Country:Democratic Republic Of Korea

commitee:UNFPA

Topic:Global Health Strategies to Reduce Child Mortality

 North Korea is a country in East Asia. It constitutes the northern half of the Korean Peninsula and borders China and Russia to the north at the Yalu (Amnok) and Tumen rivers, and South Korea to the south at the Korean Demilitarized Zone. In 2023, North Korea intensified its political and economic development. Pyongyang is going back to its historical roots, dedicating economic resources to the heavy industries where it has a comparative advantage. Although Supreme Leader Kim Jong-un pays lip-service to the idea of raising living standards, the overwhelming narrative is one of continuous retrograde. This is to the detriment of ordinary people.

North Korea’s return to its historical roots was made clear in the published notes from the Ninth Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Workers’ Party of Korea Central Committee, held in the capital in late 2023. In a development that preceded the [COVID-19 pandemic](https://eastasiaforum.org/2022/01/04/north-korea-a-hermit-kingdom-again/?swcfpc=1) but was also accelerated by it, North Korea has increasingly sought to expand control and oversight over its economy. This is a reversal of the strategy it has held since the early 2000s, where it had let markets and market mechanisms increasingly dominate the national economy. 1.8 children born/woman (2022 est. ) 22.42 deaths/1,000 live births (2021 est. ) −0.04 migrant(s)/1,000 population (2021 est. ). The past two decades, however, have seen child mortality fall once more, and in 2020, it is estimated that for every thousand children born in North Korea, over 98 percent will make it past the age of five.

Access to basic lifesaving interventions such as skilled delivery at birth, postnatal care, breastfeeding and adequate nutrition, vaccinations and treatment for common childhood diseases can save many young lives. North Korea has faced significant challenges in implementing global health strategies to combat child mortality due to its highly isolated nature and limited access to resources and information. The country has struggled with malnutrition, inadequate access to healthcare services, and a lack of essential medical supplies, all of which contribute to high child mortality rates. Limited collaboration with international organizations and a strict political and economic sanctions have further hindered North Korea's ability to access critical resources and develop effective health interventions.

Addressing infant and child mortality in North Korea involves implementing comprehensive global health strategies that can be adapted to the unique challenges of the region. Here are some key strategies that have been recognized globally and could potentially be applied:

1. \*\*Improving Maternal Health Care:\*\*

- \*\*Antenatal Care:\*\* Anternatal care is important and pregnant women have access to regular antenatal check-ups to monitor the health of both the mother and the fetus

- \*\*Skilled Birth Attendance:\*\* Training and deploying skilled birth attendants to assist with deliveries and manage complications.

- \*\*Postnatal Care:\*\* Providing postnatal care to mothers and newborns to address any immediate health issues.

2. \*\*Enhancing Nutrition:\*\*

- \*\*Breastfeeding Promotion:\*\* Encouraging exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months and continued breastfeeding along with appropriate complementary foods up to two years would be better.

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