

Mid-Year report



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Viet Nam

Appeal N° MAAVN001

8 September 2011

This report covers the period
1 January to 30 June 2011



Red Cross volunteers attend a session on influenza H1N1 prevention in Son Dong Commune, Ben Tre Town. (IFRC)

In brief

Programme outcome: To strengthen the Viet Nam Red Cross society's (VNRC) role as the leading humanitarian organization in Viet Nam.

Programme summary: The first half of the year saw slow progress on some of the planned activities; however, a focus on improved learning and investment in improving programme planning has been the highlight of activities implemented.

The focus of effort in disaster management has been to finalize the establishment of society's disaster response surge capacity at the national level; adoption of clear operational procedures for response and recovery at different levels; and updated contingency planning for provinces before the disaster season. Fifty-one of 56 targeted communes has also made progress in understanding of their own local risks and how they can improve their own resilience. In health and care, the focus continued on expanding the number of community-based volunteers in delivering primary health education services in two provinces. The dengue fever mitigation project did not make progress as planned with efforts made in recent months to overcome project management issues.

Organizational development activities included finalizing the strategic planning process of the Viet Nam Red Cross with the adoption of their new 10-year strategic plan (VNRC 2020) and the focus was shifted to support operational planning effort in various priority areas. The delegation also finalized the draft country support plan for next four years (2012-2015) in support of the VNRC operational plan till 2015. DFID financial support to the organizational development activities was received in a timely manner, and for the first time in many years, the organizational development budget is now funded for the year.

[Click here to go directly to the attached summary of progress against objectives.](#)

Financial situation: The revised total budget for 2011 is CHF 1,114,967, of which CHF 1,094,554 (98 per cent) is covered during the reporting period (including opening balance). Overall expenditure during the reporting period was CHF 200,160 (18 per cent against total annual budget and 33 per cent against reporting

period budget).

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

[See also MDRVN007.](#)

No. of people reached directly:

Up to 34,500 people were reached through activities under this country plan during the reporting period, with a further 471,000 planned for the rest of 2011.

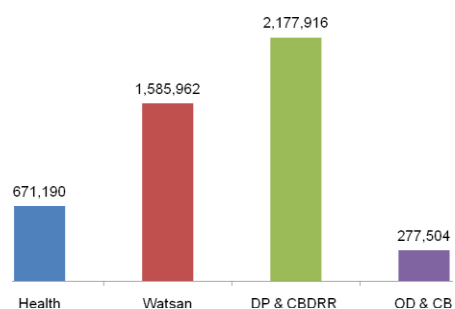
Our partners: Main partners who have supported VNRC under this appeal include Japanese Red Cross (as a long-term partner under the 2011-2015 memorandum of understanding), New Zealand Red Cross and Rockefeller Foundation.

Also contributing to the work of the national society on a bilateral basis are the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), American Red Cross, Australian Red Cross, French Red Cross, German Red Cross, Italian Red Cross, Netherlands Red Cross, Norwegian Red Cross, Spanish Red Cross, and Swiss Red Cross.

The total international Red Cross Red Crescent Movement (Movement) support to VNRC for its development programmes in 2011 was CHF¹ 4,712,571.

On behalf of VNRC, IFRC would like to thank all partners and contributors for their response to this appeal and other bilateral support.

Movement support to VNRC, 2011 (CHF)



Compiled: 31 March 2011

Context

The first half of the year was an important period for Viet Nam as the year started with the 11th National Congress of the Communist party. Outcomes of the party congress and subsequent elections to the national assembly in the first quarter of the year led to the identification of leadership and policies for the next five years. As previously stated in these reports, the policies² have now been adopted and the continuity in political leadership offers full opportunity for their implementation.

Usually the first half of the year in Viet Nam disasters are less destructive to people's lives and livelihoods; still, the year started with a severe cold wave for the northern mountainous dwellers, that killed around 68,000 cattle³ and damaged 28,000 hectares of young rice. In total, natural hazards in the first six months killed 66 people, damaged 10,000 houses and over 67,000 hectares of agricultural crops. In addition, the infectious diseases noted a year-on-year increase in dengue fever and foot-hand-mouth disease, particularly in the south of Viet Nam where 14 out of a total of 17,500 infected people died due to dengue fever. However, the biggest health concern was the sharp and sudden⁴ year-on-year increase (more than 30,000) in hand, foot and mouth disease infection and fatality during the period of May-June 2011. Already 15 children have died and children under six years largely account for this increase in infection and fatality.

However the biggest mortality continues to be from the road accidents. In the first five months of this year, Viet Nam had 5,705 reported traffic accidents, killing 4,787 persons and injuring 4,399 others. As compared to the same period in 2010, traffic accidents had decreased by 0.3 per cent, though the death toll had risen by 1.1 per cent. On average, every day for the first five months, Viet Nam had 38 cases of traffic accidents, killing 32 and injuring 29 persons.

This is also reflected in the longer term disease burden in the country. A ministry of health report issued in June, built on 30 years data showed a sharp increase in death (from 44.7 per cent to 60.1 per cent) and disease

¹ Converted from USD, 1 USD = 0.80 CHF

² Social Economic Development Strategy (SEDS) for 2011-2020 and Socio-Economic Development Plan (SEDP) for 2011-2015.

³ In provinces: Lang Son, Lao Cai, Ha Giang and Son La for an estimated loss of VND 2,200 billion (CHF100 million), Source: General Statistic Office, Six month Press Release, July 2011

⁴ Usually the sharp increase in infectious cases of dengue fever and hand foot mouth disease often occur in the last six months of the year (i.e. rainy season) in the 20 Southern provinces.

burden caused by non-communicable diseases; top four being cardiovascular disease, cancer, hypertension, and road accidents.

The biggest impact on vulnerability in Viet Nam during the first six months however came from the continued very high inflation. The average consumer price index (CPI) rose 16.30 per cent year-on-year for the period. Since the rise in CPI affected mainly education services, food and foodstuff prices, and housing and construction materials, it had huge impact on the households with income close to the poverty line. Curbing inflation has been the government's most important priority for the reporting period.

In response, Viet Nam Red Cross raised many resources to provide support to the people. For example, the Nghe An Chapter raised over VND 206 million (CHF 8,200) to assist 25 affected households who lost their breadwinner.

Similarly the annual campaign⁵ "Tet for the poor and victims of Agent Orange" (usually held in first quarter for the Vietnamese New Year) was widely implemented and the results compiled in June showed that campaign raised VND 242 billion⁶ (CHF 9.7 million) helping more than 3.1 million people (971,676 vulnerable families).

Also after a year's implementation the VNRC cow bank programme has so far provided 5,396 cattle to an equal number of households (21,500 beneficiaries) in 189 communes in 64 districts (24 provinces) amounting to VND 37 billion (CHF 1.3 million).

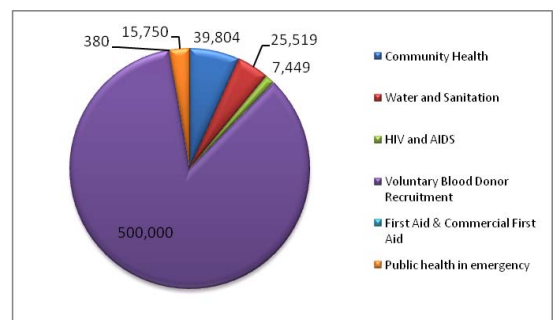
In total, VNRC domestic disaster response, recovery, campaigns and the long-term livelihood interventions (such as the cow bank) contributed towards reducing 24 per cent of the household food insecurity in the first five months. At the same time, in response to the VNRC appeal to support the tsunami/earthquake-affected people in Japan, VNRC raised was VND 161,303,484,931 (CHF 6.5 million) and transferred the same to Japanese Red Cross Society.

In November of this year, VNRC will celebrate its 65th anniversary and in preparation of that celebration, a series of social care and health centres are being established; to highlight:

- Establishment of a centre for voluntary blood donation at national headquarters. This centre is located in the same compound as that of the VNRC training centre.
- Decision to establish two regional Red Cross hospitals in Ha Nam (60km south of Ha Noi) and Vinh Phuc (60km north west of Ha Noi).
- Decision to establish Tuyet Thai humanitarian centre in Dong Anh district of Ha Noi. The centre will be able to accommodate 500 beds.
- Opening a social care centre for people living with effects of Agent Orange in Thanh Hoa province.
- Establishment of an early cancer detection centre and liver implant clinic for the South. Both the centre and clinic are located in the VNRC representative office in Ho Chi Minh City.



VNRC HQ and Nghe An Chapter staff provide household kits to a woman whose house collapsed in the June floods. (Photo: Trung Nghia Luong, VNRC)



No. of people reached by the VNRC health and care programme in 2010. (Source: VNRC's annual health and care report, 2010)

Progress towards outcomes

Disaster management

Programme component 1: Organizational preparedness

Outcomes

1. Standard operation procedures, guidelines and systems of national and branch disaster response teams of Viet Nam Red Cross are improved.

⁵ All data on first six months of VNRC activities have been taken from the mid-year report of VNRC national headquarters to their Central Executive Committee.

⁶ An increase of VND 4 billion over 2010.

2. Adequate trained human and logistic resources of VNRC are available at all levels of VNRC for disaster response and disaster risk reduction (DRR).
3. A ten-year community-based disaster risk reduction (CBDRR) programme including guidelines, standards of DRR delivery at community level, is in place in 2011.
4. The legal preparedness for disaster response and DRR is improved.

Achievements

During this reporting period, VNRC finalized two key documents: a) operating procedures for the national disaster response team (NDRT) and b) standard operating procedures (SOP) for emergency response. This was achieved with joint support of IFRC⁷ and Spanish Red Cross in the country. The first NDRT team has been selected and consists of 12 headquarters staff and 20 provincial Red Cross staff. In July the team will undergo further training, and test deployment procedures and equipment. In addition to the NDRT development, a lot of the time in the first quarter was also spent on finalizing the SOPs. The process involved participatory discussions at various levels, including discussions of drafts in various workshops in March and April. It was led by the disaster management department at national headquarters and included active input from Red Cross provincial chapters of disaster-prone provinces. Three regional dissemination workshops are planned to cover all the provinces of Viet Nam to communicate the final versions of these documents to Red Cross chapters. The workshops will be financially supported by Spanish Red Cross.



A two-day training on disaster risk reduction in Cat Hai town, Hai Phong province. (Photo: Luong/RC chapter)

The VNRC national headquarters sent out the annual guidelines to 63 Red Cross chapters to update its annual disaster response and contingency planning. To date, 37 Red Cross chapters have submitted their plans to the headquarters for integration into the overall VNRC disaster response planning for the upcoming disaster season. Specialized training (including refresher training) for disaster response are planned for July and August on NDRT, needs assessment, emergency water provision, and psychological support.

Following the development of the VNRC strategy, a draft operational plan was developed for disaster management in VNRC. The plan initiated the discussions on the development of a long-term programme community-based disaster risk management (CBDRM) that will bring together various existing projects and lead to further scaling the intervention in support of the government vision of 6,000 resilient communities by 2021. To help improve this future programming, the country office helped VNRC finalize two evaluations in the first quarter of the year: a) [Breaking the waves: Impact analysis of coastal afforestation for disaster risk reduction in Viet Nam](#) and b) [Planting protection: Evaluation of community-based mangrove reforestation and disaster preparedness programme, 2006 – 2010](#). The outputs of these evaluations are now being used to develop a new CBDRM proposal for Japanese Red Cross Society for the period 2011 to 2015.

In January, the Government of Viet Nam issued a decree (No:03/2011/ND-CP) on the implementation of Law on Red Cross Activities and clarified certain aspects (articles 6-8 on visa and customs procedures for import/export of relief goods) of international disaster response laws, rules and principles (IDRL). VNRC also participated in discussions for the upcoming Law on Disaster Management and promoting the interests of the Red Cross and civil society in Viet Nam in general.

Impact

Development and introduction of terms of reference for NDRT and SOPs for emergency response in VNRC have laid good foundations for improving disaster response mechanisms in the national society. These procedures will help improve quality of response operations by clarifying various rules and regulations at each level of the society. Dissemination and training on these procedures will help improve internal coordination and set minimum standards that the beneficiaries can expect from VNRC response, in turn, contributing to improved accountability.

The focus on improved learning documentation will help improve the overall CBDRM programming, especially as it scales up. The result of the longer-term impact study (Breaking the Waves) has also helped identify potential for use of carbon financing for the future mangrove plantations and sustaining them over the longer term.

⁷ Partially funded by the floods appeal [MDRVN007](#).

Constraints

The capacity constraint of the disaster management and social care department continues and thus leads to an overall slow implementation of activities. Discussions are ongoing with the national society to improve the structure of its disaster management department and find a way to consolidate implementation of various projects under its management.

Another constraint in development of systems for disaster response continues to be the low engagement and focus of disaster preparedness efforts at the branch level (districts). As some of the recent evaluations of the disaster response operations have shown, the implementation capacity of the district branches is critical to delivery of an effective operation. The procedures need further adjustment to accommodate improved capacity at the branch level, and therefore a further increase in responsibilities at the lower levels, including management of volunteers in communes.

Programme component 2: Community-based disaster risk reduction

The logframe for this component was [revised](#) during the first half of the year. Given that the funding was secured only in April for this component and that the capacity of the VNRC disaster management team has been stretched, it was agreed to revise the targeted communities from 100 to 56 for the year. Similarly the number of emergency response teams was reduced to 25 from the 100 originally planned.

Outcomes

1. Up to 1,400⁸ members from the 56⁹ communities are more aware of local hazards including climate change, vulnerability and capacity assessment in order to guide all communities (approximately one million people) to prepare to adapt and to cope with any emergency event in 2011.
2. Up to 25¹⁰ emergency response teams are provided with first aid and other disaster response equipment.
3. Community disaster risk reduction measures, such as: early warning system, reforestation, land use, disaster risk reduction planning, water and sanitation, and evacuation planning are implemented in the 25¹¹ selected communities.

Achievements

After receiving findings and recommendations from two external evaluation reports (*Breaking the Waves* and *Planting Protection*) and the commitment of funding from Japanese Red Cross in the first quarter (March), VNRC revised its plan of action to assist 56 communities in ten provinces of Quang Ninh, Hai Phong, Thai Binh, Nam Dinh, Ninh Binh, Thanh Hoa, Nghe An, Ha Tinh, Vinh Phuc and Hoa Binh (see [annex three](#)).

As of end of June, 51 two-day workshops on DRR at community level ([annex two](#)) have been carried out by VNRC facilitators for 1,275 people representing commune people's committees, mass organizations, teachers and Red Cross members. The workshops introduced participants to the local hazards, their impact, climate change risks and their impacts, disaster preparedness and risk reduction activities and how to prepare their own disaster response and contingency plans. On average, women's participation in the workshops was about 25 per cent. Five remaining workshops for 125 people will be held in July in Nghe An and Quang Ninh provinces.



A women's group discussion during a VCA in Cat Hai town, Hai Phong province. (Photo: Luong/RC chapter)

Five out of 25 selected communes undertook vulnerability and capacity assessments (VCAs) in the provinces of Hai Phong, Ha Tinh and Nghe An until end of June 2011. The VCA provided opportunity for different groups in communes to discuss and share their ideas, experiences and priorities to reduce their vulnerabilities and find solutions (in order of priority) to increase their resilience. In total, over 2,000 people including children and disabled people from the five communes were directly involved in assessing their vulnerabilities and capacities. VNRC facilitators are now helping communes finalize their VCA reports and DRR planning. Approximately 29,600 people in these five communes will benefit from the VCA results.

Fifty-one remaining VCAs are planned to be undertaken from July to August and 56 livelihood training sessions of two days each, are planned for delivery in August and September by VNRC with support from provincial centres

⁸ Revised target, initial target was 2,000.

⁹ Revised target, initial target was 100.

¹⁰ Revised target, initial target was 100.

¹¹ Revised target, initial target was 100.

for agriculture promotion and development. In addition, 25 communities will be supported to follow up on their VCA report priorities by, a) implementing appropriate small-scale mitigation measures, b) training commune disaster response teams, c) undertaking disaster response drills, and d) developing appropriate early warning systems.

Impact

The focus of this year's activities on increasing the soft skills in the communities, and thus building on their existing resilience is showing results. For example, the Quang Ninh chapter has planted 80 hectares of mangroves in Quang Ninh with compensation from local private companies and with support from the Japanese NGO, "Action for Mangrove".

Similarly, the Ninh Binh chapter has also planted 28 hectares of mangroves with a total budget of VND 430 million (CHF17,200) compensated by the local government because of dyke construction in 2009. Meanwhile, the Nghe An chapter saved 40 hectares of mangroves in Nghi Thiet commune, Nghi Loc district from being converted into a resettlement area. The Nghe An province local government agreed with the VNRC's stand and did not approve the resettlement plan, thus saving the planted mangroves.

Constraints

As with Programme Component 1 above, the capacity of VNRC at both national headquarters and chapters was one of the biggest constraints during the reporting period. For example, only six chapters (Ha Tinh, Nghe An, Thanh Hoa, Ninh Binh, Quang Ninh and Nam Dinh) have four VCA facilitators to undertake VCA at the commune level. The VNRC headquarters has deployed VCA facilitators from other chapters to help the chapters of Hai Phong, Thai Binh, Vinh Phuc and Hoa Binh, but in general, disaster management or VCA trainers do not have enough time to provide adequate technical assistance to communes in improving their VCA reports and DRR planning. Overall in 2011, VNRC is implementing CBDRM projects in 97 communes in 16 provinces¹² and therefore needs to expand its pool of facilitators and trainers in disaster management and VCA.

To overcome this capacity constraint, the IFRC country office has employed two short-term (less than six months) interns to map mangroves planted by VNRC; study possibility of seeking funds from the carbon voluntary market for long-term protection of VNRC-planted mangroves; and, to help integrate key lessons and findings into the new phase of Japanese Red Cross' five year-funded project proposal (2011 -2015).

Health and care

Programme component 1: Community-based health and first aid (CBHFA)

The log frame for this component was [revised](#) during the first half of the year. The VNRC health department and the chapters requested a revision of the target communities for the year considering the budget allocations for each community and limitations experienced during the first five months in fulfilling the actions plans developed from participatory planning last year.

Outcomes:

1. VNRC capacity to deliver CBHFA activities in communities is enhanced.
2. Four¹³ communities have the capacity to implement CBHFA

Achievements

Expanding the network of CBFHA trainers continued with 20 new CBHFA facilitators trained (18-23 May) from eight southern provinces. The training for the facilitators from eight chapters included a generic introduction to the CBHFA approach with focused sessions on first aid, diarrhoea and dengue fever. Twelve of the trained showed good post-training test results, while six and two others had average and poor results, respectively. Subsequently, the CBFHA facilitators trained 100 volunteers in Ben Tre and Can Tho provinces. These community volunteers were trained to facilitate community-level interventions in behaviour change communication for disease prevention, injury prevention, and building basic first aid skills. In addition, health topics identified as local health priorities in vulnerability capacity assessments last year were also covered to align volunteer skills and knowledge with local demand.

To facilitate the training activity, 16 sets of first aid training equipment and various training materials (see box 1) were provided to the two VNRC chapters of Ben Tre and Can Tho.

CBHFA package printed (box 1)

ITEM	COPIES
Facilitator's guide - CBHFA	25
Volunteers toolkit	200
Facilitator's guide – First Aid	350
Volunteer's handbook	150

¹² Supported by American Red Cross, German Red Cross, Netherlands Red Cross, Norwegian Red Cross and IFRC (Japanese Red Cross).

¹³ Revised target, initial target was ten.

In April, an induction on CBHFA with focus on the planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting (PMER) toolkit was also organized for national headquarters staff. The PMER toolkit was translated and parts of it -- volunteer's record book, reporting and monitoring tools -- were adapted. In Can Tho, the volunteers were given orientation on how to use volunteer record book in June and the same is planned for Ben Tre in the coming months. The VNRC headquarters plans to use the experiences from Ben Tre and Can Tho to standardize their health care data recording and reporting system from lower levels to national headquarters.

The outcome of training was seen in various ways. Capacity to respond to selected health problems of four communes is strengthened. Two active first aid volunteers in Ben Tre carried out quality on-site first aid for two casualties including one with a limb fracture due to a traffic accident. Both casualties were referred to hospital in time, with one now fully recovered and the other presently undergoing rehabilitation.

Similarly in April, volunteers in Ben Tre carried out influenza prevention and education campaigns by organizing group discussions and distributing flu-fighter pamphlets to vulnerable groups and in high risk areas -- such as markets -- to increase awareness of communities on health issues. This activity was in response to the influenza outbreak in the province, where H1N1 virus was first found in a school and subsequently infected some 300 other people. The Ben Tre chapter proactively mobilized existing local resources -- such as education materials from the Provincial Centre for Preventive Medicine -- for wider distribution and education campaigns.

In Can Tho province, Red Cross volunteers from two selected communes engaged 300 community members in hygiene promotion, environmental cleaning, road safety and first aid activities. After two months of rolling out various health promotion and education activities in four selected communes, the number of people reached is as below:

Number of people reached by CBHFA trained volunteers (table 1):

Areas of service	Province	People reached
Saving life through provision of first aid service	Ben Tre	2
Prevention of H1N1	Ben Tre	860
Hygiene promotion and environmental cleaning	Can Tho	300
Prevention of road accidents	Can Tho	600
Total		1,762

Source: VNRC chapter reports

At the national level, in April, a coordination meeting was organized between VNRC, IFRC and partner national societies in Hanoi to adopt the CBHFA approach in other health programmes with support from the IFRC Southeast Asia regional health unit. Community-based health and first aid is also identified as one of priorities in VNRC's new strategy and it has been developed into a five-year action plan.

Impact

The VNRC network of CBHFA trainers, especially those who are also first aid trainers at the chapter level, continue to perform and engage in training activities out of their provinces. For example, CBHFA trainers from Can Tho and Ben Tre have been mobilized for both VCA and other first aid training in nearby provinces.

According to the latest report by the Ben Tre health services, influenza H1N1 in the province was under control and no deaths were reported. In Can Tho, combined advocacy efforts by the VNRC headquarters and the chapter have resulted in full recognition by local government for the Red Cross first aid responders and the chapter's ambulance service. Similarly impact of last year's investment in building VNRC capacity in human pandemic preparedness (H2P) has continued to pay results. During the first half of this year, multi-sectoral pandemic planning for H2P has been expanded to district level, and during the H1N1 recurrence, the network of provincial H2P trainers was also mobilized by the local health authorities for increased training in outbreak areas.

Constraints

The VNRC's health and care programme continues to face a shortage of adequate long-term funding to secure continuity of efforts and their impact. For example, in early 2011, after finalizing community-based action plans in ten communities, VNRC had to reduce the number of target communes to four to fit with available funding. Even though the national society has been successful in getting funding from other partners for continued pandemic preparedness efforts at district level, in general, most of the health and care activities supported by partners continue to remain small, project-based and scattered throughout regions in Viet Nam. This scattered

approach consumes a lot of resources of the VNRC health department for limited impact. In addition, staff turnover and quality at headquarters and chapters continue to be challenges in building sustainable technical capacity.

Programme component 2: Dengue fever mitigation

Outcomes

1. Capacity of VNRC to implement dengue prevention and control activities is strengthened.
2. The capacity of 20 communities to implement dengue prevention measures is strengthened.

Achievements

A knowledge attitude practice (KAP) **study** was completed in January and has provided clear baseline information for developing training and designing relevant information, education and communication (IEC) materials. A training manual on dengue fever prevention and climate change was developed for VNRC's facilitators while the leaflet, flipchart and volunteer's handbook are being finalized.

Up to 22 facilitators from the headquarters, and chapters of Tien Giang and Ho Chi Minh were trained in basic knowledge of climate change, adaptation to climate change and climate-related health problems -- especially on behaviour change communication to reduce the incidence of dengue fever.

Impact

Knowledge of VNRC staff on health and climate change, and dengue fever as well as other climate-sensitive diseases has improved and staff are using this to influence the strategic discussions internally in the society. Publication of the KAP study on climate change and dengue fever at community level, a first for any organization, has added to this increased understanding of issues in VNRC staff. The findings of the report have also contributed to the pool of knowledge on the topic available nationally and will be a useful reference for the Ministry of Health's upcoming plan of action for climate change adaptation. Cooperation between VNRC chapters of Ho Chi Minh City and Tien Giang and the provincial preventive health has strengthened through meetings and information sharing on epidemic warnings and outbreaks.



VNRC volunteer on a household visit to implement dengue fever prevention in Phun Huan commune, Ben Tre province, June 2011. (Photo: Nguyen Trong Nghia, Ben Tre chapter).

Constraints

Changes in the project officer positions at the headquarters and Tien Giang Red Cross chapter caused delay in implementation and follow up of the project. Lack of project staff has resulted in serious delays in rolling out training and behaviour change communication in communities, and has also caused difficulties in following up and maintaining effective information flow with the local preventive health authorities.

Knowledge of climate change and its impacts on health remains limited in Viet Nam. Most studies are either not available for sharing or are available only in English. It is also the first time that VNRC is implementing an operational research project that is focused on dengue fever and climate change; national headquarters and provincial chapter staff are slowly familiarising themselves in the field, and thus, it is taking longer to transfer the knowledge and skills for the project to other levels and guide them as well.

Organizational development

Programme component 1: Strategic planning

Outcome: Approved five year strategic plan for Viet Nam Red Cross with attached operation plans for each priority and focus areas.

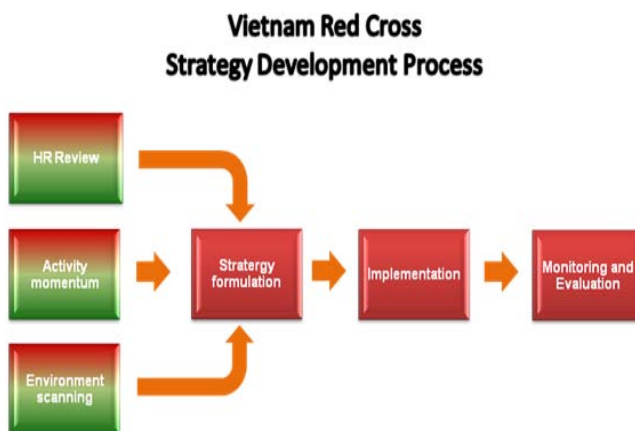
Achievements

The objective of this component was largely met. Initiated in the third quarter of 2010, the development of VNRC's Strategy 2020 ("*Changing minds, Raising profile, Protecting lives*") continued in 2011 and was officially adopted at the VNRC executive committee meeting in January. A participatory and open process of developing the strategy has enabled VNRC to agree on a forward-looking and ambitious document that has wide acceptance in the society.

The VNRC national headquarters organized a start-up workshop to implement its Strategy 2020 with the participation of 83 key directors of technical departments at the headquarters and leaders of all Red Cross chapters on 31 March. At this workshop, key points from the VNRC's Strategy 2020 were presented for further discussion and translation into action and VNRC leadership gave guidance to the chapters on how to implement this Strategy in their provinces. After the workshop, Red Cross provincial chapters are now developing their own operational plans to implement the strategy.

Support to improve dissemination of the strategy continues, with focus on a) publishing the document in two languages, b) finalize the English translation, and c) development of a dissemination video clip.

Development of five-year operational plans, aligned to the Strategy, also made considerable progress at the VNRC headquarters. Various technical departments contributed to the first draft operational plan (2011-2015) prepared for the executive committee meeting in July. The IFRC country office will continue to support VNRC headquarter technical departments, especially in the areas of disaster management, health and care, and organizational development. The final operational plan will be approved by the VNRC executive committee at the end of July at their mid-year meeting.



Impact

The adoption of Strategy 2020 sets a clear direction for all levels of VNRC. Given the participative nature of the strategy development and building on the progress made under the previous strategy, the new direction will continue the process of building an effective and relevant National Society. In addition, it is an important document for VNRC partners to formulate their support for them.

Constraints

While clear progress was made in developing the strategy, it still lacks a clear monitoring and evaluation framework. Lack of progress indicators in the strategy will make it difficult to measure achievement towards the strategic goals. The operational plan will try and overcome this limitation by developing clear indicators for progress and putting a system to monitor progress against them annually.

The current draft of the five year operational plan was drafted without input from the Red Cross chapters which may result in challenges in implementation. Recognizing this limitation, the executive committee meeting in July will provide feedback on behalf of the chapters to improve it before finalization.

Programme component 2: Financial management

The logframe for this component has been [revised](#). An agreement was reached during the first quarter of the year, to change the focus of this year's programme from internal audit improvement to producing financial statements for national headquarters which can then be audited. The purpose of the intervention remains same - to strengthen the financial management system of the society at headquarters and chapter level - but the sequencing of actions has been changed.

Outcome:

Consolidated financial statements for 2009 and 2010 are developed and being audited at headquarters levels.

Achievements

[VNRC cost norms were revised](#) during the first quarter and became effective from 1 May 2011. Initiated and led by VNRC in the last quarter of 2010, the revision process was supported by IFRC as part of its finance development technical assistance. New cost norms will continue to provide standard costs for all programmes/projects funded by IFRC and partner national societies. However a key objective of revising the cost norms, i.e. to achieve the consensus to harmonize the cost structure to support VNRC overhead costs, was not achieved. There is a consensus among partners to move towards this goal but in the absence of audited financial statements, it was difficult for partners to understand the overall cost structure of the National Society to support harmonization of the overhead cost support.

In recognition of this limitation and building on the ongoing discussions to improve the transparency of the financial management in the National Society, an agreement was reached with VNRC to work towards

publishing their audited financial statements. It was therefore agreed that IFRC country office technical advice would prioritize developing consolidated financial statements that meet international standards over developing financial manuals.

Most of the work has so far focused on understanding the requirements of the Vietnamese Accounting Law and of the financial reporting regulations of the Government for VNRC. The Southeast Asia regional finance development delegate supported the country office in laying the groundwork for the financial audit, including extensive discussions with the auditing firms and officials from the ministry of finance. The preparation work will continue in the second half of the year with the target of having VNRC's financial statements audited by an external auditing firm by end of 2011.

Impact

The audited financial statements will lay a strong foundation for the transparent and robust financial management system of VNRC. They will also help create further confidence among partners to support a harmonized overhead cost structure that is simple to manage and reduces arbitrary inter-project subsidies.

Constraints

A big constraint for technical support has been the language barrier. Understanding the financial system of VNRC and applicable accounting standards has meant translating dozens of documents from Vietnamese to English. In addition, understanding the applicable government regulation for VNRC has been more complex than initially understood, thus resulting in long discussions with international auditing firms based in Hanoi. It has been necessary to find a balance between the requirements of the government, Vietnamese accounting law and the international standards on accounting.

Programme component 3: Volunteer management

Outcome: There is a volunteer and administrative system that manages trained volunteers under disaster management and healthcare programmes

Achievements

There was no progress made under this component until funding was secured in April. Discussions were held between the VNRC head of communication and volunteer department and the IFRC team to plan for activities for the last six months of the year. One of the outputs from the discussions held has been the development of the draft five-year operational plan in this area. The IFRC country team will continue to support VNRC in improving this draft plan with focus on 1) further development/management of the current volunteer networks in first aid and blood donation, 2) development of a database on wider network which provides volunteers with basic Red Cross Red Crescent knowledge (where relevant), 3) targeting volunteer management at district (branch) level, and 4) development of volunteers for emergency response.

The VNRC central committee meeting in July will also discuss this subject and provide further guidance on how to improve volunteer management in the society at each level.

Impact

No impact yet.

Constraints

Lack of available funding and organizational structure to manage volunteers has made progress very slow. Discussions are ongoing to overcome some of the structure problems and increase the resources available to make a serious effort to improve the volunteer management.

Working in partnership

Improving the technical coordination among in-country partners of VNRC has been one of the key objectives for the country office in the first half of 2011. A set of meetings has been added to the monthly agenda on coordination that will now focus on technical coordination, in addition to the ongoing Movement cooperation meeting chaired by VNRC and IFRC at the beginning of month.

The technical coordination meetings now take place a day before and after the Movement coordination meetings and focus on improving the external technical support (disaster management/disaster risk reduction, health and care, and organizational development) to VNRC. These meetings provide a good opportunity to share information, bring together a pool of expertise of all partners and discuss how best to support a programme approach within the VNRC implementation plan. The country office also provided coordination support in the area where its activities are minimal such as HIV/AIDS or social welfare to improve the VNRC internal coordination in these sectors and profile their programmes in these areas. The country office also used

this mechanism to hold extensive planning sessions with VNRC and in-county partner national societies to receive their input on how the Secretariat's support in Viet Nam should be structured over the next four years.

In addition to improved technical coordination, the country office has also focused on establishing a learning platform for VNRC and partner national societies present in the country. Various presentations have been made to share lessons from different programme evaluations of the partners and sharing other key documents, such as the DRR performance framework developed by IFRC globally for its membership.

Externally the focus of partnerships from the country office was to represent VNRC interests in the two key areas of policy development: a) a new draft law for disaster management and b) a new strategy for climate change strategy¹⁴ being developed by the ministry of national resources and environment (MONRE). The IFRC country office actively participated in two workshops organized by the UNDP working group on the draft disaster management law. The disaster management law will be submitted to the national assembly later this year and VNRC will continue its engagement with its development in the National Assembly, especially to ensure that its existing mandates are secured in this new law. In the MONRE lead discussion on the draft climate change strategy, the focus of IFRC feedback was to help improve the inclusion of health sector and advocate for the projected increased humanitarian response needs.

Contributing to longer-term impact

A key contribution during the first half of the year towards longer-term impact has been the focus on improved knowledge sharing. Several publications feature successes, lessons learnt and the impact of VNRC work. However, the evidence collected and documented in the 15-year impact analysis of coastal afforestation activities for disaster risk reduction in Viet Nam is a key document that will be used in future to highlight the capacity of VNRC in implementing large-scale community-based interventions for climate change adaptation/mitigation.

As the [report](#) documents, mangroves planted and maintained by communities absorb greenhouse gas emissions for 425,000 Vietnamese people each year. The report also finds that the programme has had a significant impact both towards a reduction of disaster risk and an enhancement of community's livelihoods. Comparing the damage caused by similar typhoons before and after the intervention, it finds that damages to dykes have been reduced by CHF 64,000 to CHF 236,000¹⁵ in the evaluated communes - these savings represent less than the costs for mangrove planting. However, much more substantial savings due to avoided risk are found for the communities at large - with savings of up to CHF 12 million¹⁶ in communes, the protective impact value in the few cases studied alone already exceed the cost of the entire programme.

Mangroves have also led to an increase of yield from aquaculture product collection (e.g. shells, oysters) by 209-789 per cent - providing more income for coastal communities, in particular its poorer members. Some 60



Mangroves planted in Hai Phong province are closely monitored by Viet Nam Red Cross at grass-roots level — photo taken by (Photo: Susana, IFRC)

per cent of respondents from mangrove communes ascribe a positive impact of the programme on their income, and there are strong indications that the programme was able to lift people out of poverty (a firm causality can, however, not be established). Bamboo plantation has also shown to bear high potential to raise incomes; however, the overall impact has been relatively minor mainly due to the small lots allocated to each planter.

Similarly the evaluation [report](#) for the “community-based mangrove reforestation and disaster preparedness programme, 2006 – 2010” will be used to design the last phase of the programme and thus help improve its long-term impact.

2015 would provide clear strategic and operational frameworks for the activities of the National Society at various levels. With this clear direction, it is hoped that the development of the VNRC services and internal capacity would be coordinated between various levels.

In addition to improved knowledge sharing, the development of the VNRC Strategy 2020 and draft operational plan for

¹⁴ The draft is divided into three phases of 2011-2020, 2020-2030 and 2030-2050 with tasks and solutions focusing on disaster response, adaptation, early warning and climate change monitoring; financial resource mobilization; awareness raising; science and technology development; international cooperation and integration; and institutional and organizational improvement. The draft also points out that priority will be given to climate change response programmes in the Red River Delta and the Mekong Delta regions.

¹⁵ Converted from USD, 1 USD = 0.80 CHF

¹⁶ Converted from USD, 1 USD = 0.80 CHF

Looking ahead

Key activities in the second half of 2011 are as follows:

- a) Disaster management:
 - Support the finalization of the VNRC operational plan (2015) for disaster management.
 - Design a new long-term national CBDRR programme of VNRC that is inclusive and attractive for investments by interested partners/donors including a five-year project proposal for the Japanese Red Cross contribution to 2015.
 - Provide technical assistance to VNRC and relevant chapters for implementation of the CBDRM project funded by Japanese Red Cross in ten provinces and the preparation of the following year's plan of action.
 - Train the key chapters and branches for NDRT and BDRT development.
- b) Health and care:
 - Support the finalization of the VNRC operational plan (2015) for health and care, including blood and organ donation objectives of the VNRC strategy.
 - Integrate primary healthcare including first aid, dengue fever prevention, and hygiene promotion in community resilience programmes to better respond to changes in climate and disease trends.
 - Carry out household education on dengue prevention, first aid, traffic safety and local campaigns in selected schools and communes to remove breeding sites and risks of dengue fever.
 - Train volunteers in dengue fever prevention and climate change mitigation.
 - Create a contingency plan on dengue fever to prepare for and allow VNRC to facilitate early detection and responses.
 - Print and distribute IEC materials in selected project sites.
- c) Organizational development:
 - Support the finalization of the VNRC operational plan (2015).
 - Take forward the work on auditing the VNRC financial statements and develop procedures for closing the year-end with support from the auditors.
 - Support volunteer management at branch level in selected provinces and finalize the database of active volunteers.
 - Carry out PMER induction training in selected provinces supported by IFRC and partner national societies.
- d) Cooperation and coordination:
 - Approach the ministry of foreign affairs for change in legal status with the support of VNRC.
 - Continue representation at various national forums such as the disaster management law-making process and national climate change mitigation/adaption dialogue.
 - Continue coordination with VNRC and partner national societies in-country through existing mechanisms.

How we work

All 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.

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.

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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Please send all pledges of funding to zonerm.asiapacific@ifrc.org

[<financial report below; click here to return to title page>](#)

MAAVN001 - Viet Nam

Appeal Launch Date: 01 jan 11

Appeal Timeframe: 01 jan 94 to 31 dec 13

Interim Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2011/1-2011/6
Budget Timeframe	2011/1-2011/12
Appeal	MAAVN001
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Consolidated Funding

	Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
A. Budget	661,268	240,218	129,780	0	83,701	1,114,967
B. Opening Balance	115,649	126,948	851	0	111,670	355,118
Income						
<u>Cash contributions</u>						
<i>Japanese Red Cross</i>	392,672					392,672
<i>Netherlands Red Cross (from Rockefeller Foundation)</i>		-5,559				-5,559
C1. Cash contributions	392,672	-5,559				387,113
<u>Other Income</u>						
<i>Balance Reallocation</i>	150,000		195,932			345,932
<i>Services Fees</i>					6,392	6,392
C4. Other Income	150,000		195,932		6,392	352,324
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C4)	542,672	-5,559	195,932	0	6,392	739,437
D. Total Funding = B + C	658,321	121,388	196,783	0	118,061	1,094,554
Appeal Coverage	100%	51%	152%	#DIV/0	141%	98%

II. Movement of Funds

	Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
B. Opening Balance	115,649	126,948	851	0	111,670	355,118
C. Income	542,672	-5,559	195,932	0	6,392	739,437
E. Expenditure	-127,580	-41,909	-29,614		-1,058	-200,160
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)	530,742	79,479	167,169	0	117,003	894,394

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

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Budget Timeframe	2011/1-2011/12
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All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

III. Consolidated Expenditure vs. Budget

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure						Variance
		Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL	
A		B						A - B
BUDGET (C)		661,268	240,218	129,780	0	83,701	1,114,967	
Relief items, Construction, Supplies								
Medical & First Aid	1,740		818				818	922
Utensils & Tools	10,000							10,000
Total Relief items, Construction, Supplies	11,740		818				818	10,922
Land, vehicles & equipment								
Vehicles	41,400							41,400
Computers & Telecom	3,646							3,646
Others Machinery & Equipment		9,039					9,039	-9,039
Total Land, vehicles & equipment	45,046	9,039					9,039	36,007
Logistics, Transport & Storage								
Transport & Vehicle Costs	9,020	3,996	201	184			4,380	4,640
Total Logistics, Transport & Storage	9,020	3,996	201	184			4,380	4,640
Personnel								
International Staff	172,110	25,685	3,644	2,767			32,096	140,014
National Staff	116,591	14,719	7,372	4,118			26,209	90,382
National Society Staff	59,486	2,832	4,666				7,499	51,987
Volunteers			128				128	-128
Total Personnel	348,187	43,236	15,810	6,885			65,932	282,255
Consultants & Professional Fees								
Consultants	82,081	38,011	1,935				39,946	42,135
Professional Fees	14,352	5,838				6,236	12,074	2,278
Total Consultants & Professional Fees	96,433	43,849	1,935			6,236	52,020	44,413
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training	362,765	7,803	4,884	6,758		639	20,083	342,682
Total Workshops & Training	362,765	7,803	4,884	6,758		639	20,083	342,682
General Expenditure								
Travel	47,619	5,122	238	1,284		3,720	10,364	37,255
Information & Public Relation	50,452	8,200	1,489	636		200	10,524	39,927
Office Costs	4,888	-22	128	630		18,783	19,520	-14,632
Communications		291	662	46		6,491	7,491	-7,491
Financial Charges	1,580	-3,681	825	422		91	-2,343	3,923
Other General Expenses	69,187	10,809	2,133	1,254		-35,166	-20,970	90,157
Total General Expenditure	173,726	20,719	5,475	4,273		-5,881	24,586	149,140
Operational Provisions								
Operational Provisions		-9,479	9,296	9,708			9,524	-9,524
Total Operational Provisions		-9,479	9,296	9,708			9,524	-9,524
Indirect Costs								
Programme & Service Support	68,050	7,746	2,497	1,807		65	12,115	55,935
Total Indirect Costs	68,050	7,746	2,497	1,807		65	12,115	55,935
Pledge Specific Costs								
Earmarking Fee		672	293				964	-964
Reporting Fees			700				700	-700
Total Pledge Specific Costs		672	993				1,664	-1,664
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	1,114,967	127,580	41,909	29,614		1,058	200,160	914,806
VARIANCE (C - D)		533,688	198,309	100,166	0	82,643	914,806	

Annex 1: Summary of progress against objectives

Indicator	Progress
1. Organizational preparedness	
Approved NDRT and Standard Operating Procedures	Achieved
200 VNRC staff are trained on DRR/VCA/CCA skills	Data not yet available
40 chapters update their contingency plans	37 chapter plans received
DM operation plan (2011-2015)	On track - first draft available
Revised guidelines for logistics and VNRC emergency fund	No progress
Advocacy for DM law and CCA	On track
Expenditure rate (as of 30th June 2011)	18%
2. Community-based disaster risk reduction	
1,400 people in 56 communities are trained on DRR	1,275 people trained (51 comm.)
56 communities have contingency planning	5 communities
25 BDRT with 375 trained members	Ongoing
25 simulations and drills at the branch level	No progress
25 community based DRR measures implemented	On track
Expenditure rate (as of 30th June 2011)	18%
3. Community based health and first aid	
22,000 people reached by CBHFA messages	1,762 people
22 trainers are trained as CBFHA facilitators	20 trainers
100 volunteers are trained in CBHFA	Achieved
80% trained volunteers are active	100 % active
Number of beneficiaries received first aid service	2 people (road accidents)
Expenditure rate (as of 30th June 2011)	17%
4. Dengue fever mitigation	
22 trainers are trained in dengue and climate change	Achieved
400 volunteers active in dengue prevention and control	Data not yet available
# of contingency plans	Data not yet available
# of interpersonal health education session conducted by volunteers	Data not yet available
48,000 of people reached by dengue prevention messages	1,460
14 environmental campaigns conducted	Data not yet available
# of communities active in dengue prevention and control	20 selected commune gets started
Expenditure rate (as of 30th June 2011)	17%
5. Strategy Planning	
Approved VNRC strategic plan	Achieved
Approved VNRC operational plan	Draft submitted for approval
Strategic plan disseminated to chapters	On track
34 staff trained in planning, reporting and M & E	On track
Expenditure rate (as of 30th June 2011)	23%

6. Financial Management

Approved VNRC cost norms	Achieved
Audited financial statements for financial year 2009 and 2010	On track
Procedures and training on closing yearly accounts	No progress
Expenditure rate (as of 30th June 2011)	23%

7. Volunteer Management

VNRC volunteer survey	No progress
VNRC active volunteer database	On track
Expenditure rate (as of 30th June 2011)	0%

Annex 2. DRR training activity in communities

No.	Province	Name of district	No.	Name of commune	Date of training	Women participants	Men participants	Total
1	Nam Dinh	Giao Thuy	1	Bach Long	7-8 June	4	21	25
			2	Giao Phong	7-8 June	3	22	25
		Hai Hau	3	Hai Chinh	14-15 June	4	21	25
			4	Hai Trieu	14-15 June	2	23	25
		5	Nghia Hung	5	Nam Dien	21-22 June	3	22
2	Ninh Binh	Nho Quan	6	Gia Thinh	26-27 May	10	15	25
		Gia Vien	7	Kim Hai	30 - 31 May	7	18	25
		Kim Son	8	Yen Son	2-3 June	4	21	25
		Yen Mo	9	Yen Thanh	2-3 June	6	19	25
		Tam Diep	10	Thach Binh	7-8 June	9	16	25
3	Ha Tinh	Nghi Xuan	11	Cam Ha	2-3 June	2	23	25
		Thach Ha	12	Ky Tho	5-6 June	3	22	25
			13	Xuan Hong	25-26 June	5	20	25
		Ha Tinh City	14	Dai Nai	10-11 June	5	20	25
		Cam Xuyen	15	Thach Van	28-29 June	5	20	25
Ky Anh	16	Thanh Hoi	4-5 June	2	23	25		
4	Vinh Phuc	Lap Thach	17	Ngoc My	26-27 May	6	19	25
			18	Lien Hoa	24-25 May	9	16	25
			19	Quang Son	16-17 May	7	18	25
			20	Xuan Hong	7-8 June	3	22	25
			21	Lien Son	2-3 June	6	19	25
5	Quang Ninh	Ha Long	22	Ha Khanh				
		Hai Ha	23	Quang Chinh	6-7 June	3	22	25
		Dong Trieu	23	Binh Duong				
		Yen Hung	25	Lien Vi	17-18 June	4	21	25
		Dam Ha	26	Tan Lap	8-9 June	9	16	25
Tien Yen	27	Dong Ngu	13-14 June	3	22	25		
6	Hai Phong	Cat Hai	28	Cat Hai	30-31 June	14	11	25
			29	Hoang Chau	30-31 June	19	6	25
		Tien Lang	30	Tien Hung	1-2 June	15	10	25
			31	Tien Thanh	1-2 June	19	6	25
		Kien Thuy	32	Tan Trao	3-4 June	18	7	25
7	Thai Binh	Hung Ha	33	Tien Duc	19-20 June	4	21	25
		Dong Hung	34	Hoa Nam	14-15 June	9	16	25
		Vu Thu	35	Vu Doai	14-15 June	5	20	25
		Thai Binh City	36	Hoang Dieu	16-17 June	10	15	25
		Quynh Phu	37	Quynh Lam	16-17 June	4	21	25
8	Thanh Hoa	Nga Son	38	Nga Dien	1-2 June	9	16	25
		Sam Son	39	Quang Cu	6-7 June	7	18	25
		Hoang Hoa	40	Hoang Anh	1-2 June	7	18	25
		Quang Xuong	41	Quang Dai	30-31 May	5	20	25
			42	Quang Loi	30-31 May	14	11	25
		Ha Trung	43	Ha Lam	4-5 June	7	18	25
44	Ha Toai		4-5 June	8	17	25		
9	Nghe An	Nam Dan	45	Nam Thuong	6-7 June	8	17	25
			46	Nam Anh				
		Hung Nguyen	47	Hung Loi				
		Dien Chau	48	Dien Hung				

		Quynh Luu	49	Quynh Minh	4-5 July	2	23	25
		Thai Hoa	50	Nghia My	21-22 June	7	18	25
		Anh Son	51	Cao Son	27-28 June	1	24	25
10	Hoa Binh	Tan Lac	52	Man Duc	2-3 June	5	20	25
			53	Thanh Hoi	9-10 June	2	23	25
			54	Tu Ne	7-8 June	4	21	25
			55	Ngoc My	15-16 June	1	24	25
			56	Dong Lai	13-14 June	2	23	25
	Total					359	916	1,275

Annex 3: Maps

Fifty-six selected communes in 2011 for the mangrove disaster risk reduction (DRR) project



Ten selected provinces for the Mangrove DRR project funded by Japanese Red Cross from 2011-2015

