UNICEF’s Response with Partners

**Highlights**

- Since January 2016, intense drought and saltwater intrusion have severely affected more than 2 million people in 18 provinces. Although drought conditions are over in the Mekong Delta, they are still on-going in South-Central and the Central Highlands of Viet Nam, and may last until the end of September 2016.

- Water has been available due to seasonal rain fall in Mekong Delta, South Central Coast and Central Highlands region. However, demand for clean and safe drinking water is needed for household consumption. Lack of safe drinking water and poor hygiene conditions pose high public health risks to vulnerable communities in affected provinces. The effective of this situation on affected households is severe and needs still more pertinent response and support particularly in terms of water purification, hygiene promotion, nutritional support and livelihood recovery.

- Government report indicate that by 7th July 2016 in the 10 target provinces where UNICEF is working, a total of 202,472 households (911,124 women, men and children) are still suffered from water problems. UNICEF’s aim is to reach approximately 358,954 (39%) of the total affected people suffering from water stress.

- Outlook: there is a 75% likelihood that La Niña conditions will occur from September onwards. 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 flooding – particularly in drought-affected areas.

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**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

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**Estimated #/% coverage**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cluster target</th>
<th>UNICEF Target</th>
<th>Cumulative Results(#)</th>
<th>Gap</th>
<th>% of Target Achieved</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Number of targeted 6-59 months assessed/treated for SAM</strong></td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>7,000</td>
<td>650</td>
<td>6,350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Number of lactating/pregnant women receiving micronutrient supplementation</strong></td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>123,200</td>
<td>5,030</td>
<td>118,190</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Number of children 6-24 months receiving micronutrient supplementation</strong></td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>81,853</td>
<td>13,314</td>
<td>70,539</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Number of emergency-affected households reached with access to safe water</strong></td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>77,947</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Number of emergency-affected population reached with access to safe water</strong></td>
<td>410,154</td>
<td>358,954</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Number of emergency-affected women reached with access to safe water</strong></td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>143,618</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Number of emergency-affected children reached with access to safe water</strong></td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>104,153</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Situation Overview & 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.

With recent rainfall, the situation in the Mekong Delta has improved although impact of saline intrusion is yet to change.

Reduced water use for washing, ablation, and hand-washing, have already resulted in increased incidence of diarrhea, 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.

There is a 75% likelihood that La Niña conditions will occur from September onward. 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.

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 of 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.

The Humanitarian Response – Development Nexus increasing resilience to withstand shocks:

UNICEF strongly believes in a humanitarian action development continuum which necessitates an emergency response that concurrently builds capacities of communities, government agencies and systems to improve resilience and minimize disaster risk through a risk informed programming.
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 about 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 are enabling increased WASH and Nutrition resilience, and they form the basis for promoting risk informed development programming. Through engagement with Government and other UN agencies, UNICEF aims to assess the most vulnerable in affected provinces thereby improving long-term community resilience.

Summary Analysis of Programme response

WASH

- UNICEF has procured PUR sachets and Aquatabs that will support household water purification for at least 358,954 people in 10 target provinces. As of 12 August all 4 million Aquatabs tablets have arrived in Viet Nam through Ho Chi Minh City airport and cleared by customs. In addition, 9,081,600 sachets of Pur have arrived at Ho Chi Minh and being planned for distribution.

- Communication for development messages form important part of tools for the needed behavior change. WASH team has been working closely with the One UN communication team to finalize joint UN key messages and communications materials on the interventions for better understanding of household water treatment, safe storage, sanitation and hygiene practices for behavior change of 358,954 target beneficiaries in 189 communes of 39 districts in 10 provinces.

- The Central Committee for Natural Disaster Prevention and Control (CCNDPC’s) Damage Report updated on 7th July 2016 estimated a total 460,839 families were facing water stress in 18 drought/saltwater intrusion affect provinces. This means at least 2,073,776 women, men and children were lack of access to clean water by 7th July. The Government report also pointed out that by 7th July in the 10 target provinces in which UNICEF is working, a total of 202,472 households still suffered water problems. This is equivalent to 911,124 women, men and children who need WASH assistance in the 10 target provinces. In this situation, we aim to reach approximately 39% of the total affected people from WASH emergency response (358,954 out of total 911,124 population suffering water stress.

WASH Planned beneficiaries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Provinces and locations</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>
</tr>
</thead>
<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>
</tr>
<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>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Binh Thuan</td>
<td>31,000</td>
<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>49</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>
</tbody>
</table>

10 provinces 358,954 39 189
Nutrition
- Additional 27 new cases of SAM children detected and admitted for treatment in Ninh Thuan. The total number of SAM cases detected and treated is 650. The number of pregnant and lactating women having been treated with multiple-micronutrient supplements is 5,030 cases. The number of children 6-23 months receiving multiple micro-nutrient sachets for home food fortification is 13,314 children.
- 18 training sessions on nutrition in-patient treatment and outpatient management were conducted in 6 provinces. Total 939 local health workers from 331 commune health centres, 31 district health centers, 37 hospitals and 12 provincial health centres were trained and ready to implement emergency nutrition intervention services the six provinces.
- 5,000 MUAC tapes, 30 tons of Ready to Use Therapeutic Food (RUTF) and 8,700,000 multi-micronutrient tablets for pregnant and lactating women, 8,400,000 micronutrient powder sachets for 6-23 month children are under custom clearance process. These are going to be distributed to the provinces during the week of 22/8/2016. Resomol and therapeutic milk are going to arrive by the end of August and will be distributed to the provinces.

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>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Ninh Thuan</td>
<td>7,000</td>
<td>11,000</td>
<td>1,050</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Kon Tum</td>
<td>11,628</td>
<td>6,060</td>
<td>604</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Gia Lai</td>
<td>25,372</td>
<td>15,103</td>
<td>1,531</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sub proposal 1</td>
<td>44,000</td>
<td>32,163</td>
<td>3,185</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Tra Vinh</td>
<td>24,092</td>
<td>14,327</td>
<td>1,351</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Hau Giang</td>
<td>19,724</td>
<td>16,924</td>
<td>1429</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Ca Mau</td>
<td>35,384</td>
<td>19,921</td>
<td>1,515</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sub proposal 2</td>
<td>79,200</td>
<td>51,172</td>
<td>4,295</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>123,200</td>
<td>83,835</td>
<td>7,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</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)

Based on counterparts’ feedback in the workshops, UNICEF’s C4D team has been working with national counterparts (NCERWASS/MARD, NIN and VIHEMA/MOH) to finalize the packages of detailed key messages, in consultation with other UN agencies (WHO, FAO, UN Women, UNDP) to ensure the consistency and avoid overlapping. The comprehensive packages of detailed key messages have been finalized and will be sent to provincial counterparts for adjustments/modification to make it suitable to local context (including local languages).

Based on the packages of Key messages, IEC materials have been developed and finalized for interpersonal communication at community’s level, and will be sent to provincial counterparts of 10 provinces for local customization and printing: The series of IEC materials (leaflet; poster) on nutrition and WASH are being developed and will be distributed to project site. The list of IEC materials will be printed and distributed on August and September as below:

- 2 Leaflets on guideline for water treatment (Aquatabs and PUR): 78,000 leaflet on how to use PUR, 78,000 leaflet on how to use Aquatabs
- Leaflet on guideline and call for use multi-micronutrient POWDER (80,000 leaflet will be printing)
- Leaflet on guideline and call for use multi-micronutrient TABLET (120,000 leaflet will be printing)
- Leaflet on sanitation and water treatment (UNICEF and WHO joint to develop)
- Poster call for use multi-micronutrients tablet for PLW (36,000 poster will be printing)
- Poster on WASH practise guideline (will printing by CHE’s province)
- 1,200 CD for all C4D materials are needed.

Above desktop-publishing files will be shared to provincial counterparts where they will be customized and re-printed for multi-purpose use at communities. The indicators for C4D monitoring is being integrated into Nutrition and WASH
monitoring tools (incl. monitoring checklists). TOT training materials on Behaviour Change Communication (BCC) skills in emergency, which will be used for facilitating C4D session in WASH TOT training. The IEC package for School (student-led activities on hygiene promotion and survival skills in emergency) will be developed next month.

**Education:**

The MOET Minister issued the Decision No.: 5523/QD-BGDĐT on “Approval of the framework of knowledge, skills and attitudes towards education on climate change adaptation and natural disasters prevention and control in pre-school, general education and continuing education institutions” on 21 November 2014. In order to implement the related Master Plan for the period of 2012-2020, thirty (30) specialists were invited to develop the framework of the CCA and natural disasters prevention and control in preschool, general education (formal education from grade 1 to grade 12) and in continuing education institutions (non-formal education).

Following the approval of the framework, on the first of January 2015, sixty (60) writers/ specialists selected from concerned ministries/agencies/academia/universities were invited to write 12 book titles based on the approved framework from pre-primary to lower secondary education and upper secondary education for which 5 book titles were respectively designed for the different subjects (Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Geography, Technology). A Textbook Appraisal Committee of 39 specialists and education managers was established to screen the 5 book titles in details and give written comments and recommendations on the “Structure, Content, Terminology, Relevancy and Illustration” of each book title prior to the National Consultative Workshop.

UNICEF is supporting the government of Viet Nam to enhance the implementation of the Decision on CCA/DRR which is one concrete example of integration of the policy on education in emergencies in the overall education sector planning to ensure that all children not only have access to inclusive, equitable and quality education but continue to learn especially in period of emergency.

**Supply and Logistics**

UNICEF is providing immediate humanitarian response with integrated recovery activities in the sectors of safe water supply, promotion of sanitation and hygiene; micro-nutrient supplements for the treatment of severe acute malnutrition for the most vulnerable women and children.

WASH and Nutrition procured offshore through Supply division: water treatment supplies for 366,000 household people, therapeutic food for 7000 children, food fortification for 123,200 pregnant women and 83,335 children and anthropometric supplies. Of the procured items, air shipment of 4,000,000 tables of Aquatabs, 3,000 sachets of Micronutrient has been received and distribution process is about to begin. While 4,200,000 tables of micronutrients and 5000 pieces of MUAC are undergoing distribution. Therapeutic spread, multiple micronutrient, and PUR both air and sea shipments are expected to arrive within the month. The remaining items 600 sachets of resomal, 270 sachets of F-100, 600 sachets of F-75 and balance of micronutrient are expected to arrive in Sept, 2016.

Local procurement of buckets, filter cloths and anti-bacterial soaps are ongoing through NCERWASS while instruction leaflets and visibility materials under procurement through UNICEF.

**Funding**

So far, the ERP (seeking US$48.5 million) is 33% funded thanks to 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.

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