

@UNICEF/Quang Binh/2020/Linh Pham



The house of Nguyen Thi Thu, 31-year-old pregnant woman was destroyed by typhoons in An Thuy Commune, Le Thuy District, Quang Binh Province on 26 October, 2020. It puts more pressure on her ability to secure nutritious food needed during her pregnancy and for her 2-year-old son.

Reporting Period: 17 to 27 November 2020

## Highlights

- From 6 October to 17 November, the central region of Viet Nam has been hit by seven consecutive tropical storms and cyclones which have brought sustained heavy rain resulting in devastating landslides and cascading floods, affecting an estimated 7.7 million people living in the nine provinces, including 2.5 million children.
- Hospitals in Hue, Thanh Hoa, Ha Tinh, Quang Binh and Quang Tri reported a sharp increase in the number of patients diagnosed with melioidosis, or Whitmore's disease, which is transmitted through direct contact with contaminated soil and surface waters. Symptoms include fever, cough, abscesses, and inflammation of the brain and joints, with a 40% death rate. The rise in infections since early October is among male adults involved in clean-up and rescue following the devastating floods in the central region. UNICEF is liaising with the Ministry of Health on the situation and will take actions as appropriate.
- UNICEF airlifted [10 tons of Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Food \(RUTF\)](#) nutrition supplements for children from Supply Division in Copenhagen which arrived in the country on 15 November. Another 50 tons of RUTF are procured and will arrive in the country soon. The RUTF will provide treatment for approximately 4,650 children with severe acute malnutrition (SAM) in six affected provinces, namely Ha Tinh, Quang Binh and Quang Tri, Quang Nam, Quang Ngai and Kon Tum. The supplies will be distributed in commune health centres in these provinces.
- UNICEF has started distribution of water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) supplies, including 4,034 ceramic water filters and 51,381 detergent packs and soap bars for approximately 80,000 affected people in Ha Tinh and Quang Binh provinces. UNICEF is also procuring emergency education supplies and 900 early childhood development (ECD) kits, prioritizing the most affected students and schools, with a special focus on remotely located satellite schools.
- UNICEF continues to work closely with national and local counterparts to ensure a coordinated and systemic response to the crisis. The effort includes strengthening disease outbreak and nutrition surveillance systems, developing a comprehensive response plan to reach the affected population with timely, and inclusive and culturally-sensitive messaging promoting life-saving practices on health, nutrition, protection and WASH.

# Viet Nam Country Office

Floods and Storms in  
Central Viet Nam  
Situation Report No. 3

unicef   
for every child

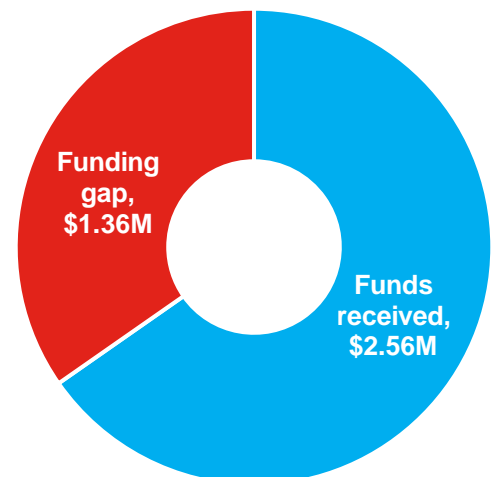
## Situation in Numbers



## UNICEF Appeal 2020

US\$ 3,920,000

Funding Status (in US\$)



## Funding Overview and Partnerships

UNICEF has appealed for US\$ 3.92 million to address the urgent needs of the most vulnerable children, their families and communities in the most affected provinces. To date, UNICEF has mobilized US\$2.56 million thanks to the

generous contributions from the governments of Australia and New Zealand, the French Committee for UNICEF, the US Fund for UNICEF, The UN Central Emergency Fund (CERF), private sector partners and UNICEF internal allocations of flexible humanitarian funds. These funds enable the provision of immediate relief including WASH, nutrition, child health, education and protection. UNICEF, in close collaboration with other UN agencies, is mobilizing more resources to meet the urgent needs of the most vulnerable children, their families and communities.

## Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

From 6 October to 17 November, the central region of Viet Nam has experienced prolonged heavy rain as a result of a combination of numerous weather systems and seven consecutive tropical storms and cyclones that have caused widespread flooding and devastating landslides in ten provinces: Ha Tinh, Quang Binh, Quang Nam, Quang Ngai, Quang Tri, Thua Thien Hue, Da Nang, Nghe An, Binh Dinh and Kon Tum provinces.

Many communities in the most affected provinces have pre-existing vulnerabilities and have been severely impacted by the first and second waves of COVID-19. Adding to the consequences that COVID-19 prevention and control measures brought, children and families in these areas face tremendous challenges and are struggling to cope with the consequences of such natural disasters. Extremely adverse conditions, paired with the threat of COVID-19 transmission disrupted education, strained healthcare services and poor hygiene, are putting the central region's 2.5 million children at high risk.



Map Sources: VNDMA, UNCS, JTWC  
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 on 12 November, 2020



@UNICEF/Quang Binh/2020/Linh Pham

Many households have no access to clean water and children carry water back in Lien Thuy Commune, Le Thuy District, Quang Binh Province on 26 October, 2020.

**Health:** To date, 61 commune health centers are damaged, and many more are isolated and inaccessible due to floodwater or landslides. This prevents approximately 72,000 pregnant and lactating women and 120,000 children under five years old from accessing essential health care services. Many women report gynecological diseases and children with diarrhea. Capacity of health care services remains limited and quality is impaired. The floods and landslides have disrupted transportation, limiting children and families' access to health care services and increasing the risks of disease outbreaks, including waterborne diseases. A diphtheria outbreak is ongoing in Quang Nam and Quang Tri, and skin diseases commonly reported. Hospitals in Hue, Thanh Hoa, Ha Tinh, Quang Binh and Quang Tri reported a sharp increase in the number of patients (primarily adult males) diagnosed with

**WASH:** Over 1 million people are estimated to be most in need of WASH support. Among them, nearly 260,000 school children and 780,000 people are deprived of access to WASH. WASH facilities in at least 862 schools were reported submerged underwater, and more than 100 water piped networks are damaged. The lack of water and functioning latrines is particularly challenging for women and girls' personal hygiene. The WASH sector is initially targeting 177,000 poor and near-poor people and difficult to reach schools and health centres that are unable to access protected water sources.



@UNICEF/Quang Ngai/2020/Linh Pham

Health services are limited and people line up in front of a local clinic with no electricity due to Typhoon Molave in Quang Ngai City on 29 October, 2020.



melioidosis, or Whitmore's disease, which is transmitted through direct contact with contaminated soil and surface waters. Symptoms include fever, cough, abscesses, and inflammation of the brain and joints. Its mortality rate is around 40 per cent. Experts link the rise in the number of infections since early October to the floods that ravaged the central region throughout October and November. This emerging issue highlights the need to strengthen the surveillance system to prevent waterborne disease outbreaks. UNICEF is liaising with the Ministry of Health on the situation and will take actions as appropriate.<sup>1</sup>



@UNICEF/Quang Nam/2020/Linh Pham

Children and their families faced devastating impacts in the aftermath of Typhoon Molave as their shelters and crops were destroyed putting her child at risk of nutrition deficiency.

**Nutrition:** It is estimated that around 72,000 pregnant and lactating women and about 274,000 children under five years old, including 85,000 children under two years old, are affected and receive inadequate dietary intake. They also have limited access to routine nutrition services such as growth monitoring, complementary feeding counselling and multiple micronutrient supplementation. UNICEF and the National Institute of Nutrition estimate that 11,000 children under five are suffering from severe acute malnutrition. For families already suffering the socio-economic impact of COVID-19, this disaster puts their ability to secure nutritious food for their children in peril.

**Education:** An estimated 153,000 children (of which 49% are girls) who already experienced learning loss due to COVID-19 have had their learning further disrupted. At least 862 school buildings have been reported damaged, broken latrines and or unroofed. Many school facilities and learning materials are destroyed by strong wind and water. The Ministry of Education and Training (MOET) has requested assistance from international and national organizations to provide school supplies and repairs.



@UNICEF/Quang Binh/2020/Linh Pham

Students have their books & notebooks destroyed by typhoons in Le Thuy District, Quang Binh Province on 26 October, 2020. School supplies are urgently needed to resume teaching and learning.



@UNICEF/Quang Nam/2020/Linh Pham

Nguyen Thi Thu Hoa, 38, holds her son Nguyen Hoang Len, 2 and stand in front of their empty shrimp field in Hoa Loc Commune, Dai Loc District, Quang Nam Province in the aftermath of Typhoon Molave. The loss of livelihood is likely to put children in higher protection risks.

**Child Protection:** Children's mental health and psychosocial well-being are heavily impacted as they face increased protection risks, stress, trauma and anxiety. School closures have exposed children, particularly girls, to domestic violence and posed them at higher risk of neglect, sexual exploitation and abuse. Children face numerous safety risks due to accidents, with at least two child casualties due to drowning already reported. Children without parental care are particularly vulnerable. Loss of family livelihood is expected to translate into an increased risk of child labor in the coming months.

<sup>1</sup> VN Express International, *Central Vietnam floods cause bacterial infection outbreak*, Accessed 25 November 2020, <https://e.vnexpress.net/news/news/central-vietnam-floods-cause-bacterial-infection-outbreak-4192847.html>

## UNICEF in Action



As an immediate intervention, UNICEF distributed WASH supplies including 4,034 ceramic filters and 51,381 detergents packs and soap bars to the most affected provinces of Ha Tinh and Quang Binh and airlifted [10 tons of Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Food](#) (RUTF) nutrition supplements for children from Supply Division in Copenhagen, which arrived in the country on 15 November. UNICEF procured another 50 tons of nutrition supplement RUTF for distribution for treatment of an estimated 4,650 children with SAM in Ha Tinh, Quang Binh and Quang Tri, Quang Nam, Quang Ngai and Kon Tum.




As part of the education response, UNICEF is procuring 900 emergency ECD kits, prioritizing the most affected students and schools, mainly the remotely located satellite schools, benefiting an estimated 45,000 children. UNICEF is also providing technical support to MOET in conducting an assessment on safe education facilities. In addition, to effectively supporting MOET for the coordination of the emergency response, UNICEF, as education sector co-lead jointly with Save the Children, facilitates information sharing, mapping partner's interventions and convenes bi-weekly education sector meetings to avoid overlap, duplication of efforts and activities. These efforts help in strengthening advocacy and mobilization of resources to ensure the continued learning and safety of affected students.

In close coordination with UNFPA and the Ministry of Labor, Invalids and Social Affairs (MOLISA), UNICEF is procuring 3,400 dignity kits with essential supplies. The supplies provide girls and women in Ha Tinh, Quang Binh, Quang Tri, Quang Nam, Quang Ngai and Kon Tum provinces immediate and gender-sensitive support, including the provision of personal safety and hygiene items. With UNICEF support, MOLISA is preparing to dispatch expert teams providing case management and psychosocial assistance to boys, girls and their families in affected areas. To keep women and children safe from violence and abuse, injuries and life threats as well as to prevent family separation, UNICEF is conveying protection in emergency messages to reach the most in need.

Such child-friendly messages are part of a cross-sectoral communication for development (C4D) response package that UNICEF has developed in close coordination with the Viet Nam Disaster Management Authority (VNDMA), with the aim to promote life-saving practices on health, nutrition and access to safe water and sanitation and child protection. Radio and video clips on protection from landslides and flash floods are also under production in sign languages and ethnic minority languages. The messages are disseminated through a combination of the most appropriate traditional and social media channels including Facebook and Zalo, the most commonly used message app in Viet Nam, along with interpersonal communication that should help strengthen the emergency response through the introduction of a community feedback system.

## Summary Analysis of UNICEF Response Plan


Critical Areas	Key actions	Target Beneficiaries	Reached to-date	Estimated Budget (USD)
				3,920,000
 WASH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide ceramic water filters and washing powder as an immediate response to ensure access to improved drinking water and essential sanitation and hygiene in affected areas.</li> <li>Urgently repair damaged water and sanitation facilities in schools and health facilities.</li> <li>Provide water filtration systems for schools and health centers.</li> <li>Improve water storage for the most vulnerable families.</li> </ul>	90,000 people	30,000 people	1,800,000
 Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure continuing access to essential maternal, newborn and child healthcare services and vaccination by deployment of outreach sessions for pre-and post-natal visits and vaccination catch ups for pregnant women and children.</li> </ul>	12,800 pregnant and lactating women	-	320,000

 <p>Nutrition</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide support for the screening of children under five in the most affected communes in three provinces for the detection of severe acute malnutrition (SAM) and moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) for a timely-triggered response.</li> <li>• Procurement of RUTF to support treatment of SAM detected children in the intervention locations.</li> <li>• Procurement of Multiple Micro-nutrients Supplements (MPS) for children under five years old.<sup>2</sup></li> <li>• Support emergency training for the rapid deployment of health staff for the management of the nutrition-specific interventions.</li> <li>• Support monitoring the intervention coverage and technical compliances of the interventions.</li> </ul>	<p>117,000 children under-5</p> <p>4,650 SAM cases</p>	<p>-</p>	<p>600,000</p>
 <p>Education</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Distribution of emergency education supplies, ECD and education kits, for all school levels in the most affected communes, paying attention to the needs of boys and girls, especially ethnic minorities and children with disabilities, and other vulnerable sub-groups.</li> <li>• Support the assessment on safe education facilities and essential school supplies for teaching and learning and the roll-out and implementation of "Safe Back to School Protocol" with a focus on a safe learning environment &amp; commute to and from school, including physical accessibility for children with disabilities.</li> <li>• Ensure the continued learning of affected students through the provision of distance &amp; online learning opportunities where/when possible.</li> <li>• Ensure that boys and girls are provided with immediate psychosocial support in schools.</li> </ul>	<p>144,000<sup>3</sup> children</p> <p>1,500 teachers</p>	<p>-</p>	<p>500,000</p>
 <p>Child Protection</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure that children and women are protected from life threats and risks of violence against children (VAC) and gender-based violence (GBV) through the provision of guidance to social workers and frontline workers.</li> <li>• Provide psychosocial support for affected children and caregivers through experts dispatched on the ground and in coordination with local social workers, teachers and other frontline workers.</li> <li>• Provide case management support to children severely affected by the emergency, including provision of alternative care arrangements to children without parental care.</li> <li>• Supply Dignity Kits for children and women with essential gender-sensitive supplies for personal safety and hygiene.</li> </ul>	<p>33,400 children and women</p>	<p>-</p>	<p>500,000</p>

<sup>2</sup> To be implemented by the National Institute of Nutrition

<sup>3</sup> 144,000 children of which there are 71,000 girls, 684 children with disabilities and 12,100 ethnic minority children



 <p>Communications for Development (C4D)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Disseminate cross-sectoral child-friendly communication messages package in preparedness, response and recovery periods of storm, flood and landslides. It consists of critical family practices; clean water and hygiene including handwashing; health including immunization and waterborne diseases prevention; nutrition; food hygiene practice; child drowning and injury prevention; and child protection, psychosocial support and well-being, partly in sign language and a number of ethnic minority languages to reach the most vulnerable children and families.</li> </ul>	<p>4.7 million people in affected central provinces reached through social media</p>	<p>1.1 million<sup>4</sup> people reached on prioritized key messages through Facebook of UNICEF Viet Nam, and 4 million people in the region through VNDMA's Zalo.</p>	<p>200,000</p>
---	---	--	---	----------------

## Humanitarian Leadership, Coordination and Strategy

The response is coordinated among line ministries through the Central Committee for Natural Disaster Prevention and Control (CCNDPC) and its standing office VNDMA. The Disaster Management Group (DMG) has been convened by UN Resident Coordinator's Office (RCO) that leads coordination among UN agencies, and Disaster Management Working Group (DMWG) that consists of INGOs in Viet Nam engaged in disaster management. The DMG conducted the joint assessment with VNDMA and has developed a cross-sectoral Response Plan based on each sector plans, with support of OCHA's Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP). UNICEF is leading the Nutrition and WASH sector coordination groups, co-leading the Education sector with Save the Children, and leading the Child Protection sub-sector under the Protection sector, led by UN Women. To date, UNICEF has worked with line ministries and partner UN agencies and INGOs on a thorough joint response plan on UNICEF-led and co-led sectors of WASH, Education and Health. All sector coordination groups have been activated for timely information sharing and collaboration. Partners' interventions mapping exercises and regular updates are shared to avoid duplication of efforts and maximize effectiveness.

## Next Sit Rep: 11 December 2020

UNICEF Viet Nam: [unicef.org/vietnam](https://www.unicef.org/vietnam)

UNICEF Viet Nam Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/watch/unicefvietnam/>

UNICEF Viet Nam Twitter: [https://twitter.com/UNICEF\\_vietnam](https://twitter.com/UNICEF_vietnam)

Who to contact for further information: Rana Flowers  
Representative  
Viet Nam Country Office  
Tel: (+84) 2438500201  
Email: [rflowers@unicef.org](mailto:rflowers@unicef.org)

Lesley Miller  
Deputy Representative  
Viet Nam Country Office  
Tel: (+84) 2438500202  
Email: [lmiller@unicef.org](mailto:lmiller@unicef.org)

Louis Vigneault-Dubois  
Chief of Communications  
Viet Nam Country Office  
Tel: (+84) 966539673  
Email: [lvigneault@unicef.org](mailto:lvigneault@unicef.org)

<sup>4</sup> Estimated number of people in central region reached on key life-saving messages of Facebook account of UNICEF Viet Nam.