a development planner, to help in the technical aspects of the CCA exercise. It is also envisaged to arrange a study tour of a few key government officials, who will be involved in the Joint Core Working Group, to some selected countries in the Region. This will help them to understand and become familiar with the experiences of those countries in the CCA/UNDAF process.

In order for the CCA/UNDAF to be inclusive, special arrangements will be made for the participation of the non-resident UN Agencies in the process. First, they have been informed about the joint UN System/Government effort to prepare the CCA/UNDAF. Their inputs to the process will be sought initially through exchange of correspondence and at a later stage some of the major Agencies will be invited to Pyongyang to participate in critical stages of the CCA preparation process.

The JCWG will hold cluster workshops to review the TORs and workplans of the JTWGs and resolve any overlaps and gaps in their respective work. The JCWG will hold monthly cluster meetings to review the implementation of the workplans, and provide guidance and direction to facilitate the timely completion of the tasks of JTWGs.

The JCWG will oversee the assimilation, assessment by JTWGs of the data in selected thematic areas. Thereafter, the JCWG will arrange a presentation to the JSC for the selection of priority areas for further in-depth analysis to determine the cause and effect relationship of underlying problems and their possible solutions.

Following this, the JTWGs will assimilate their findings of the assessment/analysis exercise either directly, or with help of external consultants and complete their respective

reports. The JCWG will then compile and synthesize these reports and present them to the JSC to reach agreement on the key issues for priority attention by the United Nations System.

Upon completion of this process the final draft of the CCA will be prepared with the help of external consultants and then presented to the JSC and the Donor Community prior to its finalization by end September 2002.

## **METHODOLOGY OF THE CCA**

The Joint Core Working Group (JCWG) and the Joint Thematic Working Groups (JTWGs) will agree on the terms of reference and work plan for each JTWG. The JTWGs can be expanded to cover new areas, if necessary.

### **Selection of goals, targets and indicators:**

The Millennium Development Goals and the Global CCA Indicator Framework (see annex) provide the basic reference point for the selection of goals, targets and indicators for the CCA. Additional indicators may be identified by the JTWGs. The final selection of these will be done jointly by the JCWG and the respective JTWGs to ensure that there is no overlap and duplication.

### **Assembly and Compiling of Information:**

The JTWGs will be responsible for this task and will draw on existing sources of information, including both quantitative and qualitative data, from the various UN Agencies, the Central Statistical Bureau and other Government Departments/Agencies concerned. The data will be collected for periods of five year intervals, starting with 1990 (the base line year), 1995 and 2000. These may be supplemented by data of other years, special studies, evaluations and surveys to provide additional insights for a particular theme / area (such as food security outcome evaluation, nutrition survey and energy sector study). The JTWG will also collect disaggregated data, by province, gender, age group, if possible.

### **Identification of Data Gaps:**

The JTWGs will identify thematic areas where reliable and comprehensive national-level quantitative data is not available. Gaps in the availability of disaggregated data will also be identified by the JTWGs. In such cases, in consultation with the JCWG, best alternative means will be identified to obtain good information for the purpose of the CCA exercise.

### **Establishment of a Common Information Base**

All information /data gathered for the CCA by the JTWGs will be compiled and placed into an electronic “CCA Database”, initially in a spreadsheet form and subsequently in a more appropriate database model. This “CCA Database” will include quantitative and qualitative data on demographic, social, economic and other issues. The quantitative data will be derived from existing national and international databases. The database will be established using the work already done by UNOCHA, WFP and other UN Agencies as well as Government Agencies concerned. The database will in particular put emphasis on the collection of data on humanitarian assistance and ODA as well as a vulnerability assessment.

A special arrangement (Taskforce) will be made to ensure regular updating and maintenance of the data in the post CCA preparation period.

### **Assessment of the Information**

The JTWGs will collect a broad set of data relevant to their respective areas/themes. Thereafter, they will review the data/information to identify emerging development challenges that would require further analysis. The JTWGs will compile their findings, including implications on cross-cutting themes such as gender equality, environmental sustainability and food security, as these relate to their respective themes.

### **Analysis of the Information in Major Areas of Concern**

Following the initial assessment, the JTWGs will then undertake in-depth analysis in the major areas of concerns to identify the underlying causes and effects of problems relating to the economic and social situation.

At this level of the CCA exercise the JTWGs will also undertake a trend analysis of the situation in respect to their respective areas/themes to determine the status and prospects of reaching the global and /or national targets relating to the selected MDGs/ International Conference Goals.

The identification of the cause and effect relationship should also provide important perspectives and insights on the synergies among the respective themes to draw up a common approach for appropriate corrective measures.

### **Reaching Agreement on Issues**

Following the identification and analysis of the data the JTWGs will prepare their final reports and submit it to the JCWG. Thereafter, a stakeholders meeting will be held to determine the key issues for priority attention by the Government, UN System and the donor community, including NGOs.

Pursuant to the consolidated findings and recommendations and inputs from the stakeholders consultations, the JSC will identify areas for priority attention by the UN, based on mandates and policies of the respective UN Agencies, their available resources including areas of competitive advantage to provide solutions to the identified challenges. Other development partners will also be able to address strategic issues identified through these exercises and may be encouraged to pursue such common issues to reinforce the UN support.

### **Drafting of the CCA Document**

The CCA document will comprise the findings of the JTWGs, priority issues, consolidated findings and information including qualitative and quantitative data, and will mainly focus on those issues on which the participating partners reach agreement. The UNCT will provide appropriate expert resources to put together a final draft CCA.

## **Finalising the CCA Document**

The JCWG will review the draft CCA and finally submit it to the JSC for consideration and formal clearance. At the finalisation process, due consideration will be given to the accuracy of the recorded data and quality standard in order to be able to put the CCA in the public domain.

**Note:** the Resident Coordinator will facilitate the participation of non resident UN Agencies throughout the entire CCA Process

### **Follow-up of the CCA Process:**

Follow-up of the CCA process will be an important initiative of the UNCT under the leadership of the Resident Coordinator. The Resident Coordinator will ensure wide distribution of the CCA both within and outside the UN System.

The CCA will of course be the basis for the preparation of the UNDAF, which in turn will be used for the preparation of the Country Programmes for cooperation by the respective UN Agencies.

The UNCT will ensure that the CCA database is regularly updated and maintained and that it is used for tracking progress of the MDGs as well as follow-up to the International Conferences. The CCA database will also serve as a good reference point for all the UN Agencies in the preparation of their respective Country Programmes and specific intervention projects.

## Joint Steering Committee

<i>Government</i>	<i>UNCT</i>
Mr. Ri Hung Sik	Mr. David Morton/ Mr. Masood Hyder
Mr. Jon In Chan	Mr. Richard Bridle
Mr. Jong Yong Ryng	Mr. Richard Corsino
	Mr. Eigil Sorensen
	Mr. Abu Y. M. Selim

## Joint Core Working Group

<i>Government</i>	<i>UNCT</i>
Mr. Jong Yong Ryung	Mr. Abu Selim
Mr. Kim Mun Dok	Mr. Andrew Morris
Mr. Jong Sun Won	Mr. Abraham DeKock
Mr. Choi Il	Mr. Eigil Sorensen
Mr. Kim Hyon Il	Mr. Kauko Hakkinen

## Joint Thematic Working Groups

<i>Thematic Group</i>	<i>Lead Agency</i>	<i>Coordinator</i>	<i>Other UN Agencies (open participation)</i>
Food security	WFP	Mr. Abraham DeKock	Mr. Roberto Christen (UNDP), Ms. Ingrid Kolb-Hindarmanto (UNICEF)
Energy/Environment	UNDP	Mr. Kim Yun Hum	Mr. Roberto Christen (UNDP), Mr. Geir Rodven (WHO) Mr. Will Duckworth
Health-Nutrition	UNICEF	Ms. Danielle Deboutte Mr. Andrew Morris	Mr. Egle Sorensen (WHO), Dr. Dr Pak Tong Chol (WHO), Ms. Ingrid Hindarmanto (UNICEF), Mr. Nagi Shafik (UNICEF), Ms. Thi Van Hoang (WFP) Mr. Kauko Hakkinen (UNFPA).
WES	UNICEF	Mr. Abdulai Kaikai	Mr. Geir Rodven (WHO) Mr. Sim Dong Guk (UNICEF)
Education	UNICEF	Mr. Andrew Morris	UNESCO, Mr. Sim Dong Guk (UNICEF),
Gender	OCHA	Mr. Brendan McDonald	Mr. PP Chopra (WHO), Mr. Pang (UNDP), Ms. Liu Xuerong (WFP), Mr. Kauko Hakkinen (UNFPA), Ms. Tharn Suvilaisunthorn (UNICEF)
Development Cooperation	UNDP	Mr. Olof Nunez	Mr. Brendan McDonald (OCHA), Mr. Abraham DeKock (WFP), Mr. Andrew Morris (UNICEF), Mr. Kauko Hakkinen (UNFPA), Mr. Hong Yong (WHO).

<i>Consultants:</i>	<i>Other Contributors:</i>	<i>Secretariat Assistance:</i>
Mr. Leela Da Silva Mr. Peter Wingfield-Digby	Mr. Mike Stapleton Mr. Will Duckworth Mr. Eun Kyoung Hong (UNIDO) Mr. Anthony Bromley (UNIDO) Mr. Huming Yu (PEMSEA)	Mrs. Myra Junor Mrs. Naomi Scott-Dunne Ms. An Un Bok

## LIST OF ACRONYMS

ADB	Asian Development Bank	MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
AES	Anti-Epidemic Stations	MICS	Multi-Indicator Cluster Survey
AREP	Agricultural Recovery and Environmental Protection	MoCM	Ministry of City Management
		MoE	Ministry of Education
CAP	Consolidated Appeals Process	MoPH	Ministry of Public Health
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity	NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
CCA	Common Country Assessment	OCHA	United Nation's Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women	OPEC	Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries
CESVI	Cooperazione e Sviluppo	PDC	Public Distribution Centre
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child	PDS	Public Distribution System
		SMEC	Snowy Mountains Engineering Corporation
DPRK	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	TB	Tuberculosis
ECD	Early Childhood Development	TOR	Terms of Reference
EFA	Education for All	UN	United Nations
EU	European Union	UNCED	United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
FAM	Food Administration Ministry	UNCT	United Nations Country Team
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations	UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
GAA	German Agro Action	UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
GAVI	Global Alliance for Vaccines And Immunization	UNESCO	United Nations Education Scientific and Cultural Organisation
GDF	Global Drug Facility		
GDP	Gross Domestic Product	UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
GFATM	Global Fund Fighting AIDS, TB and Malaria	UNGEI	United Nations Girls' Education Initiative
HIV/AIDS	Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome	UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
		UNIFEM	United Nations Fund for Women
ICCPR	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights	USD	United States Dollar
ICESCR	International Covenant on Economic Social and Cultural Rights	WFP	World Food Programme
		WFS	World Food Summit
ICPD	International Conference on Population and Development	WHO/EHA	World Health Organisation of the United Nations / Emergency and Humanitarian Action
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development	WSC	World Summit for Children
IFI	International Financial Institution	WSSD	World Summit for Sustainable Development
IFRC	International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies		
IMO	International Maritime Organisation		
JSC	Joint Steering Committee		
JTWG	Joint Thematic Working Group		