

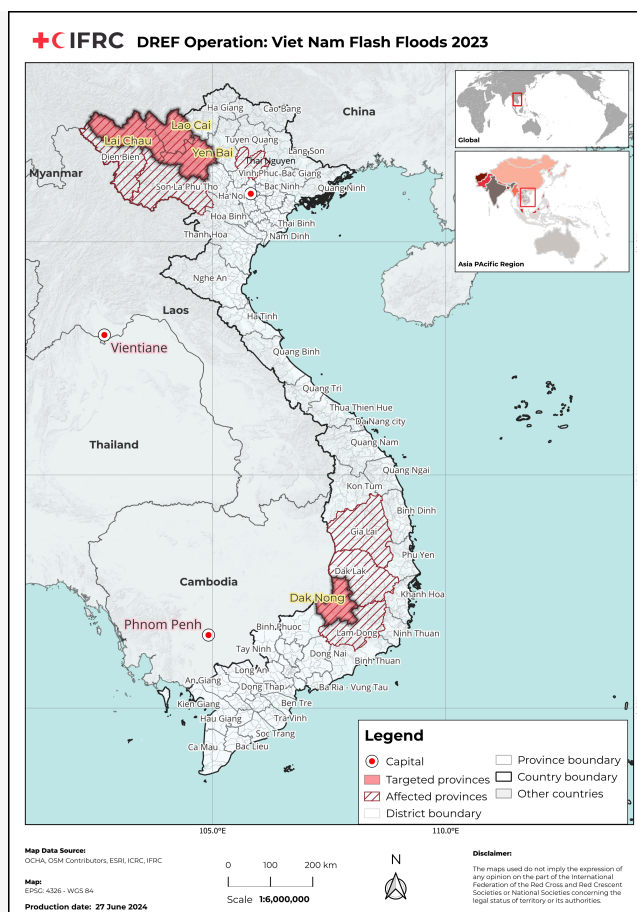


Affected households receiving cash assistance at Khoen On commune, Than Uyen district, Lai Chau province (Photo: VNRC).

Appeal: MDRVN023	Total DREF Allocation: CHF 400,344	Crisis Category: Yellow	Hazard: Pluvial/Flash Flood
Glide Number: FF-2023-000136-VNM	People Affected: 214,527 people	People Targeted: 21,000 people	
Event Onset: Sudden	Operation Start Date: 17-08-2023	Operational End Date: 31-03-2024	Total Operating Timeframe: 7 months
Targeted Areas: Dak Nong, Lai Chau, Lao Cai, Yen Bai			

The major donors and partners of the IFRC-DREF include the Red Cross Societies and governments of Australia, Austria, Belgium, Britain, China, Czech, Canada, Denmark, German, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Liechtenstein, Malta, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, and the Netherlands, as well as DG ECHO, Mondelez Foundation, and other corporate and private donors. The IFRC, on behalf of the National Society, would like to extend thanks to all for their generous contributions.

Description of the Event



Map of Targeted Area (Source: IM)

Date of event

08-08-2023

What happened, where and when?

In August 2023, the northern provinces and central highland region of Viet Nam experienced heavy downpours ranging from 100 to 200 millimetre (mm), reaching almost 400 mm in certain areas. This led to severe flooding, causing significant human and property losses. A report from the Viet Nam Disaster Management Authority (VNDMA), on 10 August 2023, revealed that around 215,000 individuals were impacted by the floods across ten provinces, specifically in Lai Chau, Yen Bai, Son La, Lao Cai, Dien Bien, Thai Nguyen, Gia Lai, Dak Lak, Dak Nong, and Lam Dong. The National Centre for Hydro-Meteorological Forecasting predicted the continuation of heavy rain in the regions, with potential risks of further floods, flash floods, and landslides. The Viet Nam Red Cross (VNRC) requested for Disaster Relief Emergency Funding (DREF) allocation to respond to the events in August 2023.

Prolonged rain and flash floods continued during September 2023 due to the complicated weather conditions. On the night of 12 September 2023, flash floods occurred in Lao Cai, one of the IFRC-DREF targeted provinces, which resulted in ten reported deaths. The Prime Minister of Viet Nam circulated several Official Telegrams to instruct the provinces and regions to respond to the flash floods and landslides proactively. The flash floods only stopped at the end of September 2023, which left devastating situations in the localities.

By January 2024, the affected families returned to their home. Certain households, who received assistance from local governments, communities, and stakeholders, were actively engaged in housing repairs and the restoration of their livelihood activities. Even though the affected communities were gradually able to resume their lives, there remained a great need for early recovery support to address the remaining gaps and needs of vulnerable population.





VNRC staff was providing guidance on installation and maintenance of water tank for affected households from Ta Phoi and Coc San commune of Lao Cai province (Photo: VNRC).



Representative of affected household received cash assistance in Quang Truc commune, Tuy Duc district, Dak Nong province (Photo: VNRC).

Scope and Scale

According to reports from the Vietnamese government, persistent rainfall in the affected regions posed a threat, leading to flash floods and landslides. This heightened risk was attributed to the soil's projected saturation point, a consequence of the persistent rain that occurred for several days. In early August 2023, both the northern and central highlands experienced a noteworthy climatic anomaly. Precipitation levels soared 50-100 mm beyond the established average for this period, as observed by VNDMA in previous years. This unanticipated surge in precipitation significantly contributed to the flooding, exacerbating the challenges faced by the affected communities.

On 8 August 2023, the Government deployed an inspection team led by the Prime Minister to visit and monitor the situation. An emergency announcement was also issued for the public. However, the fact that affected provinces were not disaster-prone areas meant that only the Viet Nam Fatherland Front (VNFF) and VNRC had started their humanitarian response activities. By 13 August 2023, local authorities, Border Guard, VNFF, and VNRC were the main response units in the regions. These targeted provinces have not experienced serious flash floods and landslides in the past five years.

As per a report released by the VNDMA on 10 August 2023, the flooding significantly impacted approximately 215,000 individuals since 2 August 2023. This widespread occurrence unfolded across ten provinces, specifically in Lai Chau, Yen Bai, Son La, Lao Cai, Dien Bien, Thai Nguyen, Gia Lai, Dak Lak, Dak Nong, and Lam Dong. Among these provinces, the most affected areas included Yen Bai, Lai Chau, Lao Cai, and Dak Nong. The impact of the flooding in August 2023 resulted in 15 reported fatalities, and eight injured individuals.

According to the report, 1,390 hectares of agricultural land were completely lost, including paddy rice, vegetables, and maize. Additionally, 231 aquaculture ponds were irretrievable, and 1,226 livestock and poultry were swept away. The flash floods and landslides also caused serious damage to shelter and infrastructure. Data consolidated by VNDMA revealed that 82 houses collapsed, and 1,088 houses were damaged. Roads were submerged, significantly disrupting transportation. The total damages caused by prolonged rain and flash floods were approximately VND 174 billion (approx. CHF 6,411,357) across various sectors, such as infrastructure, agriculture, and residential areas.

National Society Actions

Have the National Society conducted any intervention additionally to those part of this DREF Operation?	No
Please provide a brief description of those additional activities	-



IFRC Network Actions Related To The Current Event

Secretariat	The IFRC Programme Officer in Viet Nam and the IFRC Country Cluster Delegation (CCD) in Bangkok, particularly the Disaster Preparedness and Response Senior Officer closely worked with VNRC headquarters and targeted provincial chapters, particularly to design and plan the DREF operation. In addition, IFRC deployed two surge personnel, Operations Managers, to support VNRC in managing the DREF operation.
Participating National Societies	N/A

ICRC Actions Related To The Current Event

N/A

Other Actors Actions Related To The Current Event

Government has requested international assistance	No
National authorities	<p>The Prime Minister issued Official Dispatch No. 732/CD-TTg dated 8 August 2023, focusing on preventing, combating and reducing damage caused by landslides, riverbanks, coasts and flash floods. Additionally, Dispatch No. 726/CD-TTg dated 6 August 2023, focused on response and remediation. The Standing Deputy Head of the National Steering Committee on Disaster Prevention and Control chaired an online meeting to respond to and address the consequences of floods in the northern mountainous provinces in Phu Tho. Later on, the relevant authorities also went to check on the riverbank erosion along the Thao River and other public works.</p> <p>An interdisciplinary team from the National Steering Committee on Disaster Prevention and Control, led by the Deputy Minister, also inspected and directed the troubleshooting of Dak N'Ting reservoir (Dak Glong district, Dak Nong province), to ensure the safety for people downstream of the reservoir. The team also inspected and directed the settlement of residence near the Dong Thanh reservoir (Lam Ha district, Lam Dong province). The Standing Office of the National Steering Committee for Disaster Prevention and Control issued Official Dispatch No. 08/CD-QG on proactively responding to heavy rains, floods, inundation, flash floods and landslides in the northern mountainous provinces. Dispatch No. 296/VPTT was also issued on proactively operating reservoirs in the Red River basin.</p> <p>Since the prolonged rain happened in Viet Nam at the end of July 2023, the Government had directed Ministries of Health and local authorities at all levels to assign staff on duty at the local clinics, in coordination with local Border Guards and National Defense Force, to promote health-related activities in response to any relief and rescue mission. The National Defense, Ministry of Public Security, Ministry of Industry and Trade, and Ministry of Transport also sent dispatches to direct the response and overcoming of the impacts of floods, flash floods and landslides.</p>
UN or other actors	There were no other actors, such as UN agencies nor NGOs/INGOs, providing assistance in the areas according to the information received.



Needs (Gaps) Identified



Shelter Housing And Settlements

The flash floods and landslides caused serious damages to shelter and infrastructure. Data consolidated by VNDMA revealed that 82 houses collapsed, and 1,088 houses were damaged. Roads were submerged, significantly disrupting transportation. People whose houses collapsed due to the flood were assisted by local authorities and the national defense task force to establish temporary shelters. Through the DREF operation, VNRC assisted 100 households across all affected provinces with housing needs.

According to relevant VNRC chapters who regularly met with the affected families, by February 2024, most of the families whose houses were destroyed had either lost their primary source of support or had very little income available. The assessment conducted in January 2024 by each provincial local authority and accompanied by provincial Red Cross Chapters in the targeted provinces, in accordance with the Prime Minister's assignment, reported that the needs for shelter support remained significant in February 2024.



Livelihoods And Basic Needs

According to the report from VNDMA on 10 August 2023, 1,390 hectares of agricultural land were completely lost, including paddy rice, vegetables, and maize. Additionally, 231 aquaculture ponds were irretrievable, and 1,226 livestock and poultry were swept away. The targeted provinces were identified as rural and mountainous with intricate terrain and intense weather conditions. According to initial field reports from the impacted areas, restoration of livelihoods was one of the most pressing demands of the affected communities due to the damage to agricultural breeding and products in the affected areas.

The assessment conducted in January 2024 by the provincial Red Cross Chapters together with local authorities in the targeted provinces reported that, due to the extent of the damages to the agricultural sector in the provinces targeted by the IFRC-DREF operation, the need for livelihood support remained significant in February 2024 for a large number of affected people.



Multi purpose cash grants

According to reports from the affected areas in the weeks following the disaster, the total damages caused by prolonged rain and flash floods were approximately VND 174 billion (CHF 6,411,357) across various sectors, such as infrastructure, agriculture, and residential areas. Assessments conducted in the aftermath of the floods reported that the affected people, whose houses had been damaged or destroyed, and personal belongings lost as a result of the floods, urgently needed food, household items, clean drinking water, and sanitation to fulfil their daily needs.

In January 2024, further assessments conducted in the targeted provinces by VNRC chapters with relevant local authorities also showed that even several months after the disaster, the provision of multi-purpose cash assistance would provide the flexibility for affected people to address their own specific needs in the early recovery phase.



Health

The necessary health emergency services were integrated into WASH intervention as part of VNRC's practice in disaster response. However, VNRC lacked the capacity to conduct any mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) related activities. To ensure the quality of technical support, VNRC did not consider MHPSS as a particular part of the response. VNRC had only one focal person for psychological first aid (PFA), and therefore PFA was integrated a part of the WASH intervention.



Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

There was an urgent need for water and sanitation support due to infrastructure destruction caused by flash floods and prolonged periods of severe flooding and landslides, in which water was tainted in some areas with copper mining waste. Under governmental efforts, local health facilities oversaw the provision of medical services, including emergency medical services, responses to infectious diseases such as waterborne and vector-borne diseases, and hygiene-related responses. Therefore, VNRC prioritized initiatives around



raising awareness on mental health, hygiene promotion, and key preventative measures.

Since the regions impacted by the flood are not traditionally vulnerable to disasters, the early recovery process following the disaster was especially challenging for the affected communities, VNRC branches, and local authorities. It was crucial for affected individuals to acquire basic knowledge about health care during disasters to mitigate the risks of disease outbreaks. Additionally, access to water tanks for storing clean water was essential to address unforeseen emergencies.

Operational Strategy

Overall objective of the operation

The initial objective of the IFRC-DREF operation was to support communities affected by floods and landslides, with a specific focus on shelter, livelihood (through cash distribution), health, and WASH. The four targeted provinces of Yen Bai, Lai Chau, Lao Cai, and Dak Nong were among the worst hit out of the 10 affected provinces. Due to delays and constraints faced by VNRC, and considering recent field assessments mentioned above, VNRC decided to shift its focus from relief to early recovery needs, within the same components of the operation.

For shelter repair assistance, 100 vulnerable affected households (25 households per province), equivalent to approximately 400 people, whose houses have not been repaired or rebuilt yet, were selected in early February 2024 to receive conditional cash grants. This cash grant was provided to selected households based on the condition that their repair works met the appropriate safety standards. The conditional cash intervention strictly followed the Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) procedures of the IFRC, which were endorsed by the Cash Working Group in Vietnam and VNRC.

To address the early recovery needs of households affected by the flood, VNRC planned to offer a total of CHF 103,600 (VND 2,800,000,000) in multi-purpose cash assistance for 1,200 households (4,200 people) in need of early recovery assistance. VNRC also planned to support 300 households that had lost their sources of livelihood because of the floods, reaching 1,050 people in needs of livelihood restoration. Furthermore, 150 water tanks (1,500 litre/tank) were provided to selected households affected by the floods to help storing fresh water for preparedness purposes. A water purification unit was also provided to a remote and mountainous school point in Yen Bai province severely damaged by both flash flood and landslide. Training on WASH and hygiene promotion was also delivered to the targeted people under the operational timeframe.

Operation strategy rationale

In the impacted areas, in collaboration with local governments, VNRC played a significant role in providing emergency assistance through food distribution and other commodities that supported the immediate needs. Although there were various humanitarian consequences and demands, there was always a need for rapid assistance due to the large areas affected and the anticipated mid-term and long-term effects of the floods, which VNRC planned to address as part of its early-recovery and recovery interventions. VNRC concentrated most of its efforts on cash distribution for early recovery in the targeted areas where people affected by the flood still struggling to get back on their feet.

Having a collaboration framework with Vietnam Post, a key financial service provider, whose nationwide network is in all provinces down to the local level, VNRC continued to disburse funds utilizing their current logistics system. Upon request and direction from VNRC, Vietnam Post distributed cash assistance in the targeted locations.

Targeted beneficiary selection training took place in December 2023 to provide sufficient knowledge about selection criteria and cash modalities to relevant VNRC staffs, volunteers, and village leaders. Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI) and Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) messages were integrated into the targeted people selection training with the purpose to better address the specific needs of all vulnerable people within the affected communities. Child safeguarding assessment was planned to take place during the targeted people selection trainings for VNRC staffs and volunteers. VNRC staffs and volunteers who were trained in PGI and CEA from the previous DREF operation played a key role in reinforcing this knowledge.

In line with the local government, VNRC primarily concentrated on providing cash assistance to households in all the targeted provinces as part of this VNRC DREF operation using financial service providers, primarily the government and local authorities. IFRC provided technical assistance to the operation such as planning and monitoring, including the deployment of surge operation managers.

Additionally, a one-month timeframe extension was requested by VNRC to enable it to complete its cash and voucher assistance (CVA) interventions in the targeted provinces. Several constraints had led to significant delays in the DREF implementation and prompting this request, including the three-months long approval process from relevant authorities and an additional two months required for the exceptional approval of the financial service provider (FSP) agreement.



The specific number of targeted people for cash intervention for each province was decided among VNRC, both headquarters and branches, and the local authorities. The finalized number of targeted households per province was as follows:

(1) Multi-purpose cash assistance, total: 1,176 HH

Province and HH validated

- Lai Chau: 389
- Lao Cai: 310
- Yen Bai: 270
- Dak Nong: 207

(2) Conditional cash for shelter, total: 100 HH

Province and HH validated

- Lai Chau: 35
- Lao Cai: 10
- Yen Bai: 35
- Dak Nong: 20

(3) Conditional cash for livelihood, total: 330 HH

Province and HH validated

- Lai Chau: 80
- Lao Cai: 60
- Yen Bai: 90
- Dak Nong: 100

1. Shelter:

For shelter intervention, 100 households severely impacted by the floods and landslide were targeted to receive conditional cash assistance for shelter repair with the value of VND 15,000,000 (CHF 550) per household. The criteria set by VNRC dictated that the households eligible for this support must exhibit damages to essential components such as roofs, walls, mezzanines, eaves, doors, windows, and floors. This targeting approach ensured that the assistance was directed to those most in need, while focusing on rehabilitation efforts that aligned with VNRC's established criteria.

The supported grants were divided into two instalments, where the first instalment was 70 per cent and the second instalment was 30 per cent, as per the CVA procedures for conditional cash. People's commitment for shelter repair using VNRC grant was established prior to the distribution. Beneficiary targeting was done in accordance with regular assessments made by local government and Red Cross chapters. Since the targeted population was selected through a participatory method, it ensured that the most vulnerable individuals were taken into consideration. Post-distribution monitoring (PDM) was conducted by VNRC staffs and volunteers two weeks after the first instalment to ensure the shelter repair process had already commenced before the second instalment was distributed. PDM was planned to reach 100 per cent of the supported households. This closely adhered to the conditional cash approach to guarantee the recipient's commitment from the outset.

Despite implementation delays, VNRC indicated that the affected people in the targeted area, who returned home after the disaster, had received limited funding and support from the government to repair their houses and recover their assets. Families who lost all or part of their belongings because of the flood still required additional cash assistance to rebuild their lives. In addition, the regions affected by the flood were not historically prone to disasters, therefore the early recovery in the aftermath of the disaster was particularly difficult for the communities, VNRC branches, and the local authorities.

2. Livelihood and basic needs:

For most people, their entire sources of income for the rest of the year were considered lost because of the floods. Due to the mountainous terrain with extreme weather conditions, it was very difficult for affected people to restore their income after the disaster, even six months after the floods. Despite implementation delays, VNRC indicated that the affected people in the targeted area, who returned home after the disaster, had received limited funding and support from the government to rebuild their livelihoods.

Some 330 affected households (1,643 people) were targeted to receive conditional cash (for purchasing poultry/cattle, varieties, seeds for crops and so on) valued at VND 5,000,000 (CHF 200) per household. The distribution was separated into two instalments, 70 per cent for the first instalment and 30 per cent for the second instalment. This amount was decided based on the results from several evaluations done by VNRC, which indicated that CHF 200 was enough to buy two pigs and one bag of animal feed. This amount was also enough to buy 100 chicks to restore livelihood.

Commitment was established prior to the distribution to ensure the utilization of supported cash for intended livelihood restoration. PDM was conducted by VNRC staffs and volunteers after the first instalment of the conditional cash, using KOBO toolbox to ensure the commitment of the people reached. All 100 per cent of the targeted population was reached through the PDM. Technical guidance



sessions on livelihood restoration were also delivered in four provinces, with the integration of activities to raise awareness on working with nature.

3. Multi-purpose cash:

Situation and damage assessment reports from the local authorities shortly after the flood informed that all markets remained functioning in the affected and targeted areas, so the intention was to support livelihood initiatives and the restoration of food security in the four most affected provinces. During the current early recovery phase, field assessments had shown that such intervention was still necessary to address the needs in terms of food, income sources and the reduction of harmful coping mechanisms, including managing of financial debt, food, medicine, school bills, and other urgent needs.

The cash modality was divided into three levels: 1) Level 1 - households with one member receiving VND 1 million (equivalent to CHF 36.72); 2) Level 2 - households with two members receiving VND 2 million (equivalent to CHF 73.45); and 3) Level 3 - households with three members or more receiving VND 3 million (equivalent to CHF 110.12). These figures were established based on several consultations with the Cash Working Group in Vietnam and data from prior operations and market assessment officially undertaken in 2018.

A total of 1,176 targeted households were selected for multi-purpose cash, which VNRC predicted that around 6,025 people would directly benefit from the cash intervention.

4. WASH:

The disaster happened after consecutive rainstorms in many provinces that brought severe damages to the residential areas as well as infrastructure. Sludge from copper exploitation marked a warning message to the water supply and health problem to the communities affected by the inundation. Therefore, VNRC provided 150 water tanks (1,500 liter/tank) for rainwater storage to households directly affected by the floods and flash floods, to assist local people to avoid the contaminated water source.

This distribution remained crucial as the targeted individuals lack water storage facilities, which left them vulnerable during droughts or rainy seasons. The provision of water tanks ensured access to clean water for these communities in the upcoming rainy season. Despite implementation delays, VNRC actively made progress with the procurement of water tanks process. Agreements with suppliers were finalized, and plans were underway to distribute the water tanks to selected targeted people.

According to the Steering Committee for Natural Disaster Prevention and Control of Mu Cang Chai district, flash floods and landslides on August 5 2023 brought severe damages to Ho Bon boarding school for ethnic minorities in Mu Cang Chai district. In addition, teaching equipment, such as tables and chairs, computers, or children's items such as blankets, medicine cabinets, etc. were swept away or damaged by the floods. The kitchen for semi-boarding students and the teacher was inundated. Two tons of rice in the warehouse was lost, and one classroom was destroyed. It was assessed and recommended by the local authority, and recently confirmed by another assessment conducted by VNRC and local authorities, that a water purification unit was a need for the school, which provided fresh water to 300 students and teachers.

Targeting Strategy

Who was targeted by this operation?

The most vulnerable households severely impacted by the floods and remained in need of early recovery assistance were the focus of VNRC's efforts. The selection criteria for these households was based on the impact of the disaster, initial needs assessment, early recovery assessments, and the capacities of VNRC branches in the affected areas. The targeted provinces included Lao Cai, Lai Chau, Yen Bai, and Dak Nong.

Through the IFRC-DREF operation, cash support was intended to directly reach 8,145 individuals through shelter, livelihoods, and multi-purpose cash (MPC) interventions. The selection of affected people was carried out using a community participatory approach, initiated by the affected individuals, village heads, health personnel, or VNRC volunteers and authorized in accordance with criteria disseminated among the VNRC Chapters and the headquarters.

The selection criteria endorsed by VNRC included compulsory criteria such as families with casualties, families with damages in shelters or livelihood, and priority criteria such as low income, households receiving little or no support, households without labour force, households with people with disabilities or serious diseases, women-headed households, and households with pregnant women, children under 5, or elderly over 65.

To avoid overlap, each family was eligible for only one type of the cash assistances. Information regarding the criteria for selection were displayed in leaflets at commune centres to ensure transparency. The lists of targeted populations were voted on by local people in village meetings and validated by the heads of villages or communes. A roughly equal number of men and women were covered, and most of the households receiving support were from rural areas.



Explain the selection criteria for the targeted population

VNRC targeted vulnerable groups based on their coordination with local Red Cross Chapters, including children, the elderly, people with disabilities, people suffering from major illnesses, and migrant workers who were still recovering from the impacts of the flash floods and landslides. Equal numbers of men and women were covered, and the majority of the household's receiving assistance were from mountainous and remote regions.

Targeted population selection for each sector of intervention strictly followed VNRC regulations of domestic and international humanitarian assistance endorsed by the Vietnamese government, which included priority criteria and mandatory criteria for selection. For example, priority criteria included vulnerable people defined by the Vietnamese regulation on humanitarian assistance such as poor and near-poor households, children under five, elderly over 60, pregnant women and single-headed households, while mandatory criteria was specifically and differently applied for each intervention listed as shelter, livelihood, and multi-purpose cash components. Head of communes checked the list of targeted population and compared it with the list of house books before confirming the final list of family assisted. These regulations helped to prevent overlaps among the interventions during the operation. Village meetings for beneficiary selection led by the village head and monitored by a local Red Cross staff also ensured the transparency of the selection as well as community engagement.

In the process of developing the operation update, VNRC continued to provide early recovery assistance to the same target groups mentioned above. This decision was based on the understanding that those who lost their properties and livelihoods due to the flood required additional time to rebuild their lives and restore their crops in order to return to normalcy.

Total Targeted Population

Women	10,500	Rural	90%
Girls (under 18)	-	Urban	10%
Men	10,500	People with disabilities (estimated)	-
Boys (under 18)	-		
Total targeted population	21,000		

Risk and Security Considerations

Please indicate about potential operation risk for this operations and mitigation actions

Risk	Mitigation action
Cash instalments distribution might not be completed within the operation timeframe.	Provide clear instructions and orientation on DREF finance policy and process, as well as CVA procedure.
The long approval process from the government delaying the whole DREF operation implementation.	VNRC to request a one-month time frame extension since it was not possible to shorten the government approval process. The DREF implementation to be completed by 31 March 2024.
Lack of commitment of people under conditional cash assistance to repair the shelter and livelihood sector.	Clearly communicate the criteria for beneficiary selection and procedure of conditional cash support during the beneficiary selection training. A distinct communication among Red Cross staffs and local people in each village meetings for targeted people' selection was encouraged to ensure compliance with the CVA procedures.
The presence of unexploded objects (UXOs) may pose risks, especially in rural and remote areas.	VNRC security framework shall apply to all its staffs and volunteers throughout the duration of the operation. In case of need for deployment for personnel under IFRC security's responsibility, including surge support and Participating National Societies, the existing IFRC country security framework shall

apply. All IFRC, and Red Cross Red Crescent staff and volunteers are encouraged to, complete the IFRC Stay Safe 2.0 e-learning courses.

Additionally, VNRC consulted with local authorities, organizations involved in UXO clearance, or other relevant sources, to get the most up-to-date information on the current situation in these specific provinces.

Please indicate any security and safety concerns for this operation

- 1) Safety of staffs and volunteers during cash distribution in targeted areas, including the risk of drowning, landslide, road accident and poison animal bites during the operation.
- 2) Product quality and inventory limitations developed during the crisis as a result of the strong demand for food and resources.

Has the child safeguarding risk analysis assessment been completed?

No

Implementation



Shelter Housing And Settlements

Budget: CHF 77,191

Targeted Persons: 400

Assisted Persons: 477

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of people receiving technical training on builds back safer guidance	100	148
# of targeted households supported with conditional cash for shelter repair	100	100
% of households reached with PDM	100	100

Narrative description of achievements

In early January 2024, an assessment conducted by the local government and provincial Red Cross Chapters, as directed by the Prime Minister, reported that the early recovery needs for shelter support had still not been met for all affected people. With the guidance of local authorities, the relevant Provincial Red Cross Chapters identified and selected a total of 100 most affected households, whose houses have not been repaired or rebuilt yet (35 HH in Lai Chau, 10 HH in Lao Cai, 35 HH in Yen Bai and 20 HH in Dak Nong provinces), to receive conditional cash for shelter support.

On 16 January 2024, in collaboration with a specialist facilitator from the local department of construction, VNRC organized a refresher training on 'build back safer' guidance for relevant VNRC staffs from the four targeted provinces. The training took place in Yen Bai province with a total of 25 participants (Male:15, Female:10). The sessions focused on shelter repair and retrofitting techniques. Following the training, VNRC organized awareness raising sessions on 'build back safer' guidance to promote improved rebuilding efforts for targeted households. A total of 148 people (Male:118, Female:30) across the four targeted provinces participated in the events, including representatives of each targeted household, as well as the additions of local masons and relevant authorities to ensure the full benefits of 'build back safer' approach.



The conditional cash support for shelter repair, a value of VND 15,000,000 (CHF 550) per household, was distributed in two instalments. The first instalment was 70 per cent and second instalment 30 per cent of the total value. Starting in mid-February 2024, selected beneficiaries received the first instalment after signing an agreement with VNRC. After the first instalment, PDM was carried out to monitor the fulfilment of required prerequisites for the second instalment. The remaining 30 per cent was paid once beneficiaries provided sufficient evidence, such as purchase receipt of the appropriate materials, during VNRC's PDM house visits. By March 2024, all 100 targeted households received the full instalment of conditional cash support for shelter repairs, which reached 477 beneficiaries (Male:240, Female:237).

The conditional cash PDM also reached all 100 targeted households, which collected information on how beneficiaries used the cash and their satisfaction with the intervention. PDM data showed that most recipients purchased corrugated iron (80 per cent of the response) in order to mend the roof, and cement (79 per cent) to mend the wall. Roofing and walls were two of the most voted damages according to PDM results. Other purchased materials included bricks, steel, roof bracings, purlin and doors. The findings also indicated that 42 per cent of the respondents believed that the intervention satisfied only 30 per cent of their needs, while only 7 per cent felt that the support provided was sufficient to meet their whole demands. The PDM findings indicate that while the majority of recipients prioritized purchasing materials to repair roofs and walls, the intervention only partially met their needs. This suggests that future conditional cash interventions need to closely look at the response analysis phase, including consideration on needs assessment findings, decision making on transfer value and response design, as well as monitor how needs may change over time, especially with unexpected delays, to ensure that the response option well-align with the needs of beneficiary.

During the cash distribution, the trained VNRC CEA staffs also provided key CEA messages to inform selected beneficiaries of the relevant information, including the feedback mechanism and free-of-charge nature of the cash assistance. These messages were also reinforced through display on public banners and cash envelopes. It helped to prevent the risk of violence, collusion, corruption, and nepotism.

Lessons Learnt

- Prior to project implementation, there was a need to have greater planning and communications with the local communities and VNRC chapters regarding institutional concerns associated to challenges so that people's needs are effectively satisfied.

Challenges

- The long approval process at the grassroots level caused a delay in implementation at the start of the operation, which resulted in the shelter repair starting later than anticipated and leaving beneficiaries with some unpleasant impression.



Livelihoods And Basic Needs

Budget: CHF 79,321

Targeted Persons: 1,200

Assisted Persons: 1,643

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
% of assisted household able to resume/restart their livelihood activities	100	100
# of people receive technical guidance on livelihood restoration and working with nature.	300	274
# of households supported with conditional cash for livelihood restoration	300	330
% of households reached with PDM	100	100



Narrative description of achievements

In early January 2024, an assessment conducted by the local government and provincial VNRC Chapters confirmed that early recovery needs for livelihood support have still not been met for all affected people.

Initially, VNRC identified 298 households in the four targeted provinces to receive the conditional cash to help restore their means of subsistence. In January 2024, recognizing the budget increase in local currency (VND) due to fluctuations in the exchange rate, VNRC together with the relevant authorities decided to select 32 additional households. The beneficiary list was finalized at 330 households. In late January 2024, VNRC signed the agreement with the Vietnam Post office, the financial service provider for the cash intervention.

Between late January to mid-February 2024, VNRC organized information sessions to provide guidance on livelihood restoration and working with nature to beneficiary and local authorities. The sessions focused on techniques for restoring livelihoods and the importance of nature and ecosystems to human livelihoods. The material also emphasized the incorporation of nature-based solutions into livelihood activities, considering regional variations and topography. A total of 274 people (Male:199, Female:75) across the four targeted provinces participated in the sessions. The low attendance was due to overlapping with some harvesting activities and the local festivities around the Lunar New Year period.

The cash distribution occurred in two instalments, with value of VND 5,000,000 (CHF 200) per household. Beneficiaries were required to initiate the process of restoring or improving their livelihoods upon receiving the first instalment. This prerequisite serves as a condition for eligibility to receive the second instalment. The first cash instalment distribution took place in the targeted province upon approval of the final beneficiary list in mid-February 2024. By March 2024, a total of 330 households were assisted for livelihood and basic need, with 100 per cent of households receiving the full instalment. The support reached 1,643 people (Male: 836, Female: 807). As mentioned above, the higher number of recipients was due to the additional local currency gain created by exchange rate fluctuation.

PDM was carried out following the first instalment to ensure fulfilment of set conditions. PDM reached 100 per cent of the recipients. All the interviewees stated that they used the supported cash to buy cattle and poultry, including chicken, duck, pig, goose, rabbit, and fish. The findings also indicated that 90 per cent of the people reached also purchased livestock feed, and 78 per cent of the recipients used supporting cash to repair the barns. The PDM findings also indicated that while the majority of recipients prioritized purchasing livestock, feed and barn repairs, the intervention only partially met their needs, with 3 per cent feeling fully supported. Similar to PDM findings from conditional cash for shelter, this suggest that future conditional cash interventions need to closely look at the response analysis phase, including consideration on needs assessment findings, decision making on transfer value and response design, as well as monitor how needs may change over time, especially with unexpected delays, to ensure that the response option well-align with the needs of beneficiary.

During the cash distribution, the trained VNRC CEA staffs also provided key CEA messages to inform selected beneficiaries of the relevant information, including the feedback mechanism and free-of-charge nature of the cash assistance. These messages were also reinforced through display on public banners and cash envelopes. It helped to prevent the risk of violence, collusion, corruption, and nepotism.

Lessons Learnt

- VNRC should have a business continuity strategy in place to prevent delays in financial operations and project execution.
- VNRC should further engage with the IFRC cash and procurement focal points in order to start the necessary FSP procurement process and prepare for future operations related to cash.

Challenges

- Even though the operation finished on schedule, there was a gap in serving people's immediate needs because of the early financial delays. Given that the government regulations regarding the receipt of foreign aid and the implementation of international events, among other things, were introduced and required organizations to take extra time to adapt, an alternate solution to expedite the receipt of funds and their delivery to affected communities should have been planned as soon as possible.
- The long government approval process and therefore delay in the engagement with the required exceptional approval process for the financial service provider led to delays in the commencement of cash distribution.



Multi Purpose Cash

Budget: CHF 127,204

Targeted Persons: 2,820

Assisted Persons: 6,025



Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of provincial Red Cross staff received refreshment trainings on PDM.	20	33
# of households supported through multi-purpose cash grants.	1,200	1,176
% of beneficiary reached with PDM	20	15

Narrative description of achievements

In early January 2024, an assessment conducted by the local government and accompanied by provincial Red Cross Chapters, as directed by the Prime Minister, confirmed that the early recovery needs for multi-purpose cash support had still not been met for all affected people. Despite the lack of detailed results from the assessment being shared by the local government, instructions were received from the government for VNRC to continue providing assistance as initially planned.

In December 2023, VNRC had identified 954 households as the targeted households for multi-purpose cash support through the standard village voting method for beneficiary selection. These selected households were the most affected by flash flood in 2023, in 17 communes of the four targeted provinces.

In January 2024, an additional 220 households were identified to receive cash support due to the increased budget in VND as the results of the declining exchange rate. The total number of target recipients for multi-purpose cash was finalized at 1,176 households.

On 11 January 2024, VNRC conducted a PDM training for relevant VNRC personnel in Dak Nong province. The training covered detailed orientation about the purpose of PDM, information requirements, how to ask the questionnaire, and practices on using the KOBO application. A total of 33 participants (Male:18, Female:15) participated in the training. The additional number of participants was due to the inclusion of community volunteers, which proved crucial for engagement with local communities and ethnic groups.

Between February to March 2024, the multi-purpose cash was distributed to all 1,176 households (Level 1: 10 HH, Level 2: 60 HH and Level 3: 1,104 HH), which reached a total of 6,025 people (Male: 3,016, Female: 3,009).

PDM was undertaken at the end of February 2024. It reached 174 households or equivalent to 15 per cent of total multi-purpose cash recipients, where 90 per cent of the interviewees were households having more than three family members. The PDM results indicated that 72 per cent of the interviewees spent the multi-purpose cash to buy essential commodities, particularly food items. They also used it to purchase non-food items and pay debt. Additionally, 1 per cent of the interviewees stated that they used the cash for various purchases to support livelihood restoration. The PDM findings also indicate that while the majority of recipients felt the MPC did not satisfied all their needs, they were satisfied with given the choice to use the cash as they saw fit for their household's needs.

During the cash distribution, the trained VNRC CEA staff also provided key CEA messages to inform selected beneficiaries of the relevant information, including the feedback mechanism and free-of-charge nature of the cash assistance. These messages were also reinforced through display on public banners and cash envelopes. It helped to prevent the risk of violence, collusion, corruption, and nepotism.

Lessons Learnt

- During non-emergency time, VNRC should verify existing FSP agreements to ensure compliance with relevant IFRC procedures. This would help to avoid implementation delays and ensure the delivery of timely assistance to those in needs.

Challenges

- The FSP agreement did not align with IFRC procurement procedures, which required VNRC to go through request for exceptional approval to ensure procedures compliance in response to the urgent needs.
- The long approval process and therefore delay to the intervention caused changes in the number of households to receive the assistance, which resulted in a lower number of households reached than initial targeted. However, the total number of people assisted was more than initially estimated.



Budget: CHF 0
Targeted Persons: 5,025
Assisted Persons: 4,402

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of people received key messages on MHPSS.	5,000	4,369
# of volunteers trained on PFA.	25	33

Narrative description of achievements

Since the PDM process involved direct engagement between local Red Cross personnel and the impacted individuals receiving assistance from VNRC, psychological first aid (PFA) was integrated into the PDM training.

A total of 33 VNRC personnel (Male:18, Female:15) from the four targeted provinces underwent PFA training from 5 to 11 January 2024. The training emphasized the principles of PFA, which guided VNRC staffs on how to pay attention, show empathy, and respond appropriately to individuals' concerns during and after a crisis. Additionally, the training highlighted the importance of understanding and respecting cultural differences at the community level. VNRC staffs learned to recognize how people from diverse cultural backgrounds respond to and cope with crises, ensuring that their support was culturally sensitive and effective. Overall, the training equipped relevant VNRC personnel with the necessary PFA skills to apply during PDM when and where required, particularly when addressing questions related to damages that evoked the effects of disasters.

PFA brochure was adapted from a PFA training undertaken within Laos DREF 2023 operation, introduced by IFRC MHPSS regional coordinator and IFRC CCD Health delegate. The content included the features and response to stress, basics of PFA, crisis coping strategies, self-care and information on where to seek help. The PFA brochures were distributed and key messages on PFA integrated into the WASH and hygiene outreach activities, which reached 4,369 people (Male: 2,185, Female: 2,184).

Lessons Learnt

- Training in psychological first aid should be provided to VNRC personnel and volunteers, so they are well-equipped to provide the recipients with rapid mental health support. Face-to-face trainings are preferred to help increase the number and quality efficiency of volunteers and staff in providing PFA experts.
- It is suggested that the VNRC Disaster Management Department update its plan for distributing health-related IEC materials.

Challenges

- The overall number of people reached through dissemination was lower than the initial target due to the reason that time of implementation coincided with the harvesting season. Communities preferred to collect crops rather than to attend any other events, which led to the fact that fewer people participated in project's events.

Budget: CHF 53,037
Targeted Persons: 14,980
Assisted Persons: 10,399

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of people reached by hygiene promotion activities.	14,980	4,895
# of people provided by RCRC with an improved protected source of drinking water (according to WHO and Sphere standards).	300	1,035
# of people reached by WASH assistance.	14,980	10,399
# of VNRC staff and volunteer receive refresher training on Health and WASH focusing on disease prevention.	100	100

Narrative description of achievements

In January 2024, VNRC conducted refresher trainings on health and WASH, with a focus on disease prevention during disasters, for relevant VNRC project staffs and volunteers at all levels in the four targeted provinces. Facilitators with Training of Trainers (ToT) certification in WASH and Emergency Health were borrowed from the Nghe An Provincial Chapter. The trainings covered handwashing techniques, waterborne diseases, menstrual hygiene, and health care before and after disasters. In total, 100 staffs and volunteers (Male:83, Female:17) participated in the health and WASH trainings.

Between January to March 2024, VNRC carried out hygiene promotion activities in the form of communication and dissemination events in the targeted communities. The relevant sessions covered personal hygiene, waterborne disease prevention, and hygiene during and after disasters, which reached a total of 4,895 people (Male: 2,196, Female: 2,699) in four targeted provinces.

To further support hygiene promotion efforts, outreach activities were also undertaken by local Red Cross staffs and volunteers to further disseminate the hygienic messages and Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials specifically in markets and schools. The IEC materials containing the WASH and hygiene promotion contents, such as the seven steps of handwashing, sanitation practices and water treatment methods, were produced by VNRC. This effort reached a wide range population with an estimation of total of 4,369 people (Male: 2,185, Female: 2,184) in four targeted provinces.

Additionally, VNRC signed a contract with the supplier for the procurement of 150 units of 1,500-litre water tanks and one reverse osmosis (RO) water purifier. By the end of February 2024, the 150 water tanks were distributed to selected households in the four targeted provinces, which reached 735 people (Male: 382, Female: 353). Local Red Cross staffs and volunteers were mobilized to extend assistance to support recipients in term of transportation and installation. This ensured the PGI elements of the project and demonstrated the humanitarian spirits of the Red Cross Red Crescent to local people. One RO water purifier unit was also delivered and installed by the supplier at the targeted school in a remote and mountainous area of Yen Bai province, which benefited 300 students and teachers. The need for a RO water purifier for the school was recommended by local authorities based on the risk of nearby copper mining waste heightened by the inundation. The supplier also provided a training to relevant teachers on how to properly operate and maintain the RO water purifier unit.

Two weeks after the distribution, PDM was carried out to evaluate the recipients' satisfaction and condition of the water tanks, wherein 20 per cent of the recipients participated. Based on the findings, although all the interviewees expressed satisfaction with receiving the water tank, 20 per cent said they would prefer to receive cash instead.

The total number of people reached by the WASH assistance was 10,399 people (Male:4,996, Female:5,403), which included people reached by the hygiene promotion, outreach activities along with IEC materials distribution, improved protected source of drinking water and the refresher training.

Lessons Learnt

- Detailed guidance should be provided to water tanks recipients to adequately support and ensure proper installation of the water tanks. Extended support should be provided to remote communities, in case any necessary equipment for setting-up was not available.
- Closer consultation between VNRC HQ and targeted provincial chapters during the assessment stage is necessary to ensure the setting of appropriate number of targeted people, considering topographic and demographic factors that may affect its precision.



Challenges

- According to PDM results, two out of the 30 recipients of the water tanks reported that they had not utilized the water tank for everyday use. The interviewees said that this was the result of the incompatibility between specification of the water tank and existing local piping system. The remoteness of the location also hindered the resolution to such issue.
- Due to the remote locations, challenging terrain, widely dispersed population, and communication barrier with ethnic groups, the number of people reached by hygiene promotion activities was far below the initial target and therefore affecting efficiency of the intervention. Additionally, the lack of human resources at local level in term of promotion activities also impacted the level of community outreach.



Protection, Gender And Inclusion

Budget: CHF 0

Targeted Persons: 14,980

Assisted Persons: 4,369

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of staffs who attended child safeguarding assessment.	25	0
# of people reached through messages from PGI materials.	14,980	4,369

Narrative description of achievements

PGI elements were mainstreamed into the operation from the beginning by incorporating sectorial activities attended by volunteers and personnel from the VNRC, ensuring access and safety for the most vulnerable and disadvantaged individuals. Disaggregated data related to gender was recorded for reporting. Additionally, priorities were given to the elderly, women, children, and people with disabilities throughout the operational timeframe. To facilitate the availability of statistics broken down by gender, the number of men and women was expressly indicated in reports of training sessions or selection processes.

VNRC integrated basic PGI messages, such as how to report sensitive issues related to corruption, sexual exploitation, abuse, and harassment (SEAH), during the targeted beneficiary selection training. Beneficiaries was able to reach out to the key VNRC personnel through the available channels such as via a hotline established at the beginning of the intervention.

PGI messaging was also integrated into WASH and health emergency training held in January 2024. Facilitators emphasized the importance of menstrual hygiene and the necessity of vaccinations for women and children. VNRC chapters also assigned volunteers to assist with the transportation and installation of the water tank for any houses with disadvantages, women-headed households, or households without a labour force. PGI measures were also taken into consideration and implemented during the water tank distribution event.

The child safeguarding assessment was unable to be conducted in time due to human resource constraints, high workload, and tight schedule of VNRC as multiple major events overlapped with the operation period. Specifically, this included the preparation and hosting of the eleventh Asia Pacific Conference by VNRC during November 2024 and VNRC's annual Humanity of Tet (Lunar New Year) campaign with the peak occurring between late January to early February 2024; not to mention the initial delays due to a three-months long project approval process.

Lessons Learnt

- Further engage VNRC in the prioritization of child safeguarding. The Child Safeguarding Risk Analysis tool and PGI training during emergencies should be localized to the chapter level. Staff members should undergo relevant trainings or briefing prior to the implementation of any programmes.
- Adequate business continuity plans and a PGI focal point in VNRC are essential for conducting trainings efficiently.



Challenges

• VNRC has not yet organized a child safeguarding analysis session for VNRC staffs and leadership due to human resource constraints, high workload, and tight schedule of VNRC as multiple major events overlapped with the operation period.



Secretariat Services

Budget: CHF 37,658

Targeted Persons: 21,000

Assisted Persons: 38,095

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of surge deployed in support of the operation.	1	2
% of financial reporting compliance to IFRC procedures.	100	100
# of communications materials produced (social media, media articles, interviews, etc.) to share information about the operation.	10	77

Narrative description of achievements

The IFRC CCD Bangkok deployed two operations managers to assist the IFRC-DREF operation. One staff from the Hong Kong Branch of the Red Cross Society of China and one volunteer from the Cambodian Red Cross were assigned to prepare documents requesting exceptional approval for the financial service provider (FSP) agreement between VNRC and the Vietnam Post. Additionally, the operations managers played vital roles in providing close support to VNRC in other relevant aspects. This involvement included working closely with the VNRC team on a day-to-day basis, contributing to the planning of the implementation plan, and designing the PDM questionnaires.

VNRC at all levels created 77 media pieces and news stories during the course of its seven-month activity. Six of the media pieces were aired on provincial TV networks. These resources were useful in providing crucial details and updates about the operation.

The IFRC Programme Officer in the country coordinated closely with VNRC on day-to-day operations, with full support from the IFRC CCD Bangkok team, to ensure the operation met the IFRC-DREF requirements. Meanwhile, a Support Service Officer was also mobilized to provide day-to-day financial support for VNRC.

Lessons Learnt

• The involvement of IFRC technical support in establishing of FSP agreement was necessary, to help ensuring compliance with IFRC procedures. This engagement is crucial to assist VNRC in applying for the DREF funding in the near future.

Challenges

• IFRC technical staffs, including those from PGI, CEA and PMER faced difficulties obtaining visas due to the lengthy approval process. As a result, VNRC did not benefited from the additional support in the relevant areas of expertise.



National Society Strengthening

Budget: CHF 25,933

Targeted Persons: 60

Assisted Persons: 61



Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of lessons learned workshop conducted.	1	1
# of VNRC personnel trained in livelihood restoration and working with nature	20	25
# of VNRC personnel engaged in lesson learned workshop.	40	36

Narrative description of achievements

In January 2024, a training session on livelihood restoration and working with nature was conducted for 25 Red Cross staff (Male:15, Female:10) from the four VNRC provincial chapters selected for the IFRC-DREF operation. The training focused on techniques for restoring livelihoods and the importance of nature and ecosystems to human livelihoods. The material also emphasized the incorporation of nature-based solutions into livelihood activities, considering regional variations and topography.

A lesson-learned workshop (LLW) with a focus on the monitoring and evaluation was held during the third week of March 2024, where 36 personnel (Male:22, Female:14) from VNRC headquarters and chapters participated. Following the LLW, an experience exchange visit was also held in Dak Nong province from 24 to 26 March 2024, when representatives from the four provinces participated. In Dak Nong, 90 per cent of the Red Cross staffs were female, and this was the province's first time conducting an IFRC-DREF operation. The province of Dak Nong presented various geographical and ethnic challenges that complicated the intervention. Despite these difficulties, the provincial chapter in Dak Nong successfully completed the intervention, ensuring the quality and quantity of the activities. The activity included 28 participants (Male: 10, Female: 18)

Lessons Learnt

- To enhance the implementation of IFRC-DREF operations, it is recommended that VNRC chapters or relevant branches receive training sessions from IFRC.
- Given that some Red Cross chapters have a higher number of female staff involved in implementing IFRC-DREF operations, it is essential to disseminate PGI and Prevention of Sexual Exploitation, Abuse, and Harassment (PSEAH) guidelines to ensure the safety and well-being of VNRC female staff during these operations.
- The participation of volunteers from ethnic minorities was particularly valuable in facilitating the chapters to have direct contact with beneficiaries. The volunteers' knowledge and familiarity with their local communities and terrain significantly enhanced the effectiveness of the intervention and ensured the safety of VNRC personnel.
- To ensure the accuracy and accountability of the operation, it is crucial to reinforce the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) system. This aspect should be thoroughly planned and explored from the beginning of the intervention. The IFRC PMER specialist/resources can provide valuable support in this area.

Challenges

- Limited internal coordination within VNRC led to delays in the planning process and challenges in preparation of the final report.
- Some provinces have diverse geography and ethnic groups, which created difficulties for VNRC in terms of access to the affected areas and communication with ethnic groups.
- VNRC's M&E system remains in need of improvement. This was demonstrated by the overlap in the data that was gathered and the imprecision in the data reporting.



Financial Report

DREF Operation

FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT

MDRVN023 - Viet Nam - Flash floods

Operating Timeframe: 17 Aug 2023 to 31 Mar 2024

Selected Parameters			
Reporting Timeframe	2023/8-2024/5	Operation	MDRVN023
Budget Timeframe	2023/8-2024/3	Budget	APPROVED

Prepared on 21/Jun/2024

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Summary

Opening Balance	0
Funds & Other Income	400,344
DREF Response Pillar	400,344
Expenditure	-395,698
Closing Balance	4,646

II. Expenditure by planned operations / enabling approaches

Description	Budget	Expenditure	Variance
PO01 - Shelter and Basic Household Items	77,191	70,805	6,387
PO02 - Livelihoods	79,321	80,449	-1,128
PO03 - Multi-purpose Cash	127,204	132,499	-5,296
PO04 - Health			0
PO05 - Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	53,037	45,417	7,620
PO06 - Protection, Gender and Inclusion			0
PO07 - Education			0
PO08 - Migration			0
PO09 - Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery		134	-134
PO10 - Community Engagement and Accountability			0
PO11 - Environmental Sustainability			0
Planned Operations Total	336,753	329,303	7,450
EA01 - Coordination and Partnerships			0
EA02 - Secretariat Services	37,658	37,817	-159
EA03 - National Society Strengthening	25,933	28,578	-2,645
Enabling Approaches Total	63,591	66,395	-2,804
Grand Total	400,344	395,698	4,646

[Click here for the complete financial report](#)

Please explain variances (if any)

The total allocation for this operation was CHF 400,344 for seven months of implementation. By the end of the operation, the total expenditure recorded was CHF 395,698 (or 99 per cent expenditure rate) with the remaining balance of CHF 4,646 to return to the IFRC-DREF pot.

One of the reasons for the underspending was due to the allocation for WASH sector. VNRC had budgeted CHF 53,057 for WASH activities, however, actual expenditure only concluded at CHF 45,417. The underspending was primarily due to implementation difficulties as consequences of the remote locations, challenging terrain and widely dispersed targeted population, The number of people reached by

WASH and hygiene promotion activities was far below the initial target and therefore affecting the efficiency of the intervention.

The underspending under the 'National Society Staff' and 'Travel' groups was primarily due to the coding errors made during the budgeting process. The majority of the VNRC allowances to support cash and WASH intervention were initially budgeted under the 'National Society Staff' budget group. However, the actual expenditures were later correctly booked under travel, distribution, and monitoring-type expenses. For the 'Travel' budget, the majority of surge personnel costs were budgeted as travel-type costs. However, actual expenditures varied from surge insurance to the different options taken to fill the gap in surge support.

For the overspending, one of the reasons for such variance was due to the coding errors made during the budgeting process. Initially, IFRC technical support and surge support were mainly budgeted as travel-type cost. In actual practice, necessary expenditures to support the operation, such as short-term software licensing were booked under Computer & Telecom, and surge personnel insurance was booked under International Staff. Similarly, PDM and FSP service costs were initially budgeted under the cash disbursement budget group, however, in actual expenditures PDM was booked under 'Distribution & Monitoring' and FSP services cost was booked under 'Professional Fees', respectively.

Another reason for the overspending was due to the unexpected gap in surge support as a consequence of the above-mentioned lengthy approval process. With the extensive implementation delays and operational time constraints, this necessitated the allocation of one IFRC country office national staff to provide one-month monitoring support to speed up the implementation. The national staff cost expenditure came from the IFRC technical support travel budget line. Additionally, a consultant was utilized to fill the gap in surge support, as IFRC lacked legal status in Vietnam. The consultant cost expenditure comes from the surge and staff travel cost budget line (monitoring and reporting as well as IFRC technical support travel).

The overspending for the workshop and training cost was due to the extension of the IFRC-DREF lesson-learned process beyond the one workshop initially planned. To facilitate more insightful learning, an experience exchange visit to the Dak Nong chapter was added, which proved valuable for the overall IFRC-DREF learning process for VNRC HQ and all relevant chapters.

Other factors that influenced the budget variances were the fluctuation of the exchange rate throughout the operation timeframe and various changes as consequences of the implementation delays.



Contact Information

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

National Society contact: Tran Sy Pha, Head of Disaster Management & Social Work Department, tranphavnrc@gmail.com

IFRC Appeal Manager: Kathryn Clarkson, Head of Country Cluster Delegation, kathryn.clarkson@ifrc.org

IFRC Project Manager: Pascal Bourcher, Programme Coordinator, pascal.bourcher@ifrc.org

IFRC focal point for the emergency: Farah Nur Wahyuni Zainuddin, Operations Coordinator, OpsCoord.SouthEastAs@ifrc.org

Media Contact: Afrhill RANCES, Manager Communications, afrhill.rances@ifrc.org

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