

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: 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 185 countries.

In Brief

This Bulletin is being issued for information only, and reflects the situation and the information available at this time. An allocation from the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) is in consideration and there is possibility for an emergency appeal.

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The Situation

An intense typhoon generating torrential rains over a period of two days (14-15 July) induced extensive flooding and triggered land slippage from hillsides denuded by intensive agricultural production in South Pyongan, North Hwanghe and Kangwon provinces of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

In South Phyongan province alone, the counties of Sinyang, Yangdok and Songchon recorded rainfall of between 280-320mm during the first six hours of 16 July. In the three provinces, rains precipitated landslides and flash floods that totally or partially destroyed 11,524 houses and rendered more than 9,000 families homeless. In some locations, whole villages have been swept away and essential public facilities (such as clinics) destroyed, while widespread damage to roads and bridges has displaced and stranded many people. Access to affected locations and communications (generally) are further constrained by extensive damage sustained by telephone networks, making it difficult to collect reliable information relating to casualties. More than 100 people have been reported as dead or missing.

Extensive areas of arable fields have been inundated, wiping out much of the anticipated harvest and, although reduced in intensity and frequency, rain persists - providing little hope that floodwaters will start receding soon.

The government has responded by conducting an aerial survey of affected areas. It has instructed ministries and local authorities to provide essential items needed by flood victims and is mobilizing road repair teams to facilitate

their distribution. Families affected by the floods are currently being temporarily accommodated and cared for in public buildings (schools and offices).

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Given access constraints by land, the vice president of the DPRK Red Cross participated in a helicopter aerial survey of affected areas with government agencies on 16 July, and the national society has since despatched assessment teams to the worst affected provinces. The DPRK Red Cross is in constant contact with the cabinet and meteorological agency and its emergency operations room maintains a 24-hour alert.

On 16 July, a total of 2,386 volunteers were mobilized to provide rescue, evacuation and first aid support within affected communities.

In cooperation with the Federation delegation, the national society is transporting family kits (blankets, kitchen sets, plastic sheeting, water containers and water purification tablets) from pre-positioned strategic contingency stocks to a total of 9,934 families whose homes have been completely destroyed in the provinces of South Pyongan, North Hwanghe and Kangwon.

The Federation is co-ordinating its activities with the UN and other international agencies in the DPRK. In addition to the DREF allocation, an international emergency appeal is being considered.

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

Global Agenda Goals:

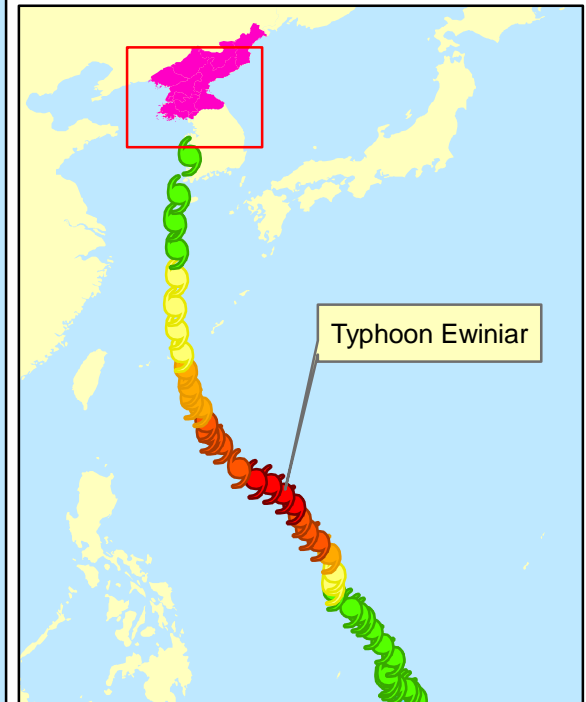
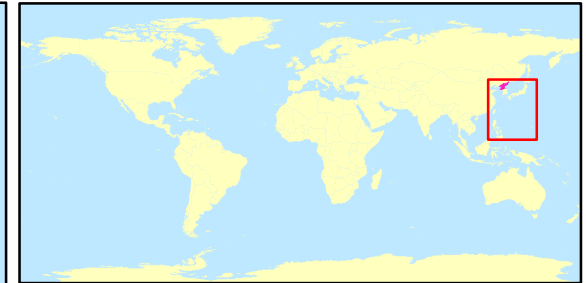
- *Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.*
- *Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.*
- *Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.*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

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.

For longer-term programmes in this or other countries or regions, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for national society profiles, please also access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>.



DPRK: Floods



The maps used do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies or National Societies concerning the legal status of a territory or of its authorities.

Map data sources: ESRI, Federation, Unisys