

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

DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA: FLOODS

*Appeal No. MDRKP001
27, August, 2007
Glide no. FL-2007-000126-PRK*

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

Operations Update no. 1; Period covered: 11 August to 27 August, 2007; Appeal target: CHF 6,619,166 (USD 5,481,948 or EUR 4,074,586); Appeal coverage: 32%; Outstanding needs: CHF 4,495,602 (USD 3.7 million or EUR 2.7 million);

([click here to view the provisional contributions, also available on the website shortly](#)).

Appeal history:

Launched on 20 August 2007 for CHF 6,619,166 (USD 5,481,948 or EUR 4,074,586)

- For 6 months to assist 3.7 million beneficiaries.
- Final Report is due on May 2008.
- Disaster Relief Emergency Funds (DREF) allocated 15 August: CHF 250,000 (USD 205,572 or EUR 153,355).

Operational Summary: Torrential rains in the month of August have significantly affected 9 provinces and nearly 1 million people affected throughout the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. The DPRK Red Cross Society has responded with relief supplies and the mobilization of tens of thousands of volunteers. Emergency Health Kits and more than 21,000 Family Kits have been distributed to protect vulnerable populations for shelter, immediate assistance to cope and to prevent from further health risks. This summary provides an overview of the Red Cross efforts in DPRK over the past week.

Photo at right: a DPRK Red Cross volunteer provides assistance

Background

The DPRK's Red Cross Society responded immediately with relief supplies and the mobilization of volunteers to the victims of the disaster caused by the torrential rains that flooded many regions of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK). The rains severely damaged or destroyed infrastructure and agriculture and left at least 89,000 people completely homeless, more than 200 dead and tens of thousands living in temporary shelters. On 20 August an appeal was sent out for international support as the risks of consequent health emergencies are high and as the health infrastructure has been damaged. A serious



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lack of medical supplies has also left millions vulnerable to diseases.

The Government mobilized thousands of soldiers and others to repair roads and bridges. In the affected area the repairs and rebuilding of houses already a priority.

Regular coordination meetings are being held within the UN agencies as they are processing their own appeal. The operations of the DPRK Red Cross and the International Federation are centred in the Provinces where the international staff of the Federation has access.

Operational developments

The distribution of the family kits is ongoing and has been hampered only by the accessibility of the counties involved. Up until the 27th of August, a total number of 13,230 kits (65% of the total stock) has been distributed. The most severely affected provinces are Kangwon and South Hamgyong province with 8,779 and 5,099 families left homeless in each province. The distribution is based on an early assessment of 22,274 families which completely lost their homes and their livelihoods. Distribution estimates have been modified according to Red Cross assessments, and it is expected that the distribution of the family kits will be completed by the end of this week.

North Kangwon Hwanghae			South Hwanghae	South Phyongan	South Hamgyong	North Phyongan	Pyongyang	Total
Distribution of Family kits*	8,779	3,148	964	2,559	5,099	108	381	21,038
status	Completed	Ongoing	Completed	Ongoing	Ongoing	Completed	Completed	

On the 24th of August, the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) published an updated list of health concerns in the country. In this overview the number of affected provinces was increased to 9, now also including Ryanggang and Jagang. The number of affected counties and cities are now 149, the total number of population in the flooded areas is 18,056,000, the number of affected population increased to 960,000 and the number of homeless people increased to 170,000. Today on the 27th of August, the government confirms that these are correct figures.

The new figures from the government will not change the goals stated in the Federation's appeal. The Federation, working in cooperation with and support to the national society, will follow the situation closely to verify the figures.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action - objectives, progress, impact

Progress towards objectives:

Objective 1: The capacity of primary and secondary health care facilities to provide curative and preventive services for 3.7 million people living in affected areas is improved and the capacity to respond to the outbreak of waterborne diseases and manage minor injuries in selected hospitals in the country is strengthened.

The National Society's Health Department has finalised distribution plans in consultation with the MoPH for the distribution of First Aid kits in the flood affected areas in South Phyongan, South Hamgyong and North Hwanghae provinces. This distribution will commence from the beginning of next week. Meanwhile the distribution plan for the IEHK has been developed, initially for 35 complete kits, each for 10,000 persons/3 months and 250 basic kits each for 1000 persons/3 months. The procurement process is being finalised by the Federation and the first consignment of these kits is expected to arrive by air within this week. The national society is in regular contact with the MoPH regarding the ongoing needs assessments and health status of the affected communities. The Red Cross First Aid volunteers through the First Aid posts are working closely with the household doctors to provide care to minor illnesses and injuries at ri level.

Objective 2: The risk of waterborne and water related diseases has been reduced through provision of improved access to safe drinking water, adequate sanitation as well as hygiene promotion and education to

3.7 million flood affected population in 22 flood affected counties and cities (South Hamgyong, South Phyongan provinces and Kaesong Municipality in North Hwanghae)

The subsequent assessments done by the NS in affected provinces and the reports received from the MoPH indicate an increase in waterborne diseases, ARI, skin and eye infections. Fortunately there are no reports of any disease outbreaks in the flood affected areas. It is reported that it is due to the precautionary measures taken by the governments anti-epidemic centres, and health and hygiene promotion by the Red Cross volunteers and distribution of water purification tablets with family kits distributed by the national society. The procurement process for the purchase of chlorine for onward distribution to the 22 flood affected counties is underway. Negotiation with potential partners to support this activity is progressing well.

Objective 3: The capacity of 21,000 flood affected families to cope with the disaster is improved through provision of non-food relief items for three months. (Kangwan, North Hwanghae, South Hwanghae, South Phyongan, South Hamgyong provinces and Kaesong Municipality)

The DPRK Red Cross Society has dispatched joint teams composed of national society headquarter staff and Federation local staff to Kangwon, South Phyongan and South Hamgyong provinces to make further assessments on the impact of the floods and monitor the distribution of the family kits to the affected people. 65% of the distribution of family kits to the 21,038 affected families has been completed while the rest is still ongoing this week. In the mean time procurement has started for the replenishment of the relief items which have been dispatched. Locally made kitchen sets are being purchased with the DREF fund which was allocated on the 15th of August.



Impact: With the provision of family kits, those left homeless by the floods are now able to have basic cooking means and temporary shelters. Since the water sources like wells and supply systems were either damaged or contaminated by the floods the availability of clean water is still very limited.

Constraints: There are challenges in the procurement process of IEHK due to the fact the international market is overwhelmed with the humanitarian assistance demand in many parts of the world, particularly the floods throughout Asia. Transportation of the family kits is being hampered by bad road conditions. In South Hamgyong province, landslides occurred in the Machon pass blocking the passage of the large vehicles carrying the relief items released from the disaster preparedness (DP) warehouse in Chongjin, the capital of North Hamgyong province. According to the distribution plan 2,970 family kits are to be transported from the Chongjin warehouse to Hamheung city. The distance between the two cities is 250 kilometers. Some areas which are not accessible by expatriates were visited by the national society and the Federation local staff.

Federation Coordination

The Federation, as part of an interagency coordination mechanism, has shared information with other agencies. E.g. the assessments done in Jongpyong and Keumya counties of South Hamgyong province were shared with World Food Programme and other agencies. On the 24th of August, the Health and Nutrition coordination

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group meeting was attended by the Federation and the information regarding the Red Cross support to the MoPH with essential medicines was shared with the members.

Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement -- Principles and initiatives

Flood relief efforts of the DPRK Red Cross Society, supported by the Federation, adhere to the principles and initiatives of the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement. Beneficiaries are selected through criteria that ensure the Red Cross is meeting the needs of the most vulnerable.

National Society Capacity Building

Through the support of partners and donors, the relief efforts have been strengthened, and the image of the Red Cross also reinforced. Participation in national and international committees has also ensured that the Red Cross is acting in a coordinated way with support from other partners and the government in the field.

Communications – Advocacy and Public Information

The Federation has continued to support the national society with advocacy and information dissemination on a global level. The East Asia Regional Representation office in Beijing has brought on an information officer who is addressing questions from the media and other concerned parties on the relief efforts. Further support from the Asia Pacific Zone and Geneva has provided a steady flow of information to partners.

[Provisional list of contributions below; click here to return to the title page.](#)

CONTRIBUTION CONFIRMED - Hard Pledges	Total in CHF	REQUIREMENTS / COMMENTS
PMN - Swedish Red Cross (SIDA)	695,276	Unearmarked
PMN - Japanese Red Cross	300,000	Unearmarked
PMN - Netherlands Red Cross	65,576	DREF replacement
PMN-Singapore Red Cross/Government	83,698	Relief items
PMN- New Zealand Red Cross/Government	435,000	Unearmarked
German Red Cross	163,547	Transport IEHK
German Government	163,547	15 IEHK
Danish Red Cross	60,800	Unearmarked
Danish Red Cross	156,120	In-kind
TOTAL	2,123,564 CHF	

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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