

Appeal 2005



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

VIETNAM

Appeal no. 05AA056

The International Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilising the power of humanity. The Federation is the world's largest humanitarian organisation, and its millions of volunteers are active in over 180 countries. All international assistance to support vulnerable communities seeks to adhere to the Code of Conduct and the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response, according to the SPHERE Project.

This document reflects a range of programmes, objectives, and related activities to be implemented in 2005, and the corresponding funding requirements. These are based upon the broader, multi-year framework of the Federation's Project Planning Process (PPP). The PPP products are either available through hyperlinks in the text¹, or can be requested through the respective regional department. For further information please contact: In Geneva: Charles Evans/Sabine Feuglet, Southeast Asia Desk; Phone: +41.22.730.4320/4456, Fax: +41.22.733.03.95; email: charles.evans@ifrc.org or sabine.feuglet@ifrc.org; or please also access the Federation website at <http://www.ifrc.org>.

Click on the programme title to go to the relevant text, and the budget figure to go to the country programme budget.

	2005
Programme title	in CHF
Strengthening the national society	
Disaster management	746,388
Organisational development	128,278
Total	874,667²

¹ Identified by blue in the text.

² USD 728,586 or EUR 571,865.

National Context

Vietnam remains one of the countries in the Asia Pacific region most vulnerable to natural disasters and community crisis. Its long coastline and unique mix of geography exposes it to frequent typhoons, floods and drought. Deforestation, the pressure of a large and dense population, increasing urbanisation, as well as health and social problems (the legacy of war and increasingly the HIV/AIDS pandemic) combine to make Vietnam one of the region's highest priorities for humanitarian assistance.

With an annual population growth rate of 1.6 percent, the country's population stands at just over 80 million. According to the 2004 UNDP Human Development Report, Vietnam is ranked 112 out of more than 170 countries, a fall of three places from the previous year. Some indicators point to real development, however: for instance, life expectancy at birth (2004) is 69 years and literacy levels (2002) are high at 91 percent. In 2003, the GDP per capita was USD 485 with a real growth rate of 7.24 percent.

A prolonged independence struggle over many decades has had a major bearing on the political culture of the country and still influences the nature of humanitarian work. Following the end of the Second World War, the communist party declared independence, but it was not until 1954 that France withdrew. However, the Geneva conference of the same year divided the country in two and a US-backed politician took power in the south. By 1968 there were 500,000 US troops in Vietnam. Following the Tet offensive of the same year, the opposing sides agreed to hold peace talks and terms were agreed in 1973 for the withdrawal of all American troops. The country was reunified in 1975 and a year later the Socialist Republic of Vietnam came into existence.

While the communist party still retains a tight grip on the political situation, the economy has been opened up to the market in recent times and, as a result, the country has enjoyed rapid growth. This has had an impact on vulnerability patterns and trends. Poverty levels, while considerably reduced over the last decade, are still at 29 percent (2002: international poverty line). However, the figures conceal considerable disparities. Urban areas witnessed a decrease of two-thirds during the period 1993 to 1998, while the reduction was less than half in the rural areas, where nearly 94 percent of the poor in Vietnam live. Some places such as the Central Highlands, partly populated by minority groups, have a higher level of poverty with people having less access to basic health facilities. Health awareness and access to safe water and sanitation facilities are also still very limited in the Mekong River Delta and northern mountainous areas.

Red Cross and Red Crescent Priorities

Movement context

The Vietnam Red Cross (VNRC) is, at present, conducting a thorough review of its programming and organisational structure with the aim of developing a new strategic plan for the period to 2010. This will act as the framework for Movement support to the VNRC in the medium-term. The main focus of that support will be to better enable VNRC to fulfil its mandate of implementing programmes that are responsive to local vulnerabilities and focused on the areas of greatest impact.

The International Federation has had a presence in Vietnam since the early 1990s and scaled up its support to the VNRC during the flood emergencies of 2000. Following the end of those operations, there was a prolonged period of uncertainty regarding the Federation's role and future within Vietnam. This uncertainty was played out against a background of increased direct, in-country support for the VNRC. While this bilateralism brought a rapid increase in resources available to the national society, resulting in a higher level of programming, it produced its own problems related to coordination and VNRC capacity to manage these relationships.

At the end of 2003, it was therefore agreed that, with the support of partners, the Federation would appoint a representative with a very specific role covering three main areas:

- Support VNRC in the coordination of Red Cross and Red Crescent partner inputs.
- Work with the national society in strengthening its capacities to deliver services and advocate on behalf of vulnerable people.
- Provide advice, guidance and leadership as requested to VNRC and its partners on international representation and advocacy issues and initiatives.

The post of Federation representative was filled in May 2004. The regional delegation in Bangkok continues to provide technical assistance in disaster management, organisational development, humanitarian values and health. In addition to the agreed priorities of the Federation representative as described above, the Federation will also continue to support VNRC disaster management activities including the mangrove project, for which exists a binding memorandum of understanding between the VNRC, Japanese Red Cross Society and the Federation until end of 2005. In the case of a major emergency in Vietnam, the Federation will, on request, coordinate international response for VNRC and also pursue opportunities on behalf of the membership for expanding Red Cross and Red Crescent service delivery to people in need.

The bilateral presence within the country will remain strong during 2005, with eight sister societies expected to continue implementing activities directly with VNRC through the year. Between them, these partners manage a range of activities which includes support for the following VNRC programmes: disaster preparedness including a climate change project, HIV/AIDS, primary health care, water and sanitation, Agent Orange Victims Fund, child nutrition, road safety, branch development and other capacity building projects. The ICRC has a regional delegation in Bangkok and supports VNRC in the promotion of international humanitarian law and tracing. The society launched its own website in a further effort to communicate their work. This is accessible at <http://www.vnrc.org.vn>.

<i>Red Cross and Red Crescent partners – activities/support in 2004*</i>	
Australia	Health (HIV/AIDS), coordination
Belgium/Netherlands	Primary health care, organisational development/capacity building, street children, disaster preparedness, climate change, coordination
Britain	Organisational development, disaster management, coordination
Denmark	Primary health care, disaster management (mangrove), coordination
France	Community health, road safety, water and sanitation, disaster preparedness
ICRC	International humanitarian law, tracing
Japan	Disaster preparedness (mangrove), coordination
Norway	Branch development, disaster preparedness, first aid, coordination
Spain	Community and branch development, coordination
Switzerland	Health (polyclinic), disaster response/housing, coordination
United States	Disability (Agent Orange), nutrition and education

* Including: 1. Direct with VNRC; 2. Government/agency

In 2004, direct support to VNRC from the ICRC and Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies totalled an estimated CHF 4.5 million.

National society strategy

The VNRC is at present reviewing its programmes and organisation with the purpose of designing a strategic plan for the period up to 2010. A number of current/future internal and external developments will impact on the VNRC over the next few years including:

- Government withdrawal of salary support from certain sections of the organisation at the end of 2005.
- Ongoing change in governance and leadership of the national society.
- The putative promulgation of a decree through the national assembly, recognising VNRC as an independent Red Cross national society.
- The increase in recent years in the number of Red Cross and Red Crescent bilateral partners, which has implications in terms of capacity and programming.
- Political developments and the growth of civil society which will have an impact on the role that VNRC plays in the future.
- The fast pace of the country's economic growth and its major effect on the level and patterns of poverty.
- Disease patterns which are likely to change with the appearance of SARS and the further spread of HIV/AIDS.

The strategic plan, of which a fourth draft has already been produced, will therefore focus on how to position the national society within this complex and fast changing environment. Priorities will still be in the areas of disaster preparedness and response, health and care, and social welfare. These will form the core programmes of the VNRC over the next five years.

Within these areas more detailed strategies, plans and objectives will be outlined. These programmes pay particular attention to making progress towards achieving the fifth Millennium Development Goal (MDG) of improving maternal health, the sixth of combating diseases and the seventh of ensuring environmental sustainability.

In addition, the national society is committed to raising awareness of the Red Cross and its principles within Vietnam and building greater self-sufficiency through the development of a fundraising strategy and activities. Strengthening its relations with other components of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement is of prime importance within this context.

The society is also fully aware of its own organisational weaknesses and the need to modernise its systems and human resource practices to form a robust platform for the implementation of its activities. The development of its chapters and branches is a major plank of this strategy of enabling better delivery of its services.

Strengthening the National Society

VNRC was founded in 1946 and joined the Red Cross Movement in 1957. A major strength of the national society is its network with chapters in all 64 provinces, 600 (of 610) districts, as well as in 91 percent of the communes. Full-time staff are employed in many cases, even through to commune level. VNRC can also call on thousands of volunteers in the districts and communes. The society is therefore in a position to manage programmes and activities at grass roots level.

VNRC has a history of working closely with communities on a range of activities that includes maintaining community assets such as bridges, undertaking first aid training and practising first aid, communicating health messages, undertaking disaster mitigation work, carrying out emergency relief activities, running charity clinics, working with people with disabilities and conducting peer education in the battle against HIV/AIDS. Adherence to gender and diversity imperatives and the empowering of women feature strongly through VNRC projects and activities.

It is against this background – and in line with the role of the Federation in Vietnam, as agreed with VNRC and its partners – that the Federation is seeking funding for the following programmes:

Disaster management: the Federation will work with the VNRC in maintaining its designated strategic and implementation role in the context of Vietnam's disaster management network, with particular emphasis on risk reduction, skills enhancement and networking.

Organisational development: the Federation will support VNRC initiatives and activities targeted at meeting the basic requirements of a well functioning national society, including the development of a national strategy and clearly defined legal base, resource mobilisation, programme design and implementation and capacity building.

Implementation and management: subject to funding, the Federation will maintain an office and representative in Vietnam to assist VNRC in the coordination of its in-country partners, focus on the organisational development imperative and provide/facilitate additional support and advice/guidance as requested/agreed.

1. Disaster Management [<click here for logframe>](#)

Background

Vietnam is prone to frequent natural disasters, including typhoons, droughts or floods, occurring in many areas and regularly affecting large sections of the population. Over the last decade, natural disasters have become more frequent, their scale larger and their impact more complex. Disasters have recently occurred in areas that were not previously considered disaster-prone and the pattern of population vulnerability has changed as a result. The country has a relatively robust system for disaster management which includes government ministries, committees, mass organisations as well as international agencies. VNRC is a major player in this network.

The VNRC's disaster management programme was established in the early 1990s and during this decade has shifted focus from infrastructure projects (the establishment of disaster preparedness centres) to a more developmental intervention, concentrating more on VNRC human resources and development of materials. This staged approach has strengthened and improved VNRC and targeted communities' disaster preparedness capacity. Some of the main achievements over recent years have been in the generation of: a pool of trained trainers in the most disaster-prone provinces, disaster management materials, material resources and infrastructure, risk reduction activities (notably the mangrove reforestation programme), and the primary school disaster preparedness programme.

Federation support for 2005 will continue along the same lines as 2004, although on a lower level with funding provided by the Japanese Red Cross Society and the British government. The focus will be on the main priorities outlined in the VNRC disaster management strategic plan: strengthening human resources, supporting the development of the national and regional role in disaster preparedness, undertaking community risk reduction activities and developing disaster preparedness skills amongst school children. The Federation will continue to employ a disaster management programme officer in Hanoi to support the programmes and provide guidance to the VNRC disaster management programme. The regional delegation will continue to provide technical input for the programme. In the event of an emergency or disaster, the Federation will support the national society as required.

Overall goal

The impact of disasters on the most vulnerable people in Vietnam is reduced.

Programme objective

The VNRC fulfils its designated strategic and implementation role in the context of Vietnam's disaster management network.

Expected results

1. Sufficient skilled human resources are developed for disaster management at its headquarters and in 11 of the most disaster-prone provinces to manage the national disaster management programme.
2. Appropriate risk reduction activities are identified and undertaken by 10 disaster-prone communes by the end of 2005.
3. Disaster preparedness skills and knowledge for school children, teachers and staff of local authorities in 11 provinces are enhanced.
4. An active role within local, national and regional networks for disaster management is taken by the national society.

2. Organisational Development [<click here for logframe>](#)

Background

In recent years, the VNRC has been increasingly successful in expanding the coverage of its humanitarian activities throughout Vietnam and in raising its profile through successful responses to disasters as well as helping to meet the health, social and material needs of the most vulnerable. However, the VNRC now faces a watershed in its history with developments outside its control likely to have an impact on its future. These include the withdrawal of salary support for staff at all levels of the organisation and the possibility of establishing a decree through the national assembly recognising the VNRC as the Red Cross Society in Vietnam.

There is recognition within the leadership of the national society that the structure of the organisation needs to be reshaped to suit the new circumstances and the new programming opportunities. It is still unclear what form the new model will take, but work on its design and rollout will be a priority for the next year. The outcome of the strategic planning process is key to this development and from it a more detailed organisational development strategy and plan will be developed. This will include work on management and human resource practices, finance management systems, branch capacity and volunteer management guidelines as well as project management tools. In addition, the VNRC intends to develop a greater capacity to generate funds at all levels.

Overall goal

The lives of the most vulnerable people in Vietnam are improved.

Programme objective

VNRC meets the basic requirements of a well functioning national society.

Expected results

1. A comprehensive VNRC national strategy is in place, including strategies and plans for each core area and a cooperation agreement strategy (CAS) process is underway.
2. VNRC has a defined legal base and clear dissemination strategy.
3. VNRC has increased capacity to design and implement programmes and services in an effective and professional manner, including improved performance in finance management, planning and reporting.
4. VNRC has increased ability to generate resources for its core and programme costs.

3. Implementation and Management**Coordination, cooperation and strategic partnerships**

One of the main aims of the Federation in Vietnam is to ensure that external support to the VNRC is coordinated and coherent and fits within the national society's own framework of priorities. This objective will be achieved through engagement with all the national society partners in the country, and the VNRC leadership through a range of mechanisms including biweekly meetings with the VNRC president cum secretary-general, monthly meetings with national society partners, as well as regular individual sessions and quarterly partnership meetings with VNRC leadership.

The Federation will, therefore, play a strong facilitation role in ensuring that there is more efficient international cooperation and coordination with VNRC, based around its priorities as outlined within its strategic plan. Mapping of partners' support for components of this plan will lead to the development of a CAS for Vietnam during this period.

Effective representation and advocacy

The Federation will use its office to keep partners and VNRC informed about regional and international developments within the Movement. It will also build effective cooperation and partnerships with relevant international and regional organisations based in Vietnam. Together with the VNRC and its partners, the Federation will identify advocacy issues relevant to Vietnam and develop a strategy for communicating them to governmental, non-governmental as well as international organisations and communities within the country.

Delegation management

The Federation will maintain the following staff to implement the disaster management and organisational development programmes, together with fulfilling its representative and coordination mandates: Federation representative, regional finance development delegate, disaster management programme officer, finance development officer, finance officer, representative assistant and administrative officer. There is, however, a funding challenge to maintain the Federation representation in the longer term in line with VNRC wishes. With VNRC assistance, the Federation Secretariat will seek to obtain a status agreement with the government of Vietnam as a further means of enhancing its service and support to the membership.

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BUDGET 2005

PROGRAMME BUDGETS SUMMARY

Appeal no.: 05AA056

Name: VIETNAM

PROGRAMME:

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	Emergency	Total
	CHF	CHF	CHF	CHF	CHF	CHF	CHF
Shelter & construction	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Clothing & textiles	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Food	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Seeds & plants	0	94,697	0	0	0	0	94,697
Water & Sanitation	0	60,840	0	0	0	0	60,840
Medical & first aid	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Teaching materials	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Utensils & tools	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other relief supplies	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SUPPLIES	0	155,537	0	0	0	0	155,537
Land & Buildings	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vehicles	0	5,850	0	0	0	0	5,850
Computers & telecom	0	853	0	24,755	0	0	25,608
Medical equipment	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other capital exp.	0	273	0	0	0	0	273
CAPITAL EXPENSES	0	6,976	0	24,755	0	0	31,731
Warehouse & Distribution	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Transport & Vehicules	0	8,184	0	173	0	0	8,357
TRANSPORT & STORAGE	0	8,184	0	173	0	0	8,357
Programme Support	0	48,515	0	8,338	0	0	56,853
PROGRAMME SUPPORT	0	48,515	0	8,338	0	0	56,853
Personnel-delegates	0	115,501	0	19,851	0	0	135,352
Personnel-national staff	0	91,309	0	6,656	0	0	97,965
Consultants	0	2,867	0	9,589	0	0	12,456
PERSONNEL	0	209,677	0	36,096	0	0	245,773
W/shops & Training	0	171,607	0	23,014	0	0	194,621
WORKSHOPS & TRAINING	0	171,607	0	23,014	0	0	194,621
Travel & related expenses	0	11,269	0	1,221	0	0	12,490
Information	0	50,261	0	15,853	0	0	66,114
Other General costs	0	84,362	0	18,828	0	0	103,190
GENERAL EXPENSES	0	145,892	0	35,902	0	0	181,794
TOTAL BUDGET:	0	746,388	0	128,278	0	0	874,667