I hope you are fine.

After yesterday call from Marie rose, I would like first to come back on the interview given by Philippe to "Liberation" and give you some explanations.

As I said during my visit, lots of journalists called us before we came to NK and wanted to know our position about the "so called" famine in this country. In fact, when Philippe went back to Paris, one of them called him. Romain Franklin (Liberation) in fact already planned to write an article on NK's situation. So Philippe answered to some of his questions and "Liberation" decided to published part of this interview yesterday with other information's and their own analysis. As you can see, the interview is soft and mainly focused on "is there a famine or not in NK ?".

I spoke with Mario yesterday and he didn't see any problem with what is written.

On the other hand,
I understand also Marie rose's reaction

I agree with her on one point : you were not informed directly by us about this interview. Sorry for that. We didn't know when Liberation was going to write the article. But it's not a reason. Next time, I will informed William and you directly before.

Anyway, I feel we must be careful not to give too much importance to this article. Philippe didn't do a press conference and will not do it. But it's mainly impossible after a visit in NK not to answer to questions on the current situation in this so closed country. More and more people are asking questions and as MSF is one of the biggest NGOs in the country, it's difficult to say no we don't want to answer.

I spoke with Samantha yesterday and she agreed. This is the reason why she did a proposal some days ago we need to discuss with William and Pim. You are right to say we must be careful. You already started the negotiation with the authorities. But that's not the reason why it's impossible to speak about our action in North Korea and the problem we are facing. This could reinforce also our position.

Anyway, don't hesitate to tell us what you think. But please don't do of this article an international problem between sections. It's not the case.

For your information, we plan with William and Pim to meet in Brussels next week (9th of April) to discuss the MSF programmes in NK. There are lots of points to speak about. And as I said, I really hope we will find a common approach. NK is not a country easy to deal with (you said this several times during our visit), but Msf is confronted to ethical questions we need to discuss. I'm sure we will also speak about Msf position regarding media/lobby.

I will send you tomorrow my field visit report (a second part would be send next week for Marie rose and the Kangwon team with specific remarks about this province). Ricard and Fiona would be in Paris
That's all for me. It was important for me and Philippe to come and speak with you. Thank you again.

Sincerely
Pierre