

Emergency appeal



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Viet Nam: Floods

Emergency appeal n° MDRVN005
GLIDE FF-2008-000211-VNM
12 November 2008

This Emergency Appeal seeks CHF 4,779,037 (USD 4.07 million or EUR 3.17 million) in cash, kind, or services to support the Viet Nam Red Cross Society in assisting 293,860 beneficiaries (70,000 households) for 10 months.

Based on the situation, this Emergency Appeal responds to a request from the Viet Nam Red Cross, and focuses on providing support to take an appropriate and timely response in delivering assistance and relief to beneficiaries in the following sectors: food and nutrition; non-food items; water and sanitation; livelihoods and institutional capacity building.

This operation is expected to be implemented over 10 months, and will therefore be completed by September 2009; a Final Report will be made available by 12 December 2009.

[<click to view the attached Emergency Appeal Budget; a map of the affected areas; or to view contact details>](#)

The situation

Torrential and persistent rainfall over six days from 30 October to 4 November has caused widespread flooding in various parts of the North and the Central provinces of Vietnam. Cities and provinces badly affected by flood waters include Lang Son, Thai Nguyen, Bac Giang, Phu Tho, Vinh Phuc, Ha Noi, Hoa Binh, Ninh Binh, Thanh Hoa, Nghe An, Ha Tinh, Bac Ninh, Hung Yen, Hai Duong, Ha Nam, Nam Dinh and Quang Binh. According to government information, 85 have been reported dead so far.

During the six days, rainfall in the plain areas and the midlands of the Northern provinces reached between 100mm and 300mm, particularly in some areas where rainfall was more than 350mm. This includes Ha Noi (700 mm), Hoa Binh (547mm), Vinh Phuc (425mm), and Lang Son (610 mm).

The flood situation in Vietnam is acute and the urgency for disaster response continues to escalate. Those affected are struggling to cope with the situation amid the loss of family members; the destruction of homes, property, crops and livestock; and the lack of clean water supply. Many of those in the provinces of Son La, Hoa Binh, and Bac Giang who have just started to return to some degree of normal living after the Kammuri flood (August 2008) and typhoon Hagupit (September 2008) have been seriously affected by this disaster.



Salvaging livestock amid flood waters in the Ninh Binh province.
(Source: VTC)

The flood has also worsened many parts of the population in Son La, Lai Chau, Thanh Hoa, and Quang Binh who have just recovered one year after the typhoon Lekima and flooding in August 2007. Their livelihood and livestock have been swept away. However, VNRC chapters have reported that houses constructed under the Lekima operations have proven flood-resistant.

According to the report by the Central Committee of Flood and Control (CCFSC) on 7 November, up to 78,000 families in the capital city of Hanoi have been affected by the floods. The first wave of flooding on 31 October saw 2,000 families in rural areas along the Red River banks evacuated to safer areas. Rains continued since the report on 4 November and as a consequence, many areas were submerged; in particular, 12 areas in the city are still under 30cm to one metre of water. In the Tan Mai area in Hanoi city, homes and property remain waterlogged since the beginning of the floods on 31 October. Transportation to and from these areas has been extremely difficult, and residents have been compelled to take creative measures in moving from place to place. These include using water cans and cooler bottles as floating devices, bath tubs as boats, and even plastic seats and string to create stilts. The local government addressed this situation by arranging trucks to help facilitate transportation.

In Hanoi as well, thousands of families have had no access to clean water for this period as flooding has caused power outages, and stopped water pumps. In response, the local authorities have been distributing clean water to those affected. Also within the city, many badly flooded areas have been without electricity for almost a week.

With the disruption of electrical supply, roads and transportation, daily activities in many parts of the country have been stopped in many ways. Many areas within Hanoi are submerged up to two metres. Between 3 and 7 November, about 700,000 schools were forced to close for several days. This week beginning 10 November, up to 140 schools in several districts, including the Chuong My and My Duc districts, located in the outskirts of Hanoi remain closed.

Power outage is expected to continue for at least one month in many communes of the Chuong My, Tu Liem, Thanh Tri, Dong Anh and Soc Son districts of Hanoi. Up to a thousand families have received candles for children to carry on their studies at night; however, thousands of families remain in need of clean water and sanitation.

While flood waters in the city may recede with the cessation of rainfall, the pollution of existing flood waters increases due to slow drainage, daily activities of families within the area, and floating garbage. The threat of water-borne disease is rising every day the situation remains unabated.

All streets and roads from Hanoi to Son Tay city and other districts have been badly damaged or remain flooded up to 0.7 metres, causing great difficulty in the daily activities of residents. To address the situation, the military has established a temporary 60-tonne capacity bridge linking Son Tay to Hanoi to ease travel.

In the Northern provinces, including Ninh Binh and Vinh Phuc, flooding has been exacerbated with the breaching of dykes. As many as 200 families have been evacuated from the latter province. Mudslides have also been reported in many areas. In Ninh Binh province, the breaching of one dyke has seriously flooded seven communes while in Ha Nam province, three other communes have been affected as well.

In Ha Tinh province, there are reports of acute diarrhoea in Loc Ha and Ky Anh districts; and in the neighbouring province of Nghe An, dengue fever has been reported in some areas. Local health departments and the ministry of health has issued warnings and taken several measures to control its spread. More information on the health situation will be provided in future operations updates.

In several other provinces, houses have been destroyed or damaged by flood water. Damage to farmland and aquaculture is massive while business and production enterprises have been suspended over many days since the flooding began. Up to 60,000 hectares of vegetable and paddy fields in the outskirts of Hanoi alone have been submerged.

Current figures numbering those affected and damage to property in 17 provinces¹ are as follow –:

¹ Report from the Central Committee for Flood and Storm Control (CCFSC) and Red Cross chapters

Number of people badly affected	Houses flooded/damaged	Rice/vegetable fields	Aquaculture resources	Drainage systems	Dykes damaged	Rural roads damaged
600,000	180,000 houses	208,000 hectares	26,000 hectares	457 units	84.847 m ³	168.451m

Local marketplaces have resumed activity to some extent, but isolated areas without markets have needed government assistance in purchasing food supplies transported in by truck. Areas with markets are experiencing an increase in food prices, though the Vietnam Food Company is vending rice by mobile truck to those affected in an effort to stabilize prices. The impact of losing the harvest is estimated at 750,000 tonnes of rice if livelihoods are not restored as soon as possible.

Up to 8 November, heavy rainfall and thunderstorms were predicted that could have led to more breaching of dykes and subsequent flooding of Hanoi city and the northern central provinces. This forecast led to the evacuation of more than 10,000 families living in low-lying areas and on the banks of the Red River. Fortunately, rainfall was light and these families have since returned to their homes.



Escaping flood waters, children in Ninh Binh dry their schoolbooks after being evacuated to safer ground. (Source: VTC)

The government continues leading response efforts through military personnel and with the help of citizens to evacuate those affected, to reinforce dykes and to help in the distribution of relief items. In Hanoi itself, local authorities have also provided food support to people affected.

A meeting by the disaster management working group (DMWG) represented by Red Cross Red Crescent Movement, UN agencies, international and national NGOs on Tuesday, 4 November discussed the flood situation, highlighting damages and the affected population. Needs assessments have been carried out this week by individual local People's Committees, CCSFC and Viet Nam Red Cross at grassroots level. As a priority, all efforts have been made to strengthen the dyke system bordering Hanoi and other provinces as the threat of more rainfall and flooding remains. Since the weekend of

8-9 November, the beginning of the storm Maysak has also focused the entire country towards the effort to recall fishing boats to shore and prepare for further heavy rain and possible landslides. Thousands of military troops have been mobilized and at least 100,000 fishing boats, landed.

Information on needs collected by the CCFSC and the Red Cross chapters report is shown below:

Province	Needs					
	Seedlings (tonnes)	Rice (tonnes)	Houses	Household kits	Livestock	Water and sanitation (families)
Lang Son	15.00		20	250		2,966
Thai Nguyen	3.00	50	15	370	600	237
Bac Giang	34.20					100
Phu Tho	72.20					7
Vinh Phuc	340.00	150	15		800	2,073
Hoa Binh	62.60	30	50	250		1,133
Ha Noi	200.00	744	100	6,200	15,000	34,868
Ninh Binh	223.00	200	50		2,500	9,250
Thanh Hoa	86.20	560	125	300		4,530
Nghe An	1,251.40	480		9,600	500	1,950
Ha Tinh	90.00	334	20	1,000	9,000	42,472

Bac Ninh	37.20					
Hung Yen	248.80					
Hai Duong	199.80					
Ha Nam	366.60	450	75	3,000	10,000	23,898
Nam Dinh	17.60					
Quang Binh		120	30	900		
Total	3,247.60	3,118	500	21,870	38,400	123,484

The Vietnamese government continues discussions with its relevant bodies on a plan of support to those affected by these floods. A final decision is pending.

Coordination and partnerships

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), People's Aid Coordinating Committee as well as its good working relations with international organizations such as UNDP, UNICEF, WHO and international NGO members of the disaster management working group.

All VNRC response planning is done transparently in close collaboration with the Federation office in Hanoi, the regional team in Bangkok, and the Asia Pacific disaster management unit 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 2008 have proved useful for needs assessment and subsequent planning and 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 those affected and the Red Cross, as well as with the media and donors, will be essential for effective disaster response, and 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. They are aimed at supporting the national society in improving its communications capacities and develop appropriate communications tools and products to support effective operations. These activities are closely coordinated with the communications department of the International Federation's Secretariat in Geneva.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

On the ground, the local Red Cross chapters have teamed up with local authorities to expand the effort in evacuating people from dangerous areas, and to provide free health care where necessary. The national society continues to help in search, rescue, evacuation and relief distribution activities, together with other individuals and organizations engaged in response efforts.

The Red Cross chapters themselves have used their own funds to provide cash, instant noodles, clothes and rice. In mountainous provinces such as Hoa Binh, the local Red Cross chapter has also provided lifebuoy bags to school children. These bags are backpacks for children, used as ordinary schoolbags, but act as flotation devices if the child falls into the water (as many children go to school by boat) or is in danger of drowning.

Red Cross chapters such as Vinh Phuc are sending staff and volunteers to help people with cleaning their homes and in resuming agricultural production after the disaster.

A training-of-trainers session held in September in Nghe An province by the



VNRC workers in flood relief efforts in rural Hanoi. The VNRC was the first humanitarian aid organization to respond to those affected by the floods. (Source: Dzuong Bich Ngoc, Vietnam News Agency)

Federation has also proven useful. This training in disaster preparedness has helped community volunteers in this Northern province by enhancing their knowledge and skills in disaster preparedness, and subsequently, has allowed them to respond effectively to those who were affected by the floods.

The VNRC disaster preparedness capacity also has allowed the national society to provide timely assistance in the form of household kits to beneficiaries. The national society has been the first humanitarian organization to respond to this flood situation.

The national society provided relief assistance in the form of cash to those affected in Hanoi and Ninh Binh on 4 November. The VNRC also distributed items from its disaster preparedness stock of 1,100 household kits to 1,100 families in the provinces of Ninh Binh, Nghe An, Ha Tinh, Quang Tri and Quang Binh. Each kit contains cooking and kitchen utensils, one mosquito net, two blankets, one 10-litre water bucket and one 40-litre water plastic container

Up to VND 600 million (USD 35,000) has been allocated by the national society to the provincial chapters for food and support to those who have lost family members. The money is allocated from the national headquarters' disaster relief fund which is now running low. The VNRC continues to establish information on the damages, needs and gaps, and welcomes any other support or contributions to help in the mitigation of and response to the current situation.

The VNRC's first distribution of relief items is illustrated in the following table:

Provinces	Household kits distributed (units)	Cash (in VND) distributed	Date of distribution
Ha Noi		150,000,000	1 November 2008
Ninh Binh	200	50,000,000	2 November 2008
Vinh Phuc		30,000,000	5 November 2008
Nghe An	200	100,000,000	From 1–6 November
Ha Tinh	300	100,000,000	
Quang Tri	200		
Thanh Hoa		60,000,000	
Hoa Binh		30,000,000	
Thai Nguyen		30,000,000	
Quang Binh	200	50,000,000	
Total	1,100	600,000,000	

The needs

Through the VNRC chapters in the affected areas, several issues and ways of addressing them have been identified:

1. 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 elsewhere. Emergency relief, covering 48 and 72 hours after the typhoon, is being handled by VNRC local chapters, local government and other agencies.
2. Even while further assessment is being made of the damage to health stations, there appears to be sufficient assistance from the ministry of health and its departments at provincial levels for emergency medicine sets, water purification tablets and mass hygiene education.
3. Support is needed to rebuild or provide sustainable water supply including wells, water containers and sanitation facilities with local reconstruction materials. The local community will be mobilized to fulfil the need for labour and other possible types of assistance in cash and kind.

The proposed operation

Based on information available from the VNRC and local chapter assessments in the affected areas, the VNRC, supported by the International 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 training-of-trainers module.

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

Objective: Provision of 30 kilogrammes of rice per person for 70,000 people for three months in the worst affected areas in 17 provinces.

Expected results	Activities planned
By end of February 2009, 70,000 people who have lost basic income and crops during the floods have received 30 kilogrammes of rice.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of beneficiaries through criteria agreed upon between the national society and the local communities. • Procurement of rice based on International Federation logistics standards • Organization of transport to the distribution point. • Organization of the various distributions by the concerned local chapters. • Distribution of rice with a proper recording system. • Monitoring and evaluation.

Non-food items

Objective: By end of January 2009, 11,000 families (46,200 people) in the worst affected areas will receive one basic household kit composed of: cooking and kitchen utensils, one mosquito net, two blankets, one 10-litre water bucket and one 40-litre water plastic container. The provision of these items aims to meet the immediate needs of the affected families so as to enable them to return to everyday life as quickly as possible.

Expected results	Activities planned
By end of January 2009, 11,000 families will receive one basic household kit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of beneficiaries using criteria agreed between the national society and the local communities. • Release of households kits from the VNRC warehouse • Organization of the transport and distribution system for the basic household kits by each of the local chapters concerned. • Distribution of basic household kits with a proper recording system. • Procurement of items for the basic household kits based on International Federation logistics standards. • Monitoring and evaluation.

Water and sanitation

Objective: By end of September 2009, 12,100 families (50,800 people) with no available means to rebuild their water and sanitation facilities are provided with appropriate water and sanitation facilities.

Expected results	Activities planned
By end of September 2009, 12,100 families (50,800 people) will be provided with appropriate water and sanitation facilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of beneficiaries with destroyed/damaged water and sanitation facilities, through strong community participation. • Community meeting to discuss design and materials to be used. • Training of Red Cross staff and volunteers on monitoring and evaluation following the agreed model and standards • Education and awareness raising of hygiene and sanitation (water treatment and maintenance) for local people • Monitoring and evaluation

The Australian Red Cross water and sanitation kit has been requested and is on standby ready for deployment once confirmed by the national society. This kit has the capacity to provide drinking water and sanitation facilities for up to 5,000 people.

Livelihoods support

Objective: By end of September 2009, 30,200 households in the worst affected areas, who have lost their homes and/or crops and other means of income, have a viable and sustainable source of income.

Expected results	Activities planned
By end of September 2009, 30,200 households are provided with agricultural seeds, livestock and fertilizer.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Briefing of VNRC volunteers, staff and branches on beneficiary and village selection criteria. • Identification of villages for VNRC assistance • Beneficiary selection process. • Public notification of assistance to beneficiaries. • Support of 30,200 households in re-establishing a source of livelihood. • Meeting with affected communities to identify their interests, skills and available resources. • Monitoring and evaluation

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 needs assessments, monitoring and reporting.

Expected results	Activities planned
By end of September 2009, 3,400 Red Cross staff and volunteers are provided with relevant on-the-job training skills to carry out assessments, and monitoring and evaluation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Briefing and coaching of VNRC volunteers, staff and branches on needs assessments, monitoring and reporting skills. • Organization of workshops • Carrying out of evaluation and documenting lessons and recommendations

Capacity of the National Society

The VNRC is established under Vietnamese Law and its mandate is to act as the leading humanitarian organization providing relief, health and welfare assistance to the most vulnerable sectors of the society. The VNRC enjoys nationwide recognition and respect, and is equipped with strong and established experience of disaster management, e.g. using experience and lessons learnt from the Damrey, Durian, Lekima, and Xangsane typhoons and recent floods operations. The main lessons from previous operations include 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 of eight to 20 professional staff. The VNRC works in partnership with the government and non-government agencies to achieve the effective networking and implementation of services. It is also in partnership with a number of partner national societies such as Japanese Red Cross, Spanish Red Cross, Netherlands Red Cross, Norwegian Red Cross, French Red Cross and German Red Cross through community-based disaster preparedness and disaster reduction projects and programmes.

Capacity of the International Federation

The International Federation is represented by a country representative based in Hanoi with a team of committed local staff supporting the VNRC in the monitoring and implementation of ongoing disaster preparedness and disaster risk reduction projects, health initiatives and organizational development of the institution. The Federation's Viet Nam country office is given technical support by the Southeast Asia regional office in Bangkok and the Asia Pacific zone office in Kuala Lumpur, in terms of disaster management; health and care; water and sanitation; organizational development; resource mobilization; planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting; and communications.

Logistics

The primary tasks of the logistics capacity on the ground in Viet Nam will be to:

- Initially carry out receipt of relief goods by air and sea, arrange warehousing and transportation to distribution points.
- Liaise and coordinate actions with other key actors to ensure that the logistics operation uses all information to be as efficient and effective as possible.
- Assess the possibilities for local procurement of some relief items. All procurement local and international mentioned in this emergency appeal will be carried out following Federation procurement procedures.

The regional logistics unit (RLU) in Kuala Lumpur is on stand-by and will look to deploying logistics specialists if required. The RLU is also on stand-by to mobilize relief items through in-kind donations, pre-positioned stocks owned by national societies at the Kuala Lumpur warehouse and through regional/international procurement by the Federation and other suppliers.

The Federation will be working on mobilizing specific relief items to respond to needs in the field and donors must coordinate with the RLU regarding outstanding needs. Shipping instructions and mobilization guidelines will be provided to donors from RLU with a Consignment Tracking Number issued prior to shipping any goods to the operation. Procurement of goods and transport can be arranged through the RLU.

Budget summary

See attached budget for details.

Thomas Gurtner
Director
Coordination and Programmes Division

Bekele Geleta
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 International Federation's activities are aligned with its 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
- Federation country office, Viet Nam: Mr. Dang Van Tao, disaster management manager, phone +84 913.361.581, Email: tao.vandang@ifrc.org

- Federation Southeast Asia regional office in Bangkok (phone: +66 2 6661 8201):
 - Alan Bradbury, head of regional office, email: alan.bradbury@ifrc.org
 - Patrick Fox, head of Southeast Asia disaster management unit, email: patrick.fox@ifrc.org.
 - Lasse Norgaard, communications delegate, phone: +66 847 526 441, email: lasse.norgaard@ifrc.org
- Federation Asia Pacific zone office, Kuala Lumpur (phone: +603 9207 5700):
 - Heikki Väättäminen, disaster response delegate phone: +6012 230 7895, email: heikki.vaatamoinen@ifrc.org
 - Penny Elghady, resource mobilization and PMER coordinator, phone: +6012 230 8634, email: penny.elghady@ifrc.org
Please send pledges of funding to zonerm.asiapacific@ifrc.org
 - For mobilization of relief items:
 - Igor Dmitryuk, head of regional logistics unit, phone: +60 12 212 2407, fax: +60 3 2168 8573, email: igor.dmitryuk@ifrc.org
 - Aysegul Bagci, regional logistics delegate, phone +60 12 295 6730, email: aysegul.bagci@ifrc.org

[<emergency appeal budget and map below;](#)

[click here to return to the title page>](#)

APPEAL BUDGET SUMMARY

Vietnam Floods - PVN022

Annex 1

MDRVN005

RELIEF NEEDS

Clothing & Textiles	135,000
Food	1,274,400
Seeds & Plants	1,510,000
Water & Sanitation	847,000
Utensils & Tools	230,000
Total Relief Needs	3,996,400

TRANSPORT, STORAGE & VEHICLES

Storage - Warehouse	15,000
Distribution & Monitoring	89,000
Transport & Vehicles Costs	30,000

PERSONNEL

International Staff	30,000
National Staff	30,000
National Society Staff	30,000
Consultants	20,000

WORKSHOPS & TRAINING

Workshops & Training	43,000
----------------------	--------

GENERAL EXPENSES

Travel	55,000
Information & Public Relations	25,000
Office running costs	45,000
Communication Costs	20,000
Professional Fees	25,000
Financial Charges	5,000
Other General Expenses	10,000

PROGRAMME SUPPORT

Programme Support - PSR	310,637
-------------------------	---------

Total Operational Needs	782,637
--------------------------------	----------------

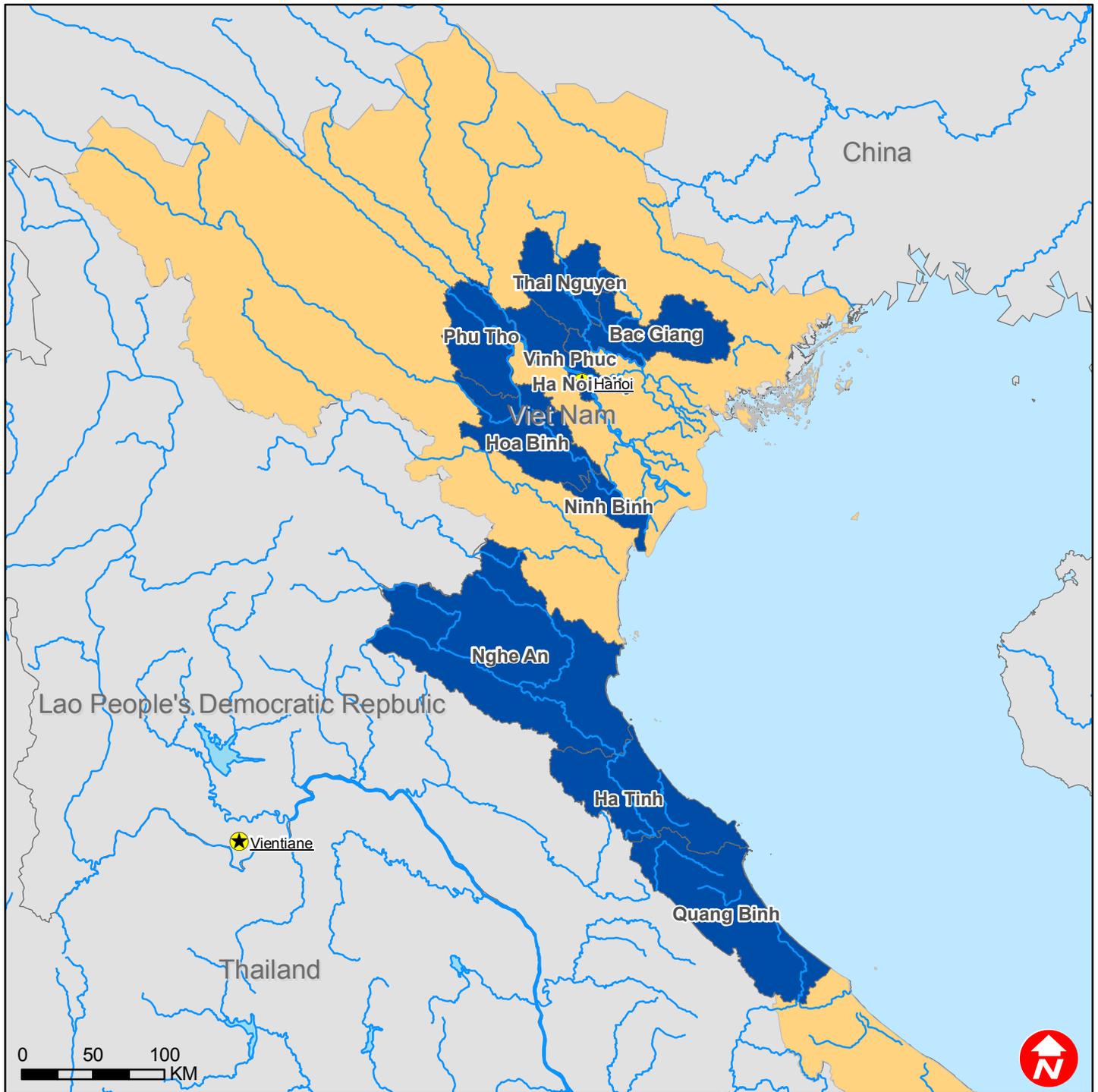
Total Appeal Budget in CHF (Cash & Kind)	4,779,037
---	------------------

Less : Available Resources

Net Request in CHF	4,779,037
---------------------------	------------------



Viet Nam: Floods



★ Capitals

■ Affected provinces