

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

3 December 2002

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 178 countries. For more information: www.ifrc.org

Appeal No. 01.36/2002

Appeal Target CHF 5,708,047

Beneficiaries/target groups (if available):

Programme Update No. 2;

Period covered: 01 April - 30 September 2002;

IN BRIEF

Appeal coverage: 33.5%

Related Appeals: South East Asia regional programmes (01.24/2002)

Outstanding needs: CHF 3,794,513

Summary: A wide Red Cross presence is being established in Vietnam as partners engage with the Vietnam Red Cross and its work to support vulnerable people. The Federation, in consultation with the National Society, is currently evaluating its role of how best to provide support to communities in need through 2003. The thrust of this effort will be helping the Vietnam Red Cross continue to build its capacity.

Operational Developments w

In recent months, both the Spanish and Norwegian Red Cross established their presence in Vietnam. The former to support Vietnam Red Cross (VNRC) branch development activities in three northern provinces, the latter to run similar programmes in three provinces in the south. Five national societies - Australian, Danish, French, Norwegian and Spanish - now have bilateral representations in Vietnam. A sixth, Swiss RC, has been involved in a bilateral housing project and will continue to support VNRC's disability programme. Plans are underway for the American RC (presently operating as part of the Federation delegation), Netherlands RC and Belgium RC to also establish their own bilateral programmes. From early next year, VNRC will collaborate with no less than nine bilateral partners. It will also continue to pursue relations with external donors and organisations.

Since June/July, the Vietnam delegation has focused on work related to the Federation strategy for 'change' and annual Appeal process. Meetings with VNRC leadership to review the Federation's presence, role and function in Vietnam has recognised the impact made by the delegation on NS development over the last ten years. However, as NS capacity and confidence has evolved, the need for assistance specifically in terms of

programme implementation, has decreased. Nonetheless, VNRC acknowledges the need for Federation assistance for some time yet, particularly in the areas of strategic planning, capacity building, and coordination with partners/donors (including development of co-operation mechanisms).

In view of this, the Federation has continued its transition process - from a "hands-on" programme implementation approach to focusing on NS capacity building. It has restructured the delegation and cut-back substantially on staff numbers, including temporarily vacating the position of head of delegation. These changes were accelerated in part due to financial considerations (high delegation core costs), and the rapid growth in bilateral partnerships. The recruitment process for a fully-funded HoD is well underway, with the delegation being managed by the programme coordinator pending this appointment.

Disaster Response w

Context

Although there is no formal disaster response component in the delegation's work, the Federation continues to support VNRC in its humanitarian response activities. This year, weather conditions have been complex. From May to July, the central and central-highland areas and some northern provinces were affected by drought. In August/September, these same drought-affected areas were struck by heavy rains causing flash floods and slow-onset flooding in the Mekong river delta.

Floods in 2002

In July and August, torrential rains caused flash floods in the northern provinces of Ha Giang, Lai Chau, Son La, Lao Cai and Bac Can and in the central highlands areas of Lam Dong and Dac Lac. Ninety-five people were killed and 75 injured. Over 1,500 houses were destroyed and more than 22,000 hectares of paddy rice and other subsidiary crops flooded. Infrastructure was also damaged.

In the Mekong River Delta, annual slow-onset flooding started in July killing 87 people, including 81 children. Over 65,000 households were flooded; 350,000 people in need of food and livelihood support. September saw heavy rains from a tropical, low-pressure storm cause sudden-onset flooding in the provinces of Nghe An and Ha Tinh in central Vietnam, the worst floods in 70 years. Seventy-six people were reported dead, 117 people injured, over 78,000 houses flooded, and 396 houses destroyed. Nearly 6,000 hectares of paddy rice was also lost.

Estimated economic losses came to approximately CHF150 million; the Vietnamese government responded with CHF7 million for relief and rehabilitation activities.

Red Cross Response

Reserve funds and relief stocks from VNRC (valued at approximately CHF58,000), as well as locally raised contributions of nearly CHF35,000, provided emergency support to about 10,000 affected people. Thousands of trained NS staff, members and volunteers assisted in search and rescue efforts, evacuation procedures, first aid services, and helped clear debris and repair damaged houses.

By late September, as the situation continued to deteriorate, VNRC prepared to launch a national appeal to support 40,000 of the worst affected households, or about 200,000 people. Under this appeal the NS seeks to provide:

- Nine thousand destroyed or seriously damaged households with plastic sheeting and bamboo.
- Ten thousand of the poorest affected households with household kits.
- One thousand of the poorest affected households with a "livelihood support package".
- Ten thousand of the worst affected households, whose food reserves were lost, with rice.

Disaster Preparedness w

The VNRC continues to implement activities under its three main strategic aims - to develop human resources at national, provincial and district levels (concentrating on disaster prone provinces), strengthen infrastructure

and institutional capacity to respond to disasters, and initiate and improve risk reduction activities in selected geographical areas.

Human resources development continued to be a priority. Over 800 RC staff in 35 disaster prone provinces took part in training exercises, concluding training of mid- and senior-level RC staff in the country.

Production of disaster preparedness (DP) material at commune level was completed in July, with pilot training sessions held in three provinces. DP education continued for primary school teachers and children in 27 provinces, using the VNRC booklet “*An Introduction to Disaster Preparedness for Primary School Children*”. In two years, an estimated 10,000 teachers and more than 500,000 children have undergone such training.

Refresher training courses were also held for a selection of VNRC national and provincial trainers in hazard, vulnerability and capacity assessment (HVCA) using rural appraisal tools. Subsequently, HVCA was undertaken by trained staff in 51 selected communes. This new approach by the RC and local commune authorities, aims to involve local people in developing and prioritising DP mitigation measures and activities for their communities.

Mangrove planting continued in six provinces and new initiatives, such as the planting of wind breakers, developed by local communities. The Danish RC, in close co-operation with the Vietnam delegation, continues to support a bilateral DP programme in two provinces - constructing houses, and planting mangroves and wind breakers.

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

Equipment including computers, fax machines and other materials provided by donors (principally British RC and DIPECHO) was transported to RC chapters and DP centres in central and southern Vietnam. Fifteen thousand household kits for emergency distribution were transferred from a rented warehouse to the VNRC warehouses in Hanoi (10,000 kits) and Ho Chi Minh City (5,000 kits).

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

- An editorial workshop, to revise DP materials for the “commune level”, was held in July for 20 VNRC national DP trainers and senior staff from headquarters and provincial chapters. Feedback from pilot training activities, undertaken prior to the workshop, was taken into consideration during the revision process.
- The DP programme for school children in central and Mekong provinces, funded by AusAid and American RC, ended in June. Approximately 180,000 children in the central provinces of Quang Binh, Quang Tri, Thua Thien Hue, Da Nang, Quang Nam, Quang Ngai and Binh Dinh completed the programme. Altogether, in the 12 Mekong delta provinces the programme reached approximately 100,000 children.
- Over 800 RC staff in 35 provinces were trained in DP by 120 provincial and national trainers, using the VNRC DP manual.

- The Federation regional delegation, together with the Vietnam delegation and VNRC, conducted a regional Sphere workshop in May for regional NS disaster managers.

Constraints

Cash flow difficulties - caused by the delegation's parlous financial situation through the year - resulted in difficulties in finalising projects before the end of contractual periods for several major donors, including DIPECHO and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

The issue of the lack of adequate staff in the social welfare department is being addressed; however, competencies and skills of current staff requires further development. Two appointments in the DP/disaster response section (deputy director and one staff) have not been finalised.

Involvement in disaster response activities by key staff in the delegation, VNRC's social welfare department, and at provincial chapters, may have contributed to delays in the implementation of the DP 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

- In July, a workshop on "*Lessons Learnt from the Mekong Floods in Vietnam, 2000 and 2001*" (organised by the VNRC/Federation and funded by AusAid) was held to discuss issues gathered from consultation meetings with 300 beneficiaries and 100 representatives from various organisations.
- VNRC provincial and national trainers, and selected staff from the Mekong delta provinces of Long An, Dong Thap and An Giang attended a refresher course in HVCA, in September. Training in HVCA will be conducted in these provinces in the last quarter 2002 to determine pilot risk reduction activities.
- VNRC, supported by Unicef and AusAid, ran a major public awareness campaign for the Mekong River Delta called "*Living with the Floods*". A video, showing best practices before, during and after floods, was developed and distributed to 12 provinces in the delta for broadcast on provincial television. Promotional material, including 1,500 posters and 80,000 brochures, was also distributed to clinics, schools, local government offices and public places in flood-prone areas.
- During this period, 1,375 teachers were trained by VNRC's national and provincial trainers using the RC booklet "*An Introduction to Disaster Preparedness for School Children*". An additional 56,000 booklets for children and 1,558 easels for teachers was printed in September. Since the 2001/2002 school year, more than 290,000 grade 4 and 5 school children have been trained in DP by 7,000 trained teachers.
- Nearly all the 106 primary schools constructed by VNRC in five of the most flood-prone provinces will be completed within the next two months. These better located and better designed facilities should provide some 20,000 students easier access to school.
- As part of the mangrove reforestation programme, supported by Japanese RC, VNRC and the Federation have advocated successfully on threats to reforested areas in eight northern provinces. VNRC has agreed with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development to focus on the sustainability of the programme. At provincial level, the People Committees have actively responded to protect mangroves.
- Proposed areas for mangrove planting have been selected. Training courses on mangrove planting techniques were organised by six RC chapters for 450 participants. Selection of local beneficiaries was carried out by the local People Committees with participation of mass organisations. Approximately 687 hectares of land has been planted with mangroves, 0.5 hectares with bamboo.
- Two project planning training courses were organised with for 57 RC staff at chapter and district level in three provinces, using the LFA (logical framework analysis) and PIMES (planning, implementation,

monitoring, evaluation system) planning tools. Training of 20 RC staff at commune level in Quang Ninh province was held in May. To improve the standard of reporting, staff from six RC chapters are also learning computer and English language skills.

- Events were held in six provinces to promote the RC and its local programmes related to mangrove plantation and protection. In Hai Phong province, drawing and singing competitions brought attention to the RC and its mangrove programmes. In June, events were organised in three districts in Nghe An province by the local RC chapter with support from the Vietnam Youth Union.

Constraints

In July/August, Quang Ninh RC chapter planted some 20 hectares of land with rhizophora seeds, instead of kandelia which was in short supply. Due to lack of rain, planting of sonneratia species originally scheduled for April/May, was postponed to July.

As a result of funding delays, several activities within the programme have been postponed until the last quarter of 2002.

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

Activities & Achievements

Management and staff of VNRC and the Vietnam delegation participated in an exchange visit to the Cambodian RC community-based DP (CDP) programme. The visit provided useful insights into mitigation measures and small scale activities of CDBP, and will help with planning and implementation of a similar programmes in Vietnam. VNRC staff also participated the first 'Flood' forum and a regionally organised Sphere workshop.

Health and Care w

The Federation supports VNRC's health and social welfare department and Agent Orange Victims Fund. Danish and Australian RC provide bilateral support in the areas of primary health care and HIV/AIDS peer education. The Federation, with support largely from the Swedish, American and Swiss RC, also supports social welfare and health activities in the NS's community-based social work and disability programmes.

In order to ensure VNRC's needs and priorities are addressed adequately, the Federation Appeal 2002/3 included a section to "prepare the ground" for the possibility of an expanded role in health.

Community-Based Social Work (CBSW)

Project support to VNRC's social welfare programme by UNDP and UN Volunteers ended in April. An extension proposal, primarily to ensure smooth phasing out of the programme, is likely to be approved only until early 2003.

The VNRC social work team has started to review its activities and identify future directions. A workshop to analyse the results of the mid-term evaluation and to develop a strategic plan for the coming years is planned for the next quarter.

The delegation has assisted VNRC establish contacts with embassies and international organisations in Vietnam, and has received financial support for some small-scale activities.

Despite limited staff numbers, VNRC's social work programme continues to progress well. The delegation provides technical advice and assistance on request, but will cut down involvement as VNRC's own management capacity develops.

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

Introductory social work training: Basic social work training was conducted by VNRC headquarters staff for Bac Ninh and Bac Giang provincial chapters. The workshop provided an opportunity for headquarters and chapters to discuss local level needs and the application of social work methods in RC activities.

Information leaflet: The first draft of an information leaflet has been developed. The final version should be completed by the end of the year and distributed to provinces shortly thereafter.

Mid-term evaluation: Findings of the evaluation (carried out in the first quarter) clearly show the social work programme contributing to changed attitudes among RC staff and volunteers. This has led to better understanding and recognition of beneficiaries and improved working methods and spirit. It has further raised awareness about the vulnerability and needs of disadvantaged groups, and contributed to less prejudice and more willingness to find sustainable solutions. The evaluation confirmed that an understanding of social work and social issues in general has increased. Many interviewees emphasised the use of a community development approach and the importance of long-term development rather than short-term relief. Recommendations were made for training to be expanded to more provinces (to ensure capacity in social welfare continues to grow), to document and develop practical social work models for replication, and to develop a strategy to clarify VNRC's direction and continued work in the field.

Learning and exchange: In June, VNRC participated in a regional water and sanitation workshop in Laos. The workshop provided an opportunity for the three VNRC participants (from headquarters, the Ho Chi Min City office and Hanoi chapter) to learn from and share experiences with other NS. New skills gained from the workshop are now being used by the VNRC social work team in supporting some local level water and sanitation activities.

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 conducted this period.

Grassroots level training: The social work team promoted community development, and social work methods in local RC work, to Hung Yen, Long An, Ho Chi Min City, Vinh Phuc and Phu Tho provincial chapters. Provincial staff were also guided on how to provide training at the local level. Through this exercise, central level gained useful experiences and a better understanding of local needs.

Strategy development: Analysis of the programme's situation and needs, and identifying its future directions and strategies, have proved intensive. No conclusions have yet been reached. The Vietnam delegation will help structure and push the strategy development process forward in the next quarter through continued analysis of the mid-term evaluation.

Resources/manuals: Development and completion of NS manuals continues to be a lengthy and complicated process. Comments on the current draft manual for VNRC social work, so far the most appropriate and practical, indicate the need for more complementary "real" RC examples. The final version should be ready early next year.

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

Activities & Achievements

- Poverty reduction/income generation support for very poor in Tho Quang, Danang.
- Capacity building for school with hearing impaired children, Gia Lam, Hanoi.
- Community based care for elderly, Thuy Nguyen, Hai Phong.
- Vocational workshop for disadvantaged children, Ngoc Lac, Thanh Hoa.
- Poverty reduction/income generation support for very poor in Cu Jut, Dac Lac
- Safe water for ethnic minorities, Binh Phuoc
- Education/compassion class for disadvantaged children, Kim Bang, Ha Nam
- Education/compassion class for disadvantaged children, Kim Son, Ninh Binh
- Community based care for orphans/disadvantaged children, Binh Minh, Hung Yen
- Poverty reduction/income generation support for very poor, Hoa Binh
- Community based support for children with disabilities, Thuong Trung, Vinh Phu
- Community support for disadvantaged children and income generation support, Trang Minh, Haiphong

The delegation has assisted VNRC establish links with international missions and organisation based in Hanoi, with positive results. Two of the above-mentioned projects are supported by the Australian embassy and the International Women's Group. Besides assisting VNRC with project monitoring, the delegation was involved in the participatory evaluation of the project for hearing impaired children in Hanoi. Assistance was also provided in planning and preparation of proposals for potential local donors.

It is important to note that the above-mentioned projects are not the only result of CBSW training. Most RC staff and volunteers having undergone training, immediately turn new skills into practice, thereby enhancing work at the local level.

Constraints

Reporting continues to be weak, although some improvements were made during the last year. Narrative reporting is not well developed. Continued support and training is needed to increase professionalism and management of activities and to meet donor requirements.

Staffing issues (including changes in job description), inconsistent briefings from VNRC leadership, and support to NS disaster relief operations have contributed to delays of various projects.

Disability

Context and background

Over the past six months, pilot programme activities continued to progress well. Services were provided to poor people with disabilities and to their families, in seven provinces. An external evaluation of the pilot phase is being conducted to enhance future programme activities and to continue to build NS capacity. The disability programme is now in transition, to a bilateral programme between American RC and VNRC. Close cooperation with the Federation and other interested PNS's is expected to continue.

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

- In May, a delegation from VNRC participated in the American RC National Convention and in a study visit to a local American RC chapter, providing opportunities to share information about issues helpful to the successful management of the programme.
- The VNRC Agent Orange Fund began publication and distribution of a monthly newsletter with information and guidance for RC provinces.
- NS staff participated in the planning and implementation of a rigorous external evaluation of the pilot phase of the programme. Participation included training on survey conduct, database management, and focus groups in the seven pilot provinces.
- The VNRC continues to work with PNSs and the Federation delegation to enhance strategic planning.

- The Federation continues to facilitate contact between VNRC and other partners (potential donors/NGOs) working in the field of disability in Vietnam.
- One additional staff joined the VNRC Agent Orange Fund in September (an experienced programme officer); a finance officer is scheduled to join the team in November.
- VNRC made progress in meeting financial and narrative reporting requirements for the programme.

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

Activities & Achievements

In the seven pilot provinces of Ha Nam, Ha Noi, Quang Nam, Binh Dinh, Thua Thien Hue, Da Nang, and Dong Nai, activities were conducted to improve the lives of poor and disabled people and their families. The programme 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. All seven pilot provinces participated in focus groups for the evaluation, and conducted household surveys of people with disabilities.

For phase II of the programme, VNRC is committed to using information gathered during the evaluation and from the pilot phase. As provinces gain experience in implementation, they will be better able to conduct community surveys and needs assessments. Activities for the final phase of the programme, which focuses on service delivery at the grassroots level in each of the pilot provinces, started in Ha Nam and Hue provinces in June.

Constraints

The pilot provinces are dispersed geographically. Communication between VNRC headquarters and provinces can be difficult and expensive. While each province has autonomy, VNRC is managing a national programme and must maintain uniform, high standards. Provinces also differ in their capacity to plan and implement activities.

Delays in fund transfers created significant service delivery delays. Causes of these delays are being addressed and should not exist in the future.

Health - technical support

Background and progress to date

Present services include community health, primary health care (PHC), first aid, HIV/AIDS, charity clinics and blood donor recruitment. Discussions about present and future health priorities have been held with the VNRC health department.

HIV/AIDS has been given high priority. The NS participates in country co-ordination meetings and forums with domestic and international organisations involved in HIV/AIDS. On World RC/RC Day, the VNRC president urged all Red Cross staff and members to actively fight discrimination and support people living with HIV/AIDS. The programme, however has received no support through the Federation Appeal. Activities have been developed solely with support from the regional delegation. Reduced staff capacity in the regional delegation has, over the past months, led to less technical assistance for VNRC. Where possible, the Vietnam delegation has made efforts to assist.

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

Activities & Achievements

VNRC has reiterated its request for support to develop an overall health and care strategy. Preliminary discussions have not led to any action during this period, due to changes in personnel, heavy workload and other unplanned activities. It is expected that a more concrete plan will be developed in the next quarter.

A visit by the Global Road Safety programme coordinator to Vietnam led to discussions with VNRC about their plans in the area.

Constraints

At present the three health and social care departments, as well as the various programmes and activities within these departments, work in parallel. Partner support to these programmes follows the same pattern, and mainly focuses on specific programmes and projects rather than overall strategies. Development of a VNRC health and care strategy, involving all three departments, would help guide PNS on how to best support the NS.

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

Activities & Achievements

- Provided VNRC with support and advice in planning and developing proposals, specifically for increased and expanded activities in HIV/AIDS interventions.
- Involved in strategic planning process for HIV/AIDS programmes, initiated and supported by Australian RC.
- Initiated and established contacts between VNRC and international organisations.

Constraints

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

Organizational Development w

It has taken longer than expected for VNRC's new secretary general, nominated in August 2001, to fully take up his position. Commitments as vice-minister of health and member of the National Assembly keep him occupied; NS management tasks continue to be divided between senior board members and managers.

VNRC has indicated strong commitment to embark on a strategic planning process - for both a national strategy and a cooperation agreement strategy (CAS). However, with limited capacity at central level, and constant pressure for management to deal with operational and administrative tasks, this process has moved slowly. Stronger involvement of NS leadership is required if the process is to succeed, and if a more comprehensive organisational development (OD) process is to develop.

Progress continues in strategic planning for programmes, including an HIV/AIDS strategic planning workshop next quarter. The mid-term evaluation report of the community-based social work programme provided interesting findings, and will help define the programme's direction. A communications workshop in September also led to initial development of a VNRC communications strategy.

The rapid expansion in bilateral partnerships has put increased pressure on VNRC to provide co-ordination and management support, and to identify counterpart staff and resources for an increasing number of diverse projects. Unable to meet these demands, VNRC identified the need for a board to handle such matters. Details of when and how a formal board will be established has yet to be determined.

Delayed funding for the programme (available only in the second quarter) held up planning and implementation of key activities. Preparation began for an OD evaluation, to review the impact of Swedish RC and Federation support to VNRC capacity building, and to assess the NS's present capacity. Results are expected to clarify how best to meet NS's priorities.

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

- Dissemination courses were held in several provinces, following up on dissemination / international humanitarian law workshops held in the first quarter.
- The VNRC continued to lobby for further understanding, recognition and support from the government.
- A communications workshop in September helped develop a more effective communications/ dissemination strategy for VNRC.
- VNRC statutes were revised and a handbook developed to facilitate its understanding and use. The documents were distributed to all provinces, and also translated into English. Progress was made in updating the NS's procedures and regulations.

Constraints

VNRC staff and volunteers do not receive adequate induction and training to fully understand the mandate and role of the Red Cross.

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

- Ongoing programme and capacity building support is provided through workshops and training courses, offered in-country and within the region. In June, both the NS and delegation participated in the Federation OD training workshop in Bangkok.
- The delegation provided VNRC consultancy support to finalise the NS plan of action 2002, and issues related to prioritisation, training needs, budgeting and feasibility were discussed.
- In September, a workshop for 25 participants from the central and provincial level helped raise awareness of the importance of communications for the NS. The sessions provided practical advice on communications.
- Plans were made for training sessions in fundraising/income generation, gender and finance management.
- The VNRC financial procedures manual was updated by the Ministry of Finance and VNRC, following a 'fact-finding' survey of provinces. Printing of the manual is scheduled for next quarter. Finance workshops will also be held during the same period.
- A VNRC accountant has been working part-time in the delegation, learning Federation procedures and gaining experience in technical software. The exchange has been successful, both as a development exercise and in contributing to increased team spirit between VNRC and the delegation's finance team. A delegation finance staff is expected to go through a similar programme with VNRC's finance department.

Constraints

- By the third quarter VNRC had not finalised its OD plan for 2002, a result of weak co-ordination and planning mechanisms and the lack of a long-term development plan within the NS. With an overall strategy and plan in place programmes would be better focused and coordinated.
- Limited capacity at VNRC to "absorb" the possibility and potential for skills building and development.
- The Vietnam delegation's poor financial situation has been stressful for all staff. Less time has been focused on working with the NS and more attention spent on problems associated with the restructuring and down-sizing process.

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

Activities & Achievements

The Vietnam delegation's move to new premises afforded VNRC the opportunity to use its existing space for business, to set-up a joint stock venture company. A percentage of the profit from the import/export company is expected to cover the NS's core funding. Business has already started to show positive results.

During this period, VNRC continued to actively lobby for increased recognition and support from the government. The NS conducted several surveys with officials at all levels, and prepared a proposal to seek increased financial support from the government. These efforts are expected to result in a new government decree allowing support for the Red Cross at commune level.

The VNRC fundraising department revised its plan for training of central and provincial levels in fundraising and income generation methods and skills.

Constraints

Insufficient interaction and cooperation between departments, hindering NS resource mobilisation.

Coordination and Management w

Planning, budgeting and management of deficit projects largely dominated the reporting period. Service, advice and co-ordination support were provided to established and newly set-up PNS in the country.

Objective 1 Strategically managed Secretariat activities in Vietnam.

Activities & Achievements

Regular management reports were submitted by the country delegation to the HoRD, Bangkok.

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

Activities & Achievements

A Vietnam CAS continues to be on the agenda for VNRC. Before this can take place, however, the NS needs to define its own strategic plan. The CAS process continues to be discussed with PNS supporting and/or co-operating with VNRC. As part of the process, details of how the PNS, ICRC and other partners will contribute and participate, needs to be defined.

Constraints

Limited capacity exists at VNRC to proceed with the strategy development process and to initiate a CAS process. Although not really a constraint (at least not from a developmental point of view), it is clear that the delegation was over-optimistic in planning for the CAS to be completed by June 2002. Clearly VNRC needs to first produce a strategic plan before the CAS can be considered.

Objective 3 Increased use of regional resources as they become available.

Activities & Achievements

All delegates and programme managers of the Vietnam delegation, as well as several VNRC officers, continue to actively engage with their respective counterparts at the regional delegation.

In areas such as communications, and planning and reporting, in which the delegation does not have its own professional capacities, strong support continues from the regional delegation.

Constraints

The number of regionally planned events can be overwhelming for both VNRC and the Vietnam delegation. The limited number of English-speaking staff in relevant functions often makes it difficult to participate and benefit from these events.

Objective 4 A well managed country Delegation.

Activities & Achievements

- Weekly staff meetings were held by the delegation.
- The first programme coordination meeting/retreat took place in Hanoi in April.
- Much attention and time was dedicated to budget monitoring and deficit management during the second and third quarters of 2002.
- Production of reports improved with the good support of the regional delegation reporting officer, based in Vietnam until mid-year.

Constraints

As of mid-year the delegation had less staffing capacity to produce quality reports.

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

- Delegates and/or programme officers of the Vietnam delegation attended several meetings directly and indirectly related to their respective programme areas.
- The HoD met regularly, both formally and informally, with several heads of mission and international organisations.
- Ongoing discussions were held with relevant Vietnamese authorities in relation to the legal status of the Federation in Vietnam.
- Both VNRC and the Federation continue to be represented, at different levels, in the country coordination mechanism of the Global Fund. This mechanism helps to ensure the views of the Federation can be expressed, heard and hopefully taken into consideration by the government of Vietnam and other partners.

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 were held with Red Cross societies from America, Australia, Denmark, France and, more recently, Spain.

Federation Delegation w

With the departure of the DP delegate in June, closure of the Ho Chi Min City office, planned completion of the “schools” rehabilitation project (in October), and ongoing restructuring and down-sizing exercises, the delegation is expected to decrease in size by about 50 percent. As of November, and until the end of this year, the delegation will comprise a team of three international delegates - one programme coordinator/acting HoD, one finance development delegate, and one American RC representative/disability delegate. A newly-appointed HoD is unlikely to be in post until the first quarter of 2003.

Conclusion w

The good relationships that exists between VNRC and its various partners - the Federation’s secretariat, regional and country delegations, and ICRC - should help consolidate efforts to meet objectives in the 2002-2003 Appeal.

Outstanding needs w

Apart from cash contributions to help meet an unacceptably large coordination and management deficit (projected to be more than CHF 300,000 by the year-end), there are no outstanding needs during this period.

For further details please contact:

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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
Director
Division of External Relations

Simon Missiri
Head
Asia Pacific Department

Vietnam						ANNEX 1
APPEAL No. 01.36/2002		PLEDGES RECEIVED			03.12.2002	
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
CASH						
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				5'708'047		TOTAL COVERAGE 33.5%
CASH CARRIED FORWARD				0		
AMERICAN - RC		92'500	USD	138'658	15.08.2002	DISABILITY PROGRAMME
AMERICAN - RC		88'930	USD	133'306	15.08.2002	DISABILITY PROGRAMME, DELEGATE & LOCAL STAFF
AUSTRALIA - GOVT		233'293	AUD	205'788	30.01.2002	DISASTER PREPAREDNESS
AUSTRALIA - GOVT		100'000	AUD	88'210	06.02.2002	DISASTER PREPAREDNESS
AUSTRIAN - RC		51'500	EUR	75'499	21.10.2002	WATER SANITATION IMPROVEMENT
BRITISH - RC		4'815	GBP	11'412	19.12.2001	HEALTH & CARE DISABILITY PROG.
BRITISH - RC		15'000	GBP	36'450	23.01.2002	
BRITISH - RC		15'000	GBP	35'013	29.05.2002	DISASTER PREPAREDNESS
JAPAN - RC		395'643	USD	583'178	18.07.2002	MANGROVE PLANTATION
SWEDISH - RC		800'000	SEK	128'960	22.04.2002	INSTITUTIONAL & RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, HEALTH & CARE, CBS WORK
SWEDISH - GOVT		1'300'000	SEK	205'530	30.05.2002	INSTITUTIONAL & RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, HEALTH & CARE, COMMUNITY BASED SOCIAL WORK, COORDINATION & MGT
SWISS - RC				3'120	17.10.2002	SOCIAL WELFARE
CAPACITY BUILDING FUND				106'740		VIETNAM - PVN015
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				1'751'864	CHF	30.7%
KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
AUSTRALIA	DELEGATE(S)			39'753		
SWEDEN	DELEGATE(S)			119'917		
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				159'670	CHF	2.8%