Highlights

Severe flooding in central coastal provinces, in particular Binh Dinh, Phu Yen, Quang Nam, Quang Ngai and Thua Thien-Hue, since mid-October 2016 has left 111 people dead or missing and caused economic losses of US$378 million, according to the Central Committee on Natural Disaster Prevention and Control. The UN Disaster Management Working Group, led by the UN Resident Coordinator a.i. and Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) held a meeting on 30 December to review the results of joint rapid assessments in Binh Dinh, Quang Nam and Quang Ngai provinces. UNICEF led the joint assessment in Binh Dinh, the most severely affected province. Rapid assessment teams recommended response interventions focus on the most vulnerable groups, including children and women. The United Nations, particularly UNICEF, committed to support the Government of Viet Nam (GoV) on disaster risk reduction, preparedness and building resilience.

Communities, especially in the Mekong Delta region, are now preparing for the upcoming dry season normally in the first quarter of the year, when salinity levels in surface water are expected to rise. Thus, emergency response interventions remain relevant and will inform disaster risk preparedness at policy and sub-national levels.


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Estimated coverage (UNICEF &amp; operational partners) at 31 December 2016</th>
<th>Planned Target</th>
<th>Cumulative Results</th>
<th>% of Target Achieved</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of targeted children aged 6-59 months assessed/treated with SAM</td>
<td>7,480</td>
<td>7,310</td>
<td>97%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of lactating/pregnant women receiving micronutrient supplementation</td>
<td>123,200</td>
<td>72,928</td>
<td>59%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of children aged 6-23 months receiving micronutrient supplementation</td>
<td>83,335</td>
<td>53,324</td>
<td>64%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of emergency-affected households provided with access to safe water</td>
<td>78,000</td>
<td>77,126</td>
<td>99%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Data from the Humanitarian Performance Monitoring database, based on data from monthly monitoring reports from the National Institute of Nutrition and provincial distribution report from the National Centre for Rural Water Supply and Sanitation.
The *El Niño*-induced drought and saline intrusion emergency has adversely impacted on the lives of people in 52 out of 64 provinces in Viet Nam. In the 18 most affected provinces some two million people, including 520,000 children and one million women, are in need of humanitarian assistance. Of the two million people affected, 500,000 live in the drought-affected South Central and Central Highlands regions and 1.5 million in the Mekong Delta, where water shortages have been exacerbated by saltwater intrusion.

Reduced water use for washing, ablutions and handwashing has already resulted in increased incidences of diarrhea, dysentery, hand, foot and mouth disease and skin diseases. Limited access to water has also had an impact on children’s health, exacerbating the prevalence of malnutrition.

**Humanitarian leadership and coordination**

Severe flooding in central coastal provinces, in particular Binh Dinh, Phu Yen, Quang Nam, Quang Ngai and Thua Thien-Hue, since mid-October 2016 has left 111 people dead or missing and caused economic losses of US$378 million, according to the Central Committee on Natural Disaster Prevention and Control. The UN Disaster Management Working Group and UN Disaster Risk Management Taskforce, through the Resident Coordinator a.i. closely coordinated with the Central Committee on Natural Disaster Prevention and Control to undertake joint technical assessment missions to the affected provinces during 21-23 December 2016. UNICEF led the joint assessment in Binh Dinh province, the most severely affected by the flooding. The UN Disaster Management Working Group, led by UN Resident Coordinator a.i and the MARD Minister, met on 30 December to discuss the results of three rapid assessments in Binh Dinh, Quang Nam and Quang Ngai. In general, damage and losses were quite extensive and government responses recognized as timely. The rapid assessment teams recommended response interventions focus on the most vulnerable groups, including children and women, especially on checking water quality, monitoring disease outbreaks and children’s nutrition status. The United Nations, particularly UNICEF, committed to support the GoV on disaster risk reduction, preparedness and building resilience.

The CERF After Action Review meeting took place on 10 January 2017 at the Green One UN House in Ha Noi with participation from GoV partners, Viet Nam Red Cross (VNRC) and international NGOs. The meeting provided opportunities to collectively analyse all results achieved against the goals and needs set in the GoV-UN Emergency Response Plan and Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) grant proposals and facilitate joint learning to benefit future humanitarian response operations and UN preparedness. UNICEF led the presentation of key lessons learnt and group work on nutrition, water and sanitation. Overall, the joint response was found to be relevant and appreciated by partners and beneficiaries. Participants identified areas to improve future responses, including coordination among multiple stakeholders, assessment and monitoring indicators, fast-tracking procedures to facilitate timely responses, simple targeting criteria, tailored and integrated messaging for behaviour change and enhancing linkages between humanitarian-development nexus to address existing vulnerabilities.

**Humanitarian Strategy - Humanitarian-development nexus**

The UNICEF response strategy involves life-saving support to approximately 337,000 vulnerable people in 10 provinces with household water treatment and safe storage as well as hygiene promotion to prevent communicable diseases. Health centres serve as entry points for hygiene, sanitation and emergency nutrition interventions. School-based interventions also seek to sustain hygiene practices and establish a mechanism for disaster preparedness. These response activities seek to strengthen awareness and coping mechanisms among affected communities to address the current emergency and future ones.

In the lower middle-income country context of Viet Nam, the humanitarian-development continuum is critically important as natural hazards have super-imposing impacts on chronic and persistent vulnerabilities such as poverty,
nutrition, water and sanitation. As a first step to understanding the superimposing impact of natural hazards on the coping capacities of families and children, UNICEF has conducted a nationwide child vulnerability mapping exercise with data from a range of official sources. The mapping exercise analyzes the coping capacities of children, households and communities and overlays the multi-hazard map that reflects the likelihood and intensity of natural hazards in Viet Nam.

The mapping exercise and analysis contributes to the risk-informed GoV-UNICEF Country Programme Document 2017-2021. Meanwhile, critical lessons learnt from the initial implementation phase of the emergency response programme since early 2016 are now being compiled to form the basis, along with the vulnerability mapping, to strengthen planning, preparedness and response mechanisms activated in the event of future disasters, given that Viet Nam is the sixth most vulnerable country globally to climate change-related natural disasters.

UNICEF has also engaged the Government through the One UN mechanism for a common understanding on the need for disaster risk reduction and risk-informed programming that promotes links between development programming and emergency response.

Summary Analysis of Programme Response
Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

- Distribution of household water treatment and WASH supplies, containing PUR (Purifier of Water), Aquatabs, filtering cloths, buckets and soap were completed in all 10 target provinces, aside from 874 households in one commune in Ninh Thuan province. Beneficiary accountability mechanisms were established using local hotlines at commune and provincial levels for collection of feedback and complaints handling.

- Key messages on household water treatment supplies and hygiene practices were broadcasted via community radio in the 10 provinces and are being followed up through small group communication sessions in communes to ensure accuracy of knowledge and practices among beneficiaries.

- Distribution and installation of safe water storage and handwashing facilities have been completed in 60 schools. The facilities were acknowledged by many schools as a preparedness mechanism for the forthcoming dry season when salinity levels in surface water will rise, especially in the Mekong Delta region. In some schools jointly supported by National Centre for Rural Water Supply and Sanitation and VNRC, discussions are underway to reinforce rainwater collection through complementary support from VNRC and building on the leadership of school Disaster Risk Management Teams established through the UNICEF-supported Emergency Programme.

- Water filtration systems have been installed and functioning in 66 out of 120 schools in six targeted provinces of Ben Tre, Binh Thuan, Gia Lai, Kon Tum, Ninh Thuan and Soc Trang. In many such schools, children no longer need to bring bottled water as a result of available safe and clean water. Access to soap and hygiene promotion activities in these schools have enabled children to practice handwashing before eating and after using the toilet. Water testing and improvement plans of input water are underway in the remaining 54 schools before the filtration system is connected to quality water sources.

- Training of trainers on Operation and Maintenance (O&M) of water schemes were held for provincial teams in Ben Tre, Binh Thuan and Soc Trang on sustainable management of rural water supply systems as well as provide knowledge and skills for participants to guide the roll-out of O&M training for facilitators and development of annual O&M plans at provincial and district levels.

- Four provincial Trainings of Trainers on Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS), Sanitation Marketing, and Open Defecation Free planning were completed, with active participation from health workers and the Women’s Union in six provinces. The training introduced climate change and disaster-related factors to be taken into account during selection of latrines.

- VNRC facilitated establishment of 12 commune CLTS task teams with 120 members and completed 24 CLTS-triggering sessions to end open defecation in 12 targeted communes in Ben Tre, Binh Thuan, Gia Lai, Kon Tum, Ninh Thuan and Soc Trang provinces.
Nutrition

- Distribution of emergency nutrition supplies, including Ready to Use Therapeutic Food (RUTF), multi-micronutrient tablets for pregnant and lactating women and micronutrient powder sachets for children aged 6-23 months to beneficiaries in Gia Lai, Kon Tum and Ninh Thuan provinces was completed by the end of December 2016. Distribution of supplies will continue in Ca Mau, Hau Giang and Tra Vinh provinces until March 2017.

- The table on page one of this SitRep presents the progress of beneficiaries receiving emergency nutrition supplies. The number of the target women and children supplemented with Micronutrient Tablets and Micronutrient Powder decreased between December 2016 and January 2017 due to phasing out in Gia Lai, Kon Tum and Ninh Thuan provinces. This trend will increasingly emerge in the coming months. The report excludes data from expanded districts in Ca Mau, Hau Giang and Tra Vinh provinces.

- Training on nutrition in emergencies was organized in Ha Noi during 9-12 January 2017, involving participants from national and sub-national levels, including the Ministry of Health (MoH), National Institute of Nutrition, Ha Noi School of Public Health, MARD’s Department of Natural Disaster Prevention and Control, VNRC, Women’s Union, Ca Mau, Kon Tum and Ninh Thuan provinces, Food and Agriculture Organization, Care International, Save the Children and World Vision. A national taskforce on nutrition in emergencies was established subsequent to the training and will contribute to development of the National Preparedness Plan for Nutrition in Emergencies during the coming months. The need to formalize the taskforce under MoH’s leadership was emphasized, along with the need to strengthen coordination with the Central Committee on Disaster Prevention and Control.

- A workshop to review emergency online reporting model in two districts of Kon Tum and Gia Lai provinces, monthly provincial monitoring reports and overall progress on SAM causes will be held on 17 January 2017 in Kon Tum province. Experiences from the online reporting model will be documented for potential scaling-up.

Communication for Development (C4D)

With a view to creating space for children to learn in a participatory environment, production of an educational board game for students (6-11 years old) in schools undertaking WASH activities in six provinces (Ben Tre, Binh Thuan, Dak Lak, Gia Lai, Ninh Thuan and Soc Trang) on climate change and hygiene promotion was initiated. Based on the workplan and tools developed, rapid needs assessments have started in Gia Lai and Soc Trang provinces. In addition to educational purposes, the board game aims to equip children with knowledge of appropriate behaviors to cope with climate change-related disasters. The board game is expected to be completed by March 2017, and will be subsequently used in 120 primary schools in the six provinces where water supply systems will be installed.

The scope of technical assistance required for developing a roadmap for a national C4D strategy on disaster risk reduction has been finalized. The roadmap seeks to support the development of central and sub-national plans to strengthen the knowledge of communities, service-providers (health and social workers, teachers), parents and children on prevention, management and mitigation of natural disaster impacts.

The CERF After Action Review was also an opportunity to hold a joint UN photo exhibition, organized by the UN Disaster Risk Management Team, to raise partners and UN staff awareness of the on-going emergency interventions.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The scope of technical assistance for a real-time evaluation of the emergency response programme has been finalized and advertised, with a view to initiating fieldwork in mid-February 2017. The evaluation’s objective is to generate immediate findings and recommendations through fieldwork and inform the on-going emergency response as well as
the direction and partnerships for child-centred disaster risk reduction and risk-informed programming. Intended users of the evaluation’s findings and recommendations include the Annual Review of Emergency Response organized by MARD, End-Project Review of UNICEF-supported Emergency Programme and development of the child-centred disaster risk reduction programme within the GoV-UNICEF Country Programme 2017-2021.

Development of the MARD-UNICEF Programme on Child-Centred Disaster Risk Reduction

The development of the MARD-UNICEF programme on child-centred disaster risk reduction within the framework of the GoV-UNICEF Country Programme 2017-2021 is gaining traction, building on the MARD-UNICEF joint vision paper presented at the National Conference on Child-Centred Disaster Risk Reduction in December 2016. Ninh Thuan province will serve as a learning platform to generate best practice for delivery of risk-informed basic social services, safeguarding child infrastructure (schools, health centres, housing, and water and sanitation facilities), communication for behavior change, and child and youth-led initiatives. Discussions between VNRC and UNICEF are underway to conceptualize a long-term partnership within the overall cooperation framework on child-centred disaster risk reduction.

Funding
So far, UNICEF has received US$2.5 million from the Government of Japan and US$1.5 million from CERF for the humanitarian response.

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