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Information bulletin

Democratic People's Republic of Korea: Floods

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

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This bulletin is being issued for information only, and reflects the current situation and details available at this time. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea Red Cross Society (DPRK RCS), with the support of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is assessing the situation further to determine if external assistance is needed.

Since 12-22 July 2013, most parts of DPRK were hit by consecutive floods and landslides caused by torrential rains. As of 23 July, DPRK government data reports 28 persons dead, 2 injured and 18 missing. A total of 3,742 families have lost their houses due to total and partial destruction and 49,052 people have been displaced.



Red Cross volunteers were mobilized for early warning and evacuation, search and rescue, first aid service, damage and need assessment, and distribution of relief items. The DPRK RCS with the support of IFRC has released 2,690 emergency relief kits, including quilts, cooking sets, tarpaulins, jerry cans, hygiene kits and water purification tablets which were distributed to 10,895 beneficiaries in Tosan County, North Hwanghae province and Anju City, South Pyongan province.

Red Cross volunteers are distributing the relief items to flood affected people in Anju City, South Pyongan province. Photo: DPRK RCS.

The situation

Successive torrential rains have caused extensive flooding from 12-22 July 2013, severely damaging dwelling houses, public buildings, bridges, and roads and crops throughout the DPRK especially in south and north Pyongan, north Hwanghae, south Hamgyong, Kangwon and Jagang provinces.

While the government is still calculating and consolidating the data on overall impact, initial assessment shows that in many communities, public institutions like kindergartens and children nurseries have been partly or completely damaged by heavy rains and floods. A number of old and low standard houses have collapsed. At the moment, the affected population has been evacuated to public buildings that have been converted into temporary shelters, or arranged to live temporarily with other families within their neighbourhoods whose houses were intact. Most of these families were suffering from inadequate sheltering conditions, for example lack of beddings and other essential and basic household utilities which exposed them to a higher health risk.

Early crops including potatoes have perished due to the prolonged rains, where some of these food stocks were washed away by flood. The flooding is estimated to have a longer term impact on food security and livelihood as the crop lands (rice and maize) were affected by flood and erosion, destroying embankments and irrigation channels in the process.



Assessments being done by the national disaster response team in Unsan county, North Pyongan province on 24 July 2013. Photo cred: DPRKRC

The floods have caused severe disruption to the population's access to safe water. In urban communities where water supply system relied on pumps, the situation is serious as the water pumps are submerged in water and can no longer function. While it is estimated that the water supply system will be partially restored in a few weeks, it would take months for it to function in full capacity. In rural communities, the affected population is currently relying on alternative water sources like dug wells, hand pumps, boreholes and surface water which run a high risk of contamination.

The below table shows the flood damage issued by the government as of 23 July 2013.

Affected people and houses

Affected areas	12-22 July						
	Displaced people	Dead people	Injured people	Missing people	Destroyed houses	Damaged houses	Submerged houses
Total	49,052	28	2	18	984	2,758	11,289
Pyongyang	84	2			8	11	13
South Pyongan	11,176	6		2	196	458	2,600
North Pyongan	33,240	7	2	4	611	1,922	7,701
South Hwanghae	24				6	-	-
North Hwanghae	1,888	3		3	114	296	379
South Hamgyong	300			3	-	-	75
Kangwon	216	7		6	39	39	-
Jagang	2,116	1			8	32	521
North Hamgyong		2					
Nampo city	8				2	-	-

Affected arable land

Affected areas	Total	Submerged (hectare)	Buried (hectare)	Washed away (hectare)	Crop fallen (hectare)
Total	13,340	11,680	685	896	220
South Pyongan	1,133	1,108	76	-	15
North Pyongan	9,633	8,702	609	192	205
South Hwanghae	56	56	-	-	-
North Hwanghae	498	144	-	354	-
Kangwon	1,670	1,670	-	-	-
North Hamgyong	350	-	-	350	-

Infrastructures affected (roads and bridges)

Affected area	Landslides on roads		Erosions on roads		Bridges damaged		Embankments damaged	
	No. of locations	Length (m)	No. of locations	Length (m)	No. of locations	No. of locations	Length (m)	No. of locations
Total	46	324	163	9,921	37	1,938	113	10,709
South Pyongan	19	96	75	4,275	10	278	46	2,430
North Pyongan	4	25	64	4,745	17	1,195	11	697
North Hwanghae	8	128	3	83	1	30	7	48
South Hamgyong	-	-	4	125	1	12	-	-
Jagang	12	55	16	686	8	423	49	8,231
Kangwon	3	20	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ryanggang	-	-	1	7	-	-	-	-

The government immediately responded to the floods, which included providing emergency relief items to flood-affected people, rehabilitating the damaged infrastructure and taking measures to prevent future flooding. More details to come when available.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Before the rainy season, DPRK RCS has reinforced its national disaster response team (NDRT) at headquarters level and provincial disaster response teams (PDRT) in branches. Several workshops and trainings including the contingency planning, emergency response and relief, emergency water and sanitation and emergency health have been held across the country targeting Red Cross staff, volunteers and also officers at local authorities to ensure better coordination when the rainy season arrived. These teams are in close coordination with the Natural Disaster Management Bureau for the current floods.



Community people collecting the drinking water produced by the water treatment unit in Taechon county, North Pyongan province. Photo: IFRC.

Following calls from Red Cross branches, DPRK RCS immediately deployed eight NDRTs and PDRTs to the most affected areas including north Pyongan, south Pyongan, south Hamgyong, and north Hwanghae provinces.

According to the report from branches, it was reported that 3,332 Red Cross volunteers were mobilized for early warning and evacuation, search and rescue and first aid service to the affected population in the disaster-affected areas.

To provide immediate relief, the DPRK RCS, supported by IFRC mobilized and distributed emergency relief items including quilts, cooking sets, tarpaulins, jerry cans, hygiene kits and water purification tablets to a total of 2,690 families (10,895 person) in Tosan County (90 families) in North Hwanghae province and Anju City (2,600 families) in South Pyongan province. Two water purification units (SETA) have been deployed in Anju City in South Pyongan province and Taechon county of North Pyongan province. They are currently operating for 15 hours per day, providing to approximately 10,000 people with clean and safe drinking water on a daily basis.

Further assessments and analysis are being made to determine if further actions or external assistance would be required.

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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.

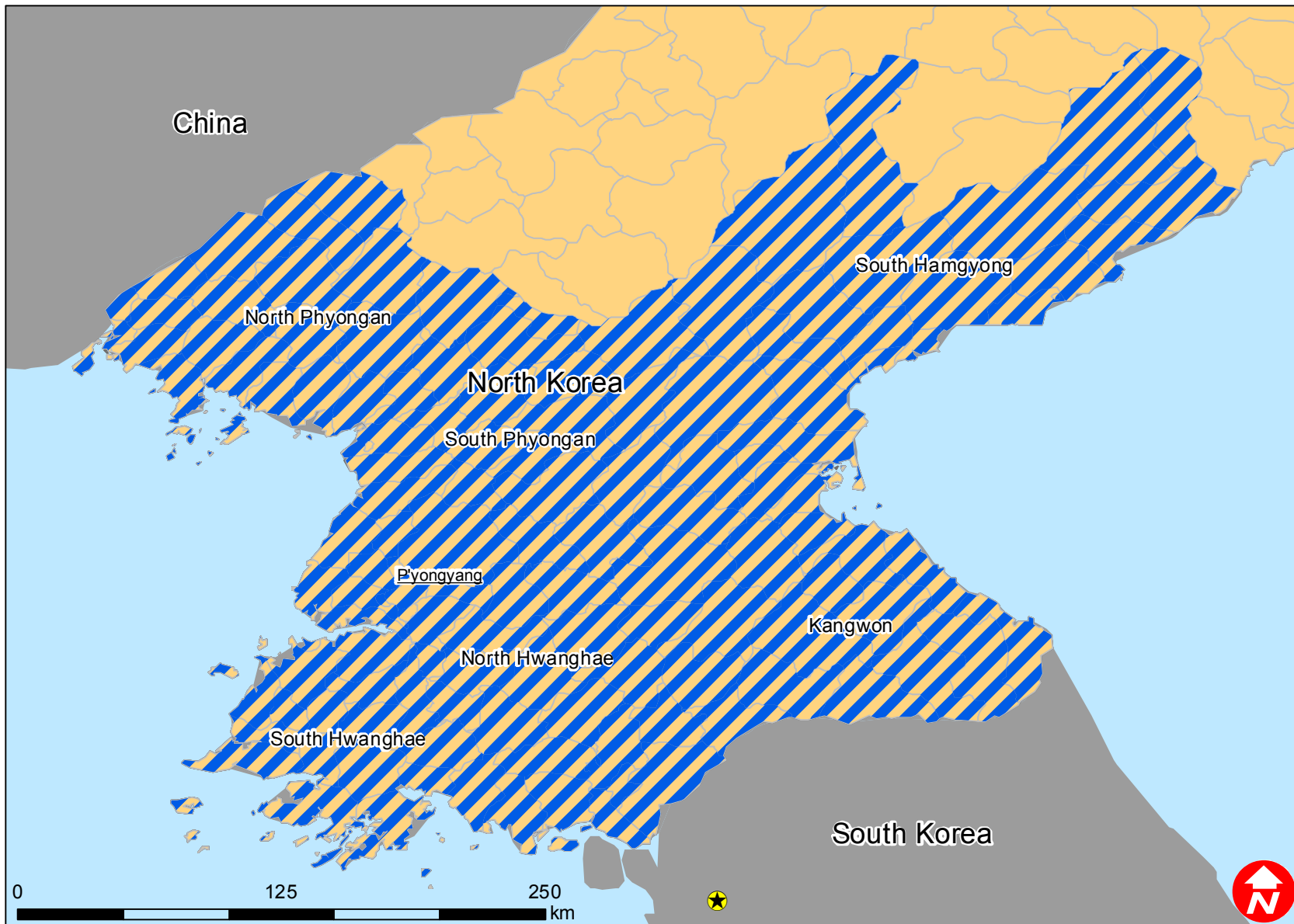


The IFRC's work is guided by [Strategy 2020](#) which puts forward three strategic aims:

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 areas