

# Asia and Pacific

LEADERSHIP / FACILITATION / COORDINATION / SERVICES TO NATIONAL SOCIETIES

## Democratic People's Republic of Korea



The DPRK Red Cross, supported by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and other sister national societies is the leading humanitarian agency in the DPRK.



### Donor support

The annual budget for 2011 is CHF 9 million.

The amount of Red Cross assistance to the country over recent years has been remarkably stable, although political tensions surrounding the Korean Peninsula in 2010 have led to funding shortfalls in certain areas.

For more detailed information on the IFRC in the DPRK: <http://www.ifrc.org/en/what-we-do/where-we-work/asia-pacific/red-cross-society-of-the-democratic-peoples-republic-of-korea/>

### Disaster response

During the floods from July to September 2010, the DPRK Red Cross played a key role in providing emergency relief to the affected population, including clean drinking water.

### Essential drug distribution

The biggest component of DPRK Red Cross's activities is in health and care, supported by IFRC and partner national societies, under which basic medicines are supplied to more than 2,000 clinics and train is provided to health workers. The total number of people reached is more than 8 million – or one third of the country's population.

As drug distribution is not a traditional Red Cross activity, discussions are underway with the DPRK ministry of public health to transfer this responsibility back to the government, while the Red Cross looks into alternative ways to support the health sector.

### Community-based health and first aid

Through a network of 2,500 first aid posts, the Red Cross works with the most vulnerable parts of the population to improve their health status through first aid, health prevention, and hygiene promotion.

### Disaster risk reduction

Disaster risk reduction measures have been effective in reducing the impact of flooding in many areas where they have been put in place. Dramatic levels of deforestation are gradually making the country more vulnerable to the detrimental effects of adverse weather events. The Red Cross is looking into short-term flood mitigation measures, as well as longer term, through its extensive community-based tree-planting programme.

### Livelihoods improvement

At the same time, the Red Cross is aiming for livelihood improvement among vulnerable communities, mainly focusing on the generation of alternative sources of income. The supported communities remain active in disaster preparedness, and use the additional income for the construction of flood-mitigating interventions.

### Water and sanitation

In a time span of 10 years, the Red Cross has helped supply over 600,000 people with clean drinking water and proper sanitation facilities at household level.