

INFORMATION BULLETIN



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: FLOODS

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This Information Bulletin is for information only. The Federation is not seeking any funding or other assistance from donors for this operation at this time.

The Situation

The death toll from the effects of the recent storms and continuing floods has now risen to 258 people, of whom 99 were children. Nationwide, more than 53,000 ha of rice and substitute crops were inundated and over 130,000 houses submerged. Total property losses have been estimated at more than CHF125 million (USD84 million).

In the southern, Mekong delta, provinces the floodwaters have submerged almost 73,000 houses and claimed 106 lives, including 90 children. However, numbers are below last year, due to the establishment of 'living clusters' (residential quarters on higher ground) 164 of which were built for 30,000 families this year (as part of a CHF 309 million - USD207 million - government programme for the construction of 1,000 such residential in the 2001-2005 period). Over 15,000 households have so far been relocated to these sites, with another 24,500 possibly needing to be moved.

In an effort to prevent the further drowning of children, the Government has opened over 1,000 free-of-charge child care centers in all the affected provinces that are providing daily shelter for over 23,000 children. Some 122,000 students are no longer able to attend class, as 336 schools are flooded. Forecasters predicated yesterday that floodwaters, currently gaining between three and nine centimetres/day, are expected to continue rising, exceeding the heights of last year's floods. With their farmland underwater now for several months, residents of An Giang, Long An, Dong Thap, and Kien Giang are requesting boats to enable them to fish and support their families. Local authorities and other organizations so far this year have provided food relief, essential items and about CHF 75,000 (USD 51,000) of aid. However, indications are that as many as 70,000 families still face food shortages.

In the two central provinces of Nghe An and Ha Tinh, hit by flash floods late last month, 69 people were killed and estimates of damage exceed CHF 115 million (USD 77 million). About 60,000 houses were inundated and nearly 7,400 others were swept away or lost roofs. The flash floods were the most serious in three districts of Nghe An Province (Nam Dan, Thanh Chuong and Hung Nguyen).

The Government is to provide approximately CHF 7 million (USD 4.7 million) to help northern highland, northern midland and central highland provinces overcome the consequences of these storms.

The Vietnam Fatherland Front, the Foreign Affairs Ministry, the Ministry of Finance and the Vietnam Chemical Corporation have provided CHF 33,700 in assistance. A charity music show organized in Da Nang city raised a

further CHF 11,000 (USD 7,000), which along with thousands of students' textbooks and boxes of noodles were also sent to the provinces. These provinces, in addition, received more than CHF 78,600 (USD 53,000) in aid from the armed forces, foreign organizations, individuals and the diplomatic community.

Red Cross/Red Crescent Action

The Vietnam Red Cross (VNRC) has, to date, raised CHF 57,000 (USD 38,000) in cash and kind for households affected throughout the country.

On 2 October the VNRC launched a national appeal that aims to raise funds of CHF 1,253,000 (USD 840,000) to help 40,000 families affected by the floods and storms in the seven provinces of Ha Giang, Nghe An, Ha Tinh, Lam Dong, Long An, Dong Thap, and An Giang. The Society hopes to use the funds generated to provide household kits, 'livelihood packages', rice and plastic sheeting to affected households. Full details of the appeal and VNRC action to date are shown on the Society's website: http://www.vnrc.org.vn/index_e.html

For a full description of the National Society profile, see www.ifrc.org

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

For longer-term programmes, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal.

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