

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: TYPHOONS

Appeal No. MDRVN001
Xangsane: TC-2006-000144-VNM
Durian: TC-2006-000175-VNM
12 December 2006

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 185 countries.

In Brief

- **Operations Update no. 02; Period covered: 7 November - 09 December 2006;**
- **Appeal target: CHF 2,977,458 (USD 2.47 million or EUR 1.87 million) in cash, kind, or services to support the Viet Nam Red Cross with assisting 98,000 Beneficiaries for 12 months;**
- **Appeal coverage: ([click here for live update](#)).**

Operational Summary: Within two months Vietnam has been hit by two devastating typhoons: first Xangsane and then Durian. In addition, two other typhoons Cimaron and Chebi have struck. The compounding affect of the four has strained the in-country resources of communities and supporting organizations, including the Vietnam Red Cross (VNRC). In total, more than one million people have been badly affected. VNRC, through its headquarters and its chapters in the provinces of Quang Binh, Quang Tri, Thue Thien Hue, Da Nang and Quang Nam, has been busy from the outset in support of those affected.

Background

The most recent typhoon, Durian, hit the southern coastal provinces and Mekong delta on 5 December. The eye of the typhoon crossed Phu Qui island in Binh Thuan province. In total, it caused damage to Khanh Hao, Binh Thuan. Ba Ria – Vung Tau. Tien Giang, An Giang, Ben Tre, Tra Vinh, Long An, Dong Thap, Vinh Long provinces, Can Gio district – Ho Ch Minh city and Can Tho city.

As of 10 December, reports show at least 98 deaths and 1,770 people injured. There are 200,000 damaged houses of which 34,000 are destroyed. 853 schools have been damaged to varying degrees. 808 boats have been sunk. Many livelihoods have been damaged. The most affected areas are: Phu Qui Island in Binh Thuan province, Ba Ria in Vung Tau province, Ben Tre and, Vinh Long provinces, and Can Gio district- Ho Chi Minh City.

The effects of the typhoon beyond loss of life and infrastructure are already being seen on the local economy, where it is reported that building materials have already increased by 50 – 100 percent of their normal retail price and stocks are fast being depleted. As a result communities are turning to the use of water coconut leaves, although these are also sparse and cause environmental damage to the trees themselves.

In response to Typhoon Xangsane the central government called for domestic and international support. VND 161 billion (CHF 12.5 million) was released from the central government to help recovery and rehabilitation; 1,500 metric tonnes (MT) of rice from the national stock for food security was released. In response to Typhoon Durian the government has to date released 250 tonnes of rice and construction materials. In terms of recovery, it has

pledged VND 150 billion (CHF 12 million) to provide assistance to families whose homes have collapsed. However, this will only happen in 2007. The Vietnamese Government will further assess the extent of the food subsidy provided to affected people and reduce the tax burden on business affected typhoon. The government will not officially request international assistance in response to typhoon Durian. However it does encourage and welcome any humanitarian assistance. Its agency named People Aid Coordination Committee sent out an official request for emergency assistance from international organizations.



The typhoon devastated homes with poor people being particularly affected.

According to the national disaster management partnership there is an urgent need to rebuild 22,000 houses and repair another 130,000. There is also a need to provide various seeds in Ben Tre, Tra Vinh, Long An and Tien Giang provinces. The affected fishing community also needs prompt support. Total needs are put at VND 1000 billion (USD60 billion). There is a gap of at least VND800 billion (USD50 million)

Additional support from local organisations is being provided through the National Fatherland Front, a political coalition organization. It has appealed for contributions and has released emergency food and other relief and provided cash distributions to help the affected population rebound quickly. The Front is also

cognizant of the need to support recovery efforts. It has pledged to provide assistance to families whose homes have collapsed with CHF 750 or USD 620; those whose homes are partially damaged will receive between CHF 223 and 425 (USD 200-350). In addition other mass organizations and government institutions are collecting donations.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

In response to both typhoon Xangsane and Durian, VNRC has reacted quickly with the provision of emergency food and household kits. The table below summarizes the support provided to date.

Typhoon	Rice (tonne)	Noodles (boxes)	Household kits	Cash assistance (USD)
Xangsane	12	100	2000	
Durian	6	600	1600	31,500

Household kits contain: cooking and kitchen utensils, a mosquito net, two blankets, a 40-litre water plastic container (for water storage) and a 10-litre water plastic container (for water collection).

In addition to the items outlined in the above table, plastic sheets have been provided in Vinh Long province for temporary shelters, medicines and clothes in Can Gio district, Ho Chi Minh City. Vegetable oils, sugars have been provided in Binh Thuan province.

The objectives outlined below include those determined to support the needs of populations affected by typhoon Xangsane and initial estimates of those required to support communities affected by typhoon Durian. The achievements to date are in accordance with the Xangsane operational plan. These activities have been carried out as planned with minor delays as a result of the extreme typhoon activity over the last two months.

To ensure transparency and equity in the process for beneficiary selection, the distribution of posters indicating criteria for beneficiary selection have been posted at every relief distribution point to ensure communities, VNRC staff and volunteers, and local officials are fully informed of the selection process.

Food and Nutrition

Objective: Provision of food comprising a 15 kg ration of rice per person per month for 27,000 people for one month in the worst affected areas by March 2006.



The Red Cross led the mobilization of community support.

The number of beneficiaries for food decreased from 50,000 to 27,000 under this operation as EUR 150,000 for emergency food provision was provided directly to VNRC from the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation (AECI) to procure 345 tonnes of rice, while 140 tonnes has been covered by DREF

As of 27 November, 9,600 people in the remote provinces of Ha Tinh, Quang Binh, Quang Tri, Quang Ngai, and Kon Tum had received 15kg rice rations per person, totalling 144 MT. The food has been invaluable for these people as they have lost their livelihood means and property. Rice was distributed through distribution points or door-to-door delivery, in accordance with VNRC HQ guidelines, ensuring transparency and promotion of the Red Cross through the emblem being posted at delivery points and on the relief goods.

Non-food items

Objective: Replenishment of 10,000 household kits distributed from emergency stocks. The basic household kits comprised: cooking and kitchen utensils, a mosquito net, two blankets, a 40-litre water plastic container (for water storage) and a 10-litre water plastic container (for water collection).

VNRC indicates that 13,150 families require the support of household kits. Under this appeal 10,000 will be provided, while an additional 3,150 will be procured and distributed through the support of the Spanish AECI.

As of mid November, 2,000 families (out of the initial operational objective of 5,850 increased to 10,000 to incorporate typhoon Durian) received household kits. Respondents interviewed by VNRC/Federation monitoring teams said that these basic household items are essential and practical for families.

Shelter

Objective: By September 2007, 1,000 families with no available means to rebuild their homes are living in typhoon-resistant houses with appropriate water and sanitation facilities.

Beneficiary selection for housing support has been finalised at the commune level, conducted by VNRC with the participation of representatives from women union associations and farmer associations, social mass organizations available at every commune. As with the promotion of selection criteria and processes, the representation of the local social mass organizations in selection process enhances transparency and local participation. In addition the local authorities have certified all beneficiary lists. Red Cross commune and local authorities informed the selected beneficiaries at the commune meeting and consulted with the beneficiaries about house designs and construction materials. Further preparation toward house construction including design and technical guidelines are in place.

To date, 310 families whose houses were destroyed in the provinces of Quang Tri, Thua Thien Hue, Da Nang and Quang Nam were selected for support available from USAID and Swedish Red Cross. These families were given priority because they are extremely poor and many are people with disabilities, elderly people, expecting women or bad injured by the typhoon.

Red Cross plans to have training for construction workers and beneficiaries on how to build houses, using "Techniques for constructing disaster-resistant houses", printed by a previous ECHO-funded project in 2004. In addition, experience in building disaster-resilient houses in Da Nang under Swiss Red Cross support during 1999-2000 will be shared. Under this support over 11,000 houses were constructed and resisted Xangsane typhoon well. The training will be carried out coupled with the construction.

Livelihoods

Objective: By September 2007, 4,000 households in the typhoon affected areas, which lost homes and/or crops have a viable and sustainable source of income.

The typhoon caused devastation across the central part of Vietnam, which is already poor due to severe weather and unavailability of natural resources. Provinces such as Quang Binh and Quang Tri are among the poorest in the country. Therefore, activities that can generate a viable and sustainable source of income such as livelihoods provision will contribute to hunger eradication and poverty reduction. However, due to the limited response to the emergency appeal, no activities have started in supporting families to regain their livelihoods.

Institutional capacity building

Objective: Establishment of VNRC chapter/branch response teams covering needs assessment, monitoring, reporting, first aid and PSP support from October 2006 to October 2007.

Capacity building in needs assessment, monitoring, and reporting, financial management continues to be provided to VNRC chapters and branches. Support to individual chapters and branches will vary depending on existing capacities. Chapters such as Da Nang RC are more familiar with implementing operations and reporting than others due to their experience. Therefore, VNRC HQ, together with the delegation will focus on the less experienced chapters. VNRC HQ and the delegation render support to the chapters and branch via phone calls and direct support during monitoring trips.

Ben Tre RC chapter has built its community based disaster management (CBDM) capacity thanks to DFID funds; its staff and volunteers are actively providing emergency relief. Vinh Long and Binh Thuan chapters are using their skills built from past and current Federation and Netherlands RC support to assist affected people and carry out needs assessment.

The establishment of VNRC chapter and branch response teams will evolve progressively when provincial programme officers have sufficient knowledge and skills.

Monitoring and evaluation

The Federation's country delegation, together with VNRC, organized regular monitoring trips to the field provinces to update/monitor implementation. The monitoring team met with VNRC chapters/branches and visited beneficiaries. VNRC chapters have encountered constraints in providing support in home repair and environmental cleaning. In addition, branches such as Da Nang are finding it difficult to mobilize local business community support as they are focused on recovering themselves first.

Progress has been made despite such constraints. Preparations for future activities are ongoing: In Da Nang the local chapter is preparing to apply previous experience in housing construction in accordance with building codes. Red Cross-supported houses in Da Nang have been widely recognised by the population for their resilience to typhoons. Furthermore, beneficiaries have benefited from improved housing construction techniques promoted by VNRC. Interviewed families responded that VNRC relief assistance has helped to relieve suffering and household kits are user friendly.

Monitoring team also worked with chapters/branches on finance management at district and commune levels and will provide branches with instruction on how to distribute money to beneficiaries.

Appeal history:

- Preliminary emergency appeal for Typhoon Xangsane launched on 5 Oct 2006 to seek CHF 1.01 million (USD 0.81 million or EUR 0.64 million) for 98,000 beneficiaries for 12 months.
- The appeal was revised on 13 October 2006 to CHF 1.67 million (USD 1.4 million or EUR 1.05 million) for 60,400 beneficiaries to reflect operational realities.
- The appeal is now re-launched as Viet Nam Typhoons Emergency Appeal (MDRVN001) on 7 December 2006 to incorporate Typhoon Durian.
- Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) allocated: for Xangsane and Durian at CHF 100,000 each. Unearmarked funds will be needed to repay DREF.

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The International Federation undertakes activities that are aligned with its Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".

Global Agenda Goals:

- Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.
- Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.
- Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.
- Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.

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>

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