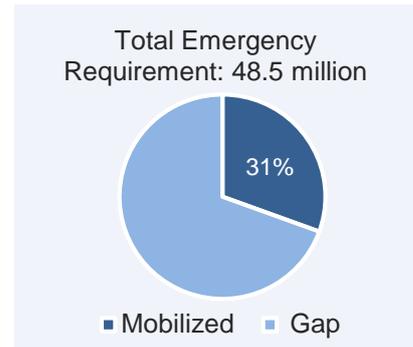




# Overview of Needs and Response

- On 26 April, the Government of Vietnam with the United Nations in Viet Nam launched the Drought and Saltwater Intrusion Emergency Response Plan (ERP) 2016/17 and an appeal for US\$48.5 million to cover emergency needs. The ERP identifies immediate humanitarian needs (May to September) as well as medium and longer-term recovery interventions (next two years) and is available online.
- So far, 31% of the appeal has been mobilized through funding from CERF, ADB, Government of Japan, ECHO, USAID, DFAT, Government of Lao PDR, Government of Thailand, Government of New Zealand and various other sources.
- As of end of April, needs as requested by provinces focus on rice, water tanks and containers, water purification equipment, aquatabs disinfectant, seeds for rice, maize, vegetables, sugarcane and coffee.



## National response:

- Over the period January-April, the Government of Viet Nam has distributed 5.22 tons of rice and released more than US\$23.8million (VND517.5 billion). In addition, provincial Governments mobilized US\$17.7million (VND395 billion).
- The Government of Vietnam through the Standing Office of the CCNDPC and the MARD International Cooperation Department continues to work with humanitarian partners on coordinating the drought response and planning recovery efforts.
- On 3-6 May, MARD Minister Cao Duc Phat and Deputy Secretary General Jan Eliasson conducted a monitoring visit to Ben Tre province to assess the situation on the ground and raise international attention to the drought impact and needs.
- Since January, the Viet Nam Red Cross (VNRC) has mobilized over US\$1.73million (VND38.5 billion) from domestic and international, public and private donors for water trucking, aquatabs, drinking water, cash programming and hygiene promotion. So far, this has helped more than 136,000 people (or 34,000 households) in 14 affected provinces.

## International response:

- A global *El Niño* 'call for support and action' event took place on 26 April to advocate for increased emergency and long term resilience support to *El Niño* affected communities. It was hosted by UN OCHA, with participation from more than 46 countries, including Viet Nam.
- At the end of May, the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) has allocated US\$3,897,864 for life-saving activities in 8 most severely affected provinces. The support is focused on water, sanitation and hygiene, nutrition, health and food security and is implemented through the UN with Government and NGO partners.
- The Government of Japan has allocated US\$2.5million to UNICEF for emergency water, sanitation and hygiene and nutrition support.
- The Government of Thailand has donated US\$100,000 and the Government of Lao PDR US\$257,000 directly to the Government of Viet Nam to support drought relief efforts.
- IFRC has released CHF195,708 (approx. US\$200,000) from its Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the VNRC's response to the drought and salt water intrusion for 2,550 households in Ninh Thuan, Gia Lai, Long An and Ben Tre provinces. The relief activities focus on cash, water trucking, hygiene promotion and awareness raising. The operation lasts for 4 months and distribution is planned for June-July.
- In April, the CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS) has carried out 2 in-depth drought assessments for the Central Highlands (Dak Lak, Gia Lai and Kon Tum) and the Mekong Delta (Ben Tre, Kien Giang and Tra Vinh) to assess impact, response and short, medium and long-term needs. At the same time, Oxfam conducted an Emergency Market Mapping and Analysis (EMMA) in Tra Vinh and Ben Tre to examine access to water for drinking and livelihoods. Findings and recommendations of the assessments have been disseminated and are being used to inform humanitarian response and early recovery activities.
- On 21-24 June, the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection department (ECHO) jointly with FAO and Save the Children are conducting a monitoring visit to Gia Lai to assess the impact of *El Niño*, particularly in regards to food security and livelihoods. A debriefing to share the mission findings and further action is scheduled on the 24 June at the EU Delegation office in Hanoi.
- INGOs (Oxfam Novib, Plan International, World Vision, Save the Children, CARE International in Vietnam, UMCOR, Catholic Relief Services) are continuing their emergency response activities in Kon Tum, Gia Lai, Ninh Thuan, Binh Thuan, Ben Tre, Tien Giang, Tra Vinh, Soc Trang and Kien Giang, mainly focused on provision of water, sanitation and hygiene support.

The main needs and response, particularly in the 18 most-affected provinces are summarized below.



## Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Cluster focal point: Lalit Patra ([lpatraa@unicef.org](mailto:lpatraa@unicef.org))

### Damages and Needs:

- As of 20 May, 1.15 million people were still without access to clean water, primarily in the Central Highlands and South Central Coastal region.
- Reduced water for washing, ablution and hand-washing have already resulted in increased incidence of diarrhea, dysentery, hand, foot and mouth disease, and skin diseases.
- Poor access to water also had an impact on children's health, exacerbating the prevalence of malnutrition.

**1.15 million**  
people without  
water access

### Response:

- The emergency WASH working group met on 8 June with the joint leadership of MARD and UNICEF to coordinate the overall response and ensure adequate information sharing.
- UNICEF will deliver household water treatment and safe storage support as well as hygiene behavior change promotion campaigns to prevent communicable diseases, targeting more than 216,000 people in 5 provinces.
- With CERF funding, UN Women, in partnership with the Viet Nam Women's Union, is distributing 20,000 hygiene kits for women and girls in poorest, female-headed households in Ca Mau, Kien Giang, Binh Thuan, Kon Tum and Gia Lai. The distribution is planned for July-August.
- With agreement from DFAT, since 29 April, UNDP and the MARD Disaster Management Centre have reallocated US\$50,000 from the 'SCDM Phase 2' project to provide water relief through vouchers and water tanks to 1,516 people (or 379 households) in Ba Tri, Thanh Phu and Giong Trom districts of Ben Tre. The support is delivered through the on-going project partnership with Oxfam and the VNRC and will last until the end of June.
- As part of the CERF allocation, UNDP has allocated US\$149,939 to World Vision to deliver a 40-day supply of drinking water and water tanks to 5,000 people (or 1,250 households) in Ham Thuan Bac and Bac Binh districts of Binh Thuan province. Delivery is expected to start the second week of June and will finish by mid-August.
- Also under CERF, UNDP has been in the procurement process to commission an NGO of providing water voucher scheme and water tanks for 19,200 people (or 4,800 households) in 12 communes of Ba Tri district in Ben Tre. The relief work is expected to start mid-June and will last for about 2.5 months.
- Some 25,100 pregnant women and caregivers of children under two years received counselling on infant and young child feeding from December 2015 to May 2016 through 80 Little Sun centres and community support groups set up by Alive & Thrive and the National Institute of Nutrition in Ca Mau. The Reproductive Health Centre has further rolled out services in the three most affected districts (Thoi Binh, U Minh and Tran Van Thoi) and reached 1,100 caregivers and their children per month from March 2016. Outreach activities using local capacity and networks will be intensified the coming weeks to prevent malnutrition and ensure optimal growth and development for children affected by the crisis.



Water distribution as part of the drought relief operations in Binh Thuan (Photo © World Vision)



## Food Security and Livelihoods

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

### Damages and Needs:

- 1.1 million people are in need of food assistance.
- 1.75 million people have lost their income due to damages in the agricultural sector and need the provision of cash or loans at low interest rate as well as the emergency distribution of agricultural inputs (seeds, fertilizers, restocking of livestock, animal feed and treatment, fishing gears, etc.).
- A total of 477,113 hectares of land have been damaged by the drought and salt water intrusion.
- A total of 470,256 hectares of crops have been damaged (rice, seedlings, vegetables, fruit trees etc.), which are the most important source of livelihood in Vietnam.
- A total of 6,857 hectares of aquaculture and fisheries have been damaged.
- Over 3,810 animals have died.

**1.1 million**  
people in need of  
food assistance

## Response:

- The FAO led joint WFP/UN Women/MARD “Agriculture, food security and livelihood needs assessment in response to the drought effects related to El Niño in Vietnam” was carried out from 2 to 26 May in 6 of the most affected provinces to; (i) assess the major damages and losses caused by the drought and salt water intrusion in the agricultural sector; (ii) assess the vulnerabilities caused by the disaster; (iii) assess the responses offered by government, UN, NGOs in the short, medium and long term; and (iv) provide additional short, medium and long term responses. The final report of the assessment will be available for dissemination in the first week of July.
- As part of the CERF allocation, FAO is preparing to distribute rice, maize and vegetable seeds and fertilizers to the most affected households in Gia Lai, Ninh Thuan, Ca Mau and Kien Giang in time for the monsoon to restore food security and livelihoods.
- FAO is developing a pilot drought index in Ninh Thuan to improve the agricultural drought monitoring and early warning system.
- Government continues to distribute rice and cash to affected households to alleviate hunger and avoid further erosion of resilience.



Children walking through the affected fields Cu Kbang commune, Ea Sup district, Dak Lak (Photo © FAO)



## Health

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

## Damages and Needs:

- 17 district hospitals and 386 Community Health Stations (CHS) lack clean water.
- 400,000 people (or around 80,000 households) of most poor families are at high risk of water-borne disease infections.
- Health risks of infectious disease outbreaks are high although no report has been recorded. Many sporadic cases of infectious disease, such as acute diarrhea, Hand Food Mouth Disease (HFMD), Dengue, skin diseases, and food-borne diseases in which only a small part seek health care in CHSs.

**386**

commune health stations lack water - of which 37% in a very severe situation

## Response:

- The Ministry of Health (MOH) assigned the Viet Nam Health Environment Management Agency (VIHEMA) as focal point for the collaboration with relevant departments and international agencies on the health response to the drought and saltwater intrusion.
- VIHEMA conducted a rapid assessment on the drought situation, damage and needs of health care facilities in the 15 provinces most affected by the drought.
- In May, MOH issued the National Action Plan on Drought response of the health sector period 2016-2017.
- Under CERF, WHO in collaboration with the Ministry of Health is providing water quality test kits, chloramine B, water filters and containers, desalinization equipment, awareness raising materials and other support to various health facilities in the drought affected provinces, reaching more than 180,000 people.



## Nutrition

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

## Response:

- The Nutrition Working Group, co-chaired by UNICEF and the National Institute of Nutrition, conducted a special session on nutrition in emergencies on 2 June.
- The national nutrition programme distributed US\$ 200,000 worth of supplies to affected provinces, which includes support from Save the Children and World Vision.
- With UNICEF support, 280,000 children under five of 6 districts of Ninh Thuan were nutrition checked up; 114 first Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) cases (6-59 month) were detected and treated; 270,000 tablets of

Multiple Micro-Nutrient for women were received and fully allocated to 49 commune health centres, ready for starting of nutrition intervention for 3,000 pregnant women and lactating women.

- Two planning workshop on emergency nutrition will be conducted in June 2016 for starting nutrition intervention in 5 other provinces Gia Lai, Kon Tum, Ca Mau, Hau Giang, Tra Vinh.
- From June to December, UNICEF will support a micro-nutrient supplementation to protect 80,000 pregnant and lactating women, 65,000 children 6-23 month who are suffering from micro-nutrient deficiency. UNICEF will also support to detect and treat about 7,000 cases of children with SAM with Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Food in 6 provinces in the Mekong Delta and Central Highlands.



## Early Recovery

Cluster focal point: Jenty Kirsch-Wood ([jenty.kirsch-wood@undp.org](mailto:jenty.kirsch-wood@undp.org)) and Bui Viet Hien ([bui.viet.hien@undp.org](mailto:bui.viet.hien@undp.org))

### Damages and Needs:

- Based on information collected from the province, the CCNDPC currently estimates the direct cost of the drought to be VND15.183billion (approx. US\$ 670million). However, this is expected to increase as data hasn't yet included some of the most severely affected provinces such as Ben Tre.
- The UN is working with assigned MARD-CCNDPC focal points to regularly collect and complete data on the damages and losses of the drought in all 18 provinces. Provincial socio-economic baseline data is also being collated to inform recovery efforts.
- MARD with UNDP are preparing a multi-stakeholder workshop to discuss recovery strategies and update the ERP. This meeting will take place towards the end of June.

### Response:

- The UN asked for INGO interest to participate with the Government and UN in possible multi-sectoral joint assessments on recovery to the most affected provinces. So far 2 INGOs (Save the Children and CBM) expressed interest in participating in these recovery assessments.
- On 7-9 June, Government representatives from the Water Resources Department and Ben Tre province participated in a Regional Consultative Workshop on El Niño in the Asia-Pacific, organized by UNDP and ESCAP, to discuss and learn about the response in the region and inform the development of a recovery framework and plan, linked to overall resilience.
- A technical consultation on active flood control and integrated water resource management in responding to climate change in the Mekong Delta will be co-organized by UNDP and MARD on 14 Jun with all scientists, local research agencies and 13 Mekong Delta Provinces. Improved coordination for drought and water management is part of the discussions.

## General Coordination

The Government through MARD, UN agencies, INGOs and the Red Cross are coordinating the humanitarian responses in the affected provinces in South-Central, Central Highland and Mekong Delta regions. The Disaster Management Working Group is regularly collecting information on agency responses.

The UN has mobilized a Focal Point for the Resident Coordinator's Office to support coordination efforts between all humanitarian actors, including capacity building of MARD as the Standing Office of the CCNDPC.

National authorities, UN and partners continue to closely monitor the situation in affected provinces.

### **For UN Humanitarian Coordination and Response**

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