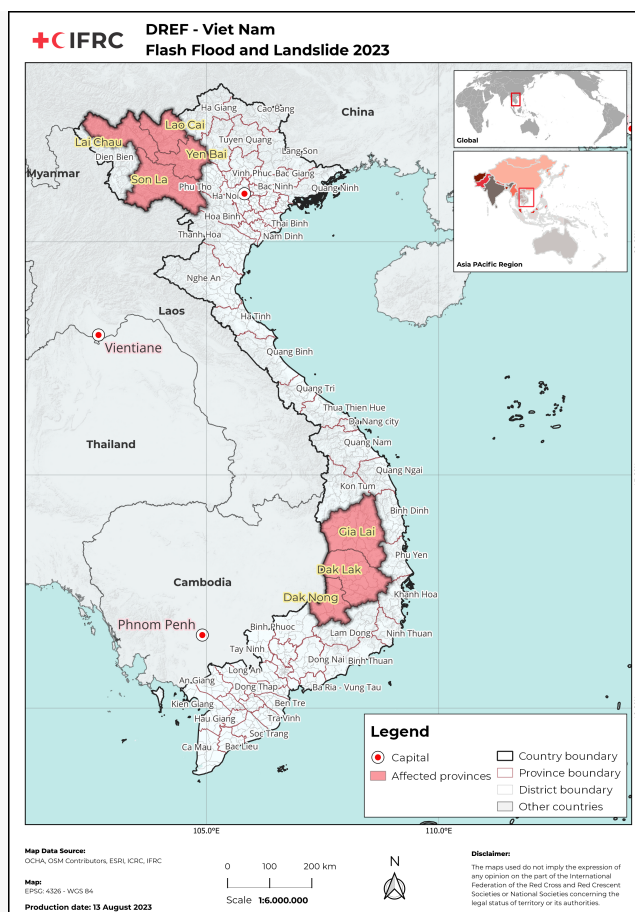




VNRC personnel conducting WASH and Health promotion dissemination in Lao Cai province, January 2024 (Photo:VNRC)

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	New Operational End Date: 31-03-2024	Total Operating Timeframe: 7 months
Reporting Timeframe Start Date: 17-08-2023		Reporting Timeframe End Date: 30-01-2024	
Additional Allocation Requested: 0		Targeted Areas: Dak Nong, Lai Chau, Lao Cai, Yen Bai	

Description of the Event



Map of affected provinces (Source: IFRC IM)

Date of event

2023-08-08

What happened, where and when?

In August 2023, northern provinces of Vietnam, along with the central highland region, experienced heavy downpours ranging from 100 to 200mm, reaching almost 400mm in certain areas. This led to severe flooding, causing significant human and property losses. The National Centre for Hydro-Meteorological Forecasting predicted the continuation of heavy rain in the region, with potential risks of floods, flash floods, and landslides. A report from the Vietnam Disaster Management Authority on 10 August 2023, revealed that around 215,000 individuals were impacted by the floods.

The IFRC-DREF operation was requested by VNRC in response to the event in August 2023. However, prolonged rain and flash flood still happened during September due to the complicated weather conditions. On the night of 12 September 2023, flash floods occurred in Lao Cai, which is one of the IFRC-DREF targeted provinces, where ten people have died out of the total 15 fatalities. The Prime Minister of Viet Nam circulated several Official Telegrams to instruct the provinces and regions to respond to the flash flood and landslide proactively. The flash floods only stopped at the end of September 2023, leaving a devastating context to the localities.

The impacted families have returned home as of this Operational Update (OU 1). Certain households, with assistance from local governments, communities, and stakeholders, have been actively engaged in housing repairs and the restoration of their livelihood activities.





VNRC and local authorities conducting visits to affected people (Photo: VNRC)



Condition of a house damaged by the flash flood (Photo: VNRC)

Scope and Scale

According to Vietnamese Government reports, 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 North and Central Highlands regions experienced a noteworthy climatic anomaly. Precipitation levels soared 50-100mm beyond the established average for this period, as observed in previous years (VNDMA). 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 general public. However, the fact that impacted provinces were not disaster-prone areas meant that only the Viet Nam Fatherland Front (VNFF) and VNRC had started their humanitarian response activities. As of 13 August 2023, local authorities, Border Guard, VNFF, and VNRC were the main response units in the region. These targeted provinces have not experienced serious flash floods and landslides in the past five years.

As per a report released by the Vietnam Disaster Management Authority on 10 August 2023, the flooding significantly impacted approximately 215,000 individuals since 2 August 2024. 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 8 individuals injured.

Summary of Changes

Are you changing the timeframe of the operation	Yes
Are you changing the operational strategy	No
Are you changing the target population of the operation	Yes
Are you changing the geographical location	No
Are you making changes to the budget	No
Is this a request for a second allocation	No
Has the forecasted event materialize?	No

Please explain the summary of changes and justification:

This Operation update provides information regarding the actions from the National Society until 30 January 2024, as well as a justification for the one-month timeframe extension requested by VNRC to enable it to complete its cash and voucher assistance (CVA) interventions in the targeted provinces. Several constraints have led to significant delays in the IFRC-DREF implementation, prompting this request. Consequently, the operation's end date has been revised to 31 March 2024.



Reasons for Delays:

- **Approval Processes:** The approval process for the IFRC-DREF project agreement from relevant Ministries and People's Committees took approximately three months, resulting in the signing of the agreement in November 2023.
- An additional two months were required for the exceptional approval of the financial service provider (FSP) agreement between VNRC and the Vietnam post office, which was finalized in January 2024.
- **Mobilization for the Asia-Pacific Conference:** By the fourth quarter of 2023, most of VNRC staff had been mobilized for the organization of the Asia-Pacific conference that was held from 21 to 23 November 2023 in Hanoi.
- **Budget Adjustments:** A budget increase in the local currency (VND) occurred due to fluctuations in the exchange rate. The IFRC approved budget remains CHF 340,550, (equivalent to VND 8,513,750,000), but the budget in VND saw a rise in the remaining/incurred amount after selling foreign currency. This resulted in a VND 830,260,900 increase, making the total IFRC-DREF budget in local currency VND 9,344,010,900.
- **Targeted People Increase:** Additional funding resulting from exchange rate adjustments necessitated an expansion in the number of targeted people. Two out of the four project provinces agreed to select an additional number of targeted people. As the paperwork to finalize the targeted people list will be a time-consuming process, VNRC discovered that it was unable to complete the cash distribution on schedule in accordance with the original plan since the paperwork required to confirm the targeted people list would take a long time.
- **Impact of the Humanity of Tet (Lunar New Year) Programme:** The peak of the "Humanity of Tet" programme, occurring from late January to early February, has led VNRC's chapters to prioritize human resources for this initiative. This focus has consequently affected the progress of the IFRC-DREF operation implementation.

To facilitate the completion of its cash interventions in the targeted provinces, VNRC has formally requested a one-month timeframe extension, leading to the revised end date of 31 March 2024. As of 8 February 2024, VNRC has completed several activities, while others are still pending, as the following:

Completed activities:

- Validated lists of households for cash intervention and water tank distribution in four targeted provinces
- Delivered refresher training on health and WASH focusing on disease prevention during disasters for project staff at all levels in four targeted provinces.
- Produced and distributed IEC materials in targeted provinces, focusing on disease prevention (hygiene, waterborne disease prevention, and hygiene after disasters)
- Delivered combined refresher training on Psychosocial First Aid (PFA) and Post-Disaster Monitoring (PDM) training in Dak Nong.
- Delivered refresher training on building back safer guidance for VNRC staff representatives from four targeted provinces, conducted at the Provincial Red Cross Chapter in Yen Bai province.
- Delivered training on livelihood restoration and working with nature for VNRC staff.
- Signed agreements with Financial Service Provider - Vietnam Post Office for cash distribution and with suppliers for water tank purchasing.

Details of ongoing validation of household for cash intervention (to be completed to reach the targets):

(1) Multi-purpose cash grant - target 1,200HH

Province and HH validated

- Lai Chau: 357
- Lao Cai: 230
- Yen Bai: 325
- Dak Nong: 262

Total: 1174

(2) Conditional cash-Shelter -target 100HH

Province and HH validated

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

Total: 100

(3) Conditional cash-livelihood - target 300 HH

Province and HH validated

- Lai Chau: 48
- Lao Cai: 60
- Yen Bai: 90
- Dak Nong: 100



Total: 298

Pending activities:

- Finalizing list of additional targeted households for Cash intervention.
- Cash distribution for shelter, livelihood, and multipurpose cash.
- Water tank distribution.
- Training session on the “Build Back Safer” guideline for selected household members, to be conducted immediately after the first installment of cash distribution for shelter repair.
- Child safeguarding analysis.
- Post-distribution monitoring.
- Lesson learned workshop.

Current National Society Actions

Start date of National Society actions

2023-08-04

Shelter, Housing And Settlements	<p>In September 2023, VNRC provided the support to affected communities with household kits which contains blankets and mosquito nets to help vulnerable people who lost their shelter temporarily before any resettlement intervention made. However, VNRC does not require further replenishment.</p> <p>As of 8 February 2024, the targeted people list related to conditional cash intervention for shelter have been finalized (Lai Chau 35hh, Lao Cai 10HH, Yen Bai35HH and Dak Nong 20HH, totaling 100HH) through a standardized selection process. All targeted people have been duly informed about the support by local authorities and the Red Cross Chapter.</p> <p>This cash distribution will take place during the week 19-23 February 2024.</p>
Livelihoods And Basic Needs	<p>In September 2023, the relief kits which contain food and essential household items were distributed by VNRC to the affected people in targeted provinces. VNRC did not request replenishment as the number of relief kits in the VNRC warehouses is secure.</p> <p>in January 2024, the targeted people list for conditional cash intervention for livelihood have been finalized through a standardized selection process (Lai Chau 48HH, Lao Cai 60HH, Yen Bai 90HH and Dak Nong 100HH, total 298HH). All targeted people have been duly informed about the support by local authorities and the Red Cross Chapter.</p>
Multi Purpose Cash	<p>In Yen Bai province, the district Red Cross has prepared 16 boxes of relief goods to deliver to the people of Lao Chai and Khao Mang communes, supporting families who have experienced loss due to the flood with the value of VND 2 million per household. The Yen Bai provincial Red Cross has also prepared money to support and gathered household kits to visit Mu Cang Chai district and assist affected people.</p> <p>In Lai Chau province, the Provincial Red Cross Chapter has provided support of VND 2 million (CHF 73.72) per household for families who have lost members in the flood, and VND 500,000 (CHF 18.43) for each injured person. The District Red Cross has supported VND 1 million (CHF 36.86) per household for families who have lost members and VND 500,000 (CHF 15.83) for each injured person. The total support provided amounted to VND 16 million (CHF 598).</p> <p>The targeted people list for multi-purpose cash intervention has been finalized through a standardized beneficiary selection process (Lai Chau 57HH, Lao Cai 230HH, Yen Bai 325HH, and Dak Nong 262HH, totaling 1,174HH). All targeted people have been duly informed about the support by local authorities and the Red Cross Chapter. The selection of additional targeted people is in process, and VNRC will finalize it after Lunar New Year (by mid-Feb 2024).</p>



Water, Sanitation And Hygiene	VNRC has planned to procure and distribute water tanks to allow affected households to store fresh water. The contract was signed in early February 2024 with the supplier who had previously been selected in January 2024. The distribution of 150 water tanks is scheduled for the third week of February 2024. Also, one RO water purifier equipment will be delivered during the same week to a school badly impacted by the flood in August 2023.
Protection, Gender And Inclusion	<p>Assistance has reached affected people, which include vulnerable groups such as the elderly, the bed-ridden people, persons with disabilities, children, the homeless, and migrant workers who are people from other provinces, as well as Laos and Chinese people working in the regions. No RFL (Restoring Family Links) interventions had been required.</p> <p>VNRC has planned to organize a Child safeguarding analysis session for VNRC staff and leadership by early March 2024.</p>
Community Engagement And Accountability	To assess the impact of the flood and the needs of affected people, VNRC leadership at the Headquarters (HQ) and provincial levels regularly met with local residents in flooded areas. This helps in understanding their immediate needs and knowing how these needs have changed over the months. VNRC staff will receive CEA training during the remaining timeframe of this operation.
National Society Readiness	The VNRC Disaster Management & Social Work Department is responsible for rapid disaster assistance in emergencies, aiming to provide comprehensive and effective assistance to people affected by disasters. Since 2 August 2023, VNRC HQ has conducted regular meetings with all its chapters to review their preparedness and response plans in anticipation of a potential flood during the Monsoon season, to be able to provide effective assistance. VNRC has also coordinated with concerned units, such as the National Steering Committee for Disaster Prevention and Control (NDPC), the local government agencies, and local disaster response task forces. The VNRC national disaster response team (NDRT) was on stand-by in case of emergency situation. VNRC has taken measures to ensure that the essential resources, such as its warehouses, medical supplies and equipment, relief kits, hygiene kits, household medicine, mobile kitchen operations, trucks, and communication equipment, are readily available.
Assessment	The need assessment in affected areas were coordinated among Government agencies and VNRC at all levels at the beginning of the operation. In line with the decision to reassess the current needs and to expand the number of targeted people outlined in this operational update, the second assessment was conducted in January 2024 by the relevant VNRC provincial chapters, with support from VNRC Headquarters, in the areas targeted by the IFRC-DREF operation. Even if the impacted communities have gradually been able to resume their lives, there is still a great need for early recovery support.
Resource Mobilization	VNRC HQ has mobilized their internal funds up to VND 600 million (CHF 22,054) to immediately respond to the floods and landslide since 8 August 2023 with distribution of relief kits, cash, and WASH assistance to affected people in Yen Bai province which was considered as the most seriously affected one.
National Society EOC	VNRC has a Disaster Operation Center at their headquarters to command operations, communicate with and supervise its chapters, and to coordinate with various departments related to disaster management in times of disasters.

IFRC Network Actions Related To The Current Event

Secretariat	The IFRC Programme Officer in Viet Nam and the IFRC CCD in Bangkok, particularly the Disaster Preparedness and response Senior Officer, have closely worked with VNRC HQ and targeted provincial chapters, especially to design and plan the IFRC-DREF operation. In addition, IFRC has deployed two surge Operations Managers to support VNRC in managing the IFRC-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, focusing on response and remediation. The Minister - Standing Deputy Head of the Standing Committee chaired an online meeting to respond to and overcome the consequences of floods in the northern mountainous provinces in Phu Tho. Later, they went to check on the bank erosion of 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, headed to inspect and direct the troubleshooting of Dak N'Ting reservoir (Dak Glong district, province) Dak Nong), ensuring safety for people downstream of the reservoir. They also inspected and directed the settlement of subsidence in Dong Thanh reservoir (Lam Ha district, Lam Dong). 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. landslides in the northern mountainous provinces. Dispatch No. 296/VPTT was 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 has 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, Ministries of Public Security, Industry and Trade, and Transport have sent dispatches to direct the response and overcoming of consequences of floods, flash floods and landslides.</p>
UN or other actors	There is no other actors such as UN agencies or NGOs/INGOs who provided assistance in the areas according to the information we have received.

Needs (Gaps) Identified



Shelter Housing And Settlements

The flash floods and landslides caused serious damages to shelter and infrastructure. Data consolidated by the VNDMA reveals 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 this IFRC-DREF operation, VNRC had planned to assist 100 households across all affected provinces with housing needs.

According to the concerned VNRC chapters, who regularly meet with the families affected by the flood, most of the families whose houses were destroyed have either lost their primary source of support or have very little income as of February 2024. The assessment recently conducted by each provincial local authority and accompanied by provincial Red Cross Chapters in the targeted provinces in January



2024, in accordance with the Prime Minister's assignment, reported that the needs for shelter support are still significant in February 2024.



Livelihoods And Basic Needs

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

The assessment recently conducted by the provincial Red Cross Chapters together with local authorities in the targeted provinces in 2024 has reported that, due to the extent of the damages to the agricultural sector in the provinces targeted by this IFRC-DREF operation, the need for livelihood support is still significant in February 2024 for a large number of the affected people [1].

[1] <https://vtv.vn/xa-hoi/xuan-ve-noi-tung-trai-qua-tran-lu-quet-kinh-hoang-20240115121816771.htm>



Multi purpose cash grants

According to reports from the devastated areas in the weeks following the disaster, 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. Assessments conducted in the aftermath of the flood reported that the affected people, whose houses had been damaged or destroyed, and personal belongings lost as a result of the flood, urgently needed food, household items, safe drinking water, and sanitation to satisfy their daily needs.

Recent assessments conducted in the targeted provinces by VNRC chapters with relevant local authorities have also shown that even several months after the disaster, the provision of multi-purpose cash grants would provide enough flexibility to the affected people in the early recovery phase to address their own specific needs.



Health

The necessary health emergency service will be integrated into WASH as a practice of the VNRC in their disaster response. However, VNRC currently lacks the capacity to conduct any MHPSS-related activities. To ensure the quality of technical support, they have not considered MHPSS as a part of the response. VNRC has only one focal person for PFA, and therefore, the PFA was integrated into WASH.



Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

There was an urgent need for water and sanitation due to infrastructure destruction caused by flash floods, water tainted with copper mining waste, and prolonged periods of severe flooding and landslides in some places. Under governmental efforts, local health facilities oversaw the provision of medical services, including emergency medical services, responding to infectious diseases such as waterborne and vector-borne diseases, and hygiene-related response. VNRC, therefore, prioritized initiatives that raise awareness of mental health, hygiene promotion, and served as key preventative measures.

Similarly, in health and WASH, the regions impacted by the flood are not traditionally vulnerable to disasters. Consequently, the early recovery process following the disaster has proven especially challenging for the affected communities, VNRC branches, and local authorities. It is crucial for affected individuals to acquire basic knowledge about healthcare during disasters to mitigate the risk of disease outbreaks in future disasters. Additionally, access to water tanks for storing clean water is essential to address unforeseen emergencies.

Any identified gaps/limitations in the assessment

N/A



Operational Strategy

Overall objective of the operation

The initial objective of this IFRC-DREF operation was to support communities affected by floods and landslides, with a specific focus on shelter, livelihood (through cash distribution), health, and Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH). The four targeted provinces, 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 the National Society, and considering recent field assessments mentioned above, VNRC has 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 haven't been repaired or rebuilt yet, have been selected in early February 2024 to receive conditional cash grants. This cash grant will be provided to the selected households based on the condition that their repair work meets safety standards. The conditional cash intervention will strictly follow the Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) procedure of the IFRC endorsed by the Cash Working Group and VNRC.

To address the early recovery needs of households affected by the flood, VNRC aims to offer multi-purpose cash assistance, totaling CHF 103,600 (VND 2,800,000,000), as multi-purpose cash to 1,200 households (4,200 people) in need of early recovery assistance to make sure that specific needs are covered. VNRC also aims to support 300 households that have lost their source of livelihood because of the flood. The assistance will reach 1,050 people in need of conditional cash for livelihood restoration. Furthermore, 150 water tanks (1,500-liter tank) will be provided to selected households affected by the floods to help store fresh water for preparedness purposes. A remote and mountainous school point in Yen Bai province, which has been seriously damaged by both flash flood and landslide, will receive a water purification unit. Training on WASH and hygiene promotion will also be delivered to the targeted people under the operational timeframe.

The specific number of targeted people for each province was decided among VNRC (HQ and branches) and the local authorities. As per the current validation plan in January 2024, the number of targeted households for cash intervention per each province is as follows:

- Lai Chau: 358HH
- Lao Cai: 245HH
- Yen Bai: 395HH
- Dak Nong: 327HH

Operation strategy rationale

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

Having a collaboration framework with Vietnam Post, a key financial service provider, who has a nationwide network in all provinces down to the local level, VNRC will continue to disburse funds utilizing their current logistic system. Upon request and direction from VNRC, VN Post will distribute cash in the targeted locations.

Targeted people selection training took place in December 2023 to provide sufficient knowledge about selection criteria and cash modalities to the VNRC staff, volunteers, and village leaders. PGI and CEA messages have been 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 will be carried out during the targeted people selection trainings for the Red Cross staff and volunteer. VNRC staff and volunteers who were trained in PGI and CEA from the previous IFRC-DREF operation will play a key role in reinforcing this knowledge.

In line with the local government, VNRC primarily concentrates on providing cash assistance to households throughout all affected provinces as part of this IFRC-DREF operation using financial service providers, primarily the government and local authorities. IFRC has been engaged to provide technical assistance to the operation such as planning and monitoring, including the deployment of surge operation managers.

1. Shelter

Some 100 households severely impacted by the floods and landslide have been 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 dictate that the households eligible for this support must exhibit damages to essential components such as roofs, walls, mezzanines, eaves, doors, windows, and floors. This targeted approach ensures that the assistance is directed to those most in need, focusing on rehabilitation efforts in alignment with VNRC's established criteria.

The supported grant will be divided into two installments, the first installment is 70 per cent, and the second installment is 30 per cent, as per the CVA procedure for conditional cash. People's commitment for shelter repair using VNRC grant will be made prior to the distribution. Targeting people has been done in accordance with regular assessments made by local government and Red Cross chapters. Since the targeted population has been selected through a participatory method, it is ensured that the most vulnerable individuals are taken into consideration. Post-distribution monitoring (PDM) will be conducted in March 2024 by VNRC staff and volunteers two weeks after the first installment to ensure the shelter repair process has already commenced before the second installment is made. It is planned all (100 per cent) of the supported population will be reached out for PDM. This closely adheres 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 have returned to their homes after the disaster, have received limited funding and support from the government to repair their houses and recover their assets. Families who have lost all or part of their belongings because of the flood still require additional cash assistance to rebuild their lives. In addition, the regions affected by the flood are not historically prone to disasters; that is why the early recovery in the aftermath of the disaster has been particularly difficult for the communities, VNRC branches, and the local authorities.

2. Livelihood and basic needs

The whole source of income for people for the rest of the year was considered lost because of the floods. Due to the mountainous terrain with extreme weather conditions, it has been very difficult for affected people to restore their income after such disasters, even six months after the flood. Despite implementation delays, VNRC indicates that the affected people in the targeted area, who have returned to their homes after the disaster, have received limited funding and support from the government to rebuild their livelihoods.

Some 328 affected households (1,312 people) are targeted to receive conditional cash (for purchasing poultry/ cattle, varieties, seeds for crops and so on) valued at VND 5,000,000 (CHF 200) in two installments, 70 per cent for the first installment and 30 per cent for the 2nd installment, thus contributing to restoring their sources of income. 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. In addition to the original target, another thirty households were identified to receive assistance through the Cash intervention, resulting in 328 households who will receive cash assistance for livelihood restoration.

Commitment will be made prior to the distribution to ensure people utilize the supported cash for their livelihood restoration. PDM will be conducted in March 2024 by VNRC staff and volunteers after the first installment of the conditional cash using KOBO toolbox to ensure the commitment of the people reached. All (100 per cent) of the targeted population will be reached through the PDM, and those who follow the conditional commitment will receive the second installment. Technical guidance sessions on livelihood restoration were delivered in four provinces from January 15 to 19, with the integration of working with nature awareness raising.

3. Multipurpose cash

Situation and damage assessment reports from the local authorities shortly after the flood have informed that all markets were still functioning in 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 have shown that such intervention is still necessary to address the needs in terms of food and income sources and the reduction of harmful coping mechanisms such as financial debt. It will also take care of food, medicine, school bills, and other urgent needs.

The cash modality will be divided into three levels for: 1) households with one member receiving VND 1 million equivalent to CHF 36.72, level 1, 200HH (200 people) 2) households with two members (receiving VND 2 million equivalent to CHF 73.45, level 2, 400HH (800 people) 3) households with three members or more receiving VND 3 million equivalent to CHF 110.12, level 3, 600HH (1800 people). These figures were established after several consultations with the cash working group in Vietnam and using data from prior operations and market assessment officially undertaken in 2018.

A total of 1,200 targeted households (estimated 2,800 people) have been selected for Multipurpose Cash, and VNRC predicts that at least 4,200 people will directly benefit from cash intervention. The planned intervention will assist the restoration of food and income sources and the reduction of harmful coping mechanisms such as the debt cycle. The support will also assure the security of food, medicine, school bills, and other urgent needs.

4. WASH

The disaster happened after consecutive rain in many provinces that have 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 of the communities affected by the inundation. Therefore, VNRC intended to provide 150 water tanks (1,500-liter tank) to store rainwater to households directly affected by the floods and flash flood aimed at assisting local people to avoid the contaminated water source.

This distribution is still crucial as the targeted individuals currently lack water storage facilities, leaving them vulnerable during droughts or rainy seasons. The provision of water tanks will ensure access to clean water for these communities in the upcoming rainy season. Despite implementation delays, VNRC is actively progressing with the procurement of water tanks process. Agreements with suppliers have been finalized, and plans are 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 flood and landslides on August 5 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 floods. The kitchen for semi-boarding students, and the teacher's kitchen was inundated, 2 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 this school, which helps provide fresh water to 300 students and teachers.

Targeting Strategy

Who will be targeted through this operation?

The most vulnerable households severely impacted by the floods and still in need of early recovery assistance are the focus of VNRC's efforts. The selection criteria for these households are 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 are Lao Cai, Lai Chau, Yen Bai, and Dak Nong.

Through the IFRC-DREF operation, cash support is intended to directly reach 5,620 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 HQ.

The selection criteria endorsed by VNRC include 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 a labor 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 can apply for only one of the cash assistances. Information regarding the criteria for selection will be displayed in leaflets at commune centers to ensure transparency. The lists of targeted populations will be voted on by local people in village meetings and validated by the heads of villages/communes. A roughly equal number of men and women are expected to be covered, and the majority of the households receiving support are from rural areas.

Explain the selection criteria for the targeted population

VNRC targets 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 are still recovering from the impacts of the flash floods and landslides. Equal numbers of men and women are anticipated to be covered, and the majority of the household's receiving assistance are 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 includes priority criteria and mandatory criteria for selection. For example, priority criteria include 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 apply specifically and differently for each invention listed as shelter, livelihood, and multipurpose-cash components. Head of communes must check the list of targeted population and compare it with the list of house books before confirming the final list of family assisted. These regulations help prevent the operation from overlap of intervention. Village meeting for beneficiary selection led by the village head and monitored by a local Red Cross staff will also ensure the transparency of the selection as well as community engagement.

In the process of developing the operation update, VNRC continues to provide early recovery assistance to the same target groups



mentioned above. This decision is based on the understanding that those who lost their properties and livelihoods due to the flood require 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 IFRC-DREF finance policy and process, as well as CVA procedure.
The long approval process from the government that would delay the whole DREF operation implementation	The only possible action was for to VNRC request a one month time frame extension since no other action was possible to shorten the government approval process. The IFRC-DREF implementation will be ended by 31 March 2024.
Lack of commitment of people under conditional cash assistance to repair the shelter and livelihood sector	Criteria for targeted people' selection and procedure of conditional cash support were clearly communicated during the targeted people's selection trainings. A distinct communication among Red Cross staff and local people in each village meetings for targeted people' selection was encouraged to ensure the compliance with the CVA procedure.
The presence of unexploded objects (UXOs) may still pose risks, especially in rural and remote areas. It is highly advisable to consult 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.	The National Society's security framework will apply throughout the duration of the operation to their staff and volunteers. In case of need for deployment for personnel under IFRC security's responsibility, including surge support and integrated sister National Societies, the existing IFRC country security framework will apply. All IFRC must, and Red Cross Red Crescent staff and volunteers are encouraged to, complete the IFRC Stay Safe 2.0 elearning courses.

Please indicate any security and safety concerns for this operation

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

Has the child safeguarding risk analysis assessment been completed?

No



Planned Intervention



Shelter Housing And Settlements

Budget: CHF 77,191

Targeted Persons: 400

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of people receiving technical training on builds back safer guidance	100	0
# of targeted households supported with conditional cash for shelter repair	100	0
% of households reached with PDM	100	0

Progress Towards Outcome

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. 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. A total of 100 most affected households (35 HH in Lai Chau, 10 HH in Lao Cai, 35 HH in Yen Bai and 20 HH in Dak Nong provinces) have been identified and selected by the relevant Provincial Red Cross Chapters in January 2024.

On 16 January 2024, VNRC in collaboration with a specialist facilitator from the local department of construction, conducted a refresher training on build back safer guidance to VNRC staff representatives from four targeted provinces (the number of participants to be confirmed). The training took place in Yen Bai province. The number of participants has not yet been reported back to VNRC HQ.

Remaining actions until the end of March 2024:

- The cash distribution will start after the Lunar New Year as per tentative plan, from 19 to 23 February 2024.
- The Build Back Safer techniques sessions for targeted households will then take place during the last week of February 2024, immediately after the cash distributions. The sessions will focus on shelter repair and retrofitting techniques and will take place before the beginning of shelter repair.
- The second Cash installment will take place during the first week of March 2024.
- Following the second installment, post-distribution monitoring and the LLW will be completed before the end of March 2024, with support from the IFRC CCD.



Livelihoods And Basic Needs

Budget: CHF 79,321

Targeted Persons: 1,200

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
% of assisted household able to resume/ restart their livelihood activities	100	0



# of people receive technical guidance on livelihood restoration and working with nature.	300	0
# of households supported with conditional cash for livelihood restoration	300	0
% of households reached with PDM	100	0

Progress Towards Outcome

In early January 2024, an assessment conducted by the local government and provincial VNRC Chapters, as directed by the Prime Minister, confirmed that early recovery needs for livelihood support have 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.

Initially, in December 2023, 298 households in four provinces were selected to receive conditional funding to help them restore their means of subsistence. In late January 2024, VNRC and the Vietnam Post office signed the agreement for cash intervention.

Furthermore, in January 2024, an additional thirty households were identified to receive assistance through the Cash intervention, resulting in a total of 328 households receiving cash assistance for livelihood restoration. However, VNRC plans to revise the targeted households after the operation is completed, taking into account the actual number of households reached.

Remaining actions until the end of March 2024:

- The Cash distribution will occur in two installments with beneficiaries being required to initiate the process of restoring or improving their livelihoods upon receiving the first installment. This prerequisite serves as a condition for eligibility to receive the second installment.
- The first cash installment distribution will take place in the targeted province upon approval of the final beneficiary list in mid-February 2024.
- The second installment distribution will take place in early March 2024.
- PDM.



Multi Purpose Cash

Budget: CHF 127,204

Targeted Persons: 2,820

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of provincial Red Cross staff received refreshment trainings on PDM	20	6
# of households supported through multipurpose cash grants.	1,200	0
% of beneficiary reached with PDM	20	0

Progress Towards Outcome

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 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



in four targeted provinces.

In January 2024, an additional 220 households were identified to receive cash support due to the increased budget in VND. The total number of recipients for multi-purpose cash is now 1,174 households.

On 11 January 2024, VNRC conducted a PDM training for VNRC staff chapter in Dak Nong Province. The training covered detailed orientation about the purpose of PDM, information requirements, how to ask the questionnaire, and practice using KOBO. The number of participants has not yet been reported to the IFRC or VNRC Headquarters. Nonetheless, images from the events were regularly shared with the IFRC programme officer in Viet Nam and VNRC Headquarters.

Remaining actions until the end of March 2024:

- Cash distribution to validated households by mid-February 2024
- The selection of new additional households is in progress, VNRC will finalize it after Lunar New Year.
- PDM will be combined with the end-of-project monitoring/evaluation.



Health

Budget: CHF 0

Targeted Persons: 5,025

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of people reached through PFA	5,000	0
# of volunteers trained on PFA	25	19

Progress Towards Outcome

Since the PDM process involves direct engagement between local Red Cross officials and the impacted individuals receiving assistance from VNRC, Psychological First Aid (PFA) was integrated into this training. Equipping local VNRC employees with PFA tactics makes it easier for them to provide respondents with PFA when necessary, particularly when addressing questions related to damages that may evoke the effects of disasters.

Project staff from four provinces underwent PFA training from 5 to 11 January 2024. Three out of the four provinces reported a total of 19 participants (12 male, 7 female). Lai Chau has not yet submitted its consolidated report.



Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

Budget: CHF 53,037

Targeted Persons: 14,980



Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of people reached by hygiene promotion activities	14,980	341
# of people provided by RCRC with an improved protected source of drinking water (according to WHO and Sphere standards)	300	0
# of people reached by WASH assistance	14,980	0
# of VNRC staff and volunteer receive refresher training on Health and WASH focusing on disease prevention	100	100

Progress Towards Outcome

In January 2024, VNRC conducted a refresher training on Health and WASH, focusing on disease prevention during disasters, for VNRC project staff at all levels in the four targeted provinces. Facilitators with a Training of Trainers (ToT) certification in WASH and Emergency Health were borrowed from the Nghe An Province VNRC Chapter. The training covered handwashing techniques, water-borne diseases, menstrual hygiene, and health care before and after disasters. In total, 100 staff and volunteers (83 male, 17 female) participated in the WASH and health care training.

In January 2024, VNRC carried out hygiene promotion sessions in the targeted communities. The sessions covered personal hygiene, waterborne disease prevention, and hygiene during and after disasters. As of this operation update, 341 individuals have been reached in Lao Cai through these sessions. The remaining people reached will be consolidated later. The National Society also produced and distributed Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials, including content on disease prevention, hygiene, waterborne disease prevention, and hygiene after disasters. The list of people who received the IEC material has not been reported.

Additionally, VNRC signed a contract with the supplier for the procurement of 150 water tanks and one Reverse Osmosis (RO) water purifier. The distribution is scheduled after the Lunar New Year holidays (3rd week of Feb).

Remaining actions until the end of March 2024:

- Distribution of water tanks and RO water unit to the targeted school by the end of February 2024. The school is located in a remote and mountainous area in Yen Bai province, which has been seriously damaged by both flash flood and landslide.
- Hygiene promotion in the form of communication and dissemination events is ongoing due to its large scale and the large number of people targeted. As agreed among the four target provinces, VNRC will complete this hygiene promotion activity by mid-March 2024.



Protection, Gender And Inclusion

Budget: CHF 0

Targeted Persons: 14,980

Indicators

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

Progress Towards Outcome

PGI elements have been 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.

PGI messaging has already been integrated into WASH and Health emergency training held in January 2024. Facilitators emphasized the importance of menstrual hygiene and the necessity for injections for women and children. Furthermore, the training was scheduled between 09:00 and 16:00, allowing participants ample time to pick up their kids from school.

VNRC will organize a Child Safeguarding Analysis session for VNRC staff and leadership by early March 2024 to assess child safeguarding risks.



Secretariat Services

Budget: CHF 37,658

Targeted Persons: 21,000

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of surge deployed in support of the operation	1	2
% of financial reporting compliance to IFRC procedures	100	1
# of communications materials produced (social media, media articles, interviews, etc.) to share information about the operation.	10	5

Progress Towards Outcome

The IFRC CCD Bangkok deployed two operations managers to assist the VNRC 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 Office. Additionally, the operations managers played a vital role in providing close support to VNRC. 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 Post-Distribution Monitoring (PDM) questionnaires.

The financial reports have recently been submitted to VNRC Headquarters because all four project provinces are new to the IFRC-DREF Operation, and the approval process from local authorities for the general procedure has been challenging. The IFRC finance officer in Viet Nam and VNRC at all levels are working together on financial reconciliation.



National Society Strengthening

Budget: CHF 25,933

Targeted Persons: 25

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of lessons learned workshop conducted	1	0
# of VNRC personnel trained in livelihood restoration and working with nature	20	25



Progress Towards Outcome

From 15 to 19 January 2024, a training session on livelihood restoration and working with nature was conducted for 25 Red Cross staff (15 male, 10 female) from 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.

Remaining actions until the end of March 2024:

- A lesson-learned workshop (LLW) with a focus on the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) sector will be held by the third week of March 2024. A PMER Officer from the IFRC Bangkok CCD will assist and provide advice during the session on lessons learned.

About Support Services

How many staff and volunteers will be involved in this operation. Briefly describe their role.

- 1) VNRC Disaster Management and Social Work department is leading the operation and collaborate with IFRC CCD, the vendor, the application development team, and government officials involved in the operation.
- 2) Provincial VNRC Chapters in collaboration with the Vietnam Post Office in the localities will deliver the relief kits to the households or distribution points designated by the VNRC.
- 3) The IFRC CCD Bangkok team, including the Disaster Preparedness and Response Senior Officer, the Programme Coordinator, the PMER and Communications Officer, coordinate with in-country IFRC Programme Officer throughout the entire operation.
- 4) IFRC PMER Senior officer will be deployed to provide assistance to the LLW
- 5) IFRC Surge support will provide technical management, guidance, and input to the VNRC

Will surge personnel be deployed? Please provide the role profile needed.

Two Operation Managers were deployed for a total duration of three months to support VNRC in managing the early stages of the VNRC IFRC-DREF operation. They assisted VNRC in successfully planning and implementing the most appropriate response in a timely manner. The Operation Managers reported to the IFRC CCD Programme Coordinator. Their main responsibilities included strategy and priorities definition, management of the overall operation, Movement coordination, Coordination with other actors, security management, and transition to early recovery. The targeted provinces were considered remote and mountainous, and the Red Cross provincial Chapter had not dealt with such a disaster situation in the past 5 years. The Surge Operation Manager was deployed to provide technical support for both VNRC at HQ and provincial levels. Considering that VNRC had mobilized staff to focus on the Asia Pacific conference in November, IFRC technical support in place helped to ensure the quality and timeframe of the operation.

If there is procurement, will it be done by National Society or IFRC?

The procurement process to select the vendor has been undertaken by VNRC.

How will this operation be monitored?

The IFRC CCD Bangkok office is monitoring and supporting the management of the IFRC-DREF implementation in regular coordination with VNRC counterparts. VNRC will monitor the logistics of delivering cash and the approval workflow process with related government officials at each level.

Please briefly explain the National Societies communication strategy for this operation

IFRC will be supporting VNRC communications capacity through the communication team in the Bangkok CCD and APRO. IFRC will provide assistance in media relations and content gathering, producing and distributing communication material and resources, as well as using social media (Facebook, Twitter..) to promote advocacy messages through the global and regional platforms. Furthermore, IFRC will support in managing reputational risk at the country level and will ensure that the Movement actors at the country level speak and act with a unified voice to build trust towards partners, donors and other stakeholders. IFRC will also ensure communication with stakeholders and partners are in place.



Budget Overview



DREF OPERATION

MDRVN023 - Vietnam Red Cross Society Vietnam Flash Floods and Landslides 2023

Operating Budget

Planned Operations	336,753
Shelter and Basic Household Items	77,191
Livelihoods	79,321
Multi-purpose Cash	127,204
Health	0
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	53,037
Protection, Gender and Inclusion	0
Education	0
Migration	0
Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery	0
Community Engagement and Accountability	0
Environmental Sustainability	0
Enabling Approaches	63,591
Coordination and Partnerships	0
Secretariat Services	37,658
National Society Strengthening	25,933
TOTAL BUDGET	400,344

all amounts in Swiss Francs (CHF)



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

[Click here for the reference](#)

