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# Viet Nam country office

## Mid-year report against Long-Term Planning Framework 2012-2015

 International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

**MAAVN001**

**21 November 2012**

**This report covers  
the period  
1 January 2012 to  
30 June 2012.**

*A Red Cross volunteer in District One of Ho Chi Minh City, posts information about dengue fever prevention on the local bulletin board. (Photo: VNRC)*



## Overview

Progress in terms of programme implementation in the first six months of the year has been significant in community-based disaster risk reduction (CBDRR) and organizational development (OD) programmes. It was slow in health and care (HC), largely due to the deployment of key resources in the emergency response to the sudden and rapid increase in cases of hand, foot and mouth disease (HFMD). Progress in the disaster preparedness (DP) programme was also limited owing to an emergency medical evacuation of the DP programme coordinator.

In **CBDRR**, several small-scale disaster risk reduction measures were undertaken in 21 communes to strengthen community resilience in the event of a disaster. These include upgrading of equipment as well as capacity building through training for disaster response teams at the community level. In **organizational development**, headway was made in initiating discussions on volunteer management with the support of the Southeast Asia regional office. The process of building greater capacity for the National Society in planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting (PMER) skills was also set in motion through training workshops and identifying lessons for upcoming ones.

In **health and care**, the dengue fever prevention programme implemented in 2011 was evaluated in April this year. With continued funding, the programme activities will be implemented in the second half of the year, building on the successes and addressing the challenges from the previous operation. Preparations are underway to launch the advocacy initiatives for road safety as well as for further capacity building in water and sanitation in emergencies. In **disaster preparedness**, cash transfer programme guidelines have been finalized. Disaster preparedness training courses for staff and volunteers will be conducted in the coming months.

## Working in partnership

Operational Partners	Agreement
Viet Nam Red Cross (VNRC), Japanese Red Cross Society (JRCS) and International Federation of Red	For the final phase of implementation of the mangrove plantation/disaster risk reduction project

Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)	(2011-2015) in ten provinces.
VNRC and disaster management centre (DMC) of Viet Nam	For the implementation of the national community-based disaster risk management programme in Viet Nam up to 2020.

## Progress towards outcomes<sup>1</sup>

### Business Line 2: Grow Red Cross Red Crescent services for vulnerable people<sup>2</sup>

Measurement				
Outcome/Output/Indicators	Baseline	LTPF 4-year target	Actual this report period	Actual to Date
<b>Outcome 2: (Disaster preparedness): VNRC capacity to deliver relevant, speedy and effective humanitarian assistance and help communities recover from disaster is strengthened.</b>				
<b>Output 2.1:</b> Improved VNRC framework (mandate, systems, standard operating procedures (SOPs) and relevant guidelines) for an improved national disaster response mechanism.				
All VNRC disaster response and recovery operations will show positive evaluations on relevance, speed and effectiveness criteria.	0	4 evaluations	0	0
<b>Output 2.2:</b> Contribute to the expansion of disaster response surge capacity of VNRC in 33 provinces by training and equipping branch disaster response teams (BDRT).				
33 VNRC chapters and branches will have surge capacity with trained staff and active volunteer teams at different levels.	0	33 provinces	0	0
<b>Output 2.3:</b> A functional training system for creating and improving disaster response skills in staff and volunteers at all levels.				
VNRC training centre will run a minimum of one training course a month for volunteers and staff on disaster management.	0	48 training courses	0	0
<b>Output 2.4:</b> Developed logistics capacity for effective disaster response operations, including improved utilization of existing disaster preparedness centres.				
30 disaster preparedness centres function with at least minimum operating standards.	0	30	0	0
One regional warehouse functions at minimum operating standards.	0	1	0	0

#### Comments on progress towards outcomes

Activities for disaster preparedness (DP) in the first two quarters of the year were limited. A **key challenge** was the relocation of the IFRC disaster preparedness programme manager early in the year due to medical reasons. A new programme manager was appointed in May who is currently working on prioritizing DP activities for the second half of the year as listed under planned activities below.

**Evaluation of the 2011 floods operation** will be conducted at the end of the operation in October this year. Hence, no targets were set for the first two quarters.

Of the five **key documents related to disaster preparedness**<sup>3</sup>, one has been developed and finalized. This

<sup>1</sup> Outcome 6 of the Business line in the LTPF has not been reported in this six monthly report but will be reported in the next report covering the first year progress.

<sup>2</sup> Outcome 1 of the Business lines 2 in the LTPF has not been reported in this six monthly report but will be reported in the next report covering the first year progress.

document offers guidelines on the cash transfer programme in disaster-stricken communities. The guidelines were collectively developed by VNRC with input from the IFRC country office and partner national societies including the German, French and Spanish national societies. This document will be put into use for the 2011 Mekong flood operation's recovery phase and be used as a standard guideline for VNRC-supported cash transfer programmes in future operations. This shared tool will provide a coherent approach for support from the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners to VNRC in terms of the cash grant process and reporting.

The four **DP training courses** for staff and volunteers will take place in the next six months of this year. Prior to the DP training courses, several measures will be taken.

First, the standard operating procedures (SOPs) for branch disaster response teams (BDRT) will be developed. DP training will include how Red Cross disaster response teams will implement the tasks and procedures specified in the standard operating procedures.

Second, training plans and curricula will be developed. The VNRC DP manual, last updated in 2002, will also be revised to reflect the changes in the last ten years. The manual will be adapted for use in the DP training.

Finally, the annual pre-disaster meeting will be held to take stock of VNRC's preparedness measures prior to the disaster season. This would include working out a coordination mechanism between VNRC, partner national societies and IFRC to respond in a more effective and timely way in the event of a disaster.

### **Business Line 3 – “To strengthen and scale up the VNRC contribution towards Viet Nam’s development”**

Measurement				
Outcome/Output/Indicators	Baseline	LTPF 4-year target	Actual this report period	Actual to Date
<b>Outcome 3 (CBDRR): The resilience of selected urban and rural communities to the impact of climate change is improved, and their ability strengthened to respond and recover from disasters.</b>				
<b>Output 3.1:</b> Selected number of urban and rural communities improves their resilience to disasters and adapts for the climate change impacts.				
150 communes reduce value (VND/CHF) of household income lost to disasters and increase household income due to implemented resilience measures.	0	150	21	21
<b>Output 3.2:</b> Community knowledge of how to address disaster risk and climate change impacts is increased.				
150 communes reduce the value (VND/CHF) of physical damage caused by disasters in their communities.	0	150	21	21
<b>Output 3.3:</b> Community ability to effectively prepare for and respond to disasters is improved.				
150 communes reduce the number of disaster-related deaths from the total people exposed to disasters in their communities.	0	150	17	17
<b>Output 3.4:</b> VNRC capacity to deliver and sustain community-based disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation programming is strengthened.				
VNRC national headquarters manages and implements one CBDRM programme for all partners.	Ongoing	1 programme	ongoing	ongoing

1. VNRC procurement manual, a list of relief items specifications, standard operating procedures (SOP) for warehouse management, SOP for branch disaster response teams and template and procedures to design one overall plan of action, including templates for monitoring of relief and early recovery (e.g. cash transfers) activities.

Measurement				
Outcome/Output/Indicators	Baseline	LTPF 4-year target	Actual this report period	Actual to Date
<b>Output 3.5:</b> VNRC capacity in coordination of and advocacy for community-based disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation is strengthened.				
VNRC has raised full resources for implementing resilience initiatives for 500 at-risk communes.	100	500	83	183

#### Comments on progress towards outcomes

Significant headway was made in the planned activities for the community-based disaster risk reduction (CBDRR) programme in the first two quarters of this year. Thus, significant progress was achieved in terms of moving closer to the long-term programme outcomes.

Viet Nam Red Cross is being assisted by IFRC/Japanese Red Cross Society in implementing the mangrove plantation and disaster risk reduction project in its final phase (2011 to 2015).

During the first six months of this year, 21 small-scale resilience measures were undertaken in 21 communes across the ten project provinces of Quang Ninh, Hai Phong, Thai Binh, Nam Dinh, Ninh Binh, Thanh Hoa, Nghe An, Ha Tinh, Hoa Binh and Vinh Phuc.

In four out of the 21 communes, 50 hectares of **mangroves were planted** by VNRC staff and members in order to fill the gaps between mangrove forests and to improve dyke protection. Mangrove plantations will also provide a further boost to the communities' livelihood options of rice and shrimp farming.

According to the mangrove plantation/disaster risk reduction (**MP/DRR**) **project baseline survey data**, collected in 2011 to design the five-year project proposal, there is one forest management/protection group in each of the 100 project communes where mangrove forests have been planted with VNRC support. The data shows none of the groups have been trained in forest management and protection.

In the second quarter of 2012, a total of 50 Red Cross volunteers from five communes have been trained in **forest management and protection skills** by the local department for agriculture and rural development in Hai Phong and Nghe An provinces.

A variety of small-scale disaster risk reduction measures were undertaken in the remaining 17 communes across seven provinces of Hai Phong, Thai Binh, Nam Dinh, Nghe An, Ha Tinh, Vin Phuc and Hoa Binh.

An estimated 31,747 people will be direct beneficiaries of 17 small-scale measures for disaster risk reduction in the sectors of water and sanitation, rural roads, small bridges, village drainage, early warning system and equipment for community disaster response teams. The project partly funded the purchase of three loudspeaker systems for **early warning systems** in three communes of Dien Hung, Cao Son (Nghe An) and Nam Dien (Nam Dinh). The three communes have a total population of 17,782 people who will all be beneficiaries of the early warning systems.

**Vulnerability and capacity assessments (VCAs)** were conducted in 56 communes last year. In the first two quarters of this year, VNRC took measures to follow up on those assessments. Two other communes of Giao An and Giao Xuan conducted a VCA each in March this year in Nam Dinh during an eight-day VCA training workshop with the active participation of approximately 800 community members. The VCAs and follow-up measures contributed to an increase in the community members' understanding of their vulnerabilities and capacities in addressing disaster risks and climate change impact. Their disaster management planning will be improved to include regular risks as well as potential risks from climate change. These communities have set up a list of priority measures to be undertaken to reduce their vulnerability.

Of the above, 17 selected **commune disaster response teams (CDRT)** have practised their disaster response skills on planning, dealing with early warning systems, evacuation and first aid through 17 one-day simulations in those communes. Two of them have been equipped with disaster response equipment including 20 speakers, 40 torches, 40 raincoats, and two power generators for 40 CDRT members.

Collectively, all these resilience measures are expected to reduce the number of deaths and physical damage due to disasters. Further, owing to strengthened resilience of these communities, the value of lost household income during disasters is also expected to decrease.

VNRC headquarters and its selected chapters were introduced to a draft framework of one CBDRM programme to provide a more coherent approach for several multilateral and bilateral disaster management projects funded by different partners and implemented by VNRC. The VNRC community-based disaster risk reduction programme is currently being supported by Japanese Red Cross Society/IFRC, American Red Cross, Australian Red Cross, German Red Cross and Netherlands Red Cross. In the first two quarters of this year, VNRC provided technical assistance to at least 83 communes covered by the CBDRR programme. By the end of 2012, VNRC will have provided assistance to at least 179 new communes under the CBDRR programme, an increase of 79 per cent in comparison to last year when VNRC provided assistance to at least 100 communes in 16 selected provinces.

Measurement				
Outcome/Output/Indicators	Baseline	LTPF 4-year target	Actual this report period	Actual to Date
<b>Outcome 4 (Health and Care): Improve health and well-being in selected urban and rural communities through responsive VNRC services in disease prevention and health risk reduction.</b>				
<i>Output 4.1: Integrated road safety and first aid programme of Viet Nam Red Cross is functioning.</i>				
30 provinces with trained first aid volunteers on road safety prevention and response.	0	30 provinces	0	0
<i>Output 4.2: Community health and well-being (resilience) is strengthened through interventions on climate-sensitive and emerging diseases.</i>				
100 communes with reduced number of people falling sick to infectious diseases and reduced losses in their household income (VND/CHF) from diseases.	20 communes	100 communes	0	20
<i>Output 4.4: Advocate on behalf of VNRC for their blood and curative service to potential partners.</i>				
At least two new partnerships are developed by VNRC for their blood and curative services.	0	1 partnership	0	0

#### Comments on progress towards outcomes

In the past six months, VNRC started planning for the implementation of their four-year action plan in the following areas: a) road safety and first aid, b) epidemic and disease control and c) water and sanitation in development. Proposals and project documents were developed in these areas.

However, progress has been somewhat slow due to VNRC's preoccupation with the **emergency response operation on prevention of hand, foot and mouth disease (HFMD)**. There has been an unprecedented increase in cases of hand, foot and mouth disease in Viet Nam this year. VNRC was requested by national and local authorities to carry out an emergency response operation, given their role and achievement during a previous outbreak of the disease. However, the national society plans to speed up activities in dengue fever prevention and road safety programmes in the second half of the year.

With funding and technical support from the Global Road Safety Programme (GRSP), VNRC has embarked on a **road safety advocacy initiative** this year. In this project, VNRC will focus on advocacy for adoption of quality standards for helmets. The project will be implemented in the period of August to December this year. IFRC will provide support for coordination between the national society and other in-country partners during the implementation.

In April 2012, VNRC conducted a **post-intervention assessment of the dengue fever prevention programme** implemented in 2011. It included an assessment of the knowledge, attitude and practice of community members in dengue fever prevention and climate change in 60 communes across Tien Giang province and Ho Chi Minh City. The end-line survey results indicate that VNRC’s community-based dengue fever prevention programme, including initiatives to raise awareness about climate change related issues and behaviour change communication campaigns, reached approximately 77,270 beneficiaries. The operation received funding support from the Climate Centre and DFID. Survey results indicate further, it was found that more than 80 per cent of surveyed families have improved their knowledge of dengue fever prevention through behaviour change communication sessions at household level by Red Cross trained volunteers. Capacity building for VNRC in dengue fever prevention in communities has also resulted in a pool of 22 trained provincial and district facilitators and 600 trained volunteers.

The plan for 2012 includes **continuation of the dengue fever prevention** programme with funding support from DFID. The remaining challenge for the healthcare department in the following months is to speed up implementation in the communities in the next six months and meet its targets for the year.

Due to shortage in funding coverage for the annual programme, **adjustments in planned outputs** for 2012 have been made. The focus in the remaining months of the year will be as follows:

- continuation of DFID-funded dengue fever prevention programme in 20 at-risk communes in southern Viet Nam. This year’s activities will build on those implemented last year. Lessons learned from last year’s implementation will be incorporated into this year’s activities to strengthen impact.
- capacity building for water and sanitation response in emergencies through refresher training in selected disaster-prone provinces
- training of Club 25’s leaders in voluntary blood donor recruitment.

Measurement				
Outcome/Output/Indicators	Baseline	LTPF 4-year target	Actual this report period	Actual to Date
<b>Outcome 5 (Organizational Development): VNRC will have well-functioning local structures with ability to mobilize and manage volunteers for scaled-up delivery of its services to the most vulnerable.</b>				
<i><b>Output 5.1:</b> The human resources management is strengthened at headquarters and targeted chapter and branch levels.</i>				
At least 30 per cent of Red Cross staff <sup>4</sup> at all levels apply the planning, budgeting and monitoring skills in their programme management.	Not available	6,300	29	29
<i><b>Output 5.2:</b> The volunteer management system is developed at branch level.</i>				
At least 20 per cent of the Red Cross chapters effectively mobilize their volunteers to participate in disaster response and health services at the community level.	Not available	13 provinces	0	0
<i><b>Output 5.3:</b> The financial management system is strengthened, and transparency is increased at the headquarters and chapter levels.</i>				
At least 20 per cent of the Red Cross chapters have capacity to produce financial reports that meet donors’ requirements.	Not available	13 provinces	0	0

**Comments on progress towards outcomes**

Overall, significant progress was made in terms of capacity building for VNRC in the first two quarters of the year. Efforts were made to enhance VNRC staff skills in planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting

<sup>4</sup> Total staff: 21,009

(PMER) and to facilitate better organization of their volunteer management systems. However, there has been delay in the financial management activities, and efforts are ongoing to mobilize greater commitment from VNRC to the revision process.

**Training courses in basic PMER** skills are being organized for VNRC staff at provincial and district level. One such course was conducted in Long An province in south Viet Nam for 29 project staff (14 men and 15 women) at provincial and district level. Participants were introduced to a basic knowledge of PMER. A manual on basic PMER, as per Federation guidelines, is being developed in Vietnamese. Further, based on the lessons learnt from the first workshop, efforts are ongoing to firm up the curriculum for the upcoming training courses in PMER. The first PMER training course also highlighted some challenges with the human resource structure at the headquarters level whereby the VNRC training department was unable to deliver the PMER training smoothly. To address this challenge, key Red Cross disaster preparedness trainers at provincial level were identified. These trainers will be involved in the process of developing the training material and methodology, allowing for greater effectiveness of the training.

Staff in the volunteer department are grappling with limited knowledge and skills to run the volunteer management system that was put in place in August 2011. Efforts are ongoing to build capacity of the staff deployed for the volunteer management system. As such, a draft of the training curriculum on **volunteer management** was developed and finalized with involvement from the VNRC volunteer department, IFRC, German Red Cross and Norwegian Red Cross. The planning workshop on volunteer management, facilitated by organizational development and volunteer delegates from the IFRC zone office in Kuala Lumpur, was held in Hanoi with the participation of representatives from all departments at VNRC headquarters level, some key chapters, district branches and an active Red Cross youth club. The purpose of the workshop was to analyse the strengths and weaknesses of the existing VNRC volunteer system. The outcomes of the workshop were also presented and discussed with VNRC leadership and Movement partner representatives in Viet Nam.

Limited progress was made in the finalization of the **audit on VNRC consolidated financial statements**, carried out in November last year. This is largely due to a complicated financial management system. In addition, the limited control on financial management required by the government did not facilitate the VNRC finance department to make a proper year-end closing that also affected the auditing process.

The current setting of human resources and functions within the finance department at headquarters level does not allow VNRC leadership to have the comprehensive control of its overall budget. Therefore discussions on preparing the annual budgeting exercise were held with the VNRC financial department at headquarters level with active and efficient on-site support from the IFRC finance development delegate at the Southeast Asia regional office. The budgeting exercise will not only help the VNRC finance department to improve their capacity in terms of effective financial management but also support VNRC leadership to have a better view on their overall budget.

**Cost norms** for programmes and projects funded by Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners are under revision. New approaches on indirect cost support to VNRC will be raised and discussed among IFRC and partner national societies later this year.

### **Business Line 5 – “To deepen our tradition of togetherness through joint working and accountability”**

Measurement				
Outcome/Output/Indicators	Baseline	LTPF 4-year target	Actual this report period	Actual to Date
<b>Outcome 7: Improved ability of the IFRC country office to support VNRC and other member societies present in Viet Nam to enhance their joint working partnerships, and strengthen their mutual accountability to deliver strategic outcomes.</b>				
<b>Output 7.1:</b> A well-functioning coordination mechanism is maintained for all the members to share knowledge and best practice.				
Quality and regularity of monthly coordination meetings for all member societies present and/or active in Viet Nam.	0	48 coordination meetings	5	5

Measurement				
Outcome/Output/Indicators	Baseline	LTPF 4-year target	Actual this report period	Actual to Date
<b>Output 7.2:</b> <i>Improved representation and advocacy to various stakeholders on behalf VNRC and other members present/active in Viet Nam to facilitate their strategic objectives.</i>				
At least two VNRC programmes are supported through a pooled funding mechanism and meet commonly agreed performance and accountability criteria.	0	2 pool-funded VNRC programmes	0	0

#### Comments on progress towards outcomes

Monthly Movement coordination meetings continued to take place during the first half of the year. The meeting in January was cancelled due to non-availability of many actors at the beginning of the year. Discussions were held to follow up on capacity building efforts discussed at the partnership meeting in September 2012. These discussions lead to the inclusion of various capacity building initiatives being budgeted under the new project proposals submitted to donors during the first half of the year (i.e. USAID-OFDA renewal of the CBDRR grant for American Red Cross; USAID climate change mitigation and adaptation grant for American Red Cross; and, Norwegian Red Cross proposal for the new three-year NORAID grant).

As highlighted before, the country office unexpectedly lost its programme coordinator in February and this reduced the capacity of the office to facilitate the *one programme* (pooled funding) discussion with VNRC and other partner national societies present in Viet Nam. Despite this lack of capacity, various bilateral discussions were organized for VNRC leadership, departments (in particular, disaster management and health) and partner national society staff to explore the way forward in developing the *one programme* approach. Some structural problems were identified by the partners, such as lack of human resources in VNRC for implementing and monitoring big programmes and the lack of clear annual budgets – as initial hurdles to transition to the *one programme* approach. The IFRC country office increased its efforts to find solutions to these structural problems and negotiated some initial steps to be taken by VNRC – a review of the human resource allocation to various partner-funded projects and development of a clear annual budget for the VNRC national headquarters.

### Stakeholder participation and feedback

Key stakeholders of the project activities in the **CBDRR programme** are local community members and beneficiaries who have contributed their time and energy towards the mangrove planting/disaster risk reduction (MP/DRR) project implementation, including participation in three VCA events in Ninh Binh and Nam Dinh provinces. Local beneficiaries have also actively planted 50 hectares of mangroves in Hai Phong, Ninh Binh and Thanh Hoa provinces with land granted from their local commune, authorized by district governments.

The emergency response simulations involved active and widespread participation from local departments for agriculture and rural development, local committees for flood and storm control at district and commune levels, commune disaster response teams and selected vulnerable communities in the communes where the simulations were held. As a result of such stakeholder participation, these simulations turned out to be very successful.

In the **organizational development programme** this year, participation of representatives from the Red Cross Youth club in a planning workshop on volunteer management helped VNRC to understand what they can do to better mobilize more youth in Red Cross activities. Conversely, the youth participants also understood how VNRC works so that they can provide better support to VNRC.

In the **health care programme**, VNRC plans to involve beneficiaries across 20 target communes in the dengue fever prevention programme. Beneficiaries will be involved in a knowledge, attitude and practice (KAP) survey before further interventions are carried out.

Coordination with the local government and the preventive health departments as well as key health agencies in south Viet Nam, including the Institute for Hygiene and Public Health and the Pasteur Institute, will be continued in vulnerability capacity assessments and the identification of most vulnerable communes.

Participation from all stakeholders will also facilitate better coordination in the development of key messages and communication activities.

## Key Risks or Positive Factors

Key Risks or Positive Factors	Priority High Medium Low	Recommended Action
Inadequate human resources to support implementation and monitoring of MP/DRR project in 100 communes across 10 provinces	M	The disaster management departments at VNRC headquarters as well as Red Cross chapters are working on arranging for full-time project staff. IFRC will also hire a full-time project officer to increase technical assistance and monitoring support to VNRC.
In the event of a large-scale disaster, VNRC headquarters would have to allocate most of its key resources to an emergency operation, impacting programme implementation as planned	H	Capacity building for programme implementation to be completed prior to disaster season, so that resource allocation for programme implementation can be done by chapters without sole reliance on staff at VNRC headquarters who may be engaged in an emergency operation
New leadership in VNRC after the national congress in July will support the organization's strategy up to 2020, the framework for all programme implementation by VNRC	H	Early follow up with the new leadership at various levels to disseminate VNRC strategy 2020 and operational plan 2015.

## Lessons learned and looking ahead

A key lesson in health care programme is the need to ensure that interventions are coordinated with the overall national and local health programme. Consequently, VNRC could use their positive programme outcomes for advocacy to the government and to expand its programme coverage.

Further, by connecting their work to policy dialogues and research, VNRC can advocate even further the community-based model for programmes. The emphasis on advocacy has been missing in VNRC's previous programmes.

## Financial situation

[Click here to go directly to the financial report.](#)

## How we work

All IFRC 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 the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

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