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## Emergency appeal

### Viet Nam: Mekong Delta floods

 International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

**Emergency appeal n° MDRVN009**  
**GLIDE n° FL-2011-000137-VNM**  
**9 November 2011**

**This emergency appeal seeks CHF 1,107,185 in cash, kind, or services to support the Viet Nam Red Cross to assist 10,000 households (42,000 beneficiaries) for 12 months, and will be completed by end-October 2012. A final report will be made available by 31 January 2013, three months after the end of the operation.**

CHF 210,710 was allocated from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC) Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support this operation. Un-earmarked funds to replenish DREF are encouraged.

Since the end of September 2011, floods in the Mekong delta have swept through the seven provinces of An Giang, Dong Thap, Long An, Can Tho, Vinh Long, Hau Giang, and Kien Giang, causing significant losses and damages, especially to the first three provinces mentioned. Unlike the floods Viet Nam faces every year in the central region of the country, these Mekong delta floods have been slow onset, with water still covering large areas, paralysing the everyday life of affected communities and threatening their livelihoods.

On 4 November 2011, the Central Committee for Storm and Flood Control (CCFSC) reported a total of 140,000 households (around 590,000 people) affected by the flood, in which 73 people have been reported dead (of which 65 are children), 91,465 houses damaged and 10,028 hectares of rice paddies lost.

Needs assessments conducted by the VNRC national disaster response team (NDRT), as well as other organizations, enabled the national society to obtain a clearer picture of the needs on the ground. All the needs assessments have, to date, recommended an emergency intervention to respond to the need for relief items (including food, tarpaulins, blankets, mosquito nets, etc.), safe water, hygiene promotion and health promotion activities.

Thanks to its disaster preparedness and response mechanism (including its emergency fund) and with IFRC support via the disaster relief emergency fund (DREF), VNRC has been able to provide up to now, timely and effective assistance to the most vulnerable and affected in the Mekong delta.



**As of early November, Viet Nam Red Cross has responded to relief needs of safe water and non-food items with water purification tablets and household kits. (Photo: Viet Nam Red Cross)**

Steps taken to facilitate better coordination with Red Cross Red Crescent partners and all humanitarian stakeholders involved in the response have also enhanced the quality of VNRC assistance. These include involvement in the disaster management working group (DMWG) to coordinate its intervention with UN agencies and international NGOs as well as participation in the Central Committee for Flood and Storm Control (CCFSC) to develop its response in good cooperation with the relevant government agencies.

While VNRC is still providing support to the most affected provinces, the most recent information and assessments from the field confirm that the situation is still severe; water levels have still not receded; other provinces downstream might face additional flooding in the coming weeks; and, communities' needs are still not yet fully met. Moreover, these assessments show that affected people's livelihoods are clearly threatened and will need an appropriate response in the near future once water has receded and more detailed assessment undertaken.

Based on this current situation and its likely development, this emergency appeal responds to a request from Viet Nam Red Cross for such assistance. It focuses on providing support for appropriate and timely response in delivering relief and recovery assistance to 10,000 of the most affected households from An Giang, Dong Thap and Long An provinces with non-food relief items, water and sanitation, hygiene promotion, emergency health measures, shelter and livelihoods. VNRC disaster preparedness capacities will also be reinforced in these three provinces as well as in Can Tho, Vinh Long, Hau Giang and Kien Giang,

[<click for attached emergency appeal budget; a map of the affected areas; or contact details>](#)

## The situation

It has been one month now since the flood situation in the Mekong Delta peaked in late September<sup>1</sup> and residents in the region are *living with floods*, a common expression in Viet Nam. Transportation in affected areas remains by boat, and according to Tan Chau district authorities in An Giang province, more boats are urgently needed to facilitate community mobility.

People affected continue to face difficulties in everyday living. Those living in temporary shelters and evacuation areas have not been able to return to their houses as it is currently not possible to make repairs to these houses. Livelihoods have been disrupted as fields and aquaculture farms remain submerged. Overall, stocks and resources of those affected can sustain them for the moment but shortages are likely in a month's time. Families who have boats are trying to make ends meet through fishing. In Tan Chau district, one of the most affected in An Giang province, around 6,500 households are affected by this flood. Most of the communities are living on river islands or on the land between branches of the river.



**While floodwaters continue to recede in several parts of Viet Nam, residents will remain on alert until at least mid-November. (Photo: VNRC)**

Wet markets are now operational for just one-and-a-half-hours per day due to the flooding. In An Giang province, children returned to school on 31 October after the interruption by the flood, transported to school over floodwaters by boats from the local government and VNRC.

District authorities also opened community-level health stations to support community health needs. Along with health stations, outreach activities are also ongoing. Hand, foot and mouth disease, and dengue fever were reported in the affected districts of An Giang. With a high number of cases of dengue fever, local health authorities fear a possible outbreak due to persistent flooding and limited local capacities.

According to the Mekong River Commission forecast, the floodwater alert levels will remain at least until mid-November.

<sup>1</sup> See OCHA situation maps for overview from [6 October](#) and [13 October](#).

In Long An province, water levels have started to slowly recede at the average rate of one cm daily; however, 58 communes in five districts remain submerged.

As of 4 November, some 31,393 hectares of paddy fields and other crops have been flooded, with at least some 10,801 hectares completely destroyed. Aquaculture losses are also substantial in this region where fishery is a major livelihood activity. About 7,166 hectares of aquaculture and 14,583 cages of shrimp and fish have been damaged, while some 433 tonnes of fish and shrimp lost<sup>2</sup>.

**Table 1 – Damage statistics as of 4 November 2011 (Source: CCFSC)**

Provinces	Deaths		Evacuation	Damage to houses			Agricultural losses	
	Total	Under 16 yrs of age	No. of families evacuated	Destroyed	Lost their roofs/severely damaged	Flooded	Rice (hectares)	Fish/shrimp cages (units)
An Giang	18	14	1,151	52	1,379	20,294	5,471	1,149
Dong Thap	20	19	2,433	105	352	27,949	2,063	0
Can Tho	6	6	0	5	25	15,498	109	11
Long An	14	13	1,846	131	141	26,379	826	8,284
Vinh Long	0	0	0	0	0	24,785	44	5,139
Hau Giang	0	0	0	0	0	3,327	545	0
Kien Giang	15	13	578	66	179	6,770	970	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>6,008</b>	<b>359</b>	<b>2,076</b>	<b>125,002</b>	<b>10,028</b>	<b>14,583</b>

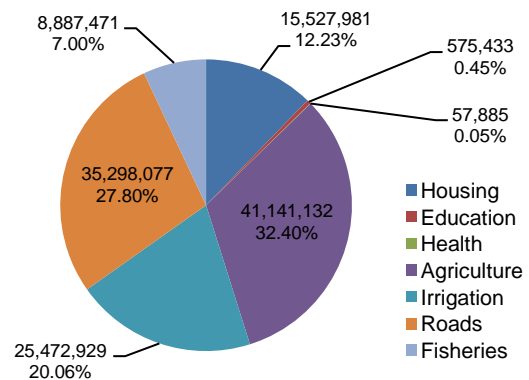
Many flood-affected people face the risk of landslides as well. On 28 October, 70 families in Chau Phong commune, Tan Chau town were forced to urgently evacuate their homes to evade landslides.

There is also a concern that when water levels in these areas recede, the downstream provinces of Can Tho, Vinh Long and Hau Giang will then be affected.

## Coordination and partnerships

The Disaster Management Working Group (DMWG) is the platform by which IFRC and VNRC coordinate response actions together with the People's Aid Co-ordinating Committee (PACCOM)<sup>3</sup>, UN agencies, and international NGOs. In addition, through its participation in the central committee for flood and storm control (CCFSC) meetings, VNRC also coordinates its efforts with the government at various levels.

In its current role as the DMWG chair, IFRC has summoned and chaired weekly meetings focused on the coordinated response for the Mekong floods and other storms/typhoons in recent weeks. The first meeting of the DMWG was held on 30 September to take stock of these floods in the Mekong delta and to coordinate preparedness measures for Typhoon Nesat that hit the northern provinces of Quang Ninh and Hai Phong on 3 October. UNICEF sent a team to An Giang province for initial assessments of the Mekong flood situation in response to a request from the An Giang people's committee. Several other members of the DMWG also sent staff to complement the assessment conducted by UNICEF. Information from this and various assessments was used to plan for response action by VNRC, IFRC and partner national societies as a whole.



**Total economic damages USD: 134,472,350**  
**As of 31 Oct 2011, Source, CCFSC, Viet Nam**

<sup>2</sup> CCFSC report, 24 October 2011

<sup>3</sup> PACCOM coordinates the foreign NGO activities in Viet Nam.

On 4 October, VNRC also alerted its national disaster response team (NDRT) and deployed it for a week to the delta area to assess needs and support its chapters and branches in their response to the emerging needs. VNRC needs assessment findings and recommendations were then shared with the DMWG members on 7 October, during which all assessment reports were presented. In addition, various clusters such as WASH<sup>4</sup>, Education in Emergencies, Health and Nutrition, have also met, some of whom have carried out their own assessments.

In order to facilitate internal coordination between VNRC, IFRC and partner national societies in-country, which include American Red Cross, Australian Red Cross, French Red Cross, German Red Cross, Italian Red Cross, Netherlands Red Cross, Norwegian Red Cross and Spanish Red Cross, the monthly Movement coordination meeting on 5 October focused on the Mekong floods and other severe weather events in the central and northern provinces. Upon receiving the assessment report from the NDRT deployed by VNRC to the Mekong delta, a meeting was organized on 11 October between IFRC and partner national societies in-country to discuss the findings of the assessment and exchange information received from other assessment reports. This meeting also involved deciding on further action to be taken, especially to agree on the best way to financially and technically support VNRC response to the ongoing floods in the Mekong delta. The decision to launch a DREF operation was part of the follow-up action to the agreements reached during that 11 October meeting.

On the national level, on 30 September, the government of Viet Nam decided to support eight provinces of the Mekong region including An Giang, Dong Thap, Kien Giang, Tien Giang, Hau Giang, Long An, Vinh Long and Can Tho with VND 170 billion (some CHF 7.24 million or USD 7.48 million) to reinforce dykes to protect crops and people's safety. Apart from support to farmers who have had rice crops destroyed as mentioned in the DREF operation bulletin, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development responded to the need for safe water with the distribution of some 1,212,130 water purification tablets. The Ministry of Health also proposed to support a further 1,054,000 tablets to affected people.

Distribution of relief items is ongoing in the field with the support of VNRC, UNICEF, Care International and Save the Children. Support include water purification tablets (aquatabs), household kits, school kits, soap, jerry cans, water buckets with covers, life jackets and life buoys.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

### Preparing to respond

VNRC has evolved and learnt lessons from previous operations to strengthen its disaster preparedness capacities. Recommendations from evaluations of previous operations (including the Typhoon Ketsana operation in 2009-2010) have been taken into account by the national society to improve the quality of its disaster preparedness and response system.

With support from IFRC and partner national societies such as Spanish Red Cross, disaster response mechanisms were developed for this typhoon season. First of all, a standard operating procedure (SOP) for disaster response has been developed by VNRC to ensure a systematic and coordinated approach in times of emergency. Moreover, to ensure needs assessment is being carried out in a timely and effective manner right after a disaster, a national disaster response team (NDRT) has been established, including 32 staff from VNRC headquarters and 11 Red Cross chapters located in disaster-prone provinces, as well as procedures related to the deployment of the NDRT.

In June 2011, training focused on needs assessment, plans of action, monitoring and reporting was organized for the NDRT members in view of the typhoon season.

As part of the latest flood operation, VNRC has been provided with two water treatment units along with other required water and sanitation items. Up to 41 VNRC staff from headquarters, chapter, district and commune levels in seven central disaster-prone provinces were trained on water and sanitation in emergencies.

Logistics activities were also carried out by VNRC with support from IFRC in rearranging its stock of relief items in its warehouse in Hanoi and in taking steps to be followed for better warehouse management in coordination with other VNRC relevant departments before the typhoon season.

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<sup>4</sup> Water, sanitation and hygiene.

The VNRC pre-disaster meeting was held on 24 August 2011 with representatives from VNRC's relevant departments, partner national societies and IFRC zone, regional and country levels with technical support from IFRC's Viet Nam country office. The objective was to collect and map resources available from VNRC and its partners; to identify tasks to be collectively undertaken; and to discuss and agree on the signing of the pre-disaster agreement.

VNRC was ready to deploy this mechanism before the flood situation became serious in early October. It issued alerts in An Giang, Dong Thap, and Long An provincial chapters about the rising water levels, as well as to people at risk and in need of evacuation.



VNRC's national disaster response team (NDRT) visited the three most affected provinces to gauge needs on 4-8 October. Information from these field visits has contributed to ensuring the most appropriate assistance is provided to each respective area. (Photo: VNRC)

On 26 September, the national society released VND 50,000,000 to An Giang and Dong Thap provinces to procure life jackets and lifebuoys and 500 boxes of aquatabs (with 100 tablets per box). VNRC procured and stocked 5,000 additional aquatab boxes and 1,000 life-jackets ready to be distributed, based on needs on the ground. The NDRT and water and sanitation teams were alerted and a 24/7 emergency focal point was created. VNRC An Giang chapter put in place 392 first aid and rescue points run by 2,112 Red Cross staff and volunteers. Thanks to this initiative, many people and hundreds of boats were rescued when the floods struck.

VNRC also deployed its NDRT team to the south of Viet Nam to carry out needs assessments and support chapters in coordinating the response.

### Emergency relief provided

At both national and local level, VNRC has shown strong capacity in assessing and responding to the situation. Its NDRT was deployed on 4 October to An Giang, Dong Thap and Long An – the three most affected provinces – from 4 to 8 October, when floods were reported as worsening.

At the headquarters level, the national society released 11,100 boxes of aquatabs<sup>5</sup> and 1,000 household kits, and will further release 2,000 more for the affected provinces<sup>6</sup>. VNRC headquarters have also started the procurement of 5,000 additional household kits to both replenish and increase stocks in the warehouse. In addition, VNRC transferred CHF 17,391<sup>7</sup> in cash to the affected provinces to be distributed as cash support for emergency needs. In total, VNRC headquarters has so far released some CHF 109,000 in cash and kind for 14,890 families (62,538 beneficiaries).

In addition to VNRC headquarters support, the following activities have also been conducted at the community level by VNRC staff and volunteers through DREF support:

**Water and sanitation:** 800 households in four affected communes of Tan Chau district, An Giang province benefited from clean water which produced by a water treatment unit from 23 to 28 October. Up to 18 Red Cross staff and volunteers of An Giang, Dong Thap and Long An provinces received training on household water treatment, hygiene promotion and water treatment unit installation and operation.

**Household kits:** 1,500 household kits will be distributed as follows:

<sup>5</sup> 1 box = 100 tabs = 1 household for one month. 1 tablet = 20 litres of water. Total value: 11,100 boxes is CHF 25,000.

<sup>6</sup> CHF 62,000 in value for 3,000 household kits.

<sup>7</sup> CHF 22 per household.

Province	District	Commune	Household kits	Date of distribution (planned)
An Giang	An Phu	Nhon Hoi	150	07/11/2011
		Khanh An	150	07/11/2011
	Tan Chau	Vinh Xuong	130	08/11/2011
		Chau Phong	70	08/11/2011
Dong Thap	Hong Ngu	Thuong Thoi Hau A	100	07/11/2011
		Thuong Thoi Hau B	150	07/11/2011
	Tan Hong	Binh Phu	100	08/11/2011
		Tan Phuoc	150	08/11/2011
<i>Long An (allocation plan in progress)</i>			500	
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>1,500</b>	

## The needs

According to the VNRC national disaster response team (NDRT) assessment report and several other agencies, the three provinces currently most affected are An Giang, Dong Thap and Long An; however, the floods are slowly spreading downstream in the provinces of Can Tho, Vinh Long, Hau Giang and Kien Giang. Overall to date, the floods have destroyed 359 houses, damaged 2,076 houses and forced at least 6,008 families to evacuate to safer ground.

Immediate relief needs have been largely met with the distribution of required items from VNRC and various other organizations. VNRC pre-positioned stocks will be replenished and the maximum capacity for quick response re-established.

The general assessment of needs in these reports is as follows:

- **Temporary shelter and household items**

Families who have lost their homes due to landslides or floodwaters have had to move to other places where they have constructed temporary shelters with bamboo and leaves or been evacuated to the houses of relatives or friends in less and/or non-affected areas. In both cases the need for temporary shelter and emergency household items has been recorded across the assessments.

To illustrate, in Binh Thuy commune, 130 out of 134 households have sought shelter in allocated places. In this case, each family will receive CHF 696 from the government for immediate needs and further CHF 870 in loans to rebuild their lost houses. Clearly this is not enough to cover both immediate needs and rebuild assets in the long term, given the loss of both income resources (destroyed paddies) and assets (homes and belongings). The situation of the families who evacuated by themselves to find a temporary shelter is even worse since they have not received any support to date.

The assessments therefore recommended immediate provisions of tarpaulins and other shelter material to build safe and secure temporary shelter. The local governments in Dong Thap and An Giang have released their stock of canvas to the affected people but this support is very limited in relation to the overall need.

- **Livelihoods**

In the past ten years, the Government of Viet Nam has invested in thousands of kilometres of dykes as well as permanent housing to prevent the impact from floods, particularly on lives and livelihoods. This has resulted in a general increase in normal agricultural farming inside the areas surrounded by dykes, shifting local livelihoods from inland fishing to farming. The loss of crops is therefore a big economic blow to local farmers, especially those living under the poverty line or very close to it.

However, the most vulnerable are the families who are both poor and landless. These families have typically no land, few savings and survive on daily wages by offering their labour or fishing locally. The floods have

disrupted their sources of income, and thus, they have already begun to borrow resources from family and friends, and/or advanced food and supplies from local shops on credit.

It is therefore recommended to support the most vulnerable families with unconditional cash support for immediate food and non-food needs, especially until the response from the government and other stakeholders increases. Food markets are functioning, though not at the usual levels, and with these cash grants, families will be able to directly purchase their food supplies. The amount (CH 22 per household) has been established according to the needs (e.g. equal to 30-40 kg of rice), agreed with the relevant chapters, and following lessons from previous cash grant distributions undertaken by VNRC during two recent relief operations: Typhoon Ketsana (2009-2010) and Floods (2010-2011). So far, food prices have remained stable; however, VNRC chapters will continue to monitor prices and adjustments will be made as needed.

According to the *NDRT needs assessment*, water levels will eventually recede; however, it is estimated to take from one to three months<sup>8</sup>. For this reason, manual workers are currently unable to find jobs, a situation which could possibly lead to food insecurity. Also, while the area is flooded, people have no appropriate equipment to fish, thus depriving them of a source of daily sustenance and/or income generation activity (a potential VND 100,000 per day according to the assessment) during this difficult period. In addition, boats also represent a precious mean of transportation during the flood.

Coping mechanisms for the affected population, especially the most vulnerable, can be further strengthened with the distribution of boats and fishing nets which would provide not only a means of mobility and income generation through fishing, but also an alternate means of sustenance for families as fishing is often considered as a secondary source of income in this area. Ability to use such tools should however be considered as one of the selection criterion for beneficiaries.

According to the VNRC needs assessment report, up to 1,000 boats and 1,000 fishing nets are needed for Long An province alone. Assessments conducted in An Giang and Dong Thap provinces also show that boats and fishing nets are among the most important items needed in terms of early recovery. Further to this, an official report from the department of labour, invalids and social affairs (DOLISA) in An Giang province reported 2,211 boats damaged or lost, of which the local government is planning to replace 600.

- **Water and sanitation**

With DREF support, VNRC has deployed four NDRT water and sanitation team members to An Giang province along with a water treatment unit on 21 October. With technical support from IFRC and one German Red Cross water and sanitation delegate, the VNRC team trained 18 local Red Cross staff and volunteers on household water treatment, hygiene promotion and water treatment unit installation and operation.

The NDRT water and sanitation team along with local volunteers installed and operated the water treatment unit after the assessment in the two affected districts of Tan Chau and An Phu. As of 28 October, 20,000 litres of safe water have been produced and distributed to 800 households in four affected remote communes in Tan Chau district, An Giang province. The training aims to equip Red Cross staff in these affected provinces to immediately respond to water and sanitation needs.

The assessment conducted by the VNRC/IFRC water and sanitation team in An Giang province on 20 and 21 October reported that until now, VNRC and UNICEF have distributed, and are still distributing, more than one million aquatabs in this province. VNRC has, therefore, been recommended to focus its assistance on the awareness and monitoring of the proper use of aquatabs. Based on the IFRC "*Household water treatment and storage in emergency*" manual, VNRC has developed a one-page instruction pamphlet to disseminate useful information to the communities.

Communities in the villages in Vinh Hoa commune, Tan Chau district, An Giang province traditionally use river water for drinking purposes. Given that community members defecate in the river and that some houses have family latrines which dispose excreta directly into the river without any treatment, it has been recommended that this issue be addressed as part of hygiene promotion activities.

The assessment also showed that many affected communities suffer from the lack of safe water both during disaster and non-disaster periods. Therefore, the planned distribution of aquatabs and jerry cans under the DREF plan has been readjusted and replaced by the distribution of water storage tanks for selected

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<sup>8</sup> As informed via interview with local representatives in An Giang provinces

beneficiaries to collect river water and treat it properly (i.e. alum treatment). For the same reason which is area-specific, it has been decided not to extend the use of the water treatment unit after one week and instead, focus on the provision of water containers and appropriate use of household water treatment techniques to ensure sustainability. This approach will be linked with training on water treatment by using aquatabs after alum treatment at household level.

- **Permanent shelter**

According to the available data (see economic losses pie chart above), housing losses<sup>9</sup> of more than CHF 15 million constitute about twelve percent of the total damages. This is fairly consistent with the previous experience in Viet Nam during flooding. However at this stage of the flooding it is difficult to present a full assessment of the damages to the houses, given that the floods water have not fully receded, showing the full extent of damages to the houses. Further needs assessments will be carried out among the families who have been evacuated, once water levels have receded, estimated to happen in one or two months. It can be assumed that, given the number of people affected/evacuated, needs in terms of shelter rebuilding and repair will increase.

As has been pointed above in the livelihood needs, the poorest have already been hit hard by loss of income and significant asset loss from damaged houses will increase the economic shock on poorest household significantly. It is therefore expected that recovery needs would include a significant share for shelter and provide the most vulnerable with support to rebuild their houses.

While the temporary shelter support covered by the DREF appeal was crucial immediately after the flood, it is necessary to anticipate future recovery needs within the shelter component. Viet Nam Red Cross over the last decade has had extensive experience in providing shelter as part of its recovery interventions. It's learning from 2000-2005 has already been documented well (see recently published "[Transitional shelters -- Eight designs](#)") and more recent lessons from its biggest operation to date – [Ketsana floods and cyclone 2009](#) – are also in the process of documentation for wider dissemination. This appeal therefore incorporates one of the key lessons learned during the last decade, i.e. almost all recovery interventions would include a transitional / permanent shelter recovery component, implementation of which takes time and therefore it should be included in operational planning earlier. This appeal therefore anticipates these needs, based on the existing data<sup>10</sup> and provides provision for 200 houses to be rebuilt. The support would be provided as conditional cash grants and local partnerships are expected for design and monitoring for quality control.

- **Emergency health**

The seasonal floods, though surpassing levels in the year 2000, have not caused significant damage to the health system. According to a World Health Organization (WHO) -led joint assessment report, health facilities in flood-affected provinces are still operational and are delivering health services. Health workers and community volunteers, some of whom themselves have damaged houses due to strong water currents, have continued to report for work. Access to these health facilities/services may, however, be affected as people have reported the need to travel by boat.

The floods have claimed lives through drowning, mostly young children. As at this time, 49 deaths by drowning have been reported. Provincial health authorities also report treating cases of snake bite, skin diseases, conjunctivitis and minor injuries. There are no reports of increasing cases of infectious diseases which can potentially cause outbreaks or epidemics, such as acute diarrhoea or acute respiratory infections.

On the other hand, considering that large areas of southern Viet Nam may still be under water for at least two months, and thousands of people are still with limited sanitation facilities, the risks for the spread of water- and vector-borne diseases, including acute respiratory infections, are high if public health measures are not in place.

District health authorities reported an cumulative 42,200 cases of dengue fever and 44 deaths from the same at end-October 2011. During the same period last year, the figures were 88,600 cases and 55 deaths respectively. However, in the districts of Tinh Bien and Tam Chau in An Giang province, the district health centre reported that this year's number of dengue fever cases is higher than in the previous year.

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<sup>9</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> biggest component after: agriculture - 31 per cent, roads – 26 per cent and irrigation – 19 per cent

<sup>10</sup> 359 houses destroyed, 2,076 houses damaged and 6,008 families forced to evacuate to safer ground.

To complicate matters, the ongoing unprecedented outbreak of hand, foot and mouth disease (HFMD) is rampant: as of end-October, 895 cases and 137 deaths have been reported.

**Reported cases and deaths due to hand, foot and mouth disease (HFMD) and dengue fever, 12 October 2011**  
**Source: Ministry of Health, Viet Nam**

	Hand, foot and mouth disease		Dengue fever	
	Infection	Death	Infection	Death
An Giang	1,079	3	2,625	3
Dong Thap	4,500	6	N/A	N/A
Long An	2,302	7	1,372	0

VNRC and IFRC assessment teams have noted the need to focus health interventions on raising awareness of affected and vulnerable populations to mitigate, if not prevent, the occurrence of water- and vector-borne diseases. They also recommended the mobilization of households and communities for clean-up activities and removal of stagnant water.

- **Gender and security/safety**

With more than 230,000 children out of school and more than 60 per cent of fatalities under 16 years old, there is a clear need for support to the families affected. Even though most families have strong coping mechanisms to deal with floods, given annual flooding, the severity and long spell experienced this year require particular attention, especially to the needs of women and children.

As one assessment report illustrated, in many flooded communes, it were only women and children at home. Most men were out to catch fish or find work, as is customary. In many cases, women and children of several families come together when men are away from home, improving their collective security and safety. Overall however, there have been no serious security incidents and in temporary camps, physical security has not posed a threat. However, as indicated, given the water and sanitation challenges, environmental security is slowly deteriorating.

## The proposed operation

This operation will provide relief and recovery assistance to 10,000 affected households in seven affected provinces and continue to build the national society's capacities in term of disaster preparedness. VNRC assistance in the seven provinces will complement ongoing humanitarian actions undertaken by the government, the Fatherland Front and other organizations and focus on the following sectors:

- Unconditional cash and relief items (household kits and tarpaulins)
- Safe water and hygiene promotion
- Emergency health (focusing on disease prevention and health promotion)
- Permanent shelter
- Livelihoods
- Disaster preparedness

The operation also includes continued deployment of VNRC surge capacity (through the NDRT) and sector specific assessment teams to support better design of interventions in water and sanitation, shelter and livelihoods, as well as to monitor the distributions. All volunteers supported under this operation would be insured under the IFRC's global insurance scheme for the volunteers.

The selection of beneficiaries will follow VNRC agreed principles and standard operating procedures (SOPs).

**Principles for beneficiary selection:**

- Give priority to the most badly affected people and most vulnerable groups.
- Avoid overlap and duplication.
- Guarantee disclosure and transparency.
- Involve the community.
- Collaborate with other stakeholders.

- Randomly check the beneficiary lists.

**Procedure for beneficiary selection:**

- VNRC headquarters and provincial chapters set beneficiary selection criteria.
- Develop beneficiary selection guidelines.
- Announce beneficiary selection criteria through the media and at public places.
- Hold village meetings to nominate beneficiaries.
- Prepare a list of beneficiaries.
- Post the beneficiary list in public places and on the media.
- Reach consensus of the list with commune People’s Committees (PC) and obtaining the approval of the commune Red Cross committee and certification of the commune PC
- Submit the list to the district Red Cross.
- Conduct means tests (covering at least 10 per cent of the beneficiaries)

**Relief distributions (cash, household kits and tarpaulins)**

**Outcome:** The immediate humanitarian needs of 3,000 families in An Giang, Dong Thap and Long An are met through VNRC relief distributions.

Outputs (expected results)	Activities planned
Cash, essential relief items and emergency shelter needs are distributed by VNRC to 3,000 of the most affected households.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organize transport and distribution of 1,500 household kits to the local chapters.</li> <li>• Conduct on-the-ground assessments, selection and verification of 3,000 families (1,500 for cash and 1,500 for household kits and tarpaulins).</li> <li>• Locally procure household kits and tarpaulin items in line with the agreed procurement standards and quality control.</li> <li>• Distribute unconditional cash grants (CHF 22/household) to 1,500 of the most affected families to help them meet the most basic needs (e.g. food and essential items) and ensure no forced redistribution is made.</li> <li>• Distribute household kits and temporary shelter materials (tarpaulins), and control supply movements from point of dispatch to end-user.</li> <li>• Monitor and evaluate relief activities and provide reporting on relief distributions</li> </ul>

## Water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion

**Outcome:** The risk of water and sanitation-related diseases are reduced through the provision of safe water and hygiene promotion up to 1,700 households in the flood-affected provinces of An Giang, Dong Thap and Long An.

Outputs (expected results)	Activities planned
<p>Provision of safe water, water storage containers and hygiene promotion to 1,700 households in the flood-affected provinces of An Giang, Dong Thap and Long An.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assess the existing situation of drinking water coverage with a view of ensuring availability of an adequate water supply, and plan for provision of safe water and hygiene promotion.</li> <li>• Coordinate with local authorities and select the beneficiaries.</li> <li>• Improve capacity of VNRC in water and sanitation/hygiene promotion response in emergency through deployment of NDRT specializing in water and sanitation to train key responders and operate the water treatment unit.</li> <li>• Organize training on managing the water treatment units for key responders in affected provinces.</li> <li>• Select and train staff and volunteers (180) in household water treatment (aquatabs) and hygiene promotion.</li> <li>• Distribute water storage containers and training on household water treatment for 1,700 households (5,040 beneficiaries)</li> <li>• Distribute the household water treatment manual and other information, education and communication (IEC) material in Vietnamese.</li> <li>• Provide safe water to 500 households (2,100 beneficiaries) by using water treatment units.</li> <li>• Conduct monitoring for quality control and evaluate for effectiveness.</li> </ul>

## Livelihood support

**Outcome:** By the end of October 2012, 1,500 affected households from An Giang, Dong Thap and Long An provinces who have lost their means of income, have restored a viable and sustainable source of income.

Outputs (expected results)	Activities planned
<p>1,500 households are provided with conditional cash grants for boats and fishing nets.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• VNRC conducts a deeper livelihood needs assessment and local market analysis</li> <li>• Briefing of VNRC volunteers, staff and branches on beneficiary and village selection criteria</li> <li>• Identification of villages for VNRC assistance</li> <li>• Beneficiary selection process</li> <li>• Public notification of assistance to beneficiaries</li> <li>• Support of 1,500 households in re-establishing a source of livelihood through conditional cash grants to procure boats and fishing nets</li> <li>• Branch development with specific focus on monitoring, evaluation and reporting</li> </ul>

## Shelter

**Outcome:** By the end of October 2012, 200 households from An Giang, Dong Thap and Long An provinces have their houses rebuilt following storm-/flood-resistant standards and equipped with water and sanitation facilities.

Output (expected result)	Activities planned
<p>200 households are provided with conditional cash grants to rebuild storm/flood resistant houses equipped with water and sanitation facilities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shelter needs assessments</li> <li>• Consultancy with a local partner to provide technical assistance to VNRC</li> <li>• Briefing of VNRC volunteers, staff and branches on beneficiary and village selection criteria.</li> <li>• Identification of villages for VNRC assistance</li> <li>• Beneficiary selection process.</li> <li>• Public notification of assistance to beneficiaries.</li> <li>• Field surveys to assess beneficiary needs and local conditions for construction</li> <li>• Preparation of house designs in line with Vietnamese national and local government standards</li> <li>• Training for local builders, VNRC staff and beneficiaries on safe housing construction techniques</li> <li>• Release of first payment of the conditional cash to the identified beneficiaries.</li> <li>• Construction of new houses</li> <li>• Release of final cash grant payment to the beneficiaries for the houses</li> <li>• Branch development with specific focus on training, technical monitoring and reporting.</li> <li>• Internal review and external evaluation of the shelter project</li> </ul>

## Emergency health (disease prevention and health promotion)

**Outcome:** By the end of January 2012, immediate health risks of 10,000 families in three flood-affected provinces are reduced.

Output (expected result)	Activities planned
<p>Targeted disease prevention and health promotion activities are conducted.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Refresh/update VNRC trainers and 180 community volunteers on disease prevention and epidemic control</li> <li>• Reproduce and distribute information, education and communication (IEC) materials (such as leaflets, handbook for volunteers, posters).</li> <li>• Mobilize volunteers to conduct house-to-house and community-level disease prevention and health promotion campaigns</li> <li>• Mobilize communities to conduct hand-washing, cleaning and other campaigns to prevent the occurrence of infectious diseases</li> <li>• Coordinate with local health authorities to ensure appropriate and effective response.</li> <li>• Monitor and review health activities</li> </ul>

## Disaster preparedness

**Outcome:** VNRC chapters and branches from An Giang, Dong Thap, Long An, Can Tho, Vinh Long, Hau Giang and Kien Giang provinces have increased their respective capacities to respond to disasters.

Output (expected result)	Activities planned
Twenty-one motor boats, 42 disaster response packages and disaster response training are provided to VNRC for future emergency interventions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organize training on disaster response (including revised Sphere standards) at district and commune level.</li> <li>• Procure and distribute 42 disaster response packages (including life-jackets, loud speakers, plastic sheeting, first aid kits, etc.) for 21 VNRC district branches (covering 42 communes).</li> <li>• Procure and distribute motor boats to VNRC provincial chapters and district branches for rapid intervention in case of disaster.</li> </ul>

## Logistics

Professional logistics support to the operation will be provided in accordance with IFRC standards, procedures and processes. Activities may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Mobilizing relief items pre-positioned in IFRC's regional logistics unit in Kuala Lumpur as needed.
- Coordinating within IFRC and VNRC programme managers and the regional logistics unit in Kuala Lumpur for timely and cost-efficient sourcing options for items required in the operation
- Utilizing existing warehousing facilities and vehicles for storage and efficient dispatch of goods to the final distribution points
- Ensuring that local procurement of goods, services and transport is in line with IFRC procurement standards and procedures
- Liaising and coordinating actions with other key actors so that the IFRC logistics operation processes use all information to be as efficient and effective as possible

VNRC and IFRC encourage the local procurement of relief items to respond to needs in the field and there is no request for a mobilization table at this time. As such, donors should coordinate with the RLU regarding outstanding needs. RLU will coordinate with the country team as regards gaps to be covered. Thus far, relief distributions have drawn largely from the DREF advance and pre-positioned stocks.

## Capacity of the national society

Capacity building in VNRC is a continuous and cross-sector process. As mentioned above in *Preparing to respond*, VNRC, with support from IFRC and partner national societies, has invested in the development of its capacities in terms of disaster preparedness, particularly in reinforcing the systematic approach of its assistance.

VNRC is also investing in organizational development (OD) at headquarters and chapter level in the framework of annual programmes with support from IFRC. As mentioned in the shelter and livelihood components, this operation is also an opportunity to develop the national society's capacities in organizational development for the chapters to have a stronger involvement in the crucial steps of the projects such as assessment, monitoring, evaluation and reporting.

## Capacity of IFRC

The Federation Viet Nam country office comprises a team of highly experienced and committed national staff who support VNRC in monitoring and implementation of ongoing disaster operations and disaster risk reduction and disaster preparedness programmes, health initiatives and organizational development of the national

society. This team is headed by a country representative, and the emergency operation itself is led by the Federation country team.

Under this operation, the country office is also supported by the Southeast Asia regional office in Bangkok and the Asia Pacific zone office in Kuala Lumpur in disaster management, water and sanitation, disaster preparedness; resource mobilization; planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting; and communications.

### Communications – advocacy and public information

This operation will support efforts to improve visibility and the flow of timely and accurate information from VNRC to its external partners. It will also provide a platform from which to advocate in the interest of vulnerable people and in close collaboration with the operation. Those affected by this emergency will be provided with information to support their own relief and recovery efforts. Donors and partner 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.

Mathias Schmale  
Under Secretary General  
Programme Services Division

Bekele Geleta  
Secretary General

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## Contact information

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Please send all pledges of funding to [zonerm.asiapacific@ifrc.org](mailto:zonerm.asiapacific@ifrc.org)



**Click here**

1. **Emergency appeal budget and map [below](#)**
2. **[Return](#) to the title page**

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## 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.

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.

[www.ifrc.org](http://www.ifrc.org)  
Saving lives, changing minds.



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 non-violence and peace.
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# EMERGENCY APPEAL

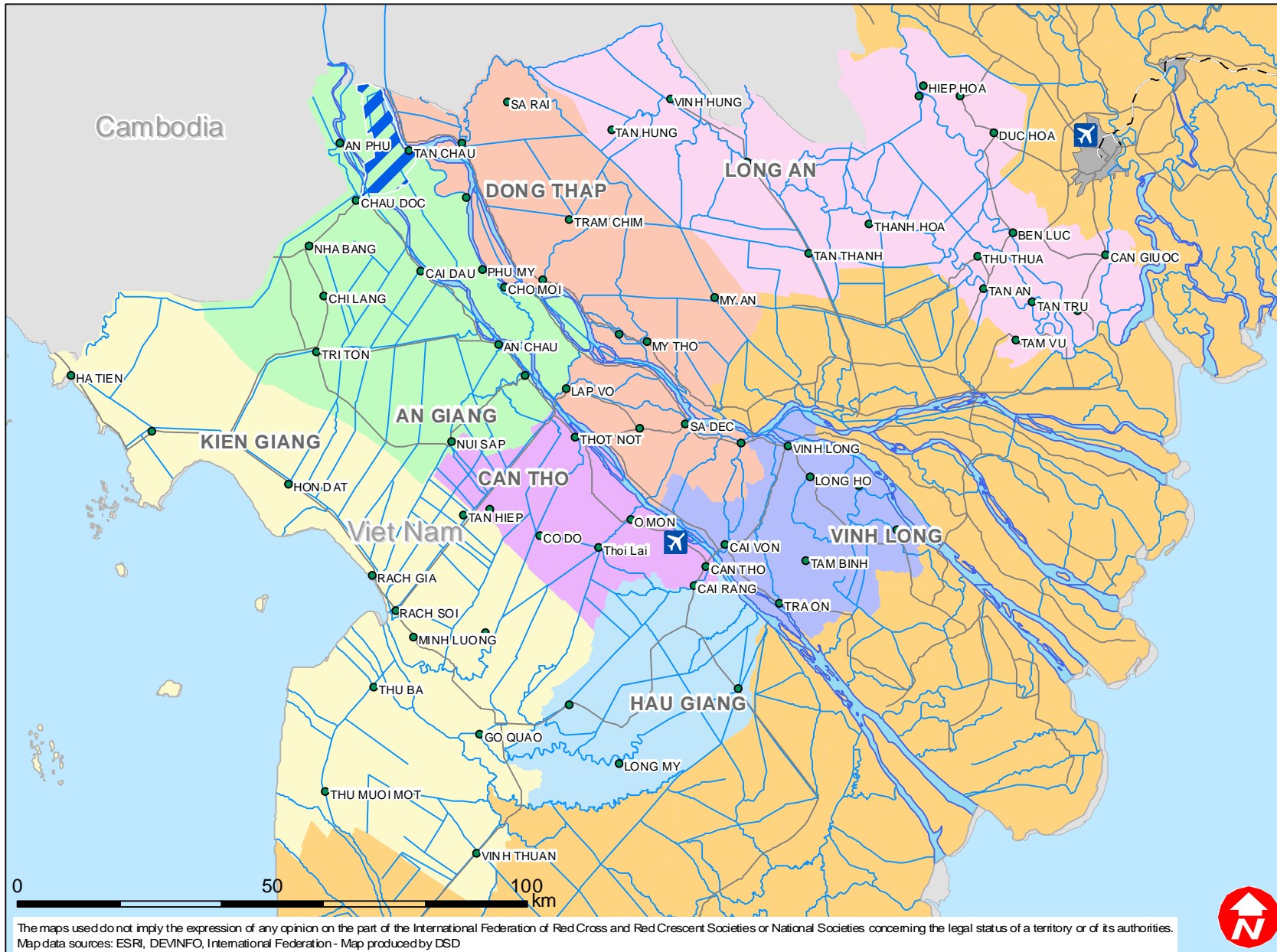
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## MDRVN009 MEKONG DELTA FLOODS 2011

<b>Budget Group</b>	<b>Appeal Budget CHF</b>
Shelter - Relief	43,500
Construction - Housing	400,000
Clothing & Textiles	15,000
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	42,100
Utensils & Tools	38,000
Other Supplies & Services	155,000
Cash Disbursements	34,500
<b>Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIES</b>	<b>728,100</b>
Computer & Telecom Equipment	4,000
<b>Total LAND, VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT</b>	<b>4,000</b>
Distribution & Monitoring	26,512
Transport & Vehicle Costs	14,145
<b>Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE</b>	<b>40,657</b>
International Staff	40,000
National Staff	24,000
National Society Staff	38,160
Volunteers	4,860
<b>Total PERSONNEL</b>	<b>107,020</b>
Consultants	25,100
<b>Total CONSULTANTS &amp; PROFESSIONAL FEES</b>	<b>25,100</b>
Workshops & Training	56,974
<b>Total WORKSHOP &amp; TRAINING</b>	<b>56,974</b>
Travel	4,500
Information & Public Relations	18,528
Office Costs	10,608
Communications	10,200
Financial Charges	5,820
Other General Expenses	28,104
<b>Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>77,760</b>
Programme and Supplementary Services Recovery	67,575
<b>Total INDIRECT COSTS</b>	<b>67,575</b>
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>1,107,185</b>



# Viet Nam: Floods



 Tan Chau district

