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# Emergency appeal operations update

## Democratic People's Republic of Korea / North Hamgyong Province: Floods

 International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

<b>Emergency Appeal n° MDRKP008</b>	<b>Glide n° <a href="#">FL-2016-000097-PRK</a></b>
<b>Operations update n° 1 : 23 September 2016</b>	<b>Date of disaster: 31 August 2016</b>
<b>Operation start date: 2 September 2016</b>	<b>Operation end date: 31 August 2017 (12 months)</b>
<b>Overall operation budget: CHF 15,199,723</b>	<b>DREF allocation: CHF 506,810</b>
<b>Number of people affected: 600,000 people</b>	<b>Number of people to be assisted: 330,000 people</b>
<b>Host National Society(ies) presence (n° of volunteers, staff, branches):</b> Democratic People's Republic of Korea Red Cross Society (DPRK RCS)	
<b>Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners actively involved in the operation:</b> International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)	
<b>Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation:</b> The State Committee for Emergency and Disaster Management (SCEDM), UN Organizations, European Union Programme Support Units	

### Operational summary

**29-31 August 2016:** More than 300mm of rain reported in North Hamgyong Province, coupled with impact of Typhoon Lionrock, resulted in flooding of the Tuman River and its tributaries around the Chinese-DPRK border and other areas in the Province.

**01 September:** DPRK RCS mobilized staff and volunteers for rapid initial assessment, early warning and evacuation, search and rescue, first aid, psychosocial support, etc.

**02 September:** 2,500 non-food items (NFIs) released from DPRK RCS warehouses. Additional 2,500 NFIs and 2,000 NFIs released on 5 and 12 September respectively.

**03 September:** an [Information Bulletin](#) issued.

**04 September:** First Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) meeting took place. A joint assessment of the international organizations in DPRK conducted on 6-9 September.

**13 September:** 506,810 Swiss francs allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to meet the humanitarian needs of 20,000 people.

**14 September:** 138 deaths reported, 400 missing persons, 68,094 displaced persons, and 600,000 people affected by the floods.

**20 September:** IFRC issues Emergency Appeal for 15,199,723 Swiss francs for 28,000 people for 12 months.



Over 3,300 Red Cross volunteers in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) are providing clean drinking water and relief supplies to people affected by severe flooding and landslides across the country. Photo: DPRK RCS / IFRC

### **Revised number of people to be assisted**

This operational update seeks to clarify that while the Emergency Appeal has outlined support for immediate humanitarian needs of up to 28,000 people (7,000 families) in North Hamgyong Province (Hoeryong City, Musan County, Yonsa County, Onsong County, Kyonghung County and Kyongwon County), the programme and services under this operation are designed to directly support **up to 331,577 people** across the most affected areas – Hoeryong City, Musan and Yonsa counties.

In Hoeryong City (population 163,095) the operation will directly support beneficiaries through health; water, sanitation and hygiene promotion (WASH); disaster risk reduction (DRR); shelter; livelihoods, food security and nutrition activities. A number of interventions in these sectors, as well as National Society capacity building activities, will indirectly support all residents of Hoeryong City.

In Musan (pop. 127,979) and Yonsa (pop. 40,503) counties, apart from the direct activities in health; WASH; DRR; shelter; livelihoods food security and nutrition activities, a number of interventions in these sectors, as well as National Society capacity building, will indirectly support all residents.

### **Situational update**

From 29 August to 31 August, heavy rainfall occurred in North Hamgyong Province, DPRK – in some areas more than 300 mm of rain were reported in just two days, causing the flooding of the Tumen River and its tributaries around the Chinese-DPRK border and other areas in the province. Within a particularly intense time period of four hours in the night between 30 and 31 August 2016, the waters of the river Tumen rose between six and 12 metres, causing an immediate threat to the lives of people in nearby villages. Over the three days, 193 mm of rain deluged Hoeryong City. Beyond the rise of the Tumen River and its tributaries that would be vulnerable under such conditions, at least one pulse of water also flowed down the Tumen flood plain and made the flood even worse. These floods were further intensified due to Typhoon Lionrock which hit the coast and prevented the dissipation of the flood waters from excessive precipitation. Therefore the water was locked in the riverbed, and the surrounding areas were flash-flooded.

At least 140,000 people have been severely affected across six counties in the province of North Hamgyong in the northeast of the country. Over 30,000 houses have been damaged, submerged or completely destroyed and close to 70,000 people remain displaced.

Up to now, there have been 138 deaths reported, with a further 400 people missing and presumed dead. The number of injured people remains unknown. The death toll from the disaster is expected to rise with low chances to locate missing persons. The flooding occurred during the night time and hit the population while they were sleeping. Natural disasters are an unusual event in this part of DPRK and the population in the affected areas were relatively unprepared, although the national early warning system was activated and people were warned of the flooding risk, many people did not leave their houses due to lack of awareness to the danger.

Further rain is another threat which can lead to additional landslides and roadblocks in the affected area. It is necessary that all DPRK RCS teams in the field are aware of this risk and are well prepared in case they get stuck on the road. Furthermore, the Typhoon season just started in Asia Pacific and needs to be observed closely.

Winter starts early in this region – local reports indicate that sub-zero overnight temperatures are commonplace in October. The cold temperatures are often combined with high snow fall and iced roads, further impacting the access to the affected areas. This could affect the distribution of relief items and the transportation of construction materials. DPRK is subject to UN Security Council sanctions that potentially will increase delivery time of humanitarian aid associated with the flood operation as all import items have to be proved separately. A provision for this has been included in the planning to date.

### **Movement Coordination**

Regular coordination meetings have been conducted between the DPRK RCS and the IFRC Country Office since the floods hit the country focusing on the situation and to guide the floods response.

The IFRC regional office in Kuala Lumpur is fully engaged and has been providing technical inputs and guidance since the beginning of the operation and has also been coordinating communications with international media and partners. IFRC has been in close coordination with both movement partners and external partners, maintaining close contact and sharing regular updates through press releases and teleconference calls. Discussions with partners are being coordinated by the partnerships regional unit and the IFRC Country Office in Pyongyang. Coordination with partners during the emergency phase is critical especially in the context of DPRK and all partners are strongly encouraged to liaise with the PRD unit in relation to all contributions. Coordination with the ICRC is also taking place in DPRK, Kuala Lumpur and Geneva on a regular basis as they are supporting DPRK RCS in health activities and the wider operation.

In addition, technical meetings between the DPRK RCS disaster management (DM) department and the IFRC disaster risk management (DRM) delegate have been held at least daily to discuss operational issues and details. The IFRC Secretary General visited DPRK from 29 August to 1 September and received firsthand information from DPRK RCS senior management about the floods as initial reports came to hand and he has been kept informed of the evolving situation.

### **Overview and coordination with non-RCRC actors and stakeholders in country**

IFRC was invited to co-lead a joint GoDPRK and HCT assessment of flood affected communities that was conducted from 6 to 9 September. A total of 22 national and international staff from 13 organizations, including the DPRK RCS participated in the mission. The assessment was coordinated by GoDPRK and the assessment report was released on 16 September.

Humanitarian agencies in DPRK are visiting North Hamgyong Province during 20-23 September 2016 together with the government authorities to monitor the situation and to coordinate the relief efforts.

On 19 September, the international community was able to access Yonsa county for the first time. An assessment visit was conducted jointly by the government, UNICEF, WFP, and WHO representing the HCT. The findings confirm the need for proper and good access to food, nutrition, clean water, health and proper sanitation facilities, and the urgent need for shelter in those locations.

Information about relief items distributed and other actions being taken or planned are shared and coordinated amongst all HCT members. A series of Sector Working Groups (SWGs) support HCT activities are established and focus on Food Security and Nutrition, Health, Shelter and WASH. IFRC chairs the Shelter SWG which was inaugurated after the disaster was first reported and has convened on three occasions since.

DPRK RCS maintains good coordination with the national stakeholders, particularly the State Committee for Emergency and Disaster Management (SCEDM), enjoying a close and fruitful relationship with the SCEDM. In case of disasters, SCEDM is mandated as the leading GoDPRK agency.

## **Operational support services**

### **Human resources**

One IFRC shelter expert will be deployed for a short term mission to give technical support for the shelter activities in this operation, scheduled to arrive in DPRK on 26 September.

Additional national staff positions have been provided for to ensure sufficient capacity to address increased activities in logistics, fleet, administration, monitoring and evaluation, communications, etc.

### **Logistics and supply chain**

The IFRC country office in DPRK, in coordination with the DPRK RCS, will conduct local procurement of food items, kitchen sets, shelter tool kits and hygiene kits. Inputs from DPRK RCS while defining the product specifications will ensure local and cultural contextual aspects are considered. IFRC's Asia Pacific regional logistic unit (RLU) will support with the mobilization of the other relief items, dispatching goods available from the regional stockpile in Kuala Lumpur and through international procurement with shipments to DPRK.

Existing IFRC in-country Logistics staff, in coordination with IFRC DRM delegate, will facilitate the in-country transportation and warehousing activities.

As the situation is still evolving, KL RLU will keep close coordination with the IFRC country office and the DPRK RCS in regards any other additional supply and technical support.

## **Communications**

Proactive media relations has resulted in extensive coverage in international media. Two press releases have been issued, and interviews given from both Pyongyang and Kuala Lumpur to most leading broadcasters including CNN, Al Jazeera, and Associated Press. In addition, leading online print media such as the Washington Post, New York Times, Associated Press and Reuters have covered/made reference to the Red Cross response in their editorial coverage. IFRC's regional communications unit have shared updated key messages and infographics with National Society partners and has been sending regular updates on the operation via the Asia Pacific Twitter account. The latest [press release](#) was launched with the Emergency Appeal on 21 September, and on-going efforts will be made to obtain audio visual material to support communications efforts.

## Operational implementation

### Health

<b>Outcome 1: The immediate and medium-term risks to the health of affected populations are reduced.</b>		
<b>Output 1.1: Target population is provided with rapid medical management of injuries and diseases.</b>		
Activities planned		No. of affected people to be reached
Procurement of 200 FA kits for volunteers		Up to 331,577 people in Hoeryong city, Musan and Yonsa counties
Trainings of FA and Health in emergency(HiE) for 200 trainers and volunteers		
Printing and distribution of 500 FA manuals and 500 health message cards to the trainers, volunteers and affected population.		
Mobilize trained volunteers to provide community-based first aid, disease prevention and health promotion		
<b>Output 1.2 Health institutions are supported to continue providing appropriate health services in winter time.</b>		
Activities planned	Months	No. of affected people to be reached
Procurement and supply of solar heating systems to 18 health institutions		Up to 163,095 people in Hoeryong city
Procurement and distribution of ri hospital kits/midwife kits. to 18 health institutions		

### Water, sanitation and hygiene

<b>Outcome 2: The immediate reduction in risk of waterborne and water related diseases in affected population.</b>		
<b>Output 2.1: Target population is provided with hygiene items which meet Sphere standards</b>		
Activities planned		No. of affected people to be reached
Distribution of hygiene kits and WPTs		28,000 people (7,000 families)
Procure and distribute hygiene items (body and laundry soap, tooth paste, sanitary pad, toilet paper) to 7,000 families for additional 5 months.		
<b>Output 2.2: Safe water and latrine solutions which meet Sphere and WHO standards are provided to target population as damaged systems are restored</b>		
Activities planned		No. of affected people to be reached
Provide safe drinking water to flood affected families by deploying mobile water treatment units.		Up to 10,000 people in Hoeryong city
Elaborate appropriate designs for water supply systems and bill of quantities based on the detailed field survey.		Up to 60,000 people in Hoeryong city
Procure and deliver necessary construction materials (cement and reinforcement steel bar, pipes and fittings) to target communities.		
Conduct two-day WatSan technical workshops to train 30 volunteers on the construction, operation, and maintenance of water and sanitation facilities in the target community.		
Procurement and Installation of 5,000 temporary latrines		28,000 people (7,000 families)
Procurement and distribution of WPTs for 7000 families for 5 months		Up to 60,000 people in Hoeryong city
Install solar water heater in the kindergartens, children's nurseries and public bath for provision of warm water for hand washing and bath.		
Monitor and evaluate the process of rehabilitation of water supply systems by DPRK Red Cross.		
<b>Output 2.3: Hygiene promotion activities which meet Sphere standards in terms of the identification and use of hygiene items provided to target population</b>		
Activities planned		No. of affected people to be reached
Conduct training of volunteers (ToV) for 200 volunteers in hygiene promotion.		Up to 331,577 people in Hoeryong city, Musan and Yonsa counties
Print and distribute 1,000 packages of IEC materials on hygiene promotion to be used in the training.		
Hygiene Promotion activities by trained volunteers		
Undertake baseline and end line surveys to determine the change in awareness and practice in communities reached		

## Livelihoods; Nutrition; Food security

<b>Outcome 3: Immediate and medium-term food needs of the disaster affected population are met</b>	
<b>Output 3.1: 7,000 families provided with food stocks for winter</b>	
Activities planned	No. of affected people to be reached
Procurement and distribution of Maize	28,000 people (7,000 families)
Monitoring visits for distribution and logistics overview	

Food support for one month to the targeted families as they cannot grow new food items during the winter season and are depending on the governmental food distribution system.

## Shelter (including Household non-food items)

<b>Outcome 4: The immediate and medium-term household, shelter and settlement needs of the target population are met.</b>	
<b>Output 4.1: 7,000 families provided with essential household items</b>	
Activities planned	No. of affected people to be reached
Distribution of emergency shelter and household items, including cooking items	28,000 people (7,000 families)
<b>Output 4.2: 7,000 families provided with winterized items</b>	
Activities planned	No. of affected people to be reached
Procurement and distribution of winterized items on national level following IFRC logistics standards.	28,000 people (7,000 families)
Monitoring visits for distribution and logistics overview	
<b>Output 4.3 Medium-term and durable shelter solutions that meet agreed standards are provided to the target families</b>	
Activities planned	No. of affected people to be reached
Technical Support from IFRC Shelter expert	Up to 70,000 people in Hoeryong city, Musan and Yonsa counties
Shelter activities	Up to 12,000 in Hoeryong city
<b>Output 4.4 Orientation/awareness on safer shelter provided to target communities</b>	
Activities planned	No. of affected people to be reached
Safe Shelter Training (PASSA)	Up to 331,577 people in Hoeryong city, Musan and Yonsa counties
Print and distribute shelter awareness guidelines	
<b>Output 4.5 7,000 families provided with shelter winterization materials</b>	
Activities planned	No. of affected people to be reached
Procurement and distribution of coal for cooking and heating	28,000 people (7,000 families)
Monitoring visits for distribution and logistics overview	

The deployment of a Shelter Advisor to support the IFRC/DPRK RCS programme and to provide technical guidance and assistance to GoDPRK and other humanitarian actors (in line with IFRC Shelter Cluster lead responsibilities). The Shelter Advisor identified is the current operations manager of the IFRC country office in the Philippines and is expected to arrive in DPRK on 26 September.

## Disaster risk reduction

<b>Outcome 5: Communities are more resilient towards disasters</b>	
<b>Output 5.1: Volunteers from the community are trained as first responders</b>	
Activities planned	No. of affected people to be reached
Volunteers and community people are trained in community based disaster response (Community Based Early Warning and Evacuation)	Up to 331,577 people in Hoeryong city, Musan and Yonsa counties
Procurement and Distribution of Early Warning Materials	
Emergency relief skill training for PDRTs and volunteers	
Install disaster Mitigation structures in the affected communities	Up to 163,095 people in Hoeryong city

### National Society capacity building

<b>Outcome 6: National Society level of preparedness for future disasters and capacity to deliver sustainable programming and services is strengthened.</b>	
<b>Output 6.1: Increased material and HR capacity is available for the National Society to respond to future disasters, deliver programs and services.</b>	
Activities planned	No. of affected people to be reached
Replenishment (requisition + shipping) of family tents, jerry cans, tarpaulins, shelter tool kit, blue quilts and cooking hygiene kits and WPTs with standard procurement procedures (through RLU and in country procurement)	28,000 people (7,000 families)
Final inspection on the replenished items	
Provide essential equipment and vehicles for North Hamgyong flood operation	Up to 331,577 people in Hoeryong city, Musan and Yonsa counties
Hire new staff for support of the North Hamgyong flood operation	
<b>Output 6.2: Increased skill sets available for the National Society to respond to future disasters and deliver programmes and services.</b>	
Activities planned	No. of affected people to be reached
Conduct technical trainings branch staff and community leader in PMER	Up to 331,577 people in Hoeryong city, Musan and Yonsa counties

### Quality programming / Areas common to all sectors

<b>Outcome 7: Continuous assessment and analysis is used to inform the design and implementation of the operation.</b>	
<b>Output 7.1: Management of the operation is informed by continuous assessments and a comprehensive monitoring and evaluation system</b>	
Activities planned	
Monitoring field visits by joint teams of DPRK RCS headquarters and IFRC	
Review workshops	

## Reference documents



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## 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 Humanitarian 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:



**Save lives.**  
protect livelihoods,  
and strengthen recovery  
from disaster and crises.



Enable **healthy**  
and **safe** living.



Promote social inclusion  
and a culture of  
**non-violence** and peace.