

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

DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA: TORRENTIAL RAINS AND FLOODS

14 August 2007

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The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in 185 countries.

In Brief

This Information Bulletin (no. 02/2007) is being issued for information only. The Federation welcomes financial support to replenish disaster preparedness stock as per the 2007 portion of the DPRK annual disaster management programme (the latest update of the 2006-2007 appeal is [available here](#)).

For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for a full description of the national society profile, please access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

The Situation

A consolidated data on flood situation was released by the official Korean Central News Agency on 14 August. This preliminary information revealed hundreds of casualties and 63,300 families left homeless. Kangwon province was found most affected with 20,000 families severely affected and followed by North Hwanghae, South Hamgyong, South Pyongan, South Hwanghae provinces and the capital city Pyongyang.

The record of last week's precipitation is documented in the table below:

Figure 1: A record of precipitation for the past week

Province	City/County	Date (7-12) mm
	Pyongyang	460
North Hwanghae	Singye	467
	Suan	406
	Sohung	476
	Sinphyong	592
South Phyongan	Pyongsong	590
	Tokchon	621
	Maengsan	529
	Pukchang	672
	Yangdok	570
	Sunchon	452
	Pyongwon	
	Songchon	
Kangwon	Eunsan	
	Hoeyang	
	Bopdong	
	Pyonggang	662
North Phongan	Namgang	
	Hyangsan	
	Kujang	
South Hamgyong	Chonae	422
	Jongpyong	399
	Kumya	389

	Hamhung	336
	Hongwon	309
	Sinhung	304

The DPRK government and local authorities are making every effort to prevent and mitigate the disaster’s impact by mobilizing several hundred thousands of people and heavy equipment. Embankments of rivers, irrigation canals and reservoirs are reinforced. The local People’s Committees are taking care of the livelihood of flood survivors, providing temporary shelters, food and clothes.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

From 9 August, the DPRK Red Cross Society has dispatched headquarters and provincial staff to the affected areas to conduct field damage assessment, while maintaining its emergency operations room on a 24-hour alert. The disaster management director with his staff has conducted field damage assessment in South Hwanghae province from 10 to 13 August. The assessment team found that the floods affected 19 counties in the province and 3,034 houses were partially or completely destroyed. More than 4,845 people or 1,159 families were left homeless (this information is compiled up to 11 August). The provincial Red Cross branch secretary reported that 2,458 RC volunteers, who had been alerted already, were mobilized to rescue and evacuate the affected people. In the meantime, first aiders provided field service to the wounded. The team tried to assess all 19 counties in the province, but failed as many parts of the main road were destroyed because of the ceaseless raining during the trip.



Mr. Kim, DM director had a dialogue with a flood victim in Sinsang ri, Chongdan county. International Federation.

Jaeryong County

The floods struck the whole county after a rainfall of 235mm from 8 to 9 August. It destroyed 365 houses, leaving 1,621 people homeless and submerged hundreds of paddy fields that were ripe with crops. The power supply and roads are suspended in some *ris*. The disaster’s impact is now expanding. The homeless or vulnerable are rehabilitating their houses during the day, and are evacuated to other houses and public buildings to sleep at night. Despite the bad conditions, all people across the county are mobilized for the rehabilitation of roads and bridges. Meanwhile, the government authority of the county is in close contact with its superiors.

Sinwon County

The vice chairperson of the County People’s Committee has reported that 497 houses have been destroyed to the date of reporting and more than 1,500 people are evacuated to the hills. The local authorities are now in close contact with the province and have been dispatched to the every community. According to the authorities, the urgent problem was to address the shelter needs for 485 homeless people (107 families) and to provide them with clean water. The Red Cross Committee mobilized 136 volunteers to repair houses and evacuate people to safer ground, providing them with the first aid.

Haeju City

The strong winds of 15m/s and fierce rainfalls of 182 mm have struck the entire city. Landslides occurred in several spots, which has been one of the main reasons why many houses have been destroyed. Up to 76 families (386 people) are homeless, temporarily living in public buildings or sharing residences with other families. The 86 Red Cross volunteers are now busy helping survivors and assisting in the affected people’s lives and livelihoods.

Chongdan, Yonan and Paechon counties

These counties are coastal areas close to the Korean West Sea. Heavy rains fell across the counties: 114mm in Chongdan, 123mm in Yonan and 212mm in Paechon counties. In addition, tidal waves and strong winds compounded the damaging effects of the disaster. The flood situation has deteriorated: 96 families are homeless in Chongdan, 57 families in Yonan and 103 families in Paechon county. In the meantime, many official building, paddy fields and roads were damaged. A number of houses are threatened in the face of further downpours, which means the number of destroyed houses will increased.

Overall response

Up to 5,900 Red Cross volunteers were mobilized to carry out evacuation and relief activities in three provinces of South Hwanghae, South Pyongan and North Hwanghae province. The Red Cross rescue team in the capital city saved 14 people from swirling waters.

On 13 August, Red Cross convoy carrying 500 family kits arrived at flood-stricken Koksan and Sinpyong county to cover 298 homeless families in Koksan and 202 in Sinpyong. A total of 1,159 families in six counties in South Hwanghae province and 800 families in five counties in South Pyongan will receive relief items by 14 August. In the meantime, two additional Red Cross assessment teams were dispatched to the eastern provinces, which were reportedly most affected. The Red Cross action will be adjusted according to the developing needs.

The Federation and the DPRK Red Cross have daily coordinating meetings about the unfolding situation and updates will be provided. For a full description of the National Society profile, see www.ifrc.org.

How we work

All International Federation 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 is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The Federation's Global Agenda

The International Federation's activities are aligned with under a Global Agenda, which sets out **four broad goals** to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".

Global Agenda Goals:

- Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.
- Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.
- Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.
- Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.

Contact information

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