

EMERGENCY APPEAL



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
17 October 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

THIS EMERGENCY APPEAL SEEKS CHF 3,231,507 (USD 2,734,325 OR EUR 1,927,785) IN CASH OR SERVICES TO SUPPORT THE VIET NAM NATIONAL RED CROSS IN ASSISTING 193,000 BENEFICIARIES FOR 12 MONTHS.

Appeal history:

- A preliminary emergency appeal launched on 10 October 2007 for CHF 3,231,507 (USD 2,736,640 OR EUR 1,940,274) to support the Viet Nam Red Cross in assisting 193,000 beneficiaries for 12 months.
- This full emergency appeal is launched on 17 October 2007 with minor adjustments to the operation.
- DREF allocation of CHF 200,000 (USD 169,229 or EUR 119,312) on 7 October 2007

[<click here for the attached appeal budget>](#)

The Situation

It has been two months since the devastating flooding of mid-August in the Central provinces of Viet Nam. This area is once again badly affected by Typhoon Lekima, covering the Nghe An, Ha Tinh, Quang Binh, Quang Tri, Hue, and Quang Ngai provinces. The typhoon, accompanied by strong winds of about 130km/hour and heavy rainfall, particularly affected the provinces of Ha Tinh and Quang Binh on 3 and 4 October 2007. Six provinces were already under water as result of incessant rainfall over the three days before the typhoon struck.

[<click here for a map of the affected areas>](#)

In the aftermath of typhoon Lekima which caused considerable damage to infrastructure, heavy rain has hit the provinces of Quang Binh, Ha Tinh, Nghe An, Thanh Hoa, Ninh Binh, Hoa Binh and Son La. Extensive flooding occurred between 4 and 6 October 2007. One dam under construction in Thanh Hoa was damaged on the night of 4 Oct, flooding almost the entire communes of the Tho Xuan and Thieu Hoa districts. Evacuees of typhoon Lekima who returned to their homes were forced to re-evacuate due to rising flood waters. A thousand more unable to be evacuated the same night were compelled to seek refuge on trees or roofs. River water overflowing the dykes has forced the withdrawal of an additional 54,000 residents along the Ma River to safer ground.

In the mountainous areas of the Nghe An province, deadly flash floods occurred due to severe damage to several small dams on the morning of 6 October, cutting off provincial roads. Flash floods also occurred in the three provinces of Yen Bai, Son La and Ninh Binh.

As of 12 October 2007, 82 deaths and 9 missing persons have been reported by the Central Committee for Floods and Storms Control (CCFSC). Thousands of others struck by floods need to be evacuated urgently. The local media has also reported the floods destroying over 80,000 hectares of rice and vegetable crops including aquaculture. A total of 9,505 houses have collapsed or been washed away, while about 127,551 others have been flooded and damaged in ten provinces of Viet Nam. In the Thanh Hoa and Ninh Binh provinces, more than 54,000 people and 32,000 others have been evacuated respectively.

According to VNRC and the Federation, approximately 600,000 people are severely affected due to collapsed and badly damaged houses. In total, two million people in ten provinces have been critically hit by typhoon Lekima and the subsequent flooding, destroying their rice harvest and other stocks as well as their homes and belongings.

Reports from local authorities show final damage estimations of ten provinces totalling up to VND 3,056 billion (CHF 223.5 million or USD 189.7 million). Among these are the Thanh Hoa, Nghe An, Ninh Binh, Ha Tinh, Quang Binh, Hoa Binh, Son La, Phu Tho, and Yen Bai provinces at a total of VND 575 billion (CHF 43 million or USD 36.4 million) while in the Thanh Hoa province alone, total damages are calculated at VND 520 billion (CHF 38.8 million or USD 33 million).



Red Cross volunteers facilitate distribution of emergency food aid and medicines to flood-affected people in the Thanh Hoa province.
(Photo: Joe Lowry, Federation)

The central government and The Fatherland Front of Viet Nam have called for domestic contributions to help those affected. A VND 130 billion (CHF 9.7 million or USD 8.2 million) has been released by the central government to assist the 27 affected provinces in terms of flood response and evacuation. These comprise the Cao Bang, Ha Giang, Yen Bai, Lao Cai, Hai Duong, Bac Kan, Ha Tay, Son La, Bac Ninh, Hoa Binh, Binh Thuan, Hung Yen, Ha Nam, Nghe An, Quang Binh, Nam Dinh, Quang Tri, Ha Tinh, Quang Nam, Quang Ngai, Thai Binh, Binh Dinh, Phu Yen, Ninh Thuan, An Giang, Soc Trang and Ca Mau provinces. On 11 October, the central government pledged to release VND 289 billion (CHF 21.6 million or USD 18.3 million) for emergency relief, and 7,050 tonnes of rice for ten provinces. Government rice supplies will be equally distributed at 15 kg per person over a two-month period. Despite the large amount, it is estimated these supplies will only be sufficient for two months. As such, other Vietnamese organizations and commercial companies have been engaged to provide emergency relief supplies such as instant noodles, food and drinking water, and cash for provisions to those affected.

Local authorities have mobilized thousands of military personnel to assist in evacuating flood-affected people and to strengthen structures such as the river dyke system, dams and other such edifices.

The national disaster management working group (DMWG) met on the afternoon of Monday, 8 October to share initial damages and needs, and the formulation of three joint assessment teams, including VNRC, to be sent to the most severely-hit provinces of Ha Tinh, Nghe An and Thanh Hoa. Three teams were sent to carry out detailed assessment from Tuesday, 9 to Sunday, 14 October. A debriefing meeting by all teams was held on the following Monday, 15 October.

Following the need assessment reports, a hundred thousand people in two districts of Thanh Hoa province require assistance. Urgent needs include food, especially for children; 23,500 first aid kits; 17,000 learning kits for both primary and secondary school children, including school books; household kits, rice and vegetable seeds, and materials for shelter and reconstruction of houses. Long-term needs include materials for repairs to schools and health stations, and infrastructural reconstruction such as water supply networks, irrigation and roads. Community-based disaster risk management (CBDRM) projects which focus on disaster preparedness for children will also present a long-term need.

Both central and local government are responding to cover part of the needs including providing one million Chloramine-B water purification tablets to help prevent water-borne diseases; supplying food such as instant noodles, salt and rice, and drinking water, and cash for provisions; conducting health checks; and restoring power supply and accessible road conditions. The national disaster management partnership is also commendably working on providing daily updates on damage and relief operations, despite the challenge of making exact estimations during times of emergency.

With technical assistance from the Federation and contributions from the Japanese, Netherlands and Spanish Red Cross societies, the VNRC carries out community-based disaster preparedness and disaster risk reduction activities annually. These include training children in disaster preparedness, building the preparedness capacity of the local Red Cross, promoting public awareness on disaster risk reduction, and planting mangroves, bamboo, casuarinas and other such vegetation along the coastal areas of the Ninh Binh, Thanh Hoa, Nghe An, Ha Tinh, Quang Binh, Hue and Son La provinces. Some of these project sites are flooded but are not among the most affected districts in those provinces thanks to good disaster preparedness and response from both the communities and the Red Cross.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Since the devastating rains in August, the VNRC has supported communities in affected areas, providing household kits, emergency food, and support in returning to their homes. A VNRC team led by an under secretary-general distributed emergency relief and household kits to people affected by typhoon Lekima in the Nghe An and Ha Tinh provinces.

Red Cross chapters assigned staff to work around the clock over the weekend and to send updated information to the VNRC headquarters. Thousands of VNRC staff and volunteers have participated in evacuating people from flood-affected areas, and have provided psychological support especially to those who have lost family members. Up to 15 October 2007, 2,000 household kits have been distributed to the families most in need. Since flood relief operations began, a total of 80,390 bags of instant noodles, 4,700 emergency kits, and over 74 tonnes of rice have been distributed to more than 40,000 affected people in the Son La, Quang Binh, Ninh Binh, and Thanh Hoa provinces.

The VNRC headquarters called for an urgent meeting with all Red Cross partners in Viet Nam over the weekend of 6-7 October to share preliminary information on the VNRC's plan of action. The VNRC headquarters is currently distributing all 4,600 household kits currently available from its warehouse in Hanoi to assist affected people.

The Federation's Southeast Asia regional delegation has deployed a regional disaster management programme officer together with a regional information delegate to Viet Nam.



VNRC volunteers in the Thanh Hoa province. VNRC distributed relief supplies to villagers stranded for over three days in floods following typhoon Lekima. Photo: Joe Lowry, Federation.

A total of CHF 200,000 (USD 169,229 or EUR 119,312) was released from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to enable VNRC to continue its emergency response operations, at least until additional external funds arrive. The VNRC headquarters has procured 210 tonnes of rice to distribute to the flood-affected at the beginning of November 2007 and has released 4,000 household kits to seven affected provinces on 17 October. An additional 6,300 household kits have been procured thanks to emergency assistance of USD 100,000 (CHF 118,210 or EUR 70,510) from the United States embassy in Viet Nam, through USAID.

This emergency appeal is based on all available verified information to date and on VNRC's long-standing experience in dealing with similar disasters.

The Needs

Through chapters in the affected areas, the VNRC has identified and is currently addressing the following challenges in the areas concerned:

(i) Insufficient provision of food to affected families: VNRC has agreed with the Social Welfare and Disaster Management Department to provide emergency food to the most vulnerable households whose houses have collapsed or are damaged, and who have not received support from elsewhere. Emergency relief, covering 48 and 72 hours after the typhoon, is being handled by VNRC local chapters, local government and other agencies. The DREF is expected to be used within one month to support further needs identified by the VNRC joint assessment teams.

(ii) At present, the Ministry of Health and its department at provincial levels is providing assistance through the distribution of emergency medical kits, water purification tablets, and the provision of hygiene education. VNRC chapters provided drinking water during the disaster to evacuees and others affected. There is a need, however, to improve water and sanitation facilities, and provide health education and psychosocial support in the immediate and long-term recovery phase.

Some psychosocial support has been provided by several Red Cross chapters through initial basic-level activities as well as certain forms of traditional support, which will help prevent and alleviate the emergence of stress-related reactions caused by the disaster.

(iii) Support is needed to rebuild typhoon-resistant houses with local construction materials. The local community will be mobilized for labour and other types of assistance (in-kind, cash) to provide safe water containers and sanitation facilities. Tents and other shelters have been provided, while temporary reparation has been done by local volunteers and the military for the families whose houses have collapsed.

Coordination

Close coordination between the VNRC and its government counterparts is assured through the national society's 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 DMWG. All VNRC response planning is done transparently in close collaboration with the Federation's head of Viet Nam delegation based in Hanoi, the regional team based in Bangkok and the Asia Pacific disaster management unit based in Kuala Lumpur. Many tools provided within the Framework for Action of the Federation of the Future, and guidelines for emergency assessment in 2006 have proved useful for needs assessment and subsequent planning and monitoring of this operation.

Maintaining a steady flow of timely and accurate information between the field and other major stakeholders is vital for fundraising, advocacy and maintaining the profile of the emergency operation. During the operation, communication between affected populations and the Red Cross, as well as with the media and donors, is essential for effective disaster response and constitutes the cornerstone in promoting greater quality, accountability, and transparency. Information and advocacy activities have been shared at DMWG meetings and are also outlined in this appeal. They are aimed at supporting the national society in improving its communications capacities and developing appropriate communications tools and products to support effective operations. These activities are carried out in close coordination with the communications department of the Federation's Secretariat in Geneva.

The proposed operation

Based on available information from the VNRC and local chapter assessments in the affected areas, the VNRC, supported by the Federation, will focus on the provision of food and non-food items, the improvement of water and sanitation facilities of evacuated and returning families, targeted health education and immediate psychosocial support to the affected, and the repair and/or rebuilding of homes. A comprehensive evaluation is needed at the end of the operation to ensure institutional learning. The transfer of acquired knowledge for future disaster response will be guaranteed through a skills upgrade of the disaster management Training of Trainers module.

Food and Nutrition

Objective: Provision of emergency supplementary food comprised of instant noodles, drinking water and a 30 kg ration of rice per family for 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.

Planned activities:

- Identification of beneficiaries through criteria agreed upon between the national society and the local communities.
- Procurement of rice based on the Federation procurement procedures
- Organization of transport to the distribution point.
- Organization of the various distributions by the local chapters concerned.
- Distribution of rice with proper recording.
- Monitoring and evaluation.

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 return to their everyday lives as quickly as possible.

Planned activities:

- Identification of beneficiaries through criteria agreed between the national society and the local communities.
- Release of households kits from the VNRC warehouse
- Organization of transport and the distribution system for the basic household kits by each of the local chapters concerned.
- Distribution of basic household kits with proper recording.
- Procurement of items for the basic household kits according to Federation logistics standards.
- Monitoring and evaluation.



VNRC volunteers distributing emergency food aid and medicines to villagers in the Thanh Hoa province. Damage to a dam forced villagers to seek refuge on trees and rooftops in the surrounding areas. Photo: Joe Lowry, Federation

Shelter

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

Planned activities:

- Identification of beneficiaries with destroyed/damaged houses with the aid of strong community participation.
- Community meetings to discuss house design with water and sanitation facilities and adequate construction materials to be used.
- Education and awareness-raising for local people regarding typhoon-resistant techniques, and water safety and hygiene
- Provision of technical training to Red Cross staff and volunteers at district and commune levels to monitor and evaluate the construction process together with beneficiaries to ensure quality and progress; and to understand the importance of water safety and sanitation facilities.

Institutional capacity building

Objective: VNRC staff and members at headquarters and relevant Red Cross chapters will improve their skills on needs assessment, monitoring and reporting.

Planned activities:

- Briefing and coaching of VNRC volunteers, staff and branches on needs assessment, monitoring and reporting skills.
- Organization of workshops.
- Implementation of evaluation, documentation of lessons learned and recommendations.

Capacity of the national society

The VNRC is established under Vietnamese law and is given the mandate to act as the leading humanitarian organization in the country. This constitutes providing relief, health and welfare assistance to the most vulnerable sector of society. The VNRC enjoys nationwide recognition and respect, and is equipped with long and strong experience of disaster management, e.g. using experience and lessons from the Damrey and Durian operations. The main lessons from previous operations include strengthening the mobilization of the national society's members, volunteers and staff to provide even better and timelier assistance.

The national society and its provincial chapters have extensive knowledge in conducting relief and rehabilitation programmes in the wake of natural disasters, which occur regularly in Viet Nam. It is represented in all provinces and major cities with a total of 64 chapters and 1,000 sub-chapters. Each chapter has human resources of eight to 20 professional staff. The VNRC works in partnership with the government and non-government agencies to achieve effective networking and implementation of services. It is also in partnership with other national societies such as the Japanese, Spanish, Netherlands, and Norwegian Red Cross societies through community-based disaster preparedness, disaster reduction projects and programmes.

Capacity of the Federation

The Federation is represented by a Head of Delegation in Hanoi with a team of committed local staff supporting the VNRC in the monitoring and implementation of ongoing disaster preparedness and reduction projects, health initiatives and organizational development of the institution. The Federation's Viet Nam country delegation is monitored and assisted by the Federation's Southeast Asia regional delegation, based in Bangkok. The regional delegation comprises a Head and specialist delegates in disaster management, health and care, water and sanitation, organizational development, planning, monitoring and evaluation, and information, backed by a committed team of regional and local staff, and the Federation's disaster management unit in Kuala Lumpur and relevant technical departments at the Geneva Secretariat.

Monitoring and evaluation

More detailed evaluation and monitoring activities will be elaborated in forthcoming operations updates. The Federation's country delegation will provide technical monitoring support and advice to the VNRC throughout the proposed operation. In case of additional needs, support will be provided by the regional delegation in Bangkok, and the Federation's disaster management units in Kuala Lumpur and Geneva. The VNRC will deploy field-based staff to oversee day-to-day activities. Support will also be provided locally by trained Red Cross chapter staff. The preparation and provision of regular operational updates and a final report will be completed according to Federation reporting standards. The Federation's country and regional delegation will also assist VNRC in its monitoring and evaluation role, as necessary.

Budget summary

See Annex 1 for details.

Dr. Thomas Gurtner
Director
Coordination and Programmes Division

Markku Niskala
Secretary General

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:

- Viet Nam Red Cross: **Mr. Doan Van Thai** (Secretary General), Phone: +84 913.216.549, Email: doanvanthai62@yahoo.com.vn ;
- Viet Nam Delegation: **Ms Irja Sandberg** Federation Representative Mobile: +84 904067955, Email: irja.sandberg@ifrc.org or **Mr. Dang Van Tao**, DM Manager, Phone +84 913.361.581, Email: tao.vandang@ifrc.org
- Federation Regional Delegation Bangkok: **Mr. Michael Annear** (Head of regional delegation disaster management unit), Bangkok, Phone +66 817539598, Email: michael.annear@ifrc.org
- In Geneva: **Mr. Flemming Nielsen** (Head of operations coordination) Phone:+41 22 730 4258; fax +41 22 733 0395, Email: flemming.nielsen@ifrc.org
- Asia Pacific Zone in Kuala Lumpur: **Ms. Amy Gaver** (Disaster management delegate), phone: +60.3.2161.0892, fax: +60.3.2161.1210, mobile: +60.12.220.1174, email: amy.gaver@ifrc.org; Kuala Lumpur regional logistics unit: **Mr. Ilir Caushaj** (Regional logistics coordinator); email: ilir.caushaj@ifrc.org; phone: + 60.1.2628.2707; fax +60.3.2168.8573

[Appeal budget below; click here to return to the title page.](#)

APPEAL BUDGET SUMMARY

Annex 1

Vietnam : Typhoon & Floods - Lekima

MDRVN002

RELIEF NEEDS

Construction Materials	1,850,000
Food	372,960
Utensils & Tools	355,200
Total Relief Needs	2,578,160

TRANSPORT, STORAGE & VEHICLES

Storage - Warehouse	15,000
Distribution & Monitoring	62,463
Transport & Vehicles Costs	50,000

PERSONNEL

International Staff	15,000
Regionally Deployed Staff	15,000
National Staff	16,409
National Society Staff	23,700
Consultants	20,000

WORKSHOPS & TRAINING

Workshops & Training	27,521
----------------------	--------

GENERAL EXPENSES

Travel	75,113
Information & Public Relations	25,000
Office running costs	30,703
Communication Costs	15,000
Professional Fees	25,000
Financial Charges	27,390

PROGRAMME SUPPORT

Programme Support - PSR	210,048
-------------------------	---------

Total Operational Needs	653,347
--------------------------------	----------------

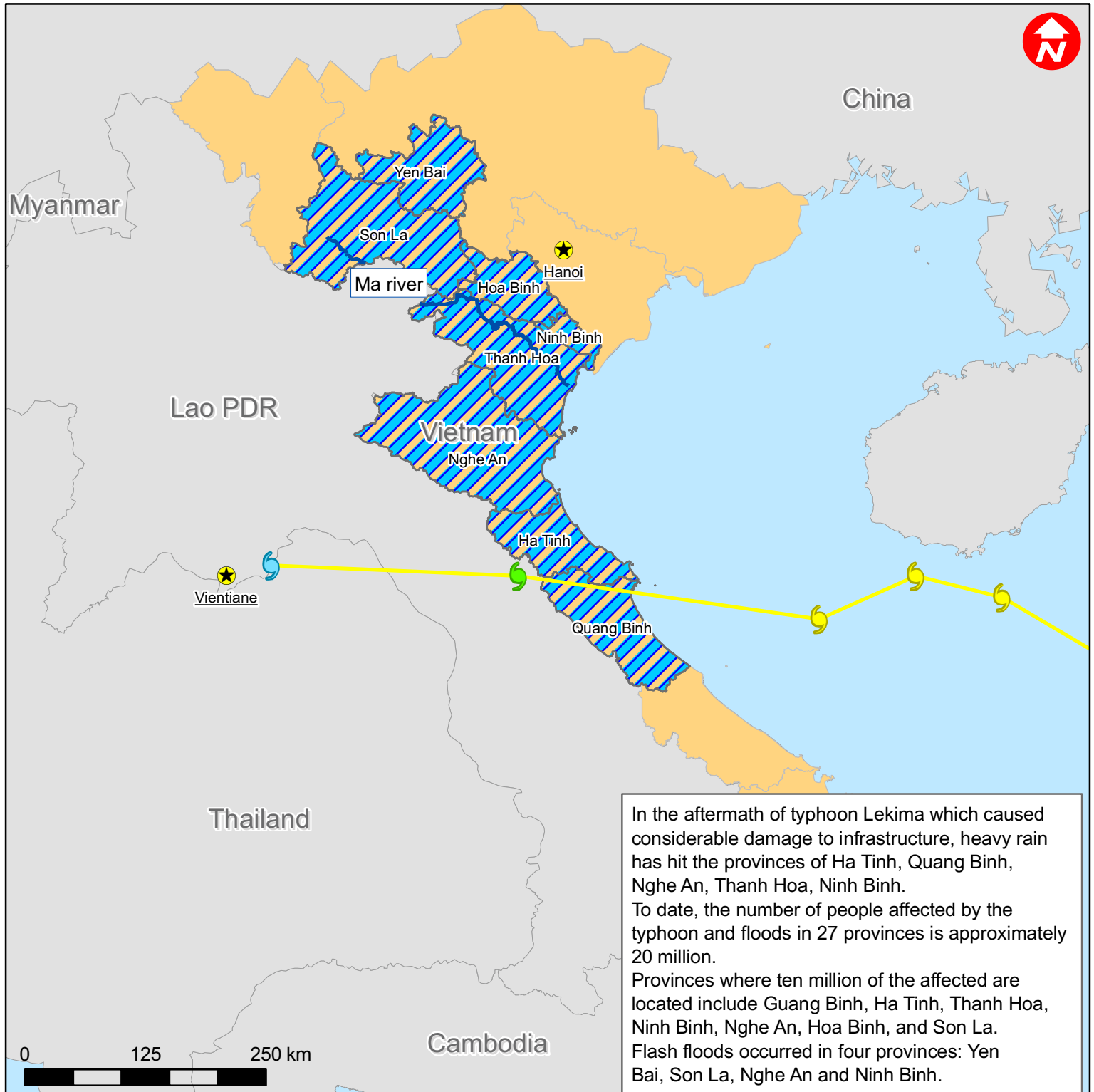
Total Appeal Budget in CHF (Cash & Kind)	3,231,507
---	------------------

Available Resources

Net Request in CHF	3,231,507
---------------------------	------------------



Vietnam: Typhoon Lekima and floods



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