

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

VIET NAM

31 December 2005

The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in over 183 countries. For more information: www.ifrc.org

In Brief

Appeal No. 05AA056; Programme Update no. 2, Period covered: 1 April to 31 October, 2005; Appeal coverage: 129.4%; Outstanding needs: Nil.

([click here to go directly to the attached Contributions List](#)) ([click here for the live update on the website](#)).

Appeal target: CHF 874,667 (USD 728,586 or EUR 571,865)

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals: [Typhoon Damrey \(emergency appeal 05EA019\)](#), [Southeast Asia regional appeal 05AA057](#)

Programme summary:

The Viet Nam Red Cross (VNRC), supported by the Federation, continues to make progress in both the disaster management and organizational development programmes. Financial management in the headquarters and provinces has evidently improved. In addition, more Red Cross staff and vulnerable communities have better understanding and are becoming more proactive in disaster response and preparedness. With continuous contributions, notably from the Japanese Red Cross and British government's Department for International Development (DFID), the operational plan and budget is being revised to reinforce disaster management and organizational development activities. Japanese Red Cross made a significant pledge of USD 400,750 (approximately CHF 515,765) in August 2005 for the mangrove project, which satisfactorily covered the appeal. In September 2005, the strongest typhoon during the past ten years named Typhoon Damrey came ashore on the eastern coast of Viet Nam, causing extensive damage across the country. The most affected provinces are Yen Bai, Lao Cai, Phu Tho, Hoa Binh, Quang Ninh, Hai Phong, Nam Dinh, Thai Binh, Ninh Binh, Thanh Hoa, Nghe An and Ha Tinh. On behalf of the VNRC, the Federation launched a 12-month emergency appeal in September seeking CHF 813,678 to assist 5,000 families with immediate and longer-term needs.

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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This Programme Update reflects activities to be implemented over a one-year period. This forms part of, and is based on, longer-term, multi-year planning. All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other

countries, or for a full description of the national society profile, please access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

Operational developments

Since 2003, there have been 139 known human cases in these parts of Asia, of which, 71 of these cases have ended in death. To date, the bird flu virus (H5N1) remains difficult for humans to catch.

In terms of human influenza derived from H5N1 and avian influenza, so far Vietnam is the hardest hit country with 93 human cases of which 42 have ended in death. The country's epidemic can be divided into four stages as follows:

Stage	Period	Locations with reported cases in poultry	Human Cases	Deaths
1	Dec 2003 – Feb 2004	2,574 communes, 381 districts, towns of 57 cities and provinces	23	16
2	July 2004 - Aug 2004	45 communes, 34 districts of 16 cities and provinces	4	4
3	Dec 2004 - July 2005	670 communes, 182 districts of 36 cities and provinces	64	21
4	Since Oct 2005	10 provinces	2	1
	Total		93	42

Although to date the reported human cases have been eventually linked to contact with infected animals, the developing threat of a pandemic amongst humans related to the existing virus has led to a growing global efforts amongst international organizations, national governments and the European Union to cooperate on developing preparedness, prevention and response mechanisms.

In addition to public education activities conducted since February 2005, the VNRC is in the process of organizing in December a national forum involving branch representatives from 15 provinces most affected by the avian flu outbreaks. The forum will involve representatives of relevant government authorities, traditional healers and community leaders to share their local knowledge on avian influenza prevention.

Moreover, the VNRC plans to significantly scale up its nation-wide public education campaign in 2006 by mobilizing volunteers and spreading the message through mass media. It has developed a comprehensive prevention and preparedness plan of action and appealed to the international community for support through the Federation's annual appeal.

As a part of this plan, besides nation-wide activities, the VNRC will focus and intensify its efforts in six provinces (Dong Thap, Bac Giang, Lang Son, Quang Nam and Tuyen Quang). These provinces were chosen based on the frequency in occurrences of avian influenza outbreaks, low coverage by public dissemination activities by other organizations, and the capacity of Red Cross provincial branches. The VNRC also plans to integrate avian influenza prevention messages into the general health education activities of the national society. VNRC estimates that this programme will support over 6,600 Red Cross volunteers enabling them to reach some 1,500 communes with basic avian influenza prevention messages.

Given the country's high vulnerability to avian flu epidemic, the VNRC puts a strong emphasis on ensuring appropriate level of organizational awareness and preparedness at all levels for the potential pandemic. Thus, it conducts orientation sessions for its staff and volunteers and develops preparedness plan that covers different issues like staff protection, coordination with government authorities and continuity of its activities in different stages of potential pandemic. For more details and on regional response, please see [East and Southeast Asia: Avian Influenza information bulletin no. 3](#)

Disaster management

Background

One emergency appeal of CHF 813,678 has been launched by the Federation in support of the Vietnamese people affected by the typhoon Damrey in September 2005. Regular operations update is issued separately on the Federation website. In addition, one sanitation project targeting people at risk in Mekong region started in October 2005 with a grant of EUR 24,000 equivalent to CHF 34,000 from the Federation's regional water and sanitation programme.

The disaster management programme is also receiving bilateral support from the Danish Red Cross, Netherlands Red Cross, Spanish Red Cross/Disaster Preparedness Programme of European Commission Humanitarian Aid Office (DIPECHO) and Swiss Red Cross. Total bilateral funding in 2005 amounts to approximately CHF 1.4 million.



No dyke was broken or damaged during the Typhoon Damrey thanks to mangroves planted by VNRC in 1997.

Overall Goal: The impact of disasters on the most vulnerable people in Viet Nam is reduced.

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

Progress/Achievements

Expected result 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.*

Disaster management training has been organized for 375 staff at district and chapter level in disaster management cycle, planning, need assessment and humanitarian charter and minimum standards in disaster response (Sphere). The participants are able to use the acquired skill to improve its DM planning and implementation. A total of 29 community-based disaster management training courses have been held during the reporting period for 725 local Red Cross staff at in 29 communes in Lai Chau, Dien Bien, Son La, Hoa Binh, Yen Bai, Phu Tho, Tuyen Quang, Binh Dinh, An Giang, Hau Giang provinces. The staff have now better basic knowledge of hazard, disaster and are able to carry out the hazard, vulnerability and capacity assessment (HVCA) at community level and to support community making DP planning according to its context. Fax and photocopies machines, computer and camera have been procured to five Red Cross chapters of Lai Chau, Dien Bien, Yen Bai, Son La and Hoa Binh. This basic equipment can enhance the disaster management information system between VNRC headquarters and its chapters.

Expected result 2: *Appropriate risk reduction activities are identified and undertaken by disaster-prone provinces by the end of 2005.*

Seven tropical storms stroke Viet Nam during the season of recurrent climatic hazards in the second half of the year. The VNRC's long-time investment since 1994 in the plantation of mangroves and other protective trees is evidently paying off. The trees are acting as buffer zone to protect sea dykes of Viet Nam from erosion and destruction. These disaster preparedness measures have been supported by Japanese and Danish Red Cross in eight north coast provinces of Quang Ninh, Hai Phong, Thai Binh, Nam Dinh, Ninh Binh, Thanh Hoa, Nghe An and Ha Tinh. No erosion and broken section of sea dykes happened wherever there are mangroves along coastline during the storms.

A nationwide dissemination of mangrove benefits has been undertaken through television and mass media to support a campaign to reverse the 50-year trend of deforestation due to shrimp farming, coastal development and

chemical defoliants used during the Viet Nam War. The Indian Ocean tsunami highlighted the life-saving benefits of mangrove forests along coastlines. Areas that had mangroves suffered the least destruction, as reported by Malaysia, Myanmar and Thailand. Mangrove and protection trees replanting is regaining ground in the governments' agenda.

A total of 359 hectares of mangroves have been planted in Hai Phong, Quang Ninh, Ninh Binh, Thanh Hoa to diversify and reinforce the protection of dykes behind. Some 89 hectares of Casuarinas species have also been planted in Hai Phong, Nghe An and Ha Tinh provinces.

During the reporting period, 29 HVCA have been undertaken in 29 communes where CBDM training was conducted. Members in each commune have developed their own small-scale disaster reduction measure with facilitation provided by VNRC staff. Ten of these communes have been selected for a project which is seeking funds in 2006 from DFID to construct three small bridges in order to reduce flash floods impact in the north of Viet Nam and to implement two water and sanitation projects in the Mekong regions.

Expected result 3: *Disaster preparedness skills and knowledge for school children, teachers and staff of local authorities in 11 provinces are enhanced.*

Approximately 102,500 children at primary schools have been introduced to basic disaster preparedness (DP) skills and knowledge by 3,425 teachers trained in DP by VNRC trainers. The school teachers and children were very active during the evacuation of over 600,000 people during the Typhoon Damrey.

Dissemination and public awareness activities have been done regularly in eight provinces through television and mass media. Twenty four VNRC staff have attended the national workshop organized by the Mangrove Research Centre in order to put pressure on the Vietnamese government to avoid favouring shrimp farms, which destroy mangroves, to the detriment of mangrove plantations.

Expected result 4: *An active role within local, national and regional networks for disaster management is taken by the national society.*

VNRC disaster management staff attended the regional disaster management meeting organized by the Federation's regional delegation in Bangkok to develop the DM training material on the basis of the Federation DM strategy review, the DIPECHO consultative meeting, the fifth meeting of the Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre (ADPC) the regional consultative committees on disaster management in Hanoi and Bangkok. The VNRC and the Federation delegation regularly attended meetings organized by the disaster management working group in Viet Nam. The Federation DM officer participated in the joint assessment of damages and needs during and after the Typhoon Damrey together with VNRC staff in affected provinces.

Two staff of Indonesian Red Cross (Palang Merah Indonesia/PMI) have visited VNRC to learn from VNRC's experience of the mangrove disaster preparedness project in Nam Dinh province. PMI plans to carry out a similar project in the tsunami affected areas. One external evaluation of mangrove DP projects was conducted in October with the purpose to improve the implementation of the future mangrove plantations activities.

Impact

The national society, at headquarters and branch level, has gradually improved its capacity in disaster management. The Typhoon Damrey has caused minimal human loss thanks to the efficient evacuation planning and disaster preparedness. Communities at risk have improved their capacity and understanding of their vulnerabilities. They are becoming proactive in disaster response and preparedness, and are actively involved in the Red Cross humanitarian activities. The action of VNRC continues to make progress towards its disaster management goals as outlined in its strategy for 2010.

VNRC has been the first to distribute emergency relief to people affected by the various tropical storms battering the country during the second half of 2005. Local authorities in eight northern coastal provinces approved VNRC's request for the continuation of the mangrove plantations and other DP activities.

Constraints

The Vietnamese authorities have demonstrated an unquestionable capacity in terms of early warning and evacuation of the population at risk. Yet the sharp economic growth of the country has encouraged the strong

interest to scale up commercial activities against the need of protecting natural barriers, as mangroves, from climate hazards. There is an essential need to enact and enforce the law which protects the environment for building up an effective resilience of the population.

Viet Nam Red Cross has been involved in the development of need assessment formats in cooperation with government's general department for statistics and the central committee for flood and storm control (CCFSC). VNRC HQs and its relevant chapters also attended workshops and meetings organized by the ministry of natural resources and environment for advocacy and funding opportunities to protect mangroves planted by the Red Cross.

Organizational developments

Background

In recent years, the VNRC has been increasingly successful in expanding the coverage of its humanitarian activities throughout Viet Nam 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 organization and the possibility of establishing a decree through the national assembly recognizing the VNRC as the Red Cross Society in Viet Nam.

There is recognition within the leadership of the national society that the structure of the organization 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 organizational 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 Viet Nam are improved

Programme Objective: VNRC meets the basic requirements of a well-functioning national society

Progress/Achievements

Expected result 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.

VNRC has developed a comprehensive national development strategy for the period up to 2010 and vision to 2020. This document is developed on the basis of the assessment of the mandates, needs and conditions of the Viet Nam Red Cross Society in accordance with the principles and strategies of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, the international humanitarian law (IHL) and the Laws of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam. Two dissemination and communication workshops on *Strategic Plan to 2010* and *Vision to 2020* for 45 provincial Red Cross chapters were organized in November in Hai Phong and Vung Tau to grasp thoroughly and implement this strategy at all levels of VNRC. A mapping exercise is undergoing at 64 Red Cross chapters. It will establish the basis of a Cooperation Agreement Strategy (CAS).

Production of a documental film on "VNRC – Strategy Development to 2010 and vision to 2020" to disseminate Red Cross activities is planned in December 2005.

Expected result 2: VNRC has a defined legal base and clear dissemination strategy.

A draft for the VNRC decree was finalized in May after a long process of collection, collation of government legal documents, translating Red Cross decrees from sister national societies, such as the Chinese and Cambodian Red Cross societies; meeting legal experts from the national assembly, ministry of justice, and government offices to obtain support and advice. This draft decree was submitted to the central executive committee of the national assembly for review and approval. The induction workshops on the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement were held in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City in May. The production of a television programme by Humanity TV was

produced in July. Main focus of the programme was the review of the Federation's role, activities and achievements in Vietnam during the last decade and the future cooperation between VNRC and the Federation.

Expected result 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.

Sixteen staff from sixteen Red Cross chapters in the south received training on computer skill which was customized for Red Cross project officers. The reports and budget plans are in accordance with the standard formats and sent within the deadlines.

One VNRC HQs accountant manager has attended a training course on IT. As a result, he's now advising and supervising various accountants at branch level in their financial management and reporting. In addition, six sets of computer equipment for the finance departments were installed at VNRC HQs and five selected chapters in order to maximize the learning of the accountants who have attended financial training courses in 2004. The capacity of financial management of the HQs and provincial accountants is enhanced.

Upgrading of excel-accounting package is underway to support Red Cross chapters to manage the finances of projects more effectively. Furthermore, some Red Cross Chapters who did not have accounting software received the accounting excel package from VNRC HQs allowing them to replace the previous manual of accounting system. Moreover, ADSL was installed in accounting departments of ten selected Red Cross chapters so as to improve and to speed up their communications with the HQ and to benefit from a fast internet access.

Support was also given to VNRC HQ in evaluation/monitoring trips on finance management of two Red Cross chapters in the central area.

In December 2005 a training in Danang on planning and budgeting for programme officers and accountants from five chapters in the central highlands has been held.

Expected result 4: VNRC has increased ability to generate resources for its core and programme costs.

Two fundraising workshops were held in Lang Son and Dong Nai provinces in May and June. These workshops helped branches with very limited financial resources to find opportunities for implementing themselves other RC activities in favour of the needy population in their areas. One example has been the launching of a small income-generation project in July in Lang Son province for the poor people among ethnic minorities. A total of 50 selected people from ethnic minorities in Lang Son received sewing training and sewing machines. These people are now employed by some factories and enterprises.

Impact

The strategic development plan of VNRC was built to reaffirm its status and roles in social humanitarian activities and enable the society to integrate further into the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. Through ongoing organizational development and capacity building activities, the quality of VNRC programmes and services are gradually enhanced towards improving the living conditions of vulnerable people.

Constraints

Several changes of OD focal persons in the national society have created some difficulties in the implementation of OD activities. There is also room of improvement in terms of cooperation, coordination and communication within VNRC departments.

Implementation and management

Coordination, cooperation and strategic partnerships

After a gap due to the lack of presence of a Federation representative for three months between June and August 2005 the delegation in Viet Nam concentrated its efforts on improving the cooperation with VNRC and in the coordination with the partner national societies (PNSs) working bilaterally in Viet Nam. Tangible achievements have been reached during the last few months.

Relationship with VNRC leadership and the different departments of the national society in general has become closer and more transparent with the advantage of having the opportunity to look more in depth into the capacity building needs of the national society. Meetings with VNRC president are regular, focused and effective. The support of the Federation to the various programmes and to the structural improvement and delivery capacity of VNRC is one of the recurrent topics of the meetings.

There are still at the present time six bilateral PNSs hosted in the Federation building - namely American, Danish, Dutch, French, Norwegian and Spanish Red Cross - and Swiss Red Cross with its office in Ho Chi Minh City. The Danish Red Cross, after the completion of its programmes in Viet Nam, is preparing to close down its office end of February 2006 as planned. Since the Federation representative has been again in place the coordination role of the Federation has become more effective. Bilateral and general Federation/PNSs meetings are taking place regularly. The common approach to VNRC OD/CB is more coordinated and coherent.

Effective representation and advocacy

In the last few months the delegation in Viet Nam has carried out several activities which have advocated the Movement principles through communicating extensively information of Federation and VNRC action in favour of the beneficiaries through:

- Vietnamese media coverage – TV, radio, newspapers – on the launch of the World Disaster Report 2005, including press releases and images following the Federation WDR launching press package.
- Meetings with different diplomatic missions bilaterally and at the occasion of receptions
- Representing the Federation at several seminars, workshops and meetings organized by the VNRC or other national and international governmental and non-governmental organizations where speeches highlighting the principles and rules of the Movement were made by the Federation representative.

Delegation management

The Federation representative ended his mission end of May 2005 and was replaced by a new one end of August. The DM programme manager has followed the day-to-day issues of the delegation during the gap period. The assistant to the Federation representative resigned end of September. After a lengthy recruitment process, the new assistant has been identified and will start on 1 January.

During the preparation of the plan of action for the avian influenza activities, the regional health delegate from Bangkok has been very helpful in finalizing the plan.

[Contributions list below; click here to return to the title page and contact information.](#)

APPEAL No. 05AA056

PLEDGES RECEIVED

28/12/2005

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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CASH

						TOTAL COVERAGE
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				874,667		129.4%
OPENING BALANCE				295,449		
BRITISH - GOVT/DIFD GRANT				209,000	01.01.05	DISASTER PREPAREDNESS, INSTITUTIONAL DEV., NATIONAL COORDINATION
CAPACITY BUILDING FUND				36,775	18.01.05	FINANCE DEVELOPMENT
JAPANESE - RC		400,750	USD	515,765	02.08.05	MANGROVE PROGRAMME
NEW ZEALAND - RC		23,000	NZD	18,722	01.04.05	BIRD FLU EDUCATION PROJECT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				1,075,711	CHF	123.0%

KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
GREAT BRITAIN	DELEGATE(S)			29,800		
ITALY - RC	DELEGATE(S)			26,400		
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				56,200	CHF	6.4%

ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET

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