



North Korean children drink soya milk processed in a World Vision factory.

## FOOD CRISIS IN NORTH KOREA

### Noodle Factories

What do meals have to do with math? Everything, if your stomach is empty. It's impossible to concentrate on numbers when you haven't had a proper meal in days.

### Going hungry

There are lots of reasons why kids in North Korea go hungry. Although the country has essentially shut itself off from the rest of the world, it's not removed from the global food crisis. North Korea is only able to produce 60 per cent of the food it needs. The rest comes from outside – and prices have gone up.

Accessing nourishing food is even tougher for children living in rural areas. A child's survival may be linked to the patch of land his or her parents farm, land that's been depleted over the years. Overuse, deforestation, lack of tools and seed – all these contribute to hunger and malnutrition in children.

In the end, many North Korean kids miss out on the positive benefits of school. They are hungry, tired and unable to concentrate on what's being taught. In winter, schools can be freezing, making matters worse.

### Food for thought

World Vision is helping, by providing school lunch for 8 to 10 thousand North Korean children each day. The agency supports two factories producing noodles and soya milk, and a bakery producing bread and other goods. These are distributed to children in preschools and kindergartens.

With fuller bellies, even addition and subtraction don't seem quite so difficult. Children can turn their attention to their schoolwork, instead of focusing on hunger pangs.

*Funds raised by the World Vision 30 Hour Famine will provide food processing centres with wheat flour to use in daily lunches.*