

Viet Nam: Drought and Saltwater Intrusion

Situation Report No. 7

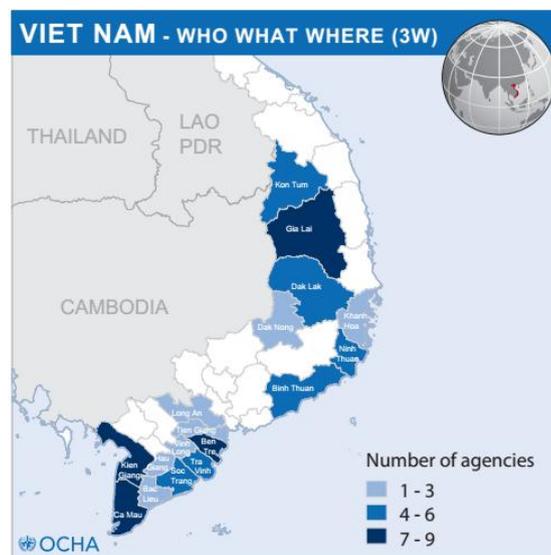
(as of 25 October 2016)



This report is produced by Office of the Resident Coordinator Viet Nam. It covers the period from 17 September 2016 till 25 October 2016. This is the final situation report for this drought and salt water intrusion emergency.

Highlights

- By October, more than 54.4% or US\$ 26.4 million of the emergency requirement has been funded, primarily for WASH support.
- With relief operations still on-going but gradually decreasing, recovery efforts are being intensified.
- Mid-October, the Government jointly with the UN issued a Drought Recovery Plan, estimating recovery needs for 2017 at US\$368 million.¹
- According to the Government's forecasting center, drought-like conditions and salinity intrusion are likely occurring in the next dry season (November till April), but less severe than last year.
- There is a 50-55% likelihood of La Niña happening, starting from November, but with low intensity.
- Dengue fever cases remain at high level in the Central Highlands and South-Central Vietnam but begun declining in some areas.



Map Sources: ESRI, OCHA, UNCS
The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Map created in 5 September 2016.

18

Provinces affected

2m

People faced water stress

1.75m

People lost incomes

659,476ha

Crops damaged or lost

54%

Emergency appeal covered

Situation Overview

In all three affected regions, rainfall has continued over the past month as part of the on-going rainy season. In a few occasions, heavy to very heavy rainfall has caused localized inundation or flash floods, particularly in the Central Highlands. River water levels in the upstream Mekong Delta have peaked and are gradually decreasing over the coming weeks. This year's water levels in the Mekong were higher than in 2015, but below average.

Currently, the El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) phenomenon is in a neutral state, meaning no *El Niño* nor *La Niña*. According to an updated forecast of the National Center for Hydro-Meteorological Forecasting (NCHMF) on 14 October², there is a 50 to 55% probability of *La Niña* conditions occurring from November this year, with a low intensity and short duration. As a consequence of this, the annual storm season will end later, the North-East monsoon will start earlier and flooding will occur more frequently than in 2015, particularly in Central Viet Nam.

In terms of forecast for the 2016/17 dry season (November to April), river water levels are expected to be: 15-35% lower than average in the Mekong Delta; 20-60% lower than average in the Central Highlands and 70% lower than average in the South-Central region. For all three regions, rainfall will be slightly higher than average in the coming months (Nov. 2016-Feb. 2017), but lower in the months after.

Drought conditions are expected for the coming dry season in the Central Highlands, but not as severe as in 2015/16. The Mekong Delta will also be affected by higher than normal rates of salinity intrusion, but less severe than last year.

¹ Available here: http://www.un.org.vn/en/publications/doc_details/524-viet-nam-emergency-response-plan-201617-october-2016.html

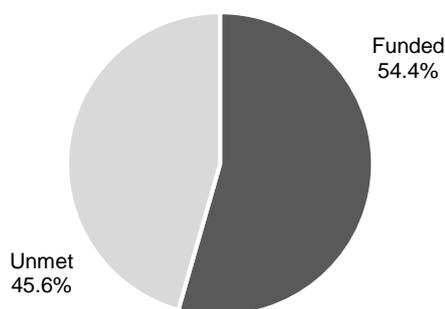
² An updated forecast will be issued by NCHMF on 15 December 2016. See: <http://www.nchmf.gov.vn/Web/vi-VN/70/16/Default.aspx>

Funding

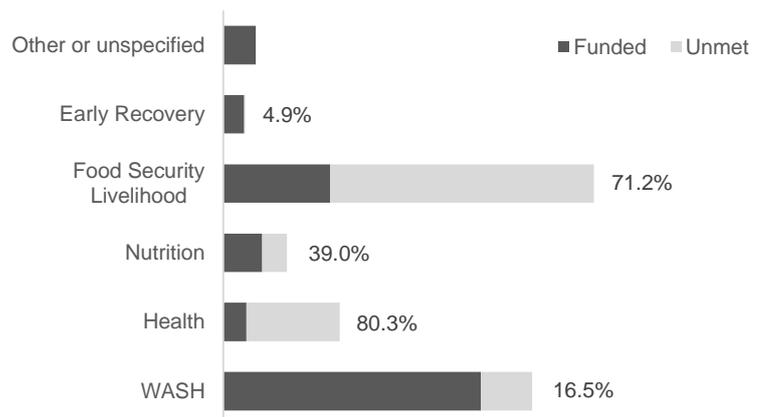
- By October, 54.4% or US\$ 26,382,842 million of the Emergency Response Plan (ERP) appeal has been funded. In addition to Government funding, major donors are: ADB, CERF, VNRC-IFRC-DREF, Government of Japan, ECHO, USAID, Coca Cola and FAO. Other funding has been mobilized from INGOs, Government of Korea, UN emergency and recovery funding, DFAT, New Zealand Aid and others.
- Out of the total emergency funding, the UN has mobilized US\$ 8,558,988 million for life-saving WASH, nutrition, food security, health and early recovery interventions. This includes US\$ 3.9 million allocated from the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) Rapid Response Window.³
- 54% of the funds went towards WASH relief; 22% to food security and livelihoods; 8% to nutrition; 5% to health; and 4% for early recovery. 7% of the funding goes to support services or is unspecified.
- Recovery funding as estimated by the Government is US\$ 368million for 2017 and US\$ 687million for 2018-20.

Viet Nam Drought and Saltwater Intrusion Emergency Response Plan 2016/17

US\$48.5 million requested



Funding by sector (with % unmet)



Humanitarian Response



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Cluster focal point: Vu Xuan Viet (vvu@unicef.org)

Needs:

- At the peak of the drought, over 2 million people were under water stress in the 18 drought/saltwater intrusion affect provinces. WASH needs have reduced, but are still persistent for the most vulnerable population.
- During monitoring, chronic vulnerabilities among poor ethnic groups such as Bana and Gia Rai (in the Central Highlands) have been identified as follows: low quantity and quality of rural household water supply, poor water storage conditions allowing breeding of mosquitoes, dengue increase, absence of toilets and extremely high open defecation, and poor management of animal waste.

Response:

- UNICEF procured 15.9 million PUR sachets and 4 million Aquatabs for household water purification targeting approx. 360,000 people in 162 communes of 39 districts in 10 most-affected provinces. The National Center for Rural Water Supply and Sanitation (NCERWASS) also completed procurement of buckets and signed contracts with bucket, soap, and cloth suppliers.

³ CERF is one of the fastest and most effective ways to support rapid humanitarian response for people affected by natural disasters and armed conflict. The Fund, which is managed by United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), receives voluntary contributions year round from United Nations Member States and Observers, regional governments, private sector, foundations and individuals. The money is set aside for immediate use at the onset of emergencies, in rapidly deteriorating situations and in protracted crises that fail to attract sufficient resources. For a list of CERF donors, see: <http://www.unocha.org/cerf/our-donors/funding/cerf-pledges-and-contributions-all>

- Accompanying communication-for-development (C4D) materials (80,000 PUR instruction leaflets, 80,000 Aquatabs instruction leaflets, 4,000 booklets with joint UN key emergency messages, 500 posters of soap handwashing, and 80,000 household WASH booklets on water treatment and hygiene and sanitation behavior change communication) were also delivered for distribution.
- The distribution of WASH supplies and C4D materials has finished in Gia Lai - to 28,281 people or 5,953 households in 9 communes of 5 target districts, including 10,653 women and 10,084 children - and will continue in the other provinces until mid-November.
- 40 staff from provincial CERWASS, Center for Preventive Medicine, Department of Education and Training, Center for Health Education, Viet Nam Red Cross and Women's Union in Ninh Thuan, Binh Thuan, Gia Lai, Kon Tum and Dak Lak attended a Training Of Trainers on 22-23 Sept., on; financial management, water treatment, and WASH behavior change communication. Hereafter, provincial C4D managers and planners will train sub-provincial health workers and collaborators to ensure effective implementation of C4D activities at community level.
- UNICEF is commencing a strategic partnership with the VNRC for the remaining emergency response for the period Oct.2016-Jan.2017 and 6 provinces (Ninh Thuan, Binh Thuan, Gia Lai, Kon Tum, Ben Tre, and Soc Trang). The collaboration centers around school WASH using Participatory Action Oriented Approach, Community-Led Total Sanitation, upscaling Open Defecation Free, citizen feedbacks in emergency response, Community Disaster Risk Management and Community Based Disaster Risk Assessment. A UNICEF-VNRC programme cooperation agreement was finalized mid-October.
- UNDP has completed its relief support reaching a total of 7,253 households or 26,872 people in Ben Tre and Binh Thuan under DFAT-UNDP and CERF funding. The last batch of tanks was distributed by the VNRC mid-September. Relief items included water bottles, 1m³ or 2m³ storage tanks and a cash-for-work programme.
- UN Women will soon complete the relief operations in 42 communes in Gia Lai, Kon Tum, Binh Thuan, Ca Mau and Kien Giang, having achieved as follows:
 - Provision of hygiene kits to 20,500 poorest female-headed households (41,000 women and girls);
 - Distribution of IEC materials alongside hygiene kits to 20,500 households for safe use of hygiene items and with key messages on saving water, preventing drought effects and preparing for coming disasters.
 - Organization of 420 commune and village communication events raising awareness of 25,200 women;
 - On-going community-based monitoring after distribution in all targeted villages, with at least 30% of targeted households visited by the Women's Union to collect beneficiary feedback on the progress of the distribution and effectiveness of items provided.



Households using PUR sachet for water treatment in Gia Lai (Photo: ©UNICEF Viet Nam)



Cluster focal point: Vu Quang Hieu (vuh@wpro.who.int)

Needs:

- It is estimated that about 180,000 people (91,200 female and 88,800 male) are at risk of infection with communicable diseases due to effect of drought and saltwater intrusion. 24 district hospitals and 72 commune health centers in 8 WHO-CERF supported provinces have lack of access to safe water for daily operation.
- Dengue fever cases remain high in the Central Highlands and South-Central Vietnam but begun declining in some local areas. Therefore, there is still a need for extensive community awareness raising and dengue outbreak response measures, integrated into the drought relief and recovery operations.
- Poor hygiene and sanitation related communicable diseases, such as acute diarrhea, skin infections, and Hand, Food and Mouth Disease (HFMD) remain common in the affected areas.
- Water supplies contaminated with coliform is still a major issue for public health and requires increasing testing of quality of water and measures to clean water, besides risk awareness raising.

Response:

- WHO has delivered all mobile water quality testing kits, Chloramine B, water tanks and filters to 8 severely affected provinces (Ca Mau, Kien Giang, Ben Tre, Kon Tum, Gia Lai, Dak Lak, Binh Thuan and Ninh Thuan), accompanied by specific guidance and training to ensure correct application and management. Sea-/brackish water desalination equipment and pumps have also been delivered to health facilities by mid-October.

- WHO has also delivered risk communication messages through various channels and formats: 600 posters and 125,000 leaflets on dengue occurrence and prevention, WASH, health risks and food safety, a TV spot and 3 radio messages. The SMS and Zalo campaign is about to be finalized, with altogether 500,000 SMS/Zalo messages sent to the most affected areas on topics such as dengue and other drought-related health risks; food safety and nutrition; safe use of water; prevention of drowning during flood season.
- Dengue surveillance and response measures have been integrated into the drought response, particularly in Gia Lai, Kon Tum and Dak Lak.

Nutrition

Cluster focal point: Nguyen Dinh Quang (ndquang@unicef.org)

Needs:

- Based on assessment results and Government figures, across the 18 drought-affected provinces, an estimated 27,500 under-five children are suffering from moderate to severe acute malnutrition (SAM), and 39,000 pregnant and lactating women are suffering from micro-nutrient deficiencies

Response:

- UNICEF is continuing its emergency nutrition interventions, with progress as follows:
 - Cases of SAM children detected and admitted for treatment: 843 in Ninh Thuan, 1,373 in Gia Lai, 123 in Kon Tum, 503 in Ca Mau, 156 in Tra Vinh;
 - Pregnant and lactating women treated with multiple-micronutrient supplements: 5,549 in Ninh Thuan, 8,777 in Gia Lai, 4,745 in Kon Tum, 11,530 in Ca Mau, and 1,905 in Tra Vinh;
 - Children 6-23 months receiving multiple micro-nutrient sachets for home food fortification: 13,314 in Ninh Thuan, 9,543 in Gia Lai, 4,997 in Kon Tum, 6,589 in Ca Mau, and 2,372 in Tra Vinh.
 - In Hau Giang, nutrition supplies were distributed to all 76 selected communes (in 10 districts). Distribution to beneficiaries has just started in 10 communes and is quickly expanding to reach 76 communes by the third week of October.
- The second and the last batch of nutrition supplies are under distribution to the 6 provinces and are completed by mid-October 2016.



Monitoring of SAM using Mid-Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) tapes (Photo © UNICEF)

Food Security and Livelihoods

Cluster focal points: Roberta Tranquilli (roberta.tranquilli@fao.org) and Nguyen Phuong Oanh (oanh.nguyenphuong@fao.org)

Needs:

- Over 1.75 million people have lost their livelihoods in the agricultural sector (rice, fruit trees, perennial crops, aquaculture, and livestock) due to the drought.

Response:

- Since the end of 2015, the government delivered a total of 9,882 metric tons of rice to 655,000 people in the drought affected provinces.
- In August, ECHO allocated US\$ 887,374 to FAO and Action Aid Viet Nam (AAV) to assist 5,145 households (25,725 people) in Dak Lak, Gia Lai and Dak Nong with unconditional cash transfers, agricultural vouchers and post-harvest equipment. FAO will also target an estimated 18,600 people in Gia Lai, Dak Nong, Dak Lak as well as An Giang, Dong Thap, Long An, Hau Giang and Can Tho with extensive awareness raising activities;
 - From 3-8 October, FAO carried out a market assessment in collaboration with AAV and local authorities in Gia Lai, Dak Nong and Dak Lak to inform its cash transfer and voucher scheme intervention.

- AAV is planning to carry out the training of communities, suppliers and local authorities as well the distribution of the vouchers and first cash installment in the next 3 weeks.
- With CERF support, FAO has distributed a total 152 metric tons of rice seeds, 2.7 tons of maize seeds and 1,153 tons of fertilizers to 2,235 households (11,175 people) in Gia Lai, Ninh Thuan, Kien Giang and Ca Mau. FAO also delivered trainings in the 4 provinces on agricultural best practices (including on how to test the salinity levels in the soil). FAO is planning to reach an additional 400 households (2,000 people) by the end of November 2016.
- In addition to the CERF for emergency distribution of seeds and fertilizers and other FAO funding for the development of a drought index in Ninh Thuan, FAO allocated a further US\$ 400,000 from its own emergency resources for restocking of poultry, provision of feed and vaccination as well as training on improved husbandry practices and biosafety in drought affected areas.



Farmer in Gia Lai inspecting an example of the voucher as part of the pre-distribution market assessment (Photo © FAO)

Early Recovery

Cluster focal point: Pham Thi Lien Phuong (pham.thi.lien.phuong@undp.org) and Bui Viet Hien (bui.viet.hien@undp.org)

Needs:

- Cash assistance (unconditional, cash-for-work etc.) for 1.75million people with livelihoods affected, particularly for the most vulnerable such as landless poor, disabled, elderly, female headed households ea.
- Debt relief or refinancing/renegotiation of loans for affected poor households.
- Community infrastructure rehabilitation, particularly to repair access to safe water sources.
- Technical support to integrated multi-sectoral drought recovery planning, at national and local level, prioritizing the most affected and most vulnerable provinces.

Response:

- On 24 October, the Government jointly with the UN has launched a *Drought Recovery Plan*, integrated into the existing ERP. The plan is the result of extensive consultations with technical experts from the 18 most affected provinces, NGOs, Red Cross and development partners. It identifies priority investments from now until 2020 to ensure a resilient drought recovery, in particular for the most vulnerable
- The plan as well as commitments from partners to support the recovery efforts will be further discussed at a CCNDPC-UNDP workshop mid-November

General Coordination

The Government is leading the humanitarian response and recovery at the national level and in the affected provinces. Emergency coordination and recovery is facilitated by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) as the Standing Office of the Central Committee for Natural Disaster Prevention and Control (CCNDPC), hereby supported by the UN and in collaboration with INGOs, the Red Cross and other humanitarian partners.

UN agencies involved in the response are coordinating operations through the UN Disaster Risk Management Team and meeting on a bi-weekly basis, under the facilitation of the Resident Coordinator's Office (RCO) and guidance from the UN Country Team. The UN has mobilized a Focal Point for the RCO to support coordination efforts between humanitarian actors, including capacity building of MARD as the Standing Office of the CCNDPC.

The INGO-Red Cross-UN Disaster Management Working Group (DMWG) is meeting on a monthly basis and regularly collecting information on agency responses.

For UN Humanitarian Coordination and Response

Pratibha Mehta (Ms.), **UN Resident Coordinator**, United Nations in Viet Nam, 304 Kim Ma, Ha Noi, Vietnam. Email: pratibha.mehta@one.un.org

For information on ERP and UN Situation Report

Miguel Coulier (Mr.), **RCO focal point for Humanitarian Issues**, United Nations in Viet Nam, 304 Kim Ma, Ha Noi, Vietnam. Email: coulier.miguel@one.un.org

For media enquiries

Susan Mackay (Ms.), **UN Communication Manager**, United Nations in Viet Nam, 304 Kim Ma, Ha Noi, Vietnam. Email: susan.mackay@one.un.org