

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
15 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. 2; Period covered: 1 November – 15 November 2007;

Appeal target: CHF 3,231,507 (USD 2.7 million or EUR 1.9 million);

Appeal coverage: 29%; [<click here to go to the attached Donor Response list attached, also available on the website>](#).

Appeal history:

- **Preliminary appeal launched on 10 October for CHF 3,231,507 (USD 2.7 million or EUR 1.9 million) for 12 months to assist 193,000 beneficiaries.**
- **Appeal launched on 17 October as 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: Tens of thousands of homes are now submerged in central Viet Nam, as a result of the *fifth* major flood since August this year. Overall, hundreds of people have died, roads and railways have been inundated, crops have been damaged and water-borne disease is spreading. The latest setback aggravates an already bleak situation with the resilience of the affected population being tested even further after the battering they received from typhoon Lekima. In total, 15 provinces are affected. [<click here for a map of the affected areas>](#)

In the latest emergency, efforts are being made to supply household kits, clean water containers and mosquito nets in the coastal cities of Hue and Danang, and the provinces of Quang Tri, Quang Ngai and Binh Dinh. 'The water is at very dangerous levels and it is not clear what the needs are,' said the Federation disaster manager in Viet Nam. Reports indicate that parts of Viet Nam have suffered an outbreak of acute diarrhoea, including cholera, in the past three weeks.

A government report said 61,500 houses were submerged in Quang Ngai province and in Danang. Meteorologists estimated water levels are higher now than in October in several northern and central provinces, some of which have recorded the highest levels in two decades.

This week, the main north-south railway and roads were flooded, confining 3,000 tourists to hotels in Hue and other popular destinations. Nearly 150 old houses have been submerged in the World Heritage site of Hoi An. Over the past few days, at least 24 people have been killed and eight missing. About 25,000 people have been evacuated to higher ground.

This operations update reports on-going relief to people affected by typhoon Lekima. It also presents new developments from the floods between 29 October and 6 November as a result of cold winds from China as well as the floods between 10 and 12 November caused by a tropical depression.

Thanks to the generosity of the British, Netherlands, Japanese, Monaco, Swedish Government/Red Cross, and German national societies and USAID, 29 per cent of the appeal budget is covered. *However, clearly in light of the 71 per cent shortfall compounded by the latest floods, there is an urgent need for more support to this operation.*

The situation of 7,000 families was somewhat eased as a result of rice supplies; in addition, 11,457 families received cooking pots, water containers, mosquito nets and blankets. Thousands of other families received instant noodles, drinking water, and cash as a result of local contributions through Red Cross chapters.

In addition to the distribution of household kits, the Viet Nam Red Cross (VNRC) will use its buffer stocks this week to address new urgent needs as a result of the latest situation.

It is expected that the objectives in relation to rice distribution and shelter recovery will be kept as they are, while the distribution of household kits will be expanded to cover the immediate needs as a result of the latest floods. More funding is urgently needed to lift some of the physical suffering and mental distress for the thousands affected.

Background: initial assessment and analysis



Shouldering the burden: VNRC's intrepidity ensures that many supplies get through on time and to where they are most needed.
Picture: Hue branch VNRC

The floods affecting central Viet Nam have devastated the region, increasing the needs of already vulnerable communities. The government has mobilized the ministry of health, Central Committee for Flood and Storm Control (CCFSC) and the military to respond and support people. Dozens of tonnes of instant noodles have been transported to affected areas. The government has pledged 5,500 tonnes of rice to support those affected by the floods of early November.

In addition to typhoon-Lekima affected areas, which are still suffering, floods have waterlogged an additional six new provinces. This is a new phenomenon for the people of the central coast as historically floods have tended to repeat over a 40-year interval. This time, it has been only eight years since the 1999 floods that devastated the region.

Rescue efforts are ongoing and relief goods have begun to reach affected areas. The national airline carrier Viet Nam Airlines is offering free transportation of relief items for humanitarian organizations including VNRC.

Local media reported that in some cases, people have said they have nothing more to lose.

Context

Shortly after people returned to what was left of their homes, striving to come back to some degree of their life as existed before typhoon Lekima, many had to be re-evacuated from their

houses or temporary shelters due to flooding caused by one week of torrential rains, starting from 29 October to 6 November. The flooding was widespread in the Central coastal and highland area. About 90,000 people were

Viet Nam: Typhoon Lekima; Appeal no. MDRVN002; Operations Update no. 2

evacuated to safer areas by the local authorities. The worst-hit provinces include Quang Binh, Quang Tri, Quang Nam, Quang Ngai, and Binh Dinh. Losses to human, property, and livelihoods are substantial.

Even worse, torrential rains and increased water level in many rivers in the central regions between 10 and 12 November further inundated the provinces of Quang Binh, Quang Tri, Hue, Quang Nam, Quang Ngai, Phu Yen and Binh Dinh. Particularly, the low lands of Quang Tri, Hue were under flood waters of between 1.5 metres and 2.2 metres – and of up to five meters in Quang Nam. Nearly 187,795 families were flooded out and 110,000 people had to be evacuated and relocated in safe areas, such as high ground, offices and schools. For many, this was the second evacuation in four days.



According to a daily update of the National Disaster Mitigation Partnership (NDMP) compiled from local authority reports, flood water inundated 56,750 families in Quang Nam province, 83,378 families in Hue and 27,600 in Danang. About 6,000 families in the worst-affected provinces of Hue, Quang Nam and Quang Ngai had to find shelter elsewhere. Some climbed on to the roof of the highest house in their location to survive.

More than 100 communes in Quang Ngai, Quang Nam were waterlogged, and some were completely cut off. Heavy rains made it impossible for helicopters to rescue the people. While the local authorities are striving to help people by using various transport, from canoes to helicopters, in the majority of cases it is the self support of the local people that is proving the most effective form of assistance. Having said that, external help is clearly needed. The impact of the two floods is summarized below:

Blanket coverage: support is getting through but the low appeal coverage means many people are struggling.

Picture: Hue branch

<i>Loss of life</i>			<i>Loss of property</i>		
Dead	Missing	Injured	No. of houses damaged	No. of houses damaged and flooded	Farmland (hectare) inundated
103	12	51	594	327,795	3,980

In some areas, flood waters are reported to have slowly begun to recede. Rain still continues, but is not as heavy as it was. However, in many places, trucks and buses continue to stand in line waiting for the road to clear because of

Viet Nam: Typhoon Lekima; Appeal no. MDRVN002; Operations Update no. 2

flooding on Highway no.1, which connects the north and the south. Roads will be restored in a day or two in Quang Ngai province. At least 4,000 bus passengers are reported stranded; but local authorities have provided them food and water. Train passengers faced similar hardships and were transported by buses as far as possible because the railway has been cut off in the Hai Van tunnel in the Hue province.

Red Cross chapters in these provinces have provided instant noodles and water to the affected populations from their own emergency funds. This distribution is ongoing. However, their sources are shrinking given the continuing need to respond to the ongoing disaster and the new needs emerging. The VNRC headquarters has already released 1,500 household kits to cover some of the shortfall. This is beyond the scope of the original appeal and must be addressed in any subsequent revision.

The Red Cross chapters in non-affected areas are supporting those chapters in flooded areas. For instance, the chapter of Ho Chi Minh City has supported the Phu Yen chapter with rice, salt, instant noodles and cash. In total, USD 286,000 (CHF 321,232 or EUR 195,121) has been channelled bilaterally within the VNRC, i.e. from chapter to chapter or from headquarters to chapter; a considerable achievement indeed.

Subsequent flooding in so short a time span is causing severe pollution to clean water sources and the environment in general. Health issues remain a concern with severe diarrhoea (and possible cholera) outbreaks reported in 14 provinces in Viet Nam. The ministry of health and the WHO are taking urgent measures to identify and address the situation with the health sector particularly concerned to quickly clean up the environment and strengthen surveillance in order to control further outbreaks. The VNRC are available to assist with their emergency volunteers if needed.

Operational developments

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

In response to latest events, the VNRC headquarters released 1,500 household kits to six flooded provinces. The VNRC met with the Federation, and the French, Spanish, German and Netherlands national societies to discuss ongoing relief. The VNRC under general secretary, who has recently returned from the field, gave an update and shared evolving plans of the VNRC. Red Cross household kits are proving useful and well appreciated by communities, and as such, the VNRC plans to expand the distribution of such kits. The VNRC, Federation and partner national societies (PNS) have looked to improve the content, such as including soap and a leaflet on basic health education with regard to clean water. Rice, which is covered by the government of Viet Nam, will come next. The Red Cross will focus on reaching communities which have so far had little support.

The German Red Cross, which is leading the water and sanitation working group comprising VNRC HQ and PNS, will initiate efforts to improve clean water and basic health practices. Chapters have also requested life-buoys and vests to help in their work. The Federation will work with VNRC to prioritize needs effectively.

Food and Nutrition

Objective: Provision of emergency supplementary food comprising instant noodles, drinking water and a 30 kg ration of rice per family for approximately 140,000 people (some 28,000 families) 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.

In addition to 210 tonnes of rice already distributed to 7,000 families in provinces affected by typhoon Lekima, the VNRC headquarters will procure and distribute 420 tonnes of rice from the appeal budget, in addition to 81 tonnes of rice to those affected in the provinces of Quang Nam and Quang Ngai thanks to support from the Luxembourg government directly to the national society.

However, more assistance is urgently sought to cover the gap which has grown as a consequence of the two recent floods.

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 to enable them return to their everyday lives as quickly as possible.

In addition to 6,300 household kits already distributed since the last operations update, an additional 3,000 kits have reached those affected, including 1,500 kits provided to those flood-hit under the earlier Xangsane/Durian operations. About 3,200 household kits will be distributed this week to provinces struck by the recent floods.

So far, 11,457 household kits have reached affected communities. These include 9,300 kits from the appeal, and the remainder procured through locally mobilized efforts and supported by Save the Children and an international company. Support from ECHO through French RC and Spanish RC is in the pipeline. As the two national societies will focus on certain provinces, the Federation will shift its focus to other provinces to ensure that needs elsewhere are covered.

About 1,500 household kits will be given to those most in need in Quang Nam and Quang Ngai, from the support provided by the government of Luxembourg.

The VNRC headquarters is also looking for replenishment of its three buffer stocks when the last of its household kits have been dispersed. While the government has focused on food items, VNRC is set to revise this objective to assist an additional 45,000 families with non-food items, such as household kits.

Shelter

Objective: By September 2008, 1,000 families with no available means to rebuild their homes will be living in typhoon-resistant houses with appropriate water and sanitation facilities.

Reports from the chapters and the severity of damaged homes from the typhoon and subsequent flooding have shown an ever more urgent need to support affected people's efforts to re-build their homes. The current level of funding is not enough to support this urgent activity which has longer term benefits for risk reduction to begin. Additional funding is therefore vital.

Coordination

VNRC chapters have cooperated with local authorities to select those most in need of support. Local and international media coverage has increased the Red Cross Red Crescent visibility with the hope of further garnering support for those affected by this wave of disaster.

While all sectors and organizations are working around the clock to respond and assist the people to overcome their plight, there still remains a great deal of support needed and work to be done.

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

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Donor response to MDRVN002 - VIETNAM - TYPHOON LEKIMA

TIMEFRAME: 08 Oct 07 to 10 Oct 08

LOCATION: Vietnam

TOTAL AMOUNT SOUGHT:	3,231,507
TOTAL RECEIVED TO DATE:	922,398
APPEAL COVERAGE TO DATE:	29%

Updated on: 15 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		87,588				87,588
German Red Cross (from German Government)	EUR	53,500		89,506				89,506
Japanese Red Cross	USD	136,800		158,551				158,551
Monaco Red Cross	EUR	5,050		8,514				8,514
Netherlands Red Cross	EUR	40,000		67,440				67,440
New Zealand Red Cross	CHF	10,000		10,000				10,000
On Line donations	CHF	271		271				271
Swedish Red Cross	SEK	15,000		2,728				2,728
Swedish Red Cross (from Swedish Government)	SEK	1,000,000		181,900				181,900
USAID	USD	100,000		115,900				115,900
Total Cash contributions				722,398				722,398
Other Income								
DREF Allocations	CHF	200,000		200,000				200,000
Total Other Income				200,000				200,000
Total Income				922,398				922,398
TOTAL FUNDING			0	922,398	0	0	0	922,398
COVERAGE				29%				29%



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