

VIETNAM  
Flood Relief 2020 Report  
(October/November 2020)

The long, narrow stretch of Vietnam's coastal region along the Pacific Ocean has always suffered from both typhoons and storms that generally happen at the end of every year.

2020 was no exception. Indeed, there were more destructive natural disasters that year than in any other year in recent memory. October began with the region's sixth storm of the year. By mid-November, the region had been battered by its *thirteenth* storm. These calamitous weather phenomena—characterized by high velocity winds and heavy rain followed by destructive, widespread and fatal flooding due to the overflow of rivers running from the western high mountain range to the coastal areas—seriously impacted people's lives. One estimate found that about 1.5 million people had to be evacuated to higher ground, nearly 200 people died, together with thousands of cattle that were lost or drowned, and thousands of acres of rice paddy and crops were damaged.

Among the several coastal provinces in Central Vietnam that suffered heavily, Giao Diem Humanitarian Foundation (GDHF)'s relief efforts and limited resources were concentrated on the Quảng Trị province and in Huế city, and its surrounding regions, as our partnered NGOs are located in these areas.

On **October 13th 2020**, GDHF sent \$115 million Vietnamese Đồng (“VND”), equivalent to \$5,000 USD, from our donor's contributions to Reverend Thích Nữ Như Minh, Tây Linh temple's Abbott in Huế. This financial assistance was to contribute to the temple's flood relief effort in Huế city and its surrounding regions where heavy flooding occurred that caused widespread destruction and serious loss of property. That amount of money helped produce care packages for 200 victim families in Phú Vang district who were badly in need of assistance.

Each care package cost about 500,000 VND and included three essential items:

- 10 kg of rice
- One blanket
- An envelope with cash

In the end, thanks to the compassion and labor of Tây Linh temple and our donors' contributions, GDHF's relief efforts were able to quickly reach 200 desperate flood victim families while the succession of heavy rainfall and flooding went on unabated.



In November, 2020 (after the first wave of typhoon relief efforts in October by the Vietnamese government, other NGOs, and individual benefactors), GDHF coordinated with our local partnered NGOs to provide humanitarian aid in Quảng Trị province, thanks to a generous donation from Americares and our donors.

GDHF's plan of relief was the distribution of care packages to the victims. Each care package cost about 450,000 VND and contained eight items:

- 10 kg of rice
- One liter of cooking oil
- Five bars of soap
- One kg of detergent
- Five large hand towels
- One large toothpaste
- Five toothbrushes
- 2 medium size plastic basins

Using the emergency relief grant donated by Americares (\$10,000 USD) and donations from our donors towards natural disaster assistance (\$1,800 USD), GDHF was able to produce 620 such care packages for 620 victim families. GDHF also covered the transportation costs and other distribution-related expenses of the entire humanitarian operation in Quảng Trị province.

Following the recommendations by two partnered local NGOs, *Quang Tri Province Charity Association (Hội Từ thiện tỉnh Quảng Trị)* and *Quang Tri Province Buddhist Charity and Social Committee (Ban Từ thiện Xã hội Phật giáo tỉnh Quảng Trị)*, GDHF agreed to provide flood relief assistance to the following three locations. All three were heavily flooded by the overflow of several rivers due to heavy and continuous rainfall, and were devastated by fatalities and a high level of property and cattle loss.

- Two communes within Hướng Hoá district, which is located in western Quảng Trị province by Vietnam-Laos border about 100 km from the main coastal town, and is populated mostly by ethnic minority people (Vân Kiều and Pa Cô).
- Two communes within Da Krong district, which is located in southwestern Quảng Trị province about 90km from the main coastal town, and is also populated mainly by ethnic minority people (Vân Kiều and Pa Cô).
- The lowland portion of the town of Quảng Trị, populated by the Kinh ethnic majority group.

These two partnered local NGOs organized two distribution events:

1. *Hướng Hoá district*. On **November 5th, 2020**, GDHF's two partnered local NGOs distributed 160 care packages to flood victims at Hướng Phùng commune and 160 care packages to victims at Hướng Sơn commune.
2. *Da Krong district*. On the same day, they also disseminated 100 care packages to flood victims at Tà Rụt commune and 95 care packages to victims at Húc Nghi commune.

Overall, for the above four communes, a total of 515 families received these care packages.

3. On **November 14th, 2020**, the same two partnered local NGOs distributed 105 additional such care packages to families who endured heavy flooding in the lowland area of Quảng Trị town.

The distribution of care packages to flood victims during those two occasions in November 2020 is summarized in the table below:

DATE	LOCATION		Number of Care Package
11/5/2020	Hương Hoá district	Hương Phùng commune	160
		Hương Sơn commune	160
	Đa Krong district	Tà Rụt commune	100
		Húc Nghi commune	95
11/14/2020	Town of Quảng Trị		105
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>620</b>

Responding to our inquiry, both partnered local NGOs reported that they encountered no serious obstacles or challenges during the distribution events, besides having to travel far into remote areas in road conditions rendered dangerous due to the weather.

The only issue worth noting was what happened during the last distribution on November 14th, 2020 in the town of Quảng Trị, when it was forecast that evening that the 13th storm would make landfall. Since the distribution was already announced, leaders of the NGOs knew that recipients' expectations were high, so they decided to push forward and distributed all the care packages.

In conclusion, regarding GDHF's relief effort during the 2020 flood, one of the most destructive since 1999, urgently needed care packages were delivered successfully to 200 victim families in Huế and 620 victim families in Quảng Trị thanks to the generous donations from Americares and our donors as well as the compassion and labor of Tây Linh temple and our partnered local NGOs.

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