

Plan 2009-2010



Vietnam

Executive summary

This 2009-10 support plan inherits the approaches from the planning for 2008-2009 but scales down some activities so that they are more aligned with the pace of development of the organizational and personnel capacity of Vietnam Red Cross (VNRC) to implement this programme along with other initiatives of in-country partners as well as other national society priorities.

Activities around disaster planning, organizational preparedness, community preparedness, disaster response, avian influenza preparedness and awareness raising, community-based first aid and organizational development remain the focus. Volunteering and capacity building in monitoring and evaluation, being cross-cutting issues, will be integrated into

overall disaster management, and health and care programming. Approaches to promotion of the Fundamental Principles and the implications in Red Cross activities will be explored more in dialogue with the VNRC leadership and its board members.

The Vietnam Red Cross Activities Law that was adopted in June 2008 will have implications on the way the national society works and its 2006-10 operational plan. These are also reflected in the changed nuances of this secretariat support plan.

The Federation and ICRC have begun a dialogue with VNRC leadership on the International Conference Resolutions and their implications for the national society. This will be an ongoing process and forms part of the secretariat support.

The total budget for 2009 is CHF 1,004,972 (USD 918,622 or EUR 640,110) and for 2010 is CHF 1,004,972 (USD 918,622 or EUR 640,110). [<Click here for the budget summary.>](#)

The overall number of people who will directly benefit from this plan over 2009-2010 is some 378,000. Indirect beneficiaries numbers approximately nine million, particularly with regards to avian influenza prevention.

Country context

Vietnam is one of the most disaster-prone countries in Southeast Asia and is in the frontline of those countries facing the consequence of climate change with possible rising sea levels and relocation of communities. Early in 2008, lengthy cold weather, unprecedented in 30 years, had far-reaching effects on many populations. Hectares of paddy fields numbering in the hundreds of thousands were wiped out in 16 provinces including the typhoon Lekima typhoon-hit provinces. Many parts of the population in the Northern provinces are likely to face rice shortages, and rice prices have increased because of the scarcity. The government slowed the export of rice to curb rising prices in the domestic market.



We deliver: The Vietnam Red Cross continues to play a major role in disaster response and relief in the country. The national society will also continue to work with communities in building awareness of disaster hazards and environment protection. (VNRC/International Federation)

The severe weather also affected livelihoods. Many thousands of livestock in the northern and northern central provinces died because of the cold. The livelihood picture became gloomier with an outbreak of 'blue ear' disease, which killed thousands of pigs (source: *Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development*). This fuelled increases in food/foodstuff prices.

By April in 2008, Vietnam had experienced three acute diarrhoea outbreaks, which affected about 4,000 people, of whom some 1,800 were hospitalized with cholera (source: *the Labour newspaper*). Unsafe food and poor hygiene were identified as the cause. The government intervened strongly through the dissemination of information on the dangers of poor hygiene, and close monitoring of measures helped to curb the spread. However, the health ministry warned that acute diarrhoea was still a risk.

During the first school semester of 2008, about 147,000 of 16 million students nationwide quit schooling, accounting for just under one per cent (source: *Ministry of Training and Education*). Reasons varied from the economic situation of households, a desire to enter the labour force early or disillusionment with school.

During the first half of the year, avian influenza was reported in 12 provinces. The reports led to the culling of 26,000 poultry to prevent the outbreak from spreading. World Health Organization figures (late May 2008) showed five cases of avian/human influenza in 2008 – all fatal – compared to 61 cases, 19 fatal, in 2005, the worst year.

The government estimates that about 13 million people (one-sixth of the population) were affected by rocketing prices through 2008. In addition, another 13 million were living in poverty, and an additional 10 million are close to the poverty line (source: *Ministry of Labour, Invalid and Social Affairs*). The government revised its estimates for economic growth for 2008 from nine per cent to seven per cent.

National Society priorities and current work with partners

The VNRC's new leadership aims to strengthen Red Cross capacity at all levels, including human resources at district and commune levels where limited capacity exists. The issue of a long-term human resource policy was initiated at the VNRC executive board meeting in July 2008.

VNRC seeks to build more resilient communities to cope with disasters and health emergencies. Key partners in disaster preparedness include Red Cross staff and volunteers at the local level and communities prone to disaster, particularly schoolchildren, teachers and low-income households.

The national society leadership wants to strengthen cooperation with the International Federation and other components of the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement. VNRC requests the support of the secretariat to improve and expand its cooperation with other Red Cross members. Much work is still needed to prepare a cooperation agreement strategy (CAS). As such, the VNRC and the Federation's country office's present Memorandum of Understanding has been extended until 2010.

The VNRC is also keen on developing ties with foreign missions and engaging more domestic businesses to explore new forms of partnership.

The national society is the implementer of the proposed programmes. The International Federation supports VNRC and facilitates the adherence to Red Cross principles in all activities. VNRC and the Federation have agreed to look into the financial and narrative reporting practices to identify areas for improvement in order to strengthen implementation and management.

Partner national societies who support the VNRC include the American, French, German, Japanese, Liechtenstein, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norwegian, Spanish, Swedish, and Swiss national societies.

Secretariat-supported programmes in 2009-2010

Logical frameworks are available on FedNet¹, or [upon request](#).

Disaster Management

a) The purpose and components of the programme

Disaster Management (Global Agenda Goal 1): with focus on disaster planning, organizational preparedness, community preparedness/disaster risk reduction, disaster response and recovery.

The disaster management programme budget for 2009 is CHF 629,744 and for 2010 is CHF 629,744.

¹ FedNet is an intranet and available to Movement members only

Programme purpose
To contribute to the reduction of injuries and deaths caused by disasters.
Programme component 1: Disaster management planning
Outcome: Improved ability of VNRC to predict and plan for disasters to mitigate their impact on vulnerable communities and effectively cope with their consequences. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provincial Red Cross will be trained in contingency planning
Programme component 2: Organizational and legal preparedness
Outcome: Improved human, financial and physical capacity for effective disaster management and contribution to the strengthening of the legal and policy framework for disaster management in Vietnam.
Programme component 3: Community preparedness/disaster risk reduction
Outcome: Improved self-resilience of individuals and communities to reduce their vulnerability to public health emergencies and disasters. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training of communities (including teachers and school children) in hazards and environmental protection
Programme component 4: Disaster response
Outcome: Improved disaster response assistance to meet the needs of people affected by disasters.
Programme component 5: Recovery
Outcome: Improved assistance to restore or improve pre-disaster living conditions.

b) Profile of target beneficiaries

The programme will continue to work with vulnerable communities through long-term projects and relief operations (in the event of disaster). Support will be given to those most in need with priority to poor families, families headed by women, elderly people living alone, and people with disabilities, especially in the relief and rehabilitation phases of any emergency operation.

Awareness of disaster hazards and environment protection will be strengthened among school teachers and pupils. Disaster-resilient communities will be further consolidated with community and Red Cross staff being trained in community-based disaster preparedness and vulnerability capacity assessment to be able to carry out preparedness planning for their own communes.

The total number of beneficiaries over 2009-2010 is some 196,000 (2009: 48,000 women, 52,300 men; 2010: 45,600 women, 49,400 men)

VNRC, particularly Red Cross chapters in eight disaster-prone provinces, will benefit from this plan together with support from partners such as the Netherlands and Spanish national societies in terms of technical support and training. This will help them develop individual contingency plans and advocate for these by sharing their plans with other stakeholders at their respective locations.

Additionally, VNRC will continue advocacy on the implementation of the international disaster response law (IDRL) guidelines and legal preparedness for disaster and disease, following the outcomes of the project on Legal Preparedness for Responding to Disaster and Communicable Disease Emergencies, facilitated by the International Federation's Zone IDRL unit in 2008-2009.

c) Potential risks and challenges

- Lack of staff human resource capacity and Red Cross volunteers: There has been an increasing demand for skilled human resources in monitoring, evaluation, reporting and financial management, particularly in disaster management, given the current volume of partner support to the national society in this area. Adequate capacity will enable the headquarters to coordinate all ongoing disaster management projects as well as to be more visible in all national disaster management forums in Vietnam. Similarly, the lack of Red Cross volunteers who work exclusively in Red Cross activities and those who lack a good understanding of the seven Fundamental Principles are issues essential to address.
- Insufficient support from the headquarters to Red Cross branches: Lack of capacity also prevents the national society from providing appropriate support to branches, thereby resulting in limited capacity at branch level affecting the implementation of projects. Technical support from headquarters would help greatly.

- Major disasters: In the case of a large-scale natural disaster, VNRC will continue to play a leading role in supporting the government's response. As such, progress against this development plan would slow down. In addition, VNRC's warehouse can hold less than 10,000 household kits, which is very limited stock considering the frequency of disasters.

The programme will adopt the following strategies to address these risks and challenges:

- VNRC leadership will need to refine the organizational structure to make the national society more effective. In tandem, the national society will facilitate ongoing partnership and develop human resources (i.e. staff and volunteers) to enhance its visibility, as well as focus discussion on issues facing vulnerable people.
- VNRC will continue its dialogue with the government on VNRC's role in the *National Strategy for Natural Disaster Prevention, Response and Mitigation to 2020*
- VNRC will support the development of a well-coordinated disaster management programme in which it plays a coordinating function. With partner support, it will aim to strengthen holistic planning, a common understanding on the Red Cross Red Crescent role, and improve communication among Red Cross Red Crescent partners.
- Staff on loan (e.g. engaging staff from branches in monitoring programmes) will be encouraged to help address human resource issues.
- The International Disaster Response Law (IDRL) will be actively promoted.

What is new?

- Incorporating cross-cutting components such as capacity building and volunteering in all components under health and disaster management programmes.
- Capacity building in monitoring and evaluation will be integrated into overall programmes such as health and disaster management. The VNRC's programme officers will not only monitor their respective projects but also those of their colleagues. This approach will enable a synergy in monitoring and evaluation, and widen the skills and experience among the VNRC staff.
- Contact with universities in major cities will be made to find students interested in engaging as volunteer monitors who will travel to the sites to monitor the progress and quality (e.g. housing support under recovery phases of relief operations) of project implementation.
- Discussions with the government on VNRC's role in disasters and promoting legal preparedness for disaster management and implementation of the International Disaster Response Law (IDRL) Guidelines (Guidelines for the Domestic Facilitation and Regulation of International Disaster Relief and Initial Recovery Assistance).

What is continued?

- The planting of mangroves and bamboo to protect high-risk coastal communities, creating a 'green wall' against waves and wind, will continue with support from the Japanese Red Cross. The ultimate goal is to provide a safer living environment to such exposed communities.
- As well as being engaged in disaster response, VNRC also works with communities to increase their resilience to hazards. Experience has consistently shown that better prepared communities cope more robustly when disasters occur. As such, skills and increased knowledge about community-based disaster preparedness, and hazard, vulnerability and capacity assessment for disaster preparedness will continue to be a VNRC priority. The national society will continue its work with communes, school teachers and students, enabling them to implement preparedness planning for their own communes, and to adopt and practice good habits.
- Key messages on disaster preparedness and disaster risk reduction will also be broadcast to widely dispersed communities via television, radio and newspapers, using the VNRC humanitarian television programme and magazine.
- The national society is known as one of the organizations from which people affected by disaster can expect to receive timely, practical and sustainable assistance. This has been achieved thanks to the national society's contingency plan prioritizing cooperation with authorities, and preparing buffer stocks ready for emergencies. Household kits containing basic necessities such as mosquito nets, water containers, soap, etc. distributed by the Red Cross in recent typhoons have been well-received by beneficiaries. Red Cross support of recovery by rebuilding typhoon-resistant houses is known to contribute to poverty reduction, a key consideration when one considers the devastating impact of such events on families already economically challenged. Red Cross support during emergency and recovery operations also remains highly relevant.

Health and Care

a) The purpose and components of the programme

Health and Care (Global Agenda Goal 2): with focus on emergency health, community-based first aid, blood donor recruitment, HIV and AIDS, and water and sanitation.

The health and care programme budget for 2009 is CHF 280,228 and for 2010 is CHF 280,228.

Programme purpose
Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.
Programme component 1: Emergency health
<p>Outcome 1: Influenza pandemic preparedness capacity in vulnerable communities is strengthened.</p> <p>Outcome 2: Enhancement of public awareness on the dangers of avian influenza in five target provinces and increased capacity of VNRC in preparedness and response to public health emergencies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preparations to ensure there are sufficient numbers of Red Cross volunteers to carry out awareness-raising and education activities regarding avian influenza.
Programme component 2: Community-based first aid
Outcome: Vulnerability to injuries caused by accidents is reduced through the active participation of VNRC first aid trainers and volunteers in community-based first aid.
Programme component 3: Blood donor recruitment
Outcome: The system of non-remunerated voluntary blood donor recruitment is strengthened.
Programme component 4: HIV/AIDS
Outcome: Vulnerability to HIV and its impact is reduced through preventing further infection, expanding care, treatment and support, and reducing stigma and discrimination.
Programme component 5: Water and sanitation
<p>Outcome 1: Access to safe water and sanitation services for poor people is improved in selected northern mountainous provinces.</p> <p>Outcome 2: Health and hygiene promotion is strengthened.</p>

b) Profile of target beneficiaries

Avian influenza preparedness will mainly take place in high-risk provinces where keeping backyard poultry is widespread. To date, small-sized poultry raising households have received little support from the government or other organizations. The programme will also aim at enhancing the preparedness/response capacity of VNRC to public health emergencies in selected provinces.

The total number of beneficiaries over 2009-2010 is some 161,200 (2009: 35,200 women, 45,450 men; 2010: equal to the previous year).

The community-based first aid component will benefit VNRC trainers and volunteers aided by the printing of a standard manual and subsequent training. VNRC first aid capacity will be strengthened through the establishment of a core group of first aid national instructors who coach provincial trainers, update the manual and keep abreast of international developments in first aid. National society capacity and income will both benefit.

The system of non-remunerated voluntary blood donor recruitment will be strengthened through technical support from the regional office and partnership between the national society, the ministry of health and the World Health Organization facilitated by the country office, to save more lives.

c) Potential risks and challenges

As in the disaster management programme, the health programme is also challenged by the lack of human resources, and monitoring and evaluation capacity within VNRC. The constraints will be overcome by adopting a more integrated approach in the utilization of staff within various departments within VNRC for monitoring and evaluation. The International Federation country office will support this effort.

Chapter, district, and commune levels are included in monitoring coaching sessions so that all will have the same overall understanding of monitoring and reporting, and exchange experiences. Open discussions on the Red

Cross Red Crescent Fundamental Principles are integrated into the coaching. However, in the past, this has proved to be too academic and dry for participants from the commune level and as such, needs to be addressed.

Volunteers are also a concern for both health and disaster management programmes. Volunteers who work for the Red Cross and several other organizations simultaneously are generally unable to commit their time to the Red Cross when needed.

The VNRC faces a real challenge in sharing experiences on avian influenza at the Southeast Asian regional and the national level. Relatively low English language skills prevent staff and volunteers from VNRC headquarters and chapters in communicating their wealth of experience from working with communities in this regard.

Lack of long-term funding for avian influenza poses a risk in the effort to continue raising awareness among communities and the necessary follow-up to measure changes in attitudes and behaviour.

Community-based first aid will move towards producing a standardized manual by 2009. To ensure a common approach in methodology and techniques, continuous support/follow up from headquarters and from top national instructors is needed. These will be expected to collect feedback from the ground, keep the manual updated, and keep abreast of developments in international first aid. It is anticipated that inadequate English language skills are likely to impede this part of the work. The International Federation country office will provide support to ensure that the process of the development of VNRC first aid capacity meets international standards. It will also help ensure the best use of available resources from the French Red Cross which has a wealth of experience and expertise in this area.

What is new?

- The embrace of an integrated approach in development of monitoring and evaluation capacity among VNRC health and disaster management programmes, and developing a database of volunteers specializing in disaster preparedness and response, and health emergencies.
- The increase of cooperation with other mass organizations to supplement Red Cross volunteers.
- The programme will open opportunities for chapter level human resources to monitor projects as well as encourage the exchange of staff in monitoring and evaluation among chapters.
- A stronger commitment to evaluation and learning.
- Some components, such as HIV and AIDS, and water and sanitation, are not included in the programme support for 2009-10 as they are being supported bilaterally by German Red Cross, French Red Cross, Netherlands Red Cross and American Red Cross. The International Federation country office continues to coordinate, in terms of management, the in-country water and sanitation working group. Technical support from the regional office and/or the zone will be sought when needed

What is continued?

- A 2008 initiative whereby VNRC staff conducted the evaluation of an avian influenza project heralds a continuation of such a committed approach to learning.
- A VNRC action plan for overall pandemic preparedness to address and adapt to any possible health pandemics that may arise, as well as methods of interacting and cooperating with government authorities in addressing possible health pandemics remain a priority.
- A preparedness plan highlighting the Red Cross role, which is in line with the comprehensive plan of the headquarters and of the government, will continue to increase chapter readiness to respond to any pandemic.
- Information campaigns on avian influenza preparedness will continue. As the interventions focus more on quality than quantity, target sites will be selected to ensure that activities are properly monitored.
- Increased capacity in first aid for Red Cross staff and volunteers is also needed to provide first aid for communities particularly at high risk. It is expected that a standardized community-based first aid manual for first aid trainers and volunteers for the 64 Red Cross provinces will be in place by 2009 and that this will boost training for Red Cross staff/volunteers and for people outside the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement.
- The VNRC has been active in voluntary blood donor recruitment at provincial level, cooperating with youth unions to mobilize blood donors. With the support of the International Federation, the VNRC headquarters will continue to work with other partners such as the World Health Organization and the ministry of health, to promote non-remunerated voluntary blood donor recruitment.

Organizational Development/Capacity Building

a) The purpose and components of the programme

Organizational Development/Capacity Building (Global Agenda Goal 3): with focus on leadership capacity and management capacities, volunteering and branch development, national society systems and procedures in terms of statutes review, and development of an operational plan.

The organizational development/capacity building budget 2009 is CHF 80,000 and for 2010 is CHF 80,000.

Programme purpose
Increase capacities of local community, civil society and VNRC as a member of the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.
Programme component 1: Management capacities
Outcome: Increase the capacity of the VNRC to implement sustainable programmes through national headquarters and at branch level. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of a financial management system
Programme component 2: Volunteering and branch development
Outcome: Volunteer management is enhanced.
Programme component 3: Review VNRC statute, Operational Plan
Outcome: VNRC statutes are reviewed in accordance with the General Assembly's resolutions.

b) Profile of target beneficiaries

The programme aims to strengthen the Red Cross structure in Vietnam. Target beneficiaries will be Red Cross staff who will receive on-the-job coaching on the project management cycle and will be encouraged to practice the acquired skills at work. Vulnerable communities will benefit from better functionality of Red Cross staff and volunteers.

The total number of beneficiaries over 2009-10 is some 11,000 (2009: 1,650 women, 3,900 men; 2010: equal to the previous year).

Staff in VNRC national headquarters will perform better when clearer job descriptions are in place to minimize their current overload that impedes progress in implementation. Clearer job descriptions for individual departments will help the national society to better coordinate internally, and with the International Federation and partner national societies.

Since the Red Cross Activities Law was adopted by the government in June 2008, it is anticipated that VNRC's role will be strengthened. As such, a revision of the 2006-10 operational plan is underway.

The national society is looking for more International Federation support in finance management development to help increase the national society's accountability and credibility. The VNRC will start to produce annual reports on all activities to its partners and stakeholders.

The VNRC has begun to place more emphasis on volunteering, with guidelines developed. Planned activities for 2009-2010 will carry forward planning of the previous year with a focus on feedback and recommendations on the new guidelines, and an operational database to manage active Red Cross volunteers.

The national society will also utilize existing resources and expertise on image building, fundraising and volunteering development. This will be achieved through the Norwegian Red Cross-supported volunteering and branch development project in the five central provinces, further equipping them with skills to design, implement, evaluate and fundraise for their projects with vulnerable communities.

c) Potential risks and challenges

Insufficient donor interest in capacity building and volunteering programmes is a concern. It is a cross-cutting issue that has also influenced health and disaster management programmes. Long-term funding needs to be strengthened and significant advances in VNRC capacity is probably needed before this materializes.

The issue of ‘the right people being in the right place’ at headquarters is a challenge for Red Cross partners in Vietnam. The International Federation country office is also concerned over the lack of utilization of human resources after they have received international training.

In addition to a variety of domestic activities (e.g. support to Agent Orange victims, *Tet* for the poor, support to disabled people, mobile doctors, warehouse, etc.), the national society implements 13 projects supported/financed by partner national societies. However, the lack of human resource capacity and professional management skills within VNRC poses a real challenge and weakens the headquarters’ ability to play the overall lead role.

Finance management needs to be strengthened at all levels, including chapter level. VNRC has a lack of personnel capacity, particularly at local level. Each level (Red Cross chapter, district, and commune) has only one finance focal point whose competence may not, in many cases, satisfy donor requirements. VNRC gains little benefit from the exchange of knowledge and experience at regional forums due to inadequate English language skills.

There will be more dialogue on what the VNRC definition of ‘Red Cross volunteer’ is. It will be a long-term challenge for the VNRC to manage volunteers who carry out Red Cross activities with respect to the Fundamental Principles.

Principles and Values

a) The purpose and components of the programme

Humanitarian principles and values (Global Agenda Goal 4): with focus on understanding and use of the Fundamental Principles in working to promote humanitarian values.

The principles and values programme budget for 2009 is CHF 15,000 and for 2010 is CHF 15,000.

Programme purpose
To promote respect for diversity and human dignity, and reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion.

Programme component 1: Red Cross Fundamental Principles and Emblem
<p>Outcome: VNRC leaders, staff and volunteers fully understand the implications of using the Fundamental Principles for their daily work promoting humanitarian values.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Induction course on Fundamental Principles for partner national societies

b) Profile of target beneficiaries

The VNRC’s board members, staff, and volunteers will be selected for training in Red Cross Red Crescent principles and values. They will be able to include these subjects when working with communities and various groups involved in Red Cross-related activities.

The total number of people who will benefit from this programme over 2009-10 is some 10,700 (2009: 1,600 women, 3,800 men; 2010: equal to the previous year).

The same training will also be available to partner national societies to ensure that they fully understand the seven Fundamental Principles and the implications in their projects.

c) Potential risks and challenges

While the principles and values are disseminated in VNRC programming, understanding of their implications on Red Cross work remains vague. More dialogue with the VNRC executive board is crucial to progress in this respect.

What is continued?

- Dialogue - jointly coordinated by the International Federation and the ICRC - with the VNRC executive board on International Conference resolutions and other Movement decisions.

Role of the secretariat

a) Technical programme support

The disaster management programme manager supports stronger VNRC implementation and ownership of disaster management projects. Technical support through training in needs assessment for emergency response, contingency planning, and SPHERE standards will be offered, supported by the regional and zone offices.

The health and care programme officer supports the development of a new international standard manual on first aid. Training will be offered to key staff through regional health, and water and sanitation workshops. Further technical support is offered through regional health and water and sanitation delegates.

The organizational development programme has the support of a programme officer in-country. The International Federation guidelines for volunteer mobilization, monitoring and evaluation, and strategic planning guidelines are used to improve branch development in cooperation with in-country partner national societies. Further technical support for organizational development, finance development and volunteering is offered through the regional and zone delegates.

In addition to the support of the International Federation's country office, the International Federation's Southeast Asia regional office in Bangkok and Asia Pacific zone office in Kuala Lumpur provide continued technical support in many areas.

b) Partnership development and coordination

The International Federation's country office ensures that coordination takes place with the VNRC and the seven partner national societies working bilaterally, in areas such as first aid, volunteering, and water and sanitation. Sector working groups are formed to maintain communications and common approaches by all partners on each specific issue.

The VNRC and the International Federation both have signed the Partnership on Avian and Human Influenza (PAHI) with the ministry of health and stakeholders engaging in avian influenza activities in Vietnam. Signing up to this framework will enable the VNRC to be open to more effective ways of working as well as sharing information. The VNRC will continue sharing its knowledge and skills on avian influenza with stakeholders working in the field such as the ministry of health, UNICEF, UNDP, and international NGOs, and actively join efforts to prevent any outbreak of avian influenza.

The country office continues to facilitate a new partnership among the VNRC, ministry of health and World Health Organization (WHO) in voluntary blood donation, to better work with WHO in this area.

Coordination meetings take place every month. Through these meetings, VNRC, with support of the International Federation, endeavours to ensure that external support is being coordinated and fits within the national society's own framework of priorities. The International Federation and VNRC will work with ICRC and six out of the seven in-country partner national societies (American, French, German, Netherlands, Norwegian and Spanish Red Cross societies) in Vietnam to direct their support towards VNRC's priorities in programming. This will be achieved through a range of coordination and cooperation mechanisms. In this regard, the existing mapping of the International Federation/partner national society support to VNRC and technical working groups in different sectors (such as water and sanitation, first aid, and volunteering) has proven effective and useful in terms of moving towards more consistent approaches from partners.

c) Representation and advocacy

A joint workshop on the International Federation General Assembly's resolutions and other Movement documents (including International Conference and Council of Delegates) for the VNRC standing board is scheduled as a regular activity for the twice-yearly board meetings. Key documents will be translated into the Vietnamese language, supported by ICRC and the International Federation.

The *National Strategy for Natural Disaster Prevention, Response and Mitigation to 2020* and the *Law on Prevention and Control of Infectious Diseases*, which were passed by the government in November 2007, are both areas of opportunity for VNRC, which require advocacy around clearer definitions of the Red Cross role in these two important areas.

The International Federation country office will continue to have a full and active representation together with the VNRC and in-country partner national societies, in local forums such as the disaster management working group, Central Committee for Flood and Storm Control (CCFSC), and Partnership in Avian-Human Influenza (PAHI) as a way to promote Red Cross visibility and voice in such forums, as well as to enhance partnership with other stakeholders.

Promoting gender equity and diversity

The VNRC seeks to promote gender equity and diversity as illustrated by standardized criteria for beneficiaries in typhoon operations which set out the preference for women who are heads of families, breastfeeding or pregnant. In tandem, the avian influenza initiative employed volunteers from minority groups to educate their communities in their local languages. The strategy to select volunteers from minority groups in areas where project information is targeted towards minority groups will continue.

Quality, accountability and learning

The goal of the International Federation is to support VNRC in organizational learning. Momentum has been created among the health and care (e.g. avian influenza project), and disaster management (e.g. typhoon operations) programmes. Evaluations carried out help this process.

VNRC sees evaluation as part of a learning process with a desire to improve quality of service in future operations. The VNRC leadership will be encouraged to make the best use of recommendations in terms of monitoring, volunteering, management and support from the headquarters to utilize content from the evaluations in their management and planning.

Evaluation capacity is growing. Internal evaluation, which has previously been led by international consultants with VNRC staff as apprentice team members, is now taken over by the VNRC, starting with the avian influenza project phase 3. A shift from “externally-led” consultant evaluation to an ‘internally-led’ process will enable VNRC to reflect on its services, and enhance its accountability and learning process, supported by the International Federation country office.

The VNRC plans to develop a ‘guide on best practices’ in organizational development which aims to facilitate an exchange of experience/knowledge. In addition to the planned upgrading of financial management, the national society embraces the need for transparency in finance management as well as accountability, and will produce semi-annual financial reports starting from the end of 2008 to be shared with partners.

[<Click here for a map of Vietnam>](#)

How we work	
<p>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’.</p>	<p>Global Agenda Goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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	
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