

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

DPR KOREA: TRAIN EXPLOSION DISASTER

23 April 2004

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 Information Bulletin (no. 01/2004) is being issued based on the needs described below reflecting the information available at this time. An initial allocation of CHF 50,000 from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) is being arranged. Based on further updates and details from assessment reports the Federation will consider international support through an Emergency Appeal (preliminary).

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All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. 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

According to reports and preliminary assessments, dynamite intended for the construction of a tunnel exploded in the railway station of Ryongchon County, North Phyongan Province on 22 April 2004.

Preliminary figures provided by the DPRK Red Cross are as follows:

- 54 persons dead.
- 1,249 wounded.
- 1,850 houses totally damaged.
- 6,360 houses partially damaged.
- 12 public building totally damaged.
- 10 public building partly damaged.

Accurate information and details related to the disaster and the response so far continues to be



very limited, but the number of casualties is expected to increase.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

An assessment team of 5 Federation delegates, experts on relief, health and water and sanitation, will go to the affected area tomorrow (Saturday, 24 April), jointly with other UN agencies, to carry out further evaluations. One of the most significant concerns is the fate of those who have been left homeless as a result of this tragedy.

Emergency basic health kits as well as relief items for 4,000 families (16,000 people) such as blankets, tarpaulin, jerry cans, water purification tablets and kitchen sets from existing disaster preparedness stocks located in Sinuiju (10 kilometers from the disaster site) are being mobilized, and the DPRK Red Cross is presently in the process of loading relief materials from this stock to trucks leaving the Red Cross Disaster Preparedness Centre for Ryongchon, carrying:

- 2,000 kitchen sets.
- 10,000 blankets.
- 2,000 water containers.
- 2,000 tarpaulins.
- 720,000 water purification tablets.
- 1,000 first aid kits.

It is anticipated that this stock will need to be replenished.

The Federation and DPRK Red Cross are providing significant support to 6.13 million people and 1,759 institutions in the form of medical supplies to hospitals and clinics in the disaster stricken area. The relief team will bring with them a truck load of medical kits from the central warehouse in Pyongyang for the hospitals in the affected area (anesthetics, infusions, bandages and antibiotics). The hospitals have received similar kits previously and are familiar with the contents.

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