

# Asia and Pacific

LEADERSHIP / FACILITATION / COORDINATION / SERVICES TO NATIONAL SOCIETIES

## Democratic People's Republic of Korea



### Disaster management

Readiness for disaster situations is the main aim of the disaster management programme. The prepositioning of family kits in seven warehouses all over the country ensures the rapid deployment of basic emergency supplies for 27,000 families in case of disaster.

Through the establishment of community disaster management committees (CDMC), the DPRK Red Cross Society aims to increase the ownership of disaster preparedness to self-governing bodies within vulnerable, disaster-prone communities. The idea is that after support from the Red Cross stops, the communities will remain active in ensuring their communities are safe from disasters.

Through a participatory approach involving all different social groups in the community and using the vulnerability and capacity assessment (VCA) tool, the main hazards in a community are identified, as well as the most effective means to mitigate related risks. In interactive training workshops, Red Cross staff and community volunteers are introduced to the concept of risk mapping and disaster contingency planning.

At the same time, training and contingency planning at the national, provincial, and county level is strengthening the capacity of the DPRK Red Cross Society in effective disaster response.

The disaster management programme has shifted its focus from disaster preparedness and response towards community disaster risk reduction (CDRR), a more integrated approach where communities are involved in tree planting, mitigation, and community disaster planning, depending on specific geographical needs. For example, some communities living in slope areas are more prone to landslides, where tree planting is an effective means to prevent human suffering, while other villages are located in flood-prone regions, in need of dams and dykes to make their environment safer.

The disaster management programme targets three flood-prone provinces in the country: South Hamgyong, South Hwanghae, and South Phyongan. A total of 20 communities in the three provinces have been trained on CDRR, contingency planning, and disaster response and relief in 2009, and another 31 will follow in 2010.

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The disaster management activities in general, and the mitigation interventions in particular that the Red Cross supports in 100 communities, have been replicated by neighbouring communities using their own means. This certainly shows the successful impact of the programme.

In DPRK, road safety forms part of the disaster management programme. Road safety activities include public awareness campaigns in schools and specially designated education rooms that have been set up for this precise purpose in the main cities in the country.

#### Main achievements:

- A total of 100 communities are safer from disaster through better understanding of disaster risks, knowledge of what to do in case a disaster happens and small-scale mitigation structures.
- Prepositioning of basis emergency supplies in strategic locations for 27,000 families.
- More effective disaster response from DPRK Red Cross at national and branch levels through training and contingency planning.



This reinforced river bank in Jongchuk Farm, Songchon county, South Pyongan province is an effective intervention to mitigate the possible effects of floods and mudflows.



The head of the community disaster management committee in Jongchuk farm explains the risk map and disaster plan of the community.



The Red Cross supports government-initiated tree planting campaigns.

For more detailed information on the IFRC in the DPRK, please visit:

<http://www.ifrc.org/where/country/cn6.asp?countryid=193>

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