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## DREF operation update

### Democratic People's Republic of Korea: Typhoon Bolaven

 International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

#### DREF operation n° MDRKP005 GLIDE n° [TC-1212-000-000159-PRK](#) Operations update n° 1 29 October 2012

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC) Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) is a source of un-earmarked money created by the Federation in 1985 to ensure that immediate financial support is available for Red Cross and Red Crescent emergency response. The DREF is a vital part of the International Federation's disaster response system and increases the ability of National Societies to respond to disasters.

**Period covered by this update:**  
13 September - 12 October 2012

**CHF 272,817 has been allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) Red Cross Society in delivering immediate assistance to some 2,515 families (11,600 beneficiaries). Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.**

#### **Summary:**

Since July until September, most parts of DPRK were hit by consecutive floods caused by torrential rains. The impact of these floods was exacerbated when Typhoon Bolaven hit the eastern and western coastal areas on 28 and 29 August. The high intensity rainfall within a short period of time, with strong winds, resulted in flash floods in the affected communities. Some communities were partly damaged whereas others were completely washed away.



DPRK RCS, with the support of IFRC's disaster relief emergency fund, distributed relief items to flood-affected communities including in South Hamgyong province. Photo: DPRK RCS.

Some communities were partly damaged whereas others were completely washed away.

According to government sources, at least 59 people died and over 50 people were injured or missing. Up to 6,700 family dwellings were partly or fully damaged. The damage caused by the floods was reconfirmed by international non-governmental organizations working in the country as well. Access to the affected areas was cut off due to flooding for more than three weeks, and delaying the flow of information making it difficult to verify the needs and gaps on the ground. However, local Red Cross volunteers were instrumental in assessing the situation and delivering relief support in time.

This DREF operation supported the DPRK Red Cross Society (DPRK RCS) in providing assistance to about 2,515 families with immediate relief supplies as well as hygiene promotion activities to avoid outbreaks of diseases. Procurement of relief items for replenishment is in progress.

This operation will be completed by 12 December 2012. A final report will be available by 12 March 2013.

The Netherlands Red Cross/ Netherlands government and Canadian Red Cross/Canadian government made contributions towards the replenishment of the DREF allocation made to this operation.

The major donors and partners of DREF include the Australian, American and Belgian governments, the Austrian Red Cross, the Canadian Red Cross and government, Danish Red Cross and government, the European Commission Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (ECHO), the Irish and the Italian governments, the Japanese Red Cross Society, the Luxembourg government, the Monaco Red Cross and government, the Netherlands Red Cross and government, the Norwegian Red Cross and government, the Spanish Government, the Swedish Red Cross and government, the United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID), the Medtronic and Z Zurich Foundations, and other corporate and private donors.

IFRC, on behalf of DPRK Red Cross Society, would like to extend its thanks to all donors and partners for their generous contributions.

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## The situation

Successive torrential rains and tropical storms caused extensive flooding at the end of August and September, severely damaging buildings, infrastructure and crops throughout DPRK.

On 28-30 August, Typhoon Bolaven hit the country, worsening the situation especially in south and north Hwanghae, south and north Hamgyong, Kangwon and Ryanggang provinces. The government reported at least 59 dead, 1 injured and 50 others missing. Approximately 6,700 houses were partially or totally damaged and 2,192 houses were inundated. Up to 52,299 hectares of crop land were submerged, buried or washed away, aggravating food situation in the affected areas.

Despite the difficulties to access the areas, DPRK Red Cross mobilized local volunteers to verify the situation on the ground. Below is an overview of the situation through assessments carried out:

### **Shelter**

A total of 5,766 dwelling houses were partially or totally damaged. Most of the people who lost their homes moved in with neighbours and relatives while others lived in temporary shelters and public buildings after disaster. Gradually, some of them repaired their houses with local government support, some houses are under construction and others are still staying with family and relatives. According to DPRK Red Cross, none of the families are living under tarpaulins.

### **Health and water and sanitation**

Flooding of water sources had reduced the quality of water available in the affected areas. In some areas, pipelines were still damaged, hampering the supply of safe drinking water.

### **Food and nutrition**

Damaged crops due to flooding of arable land threatens food provision in the affected areas. Most affected families reported sudden loss of food stocks and belongings due to the floods, severely affecting their households.

Since the beginning of the floods in July, the government has been actively delivering early warning messages, supporting evacuations and distributing relief supplies including food and clothing. At this moment, water has already subsided in the affected areas. Local governments have started the rehabilitation of infrastructure like roads, bridges and communication facilities, repairing dams, embankments and damaged houses etc, as well assisting families in restoring their livelihoods. According to DPRK Red Cross, the government has also been taking care of the displaced people.

The government's top priority is to complete these basic recovery activities before the commencement of severe harsh winter in November/December. In addition, UN agencies and other non-governmental organizations are also involved in rehabilitation of shelter and water supply system in some areas.

The World Food Programme (WFP) and FAO have just completed a national survey on food and nutrition situation, though their report is yet to be published. The preliminary estimation, however, is that despite the damage caused by a dry spell followed by the floods and typhoons, the overall harvest is good and food production will reduce only by 2% as compared to the last year. However, in absolute terms, even this 2% will create a very high food gap.

## Coordination and partnerships

IFRC is a participant of the inter-agency mechanisms for disaster response in DPRK. Prior to the rainy season, contingency planning and other preparedness measures have been taken by the inter-agency group including formation of thematic clusters which were activated during emergency period.

DPRK Red Cross provincial branches have been coordinating with local government and provincial flood damage prevention committees. They are also closely monitoring the food and nutrition status of the affected population in close coordination with local authorities.

With the cluster system in place, UN agencies and NGOs provided relief assistance in different thematic areas including shelter, water and sanitation, health and education. The Red Cross coordinated its actions accordingly with these stakeholders.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

### Progress towards outcomes

DPRK RCS, together with IFRC, has already been responding since rain and flooding continuously hit the country since July, in close coordination with government. In response to Typhoon Bolaven, 2,515 families were supported with emergency relief items.

A rapid assessment was conducted by some local volunteers in the aftermath of Typhoon Bolaven, together with the subsequent deployment of provincial and national disaster response teams (PDRT and NDRT) in affected communities, who collected necessary information to plan for further action.

Red Cross volunteers at community level were mobilized in rescue, evacuation and first aid services to the affected people. DPRK RCS distributed emergency relief items like quilts, cooking sets, jerry cans and water purification tablets to 2,515 most affected families (11,604 beneficiaries) as follows:



RC volunteers are mobilized in reinforcement of river embankment which was damaged by typhoon in Yonggwang county, South Hamgyong province. Photo: DPRK RCS.

Province	Quilt	Cooking set	Jerry can	Water purification tablet
South Hamgyong	7,332	1,583	1,583	439,920
North Hamgyong	2,974	645	645	178,440
Ryanggang	1,298	287	287	77,880
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,604</b>	<b>2,515</b>	<b>2,515</b>	<b>696,300</b>

### Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

**Outcome:** To provide 2,515 affected and displaced families (approximately 11,600 people) with essential non-food items to meet their immediate needs in south and north Hamgyong and Ryanggang provinces.

#### Outputs and activities planned:

#### Expected results :

2,515 flood-affected and displaced families (11,600 people) have received non-food assistance.

#### Activities:

- Identification and registration of affected and displaced families based on agreed criteria;
- Distribution of non-food items from existing stocks to identified beneficiaries;
- Continuously monitor relief activities and provide reporting on relief distributions;
- Conduct ongoing assessment of the impact of the flood and review support strategies;
- Replenishment of stocks based on approved budgets and IFRC procurement requirement

**Progress:**

A total of 2, 515 families who were displaced as a consequence of major damage caused to their houses by flood/ landslides were targeted for non-food relief support. The progression of the post-disaster situation was closely monitored by Red Cross volunteers. No water-borne disease outbreak was reported in the affected areas, but there were some challenges related to food and shelter which were subsequently addressed by the government.

The replenishment of relief items like quilts, cooking sets, water purification tablets and jerry cans is underway.

**Challenges:**

Getting accessing to the affected areas due to continuous rain and damaged road condition was one of the major obstacles.

**Water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion**

**Outcome: The risk of water and sanitation related diseases has been reduced through the provision of water purification tablets and hygiene promotion activities to 2,515 families (approximately 11,600 flood-affected people) in south and north Hamgyong and Ryanggang province.**

**Outputs and activities planned:**

**Expected result:**

Access to safe drinking water is provided to the targeted 2,515 families (approximately 11,600 flood-affected people) for one month.

**Activities:**

- Provision of water purification tablets and jerry cans for 2,515 families.
- Conduct training/information programmes for Red Cross volunteers and beneficiaries on hygiene promotion and on the safe and proper use of water purification tablets and monitoring the use of water purification tablets,
- Mobilization of volunteers for monitoring the evolving situation

**Progress:**

A total of 2,515 families (about 11,600 people) received water purification tablets for a two-month period. DPRK volunteers also distributed pamphlets on health and hygiene promotion and explained to the families on how to use water purification tablets.

Hygiene promotion workshops for the Red Cross staff and volunteers as well as communities affected will be held in early November.

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## Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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## How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere to the Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) in Disaster Relief and the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (Sphere) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The IFRC's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

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The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
  2. Enable healthy and safe living.
  3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.
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