

# DREF operation



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## Vietnam: Flash floods

**MDRVN004**  
**GLIDE n° FF-2008-000173-VNM**  
**3 October 2008**

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 200,000 (USD 175,633 or EUR 127,837) has been allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the national society in delivering immediate assistance to some 6,000 families. Un-earmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.**

This DREF allocation will meet emergency needs for food items, providing almost 200 MT tons of rice for 10,000 people (20kg of rice for two months) and non-food items for over 2,000 affected families in two provinces (Bac Giang and Son La). The Vietnam Red Cross (VNRC) with technical assistance from the International Federation's Vietnam country office will immediately procure and distribute these items to the selected affected families in October and November 2008. The DREF report and update on the recovery of these flash affected people will be regularly submitted between November 2008 and March 2009. An Emergency Appeal might be in the pipeline next week to assist affected people overcome the damage and live with dignity.

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

## The situation

Over the past one and a half months, some 12 provinces in the northern mountainous region of Vietnam have been badly hit by subsequent disasters: typhoon Kammuri (August), flash floods following typhoon Hagupit (end September), and typhoon Mekkhala (end September). In provinces such as Lao Cai, Yen Bai, Phu Tho, Quang Ninh, Lang Son, Bac Giang and Son La, local people have been badly hit by the compounding affects of these disasters.

In the wake of the recent typhoon Hagupit, six provinces were seriously affected by flash floods (Quang Ninh, Son La, Lang Son, Bac Giang, Vinh Phuc and Lao Cai) Of these six, two have been identified by VNRC as the worst affected and in need of further external assistance - Bac Giang and Son La. In Bac Giang, some 62



**One of the thousands of families struggling to survive in a temporary shelter after the flash floods. Photo by Huu Thang/Viet Nam Red Cross**

communes and towns in three districts were under deep water. Six districts of Son La were also inundated

and Ta Hoc commune in Mai Son district was not accessible by road for one month. Other provinces have also been affected – in Quang Ninh, flash floods occurred in 70 communes in six districts. VNRC has already made distributions in these provinces, but does not assess that the need further external support from the DREF funding for the time being. According to communications with the Red Cross chapters on 1 October, water is subsiding in some areas, but it still remains difficult to access other areas due to the heavy damage caused by the floods. This is particularly the case in the two provinces targeted. Thousands of families (some 500,000 people) in those provinces are affected by the disaster and need immediate emergency assistance.

In addition, typhoon Mekkhala landed in the north-central part of Vietnam on 30 September, causing heavy rain and strong winds in five provinces (Ha Tinh, Thanh Hoa, Quang Binh, Quang Tri and Thua Thien Hue). Although the storm reduced in strength, it has also left a trail of destruction in its wake, overwhelming limited provincial resources stretched by other disasters and floods, such as typhoon Lekima, year after year. So far however, assessments indicate that VNRC is coping with the response in these areas and does not need further external support. The ongoing tropical storm Higos is also moving fast toward China, causing risks to Vietnamese fishermen at sea and to coastal provinces. It is likely to have caused further heavy rains in the already affected provinces of Vietnam. VNRC stands ready to assess the damage caused by these two subsequent typhoons and to consider an international appeal if needs require it. All actors in the country have been on stand by and are ready to respond as required.

Damages caused by the combined disasters are shown in the table below:

Disaster	Human loss			Physical loss				
	Dead	Missing	Injured	House destroyed	House damaged	Paddy field destroyed (hectare)	Livestock sustained	Estimated loss (in million USD)
Kammuri (8 August)	130	32	90	982	10,526	11,150	8,222	120
Flash floods after Hagupit (25 September)	41	5	61	1,339	10,351	19,532	4,248	63
Mekkhala (30 September)	8	10		164	6,172	800		6.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>1,485</b>	<b>27,048</b>	<b>31,482</b>	<b>12,470</b>	<b>189.5</b>

At present, those affected in the worst hit areas are cleaning up debris left after the disasters. Local authorities have deployed personnel to help clear roads to restore transportation.

Some signs of life are slowly getting back to normal, such as public markets re-opening, displaced people returning to their collapsed or damaged houses, or the establishment of temporary shelters. Some are lucky enough to have a roof over their heads, though their houses were severely damaged, while others have to seek shelter with their relatives.

Affected people are fully stretched to restore a moderate level of subsistence. They lack many household items – basic things for human life. Losses of both family food stocks and from rice fields means that affected people are surviving on emergency relief supplies, in the form of instant noodles, rice, and cooking oil, received from local donations of the VNRC, the Government, other organizations and private donors. Lack of clean water is also an issue and bottles of drinking water are being provided to address immediate needs.

Up to date, it is not clear how the central government will assist the affected people across all provinces in meeting their emergency needs and restoring public facilities. The People's Aid Coordination Committee (PACCOM) has sent an official letter to INGOs with a general request for assistance to the affected provinces at this stage and VNRC stands by ready to respond as necessary.

## Coordination and partnerships

The Federation country office and several partner national societies have regularly participated in meetings with the Government's Disaster Management Working Group (DMWG) and the Central Committee for Flood and Storm Control (CCFSC) since the disaster struck, to update on the situation, the needs and the gaps. VNRC's response plans and actions were shared with Red Cross partners in the monthly Movement coordination meeting on 30 September.

On the ground, the Red Cross chapters in the affected areas have joined the Government efforts, led by the Provincial Committee for Flood and Storm Control (PCFSC) to respond to the disaster, assisting people with evacuation, providing emergency relief and cleaning houses and road.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The VNRC headquarters dispatched two teams to facilitate the emergency response activities in the provinces of Bac Giang and Quang Ninh within 24 hours after the incident. The International Federation's country office Disaster Manager has joined the relief team in Bac Giang province. On 27 September, some 1,000 household kits containing cooking utensils, a mosquito net, two blankets, a ten-litre water bucket and a 40-litre plastic water tank were delivered from the VNRC headquarters' warehouse and were distributed to affected families on the same day in Bac Giang and Quang Ninh province, by the disaster response and relief teams. The remaining household kits have since been distributed to families in these two provinces and in a further two provinces, Son La and Lang Son.



Moulding rice spread in front of damaged houses in an attempt to save it for consumption. Photo by Dang Van Tao/International Federation in Luc Ngan district, Bac Giang province

The VNRC headquarters has 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 tons of rice, a thousand instant noodle boxes, and drinking water.

Red Cross chapters immediately released instant noodles and water from their own stocks to support the affected people in the early hours of the disaster. In Son La province, Red Cross staff and community volunteers travelled by bamboo raft to transport relief items to the affected minority groups. In areas only accessible by foot, they had to carry relief goods in back packs to deliver it to the communities. Bac Giang Red Cross chapter used funds to immediately buy instant noodles, rice and drinking water, and worked in coordination with military forces to delivery emergency relief to the affected population on 27 September. Quang Ninh chapter was one of the first humanitarian actors to be involved in rescuing people on 26 September, and also provided emergency relief at a local level as of 27 September.

VNRC headquarters and its chapters are updating information on the damage and needs of vulnerable people in flash floods and storm affected provinces, with a view to possibly launching an international appeal to assist the population in the North of Viet Nam, who have been affected by the many natural disasters this year.

## The needs

This DREF allocation will help support part of the emergency needs for food items, which include 200 tonnes of rice for 10,000 people (20kg of rice for two months) and non-food items for 2,000 families in the two most affected provinces (Bac Giang and Son La) and in need of further external assistance.

The plan of action which will be undertaken through this DREF allocation includes:

- Undertaking of beneficiary selection and the distribution plan in each of the two provinces.
- 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 to meet these needs in the immediate response.
- Distribution of household kits to affected families most in need.

Based on the distributions to date and the updated needs assessed by VNRC in the two worst affected provinces, the needs are for:

- 1,944 MT tons of rice (funded by DREF).
- 2,854 Household kits (funded by DREF).

- 903 houses need to be re- built (outside the DREF).
- 9,313 houses need to be repaired (outside the DREF).

## 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

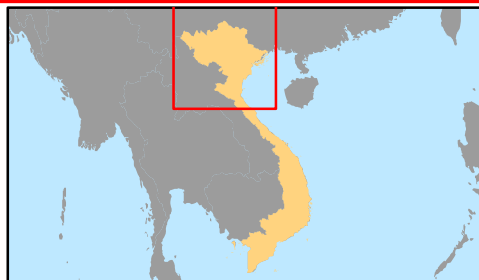
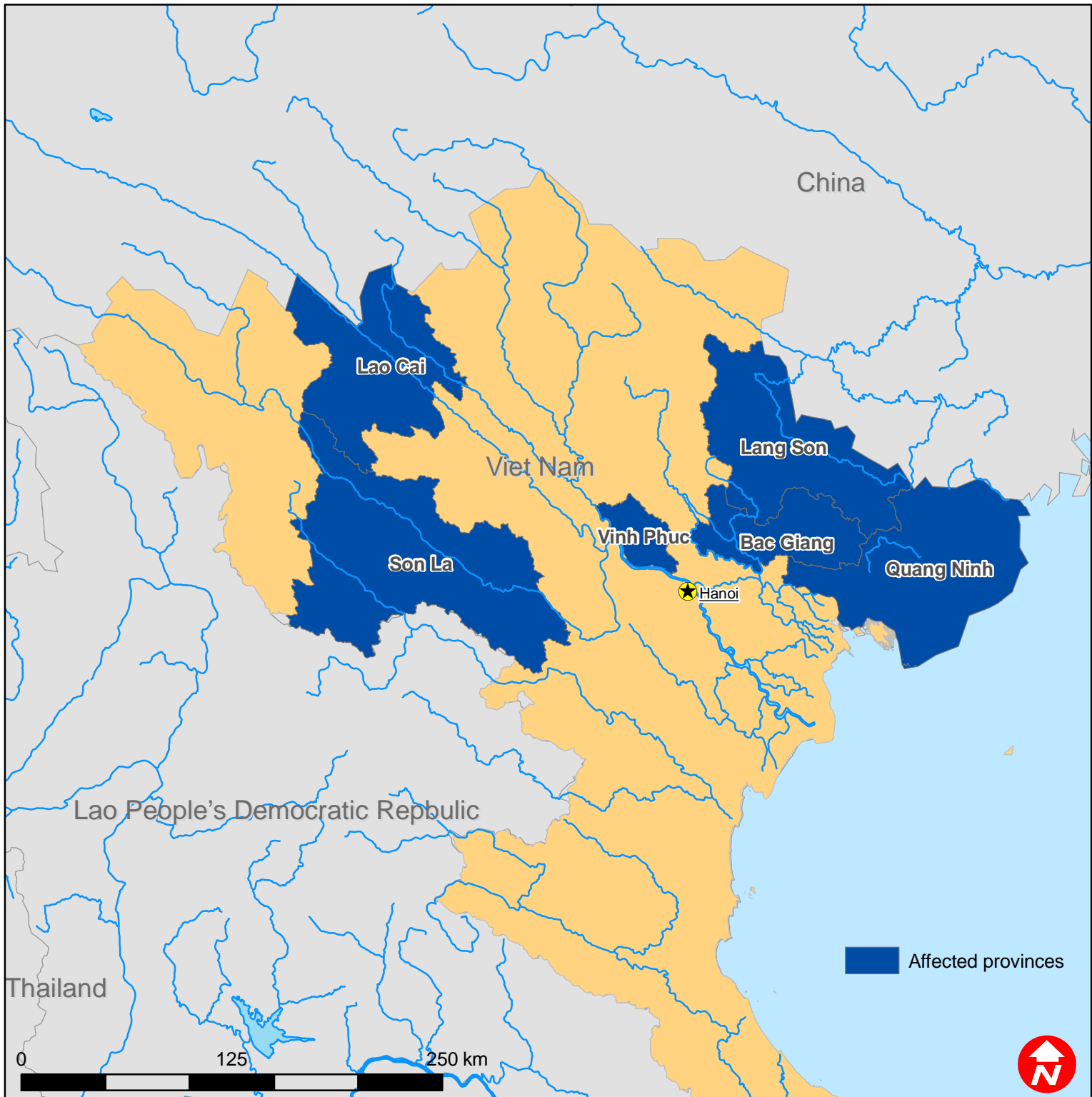
### For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- Vietnam Red Cross: Mr. Doan Van Thai, Secretary General, phone +84 913216549, email: [doanvanthai62@yahoo.com.vn](mailto:doanvanthai62@yahoo.com.vn)
- Vietnam Federation country office: Mr. Dang Van Tao, disaster manager, phone +84 913.361.581, Email: [tao.vandang@ifrc.org](mailto:tao.vandang@ifrc.org).
- Federation Southeast Asia regional office, Bangkok:
  - Mr. Hung Ha Nguyen, acting head of regional disaster management unit, phone +66 8 1923 1755, email: [hungha.nguyen@ifrc.org](mailto:hungha.nguyen@ifrc.org)
  - Mr. Alan Bradbury, head of regional office, phone: +66 2 661 8201 ext 100; email: [alan.bradbury@ifrc.org](mailto:alan.bradbury@ifrc.org)
- Federation Asia Pacific zone office, Kuala Lumpur:
  - Ms. Amy Gaver, head of disaster management unit, mobile: +6012 2201174; phone: +603 9207 5724; email: [amy.gaver@ifrc.org](mailto:amy.gaver@ifrc.org).
- Federation Secretariat in Geneva:
  - Ms. Christine South, Operations Coordinator Asia Pacific; phone +41 22730 4529; mobile: +41 79308 9824; email: [christine.south@ifrc.org](mailto:christine.south@ifrc.org)

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



# Viet Nam: Flash floods



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 available information collated from local Viet Nam Red Cross Society chapters and the government to date, 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.