

PROGRAMME 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

VIETNAM

27 May 2002

This Programme Update is intended for reporting on Annual Appeals.

Appeal No. 01.36/2002

Appeal Target CHF 5,708,047

Programme Update No. 1 Period covered: January 1 - March 31 2002

"At a Glance"

Appeal coverage: 10.6%

Related Appeals: South East Asia regional programmes (01.30/2002)

Outstanding needs: CHF 5,100,226

Update: The challenges of vulnerable people in Vietnam are great and there is an urgent need for donor support to the Red Cross of Vietnam so that it can assist those in need. Programmes in disaster preparedness, health and organisational development need stronger backing so that the national society is more effective in its humanitarian work.

Operational Developments:

The most significant developments and activities during the first quarter of year 2002, were: firstly the revisiting of the CAS process, strongly promoted by the senior leadership of VNRC, and secondly the successful and active participation of the VNRC in both the regional Secretary Generals meeting and the Southeast Asia Partnership meeting, in Jakarta, in the month of March. The Vietnamese New Year celebrations (Tet - spanning some two weeks in February) caused considerable disruption to activities in the first quarter already delayed due to lack of funding support.

The International Federation's Secretary General, Didier Cherpitel, visited Vietnam at the beginning of March. The visit was successful in many ways but specifically of great benefit to the VNRC, especially in their relationship with the authorities.

During the Secretary General's visit, he had the opportunity to officially inaugurate the newly rented Red Cross/Red Crescent office premises, located only a few meters away from the NHQ of the VNRC. The premises is, in the spirit of the co-operative work of all member partners, currently shared by the American RC, the Australian RC, the Danish RC and the Federation Delegation. The Spanish RC are soon to take up residence, and other National Societies planning to place a representative in Hanoi have/will be asked to consider accommodation in these shared office premises.

Disaster Response:

Context

Although there is no Disaster Response component within the Federation Annual Appeal for 2002, the Federation continues to support the VNRC in its humanitarian response activities. This year, two main situations have required a co-ordination of this type of action, the heavy flooding addressed in late 2001 by the VNRC National Floods Appeal, and the Droughts and Fires of early 2002. A summary of the status of these two operations may be found below, but for more information the VNRC or Federation Delegation may be approached directly.

(i) Floods 2001/2002

In the final quarter of 2001, flooding affected the six Mekong provinces and further relief and rehabilitation operations were launched by the National Society through its first National Appeal. The main goal of the disaster response operations were that 30,000 households (about 150,000 people) worst affected by the floods are provided with relief assistance.

In addition the French Red Cross, in agreement with the Federation and VNRC approached ECHO for assistance to support households in the Mekong with boats/fishing nets and household "livelihood support packages".

Under the National Appeal, activities under four main objectives were undertaken:

Objective 1 - Relief Distributions

20,000 of the poorest affected households provided with rice and household kits (comprising: 1 mosquito net, 1 blanket, one set of cooking utensils, 3 bars of hygienic soap, 1 bottle of WPT contained in a 35-litre plastic bucket)

Activities & Achievements

- 20,000 households were selected according to established criteria
- Relief items were procured (with quality/quantity assurance)
- Relief distributions were planned, implemented and supervised

Constraints

1. Delays in getting the household kits to the affect families were experienced, as the kits were part of the VNRC Reserve Stock (in agreement with the Federation) and held in Hanoi.
2. Further delays with the procurement of rice meant that rice was not distributed until later than planned.

Objective 2 - Livelihood Support

300 of the poorest affected households without livelihoods provided with a composite boat (xuong) and fishing net.

Activities & Achievements

- 300 households were selected according to established criteria
- Composite boats (*xuong*) and fishing nets were procured/quality checked, etc.
- Distributions planned, implemented and supervised.

Constraints

1. No major problems were experienced with the procurement and distribution of the composite boats and fishing nets. The composite boats take longer to manufacture than the wooden ones that were distributed in the past but are considered to be more durable.

Objective 3 - Logistics & Communications

Logistics and communications systems between district and provincial levels rehabilitated.

Activities & Achievements

- Repair of damaged/destroyed telephone system was advocated for along with the requirements for the installation of telephone lines for communes without land lines
- Advocacy continues for the prioritised rehabilitation of roads and other infrastructure throughout the flood prone areas.

Constraints

No constraints reported

Objective 4 - Capacity Building

The assessment mechanisms, organisational management and targeting skills of the Red Cross staff enhanced.

Activities & Achievements

- Needs assessment guidelines provided to Red Cross staff

Constraints

1. The combination of disaster in the Mekong provinces stretched the human and material resources of the VNRC, particularly at the HQ in Hanoi and Representative Office in Ho Chi Minh City.

ECHO support, through the French Red Cross, provided 1,400 households with xuong fishing boats and nets. In addition, 400 vulnerable households also received household livelihood support packages (approx. CHF100 each) designed to help families worst affected by the flooding and who had lost their economic means of support. These packages included: pigs, ducks, chickens, fish, boats, fishing nets, push carts and sewing machines.

(ii) Droughts & Fires

The situation

During the first quarter of 2002, large areas of Southern Vietnam and the Central Highlands experienced severe drought and devastating forest fires. In many of the prime agricultural areas, including prime rice, coffee, pepper and vegetable cultivation land, little or no rain fell resulting in crop losses and food shortages for up to 100,000 households across 5 provinces.

Water levels at the four key reservoirs in the South: at Da Nhim, Tri An, Thac Mo and Dau Tieng fell to alarmingly low levels, springs and irrigation ditches are dry and ground water levels are at their lowest levels since the 1998 El Nino drought.

In the far South Provinces of Kien Giang and Ca Mau local authorities battled forest fires which, burnt out over 8,000 hectares of natural forest. In Ca Mau over 3,000 hectares of valuable cajeput forest (valued at over US\$ 4 million) has been destroyed in the U Minh Thong National Park.

Red Cross Response

The Viet Nam Red Cross (VNRC) allocated VND 50 million (approx. US\$ 3,000) as an initial and immediate response to the developing disaster - targeting those areas facing food shortages as a result of crop failures. VNRC staff and volunteers in the southern coastal provinces of Binh Thuan and Ninh Thuan distributed emergency food relief (rice) to around 500 of the most affected families.

Heavy but patchy rains at the beginning of April in the Central Highlands and South have reduced the prospect of heavy rice, coffee and vegetable crop losses in some districts. However, the Dac Lac Centre for Hydro-Meteorological Forecasting warns that despite the timely shower, the forecast is for continuing hot dry weather and a prolonged drought.

The Viet Nam Red Cross headquarters and Federation delegation will continue to monitor the situation closely and will conduct a needs assessment to support local relief efforts if the situation deteriorates further.

Disaster Preparedness:

The VNRC continues to implement activities under its three main strategic aims. Principally to: develop its human resources at national, provincial and district levels (*particularly in the most disaster prone provinces*); strengthen its infrastructure and institutional capacity to respond to disasters; and to initiate and improve risk reduction activities in selected geographical areas.

Discussions were undertaken with a number of existing and new donors during the quarter. Where appropriate, these will be followed up with specific proposals as an adjunct to Appeal 2002/03.

Human resource development (principally funded by DipECHO, UNDP, AmCross and AusAID) continued to be the priority for the period, with training of 475 Red Cross staff in seven central and twelve Mekong Delta provinces by the VNRC Provincial and National Trainers in the VNRC Disaster Preparedness Manual. This concludes the training of the Red Cross staff at mid and senior level in the country.

Five staff from the VNRC and two from the Federation undertook an exchange visit to learn more of the work of disaster preparedness programme of the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society.

Risk reduction activity, namely the mangrove reforestation programme, supported by the Japanese Red Cross, continued in six provinces and new initiatives (planting of windbreaks in several provinces) were developed.

The school children disaster preparedness project continued with the training of primary school teachers and subsequently of children in 19 provinces. To date, over the last two years, an estimated 10,000 teachers and over 450,000 children were trained using the VNRC booklet: “*An Introduction to Disaster Preparedness for Primary School Children*”.

Training was also held for a selection of the VNRC National and Provincial Trainers and other staff from three Mekong delta provinces in hazard, vulnerability and capacity assessment (with support from British Red Cross).

The Director of the VNRC Social Work department participated in the third, SE Asia region disaster management co-ordination meeting in Brunei, along with other disaster managers from eight other National Societies.

Objective 1 *The material resources required for disaster management at National Society HQ and in 21 of the provinces considered to be most disaster-prone, are enhanced.*

Activities & Achievements

- An agreement: “*Guidelines for the Utilisation of Reserve Stock*” between the VNRC and the Federation delegation was signed.
- 15,000 household kits (*comprising a mosquito net, two blankets, a kitchen set and a plastic scoop in a 40l plastic bucket*) are stored in Hanoi (north) for use in the rehabilitation phase of future disasters.
- In the second quarter 5,000 kits will be disbursed to Ho Chi Minh City (south) and possibly later other kits from Hanoi will be stored in Da Nang (centre).
- An agreement for the disbursement of equipment provided for by various donors (principally BRCS and DipECHO) was reached between the Delegation and VNRC and during the first quarter, disbursed to Red Cross offices (chapters and DPCs in the centre and south of the country). Equipment included: computers, fax machines and essential equipment/materials for disaster response.

Constraints

See below under Objective 2.

Objective 2 *The National Society has the skilled human resources in disaster management at HQ and in the 21 provinces, to manage the national disaster management programme, with reduced Federation technical support*

Activities & Achievements

- Further limited work was undertaken in the development of disaster preparedness material for the “commune level” in terms of determining the layout of the material. Pilot training activities planned for the quarter were not possible (see below under Constraints).
- The school children disaster preparedness programme continued in the central and Mekong provinces. The programme (funded by AmCross and AusAid) will be finalised by the end of May. Since January, an additional 2,100 primary school teachers were trained in the Central Provinces of: Quang Binh, Quang Tri, Thua Thien Hue, Da Nang, Quang Nam, Quang Ngai and Binh Dinh. Together with 2,100 teachers trained during 2001, these teachers subsequently taught approximately 180,000 children. In the 12 Mekong Delta provinces, 2,250 primary teachers were trained who subsequently taught approximately 100,000 children.
- During the quarter, the training of 475 Red Cross staff in the VNRC Disaster Preparedness Manual by 76 Provincial and National Trainers was completed in 33 provinces.
- Other organisations, notably UNICEF and Oxfam (HK), utilised both the Red Cross human and material resources to undertake training of their staff, MoET staff, primary school teachers, and subsequently of children, in the province of Dong Thap (Mekong) and Ha Tinh.
- The SPHERE book was translated by the Federation staff into Vietnamese in a joint project supported by Oxfam (GB). The Federation Regional Office in Bangkok will work jointly with the Federation delegation and VNRC to conduct a regional SPHERE training in late May in Vietnam for disaster manager’s for National Societies in the region.

Constraints

The following were the main constraints:

1. Due to delays in receipt of funds in the delegation from one donor, Geneva stopped further fund transfers to the VNRC disaster preparedness programme from January. The finance is expected early in the second quarter and should then allow Geneva to transfer funds. The situation for the programme has been extremely difficult and worries exist as to whether certain aspects of the programme will be finalised before the expiry of the contractual periods for several other donors (i.e. DipECHO and UNDP).
2. Competencies and skills of the staff of the SW department still require further development.
3. Although the staffing shortage at the VNRC HQ in the Social Welfare Dept., headquarters is being addressed, with a Deputy Director for the DP/Response section and one further staff member to be appointed, the mandate for these staff has yet to be endorsed.
4. The engagement of key staff of the Federation, SW department, and in the provinces in disaster response operations, particularly in the Mekong delta provinces, forced delays the implementation of the programme.

Objective 3 *The VNRC has the human and financial resources to undertake new risk reduction activities with communities at risk from disasters in selected provinces*

Activities & Achievements

- VNRC Provincial and National Trainers and selected staff from the Mekong Delta provinces of Long An, Dong Thap and An Giang received training in hazard, vulnerability, capacity, risk and hazard assessment (HVCA). This training is in preparation for HVCA in these provinces to be conducted in the second quarter and will determine pilot risk reduction activities to be undertaken in these areas. The project also has support from the British Red Cross. In addition, several VNRC National Trainers and the Federation DP PO planned and facilitated a two-day training workshop for staff of four INGOs on HVCA.
- The new pilot risk reduction projects (*comprising planting bamboo or tree species around communes/villages vulnerable to high winds and storms, supported by DipECHO*) were initiated with the local communities, the People’s Committees and Forestry Departments in Thanh Hoa and Binh Dinh. The project in Ha Tinh was not found to be feasible and this support switched to the other two provinces.
- In the mangrove reforestation programme, supported by the Japanese Red Cross Society, advocacy work, led by the VNRC HQ/Federation, concerning threats to reforested areas in two northern provinces, seems to have paid off. The People’s Committees in the provinces of Hai Phong and Thanh Hoa are now reconsidering requests by property developers to utilise mud-lands replanted with mangroves.

- The programme further diversified with increased emphasis on capacity building of Red Cross and local government staff in these provinces, with programme staff participating in the DP Manual training (described under Objective 2).
- In the six provinces involved in the reforestation programme, disaster preparedness training of primary school teachers and subsequently teaching of school children took place. Since the end of 2001, approximately 1,200 teachers were trained by the VNRC National and Provincial Trainers and around 60,000 children were taught by these teachers using the Red Cross booklet: “*An Introduction to Disaster Preparedness for School Children*”.
- The budgeting process was completed with the VNRC during this quarter. A budget of CHF 680,000 for the period April 2002 to March 2003 was submitted to the Japanese Red Cross. This includes the new plantation, gap-filling and diversification of 880ha of mangrove, 22.5 of *Casurianna* species, 1.5km of bamboo; capacity building of Red Cross staff, training of primary school teachers and subsequently of school children.

Constraints

No major constraints were encountered, although the pilot project to plant bamboo/trees in Ha Tinh caused delays in implementation, the other two provinces will benefit through an increase in the scale of the pilot.

Objective 4 *The VNRC is part of a local, regional and global network in disaster management.*

Activities & Achievements

- A seven-member team from the Red Cross (*five persons from the VNRC involved in disaster preparedness and two from the Federation*) undertook a five-day exchange visit to the disaster preparedness programme of the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society. The British Red Cross supported the visit. The visit provided a useful insight into the work of the cyclone preparedness work of the NS/government and the Society’s CBDM programme. Site visits were made to various parts of the country affected by cyclones, flooding and river erosion. The main purpose of the visit was for the Vietnam delegation to better understand a more community-based approach to disaster preparedness to help in the planning and implementation of such work in Vietnam. A reciprocal visit by a team of disaster preparedness practitioners from the BRCS is anticipated in the second quarter of 2002.
- The VNRC Director of the VNRC Social Work Dept., along with the Federation DP Delegate and DP/Relief PO attended the third SE Asia Regional Disaster Management Co-ordination meeting in Brunei. Significant progress was made at the meeting in terms of defining activities to be undertaken by the National Society in the region towards achieving the four main strategic aims of the regional co-ordination framework.
- The Director of the VNRC Social Work Dept. and the Deputy Administrator in charge of the VNRC office in Ho Chi Minh City (*and also responsible for disaster management for this office*) will visit the Cambodian Red Cross Society in later April for a three-day exchange visit to learn more of the CBDM programme of the National Society.
- Planning by the Regional Disaster Management Unit in the Federation office in Bangkok, in conjunction with the Federation delegation and the VNRC, was initiated for the SE Asia region SPHERE training to take place in Vietnam in May (*see also note above under Objective 2*).

Constraints

No major constraints were encountered although the visit to Bangladesh had been postponed on two previous occasions due to political instability in Bangladesh in April 2001 and later through severe floods in Vietnam (September 2001)

Health and Care:

Assistance to VNRC in Health and Care is provided to three different VNRC departments; Health department, Social Welfare department and Agent Orange Victims Fund. The Danish and Australian Red Cross provide bilateral support to VNRC in the area of PHC and HIV/AIDS peer education. The Federation, with main support from Swedish, American and Swiss Red Cross societies, is supporting

social welfare and health activities in VNRC Community Based Social Work and Disability programmes. In order to ensure that VNRCs needs and priorities in the area of Health are addressed properly, the appeal 2002-3 also included a small part to “prepare the ground” for the possibility to expand on the support in the area of health. To retain clarity, the Federation’s support through the Health and Care programme is reported on separately under the following sections:

- (i) Community Based Social Work
- (ii) Disability
- (iii) Health - Technical support

(i) Community Based Social Work (CBSW)

Background and Progress to date

During this period, VNRC Social Welfare team has organised a workshop for manual development, participated in the regional Health Trend Workshop in the Philippines, monitored and supported provinces with their community activities and small-scale projects. The Federation team has continued to provide advice and assistance in different aspects related to the programme.

The VNRC has started a process to review and renew its strategy for Social Welfare. The Mid-term Evaluation is seen as an important tool for this process. Unfortunately, there has been a delay from the evaluation team in submitting the evaluation report, although it should be available in April. Despite this delay however, it has already been agreed that consolidation will be important, which is also reflected in the revised plan and budget for 2002.

The UNDP/UNV support to VNRC Social Work activities will come to an end in April. As the UN Volunteers have played an important and active role in the CBSW Programme, the ending of their contract will have consequences for VNRC and the programme. The limited capacity of VNRC to sustain this programme (number of staff, qualification and skills) is a concern and has been raised. Therefore, an extension has been requested to ensure sustainability and an appropriate phasing out of the personnel assistance.

One of the major constraints have been the lack of confirmed support from donors and partners to VNRC Social Welfare activities. With no hard pledge to the appeal during the period, some programme activities have had to be put on hold. Both the delegation and VNRC have made special efforts to fund raise locally for programme activities. As the situation is today, it is even more important to build up VNRC’s own fund-raising capacity.

Objective 1 *The awareness and understanding of social issues, sustainable development and social work has increased within the national society, creating a platform for introducing a more community-based and developmental approach in Red Cross activities*

Activities & Achievements

- The main activities under this objective are raising awareness training, development of information material, promotion of exchange and learning.
- *Introductory Social Work training:* No training was planned by VNRC HQ for the first quarter. However, the provinces having gone through the full training cycle, continue to disseminate and introduce social work practices as part of their ongoing humanitarian work.
- *Information leaflet:* VNRC, with the assistance of the Federation team, has worked on the development of a leaflet describing VNRC social welfare activities and approach to support for vulnerable people. The building blocks are in place, and hopefully it can be finalised during the second quarter.
- *Learning and exchange:* VNRC Social Welfare and Health departments participated in the Health Trend Workshop in Manila. This was a good opportunity to share experiences from the CBSW programme as well as to discuss and learn from other national societies. It also provided an opportunity for the two VNRC departments to further develop its collaboration with the membership.

Constraints

No specific constraints to report. To increase the understanding and readiness to take on a “different” approach takes time and is an ongoing process. The challenge is to document and show results of this change process, which, although it is happening, might not be that visible or tangible.

Objective 2 *VNRC has sufficient human and material resources and the necessary management capacity to manage and implement the programme successfully, and thereby responds more effectively to the social needs of the disadvantaged and poor in Vietnam*

Activities & Achievements

- *Training of Trainers (ToT):* No ToT planned for the first quarter. Follow up work on the ToT, which took place in December 2001.
- *Grassroots level training:* Regular support is provided to the provincial trainers in carrying out training for local level. Apart from technical advice, material has been given to support provincial chapters in their community activities and assistance to vulnerable people.
- *Long-term strategy development incorporating outcome of Mid-term Evaluation:* VNRC and Federation have met to review last years achievements and lessons learnt, and to plan for 2002 and coming years. It's been agreed that it's now time for consolidation and focus on practical social welfare activities and services for VNRC's target groups. Documentation of lessons learnt, dissemination and development of best practices are other key areas. VNRC Social Welfare department has started to develop a long-term strategy for VNRC Social Welfare. This work will continue during the second quarter and include the outcome and recommendations from the Mid-term evaluation. The field work of the Mid-term Evaluation of the CBSW Programme was carried out during this period. The evaluation report was expected end of March, but has been delayed.
- *Technical and project management assistance:* Federation is providing ongoing and regular technical support to VNRC HQ in project development and management, and how to best support local level in managing community activities.
- *Resources/Manuals:* VNRC Social Work team organised a workshop with representatives from 12 Provinces in March. The aim of this workshop was to discuss, draft the content together and to get ideas and recommendations from provincial staff on the VNRC Social Work Manual to be used by local level nation-wide. The participants contributed with some good case studies for the manual, based on real and tested social welfare models to support vulnerable people in the communities.

Constraints

1. Limited capacity (both number and skills level of staff) at central level continues to affect VNRC social welfare support and programmes.

Objective 3 *Effective and sustainable support and social services are provided at local level in at least 12 provinces*

Activities & Achievements

- *Assist VNRC with project/activity support:* During first quarter four new project proposals have been finalised by four provincial chapters/commune RC. VNRC HQ and the Federation team have provided guidance and technical assistance in identifying needs, developing plan of action, preparing project proposals. Each provincial chapter has mobilised resources locally for part of the project costs. The Federation team has supported VNRC to establish links with organisations working in the same field and to promote and fund raise within the local international community in Vietnam. Funding through the Federation network continue to decrease and other funding alternatives need to be explored.
- *Identification of and assistance to VNRC target groups:* Extremely poor and elderly have been mentioned as key target groups for CBSW Programme 2002. Exchange workshop as well as documenting good models and experiences to support those two target groups have been planned for the year.
- *Monitoring and evaluation of activities and projects:* VNRC Social Work team has monitored three small-scale projects during this period. Experiences and learning lessons from these projects have been documented. It has been shown that there are some positive signs and achievements in

“experimenting” community based and participatory approaches. The report also shows that project management, including reporting, needs to be improved. A member from the Mid-term evaluation team, conducted a one day training for VNRC Social Welfare dept staff in participatory evaluation techniques, which helped strengthen VNRC capacity in monitoring and evaluation.

Constraints

1. Narrative and financial reporting continue to be a weak area for this as well as for other Federation supported programmes. As part of Federation capacity building/OD support, the strengthening of VNRC capacity in planning and reporting will be one priority area for 2002.

(ii) Disability

Background & Progress to date

Implementation of Disability Programme activities are now fully underway in the seven pilot provinces of Ha Noi, Ha Nam, Quang Nam, Thua Thien Hue, Da Nang, Binh Dinh, Dong Nai. Preliminary evaluations are being conducted to document the program successes and how it can be improved.

The Federation is supporting the VNRC with technical guidance, information sharing, and facilitation of contacts with other potential donors/partners interested in work with people with disabilities and their families.

Objective 1 *The VNRC and Agent Orange Fund will have enhanced capacity to manage the diverse and evolving programme activities of the disability programme.*

Activities & Achievements

- Materials were developed by VNRC consultants which were used in training for Red Cross staff on the following areas: Working with People with Disabilities, Dissemination of Information about Dioxins/Agent Orange, and Program Management.
- The VNRC Agent Orange Fund reviewed and approved proposals submitted by the provinces for program implementation using their guidelines for acceptance.
- 94 VNRC staff and volunteers participated in two seven day training courses organised by the VNRC Agent Orange Victims Fund. The content of the training included: Working with people with Disabilities, Dissemination of Information about Dioxins/Agent Orange, and Program Management. One course was conducted in Da Nang with participants from Da Nang, Quang Nam, and Thua Thien Hue. The second course was conducted in Binh Dinh with participants from Binh Dinh and Dong Nai. Staff in Ha Noi and Ha Nam had previously received the first portion of the training and received the second two components in November 2001.
- IFRC is continuing to facilitate contacts among the VNRC and other partners (potential donors/NGOs, etc.) working in the field of disability in Vietnam.
- The Vice Director of the Agent Orange Fund participated in the September 2001 International Psychological Support Conference at the IFRC Reference Centre in Denmark. His participation enhanced the ability of the VNRC to address emotional and mental health needs of beneficiaries and their families, areas which need to be addressed.

Constraints

1. Materials and guidelines while developed and used implicitly were not captured in formats which are easy to reproduce or share. In 2002, using information learned during the pilot phase, more work will be completed for this Objective.
2. Training is time consuming. While the training participants were enthusiastic, it has not yet been shown that those who received training provided better service delivery. This will be addressed in future evaluations. Future plans will include ways to follow up training courses both national and international.

Objective 2 *The VNRC and Agent Orange Fund will deliver effective and appropriate assistance to poor and disabled people, including those thought to be affected by Agent Orange, at the national, provincial, district, and local Red Cross levels.*

Activities & Achievements

- While the initial assessments were made prior to January 2001, the pilot nature of Phase I of the Disability Program means that needs assessments are ongoing and regularly updated through visits and work by local Red Cross. In addition, the Agent Orange Victim's Fund sent a senior level team for a study visit to all seven pilot provinces in May 2001 to enhance beneficiary selection and needs assessments.
- Project activities continued in the seven pilot provinces: Ha Nam, Ha Noi, Quang Nam, Binh Dinh, Thua Thien Hue, Da Nang, and Dong Nai. Activities are intended to improve the lives of poor and disabled people and their families. The Disability Program has four major sectors for service delivery: medical support (including surgery/rehabilitation/mobility aides), education (vocational/literacy training), home and garden repair, and assistance in improving the family's standard of living/income generation. In addition, there is training and capacity building for Red Cross staff in working with people with disabilities including those who could be effected by Agent Orange.
- As of December 2001, each of the seven provinces completed an initial phase of service delivery. In total 555 families with disabilities received the following:

86 people medical treatment (12% of funds transferred)
 46 people received wheelchairs (6.5 % of funds transferred)
 12 people were provide hearing aides (2.6% of funds transferred)
 46 people received education/literacy classes (4.4% of funds transferred)
 59 people received vocational training (9% of funds transferred)
 152 families received home/garden repair (32% of funds transferred)
 154 families were assisted with income generation activities (11% of funds transferred)

- Each province submitted an updated and detailed plan to the Agent Orange Fund for further activities and additional funds were transferred in December 2001.

Constraints

1. The VNRC /Agent Orange Victims Fund staff have many responsibilities and are not always available.
2. Provinces are dispersed geographically and are autonomous so that each has independence in how to conduct its community surveys.
3. For Phase II of the Disability Program, the Agent Orange Fund is committed to detailed needs assessments prior to implementation. In addition, information learned from the pilot phase will be applied in planning and implementing Phase II. It is also anticipated that as provinces gain experience in implementation, they will be better able to conduct community surveys and needs assessments.
4. Fund transfers from IFRC to VNRC NHQ to provinces can be a time consuming procedure. While each province has autonomy, the VNRC is managing a national program which must maintain high standards uniformly. Provinces differ in their capacity to plan and implement activities.
5. Now that each province has additional working funds, Disability Program activities can continue. Advance planning is underway for future activities and fund transfers. As provinces and VNRC headquarters build experience with the Disability Program, service delivery and communication can improve.

(iii) Health - Technical support

Background and progress to date

Initial discussions have been held with VNRC Health department regarding present health priorities and ongoing activities. At present service areas include PHC, First Aid, HIV/AIDS, Charity Clinics

and Blood Donor Recruitment. The Health department will further clarify its priorities and health strategies for the coming years. Federation regional and country delegations have offered continued support in this process.

The Danish Red Cross supported PHC programme has been evaluated and provided some strong recommendations for adjustments and redesign. The Australian Red Cross supported HIV/AIDS Peer Education programme has also been evaluated. These evaluations could provide a good opportunity for VNRC, together with its bilateral partners, Federation country and regional delegations, to look at VNRC present situation and direction for the future.

To this date, no PNS has offered support (financial or technical) to the programme.

Objective 1 *The VNRC has developed an effective co-ordination mechanism for all Red Cross Health & Care activities*

Activities & Achievements

Activities planned under objective 1) include facilitation and promotion of information sharing between VNRC, Federation and PNSs involved in the Health and Care sector and assistance to VNRC in defining and developing a clear health component in the CAS process. The following progress and achievements have been made:

- Exchange / Information Sharing: VNRC Health and Social Welfare departments as well as the Federation delegation attended the Regional Health Trend Workshop in Manila, March 2002. VNRC Health department presented their experiences with First Aid Training for cyclo and taxi drivers. Also the Social Welfare department and the Federation programme officer were active in presentations and helped facilitated parts of the workshop (see under CBSW Programme, 2). The workshop provided the participants with regional health aspects and gave VNRC many opportunities for exchange of experiences with other NSs as well as between the two VNRC departments.
- VNRC have decided to join the Federation Regional working group on Blood Donor Recruitment, which will enhance exchange and learning from other NSs in the region.
- Initial discussions with VNRC Health department on Road Safety, which the department see as one important area to involve in considering the experience in First Aid. This area will continue to be discussed and coordination/cooperation will be undertaken with Disaster Preparedness teams at VNRC and Federation.

Constraints

1. Closer co-operation between Federation (country and regional delegation) and bilateral NSs supporting VNRC in the area of health would most likely contribute to strengthening of VNRCs co-ordination and programme management capacity. "Cross-border" contacts and co-operation between departments and programme sectors will continue to be encouraged and supported.

Objective 2 *The VNRC receives adequate support to manage, develop and implement all programmes within the health (and other relevant departments)*

Activities & Achievements

Main activities under this objective referred to technical support and guidance, assessment and further development of support mechanisms.

- VNRC and IFRC have met to discuss present situation and propose steps for continuing the work to further clarify VNRC's priorities and strategy in the area of health. IFRC (country and regional delegations) has confirmed its support to the process.

Constraints

Limited capacity (human resources and financial) of Federation country delegation to provide substantial support.

Organisational Development:

One of the most significant achievements during the period is VNRC's commitment to proceed with its strategic planning work, which includes both a national strategy (development plan) and a co-operation strategy (CAS). Direction for the strategy work was set in a seminar, where VNRC senior leadership and managers also took the following decisions to further strengthen the NS' capacity:

- invest into the VNRC comprehensive development plan and co-operation strategies
- reform the administrative procedures to match modern management requirements
- promote and improve skills and qualifications of programme officers and managers
- reform procedures on resource management, focusing on human and financial resources
- set up a joint management unit between the VNRC and the Federation on VNRC development and co-operation strategies
- study and assess international co-operation models

It is foreseen that VNRC's own capacity building plan as well as the Federation's programme support will be updated, adjusted and further clarified to better reflect the above priorities.

VNRC has decided to establish a Co-ordinating Board with representatives from key departments to improve co-ordination, co-operation and communication within the society. This is a welcome decision and will definitely contribute to better overall co-ordination and management of VNRC's programmes. The Co-ordination Board will most likely play a crucial role also in the strategy process. The decision to establish the Board is taken, but it is not yet clear when it will be functional and in place.

The Spanish and Belgium Red Cross have visited Vietnam and agreed with VNRC to support branch development activities. The Norwegian RC has already started a branch development support to three southern provinces.

VNRC participated in the Secretary General and the Partnership meetings in Jakarta, 11-15 March and was represented by the Vice-president (who is also in charge of the Personnel and Organisation department) and the Director of International Relations and Development department.

Objective 1 *The mandate, role and functions of VNRC are clearly defined and well understood within VNRC, public offices and the wider public in Vietnam*

Activities & Achievements

- With support from the ICRC, VNRC HQ organised two dissemination/IHL workshops during the first quarter 2002 for 60 provincial VNRC staff in charge of communication, dissemination and Red Cross training. A handful of staff from VNRC HQ also participated in these training courses.
- VNRC HQ representatives facilitated most of the training, with ICRC and IFRC each facilitating some parts. In addition to the obvious topics for this kind of training workshop (RC history, fundamental principles, IHL, emblem etc) quite considerable time was given to disseminate and discuss the Seville Agreement, the Movement's Strategy, Strategy 2010 and VNRC strategy work lying ahead (National and Co-operation strategies). Course evaluations showed that the workshops were well received and useful.
- Initial discussions have been held between VNRC and ICRC to discuss an update of VNRC legal framework as well as continued support in the area of dissemination.
- Links have also been established between VNRC and the Regional Information Delegate to support the development of VNRC information and communication work.

Constraints

No specific constraints to report during this period.

Objective 2 *VNRC staff at national, provincial and district level have appropriate skills and are well equipped resulting/leading to effective and sustainable Red Cross activities and programmes.*

Activities & Achievements

- Skills building support is provided on an ongoing basis through different programmes, primarily in the areas of Disaster Preparedness, Social Welfare and Health. VNRC, with Federation assistance, is providing training and is supporting volunteers and staff to increase the capacity and improve response at local level.
- Initial discussions have been held to further clarify and define VNRC training needs as part of the ongoing OD/Capacity Building work. Financial management, planning and reporting are continued weak areas and will need to be addressed in the near future.
- Through the UNDP/UNV support to VNRC Social Work activities, assistance is also provided to VNRC Training and Dissemination department. With a UN Volunteer based in the department skills and methods have been upgraded and a training survey carried out, which will be discussed and disseminated to other departments.
- The two staff members of VNRC Fund raising department participated in the Regional Communication workshop in Macau in March. Members of VNRC Social Welfare and Health departments participated and also facilitate some sessions in the Health Trends Workshop in Manila, which also took place in March. Staff from VNRC Disaster Preparedness unit visited Bangladesh to learn and exchange experiences with BRCS.

Constraints

1. As many programmes are running in parallel, skills building and staff development is mainly made from a programme perspective rather than an organisational need. An overall plan indicating VNRC's staff development and training needs would be useful and also help to better co-ordinate and link different programme activities together.
2. The Federation support to the strengthening of VNRC financial management capacity has not yet started, as most of the Finance Development delegate's time has to spend most of her time on the delegation and international Federation administration and financial issues. Indirect, work with VNRC is going on in different programmes for reporting of working advances and cash transfers and revision of budgets.

Objective 3 *Increased self-sustainability through continued development of resource mechanisms within VNRC*

Activities & Achievements

- The Federation delegation's move to a new office presented a new opportunity to VNRC. With the aim to generate income for VNRC, the "old" office has now been rented to a Medical Equipment Company, whom VNRC has started a joint venture with.
- VNRC is continuing to lobby for increased support from the Government.

Constraints

1. It seems that the interaction between the Fund raising department and other VNRC programme departments is very limited. The important area of Fund raising and Resource Mobilisation would benefit of being more strongly linked with capacity building (OD) in general as well as with the different programmes and sectors (e.g. information, dissemination and communication) within VNRC.

Co-ordination and Management:

The main issues this quarter have been to resolve outstanding financial and managerial questions from a previous 'administration'. These issues and the attempts to find creative solutions to address the related deficit have monopolised the time of the HoD and FAD Delegate.

Objective 1 *Strategically managed Secretariat activities in Vietnam.*

Activities & Achievements

- Weekly management reports have been submitted by the HoD in Vietnam to the HoRD in Bangkok, in addition to frequent telephone contacts on specifics, as required.

- Our Programme Co-ordinator attended the regional management team meeting in Jakarta, Indonesia, in March, in the absence of the HoD who was on sick leave.
- Each of the delegates and programme managers have been working on their respective 2002 Objectives.

Constraints

No significant constraints.

Objective 2 *The development, by June 2002, and management of an inclusive Co-operation Agreement Strategy - formerly "Country Assistance Strategy"- (CAS) for Vietnam.*

Activities & Achievements

- Discussions around the CAS were reactivated with VNRC, and the process is fully supported and promoted by its top leadership.
- During a one day meeting of VNRC's senior leadership and national directors/heads from the NHQ with the participation of representatives from the Delegation of the International Federation, the need for a better defined strategy of the VNRC, as well as the CAS process and its end result, was discussed.
- The ICRC, PNS interested in working with the VNRC, and those present at the partnership meeting in Jakarta have received an update on the present CAS process in Vietnam. At present this process is being 'driven' by the VNRC with extensive support from the Federation Delegation in Vietnam, but as the process develops, all partners will become more involved.

Constraints

No significant constraints.

Objective 3

Increased use of regional resources as they become available.

Activities & Achievements

- All delegates and programme managers of the International Federation Delegation, as well as several VNRC officers, continue to be actively engaged with their respective counterparts in the RD for Southeast Asia.
- In areas such as Communications and Planning & Reporting, in which the Delegation does not have its own professional capacities, the delegation receives strong support from the Regional Delegation.

Constraints

1. The amount of regional events related to the different core areas is sometimes overwhelming both for the IFRC Delegations and for the NSs, and it can be difficult for some NS to be able to priorities and to participate in all. mainly due to other priorities, on the home front, and because of the limited number of English speaking officers in relevant functions.

Objective 4

A well managed country Delegation.

Activities & Achievements

- Staff meetings have been held on a regular basis, normally every Monday morning.
- A first programme co-ordination meeting-cum-retreat will take place in Hanoi at the end of April, 2002.
- Performance Development Review training of all international delegates and relevant locally recruited staff took place in the first half of January, 2002.
- Much attention has been given and much time has been dedicated to budget monitoring and deficit management during the first quarter of 2002.
- The production of reports, both as regards the timeliness and the quality, has improved with the good support from the RD for Southeast Asia.

Constraints

No significant constraints.

Objective 5

Effective representation and advocacy of the International Federation and the Movement in Vietnam, specifically with the government of Vietnam and with the international community represented in Vietnam.

Activities & Achievements

- The Vietnam Appeal 2002-2003, with an appropriate cover letter, was sent to the diplomatic missions of the main donor countries in early February, 2002.
- Delegates and/or programme officers of the Delegation in Vietnam have attended several meetings directly or indirectly related to their respective programme areas.
- The HoD has been meeting on regular basis, both formally and informally, with several heads of mission of key countries and international organisations.
- Contacts with the relevant Vietnamese authorities have been maintained in relation to the ongoing discussions around a Legal Status Agreement for the International Federation in Vietnam. Most importantly in this respect were the meetings between, respectively, senior Government and Party officials and our Secretary General, Didier Cherpitel, during his visit to Vietnam in March, 2002.
- Both the VNRC and the International Federation are represented, at different levels, in the country co-ordination mechanism of the Global Fund (GFATM), which will ensure that the views of the International Federation can be expressed, heard and hopefully taken into consideration by the government of Vietnam and other partners.

Constraints

No significant constraints.

Objective 6

Harmonious and close working relations with the National Societies actively supporting the VNRC, as well as with the ICRC.

Activities & Achievements

- Monthly co-ordination meetings with American RC, Australian RC, Danish RC and French RC have been taking place on a regular basis, although it is almost impossible to ensure the presence of all at any given time, due to other commitments and priorities. These meetings are currently useful mainly for general information sharing, but should also, in the future, be helpful to ensure better streamlining of support to the VNRC, as part of the CAS process.
- During the month of February, the Danish RC, the Australian RC and the Delegation of the International Federation together with the American RC, in that order, moved in to their respective offices in the shared office premises.
- Good and close co-operation between the VNRC, the ICRC and the International Federation resulted in two successful dissemination workshops for the disseminators and other officers from all sixty-one provincial chapters of the VNRC.

Constraints

No significant constraints.

Federation Delegation:

The Federation Delegation comprises a team of six international delegates, namely the Head of Delegation, Finance Development, Disaster Preparedness, Programme Co-ordinator (OD and Social Work) and an American RC Representative/Disability delegate, in Hanoi, and a Programme Co-ordinator, in the Ho Chi Minh City Office. In addition, the Regional Officer from the Funding, Planning & Reporting Unit (Bangkok) is currently based in the Delegation in Hanoi.

A Project Manager, contracted by the Australian RC to assist implementation of the Schools Construction project, is also part of the International Federation team in Ho Chi Minh City Office.

In all, there are currently eight Vietnamese Programme Officers, three in Hanoi and four in Ho Chi Minh City.

Monitoring & Evaluation:

See individual programme sections.

Lessons Learned:

See individual programme sections.

Financial Update (see attached annex):

During the course of the first quarter, no new pledge against Appeal 01.36/2002 was announced. Therefore, taking into consideration the existing deficits in some programmes, all appeal programmes and related budgets are being revised. These revisions are expected to be concluded and approved by the Secretariat in Geneva during May 2002.

Wider Context

In addition to the traditional, already established partnerships of the VNRC, some new ones are developing, namely with the Belgian and Spanish RC. The bilateral co-operation between these PNS and the VNRC are expected to be initiated sometime this year.

An increase in the number of bilateral relationships of late has been partly attributed to the high level of PSB and partly due to the new concept of Federation assistance to developing Societies in line with the 'serving leader' concept. With this trend, and a pronounced increase in the number of PNS operating in Vietnam, it becomes more important to clearly define the role of the Federation Delegation. The delegation must be seen to clearly add value in order to attract funding for its support Programmes.

Outstanding needs:

Announcements and confirmation of further cash contributions for year 2002 are urgently required, in order for the International Federation to be able to meet the majority of the planned Objectives of all programmes included in this Appeal, namely, Disaster Preparedness, Health and Care, Organisational Development as well as for the Co-ordination and Management of the programmes and the Delegation in Vietnam.

Only with full commitment and dedicated support from its membership will the International Federation and its Secretariat be able to continue supporting the capacity building of the Vietnam Red Cross and its activities, and to ensure efficient and effective programme implementation, co-ordination and management.

Conclusion:

The excellent relationships that exist between the VNRC and its different partners, including the various PNSs, the Secretariat of the International Federation and its Country and Regional delegations as well as the ICRC, should contribute to further consolidating the co-ordinated efforts required to meeting the objectives set in the Appeal 2002-2003.

Plans for the next quarter:

Disaster Preparedness

Information unavailable at this time.

Health & Care

Community Based Social Work:

Support VNRC's plan to consolidate programme
 Assist VNRC in improving their reporting related to programme activities
 Follow up on the possibilities for local fund raising for VNRC small scale projects/local initiatives in Social Work/ Community Development area
 Monitoring 1-2 on going small scale projects
 Support VNRC to submit proposal for the extension of UNV/UNDP support to CBSW programme.

Disability:

Conclude the pilot phase of the programme
 Make preparations for review and evaluation of the first phase before further implementation can be carried out.

Technical Support:

Follow up on VNRC Health strategy development process
 Strengthen relationship with Health dept & continue dialogue to identify needs for support

Organisational Development:

Continue the dialogue with VNRC on the overall organisational development process in VNRC.
 Assist VNRC to update and clarify OD priorities and to revise plans for 2002 accordingly.
 Find out what support VNRC would like to see from the IFRC delegation as well as bilateral Red Cross/Red Crescent partners present in Vietnam.
 Help promote VNRC's updated plan and co-ordinate assistance with partners and between different programmes, which have capacity building components included.
 Initiate and support the follow-up process of the strategy meeting held in February to ensure the continuation of the CAS process

Co-ordination & Management

Revisions of appeal programmes and budgets for 2002, to be completed by the end of April, 2002.
 Continued negotiations with the GoV, in relation to the legal status of the International Federation in Vietnam.
 Continued lobbying vis-a-vis the international community in Vietnam, in relation to the above subject.
 Continued dialogue with the new senior leadership of the VNRC, mainly with focus on central and key organisational development and capacity building matters and related issues.
 Support to VNRC's preparations of and, the subsequent, participation in the celebration of the World RC/RC Day, on 8 May, 2002.
 Prepare for and launch of the 2002 edition of the World Disasters Report, to take place sometime in June, 2002.

For further details please contact: Sandra Rosner, Phone : 41 22 7304456; Fax: 41 22 733 03 95; email: rosner@ifrc.org

All International Federation Operations seek to adhere to the Code of Conduct and are committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (SPHERE Project) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

For further information concerning Federation operations in this or other countries, please access the Federation website at <http://www.ifrc.org>.

John Horekens
 Head
 Relationship Management Department

Simon Missiri
 Head ai
 Asia Pacific Department

Vietnam						ANNEX 1
APPEAL No. 01.36/2002		PLEDGES RECEIVED				22.05.2002
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
CASH						
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				5'708'047		TOTAL COVERAGE 10.6%
CASH CARRIED FORWARD				0		
AUSTRALIA - GOVT		233'293	AUD	205'788	30.01.2002	DISASTER PREPAREDNESS
AUSTRALIA - GOVT		100'000	AUD	88'210	06.02.2002	DISASTER PREPAREDNESS
BRITISH - RC		4'815	GBP	11'412	19.12.2001	HEALTH & CARE DISABILITY PROG.
BRITISH - RC		15'000	GBP	36'450	23.01.2002	
SWEDISH - RC		800'000	SEK	128'960	22.04.2002	INSTITUTIONAL & RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, HEALTH & CARE, CBS WORK
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				470'820	CHF	8.2%
KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
AUSTRALIA	DELEGATE(S)			39'753		
SWEDEN	DELEGATE(S)			97'248		
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				137'001	CHF	2.4%