



# Overview of Needs and Response

- On 8 July, MARD Minister Cao Duc Phat as representative of the CCNDPC, with the United Nations co-chaired a *Drought Recovery and La Nina Preparedness Planning* consultative meeting, with representatives from the 18 drought affected provinces and technical experts from MARD, UN, CGIAR, INGOs and other development partners. At the meeting, stakeholders discussed the impact of the drought and remaining needs and updated damage and loss data. They also initiated the recovery planning process.
- Initial calculations by the affected provinces propose a recovery budget for 2016 of VND3,734billion (approx. US\$167.4million) for provision of seedlings, water containers, repair of water supply systems and irrigation infrastructure. Recovery plans will be elaborated and costed more in detail in the coming two weeks.

## National response:

- On 20 June, through a Prime Minister's Decision, additional State Budget support was allocated to 7 affected provinces to deal with the impact of the drought and saltwater intrusion on the winter-spring crop: Kon Tum VND 19.8billion, Lam Dong VND 35billion, Binh Phuoc VND 25billion, Long An VND 25billion, Soc Trang VND 24.5billion, Kien Giang VND 25billion and Ca Mau VND 25billion.
- MARD finalized the allocation of US\$3million mobilized through ADB. Support will be provided to 7 provinces: Ninh Thuan, Binh Thuan, Khanh Hoa, Dak Lak, Dak Nong, Tien Giang and Dong Thap, for water tanks, water treatment equipment, well digging, seedlings, livestock, agricultural input materials and cash support.
- The National Center for Hydro-Meteorological Forecasting (NCHMF) continues to monitor the rainfall and temperature situation in all affected regions, particularly in South-Central Vietnam. In addition, they regularly issue warnings for landslide, flash flood and inundation risks if heavy rainfall is predicted.
- The VNRC with support from the IFRC has so far mobilized US\$ 1,218,512 million from various donors. Relief aid is provided in more than 15 out of 18 affected provinces and focuses on water trucking, distribution of water containers, water vouchers, purification tablets, hygiene promotion and cash support for 66.636 affected households (approx. 266,500 people). Relief activities are still on-going and planned until September.

## International response:

- On 5 July, USAID announced an additional US\$500,000 in emergency relief. This will support the VNRC to provide water containers, saltwater filtration systems, water purification tablets, and disseminating good sanitation and hygiene practices to help prevent the spread of diseases in most affected areas.
- The Government of Korea has confirmed US\$300,000 for emergency WASH relief, focused on women and children. Agreements with implementation partners are being finalized for allocation in July.
- The INGO MCNV has raised approx. US\$88,752 for drought relief in Ben Tre. Loans have been provided to 500 poor women to buy water containers and schools are supported to improve water catchment capacity.



ECHO-FAO-Save the Children assessment mission to Gia Lai on the 22 June (Photo © FAO Viet Nam)

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:

- While emergency drinking water needs have gradually reduced in the Mekong and Central Highlands (except in remote areas), water storage and water purification needs are still very pertinent across all regions as well as sanitation and hygiene promotion activities. Particularly in South-Central Vietnam, there is still a significant need for clean water provision.
- On 7 July, authorities from 8 out of 18 affected provinces (Kon Tum, Khanh Hoa, Ninh Thuan, Binh Thuan, Vnh Long, Soc Trang, Kien Giang and Tra Vinh) have identified the following immediate WASH needs for the next two months: water disinfection supplies (1million Aquatabs, 500.000 units of Cloramine B, 20 ton of Clorin A and 500kg of Chlorine B); micro-nutrient supplements; 323 water containers; water system and pipeline extension; hygiene promotion; and cash support for households to purchase drinking water.
- Though there has been no data on the increased incidence of water-related diseases, lack of safe drinking water and poor hygiene conditions pose high public health risks to the most vulnerable communities. Therefore,

continued external support on safe storage, water quality monitoring and household water treatment combining with hygiene promotion will enable communities to recover and strengthen capacity to build back better.

## Response:

- Based on field assessments, NCERWASS and VIHEMA have requested expanding WASH emergency response to 10 provinces: Dak Lak, Kon Tum, Gia Lai, Binh Thuan, Ninh Thuan, Ben Tre, Ca Mau, Hau Giang, Soc Trang and Tra Vinh. Two regional WASH and nutrition emergency response planning workshops were organized in Da Nang (27-28 June) and Can Tho (30 June-1 July) to develop detailed provincial WASH and nutrition response plans. Activity plans and budgets will be finalized by early July to seek approval by MARD and sign-off from the Provincial People's Committee.
- UNICEF procured PUR sachets and Aquatabs that will support water purification for at least 366,000 people. As of 28 June, 4 million Aquatabs have arrived in Viet Nam through HCMC airport. In addition, decentralized procurement of 78,000 12 liter buckets, cloths for water filtering, and anti-bacterial soaps for 78,000 households has been placed by MARD. UNICEF is following up to expedite customs clearance of the water purification supplies and to enable fast-track procedures to speed up the domestic procurement process.
- With re-allocated project funding from DFAT, Oxfam and the VNRC are providing water relief through vouchers and tanks to 436 households in Ba Tri, Thanh Phu and Giong Trom districts of Ben Tre. The support delivered by Oxfam (251 households) is completed, the VNRC support will last until mid-July.
- As part of CERF, UNDP allocated US\$149,939 to World Vision to deliver a 40-day supply of drinking water and water tanks to 5,000 people in Binh Thuan. Beneficiary listing and procurement work was completed late June, and delivery is expected to start early July and finish by the end of July. Also under CERF, UNDP commissioned VNRC to operate a water voucher scheme and deliver water tanks for 19,200 people in Ben Tre. Beneficiary selection is on-going, procurement of tanks is expected to last until July, and distribution will begin early August until the end of the month.
- On 13 July, UNICEF and WHO are convening a follow-up meeting on Communication for Development (C4D) to harmonize behavior change messaging across UN and partner relief activities. The comprehensive packages of key messages developed will also feed into a WHO-supported SMS and Zalo instant messenger mobile phone campaign to actively push messages on health, nutrition and WASH to the affected population.



Water tank provided by Oxfam in Ben Tre, with funding from DFAT (Photo © UNDP Viet Nam)



## 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:

- As of 7 July, a total of 535,933ha of crops have been damaged by drought or saline intrusion; 275,263ha rice, 189,878ha perennial crops, 38,889ha fruit trees and 31,904ha vegetables and other crops. 79% of the affected rice and 21% of affected perennial crops have been classified as very severely to extremely damaged.
- 69,008ha of aquaculture have been affected, mainly in Ca Mau and Kien Giang; and over 8,337 animals have died, primarily in Ninh Thuan and Dak Lak.
- According to provincial authorities, 3,889 metric tons of rice are needed to cover food needs of 260,000 people in the next 2 months in Gia Lai, Dak Nong, Ninh Thuan, Binh Thuan and Ca Mau.
- The final report of FAO's led joint MARD-WFP-UN Women assessment of the drought impacts on the livelihoods and food security has been released with key recommendations on immediate, medium and long term needs or interventions, according to sectors:
  - Crops: provision of agricultural inputs, cash and loans, training on improved agricultural practices and market access;
  - Livestock: restocking, provision of feed/VET services, training on improved livestock production and husbandry, provision of drought tolerant breeds, capacity building for extension and VET services
  - Fisheries: restocking seedlings, provision of salt-adapted breeds, provision of feed, training on improved rearing, developing hatchery facilities, improved market access, community sustainable livelihood models
  - Food Security: targeted food assistance (in kind, voucher or cash mechanism), mapping of vulnerable livelihoods at the front of climate change related food security threats;
  - Livelihoods: provision of storage facilities and post-harvest equipment, cash assistance, loans at low interest rates, improved market access, job diversification

260,000

people in 5 provinces  
are still in need of  
food assistance

## Response:

- The government distributed a total of 9,822 tons of rice to 655,000 people in the 18 drought affected provinces since the beginning of this drought. Distributions of cash and seeds to affected households to alleviate hunger and prevent a further erosion of resilience are also on going.
- In addition to the CERF for emergency distribution of seeds and fertilizers and 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.



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

## Damages and Needs:

- Access to water at commune health centers remains limited due to broken or malfunctioning water pumps and wells. In hard-to-reach areas not only the availability of water to sanitize health facilities is problematic, but also the provision of drinking water to patients and staff.
- Storage of available water is difficult mainly at commune health centers due to a lack of water tanks, wells.
- There is an acute need of filtration of the available water in 23 district and 72 commune health facilities to make it suitable for consumption.
- Desalination of available water in district and commune health facilities in Kien Giang, Ca Mau and Ben Tre is needed. Some commune health facilities located by the coast in Binh Thuan province also.
- There is a need to raise awareness in large parts of the affected provinces on safe use of water, in particular to people living in hard to reach such as the Raglai and Cham ethnic minorities.
- Thus far, there has been no significant increase in the number of cases of water borne diseases (diarrhea, dysentery) in the affected provinces, but the situation is being closely monitored.



Water filtration tablets delivered by WHO to Phuoc Ha Commune Health Centre staff in Ninh Thuan (Photo © WHO Viet Nam)

## Response:

- WHO, together with provincial and national health and water and sanitation (HEMA) authorities, undertook a multi-dimensional needs assessment of health facilities in 8 affected provinces. The assessment helped to understand the needs of commune and district health facilities, but also to understand current disease and immunization trends, equity issues and availability of health personnel in the affected areas. The assessment identified district and commune health facilities where support is most needed to ensure the health system continues to delivering basic services to community and mitigate the risk of disease outbreak.
- As a result of the assessment, 72 hard to reach commune health centers in 23 districts in 8 provinces will be targeted by supplying 224 water filters, 41 water tanks, 73 water pumps mainly for district and commune health facilities. In addition, 8 water test kits will be supplied to monitor the quality of water in Dak Lak, Gia Lai and Kon Tum province. Procurement of these supplies is ongoing.
- WHO has also provided water filtration tablets to selected commune health centres.



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

## Damage and needs:

- Poor access to water has had an impact on children's health, exacerbating the prevalence of malnutrition.
- In Gia Lai, Kon Tum and Ninh Thuan, there was already a higher stunting rate compared to national average (24.9%) with rates currently at 35.4%; 39.7%; and 27.4% respectively for the three provinces.
- Severe acute malnutrition (SAM) rates have increased from 1.3-1.8% to 1.9-2.1% in 2016 (*source*: national nutrition surveillance system report). The latest drought assessment reports suggest

**27,500**

children are suffering from moderate to severe acute malnutrition

that children and women in these provinces have low quality of dietary intake daily. Based on these assessments and Government figures, across the 18 drought-affected provinces, an estimated 27,500 under-five children are suffering from moderate to severe acute malnutrition, and 39,000 pregnant and lactating women are suffering from micro-nutrient deficiencies.

#### Response:

- Based on the most updated data from NIN and Gia Lai, Kon Tum, Ninh Thuan, Ca Mau, Hau Giang and Tra Vinh, UNICEF will provide support to reach 80,500 pregnant and lactating women; 83,835 children of 6-23 months old, and 7,000 children with severe acute malnutrition.
- The number of SAM cases (6-59 month) detected and treated under UNICEF support increased slightly from 617 last week to 623 this week. The number of pregnant and lactating women who have received Multiple Micronutrient supplements increased from 3,200 to 5,030 cases, and the number of children 6-23 month receiving multiple micro-nutrient sachets for home food fortification increased from 13,300 to 13,314.
- UNICEF with NIN has organized emergency nutrition planning workshops in Kon Tum for three provinces Gia Lai, Ninh Thuan and Kon Tum, with participants coming from the health sector and FAO, Plan International, and Health Bridge. A second planning workshop for Hau Giang, Tra Vinh and Ca Mau was conducted on 1 July. During the workshop, the national plan and detailed provincial action plans on nutrition emergency were finalized including selection of locations and numbers of beneficiaries for: pregnant/lactating women, young children (6-23 month) and estimated SAM cases among children (6-59 month). In addition, an intensive training programme on nutrition intervention for Gia Lai, Kon Tum and Ninh Thuan was conducted from 4 to 7 July, and training for Hau Giang, Tra Vinh and Ca Mau will happen between 18-22 July, ready for starting nutrition activities at community and household levels.



#### 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))

#### Damage and needs:

- On average, provinces across the affected regions have lost 2.17% of their GDP due to the drought and salt water intrusion (with likely underreporting). Provinces with particularly high economic losses (based on CCNDPC reporting) are: Dak Nong (8.79%), Dak Lak (5.64%), Kien Giang (3.94%), Ben Tre (3.81%), Tra Vinh (3.64%) and Ca Mau (3.29%).
- Immediate early recovery needs are identified as follows:
  - Seeds, livestock feed, livestock or other agricultural inputs and tools.
  - Cash-for-work for impacted poor households including the landless and agricultural producers potentially through small scale measures to improve water storage or land clearance, providing equal work for equal pay for poor women.
  - Debt relief for ultra-poor households who face economic ruin due to debts.
  - Recovery-targeted microfinance programs to provide flexible credit for near-poor and poor, as well as Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) affected by the drought.
  - Prioritisation of social welfare distributions to reach elderly, disabled or vulnerable landless poor who lost income due to the drought, creating stronger links between the social welfare and drought relief systems.

**2.17%**

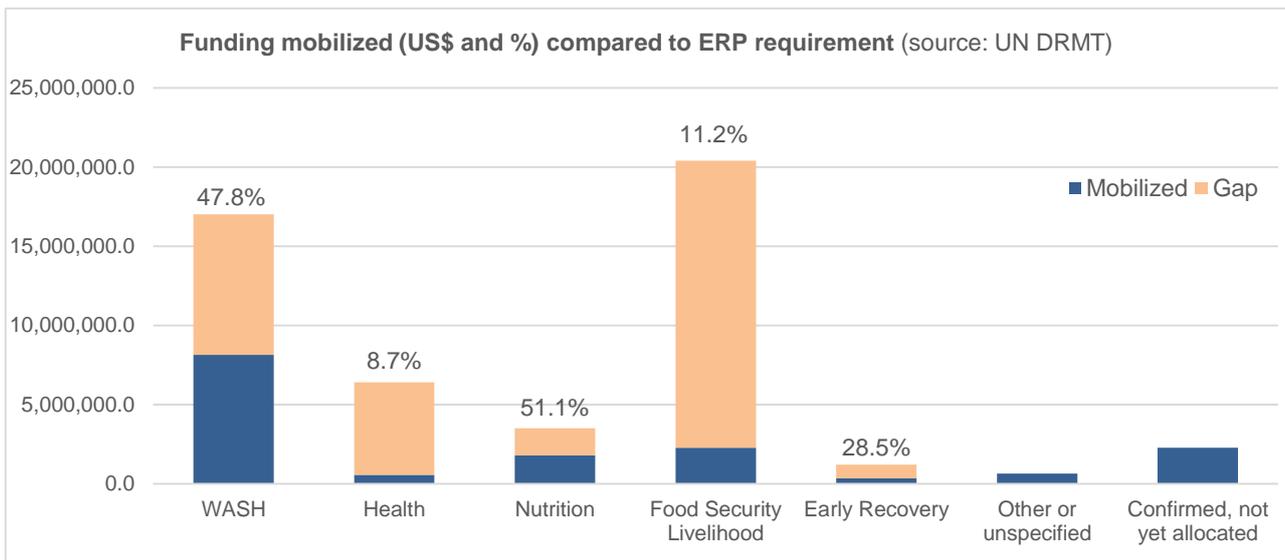
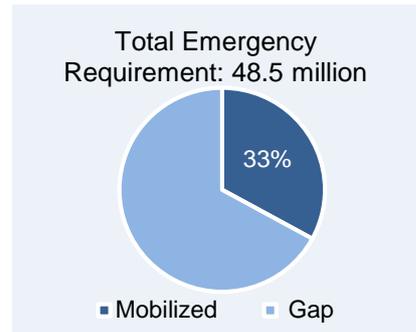
average economic loss as share of provincial GDP

#### Response:

- Under CERF and UNDP-DFAT support, UNDP in partnership with NGOs is integrating a cash-for-work component targeted at poor and vulnerable groups.
- In the coming weeks, UNDP will also provide technical support to MARD and the affected provinces to review, cost and finalize their drought recovery plans for 2016-2017.

# Resource Mobilization

- 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, 33% or US\$ 15,988,328 million of the ERP emergency requirement has been mobilized, not including the Government national and provincial budget allocated since April. Out of the total funding, the UN has mobilized US\$ 7,658,864 million.
- The main donors are: Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), ADB, Government of Japan, ECHO, IFRC-VNRC, USAID, Coca Cola and FAO. Other funding has been mobilized from INGOs, Government of Korea, Government of Lao PDR, Government of Thailand, UN emergency funding, DFAT, New Zealand Aid and others.
- 50.9% of the mobilized ERP funding goes towards WASH relief; 14.2% to food security and livelihoods; 11.2% to nutrition; 3.5% to health and 2.1% for early recovery. 14.2% of the mobilized funding has been confirmed but is not yet allocated per sector.
- As of 8 July, out of the total ERP emergency requirement; 51.1% of requested funding for nutrition has been mobilized; 47.8% for WASH; and 28.5% for early recovery. Considerable gaps exist for food security and livelihoods (only 11.2% of the ERP requirement) and health (only 8.7% of the ERP requirement);



# 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

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