

INFORMATION BULLETIN



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Fédération internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

REPUBLIC OF KOREA: TYPHOON MAEMI

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Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) allocated: N/A

This Information Bulletin is for information only. The Federation is not seeking any funding or other assistance from donors for this operation at this time.

The Situation

On 13 September typhoon Maemi passed through the southern areas of the Republic of Korea. Maemi's exceptionally powerful winds, which reached speeds as high as 216 kilometres per hour, left a wake of destruction. There are a reported 87 people dead and 28 missing. The southern Province of Gyeongsang has been among the worst affected, reporting 41 of the country's total of 87 deaths. Maemi is being described as the most powerful typhoon to hit the Republic of Korea on record.

According to the National Disaster Prevention and Countermeasures Headquarters (NDPCH), the typhoon has left about 8,938 people homeless (or 3,323 households). It also destroyed communication's systems, disabling 2,218 communication centres nationwide. Additionally, high waves brought on by the typhoon destroyed ships and many seaside areas.

Rain falling at over 30 millimetres per hour in the country's southern cities has left large areas of farmland under water and triggered landslides in the provinces. Heavy flooding has forced residents to evacuate their homes for nearby schools and public facilities.

The government mobilized 5,000 soldiers to carry out relief work, and has plans to declare typhoon-hit areas as a special disaster zone to ensure a quick recovery by supporting rehabilitation and relief works.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Republic of Korea National Red Cross (KNRC) has run a non-stop relief operation since the beginning of the disaster. As the typhoon approached the Korean peninsula, the Red Cross chapters in Busan, Kyungnam, Kyungbuk operated ad-hoc emergency operation centers. The Korean Red Cross mobilized its HAM and relief volunteers deploying them to typhoon-affected areas. The Society has provided relief items to 8,190 households, and provided 5,500 meals to people evacuated from Pusan, Daegu, Kangwon, and Kyungnam on September 13th and 14th. Chapters located in the affected areas also distributed 648,696,000 Won (CHF 762,909; USD 553,140; EUR 490,075) worth of relief supplies to affected households. The items included rice, instant-noodles, blankets, cooking utensils, mobile stove, daily necessities and supplementary foods.

Areas of Distributions	No. of Households	Amount Spent (KRW)
Busan	870	34,559,000
Daegu	496	50,396,000
Ulsan	16	2,849,000
Kangwon	1,342	108,272,000
Kangju-Chunnam	156	24,212,000
Kyungbuk	629	47,226,000
Kyungnam	4,637	375,553,000
Jeju	44	5,629,000
Jeju	8,190	648,696,000

About 694 Red Cross volunteers and 205 staff members joined the relief operation to distribute the relief goods. The KNRC will continue its active relief operations through mass care and feeding, distribution of relief items, and rehabilitation efforts in cooperation with the government. The Society's President, two Vice-Presidents and Secretary General visited the disaster areas today to encourage and console victims of the typhoon.

For a full description of the National Society profile, see www.ifrc.org

For further details please contact:

- The **Republic of Korea Red Cross** in Seoul; Ms. Jiyoung Yoon Desk Officer, **Phone** +82 2 3705 3664; **Fax** +82 2 37 053 661; **email:** jhiyoung@redcross.or.kr
- East Asia Regional Delegation: Mr. Alistair Henley (HoRD), email: ifrcn01@ifrc.org; phone+86 1350 1205 972, fax+86-10-6532-7166
- Federation Geneva: Mr. Satoshi Sugai, Desk Officer, email: satoshi.sugai@ifrc.org; phone +41 22 730 4237; fax+41 22 733 0395

All International Federation Operations seek to adhere to the Code of Conduct and are committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (SPHERE Project) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

For support to or for further information concerning Federation operations in this or other countries, please access the Federation website at <http://www.ifrc.org>.

For longer-term programmes, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal.