

OPERATIONS 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: TYPHOON LEKIMA

Appeal No. MDRVN002
3 November 2007
Glide no. TC-2007-00178-VNM

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 185 countries.

In Brief

Operations Update no. 1; Period covered: 17 October – 31 October 2007;
Appeal target: CHF 3,231,507 (USD 2.7 million or EUR 1.9 million);
Appeal coverage: 13% ([click here to go to the Donor Response list attached, also available on the website](#)).

Appeal history:

- Preliminary emergency appeal launched 10 October for CHF 3,231,507 (USD 2.7 million or EUR 1.9 million) to assist 193,000 beneficiaries for 12 months.
- Full emergency appeal launched on 17 October as per above with minor adjustments to the operation.
- Disaster Relief Emergency Funds (DREF) allocated: CHF 200,000 (USD 170,000 or EUR 120,000).

Operational Summary: Rain still lashes many of the flooded areas of Viet Nam where communities are trying to recover from the devastating effects of typhoon Lekima. While the resilience and initiative of these communities are admirable, there is some concern, however, that families may be exposing themselves to future risk by relying on construction techniques that may not adequately protect them should disaster strike again.

Compounding the challenge of this operation is the current low response to this appeal which is hampering VNRC efforts to transition from the current overall focus on food to one that concentrates on building safer and more resilient communities via shelter initiatives. The VNRC, supported by the Federation, will transition from a focus on the provision of food and non-food items to one of rebuilding typhoon-resilient houses. It is up to the Red Cross Red Crescent with its comparative advantage of support in shelter to play a leading role in helping communities rebuild for a safer future.

More funding is needed to meet the critical needs of the impacted population. At present, only 13 per cent of the appeal budget is covered. This operations update therefore highlights these vital needs and reduced risk shelter construction that can be met through the intervention of the Viet Nam Red Cross if sufficient funding is provided.

For longer-term programmes in this or other countries or regions, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for national society profiles, please also access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

Background: initial assessment and analysis

The government's response to the typhoon has been widespread and Red Cross Red Crescent support has linked in with that. In total, 9,250 tonnes of rice from its reserve and USD 20 million (CHF 23.2 million or EUR 13.8 million) has been pledged to the worst-hit provinces. [<click here for a map of the affected areas>](#)

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The government's focus is primarily on restoring public infrastructure and utilities, including schools, health stations, irrigation systems, roads and environment sanitation. Local and international organizations/individuals have helped in the distribution of food, clothes, and cash. However, needs remain high and the support from the Red Cross Red Crescent, particularly in terms of household kits and reconstruction of typhoon-resilient houses is vital. Indeed, the president of Thanh Hoa VNRC chapter has said such support has already made a difference to the lives of many. Both Thanh Hoa and Ninh Binh Red Cross chapters have already raised concerns of the plight of vulnerable families in approaching months when assistance diminishes.

Tried and trusted initiatives in the wake of last year's typhoons (Damrey and Xangsane) demonstrate the capacity of VNRC to support affected communities in rebuilding their lives and livelihoods to a safer degree than prior to disaster; in other words an approach to reconstruction that reduces future risk. Its standard – and proven – approach to shelter should inspire confidence in partners wishing to see a long term dividend in their investment in helping rebuild safer communities in one of the world's most disaster-prone countries.



Not quite up to their necks: people have showed remarkable fortitude during the floods (picture: AFP)

In addition to affected areas still suffering, rains have spread to new areas. Quang Nam province, which escaped the worst of the disaster some weeks ago, is now flooded with seven people reported dead and 30 injured. The airport in Hue was closed for one day because of heavy rains. In short, the ordeal for the people of central Viet Nam is far from over.

As the floods recede in parts, roads are reopening and communities are becoming accessible again. People are slowly returning to what is left of their homes ... in many cases this means simply waterlogged land where their homes once stood. Many families, meanwhile, including 40 in Thach Thanh district, Thanh Hoa province, are still taking shelter in temples and local authority buildings because their communities remain cut off.

Schools have re-opened and children are helping to clean their premises. Many parents already struggling have the ongoing pressure of providing their children with money to buy textbooks and supporting their education. Agricultural production has not yet resumed. A lot of work is needed to make the soil arable again after the ruin caused by the floods.

In terms of drinking water, this has been purified with the help of Chloramine-B tablets. In some locations, people are carrying purified water from commune authorities' buildings. Many families use alum to purify water in a traditional way. No major disease outbreak has so far

been reported. However, vulnerability remains high: all household open wells are polluted; paddy field rice is rotting as a result of being inundated; while excrement and garbage are accumulating and pose problems to people's health. VNRC staff at chapter level continue to have serious concerns in this regard.

People's livelihoods have been squeezed in many ways: basic things are often among those that hit home the most, such as the floods ruining the source of rice husks, a major – and free - fuel for cooking. Already poor families are forced to buy fuel to cook. The immediate outlook for vulnerable communities is bleak.

The Federation's disaster relief emergency fund (DREF) allocation of CHF200,000 and support from USAID has enabled the national society to procure 210 tonnes of rice to distribute to 7,000 families. Also, under this assistance, 6,300 household kits containing mosquito nets, blankets, utensils, and water containers, and 1,000 bottles of water have been provided to the affected people. Feedback indicates that beneficiaries appreciate these basic items, which have lifted some of the gloom and suffering of their predicament. Distributions are planned to be completed by 10 November 2007.

French Red Cross and the Spanish Red Cross have been in contact with ECHO for assistance to focus on food and non-food items primarily in the three worst-hit provinces. This will be coordinated as part of the overall external support to VNRC.

At present, available funding facilitates the distribution of more rice and household kits. However, while the needs of several thousand families remain unmet, the VNRC will continue striving to meet the objectives of the operation even if the garnering of support continues at a slow pace.

Context

The central part of Viet Nam is particularly prone to disaster; illustrated by the devastating flooding of mid-August, followed by Typhoon Lekima in early October, causing floods in the provinces of Nghe An, Ha Tinh, Quang Binh, Quang Tri, Hue, and Quang Ngai.



Awash: one of the key challenges now is to build back better so that communities are safer and more resilient the next time. Partners are urged to support this.

Typhoon Lekima affected two million people (600,000 of whom are classified as seriously affected), killed 88 and injured 180. It caused considerable damage to infrastructure. In addition to flooding in the above provinces, Thanh Hoa, Ninh Binh, Hoa Binh and Son La were also affected by heavy rain.

The Central Committee for Floods and Storms Control (CCFSC) reported more than 9,505 houses collapsed or washed away, and another 127,551 damaged. Hundreds of schools have been damaged and more than 55,000 hectares of rice, vegetable and aquaculture have been lost. Damage is estimated at VND 3,056 billion (CHF 223.5 million or USD 189 million). In Thanh Hoa province alone, the total damage is VND 1,100 billion (CHF 79.7 million or USD 69 million).

Red Cross chapters in all the provinces have been stretched to the limit. One particularly impressive consequence has been the support of local communities in the work of the VNRC. For instance, Quang Tri chapter released VND 400 million (CHF 28,882 or USD 25,000) to provide instant noodles and drinking water to 5,200 families with the support of local donors.

While many people have returned to pick up the pieces of their lives and livelihoods, there are others living with friend and relatives. Some families have received money or material to rebuild their houses or make temporary shelters nearby the remains of their home. This is one area of concern for the Red Cross in that people may be exposing themselves to future risk if they do not build back better in terms of storm resistant shelter.

Other signs of communities trying to get back to normal include schools re-opening and local clean-up operations – with the support of VNRC – helping to limit the risk of health related problems. The supply of clean water remains the most urgent need. Purified supplies are reaching communities and no major disease or illness has been reported thus far. However, there is no room for complacency in this regard.

Operational Developments

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

During the initial response, Viet Nam Red Cross (VNRC) focused, together with local authorities, on evacuating people from flood-affected areas, and providing 74,000 boxes of instant noodles and water bottles and clothes to evacuees. The VNRC also released 1,200 household kits. Over 74 tonnes of rice have been distributed to more than 40,000 people in the Son La, Quang Binh, Ninh Binh and Thanh Hoa provinces. In total, 14,000 families have been supported by VNRC, including as a result of the support mobilized locally.

The VNRC, supported by the Federation, will focus on the provision of food and non-food items, and rebuilding of typhoon-resilient houses. The community participates in the design and construction of houses and includes

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components of awareness on basic health through clean water and sanitation. A comprehensive evaluation will be done at the end of the operation to ensure institutional learning.

It is heartening to see that simple things such as a household kit can be so valued: a blanket to wrap around the children at night in the makeshift shelter; a plastic container enabling the family to bring water from a cleaner source than the murky river water surrounding them; and a few cooking pots to prepare rice and vegetables bought with donated money. The local markets are picking up and neighbouring villages that escaped the floods are selling their produce. Precious money received is being spent on this additional nutrition and on new schoolbooks for the children. The table below illustrates support provided through this Federation appeal. Distributions have been completed in the provinces of Thanh Hoa, Nghe An and Ha Tinh. The remainder will be completed by 10 November.

Name of province	Relief Items		
	Rice (tonnes)	Household kits from stocks	Drinking water (bottles)
Quang Binh		600	
Ha Tinh	27	1,000	
Nghe An	60	1,700	420
Thanh Hoa	60	1,600	240
Ninh Binh	21	800	240
Son La	21	400	100
Hoa Binh	21	200	
Total	210	6,300	1,000

Food and nutrition

Objective: Provision of emergency supplementary food comprising instant noodles, drinking water and a 30 kg ration of rice per family for 28,000 families with approximately 140,000 people for one month in the worst affected areas. Support in terms of both cash and rice will also be supplied by local authorities and other organizations.

The VNRC headquarters is distributing 210 tonnes of rice to the flood-affected area out of the DREF allocation. With this support, 7,000 families (about 35,000 people) will benefit. However, more urgently needed assistance is sought to cover the gap, given that local people's farmland and livestock have been damaged and they are unable to start the new planting of crops until next season.

Non-food items

Objective: By the end of December 2007, 12,000 families in the most severely affected areas will receive one basic household kit comprising cooking and kitchen utensils, one mosquito net, two blankets and one 40-litre plastic water container. The provision of these items is aimed at meeting the immediate needs of the affected families so as to enable them begin returning to their everyday lives as quickly as possible.

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About 6,300 household kits are being provided to the families most in need in the seven worst affected provinces thanks to the DREF allocation and support from USAID. As stated, the distribution will be completed by 10 November. In the Thanh Hoa province, beneficiaries are reported to be pleased with the items. However, considerable needs remain because of the limited funding. An additional 1,500 household kits are being allocated and distributed during this month as the winter season begins in the northern and central parts of Viet Nam.

Shelter

Objective: By September 2008, 1,000 families with no available means of rebuilding their homes are living in typhoon-resistant houses with appropriate water and sanitation facilities.

The current level of funding does not enable this activity to begin; the target families are now living in temporary shelters and their need for a safer house is urgent. It is certain that the families, who were already poor before the disaster, have lower capacity to re-build their homes without external support. The Red Cross Red Crescent will not be able to meet their needs if more funding is not secured.

Coordination

Coordination between the VNRC, with Federation support, and government counterparts is assured through the Red Cross' presence on the Central Committee for Flood and Storm Control (CCFSC), People's Aid Coordinating Committee as well as its good working relations with international organizations such as UNDP, UNICEF, WHO and INGO - members of the national disaster management working group (DMWG).

Red Cross Red Crescent representation at such forums ensures that the vulnerabilities at community level remain a vital consideration in planning and decision making. It also enables the Federation to share its wide experience and expertise in disaster management drawing on lessons over the years in Viet Nam and elsewhere, particularly in Southeast Asia. Some embassies in Hanoi have also pledged direct support to the government of Viet Nam.

The VNRC relief response has received good support from the local authorities. As stated above, Red Cross staff and volunteers are in the forefront of efforts, in cooperation with local authorities, in meeting urgent needs.

Prompt support from the British, Netherlands, Japanese, and Monaco national societies, as well as the Swedish Red Cross (which is also funding the Federation head of delegation in Viet Nam), and USAID has meant less suffering for thousands of affected people. However, as is clear, more support will ensure an even greater impact towards creating safer and more resilient communities in the future. Other national societies and partners active in the region and those who have worked with VNRC, bilaterally or multilaterally, are urged to consider supporting this Emergency Appeal. It is worth noting also that the flooding season is probably far from over.

How we work

All International Federation 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 is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The Federation's Global Agenda

The International Federation's activities are aligned with under a Global Agenda, which sets out **four broad goals** to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".

Global Agenda Goals:

- Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.
- Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.
- Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.
- Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.

Contact information

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For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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[Donor response and map below; click here to return to the title page](#)

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Donor response to appeal MDRVN002 - VIETNAM - TYPHOON LEKIMA

TIMEFRAME: 08 Oct 07 to 10 Oct 08

LOCATION: Vietnam

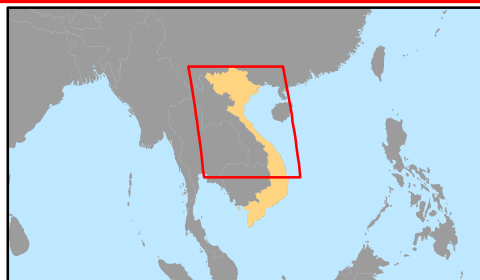
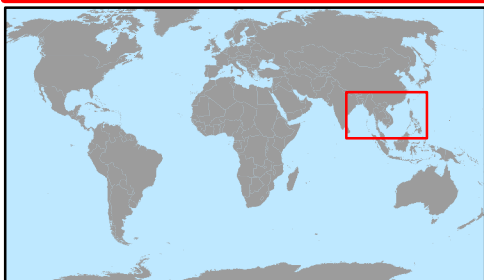
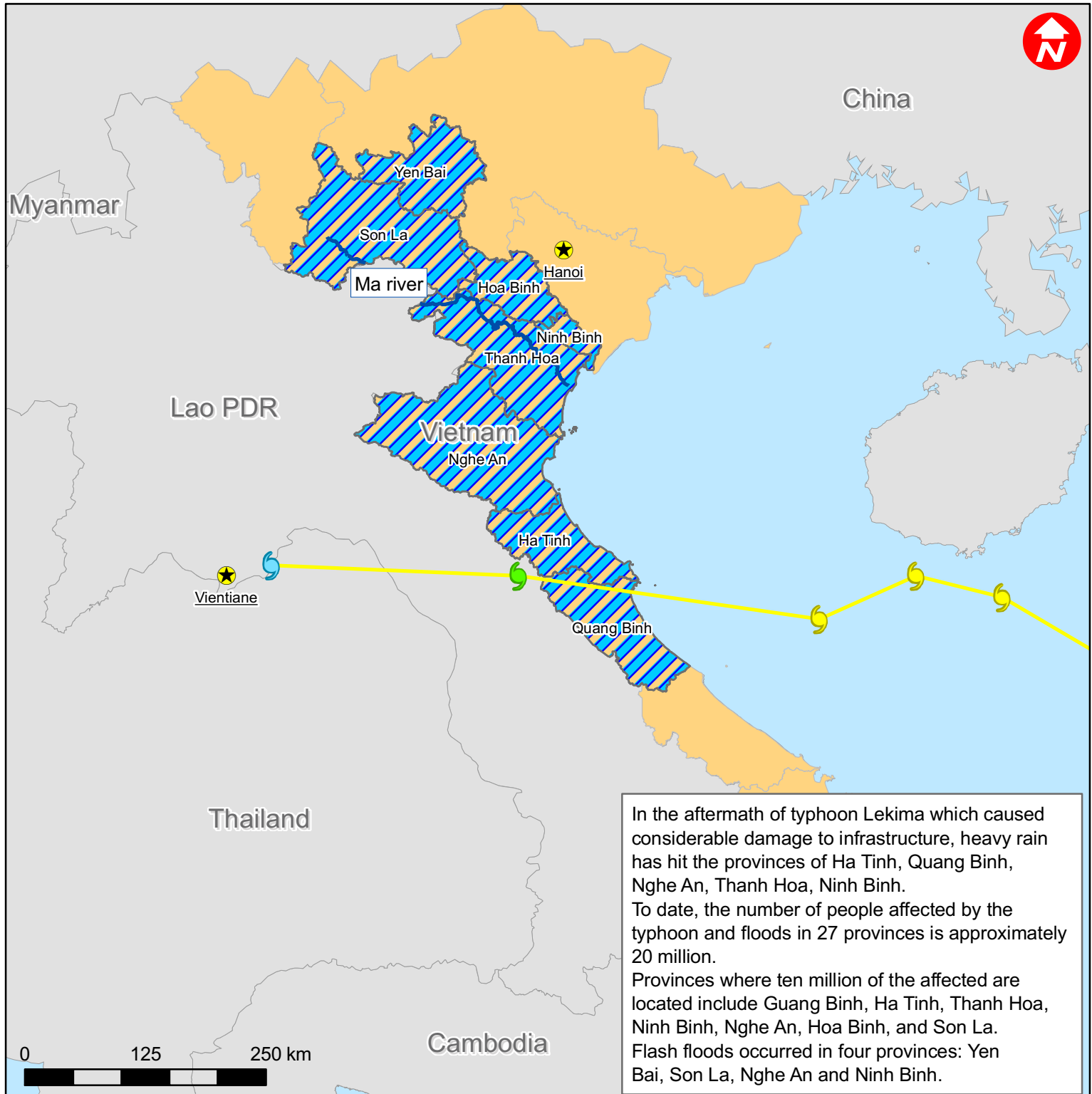
TOTAL AMOUNT SOUGHT:	3,231,507
TOTAL RECEIVED TO DATE:	410,612
APPEAL COVERAGE TO DATE:	13%

Updated on: 02 Nov 2007

	Currency	Amount	Coordination & Implementation	Disaster Management	Health & Care	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Total
			CHF	CHF	CHF	CHF	CHF	CHF
BUDGET				3,231,507				3,231,507
FUNDING								
<u>Opening Balance</u>								
Income								
Cash contributions (received and pledged)								
British Red Cross	GBP	36,000		85,212				85,212
Monaco Red Cross	EUR	5,000		8,300				8,300
USAID	USD	100,000		117,100				117,100
Total Cash contributions				210,612				210,612
Other Income								
DREF Allocations	CHF	200,000		200,000				200,000
Total Other Income				200,000				200,000
Total Income				410,612				410,612
TOTAL FUNDING			0	410,612	0	0	0	410,612
COVERAGE			0%	13%	0%	0%	0%	13%



Vietnam: Typhoon Lekima and floods



- Tropical depression
- Tropical storm
- Typhoon cat. 1
- Lekima
- Ma river
- Affected provinces
- Capitals