

# PROGRAMME 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

2 August 2004

The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilising the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organisation and its millions of volunteers are active in over 181 countries.

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### In Brief

Appeal No. 01.68/2004; Programme Update no. 02, Period covered: April to June 2004; Appeal coverage: 54.9%; Outstanding needs: CHF 6,432,532 (USD 5,167,771 or EUR 4,188,527).

[Click here to go directly to the attached Contributions List \(also available on the website\).](#)

Appeal target: CHF 14,278,310 (USD 10,708,733 or EUR 9,138,118); [Click here to go directly to the attached revised appeal budget.](#)

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals: [DPRK Train Explosion \(12/04\)](#), [Annual Appeal \(01.68/04\)](#)

#### Programme summary:

The emergency response activities to the 22 April Ryongchon train explosion required the urgent attention of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) Red Cross and Federation in the first two months of the reporting period, and their capacity for disaster response was recognised as a result of their commitment to disaster preparedness activities supported by the British Red Cross and DFID since 2002. The ability to meet the needs of the health care facilities servicing victims of the Ryongchon explosion was further dependent on the resources of the health care programme supported by the Netherlands Red Cross, resources that will be replenished by ECHO funded health kits. The health programme's medical supply distribution project has also been providing medical supplies to 1,762 health institutions for the past several years thanks to support from the Norwegian, Danish and Canadian Red Cross. Further supplementary hospital kits from the Finnish Red Cross arrived in June for distribution at a later date. Swedish Red Cross funded water and sanitation activities have affected the women in the beneficiary communities positively as well as their households now have reticulated water supply systems.

As reported in the emergency operation updates, the DPRK Red Cross and the Federation continue to address the needs of the people affected by the explosion while resuming the annual programme.

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This Programme Update reflects activities to be implemented over a one-year period. This forms part of, and is based on, longer-term, multi-year planning (refer below to access the detailed logframe documents). 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>

## Operational developments

In May the Red Cross Society of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea conducted its seventh national congress (general assembly). The assembly revised the national society's constitution and approved the DPRK Red Cross' 2010 development plan. Important discussions took place at the national congress regarding the future structure of the Society both at the headquarters and branch levels. The current leadership was re-elected, and the board was strengthened with several new members.

With much of East and South Asia heavily affected by weather systems bringing severe rain and flooding, floods struck DPRK at the end of July. As floods affect DPRK on a cycle of every two years, the DPRK Red Cross' Disaster Management department following an absence of flooding in the past two years anticipated flooding would occur and used the month of July to work with branches and communities in flood prone areas in preparation for floods.

Although the crops last year were quite good, the World Food Programme (WFP) continues to voice its concern over the precarious food situation in DPRK. The amount of rice distributed through the public distribution system was down to 250g a person per day in June and the continuation of funding for the WFP programme remains a grave concern. A new nutritional survey is being planned for the autumn of 2004.

Although there were improvements to the country's communication systems over the second quarter of 2004 with the domestic mobile phone network being steadily extended, the withdrawal of mobile phones in May was not anticipated. Shortly thereafter mobile communications were offered to expatriates, but for now the rates are prohibitive. The working conditions for the humanitarian agencies in DPRK continue to remain stable.

## Health and Care

**Overall Goal: To preserve lives and promote the well being of vulnerable populations including children and women in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.**

**Programme Objective: The health and well being of vulnerable people in three provinces (North Pyongan, South Pyongan and Chagang) and one municipality Kaesong are improved. Kaesong municipality is now integrated in North Hwanghae province and the Federation continues to support the three cities/counties in the former Kaesong municipality.**

### Achievements

This summary reports against the indicators set forth in the 2004 Appeal. The indicators were selected to measure the progress of the National Society's two year plan intended to cover the years 2003 and 2004. With the exception of coal however, the items distributed during the reporting period were funded through the 2003 Appeal.

#### • Drug and Equipment Distribution:

#### Progress/achievements

**Expected result: Each health institution in Red Cross Society (RCS) operational areas has an increased capacity for basic medical service provision.**

The DPRK Red Cross (DPRK RC) and the Federation continues to ensure the quality of the distribution of health supplies and conducted monitoring trips to 40 health institutions covered by the programme.

**Activity 1: Procure and distribute basic medical supplies to at least 1,759 health institutions on a quarterly basis.**

Date	Movement of Basic Kits
6-14 April 2004	1,617 buffer stock basic kits from the fourth quarter of 2003 and the first quarter of 2004 transported to 12 of 50 city/county medical warehouses for use in the second quarter.
24 April 2004	6,720 basic kits funded by ECHO arrived at Nampo port.
27 April – 24 May 2004	4,513 basic kits out of 6,720 were distributed for use in the second quarter to city and county medical warehouses not covered by buffer stock. Remaining kits of 2,207 left in the central medical warehouse as new buffer stock.
10 June 2004	6,720 ECHO funded basic kits for the third quarter arrived at Nampo port.

18-28 June 2004	<b>6,257 basic kits for the third quarter transported to city/county medical warehouses. 2,670 remain in the central medical warehouse.</b>
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***Activity 2: Procure and distribute supplementary medical drugs to 157 health institutions on a quarterly basis.***

<b>Date</b>	<b>Movement of Supplementary Kits</b>
27 April – 24 May 2004	367 supplementary kits from Netherlands Red Cross supplied with basic kits. 45 out of 367 supplementary kits distributed to health institutions for care of Ryongchon accident victims. Kits compensated for in next distribution of supplementary kits in July (see below) and cleared when additional supplementary kits under the emergency appeal arrive later this year.
17 May 2004	382 supplementary kits from the Danish, Norwegian and Canadian Red Cross Societies arrived at Nampo port.
25 May 2004	<b>1,146 cases of oxytocine ampoules to be included in the supplementary kits separately transported by air to DPRK.</b>
10 June 2004	120 supplementary kits from the Finnish Red Cross arrived at Nampo port.

***Activity 3: Procure and distribute household doctor kits to 1,759 health institutions with household doctor kits departments in charge of primary health care.***

On 16 May 2004, 2,500 household doctor kits donated by the Japanese Red Cross, Danish Red Cross and the Norwegian Red Cross arrived in Nampo port and were distributed in July.

***Activity 4: Procure and distribute orthopaedic surgical kits to one city/county hospital in each of the 20 cities/counties.***

Twenty six orthopaedic surgical kits were distributed from 6 April to 24 May 2004. It was possible to procure more kits due to savings in the procurement process.

***Activity 5: Procure and distribute autoclaves to three provincial hospitals and one city/county hospital in each of the 50 cities/counties.***

Six autoclaves funded by the Danish Red Cross arrived at Nampo port on 3 June 2004.

***Activity 6: Procure and distribute coal to health institutions from December 2003 to February 2004 to heat the most active parts of hospitals like the operating theatres, inpatient wards, emergency departments and so on.***

Completed. Some remaining funds will be spent during the coming winter.

***Activity 7: Procure and distribute anti-malarial materials (bed nets and screens) to 12,500 families in malaria-prone areas.***

15,000 mosquito nets and screens were supplied to malaria prone areas from 6 April to 24 May 2004. The distribution was coordinated with workshops on malaria and the use and treatment of mosquito nets and screens.

**Constraints**

The transportation of supplementary kits and basic kits from the buffer stock was in progress when the Ryongchon train explosion happened on 22 April. The response to the emergency placed a large demand on the existing transportation capacity, resulting in a two week delay with the ordinary distribution to remaining counties.

The delayed distribution of supplementary kits was caused by lack of funding during the first half of 2003. The procurement, production and transportation of medical supplies to DPRK required funding to be secured seven to eight months before consumption was planned. Funding received during the second half of 2003 was sufficient to ensure the supply of supplementary kits until the middle of 2005, when these kits would be phased out following recommendations put forward to the DPRK Red Cross and the Federation.

The consumption period of first quarter basic drugs was from February to April 2004 due to delays in the delivery of supplies, leading to the rescheduling of second quarter drugs supply to before May. The consignment of basic kits for the second quarter however did not arrive in DPRK until the end of April and was later than scheduled. The late arrival of the second quarter drugs led to the unavailability of essential drugs in 38 out of 50 counties until the in country distribution was finalised on 24 May.

**• Health Promotion :**

**Progress/achievements**

**Expected result: The capacity of DPRK Red Cross Society to improve the know-how of community health workers and Red Cross volunteers on prevention and care related to the most common health problems at the community level in cooperation with the DPRK Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) is increased by end of 2004.**

Health promotion activities carried out by the DPRK Red Cross and the Federation from April to June 2004 included:

- Ten workshops on malaria control for 200 Red Cross volunteers from 1 April to 6 May.
- Essential drug manuals amounting to 6,130 pieces distributed to health institutions with basic kits in the second quarter.
- The English version of the teaching materials on rational drug use, infectious disease control and HIV/AIDS prevention developed by the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) are now being reviewed by the DPRK Red Cross.
- In April 2,000 posters on the subjects of the importance of hand washing and the use of oral rehydration salts (ORS) were distributed.

- **Community-based first aid:**

**Progress/achievements**

**Expected result: The capability of the DPRK Red Cross Society to develop and manage appropriate community-based first aid (CBFA) activities is improved by the end of 2004.**

Teaching materials were developed for the project's training of volunteers (ToV) course.

**Constraints**

Lack of medically trained counterparts remains a constraint.

**Impact**

The capacity of health institutions to provide communities with basic medical services has improved due to support from the DPRK Red Cross and the Federation. Household doctors responsible for providing primary health care have been greatly assisted through the provision of basic medical and household doctor kits consisting of essential medicines and medical instruments required for addressing common health challenges like water borne diseases and acute respiratory infections.

Supplementary medical kits, autoclaves and orthopedic surgical instruments provided secondary health facilities with resources to improve the quality of their services to patients referred to them by primary health institutions.

Health promotions conducted through Federation supported activities such as training courses and the distribution of posters assisted health professionals, Red Cross volunteers and community members in refreshing their understanding of or increasing their awareness about malaria control, hand washing and ORS usage.

- **Water and Sanitation**

**Progress/achievements**

**Expected result 1: Water and sanitation systems installed/rehabilitated in 40 *ri* and *dong* communities in North Pyongan, Chagang, and South Pyongan provinces by end of May 2005.**

The project is part of the three year 100-community water and sanitation (watsan) programme scheduled for completion by the end of 2005. For 2004, a number of 30 European Community Humanitarian Office (ECHO) or Netherlands Red Cross Society (NRCS) funded communities totaling 68,124 beneficiaries together with the 10 Swedish Red Cross Society (SRCS) funded communities of 10,512 beneficiaries are to be provided with clean water and locally appropriated sanitation facilities and education in the prevention of waterborne diseases.

During this reporting period technical monitoring was ongoing for the ECHO Phase 2 supported communities with the delivery of centrifugal pumps and additional assessments to extend the water supply systems to an increased number of beneficiaries. Progress for the newly selected SRCS 10 communities for Phase 3 (22,405 beneficiaries) included estimation of hardware required and tendering documents delivered to Korean and Chinese companies.

### ***April***

Work continued towards completing the installation of main pipes. Construction was also ongoing in regard to pump houses in the 30 communities and the installation of branch pipes. Monitoring continued in 15 communities in South Pyongan province and 14 communities in North Pyongan province throughout the month and the DPRK Red Cross and Federation watsan teams distributed accessories and fittings as per requested from monitoring visits.

The good reputation of Red Cross water and sanitation activities is attracting the interest of an increasing amount of people with similar needs. The DPRK Red Cross/Federation watsan teams conducted further assessments of the ECHO supported 30 communities to estimate the material needs of the increased number of beneficiaries.

The watsan team also organised technical trouble shooting workshops in three communities to advise on design changes, faults, and provide site specific guidance on each community water supply system (WSS) and waste water collecting system (WWCS) respectively.

The watsan team was brought in to respond to the emergency relief operation in the Ryongchon area following the explosion. The team was tasked with assessing the situation, calculating the materials based on the design of WSS and WWCS in Ryongchon, collecting data such as water quality and morbidity from new ECHO targets planned in 2004-2005, and assessing the watsan situation in 22 communities in South Pyongan province and 16 communities in North Pyongan province.

### ***May***

Construction of the majority of wells, storage tanks and pump houses was completed for 30 communities in May for the Phase 2 of the programme. Monitoring took place in eight communities in South Pyongan and Jagang provinces where there were some delays in the construction of wells and storage tanks, as well as in nine communities in North Pyongan province. The waste water collecting systems as an integral component of the sanitation component will be completed subsequent to the rice planting season.

A pilot household biogas digester coupled with individual latrine projects were initiated in two communities supported by the SRC and in collaboration with the Thermal Institute's department of rural energy.

Additionally, attention has been given towards increasing the visibility of programme donors, ECHO and SRC, and the national society while implementing activities by designing a sign that is placed at all present and previous pump houses.

The team also attended to water and sanitation needs in Ryongchon and procured two bladder tanks (15m<sup>3</sup>) from England for distribution in Ryongchon as temporary water supply.

### ***June***

Sources, storage and/or transfer of water tanks and pipe laying for water supply systems was completed in 28 of 30 communities by mid June 2004. Extra pipes and fittings to increase the number of beneficiaries were estimated and the procurement process initiated, and up to 310 latrines were constructed out of a total of 610 planned.

Planning for the implementation of latrines combined with biogas digesters was concluded in this quarter after the successful completion of a pilot funded by the Swedish Red Cross in Phase 2 of the overall programme, and the tendering and procurement process for an extra 300 latrines and biogas digesters will be finalised in the 4th quarter also. Progress in the construction of the planned 15 waste water collecting systems for the ECHO Phase 2 communities has only been 45 % completed due to the harvesting of vegetables and potatoes.

The DPRK Red Cross and the Federation are analysing the data from 46 communities and selecting 30 communities for ECHO targets in 2005.

**Expected result 2: Existing hygiene promotion activities expanded to/further developed in 40 *ri* and *dong* and at least one community health volunteer per 500 inhabitants trained to support household doctors from each community.**

Workshops on waterborne diseases started during the month of June and will continue into July and August. The itinerary can be seen in the table below.

Province	No	County	Watsan project area	Participants	Workshop place	Date
South Pyongan	1	Jungsan	Pungjong	20	Jungsan	14-15 July
	2	Taedong	Wonjang, Pansok, Okum	20	Taedong	29-30 June
	3	Kaechon	Taekak	10	Anju	20-21 July
	4	Anju	Songhak, Namchil	10		
	5	Hoechang	Kuchang, Hwajon	20	Hoechang	20-21 July
	6	Sunchon	Pungdok, Tongam	15	Sunchon	28-29 July
	7	Eunsan	Chonsong	5		
	8	Pyongsong	Paeksong, Jasan	20	Pyongsong	28-29 July
North Pyongan	9	Cholsan	Tongchon, Wolbong, Ryonsu, Munbong	20	Cholsan	3-4 Aug
	10	Tongrim	Ryongsan	10	Sonchon	10-11 Aug
	11	Sonchon	Sambong, Samsong	8		
	12	Jongju	Sean	2		
	13	Ryongchon	Jangsan	10	Ryongchon	17-18 Aug
	14	Pihyon	Chungrol, Paekma	10		
	15	Yomju	Ryongbuk, Sinjong, Namap, Tobong, Hyangbong	20	Yomju	10-11 Aug
	16	Unjon	Unha, Songhak	20	Unjon	17-18 Aug
	17	Kusong	Chongsong, Namsan	10	Kusong	3-4 Aug
18	Taechon	Rimchon, Hakdang	10			
Jagang	19	Huichon	Namsin	7	Huichon	July 14-15
	20	Songwon	Myongmun	7		
	21	Tongsin	Wonhung	6		
	22	Kopung	Eup	20		
Total	22		40	280	14	

**Expected result 3: Institutional capacity of DPRK RC and Ministry of City Management to design, implement, monitor and evaluate water and sanitation activities strengthened.**

Continuous on the job training is given to the DPRK Red Cross technicians in optimising designs and advice at programme construction sites. Study visits for further training on the implementation of biogas digesters coupled with household latrines will take place in July at Shenyang University, China. The DPRK Red Cross and Federation health department is responsible for training health staff through workshops on waterborne diseases. The staff of MoCM are invited to both technical and waterborne disease workshops for training.

**Impact**

It is observed that the successful completion of activities in the ten SRCS supported communities in Phase 2 of the programme had an impact on the respective communities. Women in general have identified they have more time to focus on other daily needs now that they do not have to carry water as they now have a reticulated water supply system to each household.

The completion of a pilot biogas digester coupled with household latrine projects have proven to be a great success in the SRCS funded community for Phase 2 of the programme. Some of the advantages include not only benefits to the environment through the production of cheap fuel but also to the health of women who will not have to suffer smoke and fumes from the combustion of coal cakes traditionally used countrywide.

To ensure there are no cases of waterborne diseases the post construction evaluation of water quality will be followed up.

## Constraints

The lack of national society counterparts has often meant that field monitoring trips had to be rescheduled or cancelled and was especially apparent during the Ryongchon train disaster and other DPRK Red Cross events which required the presence of the society's water and sanitation department. The national society's lack in human resources seriously impacts current programmes in operation and also prevents high quality delivery and implementation of services to the vulnerable.

Capacity in the form of available labour within some of the communities is also a constraint as the windows of opportunity to implement are getting narrower as priorities for cultivation and harvesting various food staples increases.

## Disaster Management

**Overall Goal: The impact of disasters on the vulnerable population of DPRK is reduced.**

**Programme Objective: The DPRK RC has the disaster management capacity to provide quality services to the most vulnerable in a timely and efficient manner by the end of 2005.**

### Progress/Achievements

**Expected result 1: The national society has a functioning disaster management programme and continues to play a key role in disaster management in the DPRK.**

The Federation and the British Red Cross Society (BRCS) were asked to give recommendations and comment on a draft of the DPRK Red Cross disaster preparedness policy (DPP) and emergency relief policy (ERP) in April, which was discussed and adopted at the 7th General Assembly of the DPRK Red Cross held in May. Following the acceptance of these two policies, all national society disaster management activities would be conducted in accordance to the requirements set forth in the DPP and ERP.

The disaster preparedness (DP) advisor from the British Red Cross visited the DPRK Red Cross from 18 to 25 May 2004. The objective for this visit was to carry out an interim internal review of the progress of the programme based on the 2002 review recommendations and the 2004 Federation appeal document, and in conjunction with the DPRK Red Cross and Federation delegation, develop recommendations for future programme activities.

The disaster preparedness advisor visited disaster management activities in the field to look at DP stock in regional warehouses and community based disaster preparedness (CBDP) areas (old and new *ris*) as well as examined training materials like the CBDP manual and disaster management (DM) workshop guidelines. At the conclusion of the visit he debriefed the national society's senior management and the Federation delegation and shared some of his findings in regard to the society's disaster management activities, of which these were especially noted:

- Sound progress made by DPRK Red Cross in meeting the needs of the most vulnerable people.
- Good performance across the DM spectrum as spending is on target and most programme targets are met.
- Quick emergency response demonstrated through the Ryongchon operations in first aid, evacuation and relief items distribution facilitated by the DP warehouses.
- Good progress in the initial CBDP pilot project as expansion to 10 new *ris* based on improved targeting.
- Human resources and policy/strategy -- good DM training that is increasingly nationwide. Need to be clearer on expected outputs in non-CBDP areas, for example in contingency planning and simulation. There are good policy documents, and the DPRK Red Cross is improving coordination with the government and others but this aspect still needs further attention.
- Key issues like monitoring impacts of training and community based disaster programmes as well as establishing linkages with other sectors from training to practice and with organisational development need attention.
- Key areas to focus on include broader awareness campaigns and local press coverage, more exchange visits, clarifying monitoring indicators and frequent visits by NS headquarters, provincial and local branches.

In order to facilitate training opportunities for national society staff the Federation arranged an exchange visit to the Sudanese Red Crescent Society (SRCS). Two members from the DM department of DPRK Red Cross and the DM delegate visited SRCS from 17 to 29 April 2004.

The overall objectives of the visit were to:

- learn from SRCS experience in DM,
- Explore the partnerships and cooperation mechanisms between SRCS and other stakeholders,
- Understand their response and coordination mechanism,
- Study their community based early warning system.

During the visits at SRCS headquarters the DPRK Red Cross team met with SRCS leadership, directors of different departments, representatives of the Federation and delegations of partner national societies (PNS) to get a general picture of the society.

Field trips were arranged to obtain practical knowledge through visits to five SRCS branches for observations of ongoing programmes as well as through thorough briefings and discussions with the society's disaster management department that included visits to warehouses. Further discussions were also arranged with other departments of the SRCS and their management personnel.

The study tour provided the members of the delegation with an opportunity to acquaint themselves with SRCS disaster management projects and learn from their counterparts in Sudan.

It is worth mentioning that the SRCS is very experienced in disaster management and is therefore quite valuable to DPRK Red Cross which has a relatively limited DM history in comparison. The study tour team that has carefully reviewed the SRCS disaster management structure, training curriculum and national disaster response teams at various levels, plans to adapt them to the Korean context and apply them wherever appropriate. Indicators developed by SRCS for drought monitoring will be especially useful to the DPRK Red Cross when it plans a drought operation.

**Expected result 2: The national society has involved an additional 10 *ris* at community level in disaster prone areas in the community based disaster preparedness project.**

The national society has been implementing CBDP projects in a limited number of *ris* in South Pyongan province (nine *ris* in three separate counties). Based on experience from the two previous years, nine additional *ris* were selected for the implementation of the CBDP programme and a CBDP workshop was held for these pilot *ris* in Pyongsong city which is capital of the South Pyongan province in mid March 2004.

The new nine *ris* and three existing model *ris* (altogether 12 *ris* for 2004) conducted basic DM training at their community levels between April and July 2004 and as a result, the CBDP project altogether trained 2,157 people in the community to prepare for possible disasters in their *ris* and to be active in mitigation activities.

Mitigation work consisting mainly of river embanking and tree-planting was designed and implemented by CBDP committees in 12 *ris* and 8,976 community members were mobilised between April and July, leading to the completion of 15,860 meters of embankment. This included stone banking by members of the community who used cement and tools provided by the Federation and DPRK Red Cross as well as stones, sand and gravel provided by the local authorities. A total of 2,549 families living in flood prone areas have benefited from the mitigation activities.

Approximately 721,000 baby trees were also transplanted to the mountains in *ris* to decrease mountain rock slides and flooding during the rainy season.

Regular field visits from representatives of the national society's headquarters and the DM coordinator were made to the 12 *ris*. The DM team confirmed that all *ris* have established CBDP committees made up of seven to eleven people responsible for effectively preparing and responding to disasters at the local level. They have moreover finalised a hazard and risk mapping exercise where information on main risks/hazards in their respective areas is gathered and community/Red Cross branch capacities to deal with risks are identified.

Up to 50 telephones, 60 bicycles and 50 sirens are now being procured and will be used to improve the communications and early warning system in the pilot *ris*. According to the DP advisor's recommendation, a monitoring form was created and distributed to the CDBP areas to support the tracking of progress and impacts of the CDBP activities.

Steps are being taken by the national society to integrate CDBP activities with other relevant activities. Managers of the society's community based first aid (CBFA) programme, disaster management and social medical service departments discussed the integration of their respective programmes and have agreed to incorporate CDBP training sessions either in CBFA or DM workshops as an initial step.

**Expected result 3: National society has sufficient material and financial resources for timely and effective disaster response.**

As the rainy season came a little early to the country, 2,000 family packages have been restocked at the regional DP warehouse in Sinuiju to cover the needs of the north-western part of the country.

Up to 2,000 family packages consisting of DP items like cooking sets, blankets, water containers, plastic sheeting and water purification tablets (WPT) arrived to increase the response capacity of the DPRK RCS, and the pre-positioned DP items were supplied efficiently to the victims of the Ryongchon train accident in April.

***Ryongchon Operation***

The massive explosion that occurred on Thursday 22 April at the Ryongchon railway station in North Pyongan province left thousands homeless. The explosion occurred when railway wagons said to be loaded with highly combustible ammonium nitrate blew up. The powerful blast obliterated the station and devastated the immediately surrounding area leaving 161 people dead and some 1,300 injured. Among the dead were 76 children whose school was levelled in the blast. Figures released by the DPRK flood damage rehabilitation committee (FDRC) on 25 April confirmed that some 1,850 homes were destroyed or rendered uninhabitable while a further 6,360 sustained partial damages.

The Ryongchon branch of the DPRK Red Cross immediately responded to the explosion by establishing five temporary first aid posts close to the disaster site and mobilising 398 Red Cross volunteers.

A relief operation was mounted by the DPRK Red Cross and the Federation within 24 hours of the disaster's confirmation. Following an initial assessment conducted by the national society on 23 April and at the request of the DPRK government's flood damage rehabilitation committee, trucks carrying 2,000 kitchen sets, 10,000 blankets, 2,000 water containers, 2,000 tarpaulins, 720,000 water purification tablets and 1,000 first aid kits left the regional and central disaster preparedness warehouses for the affected area.

Federation delegates brought two trucks and five other vehicles loaded with first aid and medical supplies to the affected area. Three days prior to the blast, the DPRK Red Cross and the International Federation had delivered medical supplies to hospitals and clinics in the area which, with the new consignment, meant immediate needs in Ryongchon could be covered. The delivery was part of an ongoing four-province Red Cross medical programme which ensures annual assistance to six million people.

The initial distribution was difficult as some of the people affected were only temporary residents in Ryongchon and a number of them received assistance despite not being officially registered. The following distributions were organised in close cooperation with unit heads and the residential area affected by the explosion was divided into a number of units that referred to a higher unit level. The unit heads knew all residents in their unit and could quickly identify the beneficiaries, and in cases where the unit head was hospitalised or otherwise not available the head of the higher unit level provided the DPRK Red Cross branch with beneficiary lists.

Health facilities in the area were challenged as a large number of people were wounded in the accident. Apart from the medical supplies provided by the DPRK Red Cross and the World Health Organisation (WHO), there was a continuing need for further supplies. Hospitals and clinics in the counties received relief and medical relief items from the central warehouse of the DPRK Red Cross in Pyongyang.

The DPRK Red Cross and the Federation released the following items from their disaster preparedness warehouses in Pyongyang and Sinuiju.

Items	Unit	Quantity	Remarks
Kitchen sets	Set	2,500	From Sinuiju and Pyongyang disaster preparedness centres.
Blankets	Piece	14,000	
Water containers	Piece	5,040	
Tarpaulins	Piece	2,000	
Water purification tablet	Tablet	720,000	
First aid kit	Kit	687	From Pyongyang DP centre.
First aid package refill kits	Kit	30	
Supplementary medicines	Kit	14	To Ryongchon.
Supplementary medicines	Kit	31	To Sinuiju.

The Federation and the DPRK Red Cross also distributed relief and medical items from the Republic of Korea Red Cross, the World Food Programme and WHO.

The Federation at the request of the DPRK Red Cross launched an appeal for Ryongchon that has an objective of addressing both the short term and long term needs of 1,850 families who lost their homes as a result of the 22 April explosion. The main component of the appeal is to replenish the DP items released from the disaster preparedness warehouses in Sinuiju and Pyongyang which will be restocked with blankets, first aid kits, tarpaulins, kitchen sets (plates, cups, chopsticks etc.) and collapsible water containers.

### Impact

The national society was able to provide victims of the Ryongchon train explosion with urgently needed relief items and medicine, thus proving its ability in imparting quality services to the vulnerable both timely and efficiently.

### Constraints

The urgency and size of the train explosion in Ryongchon required a great deal of attention from the national society and the Federation, therefore planned activities for this sector were rescheduled to a later date.

## Organisational Development

**Overall Goal: The Red Cross Society of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea will become a leading humanitarian organisation in DPRK, providing quality services to the vulnerable.**

**Programme Objective: The Red Cross Society of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea will have a national network of well functioning branches and volunteers, with increased resources to provide sustainable assistance to the most vulnerable.**

### Progress/Achievements

**Expected result 1: Management potential of the national headquarters and branches will be strengthened by well-planned, managed, monitored and evaluated programmes.**

The 7th National Society Congress convened in mid May and formally adopted a revised version of the national society's constitution, the national society development plan (NSDP) 2010 and policy framework. An extended organisational development committee meeting was held after the conclusion of the congress. More than 60 participants engaged in extensive discussions about branch development, especially over the importance of governance separation and management at the city/county level. The new management will restructure the headquarters according to the resolutions made at the congress

A project cycle management workshop facilitated by the Federation's Asia Pacific organisational development (OD) coordinator and the regional programme manager of the Netherlands Red Cross was held in Hamhung city in the third week of June with twelve participants from headquarters and provincial branches of South Hamgyong and North Hwanghae province. Hamhung city, the capital of South Hamgyong province, was chosen as the site of the workshop because it was going to be included in the DPRK Red Cross/Federation's ongoing distribution of medical

supplies. A two-day health and OD integrated induction course targeting branch workers in South Hamgyong province was organised earlier in June.

In April, the secretary general of the DPRK Red Cross accompanied by the society's OD programme officer visited the British Red Cross and discussed possibilities in regard to the long term support for capacity building of the national society.

**Expected result 2: The DPRK RCS will have a sound system of financial management, budgeting, accounting and motivated, effective resource mobilisation activities that will lead to sustainable programmes at the community level.**

Seven key staff from the national society attended the Federation's budget holder training facilitated by the finance training officer from Geneva and the regional finance unit in the third week of June. The training was beneficial because it helped the staff to better understand the operating procedures of the national society's Federation supported programmes.

The DPRK Red Cross headquarters' finance department is revising its procedures for financial decision making, and one of its officers participated for a day in the Federation's budget holder training in June.

The DPRK Red Cross has made resource mobilisation activities a priority for the sustainable development of the national society by encouraging all branch levels to come up with a feasible small scale income generation project plan for the first phase of the programme. The South Hamgyong provincial branch and Kaesong and Anju city branches have submitted their project plans for income generation to the headquarters in their application for financial support.

**Expected result 3: The DPRK Red Cross will enjoy increased public knowledge and understanding of the humanitarian values and programmes of the DPRK Red Cross and the movement among all the stakeholders.**

In June, 24 participants from both headquarters and branches benefited from a three day communications workshop facilitated by the Federation's regional information delegate and a senior information officer from the Danish Red Cross. Workshop participants reviewed the implementation of the national society's *Communication Strategy 2002-2005* and looked for possibilities for increasing branch involvement in communication work.

Five thousand copies of the national society's brochure, 1,000 copies of their quarterly bulletin, 3,000 sets of the national society's identification tag and 500 bags with the society's emblem were printed and distributed to the Red Cross branches, government organisations and representatives of international aid agencies in Pyongyang.

The DPRK Red Cross hosted a delegation visit led by the Federation's secretary general to the site of the Ryonchon explosion in June and various communication activities were conducted in lieu of this visit.

The society also conducted public relations and media activities around the 7th National Society Congress and to also promote World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day.

## **Representation, Implementation and Management**

### **Progress/Achievements**

The DPRK Red Cross National Congress was conducted on 18 and 19 May. The congress re-elected the president and the vice president, reappointed the secretary general and elected some new members of the central committee. The congress further approved the *2010 DPRK Red Cross Development Strategy* and revised the constitution.

A revision of the cooperation agreement strategy has been initiated following the approval of the DPRK Red Cross strategic plan.

To achieve good coordination between programmes, several delegations visited Red Cross projects in DPRK over the reporting period. They were the Netherlands Red Cross regional delegate, a British Red Cross DM consultant as well as the Federation's regional DM, information and OD. The British Red Cross chief executive, the president, international relations department director and South-North exchange and cooperation committee members from the Republic of Korea (ROK) Red Cross, the Norwegian Red Cross head of international department, the Swedish Red Cross head of international department, the Canadian Red Cross secretary general, the Federation's Asia and Pacific department head as well as the Federation's East Asia regional delegation head visited the Ryonchon disaster site. Further visits to Federation supported projects in the Sunchon county were undertaken with Government officials. The ROK Red Cross delegation conducted separate meetings with the DPRK Red Cross and others.

The ICRC maintains close contact with the delegation, both through permanent and non-resident staff.

Bilateral support from the Netherlands, Norway and the Republic of Korea Red Cross Societies continues in the fields of OD, tree-planting, health and care and disaster preparedness. A joint North-South tree planting ceremony was conducted at Mount Kumgang on 3 and 4 April with participation from thirty Red Cross youth members from each society.

The tenth reunion of separated families from the Korean war will take place in July.

Two project managers from DPRK Red Cross headquarters, four staff members from the Ministry of Land and Environmental Protection and the seedling nursery staff conducted a study tour to Norway in June.

### **Impact**

The main achievements in capacity building of the national society are in the fields of narrative reporting, proposal writing and the distribution of relief items where training methods are slowly improving.

### **Constraints**

The heavy workload faced by key people at DPRK Red Cross headquarters is still a challenge in day-to-day cooperation, particularly in the implementation of the soft components of programmes. Visa constraints prevented the delegation from being fully staffed throughout the period and it was also not possible to replace staff leaving earlier than expected.

Access to beneficiaries is restricted to visits announced in advance and delegates have not been able to gain access to any more counties. Constraints in information sharing can limit the impact assessment of Federation operations especially in provinces without Federation supported programme, but bilateral support from the Netherlands and Norwegian Red Cross societies balances this constraint to a certain extent.

**[Contributions list below; click here to return to the title page and contact information.](#)**

APPEAL No. 01.68/2004

## PLEDGES RECEIVED

20/08/2004

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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## CASH

REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				14,278,310	TOTAL COVERAGE 60.4%	
CASH CARRIED FORWARD				1,776,004		
CANADIAN - GOVT/CIDA		495,000	CAD	464,310	16.06.04	
DANISH - GOVT				780,075	13.08.04	HEALTH, CBFA, ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPEMENT
ECHO/NETHERLANDS RC		1,344,182	EUR	2,096,252	05.05.04	WATER SANITATION & HEALTH PROMOTION
FINNISH RC		7,910	EUR	12,151	07.06.04	PROGRAMME SUPPORT
GERMAN - GOVT		308,556	EUR	471,782	23.07.04	PURCHASE 3000 HOUSEHOLD DOCTORS KITS
GERMAN - GOVT		15,340	EUR	23,455	04.08.04	PROGRAMME SUPPORT
NORWEGIAN - GOVT/RC		2,000,000	NOK	370,500	30.03.04	HEALTH AND CARE
NORWEGIAN - GOVT/RC		400,000	NOK	74,100	13.04.04	REPRESENTATION, MANAGEMENT & IMPLEMENTATION,
NORWEGIAN - GOVT/RC		331,760	NOK	62,371	02.06.04	PROGRAMME SUPPORT
SWEDISH - GOVT		3,500,000	SEK	589,750	26.03.04	WATER SANITATION PROJECT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				6,720,750	CHF	47.1%

## KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
AUSTRALIA	DELEGATES			85,400		
FINLAND	DELEGATES			42,400		
FINNISH - GOVT		132,000	EUR	202,752	07.06.04	120 MEDICAL KITS, TRANSPORT
GERMAN - GOVT		251,000	EUR	383,779	04.08.04	2400 RI HOSPITAL KITS, 80 RI COUNTY HOSPITAL KITS, TRANSPORT
NETHERLANDS	DELEGATES			38,200		
NORWAY	DELEGATES			47,600		
NORWEGIAN - GOVT/RC		5,320,063	NOK	1,000,172	02.06.04	7'200 BASIC HEALTH KITS
SWEDEN	DELEGATES			62,000		
OTHER	DELEGATES			42,800		

Note: due to systems upgrades in process, contributions in kind and services may be incomplete.

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				1,905,103	CHF	13.3%

**ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET**

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED				0	CHF	