

PROGRAMME 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

23 July 2001

This Programme Update is intended for reporting on Annual Appeals.

Appeal No. 01.46/2001

Appeal Target CHF 3,252,400

Programme Update No. 1; Period covered: 1 January to 30 June 2001

"At a Glance"

Appeal coverage: 61.1 per cent

Outstanding needs: CHF 1,264,669

Related appeals: 23/00; Vietnam: floods and storms

Update: The last six months have seen significant progress towards the objectives set in the Appeal 2001-2002. This has been possible through the excellent working relationships between the National Society and the Federation delegation as well as continued support of established PNS in the country. New partnerships are also developing. Despite the major disaster response to the Mekong floods other programmes continued without too much disruption. The visibility of the National Society increased during the floods but also in other aspects of programme work, such as disaster preparedness. The upcoming National Congress will bring changes in the National Society that will affect the relationship and support provided through the Federation, PNS and other major donors. With the development of a Country Assistance Strategy (CAS) and fuller engagement in the region, the Red Cross of Viet Nam is poised to further develop as a leading National Society in Southeast Asia.

Operational Developments:

In April, the Communist Party Congress appointed a new, more liberal General Secretary (Mr. Nong Duc Manh) providing a clear signal for reform. The IMF subsequently released the first tranche of USD 53 million of a three-year loan totalling USD 368 million. This is the first funds release since the IMF suspended lending to the country five years ago.

There was also continued progress towards the signing of a United States-Vietnam bilateral trade agreement and the visit of US President Bill Clinton in November 2000 was a major boost.

On the economic front, farmers had booming rice harvests but faced extremely low prices on the world market. However, analysts predict that the economy will develop by 5 per cent this year, short of the government's 7.5 per cent target. Exports grew in the first quarter, although at a slower rate than in the same period last year. In the same period, foreign direct investment was up, almost 80 per cent more than the same period last year. Major gas and electricity projects were signed, including the Nam Con Son gas pipeline that brings together a consortium of companies.

It was predicted in June that floods similar to those in 2000, that affected an estimated five million people in six Mekong delta provinces, are likely to occur in 2001. Meanwhile, rehabilitation and reconstruction after last year's disaster continues.

A new Natural Disaster Mitigation initiative was agreed by the government and donor community in June and follows the Central Province Initiative CPI developed in the aftermath of the 1999 floods. This development marks a new holistic attempt by the government, supported by major donors, such as the World Bank and Asian Development Bank, to address comprehensively the widespread problems caused in the past by uncoordinated development projects.

Disaster Response:

Although not part of the Appeal, the National Society has been involved in a CHF 5.5m disaster response operation in the Mekong Delta provinces (see Appeal and Situation Reports) since late 2000. Rehabilitation and reconstruction work is expected to continue until late 2001.

Institutional and Resource Development:

The Institutional Development programme (now referred to as the Organizational Development programme) is largely supported by the Swedish Red Cross and is adequately funded for 2001.

Objective 1

To strengthen key operational departments of the national headquarters of the Red Cross of Viet Nam (RCVN) so that they can better respond to the needs of provincial chapters.

Activities and Achievements

A strategic planning workshop was held in May 2000 for the social work department (SWD), which includes disaster preparedness managers. This involved key stakeholders from national headquarters and provinces engaged with disaster preparedness and response work. This was seen as a pilot for other departments in RCVN headquarters. The strategic aims for the disaster preparedness programme were developed and further workshops based on this approach need to be held. Ideally these should take place in the run up to the National Congress in August.

Review workshops for the headquarters departments with key stakeholders from the provincial chapters were undertaken, for example, for the disaster response operation in the Mekong. Further reviews for each programme should be held in the future.

In each headquarters department, to a varying extent, the main requirements for development in terms of capacity building for staff, have been identified. For instance, the SWD held a departmental review with the Federation in March. Based on this, staff development needs are being addressed. One example of this is tailor made packages of support, funded by the British Red Cross Society, for disaster preparedness staff.

The delegation encourages participation by RCVN programme officers, department heads and leaders in field visits and workshops to enable closer ties between Red Cross people from the provinces.

Constraints

The following were the main constraints:

- Lack of opportunities to develop comprehensive strategic plans for different sectors and for headquarters.
- A lack of clarity exists over the core work of the Red Cross and the need to develop strategic plans that are owned by the National Society. Such plans are also a prerequisite for a country assistance strategy (CAS). Without such a strategy programming occurs outside core areas and competencies.

Objective 2

To develop a resource development function at headquarters to widen the society's donor base and increase income for recurrent and operational expenditures.

Activities and Achievements

In April, support was provided for the Resource Development/Fundraising Department, through a grant for the rehabilitation of accommodation and a procurement of essential equipment. Two short-term staff were also provided for three months to help the department to start up. Databases of diplomatic contacts and INGOs, developed by the Federation were also transferred to the department.

The Head of Delegation also helped introduce the newly-appointed director to the donor community and the director appeared at several RCVN and Federation-organized events to meet with the media and donors. In June, the department organized the first fundraising event for disabled children which attracted more than 700 people.

A direct mailing system is currently being developed to enable Red Cross 'friends' to be informed of the work of the Society on a regular basis.

Constraints

The following were the main constraints:

- Lack of developed skills among staff generally
- Limited opportunities to forge links with the donor communities directly
- Limited clarity of roles and responsibilities of the department vis-à-vis other programme departments

Objective 3

To strengthen the RCVN's national human resources development function, including its motivation of staff, its promotion of the network of trainers, and its management training and development of personnel within the society.

Activities and Achievements

Salary support to headquarters staff continued for the early part of the year but was stopped because of concerns raised prior to a government inspection. It is unclear if, and when, this support will resume.

Discussions were held concerning the induction of newcomers to the Red Cross, particularly at provincial chapter level. To date, no course has been facilitated although the dissemination department has begun work on material, such as 'The Red Cross Movement'.

The development of trainers at the provincial level has continued, notably in the SW programme, both in community based social work (CBSW) and disaster preparedness. Efforts are being made to ensure that trainers are used and that similar training is undertaken but to date no agreed curriculum for provincial trainers has been established. In the disaster preparedness programme, supported by DIPECHO, 56 provincial trainers from 21 of the most disaster prone provinces were trained in disaster preparedness and adult training methodologies. Another 80 people, from some of the same provinces as well as nine Mekong Delta provinces, are due to complete training in July (supported by DIPECHO and AusAID).

Headquarters managers have received differing levels of support in the key areas of management and programme design. Where delegates/advisors are present in the delegation, such as in disaster preparedness and CBSW, peer level support has been high. Specific training opportunities have also been developed for SW staff. Efforts to tailor training to individual staff needs are underway, supported by several international groups.

Several important visits and exchanges have taken place. The RCVN president travelled to the American Red Cross Society Congress; the under secretary general travelled to Switzerland; the secretary general and director of the international relations department participated in a partnership meeting; the head of disaster management had an exchange visit to the Philippines Red Cross Society; there was a provincial exchange visit to Laos; and there was a meeting with the Cambodian Red Cross Society and government officials concerning disaster management.

Constraints

There was limited financial support available for 'tailoring' training and exchange opportunities for headquarters leadership and staff. There was also a lack of regional support for initiatives.

Objective 4

To support the development of key provincial chapters.

Activities and Achievements

A programme, supported by five European participating national societies (PNS), aimed at branch development in six central provinces, (known as E5/V6) concluded in March. The provincial Red Cross chapters committed to continuing ties between the provinces and to furthering work initiated by the PNS support in the areas of institutional development (ID), CBSW, etc. A liaison office will be established in Hue with support from the Netherlands and Swiss Red Cross Societies, to support bilateral and Federation programmes until mid-2002.

Assistance was given to the RCVN to help prioritise more provinces for branch development programmes and currently three south and central provinces are being considered for support.

Constraints

There were concerns about the sustainability of the programme work initiated in the central provinces following the end of the E5/V6 programme. There is also a need for a RCVN branch development strategy and to ensure lessons from the E5/V6 are institutionalised.

Objective 5

To develop a five year national strategy as part of the follow up to the National Congress of 2000.

Activities and Achievements

In the run up to the National Congress a number of key initiatives were made by headquarters, including a proposal for ID for the next five years developed by the USG (also director of the organizational and personnel department).

Constraints

The delay in the Congress from late 2000 until August 2001 has restricted work in this important area.

Disaster Preparedness:

An increased donor base with five principal donors (DIPECHO, AusAID, UNDP, American Red Cross Society, British Red Cross Society) but also contributions from other PNS (Canadian, Icelandic and Singapore Red Cross Societies) has assured sufficient funding support for 2001-02 although donors will be approached in the third quarter for further funding for 2002-03.

The RCVN has implemented a strategy to build its capacity in disaster preparedness both at headquarters and throughout the country. This programme aims to: help the RCVN to develop its human resources at national, provincial and district levels (particularly in the most disaster prone provinces); strengthen its infrastructure and institutional capacity to respond to disasters; and to improve its performance in risk reduction activities in these areas.

Provincial trainers have trained 4,200 primary school teachers in the last six months using a children's text book, "*An Introduction to Disaster Preparedness for Primary School Children*", developed principally by the Red Cross, in association with the CCFSC/UNDP. These teachers, from about 500 schools in the most disaster prone districts of seven central provinces subsequently taught about 180,000 school children.

At headquarters, staff from the SW department began identifying their own training needs in a specific institutional development activity. This year training in English language and office management was undertaken.

The National Society is also continuing with a major risk reduction programme - the reforestation of coastal areas with mangroves - with support from the Japanese and Danish Red Cross Societies. This programme over the past three years has planted more than 12,000 hectares in eight provinces. Currently, mangroves are being planted in these same northern and central provinces to protect the sea dykes and coastal communities from storms.

Improving material resources for Red Cross offices in disaster prone provinces has continued this year: 15 vehicles were provided to seven central provinces; a VHF radio network was established in the same area; 26 emergency response posts equipped with disaster preparedness/response equipment, etc; and fax machines and computer equipment were procured for Red Cross offices.

Objective 1

To assist the RCVN in the strengthening and improvement of the National Society's disaster preparedness (DP) capacity, both at headquarters and in high risk areas, through human resource development and capacity building.

Activities and Achievements

Following a Strategic Planning Workshop in May 2000, an 'away-day' meeting was organized with the RCVN social work/DP department and Federation delegation in March 2001. The programme's strengths and weaknesses were reviewed as well as requirements for future programme implementation. Activities to achieve the 2000-2003 objectives as well as the training and equipment needs for the department were discussed.

As a consequence, an 18-hour course in office management was organised in June with CFVG (an international management training group) for all social work department staff. Training was planned for each staff member to address specific concerns, for instance, in technical areas, languages, computing, report writing and negotiation skills.

Weaknesses were observed in the Red Cross assessment of humanitarian needs in response to the floods and storms of 1998, 1999 and 2000. To address this, a consultant was hired to develop material suitable for the Red Cross at different levels to enable the society to undertake improved and consistent humanitarian needs assessment. Following a field trip to review practice in three central provinces, material was developed and presented to the RCVN and Federation at a workshop in January. It was then revised, simplified and completed in June.

In January, a five day 'simulation training' which provided an opportunity for newly-appointed provincial trainers to practice their training skills with one another, was held for 29 people selected in 2000 from 12 central and northern provinces. Trainers were divided into two groups and monitored by a team from the SW department, the Federation and the Asian Institute for Technology Centre in Vietnam (AITCV).

A refresher training course was held over two days. Trainers were updated with changes and improvements in the DP manual and also had an opportunity to prepare and agree lesson plans for disaster preparedness training events.

In March, 29 provincial trainers (trained in 1998-2000) trained 100 Red Cross staff from 11 disaster prone provinces during a five day workshop. A team from the Federation, SW department and AITCV monitored the event.

In April, a 'Master Training' course was held for five days for seven of the best provincial trainers. The aim of the course was to enable trainers to teach other trainers. The course was facilitated by AITCV and monitored by representatives from the SW department, and the Federation. Once training was completed these national or central level trainers will be used by the RCVN/Federation to train other provincial trainers.

In May, a three-day pilot training was held in Thanh Hoa province, facilitated by provincial trainers from the chapter, using an improved disaster simulation exercise in a 'field school'. Provincial and district Red Cross staff, as well as representatives from the provincial government's committee for flood and storm control, also attended.

Three two-day selection workshops were held during May and June. A total of 111 participants, nominated by provincial Red Cross chapters, from 21 northern and central provinces and 12 Mekong Delta provinces attended. Seventy-nine were selected for training as provincial trainers. The training will take place over 16 days in July and August.

To prepare for the development of DP material suitable for the commune level, a trip to two central provinces was organized for a community based disaster management (CBDM) consultant and the manager of the disaster management department of the Philippines Red Cross Society. The purpose was to familiarise the team with the situation in Vietnam and to identify training needs and potential risk reduction measures at the 'grassroots level'.

The CBDM consultant will utilise a selection of relevant CBDM material from the ADPC course (that will be translated into Vietnamese) to help develop material to run a 10-day training course in August. The course will be targeted at a core group of national trainers and is planned for mid-August. These trainers will then be in a stronger position to train provincial trainers who will teach people at the commune level, such as Red Cross staff, volunteers and People's Committee members. Once these training courses are completed, other activities, such as VCA, needs assessment, hazard mapping and risk reduction, will be carried out.

In June, a meeting was held with chapter staff and national trainers in Can Tho province and a trip was undertaken to Long An. The key disaster preparedness and response messages that need to be emphasised to people living in the communes in the flood-prone Mekong Delta provinces for the development of material for the film/video: "*Living with the floods*" were discussed.

Most equipment for disaster preparedness centres (DPCs) and chapter and district offices and ERPs was purchased and will be distributed next month - including 318 megaphones, 12 computers/printers, 30 fax machines, water safety equipment, 2,520 lifejackets and 2,520 lifebuoys and 130 throw bags - with support from DIPECHO and the American Red Cross. More information is still needed before some items, such as cameras, resuscitation mannequins and water filter units, are purchased.

For the establishment of a global information system (GIS) for the SW department, contacts were made with some agencies to gather information to identify what will be the most appropriate and useful system for the Red Cross.

Constraints

The following were the main constraints:

- Delays in receiving funding from some donors.
- Strong donor response to the programme increased the workload of Federation/RCVN DP staff considerably.
- Competencies and skills of the staff the SW department need to be developed.
- Staffing shortage at headquarters (no deputy director for the DP/Response section has been appointed and a further two staff are needed to manage the workload).

Objective 2

To assist the RCVN with the development of ongoing, sustainable risk reduction activities.

Activities and Achievements

Vulnerability, capacity, risk and hazard assessment training has not yet started but is planned from September onwards. However, the Federation booklet: “*Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment: A guidebook*” was translated into Vietnamese and will be printed in July for distribution to all provinces.

Risk reduction activities are to be piloted in some selected communes in the third or fourth quarter of the year following the training of Red Cross staff in CBDM. A survey for this activity was initiated in three disaster prone provinces.

Japanese Red Cross Society (JRCS) support (through the Federation) for the reforestation of mangroves in six northern provinces over the last three years continued in 2001. The programme diversified with increased emphasis on capacity building, public awareness, advocacy and disaster preparedness for school children. An exchange, a regular part of the programme, took place with a group of Japanese supporters of the programme visiting the mangrove plantation. More emphasis was placed on improving the material resources of the disaster prone provinces engaged with the programme through the procurement of equipment such as computers and fax machines.

Significant steps toward integration with the bilateral Danish Red Cross Society mangrove reforestation programme (undertaken in two other northern provinces) took place based on strong recommendations in external evaluations of both the JRCS-supported and the DRCS programmes.

Constraints

The engagement of key staff of the Federation, SW department, and in the provinces in disaster response operations also forced delays in training and implementation of other aspects of the disaster preparedness programme.

Health and Care:

The social welfare and disability programmes are supported by a number of key partners including the Swedish, Swiss and American Red Cross Societies. To date there is an under spend in the disability programme as it develops its direction and apportions resources to various projects.

1. Social Welfare Programme

The purpose of the community based social work (CBSW) project is to strengthen the capacity of the RCVN in social work skills and methods to improve its response to the needs of the most vulnerable and

disadvantaged groups in Vietnam: It also aims to promote self-reliance in such communities. This is a capacity building project to strengthen the RCVN at all levels, including human resources, programmes and organization.

The main purpose of the disability project is to improve the living conditions of poor and disadvantaged people suffering from severe disabilities and health problems. The project also aims to help strengthen the RCVN's capacity to develop sustainable models and activities in response to the needs of beneficiaries.

The first half of 2001 has been successful for RCVN and has shown that the programme is ready to be implemented more extensively and that theory can be turned into practice.

Headquarters capacity has increased dramatically. The SW department has had two permanent staff assigned to work with the programme in addition to two United Nations Volunteer positions. This brings the number of people working directly with the SW programme to five (six including the director of the department). The training department has one new permanent staff member and one United Nations position (the UNV contracts will finish in April 2002). The increased capacity can not only be seen in terms of more staff, but also social work knowledge, skills, working style and added confidence in this field. This is shown daily where social work methods and a modern management style are increasingly used at headquarters. All this has contributed to the success of the programme in the first six months of 2001, leading to an increase in the number of activities.

The full cycle of training has been completed giving the RCVN and Federation a wealth of experience and opportunities to learn and further refine and develop the programme. Feedback has led to the formation of plans to produce a grassroots manual to meet the resource needs of provincial trainers and district and commune participants. A number of meetings have taken place, where the provinces have invited headquarters and Federation staff to discuss the design of a grassroots curriculum and the application of active teaching methods. A workshop was planned in July to review pilot grassroots training. Provinces are now taking a leading role in the process to further implement the CBSW programme. Headquarters tends to play a supporting, facilitating and coordinating role.

The Federation team has actively supported key departments at RCVN to strengthen the capacity to manage and implement this programme. Constructive and collaborative working relationships have been established with the social services department, making it easy to provide technical advice, support and encouragement. Some technical assistance has also been provided to the training and dissemination department, whose role is important to the success of the CBSW programme. Until recently this department has been understaffed. Staffing has now increased, but is still limited. UNV and the Federation has helped to promote strengthening of this department, which will hopefully serve as a focal point for all training of RCVN. During this period, the training and dissemination department has developed a programme to strengthen its capacity and skills. A needs assessment of Red Cross workers and volunteers has been conducted. The department is now developing strategies to meet these needs and is committed to introduce participatory training in all RCVN teaching.

Increasing the capacity of district and grassroots levels is the primary aim of the CBSW programme. Training this year has revealed a strong need for training at the grass roots level but also that many Red Cross volunteers have a clear idea of the need for sustainable development and a practice-based knowledge of social work principles. Volunteers respond positively to training as it provides the language and framework for ideas they may already hold. Social work principles of bottom-up community development are in many ways more challenging to implement at provincial and headquarters levels. Changes in working styles and attitudes at these levels are seen as strong indicators of the success of the programme.

Challenges ahead include the finalization of practical resources. The social work manual, written by RCVN headquarters representatives, proved to be more useful and appropriate to Red Cross than the first

manual written by Vietnamese experts at the beginning of the programme. However, the RCVN manual still does not meet the practical needs for resources. Therefore, RCVN, with assistance from the Federation, will speed up this work.

Another challenge is the need to retain, or even increase, human resources capacity. With an expansion of the programme, the headquarters role to support and guide provinces, coordinate programme activities and further develop different components of the programme will be crucial. The UNVs have provided invaluable support to the programme, both to the RCVN key departments involved as well as the Federation. RCVN and the Federation will explore continued cooperation with UNDP/UNV and also look at other options.

If the programme has had positive results vertically, there is still room for development horizontally. Social work methods and approach could serve as a basis virtually all Red Cross activities. However, cooperation, coordination and sharing between the different programmes at headquarters level, as well as between partners (Federation/PNSs) is still very limited. More effort will have to be made in this area.

The Federation team has worked closely with the RCVN. It is a constructive partnership with a clear division of roles, RCVN has a managing and implementing role, and the Federation an assisting and facilitating role. As part of the transition process where Federation/partners are gradually withdrawing in terms of technical support, assistance to staff development will be intensified in the coming years. This includes advanced studies and further development in the social work field as well as transfer of skills related to donor relations and coordination, planning and reporting and development of fundraising strategies.

Federation support for the RCVN has followed closely the social work principles that the CBSW programme promotes. While working closely with RCVN and participating in working groups, care is taken not to push for action beyond the capacity of the society. This has meant that some activities in the early stages were delayed for up to years. This approach, though, has resulted in success in the long term. RCVN has only implemented activities when they have had the capacity and confidence to do so. As a result, training and other activities over the last six months have been owned by the department and have reflected a sound understanding of the principles and methods of social work, boosting the chances of sustainability.

Lessons learnt

- Changing attitudes, traditional working styles and methods in any organization takes time. Social work as a concept as well as the active use of participatory and “bottom-up” methods are still new in Vietnam. As such, the speed of the programme has not been pushed, and the focus is on quality and behaviour rather than quick results. The Federation and partners can only advise. The RCVN is the programme owner and will decide on speed of implementation. The RCVN’s capacity and readiness to adapt will determine the level of success. The Federation’s assistance strategy will also have to be patient and have a long-term commitment.
- Headquarters staff are aware of the need to consider the long term sustainability of the CBSW programme with regards to training. There is an appreciation of the time and skills required to conduct effective active training and headquarters is now developing plans to train core trainers to ensure a pool of experience.
- Staff in the SW and training departments are demonstrating increased awareness and understanding of participatory social work principles as they experience the cycle of training and are exposed to feedback from participants.
- Headquarters is becoming more accessible to provincial and district levels. headquarters staff have monitored training and attended meetings in the four northern provinces who took part in the first

pilot training of trainers. This hands-on support has been appreciated by the provinces and has given headquarters the opportunity to gain more understanding of the issues faced at the local level.

Objective 1

To raise awareness and increase the understanding about social work methods within RCVN nationwide to create opportunities for more effective and sustainable responses to social needs.

Activities and Achievements

Between January and June 2001 three introductory (Basic) social work training courses in three provinces (Hoa Binh, Binh Thuan and Son La), were conducted bringing the total of provinces that have received basic training to 36. Each training course had approximately 30 participants. Feedback through course evaluations continues to be positive. However, it has been necessary to evaluate the structure, content and plan for these courses to ensure that the three levels of training are integrated and that each builds on the preceding level. Feedback from participants in the training of trainers (ToT) and grassroots training workshops have indicated that some adjustments might be needed. A review of the basic training programme is being undertaken. A plan has been developed and a review is scheduled for July and August.

Constraints

Finding trainers with the depth of knowledge and experience required to facilitate social work training has been a challenge in all CBSW programme training. Many of the trainers are external consultants. The RCVN is in the process of developing advanced training for provincial and headquarters trainers who will be able to work as facilitators in the basic training courses.

Objective 2

To build the capacity in each province by training key persons in a nationwide network of skilled Red Cross workers.

Activities and achievements

A second pilot ToT was held in March and April in Ho Chi Minh City for four southern provinces (Ho Chi Minh City, Can Tho, Vinh Long and Long Anh). This second ToT saw significant changes in management, content and approach. Feedback from the first ToT in November 2000 indicated a need for more practical content and less theory, more opportunities for participants to practice, and a stronger holistic progression of learning to build on social work principles. Feedback indicated that the second ToT was largely successful.

A preparatory ToT (II) workshop was held in March 2000. The workshop proved to be constructive and contributed to a more integrated curriculum for the course. Positive relationships with external facilitators and RCVN and the Federation (including UNVs) were cemented, and a stronger team creativity and responsibility was engendered.

Feedback from the first ToT participants who are now conducting grassroots training, has indicated that while training is difficult, all trainers are finding it rewarding. Many stated that their confidence has grown, their skills in training have developed significantly and they are experiencing greater job satisfaction.

In keeping with participatory social work principles, the selection procedures for candidates for the ToT has been left to the RCVN, and more specifically to the provinces. Despite initial concerns that people would be selected to attend on the basis of position rather than aptitude, the reality has been different. Participants at both ToTs have been appropriate. As all training programmes have different methods to select participants, it is worth mentioning that this inexpensive and simple method has proved workable.

Constraints

The lack of suitable qualified facilitators is again a constraint. Several external consultants from the southern provinces facilitated much of the second ToT. The lack of facilitators in the northern provinces is an ongoing concern for the RCVN and Federation. The RCVN has longer term plans to address this through advanced training for selected staff. The Red Cross manual used in the ToT training has proved to be too theoretical and scientific. To overcome this facilitators have developed their own curriculum.

Objective 3

To strengthen local Red Cross work by implementing grassroots level training carried out by provincial trainers and resource persons.

Activities and achievements

Grassroots training, the last link in the chain has commenced with the four northern provinces, which took part in the first pilot. Each of these provinces has conducted at least two sessions. Feedback from participants, who are Red Cross staff and volunteers providing services for people in disadvantaged circumstance, is positive. For most, it is the first Red Cross training they have participated in. Social work training helps meet the need of Red Cross staff and volunteers in skills and methods to work with disadvantaged people. It also provides an understanding of the concept of participatory methods, how to support people in effective ways, how to develop sustainable activities and an overview of development principles for Red Cross work in communities.

The grassroots SW training has drawn many valuable lessons about training activities as well as contribute to the management skills of the RCVN headquarters by providing an opportunity to learn how they can best support the Red Cross at provincial level. The grassroots training also provides an opportunity to strengthen the working relationship between the province, district and grassroots RC.

The need to develop a practical grassroots level manual has been demonstrated through the experiences of the provincial trainers. This is something that Red Cross staff and volunteers at local level have requested for a long time. The reason for this is that social work for some time has been on a theoretical and scientific level, resulting in manuals that are not practical. However, this is now changing and the readiness to produce the resources needed has increased. A plan for the development of a local level manual has already been established and work on this has started.

Constraints

The major area of difficulty in the implementation of grassroots training has been the lack of practical resources. Trainers have reported difficulty in translating the lessons from the ToT into a simpler, shorter format for the grassroots level. Meetings with provinces before and after grassroots training has helped them develop lesson plans. Workshops for grassroots trainers are planned to facilitate sharing and mutual learning.

Objective 4

To support the RCVN personnel in applying social work skills and methods in their activities and projects.

Activities and achievements

Community development is a new field of work for RCVN. This has resulted in some difficulties and delays but has also provided an opportunity to apply social work skills in a new field. The RCVN's social work teams, the Federation and the UNV have joined in a working group to look at a number of issues related to project development and the application of community development and social work practices. With support of this working group, the social services department has achieved the following:

- Development of a system for the consistent screening and assessment of project proposals based on community development principles.

- Design of practical guidelines for project development. The first version has been distributed to provinces for field testing.
- Feedback and guidance to the provinces. The social services department has become more active in supporting provinces that have submitted proposals that require some modification. In the past, provinces that submitted proposals that were not approved normally received no response from HQ. This is changing, with headquarters providing guidance to help provinces develop activities and write project documents.
- Ideas on how to support provinces who do not have sufficient knowledge and capacity in project development and or writing their own proposals. This marks a more proactive approach and a change in the relationship headquarters has towards provincial chapters. Social services is beginning to take on a guiding and facilitating role, offering technical assistance and support to provinces. This is a result of the department being more confident and skilled.
- Issues of child labour, gender equity and sustainability are now considered in the assessment and evaluation of all small-scale projects. These fields also could be seen as future training needs.
- HQ is becoming increasingly aware of the limits of its capacity to monitor and evaluate large numbers of small-scale projects. Plans to creatively address this will be discussed over the next six months.

The RCVN, with assistance from the Federation, has screened approximately 40 project proposals from a number of provinces. It has provided an opportunity to test and discuss application of project development and social work methods. Six of these projects will be implemented in the coming months. Other projects will need further support, and strategies for this will be addressed in the next six months.

Constraints

Community development is relatively new to the RCVN. Evaluating projects based on community development principles has required the acquisition of new skills and working methodologies. This is inevitably a slow process. Training has been held to facilitate this learning.

Objective 5

To develop and produce social work manuals, guidelines, training material and practical tools to guide staff and volunteers in their work.

Activities and Achievements

The development of a grassroots manual is a top priority. Headquarters has only recently gained an awareness of the importance of a practical grassroots manual. This is a significant achievement and example of the growth of the department through the CBSW programme.

The RCVN training dissemination and youth department has responsibility for developing the manual. A working group has been formed and plans made to develop the manual through collaboration with provinces that have had the ToT programme as well as grassroots participants. This is a dramatic shift in methodology from the original social work manual. If plans are carried out, the resultant manual will be an example of the long term changes forged through the programme.

The RCVN manual produced last year will be revised after feedback and field testing in the pilot ToTs. This manual will continue to serve as a general handbook that can be used in training as well as reference material.

Guidelines for evaluating small-scale projects have been developed by the working group. Work on a leaflet on social work activities has started but has been delayed because of other demands of the programme.

A number of resources have been collected and translated into Vietnamese. Some reference material has been distributed to provinces.

Constraints

As stated the social work resources developed by RCVN have proved to be too academic. A participatory plan for the development of a grassroots handbook has been instigated.

Objective 6

To promote inter organization communication and participatory approaches to all Red Cross work.

Activities and Achievements

Inter-departmental meetings and consultation have increased during 2001. Perhaps the greatest achievements have been in the ongoing changes in approach and attitude of staff in the social services and training/dissemination departments. The establishment of working groups has supported the sharing of ideas, shown the benefits of teamwork and has complemented traditional and more formal working methods.

Staff from the social services department participated in the provincial disability training arranged by the RCVN agent orange victims fund. On the initiative of the training and dissemination departments the health department facilitated a participatory rural appraisal (PRA) training for several staff members of different departments at headquarters.

Communication and information sharing between different RCVN programmes and departments is increasing. Moreover representatives of the Federation and bilateral national societies have addressed the need to promote a coordinated approach and avoid duplication. The development of a country assistance strategy (CAS) will provide a good opportunity for partners of the RCVN to sit down together to review the assistance strategy and explore new ways of cooperation.

Constraints

The communication between the RCVN departments is developing slowly.

2. Disability project

The overall aim of the programme is to assist and improve the living conditions of many vulnerable and poor disabled and/or chronically ill people (and their families) in Vietnam.

The Federation assistance aims to help strengthen RCVN capacity to work with this group and to assist RCVN to develop and implement the programme. The intention is to apply development and participatory methods similar to those being used in other RCVN programmes, especially the community based social work programme, to ensure development of sustainable and long-term assistance. A community-based approach and the active involvement of beneficiaries and the local Red Cross is needed.

With the approval of the government of Vietnam in April 2001, the RCVN has been eager to support people with disabilities. Trips have been made to the pilot Red Cross provinces to assess beneficiary needs and to discuss activities. Training has been organized to provide the concepts and skills needed for local Red Cross to understand the needs of the disabled and to help local Red Cross staff design appropriate activities. The RCVN disability programme is funded by the American Red Cross, the Swiss Red Cross, and the Ford Foundation.

External experts have been used to assess the potential for agricultural and animal husbandry activities, making a platform for income generation projects. The Red Cross is also strengthening its relationship with other mass organizations and contacts in the health sector to provide better services to beneficiaries. The Red Cross is enthusiastic about this programme.

Cooperation with ICRC has started in Da Nang (one of the pilot provinces) where initial discussions concerned orthopaedic rehabilitation and the provision of prosthesis.

An American consultant, with extensive experience of working in Vietnam and a background in anthropology, information and teaching, has been hired for two months. She has interviewed a number of beneficiary families as well as local Red Cross members. The purpose of her assignment is to help create a better understanding of the situation of these families and let their voices be heard. It is hoped that the new information will show the strengths and achievements of these families, highlight their description and understanding of the situation as well as what kind of assistance they need. The documentation could also serve as basis for training and raising awareness, dissemination, and fundraising. The consultant's report should be ready by September 2001.

The Federation has two priorities: firstly, to support the RCVN in developing strategic activities using a participatory grassroots approach; and, secondly, to support the RCVN in service delivery to the disabled. Developing sustainable programmes for people with disabilities is a new area for RCVN. To develop such programmes and to shift from traditional charity work requires a significant investment in time and human resources.

The delegation is also working to identify further opportunities for RCVN to receive training in development and disability and to promote relationship building with other organizations working in these fields. There is now an additional international delegate to help support the activities of the disability programme (two-year contract).

The needs of beneficiaries are many and may be described generally as assistance to improve the living conditions of disabled people and their families. Support may include helping with initial relief, such as support for food, clothing, beds, and basic family appliances. It may also take the form of improving the housing situation and support for income generation to help the disabled person and their family on a day to day basis. Health needs may also be addressed including medical examinations and treatments, home-based care, physical rehabilitation and surgery. There is also a range of psychological, social, and developmental needs. Psychological/emotional support, including basic counselling, can be provided to children and adults with disabilities and to their families.

To enhance the ability and skills of Red Cross workers to provide effective services to people with disabilities, proper support and training should be provided at all levels to the RCVN. This could include training which focuses on the disability area and includes raising awareness to understand and meet the needs, basic counselling and psychological support, home-based care, improving communication and perhaps use of the mass media. Training could also include enhancing the understanding and use of counselling and development principles, a grassroots participatory approach and a focus on methods and techniques for developing social activities for the disabled in their home communities.

The delegation is supporting RCVN in coordinating internal training resources, and external existing resources such as mobility aids, training and exchanging workshop opportunity, making sure experience and capacities are used to contribute to programmes.

Objective 1

Complementary community survey and need assessment will be conducted to give a full picture on the needs of beneficiaries and community (including Red Cross sector).

Activities and achievements

Beneficiary selection procedures/standards continue to be refined. Red Cross provinces have collected lists/background information about potential beneficiaries. Some 193 people with disabilities have been identified for different types of physical rehabilitation: surgery, prosthesis, orthopaedy and mobility aids. The first contact has been established with the local health sector to establish the collaboration between the Red Cross and health department in providing treatment and surgical rehabilitation. The outcomes are positive. In most provinces, the local health department can provide facilities at low cost and can contribute staff to assist the medical intervention. Exchange training with top physical rehabilitation experts has been planned, providing opportunities for local rehabilitation doctors to share and learn with medical experts. This is effectively building long-term human resources.

Another activity in this initial period was to explore the local institutions available for vocational or literacy training for children with disability. Several services already exist that provide vocational training and charity classes for such children.

An initial needs assessment to better understand the need for agriculture/husbandry type projects for income generation was carried out. Whilst the assessment confirmed that support for improving the family's living standards is a priority, it demonstrated that Red Cross staff already have a first-hand knowledge of potential beneficiaries.

Objective 2

Design appropriate response and provide assistance.

Activities and Achievements

Some initial relief including repair to roofs of homes has taken place. Planning for surgery training and actual surgery has also been carried out. A number of wheelchairs have also been provided.

The RCVN continues to review and assess the proposals prepared by the provinces. Practical information regarding costs/procedures is being collected and analyzed by the provincial Red Cross. A number of activities are being implemented in the seven provinces involved in programme. Information from the surgical work in the southern provinces (funded by the Ford Foundation) is being used to pilot methods for medical aspects of the programme.

The RCVN is working to ensure that all government regulations and standards are met. Red Cross provinces coordinate closely with the People's Committee to cement cooperation. Meanwhile, the RCVN has obtained government approval for the programme to proceed at the provincial level. The time needed to obtain this approval has influenced the level of programme expenditure (under spent during this quarter).

Constraints

The time taken to get approval from the government and to do a thorough needs assessment has delayed programme implementation.

Objective 3

To develop guidelines and leaflets for RCVN staff and volunteers working with the disabled, as well as for beneficiary families.

Activities and achievements

General background information and experience gathering has taken place. Since the programme is in a pilot stage, new information can be incorporated.

Objective 4

To strengthen RCVN's capacity to work with the disabled in an efficient and participatory way.

Activities and achievements

The RCVN has transferred initial funds to the seven provinces. Provincial level staff have been selected to have primary responsibility for assisting with the disability programme.

Training in awareness raising concerning people with disabilities has been provided in the Ha Nam province for 30 local Red Cross staff. This training brought new concepts including seeing people with disabilities in a positive light. The training stressed the strengths of people with disabilities and how to better understand their needs. It also helped Red Cross staff think about how to develop sustainable activities to support people with disabilities. Further training is scheduled for the next six months.

The profile of the RCVN in the province had been raised through participation in the disability programme. Provinces are motivated to participate and have gained confidence in their service delivery ability.

Constraints

The disability programme is still in its initial phase of providing some relief and mapping out the development phase. Some early lessons have already been learnt:

- The programme can help the provincial Red Cross develop their skills and abilities in providing assistance to the disabled in their own communities. Red Cross staff/volunteers develop their own skills through training and are better able to meet the needs of the disabled.
- The programme can help raise awareness about Red Cross activities with the general public, mass organizations, and other agencies.
- The programme focuses support to the poor and disabled including those who could have been affected by Agent Orange. The Red Cross can play a leadership role in care and support of this vulnerable part of the population.
- The broad scope of the programme makes great demands on its leaders and coordinators. It must ensure that the RCVN and Red Cross provinces receive sufficient resources, training, and support to effectively manage the programme. Training can also include project management and design skills. Periodic project review can lead to adjustments in resource allocation. Positive results from the pilot phases may enable Red Cross to raise funds more effectively by demonstrating successful programmes to the public and community.
- The programme should continue to explore opportunities to integrate and build on other RCVN activities including training, social work, capacity building, and disaster preparedness. The programme provides an opportunity to strengthen and examine the working relationship between RCVN and Red Cross provinces. Consideration should be given to developing channels and methods of communication, information sharing, and reporting. It is important for RCVN and the delegation to continue to work together to set priorities for activities.
- Attention should be paid to the emotional, psychological, and social needs of the disabled. To ensure that people with disabilities are receiving the best possible support, the programme should incorporate activities, planning, training, and skill building to specific physical needs as well as to the overall developmental concerns of the disabled individuals and their families.

Regional Cooperation:

While not part of the Appeal, the delegation has been active in engaging with the action research work being pioneered in the region and led by the regional office.

Coordination and Management:

With hard pledges the budget is approximately 50 per cent funded for 2001. Further contributions are requested.

The RCVN National Congress is set for early August, having been postponed from December 2000. This will review progress over the past five years and develop strategies for the next five years. The Congress will also elect new leadership for key departments and the Standing Board. This is highly significant and will influence how the National Society develops.

At the provincial and district levels local, congresses were held and brought changes in leadership of many chapters. Whilst retaining many Red Cross staff new recruits were welcomed to the society. In all programme sectors the focus has been on development of human and material resources supported by a wide range of PNS and other major donors.

New partnership relationships are being developed, particularly with the American, Australian and Spanish Red Cross Societies and the established ties with the Swiss, Netherlands and Norwegian Red Cross Societies are evolving to support, for instance in further branch development.

Objective 1

To coordinate development and relief assistance to the RCVN provided through the Movement.

Activities and achievements

The development of an inclusive Country Assistance Strategy to ensure engagement and above all, ownership of the Strategy, by the National Society is essential. Discussions have taken place with the Standing Board and directors/staff of departments. Tentative plans are being developed to ensure that workshops are undertaken to discuss the strategy for each programme sector. These meetings will take place in August/September after the National Congress.

Support from the regional delegation and established bilateral links between sister societies will help ensure that the CAS reflects a more 'regional feel'.

Constraints

The main constraints were:

- The Federation is still seen as a donor by some in the RCVN which leads to dependence on the delegation, for example, in the area of external relations. This has put some managers within the society in a 'comfortable' position, whilst the Federation undertakes this important work.
- Limited opportunities have been made to engage a wide audience within the RCVN in the development and 'ownership' of the CAS process.
- The forthcoming National Congress could distract RCVN leadership/staff from full engagement in the development of a CAS

Objective 2

To assure donors that the funds contributed to programmes of the RCVN are effectively targeted and efficiently used.

Activities and achievements

Challenges still remain to get standard reporting formats adopted both at the headquarters and provincial level and to ensure the timeliness of reporting. The need to ensure that the narrative and financial aspects of the reports are consistent is also recognized.

While no new appeals have been developed (either for disaster response nor the Appeal 2002-2003), progress has been made to ensure a better understanding by relevant 'stakeholders' within the National Society of the Appeal processes and to ensure both engagement and ownership of these processes (this included a visit from the Bangkok planning and funding unit). This has already developed a clearer

understanding of the importance of timely reporting to the donor community. Past appeals for disaster response and disaster preparedness were successful.

The reporting by the Federation delegation to donors has not been a strengths. This has been a ‘casualty’ of major programme work, for example in disaster response, the Mekong flood response operations (CHF 5.5 million) engaged Federation and National Society staff in a complex relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction programme for more than 50,000 households over 10 months. While a tremendous amount was achieved on the ground this was not reflected well in the lateness of certain donor reports. This weakness is known and being addressed through the support of a technical advisor from the regional office (see below).

The delegation will also improve financial monitoring and reporting of the National Society’s finance department through a finance and development delegate (to replace the finance and administration delegate in September) and the hire of a national finance programme officer in July.

The delegation has continued to support the social work, disaster preparedness and disaster response programmes in narrative reporting to donors.

Constraints

The main constraints were:

- The lack of experience and capacity of RCVN staff in timely, comprehensive report writing for donors
- Challenges remain in the finance department at national headquarters in terms of timeliness of financial reports, cash transfers and general accounting practice; much has been addressed (eg equipment) but staff training and specialist, appropriate software remain major issues both at headquarters and the provincial level.
- The Federation needs to gradually transfer the task of writing different programme donor reports to the RCVN. Awareness about this responsibility should be now raised in a systematic way for RCVN managers, firstly at the national headquarters.

Objective 3

To promote the work of the RCVN and its sister societies among the donor community in Vietnam, and among the domestic/international audiences of the participating societies.

Activities & Achievements

The work of the RCVN has continued to be promoted in the domestic media through established contacts with the Vietnamese, French and English language newspapers.

It is important to stress that the Red Cross (both Federation Delegation and the RCVN) has become the first to provide information to the media in many cases and thus, has won their trust. This reflects the effectiveness of information collection from the grassroots level, and a result of good networking, as well as investment in skills and equipment.

Outside times of disaster, the RCVN though its own networks achieves regular media coverage of its ongoing activities, notably in disability programmes. Less well documented are other aspects of the Red Cross work that are perhaps less newsworthy but nonetheless provide support to many vulnerable households. However, the Federation has helped to secure visibility of several programmes. For example, the receipt of Ford and Toyota vehicles donated from the American Red Cross received widespread coverage.

Renewed efforts have been made by the Federation to support the National Society in its approaches to the government to improve the status of the society. The issue is now back on the agenda although more high level advocacy is still required.

The visit of the Federation's director of programme coordination in early April provided an opportunity to meet the deputy prime minister, Pham Gia Khiem. The involvement of the deputy PM in the visit and past RCVN events indicates the level of interest from the leadership of the country in the Red Cross.

Continued support has been provided to the international relations department, and the newly-created fundraising department, through the provision of essential equipment and short-term national staff .

Constraints

The main constraints were:

- Opportunities for dialogue between the leadership and donor community (diplomatic, international companies, PNS's and major donors) need to be improved through the Federation acting as a bridge between the National Society and the donors and helping National Society staff form links.
- Facing increasing requests for visibility from donors, the RCVN needs to be further assisted with public relations. Given available PR resources (the RCVN Humanity Magazine/TV and the department for dissemination), coordination and discussion about how to help these work more effectively are required. For example, more opportunities should be created to help reporters get along to different programmes, e.g. review meetings. Financial constraints sometimes limit this but there is a need to increase communication about key events.

Objective 4

To raise funds for RCVN operations.

Activities and achievements

The most noticeable achievement is the establishment of the fundraising department at headquarters. This new department received help for renovations to accommodation, essential equipment as well as support for short-term staff. The department currently has a full-time director and one staff member.

The established links with the donor community and other major donors achieved success in response to the Mekong flood Appeal. However, other funding was secured through the established reputation of the RCVN. For example, UNDP provided USD 250,000 for disaster preparedness in the central provinces largely through their knowledge and respect for the established National Society disaster preparedness programme. Similarly AusAID provided funding support over two years for disaster preparedness for the 12 Mekong Delta provinces. A recent review visit by ECHO/DIPECHO representatives resulted in a more favourable picture being developed of the National Society and the scale of the disaster preparedness programme being undertaken.

The National Society enjoys a high profile largely because of its good reputation in implementing disaster response operations. The diplomatic community, through the efforts of the delegation, has a positive outlook on the Society because of such activities as the reconstruction programme over the past few years. This has also enabled a deeper understanding of the Society's work. The transparent approach has been well received and the delegation has encouraged National Society leaders in their willingness to outline both strengths and achievements as well as weaknesses and what is being done to overcome these.

The Ford Foundation has recently provided support for the Hanoi chapter to train taxi drivers in first aid. The relationship was established after Ford vehicles were bought for use in the central provinces with American Red Cross support.

BHP, the Red Cross's partner for its housing programme, has provided support to publish the RCVN "*First Aid in the Workplace Manual*" as well as toward the cost of a new warehouse for the RCVN in Hanoi (scheduled for the next quarter).

A greater effort has to be made by the delegation to ensure that these relationships - with the diplomatic community, major donors and international companies - are forged with the National Society and become less reliant upon the Federation presence.

Constraints

Increased support by the Federation for the resource development department of the RCVN to raise funds, once the Federation Delegation scales down, is required. An understanding of fundraising methodology, management, donor requirements, financial mechanisms is also needed.

Objective 5

To provide on the spot support and counsel to the capacity building programme of the RCVN.

Activities and achievements

Regular meetings by the Head of Delegation with members of the National Society Standing Board and leadership have enabled better understanding of the human and material resource development needs of the Society in the different sectors.

Delegates with their National Society counterparts have continued dialogue on capacity building. Each programme has invested in capacity building of staff, both at headquarters and provincial level. Much has been accomplished through “peer” support but also through exchange visits, various training undertaken by the different programmes (*for further details see specific programme sectors above*).

Federation Delegation:

The delegation comprises a team of five delegates: Head of Delegation, finance and administration, disaster preparedness, an American Red Cross representative, and a programme coordinator (in the representative office in Ho Chi Minh City) and one locally recruited advisor (for social work and disability). There are eight national programme officers. A new Head of Delegation is expected in early August 2001.

Monitoring and evaluation:

During the last six months there was one formal evaluation of the mangrove reforestation programme supported by the Federation through the Japanese Red Cross Society. The following evaluations are planned in the next six months:

- July - internal review of the Mekong flood operation (six Mekong delta provinces).
- July – external review of the Red Cross regional response to the Mekong flood response operation (Viet Nam, Laos and Cambodia).
- Mid-term review of CBSW programme.
- November – external evaluation of the RCVN DP programme.

Monitoring of all training and other SW programme activities in the last six months has been undertaken by a joint team from the RCVN SW Department and the Federation. In some cases facilitators from, for example, AITCV, were also involved.

A summary of expenditure against budget, including variances and explanations must be presented here.

Outstanding needs:

Further financial support for the management and coordination budget is required. However, the solid donor base means that the programmes have adequate funds pledged for the remainder of 2001. Given the

arrival of the new Head of Delegation in August, there are no outstanding human resource requirements for the delegation.

Plans for the next quarter:

Institutional and Resource Development

- ◆ Follow-up to the National Congress: principally “induction/exposure trips for senior leadership
- ◆ Development of strategic plans and CAS with NHQ/other key stakeholders
- ◆ Further developmental support for the Resource Development/Fundraising Dept.,
- ◆ Planning for and implementation of training for newly appointed chapter staff (viz. Red Cross Movement, etc.)

Disaster Preparedness

- ◆ July – the director and one programme officer of the RCVN social work dept., (that includes both social work and DP/disaster response) and one Federation DP PO attend the 10-day community based disaster management course at ADPC, Bangkok
- ◆ July onwards – training for staff of the SW dept.,
- ◆ July - a six-day training course for 79 provincial trainers in adult learning/ participatory methodology-training workshop (supported by two independent training consultants) facilitated by 10 RCVN national trainers
- ◆ July - a five-day training workshop for 79 provincial trainers in the RCVN DP manual facilitated by 10 RCVN national trainers
- ◆ August onwards - specific risk reduction activities in selected communes in three disaster prone provinces will be identified in discussion with communities, local Red Cross and authorities
- ◆ August – two-day training in humanitarian needs assessment for Red Cross staff at the different levels
- ◆ August – 10-day CBDM training (facilitated by CBDM consultant and ADPC trainers) for Red Cross national trainers
- ◆ September - five-day “simulation training workshop” (an opportunity for newly appointed provincial trainers to practice their training skills) supported by two independent training consultants
- ◆ August/September - five-day DP manual training workshops in 30 provinces for Red Cross staff from provincial and district chapters and disaster preparedness centres
- ◆ July/August - Film/video: “Living with the floods” developed for the Mekong Delta
- ◆ August/September - Water rescue and first aid training for Red Cross staff and volunteers will be organized in five provinces that have river/sea rescue stations
- ◆ August onwards – “Field School” training (disaster response simulation exercise) in disaster prone provinces

Health and Care in the Community

- ◆ Two ToT courses
- ◆ 50 grassroots training
- ◆ Two post-ToT workshops to share experience re: grassroots training
- ◆ Two basic social work training support for three-four small scale projects
- ◆ Specific support to three poor mountainous provinces to develop and implement small scale community development projects
- ◆ Mid-term evaluation of the CBSW programme
- ◆ Development of grassroots manual

- ◆ CBSW pamphlet
- ◆ Three packages of awareness-raising training for disability and project development
- ◆ Basic social work training for HQ
- ◆ Advanced social work training for national RCVN trainers

Coordination and Management

- ◆ August - one technical advisor for the regional delegation's planning and reporting team will be based in Hanoi (aside from regional support to other National Societies, the advisor will have specific country functions to assist the delegation and RCVN in planning and reporting)
- ◆ August–October - RCVN finance department received support from the Federation for the procurement of more computers, etc. Suitable finance software has been identified and will be installed at the NHQ and provincial level
- ◆ Discussions between the Ministry of Finance (in particular AIDRECEP, the part of MoF that deals with ODA) and the RCVN aimed at helping the society improve its human and material resource capacity were undertaken (in part facilitated by the Federation). AIDRECEP offered to send a team to work alongside the finance dept. to help improve and develop its financial management systems (possibly after August)

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All International Federation Operations seek to adhere to the Code of Conduct and are committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (SPHERE Project) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

For further information concerning Federation operations in this or other countries, please access the Federation website at <http://www.ifrc.org>.

Peter Rees-Gildea
Head a.i.
Relationship Management Department

Hiroshi Higashuira
Head
Asia and Pacific Department

Vietnam						ANNEX 1
APPEAL No. 01.46/2001		PLEDGES RECEIVED				20.07.2001
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
CASH						
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				3'252'399		TOTAL COVERAGE 61.1%
CASH CARRIED FORWARD				568'813		
AUSTRALIAN - GOVT		288'861	AUD	249'894	30.05.2001	DISASTER PREPAREDNESS
JAPAN - RC		382'895	USD	655'976	24.05.2001	NAT. COORD. & VNRC MANGROVE PROJECT.
NEW ZEALAND - RC		1'860	NZD	1'372	28.05.2001	NATIONAL COORDINATION
SWEDISH - RC		217'500	SEK	37'780	07.03.01	INSTITUTIONAL & RESOURCE DEV.
SWEDISH - RC		325'000	SEK	56'453	07.03.01	BASED SOCIAL WORK PROG.
SWEDISH - RC		82'500	SEK	14'330	07.03.01	COORDINATION & MANAGEMENT
SWEDISH - GOVT		662'500	SEK	109'946	21.05.2001	INSTITUTIONAL & RESOURCE DEV.
SWEDISH - RC		775'000	SEK	131'188	21.05.2001	COMMUNITY BASED SOCIAL WORK
SWEDISH - GOVT/RC		247'500	SEK	41'704	21.05.2001	COORDINATION & MANAGEMENT
SWISS - RC				30'000	13.03.01	AGENT ORGANGE, DISABLED PERSONS IN PROVINCE OF QUANG-NAM
UNDP/UNV		7'000	USD	11'396	30.01.01	COMMUNITY BASED DISABILITY PROGRAMME
VIETNAM - FORD FOUNDATION		3'600	USD	5'861	13.02.01	DIRECTLY TO THE FIELD
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				1'914'713	CHF	58.9%
KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
Finland	Delegate(s)			39'918		
SWEDISH - RC		200'000	SEK	33'100	21.05.2001	PROGRAMME COORDINATOR
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				73'018	CHF	2.2%
ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED				0	CHF	