



DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA: FLOODS

DREF Bulletin
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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 DREF Bulletin is being issued based on the situation described below reflecting the information available at this time. CHF 250,000 (USD 205,572 or EUR 153,355) was allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to respond to the needs in this operation, or to replenish disaster preparedness stocks distributed to the affected population. This operation is expected to be implemented over three months, and will be completed by November 2007. A Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation February 2008. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

Operational summary: In the past week, five provinces in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) have experienced severe flooding that has caused the deaths of at least 221 people and left 78,733 homeless. Over 36,000 homes have been either damaged or destroyed, with another 49,325 homes submerged in water.

The Democratic Republic of Korea's (DPRK) Red Cross Society has taken immediate action and is distributing family kits to families throughout the affected areas, which include the provinces of North Hwanghae, South Hamgyong, South Phyongan, South Hwanghae provinces and the heavily affected province of Kangwon.

On 17 August, the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) released CHF 250,000 to support the DPRK's Red Cross Society in their efforts to respond the recent flooding in DPRK. The allocation of DREF funds will enable the national society to continue distribution and start replenishing the warehouses to meet the needs of those most vulnerable by this and anticipated disasters.

The Federation welcomes financial support to replenish disaster preparedness stock as per the 2007 portion of the DPRK annual disaster management programme (the latest update of the 2006-2007 appeal is [available here](#)).



A village in Sinphyong was flooded when a water channel was diverted to the area. DPRK Red Cross.

Background and current situation

The official Korean Central News Agency released a consolidated data on the floods situation on 14 August. This preliminary information revealed hundreds of casualties and some 63,300 families left homeless. Kangwon province was the most affected, with 20,000 families severely affected while Changdo County in Kangwon province is the worst affected thus far, with 4,536 houses completely destroyed. Other provinces severely affected are North Hwanghae, South Hamgyong, South Phyongan, South Hwanghae provinces and the capital city Pyongyang.

Table 1: A record of precipitation for the second week of August

Province	City/County	Date (7-12) mm
	Pyongyang	460
North Hwanghae	Singye	467
	Suan	406
	Sohung	476
	Sinphyong	592
South Phyongan	Pyongsong	590
	Tokchon	621
	Maengsan	529
	Pukchang	672
	Yangdok	570
	Sunchon	452
Kangwon	Pyongyang	662
North Phyongan	Chonae	422
South Hamgyong	Jongpyong	399
	Kumya	389
	Hamhung	336
	Hongwon	309

The DPRK government and local authorities are making every effort to prevent and mitigate the disaster's impact by mobilizing several hundred thousands of people and heavy equipment. Embankments of rivers, irrigation canals and reservoirs are reinforced. The local people's committees are taking care of the livelihood of flood survivors, providing temporary shelters, food and clothes.

Description	Provinces					Totals
	Kangwon	N. Hwanghae	S. Hwanghae	S. Phyongan	S. Hamgyong	
Casualties						
Deaths	181	14		15	11	221
Missing	65	5		8	4	82
Wounded	445			73		518
Houses						
Completely destroyed	8,779	3,008	964	1,617	5,099	19,467
Partly damaged	6,492	4,122	1,357	4,721	58	16,750
Submerged	12,482	19,288	1,659	12,592	3,304	49,325
Homeless people	35,619	11,898	4,470	6,675	20,071	78,733

* for S. Hwanghae province, data (red colour figure) was collected in seven counties by Red Cross field assessment team during their visits

Table 2: Impact of floods

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

From 9 August, the DPRK Red Cross Society has dispatched headquarters and provincial staff to the affected areas to conduct field damage assessment, while maintaining its emergency operations room on a 24-hour alert. The disaster management director with his staff has conducted field damage assessment in South Hwanghae province from 10 to 13 August. The assessment team found that the floods affected 19 counties in the province and 3,034 houses were partially or completely destroyed. More than 4,845 people or 1,159 families were left homeless (this information is compiled up to 11 August). The provincial Red Cross branch secretary reported that 2,458 Red Cross volunteers had been alerted and mobilized to rescue and evacuate the affected people. In the meantime, first aiders provided field service to the wounded. The team tried to assess all 19 counties in the province, but failed as many parts of the main roads were destroyed because of the ceaseless raining during the trip.



A house in Koksan that has been completely destroyed by floods. DPRK Red Cross.

Jaeryong County

The floods struck the whole county after a rainfall of 235mm from 8 to 9 August. It destroyed 365 houses, leaving 1,621 people homeless and submerged hundreds of paddy fields that were ripe with crops. The power supply and roads are suspended in some *ris* (village). The disaster's impact is now expanding. The homeless or vulnerable are rehabilitating their houses during the day, and are evacuated to other houses and public buildings to sleep at night. Despite the bad conditions, all people across the county are mobilized for the rehabilitation of roads and bridges. Meanwhile, the government authority of the county is in close contact with its superiors.

Sinwon County

The vice chairperson of the County People's Committee has reported that 497 houses have been destroyed to the date of reporting and more than 1,500 people are evacuated to the hills. The local authorities are now in close contact with the province and have been dispatched to the every community. According to the authorities, the urgent problem was to address the shelter needs for 485 homeless people (107 families) and to provide them with clean water. The Red Cross committee mobilized 136 volunteers to repair houses and evacuate people to safer ground, providing them with the first aid.



Communication lines have been damaged, as seen with this submerged telephone line in a flooded field of Sinphyong village. DPRK Red Cross

Haeju City

The strong winds of 15m/s and fierce rainfalls of 182 mm have struck the entire city. Landslides occurred in several spots, which has been one of the main reasons why many houses have been destroyed. Up to 76 families (386 people) are homeless, temporarily living in public buildings or sharing residences with other families. The 86 Red Cross volunteers are now busy helping survivors and assisting in the affected people's lives and livelihoods.

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Chongdan, Yonan and Paechon counties

These counties are coastal areas close to the Korean West Sea. Heavy rains fell across the counties: 114mm in Chongdan, 123mm in Yonan and 212mm in Paechon counties. In addition, tidal waves and strong winds compounded the damaging effects of the disaster. The flood situation has deteriorated: 96 families are homeless in Chongdan, 57 families in Yonan and 103 families in Paechon county. In the meantime, many official building, paddy fields and roads were damaged. A number of houses are threatened in the face of further downpours, which means the number of destroyed houses will increased.

Overall response

Up to 5,900 Red Cross volunteers were mobilized to carry out evacuation and relief activities in three provinces of South Hwanghae, South Phyongan and North Hwanghae province. The Red Cross rescue team in the capital city saved 14 people from swirling waters.

On 13 August, a Red Cross convoy carrying 500 family kits arrived at flood-stricken Koksan and Sinphyong county to cover 298 homeless families in Koksan and 202 in Sinphyong. A total of 964 families in six counties in South Hwanghae province and 500 families in five counties in South Phyongan and 110 families Keasong have received relief items by 14 August. In the meantime, two additional Red Cross assessment teams were dispatched to the eastern provinces, which were reportedly most affected.

DPRK Red Cross action:	Kangwon	N.Hwanghae	S. Hwanghae	S. Phyongan	S. Hamgyong	Total
Distribution of Family kits*	8,779	610	964	500	5,099	15,952
Status	Ongoing	Completed	Completed	Completed	Ongoing	Ongoing

The DPRK Red Cross will also continue to implement community-based disaster preparedness (CBDP) activities that support local communities to do risk mapping, implement mitigation and flood prevention measures, including the building of protection dykes around both farmland and homes. Over the past five years, the DPRK Red Cross has implemented CBDP projects in 50 communities.

DREF: Plan of action 17 August – 22 August

With the allocation of DREF, the DPRK Red Cross Society will distribute 'family kit' items (from national society strategic contingency stocks) to 15,952 vulnerable homeless families, reaching an estimated 64,622 beneficiaries.

Each 'family kit' includes four blankets, a 120 litre water container, 240 water purification tablets, one 4x6 m plastic sheet, and one set of basic kitchen equipment. These kits are now being distributed from the nearest national society strategic disaster preparedness warehouse. These include the Pyongyang municipal warehouse, Wonsan regional disaster preparedness (DP) warehouse, Chongjin regional disaster preparedness warehouse, Huichon regional DP warehouse, and the Kaesong regional DP warehouse.

The plan for distribution of these family kits will be carried out over the next week as follows:

DISTRIBUTION PLAN

Item Description	Locations & Quantities(pcs)					Totals
	N. Hwanghae	S. Phyongan	S. Hwanghae	Kangwon	S.Hamgyong	
Blankets	2,462	2,000	4,470	35,619	20,071	64,622
Kitchen set	610	500	964	8,779	5,099	15,952
Jerry cans (20lt)	610	500	964	8,779	5,099	15,952
Plastic sheet (4x6m)	610	500	964	8,779	5,099	15,952
Water purification tablets	147,720	120,000	268,200	2,137,140	1,204,260	3,877,320

DISTRIBUTION SCHEDULE

		Transport source	Delivery period		
Provinces	Strategic Stock		11-Aug	13~14 Aug	15~22 Aug
North Hwanghae	Pyongyang municipal warehouse	NHQs fleet			
South Phyongan	Pyongyang municipal warehouse	NHQs fleet			
South Hwanghae	Kaesong regional DP warehouse	Local fleet			
Kangwon	Wonsan regional DP	NHQs / Local fleet			
	Pyongyang municipal	NHQs / Local fleet			
South Hamgyong	Chongjin regional DP	NHQs / Local fleet			
	Pyongyangmunicipal	NHQs / Local fleet			

It is estimated that the entire stock in the warehouses will be depleted by 20 August, thus the DREF allocation will enable to national society to replenish their supply and continue distribution. Given the demonstrated value of immediate access to appropriately located strategic contingency stocks, the national society plans to replace 'family kit' items distributed in response to the floods - through increased allocation for their provision within its ongoing disaster management development programme.

DREF BUDGET

Item	Quantity (pcs)	Unit Cost (CHF)	Sub-total cost (CHF)
Kitchen sets*	7,749	25	193,725
Distribution and transportation and other costs			40,000
Sub-total			233,725
PSR			16,248
Total Cost (CHF)			249,973

* Local procurement

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A generous donation by the Danish Red , British Red Cross, Finish Red Cross, Japanese Red Cross, Singapore Red Cross, Norwegian Red Cross, Canadian Red Cross, Australian Red Cross, Hong Kong Red Cross Branch and Caritas International in 2007 to stock the warehouses with family kits has enabled the DPRK Red Cross to respond rapidly to the floods thus far and a recent pledge of USD 69,000 (CHF 83,911) from the Singapore Red Cross and the people of Singapore will be used to procure family kits to restock the warehouses during this flood season. A few other partner national societies have expressed interests to support DPRK Red Cross floods operation.

The Federation and the DPRK Red Cross have daily coordinating meetings about the unfolding situation and updates will be provided. For a full description of the national society profile, see www.ifrc.org.

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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

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- The DPRK Red Cross Society: Kim Un Chol (acting secretary general); phone: +85.02.381.4350, fax: +85.02.381.3490
- Federation DPRK country delegation: Mr. Jaap Timmer (head of delegation); jaap.timmer@ifrc.org; phone: +85.02.3814350, fax: +85.02.3813490
- Federation regional representation in China: Mr. Carl Naucler (acting head of regional representation); carl.naucler@ifrc.org; phone: +86.10.65327162, fax: +86.10.65327166.
- Federation Asia Pacific zone in Malaysia: Mr. Flemming Nielsen (acting head of disaster management unit), flemming.nielsen@ifrc.org, phone: + 60 3 2161 0892, fax: +60 3 2161 1210, mobile +60 12 3 751635
- Federation secretariat in Geneva: Mr. Jae Ryul Kim (acting regional officer for East Asia), jr.kim@ifrc.org, phone: +41.22.7304260.