

# Viet Nam: Drought and Saltwater Intrusion

## Situation Report No. 6

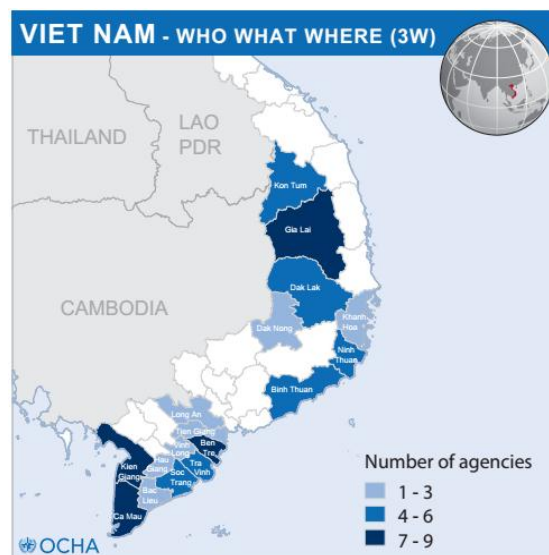
(as of 16 September 2016)



This report is produced by Office of the Resident Coordinator Viet Nam. It covers the period from 30 July to 16 September 2016. The next report will be issued as new information becomes available.

## Highlights

- Recently, rains have also started in South-Central Viet Nam, but overall rainfall remains below annual averages in all three affected regions.
- The most recent Government *La Niña* forecast is at 50-60% likelihood, starting from autumn, with low to moderate intensity.
- Dengue fever cases have increased more than usual this year, with a particularly severe situation in the Central Highlands and South-Central Vietnam.
- Drought emergency relief distributions have accelerated over the past weeks, with extensive delivery of rice, water containers, purification tablets, filters, hygiene kits, nutritional supplements, seeds, fertilizer etc.
- At the end of August, more than 34% or US\$16.7 million of the emergency requirement has been funded, not including the majority of the Government relief.
- The Government developed a Drought Recovery Plan, estimating recovery needs at US\$166 million for 2016.



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.

<b>18</b> Provinces affected	<b>2m</b> People facing water stress	<b>1.75m</b> People lost incomes	<b>659,476ha</b> Crops damaged or lost	<b>0.35% GDP</b> Estimated total economic loss	<b>34%</b> Emergency appeal covered
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## Situation Overview

Over the past weeks, rains have finally commenced in the South-Central region also, bringing much needed relief to the drought affected households. However, rainfall totals remain far below the average annual rainfall in all affected regions.

River water levels in the upstream Mekong Delta are increasing but mid-September still on average 1.5m below normal levels, and up to 2m below flood levels. Water levels are projected to increase gradually over the coming weeks due to increased upstream rainfall in the past weeks.

On 16 August, the National Center for Hydro-Meteorological Forecasting (NCHMF) has issued an updated *La Niña* forecast. The forecast indicates a 50 to 60% probability of *La Niña* conditions occurring from autumn this year, with a low to moderate intensity. As a consequence of this, the annual storm season is likely to end later, the North-East monsoon will start earlier and flooding will occur more frequently in the last months of the year, particularly in Central Viet Nam. An updated forecast will be issued on 15 October 2016.

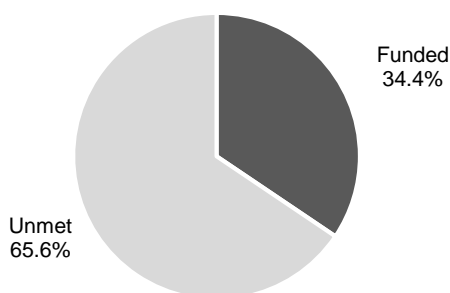
In recent months, a spike in dengue fever cases was reported with a particularly severe situation in the Central Highlands and the South-Central Vietnam region. By mid-August, drought affected provinces that saw a particular sharp to very sharp increase compared to 2015 occurrence are: Kon Tum, Ninh Thuan, Gia Lai, Dak Lak, Lam Dong and Dak Nong. In addition to these, other severely affected provinces with more than 2,000 cases are Khanh Hoa and Binh Thuan. The current outbreak is attributed to a combination of the drought, overstretched resources as well as an existing low immunity among the affected population due to the cyclical nature of dengue outbreaks. The peak of the outbreak is expected for September-October.

## Funding

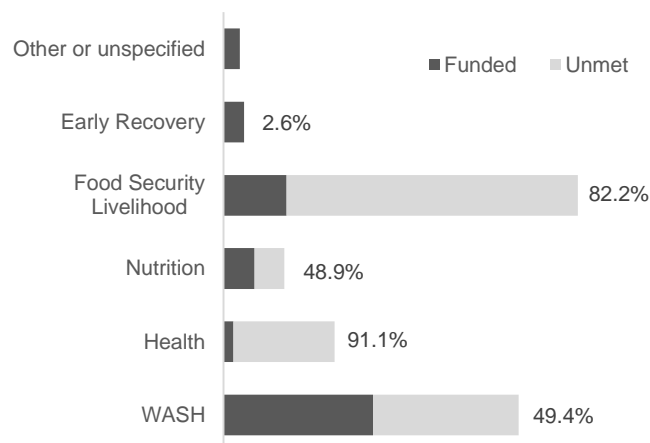
- On 26 April, the Drought and Saltwater Intrusion Emergency Response Plan (ERP) 2016/17 was issued requesting US\$48.5 million for immediate needs. End August, 34.4% or US\$ 16,702,223 million of the emergency requirement has been funded, not including the Government national and provincial budget allocated since April.
- 52% of these funds goes towards WASH relief; 22% to food security and livelihoods; 11% to nutrition; 7% for early recovery and 3% to health. 6% of the funding goes to support services or is unspecified. Funding gaps remain significant, particularly for food security and livelihoods, and health.
- Out of the total emergency funding, the UN has mobilized US\$ 8,729,388 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.<sup>1</sup>
- Major donors are: ADB, CERF, 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 and recovery funding, DFAT, New Zealand Aid and others.
- The Government's estimates for drought recovery interventions is costed at US\$ 166 million for 2016 and US\$ 368 million for 2017.

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

US\$48.5 million requested



### Funding by sector (with % unmet)



## Humanitarian Response

### National response:

- As reported by the CCNDPC at the end of August, the total Government support so far since the second half of 2015 is estimated at VND 1,460 billion or approx. US\$65.5 million, with 49% sourced from the national budget, 43% from local budgets and the remaining from the private sector and other sources. The support has mainly focused on delivery of rice, cash support, water filters and purification, containers, water trucking and expansion or rehabilitation of water infrastructure, and is still on-going.
- So far, the Viet Nam Red Cross has reached a total of 66,636 households in 18 drought affected provinces through its own emergency response budget as well as support from partners including IFRC, Swiss Red Cross, UNDP and USAID, with a total value of support of US\$572,833. These included: 5,770 households supported with cash for food and water; 44,769 households with safe drinking water; 7,512 households with water tanks; 660 households with cash for work; and 7,925 households with hygiene promotion. Activities are still continuing in the next weeks.

<sup>1</sup> 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>

## International response:

- In August, ECHO allocated emergency funding to two consortiums: approx. US\$1.1million to FAO-ActionAid Vietnam for food security, livelihood, early recovery and disaster preparedness support in Dak Lak, Dak Nong and Gia Lai; and approx. US\$1.1million to CARE-Save the Children for WASH, food security, livelihoods, early recovery and preparedness interventions in Soc Trang, Kien Giang, Ca Mau and Gia Lai. The timeframe is nine months, and beneficiaries are currently being selected in consultation with local authorities and partners.
- Early September, ADB with facilitation from MARD, has finalized the required agreements with the State Bank of Vietnam for implementation of the allocated US\$3million drought relief support. 7 provinces (Ninh Thuan, Binh Thuan, Khanh Hoa, Dak Lak, Dak Nong, Tien Giang and Dong Thap) are targeted with water tanks, water treatment equipment, well digging, seedlings, livestock, agricultural input materials and cash support.



## Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

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

2m people

facing water stress

### Needs:

- CCNDPC's damage report from 22 August estimates a total 444,583 households facing water stress in the 18 drought/saltwater intrusion affect provinces. This means at least 2 million women, men and children were lack of access to clean water by 22 August.
- In the 10 target provinces in which UNICEF is working (Dak Lak, Kon Tum, Gia Lai, Binh Thuan, Ninh Thuan, Ben Tre, Ca Mau, Hau Giang, Soc Trang and Tra Vinh), a total 202,472 households still suffered water problems, or 911,124 women, men and children who need WASH assistance in these provinces.

### Response:

- UNICEF procured PUR sachets and Aquatabs to support household water purification for at least 358,954 people in 176 communes of 39 districts in the 10 target provinces, reaching approx. 39% of the total affected people from WASH emergency response.
- As of 14 September all 4 million Aquatab tablets and 15.9 million PUR sachets have arrived in Viet Nam and are ready for distribution in September. Testing of the Aquatabs has been completed, as well as certification for distribution and complementary instruction leaflets (80,000).
- As part of the UNDP CERF project, World Vision has completed delivery of the last batch of water containers to an additional 200 households in Bac Binh in Binh Thuan. The other partner, the Viet Nam Red Cross, will finalize the delivery of water tanks to 19,200 people in Ben Tre by mid-September.
- UN Women through the Women's Union has distributed 11,500 hygiene kits to poorest, female-headed households in 5 provinces: Gia Lai, Kon Tum, Binh Thuan, Ca Mau and Kien Giang. Hygiene kits have been distributed with communication materials targeting women and girls. UN Women will also target a further 9,000 households in Ca Mau, Gia Lai and Kon Tum provinces in September. The hygiene kits include items such as soaps, towels, oral saline and 25 liter buckets.
- UN Women also distributed water containers (1,000 m<sup>3</sup>) to 500 poor, female-headed households in affected areas in Ca Mau through the support of the Government of Luxembourg.
- WASH and communication teams have finalized UN joint key messages and communication materials to enable harmonized delivery of household water treatment, safe storage, sanitation and hygiene practices for behavior change etc. Communication for Development (C4D) materials for WASH were developed, printed and available for distribution together with WASH supplies: 80,000 booklets on water sources protection and hygiene promotion at household level and 500 posters of handwashing with soap. In addition, 4,000 copies of the UN's joint key messages on multi-sectoral disaster preparedness and response were also printed. All materials have been distributed to the 10 provinces.
- In addition to launching the ECHO-funded relief project in Gia Lai and Ca Mau, in August Save the Children has also set up a drinking water treatment system for a primary school (157 students) and distributed 328 hygiene kits for 328 drought affected households (1.889 people), all in Gai Lai province.



Example hygiene kit distributed by UN Women with the Women's Union, including soaps, towels, oral saline and 25l buckets (Photo © UN Women)



## Health

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

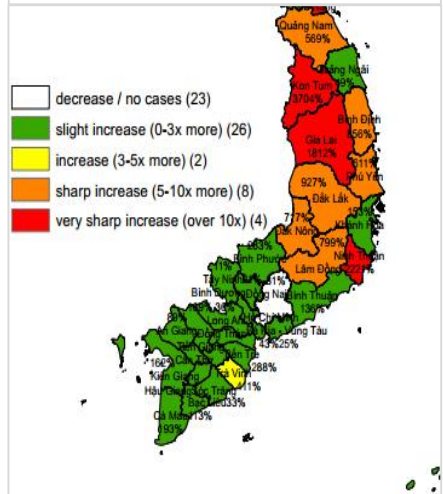
### Needs:

- Dengue fever outbreak remains significant in the Central Highlands and South-Central Vietnam, amplifying the need for extensive community awareness raising and dengue outbreak response measures, integrated into the drought relief and recovery operations.
- Extensive testing indicates a high level of coliform contamination of the majority of used water wells, increasing the need for on-going water purification and awareness raising.
- Health facilities in affected areas still have insufficient required safe water supplies.

### Response:

- WHO with the Health Environment Management Agency under the Ministry of Health (VIHEMA) has distributed Chloramine B, water tanks and water filters and detailed guidance on disinfection of water resources.
- WHO continues to support the Pasteur Institute of Tay Nguyen and local health authorities to conduct a response to the outbreak of dengue fever in Gia Lai, Kon Tum, Dak Lak, and Dak Nong, the provinces most affected by dengue.
- In addition, WHO continues to do surveillance of communicable diseases, and promote awareness of local people on risk to public health, and use of water supplies during and after drought.

% of Dengue cases between 2015 / 2016  
– up to week 33



Interpretation of data by WHO, based on data provided by the General Department of Preventive Medicine, Ministry of Health of Viet Nam



## Nutrition

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

- With CERF and Government of Japan funding, UNICEF provides support to 123,200 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.
- An additional 62 cases of SAM children have been detected and admitted for treatment in Ninh Thuan, bringing the total number of SAM cases detected and treated to 712. 5,549 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. The implementation has also started in Gia Lai, with the total number of SAM cases detected at 855 and the number of children (6-23 months) identified for receiving multiple micro-nutrient sachets for home food fortification at 19,546.
- 18 intensive training sessions on nutrition inpatient treatment and outpatient management were conducted in 6 provinces, with a total of 939 local health workers from 331 commune health centres, 31 district health centres, 37 hospitals and 12 provincial health centres trained and ready to implement emergency nutrition intervention services in the six provinces.
- All nutrition supplies were cleared by customs and have been distributed to 6 provinces Ninh Thuan, Kon Tum, Gia Lai, Tra Vinh, Hau Giang and Ca Mau; including 8.7million tablets of micronutrient for pregnant women, 8.4million micronutrient powder sachets for 6-23 month children, 5,000 pieces of MUAC tape, and 30 tons of Ready to Use Therapeutic Food (RUTF).

**27,500**

under-five children  
suffering from moderate to  
severe acute malnutrition

- Communication materials have also been distributed together with the supplies as follows: 80,000 leaflets on how to use Multiple Micronutrient Power for young children, 100,000 leaflets on how to use Multiple Micronutrient Tablet (MNT) for Pregnant Lactating Women (PLW), and 3,600 poster to urge PLW to use MNT



## 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))

# 1.75m

People lost livelihoods

### Needs:

- Over 1.75 million people have lost their livelihoods in the agricultural sector (rice, fruit trees, perennial crops, aquaculture, livestock) due to the drought.
- With harvesting only expected in October-November, farmers are still in need of fertilizer, seeds, technical training and equipment and – particularly for the poorest – further food assistance.

### Response:

- The Government delivered a total of 9,822 metric tons of rice to 655,000 people in the drought affected provinces since mid-2015, with further distributions of food and other relief still on-going.
- In August, ECHO allocated US\$887,374 to FAO and Action Aid Viet Nam to assist 4,537 households 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;
- FAO has finalized the procurement of 152 metric tons of rice, 2.7 tons of maize and 830 tons of fertilizers; while the procurement of a further 323 tons of fertilizers urea and 4 kg of vegetable seeds is still on-going;
- The distribution of FAO-supported agricultural inputs is accelerating since early August;
  - Gia Lai: 7,425 kg of rice seeds, 2,310 kg of maize seeds and 24,750 kg of NPK fertilizers to 550 households in 3 districts (200 households in Ayun commune, Chu Se district; 150 households in Chu Puh commune, Chu Don district; and 200 households in lapet commune, Dak Doa district);
  - Kien Giang: 60 tons of rice seeds and 90 tons of NPK fertilizers to 600 households in Giang Thanh, An Bien, An Minh, U Minh Thuong, Vinh Thuan, and Hon Dat districts;
  - Ninh Thuan: seeds and fertilizer to 285 households in 3 communes (Phuoc Ha, Nhon Son and Ma Noi) in Ninh Son district;
  - Ca Mau: 80 tons of rice seeds and 120 tons of NPK fertilizers to 710 households in 3 districts (440 households in U Minh, 224 households in Thoi Binh and 46 households in Tran Van Thoi);



Distribution of rice seeds and fertilizer in U Minh Thuong, Kien Giang province (Photo © FAO)



## Early Recovery

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

- The 18 drought affected provinces under coordination of MARD/CCNDPC and with technical support from the UN have developed a Drought Recovery Plan for the short, medium and long term. The plan is currently being approved for wider dissemination and application by October.

## 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 United Nations and in collaboration with INGOs, the Red Cross and other humanitarian partners.

The United Nations agencies involved in the drought 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 Resident Coordinator's Office to support coordination efforts between all 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.

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

***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)