



Country/Region/Global: Viet Nam
Initiation Plan

Project Title: Response to Crisis in Viet Nam

Expected UNDAF/CP Outcome(s): Outcome 2.1

Initiation Plan Start/End Dates: 13 Jan – 30 August 2020

Implementing Partner: *The project will be directly implemented by UNDP and will work closely with the existing partners (Ministry of Agricultural and Rural Development, Ministry of Health)*

The drought and saltwater intrusion has deteriorated rapidly since September 2019 in the Mekong delta of Viet Nam. The aggregated rainfall in the upstream areas of China, Myanmar, Laos and Cambodia experienced a sharp decrease in comparison with multi-year average data, resulting in less streamflow into the Mekong delta of Viet Nam. As such, since last October, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (VNDMA) already issued the Directive No. 8008 requesting provincial authorities to formulate drought management plans, including early actions for drought-stricken areas; measures to transform agricultural activities; water retention schemes, and supply of fresh water to households. As of January 2020, saltwater has intruded deeper into the inland areas, up to 60km from the river mouth of Ben Tre province. The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment forecasts that salinity boundary this year will cross the historical salinity boundary in the dry season of 2015-2016.

On 10 January 2019, Senior Management of UNDP Viet Nam met with VNDMA to clarify expectations of the Government of Viet Nam for the support required. The key support needed at this stage includes: technical support to a rapid impacts and needs assessment (the first assessment currently planned for 15-17 January), support to coordination and information sharing with provinces, international organisations and INGOs, and organization of debriefing workshops and events to present key findings of the assessment and the overarching response planning.

As the drought and saltwater intrusion is going on in the Mekong Delta, on 1st February 2020, the Government of Viet Nam issued the Decision No.173.QD-TTg, declaring the acute respiratory disease caused by the new coronavirus an epidemic in Vietnam. The declaration of the pandemic categorizes the virus as a Group A infectious disease and calls on the ministries, local governments, and provincial and city authorities, as well as health facilities to promptly carry out their pandemic preventive tasks issued by the government.

Cross-border trade with China and Cambodia, which is the only source of income for many communities living in the border areas and beyond, is no longer possible. Significant economic impacts are already being experienced by the ethnic minority communities and poor farmers close to the northern border with China. According to local media reports, vegetables and fruits from the Mekong Delta for Chinese markets are reported to be rotting¹.

China is the largest export market of Mekong Delta's agricultural products. However, in order to prevent further spread of the virus, Governments of China and other neighbouring countries have implemented measures, including closure of the border between China and Viet Nam. This is expected to have major socio-economic impacts on both sides of the border (as well as other regions of the country), and the macroeconomic impact in the Mekong Delta and Viet Nam in general is expected to be sizeable. It is anticipated that most affected economic value chains will be agriculture, food export or import, industrial production, transportation and logistics.

As the leading member of the in-country Disaster Risk Management Team (DRMT), UNDP Viet Nam has been monitoring the drought and salinity situation in the Mekong Delta since October 2019. Following the receipt of the official request from MARD, UNDP Viet Nam encouraged the DRMT to initiate a conversation with UNOCHA focal point in the Region to discuss preparedness, activation of standard operating procedures for slow-onset disasters and follow-up actions.

Additionally, UNDP has identified several programmatic functions to support Viet Nam in responding to the coronavirus crisis, under WHO's leadership. The Corporate Guidance for Response and Recovery as adapted to this novel coronavirus identifies a number of areas of support that UNDP can offer to countries. The three pillars of UNDP's 2019 nCoV Programme Framework include (i) health system support, (ii) inter-sectoral crisis management, and (iii) needs and impact assessment.

Programme Period:	13 Jan - 30 Aug 2020	Total resources required	\$190,000
Atlas Project Number:	00125683	Total allocated resources:	\$190,000
Atlas Output ID:	00119975	• Regular	\$190,000
	00120607	• Other:	
		o Donor	_____
		o Donor	_____
		o Government	_____
Gender Marker:	GE1	Unfunded budget:	_____
		In-kind Contributions	_____

Agreed by UNDP:



Sitara Syed
UNDP DRR.

¹ Most of the vegetables and fruits exported to China are produced in other provinces of Vietnam (including in the south of the country), and imports from China are destined for markets in other provinces (not only the border areas).

I. PURPOSE AND EXPECTED OUTPUT

The proposed project aims to ensure that UNDP Viet Nam will take a leading role in all processes pertaining to responses to life-saving humanitarian assistance and to early recovery actions impacted by the drought and salinity, and by the coronavirus crisis.

UNDP is currently operating in three out of thirteen provinces in the Delta, namely: Ca Mau, Bac Lieu and Ben Tre. Our strong collaboration and partnership with the provincial authorities, as well as with the Ministry of Agricultural and Rural Development in disaster management require that UNDP responds promptly and effectively to the emerging situation with a view to reducing sufferings and human impacts should a full-scale crisis occurs. UNDP will also invest resources to identify root causes of this drought in order to develop recovery and development recommendations to address longer-term resilience needs of the most vulnerable communities

II. MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

The Project will be implemented by the Climate Change and Environment Unit of UNDP Viet Nam following the Direct Implementation Modality. As such, the management procedures, including for programmatic, financial and administrative aspects, will follow our standard processes. On an external partner aspect, the activities will be implemented in close collaboration with the Viet Nam Disaster Management Authority, the Government appointed agency for disaster management in the country. In addition, the activities will also be coordinated with members of the UN teams.

III. MONITORING

The Project Manager will have overall responsibility for ensuring quality delivery of the expected outputs, including monitoring the progress and adequate performance of project partners. The Project Associate will provide programmatic, administrative and logistical support to the team and responsible party as needed. The DRR/CCA advisor will provide necessary quality assurance of the project and provide daily supervision of the Project Manager. The Deputy Country Director will provide overall guidance over programme delivery and officially communicate with key stakeholders (namely the Crisis Bureau and the Government of Viet Nam) on activities, results and issues.

Senior DRR Technical Advisors from Bangkok Regional Office will be mobilised to provide regular necessary support, particularly with regards to recovery planning and policy dialogue after the recovery plan and action plan are proposed. Regular technical-level meetings will be held more regularly as deemed appropriate to manage expectations and ensure stakeholder satisfaction. A final results report will be provided to key stakeholders following completion of activities.

IV. WORK PLAN

EXPECTED OUTPUTS	PLANNED ACTIVITIES	TIMEFRAME				PLANNED BUDGET					
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Responsible party	Source of Funds	Budget Description	Budget acc	Amount (USD)	
Outcome 1: Response to drought and saltwater intrusion in Viet Nam											
<i>Output 1: Impact and needs assessment smoothly coordinated and timely undertaken in selected provinces that produce required information and data for decision making processes by the Government, UN agencies and INGOs.</i>	1.1 Support with regular coordination / meetings		x	x		UNDP	TRAC113	Local consultant	71300	4,700	
						UNDP	TRAC113	Travel	71600	2,000	
						UNDP	TRAC113	Printing	72500	3,000	
						UNDP	TRAC113	Translation	74200	2,300	
	1.2 Lead joint assessments on impacts and needs					VNDMA	TRAC113	National Institution	72100	14,000	
	1.3 Organise workshops for debriefing and planning					VNDMA	TRAC113	Training/WS/Meeting	75700	15,000	
	1.4 Provide support to provinces and the Government on response planning					UNDP	TRAC113	National Institution	72100	15,000	
						UNDP	TRAC113	Local consultant	71300	6,000	
	<i>Output 2: Enhanced UNDP capacities to catalyze humanitarian resources and provide technical support to recovery planning.</i>	2.1 Develop UNDP inputs for the joint technical proposal accessing CERF					UNDP	TRAC113	Int'l Consultant	71200	15,000
							UNDP	TRAC113	Training/WS/Meeting	75700	4,000
						UNDP	TRAC113	Service contract-direct technical input	71400	15,000	
2.2 Further refine a mobile phone Application on resources tracking						VNDMA	TRAC113	Training/WS	75700	500	
2.3 Work with provinces and the Government on potential fund-raising proposals						VNDMA	TRAC113	Training/WS	75700	500	
ISS						UNDP	TRAC113		64300	3,000	
Sub-total - Outcome 1										100,000	

Outcome 2: Response to the outbreak of COVID-19 in Viet Nam											
<i>Output 1: Rapid assessment of public health and socio-economic impacts on the most vulnerable people in remote regions</i>	Activity 1.1: Rapid assessment of socio-economic and health impacts Activity 1.2: Develop interventions to reduce risks and inform early recovery Activity 1.3: Develop and disseminate policy briefs		x				UNDP	TRAC113	Consultancy firms	72100	45,000
			x				UNDP	TRAC113	Translation costs	74200	5,000
			x	x			UNDP	TRAC113	Travel costs	71600	5,000
			x	x			UNDP	TRAC113	Workshops and consultation meetings	75700	10,000
<i>Output 2: Coordination of assessments and communication activities focusing on the most vulnerable groups.</i>	Activity 2.1: Support with coordination of assessments and mapping Activity 2.2: Support field assessments of taskforces Activity 2.3: Develop risk communication and information products	x	x	x			UNDP	TRAC113	Travel cost	71600	10,000
		x	x	x			UNDP	TRAC113	Coordination meetings at local level	75700	5,000
		x	x	x			UNDP	TRAC113	Risk communication & information products	74200	10,000
Sub-total - Outcome 2											
Grand - Total											
										90,000	
										190,000	