

OPERATIONS UPDATE



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

DPR KOREA; FLOODS

October 22, 2001

Appeal No. 34/01

Launched on 16 October 2001 for CHF 815,000 for three months

DREF Allocated: CHF 150,000

Beneficiaries: 12,000

Operations Update N° 1 Period covered 16 October to 22 October

“At a Glance”

Appeal coverage: 22.3%

Related Appeals: 01.47/01 East Asia regional programmes; 01.48/01 DPR Korea

Outstanding needs: CHF 632,944

The Disaster/Situation: Donors have responded well to the appeal but more assistance is being sought. The Red Cross was the first organisation to respond to the disaster and to meet urgent needs has expanded the operation into two new counties. A relief coordinator is due to arrive in DPR Korea on October 27 to assist the National Society in its efforts.

The Situation

On 9 and 10 October 2001, heavy rain combined with strong winds and sea surges resulted in severe flooding on the eastern coast of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK). The storm caused extensive damage to houses, crops and infrastructure, including roads, bridges, railways, public buildings and water and sewage systems. As reported by the Federation on 16 October, 81 people were killed, 33 people are missing and 84 were seriously injured.

Several joint assessments have been conducted to the worst affected areas by the DPRK Red Cross and the Federation as well as other local and international agencies, including OCHA and FDRC. The latest figures on homeless people in Kangwon Province are: 9,326 in Wonsan City, the provincial capital of Kangwon Province, 1,412 in Tongchon County and 592 people in Anbyon County.

The situation is expected to deteriorate with the onset of winter, as temperatures in DPR Korea can drop to as low as minus 20 Celsius.

The Red Cross was the first organisation to respond by providing emergency relief assistance to 1,200 families living in and around Wonsan City.

The Federation launched an international appeal for CHF 815,000 on 16 October, seeking assistance for 2,700 families in Wonsan City, Tongchon County and Anbyon County, whose houses have been destroyed.

Red Cross/Red Crescent Action

A joint disaster assessment team comprising, DPRK Red Cross disaster relief staff and the Federation disaster preparedness and relief delegate, was conducted within 20 hours of the disaster. Federation health and water and sanitation delegates, along with their counterparts from the DPRK Red Cross, made further assessments in Wonsan City as well as Tongchon, Anbyon and Munchon counties during the week commencing 15 October.

On October 12 relief items were released from the DPRK Red Cross central warehouse in Pyongyang and the regional warehouse in Wonsan City and distributed to 1,200 of the worst affected families (5,556 people). The items included: 100 metric tonnes of wheat; 3,600 blankets; 192 kitchen sets; 132 first aid kits; 1,200 water containers; 110,000 water purification tablets; and 50 rolls of plastic sheeting.

A second distribution, including 600 blankets, 163 water containers, 13,320 water purification tablets, three rolls of plastic sheeting and 600 winter jackets, will commence in Anbyon County on 24 October. Five thousand kitchen sets will arrive in the last week of October

Immediately after the disaster, the Federation released CHF 150,000 from the disaster relief emergency fund (DREF) to facilitate the emergency operation.

The procurement of 12,000 winter jackets has commenced. A speedy process is required to ensure that affected households receive the jackets before winter.

The Federation regional relief coordinator in Beijing will commence a three-week mission in DPRK on 27 October to support the relief operation. A four-month relief delegate position has been advertised internationally.

Immediate Needs

These remain as listed in the Federation Appeal dated 16 October:

Temporary Shelter including one tarpaulin and one plastic sheeting for 2,700 families to provide protection, living and storage space, privacy, and emotional security.

Blankets and Clothing, including 12,000 blankets, winter jackets, trousers and shoes, for warmth and wellbeing as temperatures fall.

Domestic items, including 12,000 kitchen sets and fuel for cooking.

Water and sanitation activities including the provision of one million water purification tablets and 5,400 collapsible water containers, as well as assisting local authorities to repair water and sewage pipes and water pumping stations.

Basic medical supplies to provide adequate care for those in need.

Coordination

As reported in OCHA Situation Report No. 3, OCHA will release two emergency grants: USD 30,000 from its own resources, and USD 20,000 from funds held in OCHA's Emergency Grant Reserve. The funds will cover procurement and distribution of relief items for the homeless in Kangwon Province. Distributions will be undertaken by the DPRK Red Cross and will be monitored by the International Federation and the OCHA Humanitarian Affairs Officer in Pyongyang.

The World Food Programme (WFP) already distributes food to vulnerable groups in the flood-affected areas. WFP will distribute additional food rations - 320 grams per person per day for 40 days - to 144,338 people affected by the disaster. In total, 1,850 tonnes of wheat will be distributed by WFP until the end of November when locally-grown rice and vegetables will be available.

FALU is distributing 5,700 quilts for hospitals in Kangwon Province and 14,000 quilts for affected households.

Kangwon Province is a normal UNICEF operational area and the organisation has distributed 130 emergency kits, containing antibiotics and oral rehydration salts to five county hospitals and 20 Ri-hospitals. The Federation and UNICEF are reviewing the Federation's initial plans to distribute medical supplies and to assist with the rehabilitation of water and sanitation systems. The Federation's Appeal may be revised following these discussions.

Background

In 1995, following severe flooding, the Government of DPRK, for the first time, appealed for international assistance. The Federation, in cooperation with the DPRK Red Cross, launched a CHF 5 million appeal for the distribution of clothing, blankets, food and first aid kits to 130,000 men, women and children and to rebuild 1,900 houses. The emergency operation has since evolved from food aid and shelter to a programme focused on disaster preparedness and support to the health system, through drug distributions, water and sanitation activities, health worker training, and community based first aid. The 2001 annual budget is approximately CHF 10 million.

The Federation operational area currently covers three provinces and a municipality (North Pyongan, Chagang, South Pyongan, Kaesong Municipality), comprising 50 counties and 1,706 provincial, county and village level health institutions, with a catchment population of approximately 6 million. The Federation delegation comprises nine international delegates including four health delegates, a disaster response and relief delegate and a water and sanitation delegate.

As a result of its role in disaster response operations during the 1995 and 1996 floods, and the 1997 drought, the DPRK Red Cross has been increasingly recognised by the Government and international agencies as a key player in disaster preparedness and response. A Memorandum of Understanding between the DPRK Red Cross and the FDRC was signed in 2000. The document outlines the roles and responsibilities of DPRK Red Cross in disaster preparedness and response. In the same year, DPRK Red Cross and the Federation cooperated to provide relief assistance to 6,000 households affected by the typhoon which hit the east coast of DPRK. The strategic pre-positioning of relief items under the 1999 programme proved to be crucial in the implementation of this operation.

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

For further details please contact :

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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.

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