

DREF operation

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Viet Nam: Floods

DREF operation n° MDRVN007
GLIDE n° FL-2010-00194-VNM
8 October 2010

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 and 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.

CHF 155,064 (USD 160,853 or EUR 115,896) has been allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the Viet Nam Red Cross Society in delivering immediate assistance to some 50,000 beneficiaries. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

Summary: Torrential rain has created severe flooding in central Viet Nam over the last six days, particularly in the five central provinces of Quang Binh, Ha Tinh, Quang Tri, Nghe An and Thua Thien Hue.

The situation shows a daily increase in losses and damages, with the national media reporting that more than a million people have already been affected by the floods. While communities are being supported by the government and Viet Nam Red Cross (VNRC) local chapters, the situation appears to be getting worse, and accessibility to some areas is becoming more and more difficult. The national hydro-meteorological forecast centre has also announced that rain will probably continue to fall in central provinces from Nghe An to Quang Tri in the coming days, making matters worse.

VNRC chapters have been particularly active since the onset of disaster by distributing household kits comprising blankets, mosquito nets, kitchen utensils and water containers, as well as cash and plastic sheets.



VNRC volunteers preparing for the distribution of instant noodles to people affected by the flood in Quang Binh province on 5 October 2010 (Photo: Viet Nam Red Cross)

With DREF support, VNRC seeks to further assist thousands of the most affected and vulnerable people in these five provinces. The National Society will carry out emergency needs assessments in these provinces, by sending its assessment teams composed of VNRC staff who have been trained this year, who will also distribute food, water, and relief items, and provide psychosocial support, and thus, begin the

relief operation.

This operation is expected to be implemented over three months, and will therefore be completed by 15 January 2011; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by 15 April 2011).

[<click here for the DREF budget, here for contact details, or view the map of the affected areas>](#)

The situation

Since 1 October 2010, flooding in Viet Nam has caused severe loss and damage, with the situation getting worse every day. According to VNRC damage reports on 6 October, the floods have affected a total of 25 districts in the five provinces of Quang Binh, Ha Tinh, Quang Tri, Nghe An and Thua Thien Hue in central Viet Nam.

To date, flash floods and collapsing houses have killed 48 people, and injured 10, with 18 reported missing. In these five provinces, more than 61,000 houses have been flooded or damaged, and some 14,395 families (57,580 people) evacuated to safer places. Quang Binh and Ha Tinh provinces are currently the two most affected. In Quang Binh, all seven districts and 90 per cent of the communes have been flooded.

Some dozens of hectares of agricultural land has also been lost, creating an estimated loss of VND 350 billion (USD 1.84 million or EUR 1.4 million) in Quang Tri and VND 43 billion (USD 2.2 million or EUR 1.8 million) in Thua Thien Hue. In Ha Tinh, the possibility of the Ho Lo hydro-power plant reservoir embankment being breached threatens some 28,000 families living in the downstream areas. Evacuations are being conducted in order to minimize this risk.

According to the Vietnamese government, it is estimated that currently around 300,000 people have been affected by the flood and this number looks to increase significantly every day. Initial reports from the Viet Nam Red Cross chapters and branches, however, put the number of people affected much higher at more than a million. As described below, VNRC will perform more in-depth assessments in all five affected provinces to clarify a more comprehensive picture of both needs and people affected.

VNRC, with support from IFRC, plans to assist 50,000¹ of the most vulnerable people among the affected people by providing them with food, water and relief items. With the deployment of its assessment teams in the coming days, VNRC will also garner the necessary information and data to provide the most appropriate assistance to those who need it.

Coordination and partnerships

In order to better facilitate coordination, VNRC, IFRC and partner national societies in-country, which include American Red Cross, French Red Cross, German Red Cross, Italian Red Cross, Netherlands Red Cross, Norwegian Red Cross and Spanish Red Cross, are presently meeting daily in order to exchange information, to decide on action to be taken, and to agree on the best way in which to provide VNRC with financial and technical support. IFRC coordinates closely with all Red Cross Red Crescent partners in order to ensure a smooth overall support process and a strong synergy which aims at strengthening VNRC in timely and effective response to the disaster.

IFRC also liaises with other actors involved in humanitarian assistance via regular emergency situation meetings among the disaster management working group (DMWG). The DMWG is the platform where IFRC and VNRC coordinate response action together with UN agencies, INGOs and representatives from the Vietnamese government, i.e. the central committee for flood and storm control (CCFSC) which is a long-time VNRC partner in the country. The first meeting of the DMWG was held on 6 October and chaired by both the

¹ Some 12,000 households

chair of the DMWG and the People's Aid Co-ordinating Committee (PACCOM)². The meeting concluded that there was an urgent need for a joint needs assessment, and agreed on the deployment of two joint needs assessment teams to Ha Tinh and Quang Binh provinces. The results of the assessment will be presented at the next joint meeting of DMWG and PACCOM on 12 October.

Local governments in the affected provinces have begun emergency response action including the deployment of military forces for search and rescue activities, relief distribution by air, the evacuation of people in danger, and the clearance of main roads and paths as well as the distribution of food, drinking water and plastic sheets.

The Prime Minister has requested provincial authorities from Ha Tinh to Thua Thien Hue to focus on relief activities, ensure sufficient food, drinking water and essential goods for flooded areas, rescue for boats and their crew members, and to remain in close communication at all levels. These also include clearing and repairing the main highways in order to facilitate the flow of traffic; deploying "medicine units" to provide medication and chloramine-B tablets for water treatment. Distribution has been undertaken for affected areas including 12 tonnes of instant noodles, 200 lifebuoys, 200 plastic sheets, and hundreds of bottles of drinking water.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

VNRC chapters at province, district and commune level provided quick and effective response to help affected communities in their areas. VNRC headquarters is in constant communication with the provincial chapters in the affected provinces and have set up an information update routine twice a day.

During this initial emergency response, VNRC chapters have to date distributed a total of 3,400 household kits (consisting of blankets, mosquito nets, cooking utensils, and water containers), 100 plastic sheets and VND 450,000,000 (USD 22,870 or EUR 16,480) in cash.

In addition to this distribution, following activities have also been conducted at the community level by VNRC staff and volunteers:

- **Quang Binh:** With assistance from eight rescue boats, VNRC youth participated in the dissemination of information to vulnerable people, while helping with the evacuation of families and their belongings to safer areas. To date, some 5,023 households (23,355 people) were safely evacuated and emergency relief activities have been carried out through the distribution of 38,000 packs of instant noodles and 1,092 bottles of drinking water. Visits to families who have lost family members during the flooding are also made by VNRC staff and volunteers in the villages.
- **Ha Tinh:** The VNRC chapter mobilized Red Cross youth to evacuate families who live near Ho Lo hydro-power plant, help with the distribution of instant noodles and visit the most affected families.
- **Quang Tri:** VNRC staff and volunteers on-site assisted local people as needed from the very onset of the flood. To date, they have assisted the evacuation of 2,064 families to safer places, also visiting households which have lost family members or sustained injury.
- **Thua Thien Hue:** Here, the VNRC chapter distributed 208 boxes of instant noodle for affected families who are suffering from food shortage and distributed VND 2 million (USD 103 or EUR 74) in cash to each family who lost one member. Up to 68 families whose houses have been damaged during the flood also receive cash donation by VNRC.

² PACCOM coordinates the foreign NGO activities in Viet Nam.

The Thua Thien Hue chapter also participated actively in the evacuation of families who live in dangerous sites: 550 households were safely moved out from areas at risk from flash floods and other potential dangers. This chapter also prepared food and relief items for future needs.

In order to continue and increase its action on the field, VNRC needs more resources. In order to do so, the National Society launched a national appeal on 6 October to mobilize funds to assist the five provinces, and to build its capacity in fundraising and communication. As part of its national campaign, VNRC will also establish partnerships with telecommunication companies in Viet Nam to raise funds using a text message mechanism for donations by telephone service users.

To improve its plan of action for the national appeal, VNRC is mobilizing its trained staff and volunteers for needs assessment in the affected provinces. In two provinces, joint assessment will be carried out with VNRC, German Red Cross and Spanish Red Cross working together. In the provinces of Thua Thien Hue and Quang Tri, a team mobilized nationally by VNRC will conduct assessments with support from IFRC staff. In Nghe An province, the assessment will be conducted by local staff and volunteers. All assessment reports will be shared at the next joint meeting of DMWG and PACCOM on 12 October.

The needs

According to the Vietnamese government, as of 6 October, around 300,000³ people have been confirmed severely affected by the flood in the five provinces mentioned, and this number is likely to increase in the coming days. Among them, around 61,000 households have their houses flooded/severely damaged. The needs assessments planned for later this week will clarify the exact nature of needs. Initial reports from VNRC chapters and reports of 7 October from the government's central committee for flood and storm control inform that people are currently living in extremely difficult conditions and urgently need assistance especially in terms of food and water.

The national hydro-meteorological forecast centre has indicated that the low pressure was 360 km north-east of Viet Nam's central provinces. This low pressure together with a cold spell would bring heavy rain fall to central provinces from Nghe An to Quang Tri. This is likely to make matters worse.

The proposed operation

The operation will provide immediate relief and assistance to 50,000 affected people in the five provinces and restock some household kits to ensure minimum preparedness level is maintained. Although the government is very active in assisting these people, many of them still need the support from the National Society. According to the most important needs reported by VNRC local chapters, VNRC will continue its emergency response and in the coming weeks will focus on:

- **Distribution of relief items**
- **Distribution of food**
- **Distribution of drinking water**
- **Psychosocial support**

The operation also includes the deployment of VNRC assessment teams on the field in order to have a thorough understanding of the affected people's needs and therefore, better design the following steps of the operation.

³71,400 households

Relief distributions (non-food items)

Objective: To provide relief items (household kits) to 1,300 households in the provinces of Quang Binh, Ha Tinh, Quang Tri, Nghe An and Thua Thien Hue. The provision of these items aims to meet the immediate needs of the affected families to enable them to return to everyday life as quickly as possible.

Activities planned:

- Organization of the transport and distribution system for the basic household kits by each of the local chapters concerned.
- Selection of the most vulnerable people as beneficiaries
- Distribution of basic household kits with a proper recording system.
- Replenishment of stocks based on approved budgets and IFRC procurement requirements.
- Monitoring and evaluation.

VNRC already has the required number of household kits in its warehouse and is already releasing the required numbers to the provinces affected. This DREF assistance will help replenish part of the released stock.

Emergency food

Objective: To provide food assistance to 5,000 households who lost basic income and crops during the floods in Quang Binh, Ha Tinh, Quang Tri, Nghe An and Thua Thien Hue.

Activities planned:

- Procurement of food according to IFRC procurement standards
- Organization of transport to the distribution point.
- Organization of the various distributions by the local chapters concerned.
- Selection of the most vulnerable people as beneficiaries
- Distribution of emergency food with a proper recording system.
- The mode of cash grant may be adopted in situations where procurement and transportation of food might be impossible or take too long. In these cases, cash grants will offer more flexibility and ease the access to beneficiaries.
- Monitoring and evaluation.

Water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion

Objective: To reduce the risks to the flood-affected people from waterborne or water and sanitation-related diseases through the provision of safe water and hygiene promotion to 5,000 households in Quang Binh, Ha Tinh, Quang Tri, Nghe An and Thua Thien Hue provinces.

Activities planned:

- Assessment of water sanitation and hygiene situation.
- Selection of the most vulnerable people as beneficiaries.
- Deployment of the VNRC water treatment unit (NOMAD) based in Thua Thien Hue by VNRC staff who received appropriate training.
- Provision of safe drinking water from the national society's water treatment unit and hygiene promotion conducted by trained VNRC staff and volunteers.
- Distribution of bottles of drinking water to selected households.
- Monitoring and evaluation.

Psychosocial support

Objective: To provide psychosocial assistance to 100 of the most affected families and help them to overcome their grief.

Activities planned:

- Training and coaching on psychological support for VNRC staff and volunteers in affected provinces
- Organization of community-based psychological support (door-to-door visits by VNRC trained volunteers) by VNRC staff and volunteers to families in need.
- Organization of various community activities by VNRC local chapters.

Apart from this, VNRC will be supported in their capacity in communication to enhance their effort in dissemination of its action and the launching of its fundraising campaign for its own national appeal (emergency response), with actions such as fundraising through mobile phone users contribution (contributing by using the text message donation service mechanism).

Communications – advocacy and public information

The steady flow of timely and accurate information between those working in the field and other major stakeholders will support the programme objectives of this DREF, increase the profile, funding and other support for the national society and IFRC.

It will also provide a platform on which to advocate in the interest of vulnerable people. In close collaboration with the operation, those affected by this emergency will be provided with information to support their relief and recovery. Donors and national societies will receive information and materials they can use to promote this operation and communications initiatives will help build the information and public relations capacity of the host national society for future emergencies.

Budget summary

See attached budget for details.

Matthias Schmale
Under Secretary General
Programme Services

Bekele Geleta
Secretary General

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 IFRC's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

The IFRC's work is guided by [Strategy 2020](#) which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of nonviolence and peace.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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Please send all pledges of funding to zonerm.asiapacific@ifrc.org

[<DREF budget and map below; click here to return to the title page>](#)

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

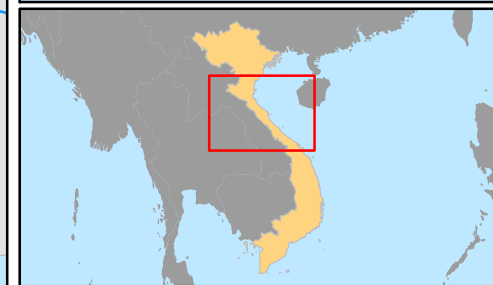
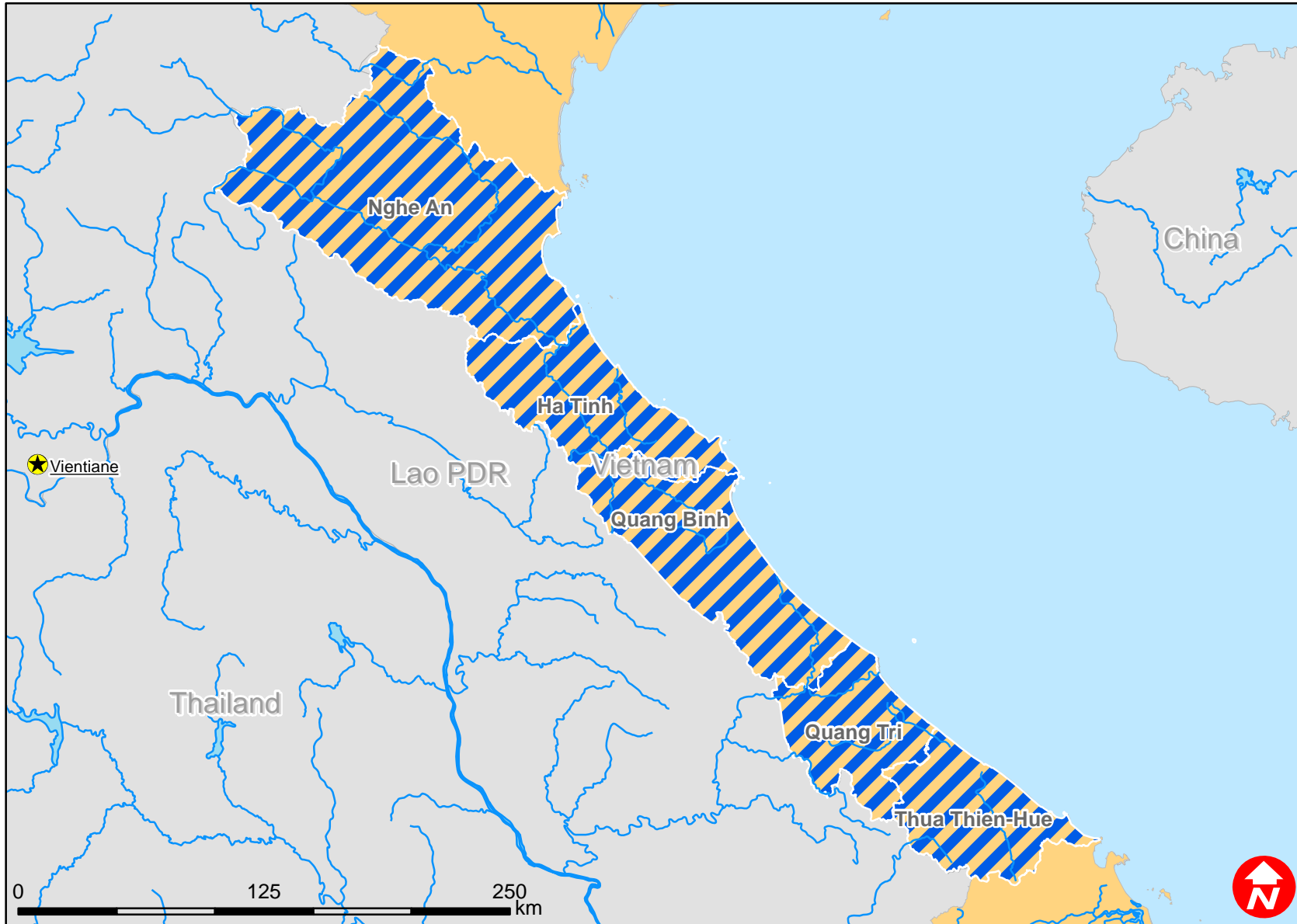
MDRVN007 - VIET NAM: FLOODS

DREF BUDGET SUMMARY

Budget Group	DREF Grant Budget	TOTAL BUDGET CHF
Food	36,000	36,000
Water & Sanitation	16,500	16,500
Ustensils & Tools	30,000	30,000
Other Supplies & Services & Cash Disbursements	26,000	26,000
Total Supplies	108,500	108,500
Storage	1,500	1,500
Dsitribution & Monitoring	1,000	1,000
Transport & Vehicle Costs	4,000	4,000
Total Transport & Storage	6,500	6,500
National Staff	2,000	2,000
National Society Staff	12,500	12,500
Total Personnel	14,500	14,500
Travel	3,000	3,000
Information & Public Relation	7,400	7,400
Communications	3,000	3,000
Other General Expenses	2,700	2,700
Total General Expenditure	16,100	16,100
Program Support	9,464	9,464
Total Programme Support	9,464	9,464
TOTAL BUDGET	155,064	155,064



Vietnam: Floods



 Affected provinces