

## snapshot

# Viet Nam Red Cross Society

## Key Information

### Branch Offices

- National Headquarters in Hanoi
- 63 provincial chapters
- 689 district branches
- 11,000 commune branches including sub-branches/units in wards and towns

### Date Established

23 November 1946

The National Society signed the Geneva Convention and became a member of IFRC in November 1957

### Funding

- Membership fees
- Income generation activities
- Voluntary contribution by Red Cross Red Crescent members, cash and kinds contributions by foreign and domestic organisations and individuals
- Humanitarian and development aid
- State budget according to regulations and laws
- Programs/projects funded by donors through the government

### IFRC Country Delegation?

Yes

### Key Persons

President: NGUYEN Thi Xuan Thu

Vice President and Secretary General: Mr. DOAN Van Thai

Vice President: Mrs. TRAN Thi Hong An

### Legal Status

The National Assembly of Vietnam approved the Law on Red Cross activities in 2008. In 2011, the government issued a Decree detailing measures for implementation.

### Major Partners

American Red Cross, Australian Red Cross, French Red Cross, German Red Cross, Italian Red Cross, Japanese Red Cross, Korean Red Cross, Norwegian Red Cross, Spanish Red Cross, Swiss Red Cross, IFRC and ICRC.

### Volunteers

4,553,582 members, 3,943,994 youth members and 298,725 active volunteers as at October 2015



## Background

The priorities of the Viet Nam Red Cross Society are reflected in its Strategy 2020. Key services include: emergency assistance and humanitarian relief; healthcare; first aid; blood, tissue and organ donation; reuniting families separated by war and disasters; dissemination of humanitarian values; and disaster preparedness and response.

VNRC's areas of focus continue to evolve to reflect changing needs and its increasing auxiliary role to the government of Vietnam. The Law on Red Cross activities has contributed to strengthening the position Society and provides guarantees for government support.

Capacities at provincial and district levels have been strengthened through IFRC branch development programmes, supported by partner National Societies. Promotion of humanitarian values are areas under constant development in cooperation with both ICRC and IFRC.



## Programme Overview

**Blood, tissue and organ donation:** A blood donor recruitment programme addresses acute need in the country.

**Disaster preparedness, response and recovery:** VNRC assists vulnerable communities to reduce risk and increase resilience (particularly in the context of climate change). In addition, the society acts to reduce the loss of life, injuries, economic costs, livelihood impacts and other consequences of disasters, as well as build the capacity of communities in response and recovery.

**Community-based healthcare:** VNRC works to improve people's ability to take care of their own health through mobilizing and supporting community-based healthcare, environmental protection and improving basic living conditions. The National Society is working HIV/AIDS prevention, water and sanitation including in emergencies, first aid and disease prevention.

**Social welfare:** Social work is linked to other VNRC activities in disaster preparedness, health and its work to support disabled people such as victims of Agent Orange. Social welfare has become a developmental programme, aiming to build the capacity of communities and to contribute to the state's poverty alleviation programme. VNRC provides psychological and cash and kind support to the most vulnerable and helps them improve their lives, livelihoods and healthcare.

**Promoting humanitarian values:** VNRC promotes Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross and Red Crescent as well as traditional humanitarian values of the country, among youth and the general public.

**Mobilising funds:** VNRC continually works to expand donations to meet the country's development and humanitarian challenges.

**Strengthening organisational structure:** VNRC seeks to strengthen its capacity and be a well-functioning organisation, auxiliary to the government. Youth and volunteer initiatives engage with development programmes in schools and among young people to promote social responsibility.

## Recent Disasters

Due to its location and topography, Viet Nam is at continuous risk of natural disasters, including floods, tropical cyclones, tornadoes, landslides, and droughts. In the end of 2014, the country experienced unprecedented drought in a number of provinces. Then in July 2015, heavy rainfalls resulted in a historical flood of 40 years and landslides and flash floods in a number of provinces. Climate change is expected to increase the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events.

### Other recent significant disasters in Viet Nam:

- Typhoons Wutip and Nari (2013)
- Floods in north and central Viet Nam (2008)
- Typhoon Xangsane (2006)

## Disaster Law

Viet Nam Red Cross Society played a significant role in developing Vietnam's 'Natural Disaster Prevention and Control Law', adopted in 2013. Based on inputs from the National Society, the IFRC and Red Cross tools such as the IDRL Guidelines, the new law contains a chapter on international assistance and many provisions which integrate disaster risk reduction measures.

Research studies have also been undertaken in Viet Nam on international disaster response law (IDRL) and disaster risk reduction (DRR) law.

Many countries in the region are looking to Viet Nam as an example of best practice, and the society has hosted exchange visits of government and Red Cross delegations from Lao PDR and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.



### For further information about the Viet Nam Red Cross Society

#### Headquarters Address & Contact Details

HQ Address and Contact Details

82, Nguyen Du Street, Hanoi

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Email: vnrcdq@netnam.org.vn

#### Online Profiles

Website: <http://www.redcross.org.vn>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/redcross.org.vn>

Twitter <https://twitter.com/vietnamredcross>

Google+ <https://plus.google.com/103309512346064470835/posts>

YouTube <http://www.youtube.com/user/vietnamredcross>

Flickr <https://www.flickr.com/photos/98244857@N03/>

#### Recent Appeals

A list of all appeals the Viet Nam Red Cross Society has submitted is available on the IFRC website here: <http://www.ifrc.org/en/publications-and-reports/appeals/?ac=&at=0&c=&co=SP351VN&dt=1&f=&re=&t=&ti=&zo=>

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