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Operation Update Report

Viet Nam: Drought and saltwater intrusion



DREF operation n° MDRVN019	Glide no. DR-2020-000017-VNM
Operation update n° 2; 13 May 2020	Timeframe covered by this update: 1 February to 30 April 2020
Operation start date: 31 January 2020	Operation timeframe: six months, until 31 July 2020 (extended from 30 April 2020)
Funding requirements (CHF): 303,325 (CHF 171,498 in second DREF allocation)	DREF amount initially allocated: CHF 131,827
N° of people being assisted: 28,400	
Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners actively involved in the operation: Viet Nam Red Cross (VNRC). American Red Cross and Swiss Red Cross have assisted VNRC with the needs assessment in Ca Mau and Kien Giang provinces.	
Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation: The Viet Nam Disaster Management Authority (VNDMA), UN agencies, Disaster Management Working Group, and INGOs are also providing assistance 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 new proposed interventions as a result of the needs assessment which was carried out by VNRC during the second half of March 2020, as well as the development of the situation. It is noted that this is a slow onset disaster that has impacted over one million people in the 13 provinces and this situation has worsened as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

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 has officially requested a second DREF allocation to address these needs, which are outline in the plan below. Two additional provinces (Ca Mau and Kien Giang) have been added to this Plan of Action due to the situation analysis and the needs assessment supported by American Red Cross and Swiss Red Cross.

The late submission of this request is due to the nationwide lockdown from 1 to 23 April 2020 as result of the COVID-19 pandemic, which also led to some delay in the implementation of the first allocation. In the meantime, VNRC at all levels has shifted its efforts to the pandemic combat during the past three months from February to April.

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, in which 90 per cent is for export. The region also produces 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.

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.



Winter-Spring crop was totally damaged by the drought in Tra Vinh province. (Photo: VNRC)

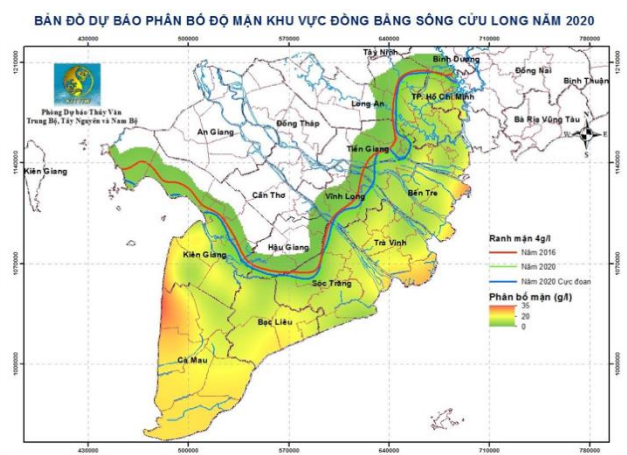


Figure 1: Saline map of Mekong delta. (Source: VNDMA)

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
Total		685,558	331,474	130,357

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 experts¹, 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.

Moreover, the detailed needs assessment conducted by VNRC in March shows that the drought and saline intrusion phenomena have had significant impact to people's lives, especially their livelihoods. The ongoing drought, water shortage and saltwater intrusion are still exposing a higher number of vulnerable people in the Mekong Delta region to the threats listed below:



VNRC conducted a household visit in Mo Cay Nam, Ben Tre. (Photo: VNRC)

Impact on safe water for domestic uses:

An estimated 57,000 families (205,000 people) have been suffering from safe water shortage for their daily use in Ben Tre province. In two selected districts of Tra Vinh province, 5,780 families still lack safe water for their daily use. In four selected communes of Bac Lieu province, 100 per cent of poor and near poor families are reported to lack safe water. In all selected communes in the three selected provinces, 30 per cent of the population, including poor and near poor families, does not have enough water storage tanks for their daily use. Plus, people usually have to buy fresh water from sellers who collect inland water 100km from the river mouth, and water transport is very expensive (around USD 5 per cubic meter).

Damages on livelihood:

In all visited communes in Ben Tre, Tra Vinh and Bac Lieu provinces, 100 per cent of winter to spring rice crops were reported lost. Specifically, in Tra Vinh province, 3,112 hectares (ha) of rice crops were reportedly damaged in mid-February 2020, and an additional 8,803ha of rice crops reportedly reduced yield by mid-March 2020. In addition, the other fruit crops such as durian, mangosteen, mango, coconut, etc. were badly damaged due to the lack of irrigated water. This impact on livelihood is still affecting almost 700,000 people in the Mekong Delta, and it will take time for them to get back on their feet (cf. table 1 above).

Impact on health:

Cases of cholera and skin-related diseases were reported by communal health centres in the visited communes. Health officers raised concerns about people's health practices and behaviours that could cause more health problems because of the lack of safe water (e.g. people have to use saline water for bath and handwashing). In addition, COVID-19 risk also demands dissemination of more safe water and sanitation practices among community members.

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

The situation will only improve when the rainy season starts, which means not before June 2020 at the earliest. Until then, the government has identified several measures to be implemented on the ground, such as the mobilization of trucks and boats to carry fresh water, drought resistant crops as well as dyke construction to prevent saltwater from entering rice fields and fruit crops, and that highlight some of the existing response gaps to be addressed.

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".



VNRC Ben Tre Chapter distributes jerry cans to the most affected households. (Photo: VNRC)

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, 303,206 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.

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 is obviously reported due to saline intrusion leading to the lack of 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, the situation will only improve for the affected people with the start of the rainy season, which won't be before June or July 2020. It is noted that many households must buy fresh water by small delivery tanker truck 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.

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 1000 L 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).

During the field assessment, the VNRC team has had coordination meetings with local authorities to gather information to inform the local needs as well as other stakeholders' ongoing response to propose that VNRC will continue to support less than 10 per cent of people in need, but focus on assisting 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 the first DREF allocation 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 under this second 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
Total	59,951	3,340	4,807	10,102	2,813	2,209

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 followed by the support for the most affected people to access food, planting seeds, medical services and livestock through conditional cash grants.

Beneficiary selection

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.

During its damage and need assessment, VNRC team discussed with community representatives, local authorities and other stakeholders to define criteria for beneficiary selection as below:

- Poor and near poor households that lack safe water and have to buy
- Poor and near poor households that had livelihoods affected by drought and saline intrusion
- Poor and near poor households that lost job/work because of drought and saline intrusion

Priority will be given to the above households that have elderly people, or children under five years old, or pregnant women, or people with disability, or no work force.

Scenario planning

The drought and saline intrusion is expected to continue in May and June 2020. Sea water of 4g/l have intruded and will intrude inland from 40km to 125km in the Mekong river system. That continues to cause lack of safe water to people and their livelihoods. MARD's daily report still announce the drought and saline intrusion at danger levels 1 and 2 and advise local communities and authorities to check salinity rate before using river waters. Summer rice planting are advised to wait until June 2020 after heavy rains, which will wash salinity away.

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. Physical distancing and in-country travel restrictions related to COVID-19 have been relaxed, enabling VNRC to resume this operation in full swing from May onwards.

B. Operational strategy

Overall Operational objective

This DREF operation aims at implementing relief and early recovery actions to help affected people through the provision of safe water, and hygiene/health promotion interventions to 24,000 people and early recovery livelihoods support to 4,400 people in the five worst affected provinces of Ben Tre, Bac Lieu, Ca Mau, Kien Giang and Tra Vinh in Mekong Delta within six months.

Proposed strategy

The DREF operation targets the five worst affected provinces in the Mekong Delta namely Bac Lieu, Ben Tre, Ca Mau, Kien Giang and Tra Vinh. The selection of the provinces was based on needs assessments, 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. In addition, this action will have significant contribution toward the national effort in combating COVID-19 where the government has been emphasizing on social welfare support to those who lost income and jobs due to the COVID-19 pandemic and less attention shall be given to people affected by the drought.

Therefore, 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.

VNRC continues to run 12 prepositioned brackish-water filtration machines, with the capacities of 500 litres an hour, in selected communes from the Mekong delta region, which are now in Ben Tre province (3 machines), Bac Lieu province (3 machines) and Tra Vinh province (6 machines). VNRC branches have deployed teams of WASH specialists and technicians, who are assisting the selected communities with the operations and maintenance of the water treatment units. In this connection, VNRC will provide trainings to Red Cross volunteers in the 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 proposed interventions will focus on:

- Deployment of pre-positioned water filtration units to provide safe water to vulnerable people in selected communes, which can help community people to quickly meet needs for some period of time in May, June and July.
- Provision of cash grants to 1,100 poor and near poor families for early livelihoods recovery.
- Provision and organization of training on WASH communication and dissemination in three provinces (on WASH knowledge and skills, and know-how in responding to the current situation of drought and saline intrusion).
- Improvement of WASH services through hygiene and health promotion (including vector control) for the households, including promotion of handwashing. Conducting sanitation and hygiene promotion in the communities with the participation of local families.

Through this operation, VNRC's capacity especially WASH teams in these provinces will be able to be furnished by having more volunteers trained to operate the machines in the longer-term when it comes to emergency like this situation and VNRC shall also be able to mobilize contribution from domestic donors toward the running cost of these units. In addition, the provision of water storage containers to the most needed households that could not afford it which will address their need in having proper water storage tools and reducing water borne diseases as well as increasing water storage capacity.

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 provided support to VNRC in this operation through the technical review and inputs into the assessment tools and continue to support the operation from a distance and will conduct a field visit when possible.

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 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>Livelihoods and basic needs</p> <p>People reached: 4,400</p> <p>Male: 2,200</p> <p>Female: 2,200</p>		
<p>Outcome 1: Communities, especially in disaster and crisis affected areas, restore and strengthen their livelihoods</p>		
<p>Indicator:</p>	<p>Target</p>	<p>Actual</p>
<p># of targeted households that have enough cash to meet their survival threshold and/or buy some agricultural inputs for next crop</p>	<p>1,100</p>	<p>0</p>
<p>Output 1.2: Basic needs assistance for livelihoods security including food is provided to the most affected communities</p>		

Indicator:	Target	Actual
# of households reached with cash for basic needs	1,100	0
Progress towards outcomes		
<p>As referred to in the needs analysis, targeting, scenario planning and risk assessment above as well as according to the VNDMA report, 1.75 million people have lost livelihoods or have reduced income as a result of saltwater intrusion into their rice, other crop fields and aquacultures. VNRC recommended to support poor and near poor households who have lost livelihoods and income in three selected provinces. They can buy some agriculture inputs such as fertilizers and seeds for the next crop season which will start in June 2020.</p> <p>VNRC will target 1,100 households (4,400 people) whose livelihoods are directly affected by the drought and saline intrusion and categorized as poor or near poor as per national standards to be assisted through this plan of action. VNRC might consider using financial service provider (FSP) to assist with the disbursement of the cash to the affected people.</p> <p>The amount of money will be allocated at three different levels:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Level 1 with VND 1 million (CHF 42), for one-person household • Level 2 with VND 2 million (CHF 84), for two to three-persons household • Level 3 with VND 3 million (CHF 128), for more than three persons household 		

 <p>Health People reached: 3,600 Male: 1,800 Female: 1,800</p>		
Outcome 1: The immediate risks to the health of affected populations are reduced.		
Indicator:	Target	Actual
# of targeted people that have access to health education sessions	3,600	On-going
Output 1.3: Community based disease prevention and health promotion is provided to the target population		
Indicator:	Target	Actual
# of people reached by disease prevention and control	3,600	On-going
Progress towards outcomes		
<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</p>		

(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.

The community outreach sessions have been suspended due to the COVID-19 situation and the nationwide physical distancing regulation effective from 1 April to 23 April. These interventions will be resumed in May onwards when the physical distancing is less intensive, and it should be carried out along with the provision of water.



Water, sanitation and hygiene

People reached: 26,176

Male: 13,088

Female: 13,088

Outcome 1: Immediate reduction in risk of waterborne and water related diseases in targeted communities.

Indicator:	Target	Actual
# of targeted households that have access to fresh water	6,000	6,644
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		
Indicator:	Target	Actual
# of people provided with safe water	24,000	26,176
Output 1.4: Hygiene promotion activities which meet Sphere standards in terms of the identification and use of hygiene items provided to target population		
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



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)

To date, 12 water purification units have provided 303,206 litres of safe water to 6,644 households (26,176 people) 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.

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 3 events out of 21 planned events from 28 March to 2 April. The remaining events are recommended to continue from May onwards.
- 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 (hand-washing) 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		
<p>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.</p>		

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
# of RDRTs deployed	1	0
Output 2.1.3: NS compliance with Principles and Rules for Humanitarian Assistance is improved		
Indicator:	Target	Actual
Percentage of calls/contacts addressed through beneficiary feedback mechanism	100%	On-going
Progress towards outcomes		
<p>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. It is expected that the CCST will be able to conduct a field visit with an aim to better understand the situation and collect beneficiary satisfaction feedback on the operation in coming weeks when the international travel restriction is lifted.</p>		

Influence others as leading strategic partner		
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.		
Indicator:	Target	Actual
Communications in APRO supports communications on the operation and the response work of the National Society	Yes	Yes
Output 3.1.1: IFRC and NS are visible, trusted and effective advocates on humanitarian issues.		
Indicator:	Target	Actual
# of communications products made	2	0
Output 3.1.2: IFRC produces high-quality research and evaluation that informs advocacy, resource mobilization and programming		
Indicator:	Target	Actual
Post-distribution monitoring undertaken in 5 provinces.	Yes	Not yet
Progress towards outcomes		

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 five provinces in July to gather feedback from the beneficiaries on the operation interventions.

Effective, credible and accountable IFRC

Outcome 4.1: The IFRC enhances its effectiveness, credibility and accountability

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

Indicator:	Target	Actual
CCST Finance Department provides consistent support to the National Society to ensure quality to financial reporting	Yes	Yes

Output 4.1.4: Staff security is prioritized in all IFRC activities

Indicator:	Target	Actual
IFRC Security focal point provides assistance and support to the operation	Yes	Yes

Progress towards outcomes

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

23/01/2020

Budget by Resource

Budget Group	Budget
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	69,192
Other Supplies & Services	1,489
Cash Disbursement	110,638
Relief items, Construction, Supplies	181,320
Distribution & Monitoring	24,308
Logistics, Transport & Storage	24,308
National Society Staff	36,163
Personnel	36,163
Workshops & Training	22,128
Workshops & Training	22,128
Travel	5,128
Information & Public Relations	12,766
Office Costs	0
Communications	3,000
General Expenditure	20,894
DIRECT COSTS	284,812
INDIRECT COSTS	18,513
TOTAL BUDGET	303,325

Reference documents



Click here for:

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

Contact information

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

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- Nguyen Hai Anh, vice president and secretary general; email: haianhcami@gmail.com
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In IFRC Geneva

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For IFRC Resource Mobilization and Pledges support:

- Alice Ho, partnership in emergencies coordinator; email: 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

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.



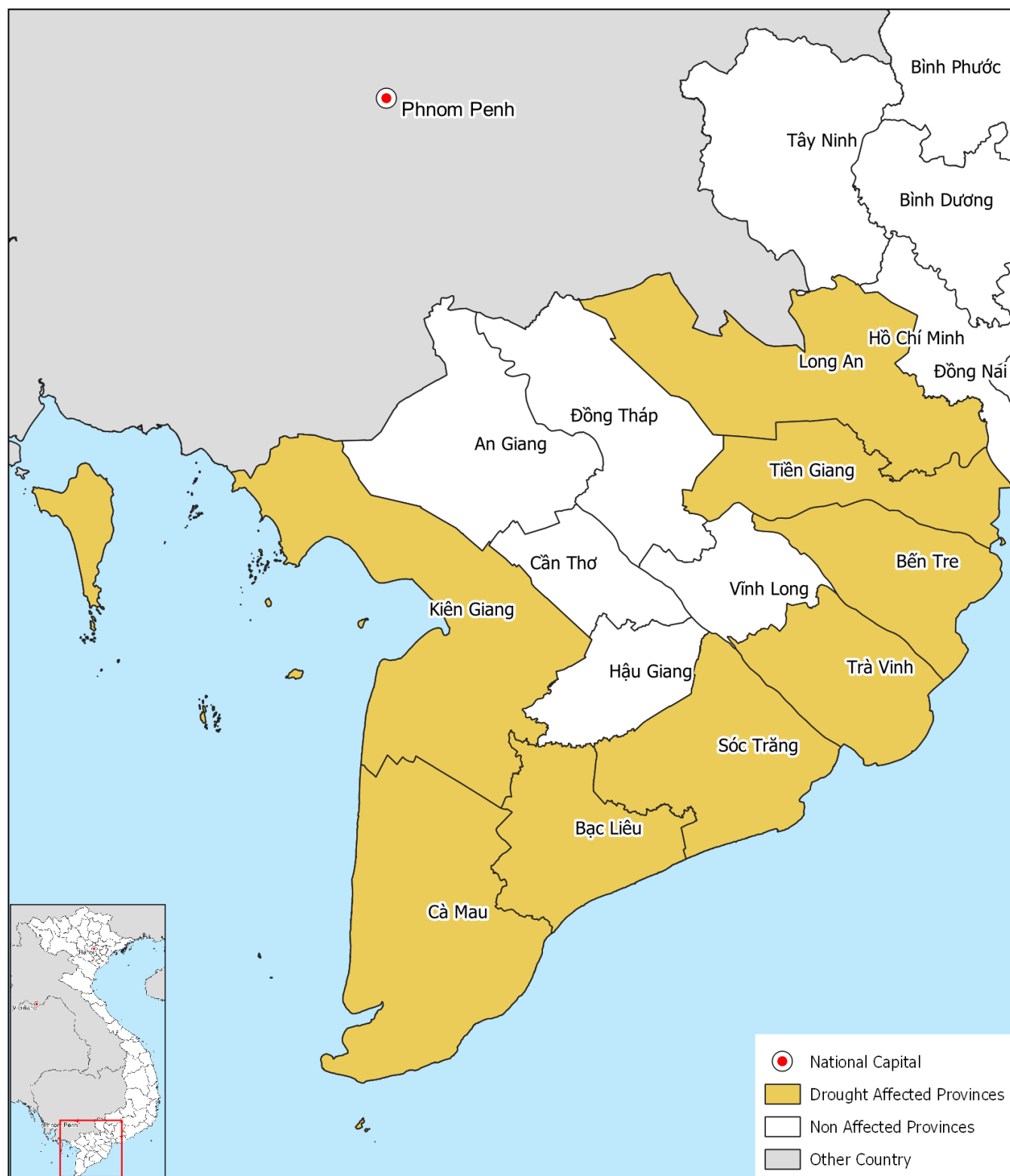
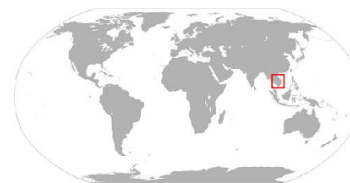
Promote social inclusion
and a culture of
non-violence and **peace**.

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