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Information bulletin

Democratic People's Republic of Korea: Torrential Rain with High Wind

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Glide n° TC-2020-000178-PRK	Date of issue: 07/08/2020
Date of disaster: Ongoing	Point of contact: Dr. Muhammad Khalid Khadim, Acting DRM Delegate, IFRC DPRK Country Office
Operation start date: N/A	Expected timeframe: N/A
Category of disaster: Yellow	
Host National Society(ies): Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) Red Cross Society	
Number of people affected: TBD	Number of people to be assisted: TBD
N° of National Societies currently involved in the operation (if available and relevant): -	
N° of other partner organizations involved in the operation (if available and relevant): -	

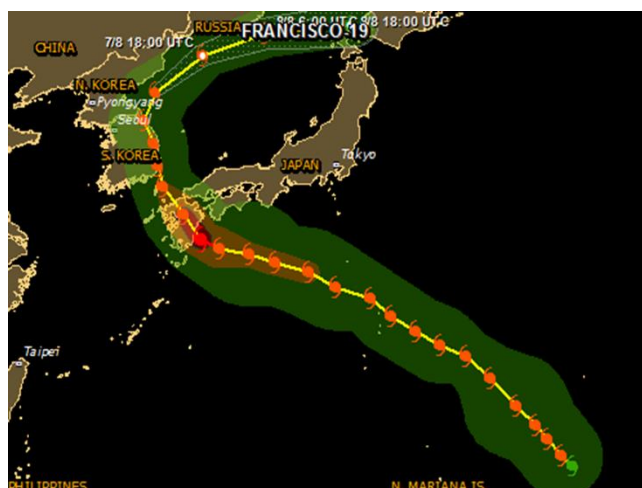
This bulletin is being issued for information only and reflects the current situation and details available at this time. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea Red Cross Society (DPRK RCS), with the support of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), has determined that available information points toward significant humanitarian needs that may require support from the IFRC Disaster Relief Emergency Fund to support the affected people.

[<click here to view the map of the affected area, or here for detailed contact information>](#)

The situation

Democratic People's Republic of Korea has been hit by torrential rain caused by the seasonal rainy front and Typhoon Francisco, or Typhoon 4 as it is named in DPRK, from 1 to 6 August 2020. According to latest data from State Hydro-Meteorological Administration (SHMA) on 6 August 2020, more than 200 millimeters of heavy rain lashed on North and South Hwanghae, North Phyongan and Kangwon provinces, Kaesong City and other areas of the country from 1 to 6 August. In particular, the precipitation rate is at 851.5 millimeters in Pyonggang county, 650.1 millimeters in Jangpung county, 637.8 millimeters in Kusong city, 629 millimeters in Sepho county, 626.1 millimeters in Singye county, 619.1 millimeters in Hoeyang county, 617.7 millimeters in Pyongsan county, 565.6 millimeters and 511.2 millimeters in Unsan and Paechon counties.

In response to the situation, torrential rain warning was issued by the government's concerned departments on 4 August 2020 throughout the country. In addition to torrential rain warning, high wind and wave warning was issued in the country on 5 August 2020.



Anticipated path of Typhoon Francisco as of 6 August 2020.
(Source: GDACS)

According to the information from SHMA, owing to a low atmospheric pressure that has gained strength while pushing towards the north of the East Sea of Korea across the central part of the West Sea of Korea, gale-force wind and high wave are forecast to hit the East Sea of Korea and the sea off South Hwanghae Province. At night on 5 August 2020, the south-eastern wind with the velocity of 10 to 15 miles per second (mps) while the wave as high as two to three meters are forecasted in the sea off South Hwanghae Province. From dawn until around noon on 6 August, the south-western wind increased to 15 to 20 mps and the wave also increase to two to four meters high are forecasted in the sea off South Hwanghae Province, from dawn throughout afternoon south-eastern wind is forecasted to blow at 15 to 20 mps in the East Sea of Korea, and from morning until night wave is forecasted to rage as high as two to four meters in the far-off sea.

According to [GDACS](#), 5.4 million people are estimated to be exposed to torrential rain and high wind and high wave due to Typhoon Francisco.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

DPRK RCS has immediately activated its disaster response mechanism to support the government's disaster response activities under the current situation. Alert has been sent out from headquarters to the provincial and county branches. National Disaster Response Team (NDRT) and Provincial Disaster Response Teams (PDRT) in nine provinces including Red Cross volunteers are on standby for 24 hours to ensure rapid and effective response to natural disasters like flood and landslide. In total 43,200 Red Cross volunteers throughout the country are mobilized to disseminate early warning and early action messages (such as weather forecast information and evacuation routines) and to keep watch on the disaster risk factors like river level, landslide risk, etc. Under the current situation that the state emergency anti-epidemic system in DPRK has turn into the maximum emergency system to prevent spread of COVID-19 into the country, Red Cross volunteers are following specific anti-epidemic measures like wearing masks, keeping social distance, avoiding gatherings of more than five people and disseminating COVID-19 protection messages to the affected population during evacuation and relief item distribution. These volunteers are trained in COVID-19 protection and provided with necessary personal protective equipment.



NDRT meeting for effective and timely response to possible disasters during the rainy season. (Photo: DPRK RCS)

The extent of damage caused by the heavy rains and winds is being assessed by respective local Red Cross branches. Once more information is available, the National Society will issue second Information Bulletin.

Before the rainy season, DPRK RCS has already conducted disaster preparedness activities including the identification and elimination of disaster risks, installation of disaster risk observation posts, reconfirmation of evacuation routes and sites, reinforcement of community-based early warning and evacuation systems and disaster mitigation activities in disaster prone areas.

In addition, the storage of essential household items such as tarpaulins, kitchen sets, hygiene kits, jerry cans, water purification tablets, quilts and emergency equipment such as water treatment units has been checked on a regular basis in seven disaster preparedness warehouses. Preparation has been made to rapidly transport essential household items to the disaster affected areas during emergency under the collaboration with local authorities and Red Cross branches. The DPRK RCS WASH department has prepared and tested its six emergency water treatment units to immediately mobilize in case of any seasonal disasters.



NDRT members checking the storage of essential household items.
(Photo DPRK RCS)

Pre-disaster meetings were organized to strengthen the cooperation and coordination with governmental authorities including State Committee for Emergency and Disaster Management (SCEDM), State Hydro-Meteorological Administration (SHMA) and Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS). Regular contact with these organizations is being maintained and meteorological and other data are being shared.

The IFRC DPRK country office in cooperation with APRO is supporting the DPRK RCS in obtaining updates on the weather situation. The CO is coordinating/sharing information with Partner National Societies (PNSs) and CAS partners, UN agencies and is coordinating with the relevant Working Groups (health, WASH and nutrition). The IFRC continues to closely coordinate with the DPRK RCS to determine the appropriate response and to process possible request for support from the IFRC Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the affected people.

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1. Click [here](#) to see the map
2. Click [here](#) to return to the title page

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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How we work

All IFRC 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 the **Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response (Sphere)** in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. The IFRC's vision is to inspire, **encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities** by National Societies, with a view to **preventing and alleviating human suffering**, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:



Save lives,
protect livelihoods,
and strengthen recovery
from disaster and crises.



Enable **healthy**
and **safe** living.

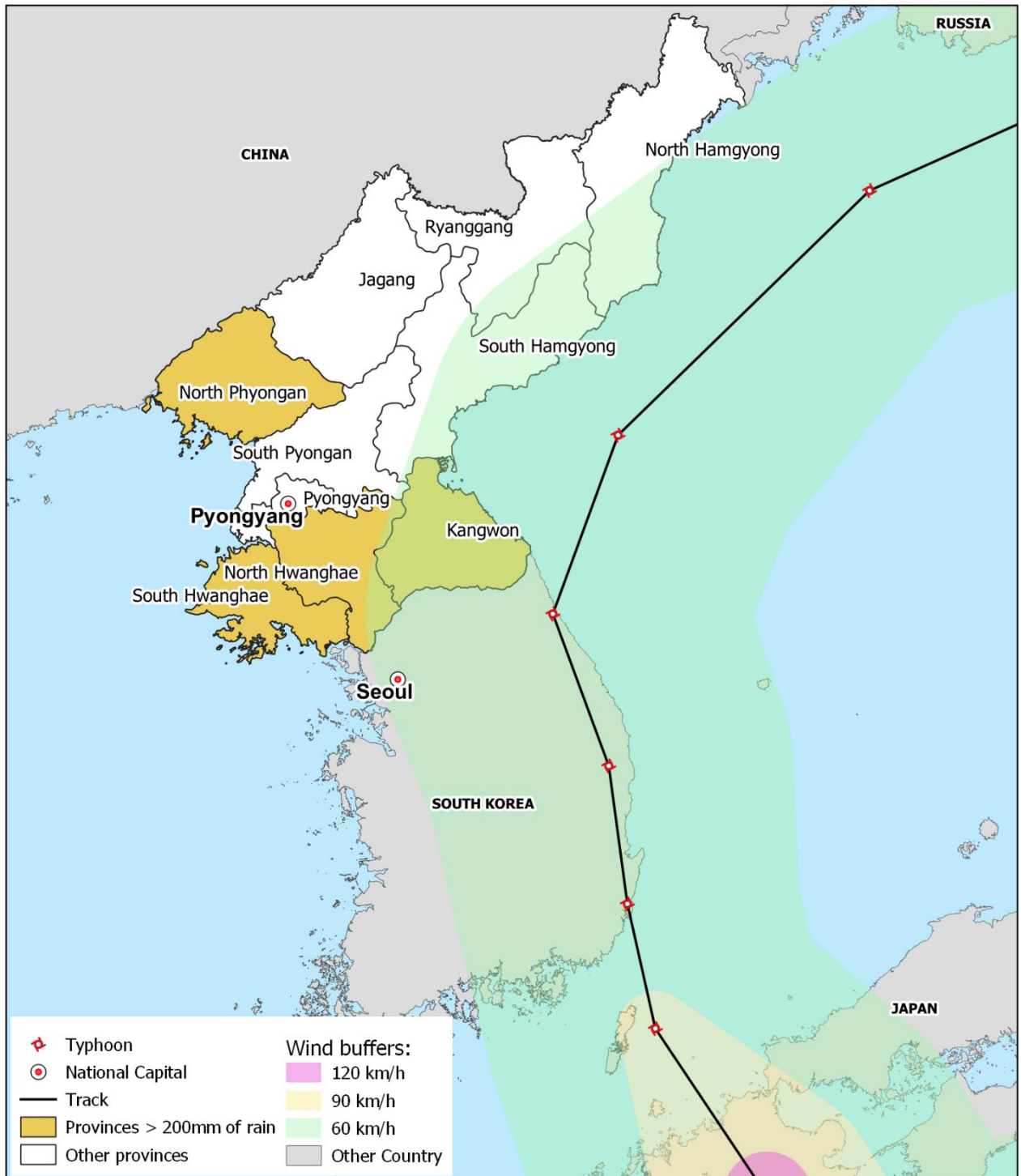
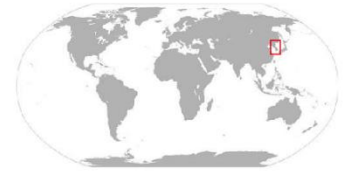


Promote **social inclusion**
and a culture of
non-violence and **peace**.



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7 August 2020



The maps used do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies or National Societies concerning the legal status of territory or its authorities. Map data sources: OCHA, OSM Contributors, ICRC, IFRC, GDACS (5 August 2020)

