



UNICEF's Response with Partners

Viet Nam

Humanitarian Situation Report No.15



14 March 2017

Highlights

- Viet Nam's Deputy Foreign Minister, during his keynote speech at the 34th regular session of the Human Rights Council panel discussion on Climate Change and Child Rights on 2 March 2017 in Geneva, highlighted the country's successful cooperation with UNICEF during the ongoing emergency response and on child-centred disaster risk reduction (DRR) in Viet Nam. The statement generated significant interest and discussion among participants, including representatives from ASEAN countries.
- The emergency nutrition intervention is in its final phase of implementation. In bridging the gap between humanitarian assistance and subsequent development interventions, National Guidelines and a National Plan on Emergency Nutrition Preparedness and Response is being developed. A workshop was conducted on 7-8 March with national and provincial level partners to learn key lessons from the on-going emergency nutrition response and inform content of the guidelines and plan.
- A child-centred DRR partnership framework between the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) and UNICEF is being finalized to solidify long-term cooperation on the issue in Viet Nam.

520,000

of children affected out of

2,000,000

of people affected

600,000

hectares of damaged crops

1,750,000

people with lost incomes

52 (18 most affected)

provinces affected out of

63

**Government-One UN Joint
Emergency Response Plan 2016**

US\$48.5 million

UNICEF funds received:

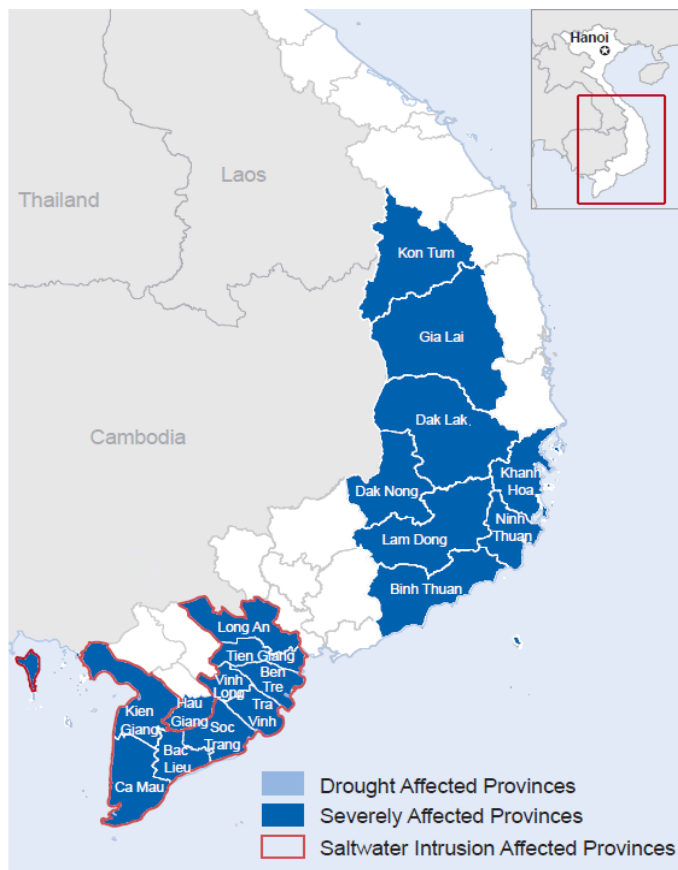
US\$4 million

Estimated coverage (UNICEF & operational partners)	Planned Target	Cumulative Results	% of Target Achieved
Number of targeted children aged 6-59 months assessed/treated with SAM	7,480	7,640	102%
Number of lactating/pregnant women receiving micronutrient supplementation	123,200	83,569	68%
Number of children aged 6-23 months receiving micronutrient supplementation	83,335	62,279	75%
Number of emergency-affected households provided with access to safe water	78,000	78,000	100%

Source: Data from the Humanitarian Performance Monitoring database, based on data from monthly monitoring reports from the National Institute of Nutrition and provincial distribution report from the National Centre for Rural Water Supply and Sanitation.

* Further explanation from National Institute of Nutrition regarding the differences in the planned and actual reached beneficiaries.

Situation overview and humanitarian needs



Since 2014, the acute and protracted *El Niño*-induced drought and saltwater intrusion have severely affected more than 18 provinces in South Central Viet Nam, the Central Highlands and Mekong Delta. These areas produce key agricultural outputs such as rice, coffee, pepper, and seafood. During the peak of the drought (February-May 2016) the lives of people in 52 out of 64 provinces in Viet Nam were adversely affected. In the 18 most impacted provinces some two million people, including 520,000 children and one million women are in need of humanitarian assistance. Of the two million people affected, 500,000 live in the drought-affected South Central and Central Highlands regions and 1.5 million in the Mekong Delta, where water shortages have been exacerbated by saltwater intrusion.

Reduced water use for washing, ablutions and handwashing has already resulted in increased incidences of diarrhea, dysentery, hand, foot and mouth disease and skin diseases. Limited access to water has also had an impact on children's health, exacerbating the prevalence of malnutrition.

Humanitarian leadership and coordination

UNICEF has been designated to chair the UN joint results group in Viet Nam on Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience within the One UN Strategic Plan 2017-2021. The group is comprised of Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), UN Habitat, UN Women, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Volunteers (UNV) and World Health Organisation (WHO). It seeks to facilitate inter-agency collaboration by maximizing the comparative advantage of each agency. It will also work synergistically with other joint result groups, such as that on Climate Change and Environment.

Humanitarian Strategy - Humanitarian-development nexus

The UNICEF response strategy involves life-saving support to approximately 337,000 vulnerable people in 10 provinces with household water treatment and safe storage as well as hygiene promotion to prevent communicable diseases. Health centres serve as entry points for hygiene, sanitation and emergency nutrition interventions. School-based interventions also seek to sustain hygiene practices and establish a mechanism for disaster preparedness. These response activities seek to strengthen awareness and coping mechanisms among affected communities to address the current emergency and future ones.

In the lower middle-income country context of Viet Nam, the humanitarian-development continuum is critically important as natural hazards have super-imposing impacts on chronic and persistent vulnerabilities such as poverty, nutrition, water and sanitation. As a first step to understanding the superimposing impact of natural hazards on the coping capacities of families and children, UNICEF has conducted a nationwide child vulnerability mapping exercise with data from a range of official sources. The mapping exercise analyzes the coping capacities of children, households and communities and overlays the multi-hazard map that reflects the likelihood and intensity of natural hazards in Viet Nam.

In operationalizing the joint MARD-UNICEF Vision and Positioning note on Child-Centred Disaster Risk Reduction endorsed in December 2016, the two parties have developed a concept note for national a child-centred DRR and Resilience programme. Going forward, it will strengthen the capacity of MARD as Chair of the Central Committee on Natural Disaster Prevention and Control to coordinate, strengthen legal and policy frameworks, generate evidence, facilitate knowledge and learning on child-centred DRR and Resilience as a way to implement the Sendai Framework and Sustainable Development Goals with a child lens. Within this programme, Ninh Thuan province is expected to serve as a learning platform for child-centred DRR, resilience and risk-informed programming within the overarching framework of child-focused Socio-Economic Development Plan and sectoral plans through the design of integrated service delivery of WASH, nutrition, education and school safety, child and social protection.

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

- The National Centre for Rural Water Supply and Sanitation (NCERWASS) has consolidated distribution reports and lists of beneficiaries per commune from all 10 target provinces that have received household water treatment supplies containing PUR (Purifier of Water), Aquatabs, filtering cloths, buckets and soap.



Child-centred handwashing with soap campaigns in Ninh Thuan province supported by Viet Nam Red Cross and School DRM team

- Water quality monitoring in all 120 targeted schools completed in 6 provinces in the past month. NCERWASS provided a guidance Letter to 20 schools in Ben Tre province and 10 schools in Soc Trang province to install two inlet water sources for each water filtration system to maintain function of the system during salt water intrusion period.

- A third party independent assessment of technical specifications and requirements for school water filter systems was conducted in 14 selected schools in Ninh Thuan province, with the quality of input water initially suspected below acceptable standard. The assessment confirmed the installed water filtration systems were sufficient, and suggested strengthening operation and maintenance capacity of focal points in 120 schools

to sustain effective use of the water filtration systems.

- Roll-out training on Open Defecation Free (ODF), Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) and Sanitation Marketing approaches for 37 district health staff from Ca Mau and Hau Giang provinces was conducted during 28 February and 3 March by Vietnam Health and Environment Management Agency (VIHEMA).
- An emergency WASH learning workshop will be held in Ninh Thuan province on 21 March to review key outcomes, experiences, challenges and lessons learned from emergency WASH interventions and strengthen emergency WASH sectoral contingency planning, standards and fast-track procedures.
- Viet Nam Red Cross provided technical support to complete DRR WASH support to 24 schools, build 12 sanitation latrines and complete installation of four communes Child-Centred Disaster Risk Maps in Lo Ku and Son Lang communes, Gia Lai province and in Lai Hoa and Vinh Hai communes, Soc Trang province by 15 March. A final learning workshop with six provinces is planned for 27 March to review key lessons learnt and challenges as well as discuss a long-term Viet Nam Red Cross-UNICEF partnership framework with a focus on Child-centred DRR community resilience.



Disaster risk mapping was conducted by teachers and students from Lai Hoa 2 primary school, Vinh Chau district, Soc Trang province

Nutrition

- For the first time, Viet Nam's National Institute of Nutrition involved all its departments to develop comprehensive National Guidelines and a National Plan on Emergency Nutrition Preparedness and Response. A workshop involving representatives from six provinces (Ca Mau, Gia Lai, Hau Giang, Kon Tum, Ninh Thuan and Tra Vinh) as well as from line ministries, UN agencies, INGOs and academic institutions was conducted on 7-8 March in Ha Noi, with key lessons learnt from the ongoing emergency response drawn on to inform the guidelines and plan to ensure they become operational at community level. At the workshop's completion, provincial emergency nutrition response teams were formed with participants from Departments of Health, Preventive Medicine Centre, Reproductive Health Care Centre and Centre for Health Education. As soon as the National Plan on Emergency Nutrition Preparedness and Response is finalized, it will form part of the Ministry of Health's Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan, with corresponding

provincial plans developed. The guidelines and plan are critical steps towards a risk-informed sectoral plan to prepare and mitigate impacts of natural disasters.

- Fieldwork for a qualitative study conducted by the National Institute of Nutrition of coverage and compliance to assess the effectiveness and quality of emergency nutrition interventions was initiated in two communes in Kon Tum province and two communes in Ca Mau province. The study seeks to generate evidence to validate data from monthly nutrition monitoring reports that have experienced challenges, particularly in monitoring progress on pregnant and lactating women and on children supplemented with micronutrient tablets and micronutrient powder, respectively. Preliminary findings will be presented in the Final Workshop for Emergency Nutrition by 31 March and a final report available by the end of April.
- A training for 32 provincial health staff on nutrition in emergencies was conducted by the National Institute of Nutrition between 28 February and 3 March in Can Tho province. The training provided basic knowledge on nutrition and interventions in emergencies as well as monitoring, evaluating and reporting.
- A final workshop on emergency nutrition interventions is planned for 31 March in Ha Noi and will be co-chaired by the Vice Minister of Health and UNICEF's Deputy Representative. Participants from national level include a Vice Minister, representative from Department of Maternal and Child Health-MOH, Department of Preventive Health -MOH, VIHEMA, Front Office - Office of Natural Disaster Prevention and Control and Search and Rescue - MOH, NIN, UNICEF, NGOs, mass media and press; and from provincial level include a leader of Provincial Department of Health, a leader and a nutrition staff of Provincial Reproductive Health Care Centres, a leader of Provincial Preventive Medicine Centre, a leader of Provincial T4G, and one health staff from district health centre and one health staff from communal level per province in Kon Tum, Ninh Thuan, Gia Lai, Hau Giang, Ca Mau, Tra Vinh province.

Communication for Development (C4D)

- Options for and the mock-up of two board games on climate change and hygienic promotion are being developed. Pre-testing of the games and mock-ups is scheduled for the first week of April in Gia Lai and Soc Trang provinces.
- Ohio University, one of the world's leading institutions on communication for behavior change, has been recruited to develop the national communication strategy for DRR and build resilience in Viet Nam. An inception mission is scheduled for the first week of April to engage MARD and relevant partners as well as review the objectives and methodology.
- A field mission was conducted to Soc Trang province to develop a new human interest story focused on the participation of children in DRR in two primary schools. The human interest story will be available late March 2017.
- Draft video on the #NoFilter campaign to raise awareness about the impact of climate change on children has been shared and reviewed for dissemination in connection to World Water Day.
- Draft concept on the campaign "When Nature Calls" to sensitize affluent people about the lack of sanitation in rural areas has been shared and further input provided. Main event is planned for mid-April.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Evaluation of the UNICEF-supported emergency response programme will take the form of an After Action Review by a team of consultants who will take stock of the lessons learnt and generate policy-oriented evidence and recommendations to improve disaster preparedness, DRR and resilience and future emergency responses. MARD will chair an After Action Review technical taskforce to be initiated in late March 2017. The preliminary findings and recommendations are expected to be presented at the end-project review conference in April 2017.

Funding

So far, UNICEF has received US\$2.5 million from the Government of Japan and US\$1.5 million from CERF for the humanitarian response.

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