

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

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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.

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In Brief

Appeal No. 01.66/2004; Programme Update no. 3, Period covered: July to October 2004

There was no formal appeal for Vietnam for 2004. The Federation supported the Vietnam Red Cross (VNRC) and its programmes through the South East Asia regional appeal. Due to the current situation at hand, the separate contributions list for Vietnam will be inserted at a later date.

Programme summary: The Federation appointed a representative to its delegation in Hanoi in May. The Federation continued to provide support to the Viet Nam Red Cross (VNRC) for the implementation of its disaster management, health and capacity building programmes. Risk reduction activities were identified and implemented in disaster-prone provinces. Communities continued to plant mangroves as part of a project aimed at reducing sea erosion and protecting 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 2005 to 2010 Strategic Plan.

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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 (refer below to access the detailed logframe documents). 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

The new Federation representative for Vietnam took up his post on 20 May after a long period of uncertainty over the future of the Federation in the country. The terms of reference for the position had been agreed with the VNRC as well as Red Cross partners in Vietnam well in advance of the appointment. These focus around four main areas: support VNRC in the coordination of Red Cross and Red Crescent partner inputs; work with VNRC in strengthening its capacities to deliver services and advocate on behalf of vulnerable people in the four core areas of Strategy 2010; provide advice, guidance and, as requested, leadership to VNRC and its partners on international representation and advocacy issues and initiatives; manage the resources and activities of the Federation Secretariat in Vietnam.

This development comes at an important time in VNRC's history. The new leadership has pushed forward with a planning exercise aimed at producing a strategy for the period up to 2010 that builds on the present strengths of national society. These include a nationwide network of chapters and branches that extends down from provincial to district to communal level that has 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 national society continues to enjoy the support of a large number of national societies of which nine have representatives in the country: the American, Australian, Belgian, Danish, French, Netherlands, Norwegian, Spanish and Swiss Red Cross societies.

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

The disaster management programme of the VNRC was established in the early 1990s and 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 provides assistance to the VNRC disaster management activities. The regional delegation in Bangkok through its disaster risk management unit also provides support.

There are five main expected results of this programme and achievements during this reporting period are listed below under each of them. The Federation received funding from the Japanese Red Cross specifically for the VNRC mangrove project, aimed at planting mangroves in order to protect people's lives and property from typhoons and floods, and from Australian Red Cross also focussed on improving preparedness for risks and emergency management.

The VNRC headquarters and its relevant chapters completed in a timely manner the disaster management programme activities funded by the Australian Red Cross by the end of September, and the narrative report and external evaluation report have been completed in October.

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

Some 92 Red Cross and local staff at commune level have been provided with training in disaster preparedness planning in Hai Phong and Nghe An province. 1225 commune staff of local authorities, Red Cross and mass organisations in 13 mekong delta provinces received training in community-based disaster management.

One new director of and disaster management department took up position in August as the previous one left the Red Cross to work for another organisation; this director is competent and skillful but still requires disaster management and Red Cross training and introduction.

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

55 fax machines and three telephones have been procured and installed in 13 Red Cross chapters in Mekong river delta. One computer set procured for Hau Giang Red Cross chapter (a province newly separated from Can Tho province - Mekong river) and two modems for Can Tho Red Cross chapter. 40 Emergency response kits procured and handed over to Red Cross chapter for further distribution to disaster preparedness centres, Red Cross officers and Red Cross rescue posts.

1,650 copies of disaster preparedness easels for teachers and 151,052 copies of disaster preparedness books for children and 7,400 copies of community-based disaster response (CBDR) materials for commune staff have been printed for training activities. 1,000 copies of the video film 'Living with flood' have been produced and distributed to 13 Mekong delta Red Cross chapters for public awareness.

Two television reports have been produced and broadcast in September and October about mangrove disaster preparedness programmes.

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 195 hectares of mangrove in sixteen communes of ten districts and 140 hectares of Casuarinas species in ten communes of nine districts.

One external evaluation of the disaster management programme activities funded by Australian Red Cross and DIPECHO in Mekong delta provinces and central Vietnam have been implemented with experts from the Institute for Disaster Risk Management in October. Narrative report and external evaluation report have been completed and shared with VNRC and partner national societies.

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

Disaster preparedness introduction training courses have been provided to 2,092 teachers at primary school in six provinces, those teachers provided training for over 65,000 children of nine and 10 years old using 2,000 disaster preparedness easels for teachers and 77,052 disaster preparedness books for children.

In addition, 75,000 copies of disaster preparedness books for children and 2,678 disaster preparedness training easels for teachers have been distributed in 13 Mekong delta provinces for further training using funding from local and NGO sources.

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

The Vietnam delegation hosted the Disaster Management Working Group monthly meeting in October, representatives from 15 NGO and international organisations attended and discuss about lessons learnt and the national report for Kobe World Conference for Disaster Reduction and shared potential activities in 2005 in Vietnam to avoid overlapping and strengthen the cooperation.

VNRC disaster management staff attended the Regional Disaster Management Committee meeting in Manila Philippines. Representatives from other 10 Southeast Asia national societies attended to discuss about regional Field Assessment and Coordination Team (FACT) regulations and challenges. Two disaster management staff attended training courses in Disaster Management Information System (DMIS) and disaster management leadership and management in Philippines.

Health and care

Goal: VNRC health and care related programmes and activities are focussed, 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 devoted to 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 regional and country delegation and bilateral national societies 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 very 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 run 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.

The VNRC head of health department has attended the SEA Regional Health Team meeting from 4-8 October in Bangkok.

Federation support from the second quarter of the year will focus on VNRC HIV/AIDS activities. Funding for this has been provided by 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 focusses 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.
 - Propagation activities on HIV/AIDS were organised among Red Cross leaders, local authorities, unions, branches and communities to reduce stigma and discrimination.
 - Local authorities, relevant branches/sectors, unions (health education – training service, youth and women unions) have been mobilised to be involved in the programme implementation together with Red Cross chapters.
 - VNRC in coordination with local authorities, provided assistance to the PLWHA through vocational trainings. In Hanoi, Tay Ho district, two PLWHA were appointed to learn repairing motorbike in a course of three, and five months and in Dong Anh district, two relatives of PLWHA were introduced and taught to care for PLWHA in communities in a course of six months.
 - Workshop on sharing HIV/AIDS activities experience between Hanoi and Lang Son Red Cross chapters (integrated into training-of-trainers workshop in Hanoi).
- Prevention of further HIV infections through peer education and awareness raising activities.
 - VNRC has translated, compiled, developed, printed and distributed 38,700 documents for propagation to prevent HIV/AIDS infection such as manuals of ‘One needle one syringe’, ‘Do not let drugs spoil your life’, ‘Sexually transmitted disease’, ‘Youth health life’, ‘Healthy living’, ‘If only’. An IFRC document on humanitarian blood donors ‘Sharing our stories’ and ‘Making a difference’ was translated and published to the communities in three provinces.
 - Training document for youth facilitators/peer educators on necessary knowledge and skills was amended.
 - 46 youth facilitators were selected and trained on HIV/AIDS relevant issues, communication, monitoring and other necessary skills such as caring, counseling and supporting PLWHA in communities. There were

800 learners/participants/beneficiaries from the programme (including youth in the community and high-risk groups of HIV infection: PLWHA, injecting drug users (IDU), motor drivers, free workers and street children).

- Provision of care and support to PLWHA at homes, hospitals and centres.
 - In Lang Son, health checks with supplied medicine were arranged for 20 AIDS patients to treat infectious diseases.
 - Two VNRC staff attended the 15th International AIDS conference in Thailand.
- Training and other activities aimed at building capacity of the VNRC to better deliver these services.
 - Staff/volunteers network was established to join in the programme at all levels.
 - Two training-of-trainer courses were organised in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh to share experience, update HIV/AIDS knowledge and training skills.
 - The reporting, monitoring and evaluation systems were set up.

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 them to become 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 (100 percent until March 22 and 50 percent from that date) with support from 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 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 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.

With Federation assistance, the VNRC will undertake a 'Characteristics of a well-functioning national society' workshop in November using Federation tool – *Characteristics of a Well-Functioning National Society* – as part of the development of the strategic plan.

Result 2: VNRC leadership capacity is further strengthened.

The fruitful visit for the President cum Secretary-General of VNRC, Professor Thuong, and other members of the leadership took place from 8-13 August to the Federation and ICRC in Geneva, the Swiss Red Cross and the Netherlands Red Cross. The delegation spent two days at the Federation Secretariat and meetings were held with the secretary-general, directors of divisions and personnel from the organisational and development department, the relationship and development unit, and movement cooperation division. Tools and guidelines on strategic planning, organisational development, capacity building, disaster response and fundraising were shared.

The VNRC delegation spent a day at the ICRC Secretariat being briefed on the ICRC's structure and activities. A visit was made to Bern to meet the Swiss Red Cross where discussions focussed on the bilateral relationship between the VNRC and the Swiss Red Cross and the role of the Federation in Vietnam. The team then spent a day and a half in the Netherlands visiting the Netherlands Red Cross Headquarters and a branch which had supported VNRC community projects in the past. The Netherlands Red Cross (NLRC) has recently been through a period of

restructuring and these experiences were shared with the team. In addition, there were useful discussions on NLRC structure, particularly, the division between governance and management and NLRC capacity and experience in the area of fundraising.

Two senior staff from VNRC headquarters attended the training course on leadership and management held by the organisational development regional programme in October.

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.

Five workshops on finance management for non-finance staff for 45 VNRC headquarters staff in July and August and 34 staff from 12 selected Red Cross chapters also received training on finance management for non-finance staff. They are now able to use financial management skills in budgeting, reporting and planning, particularly to improve team work spirit (the working relations, cooperation, coordination, responsibilities shared between financial and operation staffs at VNRC. Two additional training courses on the Excel software have been provided to 24 accountants from provincial Red Cross chapters in order to strengthen their skills in using available computer software in making quality and timely financial reports.

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 fundraising strategy which would ensure greater self-sufficiency and programme sustainability for the national society.

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