

Asia and Pacific

LEADERSHIP / FACILITATION / COORDINATION / SERVICES TO NATIONAL SOCIETIES

Democratic People's Republic of Korea



Organizational development

A process of wide-scale change within the DPRK Red Cross Society has been underway since the mid-1990's, aimed at broadening the National Society's reach and strengthening the way it operates. The underpinning of the DPRK Red Cross Society's status with a new Red Cross Law in 2007 has been a crucial milestone in the process of change. The adoption of the law came amid increasing recognition of the National Society's role in society and has served to further cement the organization's role.

The IFRC and sister national societies – notably Danish Red Cross – have supported the process. The new Red Cross law has clearly borne fruit, with visible changes such as the speed with which the National Society was able to gather information on the extent of the disaster following the floods in 2007 in the country. A number of other developments have resulted from the increased confidence instilled by the new legislation, such as the National Society's first responder role in sea and floods rescue, as well as additional infrastructure such as motor boats.

In other aspects of organizational development, activities have focused on the increased number and quality of volunteers, training provincial, city and county branches in the efficient management of volunteers, and equipping them with necessary training materials such as whiteboards, flipcharts, and computers.

Organizational development

At the same time, the organizational development programme piloted the integrated community development project (ICDP) in 2008-2009 in two communities selected because of their high level of economic vulnerability and the pro-active approach of its community leaders. Both communities were previously involved in the disaster management programme. As an incentive to further motivate communities to remain actively involved in disaster management, DPRK Red Cross Society decided to shift its support to the communities towards overall livelihood improvement. The purchase of food processing machines, and construction of a community building where services such as sauna, shop, tailor, and barber services are being provided, is now integrated with the implementation of water and sanitation schemes and disaster management activities.

The pilot projects have been positively received by the community itself and Red Cross branches as the needs of the most vulnerable people are more directly addressed, while simultaneously ensuring the active participation of the community.



The refurbishment of the children's nursery in Maejon ri, Pyongwon county, South Phyongan province was made possible thanks to the integrated community development project (ICDP)



The procurement of food processing machines, like this noodle pressing machine in Sinsong ri, Kumya county, South Hamgyong province, helps the most vulnerable people in the community generate additional income.

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