

# OPERATIONS 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: FLOODS & STORMS

9 November 2001

*Appeal No. 23/00*

*Launched on 13 September 2000 for CHF 338,764 for 3 months. Budget increased to CHF 9,036,180 (December 2000); Program extension to 30 November 2001*

*DREF Allocated: CHF 100,000*

*Beneficiaries: 350,000*

*Operations Update No. 5; Period covered: 20 November 2000 - 31 October 2001; Last Operations Update (no. 4) issued on 10 May, 2001*

### "At a Glance"

*Appeal coverage: 106.8%*

*Related Appeals: 01.46/2001 - Vietnam Annual Appeal 2001*

*Outstanding needs: None*

*Update/Summary: Phase I and Phase II of the operation have been successfully completed within the anticipated time frame. Not only has appropriate assistance been provided to the beneficiaries, but the Vietnamese National Red Cross (VNRC) has demonstrated its growing competency by managing an effective relief operation. Phase III, which is intended to contribute to mitigating the effects of future disasters, has been delayed due to the devastating floods of 2001 but will mostly be completed by late November 2001 (some components of Phase III will be integrated into the longer term national Disaster Preparedness programme).*

### **Operational Developments**

Between July and November 2000, over 500 sq. kilometers of the Mekong Delta, in the south of Vietnam, were flooded. They were the worst floods in 60 years, affecting 5 million of some of the most impoverished people in Vietnam. Enormous economic loss was sustained and the humanitarian impact of the floods was immense, resulting in over 480 deaths. More than half a million people were evacuated, several times due to the unpredictability of the peak flood levels. Whilst flood levels began to recede in November 2000 their effects, especially in remote rural areas became more noticeable. Infrastructure and public buildings, which sustained considerable damage during the floods were subsequently repaired through Government agencies and international support. A major development project has been underway to strengthen bridges and dykes and to raise the levels of roads. These measures should minimize the effects of future floods. Some farmers however, have not been able to recover from their financial losses sustained during the floods and now face new floods in the same area.

Flood levels started to rise again in 2001 when Typhoon Durian hit the northern province of Quang Ninh on 2nd July, followed by heavy, prolonged rainfall which resulted in flash floods and landslides. Flood water levels in subsequent months have risen above Alarm level III and the situation is currently being closely monitored (for more information on the floods in 2001 please refer to the latest Information Bulletin on the Federation's web site and the VNRC national Appeal).

### **Red Cross and Red Crescent action**

The VNRC, supported by the Federation, have played a key role from the outset of the floods. A first and second phase to save and sustain life have been completed, and a third phase of rehabilitation is currently ongoing (this third phase has been delayed due to the floods in 2001).

#### **Relief - Phase I & Phase II**

- Phase I - Emergency rescue and immediate relief - where Red Cross volunteer "shock brigades" worked alongside other agencies to evacuate families from their homes to safer ground. The Federation Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) complemented VNRC's own reserves to provide emergency shelter and short term food assistance to 2,000 families in the most affected provinces of An Giang, Dong Thap and Long An.
- Phase II - Meeting medium term needs, including the distribution of rice (3,515 MT), plastic sheeting (19,600), mosquito nets (32,000), soap (94,000) and water purification kits (36,200), family fishing boats (4,000) and fishing nets (4,000) to ensure food and income supplements, together with provision of clean water to families remaining on dykes.

#### **Rehabilitation - Phase III**

- Phase III - The third phase, which includes building 3,000 safer flood resistant houses, the provision of three clinic boats and the initialization of a Disaster Preparedness programme for all twelve Mekong Delta provinces, is currently being implemented. The housing programme has already been completed, while the clinic boats are being built and the DP programme is underway (the DP programme will be extended beyond the period of this Appeal with separate funding).

### **Housing Programme**

**Objective:** provision of 3,000 houses made of steel frames, built on six steel piers to vulnerable households.

**Achievements:** The 3,000 houses provided to vulnerable households are finished and most are occupied (following a selection process involving the Red Cross local authorities). People can stay during the flood season in these houses. They were readily accepted and have already proven their worth as they have been inundated by current flooding. Unlike last year these beneficiaries have not had to evacuate.

**Constraints:** In order to maximize the number of beneficiaries, families were provided with a package comprising of only a steel frame and roof. The families were expected, where possible, to complete the house using locally available materials for the walls, etc.

Some households however, were too poor to complete their homes and the Red Cross has supported 362 households (i.e. approximately 10 % of the number total number of households) to enable them to complete their houses. Each household received between \$13 - \$54 (about \$18k in total).

The American Red Cross provided a Delegate, for four months, to help oversee the implementation of the programme with the VNRC. The main activities undertaken included ensuring the correct selection of households, proper training of the VNRC staff and volunteers, that the houses were built to the best standard and that those people who were unable to provide walls and floors were given assistance to do so. The Delegate further developed the relations between the VNRC, the Federation and donors.

### **School replacement project**

The school reconstruction programme (reported on in previous Operations Updates) has also been undertaken simultaneously with the housing programme. It has not however, been either initiated, nor funded through this Appeal. Whilst progress has been slow (due to technical difficulties), over 60 schools have now been completed.

### **Mobile medical service boats project**

**Objective:** provision of three multipurpose medical/emergency boats to provide community based health/First Aid, disaster preparedness equipment/materials as well as a place to undertake training of Red Cross and other staff/volunteers in the three worst affected provinces of Long An, Dong Thap and An Giang.

**Achievements:** The first boat was launched and handed over to the Dong Thap Provincial Red Cross. The boats are made from fibreglass so are durable and have a long guarantee. They have onboard facilities to make clean drinking water, are cheap to run, light, maneuverable, and can be used as mobile DP centers. It is hoped that these boats will provide an outreach service by the Red Cross to remote communities for many years. The other 2 boats are currently being fully equipped before being handed over to VNRC.

**Constraints:** There were some delays in manufacturing the boats as the same manufacturer had also been tasked with producing five boats for UNICEF.

These boats are being supported by a specific grant from the Swiss government's SDC office. Negotiations are underway with Operation Smile who want to use the boats, in conjunction with the Red Cross to do dental work and repair cleft palates in normally inaccessible areas of the Mekong basin.

### **Disaster Preparedness project**

**Objective:** Training in disaster management for Provincial Trainers selected from 12 Mekong Delta provinces (approx. 40 persons); provision of essential communication/disaster preparedness/response equipment and materials; pilot mitigation measures; training of school teachers/primary school children/households in disaster preparedness, etc.

**Achievements:** Twelve fax machines were provided to Provincial Red Cross Chapters. Additionally a three week training programme for over 40 Provincial Trainers selected from 12 Mekong Delta provinces was completed at the end of September. The training of approximately 2,500 primary school teachers and 120,000 Grade 4 and 5 children will start at the beginning of the new school term. New material including material specifically designed for children (produced in conjunction with UNICEF), is also being developed and will be distributed later in the year.

The DP Project (part supported by AusAID) dovetails with the extensive countrywide Disaster Preparedness Programme undertaken in the 21 most disaster prone provinces.

**Constraints:** This project started later than anticipated due to staff involvement in the large scale flood response operations undertaken by the Red Cross in many of the Mekong provinces.

### **Federation Delegation**

The housing program receives support from the Federation Office based in the VNRC Representative Office in Ho Chi Minh City. The following staff have been involved in the operation:

Expats: one Project Manager

one Deputy Project Manager  
two Technical Advisors  
one American Delegate

Local staff: five Programme Officers  
three drivers with three cars

The DP project also receives direct support in programme implementation from the Federation Office in Hanoi.

Expats: one DP Delegate

Local staff: two DP Programme Officers  
two office assistants

### ***Coordination and Management***

In the final phase, the Federation, VNRC and the Red Cross chapters continue to have good co-operation in project implementation. There has been excellent co-operation with the Peoples Committees in each province. They have not only assisted in co-ordinating the selection of beneficiary households, but also in the identification of land in safe areas, the provision of land use documents and the granting of the land for the construction of safer houses.

### ***Outstanding needs***

The Appeal received a good response from the donor community and has been conducted with minimal divergence from the anticipated plan. The housing project has been completed with all 3,000 houses constructed. One boat has already been provided for use and the others are nearing completion. The DP program is more long term with a strong focus on training, it will continue for the planned two year period and will continue beyond the life of this Emergency Operation. While there are no outstanding needs, in order to complete Phase 3, the operation will be extended until 30 November 2001. The delay in the operation has largely resulted from the demands placed on VNRC by the floods in 2001 (for further detail of this operation please see an Appeal launched in Vietnam by the Vietnamese Red Cross).

### ***Financial Update***

In line with specified budget lines, procurement is ongoing for several items such as; plastic sheeting, mosquito nets, household kits and equipment for Red Cross branches. As intended, these items will provide continued assistance to those affected by the flood waters in 2000 and will also be utilized to minimize the effect of current and future floods in these disaster prone areas.

Given the strong response to the Appeal, it is expected that the operation will close with a small positive balance. Recommendations will be made in the coming weeks as to how best to use this balance to further support the development of VNRC and to reduce the vulnerability of the population to similar disasters. Further detail will be made available to the appropriate donors as the strategy is developed.

Peter Rees-Gildea  
Head a.i.  
Relationship Management Department

Hiroshi Higashuira  
Head  
Asia and Pacific Department

Vietnam floods and storms						ANNEX 1
APPEAL No. 23/2000		PLEDGES RECEIVED			08.11.2001	
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
<b>CASH</b>						<b>TOTAL COVERAGE</b>
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				<b>9'036'962</b>		<b>106.8%</b>
AMERICAN - GOVT		25'000	USD	42'813	28.09.00	
AMERICAN - GOVT		8'800	USD	15'576	04.12.00	
AMERICAN - RC		78'381	USD	127'604	23.10.00	
AMERICAN - PRIVATE				355	27.10.00	
AMERICAN - PRIVATE		66	USD	118	21.11.00	
AMERICAN - PRIVATE		150'000	USD	265'500	20.12.00	CONOCO & UNOCAL FOR HOUSE KITS
AMERICAN - PRIVATE		1'000'000	USD	1'770'000	20.12.00	FREEMAN FOUNDATION FOR HOUSE KITS
AMERICAN - PRIVATE		200	USD	354	19.12.00	
AUSTRALIAN - GOVT		250'000	AUD	249'600	16.09.00	
AUSTRIAN - RC		25'000	EUR	38'933	20.09.00	
AUSTRIAN - GOVT		1'000'000	ATS	111'799	08.02.01	
BELGIUM - RC		37'805	EUR	58'159	11.04.01	PSB STEEL HOUSE
BRITISH - GOVT/DFID		147'059	GBP	380'883	15.09.00	RELIEF NEEDS & OPERATIONAL NEEDS
CANADIAN - RC		50'000	CAD	57'670	18.09.00	
CANADIAN - GOVT		50'000	CAD	59'560	22.09.00	
CANADIAN - PRIVATE				87	04.10.00	
CZECH - GOVT		30'000	USD	53'205	20.09.00	
DANISH - RC		185'000	DKK	38'628	18.09.00	
DANISH - RC		462'500	DKK	96'570	28.09.00	
DANISH - GOVT		32'076	USD	54'930	03.10.00	BASIC FOOD & NON-FOOD COMMODITIES
DANISH - GOVT		1'900'000	DKK	388'740	11.10.00	
DANISH - RC		462'500	DKK	94'628	20.10.00	
ECHO		280'000	EUR	194'094	02.11.00	TPS/210/2000/18006
FINNISH GOVT		22'059	USD	39'122	09.10.00	
FINNISH - RC		33'637	EUR	51'391	28.09.00	
FINNISH - RC		33'637	EUR	51'391	27.10.00	
FRENCH - GOVT		300'000'000	VND	37'500	22.09.00	RICE, MOSQUITO NETS, PLASTIC SHEETINGS
GERMAN - GOVT/RC		281'030	DEM	219'513	29.09.00	10'000 PLASTIC SHEETS & 14'000 MOSQUITO NETS
GERMAN - GOVT		865'000	DEM	675'652	07.11.00	2'320 MT RICE
ICELANDIC - RC		200'000	ISK	4'295	22.09.00	
JAPANESE - RC				130'000	25.09.00	
JAPANESE - GOVT		50'000	USD	85'625	21.09.00	290 MT RICE & TRANSPORT, ADMIN/ OPERATIONAL COSTS
LIECHTENSTEIN - RC				50'000	02.10.00	
MONACO - RC		20'000	FRF	4'658	18.10.00	
NETHERLANDS - GOVT		38'461	USD	65'864	21.09.00	
NETHERLANDS - GOVT		495'049	NLG	343'164	27.09.00	
NETHERLANDS - RC				25'000	27.09.00	
NETHERLANDS - RC		2'657	USD	4'326	30.01.01	ID, DIRECTLY TO THE FIELD
NEW ZEALAND - GOVT		50'000	NZD	37'345	04.10.00	
NORWEGIAN - GOVT/RC		1'200'000	NOK	227'129	05.12.00	
OXFAM		41'700	USD	73'955	21.09.00	PLASTICK BUCKETS, WATER TABLETS
OXFAM		203'000'000	VND	25'375	21.09.00	PLASTIC SHEETING FOR 1500 FAMILIES IN MEKONG AREA
SINGAPORE - GOVT		20'000	USD	34'250	25.09.00	
SINGAPORE - PRIVATE		16	USD	29	21.11.00	
SWEDISH - GOVT		1'000'000	SEK	187'100	26.09.00	RELIEF NEEDS & TRANSPORT STORAGE AND VEHICLE COSTS

SWISS - GOVT		28'604	USD	50'729	27.09.00	
SWISS - RC				55'500	17.10.00	RELIEF ITEMS
SWISS - GOVT		85'479	USD	151'597	07.11.00	5 MEDICAL CLINIC BOATS
SWISS - GOVT/RC/SOLIDARITY CHAIN		90'000	USD	146'520	09.03.01	POST-FLOOD RECONSTRUCTION
SWISS - RC		11'123	USD	18'108	21.03.01	PSC POST-FLOOD RECONSTRUCTION
SWISS - PRIVATE				5'000	11.12.00	
UNICEF		30'000	USD	51'375	19.09.00	RELIEF GOODS, FOOD, PLASTIC SHEETING
UNDP		50'000	USD	88'675	25.09.00	TRANSPORT, STORAGE, VEHICLE COSTS FOR NON-FOOD ITEMS DISTRIBUTION; TRAVEL, COMMUNICATION & SALARIES
USAID		216'160	USD	383'360	04.10.00	PROCUREMENT & DISTRIBUTION RELIEF ITEMS
VIETNAM - INTER SEMICONDUCTOR		50'000	USD	88'675	30.10.00	700 BOATS & LOCAL TRANSPORT
VIETNAM - PRIVATE				13'108	19.10.00	13 PRIVATE DONATIONS
VIETNAM - PRIVATE		130'200'000	VND	16'275	19.10.00	NIKE COMPANY
VIETNAM - PRIVATE/HCMC		80'624'137	VND	9'836	23.11.00	AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
VIETNAM - 20 PRIVATE				18'616	28.11.00	
VIETNAM - PRIVATE		200	USD	326	19.12.00	DIRECTLY TO THE FIELD
VIETNAM - PRIVATE		4'100	USD	6'675	16.01.01	DIRECTLY TO THE FIELD
VIETNAM - CONOCO/UNOCAL		50'000	USD	81'400	15.02.01	DIRECTLY TO THE FIELD
VIETNAM - GIAI DIEU VIET INC.		1'067	AUD	959	12.12.00	DIRECTLY TO THE FIELD
VIETNAM - VIETNAMESE STUDENTS		2'000	GBP	4'820	05.01.01	DIRECTLY TO THE FIELD
PRIVATES				128	26.02.01	
VIETNAM - PRIVATE		38'050'000	VND	4'337	08.05.2001	3 HOUSES
VIETNAM - PRIVATE		1'896	USD	3'365	20.06.2001	
VIETNAM - PRIVATE		2'108	usd	3'442	04.10.2001	
<b>SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH</b>				7'675'316	CHF	84.9%

**KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)**

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
BELGIUM - GOVT		756'100	EUR	1'163'184	11.04.01	1'300 STEEL HOUSE FRAME, CONSTRUCTION KITS
KOREAN, REPUBLIC - RC		30'000	USD	53'205	25.10.00	2'877 UNITS OF CLOTHES, bilateral donation
SWISS - GOVT/RC/SOLIDARITY CHAIN		249'000	USD	405'372	09.03.01	500 HOUSE-FRAMES
WFP		200'000	USD	354'700	18.09.00	945 TONS OF RICE
<b>SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES</b>				1'976'461	CHF	21.9%

**ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET**

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

**THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS ARE LINKED TO THIS APPEAL:**

PVN513						