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# Operation Update Report

## Viet Nam: Drought and saltwater intrusion

 International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF operation n° MDRVN019	Glide no. <a href="#">DR-2020-000017-VNM</a>
Operation update n° 1; 30 April 2020	Timeframe covered by this update: 1 February to 30 March 2020
Operation start date: 31 January 2020	Operation timeframe: six months, until 31 July 2020 (extended from 30 April 2020)
Funding requirements (CHF): 131,827	DREF amount initially allocated: CHF 131,827
N° of people being assisted: 24,000	
<b>Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners actively involved in the operation:</b> Viet Nam Red Cross (VNRC). At present, no other Movement partner has confirmed bilateral support to the National Society.	
<b>Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation:</b> The Viet Nam Disaster Management Authority (VNDMA), UN agencies, Disaster Management Working Group, and INGOs are also assessing the situation to affected provinces.	

### Summary of major revisions made to emergency plan of action:

*This Operations Update is issued to inform stakeholders of the DREF operation's timeframe extension by three months (from ending on 30 April to 31 July 2020), to enable completion of activities which have been suspended due to restrictions put in place by the Viet Nam government following the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly the restrictions on public gatherings. This has delayed the deployment of 12 water purification units to supply water to 24,000 people as well as public awareness and communications on disease prevention and hygiene promotion.*

*The latest needs assessments conducted by VNRC in March 2020 have highlighted the need for the National Society to provide people affected by drought and salt intrusion with water supply and livelihoods support through cash grants. VNRC is thus considering the possibility to request a second DREF allocation to address these needs.*

*The major donors and partners of the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) include the Red Cross Societies and governments of Belgium, Britain, Canada, Denmark, German, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, New Zealand, Norway, Republic of Korea, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland, as well as DG ECHO and Blizzard Entertainment, Mondelez International Foundation, and Fortive Corporation and other corporate and private donors. The IFRC would like to extend thanks to all for their generous contribution.*

## A. Situation analysis

### Description of the disaster

The Mekong Delta has a total population of 19 million people, accounting for 21 per cent of the national population. The Mekong Delta is the largest center of agricultural, fishery and fruit production in Viet Nam. The region's rice production accounts for 50 per cent of the country. The region produces more than 90 per cent of the country's rice export and more than 60 per cent of the country's seafood production. Fruit trees play an important role in the region and in Viet Nam in general. The GDP of the Mekong Delta as of June 2019 is 7.8 per cent.



Mr. Anh Tuan, member of the National Disaster Response Team assessed the drought-stricken rice area at Hoa Thuan ward, Chau Thanh district, Tra Vinh province. (Photo: VNRC)

The rainy season in 2019 in the Mekong was late in comparison to recent years and its duration was also short. Therefore, the total annual flow of Mekong river was lower than its annual average. The river flow to Viet Nam has rapidly decreased from the beginning of the last dry season and is now at a very low level compared to the annual average flow level of many years recorded from 1980 to the present. Two key upstream factors that dominate water resources and saline intrusion in the dry season of 2019/2020 in the Mekong Delta are reserves in the Tonle Sap and the flow to Kratie (Mekong Delta). The flow of the Mekong Delta is seriously low, even lower than 2015 to 2016 (the year when the record drought and saline intrusion occurred). This is the main cause of the early, deep and prolonged drought and saline intrusion occurring, which affects people and production in the Mekong Delta.

According to data from the Central Steering Committee on Disaster Prevention and Control, ten out of 13 provinces including 74 out of 137 districts are affected by the drought and saline intrusion. More than 685,000 people in the Mekong Delta provinces were affected. Drought and saline intrusion have affected agricultural production, with estimated production losses of about 460,000ha and approximately 200,000 households lacking safe water for domestic uses. 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 has a high adverse impact, as these provinces are the country's main rice growing regions.

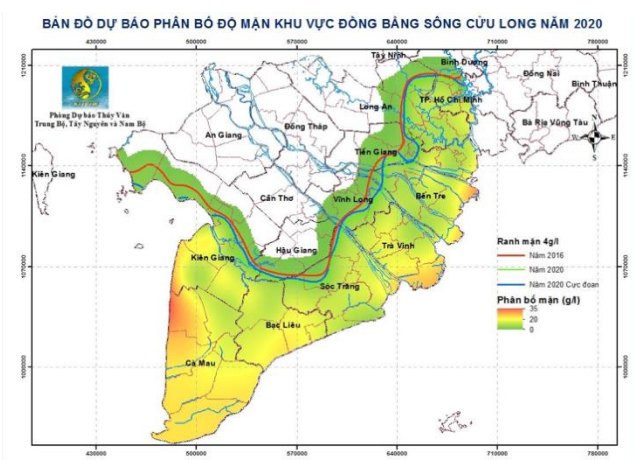


Figure 1: Saline map of Mekong delta. (Source: VNDMA)

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 the winter to spring rice crop of 2019/2020, which is greatly affected by the irrigation water shortage, especially in coastal areas from January 2020 onwards. Summer to autumn rice crop of 2020 will also 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 (two to three levels) to take advantage of low water levels 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 (e.g. An Minh, An Bien in Kien Giang province, South National Highway 1A in Bac Lieu province, Thanh Phu, and Ba Tri in Ben Tre province); (iii) there is a possibility of freshwater shortage supply for people living in coastal areas, especially in estuary areas (e.g. Tan

Phu Dong in Tien Giang province, Hoa Minh in Tra Vinh province, Cu Lao Dung in Soc Trang province, and coastal districts in Ben Tre province).

Province	Possible impact on winter-spring rice (hectares)	Est. total population affected by drought and saline intrusion (people)	Est. impact 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, 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 labour 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 among poor and vulnerable households as the region is the country's main producers of rice. Map of the affected provinces can be accessed [here](#).

According to experts<sup>1</sup>, the Mekong Delta region is facing abnormal weather attributed to climate change, tide changes in amplitude, propagation and discharge, subsidence resulting from over-extraction of groundwater, and upstream water retention. As of 17 March, Mekong River tidal stations of Tan Chau and Chau Doc reported water levels fluctuating in line with their long-term averages due to the tidal effect from the sea (Mekong River Commission).

The ongoing drought, water shortage and saltwater intrusion are exposing a higher number of vulnerable people in the Mekong Delta region to significant water shortage risks. A total of 13 out of the 63 provinces of Viet Nam have been affected and five provinces (Kien Giang, Tien Giang, Ben Tre, Long An, Ca Mau) have declared a state of emergency (level 2). Considering seasonal forecasts, the government and partners are implementing actions to address needs and assist affected households. National and international actors are supporting households with improved water storage systems and with communication campaigns on water, sanitation and hygiene promotion (WASH), food security, agriculture, health and nutrition, education, gender and protection. The government has identified several measures that need to be implemented on the ground and which highlight some of the existing response gaps to be addressed.

On 3 March 2020, the UN reaffirmed its commitment to working closely with the government, VNRC, INGOs, and bilateral institutions to best respond to unmet needs of affected people, as well as supporting the government to recover, rehabilitate and build back better. As of 7 March, five provinces have declared a state of emergency. On 8 March, the Prime Minister while visiting affected areas, agreed to declare natural disaster in five provinces and announced VND 350 billion (CHF 15 million) to support relief efforts. The COVID-19 outbreak is putting an additional socio-economic pressure on vulnerable households already affected by drought and saltwater intrusion.

## Summary of the current response

### Overview of Host National Society

Close coordination between 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 governmental agencies. In the meantime, VNRC also shared some updates on actions taken by the local chapters, such as a needs assessment conducted 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 well) and this is also part of VNRC campaign on "Month of Humanitarian Actions".

Under this reporting period, VNRC has conducted the following interventions in 12 targeted communes in Ben Tre, Bac Lieu and Tra Vinh provinces:

- Distributed 12,000 jerry cans to 6,000 households (23,106 people including 10,279 females)
- Deployed 12 units of brackish-water filtration machines for river water with salinity of below 8g/l

In total, 310,600 litres of safe/drinking water were provided to people in need from 12 selected communes in Ben Tre, Bac Lieu and Tra Vinh provinces. 6,644 households in 12 communes collected safe water from 12 units of brackish-water filtration machines between 8 March and 2 April 2020.



Many households have to buy fresh water by small delivery tanker trucks. (Photo: VNRC)

<sup>1</sup> Viet Nam Disaster Management Authority, Southern Institute of Water Resources Research, Raise and Fall Project – Utrecht University and Can Tho University

In addition, detailed needs assessments have been conducted in three provinces from 11 to 20 March to inform VNRC of the needs and possible interventions. The assessments were conducted by VNRC NDRT members and PDRTs in these three provinces. The assessment suggested that many households in these three provinces are in desperate need of water for daily consumption (i.e. at least 57,000 households in Ben Tre, 80,000 households in Tra Vinh and 68,000 households in Bac Lieu) as well as fresh water for cultivating their fruit crops (durian, mangosteen, coconut). Impact on livelihoods are obviously reported due to saline intrusion leading to no water to cultivate their crops and many households reported that the drought this year seems to be the hardest hit in the past many decades, especially to those households with no alternative livelihood options but single source such as fruit crop. According to this assessment, rainy season shall come only in June or July which people hope can ease the tension of the situation. It is noted that many households have to buy fresh water by small delivery tanker truck as the photo above with high price due to the transportation cost and distance.

VNRC with support from Mitsubishi Motors's local subsidiary, provided 102 water tanks of 1,500 litres capacity to 102 households (387 people including 182 women) in Ben Tre, Tien Giang and Soc Trang provinces (not covered by this DREF allocation).

### 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 Partner National Societies (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.



Selected households received jerry cans to collect safe water from water filtration machines in Bac Lieu province. (Photo: Bac Lieu branch)

### Overview of non-RCRC actors in country

Since September 2019, the Prime Minister of Viet Nam 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) held 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 respond.

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 the 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 Disaster Risk Reduction, NGOs and all to extend the support to the Mekong Delta provinces in the face of drought and saline intrusion. UN agencies, VNRC and INGOs are supporting and coordinating with the government and VNDMA to monitor impact and respond to identified gaps, including the following activities:

- UNDP (USD 185,000 equivalent to CHF 182,000) is supporting the government with field assessments, information sharing, coordination and planning events, recovery and long-term resilience building planning, and livelihood support.
- UNICEF (USD 200,000 equivalent to CHF 198,000) is supporting WASH activities (providing 1000l water tanks, soap, hand sanitizers and water filters) and communication campaigns on WASH, health and nutrition, education, and child protection in Ben Tre and Soc Trang.
- UN WOMEN and FAO (VND 600 million equivalent to CHF 25,500) are supporting community awareness raising and technical assistance in Ca Mau.
- Save the Children (USD 110,000 equivalent to CHF 108,900) is supporting with household water storage utilities and WASH in schools and communities in Ca Mau.
- East Meets West (USD 40,000 equivalent to CHF 39,600) is supporting affected communities with WASH activities in Ben Tre.

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

### Needs analysis



Poor households have only one small water tank which cannot store enough fresh water. (Photo: VNRC)

The 2019 rainy season in the Mekong basin appeared much later than in average years, resulting in drought conditions and historic low levels of flow, raising concerns for elevated drought and saltwater intrusion for the entire Mekong Delta in the 2019/2020 dry season. Saltwater intrusion has appeared earlier in the year than the historic 2015/2016 low levels of flow. To date, saltwater intrusion of 4g/l has entered up to 110km inland (Vam Co Dong, Vam Co Tay), more than 30km beyond the highest long-term average levels (VDMA, Meteorological Department, MARD).

VNRC team analyzed local needs reported in three provinces and convenes with local authorities and ongoing response actions by other stakeholders to propose that VNRC will continue to support less than 10 per cent of total numbers of people in need but focus to assist only the selected poor and near poor households in six communes of Ben Tre province, six communes of Tra Vinh province, four communes of Bac Lieu province, two communes of Ca Mau province and two communes of Kien Giang province. It is noted that the two provinces of Ca Mau and Kien Giang were not targeted under this DREF operation but with the support of American Red Cross and Swiss Red Cross, VNRC has also managed to conduct a needs assessment in these two provinces and it is suggested that these provinces should be added in

VNRC's plan of action for a potential additional DREF allocation since they are both severely affected. VNRC and its chapter will inform and coordinate with government of Viet Nam and other actors to avoid overlaps and maximize response operation in these provinces.

Province	Number of affected HHs in selected communes	Number of affected poor HHs	Number of affected near-poor HHs	Number of HHs need safe water	Number of HHs need water tanks	Number of HHs need early livelihood recovery
Ben Tre	17,844	1,495	1,116	8,235	821	674
Tra Vinh	15,824	1,050	1,885	680	825	640
Bac Lieu	11,867	195	729	285	265	455
Ca Mau	7,342	328	112	440	440	440
Kien Giang	7,074	272	965	462	462	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>59,951</b>	<b>3,340</b>	<b>4,807</b>	<b>10,102</b>	<b>2,813</b>	<b>2,209</b>

Table 2: Needs reported in selected communes of five provinces for VNRC response. (HH: household)

Based on the assessments which were carried out in five provinces, of which three were supported under this DREF operation while two others were supported by the American Red Cross and Swiss Red Cross, water for daily use has been identified as the first priority follow by the support for the most affected people to access food, planting seeds, medical services and livestock through unconditional cash grants.

### Beneficiary selection

In order to further define potential interventions vis-a-vis beneficiaries, it is suggested that VNRC would conduct early actions, early response and a 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, and 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 increased, peaked two months earlier, intruded further inland and remained longer during the dry season. With saltwater intruding deeper and earlier than expected, people living in the Mekong Delta face a crippling freshwater shortage. The MARD warned that drought and saltwater intrusion would affect 13 provinces in the delta several months earlier in 2020. It said the seawater could intrude 45 to 110 kilometers inland this time, slightly deeper than in 2016, and affect more than 460,000 hectares of land under winter to spring rice crop. Some 200,000 households would face the risk of water shortage, expected to be the worst hit.

## Operation Risk Assessment

Over half a million of people is expected to be directly affected by the disaster in all 13 provinces of the Mekong Delta. Therefore, VNRC need to establish a 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 the 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 of Ben Tre, Bac Lieu and Tra Vinh in Mekong Delta within six months.

### Proposed strategy

The DREF operation targets three worst affected provinces in the Mekong Delta. The selection of the provinces was based on needs, resources available and the support from the government of Viet Nam and humanitarian actors. This action augments and does not duplicate continuing assessment done by other donors and agencies.

The assistance provided to these affected provinces ensures 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 for the local population.

Currently, VNRC has 12 prepositioned brackish-water filtration machines, with the capacity of 500 litres per 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 a technician, who assists the VNRC branches as well as the communities with the operations and maintenance of the water treatment units. In this connection, VNRC provides trainings to communities, so that they are able to manage some of the operations and maintenance and not be fully dependent on external technical specialists.

The operation proposed interventions focus on:

- Conducting an intensive needs assessment in three provinces, on the areas of WASH, food security and livelihoods to inform the next steps of interventions across the sectors.
- Deployment of pre-positioned water filtration units to provide safe water to vulnerable people. The plan is to deploy the brackish-water machines to remote and hard-hit villages/communes which can help community people to quickly meet needs for some period of time.
- Provision and organization of training on WASH communication and dissemination of WASH knowledge and skills (e.g. know how to respond to the current situation of drought and saline intrusion) in three provinces.
- Distribution of safe drinking water to households which are heavily affected by the drought and saltwater intrusion. The operation shall provide two 20-litre 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 and handwashing) for households. WASH dissemination in the communities is conducted with the participation of local families.

Water for daily consumption is critical for many households.  
(Photo: VNRC Tra Vinh branch)



In order to implement the project successfully and effectively, VNRC has issued several specific guidelines as follows:

- Developed a project implementation plan, which requires the provincial VNRC chapters to report to the provincial People's Committees and relevant departments for attention, direction and support; establishing Project Management Board; develop work plans and budgets and direct VNRC units at districts and communes to receive and coordinate the assistance with the province. Technical departments of VNRC headquarters (HQ) are also assigned to assist the Project Steering Committee and the provincial VNRC chapters to carry out the project activities.
- Sent official recommendations to the provincial People's Committees to direct and support the provincial chapters in implementing the project.
- Established at the HQ and provinces: Project Management Board with experienced staff and relevant departments and units.
- Prepared a budget plan, an operational plan and transfer funds to the Union provinces in accordance with the agreed operational plan.
- Directed the VNRC Southern Representative office to participate in the project activities.

### ***The needs and damage assessments of NDRT and PDRT teams in the provinces of Ben Tre, Bac Lieu and Tra Vinh***

VNRC HQ cooperated with the provincial Red Cross chapters to develop work-plans and select communes for needs and damage assessments in 12 communes (including communes not selected for this response yet). Team members are from HQ, Southern Representative Office, Red Cross chapters of Nghe An and Ha Tinh provinces. Assessment sectors are WASH, livelihoods and other relevant sectors. Assessment calendar is as below:

Province	Date	Location
Ben Tre	12 March	Group1: Cam Son, Mo Cay Nam district Group 2: Minh Duc, Mo Cay Nam district
	13 March	Group 1: Thanh Thoi A, Mo Cay Nam district Group 2: An Phu, Ba Tri district
	14 March	Meeting room of chapter
Tra Vinh	15 March	Group 1: Phuoc Hao, Chau Thanh district Group 2: Long Son, Cau Ngang district
	16 March	Group 2: Kim Hoa, Cau Ngang district Group 1: Ngoc Bien, Tra Cu district
	17 March	Meeting room of chapter
Bac Lieu	18 March	Group 1: Hiep Thanh, Bac Lieu city Group 2: Phu Mat Ward, Bac Lieu city
	19 March	Group 1: Vinh Trach Dong, Bac Lieu city Group 2: Vinh My B, Hoa Binh district
	20 March	Meeting room of Chapter

## **Support Services**

### **Human resources**

VNRC appointed one operation manager to oversee the implementation and monitoring of all outputs under the operation. One finance officer was also assigned to the operation and 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 will be mobilized for this operation and provided with emergency health insurance as well as appropriate personal protective equipment.

The IFRC CCST has been providing support to VNRC in this operation through the technical review and inputs into the assessment tools and planned to join the assessment, however due to the COVID-19 situation, the CCST cancelled the mission to Viet Nam. A Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT) deployment is required to assist the VNRC with assessment and planning for the next phase of the DREF operation.

### **Communications**

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 information. The IFRC communications 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 Red Crescent membership and public have access to information on damage and needs, and Red Cross Red Crescent response, in a timely and reliable manner. Efforts have been made to encourage a more community and volunteer-centred approach to communication, where communities and volunteers are portrayed with dignity and as 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 has 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 headquarters and chapter levels, 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 process, post-distribution monitoring (PDM) 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 process, such as the timeliness of the support and suitability of the distribution process.

### **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, a PDM will be organized prior to a lessons learned workshop at the end of the operation to inform the VNRC and IFRC of the operation's successes and areas of improvement.

### **Finance and administration**


IFRC CCST Finance and Administration 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 DREFs 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 consider requesting IFRC's 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 it meets requirements. Several VNRC staff have been trained in the government's procurement regulations. IFRC Operational Logistics Procurement and Supply Chain Management (OLPSCM) will also provide additional technical logistics/procurement support to IFRC CCST in Bangkok and VNRC as and when needed.

## C. Detailed operational plan

 <p><b>Health</b>  <b>People reached: 3,600</b>  Male: 1,800  Female: 1,800</p>		
<b>Outcome 1: The immediate risks to the health of affected populations are reduced.</b>		
<b>Indicator:</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Actual</b>
# of targeted people that have access to health education sessions	3,600	On-going
<b>Output 1.3: Community based disease prevention and health promotion is provided to the target population</b>		
<b>Indicator:</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Actual</b>
# of people reached by disease prevention and control	3,600	On-going
<b>Progress towards outcomes</b>		
<p>VNRC headquarters in coordination with three provincial Red Cross chapters organized four training courses (two courses in Tra Vinh on 28 February to 1 March 2020, one course in Ben Tre on 27 to 28 February 2020, one course in Bac Lieu on 29 February to 1 March 2020). The total number of participants who are staff from provinces and districts, and volunteers from 12 communes are 118 people (31 females).</p> <p>The content of training and practice include methods and skills of behaviour change communication, communication skills for group work, guidelines to prevent diseases, protection, gender and inclusion (PGI), and instructions for using leaflets and posters for communication.</p> <p>After the training courses, 100 per cent of staff and volunteers can grasp basic knowledge about WASH and skills to conduct behaviour change communication lessons; develop outlines for communication lessons on topics of sanitation and water and infectious diseases; and develop communication events about clean water, sanitation and water-related infectious diseases. At the same time, Red Cross chapters also assigned communications staff in the selected communes for communication events.</p> <p>A set of communication materials on diseases and WASH have been reproduced. Communication materials were designed and developed by the Healthcare Department and Communication and Volunteer Department in consultation with Project Steering Committee. These documents are being printed and distributed by Red Cross chapters of selected provinces. A document set comprised of A4 sized leaflets on handwashing (1,500 copies), A2 sized posters (300 copies), 0.5m wide x 3m long horizontal banners (30 copies), 0.5m wide x 3m long vertical banners (50 copies) and A4 sized epidemic PC leaflets (18,000 copies). The total number of leaflets printed and distributed to people is 28,369 copies.</p> <p>The community outreach sessions have been suspended due to the COVID-19 situation and the nationwide social distancing regulation effective from 1 April to 23 April.</p>		

 <p><b>Water, sanitation and hygiene</b>  <b>People reached: 26,176</b>  Male: 13,088  Female: 13,088</p>		
<b>Outcome 1: Immediate reduction in risk of waterborne and water related diseases in targeted communities.</b>		
<b>Indicator:</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Actual</b>
# of targeted households that have access to fresh water	6,000	6,644
<b>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</b>		

Indicator:	Target	Actual
# of people provided with safe water	24,000	26,176
<b>Output 1.4: Hygiene promotion activities which meet Sphere standards in terms of the identification and use of hygiene items provided to target population</b>		
Indicator:	Target	Actual
# of households reached by hygiene promotion sessions	6,000	627

### Progress towards outcomes

The provincial Red Cross chapters conducted inspections of equipment, coordinated with equipment supplier, Viet Thai Sinh Company to provide refresher training for staff and volunteers to operate the water purification units. As a result, these units were operated in three provinces:

- Ben Tre province from 7 March to 31 March 2020 producing 185,606 litres of water.
- Bac Lieu province from 18 March to 1 April 2020 producing 57,000 litres of water.
- Tra Vinh province from 18 March to 1 April 2020 producing 60,600 litres of water.

To date, 12 water purification units have provided 310,606 litres of safe water to 6,644 households in the 12 worst affected communes of these three provinces. The provincial Red Cross chapters also purchased additional accessories to ensure continuous operation of the deployed water filters such as plastic settling tanks, pumps, plastic pipes, filter cores, electrical appliances, etc.



Water distribution in Mo Cay Nam, Ben Tre province. (Photo: VNRC Tra Vinh branch)



Distribution of jerry cans to the most affected people in Tra Vinh province. (Photo: VNRC Tra Vinh branch)

At least 6,000 households (23,106 people) in these communes also received two jerry cans per household to enable them to collect and store water for daily consumption. Each jerry can has the capacity of 20 litres and they were procured locally following the IFRC procurement procedures.

Based on the knowledge and skills gained from the refresher trainings, Red Cross staff and volunteers conducted hygiene promotion sessions to 627 people (319 females) by organizing 24 hygiene promotion sessions from 23 March to 2 April 2020. Some sessions have been delayed due to COVID-19 restrictions:

- Ben Tre chapter completed 21 events in selected communes from 23 to 29 March.
- Bac Lieu chapter only organized three events out of 21 planned events from 28 March to 2 April while 18 remained events are recommended to continue from late April to May.
- No event was organized in Tra Vinh province. It is also recommended to do 21 hygiene promotion sessions/events from late April to May.

The hygiene promotion events were held to engage the participation of local people through enthusiastic discussions and to gain knowledge about water, sanitation and prevention of infectious diseases. Red Cross volunteers have good presentation skills, and can be mobilized for responses in future local emergency situations.



## Protection, Gender and Inclusion

People reached: 24,000

Male: 12,000

Female: 12,000

**Outcome 1: Communities identify the needs of the most vulnerable and particularly disadvantaged and marginalised groups, as a result of inequality, discrimination and other non-respect of their human rights and address their distinct needs**

Indicator:	Target	Actual
Does the operation demonstrate evidence of addressing the specific needs to ensure equitable access to disaster response services?	Yes	Yes

**Output 1.1: NS programmes improve equitable access to basic services, considering different needs based on gender and other diversity factors.**

Indicator:	Target	Actual
RDRT (PGI) delivers orientation to Red Cross Chapters.	Yes	Yes

**Output 1.2: Emergency response operations prevent and respond to sexual- and gender-based violence and all forms of violence against children**

Indicator:	Target	Actual
# of staff/volunteers attending sessions on PGI (including SGBV)	75	118

### Progress towards outcomes

PGI orientation session has been incorporated into the training of staff and volunteers under the Health section above.

## Strengthen National Society

**Outcome S1.1: National Society capacity building and organizational development objectives are facilitated to ensure that National Societies have the necessary legal, ethical and financial foundations, systems and structures, competences and capacities to plan and perform**

Indicator:	Target	Actual
National Society chapter capacities have been strengthened through the response operation	Yes	Yes

**Output 1.1.4: National Societies have effective and motivated volunteers who are protected**

Indicator:	Target	Actual
# of volunteers attending briefings and trainings prior the water distributions	50	60

### Progress towards outcomes

At least 60 volunteers (23 females) have been trained in operating the water purification units in these three provinces with 20 volunteers in each province. The mobilization of volunteers to be part of the operation has been helpful as the volunteers are from the areas where the water units are operated, and they know all the people in their communities. The volunteers have also provided instructions to the people on hygiene promotion and practice.

## International Disaster Response

**Outcome S2.1: Effective and coordinated international disaster response is ensured**

Indicator:	Target	Actual
National Society cooperates closely with local authorities on response efforts.	Yes	Yes

**Output 2.1.1: Effective response preparedness and NS surge capacity mechanism is maintained.**

Indicator:	Target	Actual
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# of RDRTs deployed	1	0
<b>Output 2.1.3: NS compliance with Principles and Rules for Humanitarian Assistance is improved</b>		
<b>Indicator:</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Actual</b>
Percentage of calls/contacts addressed through beneficiary feedback mechanism	100%	On-going
<b>Progress towards outcomes</b>		
VNRC has coordinated closely with the local authorities before and during this operation especially in terms of identification of the most affected areas to operate and the selection of beneficiaries for jerry cans as well as beneficiaries for water distribution. In the meantime, there has been thorough coordination and cooperation from the local authorities in needs assessment and security for the VNRC water team to operate the water purification units. No RDRT has been deployed under this operation but the CCST CSR Manager has worked closely with the VNRC assessment team to prepare for the assessment tool and assessment report. He also planned to join the assessment, however the mission was cancelled due to the COVID-19 situation and travel restrictions across the border.		

<b>Influence others as leading strategic partner</b>		
<b>Outcome 3.1: The IFRC secretariat, together with National Societies uses their unique position to influence decisions at local, national and international levels that affect the most vulnerable.</b>		
<b>Indicator:</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Actual</b>
Communications in APRO supports communications on the operation and the response work of the National Society	Yes	Yes
<b>Output 3.1.1: IFRC and NS are visible, trusted and effective advocates on humanitarian issues.</b>		
<b>Indicator:</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Actual</b>
# of communications products made	2	0
<b>Output 3.1.2: IFRC produces high-quality research and evaluation that informs advocacy, resource mobilization and programming</b>		
<b>Indicator:</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Actual</b>
Post-distribution monitoring undertaken in 3 provinces.	Yes	Not yet
<b>Progress towards outcomes</b>		
The CCST PMER and Communications Officer has been in touch with VNRC to provide technical inputs into the operation update and communications materials for hygiene promotion. News and progress of the operation has been published on the IFRC CCST Resilience Library. Post-distribution will be conducted in three provinces in May to gather feedback from the beneficiaries on the operation interventions.		

<b>Effective, credible and accountable IFRC</b>		
<b>Outcome 4.1: The IFRC enhances its effectiveness, credibility and accountability</b>		
<b>Output 4.1.3: Financial resources are safeguarded; quality financial and administrative support is provided contributing to efficient operations and ensuring effective use of assets; timely quality financial reporting to stakeholders</b>		
<b>Indicator:</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Actual</b>
CCST Finance Department provides consistent support to the National Society to ensure quality to financial reporting	Yes	Yes
<b>Output 4.1.4: Staff security is prioritized in all IFRC activities</b>		
<b>Indicator:</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Actual</b>
IFRC Security focal point provides assistance and support to the operation	Yes	Yes
<b>Progress towards outcomes</b>		
The IFRC CCST Finance Manager and Support Service Manager have been in contact with VNRC Finance Manager and the operational team to provide them guidance on procurement and security.		

## 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

23/1/2020

#### Budget by Resource

Budget Group	Budget
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	56,426
<b>Relief items, Construction, Supplies</b>	<b>56,426</b>
Distribution & Monitoring	5,106
Transport & Vehicles Costs	2,553
<b>Logistics, Transport &amp; Storage</b>	<b>7,660</b>
Volunteers	100
<b>Personnel</b>	<b>100</b>
Workshops & Training	11,489
<b>Workshops &amp; Training</b>	<b>11,489</b>
Travel	25,957
Information & Public Relations	15,319
Office Costs	3,830
Communications	3,000
<b>General Expenditure</b>	<b>48,106</b>
DIRECT COSTS	123,781
INDIRECT COSTS	8,046
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>131,827</b>

Reference documents



Click here for:

- [Emergency Plan of Action \(EPoA\)](#)

## Contact information

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

### In Viet Nam Red Cross Society:

- Nguyen Hai Anh, vice president and secretary general; email: [haianhcami@gmail.com](mailto:haianhcami@gmail.com)
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- Pascal Bourscher, operations coordinator; email: [OpsCoord.SouthEastAsia@ifrc.org](mailto:OpsCoord.SouthEastAsia@ifrc.org)
- Ellie Van Baaren, interim regional communications manager; email: [ellie.vanbaaren@ifrc.org](mailto:ellie.vanbaaren@ifrc.org)

### In IFRC Geneva

- Nelson Castano, operations coordination manager, [nelson.castano@ifrc.org](mailto:nelson.castano@ifrc.org)
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### For IFRC Resource Mobilization and Pledges support:

- Alice Ho, partnership in emergencies coordinator; email: [PartnershipsEA.AP@ifrc.org](mailto:PartnershipsEA.AP@ifrc.org)

### For Performance and Accountability support (planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting enquiries)

- Liew Siew Hui, PMER manager; email: [siewhui.liew@ifrc.org](mailto:siewhui.liew@ifrc.org)

## 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.



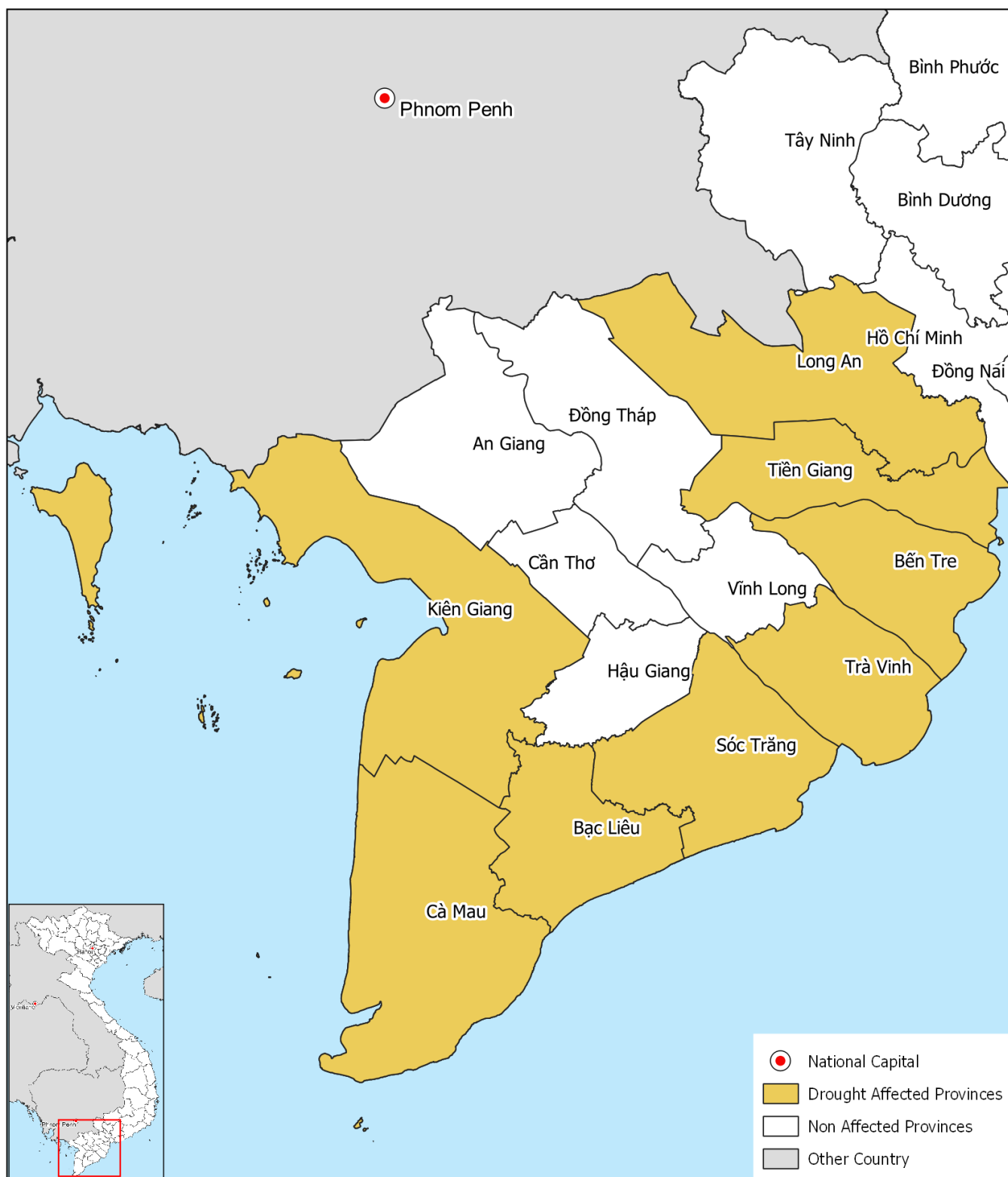
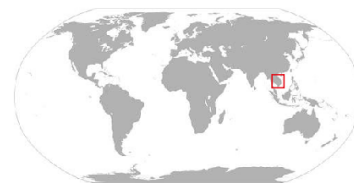
Promote **social inclusion**  
and a culture of  
**non-violence** and **peace**.

## 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

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