

Vietnam: Heavy Rainfall and Flooding in Northern Viet Nam

Situation Report No.1 (as of 3 August 2015)



This Situation Report is issued on behalf of the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Viet Nam. It covers the period from 26 July – 3 Aug 2015. The next situation report will be issued on or around 5 August 2015.

Highlights

- Between 26 July – 3 Aug, wide spread heavy rainfall has affected most of Northern Region of Vietnam. Some provinces experienced extreme rainfalls such as Quảng Ninh, Điện Biên, Lạng Sơn, Sơn La, Lai Châu, Bắc Giang.
- Quang Ninh is the most affected province. Rainfall recorded during 26-30 July 2015 in a number of stations was significantly above the seasonal average: 886mm in Co To Island, 890mm in Mong Cai, 1172mm in Cua Ong.
- Since 26 August heavy rain-fall has led to serious flooding in Northern Coastal Vietnam. Since 31 July, flash flooding and landslides have also affected the Northern mountainous provinces of Vietnam. It is forecast that rainfall will be lessen from 4 Aug and the risk of flooding will likely continue in the lower river basins of northern Viet Nam in the coming 2-3 days.
- Local and central Governments has been responding in a timely manner to all the affected areas.
- The UN in Viet Nam is closely monitoring the situation in liaison with the Central government.
- The UN in Vietnam, with support from UNITAR and UNOCHA Bangkok, is also acquiring satellite images of the flooding situations in Quang Ninh and other affected provinces to assist central government in their situation analysis, response and recovery processes.

Fatalities	Injured	Household evacuated	House partially damaged	House Fully damaged	Paddy Rice Damaged (Ha)
23	38	1,459	12,638	108	12,040

Situation Overview

- Since 26 July, two episodes of heavy rainfalls have occurred, causing consecutive flooding and subsequent damages in the northern region.
- From 26 -29 July, heavy rainfall occurred in coastal Northern provinces. Quang Ninh was particularly affected with extreme rainfalls, causing serious flooding in the province. Total recorded rainfalls in a number of gauging stations in Quang Ninh during 26-30 July were historically highest in the last 40 years, including Cửa Ông: 1172mm, Cô Tô: 886mm, Móng Cái: 890mm, Bãi Cháy: 695mm. Especially, extreme daily records above 200mm were reported in Cửa Ông: 437mm (26/7) and 278mm (27/7), Móng Cái: 334mm (27/7) and 264mm (28/7).
- Since 29 July - 2 August, wide spread rainfall occurred in all northern provinces. Due to accumulated rains in the past days, severe flash flooding and landslides have been reported in mountainous provinces such as Dien Bien, Son La, Lai Chau, Bac Kan while lowland coastal provinces such as Quang Ninh, Hai Phong, Thai Binh, Nam Dinh are continuingly flooded. The average records rainfalls in northern provinces in three days 29 July – 1 August were 50-100mm. Especially, high records of approximately 200mm were reported in provinces Lai Chau (182-213mm), Dien Bien (204mm), Ha Giang (238mm), Tuyen Quang (204-224mm), Phu Tho (205mm), Thai Nguyen (185mm) and Quang Ninh (190-350mm)
- On 3 August, the National Center for Hydro Meteorology Forecasting (NCHMF) forecasted low and scatter rainfalls will continue in the next few days. The water level of lower river basins of Red River Delta will likely continue to rise in the next 24 hours.

Summary of amages caused by the floods as reported by the CCNDPC on 3 August

Damages from heavy rainfall and flooding in Quang Ninh 26-29 July

According to the Central Committee for Natural Disaster Prevention and Control (CCNDPC) on 30 July, the damage caused by flooding in Quang Ninh Province during 26-29 July is as follows:

1. Deaths: 17 persons
2. Injured: 32 persons
3. Households evacuated: 1,459 households
4. House damaged: 9074 households (~45,000 people)
 - Houses fully damaged/collapsed: 28houses
 - Houses damaged: 9,046 houses
5. Agriculture:
 - Paddy field damaged/flooded: 3,264ha
 - Cash crops damaged/flooded: 1,065ha
 - Poultry lost: 2,078
6. Aquaculture
 - Aquaculture rafts damaged (floating farms): 882 rafts
 - Aquaculture farms damaged: 1,070 hectares
7. Transportation:
 - About 300,000m3 of provincial and national roads were eroded/swept away
8. Others
 - Local Media reported serious damage in coal mines in Quang Ninh, particularly in Mong Duong District. Large quantities of coal mine waste were washed away and spreading toxic contamination and environment pollutions in the province.
 - Nearly 100 households in Mong Duong District were supported by Provincial authorities to evacuate in temporary shelters and will be relocated to the new resettlement sites in the coming months. Their houses were washed away and the location is in high risk of seriously affected due to coal mines damages.
 - The Electricity of Viet Nam (EVN) has warned of a possible power shortage since coal mining has been halted currently due to torrential rains and floods.
 - Total initial economic lost in Quang Ninh was estimated about VND 2,000 billion (US\$92million), of which half of the lost was in the sector of Coal and Mineral Industries (Tuoitrenews and Vietnamnet).



Left photo: The coal grounds of many coal companies in the city of Cam Pha, Quang Ninh province were washed away by the floods. Local people flocked to a flood stream to collect coal. Photo credit: Vietnamnet

Right photo: This picture taken shows residents inspecting a car and debris submerged in thick mud in a community located next to the Mong Duong coal mine following heavy rains in Quang Ninh, Vietnam. AFP

Damages in Northern Provinces from 30 July – 1 August

Flash flooding and landslides also caused initial damages in all Northern provinces of Viet Nam. According to the Central Committee for Natural Disaster Prevention and Control (CCNDPC) as of 19PM 2 Aug, the damage caused by landslide and flooding during 30 July to 2 August is as follows:

1. Deaths: 6 (Lang Son: 2; Lai Chau: 2; Son La: 1; Bac Giang:1)
2. Injuries: 6 (Dien Bien: 4; Lao cai: 2)
3. House damaged: 3,672 households
 - Houses fully damaged/collapsed: 80 houses (Dien Bien:2; Bac Giang: 2; Quang Ninh: 76)
 - Houses damaged/flooded: 3,592 houses (Dien Bien: 211; Tuyen Quang: 2; ; Lai Chau: 1; Cao Bang: 7; Yen Bai: 6; Quang Ninh: 3,346; Lao Cai: 1; Son La: 6; BacKan: 12)
4. Agriculture:

- Paddy field damaged/flooded: 8,776ha (Dien Bien: 650; Tuyen Quang: 337; Bac Giang: 4,084; Lang Son: 1330; Cao Bang: 20; Quang Ninh: 2263; Bac Kan: 92)
 - Cash crops damaged/flooded: 847ha (Dien Bien 650; Bac Giang: 159; Cao Bang: 30; Lao Cai: 2.5; Bac Kan: 6.1)
 - Livestock lost: 98 (Dien Bien: 87; BacKan:11)
 - Poultry lost: 11,500 (Dien Bien)
5. Water resources:
- Irrigation channel damaged: 10,871m (Dien Bien: 10,000; Tuyen Quang: 297; Lang Son: 20; Lai Chau: 520; Cao Bang: 34)
6. Transportation:
- About 138,315m³ of national roads/embankments were eroded/swept away (Dien Bien: 17,000m³; Lang Son: 103,500m³; Lao Cai: 17,815)
 - About 23,103m³ of rural roads/embankments were eroded (Dien Bien: 11,000m³; Tuyen Quang: 103m³; Cao Bang: 12,000m³)
7. Others:
- A section of dam 790 in Quang Ninh's Cam Pha City, containing sludge from coal mining in the province, broke on July 30th morning, local authorities reported. The Cam Pha People's Committee have reported that repairs and reinforcement measures have been taken to consolidate the dam, preventing it from breaking under the pressure of torrential rains.
 - The media reported that more than 500 households in Quang Ninh's Uong Bi City were inundated on the 2nd of August and that flood waters rose over the dams in Thuong Yen Cong Commune of Uong Bi City, isolating it completely and that authority had to breach the city's key spillway of Sinh River's dam to release water. (<http://vietnamnews.vn/>).



Left: The accumulated rainfall during the 1- 2 Aug in Uong Bi town, Quang Ninh, has caused very high flooding. A spillway (dam) was broken down to release the flood pressure in Uong Bi (Vietnamnet)
Right: Floodwaters spread all over Tuan Giao town, Dien Bien province after Huoi Cu dam breach on August 1 (SGGP-Sai Gon Giai Phong)

Humanitarian Response

National Response

- The Central Government has been active in responding to the events in a timely manner. In 26 July, evacuation of households in Quang Ninh was activated. Specific instructions from the central committee were commuted to provinces and ministries to timely response and coordinate the efforts of search & rescue, recovery and preparedness for future flooding risks by the Prime Minister (Telegraph 1192/CĐ-TTg and 1199/CĐ-TTg on 28 July) and by the Central Committee for National Disaster Prevention and Control and Search and Rescue – CC NDPC & SR (11/CĐ-TW at 3PM 28/7/2015)
- The National Committee for Search and Rescue (VINASARCOM) established 03 operation stations in Quang Ninh to provide direct support in search and rescue. Total 305 officials, 31 facilities were mobilised to evacuated 1,459 households who were at risk of flooding to the safe shelters as well as to undertake search and rescue of the missing people.
- During 28-29 July, the CCNDPC sent a number of delegates to investigate the damage and to inspect critical constructions and sites at high flood risks. The officials also provide direct support to local authorities in Quang Ninh in coordinating and instruction of relief and early response works.

- On 1 August, the Chairman of Central Committee for NDPC – Minister of Agriculture – led the mission to examine the security conditions of the dyke system of Ha Noi, supervised the preparedness work for future flood risks
- On first August, the Standing office for Central Committee of NDPC discussed with Vietnam Electricity Company (EVN) and reservoir agencies to analyse the flood risks and scenarios of flooding in the northern regions and river basins for future coordination and operation of two major reservoirs Son La and Hoa Binh of the region.

Responses in Provinces

- The Quảng Ninh Provincial Committee for Natural Disaster Prevention and Control and Search and Rescue (PCNDPC & SR) assigned officials to high risk communities to provide direct instruction and support in response and relief, search and rescue. The committee coordinated closely with the military forces in the provinces and timely evacuated the population at high risk of flash flooding and eroding coal mines.
- Irrigation systems in coastal provinces of Hải Phòng, Thái Bình, Nam Định, Ninh Bình and major sluice gates were operated to increase flood water discharge capacity, reduce water levels as preparedness for future flooding.
- All PCNDPCs in Northern mountainous provinces are closely monitoring the rains and flood risk situation. Lai Chau Committee for NDPC issued instructions No. 10/CĐ-UBND on 01/8/2015 to all local agencies for preparedness and response to landslide and flooding. Bac Kan and Lao Cai PCNDPC evacuated 107 households (Bắc Kạn: 71; Lào Cai: 36) from the high risk areas.
- On 29 July, Vietnam Red Cross (VNRC) provided VND160 million of relief kits for affected families in Quang Ninh. This included VND 3m to support households who lost their members and 200 household kits (blanket, mosquito net, cooking kit: pan and pot, kettle, and Aquatabs)
- The Ministry of Health (MoH)/Department of Health (DOH) officials are on 24-hour duty to monitor and coordinate actions and report to CCNDPC. MOH sent 02 urgent telegraphs to all provinces for detail response instructions and closely coordinate with the provincial DOH branches in affected provinces. Initial relief distributed to DOH of affected provinces:
 - Quang Ninh: 30 medical stocks, 500,000 Chloramines B, and 100 life vests
 - Other provinces: Lang Son, Bac Can, Cao Bang, Bac Giang, Yen Bai, Tuyen Quang, Ha Giang, Son La, Lai Chau, Dien Bien, and Lao Cai, each province provided with 30 medical stocks, 30 life vests, 200,000 Chloramine B, and 200 medical equipment sets.
- Media reports highlight the positive mobilization of local people in supporting affected communities in Quang Ninh in the past few days.

International Response

United Nations

- UNRC communicated to all UNCT members of the detail situation updates and that the Government has not requested international assistance. So far, the government is closely and systematically monitoring and responding to the situation. Base on the situation update on 4 Aug by clusters/UNDRMT members, the UNRC may convene for an extraordinary meeting as deem necessary.
- The UN DRMT has been liaising with officials of the Standing office of CCNDPC regarding Government response of the flooding situation in northern region of Viet Nam.
- The UNDRMT, with support from UNITAR and UNOCHA Bangkok, is also acquiring satellite images of the flooding situations in Quang Ninh and potentially other affected provinces to assist central government in their situation analysis, response and recovery processes.
- WHO is in close contact with Disaster Management Unit (DMU) / MOH to monitor the situation and ready to provide support if requested. MOH has not yet made any official requests for international support.
- WASH Cluster has decided Save the Children and Oxfam to take lead on flood in Northern provinces.
- Next meetings:
 - UNDRMT will meet at 11AM on 4 August to update the situation.
 - WASH cluster meeting is planned at noon of 4 August

International NGOs

- Disaster Management Working Group met on July 31 to discuss next steps. Decision was taken to monitor the situation and next steps will decide if situation worsens.

Funding

- No information available at the moment.

General Coordination

- The UN Disaster Risk Management Team is closely monitoring the situation.
- A meeting with the members of UNDRMT and core members of DMWG was organized on 31 July to update the situation. No rapid assessment was deployed and core members will continue to monitor the situation. UNDRMT will meet again on 4 Aug to jointly discuss with all members of the situation, analyse the response gaps and conduct appropriate actions as needed and report

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