

INFORMATION BULLETIN



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: FLOODS & TIDAL WAVE

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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 185 countries.

In Brief

Severe floods caused by torrential rain, fierce winds and tidal waves, struck four counties and two cities in Kangwon province over 21 -23 October, leaving nearly 1,565 families displaced and homeless. The DPRK Red Cross, with support from the Federation secretariat, rapidly mobilized 235 volunteers to provide rescue, evacuation and first aid support within affected communities. The situation is gradually improving due to joint efforts between the local government and the DPRK Red Cross to assist the affected people. The national society had strategically placed disaster preparedness stocks from the Wonsan warehouse and has distributed 644 family kits containing urgently needed items such as water purification tablets, kitchen sets, blankets, water containers and plastic sheeting.

An [infographic map](#) is available as an annex.

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- In Pyongyang: Min Byong Gwan, Secretary General; The DPRK Red Cross Society; Phone: +85.02.381.4350; Fax: +85.02.381.3490
- In Pyongyang: Jaap Timmer, Head of Delegation; email: jaap.timmer@ifrc.org; Phone: +85.02.381.4350; Fax: +85.02.381.3490
- In Beijing: Alistair Henley, Head of Regional Delegation; email: alistair.henley@ifrc.org; Phone: +86.10.6532.7162; Fax: +86.10.6532.7166
- In Geneva: Ewa Eriksson, Regional Officer, Asia and Pacific department; email: ewa.eriksson@ifrc.org; phone +41-22-7304252

The Situation

On October 21, 2006 fierce winds and torrential rains caused high tidal waves which struck four counties and two cities of Kangwon province on the east coast of Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK). A storm similar to a typhoon with velocity of 20 m/s caused tidal waves of up to eight meters and torrential rain of over 200 mm that lasted until October 23. According to news reports, a Russian cargo ship was caught in the storm and needed assistance.

A rapid field assessment was conducted by two Red Cross teams – the first consisting of the Federation disaster management officer and a branch officer, and



Damage of main road to Tongchon County



A destroyed home in Ambyon County

the other consisting of a DPRK Red Cross headquarters disaster management officer and two branch officers. According to the rapid assessment, 732 houses were totally or partially destroyed and 366 houses are inundated in Tongchon, Anbyon, Kosong, Chonnae counties as well as Wonsan and Munchon cities, leaving 7,310 people homeless. A pre-warning system was activated two days before the disaster; however, some 14 people were still reported injured.

The city and county authorities appealed to the county and ri hospitals to help the injured while providing the evacuated people with temporary sheltering in public buildings and schools.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

On 23 October, after the tidal waves and floods hit four counties and two cities of Kangwon province, a branch disaster preparedness officer reported the situation to the national society's headquarter based on the initial assessment made by the branch staff and local government authorities.

The assessment could be undertaken with experience from two earlier disaster management trainings which were carried out in Kangwon province in 2002 (disaster management review workshop based on experience from 2001 typhoon operation) and 2003 (refresher course). A total of 235 community-based volunteers are now very active in evacuation, first aid and carrying the wounded to nearby hospitals as well as assisting during assessment activities.

Meanwhile, Federation disaster management programme officer and two national society disaster management officers – who were in the area of Wonsan, Kangwon province to facilitate a disaster management workshop – immediately engaged themselves in assessing the damages and needs of the affected communities. Based on the assessment, they distributed 644 family kits by releasing the stockpiles in Wonsan disaster preparedness warehouse. They also negotiated with the provincial authorities and succeeded to get full support for the provision of local transport from the disaster preparedness warehouse to each distribution point.

During the field assessment in Tongchon county, the vice-chairman of Peoples` Committee remarked to the Red Cross team:



Distribution of pre-positioned relief items

“I am quite impressed to see the Red Cross volunteers rush on the roads to help the vulnerable people to evacuate to safer locations despite such a fierce storm. In a 2001 typhoon, even though they were victims, they had dedicated themselves to saving the lives of the community people and have proven themselves again this time. They delivered on-the-spot first aid service to the wounded and sent them to the nearby hospital. I highly appreciated the Red Cross volunteers who greatly contributed to alleviate the suffering of survivors of the disaster. In addition, I especially praise the Red Cross for their community volunteers that demonstrated preparedness, who had been trained practically in the field of disaster relief”

Table 1: Losses and Damages in the Counties affected by Floods

21 -23 October: Tidal waves and Floods in DPRK							TOTALS
Province	Kangwon						
County	Anbyon	Kosong	Tongchon	Chonnae	Munchon	Wonsan	
Homeless families	116	198	202	56	52	20	644
partly affected families	68	126	157	138	40	26	555
Submerged houses						366	366
No. of Injured	1	3	7	1	1	1	14

Table 2: DPRK Red Cross Distribution plan of Family Kits

Each **DPRK Red Cross family kit** contains the following emergency water and shelter items: one plastic sheeting (4,6x2m); four blankets; a set of basic kitchen equipment; water containers (20 litres or 2 x 10 litres); 1,400 water purification tablets.

The Distribution of Emergency relief stocks in Kangwon Province

No	City/County	Homeless Families	No of beneficiaries	Kitchen set	Tarpaulin	Water Container	Blanket	Water Purification
1	Wonsan city	20	94	20	20	20	94	5640
2	Munchon city	52	244	52	52	52	244	14640
3	Anbyon	116	545	116	116	116	545	32700
4	Kosong	198	931	198	198	198	931	55860
5	Tongchon	202	950	202	202	202	950	57000
6	Chonnae	56	263	56	56	56	263	15780
	Total	644	3027	644	644	644	3027	181620

The total cost for replacement of the disaster preparedness stocks is estimated at CHF 55,000. Donors interested in contributing towards the replenishment of stocks are welcomed to contact the Federation.

After the relief operation, on November 1, 2006 the DPRK RC and the Federation jointly organized a review meeting in Wonsan, which was attended by all affected city/county Red Cross branch staff. The purpose was to immediately review the operation and lessons learned in order to improve relief capacity by analyzing its strength and weakness. All participants expressed their appreciation for disaster management trainings that the DPRK RC headquarters and the Federation had facilitated twice after the typhoon operation in 2001.

The International Federation undertakes activities that are aligned with its Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to achieve the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".

Global Agenda Goals:

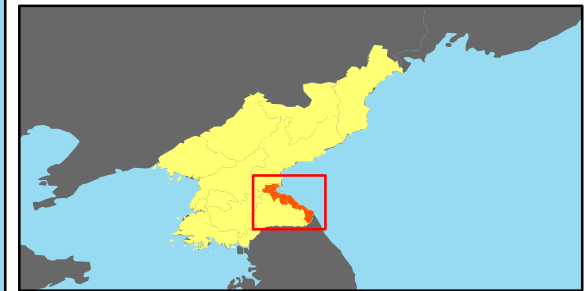
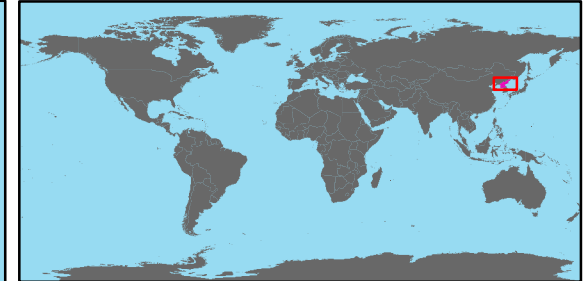
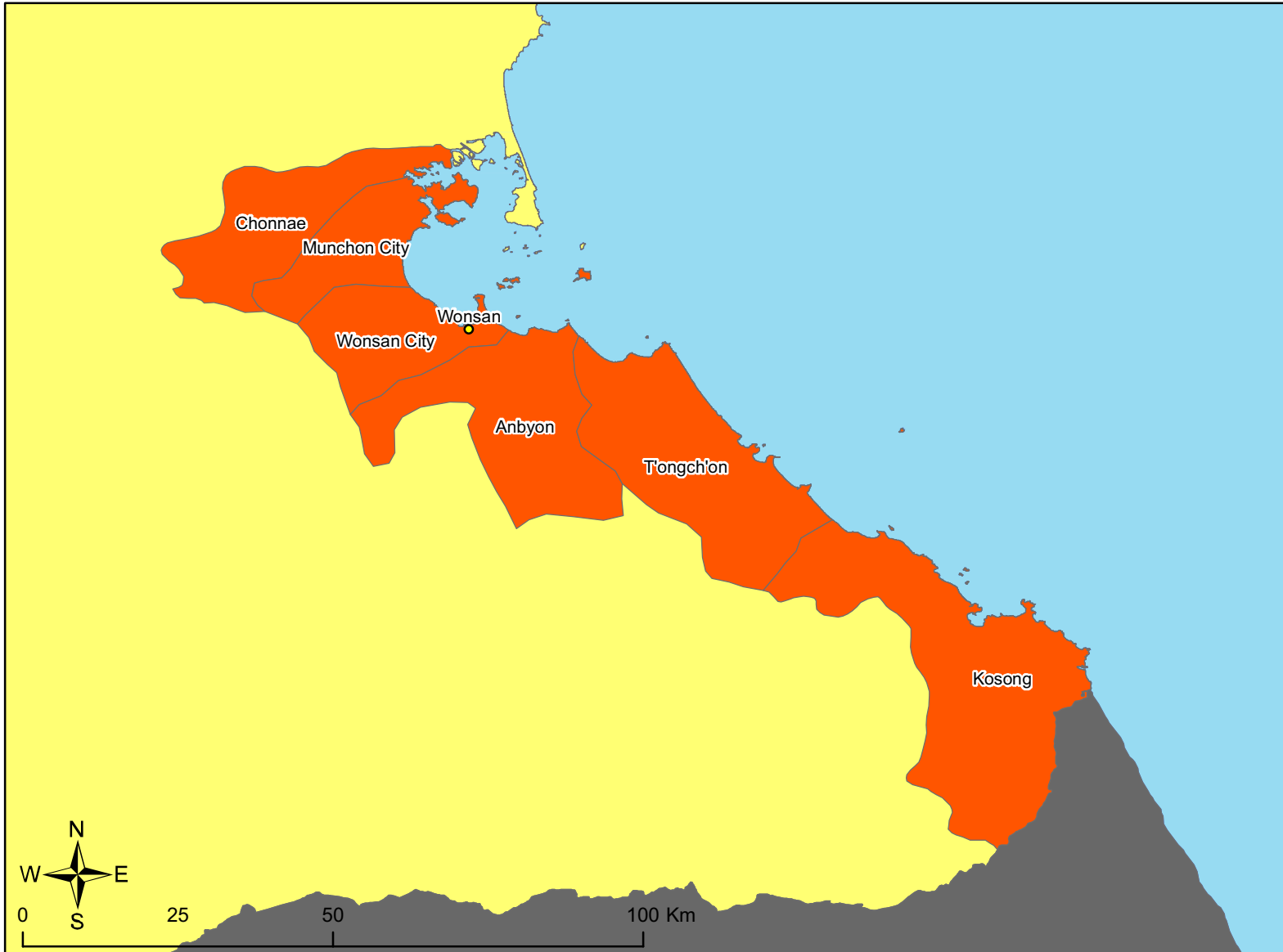
- *Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.*
- *Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.*
- *Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.*
- *Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.*

All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organisations \(NGO's\) in Disaster Relief](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. For longer-term programmes in this or other countries or regions, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for national society profiles, please also access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

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DPRK: Floods and tidal wave



Severe floods caused by torrential rain, fierce winds and tidal waves, struck four counties and two cities in Kangwon province over the period 21 -23 October, leaving nearly 1,565 families displaced and homeless. The DPRK Red Cross, rapidly mobilised 235 volunteers to provide rescue, evacuation and first aid support within the affected communities. The situation is gradually improving due to joint efforts between the local government and the DPRK Red Cross to assist the affected people.

The national society distributed 644 family kits containing urgently needed items such as water purification tablets, kitchen sets, blankets, water containers and plastic sheeting from the society's Wonsan warehouse .

 Affected counties