

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

VIET NAM: TYPHOON DAMREY

7 November 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

Appeal No. 05EA019; Operations Update no. 2; Period covered: 12 October – 7 November 2005; Appeal coverage: 95.6% ([click here to go directly to the attached Contributions List, also available on the website](#)).

Appeal history:

- Emergency appeal launched on 5 October 2005 for CHF 813,678 (USD 628,813 OR EUR 522,597) to assist 25,000 beneficiaries (5,000 families) for a period of 12 months.
- Disaster Relief Emergency Funds (DREF) allocated: CHF 200,000

Outstanding needs: CHF 35,486 (USD 27,423 or EUR 22,791)

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals: [South East Asia Annual Appeal \(05AA057\)](#), [Viet Nam Annual Appeal \(05AA056\)](#)

Operational Summary:

Barely five weeks after typhoon Damrey, typhoon Kai-Tak swept into Viet Nam, destroying homes and crops in its path. The areas most affected were the central regions, where the country's poorest make up the majority of inhabitants. The typhoon comes after a stretch of bad weather and flooding, allowing only the briefest of respite for the affected people and undermining ongoing efforts of reconstruction and rehabilitation.

Supported by the Federation, Viet Nam Red Cross's (VNRC) extensive involvement in providing relief to populations affected by these recent disasters have meant that relief stocks now remain in limited supply. Any stock replenishment offered by donors in addition to the appeal will be welcome.

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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 \(NGOs\) 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>

Background

On 27 September 2005, typhoon Damrey slammed into Viet Nam, lashing coastal provinces extending from Quang Ninh into Da Nang. The next day, heavy rains and wind triggered mudslides and flooding in the northern provinces of Yen Bai, Lao Cai and Phu Tho. Hundreds of thousands of people were left homeless with their houses submerged under floods, while many lost their means of income and subsistence as rice fields, ponds and poultry farms were left damaged in the aftermath of the storm.

The Federation released CHF 200,000 from its Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the response of the VNRC and on 5 October 2005, an emergency appeal was launched to support some 25,000 people for a period of one year.

Since the beginning of the operations, Viet Nam has been subject to further flooding in the central provinces, including another recent typhoon, causing additional damage to housing and agriculture. Even as the nation grapples with the global threat of avian influenza, provincial and local governments have been providing emergency food assistance to people affected by the typhoon, in addition to human and financial resources devoted to ensure that the affected people are cared for and that infrastructure vital to their safety and economy remains intact.

The affected provinces are home to some 22 million people, including 11 indigenous minority groups, the majority of which live below the poverty level. Natural disasters pose a constant threat to the country's work in reducing poverty. Although efforts are being made by the government and international organizations to introduce poverty reduction projects in these vulnerable areas, large-scale and sudden-onset natural disasters such as floods or typhoons can undermine any progress made through these projects.

Operational developments

Upstream floods from the Mekong River, coupled with heavy rains in the fourth week of October 2005, caused flooding in the provinces of Binh Dinh, An Giang, Dong Thap, Long An and Kien Giang. The five provinces recorded 113 deaths and 42 injured, 948 houses washed away, 51,952 houses submerged and 5,108 evacuated households. Local VNRC chapters were actively involved in evacuation, search and rescue, and provision of immediate relief in all affected provinces. The national society headquarters released a total of 1,100 household kits from its warehouse and VND 30 million (CHF 2,430) from reserve funds to assist the five affected provinces.

On 2 November 2005, typhoon Kai-Tak struck Viet Nam, causing severe damage to the central provinces of Thua Thien Hue, Da Nang, Quang Nam and Quang Ngai, and also affecting Quang Binh and Quang Tri. Some of these provinces were already subjected to dangerous floodings less than a month ago – this latest battering has so far claimed at least 19 lives, leaving 44 people injured and another 11 missing, according to the Central Committee for Flood and Storm Control (CCFSC). The typhoon also swept away over 9,000 houses, and flooded over 46,000 houses and 206 classrooms. Approximately 13,000 ha of rice and subsidiary crops and some 57 ships were inundated. Worse still, the catastrophe washed away a series of roads and irrigation works made up of more than 1.1 million cubic meters of land and stone. Total losses were initially estimated at some VND 180 billion (CHF 14,580,000).

The VNRC at local level has been actively supporting the local authorities with evacuation and distribution of essential relief items to the needy. The national society headquarters has been monitoring and requesting situation updates from the affected provinces.



VNRC relief efforts have largely contributed to cover gaps in needs of the typhoon-affected, supported by the Viet Nam government and other donors.

Local response to the recent typhoon has been swift, with the Viet Nam government releasing 450 tonnes of rice and VND 25 billion (CHF 2,025,000) to support affected people. Local governments of the affected provinces themselves have all pledged financial support to families who lost homes and loved ones to the typhoon.

According to the General Statistics Office (GSO), natural disasters including storms and floods claimed at least 132 lives and caused total losses of VND 4.8 trillion (CHF 388.8 million) nationwide from late September to mid-October 2005.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Emergency relief

Objective 1: 25,000 people have received food assistance for two months in: Nam Dinh, Ninh Binh, Thanh Hoa, Nghe An, Yen Bai, Phu Tho and Ha Tinh provinces.

Progress/Achievements

On 14 October 2005, with support from the Federation Viet Nam delegation, the VNRC headquarters held a meeting and sent out a request for rice quotations to five rice providers in the country using Federation standards. On 18 October, bidding was opened for four sealed rice quotations. Utilizing the comparative bidding analysis, the bidding committee decided to select the rice company of Thanh Nghe Tinh which met Federation requirements and offered competitive pricing. This company has signed a contract with VNRC to provide 750 tonnes of rice.

Based on the needs and support from Federation international appeal, the VNRC headquarters allocated relief items to the provincial Red Cross chapters with accompanying operation guidelines on the selection of beneficiaries and organization of distributions. Beneficiaries will be selected by villagers and certified by VNRC staff and members. The main criteria for beneficiary selection are:

- Poor households whose homes were destroyed by typhoon Damrey;
- Households who lost household items;
- Households badly affected by typhoon Damrey, rendering them without sufficient labour; and
- Affected household yet to receive any support from other sources.

Priority has been given to households with disabled members, with children up to five years of age, headed by women, with breastfeeding and pregnant women, or who lost members to the typhoon.

To date, 51.1 tonnes of rice have been distributed in Yen Bai and Ninh Binh provinces for 1,670 people in 41 communes of six districts. Rice distribution in other provinces has been delayed because of typhoon Kai-Tak, and restarted on 6 November 2005.

As part of the DM activities three relief and *Sphere* standards training courses are carried out in November 2005 for the VNRC headquarters monitoring staff. The first course has been held on 4 and 5 November 2005. The second will take place on the 11 and 12 November 2005, and the third will be held on the 18 and 19 November 2005.

At grass-root levels, VNRC has been actively involved in supporting affected people. The Thanh Hoa Red Cross chapter has mobilized staff and volunteers to support the local people in repairing houses, and provided 15,000 boxes of instant noodles and other relief items valued at VND 1 billion (CHF 81,000) in seven districts. The Red Cross chapter in Phu Tho province has sent four disaster response teams to support local people in evacuation, environment cleaning and providing relief items valued at VND 275 million (CHF 22,275) to affected people.

Objective 2: 3,100 households have each received 1 household kit containing: 2 blankets, 1 mosquito net, 1 cooking set and 3 bars of soap.

Progress/Achievements

To date, 800 household kits have been distributed together with the 51 tonnes of rice in Yen Bai and Phu Tho. In total, VNRC has distributed 1,940 household kits to the population in the areas affected by typhoon Damrey.

Objective 3: 200 typhoon-affected families are provided with typhoon-resistant permanent housing.

Progress/Achievements

The VNRC headquarters and its chapters are in the process of selecting the beneficiaries for housing construction, which is planned for implementation in stages in December 2005. Among issues which are in consideration are typhoon-resistant materials, water and sanitation of the households and geographic risk of the building locations.

Objective 4: A livelihood programme for 1,600 typhoon-affected families is developed and implemented according to their needs.

Progress/Achievements

A plan of action for the livelihood programme is still being developed; upon completion, details of this will be reflected in an amended logical framework.

Impact of the relief operation

Typhoon Damrey inflicted damage on an enormous scale, causing widespread destruction of property and leaving the afflicted with such huge needs. VNRC relief efforts have largely contributed to cover gaps in needs, supported by the Viet Nam government and other donors. The Red Cross relief support has been effective and highly appreciated by local community and local authorities. The activities carried out by the national society have been widely broadcasted by mass media such as the *Voice of Viet Nam*, *Viet Nam Television* and newspapers, enhancing VNRC's visibility and reputation. The operations also received support from national society staff and members in provinces unaffected by typhoon Damrey and from the business community.

Thanks to VNRC's relief operation, affected people have received food and non-food items to bridge the gaps between their requirements and their own resources in order to resume normal lives.

Monitoring and evaluation

National society staff members at all levels have actively monitored and supervised the relief operations from selection of beneficiaries to supply management and distribution of relief to beneficiaries in accordance to VNRC relief operation guidelines.

A delegation from the National Society headquarters has monitored the distribution of rice in Son Think commune, Van Chan district, Yen Bai province. Another delegation will monitor the distribution of rice in five other provinces. Rice quality has been checked by the Viet Nam Company for Control of Good Quality (VINACONTROL) before delivery for distribution.

Constraints and recommendations

After launching the emergency appeal for typhoon Damrey, serious flooding occurred in Central Viet Nam and this was followed by typhoon Kai-Tak, causing the Mekong floodwaters to swell to their peak. As a result, VNRC has had to support affected people in Binh Dinh, An Giang, Dong Thap, Long An and Kien Giang provinces by releasing 1,100 household kits and VND 30 million (CHF 2,430) for emergency response and relief. Additionally, the onset of typhoon Kai-Tak caused a further two-day delay of the distribution of rice at the end of October 2005. As a consequence, the need to replenish further the emergency stock of VNRC becomes necessary.

Coordination

The VNRC and the Federation are members of the country's disaster management working group (DMWG). As such, the national society and the Federation will continue to carry out response activities in close cooperation and consultation with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Oxford Committee for Famine Relief (OXFAM)-Great Britain, the Central Committee for Flood and Storm Control (CCFSC), the ministry of foreign affairs, as well as with other organizations.

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

Vietnam - typhoon Damrey

ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. 05EA019

PLEDGES RECEIVED

03/11/2005

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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CASH

REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->					TOTAL COVERAGE	
					813,678	95.6%
AUSTRALIAN - RC		25,977	AUD	25,600	14.10.05	
BRITISH - GOVT/DIFD		49,020	GBP	111,668	13.10.05	
CANADIAN - GOVT		80,000	CAD	88,360	07.10.05	
FINNISH - RC		75,000	EUR	116,775	05.10.05	
FRENCH - RC		10,000	EUR	15,570	17.10.05	
GERMAN - GOVT/RC		99,250	EUR	154,532	14.10.05	PROCUREMENT OF 320 MT RICE
JAPANESE - RC		31,400	USD	40,632	14.10.05	
MONACO - RC		5,000	EUR	7,785	25.10.05	
NETHERLANDS - RC		42,781	EUR	66,610	13.10.05	
SWEDISH - GOVT		900,000	SEK	150,300	12.10.05	
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				777,832	CHF	95.6%

KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				0	CHF	0.0%

ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET

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