

Information bulletin



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Viet Nam: Flash floods

Information bulletin n° 1
GLIDE **FF-2008-000173-VNM**
29 September 2008

This bulletin is being issued for information only, and reflects the current situation and details available at this time. The International Federation is not seeking funding or other assistance from donors for this operation at present. The Viet Nam Red Cross society will, however, accept direct assistance to provide support to the affected population.

[<click here to view the map of the affected area, or here for detailed contact information>](#)

The Situation

In the early hours of 25 September, heavy rains triggered by tropical cyclone Hagupit caused flash floods and landslides in six provinces in northern Viet Nam, namely Lang Son, Son La, Bac Giang, Lao Cai, Quang Ninh, and Vinh Phuc. According to current available information collated from local Viet Nam Red Cross Society chapters and the government, the floods left a total of 32 dead, five missing and 36 injured. Furthermore, 897 houses have collapsed and another 8,326 houses have been damaged or swept away by the floods. In addition, some 19,823 hectares of rice, including those to be harvested, and vegetables are inundated.



A large amount of damage occurred in the mentioned provinces due to flash floods on the night of 25 September, which lasted for two days (26 and 27 September). The floods left people little time to evacuate and submerged the provincial town and several communes.

Severe floods in Luc Nam district of Bac Giang province.
International Federation/Dang Van Tao

In Quang Ninh province, flash floods occurred in six districts and several communes were isolated. Information is very limited due to inaccessibility to the affected areas and damage to infrastructures. According to the provincial Red Cross chapter, although the flood waters have receded in most of the areas, some communities in at least two districts, Ba Che and Tien Yen, remain inaccessible. To date, reports indicate four people have died as a result of the floods, five injured and about 350 houses have been destroyed. In addition, approximately 650 hectares of aqua production was lost and 800 hectares of paddy fields were inundated.

As of 28 September, flood levels receded to a metre within 24 hours, enabling some communities to be accessible by small boats only. According to local authorities, some roads could be accessible after 28 September which would allow relief to be easily reachable to the affected people, and electricity has been

returned to some districts as well. However, in Luc Ngan district, a number of noodle factories and its production tools have been destroyed by flood.¹

In Bac Giang province, flash floods have claimed the lives of nine people, while another eight people from five out of ten districts were reported to be injured. The local Viet Nam Red Cross chapter estimated that up to 500,000 people were affected as 12,771 hectares of rice and vegetables fields were flooded and damaged. At least 51 towns and communes in low lands or along the Luc Nam River were submerged. Up until 28 September, several communes are still under water. Seven bridges were swept away by the floods while a subsequent landslide has caused damage to Highway 31, further disrupting traffic flow.

In response to the situation, the Central Committee for Flood and Storm Control (CCFSC) has requested the provincial people's committee in the affected provinces to take the lead in evacuating people living in low-lying lands as well as people living near rivers and springs. Schools in flooded areas have been closed down since 26 September and the local government has been requested to report to the central committee about the progress of the situation.

At present, updates about damages are available from three disaster-prone provinces. However, there is very little information about the needs for humanitarian assistance at the time of reporting. Information on damages is either limited or not available in provinces which are less prone to disasters.

On 26 September, the Central Hydro-Meteorological Forecasting Centre (CHMFC) warned of more flash floods and landslides across the northern provinces as well as rising water levels at major rivers, including Thai Binh, Cau, Thuong and Luc Nam rivers as the result of the approaching typhoon Jangmi.

The affected communities are trying to clean their houses and household items in the flooded areas; farmers are also trying to fish in the flooded areas for their daily meals and salvage their crops. Public markets in high areas are opened again, with food, vegetables and household items made available.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Viet Nam Red Cross (VNRC) has released 1,000 household kits containing cooking utensils, a mosquito net, two blankets, ten-litre water bucket and a 40-litre plastic water tank to help collect water. The first relief items reached the people affected in the worst hit provinces of Bac Giang, Lang Son, Son La and Quang Ninh two days after the disaster. Approximately VND 400 million (CHF 26,614, USD 24,176 or EUR 16,778) in cash has been disbursed from the national society's disaster fund to support the four provinces in emergency relief. A total of 400 families in Bac Giang province will receive household kits, while in the other three provinces identified as the worst affected, 200 families will receive a household kit each. The provincial Red Cross chapters have also distributed up to 1,000 boxes of instant noodles; 7,200 bottles of drinking water; and 3,200 sets of clothes to affected families.



Small bamboo boats, like the one above, were used by the VNRC to access flooded areas and transport relief items
International Federation/ Dang Van Tao

The VNRC headquarters has dispatched two teams to facilitate the emergency response activities in the affected provinces. The International Federation delegation has joined the national society relief team to Bac Giang province to gain better understanding of the situation. The Bac Giang chapter has released emergency relief to the affected people and, as of 28 September, has bought ten tonnes of rice and a hundred boxes of instant noodles to distribute in Luc Nam, Luc Ngan and Son Dong districts. Red Cross staff members, together with community volunteers and military

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¹ A major part of the people in Luc Ngan district of Bac Giang's income depend on noodle production

forces, are trying to distribute the emergency relief items. The VNRC and its chapters in Phu Tho, Yen Bai and Lao Cai are distributing 6,000 household kits to affected communities, assisted by the International Federation and the Netherlands Red Cross. Further rice and seeds distributions will be carried out by the VNRC in the affected provinces with assistance from the European Community Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO).

In addition to the current response to the flash floods in the country, the VNRC are also in the midst of responding to the needs of communities affected by Typhoon Kammuri in August. The International Federation released DREF amounting to CHF 200,000 (USD 181,571 or EUR 126,130) on 25 August to help the national society with the typhoon Kammuri operation.

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 \(NGO's\) in Disaster Relief](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

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

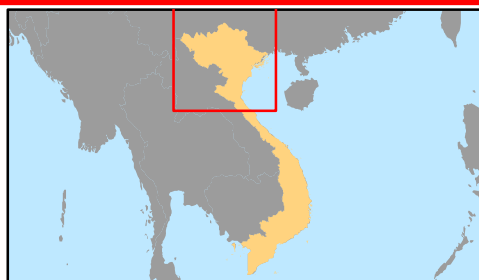
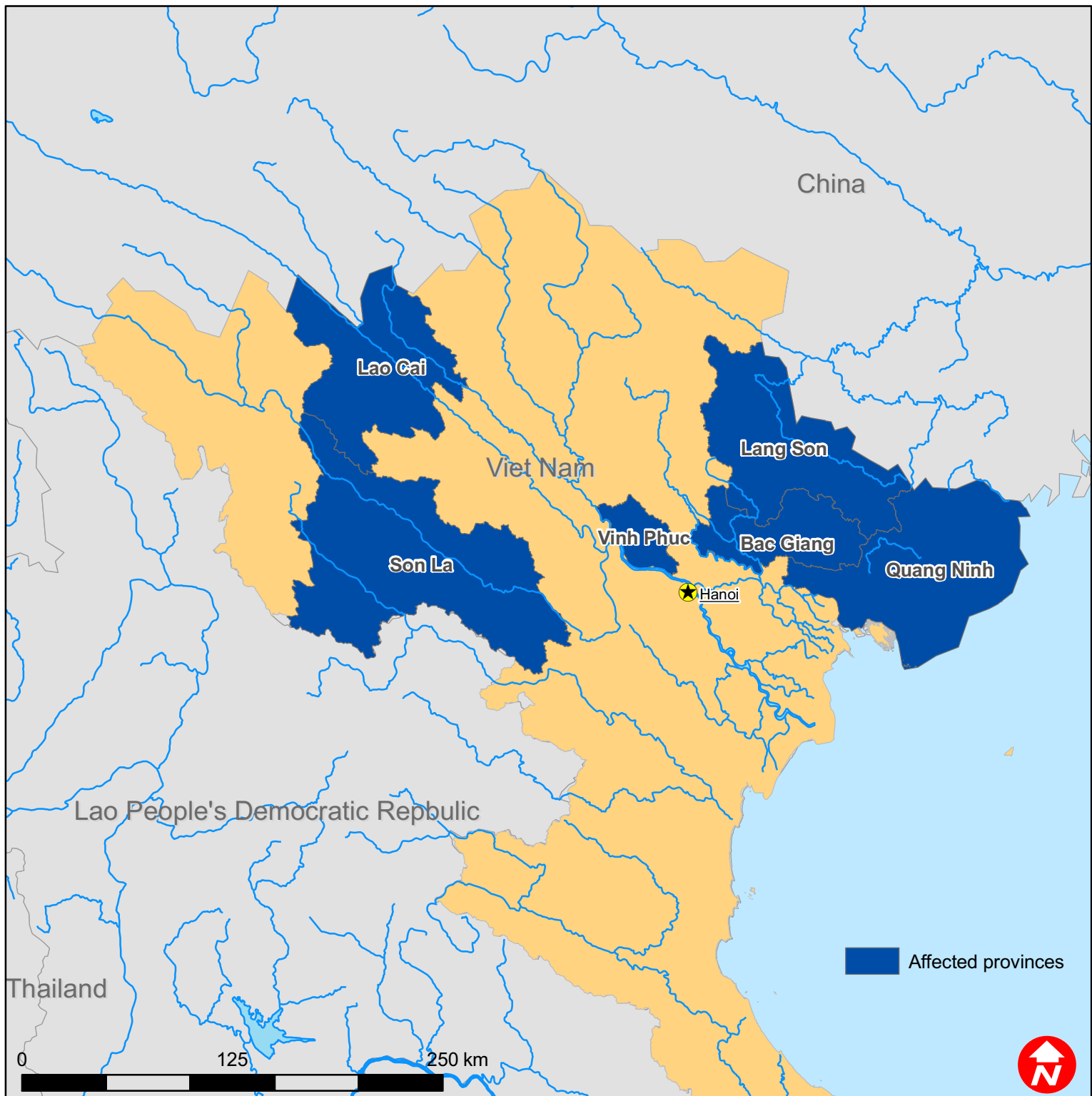
For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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[<map below; click here to return to the title page or contact information](#)



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