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## DREF operation update

### Vietnam: Drought and saltwater intrusion

 International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

<b>DREF n° MDRVN013</b>	<b>DREF amount allocated:</b> CHF 195,708	<b>Current expenditure:</b> CHF 192,345
<b>DREF update n° 1:</b> 28 June 2016	<b>Timeframe covered by this update:</b> 7 April to 31 May 2016	
<b>Operation start date:</b> 7 April 2016	<b>Operation timeframe:</b> 4 months (ending 7 August 2016)	
<b>N° of people being assisted:</b> 17,600 beneficiaries (equivalent to 3,520 households)		
<b>Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners currently actively involved in the operation:</b> International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and Swiss Red Cross		
<b>Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation:</b> Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD), Ministry of Health (MoH), People's Aid Coordinating Committee (PACCOM), UN agencies (including UNICEF) and INGOs including ADRA <sup>1</sup> .		

#### Summary of revision to emergency plan of action:

Following analysis of needs, available resources and coordination with partners, the Viet Nam Red Cross Society (VNRC) has since prioritized four provinces – Ben Tre, Long An, Gia Lai and Ninh Thuan – under this disaster relief emergency fund (DREF) operation, a reduction from the seven initially proposed in the DREF emergency plan of action (EPoA). In addition to being the most affected, the four have been prioritized due to a strong presence of VNRC via its chapters. Furthermore, assessments by VNRC established that the other three provinces are sufficiently covered by other organizations working including ADRA and UNICEF. The focus on only four provinces will enable VNRC to prioritize and provide focused support to the people and families affected by the current phenomenon. The total number of beneficiaries remains as in the initial plan of action.



Usually, planting of rice would have started at this time of the year. However, due to the drought, farmers in Ia Pa district, Gia Lai province, have not been able to start their planting. Nevertheless, they are ploughing the fields in anticipation of rains.

*(Photo: Ly Nguyen/IFRC)*

Based on assessments and coordination meetings, VNRC will not undertake water distributions in the provinces of Long An and Ben Tre. Water needs in Long An are being addressed by the local authorities while in Ben Tre province, WASH support is being provided by other agencies. As such, provision of safe water is focused on the provinces of Gia Lai and Ninh Thuan. Provision of safe water is planned to be done over six weeks with regular review every ten days to adapt the plan according to needs. The number of families targeted with water distributions remains as in the initial plan of action – 3,520 (approximately 17,600 people). Since water distributions will not be undertaken in the provinces of Long An and Ben Tre, there is a corresponding reduction in budget line for water trucking. However, VNRC will provide two community water tanks that will be placed in strategic locations, thus reducing the waiting time for water collection. Since trucks will offload water into large containers, this enables collection of water whenever there is storage space (especially critical for those with limited storage capacity). Furthermore, two water quality testing kits have been obtained to enable VNRC teams to monitor the quality of water provided.

To respond to additional community needs, based on assessments conducted and adjustments to the budget lines for WASH, the target for cash transfers has been increased by 25 households to 2,575 households that all meet the beneficiary selection criteria. The increase will enable VNRC to reach more people with cash transfers for meeting immediate needs.

Finally, considering the need for undertaking regular testing of water quality, the groundwork required for cash transfers and the assignment of specific personnel by VNRC to oversee implementation of the DREF-supported operation, the budget provisions for monitoring and travel costs have been adjusted upwards.

<sup>1</sup> The Adventist Development and Relief Agency

## A. Situation analysis

### Description of the disaster

An estimated of 2 million people in the south central, central highlands and Mekong Delta have insufficient access to water for drinking and domestic use as consequence of El Nino-induced drought. The drought is widespread in 22 provinces of Viet Nam, of which 10 are affected by both drought and saltwater intrusion. The saltwater intrusion experienced has been the furthest inland ever recorded. In many provinces, salinity is much higher than the acceptable standard for domestic use and aquaculture. This caused a negative impact on food production where about 400 hectares of cropland are affected while 25,900 hectares are abandoned. Loss in food production resulted in food shortage and income loss to affected people. Among affected provinces, 15 have declared a state of emergency.

Although there has been no disease outbreak reported so far, there are concerns relating to the risk of diarrhea and hand, foot and mouth disease, particularly with the peak season approaching. The table below shows the most updated data on the needs as a result of the drought and saltwater intrusion:

Water	Food and malnutrition	Water-related disease outbreak	Livelihoods
2 million people have no access to water	1.1 million people in need of food aid 27,500 children and 39,000 women are malnourished	400,000 people at risk of water-related disease outbreaks	1.75 million people lost their livelihoods

Source: Viet Nam Emergency Response Plan 2016/2017/MARD & UN Viet Nam

VNRC, with the support of IFRC and Swiss Red Cross, conducted needs assessments in Long An, Ben Tre and Ca Mau from 18 to 20 March to understand the situation and priority of needs in the affected areas. Food and safe water were found to be the most pressing needs.

The joint assessment teams including representatives from the MARD, MoH, PACCOM, INGOs and UN was conducted from 21 to 24 March 2016. The consolidated assessment report presented immediate humanitarian needs in responding to the challenges posed by drought and saltwater intrusion. As such, this report does not include identification of longer-term development and/or socio-economic needs.

On 26 April 2016, the Government of Viet Nam launched an appeal for USD 48.5 million to address the on-going serious drought in the south central and south of Viet Nam. Apart from releasing VND 4 billion from its relief fund, the VNRC is being supported by the IFRC – through DREF – in Ben Tre, Long An, Gia Lai and Ninh Thuan provinces, and by the Swiss Red Cross in Ca Mau province.

VNRC had also received funding from USAID to support 8,104 households in 8 provinces with water tanks, water bottles, water truck, saline water treatments, Aquatabs, hygiene promotion and soaps, and from UNDP to support 185 households in Ben Tre with water tanks and water vouchers. The National Society has also planned to support 4,800 households in Ben Tre through water tanks, water vouchers and cash for work with the support of UNDP.

Technical assessments to identify water sources, to determine the quality of water and to select target areas for water trucking were carried out in Ninh Thuan (16 to 18 May), Gia Lai (19 to 21 May) and Long An (30 to 31 May). The assessments were supported by a water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) delegate deployed by the Asia Pacific Regional Office (APRO) and one member of the regional disaster response team (RDRT) specializing on WASH. Following the assessment, the distribution plan has been prepared to include provision of water containers due to limited storage capacity in some target areas in Ninh Thuan and Gia Lai provinces.

To accommodate to community needs, provincial chapters of VNRC will monitor water distributions and adapt the distribution plan every ten days. There will be no water truck intervention in Long An following assessment findings which indicated that local authorities are providing water to the community.



The RDRT WASH member tests the water quality at a household in the community of Ia Pa district, Gia Lai province  
(Photo: Ly Nguyen/IFRC)

Posters and flyers on the cash transfer programme (CTP) and hygiene promotion have been produced to strengthen communications with beneficiaries on the operation's objectives, targeting criteria and the distribution process.

## Summary of current response

### Overview of Host National Society

As mentioned in the DREF plan of action, the IFRC and VNRC jointly carried out a rapid assessment between 18 to 20 March in two affected provinces, Ben Tre and Long An. The assessments identified cash (for food and immediate needs) and water as the key needs – which are covered by this DREF operation.

Based on the needs, available resources and responses thus far – by the government and other agencies – the VNRC has decided to focus its support on the two central highlands provinces of Gia Lai and Ninh Thuan, and two Mekong Delta provinces of Long An and Ben Tre. The list of communes to be supported was finalized on 24 May. Following technical assessments on water availability and quality in the proposed communes, provision of safe water has started. A cash transfer training has been organized for Red Cross and non-Red Cross participants.

Water trucking is the most challenging component of the operation since VNRC does not have adequate relevant experience. It is for this reason that IFRC deployed a WASH delegate from APRO and one RDRT member specializing on WASH to support VNRC in assessment and training of VNRC chapter staff on testing water quality. A VNRC staff member with prior experience in conducting hygiene promotion session has been deployed to support the chapter in Ninh Thuan province.

### Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in country

VNRC continues to organize coordination meetings with in-country Movement partners. In addition to IFRC, the drought response is being supported by Swiss Red Cross on a bilateral basis.

### Overview of non-Red Cross Red Crescent actors in country

The MARD is leading the government response. The UN system is supporting the response and on 26 April launched an appeal for USD 48.5 million. The MARD and UN held a joint press conference on the launch. Other agencies supporting interventions on the ground include ADRA and UNICEF.

## B. Operational strategy and plan

### Overall Objective

This DREF operation aims at meeting the immediate needs of 17,600 (3,520 most vulnerable affected households) through provision of safe water, unconditional cash and hygiene/health promotion.

### Adopted strategy

Cash grants stay relevant since there is food gap until the next harvest in September (although predominantly designed for food, it is recognized that people will use cash where most needed). The VNRC guideline on CTP for this operation and other information, education and communication (IEC) material including posters and leaflets, are used to sensitize the beneficiaries to use the grant according to the set objective. A technical assessment on water was carried out in two provinces of Ninh Thuan and Gia Lai for the planning of the intervention. The plan will also consider new developments including the start of rain in these two provinces. In the immediate time, the water trucking plan in these provinces will cover for ten days. Next steps will be reviewed based on the context and its corresponding needs.

### Human resources

VNRC provincial chapters are leading the operation and, at the field level, they engage with community representatives to support targeting process and distribution. The IFRC in-country team is supporting VNRC while, in May, one RDRT member from Pakistan and a WASH delegate from APRO were deployed to provide technical support in setting up water interventions and hygiene promotion.

### Logistics and supply chain

The procurement of water storage tanks and hiring trucks to transport water included in this plan will be sourced in-country by the VNRC following IFRC standard logistics and procurement procedures. The APRO logistics unit will provide technical logistics and procurement support to the VNRC and IFRC in-country team according to its standard procedures in ensuring timely and efficient sourcing and delivery goods and services, as per needed.

### Communications

During the initial stage of the operation, the IFRC team in Viet Nam, the Country Cluster Support Team (CCST) in Bangkok and APRO have supported in enhancing VNRC's visibility in disaster response, through stories on Red Cross as well as external media channels. VNRC and IFRC staff in the field are collecting photographs and materials for communication purposes. Some of the chapters, such as Gia Lai, have also been active in engaging provincial media in the process.

During the technical assessment of water for emergency water trucking in Gia Lai province, the IFRC communication officer accompanied and coordinated with CCST and APRO to share photos and updates on the situation, needs and the Red Cross response on social media. The IFRC APRO has also planned to build a microsite on the drought situation facing countries in the region and the corresponding Red Cross response. This will also feature information on the Viet Nam situation.

The IFRC communication team in Viet Nam has also contracted a multimedia consultant to support the production of audio-visual materials to showcase the situation and the needs of the community, as well as Red Cross response. The consultant will be deployed as distribution takes place in early June.

### Community engagement and accountability

Building on good practices of community engagement under the Typhoon Wutip/Nari operation, this operation provides information on the beneficiary selection criteria and process. In addition, it has incorporated community feedback mechanism through hotline numbers printed on posters, flyers and CTP envelopes. During the first half of May, the IFRC supported VNRC in designing and printing IEC materials to accompany the distribution of water and cash grants for food and water. Exit surveys were conducted at distribution site (at least 5 per cent of the total number of beneficiaries) to obtain feedback from beneficiaries including their satisfaction with the CTP, the priority items that the interviewed beneficiaries are planning to use the grant for, and the understanding of beneficiaries on the access to feedback mechanism of the operation.

The table below provides figures on the number of IEC materials produced and distributed to chapters:

Province	WASH IEC materials		CTP IEC materials		
	WASH poster	WASH flyer	CTP poster	CTP flyer	CTP envelopes
Ben Tre	0	0	60	400	400
Long An	40	900	20	200	200
Gia Lai	60	1,350	60	1,150	1,150
Ninh Thuan	100	2,250	60	1,250	1,250
<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>4,500</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>3,000</b>	<b>3,000</b>

### Planning, monitoring, evaluation & reporting (PMER)

Monitoring templates on CTP and water trucking have been established to keep track of progress and inform adjustments, if necessary.

### Administration and Finance

Progressing as per established procedures.

## C. Detailed Operational Plan

### Quality programming

Outcome 1: Continuous assessments, analysis and community feedback are used to inform the design and implementation of the operation.	Outputs		% of achievement
	Output 1.1 Additional assistance is considered where appropriate and incorporated into the plan.		100%
Activities	Is implementation on time?		% progress (estimate)
	Yes (x)	No (x)	
1.1.1. Ensure adjustments to initial plans are informed by continuous assessment of needs and community feedback	X		100%
1.1.2. Deploy one RDRT member to provide technical support to the response	X		100%
<b>Progress towards outcomes</b>			
One RDRT member specializing in WASH, was deployed for one month, starting from 15 May to support the water component of the operation. The RDRT member has been working with a WASH delegate deployed by the APRO and the IFRC operation manager. They are tasked to carry out the needs assessment to plan for the intervention and provide technical support on organizing and monitoring of water trucking. The IFRC WASH delegate and the RDRT have also trained VNRC provincial chapter focal persons of Ninh Thuan and Gia Lai on water testing.			

Outcome 1: Continuous assessments, analysis and community feedback are used to inform the design and implementation of the operation.	Outputs		% of achievement
		Output 1.2 Mechanisms are in place to facilitate two-way communication with and ensure accountability to disaster-affected people.	
Activities	Is implementation on time?		% progress (estimate)
	Yes (x)	No (x)	
1.2.1. Provide appropriate information, including on the scope of operation and targeting criteria, to affected people to ensure transparency	X		100%
1.2.2. Establish a two-way communications channel through which affected people can deliver feedback on programme activities and quality of assistance provided or report any complaints	X		70%
1.2.3. Take action on feedback/complaints from affected people		X	0%
1.2.4. Publicize messages on drought prevention and response at community level	X		50%
1.2.5. Communication support to VNRC for the SMS campaign on domestic fundraising		X	0%
<b>Progress towards outcomes</b>			
VNRC is providing information on the beneficiary selection criteria and process. Under this operation, community feedback mechanism includes dissemination of hotline numbers printed on posters, flyers and CTP envelopes. The IEC materials on hygiene promotion sessions have been given to beneficiaries along with distribution of water.			

Outcome 1: Continuous assessments, analysis and community feedback are used to inform the design and implementation of the operation.	Outputs		% of achievement
		Output 1.3 Management and delivery of the operation is informed by an appropriate monitoring and evaluation system	
Activities	Is implementation on time?		% progress (estimate)
	Yes (x)	No (x)	
Develop and utilize an appropriate system for monitoring of the operation	X		100%
<b>Progress towards outcomes</b>			
1.3.1. A monitoring system has been put in place for water and cash interventions. The VNRC staff tasked with monitoring water delivery, water distribution and water quality at the distribution points will use the monitoring tools developed.			

## Water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion

Outcome 2: Risk of waterborne, water-related and vector-borne diseases in affected communities reduced.	Outputs		% of achievement
		Output 2.1 Access to safe water by target population in affected communities increased.	
Activities	Is implementation on time?		% progress (estimate)
	Yes (x)	No (x)	
2.1.1. Assess the availability of adequate safe water supply to identify communes in need of assistance	X		100%
2.1.2. Provide safe water to 3,520 households through water trucking	X		42%

### Progress towards outcomes

The VNRC chapters in Ninh Thuan and Gia Lai have assessed the communes that will be supported with water trucking activities. The chapters have worked closely with their counterparts from provincial department of agriculture and rural development, provincial centre for disaster prevention and control as well as local government authorities in the districts and communes in the selection of priority areas, coordinating response activities and jointly identifying gaps.

The trial water distribution, supported through DREF, started between 24 and 26 May in both provinces. VNRC had appointed staff for the DREF operation who have been trained on the use of water quality testing kits by checking the quality against the allowable pH and residual chlorine.

Following the trial, a detailed distribution plan has been prepared. According to the plan, the VNRC Ninh Thuan chapter is targeting to support four villages in Phuoc Chien commune. The areas have been selected following consultations with affected communities, local leaders and authorities. Approval from the district office for accessing the nearest water station as the source of quality water has been secured. The process of renting water trucks is in place.

The VNRC Gia Lai chapter will support the two communes of Ia Phang and Ia Rong in Chu Puh district. The areas have been selected following consultations with affected communities, local leaders and authorities. The water will be collected from a water station that has been considered as safe and reliable by the health department. Water containers will be provided in villages where large water containers are not available.

In all, 6,200 people in Ninh Thuan and Gia Lai provinces received water provided by VNRC via trucking from 24 May to 1 June, with each person receiving around 15 litres per day. Considering the current context, VNRC plans to review water truck distribution every ten days. VNRC chapters will also monitor the situation – rain and volume of water collected by people – and adapt plan of action accordingly every ten days.



Community members collect water trucked from a nearby water factory in Chu Bo 1 commune, Ia Phang district, Gia Lai province  
(Photo: Faisal Khan/IFRC)

Outcome 2: Risk of waterborne, water-related and vector-borne diseases in affected communities reduced.	Outputs		% of achievement
	Output 2.2 Knowledge, attitude and practice on safe water, sanitation and hygiene by target population increased.		42%
	Activities	Is implementation on time?	
Yes (x)		No (x)	
2.2.1. Conduct sessions on safe household water handling at VNRC water distribution points	X		42%
2.2.2. Mobilize VNRC WASH team (staff and volunteers) for health and hygiene promotion activities	X		100%
2.2.3. Reproduce information, education and communication (IEC) materials for health and hygiene promotion	X		100%
2.2.4. Conduct health and hygiene promotion activities, including vector control, in target communes	X		42%
2.2.5. Distribute IEC materials alongside health and hygiene promotion sessions	X		42%
2.2.6. Monitor health and hygiene practices in target communities	X		10%

### Progress towards outcomes

The VNRC headquarters deployed a hygiene promoter from An Giang chapter to support the operation in Ninh Thuan province. Plans for hygiene promotion activities were developed following the assessment. The VNRC hygiene promoter and the IFRC team have trained officers assigned for the DREF operation in Ninh Thuan and Gia Lai on hygiene promotion, to enable the officers in carrying out this activity when technical support phases out.

The hygiene promoter from VNRC developed the key messages for the hygiene promotion sessions based on the observation and visit in targeted villages. These key messages are on diseases transmission prevention (f-diagram), safe water storage, household water treatments (boiling and aqua tabs), and hand washing. A hygiene promotion box and some IEC materials (drought mitigation measures, household water treatment methods and key message on washing hands) have also been sent to the two chapters.



Community members participate in a hygiene promotion session conducted by VNRC in Phuoc Chien commune, Thuan Bac District of Ninh Thuan province.

Photo: Wirakhman Somantri/IFRC

Subsequently, hygiene promotion sessions have been carried out along with water distribution for the same beneficiary groups. Key messages are reinforced using the IEC distributed to community people. Hygiene promotion sessions will also be carried at the beginning of cash distributions.

### Food security, Nutrition, and Livelihoods

#### Food security, Nutrition, and Livelihoods

Outcome 3 The immediate household needs of the target population are met.	Outputs		% of achievement
	Output 3.1 Affected households are provided with unconditional cash for meeting priority household needs.		50%
Activities	Is implementation on time?		% progress (estimate)
	Yes (x)	No (x)	
3.1.1. Develop and agree on a strategy for targeting and registering households to be assisted	X		100%
3.1.2. Organize meetings to provide orientation to stakeholders on the intent of cash transfers	X		100%
3.1.3. Provide training on targeting beneficiaries to VNRC commune staff and representatives from communes	X		100%
3.1.4. Identify and register target households in coordination with local authorities and other partners	X		50%
3.1.5. Communicate to the selected households about the cash distribution process	X		50%
3.1.6. Distribute cash to selected 2,575 poor households	X		0%
3.1.7. Undertake post-distribution monitoring	X		0%

### Progress towards outcomes

The amount of the cash grant has been classified into three categories as per VNRC cash distribution guideline.

- one family member: VND 350,000 (CHF 13)
- two family members: VND 650,000 (CHF 27)
- three family members onwards: VND 1,250,000 (CHF 55)

Three meetings on orientation and training on targeting beneficiaries have been organized in Ninh Thuan (19 May), Gia Lai (23 May), Ben Tre and Long An (26 May). Participants in the meeting included Red Cross staff at all levels, representatives from local authorities at district and commune levels, representatives from relevant commune organizations as well as head of villages. During the meeting, participants were provided with information about the project intent, beneficiary selection criteria and the selection process. Group work sessions were held to practice targeting of beneficiaries using template for scoring. In total, 98 people (32 female) benefited from this training.

As of 1 June, the list of beneficiaries has been finalized for Gia Lai and Ben Tre provinces. Cash distribution was scheduled for 7 June in Gia Lai and 9 to 10 June in Ben Tre. Identification of beneficiaries – as per the agreed criteria and following the guideline of VNRC – is on-going in Ninh Thuan and Long An provinces. Distribution of cash in Long An is scheduled for 11 June and in Ninh Thuan for 14 to 15 June.

## D. Budget

The total budget remains to be CHF 195,708, with some adjustments made to the relevant budget lines. Please refer to the revised budget [here](#).

### Reference documents

Click here for:

- [Information bulletin](#)
- [DREF EPoA](#)

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## How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere to the **Code of Conduct** for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) in Disaster Relief and the **Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response (Sphere)** in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. The IFRC's vision is to inspire, **encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities** by National Societies, with a view to **preventing and alleviating human suffering**, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

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Enable **healthy**  
and **safe** living.



Promote social inclusion  
and a culture of  
**non-violence** and **peace**.

# DREF OPERATION

30/05/2016

## MDRVN013 Vietnam: Drought and Saltwater Intrusion

DREF Grant Budget  
CHF

<b>Budget Group</b>	<b>CHF</b>
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	12,145
Cash Disbursements	141,207
<b>Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIES</b>	<b>153,352</b>
Distribution & Monitoring	8,827
<b>Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE</b>	<b>8,827</b>
National Society Staff	956
<b>Total PERSONNEL</b>	<b>956</b>
Professional Fees	1,200
<b>Total CONSULTANTS &amp; PROFESSIONAL FEES</b>	<b>1,200</b>
Workshops & Training	3,773
<b>Total WORKSHOP &amp; TRAINING</b>	<b>3,773</b>
Travel	7,650
Information & Public Relations	6,486
Communications	1,439
Financial Charges	80
<b>Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>15,655</b>
Programme and Services Support Recovery	11,945
<b>Total INDIRECT COSTS</b>	<b>11,945</b>
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>195,708</b>