

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

REPUBLIC OF KOREA: TYPHOON RUSA

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This Bulletin is for information only. The Federation is not seeking any funding or other assistance from donors for this operation at this time.

The Situation

Typhoon Rusa, the most powerful tropical storm to hit South Korea in 43 years, ripped through the country over the weekend, leaving at least 128 people dead or missing in torrential rains, flash floods and mudslides, and causing massive property damage. The typhoon left a trail of destruction in the southern and eastern parts of the country, and triggered landslides and flash floods in the Gyeongsang, Chula, Chungcheong and Gangwon Provinces, and on Jeju Island.

The typhoon also hit the northern part of the Korean peninsula, and a representative of the Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of Korea (DPRK) and the Federation DP delegate are currently in Kangwon Province on the eastern DPRK coast undertaking an assessment of the affected areas (in the western DPRK province of South Pyongan, the flash floods Emergency Appeal operation no. 22/02 launched by the Red Cross in the first week of August continues).

More than 60,000 households across the nation spent the night without electricity Saturday as strong winds brought down power pylons and cut off power lines. More than 24,000 houses still had no electricity, officials said. After landing at the southern coast around noon Saturday and lashing the country Saturday through early yesterday (Sunday), the typhoon was downgraded to a tropical low-pressure system and moved toward the East Sea Sunday afternoon. Worst hit was the eastern coastal city of Gangneung, which was battered by the heaviest rain in the nation's history on Saturday - 871 mm rainfall. Almost the entire city was submerged under chest-high water Saturday, but floodwaters receded in most regions yesterday. City officials said heavy rains flooded or destroyed about 8,400 houses, while around 15,000 people fled to school buildings across the province. Officials posted a flood alert for areas along the banks of the Nakdonggang River, which flows through the Gyeongsang provinces into the South Sea. Adjacent regions were ravaged by devastating floods early last month.

Red Cross and Red Crescent Action

Eight chapters of the Republic of Korea National Red Cross (KNRC) in the regions affected by Typhoon Rusa quickly responded to the disastrous situation. Mobilizing a total of 1,448 volunteers and 116 staff members, each chapter provided those affected with relief items including rice, instant noodles, blankets and everyday commodities.

Red Cross chapters in several cities and provinces such as Daegu, Gangwon are running eight soup kitchens for the victims and relief personnel. By Sunday they had provided a total of 5,080 people with hot meals. As of 1 September, the total number of beneficiaries was 5,238 households (approximately 26,190 persons).

Most of those affected are suffering from a shortage of food and daily necessities, and the KNRC is therefore also planning to distribute more relief items to the victims. Each chapter in the affected area is investigating what kind of items are most needed by the victims.

The International Federation Regional Office in Beijing has offered support. However the KNRC says that no international assistance is being requested at this stage.

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

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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.

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