

# Operations update



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## Viet Nam: Floods

Emergency appeal n° MDRVN005  
GLIDE FF-2008-000211-VNM  
Operations update n° 4  
12 May 2009

**Period covered by this Operations Update:** 16 January to 31 March 2009

**Appeal target (current):** CHF 4,779,037 (USD 4.07 million or EUR 3.17 million)

**Appeal coverage:** 46 per cent <[view attached financial report or contact details](#)>

### Appeal history:

- This emergency appeal was initially launched on 12 November 2008 for CHF 4,779,037 (USD 4.07 million or EUR 3.17 million) to support the Viet Nam Red Cross (VNRC) to assist 293,860 beneficiaries (70,000 households) for 10 months.

### Summary:

The main activity during this reporting period was the distribution of rice. According to preliminary statistics from monitoring reports by the country office's monitoring staff, about 68,500 families (approximately 172,000 people) benefitted from rice distribution in March. Distribution was delayed to allow time for a more participatory approach in the selection of beneficiaries. This included the verification of beneficiary lists by Viet Nam Red Cross (VNRC). One of distribution vessels being out of service before the departure date also contributed to the delay. Despite this, distribution was timely as it took place at a time when families were running short of rice while waiting for the next harvest.

Given the slow response in funding for the appeal, the operation will reduce activities from what was originally included in the plan of action. A revised assessment will be conducted to confirm the selection of the most vulnerable people who will be supported with livelihood and rehabilitation of water and sanitation from the remaining funds available.

The International Federation, on behalf of the Viet Nam Red Cross, would like to thank all partners including American Red Cross, British Red Cross, Canadian Red Cross/government, Finnish Red Cross, Japanese Red Cross, Monaco Red Cross, Netherlands Red Cross/government, Swedish Red Cross/government, the Norwegian embassy and USAID. Bilateral support includes Australian Red Cross, German Red Cross/government and Swiss Red Cross.

On behalf of the Viet Nam Red Cross, the International Federation would like to thank all partners and donors for their valuable support.

## The situation

At the time of rice distribution, the need for rice among villagers was critical. Relief assistance from different resources for the affected was almost at zero as it was not yet time for the next harvest. Essentially, Viet Nam Red Cross' rice was distributed on time as it helped to cover the gap from when villagers have little or no food until the next harvest. Considering funding constraints, support for livelihoods, and water and sanitation will be prioritized in the five provinces of Ha Nam, Ninh Binh, Nghe An, Quang Binh and Thanh Hoa where Red Cross provincial chapters were able to address needs for further assistance. However, what the needs may be and how

livelihood, and water and sanitation activities are planned and carried out depends on the outcomes of the re-assessment of needs being carried out by volunteers recruited by the country office.

To date, support through the distribution of rice has benefited 172,000 people (68,500 households), while the distribution of basic family items has reached 105,900 beneficiaries (24,700 households) over the relief phase.

## Coordination and partnerships

The national society provides its Red Cross partners with an update on relief activities through monthly coordination meetings between the VNRC, the International Federation and partner national societies. Generally, the meeting has a basic agenda that includes an update on progress to date, and seeking solutions for challenges facing VNRC's overall programmes.

In national forums, such as regular meetings of the national disaster management working group (DMWG) where all cases are represented by the country office, the International Federation presents the latest developments in the operation to the members.

At the rice distribution session, VNRC staff at all levels, local government, particularly commune authorities, were invited for Red Cross training. This particular training was designed to make Red Cross branches and local authority leaders major partners in Red Cross activities. This training was to impart Red Cross Red Crescent Movement principles, in order to encourage all Red Cross staff adhere to the Movement's Fundamental Principles. Other topics included damage versus needs, selection of beneficiaries, the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement's Fundamental Principles and its implications in Red Cross activities, focusing on humanity, independence and voluntary service. In total, about 577 Red Cross branch staff, and representatives of local government: heads or deputies of local commune authorities, benefited from this type of training.

### National society capacity building

The national society continues to receive technical support from the country office, particularly in planning, monitoring and reporting. For many chapters, it is the first time they learnt to do overall planning, indicating timeframes for commune training; arrange commune meetings to select beneficiaries; make public announcements of selected beneficiaries; transport rice to communes; and plan distribution, and facilitate those involved in the distribution.

The country office continues to provide technical support to the national society on a day-to-day basis. Planning and monitoring activities are prepared by the social work department at the headquarters. Staff from other departments at the VNRC headquarters helped in monitoring to cope with the shortage of personnel in the implementing department. However, facilitation such as coaching and mentoring for all monitoring staff at headquarters will help strengthen skills and improve capacity of staff for the benefit of the national society.

Findings and recommendations from each monitoring visit were shared with the chapters and the national society headquarters in order to make sure good practices are introduced.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

### Overview

With the support of government and the partner national societies through the emergency appeal, VNRC's assistance in the form of rice and basic household items such as mosquito nets, blankets and cooking utensils has so far reached beneficiaries in 17 affected provinces.

Field trips are being carried out in five provinces to re-assess needs for livelihood, and water and sanitation support using the remaining money from available funds.

### Progress towards objectives

#### Relief (food):

Rice distribution was carried out in nine provinces from 7 March in Quang Binh province, until 26 March in Vinh Phuc province. Distribution was delayed to give enough time for a more participatory approach to process beneficiary selection/verification. In addition, one vessel was out of service before departure time. This also

contributed to the delay. However, the delay turned out to be good timing in the end. This is because the national society managed to bridge the gap from when villagers have little or no rice till the time of the second harvest in June 2009.

Beneficiaries received from 30 kg to 60 kg depending on their family size. For many households, 30 kg is enough for a month's sustenance for a family of three. Preliminary figures in reports from the country office's monitoring staff show that about 68,500 families (approximately 172,000 people) benefited from this support. Updated figures on beneficiaries will be given in the next operations update after consolidating figures from individual chapter reports.

Overall, distribution has been better organized than previously. There still remain, however, some cases where Red Cross commune workers are not yet capable of independently leading the distribution process. Distribution of rice by the Red Cross has been widely broadcasted on local media such as the national television, local newspaper and in the English daily, highlighting the criteria for beneficiary selection and Red Cross relief standards. At distribution points, the Red Cross logo and uniforms have been visible. However, in some places, Red Cross commune workers do not have enough vests or hats for their activities. Supplying a sufficient number of Red Cross vests and hats should be on the agenda for VNRC headquarters in order to increase the visibility of the work of the Red Cross on the ground.

#### **Non-food items:**

As reported in the previous operations update, some 6,500 kitchen sets, 22,000 blankets and 22,000 mosquito nets have been distributed to affected people in 17 provinces. According to the recent report by the VNRC, this distribution benefited 24,700 families (about 105,900 people) in 212 communes in 58 districts throughout these 17 provinces.

#### **Livelihood Support:**

Based on recommendations for more support from the five chapters of Ha Nam, Ninh Binh, Nghe An, Quang Binh and Thanh Hoa, the country office carried out a field visit to the provinces of Ha Nam and Ninh Binh to discuss upcoming activities with the Red Cross chapters and local government there. Important considerations included limited funding and methods used to select the most vulnerable people. The country office's volunteers are carrying out revised assessments and preliminary selections of beneficiaries. A considerable amount of adequate support will be required to ensure suitable and sustainable livelihoods.



In Ha Nam, the distribution of rice came at a crucial time when food supplies were running low. (Photos: VNRC, Ha Nam Red Cross chapter/Nguyen Minh Toan)

**Water and sanitation:**

This component activity is undergoing the same approach and pacing as the livelihood support component. Field trips are being undertaken to identify the most vulnerable people who may still require support to access to clean water during flood times. (Not all the activities originally identified at the emergency assessment can be implemented due to budget constraints).

**Institutional Capacity building:**

Coaching was held in Hanoi on how to implement professional rice distribution from the selection of beneficiaries to the delivery of relief items. This was attended by VNRC chapter leaders from nine provinces; staff from the social work department and from other departments at VNRC headquarters engaged in implementing the activity.

However, the country office has prioritized the need for staff in all chapters to understand the Red Cross Red Crescent principles and their meanings, in particular, when working in the allocation of relief items and the selection of beneficiaries. This is in order to clarify and improve previous relief distribution and beneficiary selection processes.

Hands-on experiences garnered by the country office from monitoring visits were shared with participants for discussion. The chapters have, in turn, delivered training for district and commune Red Cross members, and local government leaders.

Feedback from chapters shows that following guidelines to produce a professional relief operation is a challenge towards achieving a level of quality and efficiency in relief operations. While efforts have been made by chapters, it will take time to see significant outcomes and achieve satisfactory performance.

**Challenges:**

The timeframe and the identification of beneficiaries have been clear challenges for this operation. Similar to the previous distribution of in-kind supplies, the operation has been challenged by the allocation or stretching of relief items or confusion over allocation based on damage rather than needs.

Lessons learnt from the rice distribution will help improve the national society in this respect. This also includes lessons learnt in water and sanitation, and livelihood support.

The remaining funds available will only allow room for support to livelihoods, and water and sanitation activities in five provinces. Field trips continue in order to identify the most suitable and realistic options to provide this kind of support as well as to ascertain beneficiaries who are most in need of help.



In Thanh Nguyen commune, Ha Nam province, households that experience floods regularly have taken to using water tanks such as these. Tanks are tightly lidded with plastic to keep floodwaters out. Once floodwaters have receded, lids are removed and the household has access to water at least for several days. (Photo: VNRC, Ha Nam chapter)

**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

**Global Agenda Goals:**

- Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.
- Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from

mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".

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:**

- Viet Nam Red Cross: Mr. Doan Van Thai, secretary general, phone +84 913 216 549, email: [doanvanthai62@yahoo.com.vn](mailto:doanvanthai62@yahoo.com.vn)
- Federation country office, Viet Nam: Mr. Dang Van Tao, disaster management manager, phone +84 913 361 581, email: [tao.vandang@ifrc.org](mailto:tao.vandang@ifrc.org)
- Federation Southeast Asia regional office, Bangkok (phone: +66 2 661 8201):
  - Alan Bradbury, head of regional office, email: [alan.bradbury@ifrc.org](mailto:alan.bradbury@ifrc.org)
  - Patrick Fox, head of Southeast Asia disaster management unit, email: [patrick.fox@ifrc.org](mailto:patrick.fox@ifrc.org).
  - Lasse Norgaard, communications delegate, phone: +66 847 526 441, email: [lasse.norgaard@ifrc.org](mailto:lasse.norgaard@ifrc.org)
- Federation Asia Pacific zone office, Kuala Lumpur (phone: +603 9207 5700):
  - Heikki Väättämoinen, disaster response delegate phone: +6012 230 7895, email: [heikki.vaatamoinen@ifrc.org](mailto:heikki.vaatamoinen@ifrc.org)
  - Penny Elghady, resource mobilization and PMER coordinator, phone: +603 9207 5775, email: [penny.elghady@ifrc.org](mailto:penny.elghady@ifrc.org)  
*Please send funding pledges to [zonerm.asiapacific@ifrc.org](mailto:zonerm.asiapacific@ifrc.org)*
  - For mobilization of relief items: (fax: +60 3 2168 8573)  
Jeremy Francis, regional logistics coordinator, phone: +60 12 298 9752, email: [jeremy.francis@ifrc.org](mailto:jeremy.francis@ifrc.org)

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

# International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MDRVN005 - Vietnam - Floods

Interim Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2008/11-2009/3
Budget Timeframe	2008/11-2009/11
Appeal	MDRVN005
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
<b>A. Budget</b>	<b>4,779,038</b>					<b>4,779,038</b>
<b>B. Opening Balance</b>	<b>0</b>					<b>0</b>
<b>Income</b>						
<u>Cash contributions</u>						
American Red Cross	61,170					61,170
British Red Cross	37,569					37,569
Canadian Red Cross (from Canadian Government)	187,269					187,269
Finnish Red Cross	77,030					77,030
Japanese Red Cross	7,466					7,466
Monaco Red Cross	14,808					14,808
Netherlands Red Cross	141,269					141,269
Norwegian Government	854,409					854,409
Swedish Red Cross (from Swedish Government)	422,910					422,910
<b>C1. Cash contributions</b>	<b>1,803,900</b>					<b>1,803,900</b>
<u>Outstanding pledges (Revalued)</u>						
Canadian Red Cross	20,431					20,431
Monaco Red Cross	-15,211					-15,211
USAID	57,241					57,241
<b>C2. Outstanding pledges (Revalued)</b>	<b>62,460</b>					<b>62,460</b>
<u>Inkind Goods &amp; Transport</u>						
British Red Cross	90,836					90,836
Japanese Red Cross	116,454					116,454
Netherlands Red Cross	132,800					132,800
<b>C3. Inkind Goods &amp; Transport</b>	<b>340,090</b>					<b>340,090</b>
<b>C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C5)</b>	<b>2,206,450</b>					<b>2,206,450</b>
<b>D. Total Funding = B + C</b>	<b>2,206,450</b>					<b>2,206,450</b>
<b>Appeal Coverage</b>	<b>46%</b>					<b>46%</b>

## 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>B. Opening Balance</b>	<b>0</b>					<b>0</b>
<b>C. Income</b>	<b>2,206,450</b>					<b>2,206,450</b>
<b>E. Expenditure</b>	<b>-1,643,839</b>					<b>-1,643,839</b>
<b>F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)</b>	<b>562,612</b>					<b>562,612</b>

**International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies**

MDRVN005 - Vietnam - Floods

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**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
<b>BUDGET (C)</b>		<b>4,779,038</b>					<b>4,779,038</b>	
<b>Supplies</b>								
Clothing & textiles	135,000	205,944				205,944	-70,944	
Food	1,274,400	1,009,415				1,009,415	264,985	
Seeds,Plants	1,510,000						1,510,000	
Water & Sanitation	847,000						847,000	
Utensils & Tools	230,000	181,096				181,096	48,904	
<b>Total Supplies</b>	<b>3,996,400</b>	<b>1,396,455</b>				<b>1,396,455</b>	<b>2,599,945</b>	
<b>Transport &amp; Storage</b>								
Storage	15,000	7,877				7,877	7,123	
Distribution & Monitoring	89,000	22,876				22,876	66,124	
Transport & Vehicle Costs	30,000	3,207				3,207	26,793	
<b>Total Transport &amp; Storage</b>	<b>134,000</b>	<b>33,960</b>				<b>33,960</b>	<b>100,040</b>	
<b>Personnel</b>								
International Staff	30,000	40				40	29,960	
National Staff	30,000	18,266				18,266	11,734	
National Society Staff	30,000	10,607				10,607	19,393	
Consultants	20,000						20,000	
<b>Total Personnel</b>	<b>110,000</b>	<b>28,912</b>				<b>28,912</b>	<b>81,088</b>	
<b>Workshops &amp; Training</b>								
Workshops & Training	43,000	3,189				3,189	39,811	
<b>Total Workshops &amp; Training</b>	<b>43,000</b>	<b>3,189</b>				<b>3,189</b>	<b>39,811</b>	
<b>General Expenditure</b>								
Travel	55,000	2,617				2,617	52,383	
Information & Public Relation	25,000	10,694				10,694	14,306	
Office Costs	45,000	1,099				1,099	43,901	
Communications	20,000	1,485				1,485	18,515	
Professional Fees	25,000						25,000	
Financial Charges	5,000	-203				-203	5,203	
Other General Expenses	10,000	2,074				2,074	7,926	
<b>Total General Expenditure</b>	<b>185,000</b>	<b>17,766</b>				<b>17,766</b>	<b>167,234</b>	
<b>Programme Support</b>								
Program Support	310,637	106,132				106,132	204,506	
<b>Total Programme Support</b>	<b>310,637</b>	<b>106,132</b>				<b>106,132</b>	<b>204,506</b>	
<b>Services</b>								
Services & Recoveries		107				107	-107	
<b>Total Services</b>		<b>107</b>				<b>107</b>	<b>-107</b>	
<b>Operational Provisions</b>								
Operational Provisions		57,317				57,317	-57,317	
<b>Total Operational Provisions</b>		<b>57,317</b>				<b>57,317</b>	<b>-57,317</b>	
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)</b>	<b>4,779,038</b>	<b>1,643,839</b>				<b>1,643,839</b>	<b>3,135,199</b>	
<b>VARIANCE (C - D)</b>		<b>3,135,199</b>				<b>3,135,199</b>		