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Emergency appeal operation update Democratic People's Republic of Korea: Floods

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Emergency appeal n° MDRKP003
GLIDE n° FL-2011-000096-PRK
Operation update n° 1
30 August 2011

Period covered by this operation update: 2 - 29 August 2011.

Appeal target (current): This Emergency Appeal seeks CHF 3.49 million in cash, kind, or services to support the DPRK Red Cross to assist 30,000 flood-affected people for 12 months, and will be completed by 31 August 2012. A Final Report will be made available by 30 November 2012.

Appeal coverage: With contributions received to date, the appeal is 3 per cent covered. Funds are very urgently needed to enable DPRK Red Cross to continue providing immediate humanitarian assistance to those affected by the disaster. [<click here to go directly to the updated donor response report, or here to link to contact details >](#)



Severe rains and floods destroyed buildings and homes throughout the country, with south Hwanghae, north Hwanghae, south Hamgyong, and Kangwon provinces the worst-affected. DPRK Red Cross, with IFRC's support, responded rapidly to the disaster with relief items including plastic sheets, hygiene kits and blankets. However, funds are still urgently needed to meet the needs outlined in this appeal. Photo: Morten Hvaal

Appeal history:

- This Emergency Appeal was launched on 19 August 2011 for CHF 3.49 million for 12 months to assist 30,000 beneficiaries.
- **Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF):** CHF 453,413 was allocated from the Federation's DREF to support the national society to respond to this emergency.

Summary: Consecutive flood events caused by heavy rainfall, and strong winds, including typhoon Muifa, have destroyed or severely damaged over 9,500 houses, rendering more than 25,000 people homeless between 23 June and 9 August, according to data provided by the DPRK government. While flood damage was reported throughout the country, south and north Hwanghae provinces have been worst hit by the repeated flooding, leaving an already vulnerable population in a critical condition.

The accumulated effect of years of poor maintenance, aggravated by strong winds and extended heavy rainfall and flooding have taken its toll on many houses, public buildings, crops, and infrastructure like bridges and roads. In some communities up to 50 per cent of all houses collapsed, while in others approximately 90 per cent of all buildings suffered some kind of damage. With the rainy season continuing at full strength, many people live under plastic sheeting or in the remnants of their dwellings, often at risk of imminent collapse. At the same time, polluted drinking water supply sources continue to raise serious health concerns.

During the reporting period, 6,876 emergency relief kits, including family hygiene kits and water purification tablets, were distributed to the affected families, covering approximately 30,000 people. Hygiene promotion activities are ongoing to raise awareness among the affected population on the importance and proper use of purifying drinking water and the importance of good hygiene practices. Requisition for the replenishment of the distributed items is under way, while other core activities of this appeal are under preparation while their implementation will depend on the pace of support to the appeal.

To date, contributions to this appeal have been received from the Finnish Red Cross and Netherlands Red Cross/Netherlands government. On behalf of DPRK Red Cross, IFRC would like to thank all partners for their response to this appeal.

The situation

Successive torrential rains and tropical storms have repeatedly caused extensive flooding from 23 June to 9 August, severely damaging buildings, infrastructure and crops throughout the DPRK, but worst in south Hwanghae, north Hwanghae, south Hamgyong, and Kangwon provinces. The Korean Central News Agency reported damage to tens of thousands of hectares of farmland, buildings, bridges, and other infrastructure. Two DPRK Red Cross headquarters assessment teams and joint DPRK Red Cross/IFRC teams confirmed the information on damage collected by the Red Cross county and provincial branches during two subsequent visits.



Counties badly affected by the rains and subsequent floods include Soksa-ri in Pongchon county, South Hwanghae province. Meanwhile, Red Cross volunteers help to clean up after a collapsed house in Kalsan-ri, Chongdan county, south Hwanghae province. Chongdan is the worst affected county with over 8,200 people left homeless due to the floods. Photos: Morten Hvaal & Yu Ju Yona/DPRK Red Cross

Official government statistics show that 61 people lost their lives with 7 missing people throughout the country. The worst affected province is south Hwanghae with 21,860 registered homeless people, of which 8,284 in Chongdan county and 7,887 in Yonan county alone. In south Hwanghae, 4,401 houses were completely destroyed and 4,052 houses severely damaged, forcing people to live outside their dwellings. Official government data on the damage are shown in the table on the next page.

	Killed/ missing	Cropland damaged (hectares)	Houses destroyed/ damaged	Affected households	Relief kits distributed by Red Cross *	People reached by Red Cross
<i>Typhoon Muifa 7-9 August</i>						
Total DPRK	4	25,810	246	251		
south Hwanghae province	1	24,922	218	220		
north Hwanghae province	2	292	6	6		
Kaesong city			6	9		
Nampo city	1	29	2	2		
South Phyongan province			14	14		
<i>floods 25-28 July</i>						
Total DPRK	34	48,385	6,489	6,755	3,800	16,771
south Hwanghae province	29	46,157	6,279	6,521	2,954	13,244
north Hwanghae province	1	1,385	82	89		
Kaesong city	2	638	6	12	282	1,240
Nampo city	1		3	3		
Kangwon province	1	205	119	130	564	2,287
<i>floods 23 June-16 July</i>						
Total DPRK	30	59,341	2,928	4,232	3,076	13,162
south Hwanghae province	7	39,708	2,209	3,117	2,460	10,796
north Hwanghae province	6	885	199	238	102	336
Kaesong city	2	8,278	45	60	221	757
Nampo city	1	1,062	25	57		
south Hamgyong province	3	1,277	95	119	293	1,273
total	68	133,536	9,663	11,238	6,876	29,933

* One relief kit consist of 1 kitchen set, 1 plastic sheet, 4 quilts (or blankets), 1 20-litre jerry can, water purification tablets, and 1 hygiene kit, containing body soap, laundry soap, sanitary pads, hand towel, mirror, toilet paper, toothpaste, toothbrush, razor, and a comb.

Dilapidated buildings, made of mud and poor quality cement, collapsed under the weight of too much rain and hard winds. While some communities were hardly affected, neighboring communities show approximately 90 per cent of all buildings with some kind of damage, and other communities with 50 per cent of all dwellings totally destroyed. This demonstrates the difference between the level of vulnerability of communities, as well as of individual households. Clearly, some people have better means to maintain their dwellings, while others do not.

Besides houses, public buildings, and water supply systems, the floods, as well as thousands of hectares of cropland, aggravating the already fragile food situation in the country, damaged many roads and bridges. This year's food shortage has so far impeded the normal government response to disaster-affected people, through the provision of food supplies and construction materials. Hence the government's urgency to the international community for additional support to the flood-affected population.

Coordination and partnerships

During the joint inter-agency visit to some affected areas in south Hwanghae province on 25 July, of which the DPRK Red Cross and IFRC were a part, World Health Organization (WHO) distributed 20 household doctors' bags to local authorities in three counties/cities. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) distributed hygiene items such as oral rehydration salts, water purification tablets, soap, and hygiene promotion leaflets. After the visit, World Food Programme (WFP) released 80.94 metric tonnes of fortified maize flour to seven counties/cities in south Hwanghae and south Phyongan provinces (400 grams per person per day for 30 days for 6,745 people).

After the recurring floods from 25 - 28 July and 30 - 31 July, the humanitarian country team recommended to activate the inter-agency standing committee (IASC) cluster coordination mechanism for three clusters: 1) food; 2) health; and 3) water and sanitation and hygiene. More in-depth assessments are currently taking place (15 August and onwards) by in-country UN agencies. IFRC continues to participate as a member of the humanitarian country team to coordinate the response activities. In addition, IFRC is co-chairing the water and sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) cluster.

On 27 August 2011, the DPRK Red Cross and IFRC accompanied a delegation of the European Commission Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection office (ECHO) for an assessment visit to the worst affected areas in south Hwanghae province.

National Society capacity building: The prepositioning of relief items has significantly increased the efficiency of the National Society's distribution capacity to cover the most urgent needs of the flood-affected population. Of the affected provinces, only south Hamgyong was involved in disaster management activities before 2011. Two communities in Haeju city, south Hwanghae province are participating in the 2011 community-based disaster risk reduction programme. Reports from the provincial and county branches show that disaster preparedness training and early warning systems have facilitated smooth evacuations and averted injuries and casualties in all Red Cross-supported communities. At the same time, the flood-mitigation structures implemented during last year and previous years' disaster risk reduction programme have prevented major damage to all flood-affected areas.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Overview

As shown in the table on the previous page, the DPRK Red Cross and IFRC distributed relief items to 6,876 families (29,933 beneficiaries), who lost their dwellings and/or properties due to the floods. People reached include those with houses that were partially damaged but on the verge of collapse, i.e. too risky for habitation. Around 890 Red Cross volunteers were mobilized in the distribution and monitoring.

Before the start of the rainy season, the DPRK Red Cross activated its emergency task force at headquarters and branch levels in close coordination with the national flood damage response committee.

On 18 July, after receiving notification from the county and provincial Red Cross branches, two rapid assessment teams were mobilized to north and south Hwanghae provinces on 19 - 21 July and 1 - 5 August. Each team comprised of three national disaster response team (NDRT) members from the health, water and sanitation, and disaster management departments. The rapid assessment teams confirmed the findings of the branches.

Follow-up visits from three joint DPRK Red Cross/IFRC teams to north and south Hwanghae provinces on 25-27 July and 9-10 August corroborate the gravity of the situation.

Reports from the affected areas show that all Red Cross county branches activated their early warning systems, alerting the population of the upcoming rains, based on data provided by the county meteorological bureaus.

During the floods, a total of 2,960 Red Cross volunteers were mobilized to help evacuate 42,379 people to the nearest community evacuation centre; 160 volunteers delivered first aid services; and 800 volunteers are conducting hygiene promotion to the affected population. 5,000 hygiene promotion leaflets have been distributed.

Two inter-agency emergency health kits were pre-positioned to south Hwanghae province previously.

Despite of the slow donor response to this appeal, liaison with specialized architects and engineers from the state academy of science have been started for the preparation of the flood-proof design of the houses that will be constructed as part of this appeal, which will shorten enhance the implementation timeframe once required funding are received.



Red Cross volunteers help with transport of relief items from the warehouse in Kaesong city Photo: DPRK Red Cross

Progress towards outcomes

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)	
Outcome: To provide 6,000 affected and displaced families (approximately 24,000 individuals) in three counties in south Hwanghae, with essential food non-food items to meet their immediate needs.	
Outputs (expected results)	Activities planned
To provide emergency food to 6,000 families (24,000 beneficiaries) who are most vulnerable to food insecurity as the result of the floods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Select 6,000 families (24,000 beneficiaries) in critical food situation, focusing on the most vulnerable like children under five year old, pregnant and lactating women and aged people - Train 120 volunteers in food distribution procedures and monitoring and evaluation - Mobilize 300 Red Cross volunteers to register target beneficiaries in close coordination with local authorities - Conduct distribution of emergency food ration (400 grams per beneficiary per day) to 24,000 people for two months in Chongdan, Yonan and Pongchon counties, specifically those who are not covered by current WFP food assistance - Monitor and evaluate the distribution and impact while carrying out continued assessment
To replenish 3,100 family relief kits already distributed to flood victims, and improve the DPRK Red Cross response capacity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Monitor the distribution and conduct ongoing assessment - Procure and replenish 3,100 family kits of relief items - Conduct lessons learnt and review workshops in south Hwanghae and Kaesong city (60 staff and volunteers)

Progress: Relief items have been distributed to 6,876 flood-affected families (29,933 people) in south Hwanghae, north Hwanghae and south Hamgyong provinces. In the three counties targeted for this appeal, 4,018 families (or 17,891 people) were reached with relief items.

The relief kits were transported with Red Cross trucks from the disaster preparedness warehouses in Pyongyang and Kaesong city to the affected counties in south and north Hwanghae provinces respectively, and from the warehouse in Hamhung to the affected counties in south Hamgyong province.

Around 2,700 volunteers were mobilized in the registration of affected families and distribution of relief items. Red Cross volunteers helped in search and rescue, early warning and evacuation, and cleaning up of rubble.

Red Cross branch staff and volunteers closely monitored the distribution process, while at the same time assessing the further needs of the affected population. The most urgent needs identified are food, reconstruction of houses, and drinking water. The DPRK Red Cross national disaster response team (NDRT) and IFRC monitored the distribution and usage of relief items during several visits to the affected areas.

The procurement for the replenishment of the 3,100 relief kits, as part of the initial DREF operation, is in progress. IFRC is inventorying all potential donors for financial and in-kind donations, especially in the form of food aid. Pre-selection of the most vulnerable people to be targeted for food aid has already been made in close collaboration with the county and provincial branches.

Challenges: Severe flooding on 25-28 July, cutting off and damaging roads and bridges, delayed the distribution of relief items to south Hwanghae province. Continuous monitoring of the distributed relief items showed the need to increase the number of distributed tarpaulins from one to two per affected family.



People signing after delivery of emergency kit. **Photo: DPRK Red Cross**

Permanent housing

Outcome: To provide good quality construction materials and technical support for the reconstruction of 1,000 flood-resistant houses in Chongdan, Yonan and Pongchon counties in south Hwanghae province.	
Outputs (expected results)	Activities planned
1,000 families will have safer dwellings through provision of quality construction materials and technical support by professionals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Select 1,000 most vulnerable families in the worst affected areas of Chongdan, Yonan, Pongchon counties in south Hwanghae province. - Support the owner driven construction of flood-proof houses through the distribution of quality construction materials - Design new houses in accordance with government building code for flood-resistant dwellings, in close collaboration with appropriate design institutes and state academy of science. - Develop and distribute proper construction practise manual and IEC material - Train 120 volunteers on safer shelter building skills so they can provide proper guidance and technical assistance to the disaster victims in the construction of their houses. - Develop and organise workshops to inform the communities / beneficiaries about proper construction practices . - Monitoring of ongoing construction by municipal supervisors - Ensure newly built houses have access to safe water and latrines.

Progress/Challenges: In the absence of immediate positive response from donors to the emergency appeal, no requisition can yet be made for construction materials. With autumn and winter approaching, part of the affected population is starting to rebuild their houses with the remnants of their collapsed homes (putrid wood, mud bricks and broken pieces of bad quality cement), seriously jeopardizing their own safety and that of their families.

Pre-selection of the most vulnerable people to be targeted for new houses has already been made in close collaboration with the county and provincial branches.

Liaison with specialized architects and engineers from the state academy of science have started for the preparation of the flood-proof design of the houses that will be constructed as part of this appeal, with further support from IFRC technical personnel experienced in reconstruction of owner-driven houses. The academy people are on alert and ready to initiate trainings for volunteers and community people.



DPRK Red Cross headquarters staff and local volunteers help with the distribution of relief items to flood-affected families who lost their houses. **Photo: DPRK Red Cross**

Emergency health and care

Outcome: The health risks among 30,000 flood-affected people in Chongdan, Yonan and Pongchon counties in South Hwanghae province will be reduced.	
Outputs (expected results)	Activities planned
Improved knowledge and practices of the population on the prevention and care of diseases related to floods.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Train 50 Red Cross CBHFA trainers, focusing on psychological support and prevention of waterborne and water-related disease and ARI, jointly with the WatSan team. - Train 150 community-based volunteers on health promotion with a special focus on epidemic control - Conduct disease prevention and health promotion campaigns targeting flood-affected population for 4 months. - Train 30 household doctors with special focus on mother and child care in emergencies. - 200 copies of volunteers CBHFA toolkit printed and distributed - Provide household doctors with ri-kits and midwifery kits.

Progress/Challenges: In spite of the absence of immediate positive response from donors to the emergency appeal, preparations are being made for community based health and first aid (CBHFA) activities in the targeted areas.

The activities will be in accordance with the pilot CBHFA project implemented in north Phyongan and south Hamgyong province with funding from the European Union.

The DPRK Red Cross and IFRC have prepositioned ten inter-agency emergency health kits (IEHK) to provincial medical warehouses throughout the country, of which 2 in south Hamgyong province, 1 in Kaesong city (north Hwanghae province) and 2 in south Hwanghae province. One IEHK provides basic medicines for 10,000 people during 3 months.

During the floods, 800 volunteers set up 29 first aid posts, including 12 mobile teams, providing first aid services in the affected areas to 8,350 people.



People living with their entire family under tarpaulins after their homes were destroyed. The dire living conditions are known to cause psychosocial problems, especially to children **Photo: DPRK Red Cross**

Water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion

Outcome: The risk of water and sanitation related diseases has been reduced through the provision of safe water, appropriate sanitation as well as hygiene promotion to up to 60,000 beneficiaries in Chongdan, Yonan and Pongchon counties in south Hwanghae province.

Outputs (expected results)	Activities planned
Safe water is provided to 5 worst affected communities through reconstruction of damaged water supply systems.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Select 5 of the worst affected project communities in Chongdan, Yonan, Pongchon counties in south Hwanghae province where water supply systems are not properly functioning due to the floods. The total number of household benefiting from that program will be about 2,500. - This will include the 1,000 most vulnerable families in the 5 selected communities, selected in for the shelter program. - Distribute water purification tablets to 2000 households for additional 2 months - Distribute 1,000 household water filters to be used until water supply systems are restored. - Distribution of 1,6 kg of body and washing soap to 1,000 households for 2 months - Complete a detailed design for the reconstruction of the water supply systems on the detailed field survey. - Procure and deliver necessary construction materials (cement and reinforcement steel bar, pipes and fittings, pumps sets, equipment and instrument) to 5 communities. - Complete reconstruction of the water supply system in accordance with Government standards - Conduct two three-days WatSan technical workshops and five two-day on-the-spot WatSan technical workshops to train 150 volunteers on the construction, operation, and maintenance of water and sanitation facilities in the target communities. - Print and distribute 150 WatSan technical manuals (IEC pack) to the community technicians - Monitor and evaluate the process of rehabilitation of water supply systems by DPRK Red Cross.
Appropriate household latrines and wastewater collection facilities are provided to the 1,000 most vulnerable families in the 5 selected communities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prepare appropriate designs of latrine and wastewater collection systems according to the local and cultural context. - Procure and deliver necessary construction materials (cement and reinforcement steel bar) to the communities to reconstruct latrines and wastewater collection systems. - Monitor and evaluate the process.

Water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion

<p>The health status of the population is improved through behaviour change and hygiene promotion activities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conduct ToT for 50 persons in hygiene promotion. - Conduct ToV for 150 volunteers in hygiene promotion. This will cascade down to 60000 beneficiaries. - Print and distribute 200 packages of IEC materials on hygiene promotion to be used in the health promotion campaign. - Conduct household level monitoring
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Progress: A total of 1,795,980 water purification tablets have been distributed to 6,876 flood-affected families, to provide safe drinking water for up to one month in addition to the 6,876 hygiene kits. Around 360 Red Cross volunteers are conducting health and hygiene promotion activities focusing on the proper use of water purification tablets for household water treatment and the importance of good hygiene practices. A total of 5,000 leaflets promoting good hygiene behaviour have been distributed during home visits reaching out to approximately 18,250 people.

Challenges: In the absence of immediate positive response from donors to the emergency appeal, no requisition can yet be made for construction materials for water supply and sanitation systems.

Pre-selection of the most vulnerable communities to be targeted for new water supply and sanitation systems is being made in close collaboration with the county and provincial branches.

The county branches are in the process of collecting the necessary information on water quality and water and sanitation-related diseases, as well as geographical data for the design of the systems.



DPRK Red Cross headquarters staff provides hygiene promotion leaflets and flipcharts to household doctors at the clinics in the affected areas ↑ and explain how to use the water purification tablets. ↓ **Photo: DPRK Red Cross**



Communications – Advocacy and Public Information

The IFRC head of office has given several interviews with international media like BBC, CNN and Aljazeera. Two web stories were published on the IFRC website.

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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.

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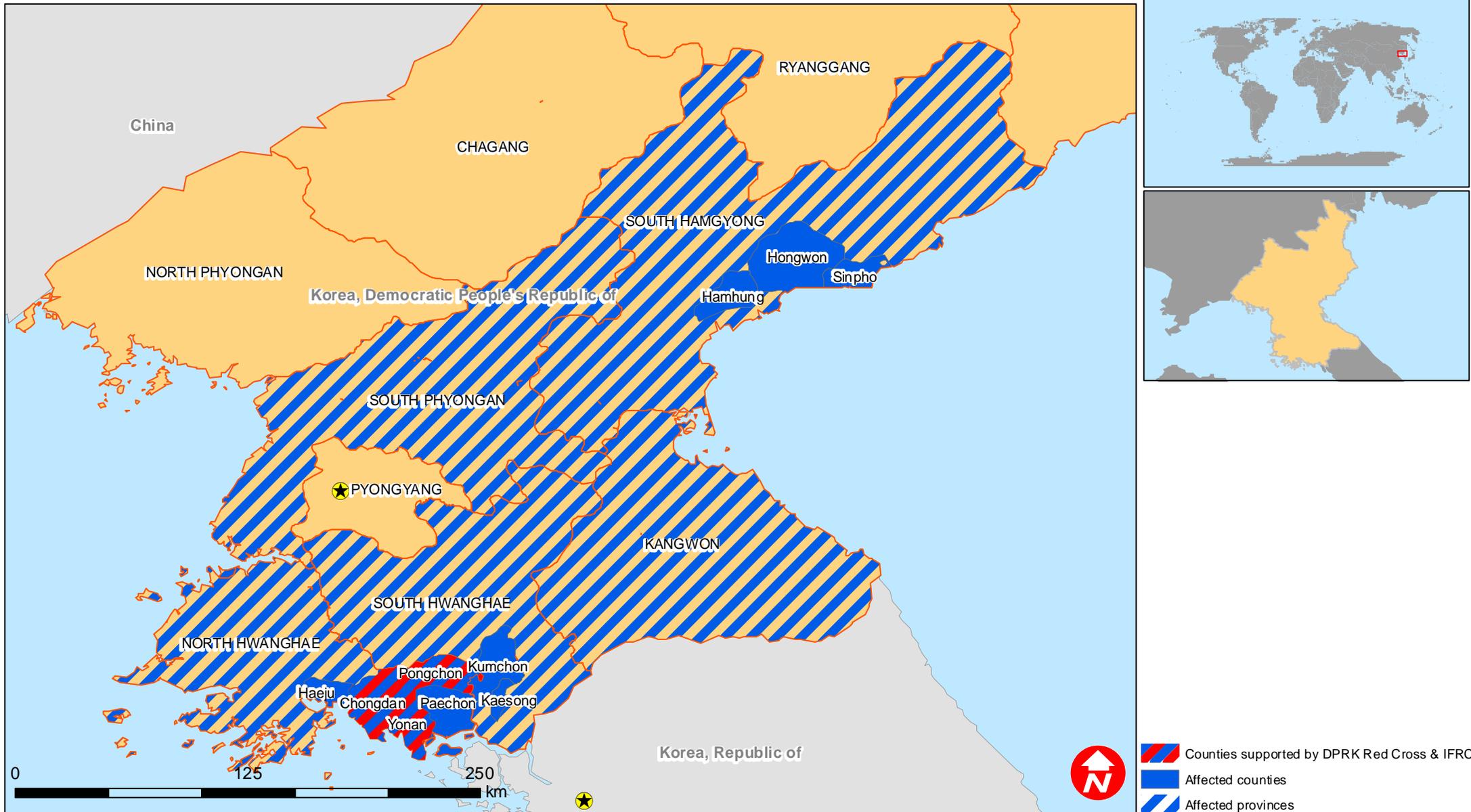


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1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
 2. Enable healthy and safe living.
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Democratic People's Republic of Korea: Floods



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 Map data sources: ESRI, DEVINFO, International Federation - MDRKP003EA