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## DREF final report

### Viet Nam: Typhoon Son-Tinh

 International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

#### DREF operation n° MDRVN011

#### Final report

#### GLIDE n° TC-2012-000181-VNM

#### 7 March 2013

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC) Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) is a source of un-earmarked money created by the Federation in 1985 to ensure that immediate financial support is available for Red Cross Red Crescent response to emergencies. The DREF is a vital part of the International Federation's disaster response system and increases the ability of National Societies to respond to disasters.

#### Summary:

CHF 20,874 was allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 30 October 2012 to support the Viet Nam Red Cross Society (VNRC) in implementing disaster response preparedness activities. VNRC was able to deploy its national disaster response team (NDRT) to provinces likely to be affected by Typhoon Son-Tinh when it was to make landfall in Viet Nam.

In an effort to be prepared for the potential large scale disaster, the VNRC headquarters, with the support from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and partner national societies in-country, began to monitor and track the path of Typhoon Son-Tinh three days before it made landfall in Viet Nam.

In the meantime, VNRC chapters (at province level) and branches (at district level) assisted the population in preparedness activities. More than 85,000 people were evacuated by local authorities with VNRC support before the tropical storm hit.

On 28 October 2012, VNRC deployed three NDRT members to affected provinces to assist chapters and branches in preparation for Son-Tinh making landfall in Viet Nam. They worked around the clock in Ninh Binh, Thai Binh and Hai Phong, three of the six coastal provinces most likely to be affected by the typhoon, with preparedness activities. Key focal points were also established for information management as the situation evolved closer to Son Tinh's arrival. These facilitated information for the VNRC headquarters in its decision making and potential fundraising activities both nationally and internationally. Also, information on damages and needs as well as VNRC action towards this event, was communicated in a timely manner with partners in-country and within the Movement.



VNRC supports a family strengthen their house in preparation for Typhoon Son-Tinh (Photo: VNRC)

The information on damages and needs assessed by VNRC following Son Tinh's landfall was shared with the Vietnamese government and relevant agencies in order to ensure effective coordination in response, and to help central and local authorities to take appropriate action. Based on the information collected and after consultation with its partners, it was also agreed that no further deployment of the NDRT was needed.

The operation was implemented over one week with the deployment of the NDRT, with no further action needed from the national society other than the monitoring of the situation by its chapters and branches. For this reason, only a small amount of the allocated funding from the DREF was used, largely for personnel and transportation costs related to the initial NDRT deployment. The unused balance will be returned to the DREF in accordance with normal procedures.

IFRC would like to thank all partners for their generous support of the DREF. Major donors are the Red Cross Societies and governments of Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Monaco, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden and the United States, as well as European Commission Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (DG ECHO), the UK Department for International Development (DFID), the Medtronic, and Z.Zurich Foundations and other corporate and private donors. Details of all donors can be found [here](#).

[<click for the final financial report, or for contact details>](#)

## The situation

Son-Tinh was the 23<sup>rd</sup> named storm of the season, originating from an area of low pressure and then strengthening into a tropical depression over the Western Pacific Ocean on 23 October 2012. The tropical depression developed into a tropical storm and into Typhoon Son-Tinh, battering more than 30 provinces of the Philippines, killing 24 people and leaving six others missing, and causing heavy rain, flooding and landslides across a broad spread.

The storm gained typhoon strength with sustained wind speeds of up to 149 km/hour as it crossed the South China Sea towards central Viet Nam, continuing to intensify, on 28 October 2012. Son-Tinh finally made landfall in Northern Viet Nam along the coastlines of Ninh Binh, Nam Dinh, Thai Binh, Hai Phong and Quang Ninh provinces, causing heavy rain with average rainfall of 180mm in all affected provinces and curving to the northeast over southern China.

According to the National Centre for Hydro-Meteorological Forecasting (NCHMF), Typhoon Son-Tinh was predicted to severely strike the provinces of Nghe An, Thanh Hoa, Ninh Binh, Nam Dinh, Thai Binh and Hai Phong in north and central Viet Nam on 28 October late evening, and cause heavy rains of 300-500mm from Hai Phong to Thua Thien Hue. The monitoring and tracking of Son-Tinh showed that the closer it approached the coastline, the more strength it gained, which is very unusual compared to previous years' patterns. Son-Tinh was also recorded as the fastest moving typhoon expected to affect Viet Nam over the past ten years.



VNRC provides psycho-social support in an evacuation centre  
(Photo: VNRC)

It was reported by the Central Committee for Flood and Storm Control (CCFSC) as of 30 October 2012 that the storm killed seven people, left four missing and injured 90 in Northern Viet Nam. CCFSC called for urgent meetings to provide updates on the development of the storm and timely guidance to provinces. The Vietnamese Central Government issued a telegram, urging local authorities in Northern and Central provinces to take measures to effectively cope in response to the storm making landfall.

VNRC chapters proactively participated in evacuations and preparation to effectively cope with the storm. Blankets, mosquito nets and cash were ready for immediate distribution to meet the most urgent needs of the communities. Volunteers were mobilized to help community members secure and repair their shelters. It



Relief stocks were prepared ready for deployment.  
(Photo: VNRC)

was reported that around 15,000 households located in dangerous areas were evacuated to safer places and those who needed it were provided with psychosocial support in Thanh Hoa.

A field team, consisting of three NDRT members, was deployed to Ninh Binh, Thai Binh and Hai Phong, the three most affected provinces. The trained team supported the Red Cross chapters in preparedness activities and collected information at the field level until 30 October 2012 to allow the national society leadership and relevant departments as well as VNRC partners to decide whether further action was needed and if so, what it should be.

In addition, essential relief items such as household kits, water purification tablets (aquatabs), jerry cans, tents and water treatment units were made ready for

immediate deployment for early response activities in the field. Up to 5,000 packages containing dry provisions, instant noodles, bottled water, candles and lighters were also made available for immediate distribution in case of disaster.

Following the impact of Son-Tinh, damage and needs assessed by VNRC were shared with the Vietnamese government and relevant agencies in order to ensure effective coordination and for central and local authorities to take appropriate action.

Thanks to the VNRC mangrove plantation/disaster risk reduction project funded by the Japanese Red Cross and supported by IFRC over the past 15 years in coastal provinces of Northern Viet Nam, it is believed that the impact of Son-Tinh was reduced. *"If mangrove forests were not there, if the population were not equipped with disaster risk reduction skills, the impact would have been much more extensive and devastating"*, said the Chairman of VNRC's Thai Binh chapter.

At the end of the assessment, no food shortage was reported while long-term assistance such as structural support remains. The most serious damage was on housing and recovery has been within the coping capacity of the affected population and local government. At the time of reporting, families continue with self-recovery activities such as repairing their houses, and starting the plantation of winter vegetable crops. All schools returned to normal ten days after the typhoon.

### **Coordination and partnerships**

Since 25 October, VNRC, IFRC and partner national societies kept close monitoring and tracking of Son-Tinh's path. Close coordination and communication enabled the national society to share information on preparedness activities ongoing and its proposed plan of action for needs assessment. The continuous flow of information was to ensure that a collaborative effort was made in exploring possible areas of support that might be provided by IFRC and partner national societies to support VNRC efforts. At the same time, VNRC attended CCFSC meetings both at national and provincial levels during this period. The meetings were productive with CCFSC and VNRC sharing information on preparedness activities implemented to respond to Son-Tinh, ensuring an optimal coordination.

On 28 October, IFRC liaised with the Disaster Management Working Group (DMWG) to schedule coordination meetings for related agencies to share both information on preparedness activities currently implemented, as well as proposed plans of action for the coming days. DMWG is the platform where IFRC and VNRC coordinate disaster response and preparedness together with the People's Aid Coordinating Committee (PACCOM), UN agencies and international NGOs.

# Red Cross and Red Crescent action

## Achievements against outcomes

Early warning and disaster response preparedness
<p><b>Outcome:</b> VNRC has strengthened their disaster response preparedness for the impact of Typhoon Son-Tinh.</p>
<p><b>Outputs and activities planned:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Pre-positioning of additional human resources (i.e. two NDRT, and two media and communications personnel) in the field.</li><li>• Pre-positioning of additional human resources on standby (i.e. eight NDRT) in surrounding provinces.</li><li>• Transportation of NDRT equipment to be pre-positioned in the field.</li><li>• Transportation of household kits, water purification tablets (aquatabs), and jerry cans to be pre-positioned in the field.</li><li>• Transportation of water treatment units to be pre-positioned in the field.</li><li>• Media and communications coverage on VNRC emergency response preparedness activities.</li></ul>

**Impact:** VNRC disaster response preparedness was strengthened through the deployment of NDRT to the field to support chapters and the population at risk in event of the disaster caused by Son-Tinh. The purpose was to strengthen VNRC overall disaster response preparedness which in turn would provide relevant and accurate information from the field in order for the national society leadership to take appropriate action.

As part of disaster response preparedness efforts for Son-Tinh, the VNRC headquarters and chapters coordinated and planned necessary resources required for mobilization both before and after Son-Tinh made landfall.

VNRC issued an alert on 26 October to NDRTs requesting the availability of members for possible deployment. Of the 29 NDRT members, a total of 10 confirmed their availability, with four from the South and six from surrounding provinces close to where Son-Tinh was likely to hit.

Pre-positioned relief stocks for distribution including 5,000 household kits and 5,000 food parcels of essential relief items were prepared ready for deployment. Two water treatment units were also ready for transportation from the warehouse in Hanoi to affected areas.

On 28 October, VNRC deployed a 'field team' consisting of three NDRT members to Ninh Binh, Thai Binh and Hai Phong provinces to support disaster response preparedness activities underway, and to prepare for disaster response activities if needed. The deployment also provided a platform to enhance VNRC visibility through effective communication messages for both national and international media with regards to disaster response preparedness actions carried out by VNRC at the field level, and the situation on the ground following Son-Tinh's impact.

Emergency response
<p><b>Outcome:</b> VNRC has responded efficiently and effectively in conducting a needs assessment to identify the needs of the population affected by Typhoon Son-Tinh.</p>
<p><b>Outputs and activities planned:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mobilization of ten NDRT to conduct needs assessment</li><li>• Mobilization of two media and communications to join NDRT in needs assessment.</li><li>• Media and communications coverage on VNRC emergency response preparedness activities.</li></ul>

**Impact:** The overall impact of Son-Tinh was reported from assessments carried out by VNRC NDRT shortly after the disaster showed to be within the coping capacity of local government and agencies. As a result, the need for VNRC to deploy additional NDRT members for further needs assessment, deployment of relief items and water treatment units, was not required.

## Contact information

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

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Please send all pledges of funding to [zonerm.asiapacific@ifrc.org](mailto:zonerm.asiapacific@ifrc.org)

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## DREF history

- This DREF was initially allocated on 30 October 2012 for CHF 20,874 for seven days in support of preparation for the impact of Typhoon Son-Tinh.
- No DREF operation updates were issued.



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## How we work

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

IFRC's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

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IFRC's work is guided by [Strategy 2020](#) which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
  2. Enable healthy and safe living.
  3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.
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MDRVN011 - Vietnam - Typhoon Son-Tinh

Appeal Launch Date: 28 oct 12

Appeal Timeframe: 28 oct 12 to 04 nov 12

Final Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2012/10-2012/12
Budget Timeframe	2012/10-2012/11
Appeal	MDRVN011
Budget	APPROVED

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

## I. Funding

	Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL	Deferred Income
<b>A. Budget</b>	20,874					20,874	
<b>B. Opening Balance</b>	0					0	
<b>Income</b>							
<u>Other Income</u>							
<i>DREF Allocations</i>	20,874					20,874	
<b>C4. Other Income</b>	20,874					20,874	
<b>C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C4)</b>	20,874					20,874	
<b>D. Total Funding = B + C</b>	20,874					20,874	
<b>Coverage = D/A</b>	100%					100%	

## II. Movement of Funds

	Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL	Deferred Income
<b>B. Opening Balance</b>	0					0	
<b>C. Income</b>	20,874					20,874	
<b>E. Expenditure</b>	-717					-717	
<b>F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)</b>	20,157					20,157	

## III. Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination		
	A						B	A - B
<b>BUDGET (C)</b>		20,874					20,874	
<b>Logistics, Transport &amp; Storage</b>								
Distribution & Monitoring	4,000							4,000
Transport & Vehicles Costs		135				135		-135
<b>Total Logistics, Transport &amp; Storage</b>	<b>4,000</b>	<b>135</b>				<b>135</b>		<b>3,865</b>
<b>Personnel</b>								
National Society Staff	4,200	429				429		3,771
<b>Total Personnel</b>	<b>4,200</b>	<b>429</b>				<b>429</b>		<b>3,771</b>
<b>Consultants &amp; Professional Fees</b>								
Consultants		80				80		-80
<b>Total Consultants &amp; Professional Fe</b>		<b>80</b>				<b>80</b>		<b>-80</b>
<b>General Expenditure</b>								
Travel	8,400	7				7		8,393
Information & Public Relations	3,000							3,000
Communications		22				22		-22
<b>Total General Expenditure</b>	<b>11,400</b>	<b>30</b>				<b>30</b>		<b>11,370</b>
<b>Indirect Costs</b>								
Programme & Services Support Recov	1,274	44				44		1,230
<b>Total Indirect Costs</b>	<b>1,274</b>	<b>44</b>				<b>44</b>		<b>1,230</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)</b>	<b>20,874</b>	<b>717</b>				<b>717</b>		<b>20,157</b>
<b>VARIANCE (C - D)</b>		<b>20,157</b>				<b>20,157</b>		