

# OPERATIONS UPDATE



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

## VIETNAM: TYPHOONS

Appeal No. MDRVN001  
23 January 2007

*The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in 185 countries.*

### In Brief

**Operations Update no. 03; Period covered: 10 December - 18 January 2007;**  
**Revised Appeal target: CHF 4.2 million (USD 3.4 million or EUR 2.6 million)**  
**Appeal coverage: 26%; outstanding needs: CHF 3.1 million**  
*([Click here for the attached Contributions List](#))([click here for the live update](#))*

#### Appeal history:

- Preliminary emergency appeal for Typhoon Xangsane launched on 5 Oct 2006 to seek CHF 998,110 (USD 801,177 OR EUR 629,490) for 61,000 beneficiaries for 12 months.
- The appeal was revised on 13 October 2006 to CHF 1.67 million (USD 1.4 million or EUR 1.1 million) for 60,400 beneficiaries to reflect operational realities.
- The appeal was relaunched as Viet Nam Typhoons Emergency Appeal (MDRVN001) on 7 December 2006 to incorporate Typhoon Durian. It requests CHF 4.2 million (USD 3.4 million or EUR 2.6 million) in cash, kind, or services to assist 98,000 beneficiaries for 12 months.
- Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) allocated: for Xangsane and Durian at CHF 100,000 each.

**Operational Summary:** The Viet Nam Red Cross (VNRC), through its headquarters and its chapters, are committed towards supporting communities affected by a series of typhoons (Xangsane and Durian). The needs are extensive, with 20 cities and provinces stretching from the central regions to southern parts of the country hit hard with losses to lives, property and livelihoods. After a four-month operation (three months with Xangsane and one month with Durian), approximately 26,700 people have received 144 tonnes of rice and 5,700 households kits. Cognizant of the need to support recovery efforts, the VNRC has also supported 520 families in eight provinces in repairing and rebuilding their houses. 60 families with 221 persons, in Da Nang and Quang Nam provinces have moved into the newly repaired houses in January 2007.



*Many people live in difficult circumstances after their homes collapsed.*

However, given that over 3,000 other families are living in badly-damaged homes, and are awaiting aid to rebuild and repair their houses, the Federation recommends for more international assistance to the VNRC to support communities that were hit by the destructive Xangsane and Durian typhoons. With only 26 percent appeal coverage, the operation still has a long way to go in achieving its appeal objectives to restore the lives of those made vulnerable by the disasters. Indeed if the low coverage continues, the operation will soon have to be adjusted according to the income received, leaving the needs of thousands unattended.

**Xangsane: TC-2006-000144-VNM**  
**Durian: TC-2006-000175-VNM**

## Background



*The typhoons have totally demolished homes, and have not only affected adults but children as well.*

According to the national disaster management partnership, there is an urgent need to rebuild 22,000 houses and repair another 130,000. To help survivors in Ben Tre, Tra Vinh, Long An and Tien Giang provinces regain their income and livelihoods, there is a need to provide them with various seeds. The affected fishing community also needs prompt support. Total needs are put at VND 1,000 billion (USD 60 million). Currently, there is a gap of at least VND800 billion (USD 50 million).

Beyond the loss of life, livelihoods and infrastructure, the typhoons had an impact on the local economy. It is reported that building material has already increased by 50 – 100 percent of their normal retail price, and stocks are fast being depleted. As a result, communities are turning to the use of water coconut leaves, although these are also sparse and cause environmental damage to the trees themselves.

In response to both Typhoon Durian and Xangsane, the central government called for domestic and international support. To date, the central government has allocated a total of VND 311 billion (CHF 24.5 million) to help recovery, reconstruction and rehabilitation, as well as released 1,750 metric tonnes (MT) of rice and construction material. It will also further assess the coverage of the food subsidy programme and reduce tax burdens on businesses affected by the typhoons. However, plans will only move ahead in 2007.

The government agency named People Aid Coordination Committee sent out an official request for emergency assistance from international organizations. Additional support from local organizations is being provided through the National Fatherland Front, a political coalition organization. It has appealed for contributions, having released emergency food, other relief and cash distributions to help the affected population rebound quickly. It has pledged to provide assistance to families whose homes have collapsed with CHF 750 (USD 620); those whose homes are partially damaged will receive CHF 223 to 425 (USD 200 to 350). In addition, other mass organizations and government institutions are collecting donations.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

In response to both Typhoon Xangsane and Durian, VNRC has reacted quickly with the provision of emergency food and household kits using the DREF released from the International Federation and other sources. The table below summarizes the support provided to date.

**Table 1: Relief dispensed in response to Typhoon Xangsane and Durian**

Typhoon	Rice (tonne)	Noodles (boxes)	Household kits	Cash assistance (USD)
Xangsane	156	100	2,211	3,750
Durian	6	600	3,700	31,500

The most recent typhoon, Durian, hit the southern coastal provinces and Mekong delta on 5 December. The eye of the typhoon crossed Phu Qui island in Binh Thuan province, causing damages across ten provinces, as well as Ho Ch Minh city and Can Tho city in Can Gio district. At least 98 people were killed and 1,770 people were injured.

Leaving behind a trail of destruction, Typhoon Durian damaged 200,000 houses (out of which 34,000 were destroyed), wrecked more than 850 schools and sunk 800 boats. There were significant losses in livelihoods, most evident in Binh Thuan, Vung Tau, Ben Tre and Vinh Long provinces as well as Ho Chi Minh City.

The needs arising out of this disaster are immense.

These emergency items will shore up the endurance of communities to face the harsh days following the typhoons. Household kits will enhance the immediate well being of families who have lost all belongings, with its contents of cooking and kitchen utensils, a mosquito net, two blankets, a 40-litre water plastic container (for water storage) and a ten-litre water plastic container (for water collection). In addition to the items outlined in the above table, communities in Vinh Long province have received plastic sheets for temporary shelters, while communities in Can Gio district, Ho Chi Minh City have received medicines and clothes. In Binh Thuan province, supplementary food items such as vegetable oils, sugars have been provided through emergency cash assistance from the VNRC.



*A beneficiary from an ethnic minority receives emergency assistance from the VNRC.*

The objectives below outline support to populations affected by Typhoon Xangsane and Typhoon Durian. Activities have been carried out as planned with minor delays stemming from the extreme typhoon activity over the last two months.

To ensure transparency and equity in the process for beneficiary selection, the distribution of posters indicating criteria for beneficiary selection have been posted at every relief distribution point to ensure communities, VNRC staff and volunteers and local officials are fully informed of the selection process.

### Food and Nutrition

**Objective:** Provision of food comprising a 15 kg ration of rice per person per month for 27,000 people for one month in the worst affected areas by February 2007.

The purchase of 291 tonnes of rice – enough to feed an estimated 19,400 people for one month – is ongoing and will be distributed in February 2007. In the first phase of Durian operation, the government of Vietnam took over the first phase of rice distribution while the VNRC is responsible over the second phase. According to the needs assessment done by VNRC, the need for rice of people affected by Typhoon Xangsane is not as high as those hit by Typhoon Durian thanks funds released by the Vietnamese government, and assistance from local organizations and NGOs working in the country. In addition, survivors of Typhoon Xangsane will receive rice support from Spanish Agency for International Cooperation (AECI), which further reduces their needs. The procedures for procurement are in line with Vietnamese Law, while beneficiary selection follows Federation's logistics guidelines and criteria.

A rise in the price of rice has challenged the implementation of this component. Prices rose by 25 percent, from VND 4,000 per kg to VND 5,000, as swarms of brown hoppers attacked rice crops in the Mekong River Delta. Crop failure in the south has also had an impact on the price of rice nationwide.

### Non-food items

**Objective:** Replenishment of 10,000 household kits distributed from VNRC emergency stocks.

In total, 5,700 families benefited from the basic and practical household items provided under both Xangsane and Durian operations. The Red Cross, local authorities and other organizations distributed the household kits jointly.

For Typhoon Durian alone, 3,700 families have received household kits (including 1,600 people who received assistance right after the disaster).



*Household kits containing blankets and mosquito nets have proved helpful*

## Shelter

**Objective:** By September 2007, 2,000 families with no available means to rebuild their homes are living in typhoon-resistant houses with appropriate water and sanitation facilities.

Extensive damage to houses in southern Viet Nam caused by Typhoon Durian have led the Viet Nam Red Cross Society and the Federation to increase the number of beneficiaries for housing support from 1,000 to 2,000. According to recent assessments by various organizations, there is a huge need for repairing and rebuilding houses. Thousands of families are living in misery in cold and wet conditions because their houses are ruined or unsafe.

Given the funds available, 520 families (310 in the Central and 210 in the South) are supported with reconstruction and repairs to their houses. Generally, the reconstruction of 310 houses destroyed by Xangsane typhoon is well in progress, while in the South, selection of 210 beneficiaries for housing support has been ongoing as it needs time to hold meetings and consultations with receiving individuals.



*The first houses are handed over to beneficiaries that were hit the hardest.*

In Quang Nam and Da Nang, 60 families (221 people) supported by USAID received their new houses in mid-January under the initial Xangsane operation. The families, most of which were headed by women or had family members who were pregnant or with disabilities, were happy to receive shelter in such a short time. The timing of the event had great significance and meaning to Vietnamese people as well as it was before the Lunar Tet holidays. Costs to build house range from VND 21 million to 35 million, depending on the size of the house. In addition to the standard VND 15 million provided by the operation, the beneficiaries sometimes manage to supplement the support with extra funds borrowed from their relatives or from their savings.

The lack of labour and the desire of most recipient communities to have new houses before Tet have increased labour costs. In the meantime, reconstruction of houses in the South is not likely to start before mid-February (Tet holidays), as according to local beliefs, it is not lucky for home owners to build houses across different years. This tradition may lead some beneficiaries to start construction only after the Tet celebrations, which indicate the start of a new year.

## Livelihoods

**Objective:** By September 2007, 2,500 households in the typhoon-affected areas, which lost homes and/or crops, have a viable and sustainable source of income.

Though deemed to generate sustainable income for the poor, support under this component has not moved because of a number of reasons such as limited funding, foot and mouth disease and avian influenza reoccurrences in eight provinces of Viet Nam.

## Institutional capacity building

**Objective:** Establishment of VNRC chapter/branch response teams covering needs assessment, monitoring, reporting, first aid and psychosocial support (PSP) from October 2006 to October 2007.

Capacity continued strengthened within VNRC. In addition to providing VNRC with technical support in needs assessment, monitoring and reporting, the delegation will have regular dialogues with VNRC headquarters and branches to guide them in finance management matters,

Necessary technical support from the regional delegation in Bangkok helps VNRC to better identify the real needs of communities and have more feasible objectives for the operation. It is expected that regular and continued support from the country and regional delegation will enable VNRC to apply skills/knowledge acquired in various operations.

### Monitoring and evaluation

The Federation's country delegation, together with VNRC, has had regular monitoring trips to provinces to facilitate field implementation and recommend improvements. In a recent monitoring trip to Da Nang, the team verified that the VNRC at all levels, particularly in Da Nang province, visited beneficiaries during the construction to monitor and support them. However, the team also discovered that some beneficiaries do not follow the requirements for typhoon resistant houses consistently, leading to poor construction and potential risk of buildings to future disasters. Subsequently, local Red Cross representatives have committed towards guiding beneficiaries in strengthening their houses to meet the required standard for typhoon resistant homes.

Given that 3,000 families are living in severely damaged houses while awaiting assistance to rebuild homes in Da Nang province and other provinces, the VNRC chapter is fundraising locally. However, not much response is expected given the compounding effect of the series of typhoons that hit the country. The monitoring team recommends that more support from the Federation is needed for Viet Nam.

## How we work

*All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations \(NGO's\) in Disaster Relief](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.*

### The Federation's Global Agenda

The International Federation's activities are aligned with under a Global Agenda, which sets out **four broad goals** to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".

### Global Agenda Goals:

- Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.
- Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.
- Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.
- Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.

## Contact information

### For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- Viet Nam Red Cross: Dr. Trinh Bang Hop, (director of international relations department), Email: [vnrcdq@netnam.org.vn](mailto:vnrcdq@netnam.org.vn), Phone: +84-4 8224320; Dr. Phung Van Hoan, (disaster management manager), Phone +84 904.117.981, Email: [vnrcdp@fpt.vn](mailto:vnrcdp@fpt.vn)
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- Federation regional delegation Bangkok: Mr. Bekele Geleta, (head of regional delegation), Bangkok, Phone: +66 26661 8201 ext 100 or Mr. Michael Annear, (head of the regional disaster management unit), Bangkok, Phone +66 817539598, Emails: [bekele.geleta@ifrc.org](mailto:bekele.geleta@ifrc.org) or [michael.annear@ifrc.org](mailto:michael.annear@ifrc.org)
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# VIETNAM - TYPHOONS

ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. MDRVN001

## PLEDGES RECEIVED

16/01/2007

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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### CASH

REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->					<b>TOTAL COVERAGE</b>	
					<b>4,210,045</b>	<b>26.4%</b>
AMERICAN - GOVT/USAID		100,000	USD	125,000	18.10.06	
AMERICAN - RC		25,000	USD	31,250	27.10.06	EMERGENCY SHELTER REPAIR
AMERICAN - GOVT/USAID		100,000	USD	120,700	18.12.06	
CANADIAN - GOVT		50,000	CAD	55,000	21.10.06	
GERMAN - RC		80,000	EUR	127,280	06.12.06	
JAPANESE - RC		67,000	USD	83,750	01.11.06	
NETHERLANDS - RC		40,000	EUR	63,600	03.11.06	
NETHERLANDS - RC		40,000	EUR	64,300	07.12.06	
PRIVATE DONORS ON LINE				111	29.12.06	
SINGAPORE - RE		10,000	SGD	8,000	14.12.06	
SWEDISH - GOVT		1,500,000	SEK	256,650	13.10.06	
SWEDISH - GOVT		1,000,000	SEK	175,000	13.12.06	
SWISS - PRIVATE DONOR				320	25.10.06	
VERF/WHO STAFF				2,000	12.12.06	
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				1,112,961	CHF	26.4%

### KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				0	CHF	0.0%

### ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET

# VIETNAM - TYPHOONS

ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. MDRVN001

## PLEDGES RECEIVED

16/01/2007

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED				0	CHF	