



This report is produced by Office of the Resident Coordinator in DPR Korea in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It was issued by the Resident Coordinator's Office. The next report will be issued on or around 2 September.

Highlights

- Heavy seasonal rain over the past two weeks has resulted in flooding in many parts of DPR Korea. Particularly severely affected are the provinces of North and South Pyongan.
- There has been extensive damage to buildings and infrastructure with 45,948 people made homeless across the country, mostly in the two provinces of North and South Pyongan.
- Farmland has been inundated with some 10,000 hectares affected with around 1,000 hectares of crops destroyed.
- Water supplies in many areas are damaged or contaminated

45,948*
Affected people

11,140*
Buildings
destroyed/damaged

10,013*
Hectares of farmland
affected

56KM
Of irrigation
channels destroyed



Map Sources: UNCS, Europa Technologies.
The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Map created in Nov 2011.

*Government reports

Situation Overview

Exceptionally heavy seasonal rain over the past two weeks has resulted in flooding in many parts of DPRK Korea. Particularly severely affected are the provinces of North and South Pyongan. Many places have had over twice the average rainfall for July in three days. The Red Cross (IFRC) reports that Anju City, South Pyongan province is 80% flooded after the Chongchon River caused embankments to break in the early hours of 21 July 2013. There are conflicting reports about the number of casualties with between 8 and 24 deaths and 14 people missing.

The government has reported, in its initial assessment, that there has been extensive damage to buildings and infrastructure with 45,948 people made homeless across the country, mostly in the two provinces of North and South Pyongan. Farmland has been inundated with some 10,000 hectares affected with around 1,000 hectares of crops destroyed.

UN agencies carried out assessment missions on 24 July to two counties in North Pyongan – Pakchon and Taechon. They report that there are 300 and 1,032 families that are homeless or displaced in the two counties and which have limited access to food as there has only been 3-5 rations distributed from the August ration stocks. Displaced families are being supported at the community level. In both counties household food stocks have been damaged or swept away and at least 1,000 MT of potatoes were lost in the two counties as the floods came at harvest time. Homeless families do not currently have fuel, cooking utensils or food stocks.

+ For more information, see “background on the crisis” at the end of the report

Damage to water systems is widespread and there is already an increased incidence of diarrhoea in some areas.

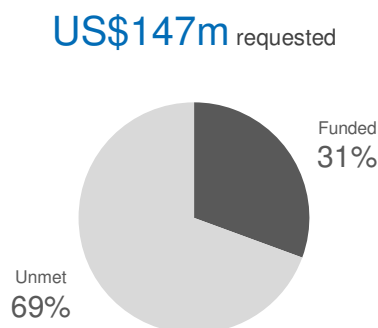
Damage to agricultural land is extensive with 40% of the land affected in Pakchon county including 80% of the paddy. In Taechon about 12% of the land has been affected. Initial assessments of crop loss are that in Pakchon approximately 50% of the crop of rice and maize has been lost with approximately 3,000 head of livestock and some poultry. In Taechon there are no estimates yet of the standing crop damage but livestock losses are in the order of 15,000 goats, 15,000 pigs and at least 500 poultry.

In Pakchon and Taechon Counties 38KM and 28KM of irrigation canals have been destroyed or badly damaged. These systems are necessary to irrigate paddy later in the year to avoid further crop losses and will require construction materials such as steel and cement soon to enable their repair.

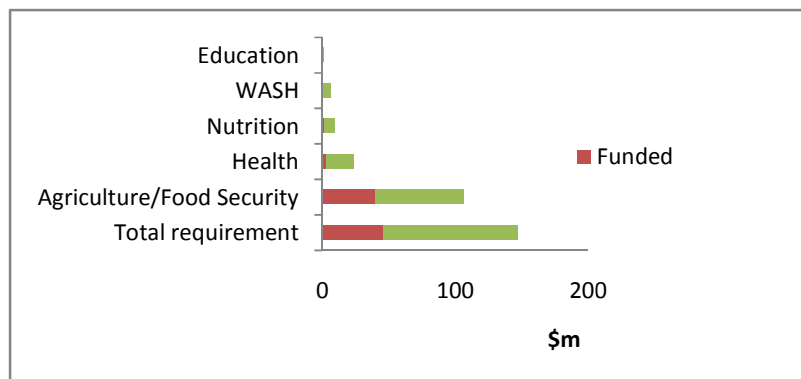
There has been some damage to school buildings – though currently it is the summer break, so at present schooling is not being disrupted.

Funding

DPR Korea Consolidated Appeal 2012



Funding by sector (in million US\$)



All humanitarian partners, including donors and recipient agencies, are encouraged to inform OCHA's Financial Tracking Service (FTS - <http://fts.unocha.org>) of cash and in-kind contributions by e-mailing: fts@un.org

Humanitarian Response



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Needs:

- Urban areas such as Anju which have had extensive flooding has resulted in primitive pit latrines overflowing into the flood waters. The water supply system for the population of 240,000 is damaged or compromised. The two provinces of North and South Pyongan have a combined population of 6.5 million people – many of whom do not have access to good quality water supplies in normal times and whose wells and pumps are damaged or contaminated by the floods.
- Anju City: At least 19,000 people affected with 2,883 displaced – there is a potential threat of diarrhoea from contaminated water

200,000+

People require access to safe drinking water.

- Pakchon County: Water supplies have been disrupted because of damaged pumps and/or lack of electricity to 14,470 households
- Taechon County: As four of six pumping stations are damaged the system cannot provide enough pressure for the pipe network and is closed down.

Response:

- Government has provided water trucks in Anju
- IFRC has provided water treatment units in Anju and Taechon, and is preparing to send water purification tablets and family hygiene kits
- WHO is preparing water quality testing kits
- UNICEF will distribute water purification tablets next week to target the most vulnerable communities
- The MoCM will be able to repair the Anju city pumping stations

Gaps & Constraints:

- Only two counties in the worst affected areas have been visited – so overall needs are a matter of extrapolation rather than accurate assessment.
- There are limited stocks of WASH materials in country

**Shelter****Needs:**

- Anju City : 2,883 people displaced, 19,000 affected with 2,750 buildings submerged
- Taechon County: 118 families displaced from 300 destroyed houses; 450 families displaced from 210 partially damaged house
- 470 persons are currently not accommodated

46,948

Displaced/homeless people (initial Govt. figures)

Response:

- Community level temporary accommodation
- Red Cross is preparing to dispatch tarpaulins, bedding, kitchen sets etc.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Only two counties have been assessed

**Education****Needs:**

- Returning children after the summer break will need to have functioning school premises.

Response:

- None at present (school holidays)

Gaps & Constraints:

- Awaiting comprehensive report from Education Commission to decide on appropriate aid

**Food Security****Needs:**

- Pakchon and Taechon: Approximately 1,332 homeless/displaced families without access to food
- Construction materials to repair irrigation canals (steel, cement) to ensure the continued irrigation of paddy to avoid further crop losses later this year.

1,332 families

Without access to food

Response:

- Support at community level
- Pakchon: planning to provide 3-5 days ration from August public distribution system ration stocks
- Taechon: no food stocks currently available

Gaps & Constraints:

- Public rations in Taechon were dependent on the potato harvest which was disrupted by the floods



Health

Needs:

- Treatment of diarrhoea, respiratory diseases and other water borne infections
- Repair of health facilities
- Replacement of water damaged medicines

60%

Increase in patients at health facilities

Response:

- Local health authorities providing primary health care for illnesses due to contaminated water
- Health and Nutrition Cluster to release:
 - 66 diarrheal kits of essential drugs to all six flood affected provinces sufficient to cover the treatment of 1200 patients with diarrhea
 - 5 Inter-Agency Emergency Health Kits sufficient to cover primary health needs of 50,000 people for nearest 3 months
 - 250,000 packs of ORS for treatment of diarrhea at community level
 - 6 Emergency Reproductive Health Kits
 - UNFPA released 1,125 hygiene kits to displaced women and adolescent girls

Gaps & Constraints:

- No detailed information about extent of damage to health facilities

General Coordination

The Government made available its initial damage report to the UN and other agencies promptly and arranged assessment missions and access at less than 24 hours' notice.

The clusters have completed their initial assessments and are coordinating their response.

EUPS Unit 3 presented concerns that the EUPS Units were not part of the IA Field Assessment conducted by Government/NCC and UN Agencies on 24 July 2013. It was understood that this is related to the Coordinating Mechanisms whereby the UN Agencies and the EUPS Units are coordinated by different agencies. This notwithstanding, information from assessments by various parties was to be shared through the Cluster mechanism.

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) suffers from chronic food insecurity, high malnutrition rates and deep-rooted economic problems. Inadequate medical supplies and equipment make the health care system unable to meet basic needs and water supply and heating systems need replacing and modernizing. The country also suffers from recurring natural disasters, particularly flooding.

The humanitarian situation over the last 12 months has improved slightly. According to the Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission (CFSAM) conducted in October 2012, timely imports of food and provision of agricultural inputs contributed to averting a food crisis this year, with a cereal deficit of 207,000 metric tons compared to 414,000 metric tons last year. The National Nutrition Survey conducted in October 2012, showed a slight improvement in overall malnutrition rates despite great variances between provinces. The average chronic malnutrition (stunting) rate among children under five is 27.9%¹, while 4% are acutely malnourished (wasting)¹. Anaemia prevalence is very high in children (29%) and women (31%).

Despite the slight improvement, chronic under-nutrition is a public health problem, and serious gaps remain between recommended and actual nutrient intake. While the food gap is the narrowest in many years, the majority of people remain chronically food insecure and highly vulnerable to natural disasters, such as floods and drought and production shocks. Around 16 million people (66% of the total population) depend on the Public Distribution System (PDS) and are therefore considered chronic food insecure at various degrees. All children under 5 and pregnant and lactating women are dependent on external supply of essential drugs and vaccines.

Under-nutrition is one of the major underlying causes of maternal and child mortality. The Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) remains high – estimated at 81 per 100 000 live births¹. The Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) is 26.3/1,000 live births 2007 and Neonatal Mortality Rate (NMR) is 17.6/1,000 live births. In spite of the efforts, the MMR, IMR and NMR are declining at a slow pace and are unlikely to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) by end 2015, unless international support is stepped up and sustained.

Health service delivery is insufficient and in dire need of repair and maintenance in order to meet adequate and very basic health care needs of the people. Diarrhoea and pneumonia due to untreated infection are still the two main killers among children under-five; more than 13.8% of deaths among children under-five in DPRK are accounted for diarrhoea¹ and 15% of deaths among children under-five is due to Acute Respiratory Infections, mainly pneumonia¹. Children above-five, adolescents, women and men are also vulnerable to pneumonia and diarrheal diseases, pregnancy related complications, post-operative complications, untreated cases of multi drug resistant (MDR) tuberculosis and other conditions leading to disability and death¹. The country has very limited financial resources for provision of basic equipment and medicines to treat people in life threatening conditions. This shortage exists particularly at the primary level health facilities where the children and pregnant and lactating women are most vulnerable compared to urban areas.

Deterioration of the water infrastructure, lack of resources to replace dilapidated facilities and constant power supply shortages continue to be crucial problems in DPRK. Malnutrition, inadequate access to safe drinking water and poor sanitation services, coupled with poor hygiene, are the key factors contributing to high incidence of water borne diseases. Losses from leaking networks are widespread and remain a major source of secondary contamination. Most health and educational institutions do not have functioning water systems which increases hospital infection rates and further spread of infectious diseases in unheated premises with limited water, hygiene and sanitation facilities.

Source: OFD 2013, Humanitarian Needs and Priorities in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

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For more information, please visit <http://kp.one.un.org/disaster-preparednesy-response/> or www.reliefweb.int.