To add to the Samantha - Lieuve conversation:

It is no option to tell the North Korean authorities that we are (or risk to be) manipulated. They will not take that, it is the shortest way of leaving the country.

At best MSF tells them that others think we are being manipulated - and they have read that in the newspapers.

Probably you are aware of the long toes that some authorities have - when we talked last week about our lack of "free access" our interlocutor of FDRC got extremely annoyed. We can use the term conditional access or something like that, not more.

Be aware of the fact that we already told that we will spread a public message in which we would try to avoid the word "no free access".

You can imagine that we did not say that we would use the term manipulated. Maybe our interlocutor now feels manipulated......

What is extremely important is to add to the message that, you see, we do not only ask ourselves but we are also pressed by others, so we need to have better information, so we ask to be able to do surveys, AMONGST OTHERS.

The pitfall is that we are allowed to do one or two lousy small nutritional surveys and that is the end of it. With these people you have to fight for every square inch. So, in the discussion with FDRC last week our message was that we want better information, AMONGST OTHERS by nutritional surveys. When we find other options for relevant data collection on the nutritional situation (for example longitudinal data collection) we should insist on that as well. That is why we need to send a very experienced nutritionist as soon as there is a small opening - by the way we have one available.

We have stressed last week that only an experienced nutritionist can give good advice on how we should go about the data collection, so they should remember that.

good luck with it all

Pim