

DREF operation final report



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Viet Nam: Flash floods

DREF operation n° MDRVN004
GLIDE n° **FF-2008-000173-VNM**
8 July 2009

The International Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) is a source of un-earmarked money created by the Federation in 1985 to ensure that immediate financial support is available for Red Cross Red Crescent response to emergencies. The DREF is a vital part of the International Federation's disaster response system and increases the ability of national societies to respond to disasters.

Summary: CHF 200,000 (USD 175,633 or EUR 127,837) was allocated from the International Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the Vietnamese national society in addressing immediate needs in terms of food and basic household items in the worst-hit Northern provinces of Bac Giang, Lang Son, Quang Ninh, and Son La.

The DREF operation was completed in November 2008, with the distribution of 2,000 household kits (of which 1,000 were distributed within two days after the disaster struck) and 290,010 tonnes of rice. The distribution of rice reached more beneficiaries than initially planned with an extra 200 tonnes, thanks to open tendering which led to procurement at a lower price than anticipated. In total, about 11,048 families (approximately 56,444 people) in the four provinces of Bac Giang, Lang Son, Quang Ninh and Son La benefited from this support.

The relief operation took place in the context where local resources were overwhelmed due to the subsequent incidents of disaster including Typhoon Kammuri (August 2008), Typhoon Mekkhala (September 2008) and the floods (October/November 2008). All these weather events took place in the short space of three months, challenging the Viet Nam Red Cross and the administration capacity in disaster response. The VNRC, with support of the International Federation, is one of the humanitarian organizations in the country which supports emergency needs within a very short time after the onset of disaster with practical items to help beneficiaries maintain the functioning of everyday life.

Major donors to the DREF include the Irish, Italian, Netherlands and Norwegian governments and ECHO. For more donor details, please click [here](#).

[<click here for the final financial report, or here to view contact details>](#)

The situation

Following the weakening of Typhoon Hagupit from a full-fledged typhoon into a tropical depression, heavy rains caused flash floods and landslides in 11 northern provinces of Viet Nam on 26-28 September 2008. Of these, the provinces of Bac Giang, Lang Son, Quang Ninh and Son La suffered the worst results. Flooding was severe in many areas, particularly in the Bac Giang province where up to 62 communes and towns in three districts were submerged. In Quang Ninh province, as many as 70 communes in six districts were under deep water.

While in many areas, flood waters subsided after two or three days, others such as the Ta Hoc commune in the Mai Son district, Son La province, were not accessible by road for at least one month. Damages were

widespread, and according to information collated from local provinces, thousands of families (some 500,000 people) in the affected provinces needed immediate emergency.

Disaster	Human loss			Property lost/destroyed			
	Dead	Missing	Injured	Houses	Paddy field (hectare)	Livestock	Estimated loss (in million USD)
Flash floods	41	5	61	1,339	10,532	4,248	63

One week into the aftermath, signs of life began slowly returning to normal, such as public markets re-opening, displaced people returning to their collapsed or damaged homes, and others setting up temporary shelters. However, the majority of those affected struggled to restore a moderate level of subsistence because they lacked many household items, clean water and food, especially rice. In the early days after the flood struck, affected people survived mainly on emergency relief supplies such as instant noodles, rice, and cooking oil received from the Red Cross, local government and other organizations.

A joint needs assessment was not made by the disaster management working group (DMWG) which is represented by stakeholders, including Red Cross, involved in disaster preparedness and response activities in Viet Nam. While this body normally takes the lead in setting up and coordinating needs assessments in the event of local disasters, it was not done in this case. Reports on damages and needs were received from the VNRC's Red Cross chapters in the provinces affected. Also, figures collected by the VNRC headquarters and International Federation country office through field trips provided the basis for support needed and these led to the allocation from the International Federation's disaster relief emergency fund (DREF) in order to support the VNRC in immediately responding to those affected.

Response from the central government in the wake of the disaster was mainly through the mobilization of army troops to evacuate affected people to safer and higher places such as cement buildings. After the immediate emergency, the government also worked through the health sector to provide Chloramine B to purify water, or support in cash of VND 2 million (USD 115) per family who lost family members in the disaster. Local governments in their respective provinces immediately reacted during the emergency by providing instant noodles and water to those affected. Later assistance was mainly from local donors such as entrepreneurs, religious groups or organizations in the form of cash, instant noodles, rice or cloth, but in limited quantities.

The Viet Nam Red Cross (VNRC) carried out the flash flood response in midst of: (1) the response to Typhoon Kammuri (August 2008) under the International Federation's DREF, and with the support of ECHO through the French Red Cross, and (2) the floods (October/November 2008) with assistance from the Movement through the International Federation emergency appeal, as well as from local resources. These response operations stretched the capacity of the national society. Implementation of numerous responses at the same time challenged the reporting capacity of the VNRC, whereas the International Federation country office provided support in reporting and monitoring to the VNRC.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The first and immediate response from Red Cross came from within the community itself. The Quang Ninh chapter was one of the first humanitarian actors to be involved in rescuing people on 26 September 2008, and also provided emergency relief at local level on 27 September. The Bac Giang Red Cross chapter used funds to immediately buy 1,000 boxes of instant noodles, 7,200 bottles of drinking water, and ten tonnes of rice, and worked in coordination with military forces to delivery emergency relief to the affected people on 27 September.

Also on 27 September, the VNRC headquarters and the International Federation country office established a team to go to Bac Giang, and another team from the national headquarters to Quang Ninh within 24 hours after the event. These teams were to facilitate the emergency response activities on the ground and carried with them 1,000 household kits, each containing utensils, a mosquito net, two blankets, a ten-litre water bucket and a 40-litre plastic water tank for distribution to the affected families on the same day in Bac Giang and Quang Ninh. At the same time, the national headquarters also released VND 550 million (USD 34,375 or EUR 23,000) from its disaster fund to support the four provinces of Bac Giang, Quang Ninh, Son La and Lang Son, to buy 30 tonnes of rice and 1,000 boxes of instant noodles, and drinking water to immediately support the affected communities.

The International Federation's DREF fund assisted the VNRC to help narrow down the emergency needs for food and non-food items, reaching 56,444 people affected the flash flood.

Progress towards objectives

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

Objective: To support the national society in meeting emergency needs for food items, which includes 200 tonnes of rice for 10,000 people, and non-food items of 2,000 families in the two worst affected provinces (Bac Giang and Son La) and in need of further external assistance.

Activities planned:

- Undertaking of beneficiary selection and the distribution plan in each province
- Procurement of household kits and rice (in addition to the goods already distributed in the provinces outlined above)
- Release of household kits from VNRC warehouses
- Distribution of household kits to affected families most in need.

Impact:

In total, the support has benefited some 11,048 families (approximately 56,444 people) in the four most affected areas of Bac Giang, Quang Ninh, Lang Son and Son La, providing them with relief items that help maintain some degree of their everyday lives in providing nutrition, carrying water, preparing food and safer sleeping conditions. Reports on damages and needs from Red Cross provincial chapters has allowed the VNRC headquarters and the country office to be flexible on allocation of relief items (in comparison to the initial plan).

Rice support is critical as many villagers have lost their food stock due to floods occurring after the harvest. Many villagers spread moulding rice in front of their houses in an attempt to save it for consumption.

The distribution of household kits is shown in the table below:

	Bac Giang	Quang Ninh	Lang Son	Son La
2000 household kits	900	700	200	200
290,010 kg of rice	139,890	80,040		70,080
<i>* Each household kit includes one mosquito net, two blankets, one 40-litre water container, one 10-litre water container, one water bucket, and one cooking set</i>				
<i>* Each beneficiary received 30 kg of rice</i>				

Conclusion

The relief operation was carried out at a time when several disasters or extreme weather events took place in succession over the short course of three months. This stretched VNRC and local administrative capacity to a great extent. However, in its role as a primary humanitarian organization in responding to emergency needs, the VNRC was supported by the International Federation in helping those affected to receive relief supplies in order to overcome immediate needs and sustain some form of their normal lives.

How we work

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.

The International Federation's activities 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.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation, please contact:

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[<final financial report below; click to return to the title page>](#)

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MDRVN004 - Vietnam - Flash Floods

Final Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2008/10-2009/2
Budget Timeframe	2008/10-2009/2
Appeal	MDRVN004
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Consolidated Response to Appeal

	Goal 1: Disaster Management	Goal 2: Health and Care	Goal 3: Capacity Building	Goal 4: Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
A. Budget	200,000					200,000
B. Opening Balance	0					0
Income						
<u>Other Income</u>						
Voluntary Income	200,000					200,000
C5. Other Income	200,000					200,000
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C5)	200,000					200,000
D. Total Funding = B + C	200,000					200,000
Appeal Coverage	100%					100%

II. Balance of Funds

	Goal 1: Disaster Management	Goal 2: Health and Care	Goal 3: Capacity Building	Goal 4: Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
B. Opening Balance	0					0
C. Income	200,000					200,000
E. Expenditure	-200,000					-200,000
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)	0					0

III. Budget Analysis / Breakdown of Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Goal 1: Disaster Management	Goal 2: Health and Care	Goal 3: Capacity Building	Goal 4: Principles and Values	Coordination		
A		B					A - B	
BUDGET (C)	200,000					200,000		
Supplies								
Clothing & textiles		21,480				21,480		-21,480
Food	128,200	132,006				132,006		-3,806
Utensils & Tools	51,536	31,810				31,810		19,726
Total Supplies	179,736	185,296				185,296		-5,560
Transport & Storage								
Storage		734				734		-734
Distribution & Monitoring	4,039							4,039
Transport & Vehicle Costs	2,308	508				508		1,800
Total Transport & Storage	6,347	1,242				1,242		5,105
Personnel								
National Society Staff	596	211				211		385
Total Personnel	596	211				211		385
General Expenditure								
Information & Public Relation	321	169				169		152
Financial Charges		82				82		-82
Total General Expenditure	321	251				251		70
Programme Support								
Program Support	13,000	13,000				13,000		0
Total Programme Support	13,000	13,000				13,000		0
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	200,000	200,000				200,000		0
VARIANCE (C - D)		0				0		