

INFORMATION BULLETIN



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Fédération internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

REPUBLIC OF KOREA: TYPHOON RUSA

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This Bulletin is for information only. The Federation is not seeking any funding or other assistance from donors for this operation at this time.

The Situation

Typhoon Rusa ripped through the Republic of Korea between 31 August and 1 September, affecting the eastern coastal areas and southern parts of the country. Some of the regions experienced almost 900 mm of rainfall over 30 hours. The typhoon submerged about 9,000 houses.

The government's National Disaster Prevention and Countermeasures Headquarters reported 123 people were confirmed dead and 61 more remained unaccounted for in the deadliest storms in over 43 years, and the total property damage was temporarily tallied at 5.38 trillion won (USD 4.15 billion) as of 8 September. Tens of thousands of soldiers, university students, public servants, Red Cross staff and volunteers, and other volunteers assisted in delivering assistance to victims of the storm. Public utility service providers were busy repairing damaged roads, railways, power and telecommunications lines. These have now returned to normal.

The National Council of Disaster Relief, an NGO in which the Republic of Korea National Red Cross (KNRC) participates, launched a domestic appeal for the affected people and received more than 58 billion won (USD 49 million) over the last week.

Red Cross and Red Crescent Action

Responding to the immediate needs, the KNRC mobilized staff and volunteers and ordered relief items to cover for a possible shortage of stocks. The distribution of relief items started and mobile kitchens were mobilized in the disaster areas, while needs assessments were carried out at the same time.

Many relief items, mobile kitchens, and personnel have been mobilized to the affected areas from the northwestern parts of the country which were less affected by the storm. There has not been any serious shortage of relief items and personnel. As of today, the KNRC provided 1,174,290,000 won (CHF 1.47 million) worth of relief items to 16,919 families through its 10 chapters in the affected areas. It also provided 50,680 meals to the disaster victims and relief workers through its 15 kitchens. The major relief items were rice, instant noodles, cooking utensils, gas ranges and canned gas, clothes and hygiene items.

The following table reflects the KNRC's activities from 31 August to 8 September, 2002

Region	Families benefited.	Personnel mobilized	Meals Provided	Value of goods distributed (in CHF)
Total	16,919	4,579	50,680	1,467,864
Busan	16	30		4,303
Daegu	79	37	650	22,369
Ulsan	4	5		873
Gangwon	10,390	2,678	29,150	788,931
Chungbuk	639	475	1,600	142,396
Daejon/ Chungnam	34	95		13,741
Chonbuk	417	580	2,390	47,669
Gwangju Chonnam	715	85		122,138
Gyongbuk	2,854	320	11,850	181,765
Gyonnam	1,771	274	5,040	143,679

For a full description of the National Society profile, see www.ifrc.org

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All International Federation Operations seek to adhere to the Code of Conduct and are committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (SPHERE Project) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

For support to or for further information concerning Federation operations in this or other countries, please access the Federation website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

For longer-term programmes, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal.

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