

INFORMATION BULLETIN



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: FLASH FLOODS 23 July 2004

The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilising the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organisation and its millions of volunteers are active in over 181 countries.

In Brief

This Information Bulletin (no. 01/2004) is being issued for information only. The Federation is not seeking funding or other assistance from donors for this operation at this time.

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The Situation

Thirty four people have been reported dead or missing following landslides and flash floods in the northern province of Ha Giang. Heavy and sustained rainfall from 19 July has resulted in considerable loss of life and damage to property and infrastructure. Particularly badly affected are the remote mountainous communes of Du Tien and Du Gia in Yen Minh district in Ha Giang province where mudslides swept away thirty four people and injured another ten. Eighteen houses were destroyed and a number of other houses and a school were badly damaged.

Total damage has been estimated at USD 300,000 and includes damage to people's livelihoods with deaths of livestock (47 water buffalo and 65 cows drowned) and destruction of crops with 34 hectares of rice fields and 210 hectares of maize fields badly affected. Access to these communes to bring assistance has been hampered by landslides and the destruction of sections of the road. In another incident seven hundred metres of the national highway 4C in Dong Van district were washed away. Rainfall still continues and river levels are rising fast. The forecast is for continued rainfall for the next 48 hours. A 15 year old girl has been reported missing in the neighbouring Cao Bang province following a flash flood.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Vietnam Red Cross (VNRC) sent a team to Yen Minh district led by the director of the Social Work and Disaster Management Department. They will distribute 20 household kits and have USD 3,000 for purchasing food in Ha Giang town in order to provide emergency relief to the affected people. Red Cross members and volunteers at local levels are working with other agencies to carry out search and rescue operations and repair roads. The local VNRC chapters have estimated emergency needs of affected people at 200 tonnes of rice and 600 household kits.

For longer-term programmes, please refer to the Federation's [Annual Appeal](#).

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