

# DREF operation



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](#)  
27 August 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 368,750 or EUR 290,129) has been allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the Democratic People's Republic of Korea Red Cross Society in delivering immediate assistance to some 16,000 beneficiaries. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.**

### Summary:

Heavy rains have caused serious floods in the north-west of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), with an estimated 15,000 families rendered homeless. Reports further indicate that an estimated 100,000 people are left with inadequate clean drinking water as water supplies were also damaged.

The DPRK government mobilized helicopters to evacuate affected communities from the islands off the coast, and is undertaking food distributions and tracing of missing family members.

DPRK Red Cross deployed national disaster response teams to conduct assessments and relief distributions in affected areas in late July and August. National Society volunteers distributed kitchen sets, blankets, jerry cans, water purification tablets and tarpaulins/plastic sheeting to families affected.

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), in support of DPRK Red Cross, released CHF 378,714 from its disaster relief emergency fund (DREF) to provide relief and safe water to approximately 16,000 people.

This operation is expected to be implemented over the next six 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 of the affected areas; or](#)  
[here for contact details>](#)

## The situation

Heavy rains since 21 August have caused serious flooding in the north west of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK). The Yalu river has reached its highest water level since 1995, when the country was affected by its worst flooding in decades. An estimated 15,000 families are rendered homeless in flood

affected areas, including the islands off the coast from Sinuiju which borders Dandong, China. It is reported that some 100,000 people are short of clean drinking water as water supplies were also damaged.

On 23 August, the China Daily newspaper reported of heavy flooding on the Chinese side of the border, with at least four deaths and an estimated 99,000 people evacuated over the weekend. The Korean Central News Agency(KCNA) also reported that an emergency military rescue operation to evacuate people was launched. Up to 5,000 people were moved to safer areas after three sectors of Sinuiju city and three other nearby rural communities were completely inundated.

The DPRK government mobilized helicopters to evacuate the affected population from the islands off the coast, and is undertaking food distributions and tracing of missing family members.

The recent event follows a series of heavy rainfall which started since 12 July 2010, causing a series of localized flash floods in different provinces and counties of the DPRK. According to the Central Hydrometeorological Bureau, between 16 and 23 July, an average of 375 millimetres of rain (max 535 mm) fell in North and South Phyongan, South Hamgyong, North and South Hwanghae, Kangwon, and Jagang provinces, as well as Pyongyang, Nampo, and Kaesong cities. On 31 July, Ryanggang province was hit by heavy rains and the Amnok river recorded the highest water level since the 1995 floods. Tropical storm Dianmu made landfall on the southern part of the Korean peninsula on 11 August 2010. Although the Republic of Korea experienced heavy rains, there was little reporting of substantial rains in DPRK.

In Sinuiju, assessment teams and the DPRK government report severe flooding in Sinuiju area where an estimated 10,000 people are now temporarily sheltered in four public buildings (schools and factories). City authorities supported by the local population are providing food to the displaced. The DPRK Red Cross has mobilized 162 volunteers to support with basic shelter management and first aid. The National Society also plans to distribute 200 family emergency kits including blankets (50 per shelter).

The impact of the floods on the island groups off the coast from Sinuiju have seen over 3,700 families evacuated by boat to the mainland, together with another 200 families living in risky areas near riverbanks. According to government figures, a total of 3,961 families are staying in temporary shelters such as schools and other public buildings.

In South Hwanghae, reports from assessment teams indicate that three counties close to Kaesong, namely Haeju, Yonan and Chongdan, are affected, with 723 houses severely damaged and/or destroyed, as well as over 1,000 hectares of cropland and residential areas flooded. There are reports of people being injured, however, no deaths have been recorded. Several dwellings in Haeju county have also been damaged and their roofs blown away due to floods and strong winds. DPRK Red Cross plan to distribute plastic sheeting to the affected households.

In Kaesong city, 114 houses were completely or partially destroyed, 2,850 hectares of crop fields were flooded and four bridges were destroyed. In Sinheung county, South Hamgyong province, 203 houses and 66 public buildings as well as several bridges were destroyed. Up to 1,300 metres of road were washed away and more than 500 hectares of arable land flooded. In Jagang province, 630 houses were severely damaged or destroyed by a landslide. According to the Ryanggang provincial Red Cross branch, more than 1,000 houses in Hyesan, Pochon, Unheung, Samjiyon and Taehongdan counties were seriously affected. A sudden rise of the water level in the Amnok river left more than 30 kilometres of railway and roads cut in several places.

The water supply system in Pukchon city, South Phyongan province was severely damaged by a reported landslide, leaving the entire city without clean drinking water.

## **Coordination and partnerships**

The DPRK Red Cross national disaster response team (NDRT) coordinates its actions with the National Flood Damage Response Committee, an ad hoc government coordination body. They also share and advise the National Disaster Coordination Committee (NDCC) on all programme and emergency response activities undertaken with IFRC. On 23 August, all in-country non-governmental organizations, through the inter-agency contingency planning working group, met to discuss and propose a plan of action to address the flooding in the north west of DPRK, to be presented to the DPRK government. Coordination between all parties continue.

## Red Cross Red Crescent action

Since July 2010, the DPRK Red Cross NDRT, accompanied by IFRC technical delegates, undertook a number of assessment missions in late July and early August. DPRK Red Cross NDRTs are conducting ongoing assessments in Hagu, Yonan, Chongdan counties as well as the islands of Sinuju county. DPRK Red Cross, with support from IFRC, distributed 1,084 emergency kits to families whose houses were totally destroyed or seriously damaged, detailed in the table below. The kits include quilts, cooking sets, plastic sheeting, water containers, and more than 155,000 water purification tablets.

<i>province</i>	<i>city/county</i>	<i>affected families</i>	<i>quilts with cover</i>	<i>cooking set</i>	<i>plastic sheeting</i>	<i>water container</i>	<i>water purification tablet</i>
Jagang		453	2110	453	453	453	126,600
South Phyongan	<i>Anju</i>	31	143	31	31	31	8,580
	<i>Nyongwon</i>	20	50	11	11	11	3,000
	<i>Maengsan</i>	17	36	8	8	8	2,160
	<i>Taehung</i>	63	382	81	81	81	22,920
South Hamgyong	<i>Yonggwang</i>	37	185	37	37	37	11,100
	<i>Pukchong</i>	44	207	44	44	44	12,420
	<i>Sinhung</i>	200	966	200	200	200	57,960
	<i>Sinpo</i>	88	414	88	88	88	24,840
	<i>Kumya</i>	53	250	53	53	53	15,000
	<i>Hongwon</i>	31	146	31	31	31	8,760
N. Hwanghae	<i>Kaesong</i>	47	207	47	47	47	12,420
<b>Total</b>		<b>1,084</b>	<b>5,096</b>	<b>1,084</b>	<b>1,084</b>	<b>1,084</b>	<b>305,760</b>

From mid-August, the DPRK Red Cross has scaled up its response by mobilizing its entire disaster management team, including the National Society's vice president, after receiving the alert from the Sinuiju city branch. A rapid assessment was initiated on 21 August, which concluded that there was an immediate need for the mobilization of emergency relief stocks. DPRK Red Cross volunteers have distributed kitchen sets, blankets, jerry cans, water purification tablets and tarpaulins/plastic sheeting to 2,500 families.

A total of two EMWAT mobile water purification units were immediately dispatched from Pyongyang, expected to arrive in Sinuiju late on 22 August. The distribution of clean drinking water began on the morning of 23 August. At time of reporting, the emergency water and sanitation delegate, along with the DPRK Red Cross health director, are preparing to depart to the flooded areas to provide valuable technical assistance.

Meanwhile, more than 4,500 volunteers were mobilized to help the affected families evacuate to the nearest community evacuation centre as well as support rescue actions, provide first aid and support the distribution of emergency relief items to the flood-affected communities in close cooperation with local authorities and other public organizations

In preparation for the floods, Red Cross province and county branches conducted public awareness campaigns for flood preparedness, checking the safety of evacuation routes and places, evacuation simulations in the disaster prone areas. Existing early warning systems were enhanced in close cooperation with local authorities.

### The needs

The needs for supporting the flood affected people in Sinuiju were verified through a field assessment conducted by DPRK staff, and confirmed through coordination meetings with the government. With up to 15,000 families reported to be homeless, urgent support is required to avoid further deterioration of living conditions there.

### The proposed operation

The proposed operation targets 16,000 people affected by the recent floods who are homeless and displaced in the coming three months in Sinuiju city of North Pyongan province, utilizing available stocks in-country, and replenishing them within six months. DPRK Red Cross through this DREF operation will provide non-food items for 2,500 families (approximately 10,000 people), including:

- Tarpulins
- Quilts
- Jerry cans
- Hygiene kits
- Cooking sets

Two EMWAT mobile water purification units will be made operational to provide safe drinking water for up to 16,000 affected people.

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

<b>Water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion</b>
<p><b>Outcome:</b> Provide safe water to up to 16,000 people short of clean and safe water for one month</p>
<p><b>Expected results</b> Up to 16,000 people affected by the floods are provided with safe water for one month</p>
<p><b>Activities planned:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assess the existing coverage with a view of ensuring availability of an adequate water supply;</li> <li>• Provide safe drinking water through the operation, and to render hygiene promotion;</li> <li>• Conduct an ongoing assessment of the impact of the water and sanitation operation;</li> <li>• Conduct an impact evaluation.</li> </ul>

## 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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Please send pledges of funding to [zonerm.asiapacific@ifrc.org](mailto:zonerm.asiapacific@ifrc.org)

**<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

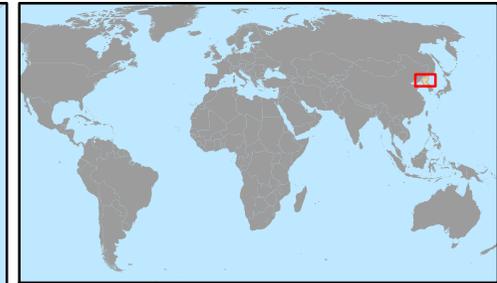
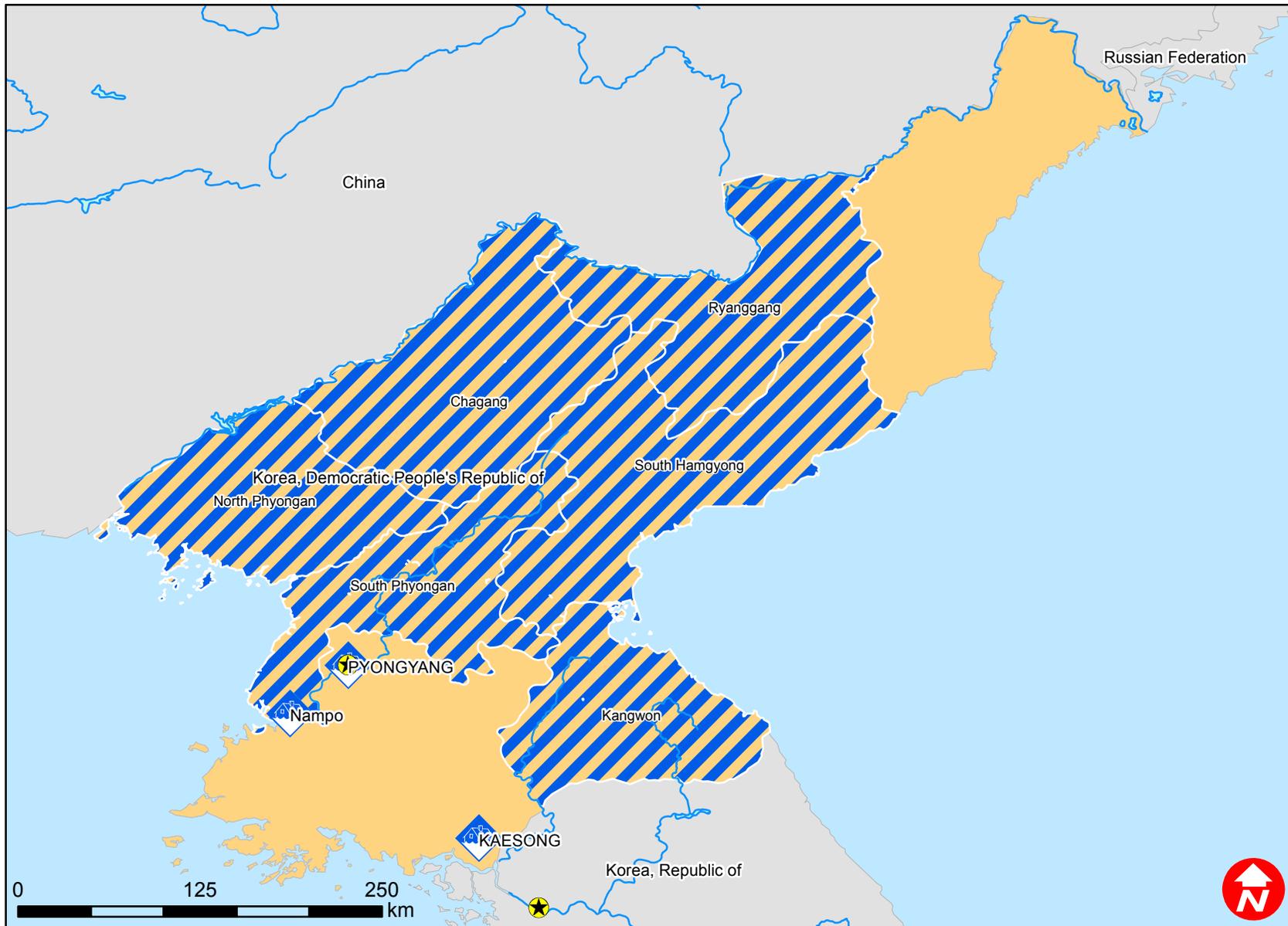
26 August 2010

### 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
<b>Total Supplies</b>	<b>256,000</b>
Distribution & Monitoring	50,000
Transport & Vehicle Costs	11,000
<b>Total Transport &amp; Storage</b>	<b>61,000</b>
National Staff	3,000
National Society Staff	9,000
<b>Total Personnel</b>	<b>12,000</b>
Workshops & Training	10,000
<b>Total Workshops &amp; Training</b>	<b>10,000</b>
Program Support	23,114
<b>Total Programme Support</b>	<b>23,114</b>
Services & Recoveries	16,600
<b>Total Services</b>	<b>16,600</b>
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>378,714</b>



# Democratic People's Republic of Korea: Floods



-  Affected cities
-  Affected provinces