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# Disaster relief emergency fund (DREF)

## Viet Nam: Typhoon Son-Tinh

 International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

**DREF operation n° MDRVN011**  
**GLIDE n° TC-2012-000181-VNM**  
**30 October 2012**

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 and Red Crescent emergency response. 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:** The Viet Nam Red Cross (VNRC), with support from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) office in-country, has requested a DREF allocation of CHF 20,874 in an effort to be better prepared for the imminent arrival of Typhoon Son-Tinh due to make land fall on the evening on 28 October 2012. In consideration of the possible impact that may be caused by Son-Tinh once it strikes Viet Nam, there is the possibility that an emergency appeal for international assistance may be launched, or the DREF operation extended to meet the needs.

This DREF request, as it presently stands, is expected to be implemented over one week. A final report will be made available in February 2013.

[<click here for contact details>](#)

## The situation

The tropical depression that formed over the Western Pacific Ocean on 23 October 2012, strengthened into Tropical Storm Son-Tinh the next day, battering more than 30 provinces of the Philippines and causing heavy rains, flooding and landslides areas across a broad spread. Son-Tinh has moved across the South China Sea towards central Viet Nam, continuing to intensify and escalated into a typhoon on 28 October 2012.

According to the National Centre for Hydro-Meteorological Forecasting (NCHMF), Typhoon Son-Tinh is predicted to severely strike the provinces of Nghe An, Thanh Hoa, Ninh Binh, Nam Dinh, Thai Binh and Hai Phong in the north and central Vietnam in the late evening of 28 October 2012 and cause heavy rains in wide areas from Hai Phong to Thua Thien Hue with rainfall from 300-500mm. The monitoring and tracking of Son-Tinh shows that the closer its approach to the coastline, the more strength it gains, something very unusual when compared to events in previous years. This typhoon is also recorded as the fastest moving typhoon expected to affect Vietnam over the past ten years.

An estimation of the population in provinces potentially affected is more than 20 million people. It is expected that more than 5 million may be affected by the typhoon. This could mean more than 500,000 people in need of humanitarian relief. According to reports from Thanh Hoa province, more than 150,000 households located in dangerous areas have been evacuated to safe places. Other provinces are continuing to assess the situation and readying people for evacuation, as necessary.

The Central Committee for Flood and Storm Control (CCFSC) has been calling for urgent meetings for updates on the development of the storm and to provide timely guidance to provinces. The Vietnamese Central Government issued a telegram, urging local authorities in the north and central provinces to take measures to effectively cope in response to the typhoon making landfall.

Viet Nam Red Cross (VNRC) has formed a field team consisting of members of the national disaster response team (NDRT), and a communication and media team, which will be deployed to severely affected provinces.

The team will support the Red Cross chapters in preparedness activities and collect information at the field-level. The team members have been trained in needs assessment and will gauge the situation to facilitate appropriate decisions at the national headquarters

VNRC are preparing pre-positioned relief stocks for distribution, as and when needed. There will be 5,000 household kits and 5,000 gift packages containing dry provisions, instant noodles, bottles of water, candles, and lighters available for immediate distribution. Two water treatment units are also ready for deployment from the warehouse in Hanoi to areas that need them.

## **Coordination and partnerships**

The Disaster Management Working Group (DMWG) is the platform by which IFRC and VNRC coordinate response actions together with the People's Aid Coordinating Committee (PACCOM), UN agencies and international NGOs. In addition, through its participation in the central committee for flood and storm control (CCFSC) meetings, VNRC also coordinates its efforts with the government at various levels.

On 28 October, IFRC liaised with the DMWG on the scheduling of coordination meetings for related agencies to share both information on preparedness activities currently underway, as well as proposed plans of action over the coming days. As yet, no meeting has been called by the DMWG.

VNRC has been attending CCFSC meetings both at national and provincial levels over the last several days. The meetings have been productive with CCFSC sharing information, and VNRC providing information on preparedness activities that have been underway to respond to Son-Tinh.

Since 25 October, VNRC, IFRC and partner national societies have been closely monitoring and tracking the movement of Son-Tinh. Alongside this, communication and coordination has continued with information shared by VNRC on preparedness activities underway and its proposed plan of action. Such information will assist in ensuring that a collaborative effort is made in exploring possible areas of support that may be provided by IFRC and partner national societies in supporting VNRC efforts.

## **Red Cross and Red Crescent action**

### **Disaster response preparedness**

As part of preparedness efforts for Typhoon Son-Tinh, the VNRC headquarters and the provinces of Thai Binh, Nam Dinh, Thanh Hoa, Ninh Binh, Hai Phong, and My An, have been working in close cooperation in coordinating and planning necessary resources required for mobilization both before and after Son-Tinh makes landfall.

VNRC chapters in the central region have provided guidance to districts and communes on preparation, and have commenced with helping residents to secure their shelters. Chapters are also preparing pre-positioned stocks and resources to be ready to respond to the typhoon. They are also mobilizing Red Cross volunteers to participate in preparedness activities.

The VNRC headquarters 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 have confirmed their availability, with four from the south and six from surrounding provinces close to where Typhoon Son-Tinh is likely to hit. It is anticipated that additional NDRT capacity will be mobilized to support the existing capacity so as to ensure that VNRC is ready to carry out assessments.

On 28 October, VNRC organized an internal meeting with key departments to share current updates on preparedness and outstanding activities currently remaining. IFRC was also invited to attend this meeting. During this meeting, VNRC requested DREF support from IFRC and agreed that key information would be finalized within the day and shared with IFRC in order to commence the DREF request process. IFRC and partner national societies have also been coordinating with VNRC to ensure that a collective approach to support the Vietnamese national society is provided. It is anticipated that VNRC along with IFRC and partner national societies will hold a coordination meeting on Monday, 29 October to share updated information on the scale of Son-Tinh and the follow-up action required.

On 28 October, VNRC deployed a headquarters 'field team' consisting of two disaster management (NDRT) staff and two media and communication staff to provinces most likely to be affected to support preparedness activities underway, to capture media stories, and to prepare for early response activities. This move will assist

in strengthening VNRC's visibility and provide material for both national and international media and communications with regard to the situation on the ground following Typhoon Son-Tinh's impact, and highlight VNRC's response in support of those affected.

VNRC has also mobilized six NDRT teams from various nearby provinces to remain on standby for deployment following the onset of Typhoon Son-Tinh. These teams will support existing provincial staff in preparation to carry out needs assessments as well as support chapters in coordinating the response.

## The needs

The needs of the population are yet to be identified, and will be done so following the onset of Typhoon Son-Tinh. With VNRC focus on disaster preparedness action through mobilization of its surge capacity NDRTs, key VNRC staff and pre-positioning of essential resources will ensure that VNRC will be best positioned to respond efficiently and effectively following the disaster, to assess the needs of the population and the extent of the damage caused.

## The proposed operation

The proposed action for this DREF allocation is presently focused on supporting VNRC disaster response preparedness activities which will include deployment and standby of VNRC surge capacity NDRT members to strategic locations that are likely to be hit by Typhoon Son-Tinh. Alongside this will be pre-positioning of essential relief stock in the field such as household kits, water purification tablets (Aquatabs), jerry cans, tents and water treatment units.

VNRC will also focus on the deployment of media and communications staff together with VNRC NDRT members. This is in order to ensure effective communication of VNRC's key disaster response preparedness activities and the needs of those affected by Typhoon Son-Tinh, for both national and international media. This move will help enhance the visibility of VNRC, and further support potential fundraising activities that may be required nationally or internationally.

### Early warning and disaster response preparedness

**Outcome:** VNRC has strengthened their disaster response preparedness for the impact of Typhoon Son-Tinh.

**Outputs (expected results) and activities planned:**

- Pre-positioning of additional human resources (i.e. two NDRT, and two media and communications personnel) in the field.
- Pre-positioning of additional human resources on standby (i.e. eight NDRT) in surrounding provinces.
- Transportation of NDRT equipment to be pre-positioned in the field.
- Transportation of household kits, water purification tablets (aquatabs), and jerry cans to be pre-positioned in the field.
- Transportation of water treatment unit to be pre-positioned in the field.
- Media and communications coverage on VNRC emergency response preparedness activities.

### Emergency response

**Outcome:** VNRC has responded efficiently and effectively in conducting a needs assessment to identify the needs of the population affected by Typhoon Son-Tinh.

**Outputs (expected results) and activities planned:**

- Mobilization of ten NDRT to conduct needs assessment
- Mobilization of two media and communications to join NDRT in needs assessment.
- Media and communications coverage on VNRC emergency response preparedness activities.

## Contact information

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

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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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# DREF OPERATION

30/10/2012

## MDRVN011 Viet Nam : Typhoon Son-Tinh

<b>Budget Group</b>	<b>DREF Grant Budget CHF</b>
Distribution & Monitoring	4,000
<b>Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE</b>	<b>4,000</b>
National Society Staff	4,200
<b>Total PERSONNEL</b>	<b>4,200</b>
Travel	8,400
Information & Public Relations	3,000
<b>Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>11,400</b>
Programme and Services Support Recovery	1,274
<b>Total INDIRECT COSTS</b>	<b>1,274</b>
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>20,874</b>