**Highlights**

- Fresh water has been available due to seasonal rainfall in the South Central Coast and Central Highlands region. In Central Highlands, although it is at the peak of the rainy season, the water level, particularly ground water, is much lower than previous years. The annual flood of Mekong Delta has reached the delta. However, the water level is around 1 meter lower than the same period of previous years. UNICEF recently conducted two field trips for reality check in Gia Lai and Ben Tre where drought and saline intrusion were most severe and it can be stated that with current water level lower than 2015, drought and salt water intrusion will possibly come back in two-month time and could be more serious. UNICEF’s support is very timely to help people and the government in better preventing and resilient to what is going to happen.

- It is foreseen that with the impact of climate change, sea level rise, reduction of water flow from upstream to lower Mekong basin, natural and man-made disasters have been and will be more intensified and unpredictable. Under that backdrop, UNICEF Viet Nam has engaged strategically with Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development – MARD, the focal agency of the Government of Viet Nam on this work, to discuss a long term cooperation on risk informed programming, disaster preparedness, building resilience and disaster risk reduction – DRR.

- Lack of safe drinking water and poor hygiene conditions pose high public health risks to vulnerable communities in affected provinces. Impact for affected households is severe and needs are still pertinent particularly in terms of water purification, hygiene promotion, nutritional support and livelihood recovery.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Estimated #/% coverage</strong></th>
<th><strong>UNICEF &amp; operational partners</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cluster target</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of targeted 6-59 months assessed/treated with SAM</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of lactating/pregnant women receiving micronutrient supplementation</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of children 6-24 months receiving micronutrient supplementation</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of emergency-affected households reached with access to safe water</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of emergency-affected population reached with access to safe water</td>
<td>410,154</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of emergency-affected women reached with access to safe water</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of emergency-affected children reached with access to safe water</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

520,000
# of children affected out of 2,000,000
# of people affected

600,000
# Hectares of crop damaged

1,750,000
# people lost incomes

52 (18 most affected)
# provinces affected out of 64

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

US$48.5 million

**UN funds received:**

$12.0 million

**UNICEF funds received:**

US$4 million

**Funding gap:** US$32.5 million

15 October 2016

UNICEF’s response with partners
Situation overview and Humanitarian Needs

The ongoing El Niño-induced drought and saline intrusion emergency has adversely impacted the lives of people in 52 out of 64 provinces. In the most affected 18 provinces, 2 million people including 520,000 children and 1 million women, are in need of humanitarian assistance. Of the total 2 million people affected, some 500,000 live in the drought-affected South Central and Central Highlands Regions, and 1.5 million live in the Mekong Delta, where water shortages have been exacerbated by the saltwater intrusion.

Reduced water use for washing, ablution, and hand-washing, have already resulted in increased incidence of diarrhoea, dysentery, hand, foot and mouth disease, and skin diseases.

The poor access to water has also had an impact on children's health, exacerbating the prevalence of malnutrition.

The forecast of likelihood occurrence of La Niña is now 50-60% compared to previous forecast of 75%. La Niña, which is characterized by cooler than normal water temperatures in the Pacific Ocean, usually results in greater than average rainfall, increasing the risk of large flooding in Mekong delta provinces – particularly in drought-affected areas. The Mekong River delta plays an important role in the Vietnamese economy and it has been severely impacted by a series of unusually drought and large floods. In the dry season the delta is impacted by salinity intrusion and tides. These effects have caused severe human hardship.

With recent rainfall, the situation in the Mekong Delta has improved although impact of saline intrusion is yet to change. The annual flood of Mekong Delta has reached the delta. However, the water level is around 1 meter lower than the same period of previous years. With current water level lower than 2015 salt water intrusion will possibly come back in two-month time and could be more serious. In Central Highlands, although it is at peak of rainy season, the water level, particularly ground water is much lower than previous years.

Humanitarian leadership and coordination

A joint Government, UN and INGO assessment confirmed the urgent needs in the sectors of water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), health and nutrition, and food security. There are challenges to reach the most vulnerable in hard-to-reach locations and to strengthen coordination mechanisms at provincial/district levels.

The overall sectoral response is led by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) which targets through water trucking the 2 million people affected by the lack of regular access to drinking and domestic water sources. With the onset of rain, especially in the Mekong Delta, water trucking has been reduced. However the emergency response to support purification of water, micro-nutrient supplements, and hygiene behaviour promotion continues to remain important and valued by MARD.

The Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) in provinces under the leadership of the Provincial People’s Committee (PPC) is coordinating the response at provincial level. In severely affected provinces, the Viet Nam Red Cross (VNRC), Oxfam, Care International, World Vision, and Save the Children are responding and reaching out to the most vulnerable populations, though on a limited scale.
Humanitarian Strategy - The Humanitarian Response – Development Nexus

Based on the results of the 21-24 March joint multi-sector rapid assessment and subsequent monitoring and reporting by Government and partners, the Viet Nam Emergency Response Plan (ERP) outlines the funding requirements to respond to the needs of 2 million people suffering from acute water shortages, 1.1 million who require food assistance, 500,000 in drought-affected areas at risk of water-related diseases, and 66,500 acutely malnourished under-five children and pregnant and lactating women.

The UNICEF response strategy involves life-saving support to approximately 358,954 vulnerable people with household water treatment and safe storage, and hygiene promotion to prevent communicable diseases. Interventions will also improve WASH facilities in schools which will be used in conjunction with health centres as entry points for hygiene, sanitation and emergency nutrition interventions. These response activities provide long-term benefit to affected communities’ awareness and coping strategies in future emergency situations, and they serve as an important link between emergency response and on-going WASH and Nutrition resilience.

UNICEF Viet Nam recognizes first and foremost the key factors associated with the Emergency including the mid-income context, the underlying disaster prone environment as well as the acute on chronic nature of the current emergency. Assessment of the vulnerability to natural disasters and risk analysis in addition to drought and salt water intrusion is being undertaken and forms the basis for promoting Risk Informed Programming. Through engagement with Government and other UN agencies, UNICEF aims to prioritise the most vulnerable in affected provinces for further interventions in its on-going programmes, thereby improving long-term community resilience. UNICEF engages the government through the One UN mechanism for a common understanding on the need for a more holistic response that will span the humanitarian emergency-development continuum. Hence while there is need to preponderantly address the current acute emergency as humanitarian response phase, there also an important need for the country to go way beyond the emergency phase to full recovery implementation of activities in order to ensure resilience of systems to withstand future disaster shocks.

Summary Analysis of Programme response

**WASH**

- UNICEF has procured PUR sachets and Aquatabs for household water purification for approximately 360,000 people in 10 target provinces. As of 14 October all 4 million Aquatab tablets, 15.9 million PUR sachets have arrived in Viet Nam and are ready for distribution. National Center for Rural Water Supply and Sanitation - NCERWASS has printed 80,000 PUR instruction leaflets and 80,000 Aquatabs instruction leaflets to distribute to the targeted beneficiary households. UNICEF has also printed 4,000 booklets of joint UN key messages for emergency situation, 500 posters of handwashing with soaps, 80,000 household WASH booklets focusing on water treatment, and behavior change communications on hygiene and sanitation. All communication materials were delivered to all 10 provinces and ready for distribution together with WASH Supplies in 162 communes of 39 districts in 10 provinces. NCERWASS has completed the bucket bidding closure by 5th Oct, and signed contracts with suppliers of bucket, soap, and cloth. Actual delivery and distribution of WASH supplies to remaining 9 provinces can commence on 19-20 Oct 2016 until early November 2016.
All WASH supply items including instruction leaflets, and all WASH C4D materials have been distributed to 28,281 people of 5,953 households in 9 communes of 5 target districts in Gia Lai province by 6th October 2016, including 10,653 women and 10,084 children. The joint monitoring visit between MARD and UNICEF to Gia Lai province identified that women who participated in the distribution and received supplies are very well informed and remember precisely on how to use PUR and Aquatab.

40 provincial-level participants from Center for Rural Water Supply and Sanitation - PCERWASS, Center for Preventive Medicine - CPM, Department of Education and Training - DOET, Center for Health Education - CHE, Viet Nam Red Cross - VNRC, and Women Union from 5 Central Highlands and South Central provinces of Ninh Thuan, Binh Thuan, Gia Lai, Kon Tum, and Dak Lak attended the TOT training on 22-23 Sept 2016. These partners have enhanced knowledge on financial management, water treatment, and WASH behavior change communications. Subsequently, provincial C4D managers and planners will organize training for district/commune/village health workers and collaborators in implementing C4D activities at the community level.

In the period Oct 2016- Jan 2017, VNRC will be a key implementing partner for the on-going emergency response relating to school WASH using Participatory Action Oriented Approach (PAOT), Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS), upscaling Open Defecation Free (ODF), citizen feedbacks in emergency response, Community Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM), and Community Based Disaster Risk Assessment (CBDRA) in 6 targeted provinces: Ninh Thuan, Binh Thuan, Gia Lai, Kon Tum, Ben Tre, and Soc Trang. A UNICEF-VNRC programme cooperation agreement (PCA) entitled: WASH Emergency Response to Children and Families affected by the Drought and Salt Water Intrusion in Viet Nam is being finalized by the mid October to enable the implementation of the partnership agreement at full scale.

Joint monitoring trip between UNICEF and Central Committee for Natural Disaster Prevention and Control (CCNDPC) Standing Office to Gia Lai province was conducted on 6-7 October with special focus on WASH interventions in Yang Bac commune, Dak Po district. In a community of 76 households of Bana ethnic group, only three households have latrines. Water are scarce even at the peak of rainy season. We found critical WASH issues as major chronic vulnerability among poor Bana and Gia Rai ethnic group: low quantity and quality of rural household water supply, poor water storage conditions allowing breeding of mosquitoes – vector issue, dengue increase recently, absence of toilets and extremely high open defecation, poor management of animal waste. The emergency supplies and interventions particularly communication on personal and environmental hygiene and practices has reached the target population at the most critical time and it is highly appreciated.
### WASH Planned beneficiaries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Provinces</th>
<th>Number of targeted women, men, and children</th>
<th>Number of targeted districts</th>
<th>Names of targeted districts per province</th>
<th>Number of targeted communes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Ninh Thuan</td>
<td>52,236</td>
<td>[4]</td>
<td>Bac Ai, Thuan Nam, Ninh Son, Ninh Hai</td>
<td>9</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Dak Lak</td>
<td>35,000</td>
<td>[3]</td>
<td>Ea Sup, Ea Kar, Krong Bong</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Kon Tum</td>
<td>33,168</td>
<td>[4]</td>
<td>Dak To, Ngoc Hoi, Sa Thay, Ia Hdrai</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Binh Thuan</td>
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<td>[4]</td>
<td>Ham Thuan Bac, Ham Thuan Nam, Tanh Linh, Duc Linh</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Ca Mau</td>
<td>30,000</td>
<td>[3]</td>
<td>U Minh, Tran Van Thoi, Thoi Binh</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Ben Tre</td>
<td>61,000</td>
<td>[3]</td>
<td>Mo Cay Nam, Mo Cay Bac, Giong Trom</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Tra Vinh</td>
<td>30,000</td>
<td>[3]</td>
<td>Cang Long, Chau Thanh, Tra Cu</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>10 provinces</strong></td>
<td><strong>358,954</strong></td>
<td><strong>39</strong></td>
<td><strong>162</strong></td>
<td></td>
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### Nutrition

- In Ninh Thuan, 131 new cases of SAM children have been detected treated during the reporting period. The total number of SAM cases detected and treated so far in Ninh Thuan is **843**. A total of 5,549 pregnant and lactating women are treated with multiple-micronutrient supplements. **13,314** children 6-23 months are receiving multiple micro-nutrient sachets for food fortification.

- The implementation has been initiated in Gia Lai. A total of **1,373** SAM cases have been detected and treated. **9,543** of children 6-23 months are receiving multiple micro-nutrient sachets food fortification. **8,177** of pregnant and lactating women are receiving multiple-micronutrient supplements.

- The implementation of activities has also started in Kon Tum. A total of **123** SAM cases detected and treated. **4,997** of children 6-23 months has been receiving multiple micro-nutrient sachets for food fortification. **4,745** pregnant and lactating women having been received multiple-micronutrient supplements accounting for **41%** of the target.

- In Ca Mau, a total of number of **503** SAM cases has been detected and treated. **6,589** children 6-23 month has being receiving multiple micro-nutrient sachets for home food fortification. **11,530** pregnant and lactating women having been treated with multiple-micronutrient supplements is **11,530**.

- In Tra Vinh, **156** SAM cases has been detected and treated. **2,372** children 6-23 months receiving multiple micro-nutrient sachets for food fortification. There are 1905 pregnant and lactating women receiving multiple-micronutrient supplements.

- In Hau Giang, nutrition supplies were distributed to all **76** selected communes (10 districts). Distribution of supplies to beneficiaries has just started in 10 communes and is quickly expanding to reach 76 communes by week 3rd of October. The next SitRep will report on number of beneficiary reached.

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Nutrition supply distribution in Chu Pong commune health center, Chu Se district, Gia Lai province
The above results are extracted in the first monthly reports of the targeted provinces except Ninh Thuan. NIN and UNICEF is analyzing the reports to identify issues of reporting system and draw out lessons learnt for improvement.

The second and the last batch of nutrition supplies are under distribution to the 6 provinces and will be completed by 2\textsuperscript{nd} week of Oct.

### Nutrition Planned beneficiaries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Provinces and locations</th>
<th>Number of targeted women (PLW)</th>
<th>Children 6-23 month old</th>
<th>Children under 5 with SAM</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Ninh Thuan</td>
<td>7,000</td>
<td>11,000</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Kon Tum</td>
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<td>6,060</td>
<td>604</td>
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<td>Gia Lai</td>
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<td>15,103</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Sub proposal 1</td>
<td>44,000</td>
<td>32,163</td>
<td>3,185</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Tra Vinh</td>
<td>24,092</td>
<td>14,327</td>
<td>1,351</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Hau Giang</td>
<td>19,724</td>
<td>16,924</td>
<td>1429</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Ca Mau</td>
<td>35,384</td>
<td>19,921</td>
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<td>Sub proposal 2</td>
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<td>4,295</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>123,200</td>
<td>83,835</td>
<td>7,000</td>
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</table>

### Child Protection

UNICEF is also exploring ways to support Child Protection by carrying out a sector-specific assessment. A child protection rapid assessment has been conducted in Ninh Thuan province, a south central coast province seriously affected by drought. Led by UNICEF and the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MOLISA), in collaboration with Save the Children and Plan International, the assessment looks at emerging or escalated child protection issues due to the magnitude of the drought. The assessment also identifies response gaps and makes recommendations for immediate interventions to address child protection concerns, as well as medium and long-term solutions for strengthened child protection in emergencies. Key findings and recommendations from the report are as follows:

**Key findings:**

- Family separation is common during drought period, either long term as some parents have to migrate to other localities to earn living, or short term when other parents have to work in remote paddy fields far away from home for a few days, leaving the children behind either alone, with their siblings to take care of each other, or with the grandparents and relatives for care.
- Child neglect is of concern as the result of family separation, or because parents have to work longer hours, or experience increased stress, thus give less care to the children, both physically and emotionally.
- Sporadic absence from school of children is reportedly more common during the drought period. While primary-school children skip classes for few days to go with their parents to the paddy field in remote locations, secondary-school children sporadically drop out of school to do part-time works (such as herding cows and sheep, cutting sugar cane and harvesting coffee) or to take care of their younger siblings while parents are working away from home.
- Increased psychological stress of children was also reported during the assessment due to prolonged heat and water shortage, lack of parental care, witnessing domestic violence, and verbal abuse of the parents.
- Violence against children continues to occur, and neglect and the lack of parental care are reported to be the cause of some cases as parents were busy working or working far from home. However, existing data does not show an increase of child abuse incidents as an impact of the drought.
- Child labour was also raised as a concern as it leads to not only dropping out of school but also the risk of exploitation. However, there is no data indicating that the situation is escalated during the drought period.
• The local government, agencies and mass organizations have taken a number of interventions and provided various support help the people coping with the drought. Child protection concerns, however, have not been adequately recognized in order to identify effective responses.

Recommendations:
• To strengthen data collection and monitoring of the situation children affected by the drought.
• To pilot short-term foster care model or community-based child friendly shelter to care for children in the community while parents are absent from home for several days in remote field.
• To strengthen capacity of the Child Protection system, especially during natural disaster, particularly through enhanced community child protection network and the role of social work center.
• To integrate CPIE into the welfare sectoral and the local plan to ensure that child protection is considered as a key response in the drought and advocate for additional government budget allocation to welfare sector to address CP issues.
• To set up support groups for parents affected by the drought at community level. These could be places where mothers particularly could receive counseling support.
• To strengthen effort to retain children in schools, including school feeding programmes.
• To strengthen communication on prevention of family separation, neglect, abuse and exploitation of children.
• To increase children’s participation in prevention of and response to the drought’s impact, especially the detection and timely intervention of the risks of abuse, violence and exploitation of children in the areas affected by natural disasters.

Findings and recommendations from the assessment was disseminated in Ninh Thuan and the report was shared with leaders of MOLISA for follow-up actions.

Communications for Development (C4D)
All communication materials on Nutrition and WASH in emergencies have been distributed to target audiences in 10 affected provinces.

The TOT trainings on communication skills in emergency context were completed. There are about 110 provincial C4D managers and planners from PCERWASS, Preventive Medicine Centre, Health Productive Centre, and Centre for Health Education in 10 affected provinces.

The C4D activities at community and provincial levels are being implemented. These include: i) interpersonal communication (house visits, focus group discussion, and village meeting) at community level; and ii) mass media activities via provincial TV and commune loudspeaker systems. The board games for primary school students on hygiene promotion and climate change are in the process of development.

On 15 October 2016, NCERWASS and Women Union in Ben Tre province with support of UNICEF organized the Global Handwashing Day event at the Ben Tre Provincial Primary School with the theme “Make handwashing a habit!”.

Handwashing with soap is a high impact behaviour and this practice ensures survival and development of children as it could reduce incidences of communicable diseases and infections such as diarrhoea. For handwashing to be effective, it must be practiced consistently every day. We recognize the importance of schools and early learning centres as excellent entry points to encourage children develop the habit of handwashing. This practice is even more important in emergency situation which can prevents the outbreak of diseases.

Education
In the context of the institutionalization and strengthening of the emergency response capacity of the education sector in general, the Ministry of Education and Training (MOET) has worked with country partners (UNICEF, Plan International, Save the Children) to refine the Viet Nam’s Framework for Comprehensive Safe School which was adapted and
contextualized from the Global Framework. The Comprehensive Safe School for Disaster Prevention in Viet Nam includes 3 main pillars namely the (i) Safe infrastructure for disaster prevention; (ii) Disaster risk management in schools; and (iii) Education for disaster prevention, control, risk reduction and adaptation to climate change in schools. Specific evaluation criteria for each pillar are also included in this framework.

The approval of the revised Viet Nam’s Framework for Comprehensive Safe School for national application is expected by the end of this year.

Supply and Logistics

Of the total procurement value, 100% of procured supplies have been received and in the process of distribution to the target population.

Nutrition supplies - The first batch of Nutrition supply has been distributed to all six targeted provinces (including 596 communes under 58 districts). The last batch of nutrition supply (19% of the total supply value), which has just been received into the country in October, are being transported to the 6 provinces and are expected to reach the beneficiary by mid-October.

The total procured nutrition supplies includes: 13,500,000 Micronutrient tablets for pregnant and lactating women, 372,000 sachets of Multiple Micronutrient Powder (Bibomix), 5 tons of Therapeutic food (Hebi), 5000 MUAC tapes, 5,000,000 Multiple micronutrient sachets for 6-23 month children; 50 tons of Ready-to Use Therapeutic Food (RUTF); 2,700 sachets of F-100 Therapeutic milk and 6,000 sachets of F-75 Therapeutic milk.

WASH supplies - 15,892,800 sachets of water flocculation, 4 million tablets of Aquatabs, 78,000 Buckets, 78,000 filter cloths and 78,000 pieces of anti-bacterial soaps are ready for distribution at the provincial level. In Gia Lai province, all WASH supply items and WASH communication materials including instruction leaflets and all WASH C4D materials have been delivered and reached 28,281 people of 5,953 households in 9 communes of 5 target districts. Local procurement of buckets, and soap was finalized by NCERWASS in early October. Procurement of filtering cloth is being finalized. Actual delivery and distribution of WASH supplies to remaining 9 provinces is expected to take place on 19-20 October and target completion date for distribution of Wash supplies to beneficiaries in all provinces is end of October 2016.

Nutrition, WASH and Supply team are spending more time in the field for effective distribution monitoring. Nutrition monitoring was initiated late August and is ongoing in the six coverage provinces of Ninh Thuan, Kon Tum, Gia Lai, Tra Vinh, Hau Giang and Ca Mau, WASH monitoring activities was kicked off in the key priority provinces.

Funding
The ERP (seeking US$48.5 million) is 54.4% funded with contributions received from CERF, ADB, Government of Japan, ECHO, USAID, DFAT, Government of Lao PDR, Government of Thailand, Government of New Zealand and various other sources. UNICEF has received about US$1.5 million from CERF for the humanitarian response for 6 months and US$2.5 million from the Government of Japan for 9 months for WASH and Nutrition sectors.

Next SitRep: 15 November 2016

Who to contact for further information:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>UNICEF Viet Nam</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Mobile</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jesper Moller</td>
<td>Deputy Representative</td>
<td></td>
<td>+84 (0) 438500202</td>
<td>+84 (0) 988737500</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jmoller@unicef.org">jmoller@unicef.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nguyen Dinh Quang</td>
<td>Nutrition Officer</td>
<td></td>
<td>+84 (0) 3850-0244</td>
<td>+84 (0) 0915025686</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ndquang@unicef.org">ndquang@unicef.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nguyen Thi Thanh Huong</td>
<td>Communication Specialist</td>
<td></td>
<td>+84 (0) 438500225</td>
<td>+84 904154678</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ntthuong@unicef.org">ntthuong@unicef.org</a></td>
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