

EMERGENCY APPEAL



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Fédération internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

VIET NAM: TYPHOON LEKIMA

Appeal no. MDRVN002
10 October 2007
Glide no.
TC-2007-00178-VNM

The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in over 185 countries.

In Brief

THIS PRELIMINARY EMERGENCY APPEAL SEEKS CHF 3,231,507 (USD 2,736,640 OR EUR 1,940,274) IN CASH, KIND, OR SERVICES TO SUPPORT THE VIET NAM NATIONAL RED CROSS IN ASSISTING 193,000 BENEFICIARIES FOR 12 MONTHS.

A TOTAL OF CHF 200,000 (USD 170,000 or EUR 120,100) HAS BEEN ALLOCATED FROM THE SECRETARIAT'S DISASTER RELIEF EMERGENCY FUNDS (DREF).

[*<click here for the attached appeal budget>*](#)

The Situation

It has been less than two months since the devastating flooding of mid-August within the Central provinces of Viet Nam. This area is badly affected once again by Typhoon Lekima including the provinces of Nghe An, Ha Tinh, Quang Binh, Quang Tri, Hue, and Quang Ngai. The typhoon with strong winds of up to 130 km/hour and heavy rainfall, particularly affected the provinces of Ha Tinh and Quang Binh on 3 and 4 October 2007. Six provinces were already under water as result of incessant rainfall over the three days before the typhoon struck.

[*<click here to see a map of the affected areas>*](#)

In the aftermath of typhoon Lekima which caused considerable damage to infrastructure, heavy rain has hit the provinces of Quang Binh, Ha Tinh, Nghe An, Thanh Hoa, Ninh Binh, Hoa Binh and Son La. Extensive flooding occurred from 4 to 6 October 2007. One dam under construction in Thanh Hoa was damaged on the night of 4 Oct, inundating almost the entire communes of Tho Xuan and Thieu Hoa district. Evacuees of typhoon Lekima who returned to their homes were forced to re-evacuate due to rising flood waters. A thousand more unable to be evacuated the same night were compelled to seek refuge on trees or roofs. River water overflowing the dykes has forced the evacuation of an additional 54,000 residents along the Ma River.

In the mountainous areas of the Nghe An province, deadly flash floods occurred due to severe damage to several small dams on the morning of 6 October, cutting off provincial roads. Flash floods also occurred in three other provinces, namely Yen Bai, Son La and Ninh Binh.

To date, the Central Committee for Floods and Storms Control (CCFSC) has reported 51 deaths and 14 missing persons while thousands of others have been directly affected by floods and need to be evacuated urgently. The local media has also reported the floods destroying over 80,000 hectares of rice and vegetable crops including

aquaculture. An total of 5,971 houses have collapsed or been washed away, while about 51,794 have been flooded and damaged in 27 provinces of Viet Nam. In the Thanh Hoa and Ninh Binh provinces, more than 54,000 people and 32,000 others have been evacuated respectively.

Reports from local authorities show preliminary damage estimations given by some provinces. Among these are the Nghe An, Ha Tinh and Quang Binh provinces at a total of VND 575 billion (CHF 42.9 million or USD 36.4 million) while in Thanh Hoa province alone, total damages are calculated at VND 520 billion (CHF 38.8 million or USD 33 million).

While damage estimates are not yet comprehensively available, it is confirmed that affected areas particularly Quang Binh, Ha Tinh, Nghe an, Thanh Hoa and Ninh Binh will suffer food shortages due to enduring serious flooding twice within two months.

Alerts and close watch messages have been sent from the Central Committee for Floods and Storms Control (CCFSC) to all these provinces in terms of rising river water level and dyke enforcement, in particular.

The central government has called for domestic and international contributions to help those affected. A total of VND 130 billion (CHF 9.7 million or USD 8.2 million) has been released by the central government to assist the 27 affected provinces in terms of flood response and evacuation. These comprise the Cao Bang, Ha Giang, Yen Bai, Lao Cai, Hai Duong, Bac Kan, Ha Tay, Son La, Bac Ninh, Hoa Binh, Binh Thuan, Hung Yen, Ha Nam, Nghe An, Quang Binh, Nam Dinh, Quang Tri, ha Tinh, Quang Nam, Quang Ngai, Thai Binh, Binh Dinh, Phu Yen, Ninh Thuan, An Giang, Soc Trang and Ca Mau provinces.

Local authorities have mobilized thousands of military personnel to assist in evacuating flood-affected people and strengthen structures such as the river dyke system, dams and other such edifices.

The National disaster management working group (DMWG) called for a meeting on Monday afternoon, 8 October to share information on initial damages and needs, and to form three joint assessment teams (including VNRC) to visit the hardest-hit provinces of Ha Tinh, Nghe An and Thanh Hoa. Three teams will head out to do detailed assessment from Tuesday, 9 to Sunday, 14 October, followed by a debriefing meeting by all teams on Monday, 15 October.

Annually, the Viet Nam Red Cross with technical assistance from the Federation and contributions from the Japanese Red Cross, Netherlands Red Cross and Spanish Red Cross societies, implement community-based disaster preparedness and disaster risk reduction activities. These include training of disaster preparedness for children, building preparedness capacity of the Red Cross, public awareness of disaster risk reduction and planting mangroves, bamboo, casuarinas trees, and such foliage. This planting is concentrated along the coastal areas of the Ninh Binh, Thanh Hoa, Nghe An, Ha Tinh, Quang Binh, Hue and Son La provinces. Some of the project sites are flooded but these districts are not among the most affected districts in those provinces thanks to good preparedness and response from both communities and Red Cross.



Distribution of emergency food and medicines to stranded villagers in the Thanh Hoa province. Evacuees of typhoon Lekima who returned to their homes were forced to re-evacuate due to rising flood waters. (Photo: Joe Lowry, IFRC)

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Since the devastating rains in August, the Viet Nam Red Cross (VNRC) has supported communities in affected areas with the provision of household kits, emergency food, and support for returning to their homes and recovering their livelihoods. A VNRC team led by an under secretary- general has distributed emergency relief and household kits to people affected by typhoon Lekima in the Nghe An and Ha Tinh provinces.

Red Cross chapters assigned staff working around the clock over the weekend and sending updated information to the VNRC headquarters. Thousands of VNRC staff and volunteers

have participated in evacuating people from flood-affected areas, and have provided psychological support to those who have lost family members. The Quang Tri Red Cross chapter provided VND 500,000 (CHF 37.3 or USD 31.6) to each family and assisted 384 families to start the repair to their houses from damage caused by Typhoon Lekima. Red Cross chapter staff members are also conducting needs and damage assessment.

The VNRC headquarters called for an urgent meeting with all Red Cross partners in Viet Nam over the past weekend to share preliminary information on the VNRC's plan of action. The VNRC headquarters will release all 4,600 household kits currently available from its warehouse in Hanoi to assist affected people in coming days.

The Federation's Southeast Asia regional delegation has deployed a regional disaster management programme officer together with a regional information delegate to Viet Nam. The information delegate is currently in affected areas to collect further information on the typhoon and floods.

The Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) has released CHF 200,000 ((USD 170,000 or EUR 120,100) to enable VNRC to continue its emergency response, at least until additional external funds arrive. However the urgency of the needs, including the provision of emergency food and safe drinking water, and the complexity of the logistics as a consequence of the size of the affected area, do not permit waiting for the final results of assessment teams before the launch of an emergency appeal.

This preliminary appeal is based on all available verified information to date and on VNRC's longstanding experience in dealing with similar disasters. It is expected that additional needs will be identified by the three joint assessment teams, including VNRC, who are currently in the field and as such, a comprehensive plan of action will evolve. This appeal and the ongoing effort will be adjusted accordingly in a revised Emergency Appeal.



VNRC volunteers in the Thanh Hoa province. VNRC distributed emergency food aid and medicines to villagers stranded for over three days in floods following typhoon Lekima. (Photo: Joe Lowry, IFRC)

The Needs

Through its chapters in different affected areas, the VNRC has identified and is addressing the following challenges in the affected areas:

- (i) Insufficient provision of food to affected families: VNRC has agreed with the Social Welfare and Disaster Management Department to provide emergency food to the most vulnerable households whose houses have collapsed or are damaged and who have not received support from any other party. Emergency relief, covering 48 and 72 hours after the typhoon, is being handled by VNRC local chapters, local government and other agencies. The DREF is expected to be used within one month to support further needs identified by the VNRC joint assessment teams.
- (ii) Assistance in health and care is not included in this appeal since the damage to health stations is reportedly unclear. There is also sufficient assistance from the Ministry of Health and its department at provincial levels for emergency medicine sets, water purification tablets and mass hygiene education which will follow shortly.
- (iii) While some of the affected families are in a state of shock, no sustained psychological support has been provided beyond some initial basic-level activities by some of the Red Cross chapters, and some traditional forms of support. VNRC will learn more by implementing a practical and professional psychosocial system, which will help prevent the emergence of stress-related disorders.

(iv) Support is needed to build typhoon-resistant houses with local reconstruction materials. The local community will be mobilized for labour and other types of assistance (in-kind and cash) to provide safe water containers and sanitation facilities. Tents and other shelters have been provided, while temporary repairation has been done by local volunteers and the military for the families with collapsed houses.

Coordination

Close coordination between the VNRC and its government counterparts is assured through the national society's presence in the Central Committee for Flood and Storm Control (CCFSC), and the People's Aid Coordinating Committee as well as its good working relations with international organizations such as UNDP, UNICEF, WHO and INGO-members of DMWG. All VNRC response planning is done transparently in close collaboration with the Federation's Head of Viet Nam Delegation based in Hanoi, the regional team based in Bangkok and the Asia Pacific Disaster Management Unit based in Kuala Lumpur. Many of the tools within the Federation of the Future to meet the Global Agenda, i.e. the Framework for Action, as well as guidelines for emergency assessment in 2006 have proved useful for needs assessment and subsequent planning, and for monitoring of this operation.

Maintaining a steady flow of timely and accurate information between the field and other major stakeholders is vital for fundraising, advocacy and maintaining the profile of the emergency operation. During the operation, communications between affected populations and the Red Cross, as well as with the media and donors, will be essential for effective disaster response and provide the cornerstone to promoting greater quality, accountability, and transparency. The information and advocacy activities have been shared at DMWG meetings and are also outlined in this appeal. These are aimed at supporting the national society in improving its communications capacities and developing appropriate communications tools and products to support effective operations. These activities are also in close coordination with the communications department of the International Federation's Secretariat in Geneva.

The proposed operation

Based on the available information from the VNRC and local chapter assessments in the affected areas, the VNRC, supported by the Federation, will focus on the provision of food and non-food items, the improvement of water and sanitation facilities of evacuated and returning families, targeted health education and immediate psychosocial support to the affected, and the repair and/or rebuilding of homes. A comprehensive evaluation is needed at the end of the operation to ensure institutional learning. The transfer of acquired knowledge for future disaster response will be guaranteed through a skills upgrade of the disaster management (DM) Trainers of Trainers module.

Food and Nutrition

Objective: Provision of emergency supplementary food comprised of instant noodles, drinking water and a 30 kg ration of rice per family for 140,000 people for one month in the worst affected areas. Support in terms of both cash and rice will also be supplied by local authorities and other organizations.



VNRC volunteers distributing emergency food aid and medicines to villagers in the Thanh Hoa province. Damage to a dam forced villagers to seek refuge on trees and rooftops in the surrounding areas. (Photo: Joe Lowry, IFRC)

Planned activities:

- Identification of beneficiaries through criteria agreed upon between the national society and the local communities.
- Procurement of rice based on the Federation Procurement procedures
- Organization of transport to the distribution point.
- Organization of the various distributions by the concerned local chapters.
- Distribution of rice with proper recording.
- Monitoring and evaluation.

Non-food items

Objective: By the end of December 2007, 12,000 families in the worst affected areas will receive one basic household kit composed of: cooking and kitchen utensils, one mosquito net, two blankets and a 40-litre water plastic container. The provision of these items is aimed at meeting the immediate needs of the affected families so as to enable them return to normal everyday life as quickly as possible.

Planned activities:

- Identification of beneficiaries through criteria agreed between the national society and the local communities.
- Release of households kits from VNRC warehouse
- Organization of transport and the distribution system for the basic household kits by each of the local chapters concerned.
- Distribution of basic household kits with proper recording.
- Procurement of items for the basic household kits based on International Federation logistics standards.
- Monitoring and evaluation.

Shelter

Objective: By September 2008, 1,000 families with no available means to rebuild their homes are living in typhoon-resistant houses with appropriate water and sanitation facilities.

Planned activities:

- Identification of beneficiaries with destroyed/damaged houses with the aid of strong community participation.
- Community meeting to discuss house design and construction materials to be used.
- Education and awareness raising for local people of typhoon resistant techniques
- Provide technical training to Red Cross staff and volunteers at district and commune levels to monitor and evaluate the construction process together with beneficiaries to ensure quality and progress.

Institutional capacity building

Objective: Monitoring and reporting capacity building: VNRC staff and members at headquarters and relevant Red Cross chapters will improve their skills on need assessment, monitoring and reporting

Planned activities:

- Briefing and coaching of VNRC volunteers, staff and branches on needs assessment, monitoring and reporting skills.
- Organization of workshops.
- Implementation of evaluation and documentation of lessons and recommendations.

Capacity of the National Society

The VNRC is established under Vietnamese Law and mandated to act as the leading humanitarian organization in the country providing relief, health and welfare assistance to the most vulnerable sectors of society. The VNRC enjoys nationwide recognition and respect, and is equipped with long and strong experience of disaster management, e.g. using experiences and lessons learnt from the Damrey and Durian operations. The main lessons from previous operations included strengthening the mobilization of the national society's members, volunteers and staff to provide even better and timelier assistance.

The national society and its provincial chapters have extensive knowledge in conducting relief and rehabilitation programmes in the wake of natural disasters, which occur regularly in Viet Nam. It is represented in all provinces and major cities with a total of 64 chapters and 1,000 sub-chapters. Each chapter has human resources from eight to 20 professional staff. The VNRC works in partnership with the government and non-government agencies in achieving effective networking and implementation of services. It is also in partnership with a number of other national societies such as Japanese Red Cross, Spanish Red Cross, Netherlands Red Cross, and Norwegian Red Cross through community-based disaster preparedness, disaster reduction projects or programmes.

Capacity of the Federation

The Federation is represented by a Head of Delegation in Hanoi with a team of committed local staff supporting the VNRC in the monitoring and implementation of ongoing disaster preparedness and reduction projects, health initiatives and organizational development of the institution. The Federation's Viet Nam country delegation is monitored and assisted by the Federation's Southeast Asia regional delegation, based in Bangkok. The regional delegation comprises a head and delegates specializing in disaster management, health and care, water and sanitation, organizational development, planning, monitoring and evaluation, and information. They are backed by a committed team of regional and local staff, the Federation's disaster management unit in Kuala Lumpur and relevant technical departments at the Geneva Secretariat.

Monitoring and evaluation

More detailed evaluation and monitoring activities will be elaborated in the full Appeal to be issued shortly, and in forthcoming operations updates. The Federation's country delegation will provide technical monitoring support and advice to the VNRC throughout the proposed operation. In case of any additional needs, support will be provided by the regional delegation in Bangkok, and the Federation's disaster management units in Kuala Lumpur and Geneva. The VNRC will deploy field-based staff to oversee day-to-day activities. Support will also be provided locally. The preparation and provision of regular operational updates and a final report will be completed according to Federation reporting standards. The Federation's country and regional delegation will also assist VNRC in its monitoring and evaluation role as necessary.

Budget summary

See Annex 1 for details.

Dr. Thomas Gurtner
Director
Coordination and Programmes Division

Markku Niskala
Secretary General

How we work

All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations \(NGOs\) in Disaster Relief](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The Federation's Global Agenda

The International Federation's activities are aligned with under a Global Agenda, which sets out **four broad goals** to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".

Global Agenda Goals:

- Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.
- Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.
- Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.
- Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.

Contact information

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

- Viet Nam Red Cross: **Mr. Doan Van Thai** (Secretary General), Phone: +84 913.216.549, Email: doanvanthai62@yahoo.com.vn ;
- Viet Nam country delegation: **Ms. Irja Sandberg** (Federation representative); Mobile: +84 904067955, Email: irja.sandberg@ifrc.org or **Mr. Dang Van Tao**, (DM Manager), Phone +84 913.361.581, Email: tao.vandang@ifrc.org

- *Federation regional delegation in Bangkok: **Mr. Michael Annear** (Head of regional delegation disaster management unit), Bangkok, Phone: +66 817539598, Email: michael.annear@ifrc.org;*
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[Budget attached below; click here to return to the title page.](#)

APPEAL BUDGET SUMMARY

Annex 1

Vietnam : Typhoon & Floods - Lekima

MDRVN002

RELIEF NEEDS

Construction Materials	1,850,000
Food	372,960
Utensils & Tools	355,200
Total Relief Needs	2,578,160

TRANSPORT, STORAGE & VEHICLES

Storage - Warehouse	15,000
Distribution & Monitoring	62,463
Transport & Vehicles Costs	50,000

PERSONNEL

International Staff	15,000
Regionally Deployed Staff	15,000
National Staff	16,409
National Society Staff	23,700
Consultants	20,000

WORKSHOPS & TRAINING

Workshops & Training	27,521
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GENERAL EXPENSES

Travel	75,113
Information & Public Relations	25,000
Office running costs	30,703
Communication Costs	15,000
Professional Fees	25,000
Financial Charges	27,390

PROGRAMME SUPPORT

Programme Support - PSR	210,048
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Total Operational Needs	653,347
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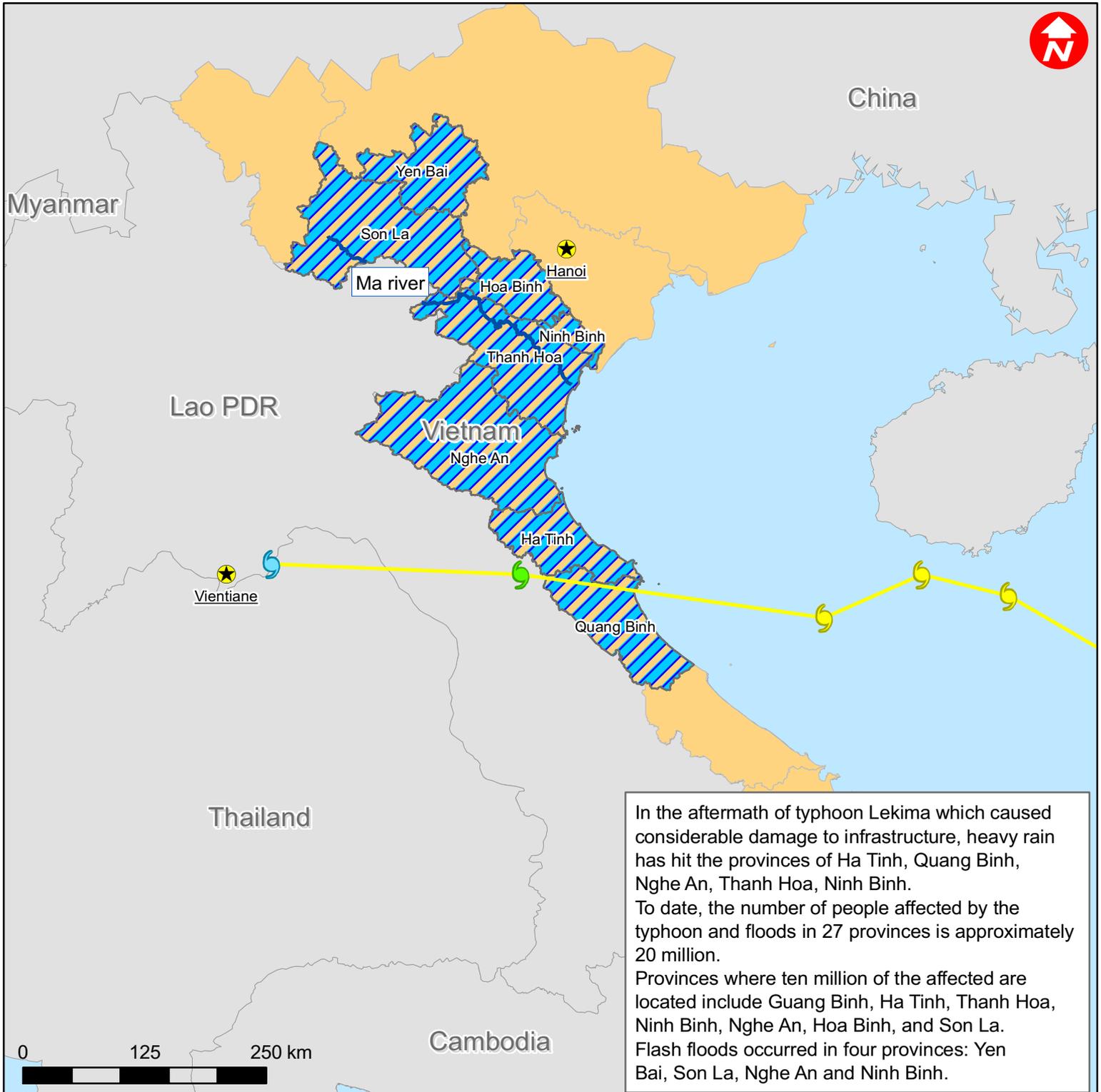
Total Appeal Budget in CHF (Cash & Kind)	3,231,507
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Available Resources

Net Request in CHF	3,231,507
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Vietnam: Typhoon Lekima and floods



- Tropical depression
- Tropical storm
- Typhoon cat. 1
- Lekima
- Ma river
- Affected provinces
- Capitals