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Viet Nam Country Office

Floods and Storms in Central Viet Nam Situation Report No. 7

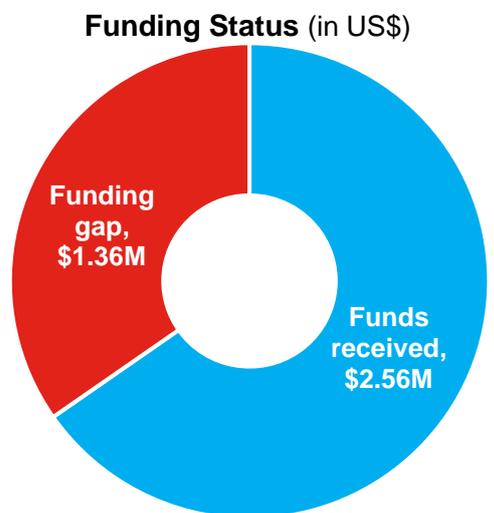
Highlights

- From 6 October to 17 November, Viet Nam's central region was hit by seven consecutive tropical storms and cyclones, which brought sustained heavy rain resulting in devastating landslides and cascading floods, affecting an estimated 7.7 million people living in ten provinces, including 2.5 million children.
- UNICEF procured over 60 tons of Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Food (RUTF). The RUTF is providing treatment for children with severe acute malnutrition (SAM) in six affected provinces, namely Ha Tinh, Quang Binh, Quang Tri, Quang Nam, Quang Ngai, and Kon Tum. National Institute of Nutrition (NIN) and commune health centers are distributing RUTF to children with SAM in these provinces. With UNICEF's technical assistance, NIN completed a series of rapid training for 660 frontline health staff who conducted SAM screening for children under five in the communities. To date, 3,606 children with SAM and 2,629 with moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) were identified and treated.
- UNICEF supported the National Centre for Rural Water Supply and Sanitation (NCERWASS) in distribution of water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) supplies to 3,232 poor households, 87 commune health centers and 36 schools in 33 communes, including installation of reverse osmosis water filters for schools and provision of ceramic water filters, water tanks and hand sanitizer among the affected population. This is the second batch of WASH supplies to three central provinces of Ha Tinh, Quang Binh and Quang Tri. To date, 81,507 people, including women and children, have benefited from the UNICEF supported WASH response.
- UNICEF has procured and is distributing 3,400 dignity kits in Ha Tinh, Quang Binh, Quang Tri, Quang Nam, Quang Ngai and Kon Tum provinces for vulnerable children and women with essential gender-sensitive supplies for personal safety and hygiene, including information materials on how to stay safe and prevent family separation as a consequence of disasters.
- UNICEF procured 900 early childhood development (ECD) kits which will be distributed to 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, providing micronutrients to mothers and children, accountability toward affected population, and inclusive and culturally-sensitive messaging promoting life-saving practices on health, nutrition, protection, and WASH.

Situation in Numbers

- 243 people dead and missing
- 7,700,000 people living in affected provinces
- 2,500,000 children living in affected provinces
- 862 school have been damaged or unroofed

UNICEF Appeal 2020 US\$ 3,920,000



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 immediate relief, including WASH, nutrition, child health, education, and protection. In close collaboration with other UN agencies, UNICEF is mobilizing more resources to meet the urgent needs of the most vulnerable children, their families, and their communities.

Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

From 6 October to 17 November, the central region of Viet Nam experienced prolonged heavy rain as a result of a combination of numerous weather systems and seven consecutive tropical storms and cyclones that 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.

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 of COVID-19 prevention and control measures, children and families in these areas face tremendous challenges and are struggling to cope with the effects of such natural disasters. Even after the tropical cyclone season, many households in the central region are still struggling to recover from their loss and damages. 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



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UNICEF procured and distributed WASH supplies such as water tanks to households in Quang Tri province.

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 centers that are unable to access protected water sources.

Health: 61 commune health centers were 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 the 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 are commonly reported. Hospitals in



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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.

Hue, Thanh Hoa, Ha Tinh, Quang Binh and Quang Tri reported a sharp increase in the number of patients (primarily adult males) 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. 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.¹



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UNICEF is supporting local health workers to ramp up screening of children and to provide therapeutic food for severely acute malnourished children.

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 NIN anticipated an increase in the number of children under five would be detected with SAM. 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.



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Toys & equipment were damaged by typhoons at Lien Thuy Kindergarten in Lien Thuy Commune, Le Thuy District, Quang Binh Province on October 26, 2020, disrupting the learning of many pre-school children.



©UNICEF/Quang Nam/2021/Nguyen Thi Thanh Huong
UNICEF supported the Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs in conducting mental health and psychosocial session in Tra Tap Commune, Quang Nam Province.

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.

UNICEF in Action

As an immediate intervention, UNICEF distributed WASH supplies, including 4,034 ceramic filters and 51,381 detergent packs and soap bars, to some of the most affected communities in Ha Tinh and Quang Binh provinces. UNICEF further procured and distributed 13,404 bottles of hand sanitizer to 87 schools and 36 commune health centers, 1,212 water tanks, and 2,020 ceramic water filters to 3,232 vulnerable households, and installed 36 water filtration systems in schools

¹ 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>

of 33 communes in Quang Binh, Quang Tri, and Ha Tinh provinces. The beneficiaries have been guided on properly using and maintaining a ceramic water filter and a water tank. The third batch of WASH supplies is being distributed to four other provinces, namely Thua Thien Hue, Quang Nam, Quang Ngai, and Kon Tum. A joint field assessment by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) and UNICEF was conducted in these provinces and has informed the detailed plan for repairing WASH facilities in schools and health centers. The work of repairing and fixing these facilities is expected to be completed by the end of April.

Regarding the nutrition emergency response, 36 tons of RUFT were distributed to 320 communes of six provinces of Ha Tinh, Quang Binh, Quang Tri, Quang Nam, Quang Ngai, and Kon Tum. The last 24 tons of RUFT arrived on 6 February 2021 for the final round of distribution. Apart from supplies, 660 frontline health care workers have been trained and deployed in support of the SAM screening campaign, which was rolled out in early January 2021. To date, 124,914 children under five were screened to detect acute malnutrition, which has reached more than the target of 120,000. The screening campaign has completed to reach the hard-to-reach children, who are normally not in any daycare centers or kindergartens. So far, 6,235 children of acute malnutrition cases have been detected, of which 3,606 cases are at a severe level, and 2,629 cases are at the moderate level of acute malnutrition are under treatment. Moderate acute malnutrition is less severe than SAM. However, children with MAM need immediate treatment similar to SAM with a 50% dose of RUTF for SAM. The treatment for acute malnutrition children is ongoing together with multiple micronutrient supplementation to pregnant women and young children in the age group of 6-23 months old in the same communities. The nutrition intervention package is the joint effort between the NIN under the Ministry of Health and UNICEF to form comprehensive nutrition in emergency programme for children in the most affected communities.

In close coordination with UNFPA and the Ministry of Labor, Invalids and Social Affairs (MOLISA), UNICEF has reached 3,400 children with dignity kits, providing them with essential supplies in identified vulnerable districts in all provinces. The supplies provide girls and women in Ha Tinh, Quang Binh, Quang Tri, Quang Nam, Quang Ngai and Kon Tum provinces with immediate and gender-sensitive support, including the provision of personal safety and hygiene items. With UNICEF support, 34 facilitators have been trained on psycho-social support and psychological first aid (PFA) and case management and dispatched to selected districts as resource persons to assist frontline workers in providing protection and psychological support to children and their families in affected communities. To keep women and children safe from violence and abuse, injuries and life threats as well as to prevent family separation, UNICEF continues to convey protection in emergency messages to reach the most in need.

As part of the education response, 900 emergency ECD kits arrived on 14 February 2021 which will be distributed to the most affected students and schools, mainly the remotely located satellite schools, benefiting an estimated 45,000 children. 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 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.

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), to promote life-saving practices on health, nutrition and access to safe water and sanitation and child protection. With UNICEF's support, VNDMA developed and disseminated five infographic messages on water treatment, dengue fever and water-borne diseases prevention, exclusive breastfeeding, mental health and socio-psychology supports via the most commonly used message app in Viet Nam – Zalo. The messages reached four million people in the seven most affected provinces². Radio spots and video clips on protection from landslides and flash floods have also been produced in sign languages and ethnic minority languages. The messages have been disseminated through a combination of the most appropriate traditional and social media channels including TV, online media, [Facebook](#), [YouTube](#), and Zalo along with interpersonal communication that should help strengthen the emergency response by introducing a community feedback system.

² Following the detection of local transmission of COVID-19 (after 55 clean days in Viet Nam), VNDMA has halted the dissemination of these messages through Zalo as the Government of Viet Nam focuses on sending out COVID-19 related public messages in order to prevent further outbreaks.

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"> 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. Urgently repair damaged water and sanitation facilities in schools and health facilities. Provide water filtration systems for schools and health centers. Improve water storage for the most vulnerable families. 	90,000 people	81,507 people	1,800,000
 Nutrition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. Procurement of RUTF to support treatment of SAM detected children in the intervention locations. Support emergency training for the rapid deployment of health staff for the management of the nutrition-specific interventions. Support monitoring the intervention coverage and technical compliances of the interventions. 	117,000 children under-5 4,650 SAM cases	124,914 children under-5 3,606 SAM and 2,629 MAM cases	600,000
 Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	12,800 pregnant and lactating women	-	320,000
 Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. Ensure the continued learning of affected students through the provision of distance & online learning opportunities where/when possible. Ensure that boys and girls are provided with immediate psychosocial support in schools. 	144,000 ³ children 1,500 teachers	-	500,000
 Child Protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. Provide psychosocial support for affected children and caregivers through experts dispatched on the ground and in coordination 	33,400 children and women	3,400	500,000

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

	<p>with local social workers, teachers and other frontline workers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide case management support to children severely affected by the emergency, including provision of alternative care arrangements to children without parental care. • Supply dignity kits for children and women with essential gender-sensitive supplies for personal safety and hygiene. 			
 <p>Communications for Development (C4D)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 	4.7 million people in affected central provinces reached through social media	4 million people ⁴	200,000

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.

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⁴ Through VNDMA's Zalo.