

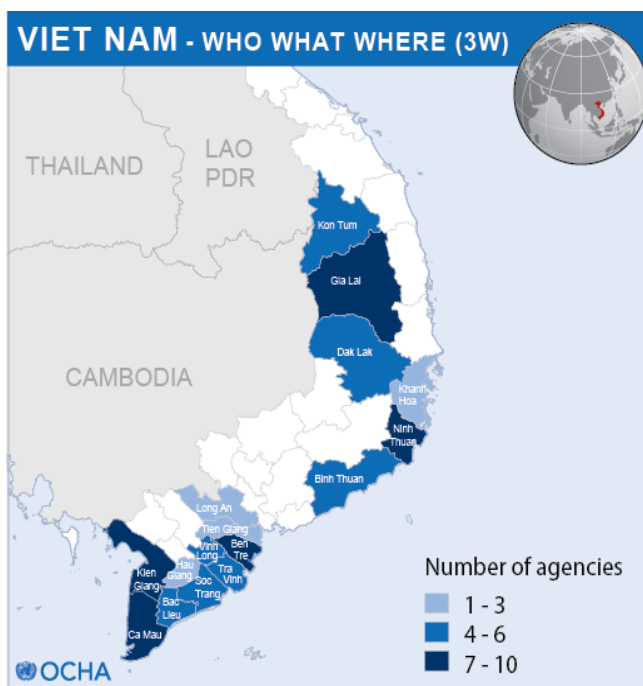
# Viet Nam: Drought and Saltwater Intrusion Situation Update No. 5 (as of 29 July 2016)



This update is issued on behalf of the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Viet Nam. It covers the period from 12 to 29 July 2016. The next update will be issued as new information becomes available.

## Highlights

- Since January 2016, intense drought and saltwater intrusion has severely affected more than 2 million people in 18 provinces. Although drought conditions are over in the Mekong Delta and the Central Highlands, it is still on-going in South-Central Viet Nam, until September.
- However, impact for affected households hasn't reduced with farmland continuing to be affected and needs still remaining, mainly on water storage and purification, hygiene promotion, nutritional support and livelihood recovery.
- With crops currently being re-planted and harvesting only expected by October-November, farmers now experience a lean period with no significant income being generated.
- To date, 34% of the Emergency Response Plan appeal of US\$48.5 million has been mobilized from various donors.
- Funding gaps remain for food security livelihoods, with only 12% of required funds mobilized so far.
- The following immediate recovery needs have been prioritized by the Government: water supplies for vulnerable groups, school and health facilities; and provision of rice and other food, seeds and loans for livelihood recovery.



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 July 2016.

<b>18</b> provinces affected	<b>659,245ha</b> of crops damaged or lost	<b>0.35% GDP</b> estimated total economic loss	<b>34%</b> of emergency appeal covered
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Source for damage and loss data: Central Committee of Natural Disaster Prevention and Control

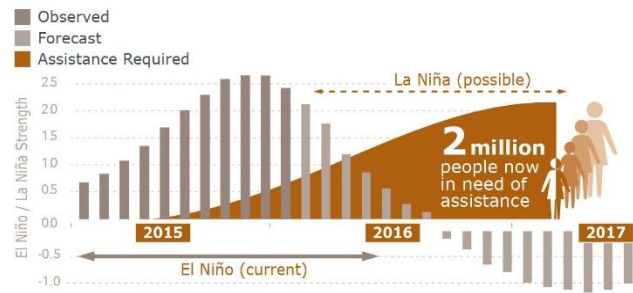
## Situation Overview

- While drought hydro-meteorological conditions have officially been declared over by MARD in the Mekong Delta and Central Highlands since the end of June, drought and water shortages are still continuing until September in South-Central Vietnam (Binh Thuan, Ninh Thuan and Khanh Hoa).
- Rains remain irregular, particularly in the Central Highlands with river water levels at 35 to 65% compared to the same time last year.
- River water levels in the Mekong Delta are also gradually increasing, particularly upstream as part the annual slow-onset flooding, but are still 0.2 to 0.5m lower than the same levels last year.
- The Government's *La Nina* forecast is still at 75% likelihood, with the Government's National Centre for Hydro-Meteorological Forecasting (NCHMF) planning to issue an updated forecast on 18 August.
- With most crops currently being re-planted (perennial, rice and others) and harvesting only expected by end of October or November, the majority of farmers are currently experiencing a lean period with no significant income being generated.

# Overview of Needs and Response

## National response:

- Government relief operations such as rice distribution, water purification, seed distribution etc. are still on-going in the affected provinces. At the same time, the MARD Water Resources Department, with support from the UN, have initiated an extensive consultation process on drought recovery planning. This will lead to a significant update of the ERP recovery component in August.
- MARD as the Standing Office of the CCNDPC has issued a disaster situation report for the first six months of 2016, highlighting disaster impact, damage and loss and response actions, including for the drought. So far, disasters in 2016 (drought, cold spell, floods and landslides) have already caused a total economic loss of VND 16,896 billion or approx. US\$ 758 million.
- From end June till early August, delegations of MARD officials have visited all the most disaster prone provinces as part of the annual Government preparedness process. This includes discussion on specific measures to be taken to prepare for possible *La Nina* impact.



## International response:

- Building on their assessment findings at the end of June, ECHO is in the process of finalizing the allocation of their announced emergency funds, with approvals to be expected in August.

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 purification needs are still pertinent across all regions as well as sanitation and hygiene promotion. Particularly in South-Central Vietnam, there is still a need for clean water provision.
- On 7 July, authorities from 8 affected provinces (Kon Tum, Khanh Hoa, Ninh Thuan, Binh Thuan, Vinh Long, Soc Trang, Kien Giang and Tra Vinh) have identified following WASH needs for the next two months: water disinfection supplies (1million Aquatabs, 500.000 units of Chloramine 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.
- On 29 June-1 July, 10 provinces Ninh Thuan, Kon Tum, Gia Lai, Dak Lak, Binh Thuan, Ben Tre, Hau Giang, Soc Trang, Tra Vinh and Ca Mau have identified the following medium and long-term WASH recovery needs:
  - Improved and sustainable access to safe water, including household water treatment and storage and institutional capacity building for operation and maintenance of water schemes;
  - WASH behavioral change communication;
  - Integrated Water Resources Management, covering water for potable as well as agricultural use.

## Response:

- The UNICEF WASH relief operations have expanded to 10 provinces: Dak Lak, Kon Tum, Gia Lai, Binh Thuan, Ninh Thuan, Ben Tre, Ca Mau, Hau Giang, Soc Trang and Tra Vinh. Activity plans and budgets have been finalized and agreed mid-July in consultation with MARD/NCERWASS, MOH/VIHEMA and the 10 provinces.
- UNICEF procured PUR sachets and Aquatabs to support water purification for at least 366,000 people. 4million Aquatabs and a first shipment of 18,920 PUR boxes of sachets (a total of ~4,540,800 sachets) have arrived in Viet Nam through HCMC by mid-July. In addition, local procurement of 78,000 12-liter buckets, cloths for water filtering, and 156,000 anti-bacterial soaps for 78,000 households has been placed by MARD. Custom clearance procedures are currently on-going.
- Based on a review of current and previous emergencies, UNICEF is also developing 'Guidance on Risk Informed WASH programming' to link its current emergency work to larger WASH and DRR policy and programming in Viet Nam.

- CARE has finalized the distribution of 901 water containers, 1,802 jerry cans, 1,129 hygiene kits, and 145,800 aquatabs for approx. 1,000 Khmer women in Soc Trang. The NGO has also supported a 1km extension of the local water pipeline system to remote areas and a water, sanitation and hygiene promotion program.
- In the first half of July, both Oxfam and the VNRC have completed the DFAT-UNDP supported water relief through cash grants, water exchange vouchers and tanks, benefiting more than 1,750 people in Ba Tri, Thanh Phu and Giong Trom districts of Ben Tre.
- World Vision Viet Nam has completed delivery of the 40-day supply of drinking water and water tanks to 5,000 people in districts of Hàm Thuận Bắc (800 households) and Bắc Bình (400 households) in Binh Thuan. This is part of CERF, allocated by UNDP to WVV through a microgrant of \$149,939.
- Also under CERF, UNDP commissioned VNRC to operate a water voucher scheme and deliver water tanks for 19,200 people in Ben Tre. Water bottles are being distributed and the delivery of tanks is expected in early August.



Ms. Ly Thi Tuyen, 57, from Soc Trang, with the water container received from CARE International in Vietnam (Photo @2016 Le Thi Huong Lien/CARE)

## 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:

- Over 1.75 million people have lost their livelihoods in the agricultural sector since the beginning of the drought. With most crops (perennial, rice and others) to be harvested by October-November, the majority of farmers are currently experiencing a lean period with no significant income being generated.
- A total of 659,245 hectares (including rice, vegetables, fruit trees, perennial crops, seedlings) have been damaged and 22,150 hectares could not be planted due to the drought conditions. 61.6% of all crops are considered to be very severely to extremely damaged or lost;
- A total of 6,529 animals have died because of drought conditions, and many more are sick or have migrated;
- 69,008 hectares of aquaculture and fisheries have been damaged, mainly in Ca Mau and Kien Giang;
- According to provincial authorities, 3,889 metric tons of rice are needed to cover food needs of 260,000 people over July-August in Gia Lai, Dak Nong, Ninh Thuan, Binh Thuan and Ca Mau.

**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 allocated to FAO for emergency distribution of seeds and fertilizers and other funding for the development of a drought index in Ninh Thuan, FAO allocated a further \$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.
- A total of 7,425 kg of rice seeds, 2,310 kg of corn seeds, 660 kg of vegetable seeds and 24,750 kg of fertilizer NPKs have been delivered to the provincial offices of the Department of Crop Production in Gia Lai with their distribution to 550 households in the districts of Dak Doa, Chu Se and Chu Phu planned for the coming week, in time for the planting season.
- Procurement of an additional 400 kg of maize, 144,500 kg of rice and 323,000 kg of fertilizers for 1,650 households in Ninh Thuan, Ca Mau and Kien Giang provinces is ongoing with distribution planned for August.



Example of fertilizer NPK distributed in the Central Highlands (Photo @FAO)

### Damages and Needs:

- The situation remains largely unchanged since previous update with minor rainfall not making a substantial difference to the health needs in affected areas. 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 remains difficult at commune health centers due to a lack of water tanks, wells.
- There remains an acute need of filtration of the available water in the affected areas to make it suitable for consumption. Several tests conducted at health facilities in Dak Lak point at a concentration of coliform in the water beyond the permissible limits, making the water not safe for drinking.
- Desalination of water in district and commune health facilities in Kien Giang, Ca Mau and Ben Tre remains needed.
- The need to raise awareness on safe use of water, in particular to people living in hard-to-reach such as the Raglai and Cham ethnic minorities remains very high.
- The number of Dengue cases is on the rise particularly in the Central Highland provinces such as Kon Tum, Gia Lai, Dak Lak, Dak Nong.



WHO staff testing the water quality at a health facility in Ea Sin commune, Krong Bung district, in Dak Lak province (Photo @WHO)

### Response:

- Procurement of essential supplies for 72 hard to reach commune health centers in 23 districts in 8 provinces is ongoing. Delivery of 223 water filters, 42 water tanks, 73 water pumps mainly for district and commune health facilities is planned to start in early August. 2,320kg of Chloramine B has also been procured.
- 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 additional water purifying tablets and foldable jerry cans to selected commune health centres.
- WHO is working with the Thai Nguyen Institute of Hygiene to support 4 drought affected provinces (Kon Tum, Gia Lai, Dak Lak and Dak Nong) on Dengue prevention and response measures including community mobilization and risk communications.
- WHO is working with the NCHEC, local health authorities and UN partners to develop and disseminate IEC materials on safe use of water, food safety and dengue including an SMS and instant messenger mobile telephone campaign on safe use of water and healthy behaviors during drought.

### Damage and 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.

**39,000**

pregnant and lactating women are suffering from micro-nutrient deficiencies

### Response:

- With CERF and Government of Japan funding, UNICEF will provide support to 80,500 pregnant and lactating women, 83,835 children (6-23 months old), and 7,000 children with severe acute malnutrition, in Gia Lai, Kon Tum, Ninh Thuan, Ca Mau, Hau Giang and Tra Vinh.
- So far, in Ninh Thuan, 623 SAM cases (6-59 month) have been detected and treated, 5,030 pregnant and lactating women have received multiple micronutrient supplements and 13,314 children (6-23 months) received multiple micro-nutrient sachets for home food fortification.

- Following-up from planning workshops in June, a national master plan and 6 provincial emergency nutrition response plans are now finalized, including the selection of locations and number of beneficiaries. In addition, 939 district and commune officers from Gia Lai, Kon Tum, Ninh Thuan, Hau Giang, Tra Vinh and Ca Mau have been trained on emergency nutrition interventions to prepare them for the relief distributions once the items are delivered to the provinces.
- The first batch of nutrition supplies (with multiple micro-nutrient tablets and MUAC tapes) have arrived in Viet Nam and the National Institute of Nutrition is working with MOH, MARD and MOF on custom clearance.



## 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:

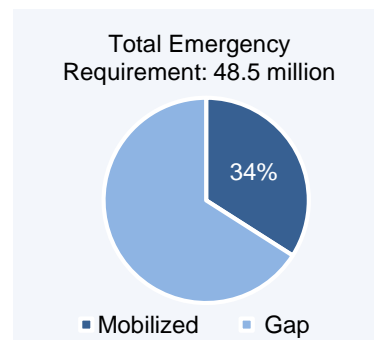
- Direct economic damage and losses to the 18 most affected provinces are estimated by CCNDPC at 15,032 billion VND (approx. 674 million USD) or 0.35% of the national GDP, with for the first time in decades a negative agricultural growth.
- Immediate early recovery needs (July-August) as identified by provincial departments of agriculture and rural development of the 18 affected provinces are:
  - Water supplies: water, filters, Aquatabs, tanks for storage etc., particularly for vulnerable groups and school and health facilities;
  - Provision of rice and other food, seeds and loans for livelihood recovery.
- For the next six months, preliminary recovery plans – to be further developed over the next weeks - are:
  - Expansion and improvement of water storage and irrigation infrastructure;
  - Promotion and application of modern technologies for more efficient water management and water saving, including desalination equipment.

### Response:

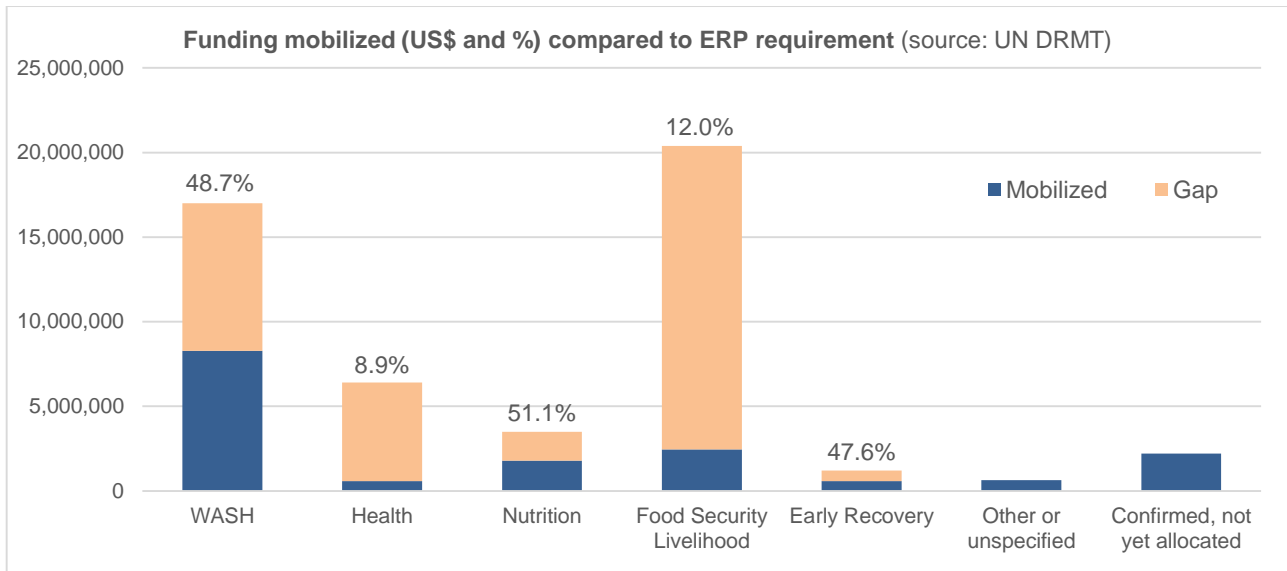
- UNDP is working closely with CCNDPC on detailing and costing the recovery component of the Emergency Response Plan 2016/2017. A letter has gone out to the affected provinces requesting for detailed short, medium and long-term recovery plans. The consultation process with the provinces is expected to be finalized by the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of August. At the same time, UNDP will facilitate parallel technical consultation sessions with NGOs, UN agencies and other humanitarian partners.

## Resource Mobilization

- On 26 April, the Drought and Saltwater Intrusion Emergency Response Plan (ERP) 2016/17 was issued with 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, 34% or US\$ 15,504,092 million of the ERP emergency requirement has been mobilized, not including the Government national and provincial budget allocated since April. Out of the total emergency funding, the UN has mobilized US\$ 7,858,864 million.
- The main donors are: Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF)<sup>1</sup>, ADB, Government of Japan, ECHO, VNRC-IFRC-DREF, 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.
- 50.2% of the mobilized ERP funding goes towards WASH relief; 14.9% to food security and livelihoods; 10.8% to nutrition; 3.5% to health and 3.5% for early recovery. 13.4% of the mobilized funding has been confirmed but is not yet allocated per sector.
- As of 27 July, out of the total ERP emergency requirement; 51.1% of requested funding for nutrition has been mobilized; 48.7% for WASH; and 47.6% for early recovery. Considerable gaps exist for food security and livelihoods (only 12% of the ERP requirement) and health (only 8.9% of the ERP requirement);



<sup>1</sup> For a list of CERF donors, see: <http://www.unocha.org/cerf/our-donors/funding/cerf-pledges-and-contributions-all>



## General Coordination

The Government, UN agencies, INGOs and the Red Cross are coordinating the humanitarian response and recovery in the affected provinces. The Disaster Management Working Group is regularly collecting information on agency responses and the UN Disaster Risk Management Team is meeting on a weekly basis.

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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