

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: TYPHOON RUSA

3 September, 2002

Information Bulletin N° 1/2002

This Bulletin is for information only. The Federation is not seeking any funding or other assistance from donors for this operation at this time. Donors are encouraged, however, to provide support to the DPRK Flash Floods Preliminary Emergency Appeal launched on 9 August, 2002.

The Disaster

For a second time in less than a month, DPR Korea has been affected by floods triggered by torrential rainfalls produced by Typhoon Rusa. Disastrous effects caused by the passage of a Rusa typhoon that hit the Korean peninsula over the weekend (31 August to 1 September) have been felt in several of DPRK's provinces.

According to the initial assessment conducted by the DPRK Red Cross Society and the Federation, the south-east province of Kangwon has been particularly affected, and more specifically two provincial counties of Tongchon and Gosong. Preliminary reports indicate that three people perished while more than seven thousand four hundred (7,401) have been left homeless in Kangwon Province alone; six thousand five hundred eighty four (6,584) houses were totally or partially destroyed. The already precarious food situation has been further jeopardised by severe losses of crops.

| | | Kangwon Province | Tongchon County | Gosong County |
|--------------------|-------------------|------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Casualties | Persons | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| Homeless | Persons | 7,401 | 2,925 | 1,224 |
| Destroyed Houses | House/family | 6,584/16,041 | 4,728/6,817 | 588/7,070 |
| | Totally destroyed | 1,238/1,789 | 578/717 | 194/300 |
| | Inundated | 5,347/14,252 | 4,150/6,100 | 394/6,770 |
| Affected Farm Land | Jogbo | 30,723 | 4,829 | 1,216 |
| Loss of crops | MT | 86,055 | 19,434 | 2,894 |
| | Rice | 63,094 | 18,114 | 2,834 |
| | Maize | 22,961 | 1,320 | 60 |

The initial assessment indicates that the early warning system which was put in motion by the authorities and the local Red Cross branches has had a positive impact on the timely evacuation of residents from areas at risk thus reducing the number of casualties.

The National Society and the Federation conducted two disaster preparedness workshops for Red Cross staff and volunteers during last year's Typhoon operation in Kangwon Province. The experience gained during the 2001 operation and the training provided in the above mentioned workshops appears to have contributed to the success of the early warning system and the swiftness of the relief response.

Red Cross/Red Crescent

The DPRK Red Cross Society and the Federation's teams were the first to reach the affected areas. Local collective farms have reacted in the meantime by collecting from their villages food items representing two weeks food ration, and distributed it to the flood victims. The National Society and the Federation Delegation in the DPRK have immediately released available stocks consisting of 2,925 blankets, 717 kitchen sets, 717 water containers, and 175,500 water-purification tablets to be distributed to 717 homeless families (2,925 persons) in the Tongchon county of the Kangwon province. The table below provides a summary of distributions to date in Tongchon County.

| Name of City/ County | Homeless Families | Homeless Persons | Blankets (pc) | Kitchen Sets | Water Containers (pc) | Water purification tablets |
|----------------------|-------------------|------------------|---------------|--------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| Tongchon | 717 | 2,925 | 2,925 | 717 | 717 | 175,500 |

Once the assessment is complete, the number of beneficiaries targeted by the Flash Floods Emergency Appeal (no. 22/2002) which was launched in August may be increased to cover people affected by this weekend's disaster.

For a full description of the National Society profile, see www.ifrc.org

For further details please contact:

- Aurelia Balpe, Phone: 41 22 730 4352; Fax: 41 22 733 03 95; email: balpe@ifrc.org
- Richard Grove-hills, Head of Regional Delegation, Phone: 86 10655 99 552; Fax: 00 8610 6532 7166; mobile: 86 13 50 120 5973; email: grovehills@hotmail.com

All International Federation Operations seek to adhere to the Code of Conduct and are committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (SPHERE Project) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

For support to or for further information concerning Federation operations in this or other countries, please access the Federation website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

For longer-term programmes, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal.

John Horekens
Director
Relationship Management Department

Simon Missiri
Head
Asia & pacific Department