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Information bulletin

Viet Nam: Typhoon Haiyan

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

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This bulletin is being issued for information only and reflects the current situation and details available at this time. The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is not seeking funding or other assistance from donors for this operation. The Viet Nam Red Cross will, however, accept direct assistance to provide support to the affected population.

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Summary: Typhoon Haiyan was initially expected to make landfall in Central Viet Nam on Sunday, 10 November, as a category-2 typhoon, after slamming into the Philippines as a category-5 storm on 8 November. Typhoon Haiyan, locally named storm number 14, eventually reduced in intensity and entered the northern coastal provinces of Hai Phong and Quang Ninh early morning Monday, 11 November 2013, as a weaker category-1 tropical typhoon. The storm then moved northeast and weakened into a tropical depression in the South of Guangxi province, China in the afternoon of 11 November.



9 November 2013: Quang Nam Red Cross volunteers assist in the evacuation of local residents in Tam Thanh commune, Tam Ky city.

Photo: Quang Nam Red Cross chapter/VNRC

The situation

Within the first two weeks of October 2013, central Viet Nam was hit by two category-1 storms - Typhoon Wutip (storm number 10) on 30 September and Typhoon Nari (storm number 11) on 15 October. The typhoons left behind significant damage and total economic loss of VND 15 trillion (USD 734 million) in the nine provinces of Thanh Hoa, Nghe An, Ha Tinh, Quang Binh, Quang Tri, Thua Thien-Hue, Da Nang, Quang Nam and Quang Ngai.

While families in central Viet Nam were still recovering from these two storms, they had to prepare for the potentially greatest storm of the year thus far, Typhoon Haiyan, or storm number 14, especially after the fatal damage it had caused the Philippines before heading towards Viet Nam. Initially, the "super typhoon" was expected to hit central provinces on 10 November as a category-2 typhoon. The government and NGOs, including Viet Nam Red Cross coordinated the evacuation of approximately 600,000 residents in central and southern provinces of Nghe An, Ha Tinh, Quang Binh, Quang Tri, Thua Thien Hue, Da Nang, Quang Nam, Quang Ngai and Binh Dinh.

While the above provinces suffered from strong winds and heavy rains, they have been spared the direct impact as the typhoon changed its course to move north-eastward, heading towards the northern

provinces of Thanh Hoa, Nam Dinh, Thai Binh, Hai Phong and Quang Ninh, resulting in heavy rains and flooding in these areas. On 10 November, the government ordered the emergency evacuation of some 200,000 residents in these northern provinces.

The storm ended up hitting Quang Ninh and Hai Phong provinces around 3 a.m. on 11 November, after causing heavy rain and very strong winds in these provinces, as well as moderate rain in some northeastern provinces and cities, including the capital Hanoi. Authorities in Hanoi and the affected provinces had ordered schools to close on Monday to ensure the safety of students.

The storm resulted in minor damages. According to reports at the Disaster Management Working Group (DMWG) meeting on Monday, 11 November, ten people were reported dead and 40 others injured in five provinces. Some of the deaths were the result of preparation efforts such as fixing roofs or cutting trees, rather than as a direct impact of the storm. Other damages include a few collapsed houses, 114 damaged/unroofed houses, broken trees and power lines in some areas, and one radio-television antenna pole knocked down in Quang Ninh. Below is a summary of damages. The DMWG stated that there is no need for the deployment of the joint assessment teams.

Province	Deaths	Injuries	Collapsed houses	Damaged/unroofed houses	Crops (ha)
Thua Thien-Hue	1	2			
Quang Nam	4	30			
Quang Ngai	2	2			
Ha Tinh	2	4			
Nghe An	1				
Hai Phong				2	300
Quang Ninh			4	111	
Ninh Binh				1	
Thai Binh					34,126
Total	10	38	4	114	34,426

Actions taken by the government:

The Central Committee for Flood and Storm Control (CCFSC) held daily meetings to update the track of the typhoon. Requests were also sent to the neighboring countries of China, Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines to assist Vietnamese fishermen in case they urgently needed to seek shelter due to the typhoon. The government sent alerts to 85,328 boats and ships, or 385,372 fishermen, in order to move to safer areas to avoid the impact of the typhoon.

During the two days of 9-10 November, the government carried out its greatest evacuation plan ever, mobilising nearly 460,000 members of the military and other forces, including Viet Nam Red Cross, to support the evacuation of 858,579 people (221,822 households). They also conducted search and rescue, and strengthened houses, among other activities. Currently, local authorities from the 13 provinces are conducting rapid damage and needs assessments in the areas of impact and will be reporting to CCFSC.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

In response to the pending arrival of Typhoon Haiyan, on Friday, 8 November, VNRC headquarters called for a meeting with the IFRC country office to ensure a coordinated approach to support the National Society in responding to the typhoon. During this meeting, VNRC confirmed their provincial and national disaster response teams (PDRT/NDRT) were on stand-by for quick deployment after the storm makes landfall.

Throughout Saturday 9 and Sunday 10 November, provincial Red Cross chapters temporarily ceased normal operations in response to Typhoons Wutip and Nari, in order to enable their PDRTs to assist with the evacuation of residents to safer areas, especially the elderly and other vulnerable populations such as children and orphans. Red Cross chapters and branches mobilised thousands of volunteers to participate in these activities.

A total of 5,000 household kits were prepositioned for emergency distribution, along with two temporary warehouses of 100 square meters each. The VNRC's emergency fund to support relief goods was also made ready to be accessed on the arrival of the typhoon. In the northern province, Red Cross chapters

also pre-positioned stocks including instant noodles, clothes, water filters, mosquito nets and blankets to be ready for distribution.

Red Cross branches in these provinces also prepared relief stocks of essential household items and distributed food supplies, including over 12,000 boxes of instant noodles and rice. In addition, a total amount of VND 6.6 billion in cash was also made ready for cash grant distribution. After the storm passed, Red Cross branches in these provinces assisted residents in returning to their homes. Thua Thien-Hue Red Cross chapters and Red Cross branches supported families of the deceased, the injured and people whose houses were destroyed, with cash grants.

Communication staff of VNRC headquarters and IFRC staff in the field, as well as chapter staff were active in sharing photos and information from the northern province, in order to profile the preparedness activities by VNRC on national as well as international news.

With Typhoon Haiyan now passed and without significant impact on the communities along its path in Viet Nam, VNRC can now return to the ongoing operation to support relief and recovery for those affected by Typhoon Wutip and Nari ([MDRVN012](#)). Activities that had to be halted by VNRC headquarters and branches which were preparing to respond to Typhoon Haiyan have not been reinitiated.

While these communities have received some initial relief and early recovery support, and are relieved that Typhoon Haiyan had spared them, they are still far from returning to their normal lives. The need for early as well as long-term recovery assistance remains dire, especially for the most vulnerable such as the elderly, the disabled, women, and farmers who lost their livelihoods due to their rubber plantations or aquaculture ponds being destroyed.

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Please send all pledges of funding to zonerm.asiapacific@ifrc.org

How we work

All IFRC 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 the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (Sphere) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The IFRC's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

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The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
 2. Enable healthy and safe living.
 3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.
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Viet Nam: Typhoon Haiyan (Yolanda)

