

WATER SUPPLY AND HABITAT PROJECTS IN THE DPRK

ICRC Mission in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea



PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

Since 2013, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has been working on water supply in peri-urban areas. Launched in different years, the four ongoing projects mainly involve construction with locally available materials and are in different phases of completion. Once finished, they will benefit about 123,750 inhabitants, ensuring they have sustainable access to clean water. Renovations at two local hospitals and two Physical Rehabilitation Centres will enable the public facilities to run more effectively and provide people with up-to-standard infrastructure and services.

PARTNERS



The Ministry of Urban Management



The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) Red Cross Society



The International Committee of the Red Cross



Water supply to peri-urban communities

Jongpyong Eup Town water-supply system

Location Jongpyong, South Hamgyong Province

Population targeted 43,000

Starting year 2018

Completion May 2020

Constructed in the 1970s, the existing water-supply system is unable to cover the current needs due to an increase in population and reduction and deterioration of the water source. Households receive water in shifts and residents without piped water in their houses draw it from hand-dug wells, which are shallow, have poor quality water and mostly run dry in May and June.

The ICRC is working with local authorities to:

- Construct a well and pumping station in the bed of Kum-jin river
- Install a pipeline to take water to a nearby reservoir
- Construct a 14-km-long pipeline to transfer water from the reservoir to two new reservoirs
- Install a new distribution network within the town.



Pipe laying in Jongpyong Eup Town.

Sinsang-Gu gravity flow water-supply system

Location Sinsang-Gu, South Hamgyong Province

Population targeted 17,500

Starting year 2019

Completion May 2020

Sinsang-Gu's water-supply system, built in the 1970s, has been unable to meet the community's needs due to various reasons such as an ageing supply network, electricity shortage and damaged source well. The network caters to 70% of the population and this percentage further decreases during the dry season. Without the network supply, the locals depend on shallow hand-dug wells.

Under this project, the ICRC has been:

- Donating materials to construct an intake, filtration systems, a reservoir tank at the water source
- Supplying materials for reconstructing the water distribution network in the town.

Kaechon City water-supply system

Location Kaechon, South Pyongan Province

Population targeted 59,200

Starting year 2019

Completion May 2020

Kaechon relies on a pumped water-supply system set up in the 1970s. Over the years, the quality of source well has worsened with the pumps too old to function fully, electricity for pumping has been limited and distribution pipes are broken and have developed leaks. The system caters to only 40% of the total population. Most of the residents depend on open dug wells, hand pumps and surface water sources that carry a high risk of contamination.

Under the ongoing project, the ICRC aims to:

- Develop a water source from a spring located 6 km away from the city
- Construct an intake, filtration system and a house for the staff on the site
- Install a new distribution network to supply water to each household within the city.



A roughing filter for the Kaechon project.

Sunchon Saedok Dong water-supply system

Location Sunchon, South Pyongan Province

Population targeted 4,050

Starting year 2018

Completion November 2019

Sunchon City's residential areas on the western bank of River Taedong are supplied with water from old and inefficient decentralized distribution systems of the 1960s. The corroded cast iron pipes and limited electricity for pumping provides insufficient water, while the neighbourhoods not connected to the water supply system rely on shallow hand-dug wells.

The current project aims to:

- Implement a water-supply system for Sunchon in phases
- The first phase in 2019 covered 1,000 households
- The second phase in 2020 will cover the remaining households and others in the nearby Sunchon Dong neighbourhood.



Infrastructure and renovation support



A staff house under construction in Keachon.

Infrastructure support to Pyongyang Medical College Hospital (PMCH)

Location Pyongyang

Population targeted 23,411

Starting year 2019

Completion June 2020

The ICRC has been providing support for infrastructural renovation in the emergency department at PMCH. The focus is on improving the hospital's existing facilities, including the supply systems for water, electricity, heating, ventilation, medical gases and illumination, and installing the required equipment in the emergency department.

Renovation of Songrim Physical Rehabilitation Centre

Location Songrim, South Hwangwae Province

Population targeted 1,000

Starting year 2019

Completion November 2019

The Songrim centre has a capacity of 53 beds and serves about 1,000 patients every year. The ICRC has supported the centre since 2002, including carrying out the construction of dormitories and renovating the infrastructure. In 2019, the ICRC upgraded the centre's infrastructure by improving the poor conditions of roads and pavements and built a garbage disposal site.

Renovation of South Hamgyong Provincial Hospital

Location Hamhung, South Hamgyong Province

Population targeted 700

Starting year 2019

Completion December 2019

The hospital has 956 beds and its emergency department attends to 40–50 patients per day, mostly trauma patients. The ICRC has provided material to carry out renovation work in the department, including supplies to build a ramp for the ambulance, improve the water supply and drainage system as well as the internal heating and insulation systems.

Renovation of Rakrang Physical Rehabilitation Centre

Location Pyongyang

Population targeted 1,200

Starting year 2018

Completion November 2019

The centre has a capacity of 60 beds and serves around 1,200 patients each year. The ICRC has supported the centre since 2006, starting with the construction of all buildings and donation of necessary machines and equipment. In 2019, the ICRC replaced the old tiles in the centre and on the volleyball court.



Building the capacity of urban management authorities

In addition to the ongoing peri-urban water projects, the ICRC works with urban management authorities to enhance their capacity to develop and implement programmes responding to water problems in peri-urban areas, to ensure proper operation and maintenance of the infrastructure.

In collaboration with the Ministry of Urban Management, a seven-day project concept and design workshop for local designers, engineers and DPRK Red Cross branch staff in Pyongyang was held in July 2019. More training needs are being identified with concrete proposal for capacity building activities to be carried out in 2020.



ICRC in the DPRK

The ICRC has been present in the DPRK since 2002. Its mission is based in Pyongyang. The focus of its activities is on physical rehabilitation, health, peri-urban water supply and sanitation, training of safe disposal of explosive remnants of the Korean War, emergency preparedness, promotion of Geneva Conventions and capacity-building of the National Society.

Activities are carried out in cooperation with its primary partner, the DPRK Red Cross Society, as well as with government departments concerned. The ICRC maintains eight international staff permanently based in Pyongyang. The DPRK Red Cross seconds some 20 staff to the ICRC mission.



ICRC

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