

DPRK Rain and Floods Damage: Situation Report #3 August 22, 2011

The data in this report is based on ongoing assessments from resident UN Agencies on the effects of heavy rains and floods occurring in the southern areas of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) notably in the provinces of North and South Hwanghae. This report details information collected between July 28th and August 19th, 2011.

Government data is being received in batches. The latest set of Government data (August 22) details that a total of 31 lives were lost, and 3 persons remain missing. A total of 3,376 houses are reported as totally destroyed in the affected provinces of South Hwanghae, North Hwanghae, Kangwon, Nampo City, and Kaesong City. In the same areas, a total of 48,385 unit hectares of arable land is reported as either submerged, buried, or washed away.

SITUATION

Heavy rainfall and repeated storms have been reported in North and South Hwanghae provinces starting June 23rd and continuing through July and August. The most affected counties to date, are reported to be: Pyoksong, Haeju City, Chongdan, Paechon, and Pongchon counties (South Hwanghae province), and Sohung county (North Hwanghae).

The Government sought assistance from resident United Nations Agencies in DPRK to support their response efforts. No international UN appeal is envisaged at this time. UN Agencies are working in coordination with the IFRC to distribute pre-positioned supplies (details below).

FOOD SECURITY and AGRICULTURE:

Three assessment/monitoring visits were conducted by the cluster to date, covering Haeju city, Chongdan, Yonan, and Paechon counties (South Hwanghae Province) and Sohung (North Hwanghae Province). Observations:

- The impact of heavy rain and floods on current food availability appears to be localized and limited. The most affected population are predominantly cooperative farmers, since they keep their yearly allocation of food stock at home (distributed in December after the main harvest). It is therefore possible to assume that a majority of the cooperative farmer population suffered partial/total loss of their food stock.
- No damage/loss of food stock in county warehouses was reported. However, given the overall situation and time of the year, these stocks are likely at a minimal level already.
- At the current time, ration for Public Distribution System dependents who are not farmers stands at 200 grams/person/day only.
- The Government reported serious damage to agricultural land and irrigation systems, and an expected decrease in yield for the main October harvest. The assessment team did observe some maize fields with plants turning yellow, and some over-submerged paddy fields. Damages to both early crops (wheat, barley and potatoes) and main crops (rice and maize) could possibly reduce the overall food availability for the main harvest in October.
- UN agencies however affirm that accurate projections about future food availability after the main harvest can only be made after the CFSAM, planned for end-September 2011.

HEALTH AND NUTRITION:

The UN team visited the following sites, documented damages, and interviewed Government officials. They also undertook MUAC measurements in baby homes/paediatric hospitals.

1. Sohung county and Taepyong Ri hospital (North Hwanghae)
2. Koryo Traditional Medicine Hospital Baby Home and the Paediatric Hospital (Haeju city, South Hwanghae)
3. Rehabilitation centre and Sinsaeng Ri Hospital (Chongdan county, South Hwanghae)

General Observations:

- Over 800 health workers were mobilized for mitigation and public health activities.
- Given the fact of high humidity and general low level of sanitation in all buildings, increased incidences of diarrhoea, respiratory infection and skin diseases were reported by all health workers.
- Overall 40% increase of diarrhoea, 20% increase of ARI and 8% increase among the adults reported.
- 17 % of stock of medicine was washed away and 24% of medical equipment was damaged or malfunctioning.
- Increased incidents of acute malnutrition by 10% due to poor water quality observed.
- All hospitals were out of stocks of medicines, particularly ORS, zinc and antibiotics while vaccines were available everywhere.
- No measles cases were reported and malaria incidents were as usual for this season.
- In all visited ri, increased rate of home deliveries were registered, two maternal and five neonatal deaths in one month due to absence of ambulance and road conditions.
- Due to displacement, hygiene and sanitation of the affected population was major concern. Clean water supply was reported as extremely limited.

Observations from South Hwanghae:

- In South Hwanghae province all visited hospitals were partially damaged and only one building of TB hospital in Sinsaeng Ri was completely destroyed. Medical equipment, beds, mattress and stock of medicines were damaged. Currently 35 hospitals are functioning in order.
- Increased admission of children reported in Haeju Paediatric Hospital, although cross-check of admissions for previous year in the same season was not possible.

Observations from North Hwanghae:

- In Sohung county hospital the roof of the kitchen was completely destroyed and all walls and floor was submerged.
- In Taepyong ri half of the building was destroyed and patients were displaced to the safe building. In the same hospital 5 deliveries during the period and one neonatal death was recorded, because midwife could hardly access the pregnant mother on time.

WATER and SANITATION:

The UN assessment team two counties that the Government reported as most severely affected from a WASH perspective: Paechon and Pongchon counties (South Hwanghae). Observations:

- Water-supply infrastructure i.e., a piper-water system in DPRK is seen only till the county level. At the Ri level, populations access water only through dug wells. As such, water-supply infrastructure at the county-level was observed to be in a dilapidated condition, even before the heavy rains.
- In the counties affected, populations were served either through a GFS network or a pump system. Parts of these networks were damaged because electric motors were submerged from water from overloaded drains and streams, and sections of pipelines were washed away. The team concluded that the recent heavy rains merely compounded existing problems with the overall water infrastructure in the counties visited.

EDUCATION:

The UN team visited two counties, and made the following observations:

- In Paechon county: 2 fully destroyed and 8 partially damaged education/childcare institutions. In addition, classrooms were completely damaged in 4 kindergartens, 8 primary schools, and 26 secondary schools.
- In Pongchon county, 22 fully destroyed and 64 partially damaged education institutions were reported. In addition, classrooms were completely damaged in 7 kindergartens, 12 primary schools, and 14 secondary schools.
- There have been no reports of classes being conducted in camps.

PLANNED RESPONSE BY THE UN

FOOD SECURITY:

WFP has released food in two stages:

- Firstly, 81 metric tonnes (mt) of Fortified Maize Meal to 6,745 beneficiaries (30-day ration at 400 grams per person per day)
- After receiving information on the additional homeless population, a second release of 33 mt of Fortified Maize Meal to a further 5,500 beneficiaries, and 59 mt of wheat to 9,886 beneficiaries was made (15-day ration at 400 grams per person per day)
- In total WFP has provided 173 mt to 22,131 beneficiaries.

HEALTH & NUTRITION:

- UNFPA distributed clean delivery kits (designed for midwives) for 10,000 persons, in Chongdan county. A further distribution of delivery kits designed for institutional deliveries, for use at *ri*-level clinics and county hospitals for 30,000 persons for a 3-month period, is planned.
- WHO and UNICEF, on 22 August, will each distribute 2 Inter Agency Emergency Health Kits (IAEH) (4 kits in total), from pre-positioned stocks, sufficient to cover the needs of a population of 40,000 persons for three months.
- WHO and Ministry of Public Health will supply essential laboratory consumables, and print reporting and registry forms. This provides appropriate measures to strengthen surveillance control and help prevent an epidemic outbreak of water born diseases. WHO SEARO funding of US\$ 175,000 for the replenishment of prepositioned stocks and surveillance control activities was confirmed.
- UNICEF will also distribute ORS, multi micronutrients and vitamin A for pregnant and lactating women and children under 5 for the affected population in 2 provinces.

WASH:

- UNICEF has provided 600 family kits (meeting need of 2500 people) on 25 July in South Hwanghae and will release the following by 22 August:
 - × Paechon County town - 2500 family water and hygiene Kits for 10,000 people
 - × Pongchon County town - 1800 family water and hygiene Kits for 5,200 people
- UNICEF will assess the possibility of supporting long-term recovery in 3 worst affected towns (for WASH) with minor repair and rehabilitation items for early restoration of damaged water supply:
 - × Chongdan county town - 25,000 people
 - × Paechon county town - 26,000 people
 - × Pongchon county town – 19,500 people

EDUCATION:

There is no identified need for response from the education cluster at present, as there are no classes being held in displacement camps

RED CROSS:

Information on IFRC activity in response to the current situation is available on <http://www.ifrc.org>

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