

Vietnam Consolidated Report on Drought and Saltwater Intrusion

Reporting period: Oct 2015 - Mar 2016



This situation report is an internal report by the UNDRMT. It covers the period from Oct 2015- 10 March 2016. The next situation report will be issued as more information becomes available, and as deemed necessary.

Key issues

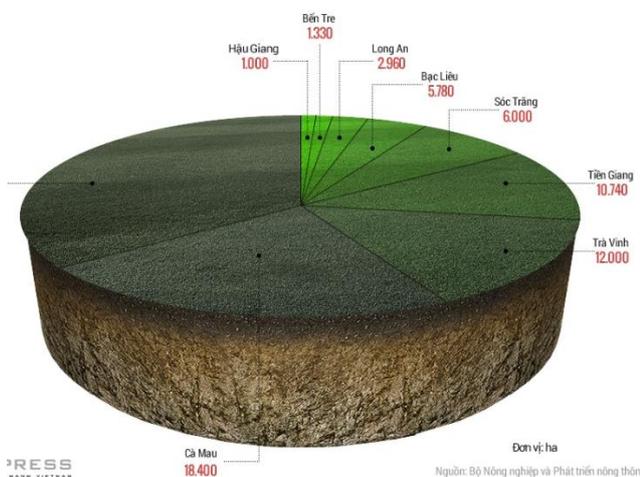
- Severe drought has impacted all provinces in the Mekong Delta, Southern Central and Central highland regions since the end of 2015.
- 39 out of Viet Nam's 63 provinces have requested support from central government to cope with the most severe El Nino / drought in 90 years.
- Currently 10 provinces have declared drought emergencies: Bình Thuận, Bến Tre, Vĩnh Long, Sóc Trăng, Cà Mau, Trà Vinh, Tiền Giang, Long An, Bà Rịa-Vũng Tàu and Gia Lai.
- On 15 March 2015 Government and the UN will organise an extraordinary partnership meeting with donors, development partners, INGOs, technical experts and the media to discuss joint efforts for drought response and recovery.

Preliminary damage caused by drought and saltwater intrusion as of 9 Mar 2016 are as follows:

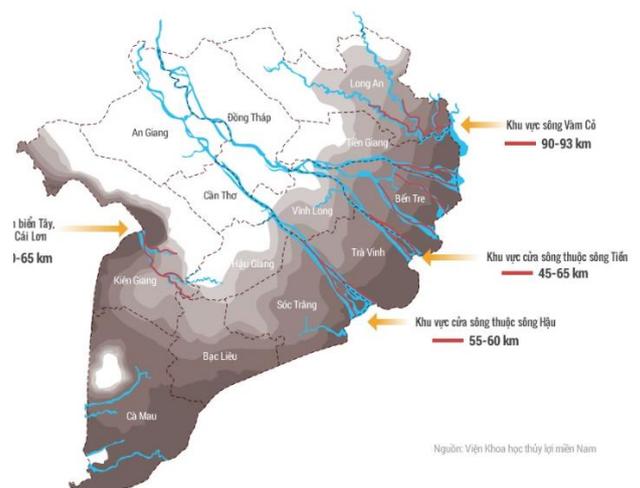
Paddy Rice damaged (ha)	No. of people lacking water for daily consumption	Provinces in state of emergencies	Total affected provinces	Estimated cost for short and medium response (mil. USD)
159,000	976,000	10/39	39/63	67

Situation overview

- The National Hydro-Met Office expects this El-Nino episode to continue at least until June 2016.
- Since the end of 2015, water levels in the lower Mekong River have been at their lowest level since records began nearly one hundred years ago. It is estimated that levels of water shortage in the rivers of the Mekong Delta range from 30-50%.
- Saltwater intrusion in the Mekong Delta extends 20-25km further inland than seasonal averages. Saltwater intrusion now stretches 90-93km inland in the Vam Co River; 45-65km in the Tien River and 55-60km in the Hau River.
- Saltwater intrusion began two months earlier than average, causing severe damage to crops and livelihoods.



Rice production lost/affected due to drought and salinity in the Mekong Delta



Saltwater intrusion mapping in Mekong Delta (as of end Feb 2016)

Preliminary damage as of 9 March 2016:

- Paddy rice: An estimated 159,000 ha was lost by the end of 2015 (VND245b/US\$10.5m); a further 500,000 ha of paddy rice is likely to be damaged by mid-2016.
- Water supply: 195,217 households lack water for daily consumption (estimated total of 976,000 people); 131,128 households currently have no water supply system; 64,089 households have no access to surface water
- Health: Local health clinics and health stations are reporting insufficient water supply in the affected provinces.

Response

National Response

- The Government of Viet Nam has been monitoring the drought and saltwater intrusion situation carefully since October 2015. Three national drought workshops were chaired by the Deputy Prime Ministers in Ha Noi and Nam Dinh in January and February, and by the Prime Minister in Can Tho in March 2016 to identify prioritized actions for response and recovery to drought and saltwater intrusion.
- Technical risk assessment and risk mapping of drought and saltwater intrusion were undertaken in affected provinces to provide update risk situation and risk forecasting.
- To date, provinces have been actively responding to the impacts of drought and saltwater intrusion, including rescheduling winter-spring crop planting; applying integrated reservoir and irrigation management for agriculture production; promoting water saving irrigation and farming techniques; and establishing temporary dams, pumps and drainage to increase water storage; and use of public water filters; etc. However, in spite of this severe impacts are still being felt.
- The Viet Nam Red Cross and the Department for National Disaster Prevention and Control have launched campaigns on water conservation and are mobilizing in the effected provinces in response to the drought.
- On 9 Mar, the standing office for the Central Steering Committee for Disaster Prevention and Control organized a technical briefing with the UN, development partners and INGO representatives to update them on the drought situation, to discuss potential actions and to encourage stepped-up support from international actors.

International Response

- The UN has been in close contact with Government to ensure regular updates and monitoring of the situation.
 - The UNDRMT Secretariat, UNDP and FAO, participated in a technical coordination meeting with the standing office for Central Steering Committee for Disaster Prevention and Control on 9 March 2016 to receive updates on drought and salinity situation in Viet Nam.
 - The UN and Government will co-chair a drought partnership workshop on Tuesday 15 Mar 2016 with key donors, development partners, INGOs, academies and media to call for strong engagement and joint efforts in response and recovery to drought and El Nino impacts. Government and UN will also discuss medium and longer-term measures, as well as proposing a priority plan of action to support the provinces in drought management and build long-term resilience in the regions.
 - A series of technical coordination meetings have been organized by the UN and INGOs to monitor and prepare for El Nino,
 - UN agencies have also been active in mapping and analyzing El Nino impacts since mid-2015, for example through GIS mapping drought mapping and risk assessment by UNITAR-UNDP, regional drought index monitoring by FAO, health assessment by WHO-MoH, nutrition monitoring by UNICEF, WASH coordination by UNICEF.
 - The UN disaster risk management team is meeting on Friday 11 Mar to update the drought situation and discuss the next course of actions to support government and provinces as necessary.
 - The inter agency UN-INGO Disaster Management Working Group will meet on Friday 18 March to discuss the drought response, including consideration of a joint assessment of damage and needs.
 - USAID and JICA are closely monitoring the situation and will explore options to respond jointly with government through existing projects in the affected provinces.
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Primary needs and prioritized solutions

In a meeting on 9 March between Government, the UN, development partners and INGOs, central government outlined the following solutions. These have been proposed by provinces and reviewed by relevant Ministries for Government approval:

- Since the end of 2015, 39/63 provinces have requested primary financial support from central government to respond to the drought. The total request so far amounts to VND624b (USD 28m)
- On 9 Mar 2016, central government approved a primary financial package of VND 523.7b (USD 23.3m) for drought relief in 34/39 provinces. This is in addition to the earlier relief package of VND 85.1b (USD 3.78m) to 6 provinces Quảng Trị, Đắk Lắk, Đắk Nông, Long An, An Giang, and Đồng Tháp.
- Proposed needs for early recovery in the near term are currently under appraisal by the central government, which include:
 - Seedling and crop recovery: VND 215b (USD 9.56m)
 - Water storage and water supply: VND 650b (USD 29m) for temporary measures to increase water storage capacity and water supply in the community, including salinity water filter and salinity treatment.
 - Specific support to affected households including water tanks and water containers, household water filters, and extended water pipelines.
- Proposed needs for medium and long term recovery (2016-2020) to address drought impacts and stabilization of livelihoods include:
 - VND 1,060b (USD 47m) urgent investment in water resource and salinity management in affected provinces (e.g. embankment in Hau Giang, pumping and drainage stations in Tien Giang, and upgrading Sluice Gates system for the Mekong Delta)
 - VND 8,000b (USD 355.5m) to be mobilized from state bonds for high prioritized investment projects for integrated water management in the Mekong Delta.
- It is proposed to cooperate actively with national and international organizations in the affected provinces to ensure coordinated efforts for immediate drought response, including adjustment of on-going project interventions to aid drought response wherever feasible.

Overall coordination

- The UN and INGOs continue to monitor the situation very closely and are on stand-by to support affected provinces as and when needs arise.
- The UN Disaster Risk Management Team met from 9:30-10:30AM Friday, 11 Mar 2016 at UNGOUNH (Meeting Room 3.1) to provide an update of the drought situation and discuss the next course of actions to support the central government and provinces as necessary.

For the UN Humanitarian Response

Pratibha Mehta (Ms.), UN Resident Coordinator, United Nations in Viet Nam, 304 Kim Ma Str, Ha Noi, Viet Nam. Email: prati bha.mehta@one.un.org

For media enquiries

Susan Mackay (Ms.), UN Communication Manager, United Nations in Viet Nam, 304 Kim Ma Str, Ha Noi, Viet Nam. Email: susan.mackay@one.un.org

For the UN Situation Report

Bui Viet Hien (Ms.), UN Disaster Risk Management Team Secretariat, United Nations in Viet Nam, 304 Kim Ma Str, Ha Noi, Viet Nam. Email: bui.viet.hien@undp.org