

## DREF operation update

### DPRK: Floods

#### DREF operation update n° 1 GLIDE n° [FL-2012-000123-PRK](#) 29 August 2012

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC) Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) is a source of un-earmarked money created by the Federation in 1985 to ensure that immediate financial support is available for Red Cross and Red Crescent emergency response. The DREF is a vital part of the International Federation's disaster response system and increases the ability of National Societies to respond to disasters.

**CHF 300,969 has been allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) Red Cross Society in delivering immediate assistance to some 2,500 families (10,000 beneficiaries). Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.**

**Summary:** Heavy rains in July resulted in heavy floods affecting most parts of the DPRK. The floods in 63 counties/cities in all 11 provinces resulted in a loss of lives, injuries and damage to infrastructure and livelihoods. The worst-affected provinces are South Phyongan, North Phyongan, Kangwon, North Hamyong and South Hamyong..

Immediately after the last DREF bulletin published on 1 August 2012, the DPRK government released a new damage report, showing that the extent of damage was much more than initially captured from the government official information in the last DREF bulletin. At least 169 persons have died, 144 were injured and 400 are missing. As per the local Red Cross branches, most missing persons are reported to have been found, even though there is no official information available. The number of affected people is 212,204 with 4,293 houses of 7,888 families completely destroyed, 4,315 houses of 8,434 families partially destroyed and 19,296 houses of 43,774 families submerged by the floods. A total of 65,282.40 hectares of land is reported to be damaged with 7,117.4 hectares buried and 2,518.4 hectares of land washed away. Damage to infrastructure including public and industrial buildings, roads, etc. has been significant .

The DPRK Red Cross, with IFRC's support, immediately responded to the disaster in assessments, relief distributions, evacuations and first aid services. The National Society mobilized up to 4,128 Red Cross volunteers at community level to assist the affected communities. It has already distributed family



Red Cross volunteers providing clean water to the flood affected peoples in Anju city, south Phyongan province Photo: DPRK RCS

kits in the affected areas through its disaster preparedness stocks, reaching up to 9,280 families (more than 38,912 persons) as of date.

Floods waters have already subsided in most places. However, most of the people are either taking refuge in temporary shelter, public buildings or sharing accommodation with neighbours or relatives. The weather conditions are hot and humid and even rainy sometimes, thus, it is difficult to maintain daily life. In DPRK, there remains a possibility of more rain. The affected people are looking forward to receiving construction materials as support from the government. In consultation with the DPRK government, the DPRK Red Cross decided not to launch an emergency appeal.

The European Commission's Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection department (DG ECHO), Canadian Red Cross/ Canadian government and Netherlands Red Cross/ Netherlands government made contributions towards the replenishment of the DREF allocation made to this operation.

The major donors to the DREF are the Red Cross Societies and governments of Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Monaco, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden and the U.S.A., as well as DG ECHO, the UK Department for International Development (DFID), the Medtronic, and Z Zurich Foundations and other corporate and private donors. Details of all donors can be found [here](#).

IFRC, on behalf of DPRK Red Cross, would like to thank all partners for their generous contribution to this operation and DREF in general.

## The situation

Heavy rains in July 2012 led to floods in large parts of the DPRK. The floods occurred on 18-19, 23-24 and 29-30 July, resulting in injuries and a loss of lives. Several people also went missing. Damage to crops, arable land, houses, infrastructure including public buildings, roads, water supply and sanitation systems is reported to be significant.

Since the last DREF bulletin published on August 01, 2012, the DPRK government has released new data about the damage caused by the 2012 floods. New data shows the number of affected people, extent of damage to crops, houses, infrastructure has increased significantly. To date, a total of 63 counties/cities in all 11 provinces of the country are affected, with the worst-affected being South Phyongan, North Phyongan, Kangwon, North Hamyong and South Hamyong.



Red Cross volunteers distributing family kits to beneficiaries in Kaechon city, South Phyongan Province Photo: DPRK RCS.

As of 3 August 2012, at least 169 persons have died, 144 are injured and 400 are missing. As per the local Red Cross branches, most missing persons are reported to have been found, even though government information is yet to be available. The number of affected people is 212,204 with 4,293 houses of 7,888 families completely destroyed, 4,315 houses of 8,434 families partially destroyed and 19,296 houses of 43,774 families submerged by the floods. A total of 65,282.40 hectares is reported to be damaged with 7,117.4 hectares buried and 2,518.4 hectares of land washed away. Damage to infrastructure including public and industrial buildings, roads, etc. has been significant.

With more communities becoming accessible, DPRK RCS deployed additional national and provincial disaster response teams (NDRT and PDRT) to the most affected areas to further assess and gather information about the effect of the floods. Rapid assessment results were mainly used to inform the immediate relief response by the DPRK RCS and the IFRC.

Key data released by the DPRK government on 3 August 2012 are tabulated below:

**Number of Casualties, Injured and Missing Persons<sup>1</sup>**

Affected areas	As of 3 August 2012			
	Total	Dead	Injured	Missing
	713	169	144	400
<b>Pyongyang</b>	2	-	-	2
<b>South Phyongan Province</b>	430	75	94	261
Kaechon City, Pukchang County, Songchon County, Sinyang County, Pyongsong City, Huechang County	Most affected are Songchon county (20 persons dead) and Sinyang county (21 persons dead)			
<b>North Phyongan Province</b>	224	63	28	133
Kujang County, Unsan County, Taechon County, Sakju County, Changsong County, Dongchang, County, Taegwan County	Most affected are Unsan county (8 persons dead) and Taegwan county (7 persons dead)			
<b>South Hwanghae Province</b>	3	1	2	-
Sinchon County, Anhak County, Jaeryong County				
<b>North Hwanghae Province</b>	2	1	1	-
Unpha County				
<b>Kangwon Province</b>	14	7	5	2
Wonsan City, Anbyon County, Kosong County, Pankyo County	Most affected are Wonsan county (2 persons dead) and Pankyo county (3 persons dead)			
<b>South Hamgyong Province</b>	17	8	9	-
Pukchong County, Tanchon County, Jongpyong County, Kumya County	Most affected are Tanchon (2 persons dead)			
<b>North Hamgyong Province</b>	7	6	1	-
Kimchaek City, Myonggan County, Chongjin City, Kilju County	Most affected are Kimchaek city (3 persons dead) and Chongjin city (2 persons dead)			
<b>Ryanggang Province</b>	1	1	-	-
Samsu County				
<b>Jagang Province</b>	11	6	4	1
Songwon County, Huichon City, Dongsin County	Most affected are Huichon city (3 persons dead) and Dongsin county (3 persons dead)			
<b>Nampo Province</b>	2	1	-	-

Local authorities inform that they continue to respond to reduce the impact of floods. A large number of people were evacuated. Other actions included:

- Early warning and evacuation
- Search and rescue
- Tracing services for those missing
- Rehabilitation and recovery of infrastructure, i.e. roads, bridge and communication facilities

<sup>1</sup> **Source:** Government of DPR of Korea; no data in the above table means not applicable

- Provision of emergency food to the affected people
- Provision of emergency relief items
- Repair of dams and embankments
- Repair of damaged houses

## Coordination and Partnerships

The IFRC continued to participate in inter-agency mechanisms for disaster response in the DPRK. The inter-agency working group for contingency planning and disaster preparedness was requested to conduct assessment visits to affected areas. IFRC staff with support from DPRK RCS participated in the inter-agency assessment visits to Songchon county and Anju City, South Phyongan province. Health and Water and Sanitation (WatSan) clusters/thematic groups of the inter-agency response were activated. Both cluster conducted further assessments. IFRC also participated in the joint-assessment visit of WatSan cluster to Kujang county, North Phyongan province.

IFRC has been regularly sharing information about its response with the local United Nations (UN) agencies and other humanitarian partners. This has not only ensured no duplication but also added efficiency to individual relief initiatives.

Several UN agencies and other international organizations, including international NGOs, have responded to the floods. The details of individual responses and overall co-ordination mechanisms could be found in the situation report published by UN. The report was prepared in collaboration with humanitarian partners in the DPRK including the IFRC. It can be accessed at: <http://kp.one.un.org/content/uploads/2012/08/DPRK-Situation-Report-2-Flooding-13-Aug-2012.pdf>.

Provincial Red Cross branches are coordinating with local government and provincial flood damage prevention committees and assisting in relief response activities. They are continuing to monitor the needs and situation of flood affected population in close coordination with local authorities.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Disaster preparedness activities were carried out by DPRK RCS in preparation for the monsoon season including preparedness workshops on WatSan, Health and simulation drills in the communities. Prior to the floods, damage and needs assessment training was provided by IFRC to National and Provincial Disaster Response Team (NDRT and PDRT) members as a preparedness measure.

With the start of rainy season, DPRK RCS activated its operations room in early July 2012 and put NDRT and PDRT on high alert.

As more flood affected communities became accessible, PDRT and NDRTs were deployed. A total of 58 teams comprised of 145 members, carried out rapid assessment, continued assessment and relief distribution. They also continue to monitor the situation at ground level.

The assessment teams collected data through direct observation in the affected areas, and interviews with flood-affected people where available, local Red Cross staff and volunteers as well as local authorities. Pair-wise ranking and proportional piling were employed to identify the priority needs of the affected people. In addition, the teams obtained secondary data such as flood situation reports from the provincial governments, reports from hydro-meteorological bureau and KCNA.

These assessment teams were among the first teams on the ground to support the government's response to the floods. The findings from the assessments were used to guide the immediate response of the DPRK RCS and IFRC.

### *Red Cross volunteers on the ground*

A total of 4,128 volunteers were mobilised at the community level to conduct hygiene promotion, provide first aid services and distribute relief items to the affected people. Province-wise details could be found in the following table:

Sr. No.	Type of activity	South Phyongan	North Phyongan	South Hamgyong	North Hamgyong	Kangwon	Ryanggang	Jagang	Total
1.	Provision of first aid	360	167	42	40	51	7	34	701

2.	Promotion of hygiene	480	244	64	60	75	11	48	982
3.	Distribution of relief items	1,280	304	99	226	166	10	320	2,445
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>		<b>2,120</b>	<b>715</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>366</b>	<b>292</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>402</b>	<b>4,128</b>

Assessment visits by PDRT and NDRT have confirmed the following needs of the affected people. Participation in the inter-agency joint-assessment visits also reinforced these findings. The needs of the affected people have been identified as shelter, food and nutrition and health.

#### *Shelter*

Affected people are in need of temporary shelters as their houses collapsed in the torrential rain and mudslides. People without shelter are living with neighbours, public facilities or temporary shelter (mostly distributed by Red Cross). According to DPRK RCS, the local government has drawn clear plans to restore and reconstruct damaged public buildings and the plans for permanent shelter reconstruction is still in discussion. Rehabilitation of roads has started in some of the places.

#### *Health*

It is difficult to confirm the exact extent of increase in spread of diseases resulting from the floods as no baseline data was available. During the assessment visits, patients suffering from injuries such as cuts, bruises and fractures were met. There was a reported increase of diarrhea; however, no epidemic has been reported. The threat of water borne diseases such as diarrhea remains, especially among children. Several Ri-clinics and other public health facilities have reported loss of medicines, consumable medical kits and other medical equipment. The procurement of 10 Inter-agency Emergency Health kits (IAEHK) was done in early 2011. The kit consists of basic medicine and supplementary medicine kits and medical consumables.

Regular medicine distribution by DPRK RCS, with support of IFRC had already been scheduled in August. An important and effective response has been to revise the usual distribution plan and prioritise the regular medicine distribution in the flood-affected areas. Red Cross volunteers have been active in providing first aid to the affected people. First aid posts, supported by a regular Red Cross health programme, have been mobilized by the local authorities in several affected areas.

#### *Water, sanitation and hygiene promotion*

Water supply systems and sanitation infrastructure has been reported to be damaged in several counties/cities.

DPRK RCS deployed 2 water purification units (SETA type) in Anju city where the entire water supply system had collapsed due to the floods. About 10,000 persons benefitted from safe water produced by this intervention. This response has been described as timely and appropriate by local authorities<sup>2</sup>. The DPRK WatSan team, comprising of one staff and four technicians, operating the units also distributing water purification tablets (both Red Cross and UNICEF ones). The units are now back in the warehouse.

#### *Food and nutrition*

At the community level, affected families considered food to be an immediate need and were afraid it would be an even more pressing need in the coming days. Emergency food distribution by the local authorities and World Food Programme (WFP) has addressed the immediate needs. It is estimated that longer-term food and nutrition needs will be ascertained after October 2012.

While the DPRK RCS had mobilized immediate response with its preparedness stocks as well manpower, the DREF operation targets to support their action by replenishing the relief stock for at least 2,500 families (approximately 10,000 people) affected with essential items.

To meet with the immediate shelter need, the DPRK RCS, with IFRC support, provided plastic sheets (tarpaulins) to the families whose houses collapsed or have been uninhabitable. Other non-food relief items, including quilts with covers, kitchen sets have also been provided to assist the most affected persons. Jerry cans, hygiene kits and water purification tablets have also been distributed. To supplement the distribution of hygiene kits and water purification tablets, Red Cross volunteers are conducting hygiene promotion activities. Most of the beneficiaries report that plastic sheets (tarpaulins) and kitchen sets to be the most significant support in addressing their immediate and pressing needs.

<sup>2</sup> AFP news coverage of DPRK Red Cross water and sanitation activities [here](#) and photo [here](#).

All of the above items were mobilized from the Red Cross warehouse and already distributed to the most affected families. Priority of assistance from the Red Cross has been given to those families who are economically vulnerable and whose houses were completely destroyed. Where resources have been available, second priority has been given to families that houses were partially damaged.

<b>Relief distributions</b>
<p><b>Outcome:</b> To provide at least 2,500 affected and displaced families (approximately 10,000 people) with essential shelter and non-food items to meet their immediate needs in South Phyongan and Kangwon province</p>
<p><b>Expected results</b> 2,500 flood-affected and displaced families (10,000 people) have received non-food assistance.</p>
<p><b>Activities carried out</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Identification and registering of affected and displaced families based on agreed criteria</li> <li>- Distribution of emergency shelter and non-food items, including plastic sheets (tarpaulins), quilts with cover, kitchen sets from existing stocks to identified beneficiaries</li> <li>- Continuously monitoring relief activities and providing reporting on relief distributions</li> <li>- Conducting ongoing assessment of the impact of the flood and reviewing support strategies</li> <li>- Replenishment of stocks has been progressing based on approved budgets and IFRC procurement requirement</li> </ul>

In response to the floods during June-July 2012, DPRK RCS, with IFRC support, has reached 9,280 families providing support of relief items. Relief items such as plastic sheets (tarpaulins), quilts, jerry cans, kitchen sets, water purification tablets, hygiene kits have benefitted 38,912 persons in 23 counties/cities across 6 provinces. It should be noted that during July 2012 itself, 8,374 families (36,564 persons) have benefitted from these relief items. The replenishment process of items for 2,500 affected families under this DREF support are in process.

<b>Water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion</b>
<p><b>Outcome:</b> Provision of safe water and hygiene promotion activities to 2,500 families (approximately 10,000 flood-affected people) in South Phyongan and Kangwon province</p>
<p><b>Expected results</b> Provision of water purification tablets and hygiene promotion activities to 2,500 families (approximately 10,000 flood-affected people) short of clean and safe drinking water for one month.</p>
<p><b>Activities carried out and/or planned:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Provision and demonstration of water purification tablets and 2 jerry cans for 2,500 families</li> <li>- Provision of hygiene kits for 2,500 families</li> <li>- Conducting training/information programmes for Red Cross volunteers and beneficiaries on hygiene promotion and the safe use of water purification tablets</li> <li>- 2000 health/hygiene promotion leaflets printing and distribution in South Hamgyong and South Phyongan provinces</li> </ul>

The DPRK RCS printed 2,000 copies of health/hygiene promotion leaflets which were distributed to the communities in South Hamgyong and South Phyongan provinces. The main messages in the leaflets focus on personal hygiene such as hand washing, safe drinking water and prevention of water borne infections.

As mentioned above, the distribution of jerry cans, water purification tablets, hygiene kits has supported to address immediate water and sanitation related needs of the affected families. Red Cross volunteers are also conducting hygiene promotion in the affected areas.

## Contact information

**For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:**

- **National Society:** Mr Yu Ju Yong, Acting Director, Disaster Management Department, ; +850 2 18111 (ask for 8408); email: [dmw@star-co.net.kp](mailto:dmw@star-co.net.kp)
- **IFRC country office:** Jim Dawe, Acting Head of Office; +850 2 3814350; [jim.dawe@ifrc.org](mailto:jim.dawe@ifrc.org)
- **IFRC East Asia regional office in Beijing:** phone: +86 10 65327162, fax: +86 10 65327166
  - Mr Martin Faller, Head of Regional Office, email: [martin.faller@ifrc.org](mailto:martin.faller@ifrc.org)
  - Mr. Francis Markus, Regional Communications Delegate; mobile: +86.13.9100.96892; email: [francis.markus@ifrc.org](mailto:francis.markus@ifrc.org)
- **IFRC Asia Pacific zone office in Malaysia:**
  - Mr Jerry Talbot, Acting Head of Operations, email: [jerry.talbot@ifrc.org](mailto:jerry.talbot@ifrc.org), phone: +603 9207 5700
  - Ms.Karen Poon, Operations coordinator, email: [karen.poon@ifrc.org](mailto:karen.poon@ifrc.org), mobile: +6013 360 0366



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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 \(NGOs\) in Disaster Relief](#) and the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster 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.

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The IFRC's work is guided by [Strategy 2020](#) which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
  2. Enable healthy and safe living.
  3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.
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