

# Exclusive Briefing on the Food Shortage of North Korea 2008

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**1.** Food, how short is it?

**2.** Is it only partial problem?

**3.** Predicted Famine

**4.** It's not too late.

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***1***

Food, how short is it?

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# Forecast of the 2008

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[Units:10,000MT]

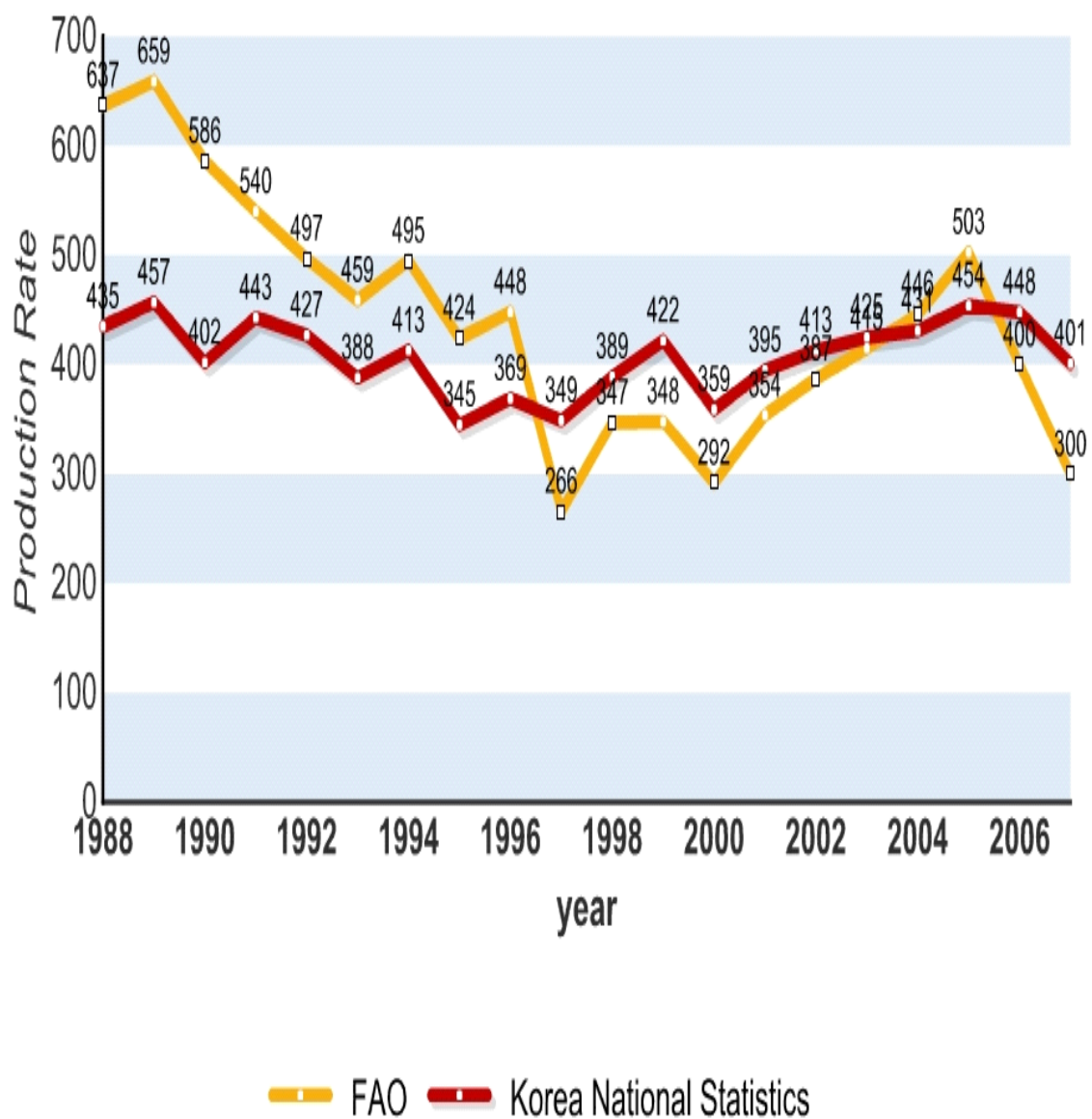
|                                    | Ministry of<br>Unification<br>(S.Korea) | WFP        | FAO        | Good<br>Friends<br>Estimates |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|------------|------------|------------------------------|
| Minimum<br>Needs                   | 542                                     | 520        | 466        | 430                          |
| Total yield<br>2007                | 401                                     | 380        | 300        | 250                          |
| <b>Total<br/>Shortage<br/>2008</b> | <b>141</b>                              | <b>140</b> | <b>166</b> | <b>180</b>                   |

# Production Records of North Korea

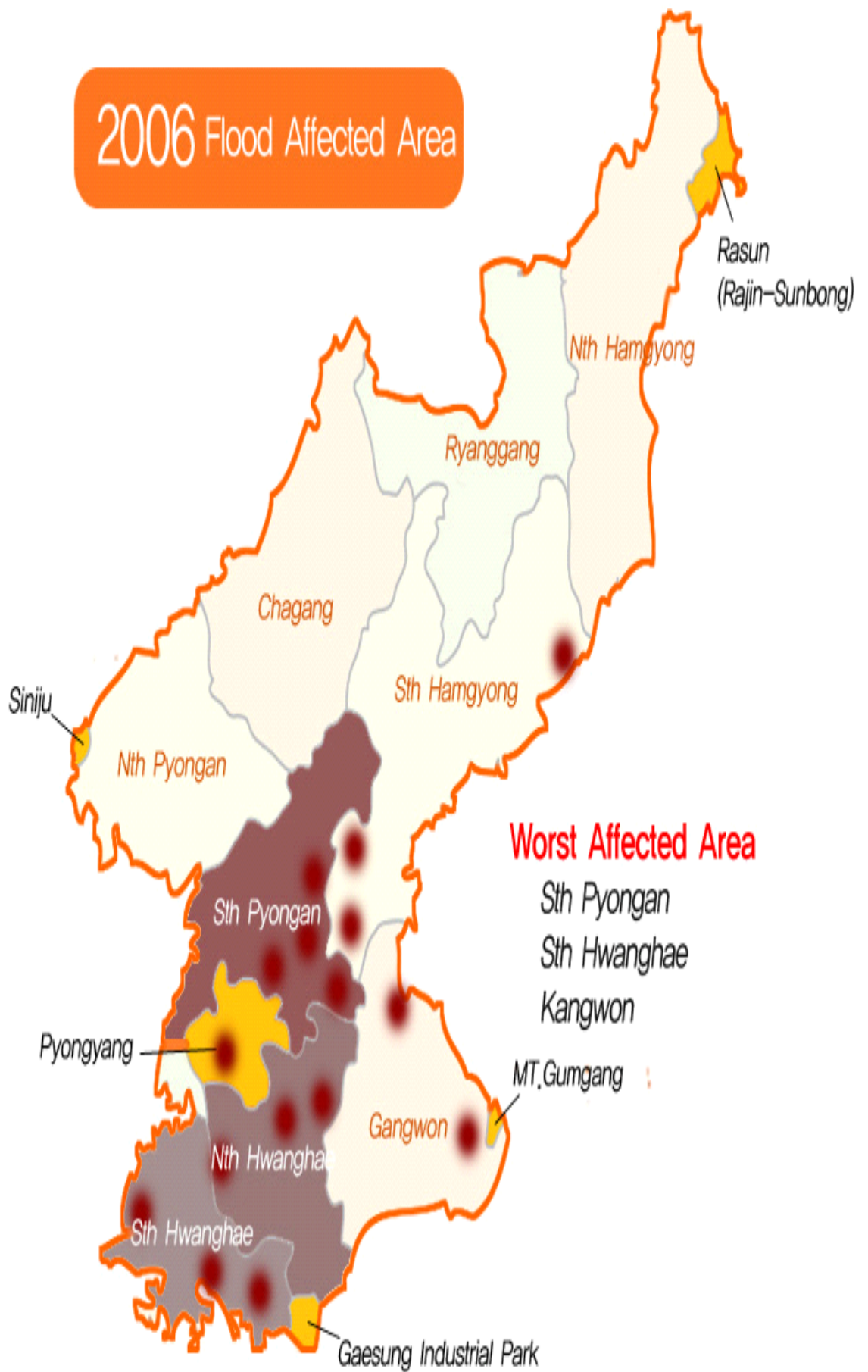
| Year | N. Korea<br>(Official) | S.Korea<br>(MoU) | FAO   | Year | N. Korea<br>(Official) | S.Korea<br>(MoU) | FAO   |
|------|------------------------|------------------|-------|------|------------------------|------------------|-------|
| 1961 | 483.0                  | -                | 358.3 | 1985 | -                      | -                | 633.2 |
| 1962 | 500.0                  | -                | 372.5 | 1986 | -                      | -                | 711.4 |
| 1963 | 500.0                  | -                | 405.4 | 1987 | 1000.0                 | -                | 662.8 |
| 1964 | 500.0                  | -                | 421.2 | 1988 | -                      | -                | 637.1 |
| 1965 | 452.6                  | 354.8            | 370.7 | 1989 | 886.0                  | -                | 659.4 |
| 1966 | 440.5                  | -                | 407.3 | 1990 | 900.0                  | 481.0            | 586.6 |
| 1967 | 511.0                  | -                | 378.8 | 1991 | 890.0                  | 443.0            | 540.5 |
| 1968 | 567.2                  | -                | 366.2 | 1992 | 880.0                  | 427.0            | 497.3 |
| 1969 | -                      | -                | 437.8 | 1993 | 900.0                  | 388.0            | 459.3 |
| 1970 | -                      | 466.4            | 463.5 | 1994 | 708.8                  | 413.0            | 495.1 |
| 1971 | 350.0                  | -                | 449.9 | 1995 | 349.0                  | 345.0            | 424.5 |
| 1972 | 350.0                  | -                | 430.9 | 1996 | 250.0                  | 369.0            | 448.0 |
| 1973 | 534.4                  | -                | 481.5 | 1997 | 268.0                  | 367.0            | 266.0 |
| 1974 | 700.0                  | -                | 506.8 | 1998 | 283.0                  | 393.0            | 347.0 |
| 1975 | 770.0                  | 495.3            | 523.2 | 1999 | 428.0                  | 422.0            | 348.0 |
| 1976 | 800.0                  | 503.2            | 535.1 | 2000 | -                      | 358.0            | 292.0 |
| 1977 | 850.0                  | 502.9            | 570.8 | 2001 | -                      | 395.0            | 354.0 |
| 1978 | 780.0                  | 498.8            | 557.8 | 2002 | -                      | 413.0            | 387.0 |
| 1979 | 900.0                  | 517.7            | 576.6 | 2003 | -                      | 425.0            | 415.6 |
| 1980 | 900.0                  | 398.2            | 504.2 | 2004 |                        | 431              | 424.0 |
| 1981 | -                      | 563.9            | 579.9 | 2005 |                        | 453              | -     |
| 1982 | 950.0                  | 599.6            | 603.3 | 2006 |                        | 448              | 400.0 |
| 1983 | -                      | 578.5            | 618.4 | 2007 |                        | 401              | 300.0 |
| 1984 | 1000.0                 | 626.7            | 656.0 |      |                        |                  |       |

# Annual Food Production of 1988~2007

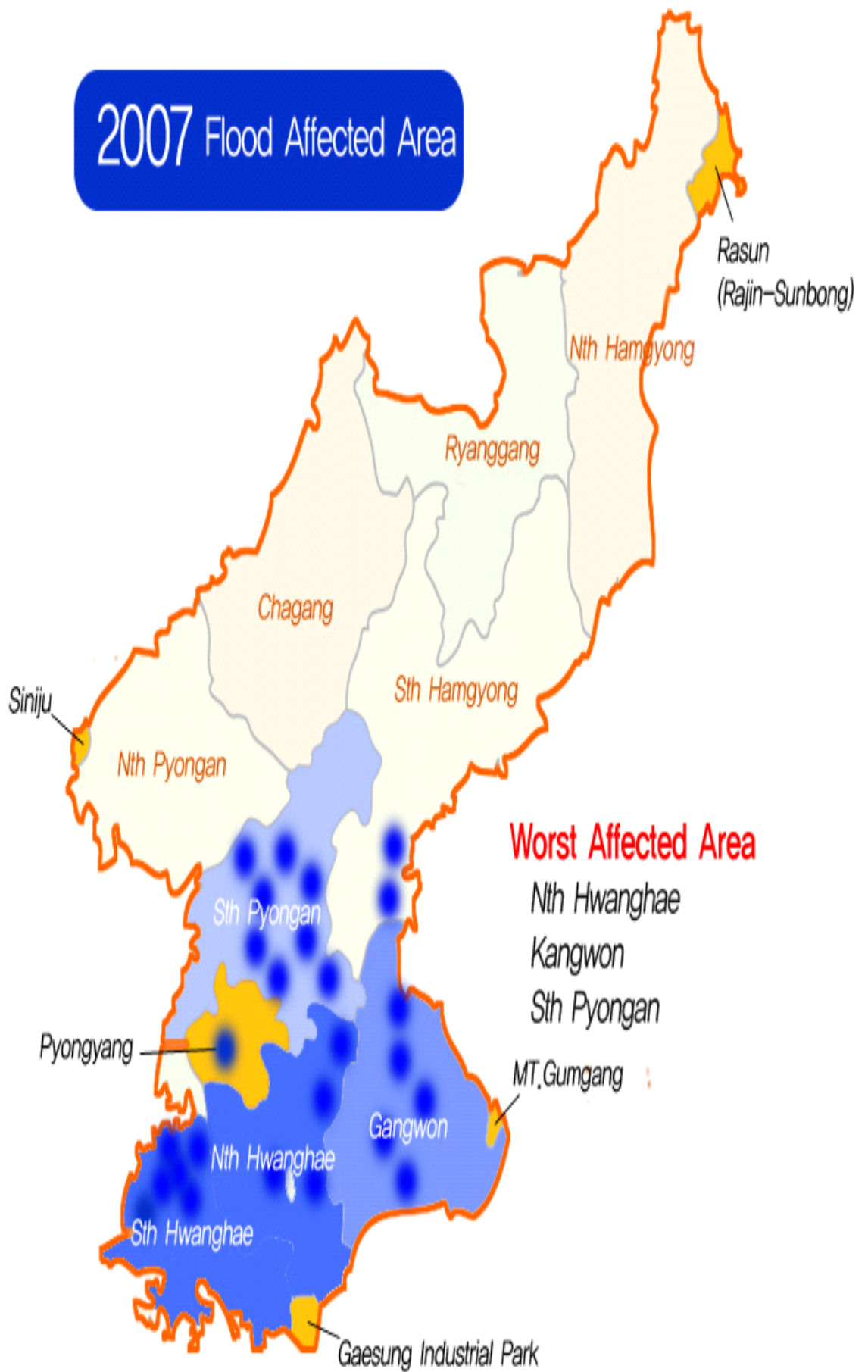
Units: 10,000MT



## 2006 Flood Affected Area



# 2007 Flood Affected Area



# Provincial Production

(Unit: 10000MT, estimation from Good Friends)

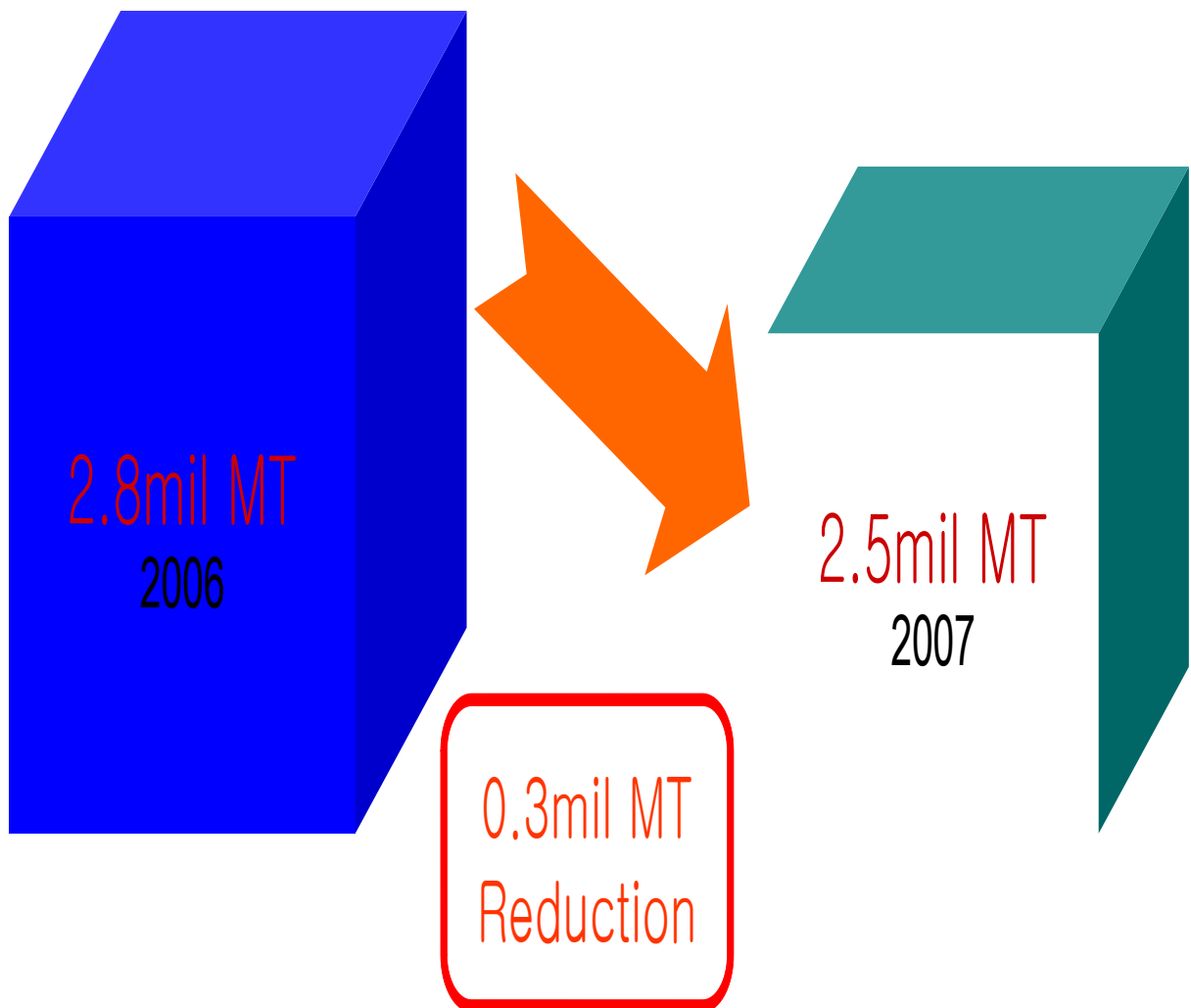
|                        |     |
|------------------------|-----|
| Nth Hamgyung           | 20  |
| Sth Hamgyung           | 22  |
| Ryanggang              | 13  |
| Jagang                 | 13  |
| Sth Pyongan            | 23  |
| Nth Pyongan            | 22  |
| Sth Hwanghae           | 24  |
| Nth Hwanghae           | 24  |
| Gangwon                | 15  |
| Gaesung                | 7   |
| Pyongyang              | 6   |
| Total Provincial Yield | 189 |

|                                   |            |
|-----------------------------------|------------|
| Production                        | 30         |
| Individual Patches                |            |
| Food held by Farmers              | 10         |
| Production from Detention Centres | 15         |
| Grain in reserve                  | 5-6        |
| Production from Two-Crop          | 30         |
| Sub-total                         | 90-91      |
| <b>Total</b>                      | <b>280</b> |

# Total Production Yield in 2007

(Estimation of the Good Friends)

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# Causes for Food Shortage

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1

Reduction in the food production

(Grain producing field damaged by flood 2006- 2007)

2

Foreign Assistance Cut-off

(International Community incl. South Korea)

3

Reduction of food import from China

(Control on Food Export from 2008)

4

Rice for State of Emergency (for civilian use) ran-out (To prevent famine in Spring of 2007)

5

Dramatic Increase on International Grain from 2-3 times→Reduction of Import

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# Causes for Reduction in Grain Production

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2006

- Torrential rain in July flooded grain producing plains
- Launching Missiles, Economic sanctions after the Nuclear experiment, Foreign Aid Cut-off
- Food shortage was forecasted in 2007

2007

- N.Korean govt, distributes rice for emergency and provisions for military to respond accute shortage in Feb.&Mar.
- BDA (Banco Delta Asia)delayed – S. Korean govt provides aid from June
- Deaths by starvations occur in some parts from the end of June
- Mass number of death prevented by fresh produce of potatoes and aid from S. Korea

# Causes for Reduction in Grain Production

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2007

- Reduction of grain production due to flood damages in August – dramatic inflation on food prices – led to deaths from starvation, but new maize crops prevented mass deaths from taking place in September
  - Reduction of grain production –prelude to food shortage in 2008.
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2008

- Due to reduction of grain yields in 2007, the price of grains were kept at 1200-1300won in January(average. 800won) - people felt insecure about the food
  - China puts food export to a halt (Export permit for food has stopped)
  - Dramatic increase of international grain price
  - Rice of emergency is empty. (emergency use from 2007 could not be filled since)
  - S.Korean govt. stops humanitarian aid
  - Public was disturbed of the food shortage from Feb.2008 – sudden increase of food price in Mar.2008
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Only in Certain  
Areas and Class?

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# Distribution List and the Tiers

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## 1 Tier

Central party, various committee members and the Pyongyang central district = 1 mil.

## 2 Tier

Military incl.military related field = 1.5 mil.  
People's Army (1.1mil.), People's Security, National Security Services, Strategy operation etc.

## 3 Tier

Ammunition factory 0.5 mil.(150×3,300workers)×family of 5 = 2.5 mil  
Public enterprise 0.3mil× family of 5 =1.5mil.  
2.5mil. + 1.5mil.= 4mil.

## 4 Tier

Ordinary workers (factories, workers, teachers, doctors)= 6 mil.

## Farmers

Farming population excluded from the distribution list = 8 mil.

# Food rations based on 2.8mil MT

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|                                   |   |                   |
|-----------------------------------|---|-------------------|
| 1 Tier (1 mil.)                   | ➡ | 500g, 182,000MT   |
| 2 Tier (1.5mil.)                  | ➡ | 500g, 274,000MT   |
| 3 Tier (4 mil.)                   | ➡ | 250g, 365,000MT   |
| 4 Tier (6 mil.)                   | ➡ | 100g, 219,000MT   |
| Farmers (8 mil)                   | ➡ | 500g, 1,440,000MT |
| Others<br>(industrial use, seeds) | ➡ | 320,000MT         |

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# Possible Senario for the 2.8mil MT of Food

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3 Tier



Serious malnutrition

4 Tier



Blink of Famine

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\* Specifics in 2008

Farmers



Farmers ran out of food :  
close to crisis

2 consecutive years of  
flood damages the major  
military provision  
producing field

# Symptoms of Food shortage 2008

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## 1Tier

- Pyongyang food ration disturbed (April)
- Pyongyang out skirts consume thin porridge (May)

## 2 Tier

- Military officers desert the army(January)
- Seeds are even ordered to be included in military provisions (March)

## 3 Tier

- 60,000 Chungjin Workers going without food (March)
- Ammunition factory in Jagang province – no ration for 4months (May)

## 4 Tier

- Eating Rice is the only wish in life (Feb)
- Train stations are filled with Kkotjebis (Feb)
- Death by starvation from detention centres (Apr)

## Farmer

- Farmers borrowing maize from January (Jan)
- Farmers in Bakchun, Nth.Pyongan subsisting only with grass porridge (May)
- Deaths from Starvation occur in most of North and South Hwanghae and South Pyongan(May)

# Differences in Food Shortage 2008

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|                                                                                                | Mid 90s                      | 2008                                         |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| Regions                                                                                        | Began from Hamgyung province | Began from Grain fields in Hwanghae province |
| Class                                                                                          | Workers                      | Farmers                                      |
| All regions began at the same time except for Pyongyang                                        |                              |                                              |
| Hwanghae Province, Grain storage, why?: Flood Damages, Producing base of the Rice for Military |                              |                                              |

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*3*

Predicted Famine

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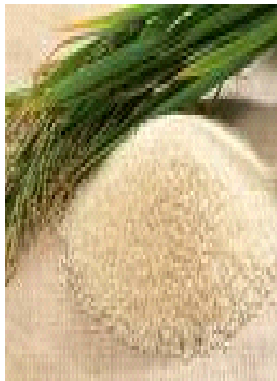
# Inflations in Food Stuffs

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[Units: won]

April, 2007

April, 2008



800-850

 **300%**

2,300-2,900

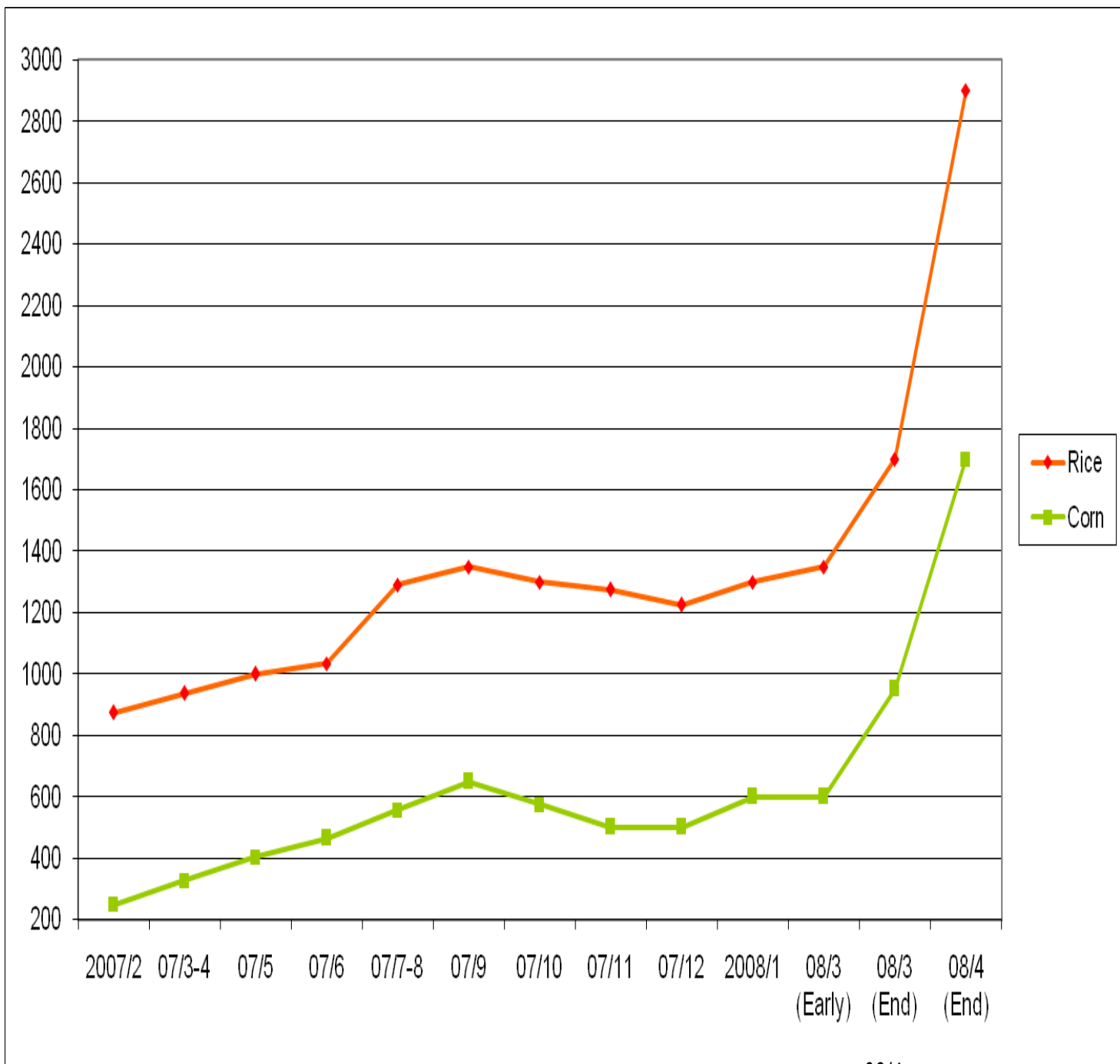


300-350

 **500%**

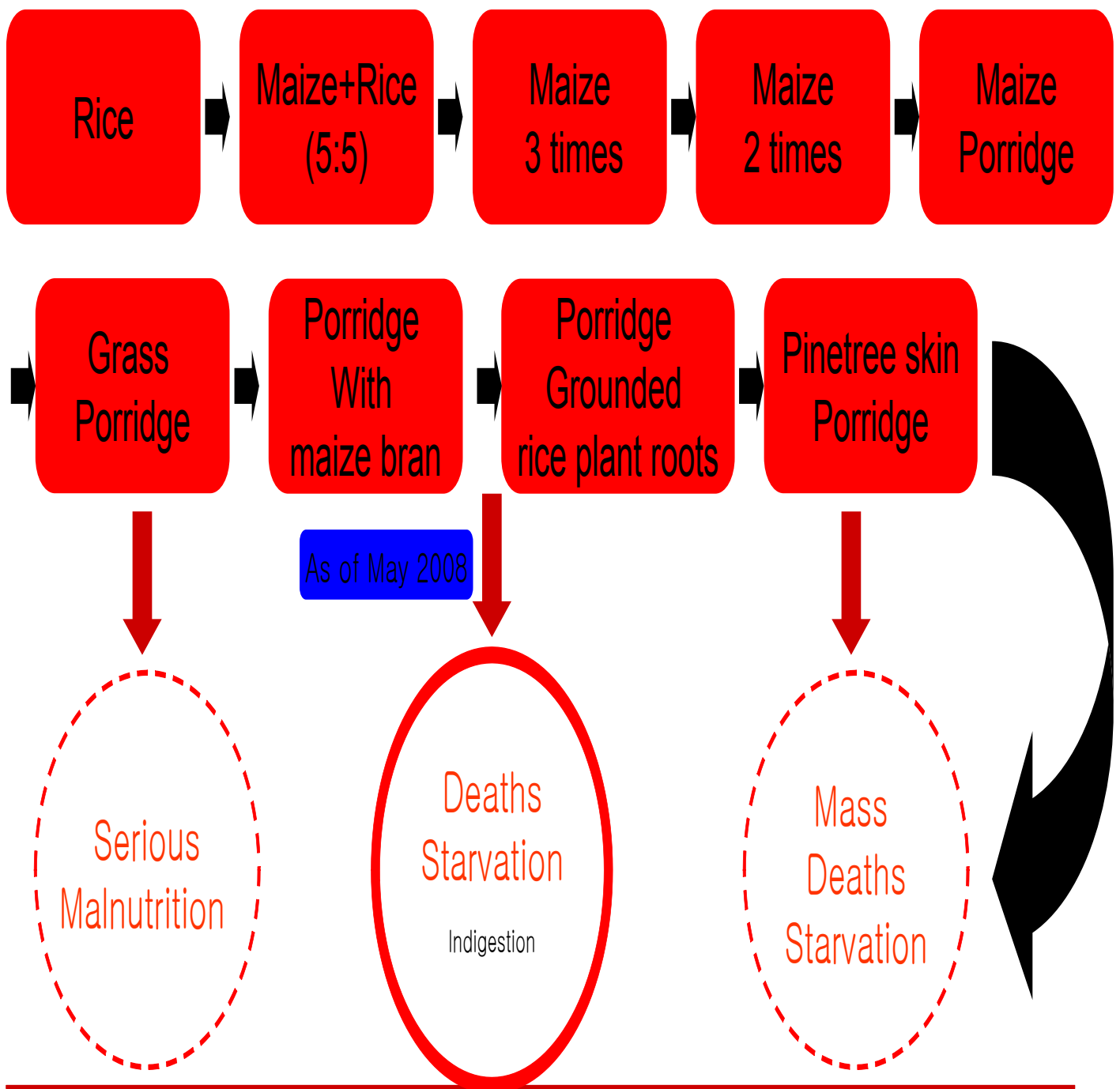
1,500-1,700

# Trends of Food Prices



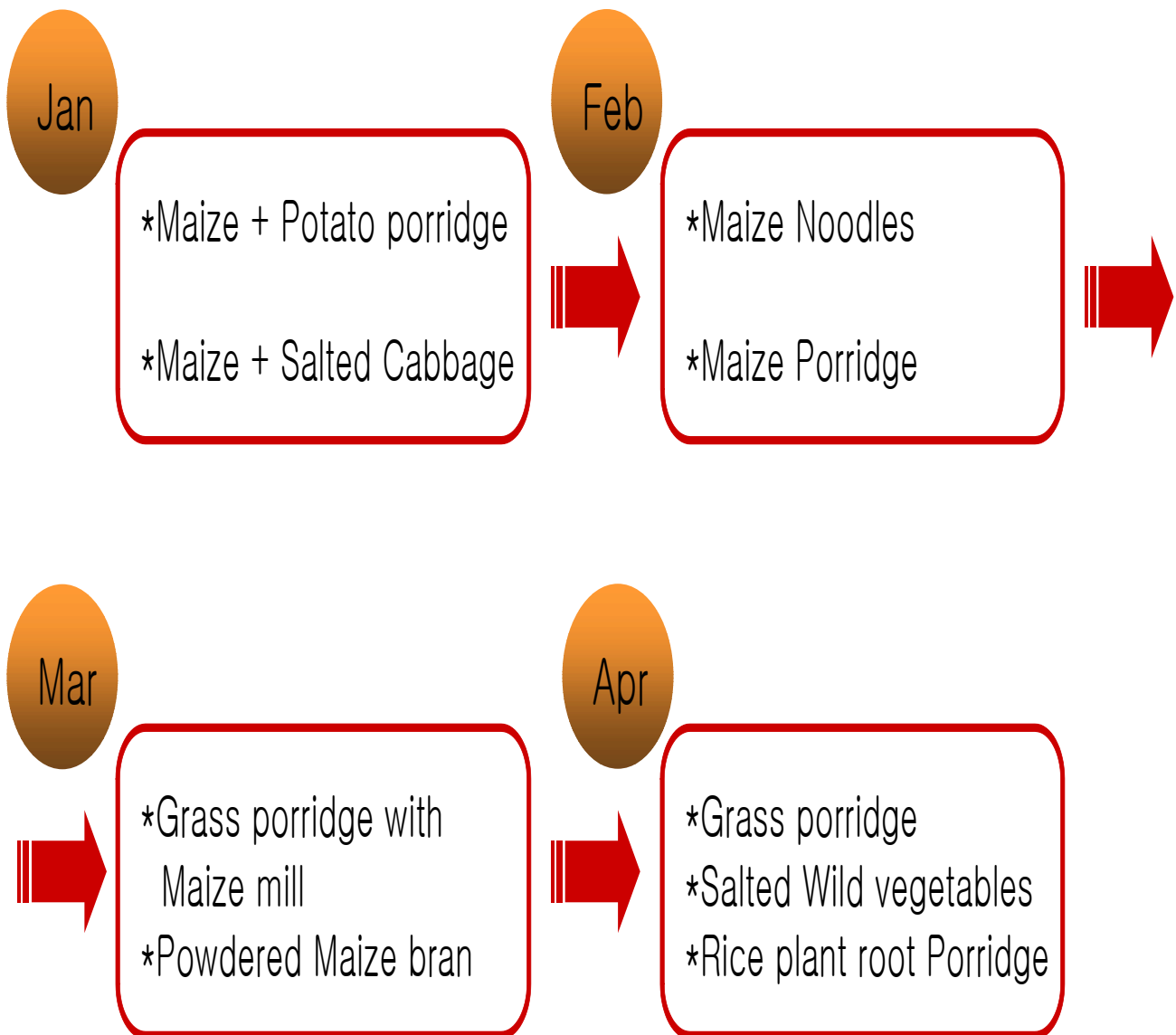
08/4  
(Early)

# Progression of Famines.



# Early Stages of Food Shortage

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# Social Phenomenon in Worsening Food Situation

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Disintegration of  
Families

Increase of Kkotjebis

Epidemics Break out

Suicide

Absences at Schools

Absences at Work

Farmers Abandon  
Farming

# Complaints from the People

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- 1 Farmers
    - Absence Cooperative farms
    - Appeal for seeds (rice, potatoes)
    - Collecting grass out in hills & fields
    - Eat Grass porridge as alternative meal
  - 2 Urban Workers
    - Absence at work
    - No food rations for large public corporations (eg. Gimchak Steel mill ) and ammunition factories
  - 3 Rapid increase : Kkotjebi (homeless people) children and adults, committing suicide, abandon dependants (child, elderly)
  - 4 Serious Malnutrition in Orphanages, Kkotjebi institutions, Detention Centres
  - 5 Collective action of women to appeal for Food ration or let the women under 50yrs to trade in Markets (Chungjin Market March 4,2008)
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# Deaths from Starvation

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Apr. beg. Deaths occur in Detention centres, orphanages etc

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Apr. end Deaths occur in Yangduk, S.Pyongan province

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May beg. 1-2 Deaths per district occur daily in rural areas  
in North Hwanghae province

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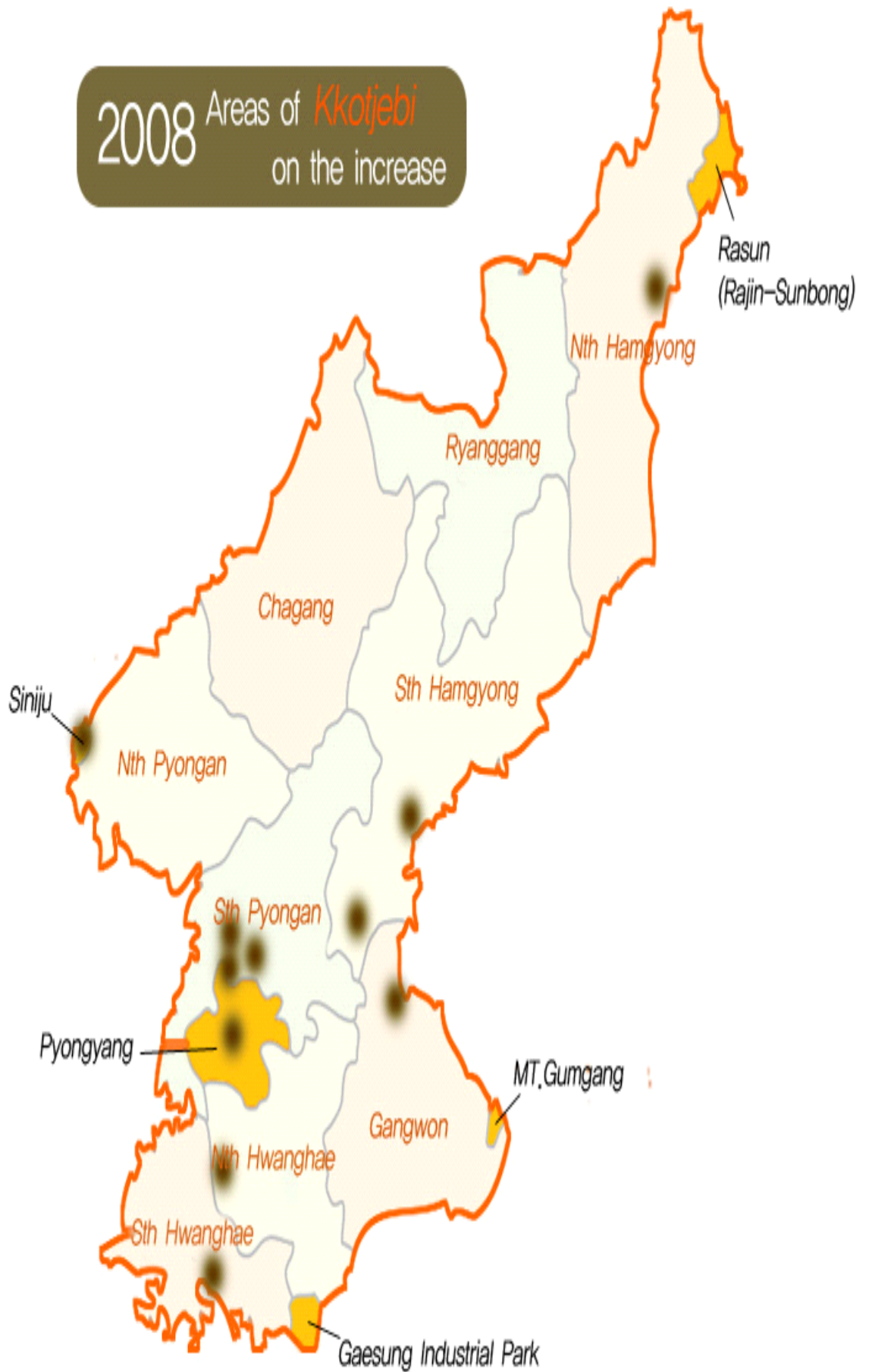
May end Deaths occur in most parts of South Hwanghae  
70~80% of the rural children stops going to school

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June beg. Increase of deaths in rural parts of North  
Hwanghae

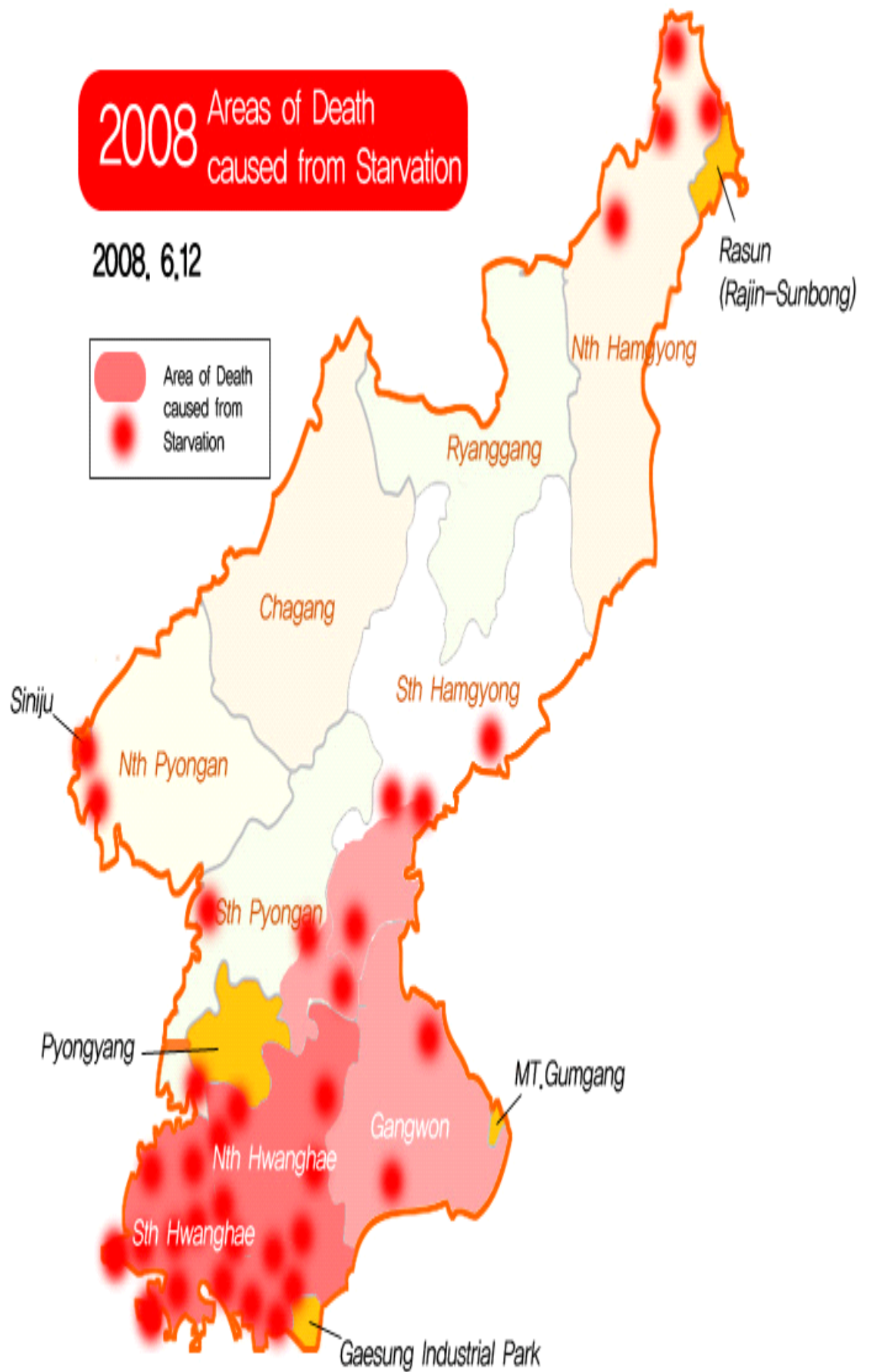
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2008 Areas of *Kkotjebi*  
on the increase



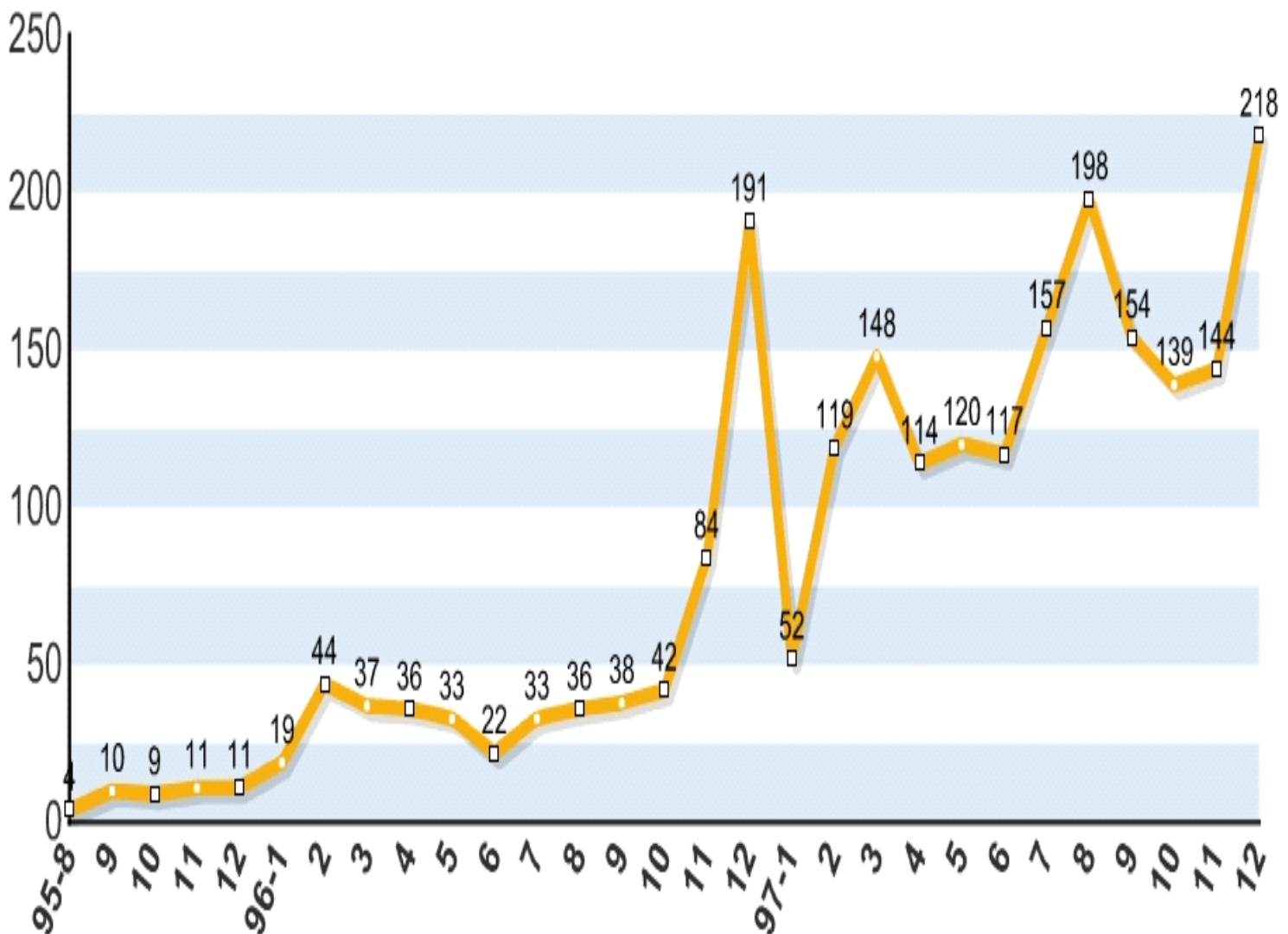
# 2008 Areas of Death caused from Starvation

2008. 6.12



# Mass Deaths during the mid 90s

1 Mortality rate per month- sample: 2,991



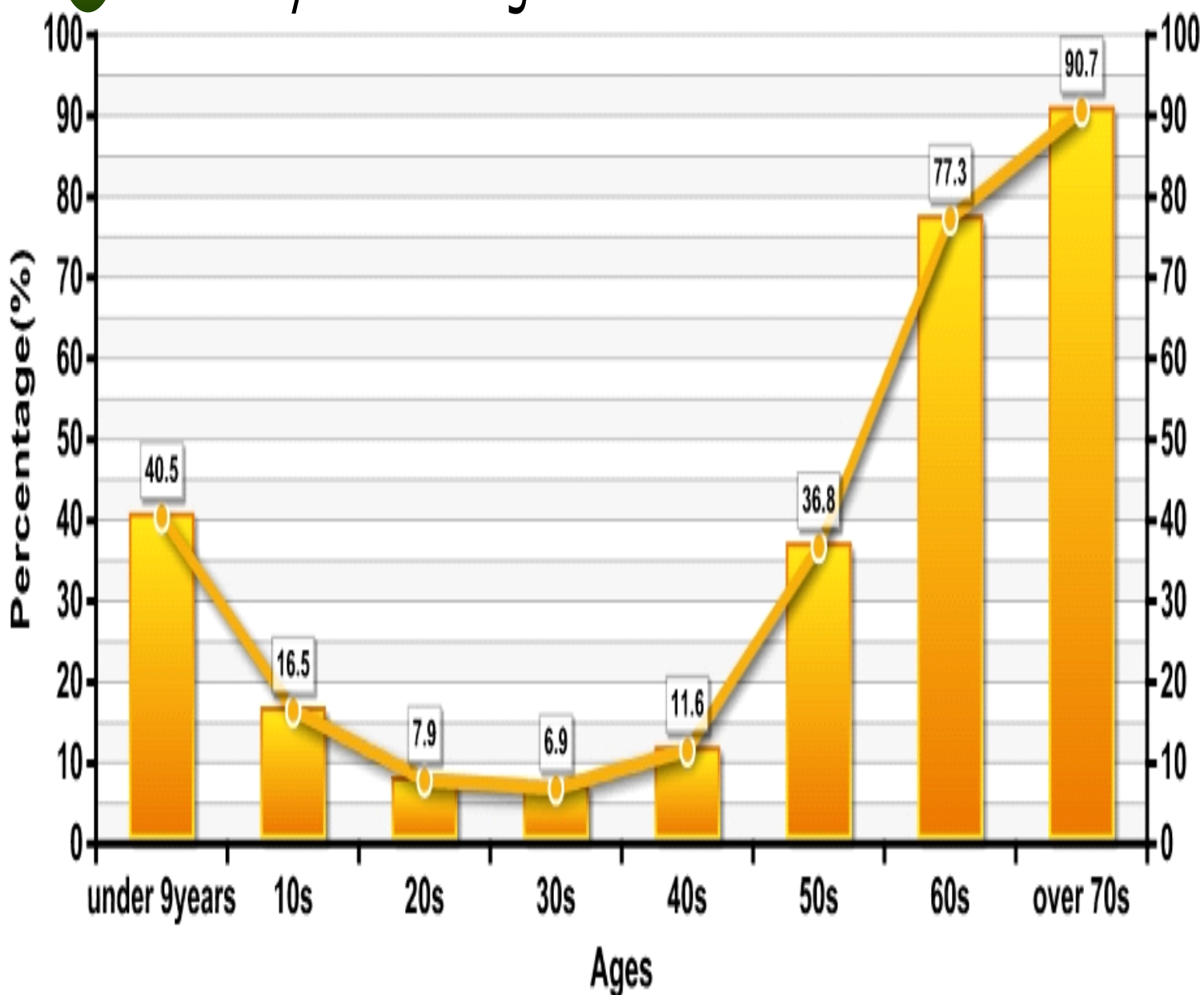
# Mass Deaths during the mid 90s

## 2 Analysis

| Causes of Deaths |             | No. people   |       | Percentage    |       | Valid Percentage |       |
|------------------|-------------|--------------|-------|---------------|-------|------------------|-------|
| Famine           |             | 868          |       | 29.0%         |       | 29.7%            |       |
| Famine+Disease   |             | 267          |       | 8.9%          |       | 9.1%             |       |
| Diseases         | TB          | 1,670        | 172   | 55.8%         | 5.8%  | 57.2%            | 5.9%  |
|                  | Paratyphoid |              | 124   |               | 4.1%  |                  | 4.2%  |
|                  | others      |              | 1,374 |               | 45.9% |                  | 47.0% |
| others           |             | 117          |       | 3.9%          |       | 4.00%            |       |
| No answer        |             | 69           |       | 2.3%          |       | -                |       |
| <b>Total</b>     |             | <b>2,991</b> |       | <b>100.0%</b> |       | <b>100.0%</b>    |       |

# Mass Deaths during the mid 90s

## 3 Mortality rate in Age



# Mass Deaths during the mid 90s

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## 4 Estimated mortality rate

|       |           |                                            |
|-------|-----------|--------------------------------------------|
| 1995  | 100,000   |                                            |
| 1996  | 650,000   | May 2008<br>Identical to<br>1996 situation |
| 1997  | 1,700,000 |                                            |
| 1998  | 550,000   |                                            |
| Total | 3 million |                                            |

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# ***4***

What Can we do?

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# Immediate Assistance

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1.5mil.MT International Assistance in Need

Out of 600,000MT required  
in June& July 2008

200,000MT

Immediate Assistance Required

in Maize and Wheat Flour  
(main diet for the ordinary people)

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# 2008 Routes for the Assistance through Land & Sea

