

VIETNAM: EMERGENCY PROFILE – YEAR 2003

On-going and Potential Emergencies

(As envisaged in January 2003)

The following summary identifies potential emergency threats in Viet Nam over the next three years, and the likely consequences of these emergencies.

Type	Rating 1-5 (5=certain)*	Possible Humanitarian Characteristics	Potential Scale (# people affected)	Current UNICEF Planning Assumptions
Political / Economic Tensions				
Localised Incidents	3	Urban and rural areas. Local demonstrations against corruption and land tenure. Large-scale religious activities. Small to medium scale incidents –some occasionally serious – can cause concern among staff. International human rights agencies report crackdowns on ethnic minority groups in Central Highlands area.	1 - 10,000	Not usually officially reported or reported late. UNICEF has an established staff security plan, which is updated periodically. International access to these areas normally denied during periods of turmoil.
Sudden Large-Scale Incidents	1	N/a	N/a	N/a
Terrorist Incidents	1	N/a	N/a	No UNICEF involvement.
Conflict Situations				
Civil War	1	N/a	N/a	N/a
Localised Armed Conflict	1	Sporadic and unreported.	1 - 2,000	UNICEF to monitor the situation.
Refugees / Displacements				
IDPs/Refugees	2-3	Overall security is fairly good in neighbouring countries. However, some tensions remain in both Laos and Cambodia, which could lead to sporadic influxes of refugees. Thousands of Vietnamese girls and women trafficked to Cambodia and China – IOM facilitates limited repatriation.	1 - 3,000	UNICEF to monitor the situation. UNHCR still present in Cambodia following 2001 Central Highlands unrest facilitate repatriation or relocation. UNICEF provides support for repatriated child trafficking victims.
Landmines/UXO	5	Incidences occasionally reported, especially in affected central provinces. Landmines also present in border areas	2,500-7,500	UNICEF is supporting UXO/mine impact surveys, awareness & education projects, and

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		with China and Cambodia, and UXO contamination heavy along Lao border. No information on production and stockpiling of any landmines. Vietnam has not signed the Ottawa Protocol.		victims assistance activities in affected areas.
Natural Disasters				
Earthquakes	3	Small and sporadic. Along China border and northern areas.	1 - 10,000	Local system normally able to cope with the needs. UNICEF can provide relief items if needed.
Floods	5	Annually recurrent and expected during the rainy season from May to the end of November, especially in the central provinces, Red River Delta and Mekong Delta areas. Floods destroy households, public services, crops and communication equipment. They lead to large numbers of displaced persons.	100,000 - 4.5 million	Emergency co-ordination mechanism among UN agencies exists, including relevant Government agencies. UNICEF has comprehensive preparedness and response plan to address affected person's needs.
Landslides	4 – 5	Annually recurrent, related to a combination of torrential rain and deforestation.	5,000 - 50,000	Local systems normally able to cope with the needs. No major UNICEF inputs normally required but UNICEF can provide relief items if needed.
Cyclones/Typhoons/Storms	5	Between six and eleven typhoons hit the country every year.	50,000-2,5 million	Same strategy as for floods.
Tidal Waves	2	Related to typhoons and affecting fishing communities, mainly in central provinces.	1,000 - 10,000	Local systems normally able to cope with the needs, but UNICEF can provide relief items if needed.
Volcanic Eruptions	N/a	N/a	N/a	N/a
Droughts	4-5	Recurrent droughts affect rural communities. Crops are destroyed, leading to food and water shortages, especially between harvests can exacerbate salt water contamination of drinking water sources.	10,000 - 200,000	Government systems can normally cope with affected persons' needs. FAO's main area of responsibility. WFP withdrew from country in 2000. UNICEF may help in providing "hardware" (e.g., water facilities).
Forest Fires	3-4	Recurrent in mountainous areas.	2,000 - 5,000	Local systems normally able to cope with the

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				needs, but UNICEF can provide relief items if needed.
Unusually Cold Weather	3	Rather frequent in the north and in mountainous areas.	10,000-200,000	Local systems able to cope with the needs.
Health Emergencies				
Epidemics (e.g. cholera, measles,ARI)	3	Dengue fever outbreaks frequently occur during summer months. Cholera and/or other water-borne diseases also occur occasionally, especially in some border areas and crowded areas during the rainy season. Tuberculosis is on the rise.	3,000	UNICEF maintains the readiness to respond to such emergencies, and actively responds to health threats through its current integrated health programme.
HIV/AIDS	5	Numbers of infected person continue to rise and risk now within the general public. Transmission type drug users and sex workers particularly common, though now all population groups at risk.	Over 50,000people are HIV positive and 200,000 infected	Provide information to young people through Healthy Living and Life Skills project, support UNAIDS, work closely with UN AIDS Theme group. UNICEF supporting policy development for care and support of children infected/affected by HIV/AIDS and promoting home/community based care.
Acute Malnutrition	2	Strikes some limited areas, and is usually related to severe droughts or floods.	N/a	Usually Government systems can cope with the needs.
Environmental Hazards				
Air Pollution	3	In big cities and some other densely industrialised zones.	8 million – 20 million	Not yet considered UNICEF area of responsibility.
Radioactive Hazards	1		N/a	
Arsenic/Fluoride Poisoning	3 – 4	Groundwater is frequently contaminated in many areas. Arsenic has been detected in ground water in especially the Red River Delta, but groundwater sources Mekong Delta may also be contaminated. Food maybe contaminated in some cases.	Millions	Advocacy efforts. Water and Sanitation Programme are dealing with these problems, with advocacy, coordination and initial mitigation options.

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Other				
Acute Water Shortages	3	Related to droughts. Occasionally salt water invades paddy fields and wells.	unknown	UNICEF provide remedial support
Child Protection Issues	3 – 4	Numbers of children in need of special protection are on the increase.	50,000 - 200,000	UNICEF has specific programmes addressing these children's needs including activities in education programme. (1 million disabled children)
Acute Poverty	2	Relatively small numbers of "ethnic minority" groups living in mountainous areas have limited access to public services.	300,000	UNICEF employs a multi-sectoral approach to nutrition/health, water and sanitation, and encourages others to invest in development, income generation and micro credit.
Education	2-3	School year starts 2-3 months later than usual (other parts of country). Nationally starting in September and finishing in the May of the following year. In flatted area starting in December and finishing in the August of the following year.	200,000-300,000	Education Disaster Preparedness and Response Program providing Emergency school kits to around 10,000 students.

* Likelihood of occurrence rated by UNICEF staff (Rating Scale: 5 suggests threat is occurring or certain; 3 suggests 50/50 chance of occurrence; 1 suggests threat is very unlikely)

