

SDC in DPR of Korea

2017 – 2020 Dried Skimmed Milk Programme

Humanitarian Aid and SHA

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Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
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Swiss Agency for Development
and Cooperation SDC

2018 Dried Skimmed Milk (DSM) Programme

The Swiss Government regularly supports the operations of the World Food Programme (WFP) of the United Nations in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) through donations of dried skimmed milk (DSM). The WFP processes the DSM in local factories along with other ingredients such as cereal, corn, soy and rice to blended vitamin enriched food for distribution to children under five years and pregnant and lactating women.

The WFP produces three different types of Super Cereals (blended foods) containing Swiss DSM: Corn Soy Milk, Cereal Milk Blend and Rice Milk Blend. Although only 5-25% of these Super Cereals consist of DSM, the financial value of the DSM amounts to 36-72% of the final product. Switzerland is the only in-kind donor and thus main supplier of DSM in the DPRK, an important contributor to the blended food production. Adding protein-enriched foods to diets of young and moderately malnourished children is hugely important for improving growth and physical recovery. Therefore, the blended food products of the WFP containing Swiss DSM make a significant nutritional contribution to the diet of the demographic target groups.

Under-nutrition is especially damaging to children. It deprives children of essential nutrients that are required during their most important period of growth during the first 1000 days, creating permanent and irreversible physical and mental damage. Undernourishment among women has a major impact on maternal mortality. Low-birth-weight babies are four times more likely to die in the first weeks of life from infectious diseases and may suffer from immune and developmental deficiencies, including chronic diseases later in life.

As a means of combatting under-nutrition, the Super Cereals are distributed to young children in institutions such as baby homes, nursery schools and hospitals and to pregnant and lactating women in households. Cereal Milk Blend and fortified biscuits are the products containing most DSM. They are highly nutritious and digestible products used for moderately malnourished children in child institutions, pediatric hospitals and wards as supplementary food for rehabilitation.

The Swiss DSM reached over 950,644 beneficiaries through the channels of the WFP in 2017. SDC has donated DSM worth CHF 50 m. to the WFP in the DPRK since 2009, accounting for 60% of SDC's total budget for the DPRK.

Background Information

The DPRK has faced regular severe food shortages in the past. A generally satisfactory situation in the mid-1980s deteriorated and was leading to catastrophic famine in 1995, when the DPRK government was forced to appeal to the international community for assistance for the first time. In response, SDC started donating food to the DPRK and opened a programme office in Pyongyang in 1997.

More than 16 million people receive food rations from the state controlled Public Distribution System (PDS), which has been in place for many decades. At the beginning of the PDS, the government's target for the daily rations included up to 900 g of grain per working adult. This amount has been repeatedly reduced since the 1970s. In the past four years the daily PDS rations averaged at less than 330 g per adult. According to WFP, in 2014, still 81 per cent of households surveyed had inadequate food consumption.



Budget

| Year | Budget CHF | kg of DSM |
|------|------------|-----------|
| 2018 | 5'000'000 | 1,888,000 |
| 2017 | 4,851,157 | 1,126,000 |
| 2016 | 7'517'000 | 2'170'000 |
| 2015 | 5'483'400 | 1'050'000 |
| 2014 | 5'491'400 | 1'050'000 |
| 2013 | 4'500'000 | 900'000 |
| 2012 | 4'001'000 | 825'000 |
| 2011 | 3'906'000 | 800'000 |
| 2010 | 5'078'000 | 1'000'000 |
| 2009 | 3'429'000 | 625'000 |

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