

## ***DPR KOREA: TYPHOON***

*9 October 2000*

*appeal no. 25/2000*

*situation report no. 2*

*period covered: 25 September - 5 October 2000*

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*The DPRK Red Cross and the Federation have carried out assessments of 13 counties affected by the typhoon. More than 4,400 houses have been totally destroyed. Red Cross volunteers have carried out two series of relief distributions and blankets, cooking sets and plastic sheeting have been allocated from stocks at the National Society's disaster preparedness warehouses. Contributions are urgently needed in order to ensure that affected families' houses can be rebuilt before the onset of severe winter temperatures.*

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### ***The context***

Typhoon Prapiroon (Tropical Storm No.12) hit the north-east coast of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (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 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 area was also slightly affected by Typhoon Saomai which hit on 15 and 16 September. Other parts of the country, in particular North Hamgyong

and Kangwon Province, were also badly affected by the typhoons and tidal wave. Following a joint rapid assessment made by the DPRK Red Cross Society and the Federation Delegation in South Hamgyong, the Federation launched a preliminary appeal on 19 September for CHF 950,000 to assist 6,000 homeless people in four of the worst hit counties in South Hamgyong Province.

## *Latest events*

The harvest season has begun, hence the number of people involved in the repair of roads and infrastructure has slightly decreased. The government's Flood and Damage Relief Committee (FDRC) submitted findings of an assessment on 25 September. The UN Humanitarian Co-ordinator has recommended to the FDRC that an interagency assessment mission be fielded to the areas affected by Topical storm No.12. It is proposed that two teams composed of representatives of the government, UN agencies, NGOs, the Federation and donors be dispatched to undertake this assessment covering North and South Hamgyong and Kangwon Province. In addition to the regular weekly interagency meetings, the co-ordination group under the UN Disaster Management Team continues to meet when there is a need for information sharing and co-ordination. Little data is available on the effects of the storm on health-care provision. However, it is anticipated that the health of the vulnerable population in the affected areas will deteriorate. UNICEF has fielded a mission to assess immediate needs and also to examine longer-term problems related to health and water and sanitation. These provinces are covered by UNICEF's programme and the team carried 60 ri-clinic health kits for immediate distribution. OCHA has received a total of USD 127,600 which will be used for the purchase of relief items. Furthermore, OCHA is in discussions with the government on the possible provision of a bailey bridge to replace that destroyed in Kyongson, North Hamgyong, on a temporary basis.

## *Red Cross/Red Crescent action*

### **Assessment •**

Following the joint National Society / Federation assessment in South Hamgyong Province which took place on 13 - 15 September, a Red Cross relief team from the headquarters has been stationed in Hamhung to assist the Red Cross Branch in further assessment of needs and compilation of the beneficiary lists. The Red Cross branch and the headquarters relief team completed the assessment in the 36 ris/dongs (villages) in Kumay, Hamhung, Hongwon and Pukchong counties on 23 September. The team and local Red Cross volunteers which initially assessed four counties have extended their assessment to an additional 9 counties in South Hamgyong Province. According to results which were available as of 5 October, the situation in these counties is similar to that in the previously-assessed four counties. In some of the assessed Ris, as much as 20-25 % of the total number of family houses are reported to be totally destroyed. Most of the roads are still damaged which makes access to many of the Ris very difficult and time consuming. The Secretary General of the National Society and the head of delegation visited the area in early October and observed that many of the families who lost their houses have been accommodated in neighbours' houses or with relatives and are in cramped conditions. Others have been provided with shelter at night in kindergartens and schools, but have to leave in the morning when the school and kindergarten activities start. A few families remain in temporary shelters. In several of the Ris visited, the houses which were destroyed cannot be rebuilt in the same place as a result of the strong risk of future flash flooding. Hence, the National Society has requested the local authorities to identify new locations for construction.

According to the Red Cross branch and the local authorities in Pukchong, support from the central government to individual families has been limited to provision of clothes and shoes.

## Results of the initial assessment of damaged houses

County/City	No. of Ri/dong (villages)	Houses destroyed	Families/ population	Partly destroyed houses	Families/ Population
Hamhung city	11	545	622/2,618	692	794/3,419
Kumya county	10	277	346/1,452	1,063	1,204/4,986
Hongwon county	6	352	440/1,935	278	368/1,642
Pukchong county	9	439	555/2,288	566	697/2,945
<b>Total</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>1,613</b>	<b>1,963/8,293</b>	<b>2,599</b>	<b>3,063/12,992</b>

## Results of the assessment concluded on 5 October

County	No. of Ri/dong (villages)	Houses destroyed	Families/ population	Partly destroyed houses	Families/ Population
Rakwon	6	187	208/791	158	176/654
Sinhung	6	305	330/1,298	220	250/980
Doksong	5	139	149/579	161	172/666
Yonggwang	8	349	392/1,762	536	596/2,706
Hamju	9	150	169/669	138	160/627
Sinpo	6	321	348/1,706	629	664/3,226
Riwon	10	420	463/1,768	375	416/1,620
Koroon	5	117	133/402	188	209/874
Jongpyong	9	865	931/3,022	585	667/2,171
<b>Total</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>2,853</b>	<b>3,123/11,997</b>	<b>2,990</b>	<b>3,310/13,524</b>

The above tables show that in the 13 counties assessed in South Hamgyong province, over 4,400 houses have been totally destroyed, leaving over 5,000 families homeless. In addition, many of the partially destroyed houses are in urgent need of structural repairs to avoid collapse during the winter.

**Branch activity •**

The South Hamgyong provincial Red Cross branch has set up a number of emergency first aid posts at road rehabilitation sites and in several of the affected Ris to give first aid assistance to the population mobilised to undertake repair work. The Red Cross first aid posts co-ordinate activities with the ri-hospitals and clinics.

**Distribution •**

One Red Cross truck has been allocated to shuttle relief items to the storm affected areas in South Hamgyong from the Red Cross Disaster Preparedness warehouses in Wonsan and Pyongyang. The truck has also been utilised to transport goods to the affected Ris where relief has been distributed by the local Red Cross branch and the relief team from the headquarters. In several locations where the roads still are impassable, the relief goods had to be hand carried by Red Cross volunteers and beneficiaries. Due to the limited quantity of relief items available, the Red Cross, in close co-operation

with the local authorities, identified the most vulnerable among the homeless who would benefit from the distribution. The initial relief distribution of blankets, plastic sheeting and cooking sets was completed in Hamhung City, Hongwon, Kumya and Pukchong counties.

#### Distributions in mid September

County/ City	Ri/Dong covered	Families/ Population	Cooking set (set)	Blanket (pcs)	Plastic sheet (roll)
Hamhung	Songwon	30/154	30	154	2
	Ryongbong	29/157	29	157	2
	Sudong	54/243	54	243	4
	Ryongho	17/103	17	103	0
	Sangbong	25/135	25	135	0
Sapo	Ryonghung	33/177	33	177	0
Haen	Ryonghung	62/365	62	365	2
Yonggwang		35/189	35	189	0
<b>Total</b>		<b>285/1,523</b>	<b>285</b>	<b>1,523</b>	<b>10</b>

#### Distributions in late September-early October

County/ City	No. Ri/Dong Covered	Family/ Pop.	Cooking Set (set)	Blanket (pcs)	First Aid Kit (kit)
Hamhung	5	100/510	15	510	48
Kumya	10	212/1,045	145	1,045	24
Hongwon	5	185/1,310	185	1,310	24
Pukchong	6	234/1,635	234	1,635	24
<b>Total</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>731/4,500</b>	<b>579</b>	<b>4,500</b>	<b>120</b>

The above distributions have emptied the stock of blankets and cooking sets from the Disaster Preparedness (DP) warehouse in Wonsan. In the central Disaster Preparedness warehouse the stock of cooking sets has been exhausted and only 6,000 blankets remain in stock.

#### Procurement •

The National Society's logistics department and the Federation's logistics co-ordinator have identified potential suppliers in the DPRK for cooking sets, blankets and cement. The production capacity of cement indicates that sufficient supply for 1,200 houses can be received in bulk in Hamhung within a period of 40 days. As for blankets, local suppliers have been identified. However, plastic sheeting is not available in the DPRK.

#### Water & Sanitation •

The Children's Aid Direct (CAD) representative in DPRK has made its stock of 3,600 containers of water purification tablets available for the Red Cross to distribute in affected villages in South Hamgyong Province. The Headquarters' relief team, in co-operation with the Provincial Red Cross branch, has drawn up a distribution plan and the local branches have begun distribution in the affected Ri/Dong:s. The standard formula to be used is one tablet per day and per person for two months,

which will provide each person with at least 25 litres of purified water per day. The Federation water & sanitation delegate conducted a preliminary assessment covering 6 Ris/Dongs. In four of the assessed locations, the water supply and the quality were found to be sufficient. In the other two, the water supply pipes had been broken and the water pumps were not functioning. There will therefore be a need to ensure repair of water pipes. In some of the areas where the reconstruction of houses has to be carried out in new locations, the question of water supply will also need to be addressed and further assessments will prove necessary.

## ***Outstanding needs***

The DP stock in Wonsan and the majority of the stock in the central warehouse in Pyongyang has been fully utilised in relief distributions, hence the urgent need for blankets, cooking sets, plastic sheeting and first aid material. The constraints on the government and the local authorities and their focus on repair of infrastructure, will hamper government efforts to reconstruct destroyed houses. To enable the homeless families to rebuild their houses before the winter, there is an urgent need to procure cement. The supply of window glass in DPRK is extremely low. Therefore, initially plastic sheeting will be utilised for windows and in some cases used to improve the roofing in the newly constructed houses. To reinforce the capacity of the country delegation, a field delegate will be stationed in Hamhung.

## ***External relations - Government/UN/NGOs/Media***

The National Society, both at headquarters and branch level, has regular contacts with the FDRC to co-ordinate assistance. The Federation participates in the co-ordination group under the UN Disaster Management Team to provide the UN agencies and the NGOs with data on the Red Cross operation and to liaise as regards relief activities.

## ***Contributions***

See Annex 1 for details.

## ***Conclusion***

The temperature in the storm-affected area is expected to drop to minus 5-10 C between early and mid December and the winter will last until the end of February or early March. Most people who lost their houses are presently residing in neighbours' houses, factories, kindergartens and schools. A large number remain in temporary shelter and shacks with no means of heating. It is essential there is a prompt response to the Federation's appeal so that procurement of cement for rebuilding can take place and the stock of relief goods replaced in the warehouses. Full information on the number of severely affected people is not yet available, since many villages have not been accessible.

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<b>DPR Korea: Typhoon</b>						ANNEX 1
<b>APPEAL No. 25/2000</b>		<b>PLEDGES RECEIVED</b>			10/09/00	
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
<b>CASH</b>						
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				<b>950,124</b>		<b>TOTAL COVERAGE 31.9%</b>
AUSTRIAN - RC		25,000	EUT	38,933	03.10.00	
CANADIAN - RC		25,000	CAD	28,835	21.09.00	
FINNISH - RC		33,637	EUR	52,383	27.09.00	
ICELANDIC - RC		200,000	ISK	4,295	22.09.00	
JAPANESE - RC				48,000	25.09.00	
SWEDISH - RC		500,000	SEK	93,550	26.09.00	
SWISS -RC				37,296	27.09.00	
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				303,292	CHF	31.9%
<b>KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)</b>						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				0	CHF	0.0%
<b>ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET</b>						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED				0	CHF	
<b>THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS ARE LINKED TO THIS APPEAL:</b>						