This document details the IFRC’s support in areas agreed upon with the relevant National Society. The IFRC seeks resources to carry out this country/cluster plan listed here as funding requirements.
The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) is located in Northeast Asia. It has a temperate climate and four distinct seasons strongly influenced by seasonal East Asian monsoons with more than half of annual rainfall in July and August. Summers are typically very humid, and winters are cold and dry.

In 2020, the people in DPRK suffered from devastating natural disasters due to climate change. Climate change has caused more frequent heavy rains, floods and typhoons that have destroyed homes and many hectares of farmland. Climate change has also damaged forests and there has been an increased number of pest breakouts, further affecting agriculture and farming. Rising temperatures are also impacting upon the growth of crops and negatively affecting people's health and the country's freshwater ecosystems.

Disease and nutrition are major health concerns in DPRK and the number of women dying in pregnancy or childbirth is high. Diarrhoea and pneumonia are the leading causes of death among children under five and essential health services for all people are limited.

The government in DPRK was quick to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic to prevent it spreading. People generally follow the epidemic regulations such as wearing a mask, social distancing, disinfecting and proper handwashing. The national emergency anti-epidemic guidelines, which keep people safe and the country secure, will be strengthened until COVID-19 no longer poses a threat.
ROLE OF THE NATIONAL SOCIETY

The Red Cross Society of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK RCS) has more than 100,000 volunteers, 350,000 youth members and a network of 209 branches across the country. During disasters, it helps to evacuate people, performs searches and rescues, and provides affected communities with necessities such as food, water and shelter.

As an auxiliary to the government, the National Society has a firm legal base in law and a close partnerships with governmental bodies. In collaboration with in-country and international partners, the National Society delivers life-saving humanitarian services in disasters and emergencies.

As a leading humanitarian organisation in DPRK, the National Society helps vulnerable people and aims to increase communities’ resilience to disasters like floods, droughts, and typhoons. It provides and raises awareness about the importance of sanitation and helps with country-wide health issues. It has reached around 360,000 people in 48 vulnerable communities with its community resilience programme, which also contributes to achieving the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Since 1999, the DPRK Red Cross Society has reached 937,910 people and 147 health institutions in 257 communities with its water, sanitation and hygiene promotion (WASH) programmes. These services complement its nutrition and health programmes, which improve the health and nutrition of women and children, and in particular, reduce diarrhoea and other waterborne diseases.

Unexploded devices left behind by the Korean War have killed civilians, so the National Society’s weapon contamination project raises awareness of the unexploded war ordnances in communities and provides necessary technical support to disposables of ammunition to protect the lives of children and other vulnerable people in the country. It also supports physical rehabilitation centres that provide prosthetic and orthotic services for physically disabled people and helps hospitals to improve their quality of treatment and for emergency cases. The ICRC is actively collaborating with the DPRK Red Cross Society in these areas, providing necessary material and technical supports.

Despite the challenges posed by COVID-19 restrictions, a series of natural disasters and persistent sanctions, the National Society remains highly committed to supporting people in need through its volunteer networks, partnerships with stakeholders and contributing to government policy.
MEMBERSHIP COORDINATION AND MOVEMENT FOOTPRINT

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) work together with the DPRK Red Cross Society and other National Societies.

The DPRK Red Cross Society and the IFRC have had a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in place since the 1990s, while the ICRC signed an MoU with the National Society in 2017.

The Movement supports the DPRK Red Cross Society to help the country’s communities become stronger and safer through development projects and humanitarian activities. They have meetings to discuss and agree annual plans, projects, and areas of financial support. Their commitments to each other ensure that they can achieve maximum impact in their humanitarian work in DPRK, with transparent accountability systems.

National Society partner support in DPRK:

- **British Red Cross** supports emergency and development program for disaster risk reduction and WASH projects.
- **Canadian Red Cross** helps to respond to disasters in DPRK, for example by rescuing people in immediate danger.
- **Chinese Red Cross** supports disaster risk reduction, shelter, livelihoods, community-based health and first aid, water, sanitation and hygiene and volunteer and youth engagement.
- **Danish Red Cross** supports emergency and development programmes with a focus on mental health and psychological support
- **Finnish Red Cross** supports both emergency and community-based health programmes.
- **German Red Cross** supports emergency and development programmes with a focus on disaster management project.
- **Italian Red Cross** supports the DPRK National Society with its organisational development.
- **Netherlands Red Cross** supports emergency and development program with focus on WASH projects.
- **New Zealand Red Cross** supports disaster risk reduction, shelter, livelihoods, community-based health and first aid, water, sanitation and hygiene and volunteer and youth engagement.
- **Norwegian Red Cross** supports both emergency and development program for health and WASH projects.
- **Spanish Red Cross** supports the National Society to be prepared for disasters and helps with rescue services.
- **Swedish Red Cross** supports both emergency and development program for health and WASH project.
Global warming is a serious issue in DPRK. It has caused an increase in rainfall which has in turn increased flooding, mudflows and landslides. The higher temperature is having a devastating impact on biodiversity, forests, agriculture and marine ecosystems.

In just two months in 2020, the country was hit by floods and typhoons several times. Tens of thousands of hectares of forest land has been damaged and outbreaks of pests have increased. The area of land covered by forests has reduced significantly and that means soil is exposed and more vulnerable to erosion. There's less water in the country's small and medium rivers and streams, so there's less water to irrigate crops and for people to drink.

The IFRC will support the National Society to scale up its programmes to help the country adapt to climate change. It will assist vulnerable communities to anticipate, prepare for, reduce the risks of climate change and respond to climate-related disasters by strengthening their resilience. The National Society will raise awareness and give communities tools and information to help them address climate change, for example by stopping the cutting down of trees and starting to plant trees instead.

The IFRC will also support the National Society to give communities construction materials to build greenhouses, mushroom production facilities and the means for farming livestock so that they have sustainable access to food. The communities will be less vulnerable to disasters and these activities will reduce the emission of greenhouse gases.

**TARGET 1**
Raise awareness of 49,000 people annually on climate change adaptation until 2025

**TARGET 2**
Tree planting campaigns in 12 target communities annually until 2025

**TARGET 3**
Five case studies to be developed for climate change advocacy and campaigning every year until 2025.
Global warming is contributing to an increase in the frequency, intensity and unpredictability of flooding, drought, heatwaves and typhoons. These disasters have affected people’s abilities to farm crops or raise animals and so destroyed their means of making a living.

Millions of people have been affected by natural disasters: the worst flood affected around 600,000 people and forced 70,000 people to leave their homes in 2016. A prolonged dry spell in 2017 reduced food production, and in 2018 a heatwave affected the growth of crops across the country, as temperatures soared upwards 11 degrees centigrade above average. This was compounded by flooding that followed in North and South Hwanghae, Kangwon and South Hamgyong provinces in the same year.

A typhoon in 2019 brought unpredictable weather, heavy rains and strong winds that displaced 6,362 people, destroyed 1,292 houses, and damaged 75,226 hectares of crops.

These disasters reinforce how important it is that the National Society and vulnerable communities are well-prepared and protected. The IFRC will support the National Society to strengthen its disaster response programmes, which will also contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals.

As climate change will continue to have an increasingly negative effect in DPRK, the National Society is an important organisation that is capable of reacting quickly and efficiently to protect people.

**TARGET 1**

Reach 48,000 people a year with public awareness and education campaigns on reducing and responding to natural disasters.

**TARGET 2**

Build 12 houses every year for people living in disaster-prone areas between 2021 and 2025.

**TARGET 3**

Provide 15,000 people affected by natural disasters with family tents, tarpaulin, kitchen sets, blankets, shelter tool kits and foam mattresses.
In recent years, mortality rates and average life expectancy have significantly improved in DPRK. But there are still growing gaps which are proving challenging to tackle in the context of climate change and newly emerging infectious disease, like the COVID-19 pandemic.

The primary health concerns in DPRK are disease, nutrition and a high rate of deaths due to complications from pregnancy or childbirth. **Diarrhoea and pneumonia continue to be the leading causes of death for children under five years of age.**

Water systems damaged by national disasters like flooding and drought are not adequately maintained. The lack of water and adequate sanitation services, combined with unsafe hygiene practices, are critical factors behind the country’s high levels of diarrhoea and infectious disease – the leading causes of child death and malnutrition.

Essential health services are limited. While facilities do exist throughout the country, they often do not have enough medicine, equipment or the ability to provide quality health care and services.

The National Society health programme aims to **save lives and build healthier and more resilient people, families and communities** in the coming years. The National Society will base the health programme on the specific needs of communities and people, **targeting the most vulnerable** like women, children, the elderly and people living in remote areas.

The National Society has significant experience in running water, sanitation and health programmes that have **reached 937,910 people and 147 health institutions and 257 communities** since 1999. From 2021 onwards, the National Society will take a more ‘green’ approach to its health programmes, to respect the environment and preserve the country’s natural resources in close collaboration with relevant stakeholders and scientific institutions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>People to be reached</th>
<th>375,000</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Funding requirement in Swiss francs</td>
<td>1.4 million</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TARGET 1**
Deliver standard health training for 100 household doctors annually

**TARGET 2**
Provide essential medicine to approximately 500 health institutions annually

**TARGET 3**
Train 230 volunteers on various health topics such as first aid, nutrition and epidemics annually

**TARGET 4**
Install water supply systems and 150 recycling bins in 5 communities.

**TARGET 5**
Construct 400 improved latrines and 180 multi-functional latrines combined with methane gas tank and greenhouse.
The top priority within humanitarian services is to respond to emergencies as a result of global warming and environmental crises. More than 90 per cent of natural hazards are climate-related. Climate change brings ever-more intense weather and growing uncertainty.

Given this situation, the IFRC will support the National Society to improve local people’s skills and knowledge of climate change and how to reduce its impact in their community. Young people in particular will be encouraged and supported to play a leading role.

The DPRK National Society will concentrate on increasing young adults’ understanding of how to limit the rate of global warming – and its impact. It will encourage them to commit to taking environmental action. Young people will be the drivers of change. Initiatives will include the raising of awareness, and developing school educational programmes and campaigns to change behaviour and attitudes towards global warming.

**TARGET 1**

Circulate 300 copies of guidelines on personal safety in emergencies to youth members and schoolteachers.

**TARGET 2**

Provide educational materials and equipment to youth training rooms in 48 schools.

**ACTIVITIES**

- Increase young people’s knowledge by delivering training to schoolteachers every year.
ENABLER 1
ENGAGED WITH RENEWED INFLUENCE, INNOVATIVE AND DIGITALLY TRANSFORMED WITH GREATER EMPHASIS ON NATIONAL SOCIETY DEVELOPMENT

The National Society will modernise and adapt its ways of working to prepare and react to the humanitarian needs in the DPRK. To achieve this, the IFRC will ensure that the National Society is respected and recognised as neutral, impartial humanitarian actors.

The IFRC will support the National Society to have a more significant impact and reach more people in need by sharing leadership responsibility, so that people within their teams lead each other, and continue to collaborate with partners to tackle critical humanitarian issues in DPRK whenever possible.

The IFRC will support the National Society to strengthen its engagement with partners within and outside of the IFRC network to work collectively on the key challenges facing communities in the country. The IFRC network will also support the National Society to have a strong public profile and be seen as an effective advocate, influencing both the behaviour of members of the public and influencing policy changes that are needed to protect the most vulnerable people.

ACTIVITIES

• Produce multimedia and videos for the homepage of the National Society’s website to increase understanding of its role and activities.

• Share first aid knowledge through the development of a mobile app so more people can help communities when required.

• Influence people’s behaviour and campaign for policy change on local, regional and global issues that affect the humanitarian needs of people in DPRK.
The IFRC network will support the National Society to work with all partners, acting as one organisation for maximum impact in DPRK. Working collaboratively will also ensure that there is a consistent approach to all humanitarian action.

To achieve this, the IFRC will support the National Society to increase financial resources to reach more people in need, ensuring it is efficient, accountable and functioning well. It will also help the National Society to be seen as the partner of choice for all humanitarian assistance in the country.

The IFRC will support the National Society to review how it manages risk, such as its security measures, and how it prevents corruption and fraud, and to develop a new overarching financing model. Increasing the National Society's financial resources in the form of unearmarked funding – which the National Society can spend on rapidly changing priorities – will ensure the National Society stays neutral and independent. It will also mean that less dependency on programme funding.

The IFRC will develop multiple sustainable partnerships with different stakeholders such as international financial institutions and within international private sectors, for the DPRK National Society's programmes. This will include securing funding only available to international organisations, piloting innovative and social financing partnerships, and digital global fundraising campaigns.

The IFRC will ensure that the National Society is accountable to donors – both in terms of the humanitarian services it provides and reporting back to the donors on its activities and impact.

**TARGET 1**

The IFRC will develop a new financing model to increase financial resources for the National Society.

**TARGET 2**

All staff will complete training on how to stay safe, and prevent corruption and fraud.

**ACTIVITIES**

- The IFRC will work as one organisation globally, delivering what it promises to the National Society and the communities it serves.
- The National Society will record best practices and successful case studies to replicate in the future.
ENABLER 3
TRUSTED BY COMMUNITIES, OWNED AND VALUED BY THE MEMBERSHIP WITH GREATER EMPHASIS ON NATIONAL SOCIETY DEVELOPMENT

Funding requirement in Swiss francs
340,000

The future of humanitarian action relies on trust, so the IFRC will promote a genuine spirit of cooperation with its network of National Societies. This will ensure that the DPRK National Society’s approaches are always driven by the communities it helps, and that approaches are efficient, effective, and make a greater impact on vulnerable people in the country.

The IFRC will support the National Society to become the trusted partner of choice for all humanitarian action needed in the country. One of the ways it will achieve this is by assessing its development needs to continue to grow, revising its legal base to make sure it is strong, making itself more robust and diversifying its base of volunteers. This will feed into a strategic development plan to increase the National Society’s financial sustainability and its capacity to continue responding to evolving disasters and helping people in the future.

The IFRC recognises that volunteers and young people are the key to driving a change in behaviours and attitudes, and to encourage local action. By improving knowledge of the country’s vulnerabilities and strategies to reduce risks, the National Society will ensure it has access to and trust from those communities.

ACTIVITIES

• Organise formal meetings and take part in statutory discussions regularly.
• Train volunteers on personal safety and security in emergencies to protect them and promote psychosocial well-being.
• Print and distribute emergency volunteer management guidelines.
• Become a trusted partner for all local humanitarian action.
• Prioritise volunteering development and youth action as critical catalysts of behavioural change and local action.
• Increase investment in Resource Mobilization projects for National Society capacity building.
• Support community based volunteer training rooms with renovation materials, IT materials and office equipment.
The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is the world’s largest humanitarian network, with 192 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and around 14 million volunteers. Our volunteers are present in communities before, during and after a crisis or disaster. We work in the most hard to reach and complex settings in the world, saving lives and promoting human dignity. We support communities to become stronger and more resilient places where people can live safe and healthy lives, and have opportunities to thrive.

Contact Information

Pierre Kremer
Head of Country Office,
T +850 2 381 7933
M +60 196 200 758
pierre.kremer@ifrc.org