

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

13 September 2004

The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilising the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organisation and its millions of volunteers are active in over 181 countries.

For more information: www.ifrc.org

In Brief

Appeal No. 01.66/2004; Programme Update No. 2; Period covered: April to June 2004

There is no formal appeal for Vietnam for 2004. The Federation Secretariat is supporting the Vietnam Red Cross (VNRC) and its programmes through the Southeast Asia regional appeal ([01.66/2004](#))

Programme summary: The Federation appointed a representative to its delegation in Hanoi in May and continued to provide support to the VNRC in the implementation of its disaster management, health and capacity-building programmes. Risk reduction activities were identified and implemented in disaster prone provinces with some communities planting mangroves to reduce soil erosion and protect lives and livelihoods. Plans for the implementation of the Federation supported HIV/AIDS programme were finalised. Further progress was made in the design of the VNRC five-year strategic plan, 2005 through 2010.

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This Programme Update reflects activities to be implemented over a one-year period. This forms part of, and is based on, longer-term, multi-year planning. All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for a full description of the national society profile, please access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

Operational developments

On 20 May, a Federation representative took up post in Vietnam, affirming the Federation Secretariat's presence in the country. Previous to appointment, the Federation Secretariat had agreed with the VNRC and Red Cross partners in Vietnam on the terms of reference. These focused around four main areas:

- supporting VNRC in the coordination of Red Cross and Red Crescent partner inputs
- working with VNRC in strengthening its capacities to deliver services and advocate on behalf of vulnerable people in the four core areas of Strategy 2010
- providing advice, guidance and, as requested, leadership to VNRC and its partners on international representation, and advocacy issues and initiatives
- managing the resources and activities of the Federation Secretariat in Vietnam.

This development comes at an important time in VNRC's history with the new leadership pushing forward a planning exercise aimed at producing a strategy to build on the present strengths of the national society. These include a nationwide network of chapters and branches that extending from provincial to district to communal level with the capacity to mobilise thousands of volunteers across the country. This provides the national society with the basis for running a range of national and provincial health, social welfare and disaster preparedness activities. However, VNRC faces a number of challenges over the next few years, one of which is the reduction in the level of financial support provided by government. The VNRC continues to enjoy the support of a significant number of national societies, nine of which are represented in country: American Red Cross, Australian Red Cross, Belgian Red Cross, Danish Red Cross, French Red Cross, Netherlands Red Cross, Norwegian Red Cross, Spanish Red Cross and Swiss Red Cross.

Disaster Management

Goal: The impact of disasters on the most vulnerable people in Vietnam is reduced

Objective: The VNRC fulfils its designated strategic and implementation role in the context of Vietnam's disaster management network

Progress/Achievements:

Established in the early 1990s, the disaster management programme of the VNRC has evolved from a focus on infrastructure development (the establishment of disaster preparedness centres) through an organisational development focus (development of human and material resources) towards a more community-based disaster management approach since 2000. Over the past decade natural disasters have become more frequent, their scale larger and their impact more complex and, as a result, the demands made on VNRC have increased substantially. Disaster preparedness programmes have, therefore, aimed to strengthen capacity in terms of human resource development within the national society as well as communities and develop sustainable risk reduction activities. The Federation through its disaster management officer, as well as the regional delegation in Bangkok through its disaster risk management unit, provide assistance for the VNRC disaster management activities.

There are five main expected results of this programme and achievements during this reporting period are shown below under each of them. The Federation received funding from the Japanese Red Cross specifically for the VNRC mangrove project that involved planting mangroves in order to protect people's lives and property from typhoons and floods. Funding from DipECHO was used to improve preparedness for risks and mitigation of the impact of natural disasters through community-based activities.

Result 1: Development of human resources for disaster management at VNRC headquarters and VNRC staff in disaster prone provinces:

Disaster preparedness training courses took place in the Red Cross chapters of Hoa Binh (for 25 provincial and district staff) and Thanh Hoa (for 25 trainers). Fifteen training courses focusing on first aid and search and rescue were held for VNRC headquarters staff and Red Cross rescue team members from ten provinces.

Vietnam; Appeal No. 01.66/2004; Programme Update No. 2

Four VNRC headquarters staff are receiving regular English lessons. A number of courses on building financial management capacity at headquarters and chapter level took place during the recent period – see also the section on organisational development below.

Result 2: The improvement in level and quality of material resources for disaster management:

The production and dissemination of maps and other data on hazards and vulnerability were carried out in thirty high risk communes. There are plans to procure communications equipment for chapters in disaster prone provinces in the third quarter.

Result 3: The identification and implementation of risk reduction activities in disaster prone provinces:

Four of the six provincial chapters involved in the mangrove project planted 120 hectares of mangrove and 1,800 bamboo clumps in ten communes of seven districts. The Hai Phong chapter has begun constructing a dike and track for the community, which would also facilitate study and exchange visits for the mangrove project in Dai Hop, Kien Thuy district.

An evaluation of work done on the mangrove project in the four provinces/cities of Quang Nam, Hai Phong, Ninh Binh and Thanh Hoa was carried out by the VNRC disaster management working group in association with the Mangrove Ecology Research Centre and Ha Noi National University. It found that the average survival rate for mangroves planted in this project was 87% and 99% for bamboo clumps. Meetings were held with the Agricultural and Rural Development Ministry to look at ways of ensuring sustainability of the mangrove swamps. Some of the recommendations from these discussions suggest additional funding from government and crop diversification.

Following the hazard, vulnerability and capacity assessments carried out in 30 disaster prone communes, a number of measures were identified that would mitigate risk. These included such activities as the purchase of boats for evacuation and rescue and the extension of local water supply systems to reach safe places and disaster management centres. In several cases the community made a small contribution to the project. Risk mitigation projects including building of small bridges, upgrading of wells and construction of fences were also carried out in 30 schools in eight provinces.

Result 4: Disaster preparedness skills and knowledge for school children, teachers and staff of local authorities in disaster prone provinces are enhanced:

Three communes held launch ceremonies for the mangrove forestation, attended by over 1,000 people. Through coverage on national television and in national and local newspapers, the project continues to raise awareness of the benefits of mangrove swamps in preventing sea erosion and providing a natural protection against typhoons. Eleven training courses in mangrove planting techniques were held in cooperation with the Agricultural and Rural Development Ministry for 433 communal staff and members.

Result 5: The VNRC plays an active role within local, national and regional networks for disaster management.

In early May, the VNRC held a meeting with partners including Save the Children Alliance to share disaster management experience. Several recommendations were made on how to mobilise community contributions to disaster preparedness, to improve training quality and to apply knowledge. At the time of reporting, the Disaster Mitigation Partnership/United Nations Development Programme (NDMP/UNDP) was undertaking a study to review the needs assessment of national systems, and the reporting and retrieving of such data. VNRC and Federation staff were part of the editorial team for the translation of Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (SPHERE) materials.

VNRC and Federation staff attended the third Southeast Asia regional disaster management practitioners' meeting in Bangkok from 10 to 13 May. The theme of the meeting was '*Institutionalising community-based disaster risk management in government policy planning and programme activities across Southeast Asia*'. The VNRC and Federation co-hosted the regional disaster management committee meeting from 24 to 28 May in Hanoi. Representatives from all 11 Southeast Asia national societies attended.

Health and Care

Goal: VNRC health and care related programmes and activities are focused, effective and relevant to the prevailing needs of the vulnerable people in Vietnam

Objective: Improved health of the most vulnerable people

Progress/Achievements:

At the central level, the VNRC has three departments managing health and social welfare programmes: the health department, the social welfare department and the Agent Orange Victims Fund. Support to these three departments and their various programmes and activities are provided through the Federation Secretariat's regional delegation and country office and national societies working in Vietnam.

The health department is in the process of developing a new health strategy for the period up to 2010. The development process has been participatory, involving Red Cross chapters and branches as well as communities around the country. Technical support for this has been provided by the Federation regional health delegate as well as bilateral partners in country. The final version of the strategy will be available by the end of the year. The focus of future activities will be on the most vulnerable groups including ethnic minorities, the very poor, elderly and people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA). These activities will include the provision of primary health care, blood donation, first aid, health care in emergencies as well as HIV/AIDS programmes. In addition, the VNRC will continue to manage social welfare activities and programmes aimed at improving child nutrition and, through the Agent Orange Fund, the health status and income of people living with disabilities.

Federation Secretariat support from the second quarter of the year will focus on VNRC HIV/AIDS activities. Funding for this has been provided by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) Fund for International Development.

Result: Reduction in the transmission of HIV/AIDS and improvement in the lives of PLWHA in the project areas

The VNRC programme focuses on selected districts in Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh City and Lang Son province and has four core areas:

- reduction of stigma and discrimination through advocacy and influencing policy decisions
- prevention of further HIV infections through peer education and awareness raising activities
- provision of care and support to PLWHA at home, hospitals and centres
- training and other activities aimed at building capacity of the VNRC to better deliver these services. Planning for this programme was completed in the second quarter and activities will start in July

Organisational Development

Goal: VNRC is a strong, relevant and well functioning national society

Objective: VNRC has increased capacities to provide relevant and effective services to vulnerable people in Vietnam

Progress/Achievements:

VNRC is working towards four main results that will enable the emergence of a strong, relevant and well functioning national society. These can be summarised as the development of a comprehensive national strategy: strengthened leadership capacity, increased capacity to design and implement programmes and greater competence to generate financial resources. The Federation has played a role in assisting the VNRC in these four areas. In particular, it provides support for financial development through a delegate working with a finance officer in the delegation. Through the regional delegation and a delegate based in Cambodia, the Federation has also provided assistance to the VNRC in the area of strategic planning. This

Vietnam; Appeal No. 01.66/2004; Programme Update No. 2

support will now be provided through the federation representative in country who is, at present, working with VNRC leadership on a timetable for the development of this plan and other capacity-building activities. In the medium-term, the Federation will play a lead role in producing a Cooperation Agreement Strategy (CAS) based around support for the VNRC strategic plan.

Result 1: A comprehensive VNRC national strategy is in place, including strategies and plans for each core area and a framework for cooperation with partners

Following the regional workshops in March, the third draft of the strategic plan was presented to a meeting in Hanoi on 28 May attended by all the directors of the VNRC headquarters departments and partner national societies and Federation representatives. This meeting provided an opportunity for all present to critique the document and suggest changes. A fourth draft has now been produced, translated and circulated amongst partners. A timetable for the further work required to complete the plan will be developed in the near future.

Result 2: VNRC leadership capacity is further strengthened

The delegation is planning an induction programme aimed at sharing guidelines, tools and best practices for strategy development within the Red Cross/Red Crescent context. As part of this programme, with funding from the Netherlands Red Cross, the President cum Secretary General of VNRC and other members of the leadership have recently visited the Federation and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Geneva, the Swiss Red Cross and the Netherlands Red Cross (more details in the next programme update).

Result 3: VNRC has increased capacity to design and implement programmes and services in an effective and professional manner, including improved performance in finance management, planning and reporting

The main focus of assistance from the Federation has been on the further development of financial systems within VNRC. The final two workshops for provincial accountants to introduce them to the new coding structure and reporting formats were held in Hanoi in April. All 61 provincial accountants have now been trained. Management reporting formats using the new financial software were designed and agreed by VNRC finance department. A customised manual for second level training was completed and the first training was carried out for 15 Red Cross staff in Quang Ninh province involved in the mangrove disaster management project. The training programme 'Finance for non-finance staff' was designed in June targeted at staging three workshops for VNRC staff in the following months.

Result 4: VNRC has increased ability to generate financial resources for its core and programme costs

A central theme of a recent successful application to the Federation capacity-building fund is the design of a long-term fund-raising strategy which would ensure greater self sufficiency and programme sustainability for the national society.

[Contributions list below; click here to return to the title page and contact information.](#)

South East Asia Regional Programmes

ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. 01.66/2004

PLEDGES RECEIVED

07/09/2004

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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CASH

REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->	5,036,470	TOTAL COVERAGE 74.0%	
CASH CARRIED FORWARD	910,693		
AUSTRALIAN - GOVT	55,826	USD	71,905 20.05.04 DISASTER PREPARENESS MEKONG DELTA PROVINCE
AUSTRALIAN - GOVT	146,705	AUD	136,656 13.05.04 DISASTER PREPARENESS MEKONG DELTA PROVINCE
AUSTRALIAN - RC	3,598	USD	4,550 28.06.04 DISASTER MANAGEMENT
BELGIUM - RC	4,000	EUR	6,144 21.06.04 VIETNAM COOPERATION, COORDINATION
BRITISH - RC	10,000	GBP	22,865 05.02.04 DISASTER MANAGEMENT
BRITISH - GOVT/DFID GRANT 2004			595,500 29.01.04 DISASTER PREPAREDNESS, NS DEVELOPMENT, HEALTH, VIETNAM CBDP
DANISH - GOVT/RC			50,156 01.07.04 ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT & HEALTH, DISASTER MANAGEMENT
GERMAN - RC			60,000 09.08.04 PROGRAMME COORDINATOR
JAPANESE - RC	343,637	USD	434,529 18.08.04 MANGROVE PROGRAMME
NETHERLANDS - GOVT	20,535	EUR	32,035 05.01.04 VIETNAM FED. REPRESENTATIVE
NEW ZEALAND - RC	280,000	NZD	235,760 23.02.04 MEASLES VACCINATION CAMPAIGN
NEW ZEALAND - RC	100,000	NZD	84,400 30.01.04 COMMUNITY BASED FIRST AID
NEW ZEALAND - RC	100,000	NZD	79,450 06.07.04 LAO RC CBFA & HEALTH
NEW ZEALAND - RC	100,000	NZD	79,450 06.07.04 LAO RC WATSAN
NORWEGIAN - GOVT/RC	480,000	NOK	88,320 30.03.04 ART HIV/AIDS NETWORK
NORWEGIAN - GOVT/RC			30,000 25.05.04 COOPERATION & COORDINATION COSTS VIETNAM
SPANISH - RC	3,000	EUR	4,608 19.05.04 IFRC REPRESENTATIVE, VIETNAM
SWEDISH - GOVT	1,047,500	SEK	176,504 26.03.04 ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
SWEDISH - GOVT	300,000	SEK	50,550 26.03.04 DISASTER MANAGEMENT
SWEDISH - GOVT	350,000	SEK	58,975 26.03.04 FINANCE DELEGATE PROJECT
SWEDISH - GOVT	152,500	SEK	25,696 26.03.04 FINANCE DELEGATE IN-COUNTRY COSTS
SWEDISH - RC			25,339 01.01.04 VIETNAM: BAL. 02 FOR IN-COUNTRY COSTS DELEGATE
SWISS- RC			3,000 25.05.04 IFRC REPRESENTATIVE, VIETNAM

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07/09/2004

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				3,267,085	CHF	64.9%

KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
AUSTRALIA	DELEGATES			11,800		
AUSTRIA	DELEGATES			9,200		
DENMARK	DELEGATES			73,200		
FINLAND	DELEGATES			26,600		
GREAT BRITAIN	DELEGATES			120,600		
GERMANY	DELEGATES			73,200		
NETHERLANDS	DELEGATES			34,600		
NEW ZEALAND	DELEGATES			51,200		
SWEDEN	DELEGATES			61,200		
Note: due to systems upgrades in process, contributions in kind and services may be incomplete.						
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				461,600	CHF	9.2%

ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED				0	CHF	