

OPERATIONS UPDATE



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Fédération Internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

DPR KOREA: TRAIN EXPLOSION IN RYONGCHON COUNTY - FOCUS ON WATER AND SANITATION

2 June 2004

The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in over 181 countries.

In Brief

Appeal No. 12/2004; Operations Update no. 04; Period covered: 30 April – 6 May, 2004; Appeal coverage: 69.9%; ([click here to go directly to the attached Contributions List, also available on the website](#)).

Appeal history: Launched on 26 April 2004 for CHF 1,652,000 (USD 1.25 million or EUR 1.06 million) for 12 months for 2,000 Families (10,000 people) for 12 Months; Disaster Relief Emergency Funds (DREF) allocated: CHF 50,000.

Outstanding needs: CHF 511,846

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals: [Annual Appeal 01.68/2004](#)

Operational Summary: The DPRK Red Cross and the International Federation are playing an active role in supporting the government in meeting the community's immediate needs for water by restoring Ryongchon's water supply, after the water system was rendered useless by the blast.

Sister national societies, donor agencies such as ECHO and donor governments have been quick to demonstrate their support for activities initiated by the DPRK Red Cross and the Federation in response to the train explosion. The capacity of the DPRK Red Cross to effectively respond in the areas of health, water and sanitation and disaster preparedness continues to develop through the Federation's annual programming outlined in the annual appeal. The readiness of the national society to respond to emergencies such as the explosion in Ryongchon depends on the society having a solid basis in longer term programming. Donors are therefore asked to support the DPRK Red Cross with responding to equally important longer term needs through the Federation's annual appeal.

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for a full description of the national society profile, please access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

Operational Developments

Efforts to clear up Ryongchon county following the train explosion on 22 April which left 161 people dead and some 1,300 injured have continued to progress. The powerful blast that instantly destroyed some 1,850 homes and damaged a further 6,250 devastated the city. As the town is slowly restored, the military, in addition to some of the local population, have been active in recycling timber and bricks from the rubble. New buildings are now being constructed, while some family shelters are visible in the township.

With the arrival of the summer season the need for water, particularly drinking water, continues to increase. Women and children can be seen carrying water in buckets and jerry cans, while also waiting in queues to obtain water from one of the public buildings.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Focus on Water and Sanitation

The area affected by the blast was connected to the city water supply serving approximately half the urban area, comprising some 3,000 families (12,000-15,000 people). This water system was rendered useless in the immediate vicinity of the blast. Prior to the blast the existing water supply system was already in a state of deterioration and disrepair which was only further exacerbated by the explosion. As a result, the needs for the rehabilitation extend not only to the area in close proximity to the blast, but to an area that covers most of the urban area now total 27,000 people.

The DPRK Red Cross and the Federation, recognising the critical need to move forward with restoring the water supply, have included activities to support the restoration of the water supply in an effort to meet the long term needs of the affected population. Since the time the disaster occurred, the DPRK Red Cross supported by the Federation have been in coordination with DPRK's Flood Damage Rehabilitation Committee (FDRC) and the OCHA chaired Interagency Co-ordination Group.

Over the past few weeks since the explosion, the Federation and the DPRK Red Cross in close collaboration with UNICEF and other NGOs have been actively working towards providing temporary resources to meet the immediate water needs by distributing water purification tablets from the DPRK Red Cross's disaster preparedness stocks and mobilising bladder tanks, temporary tap stands and pump plus power equipment. On 24 May, two 15m³ bladder tanks arrived in Pyongyang.

Instalment of the bladder tanks will be conducted as soon as the authorities have finalised the drilling of boreholes needed to increase the water supply.

As a continuation of the short term emergency water and sanitation response activities initiated by the DPRK Red Cross and Federation, the Federation has agreed to take a leading role in assisting the County People's Committee in restoring Ryongchon's water supply.

On 25 May, the DPRK authorities presented a conceptual design for water supply system and waste water collection system, in addition to presenting a detailed engineering design for the proposed water storage tower.

Currently three pump houses exist which have a capacity of 3000 m³/day. Given the total demand has been revised as 8000 m³/day the shortfall is in the process of being explored through the drilling of boreholes. As a result, the plan is to increase the number of sources from three to five. As of 25 May, an additional 2000 m³/day had been sourced and therefore 3000 m³/day is still pending to meet the extremely high demand.

An 800 m³ storage tower has also been proposed to enable a gravity fed system to the whole urban population. The tower will be placed on a hill that is elevated 17m relatively higher to the lowest point in the township and will stand 30 m tall.

The DPRK Red Cross and the Federation, who as part of the society's health programme have ongoing activities intended to provide clean water and locally appropriate sanitation facilities and education in the prevention of waterborne diseases in 100 ri and dong communities in North Pyongan, Chagang, South Pyongan provinces, will ensure that water and sanitation activities carried out by the national society and the Federation is consistent with the quality of the other ongoing DPRK Red Cross/Federation supported activities.

D.P.R. KOREA - Train Explosion

ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. 12/2004

PLEDGES RECEIVED

26/05/2004

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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CASH

REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				1,684,000		TOTAL COVERAGE 69.6%
AMERICAN - RC		10,000	USD	12,735	27.04.04	DISTRIBUTION OF HOUSEHOLD PACKAGES TO AFFECTED FAMILIES
AMERICAN - GOVT/OFDA		100,000	USD	127,350	27.04.04	
AUSTRALIAN - GOVT		250,000	AUD	232,875	13.05.04	
AUSTRIAN - RC		50,000	EUR	77,975	30.04.04	
BRITISH - RC		15,000	GBP	34,358	04.05.04	
CANADIAN - GOVT/CIDA/IHA		100,000	CAD	97,600	26.04.04	
FINNISH - RC		50,000	EUR	77,975	27.04.04	
IRISH - RC		25,000	EUR	38,988	28.04.04	
JAPANESE - RC		83,195	USD	105,948	26.04.04	
KOREAN - RC		100,000	USD	127,350	04.05.04	
SINGAPORE - RC				70,000	29.04.04	
SWEDISH - RC		1,000,000	SEK	169,000	04.05.04	
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				1,172,154	CHF	69.6%

KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
Note: due to systems upgrades in process, contributions in kind and services may be incomplete.						
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				0	CHF	0.0%

ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
REPUBLIC OF KOREA - RC		5,810,302	USD	7,399,420	10.05.04	BLANKETS, CLOTHES, MEDICINE, WATER, FOOD, KITCHEN SETS, RELIEF SETS, TRUCKS, VEHICLES , EXCAVATORS
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED				7,399,420	CHF	