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# Emergency Plan of Action (EPoA)

## Vietnam: Drought and saltwater intrusion

 International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

<b>DREF operation n° MDRVN019</b>	<b>Glide no.</b> <a href="#">DR-2020-000017-VNM</a>
<b>DREF Date of issue:</b> 5 February 2020	<b>Expected timeframe:</b> 3 months <b>Expected end date:</b> 30 April 2020
<b>Category allocated to the of the disaster or crisis:</b> Yellow	
<b>DREF allocated:</b> CHF 131,827	
<b>Total number of people affected:</b> 685,558 people	<b>Number of people to be assisted:</b> 24,000
<b>Host National Society(ies) presence (n° of volunteers, staff, branches):</b> Viet Nam Red Cross Society (VNRC) is one of the leading humanitarian actors in Vietnam. It has over four million members and boasts a network of branches in all 63 provinces and major cities down to district and commune levels, with 425,776 Red Cross volunteers registered. It has at least 15,000 staff, of which around 220 are at the headquarters and the rest in the branches. There is one national disaster response team (NDRT) and 31 provincial disaster response teams (PDRT) located in disaster-prone provinces to enhance timely response in the event of emergencies.	
<b>Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners actively involved in the operation:</b> At present, no other Movement partner has confirmed bi-lateral support to the National Society.	
<b>Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation:</b> The Vietnam Disaster Management Authority (VDMA), UN agencies, DMWGs, INGOs are also assessing the situation to affected provinces.	

## A. Situation analysis

### Description of the disaster

The Mekong River Delta is home to 13 provinces and cities: Long An, Tien Giang, Ben Tre, Dong Thap, Vinh Long, Tra Vinh, Soc Trang, An Giang, Kien Giang, Hau Giang, Bac Lieu and Ca Mau and Can Tho city. Mekong delta has a total population of 19 million people accounting for 21 per cent of country's population. The Delta is located amid a dynamic and developed economic region, adjacent to the Southern key economic region and next to Southeast Asian countries. Mekong Delta is the largest agricultural, fishery and fruit production hub in Vietnam. Rice production of the region accounts for 50 per cent of the entire country. The region produces over 90 per cent of the country's exported rice and more than 60 per cent of the country's seafood production. Fruit trees hold an important position in the region in particular and in Vietnam in general. GDP of the Mekong Delta as of June 2019 was 7.8 per cent (the highest in most recent four years).



The Winter-Spring Rice Crop has been damaged by salinity water in Phuoc Hao, Chau Thanh district, Tra Vinh province. **(Photo: VNRC Tra Vinh Chapter)**

Under the context of climate change and sea level rise, extreme climatic events occurred and caused adverse impacts of socio-economic developments to Mekong upstream countries. Particularly, drought and saline intrusion phenomena have manifested. As forecasted (earlier forecast was shared on 20 December 2019), the Mekong Delta is entering its dry season 2019-2020, saltwater is intruding deeper and earlier than that of 2015-2016.

Specifically:

- Small upstream flow volume compared to recent years and annual average; Saline intrusion occurred in complicated manner (earlier, deeper intruding, and ranging), especially in combination with the sophisticated tidal flooding situation;
- Areas 30 - 40km away from the sea: From December 2019, salinity exceeds 4 g/l; from January 2020 onwards, these regions will be unable to get freshwater from estuaries and this will result in the shortage of water supply for domestic uses and production activities;
- Areas 45 - 65 km away from the sea: during January 2019 – April-May 2020; high salinity (> 4g/l) is likely to happen. If rain comes late, saline intrusion may last until June 2020. In this period, during high tide, saline intrusion will advance deeply into inland; when the tide recedes to a low level, freshwater is likely to happen (in one day, the tidal peak contains high salinity, yet at low level of tidal range has low salinity and freshwater can be taken);
- Areas 70-75 km away from the sea, the salinity of 4g/l is not likely to happen; however, cautions to high tides are necessary as this area is still prone to 4g/l salinity where production and domestic activities can be affected.

Given the early onset of saline intrusion which is expected to intrude further inland and last for a longer time, agriculture production in some areas can be affected such as Winter-Spring rice 2019-2020 which is greatly affected by the irrigation water shortage, especially in coastal areas from Jan 2020 onwards; Summer- Autumn rice 2020 shall be seriously affected by saline intrusion if early rains does not come. As a result, (i) production costs increase due to the use of connection pumps (2 to 3 levels) to take advantage of low water level in on-farm canals to control the drought; (ii) in some areas where freshwater supply is unavailable, aquaculture production can be reduced or damaged due to high salinity levels (An Minh, An Bien - Kien Giang province, South National Highway 1A-Bac Lieu province, Thanh Phu and Ba Tri-Ben Tre province); (iii) there is a possibility of freshwater shortage supply for people living in coastal areas, especially in estuary areas (Tan Phu Dong - Tien Giang province, Hoa Minh - Tra Vinh province, Cu Lao Dung - Soc Trang, coastal districts in Ben Tre province.

According to the Viet Nam Disaster Management Authority (VNDMA) under the Ministry of Agricultural and Rural Development (MARD) that 10 of the 13 provinces with 74/137 districts, in Mekong River Delta are affected by drought and saltwater intrusion. More than 685,000 people across the Mekong Delta have their access to livelihoods and basic services disrupted. The drought and saltwater intrusion and its impacts affect agricultural production, with an estimated loss of production from about 460,000 hectares, limited access to safe water for 200,000 households, who do not have regular and sufficient access to water for drinking and other domestic use. The conditions have resulted in a water shortage and significant damage to crops, threatening agricultural production, livelihoods, and access to safe water by local people. The situation is worsened, as these provinces are the country's main rice growing regions.

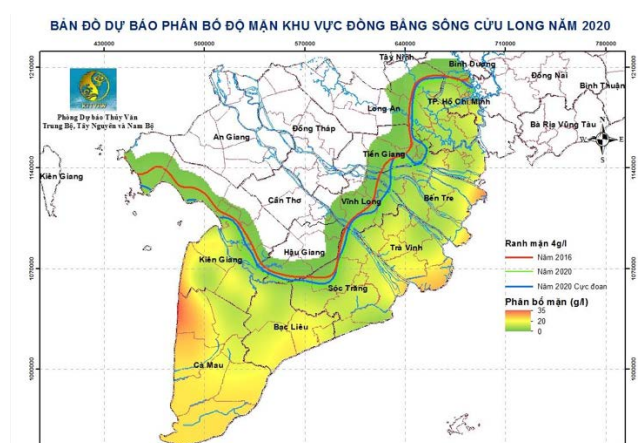


Figure 1: Saline map of Mekong delta. (Source: VNDMA)

Province	Possible impacts on winter-spring rice (hectare)	Est. total population affected by drought and saline intrusion (people)	Est. impacts on people (persons)	
			Women	Children
Long An	1,000	52,700	27,931	12,712
Tien Giang	28,112	86,732	39,029	17,563
Ben Tre	2,000	205,000	99,520	20,953
Tra Vinh	68,500	63,818	32,292	16,018
Soc Trang	49,759	86,488	40,956	19,674
Bac Lieu	5,400	56,820	29,615	13,707
Kien Giang	NA	80,000	34,831	16,298
Ca Mau	NA	54,000	27,300	13,432
<b>Total</b>		<b>685,558</b>	<b>331,474</b>	<b>130,357</b>

Table 1: Table of potential impact on population and livelihoods. (Source: VNDMA)

According to the initial findings from the joint assessment conducted on 14 and 15 January 2020, led by UNICEF and UNDP where VNRC PDRT also participated that the salt intrusion has started to cause negative impacts on the local population as the photo taken in Tra Vinh province above. There has been signs of freshwater shortages for domestic and production usages. With the coming dry season, this problem might be more significant within the region, especially with the poor households, who are suffering not only from water shortage but also from decrease of income as there has been decreasing needs for labor as a result of production interruption. The assessment also revealed that there might be risks of hygiene issues and water related diseases (especially with the poor, women and girls) as rainfall is

expected to be low in the coming months. There might be a high risk of food insecurity and loss of income especially the poor and the vulnerable households as the region is the country's main producers of rice. Map of the affected provinces can be accessed [here](#).

## Summary of the current response

### Overview of Host National Society

Close coordination between the VNRC and its government counterparts is assured through the National Society's presence in the National Steering Committee on Natural Disaster Prevention and Control. VNRC participated in the UN led coordination meeting which took place in Hanoi on 13 January 2020 where it was attended by UN agencies, INGOs, and Viet Nam governmental agencies. In the meantime, VNRC also shared some updates on actions taken by the local chapters in particular needs assessment by its Provincial Disaster Response Team (PDRT) in eight provinces. In addition, VNRC has deployed its PDRT members to join the joint assessment which was led by UNDP in Ben Tre and Ca Mau from 15 to 16 January 2020.

VNRC has been closely monitoring the drought and saline intrusion with local counterparts. At the local level, the national society has been coordinating with local authorities and partners including private sector to provide household well-digging assistance (a group of two to three households per a well) and this is also part of VNRC campaign on "*Month of Humanitarian Actions*".

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

The IFRC Community Safety and Resilience (CSR) Manager from Country Cluster Support Team (CCST) Bangkok has convened a meeting with VNRC technical departments and PNSs (American Red Cross and Swiss Red Cross) in Hanoi on 15 January 2020 to discuss about the potential interventions after the call for support from the Government of Viet Nam. In the meantime, the CSR Manager has been coordinating and working closely with VNRC, providing support to the National Society for updating the information and monitoring the situation.

### Overview of non-RCRC actors in country

Since September 2019, the Prime Minister of Vietnam has chaired the conference to discuss on the situation and finding-out the solutions to cope with the drought and saline intrusion in the Mekong Delta. In that connection, in October 2019, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural development (MARD) hold a regional conference to change production for the drought and saline intrusion season 2019 – 2020. It was requested that all localities have specific plans to response.

The National Center for Hydrometeorological Forecasting has been regularly providing forecasts and warnings on the situation. VNRC is a member of the UN Humanitarian Country Team and on Disaster Management Working Group as well as convening the inter-agency Shelter Cluster and Cash Working Group. VNRC has been informally sharing information with these groups as requested. In addition to that, VNRC has close relationships with members of the local corporate sector, who will help in providing some in-kind assistance including fresh water-bottles and food items.

In December 2019, the Deputy Chairman of Central Steering Committee for Natural Disaster Prevention and Control (CCNDPC) and the Minister of MARD appealed UN agencies, members of the National Partnership for DRR, NGOs and all to extend the support to the Mekong delta provinces in the face of drought and saline intrusion.

From 14-16 January 2020, a joint assessment was carried out in four provinces of Kien Giang and Tra Vinh which was led by UNICEF and Ca Mau and Ben Tre was led by UNDP where VNRC has sent its PDRT members to be part of the assessment.

## Needs analysis, targeting, scenario planning and risk assessment

### Needs analysis

According to the Viet Nam Disaster Management Authority (VNDMA) under the MARD that over 158,900 households are heavily affected by the drought as the accessibility to the fresh water has been disrupted and it is expected that 330,000 hectares of rice and 136,000 hectares of fruit can be affected. Based on the initial field assessment by UNESCAP, ASEAN Secretariat and UNICEF that the major impacts will be to WASH, nutrition, food security and livelihoods of the above-mentioned population. The assessment led by UNICEF and UNDP conducted in four provinces between 14 and 15 January 2020 revealed that there has been signs of freshwater shortages for domestic and production usages. With the coming dry season, this problem might be more significant within the region, especially with the poor households, who are suffering not only from water shortage but also from decrease of income as there has been decreasing needs for labor as a result of production interruption. In addition, there might be risks of hygiene issues and water related diseases (especially with the poor, women and girls) as rainfall is expected to be low in the coming months.

### Beneficiary selection

In order to further define potential interventions vs. beneficiaries, it is suggested that VNRC would conduct early actions, early response and deeper needs assessment to inform a detailed response operation plan with targeted locations and interventions. The VNRC will ensure a thorough coordination with partners and local authorities on the ground to avoid any potential duplication, the use of Red Cross staff and volunteers will be optimized at all levels.

### Scenario planning

Salinity intrusion is associated with low water discharge from upstream of the Mekong River. With insufficient upstream water flow to push back seawater, salinity intrusion increased in concentration and duration this year. It was also aggravated by the drought and high temperature in the region. The salinity level in the Mekong river system will start to increase peaked two months earlier, intruded further inland and remained longer during the dry season. With saltwater intruding deep and earlier than expected, people living in the Mekong Delta face a crippling freshwater shortage. The MARD warned that drought and saltwater intrusion would come to 13 provinces in the delta several months earlier in 2020. It said the seawater could intrude 45-110 kilometers inland this time, slightly deeper than in 2016, and affect more than 460,000 hectares of land under winter-spring rice. Some 158,900 households would face the risk of water shortage, expected to be the worst hit.

### Operation Risk Assessment

It is expected over half millions of people to be directly affected by the disaster in all 13 provinces of the Mekong delta. Therefore, VNRC shall need to establish well-coordinated approach with partners on the ground including the local authorities and civil society organizations (CSOs). In addition, VNRC headquarters will closely monitor and provide technical support to the provincial chapters and at the same time work closely with local government in the beneficiary selection process to ensure the process is accountable and transparent for the affected communities.

## B. Operational strategy

### Overall Operational objective

This DREF operation aims at deploying early response actions towards the potential affected population through needs assessment and provision of safe water, and hygiene/health promotion interventions to 24,000 people in three worst affected provinces in Mekong delta within three months.

### Proposed strategy

The DREF operation will target three worst affected provinces in the Mekong delta. The selection of the provinces will be done later based on needs, resources available and the support from the Government of Viet Nam (GoV) and humanitarian actors. This action will augment and not duplicate continuing assessment done by other donors and agencies.

The assistance provided to these affected provinces is to ensure the needs of the most vulnerable people are consulted, validated and met, including access to clean water for consumption, domestic use and support for hygiene promotion and communication leading to the reduction of health risks. The local authorities and Red Cross personnel have sufficient abilities in early response and help to the local population.

Currently, VNRC has 12 prepositioned brackish-water filtration machines, with the capacities of 500 litres per an hour, in the Mekong delta region, which are now in Ben Tre province (three machines), Bac Lieu province (three machines) and Tra Vinh province (six machines). VNRC has a team of WASH specialists and technician, who will be able to assist the Red Cross branches as well as the communities with the operations and maintenance of the water treatment units. In this connection, VNRC will provide trainings to communities, so that they will be able to manage some of the operations and maintenance and not be fully dependent on outside technical specialists.

The operation proposed interventions will focus on:

- Conducting intensive need assessment in three provinces, on the areas of WASH, food security and livelihood to inform the next steps of interventions across the sectors.
- Deployment of pre-positioned water filtration units to provide safe water to vulnerable people. It is planned to deploy the brackish-water machines to remote and hard-hit villages/communes which can help community people to quick meet needs for some period of time.
- Provision and organization of training on the WASH communication and dissemination in three provinces, on the WASH knowledge and skills, know how to respond to the current situation of drought and saline intrusion.

- Distribution of safe drinking water to households, who heavily affected by the drought and saltwater intrusion. The operation shall provide two 20-liter jerry cans/bottles to each targeted household. The beneficiaries will have fresh water for their daily use and consumption. VNRC recognizes that deliveries of 20-litre bottled water are not a cost-efficient method of bringing fresh water to people. However, in some communities, there are few other more cost-effective methods. This method will be used where it is most practical as advised by WASH specialists.
- Improvement of WASH services through hygiene and health promotion (including vector control) for the households and hand-washing promotion. Conducting the dissemination on WASH in the communities with the participation of local families.

## Support Services

### Human resources

VNRC will appoint one operation manager to oversee the implementation and monitoring of all outputs under the operation. One finance officer will also be assigned to the operation and will be responsible for overseeing the reconciliation of expenditure and producing timely financial reports. At chapter level one focal point will be assigned in each province to oversee the implementation of activities within the affected communes. A total of 50 volunteers shall be mobilized for this operation and will be provided with emergency health insurance as well as appropriate personal protective equipment.

The IFRC CCST will support VNRC in this operation with technical support from the IFRC Asia Pacific Regional Office (APRO) in Kuala Lumpur, as needed. The operation will also be supported through regional surge support.

A RDRT deployment shall be required to assist the VNRC with assessment and planning for the next phase of DREF operation.

### Communication

The VNRC communications team is ensuring that Red Cross response efforts are effectively communicated to the public in a timely manner. VNRC staff and volunteers across the country are actively contributing to institutional communications through their own social media networks. VNRC staff conducting assessments in the field regularly provide.

The IFRC communication officer in Bangkok will support the VNRC in sharing voices from the community and publicity through the production of audio-visual materials, including photos and/or videos. This will ensure that the wider Red Cross membership and public have access to information on damage and needs, and Red Cross response, in a timely and reliable manner. Efforts have been made to encourage a more community and volunteer-centered approach to communication, where communities and volunteers are portrayed with dignity and solution providers. Communication has been taking place on social media platforms, websites as well as engagement with local and international media.

### Information technology and telecommunications

The DREF operation will cover costs of mobile phone credits and internet cards for the chapters involved. VNRC will ensure that staff and volunteers involved in the operation are accessible via mobile phones. The chapters have sufficient computer software and hardware capacity, and support for the operational requirements.

### Security

The IFRC security framework is applicable for this operation. With regards to VNRC staff and volunteers, the National Society's security framework will apply. In terms of security during distributions, the national society works very closely with local government in the identification of appropriate distribution points considering aspects such as access and security. Local government will assist in deploying appropriate district and commune level staff to secure distribution points and ensure that distributions run smoothly.

### Community engagement and accountability (CEA)

VNRC have a proactive approach to Community Engagement and Accountability. Affected communities will be engaged in the beneficiary selection process and will have access to information on the criteria being used for the selection process. Communities are also engaged in verifying information regarding beneficiary households to ensure that the most vulnerable are reached. In addition, the national society has a standard approach to establishing beneficiary feedback mechanisms that will be activated during the selection and distribution processes at the commune level. Phone hotlines of VNRC Operation Manager and local Chapter Officer in Charge of the operation will be established and focal points not directly involved in the operation, will be designated at both the headquarter and chapter level as well as within local authorities to receive beneficiary feedback. In addition, beneficiary feedback boxes will be made available at beneficiary selection processes and distribution sites to allow anonymous feedback. Following the distribution processes post distribution monitoring will be undertaken to assess the level of satisfaction from beneficiaries regarding the nature of the response as well as different aspects of the distribution processes such as the timeliness of the support and suitability of the distribution processes.

**Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting (PMER)**

Reporting on the operation will be carried out in accordance with the IFRC reporting standards. Regular updates will be issued during the operation's timeframe with a final report issued within three months after the end of the operation. The operation will receive support through IFRC CCST PMER and Communications Officer. The operation monitoring teams will make field visits as needed. This will help identify and, where possible and necessary, resolve any issues. Necessary tools and templates for regular data collection and reporting will be adopted from existing PMER resources. In addition, PDM will be organized prior to a lesson learned workshop at the end of the operation to inform the VNRC and IFRC of the operation successes and future improvement.

**Administration and Finance**

IFRC CCST Finance and Admin units will provide the necessary operational support for review, validation of budgets, bank transfers, and technical assistance to VNRC on procedures for justification of expenditures, including the review and validation of invoices. VNRC has implemented DREF's previously and has complied with the necessary financial procedures to the required standards.

**Logistics and Supply Chain**

Logistics activities aim to effectively manage the supply chain, including procurement, fleet, storage and transport to distribution sites in accordance with the operation's requirements and aligned to IFRC's logistics standards, processes and procedures.

VNRC shall take into consideration of requesting the IFRC support in terms of collapsible jerry cans if there is a need and stock in place. In addition, VNRC is bound to follow the procurement laws of the government and have an established procurement committee structure which includes both the national and provincial level and appoints focal points to oversee the process and to ensure that the it meets requirements. Several VNRC staff have been trained in the government's procurement regulations. OLPSCM will also provide additional technical logistics/procurement support to IFRC CCST in Bangkok and VNRC as and when needed.





## Water, sanitation and hygiene

**People targeted: 24,000**

Male: 12,000

Female: 12,000

**Requirements (CHF) 70,698**

Needs analysis: It is suggested that at least 150,000 people (37,500 households) in three provinces will desperately need fresh water for daily consumption due to the disruption of fresh water supply. The assessment led by UNICEF and UNDP took place in four provinces of Ca Mau, Ben Tre, Kien Giang and Tra Vinh revealed that there has been signs of freshwater shortages for domestic and production usages. With the coming dry season, this problem might be more significant within the region, especially with the poor households, who are suffering not only from water shortage but also from decrease of income as there has been decreasing needs for labor as a result of production interruption. There might be risks of hygiene issues and water related diseases (especially with the poor, women and girls) as rainfall is expected to be low in the coming months.

Population to be assisted: At least 24,000 people (6,000 households) across 3 provinces will receive fresh water by operating brackish-water purification machines and 20-litre bottles and orientation on their use. Hygiene promotion activities will also be conducted for the selected provinces.

Programme standards/benchmarks: This operation will seek to meet the **Sphere** standards.

P&B Output Code	WASH Outcome1: Immediate reduction in risk of waterborne and water related diseases in targeted communities.	# of targeted households that have access to fresh water (Target: 6,000)																
	WASH Output 1.2: Daily access to safe water which meets Sphere and WHO standards in terms of quantity and quality is provided to target population.	# of people provided with safe water (Target: 24,000)																
	Activities planned	Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
AP026	Provide safe water to 24,000 people in targeted communities through mobile water treatment units (transportation and meal allowance for volunteers)		x	x	x													
AP026	Procurement and distribution of 12,000 jerry cans/bottles of 20-litres (each family will receive 2 jerry cans)		x	x														
AP026	Procurement of water filtration accessories in order to replenish the accessories when operating the machines, including 24 water-tanks of 1,500 litres (1 tank using for containing brackish water; 1 tank for filtrated water)		x	x	x													
AP030	Operating brackish-water filtration machines and distribution fresh water in the field by volunteers		x	x	x													
P&B Output Code	WASH Output 1.4: Hygiene promotion activities which meet Sphere standards in terms of the identification and use of hygiene items provided to target population	# of households reached by hygiene promotion sessions (Target: 6,000)																
	Activities planned	Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16







## D. Budget

International Federation of Red Cross and Red  
Crescent Societies

*all amounts in Swiss Francs  
(CHF)*

### DREF OPERATION

MDRVN019 - VIET NAM - DROUGHT AND SALTWATER  
INTRUSION

5/2/2020

#### **Budget by Resource**

Budget Group	Budget
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	51,064
Teaching Materials	14,298
<b>Relief items, Construction, Supplies</b>	<b>65,362</b>
Distribution & Monitoring	8,936
Transport & Vehicles Costs	2,553
<b>Logistics, Transport &amp; Storage</b>	<b>11,489</b>
International Staff	6,000
National Society Staff	9,574
Volunteers	100
<b>Personnel</b>	<b>15,674</b>
Workshops & Training	11,489
<b>Workshops &amp; Training</b>	<b>11,489</b>
Travel	10,383
Information & Public Relations	2,553
Office Costs	3,830
Communications	3,000
<b>General Expenditure</b>	<b>19,766</b>
DIRECT COSTS	123,781
INDIRECT COSTS	8,046
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>131,827</b>

Reference documents



Click here for:

## Contact information

For further information, specifically related to this operation please contact:

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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.

The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:



**Save lives,**  
protect livelihoods,  
and strengthen recovery  
from disaster and crises.



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



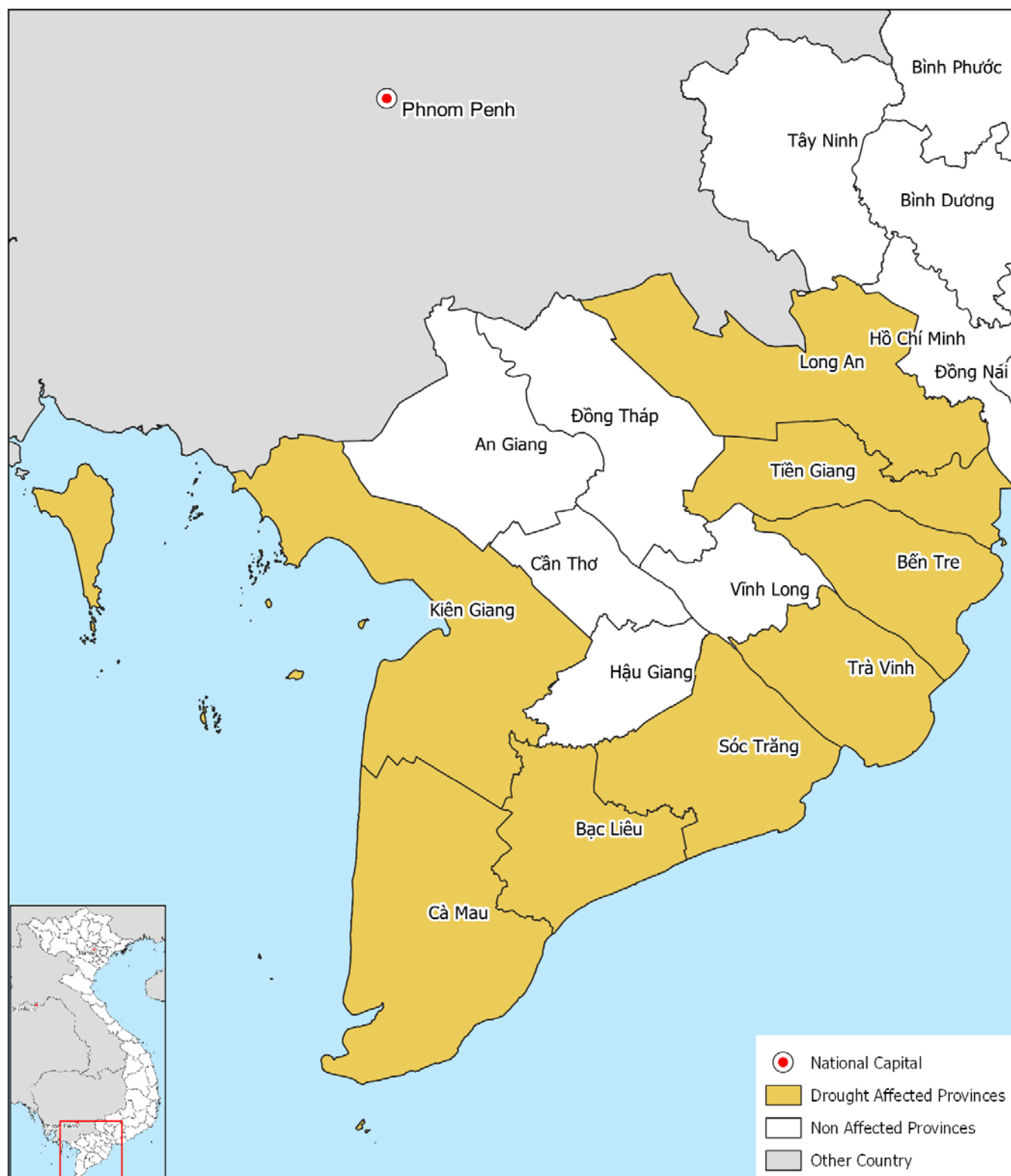
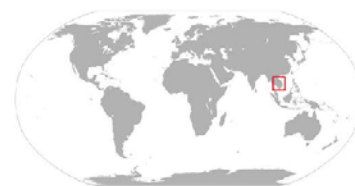
Promote social inclusion  
and a culture of  
**non-violence** and **peace**.

## Map of Affected Provinces



### Vietnam: Drought and saltwater intrusion Disaster Relief Emergency Fund

24 January 2020



The maps used do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies or National Societies concerning the legal status of territory or its authorities. Map data sources: OCHA, OSM Contributors, ICRC, IFRC

