



DPR KOREA: TYPHOON

Appeal no:25/2000
19 September 2000

***THIS PRELIMINARY APPEAL SEEKS CHF 950,000
IN CASH, TO ASSIST 6,000 BENEFICIARIES FOR 3 MONTHS***

Summary

On 30 and 31 August, “Typhoon No. 12” swept through the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea. Flash flooding caused by 30 hours of heavy rain caused widespread destruction of villages, roads, bridges, and railways in many parts of South Hamgyong Province. The Red Cross Society of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK Red Cross), together with the Federation, responded to the disaster and has been working closely with local authorities to provide emergency relief assistance to storm victims who lost their houses. A joint assessment of storm stricken South Hamgyong province has been undertaken. The DPRK Red Cross, with the support of the Federation, aims to assist those worst-affected by the storm damage in four cities and counties in South Hamgyong province through provision of relief supplies and construction material to enable them to rebuild their homes before the arrival of the winter and its harsh conditions. It is expected that, given the scale of the damage and the needs of the disaster victims, as further assessments take place, numbers of beneficiaries will increase.

The Disaster

“Typhoon No. 12” hit the east coast of DPRK late at night on 30 August and brought about nearly 30 hours of heavy rain which caused flash flooding in many places in the eastern part of the country. Damage was extensive since the storm coincided with a tidal wave in the east Sea of Korea. Roads, bridges, railways, communications, houses, paddy fields and other land have been seriously damaged. The scale of damage exceeds that caused by other natural disasters in the DPRK since 1995. The worst of the storm damage occurred in South Hamgyong Province where the 11 cities and counties were severely affected, leaving more than 10,000 homeless flood victims. In Hoesang District in Hamhung City, the provincial seat (350 km north east of Pyongyang), 5 villages were particularly hard hit by flash flooding and around 550 people (178 families) lost their home and property. The district Red Cross branch found 180 wounded people in the flood stricken sites and provided a first aid service for one third, while the others were referred to the upper level hospitals. The 5 villages are located at the mouth of valley where the flash flood hit on 31 August at 4 o’clock in the morning. The district was assessed by a

joint Federation/DPRK Red Cross team. The area was also slightly affected by Typhoon No. 14 which hit on 15 and 16 September. Other parts of the country have been badly affected by the typhoons and tidal wave, as described below.

North Hamgyong Province

Chongjin, the seat of North Hamgyong Province, has been under one meter of water as a result of the tidal wave. At present, Chongjin has lost contact with other areas as telephone lines are cut in many places. Many bridges that link the city with other areas were completely or partially destroyed and travel to and from Chongjin is not possible. The water level of the Tuman River rose so suddenly in the Onsong area of North Hamgyong Province that more than 400 surrounding houses were inundated and thousands of hectares of paddy fields and other land were buried under silt.

Kangwon Province

The 150 meter-long bridge linking Wonsan City with Thongchon County was completely washed away by the tidal wave. 200-300 mm of rain were recorded as falling in Phyonggang, Kimhwa, Kosong, Thongchon, Anbyon and other counties in Kangwon Province, leaving hundreds of houses and scores of public buildings submerged or destroyed, and power and communications networks totally cut. Human losses were also reported from different areas. In Kimhwa County, in particular, two hour-long downpours recording rainfall of over 230 mm left at least 150 houses under water.

Ryanggang Province

There was torrential rain in several areas in the province including Hyesan and Samsu County, which left Hyesan Railway Station and industrial establishments submerged and brought unexpected damage to different sectors of the national economy including the city administration and land management. Hyesan was struck by major flooding three times in August, and houses accommodating over 1,000 families were inundated.

The recent natural disasters in different parts of the country destroyed a great deal of the infrastructure in affected areas and have had a negative impact on the harvest as well as on residents' lives in relation to housing, water and sanitation and access to food.

The Response so far

Government Action

The government sent cabinet members to the affected area in early September by helicopter and took immediate measures to rehabilitate the roads, bridges and railways. Provincial and local authorities are mobilising human and material resources to restore telecommunications and transportation in the worst affected areas. Given the government's heavy investment in the rehabilitation of infrastructure, which is expected to take place over a 2 to three month period, it is unlikely that the government will be in a position to provide support to the homeless in order that they may repair their houses before the winter.

Red Cross/Red Crescent Action

The DPRK Red Cross is continuing the assessment of the scale of damage and the current needs. This process is rather slow since it is difficult to access some of the affected areas because of the destruction of the infrastructure. A joint assessment team composed of the National Society's Deputy Secretary General, the Director of the Disaster Preparedness & Response Department and the Head of the Federation Delegation visited the worst affected areas in South Hamgyong Province. Provincial and county Red Cross chapters are taking an active part in assessment and disaster response actions by mobilising their volunteers. First aid posts were set up in the villages and rehabilitation sites. The National Society branches and national headquarters are working to get a full picture of the situation in the field. During the assessment mission, the DPRK Red Cross/Federation distributed 250 cooking sets, 1,500 blankets and 10 plastic sheets to disaster victims in Hamhung City from the National Society's disaster preparedness stock.

Other Agencies' Action w

There are some 15 UN agencies and NGOs working in the DPRK. The UN Humanitarian Co-ordinator conducted an initial assessment from Chongjin to Hamhung. WFP reported that the organisation has begun food for work programmes related to the repair of roads and bridges.

Co-ordination w

The DPRK government established the Flood Damage Rehabilitation Committee (FDRC) after the 1995 natural disaster, as the main co-ordination body for humanitarian aid for Korea. Furthermore, in the provinces and counties, local FDRCs have been established and Red Cross branches are working closely with these. Co-ordination meetings are arranged on a weekly basis between the various UN agencies, the Federation and international NGOs working in the DPRK

The Intended Operation**Assessment of Needs •**

An initial assessment by the DPRK Red Cross and the Federation indicates that the immediate priority is to assist the homeless through distribution of non-food relief materials. The government has focused on the infrastructure and will not be in a position to meet the needs of the most vulnerable in coming two months. Many people are living in makeshift shelters since their houses have collapsed. Severe winter conditions threaten their lives and since many water sources have been destroyed or contaminated, waterborne diseases may spread. Hence, there is a strong need to contribute to the rebuilding of the victims' houses and to provide safe water before the arrival of winter. The DPRK Red Cross and the Federation have identified 1,200 families whose houses were washed away or totally destroyed in the 4 worst affected cities and counties in South Hamgyong Province. This figure may increase when more data is provided from other areas which are as yet inaccessible.

Immediate Needs •

Due to the forthcoming winter, the immediate needs are to assist in the reconstruction of houses and to supply non-food relief items including first aid kits, water and sanitation facilities, blankets, cooking sets and plastic sheeting. For smooth implementation of relief work, it is also recommended to provide training in logistics for the local branch workers, as this is the first Federation emergency action in this province.

Anticipated Later Needs •

Later needs will focus on continued non-food and some medical supplies to cope with the winter. Restocking of relief supplies will also be necessary.

Red Cross Objectives •

- ◆ To provide emergency relief assistance (shelter, clean water and household items) to 6,000 people in South Hamgyong Province.
- ◆ To provide cement to 1,200 families to assist them in rebuilding their houses.
- ◆ To minimise the risk of the outbreak of waterborne disease in the targeted areas by installing 30 hand pump wells, and distributing 3 million water purification tablets.
- ◆ To build up the disaster response and preparedness capacity of the branches within the Province.
- ◆ To replenish the National Society's disaster preparedness emergency stocks.

National Society/Federation Plan of Action**Emergency Phase: September - October 2000**

Local and regional procurement of cement, blankets, cooking sets and plastic sheeting will take place and the DPRK Red Cross, supported by the Federation, will undertake the tendering process.

- The National Society will sign an agreement with local authorities, specifying roles.

- A joint National Society/Federation relief team will be based in Hamhung to implement the relief operation, carry out monitoring and assist the local branch.
- Distribution of blankets, cooking sets, first aid kits, water purification tablets and plastic sheeting from the disaster preparedness stock will be carried out by the disaster preparedness and response department of the DPRK Red Cross.
- The DPRK Red Cross, together with FDRC, will provide the list of beneficiaries.
- A detailed assessment of the water and sanitation facilities will take place.
- Training of Red Cross volunteers will be conducted
- On-going assessments will be made.

Phase Two: November - December 2000

Distribution of cement and water equipment.

Capacity of the National Society •

The DPRK Red Cross has its headquarters in Pyongyang and provincial, district branch committees in the affected areas. It is well represented in almost of every community with an extensive network of volunteers. One of the major problems faced by the National Society is the distance between affected regions and difficulties in communication.

Present Capacity of the Federation in DPRK •

The Delegation was established in 1995 to support emergency relief for flood victims. During the past few years, the focus of the Federation has been on health, water and sanitation and disaster preparedness. The Delegation currently consists of eight delegates. An additional Federation Delegate is now being recruited and will be based in the affected area, particularly for monitoring and reporting purposes. The Regional Delegation in Beijing will also provide support for the operation.

Evaluation •

Implementation of the operation will be evaluated by National Society and the country Delegation. Monitoring will take place through the procurement of relief items, participation in relief distribution, visiting and interviewing the beneficiaries. The joint National Society/Federation relief team will provide weekly operational reports during the initial period, followed by monthly reports. The country Delegation will carry out regular monitoring work in conjunction with the National Society.

Budget summary

See Annex 1 for details.

Conclusion

The Federation has released CHF 50,000 from the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) in order to begin provision of assistance to the flood victims immediately. It is essential to ensure continued assessment as areas become accessible in order to monitor the situation as regards water, sanitation and health. The DPRK Red Cross, with the support of the Federation, aims to assist 6,000 people who are worst-affected in four cities and counties in South Hamgyong province through provision of relief supplies and construction material before the arrival of the winter and its harsh conditions.

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This and other reports on Federation operations are available on the Federation's website: <http://www.ifrc.org>

<u>BUDGET SUMMARY</u>		APPEAL No. 25/2000
DPR Korea: Typhoon		
TYPE	VALUE	
<u>RELIEF NEEDS</u>		
	IN CHF	
Plastic sheeting: 300 rolls	51,000	
Cement for houses and wells: 4,920 mts	334,560	
Blankets: 6,000 units	84,000	
Water purification tablets: 3 million	6,500	
First aid kits: 40	10,800	
Utensils & tools: cooking sets	33,600	
TOTAL RELIEF NEEDS		520,460
<u>CAPITAL EQUIPMENT</u>		
Vehicle	54,000	
Other equipment	15,000	
<u>PROGRAMME SUPPORT</u>		
Programme management	64,067	
Technical support	19,178	
Professional services	21,269	
<u>TRANSPORT STORAGE & VEHICLE COSTS</u>	182,400	
<u>PERSONNEL</u>		
Expatriate staff	40,000	
National staff	6,450	
Personnel (support costs)	6,800	
<u>ADMINISTRATIVE & GENERAL SERVICES</u>		
Travel & related expenses	5,000	
Information expenses	7,500	
Administrative & general expenses	8,000	
TOTAL OPERATIONAL NEEDS		429,664
TOTAL APPEAL CASH, KIND, SERVICES		950,124