

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: TYPHOON DAMREY

28 September 2005

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 over 181 countries.

In Brief

This Bulletin (no. 01/2005) is being issued for information only, and reflects the status of the situation and information available at this time. The Federation is not seeking funding or other assistance from donors for this operation at this time.

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- In Hanoi: Dr. Trinh Bang Hop, Head of International Relations and Development Department, Viet Nam Red Cross; email: vnrcdq@netnam.org.vn; Phone: +84.4.822.4320; Fax: +84.4.942.4285
- In Hanoi: Leopoldo Principe, Federation Representative, email: leopoldo.principe@ifrc.org; Phone: +84.4.942.2980 (ext. 216); Fax: +84.4.942.2987
- In Bangkok: Bekele Geleta, Head of Regional Delegation; email: bekele.geleta@ifrc.org; Phone: +66.2.640.8211; Fax: +66.2.640.8220
- In Geneva: Charles Evans or Sabine Feuglet, Southeast Asia Desk, Asia Pacific Department; email: charles.evans@ifrc.org or sabine.feuglet@ifrc.org; Phone: +41.22.730.4320/4349; Fax: +41.22.733.0395

All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations \(NGO's\) in Disaster Relief](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

For longer-term programmes in this or other countries or regions, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for national society profiles, please also access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

The Situation

Over 320,000 people were evacuated as Typhoon Damrey, the most powerful typhoon to hit Vietnam in several years, made its deadly path up Vietnam's coastline after destroying 20,000 homes in Southern China less than 24 hours earlier. One week ago, 18 people were killed when the storm wreaked havoc over the Philippines.

In less than an hour, tens of thousands were left homeless in Thanh Hoa province, located 150 km south of Hanoi, after approximately 1,000 houses were destroyed, and more than 7,000 ha of crops were submerged. Ninh Binh province reported a total loss of 2,230 homes. Additionally, thousands have been left homeless in Hai Phong, Thai Binh, Nam Dinh, Nghe An and Ha Tinh provinces where thousands of homes are reported to have collapsed. An estimated 100,000 trees were uprooted while more than 300,000 fruit trees were damaged due to strong winds and heavy rains. According to a leader of Nam Dinh province, local farmers may have to wait as long as five to seven years to resume growing rice as their fields are now salinated by sea waters. Thus, Vietnam's vulnerable agricultural sector, which is already struggling against the adverse effects of avian influenza, now faces further setbacks as a consequence of the destroyed rice fields.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

As Tuesday's typhoon approached, personnel from the Vietnam Red Cross (VNRC) headquarters and VNRC chapters in Quang Ninh and Quang Binh provinces worked in close cooperation with the Central Committee for Flood and Storm Control (CCFSC), focusing their attention on ensuring that grass-roots level communities were well prepared to cope with the effects of the typhoon. The VNRC Thanh Hoa chapter is supporting the evacuees' immediate need for food, providing 20,000 packages of noodles to affected individuals.

The VNRC headquarters is sending two relief teams to the five worst affected provinces of Hai Phong, Thai Binh, Nam Dinh, Ninh Binh and Thanh Hoa.

The teams, which are being accompanied by local media, will be providing VNRC branches and affected individuals with cash and in-kind assistance, as outlined below:

1. Hai Phong: 200 household kits and VND 20 million (approximately CHF 1,630)
2. Thai Binh: 100 household kits and VND 10 million (approximately CHF 815)
3. Nam Dinh: 200 household kits and VND 20 million (approximately CHF 1,630)
4. Ninh Binh: 100 household kits and VND 10 million (approximately CHF 815)
5. Thanh Hoa: 200 household kits and VND 20 million (approximately CHF 1,630)

In the typhoon's wake, food, water and shelter are the vital needs. It is expected that thousands of people will require short-term support. The main water sources have been polluted; for the moment, people are relying on rain water, but the provision of water purification tablets will probably be needed.

The typhoon is the seventh strong storm to strike the country this year. In Thanh Hoa province's Da Loc commune, sections of the life preserving sea dykes which line the coast are being protected against such storms by the mangroves planted over the past few years by the VNRC as part of the national society's ongoing initiative to improve the overall level of community preparedness. VNRC, as part of its disaster preparedness programme, is working with communities to ensure that natural resources such as mangroves are utilized, as they play a key role in mitigating the effects of natural disasters by creating natural barriers against strong winds and high levels of water. According to reports received from Da Loc on Wednesday, sections of the dykes not protected by the mangrove barriers were either destroyed or severely damaged.

The VNRC has been assigned the lead role in logistics by the CCFSC and, through its headquarters and branches, is prepared to provide further assistance as required.

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