



DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF NORTH KOREA

2023 IFRC network country plan

Funding Requirement **CHF 1.2M**

Appeal number **MAAKP002**

In support of the Red Cross Society of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea



209

National Society branches



220

National Society staff



105,609

National Society volunteers

IFRC network multiyear focus

Longer term needs

- Disaster risk management

Capacity development

- Communications and advocacy
 - Digital transformation
- Staff and volunteers training
 - Working environment

Key country data

Population **25.9M**

INFORM Severity rating **High**

Hazards



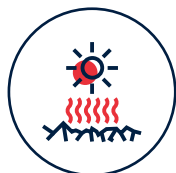
Heavy rains



Floods



Drought



Heatwaves



Typhoons

Funding requirements

Total 1,196,750 CHF

Through the IFRC

1,196,750 CHF

IFRC Breakdown

Longer term needs

834,875 CHF

Disasters and crises

361,875 CHF

Enabling local actors

Participating National Societies

Canadian Red Cross

Red Cross Society of China

Danish Red Cross

New Zealand Red Cross

Swedish Red Cross



NATIONAL SOCIETY PROFILE

The Red Cross Society of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

(the DPRK Red Cross Society) was founded by the direct initiative of President Kim Il Sung in 1946. It is a strong organization serving as a public, hygiene, and relief organization with a network of more than 105,000 volunteers and 249,000 youth members. It operates through 209 branches across the country. It was admitted to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in May 1956.

The DPRK Red Cross Society revised its statutes and adopted its Long-term Plan 2030 at its congress held in June 2021. The sectoral policies for the implementation of the Long-term Plan 2030 were also revised during the congress. The law on the Red Cross Society of the DPRK was also revised and adopted by Decree of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK in July 2021, thus reinforcing the legal base of the National Society.

In recent years, the DPRK Red Cross Society concentrated its efforts and mobilized resources to successfully implement its Long-term plan 2030, while efficiently managing different types of crises, including disastrous climate phenomena dramatically increasing due to climate change, and COVID-19. For example, DPRK Red Cross Society staff and volunteers participated actively in health promotion and medical examination campaigns among local people in close cooperation with household doctors and anti-epidemic workers. They were also involved in the medical examination and disinfection work for passers-by and vehicles at anti-epidemic posts in different parts of the country. From January to July 2022, around 240,780 Red Cross volunteers across the

country were mobilized to disseminate key health and hygiene messages and conduct medical examinations targeting around 2.84 million people.

The DPRK Red Cross Society conducts all its activities in line with the national laws, regulations and strategies of the state. It follows the principles of people-centered and needs-based planning and implementation, and adopts a community engagement and accountability approach. It encourages the active participation of women and youth, and encourages innovation in its work.

As of today, the DPRK Red Cross Society, as an auxiliary to the Government, enjoys full support and recognition from the government, social organizations and the people, for its great achievements in preventing and alleviating the misfortunes and the sufferings of the people, and in promoting their health and welfare for over 70 years.

The DPRK Red Cross Society will remain true to its mission and implement its Long-term Plan 2030, by addressing the challenges stemming from climate change and various health crises. By doing so, the DPRK Red Cross Society will actively contribute to the Government's priorities, including building anti-epidemic and crisis management capacity. Its work will also contribute to the implementation of IFRC's Strategy 2030 and of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. For this, in 2023, the DPRK Red Cross Society will direct its primary efforts to strengthening the capacity of the organization to operate fully, in particular in emergencies.

IFRC NETWORK ACTION IN 2023

Joint situational analysis

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), 74% of which is hills or mountains, has many rivers and streams in its territory. Located in the mid-northern region of the Asia temperate zone, it has a temperate climate and four distinct seasons. It is very humid in summer, and it is cold and dry in winter, influenced by the Asian continent and the sea surrounding the country.

In the DPRK, the average precipitation during the rainy season is approximately 50% of the annual precipitation.

Geographically, the focus of the heavy rain belt is mainly the upper and middle parts of wide rivers. As a result, the country is very sensitive to climate change and is subject to frequent flood risks. Floods can be accompanied by deadly landslides.

Additionally, the rise in the annual average temperatures causes an increase of evaporation leading to heatwaves and prolonged droughts in the dry season, thus affecting agriculture, forest ecosystems, biodiversity, conservation and usage of water resources and land resources.

While the global health crisis worsened with the rapid spread of COVID-19 variants around the world with higher transmissibility, the virus had made inroads into the country causing a national public health crisis at the end of April 2022. In response, the DPRK Government immediately scaled up the state anti-epidemic system, to maximum emergency levels, to control, manage and eliminate the spread of the pandemic in a timely and secure manner. The DPRK Red Cross Society, as an auxiliary to the Government, has been fulfilling its responsibilities and roles in the anti-epidemic campaign by strengthening its systems in line with the Government's maximum emergency anti-epidemic system, while supporting the state's anti-epidemic work and the public health sectors more actively by mobilizing Red Cross volunteers.

The Government is pushing forward with the implementation of the Five-Year Plan 2021-2025, for national economic development to improve the people's living standards, by protecting the lives of the people and revitalizing the national economy, whilst overcoming the various challenges caused by the protracted global

health crisis and the disastrous weather phenomena. The Government is concentrating its efforts under the ideals of "the people are god", "single-hearted unity" and "self-reliance"

At the same time, the Government pays due attention to the building of national anti-epidemic capacity and crisis management capacity, land and environmental protection, establishment of a crisis management system, improvements in education, public health and more.

In view of the increased occurrence of extreme weather events, such as heat waves, heavy rains and typhoons in the DPRK, the Government adopted the "National Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction 2019-2030" in 2019. Accordingly, it has laid down goals and steps to minimize the damage to the lives and livelihoods of the people, and to economic, social, cultural and environment assets of the state. The Strategy seeks to ensure the sustainable development of the society and economy through reducing and preventing existing and future disaster risks, and strengthening resilience and recovery, with good preparation for response and rehabilitation.

Strategic priorities

The DPRK Red Cross Society, as an auxiliary to the Government, adopted its Long-term Plan 2030 to assist the Government in protecting the health and lives of the people from disasters. Through previous disaster response activities and the COVID-19 emergency operation, the DPRK Red Cross Society has become fully aware of the importance of strengthening its institutional, human and material readiness, to ensure the smooth operations and full functioning of the organization, without any interruptions, even in emergencies.

In line with its Long-term Plan 2030, the DPRK Red Cross Society will make continued efforts to assist people affected by crises and disasters, and raise the awareness of its staff and volunteers on disaster risk management. It will strengthen disaster response and recovery capacity by pre-positioning disaster prevention and recovery tools, and ensure that its disaster response activities are conducted in a more scientific, timely and effective way.

The DPRK Red Cross Society plans to reach over 105,000 National Society staff and volunteers in the capital Pyongyang and in branches across the country, with staff capacity development, and through training of trainers, as well as guidance from documentation

received from overseas, to ensure increased knowledge and awareness raising.

Main actions and areas of support

For real-time information on emergencies, see the IFRC GO page [Democratic People's Republic of Korea](#)

The DPRK Red Cross Society seeks to be prepared to respond to crises and disasters (sudden-onset, slow-onset, time-bound and protracted), with increased capacity to analyse and address the needs of people affected by crises and disasters. It will draw upon the capacity of the IFRC network for additional human resources, technical support, material assistance and equipment 'as local as possible, as international as necessary'.

In December 2019, the DPRK Red Cross Society carried out the self-assessment and planning process of the IFRC Preparedness for Effective Response (PER) process, with support from experts of IFRC and participating National Societies, such as the British Red Cross, Canadian Red Cross and Swedish Red Cross. The exercise facilitated the assessment of the present capacity of the National Society, and the planning for further improvement in the area of emergency preparedness and response.

Two full weeks were dedicated to brainstorming and deep analysis of operational contexts, the National Society's mandate and performance, and needs for enhancement through participation of senior managers and programme staff across all relevant sectors. The draft workplan developed from this PER process was consolidated with inputs from the experiences and lessons learned from the COVID-19 preventive work of the National Society.

The National Society also acknowledges the importance of introducing the green response concept in the whole process of disaster preparedness, response, and recovery, to ensure that all its crisis and disaster management activities are environmentally-friendly. This work has been initiated and will be continued in 2023.

The National Society will enhance its coordination and collaboration with key stakeholders including national and sub-national actors, civil society, civil protection mechanisms, the private sector, reference centres and research institutions. The National Society will work to improve the official recognition of its auxiliary role in the area of disaster risk management.

In 2023, with the support of the IFRC network, the DPRK Red Cross Society plans to:

- Revise the standard behaviour procedures of the DPRK Red Cross Society contingency plan

- Conduct technical training for its National Disaster Response Team
- Procure and stockpile materials, such as mobile generators, laptops and external storage devices, to ensure the implementation of its business continuity plan
- Procure and stockpile three sets of disaster recovery tools, such as jackhammers, mobile vibrators and levelling instruments, at three warehouses in the country
- Procure three trucks, three Land Cruisers and related spare parts, for operational needs
- Conduct regular meetings and information sharing in the field of emergency preparedness, response and rehabilitation, to improve the coordination and cooperation with domestic stakeholders
- Produce articles, photos and video clips that show the National Society's activities in crisis and disaster management, and strengthen promotion through the National Society's website homepage and mass media

The IFRC will provide remote technical support in reviewing preparedness documents and refresher training courses. It will also ensure procurement and delivery of emergency response materials and equipment to DPRK Red Cross Society, and it will provide remote technical support for coordination and communications.

Enabling local actors

The DPRK Red Cross Society is committed to pursue its institutional strengthening and carried out the self-assessment part of the IFRC Organizational Capacity Assessment and Certification (OCAC) process in 2015. The self-assessment part of the OCAC process is intended to capture the strengths and weaknesses of National Societies as a whole in relation to a wide range of organizational capacities. The DPRK Red Cross Society is also committed to the IFRC Preparedness for Effective Response (PER) process and is at the action and accountability phase. The PER approach is a continuous and flexible process that enables National Societies to assess, measure and analyze the strengths and gaps of its preparedness and response mechanism, and ultimately take necessary action to improve it.

The IFRC network is committed to support the DPRK Red Cross Society in its development, according to the priorities it has set for itself.

Main actions and areas of support

The DPRK Red Cross Society seeks to enhance communications and public advocacy to increase its impact, public trust and understanding of its role and activities. It also seeks to improve its financial sustainability through investment in the three pillars of accountability and systems development, resource mobilization, and vision and mandate. The DPRK Red Cross Society places special emphasis on youth, volunteers and young community-based drivers of change, ensuring they contribute to decision-making, innovation and strengthening its domestic network.

In 2023, and with support of the IFRC network, the DPRK Red Cross Society plans to:

- Produce video clips and pictures of DPRK Red Cross Society activities for the National Society's website

- Upgrade the facilities and equipment of the DPRK Red Cross Society website and settle technical issues in the management of the website
- Conduct trainings for DPRK Red Cross Society staff on climate change adaptation and mitigation, environmental protection, agriculture, renewable energy, recycling, first aid and communications
- Focus on enhancing the overall capacity of the organization
- Progress in the digitalization of the volunteer and youth management system
- Establish a database through systematic data collection, to enhance the development of the technical skills of DPRK Red Cross Society staff and volunteers
- Establish a data collection system for regular receipt of required data (periodicals and/or technical literature) from the IFRC
- Provide support materials for the digitalization of volunteer and youth management
- Improve the staff working environment and conditions by providing office equipment for the DPRK Red Cross Society headquarters
- Purchase stationary for staff and volunteers at headquarters and branches for office work and technical trainings

The IFRC will procure and deliver communication materials to the DPRK Red Cross Society, as well as provide remote technical support in communications. It will also provide remote technical support in developing training materials and capacity building in a wide range of topics. This includes, in particular, support in exploring new funding opportunities, support and advice for digitalization, and procurement and delivery of related materials to DPRK Red Cross Society.

THE IFRC NETWORK

The IFRC

The IFRC has been present and active in the DPRK for over twenty years and its support to the DPRK Red Cross Society focuses on strategic and operational coordination, National Society development, and humanitarian diplomacy. It also supports accountability as a cross-cutting theme. The IFRC supports the DPRK Red Cross Society through its country delegation in Pyongyang. Due to COVID-19 and border closures, the IFRC team is currently split with national staff based in Pyongyang, and two international staff hosted at the IFRC Asia Pacific Regional Office in Kuala Lumpur and East Asia Country Cluster Delegation in Beijing. Regular close communications are maintained, to ensure programme management and information sharing. With the country borders closed for the past two years, the delivery of supplies is very limited, leading to extra transportation costs for shipments. Some humanitarian actions can be carried out under exemptions, but only to a limited extent.

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, the IFRC, through its [Global Emergency Appeal](#), has supported the National Society in its COVID-19 prevention activities.

IFRC membership coordination

Over the past decade, the DPRK Red Cross Society has established and developed relationships with over ten participating National Societies, based on mutual respect and mutual cooperation within the framework of a Cooperation Agreement Strategy. With the ending of the timeframe of the Cooperation Agreement Strategy, a new Partnership Agreement (to eventually replace the Cooperation Agreement Strategy) is in the process of being adopted.

Such cooperation, which has been maintained and strengthened over a long period of time, has contributed to the successful implementation of the DPRK Red Cross Society long-term plans and the joint operation with IFRC, whilst enjoying the recognition as a model of good cooperation by the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement.

Current partnerships of the DPRK Red Cross Society include the **Canadian Red Cross**, the **Red Cross Society of China**, the **Danish Red Cross**, the **New Zealand Red Cross** and the **Swedish Red Cross**. The **Norwegian Red Cross** is also exploring further support to the National Society.

Movement coordination

The DPRK Red Cross Society coordinates with the IFRC and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to ensure Movement alignment as required. The ICRC is active in DPRK and assists the DPRK Red Cross Society

in their capacity-building. This is carried out in line with the Strengthening Movement Coordination and Cooperation (SMCC) principles, and the newly adopted [Seville Agreement 2.0](#).

Coordination with other actors

The DPRK Red Cross Society, in line with its auxiliary role, coordinates closely with the public authorities. Since the global outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, the DPRK Red Cross Society, through its wide network of volunteers and branches across the country, conducted sessions on hygiene promotion for public awareness, disinfection and screening, in close collaboration with the national stakeholders, including the Ministry of Public Health and the State anti-epidemic authorities to prevent the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The State Committee for Emergency and Disaster Management (SCEDM) is the main authority for disaster management.

In case of disasters, DPRK Red Cross Society volunteers are mobilized to assist in the relief activities of

the Government and they play an active role in first aid services and hygiene promotion activities.

Until the closure of borders due to COVID-19, regular coordination was maintained by the DPRK Red Cross Society and IFRC with other international actors in DPRK, including several UN organizations, such as UNDP, WFP, FAO, WHO and UNICEF, and INGOs present in the country. IFRC is continuing to collaborate with these actors outside of DPRK, to stay connected as part of the Humanitarian Country Team. There is still coordination between the different Sector Working Groups. IFRC is the chair of the Shelter Sector Working Group when in country, and co-chairs of the Disaster Risk Reduction and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Sector Working Groups. At the moment, only the WASH Sector Working Group is operating.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- [IFRC Global Plan and Country Plans](#)
- [Subscribe for updates](#)
- [Donor response](#) on IFRC website
- [Live Disaster Response Emergency Fund \(DREF\)](#) data
- Operational information: [IFRC GO platform](#)
- National Society data: [IFRC Federation-wide Databank and Reporting System](#)



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.

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