

Information bulletin

Democratic People's Republic of Korea: Floods

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30 July 2012

This bulletin is being issued for information only, and reflects the current situation and details available at this time. The Red Cross Society of Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK RCS), with the support of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), has determined that external assistance is not required, and is therefore not seeking funding or other assistance from donors at this time.

Torrential rains and subsequent floods and mudslides have affected several provinces of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea since early July. According to information shared by government authorities with DPRK RCS, at least 88 people died, 134 were injured and 48 others are missing. Up to 62,210 persons were affected by the floods, with 3,504 houses destroyed, 3,013 houses damaged, and 11,825 houses submerged by flood waters.

Widespread damage to industrial facilities, cultivated land and infrastructure including bridges, roads, water and sanitation facilities were reported.

From July 17 onwards, DPRK RCS, with the support of IFRC, has provided emergency relief items to 6,410 families (29,129 persons) in 16 counties of six provinces. Emergency relief items such as quilts with covers, cooking sets, plastic sheets, jerry cans, hygiene kits and water purification tablets, have been distributed from disaster preparedness (DP) warehouses by county and provincial Red Cross branches with close coordination and support from local authorities.



Flooded houses in Ampo-ri community of Songchon County, South Pyongan province. Photo: DPRK RCS

[<click here to view the map of the affected areas, or here for detailed contact information>](#)

The situation

During the monsoon season, the DPRK often faces heavy rainfall, resulting in floods and mudslides. Heavy rains in the past three weeks have led to small localized floods, with damage to houses from these floods first reported on 12 - 19 July. On 20 July, Korea Central News Agency (KCNA) reported that downpours triggered by Typhoon-7 (Tropical storm Khanun-12) seriously affected Kangwon and South Hwanghae provinces. The typhoon also brought heavy rainfall to east coast areas such as Kangwon, North Hamgyong and South Hamgyong provinces. Total rainfall of over 200 mm was registered in Kim Chaek City, North Hamgyong Province, Munchon City and Chonnae County of Kangwon Province, and Sudong District of South Hamgyong Province.

The torrential downpour from 19 July onwards, especially on 23 – 24 July, exacerbated the situation, further affecting the eastern coastal and northern areas of the country. The worst-affected provinces are South Phyongan, North Phyongan, Kangwon, North Hamgyong, South Hamgyong and Jagang.

The seriousness of the situation is quickly unfolding as more people are reported to have been affected by the heavy rains. At least 88 deaths were reported, with 134 people injured and 48 others missing. A total of 62,210 people have been affected by the floods, with 3,504 houses destroyed, 3,013 houses damaged, and 11,825 houses submerged. Substantial areas of cultivated land as well as infrastructure including roads, bridges, water and sanitation systems have been damaged.

As the situation worsened, DPRK RCS immediately deployed its 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 along with government data are indicated below:

Number of casualties, injured and missing persons¹

Affected areas	As of 28 July 2012			
	Total	Dead	Injured	Missing
	263	81	134	48
South Phyongan Province	173	43	93	37
Kaechon City, Pukchang County, Songchon County, Sinyang County, Pyongsong City, Huechang County	Most affected are Songchon (20 persons dead) and Sinyang (21 persons dead) counties			
North Phyongan Province	48	21	19	8
Kujang County, Unsan County, Taechon County, Sakju County, Changsong County, Dongchang County, Taegwan County	Most affected are Unsan (8 persons dead) and Taegwan (7 persons dead) counties			
South Hwanghae Province	3	1	2	-
Sinchon County, Anhak County, Jaeryong County				
North Hwanghae Province	1	-	1	
Unpha County				
Kangwon Province	7	-	5	2
Wonsan City, Anbyon County, Kosong County, Pankyo County	Most affected are Anbyon (3 persons dead) and Pankyo (2 persons dead) counties			
South Hamgyong Province	12	3	9	-
Pukchong County, Tanchon County, Jongpyong County, Kumya County	Most affected are Tanchon (4 persons dead) and Kumya counties (4 persons dead)			
North Hamgyong Province	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)			
Ryanggang Province	1	1	-	-
Samsu County				
Jagang Province	11	6	4	1
Songwon County, Huichon City, Tongsin County	Most affected is Songwon county (5 persons dead)			

Number of affected houses²

Affected Area	As of 28 July 2012				
	Total affected households	Completely destroyed houses	Damaged houses	Submerged houses	Total affected persons
	18,342	3,504	3,013	11,825	62,210
South Phyongan Province	6,369	2,216	1,115	3,038	21,350
Daehung County, Pukchang County, Songchon County, Sinyang County, Maengsan County, Yangdok County, Pyongsong City, Huechang County	Most affected are Songchon (5,716 households/19,349 persons affected), and Sinyang counties (472 households/1,499 persons affected)				
North Phyongan Province	3,919	942	487	2,490	13,875
Unsan County, Changsong County, Ryongchon County, Yomju County, Chonma County, Taegwan County	Most affected are Unsan (3,517 households/12,433 persons affected) and Taegwan (188 households, 745 persons affected) counties				
South Hwanghae Province	12	12			48
Sinchon County, Jaeryong County					
North Hwanghae Province	8	2		6	32

¹ Source: Government of DPR of Korea; no data in the above table means not applicable

² Source: Government of DPR of Korea; no data in the above table means not applicable

Hwangju County, Pongsan County					
Kangwon Province	2,497	84	636	1,777	7,622
Wonsan City, Munchon City, Kosan County, Chonnae County	Most affected are Chonnae county (2,200 households/6,772 persons affected) and Wonsan City (167 households/638 persons affected)				
South Hamgyong Province	1,370	84	229	1,057	4,634
Rakwon County, Pukchong County, Tanchon County, Hamju County, Hamhung City, Sinhung County, Jongpyong County, Sudong District, Kowon County, Riwon County	Most affected are Tanchong (906 households/3,428 persons affected) and Pukchong (152 households/453 persons affected) counties				
North Hamgyong Province	3,672	75	390	3,207	13,246
Kimchaek City, Myonggan County, Chongjin City, Hwadae County, Orang County, Kyongsong County, Puryong County	Most affected are Kimchaek city (3,317 households/12,199 persons affected) and Orang county (217 households/661 persons affected)				
Ryanggang Province	5	5			2
Kimhyongjik County					
Jagang Province	490	84	156	250	1,383
Huichon City, Tongsin County	Most affected is Huichon city (288 households/834 persons affected)				

Damage to cultivated land³

Affected area	Washed away land (hectare)	Buried land (hectare)	Submerged land (hectare)	Total affected land (hectare)
Kangwon Province				
Munchon	-	-	110	110
Anbyon	-	-	178	178
South Hamgyong Province				
Rakwon	-	1	22.5	23.5
Pukchong	29	28	412	469
Tanchon	-	87	1342	1429
North Hamgyong Province				
Myonggan	-	2	70	72
Kim Chaek	5	79	210	294
Grand Total (hectare)	34	197	2344.5	2575.5

Damage to bridges and roads⁴

Affected area	Bridge (place/area damaged)	Road (place/area damaged)
Kangwon Province		
Munchon	15 places/280m ²	-
Kosan	1 place/20m ²	-
Anbyon		1 place/30m ²
South Hamgyong Province		
Rakwon	1 place/3500m ²	2 places/25m ²
Pukchong	6 places/670m ²	3 places/1900m ²
Tanchon	11 places/2400m ²	3 places/102m ²
North Hamgyong Province		
Myonggan	11 places/640m ²	8 places/570m ²
Kim Chaek	360 places/3200m ²	12 places/310m ²
Ryanggang		
Kim Jong Suk	1 place/48m ²	-
Kim Hyong Gwon	5 places/1209m ²	-
Total	411 places/11967m²	29 places/2937m²

Damage to industrial facilities⁵

Affected area	Totally destroyed	Partly damaged	Submerged
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³ Source: Assessment visits by provincial branches and national headquarters of DPRK RCS; data as of 26 July

⁴ Source: Assessment visits by provincial branches and national headquarters of DPRK RCS; data as of 26 July

⁵ Source: Assessment visits by provincial branches and national headquarters of DPRK RCS; data as of 26 July

Kangwon Province			
Kosan	-	1 buildings/ 30 m ²	-
South Hamgyong Province			
Pukchong	10 building /700 m ²	12 buildings/ 920 m ²	-
Tanchon	1 building /87 m ²	1 buildings/ 54 m ²	-
North Hamgyong Province			
Kim Chaek	3 building/2310 m ²	2 building /1300 m ²	2 building/130 m ²
Myonggan		1 building /140 m ²	
Total	14 buildings/ 3097 m²	17 buildings/ 2444 m²	2 buildings/ 130 m²

Local authorities have immediately responded to reduce the impact of floods through actions including:

- Early warning and evacuation
- Search and rescue
- Tracing services for those missing
- Rehabilitation and recovery of infrastructure, i.e. roads, bridge and communication facilities
- Provision of emergency food to the affected people
- Provision of emergency relief items
- Repair of dams and embankments
- Repair of damaged houses

The assessment teams deployed in the affected areas have confirmed that actual damage is larger than published to date. As it becomes possible to contact more communities within the counties and cities, the number of affected persons is likely to increase.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

In preparation for the upcoming monsoon season, which often results in floods, DPRK RCS activated its operations room since early July 2012. National and provincial disaster response teams (NDRT and PDRT) have been on high alert. Disaster simulation drills, emergency water and sanitation workshops and health in emergency workshops were conducted by Red Cross staff in several areas across the country.

The National Society's PDRT conducted damage and needs assessments in the affected provinces. DPRK RCS headquarters, with support from IFRC, dispatched at least three NDRTs to assess the situation in Kim Chaek county in North Hamgyong Province; Tanchon, Pukchong, Rakwon counties in South Hamgyong Province; Wonsan and Monchan cities in Kangwon Province and Songchon County in South Phyogan Province. Two additional NDRT teams left for further assessments of the affected areas on 28 July and is expected to return to Pyongyang on 31 July 2012.



DPRK RCS staff conducting an interview with a flood-affected family. Photo: DPRK RCS

Assessment teams deployed by the headquarters collected data directly through interviews with flood-affected people, local Red Cross staff and volunteers as well as local authorities and direct observation in the affected areas. Pairwise 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.

The following needs have been identified by the assessment teams:

Shelter

Affected people are in need of temporary shelters as their houses collapsed in the torrential rain and mudslides. As the local government is fully engaged in the reconstruction of public service facilities and

rehabilitation of infrastructure, especially roads and water and sanitation facilities, the prospects for house reconstruction are questionable at this moment.

Health and water and sanitation

There have been no reports of epidemic outbreaks in the disaster-affected areas. However, there is a potential risk of water-borne diseases such as diarrhea. Water and sanitation is biggest need in Kimchaek city, as the water supply system was completely destroyed after the total inundation of the city. The assessment team has found that there are many injured people who need medical support. There are no medicines in the visited areas.

Food and nutrition

Food and nutrition is emerging as the most critical issue, with a significant loss of early crops after long lasting droughts followed by the latest flooding.

Provincial Red Cross branches are coordinating with local government and provincial flood damage prevention committees to constantly assess the damage and needs. They are also closely monitoring the food and nutrition status of the affected population in close coordination with local authorities.

A total of 416 Red Cross volunteers at community level were mobilized for rescue, evacuation and first aid services to the affected people. DPRK RCS, with IFRC support, has distributed family kits in the affected areas. Each family kit includes tarpaulins, quilts with cover, cooking set, jerry can, hygiene kit and water purification tablets. Minor variations in items were introduced according to field needs e.g. provision of more water purification tablets, smaller number of hygiene kits distributed in few areas. An inter-agency emergency health kit was dispatched to Songchon County of South Phyongan Province.

Following are more details:

Sr. No.	Distribution Date	Province	County (where kits are distributed)	Number of family kits distributed	Families benefitted	Persons benefitted
1	17 July 2012	South Phyongan	Nyongwon county	74	74	324
2	23 July 2012	Kangwon	Wonsan city, Munchon city, Chonnae county	95	95	435
3	25 – 26 July 2012	South Hamgyong and North Hamgyong	Rakwon, Pukchong, Tanchon (South Hamgyong) And Kim Chaek (North Hamgyong)	747	747	3,571
5	28 – 29 July 2012 (ongoing)	South Phyongan, North Phyongan, South Hamgyong, North Hamgyong, Jagang	Songchon, Sinyang (South Phyongan), Unsan, Yomju, Taegwan (North Phyongan), Hamju (South Hamgyong), Orang (North Hamgyong), Dongsin (Jagang)	5,694	5,694	25,620
TOTAL				6,610	6,610	29,950

DPRK RCS, with support from IFRC's country office will continue to monitor the situation in the country as the rainy season is ongoing, and are ready to provide more assistance, if needs are identified.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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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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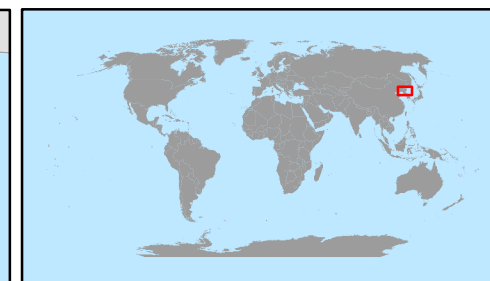
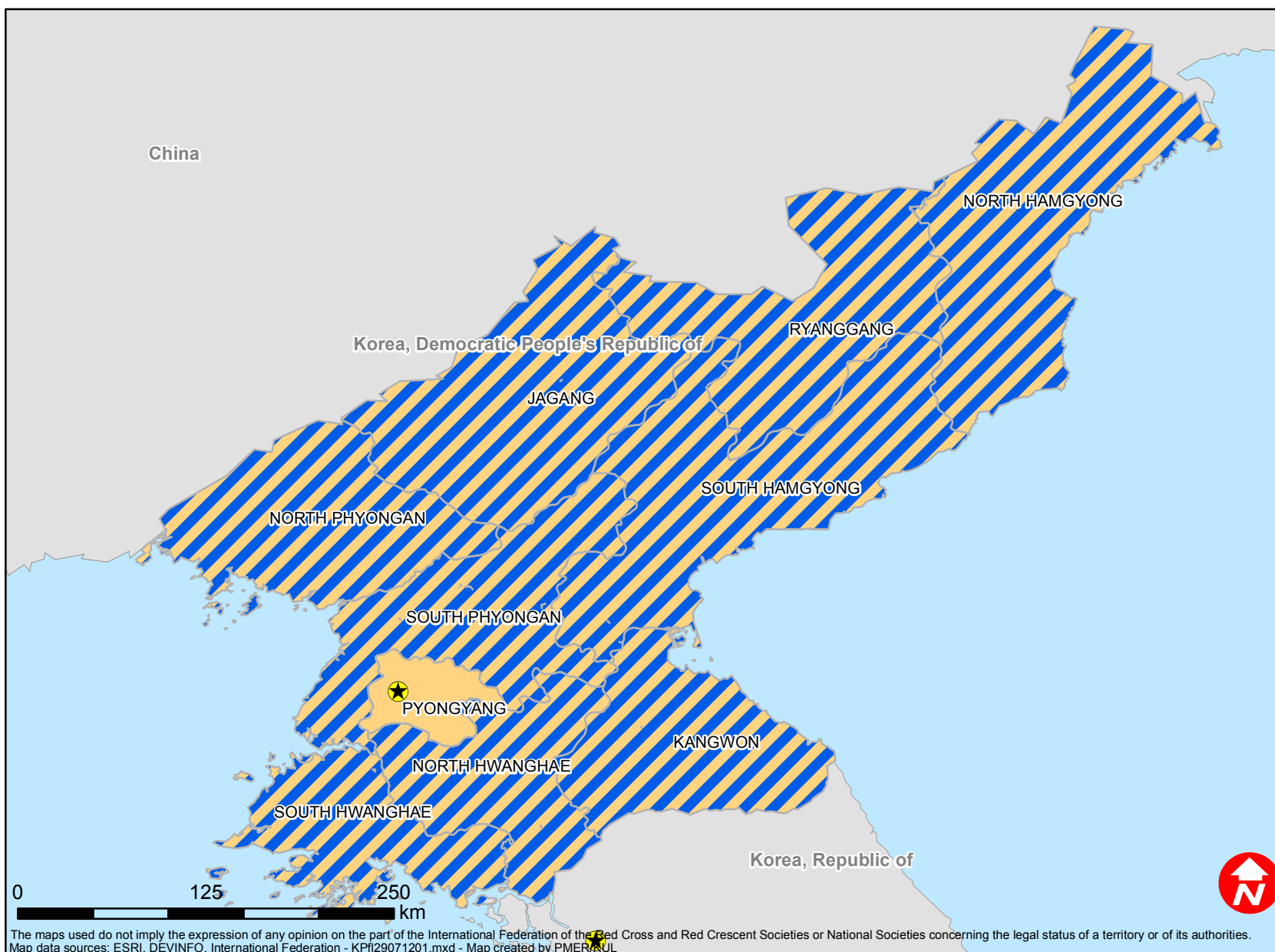


The IFRC's work is guided by [Strategy 2020](#) which puts forward three strategic aims:

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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 Affected provinces