

Situation Overview

- 18 provinces severely affected at present
- 22 provinces currently drought-affected
- 52 provinces aided by Government since mid-2015

At least one third of Vietnam's 63 provinces continue to be affected by *El Niño*-induced drought, with 18 provinces in the South Central, Central Highlands and Mekong Delta regions severely affected. Another eight provinces are at risk of becoming severely affected in the coming weeks. An estimated 2 million (400,000 households) people in the three regions do not have regular and sufficient access to water for human consumption and domestic use.

Water shortage and use of unsafe water pose risk factors for outbreaks of water-related disease. This, coupled with heightened food insecurity due to drought-induced crop loss, is a likely factor in the rising rate of severe acute malnutrition (SAM) reported by the 21-24 March inter-agency rapid assessment. This showed an increase in the SAM rate from 1.3-1.8 per cent in 2015 to 1.9-2.1 per cent in the first quarter of 2016 in three of the six drought-affected provinces assessed.

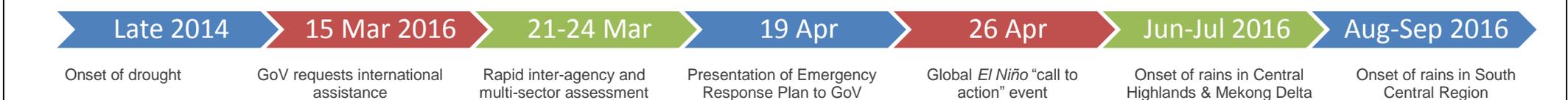
In the Mekong Delta, the drought and related decrease in groundwater levels have resulted in the most extensive saltwater intrusion in 90 years. While salt water intrusion (which contaminates aquifers that support domestic water demand) is an annual phenomenon, it set in nearly two months earlier than normal in 2016 and has penetrated an average 20-30 km further inland than normal. As a result of the drought and saltwater intrusion, some 400,000 hectares of cropland have been affected with varying degrees of productivity loss, and 25,900 ha have not been planted at all.

Since late 2015, the Government has provided 5,221 tons of relief food for distribution to the three drought-affected regions and has allocated 1008 billion VND (45 million USD) for drought relief efforts nationally. This has supported trucking of 2 million m3 of water and distribution of 630,000 doses of Chloramine B and 400,000 Aquatabs for water-insecure households. On 15 March 2016, the Government of Viet Nam (GoV) requested the support of international partners for their relief efforts, with priority given to ensuring water supply, storage and treatment in drought-affected areas, as well as food security and nutritional support and enhanced monitoring of potential disease outbreaks.

2 million people without water access	1.1 million people in need of food aid	27,500 children & 39,000 women are malnourished	400,000 people at risk of water-related disease outbreaks	1.75 million people lost livelihoods
\$17 million required for safe water	\$20.4 million to support food security	\$3.5 million required	\$6.4 million required	\$1.2 million required
\$14 million Gap	\$15.7 million Gap	\$3.4 million Gap	\$6.4 million Gap	\$1.2 million Gap

Total Emergency Requirement (3-5 months) \$48.5 million

Current Gap (3-5 months) \$41.4 million



Outlook: *La Niña* phenomenon follows *El Niño* about half the time; at present, meteorologists remain unable to offer a more precise forecast for the months after April/May 2016. *La Niña*, which is characterized by cooler than normal water temperatures in the Pacific Ocean, usually results in greater than average rainfall, increasing the risk of flooding – particularly in drought-affected areas.

Viet Nam: Emergency Response Plan – HUMANITARIAN COMPONENT

Response Plan Coverage

The humanitarian component of the Emergency Response Plan focuses on life-saving and livelihood protection interventions over the next three to five months. By September, seasonal rains are expected to begin in all drought-affected parts of the region (provided there is a normal or more than average rainy season). Therefore, the focus is expected to shift from September 2016 to ensuring that regular programmes promote recovery, resilience and disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation, especially for those Vietnamese most vulnerable to shocks. In the meantime, funding figures are based on current data and may be updated as the situation develops.



Strategic Goals & Activities for the Humanitarian Response component

1. Ensure that acute needs of the most vulnerable are met, including with access to clean water for consumption and domestic use, targeted food security interventions, and support for the integrated management of nutritional interventions for severely malnourished children, pregnant and lactating women and other vulnerable groups.
2. Strengthen information management and coordination of assessments and monitoring of the situation, as well as identification and targeting of the most vulnerable.
3. Mobilize the resources required to support Government and international efforts to meet the needs of drought-affected people.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	Food Security	Nutrition	Health	Early Recovery
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water trucking, water point rehabilitation, and water storage, treatment and testing enhancement in drought-affected areas – GoV • Provide water vouchers to the most vulnerable households in the Mekong Delta – UN/DMWG • Provide water treatment supplies and water storage containers to 60,000 of the most vulnerable households in the South Central, Central Highlands and Mekong Delta – GoV & UN/DMWG • Provide hygiene kits to extremely poor and vulnerable women – UN/DMWG • Improve WASH services in 330 schools (improved water storage, water purification and hand-washing) – UN/DMWG • Increase general (particularly women's) sanitation and hygiene awareness through Communication for Development and Behaviour Change Communication – Joint • Support Government in selecting water distribution points and targeting most vulnerable – UN/DMWG 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distribute relief food (rice) to vulnerable drought-affected households – GoV • Assess drought impact on the food security and livelihoods of affected rural households and provide specific livelihood sectoral support as required - Joint • Provide cash and/or vouchers to extremely poor and vulnerable households at greatest risk of food insecurity – UN/DMWG • Provide seeds to extremely poor small farmers – GoV & UN/DMWG • Provide animal feed, water and feed storage assistance to extremely poor households that have lost livestock – GoV & UN/DMWG • Increase awareness of linkage between food and nutritional insecurity, water scarcity and poor sanitation and hygiene and risk of disease – Joint • Support GoV in targeting most vulnerable for relief food and food security interventions – UN/DMWG 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Food (RUTF) and micro-nutrient supplements (sachets) for implementation of Integrated Management of Severe Acute Malnutrition (IMAM) at the community and hospital levels for 27,500 children suffering from micro-nutrition deficiency, moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) and/or severe acute malnutrition (SAM) suffering micro-nutrient deficiency – UN/DMWG • Provide multiple micro-nutrient supplements (tablets) for 39,000 pregnant and lactating women for prevention and control of micro-nutrient deficiencies - UN/DMWG • Increase awareness on dietary diversification, improved nutrition strategies and other cares – Joint 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supply Commune Health Centres, district hospitals and other medical facilities in drought-affected areas with essential medicines and medical supplies - GoV • Strengthen monitoring capacity of Provincial Preventive Medicine Centres, including on water quality testing and controlling incidence of water-borne diseases – GoV and UN/DMWG • Support capacity of Health facilities (focus on Commune Health Stations) to store water for maintaining daily health services – UN/DMWG • Increase awareness on public health risks associated with drought and how to prevent them – Joint 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement cash-for-work programmes that (i) promote cleaning of crop lands worst affected by saltwater intrusion, including those of the most vulnerable and (ii) support access of the most vulnerable to water and other essential supplies through distribution schemes – UN/DMWG • Restocking of animals to selected poor households in highly affected districts – UN/DMWG • Support joint awareness raising efforts that integrate drought key messages – Joint
<p>UN Funds Request: \$5.05 million via UNICEF, UNDP, & UN-Women</p>	<p>UN Funds Request: \$4.4 million via FAO & UN-Women)</p>	<p>UN Funds Request: \$3.4 million via UNICEF</p>	<p>UN Funds Request: \$6.4 million via WHO</p>	<p>UN Funds Request: \$1.2 million via UNDP & FAO</p>

Viet Nam: Emergency Response Plan – RECOVERY COMPONENT

Recovery Plan Coverage

Essential medium- and longer-term interventions are required over the next two years to promote recovery, resilience and disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation, especially for those Vietnamese most vulnerable to shocks. Priority actions comprise direct assistance to help the most affected farmers to replant their fields, as well as build-back-better investments that can strengthen future resilience to future droughts in the region. Interventions support an integrated water management approach that will reduce groundwater extraction, enhance water storage and built resilience to both future drought and flood related extreme events. Additional assessments and costing for these efforts are underway.



Strategic Goals & Mainstreaming Priorities for the Resilience and Recovery component

1. Ensure that the most vulnerable have sustainable access to clean water for human consumption and domestic use and are able to ensure their food security and rebuild their livelihoods, and enhance health and nutrition monitoring systems for children, pregnant and lactating women and other vulnerable groups;
2. Promote investment in sustainable water and sanitation infrastructure and systems that can increase resilience to future extreme climate events such as droughts and floods;
3. Strengthen community based disaster risk management planning within communes, and strengthen national information management, assessment mechanisms and the monitoring of drought and its impacts, including the identification and targeting of the most vulnerable.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

- Formulate an appropriate water use plan prioritising water for domestic use and adjusting cropping, livestock and fisheries to adapt to water conditions
- Prepare a plan for water storage and regulation in hydropower reservoirs to increase downstream water access in dry periods
- Increase water retention and groundwater recharge capacity in drought-prone parts of Central Highlands and South Central regions
- Increase water retention, groundwater recharge and build salt water intrusion defences in the Mekong Delta and South Central region
- Enhance study and technical assistance to cope with river bank and coastal erosion
- Enhance data and reporting mechanisms for extreme events, including gender sensitive data collection and reporting

Food Security

- Evaluate the impact of cash for work and voucher schemes targeting extremely poor and vulnerable households at greatest risk of food insecurity
- Support production of drought-resistant seeds
- Technical assistance for climate change adaptation (e.g. restructuring livestock and crop production with varieties adapted to climate change and livelihoods diversification, as well as technical trainings on best agricultural and livestock production practices)
- Support improved irrigation techniques and access to markets
- Develop a drought index to be integrated into a comprehensive early warning system

Nutrition

- Development of emergency preparedness and response plan for nutrition sector as an integral part of national nutrition programme
- Continued promotion of IMAM
- Continued promotion of home based food fortification for young children and promotion of multiple micronutrient supplements for pregnant and lactating women for prevention and control of micro-nutrient deficiencies
- Develop a real-time monitoring system to track and act against SAM cases

Health

- Support the National Safety Water Plan (focus on water supply for rural areas)
- Strengthen monitoring capacity of Commune Health Centres, including on water quality testing and incidence of water-related diseases
- Increase awareness on public health risks associated with drought and how to prevent them

Other Recovery

- Technical assistance for hydro-meteorological forecasting and drought indices
- Technical assistance to enhance extreme event preparedness and response planning
- Step up funding and implementation of the national community based disaster risk management (DRM) programme in affected provinces
- Develop and implement forest fire prevention and control programmes in case of future drought events
- Increase mainstreaming of DRM and assessment in the prioritisation and implementation of investment programmes
- Support joint awareness raising efforts that integrate drought key messages and promote gender sensitive approaches
- Link long-term investment programmes to assist province during the recovery and reconstruction phase

Viet Nam Emergency Response Plan 2016/17

- Design and implement measures to promote more economical water use for rice and upland crops (such as shallow-exposed dry irrigation, spray irrigation, etc.) and enhance incentives to save water among users

Coordination Architecture



Acronym Glossary: DMWG is the Disaster Management Working Group, which comprises membership from the UN, INGOs and mass organizations, as well as Government; DRMT is the Disaster Risk Management Team of the United Nations Country Team (UNCT); MARD is the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, which houses the standing office for the Central Committee for Natural Disaster Prevention and Control; UNRC is the United Nations Resident Coordinator; VNRC is the Viet Nam Red Cross; and VUFO / PACCOM is the Viet Nam Union of Friendship Organizations / People's Aid Coordination Committee.

Modalities of Support:

The Emergency Response Plan takes as its starting point the Government of Viet Nam's plans for national response to the *El Niño*-induced drought and saltwater intrusion in 2016. With reference to the Humanitarian Component, three modalities of support are foreseen, namely:

1. Bilateral assistance to GoV – activities labelled "GoV" above
2. Project-based support provided via UN and/or NGOs in support of GoV response – activities labelled "UN/DMWG" above
3. Activities to be jointly implemented by GoV with direct support and participation of UN/DMWG actors – activities labelled "Joint" above.

UN Agencies Roles

1. Capacity development of national mechanisms
2. Procurement of large quantities of relief supplies
3. Provider of last resort for the most vulnerable people where required.

Contact Information

Mr. Cao Duc Phat, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development
caoducphat@gov.vn

Mr. Van Phu Chinh, Head of Standing Office for NDPC
chinhVP@wrd.gov.vn
 Tel: +84 437335694
 Fax: +84 437335691

Ms. Pratibha Mehta, UN Resident Coordinator
pratibha.mehta@one.un.org

UNDRMT Secretariat:
Bui Viet Hien bui.viet.hien@undp.org
Hannah Collins hannah.collins@one.un.org
 Tel: +84 4 38500100

Mr. Markus Werne, Head of OCHA Regional Office,
werne@un.org