

DREF operation update



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Democratic People's Republic of Korea: Floods

DREF operation n° MDRKP002
GLIDE n° [FL-2010-000153-PRK](#)
8 September 2010

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC) Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) is a source of un-earmarked money created by the Federation in 1985 to ensure that immediate financial support is available for Red Cross and Red Crescent emergency response. The DREF is a vital part of the International Federation's disaster response system and increases the ability of National Societies to respond to disasters.

CHF 378,714 (USD 368,005 or EUR 291,265) has been allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) Red Cross in delivering immediate assistance to some 16,000 beneficiaries.

Summary: DPRK Red Cross, with support from IFRC, continues to support flood-affected communities in the inundated city of Sinuiju. As of 6 September, up to 1.28 million litres of drinking water were distributed to the flood-affected communities, health institutions and public service facilities in the area. Over 350 Red Cross volunteers were mobilized for evacuation, rescue, first aid and distribution of emergency relief items to the affected communities, in close cooperation with the local authorities and other public organizations. Taking into account the bad hygiene conditions in the flood affected area, DPRK Red Cross also distributed 1,500 family hygiene kits and an additional 500,000 water purification tablets to affected families in Sinuiju.



As of 6 September, up to 1.28 million litres of drinking water were distributed in Sinuiju city. UN missions in DPRK visited the Red Cross mobile water treatment units that are currently producing safe water for the flood-affected communities. Photo: DPRK RCS

This operation is expected to be implemented over the next 6 months, and will therefore be completed by 28 February, 2011; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by 31 May 2011).

[<click here for the DREF budget; here for map; or here for contact details>](#)

The current situation

Rivers in northeast China were inundated by downpours on 19 – 20 August, causing severe flooding and damage to the northwestern area of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK). From the Aihe river

in China, up to 5,300 cubic metres of water per second flooded into the Amnok river and water levels began to rise suddenly from midnight onwards on 21 August. The Amnok river reached its highest water level since 1995, when the country was affected by its worst flooding in decades. The river water swelled by the minute and gushed over the dyke towards Sinuiju.

Road traffic came to a standstill in some areas, including Tongha-dong the Amnokgang Pleasure Park, Sinuiju Port and the fishery station. The flash floods submerged Sangdan, Hadan and Taji-ris in and around Sinuiju City. In Uiju county, Soho and Ojok *ris* as well as the Maksa islands were the worst affected areas. Many public buildings suffered extensive damage.

The Korean People's Army units were also mobilized in rescue operation. By mobilizing dozens of Korean People's Army's (KPA) Air Force helicopters and naval vessels, many soldiers successfully evacuated over 5,150 people to safer areas, in coordination with local authority and people's security organization.

The provincial authority of North Pyongan advised that more than 7,100 dwellings were totally or partially destroyed or submerged, affecting approximately 7,750 families, together with 7,200 hectares of farmland that have been submerged, buried or washed away.

An estimated 300 public buildings, 440 metres of bridges, 7,700 metres of railroad, many other structures, vehicles, water pumps and electro-motors are damaged, crippling the City's water supply.

The pumping station and treatment plant to supply drinkable water to Sinuiju city, which has a population of 350,000, was completely inundated and approximately 300 metres of 900mm pipe was washed away.

Coordination and partnerships

The DPRK Red Cross national disaster response team (NDRT) continues to coordinate its actions with the national flood damage response committee, an ad hoc government coordination body. The National Society also shares and advises the national disaster coordination committee (NDCC) on all programme and emergency response activities undertaken with IFRC's DPRK country office.

On 23 August, all in-country non-governmental organizations, through the Inter-Agency Contingency Planning Working Group (IACPWG), met to discuss and propose a plan of action to address the flooding in northwest DPRK, for sharing with the DPRK government. The government agreed that a combined assessment team from all non-governmental organizations be allowed to travel by train to Sinuiju, where an assessment was undertaken, covering the affected population. Coordination continues between all international and government organizations.

Red Cross Red Crescent action

In view of the flooding season, all provincial Red Cross branches were alerted from early July to prepare for probable floods in the rainy season, preparing the emergency liaison volunteer network for early warnings, evacuation routes' and areas' safety as well as evacuation simulations in flood-prone areas.

The national headquarters of the DPRK Red Cross, in close coordination with the national flood damage response committee, an ad hoc government coordination body, activated the National Society emergency preparedness and response task force where all departmental staff have daily communication and contact with provincial branches. When the seasonal rains started, the pre-warning systems were operational and trained Red Cross staff and volunteers including first aiders located in flood-prone areas were on alert to be ready for the possible flooding and landslides.



Temporary shelters including pre-positioned Red Cross emergency stocks that were distributed set up along the embankment of the Amnok river by flood-affected families on 22 August, 2010, a day after flood occurred in Sinuiju city. Photo: DPRK Red Cross.

In Sinuiju city and Uiju county over 350 Red Cross volunteers were mobilized for evacuation, rescue, first aid and distribution of emergency relief items to the affected communities in close cooperation with the local authorities and other public organizations.

After receiving an emergency request for assistance from Sinuiju branch on 21 August, a rapid field assessment team led by the executive vice-president of the DPRK Red Cross departed for the affected areas on the same day and immediately released non-food items for 2,500 households from the Sinuiju disaster preparedness regional warehouse to assist the displaced who are temporarily living in 11 schools and public buildings and support evacuations.

As the main potable water source and treatment areas were fully inundated, the National Society, together with the IFRC office in-country, rapidly transported two EMWAT mobile water treatment units to the area and started to produce drinkable potable water from the morning of 23 August.

As of 6 September, around 1,285,000 litres of drinking water were distributed to the flood-affected communities, health institutions and public service facilities. The fire department of the Provincial People's Security provided fire brigade trucks to deliver water to the affected population.

DPRK Red Cross, with support from IFRC, has distributed an additional 3,161 emergency kits to families (approximately 14,782 people) whose houses were totally destroyed or seriously damaged.

Progress towards outcomes

The continuing needs for supporting the flood-affected people in Sinuiju were verified through field assessments conducted by DPRK staff, and confirmed through coordination meetings with the government.

Relief distributions (Non-food items)	
Outcome: To provide 2,500 most affected and displaced families (approximately 10,000 people) in Sinuiju city, with essential non-food items to meet their immediate needs.	
Expected results 2,500 most affected and displaced families (10,000 people) affected by the flooding receive non-food assistance.	
Activities planned	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and register most affected and displaced families based on agreed criteria; • Distribute non-food items from existing stocks to identified beneficiaries; • Continuously monitor relief activities and provide reporting on relief distributions; • Conduct an ongoing assessment of the impact of the flood and review support strategies; • Conduct an impact evaluation. • Replenishment of stocks based on approved budgets and IFRC procurement requirement 	

Progress: A total of 11,750 displaced people received assistance from the DPRK Red Cross. Detailed breakdown of the distribution of relief items are as follows:

Distributed pre-positioned emergency relief items for Sinuiju flooding

Province	City/County	Quilts with cover	Cooking Set	Plastic Sheeting	Water container (jerrycan)	Water Purification Tablet	Family Hygiene Kit
North Pyongan	Sinuiju	7,050	1,500	1,500	1,500	923,000	1,500
	Uiju	4,700	1,000	1,000	1,000	282,000	
Total		11,750	2,500	2,500	2,500	1,205,000	1,500

Taking into account the bad hygiene conditions in the flood affected area, DPRK Red Cross distributed 1,500 family hygiene kits and an additional 500,000 water purification tablets from Pyongyang municipal warehouse to affected families in Sinuiju.

As the operational objectives have been met, the focus will turn to replenishment of stock.

Challenges: Further weather forecasts indicating heavy flooding throughout the Korean Peninsula will impact on the current recovery process and stretch resources. Replenishment of all pre-positioned stocks used in response to the floods over the past two months needs to be addressed for future emergencies, incorporating a critical stock level that will trigger immediate emergency action from the IFRC country office and DPRK Red Cross Society.

Water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion

Outcome: Provide safe water to up to 16,000 people short of clean and safe water for one month

Expected results

Provide safe water to up to 16,000 affected people for one month

Activities planned:

- Assess the existing coverage with a view of ensuring availability of an adequate water supply;
- Provide safe drinking water through the operation, and to render hygiene promotion;
- Conduct an ongoing assessment of the impact of the watsan operation;
- Conduct an impact evaluation.

Progress: Two EMWAT mobile water purification units are operational and providing safe drinking water for up to 16,000 affected people. Approximately 1,285,000 litres of clean potable drinking water has been distributed. The two water and sanitation National Society operational teams are currently rotating on weekly shifts to provide assistance to the target population.

Challenges: Further weather forecasts indicating heavy flooding throughout the Korean Peninsula will impact on the current recovery process and stretch resources. While repair work on Sinuiju City's damaged water supply to ensure the entire 350,000 population have clean potable drinking water remains a concern, and although Hygiene Promotional Training Workshops are planned, additional emergency health training, medicines and medical kit replacements may be required to avoid further deterioration of living conditions.

How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations \(NGO's\) in Disaster Relief](#) and the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The IFRC's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

The IFRC's work is guided by [Strategy 2020](#) which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this report, please contact:

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[<DREF budget and map below; click here to return to the title page>](#)

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DPR KOREA: FLOODS

26 August 2010

DREF BUDGET SUMMARY

Budget Group	TOTAL BUDGET CHF
Shelter - Relief	32,400
Clothing & Textiles	132,000
Water & Sanitation	42,300
Ustensils & Tools	45,300
Other Supplies & Services & Cash Disbursements	4,000
Total Supplies	256,000
Distribution & Monitoring	50,000
Transport & Vehicle Costs	11,000
Total Transport & Storage	61,000
National Staff	3,000
National Society Staff	9,000
Total Personnel	12,000
Workshops & Training	10,000
Total Workshops & Training	10,000
Program Support	23,114
Total Programme Support	23,114
Services & Recoveries	16,600
Total Services	16,600
TOTAL BUDGET	378,714



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