

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

DPRK: FLOODS

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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 over 181 countries.

In Brief

This Minor Emergency Update no. 1 is being issued based on the needs described below reflecting the information available at this time. CHF 345,000 has been allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) in response to this operation to replenish disaster preparedness stocks distributed to the affected population. Replenishment of DREF by unearmarked contributions is welcome and needed.

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 \(NGOs\) in Disaster Relief](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- In Pyongyang: Choe Jung Gang, Head of the International Department; The DPRK Red Cross Society; Phone: +85.02.381.4350; Fax: +85.02.381.3490
- In Pyongyang: Jaap Timmer, Head of Delegation; email: ifrcpk02@ifrc.org; Phone: +85.02.381.4350; Fax: +85.02.381.3490
- In Beijing: Alistair Henley, Head of Regional Delegation; email: ifrcen01@ifrc.org; Phone: +86.10.6532.7162; Fax: +86.10.6532.7166
- In Geneva: Ewa Eriksson, Regional Officer, Asia and Pacific department; email: ewa.eriksson@ifrc.org; Phone: +41.22.730.4252; Fax: +41.22.733.0395

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The situation

Some 2,602 families have been affected by floods in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) following two days of heavy rains reaching 240 mm from 4 to 5 August 2005. Originally anticipated to affect the country during the end of August, the floods arrived several weeks earlier than expected during the first week of July and early August. Many parts of South Pyongan province were subjected to severe downpours. The two days of incessant rain have seriously affected the lives and livelihood of the people living in these areas. The local DPRK Red Cross branch conducted an initial flood damage assessment and reported that 1,215 families in Eusan, 1,067 families in Sunchon city and 320 families in Pyongson city were severely affected by the floods.

The Flood Damage Rehabilitation Committee (FDRC) has requested assistance from the national society to meet the needs of those people who have been most severely affected by the floods. On 7 August, the DPRK Red Cross at the national headquarters conducted an assessment in South Pyongan province. A representative from the FDRC also participated in the same assessment.

The DPRK Red Cross has quickly mobilized and deployed 50 volunteers in the affected areas. Some of those who lost their homes have been moved to public buildings which are being used as temporary shelters, while others are sharing houses with people who have not been affected.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The DPRK Red Cross at the national level is in close contact with the FDRC as well as the local authorities in the affected areas.

The local DPRK Red Cross branch is a member of the local emergency committee which covers the affected areas. The branch played an active role in evacuating communities, assessing the extent of the flood damage, and evaluating the needs of flood-affected communities.

The local government has been able to meet the immediate needs for food. On 9 and 10 August the DPRK Red Cross, with support from the Federation, provided those families who have lost their homes with basic relief items, outlined in the table below:

Items	Quantity
Blankets	3,590
Kitchen sets	798
Plastic sheeting	798
Water containers	798
Water purifying tablets	215,400

In addition, in-kind contributions of 4,000 quilts and 3,500 collapsible water containers valued at CHF 53,500 have been made by the Norwegian Red Cross. Also, the South Korean Red Cross contributed 3,000 emergency kits valued at CHF 265,600. Each emergency kit contains 2 blankets, 1 pair of trousers, 2 t-shirts and a set of daily necessities (2 bars of soap, 2 towels, 1 tube of toothpaste, 1 sponge, 2 boxes of tissues, 2 undergarments, 1 pair of rubber gloves).

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