

INFORMATION BULLETIN



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

Information Bulletin

no. 1/2007

4 October 2007

Glide number

TC-2007-000178-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 185 countries.

In Brief

This Bulletin is being issued for information only, and reflects the situation and the information available at this time. The Federation is not seeking funding or other assistance from donors for this operation at this time.

The Situation

Less than two months since the devastating mid-August flooding in the central provinces of Viet Nam, Typhoon Lekima has badly affected the same area, this time in Nghe An, Ha Tinh, Quang Binh, Quang Tri, Hue, and Quang Ngai. The typhoon, accompanied by strong winds of about 130km/hour and heavy rainfall has particularly affected the provinces of Ha Tinh and Quang Binh on 3 and 4 October 2007. Six provinces were already under water as a result of incessant rainfall over three days before the typhoon struck.

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

To date, three deaths and one missing person were reported by the local authorities. The local media also reported that the typhoon had destroyed rice and vegetable fields, and some 80 per cent of houses, schools and office buildings in Ky Anh district (Ha Tinh province) and Quang Trach district (Quang Binh province) have sustained various levels of damage. Electricity and communication facilities have been disrupted as have transportation both by land and air. The national carrier, Viet Nam Airlines was forced to cancel flights from and to the three airports in the central part of the country, stranding thousands of passengers.

The Provincial Committee for Flood and Storm Control (PCFSC) evacuated a total of 293,660 people including Red Cross volunteers from the affected areas to shelters in schools and office buildings before the typhoon. Search and rescue operations conducted by the Vietnamese army and police force are ongoing.

In some provinces, particularly Ha Tinh, rivers/dams are still above the danger level and many river embankments in different parts of the province have been seriously damaged.

According to reports from the local authorities, some provinces have made preliminary damage estimations. For instance, total losses in Nghe An are estimated at VND 72 billion (CHF 5.3 million or USD 4.5 million.)

Though estimation on damages is not yet available, affected areas, particularly Ha Tinh and Quang Binh, may also suffer food shortage due to the two serious floods that happened within two months of each other.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Viet Nam Red Cross (VNRC) has released household kits from its buffer stock for distribution to the affected people. A team led by an under general-secretary will leave for the field to carry this out.

Due to disrupted communication, the National Headquarters has had difficulties receiving reports from the provinces, but initial information from the PCFSC Quang Binh's chapter has been actively involved in evacuation, rescue and search operation coordinated by the PCFSC. In total, more than 10,000 people, comprising about 2,000 families, have been moved to safer surroundings. Together with other members of the PCCFSC, the Red Cross continues search and rescue operations, providing first aid services where necessary.

Rapid assessments have begun to determine the size and scope of the disaster. Based on these, the chapter will use its emergency contingency funds to initiate relief efforts by buying necessary items to distribute to the people.

The Viet Nam Red Cross (VNRC) has called for a meeting with all Red Cross partners at their headquarters to share preliminary information about the VNRC's plan of action. Reports from chapters will come in over the next 24 hours.

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 \(NGO's\) 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

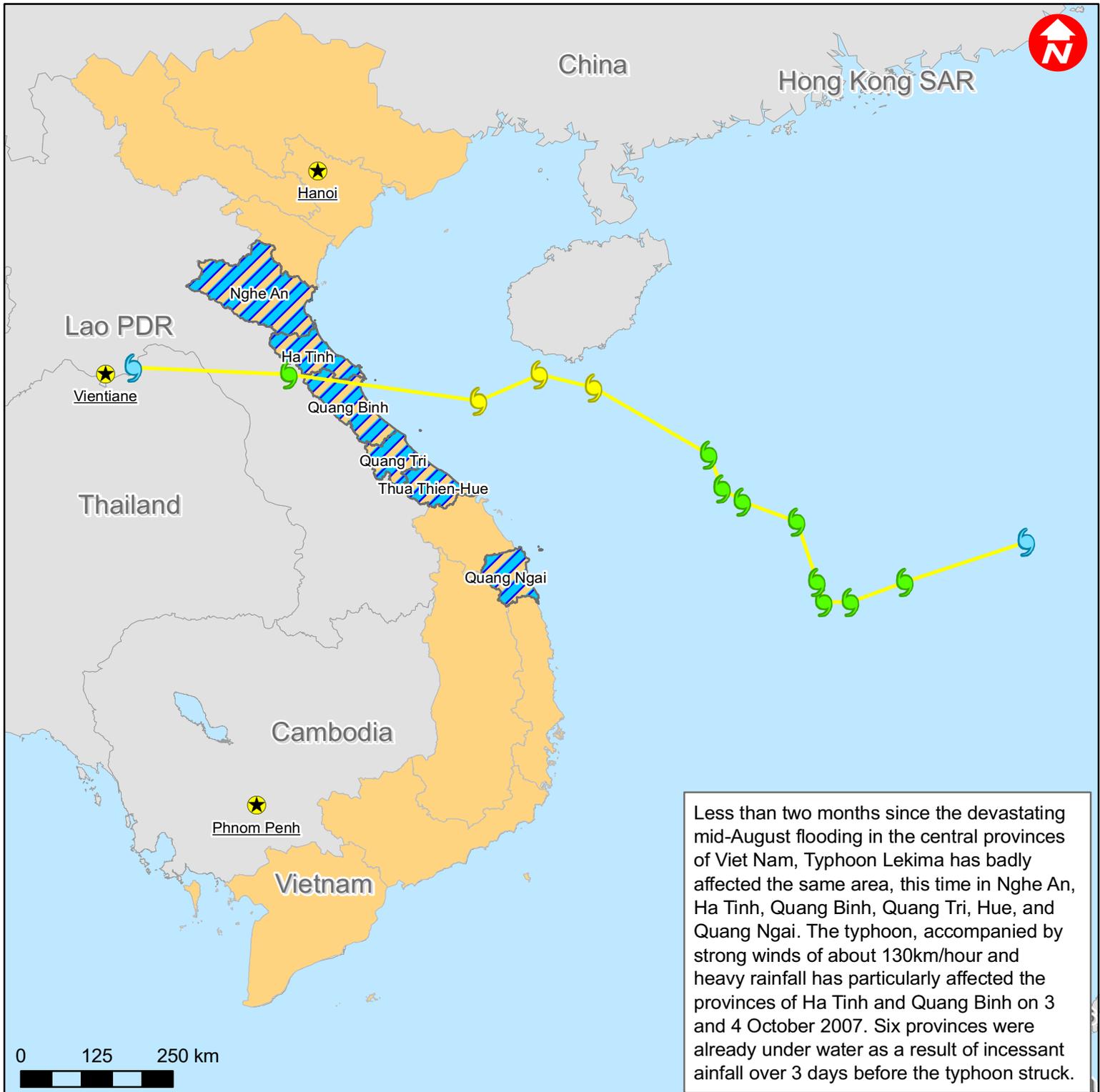
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[Map below; click here to return to the main page](#)



Vietnam: Typhoon Lekima



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- Tropical depression
- Tropical storm
- Typhoon cat. 1
- Lekima
- Most affected provinces
- Capitals

The maps used do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies or National Societies concerning the legal status of a territory or of its authorities. Map data sources: ESRI, DEVINFO, Federation