

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

DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA: TRAIN EXPLOSION IN RYONGCHON COUNTY

1 October 2004

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

In Brief

Appeal No. 12/2004; Operations Update no. 07; Period covered: 20 August – 30 September 2004; Appeal coverage: 117.7 %; ([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 1,310,591 or EUR 1,063,187) for 12 months to assist 1,850 families left homeless by the blast. Beneficiary numbers now revised to include an extra 2,420 families whose homes were partially destroyed in the explosion.
- Disaster Relief Emergency Funds (DREF) allocated: CHF 50,000.

Outstanding needs: none

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals: [Train Explosion 12/2004](#), [Annual Appeal 01.68/2004](#)

Operational Summary: Nearly six months after 22 April's train explosion, residents of Ryongchon county are once again able to resume their daily routine. Schools and homes destroyed by the explosion have been rebuilt, allowing students to commence the school year on schedule, while 800 families have already moved into their newly reconstructed homes. Stock in Democratic People's Republic Korea (DPRK) Red Cross warehouses at Sinuiju and Pyongyang is replenished and 4,270 families received winter relief items from the DPRK Red Cross in time for the onset of colder weather.

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- In DPRK: International Federation Pyongyang; Jaap Timmer HoD DPRK Delegation; (Tel) 850-2-381-4350; [email:ifrcpk02@ifrc.org](mailto:ifrcpk02@ifrc.org)
- International Federation East Asia Regional Delegation (EARD) in Beijing; Niels Juel, Regional Disaster Management Delegate; (Tel) 86-10-6532-7162; (Mobile Tel) 86-1360-105-0424; [email:ifrcen02@ifrc.org](mailto:ifrcen02@ifrc.org).
- Geneva-based regional officer, Satoshi Sugai; (Tel) 41-22-730-4273; (fax) 41.22.733.03.95; [email:satoshi.sugai@ifrc.org](mailto:satoshi.sugai@ifrc.org)

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Operational Developments

Nearly six months following 22 April's train explosion which destroyed 1,850 homes and damaged a further 6,360 residences, the people of Ryongchon county living in North Pyongan province are once again able to resume their normal routine. The construction of new houses to replace the 1,850 homes destroyed in April is nearly complete, and according to a representative from the Flood Damage Rehabilitation Committee (FDRC) in Ryongchon, 800

families moved into their new houses on 9 September. The newly constructed houses with floor space measuring 60 or 70 square metres have two or three rooms, a kitchen and a bathroom.

Ryongchon's primary school and agriculture college destroyed by the blast were rebuilt several hundred meters east of their original location and opened in time for the new school year on 1 September.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Overall appeal objective: The objective of this appeal is to address both the short term and long term needs of 1,850 families who lost their homes in the 22 April's explosion in Ryongchon county, as well as to provide support to 2,420 families whose homes were damaged by the explosion.

Phase I: distribution of relief items from Red Cross disaster preparedness centres.

Phase I project objective: To restock disaster preparedness warehouses in Sinuiju and Pyongyang with tarpaulins, quilts, jerry cans and 45 supplementary health kits.

Well-stocked warehouses mean immediate assistance can be provided to beneficiaries in times of disaster, as exemplified in the Ryongchon explosion. The Danish Red Cross with support from the European Union Humanitarian Office (ECHO) supported the replenishment of relief supplies for the DPRK Red Cross warehouses in Sinuiju and Pyongyang.

The DPRK Red Cross disaster preparedness warehouses in Sinuiju and Pyongyang were replenished with the following items:

ITEM	AMOUNT
Tarpaulins	2,000 pieces
Quilts	14,000 pieces
Jerry cans (collapsible)	5,040 pieces
Supplementary kits	45 kits
Kitchen sets	2,500 sets

Phase II: support for 1,850 families left homeless by the explosion and 2,420 families whose homes were partially damaged.

Beneficiary selection:

Prior to the distribution of relief items, the DPRK Red Cross Ryongchon county branch, the DPRK Red Cross disaster management department and representatives from the Federation's country delegation in full coordination with the FDRC identified beneficiaries for Red Cross assistance. It was agreed that the DPRK Red Cross would allocate a majority of its resources towards providing assistance to families left vulnerable from losing their homes in the explosion, as the total loss of one's home was the main determining factor in receiving full Red Cross relief assistance.

DPRK Red Cross volunteers coordinated the selection of beneficiaries with local FDRC representatives and prepared detailed lists of beneficiaries that complied with an agreed upon criteria incorporating the Federation's seven principles and basic standards for disaster relief. The homeless families who will receive full Red Cross assistance had in some cases lost all their possessions including furniture, clothing, food stocks and means of livelihood. In total, 9,255 people (1,850 families) were identified for the receiving of winter clothing, shoes, coal for cooking and quilts.

Additionally, discussions in July and August about ongoing relief activities held between the Federation's disaster management delegate, the DPRK Red Cross task force coordinating relief activities in Ryongchon and the Ryongchon Red Cross branch, as well as discussions with the Ryongchon emergency committee and the

beneficiaries about their existing needs, demonstrated a necessity to extend the scope of assistance to 6,360 families whose homes were damaged by the explosion. As response to the appeal exceeded 100 percent, the DPRK Red Cross and the Federation decided to provide some support to the families whose homes were partially damaged in the accident but did not receive any assistance.

Originally it was envisioned that all of the 6,360 families would be provided with two quilts purchased with funds donated by the US government, however, further discussions in August with the Ryongchon people's committee made it apparent that families left homeless required an additional two quilts to protect parents and children from the forthcoming harsh winter. Based on existing needs of families and the availability of resources, four quilts instead of two were allocated to the 1,850 families who lost their homes, while 2,420 families whose homes were partially damaged would receive two quilts.

Federation monitoring of the distribution of relief items:

The DPRK Red Cross distributed the relief items over 15 to 17 September at five distribution centres, and the Federation's disaster management delegate supervised the efficient distribution, which the DPRK Red Cross prepared for well in advance. During the distribution period, Federation delegates and staff from the DPRK Red Cross travelled extensively within the affected area, visiting beneficiaries and working with local Red Cross staff and volunteers.

All relief items were delivered in advance to distribution points in the centre of each of the affected areas and tallies made by the Federation delegate showed no discrepancies between the number of items distributed and the distribution plan.

Identified recipients of assistance provided with the distribution schedule were all in attendance at the distribution points prior to the arrival of the monitoring team. Before the final distribution, the DPRK Red Cross relief officer explained the Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement to the beneficiaries, provided information about the Federation and described the relief items. The Federation delegate observed during monitoring visits on volunteer driven distribution activities at various sites that: beneficiary registration and identification were complete; all goods were stacked neatly and ready for distribution; all stocks matched the distribution plan and the number of beneficiaries present; and beneficiary lists included the names of households, the family size and the items to be received, which each beneficiary had to sign for the receipt of goods.

Visits to beneficiary households and observations made during the actual distribution of relief items confirmed that the national society in co-operation with the local authorities had selected the most vulnerable homeless families for assistance.

Phase II objective one: to provide 1,850 families (9,255 individuals) who lost their homes and their belongings in the explosion with one winter jacket with pants, one pair of winter shoes, four quilts and 300 kg of coal for cooking.

The distribution of warm clothing, winter shoes and four quilts to 1,850 families left homeless by the explosion was completed on 17 September. The relief teams however were unable to distribute coal for cooking within the stipulated timeframe as heavy rain in the mining areas resulted in the late arrival of coal at the local branch and is now re-scheduled for 30 October 2004.

All individual beneficiaries and local Red Cross volunteers interviewed expressed their satisfaction with the household items received.

Phase II objective two: to provide winter assistance for 2,420 families whose homes were damaged by the explosion in the form of two quilts per family.

Funding from the US government supported Red Cross assistance to the 2,420 families in Ryongchon who were affected by April's blast but did not receive any assistance during the emergency phase. A total of 4,840 quilts (two pieces per family) were distributed to families whose homes sustained partial damage during the explosion.

Funding from the United States government was used to purchase 8,540 quilts distributed to 1,850 families whose homes were completely destroyed and 2,420 families whose homes were severely damaged. The quilts procured through the Federation's logistics division in Geneva were purchased from a European supplier. They were part of the total 12,240 quilts distributed by the DPRK Red Cross and Federation during Phase II of the operation, which were purchased with the generous support of ECHO (3,700 quilts) and the US government (8,540 quilts).

Phase III (12 months): Reconstruction of polyclinic and the restoration of water supply.

Phase III reconstruction project objective: To rebuild the 750 square meter polyclinic as a diagnostic and physical therapy centre for the community.

Activities:

Construction of the polyclinic commenced on 10 August and the basement floor has been completed while work continues on the first floor's construction. The polyclinic will be a three story building measuring 1,365 square meters with brick walls and prefab concrete floors in a 300 cm module system.

The DPRK Red Cross employed a technical expert to oversee the construction of the polyclinic, while building materials for the polyclinic, funded through the Federation's appeal, arrived in Ryongchon on 23 August.

The DPRK Red Cross, in consultation with the Federation health delegate, prepared the list of necessary equipment and furniture for the polyclinic and a requisition order was sent to Geneva in early September. The health delegate is now facilitating training on the use of the sonogram that will eventually be used in the clinic and supplies and equipment for the polyclinic are being procured through the Federation's logistics department in Geneva.

Water supply system:

All materials for the water supply system that will be installed in Ryongchon city are delivered and the distribution of materials to different installation sites has started. Members from the community, with help from the local DPRK Red Cross branch volunteers and city authorities, are digging trenches according to approved designs. A 30 metre high water storage tank with a total capacity of 800 cubic meters is under construction, while materials for the waste water collection system are in place and construction is ongoing.

[Contributions list below; click here to return to the title page.](#)

D.P.R. KOREA - Train Explosion

ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. 12/2004

PLEDGES RECEIVED

29/09/2004

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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CASH

REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->					TOTAL COVERAGE	
					1,684,000	117.7%
AMERICAN - RC		10,000	USD	12,735	27.04.04	
AMERICAN - GOVT/OFDA		100,000	USD	127,350	27.04.04	
AMERICAN - PRIVATE DONOR		13,050	USD	16,502	16.09.04	
AUSTRALIAN - GOVT		250,000	AUD	232,875	13.05.04	
AUSTRIAN - RC/GOVT		50,000	EUR	77,975	30.04.04	
BRITISH - RC		15,000	GBP	34,358	04.05.04	
BRITISH - RC		1,660	GBP	3,795	21.09.04	
CANADIAN - GOVT/CIDA/IHA		100,000	CAD	97,600	26.04.04	
ECHO/DANISH - RC		200,000	EUR	305,800	28.06.04	
FINNISH - RC		50,000	EUR	77,975	27.04.04	
FRENCH - PRIVATE DONOR		400	EUR	614	10.06.04	
HELLENIC - GOVT		30,000	EUR	45,870	29.06.04	SONOGRAPH & TRAINING FOR 1 PERSON
IRISH - RC		25,000	EUR	38,988	28.04.04	
IRISH - GOVT		100,000	EUR	153,600	19.05.04	
CHINA/HONG KONG - RC		146,000	HKD	24,353	24.05.04	
JAPANESE - RC		83,195	USD	105,948	26.04.04	
KOREAN - RC		100,000	USD	127,350	04.05.04	
LIECHTENSTEIN - RC				15,000	04.06.04	
LUXEMBOURG - GOVT		50,000	EUR	76,450	15.07.04	
MALAYSIAN - RC		38,000	MYR	12,426	25.08.04	
MONACO - RC		12,000	EUR	18,432	28.06.04	
PRIVATE DONORS				2,980	10.06.04	
SINGAPORE - RC				70,000	29.04.04	
SINGAPORE - RC		113,687	SGD	83,457	28.06.04	
SWEDISH - RC		1,000,000	SEK	169,000	04.05.04	
UNHCR		25,000	EUR	31,612	20.05.04	WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				1,963,045	CHF	116.6%

KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
AUSTRALIA	DELEGATES			18,400		
Note: due to systems upgrades in process, contributions in kind and services may be incomplete.						
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				18,400	CHF	1.1%

ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT

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ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. 12/2004

PLEDGES RECEIVED

29/09/2004

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	