

Viet Nam

Consolidated Emergency Report 2021



UNICEF has provided nearly 60,000 protective suits for frontline medical staff in the fight against the pandemic in Viet Nam to keep doctors and nurses safe while performing their life-saving work.

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Expression of Thanks

UNICEF's work is funded entirely through the voluntary support of millions of people around the world and our partners in Government, civil society and the private sector. Voluntary contributions enable UNICEF to deliver on its mandate to protect children's rights, help meet their basic needs, and expand their opportunities to reach their full potential. We take this opportunity to thank all our partners for their commitment and trust in UNICEF.

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Abbreviations and Acronyms

CCNDPC	Central Committee for Natural Disaster Prevention and Control
DMG	Disaster Management Group
DMWG	Disaster Management Working Group
ECD	Early Childhood Development
FAO	The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GHD	Global Handwashing Day
INGOs	International Non-Governmental Organizations
MAM	Moderate Acute Malnutrition
MARD	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
MOET	Ministry of Education and Training
MOH	Ministry of Health
MOLISA	Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs
NIN	National Institute of Nutrition
NSC	National Steering Committee
PFA	Psychological First Aid
RCO	UN Resident Coordinator's Office
ROAP	Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
RUFT	Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Food
SAM	Severe Acute Malnutrition
SBCC	Social & Behavioral Change Communication
UN	United Nations
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
VNDMA	Viet Nam Disaster Management Authority
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
WHO	World Health Organization

Executive Summary

2021 ended, as it began, as a challenging year with lingering impacts of storms and floods in central Viet Nam and COVID-19 pandemic outbreak, which exacerbated existing inequalities and vulnerabilities, putting the lives of millions of children at risk.

COVID-19 continues to have a devastating impact on the lives of children in Viet Nam. The year 2021 witnessed the worst COVID-19 damages and recorded the highest number of positive cases (1,588,335) and deaths (30,251) by 31 Dec 2021¹. Since April 2021, the country is faced with its most severe wave so far, with fast spreading outbreaks in southern Viet Nam. The pandemic and related control measures, including movement restrictions disrupted access to essential health, nutrition, and social services and driving steep declines in household incomes.

In 2021, the COVID-19 pandemic has left more than 3,417 children orphaned, putting them in protection risks and in urgent need of alternative care and psychosocial support. School closure has disrupted the learning of 22 million school-age children and exposed a stark digital divide in which children, including ethnic minority children and children with disabilities, are disproportionately affected. Beyond the learning loss, COVID-19 challenged families' abilities to provide nutritious food and led to a shift to dietary habits as well as rises in both overweight and undernutrition. The pandemic also revealed that water and soap were not available in 30 per cent of schools, making improving WASH access through direct provision of supplies and strengthening systems for services a priority. As COVID-19 pandemic continues, the disruption of routine and daily life has exacerbated protection risks, such as gender-based violence, child labour, child marriage or teenage pregnancies. In addition, many children face increasing mental health challenges to a significant concern.

UNICEF and the Government of Viet Nam are committed to addressing the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19 on the lives of children and their families. To provide life-saving services, UNICEF worked with the Government to procure 10.2 tonnes of Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Food (RUTF)² and conducted nutritional rehabilitation for children under-5, treated a total of 3,210 children with malnutrition in Ho Chi Minh City and Binh Duong province. UNICEF's advocacy and technical support resulted in issuance of policies and guidelines on measures and procedures to better protect children and their families from violence and abuse during quarantine period. To ease adverse psychological impacts of COVID-19 on children, UNICEF enhanced the capacity of more than 5,000 local child protection officers and 2,000 teachers in response to violence against children during emergencies. Furthermore, UNICEF worked with partners to deliver emergency protection supplies to 6,300 families with children as well as provide case management and psychological support to 14,762 children. Beyond life-saving service and supplies, UNICEF enriched the evidence on emergency response by leading the UN on social impact assessment of COVID-19 which later informed the development of the National COVID-19 Response Strategy along with UNICEF's substantive and technical assistance in this regard. In addition, UNICEF continued supporting safe school protocols which were implemented and operationalized to get schools well prepared for reopening as COVID-19 Omicron variant takes hold globally.

As for the Central Viet Nam, the flood and storms emergency displaced hundreds of thousands of people in late 2020. Many are left without access to sufficient basic facilities, such as water and sanitation, primary health care, education and lacking appropriate management for disease prevention and control and

¹ The Ministry of Health in Viet Nam

² UNICEF and the government of Viet Nam procured 5.1 tonnes of RUTF respectively, making a total of 10.2 tonnes of RUTF available for treatment.

mitigating protection risks, especially for children and women. The consequences for the lives of more than 1.5 million children last beyond 2020 and require life-saving assistance in 2021.

In 2021, UNICEF continued supporting children and their families in Central Viet Nam by providing essential services and building the resilience of communities in the events of natural disasters. The WASH programme provided 283,438 people with access to safe drinking water and hygiene through WASH supplies and repairs of WASH facilities in schools and healthcare facilities. In addition, UNICEF procured 60 tonnes RUFT and conducted several acute malnutrition (SAM) screening which detected and treated a total of 3,606 children with SAM and 2,629 with moderate acute malnutrition (MAM). In April 2021, UNICEF procured and distributed 900 Early Childhood Education (ECD) kits that provide child-friendly teaching materials to schools, prioritizing remote satellites schools, reaching 45,000 vulnerable children. In close collaboration with Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, and Invalids (MOLISA), UNICEF addressed the protection and mental health needs of children who have been severely affected by the emergency. The assistance of UNICEF reached a total of 24,165 children and parents with psychosocial support and case management services. Child-friendly messages as part of a cross-sectoral social & behaviour change communication (SBCC) response package that UNICEF developed in close coordination with the Viet Nam Disaster Management Authority (VNDMA), continued to be the key in promoting life-saving practices on health, nutrition, and access to safe water and sanitation and child protection services. The messages reached four million people in the most affected provinces.

UNICEF's response plan to tackle both emergencies (floods and droughts and the COVID-19 pandemic) with a linkage between development and emergency nexus. This ensured that the most vulnerable children and families' critical needs were timely met while enhancing risk reduction and preparedness for future disasters and building system resilience to cope with shocks.

Humanitarian Context

In 2021, while Viet Nam was recovering from the severe storms and floods in central Viet Nam, it encountered the worst wave of the COVID-19 pandemic. As a result, the Government put strong control measures, including movement restrictions which disrupted access to essential human services, particularly health, nutrition, and social services and put millions of children at risk.

COVID-19 pandemic in Viet Nam

COVID-19 continues to have a devastating impact on the lives of children in Viet Nam. The year of 2021 recorded the highest number of positive cases (1,588,335) and deaths (30,251) by 31 Dec 2021.

The latest COVID-19 wave started in April 2021 with its epicenter in Ho Chi Minh City and southern provinces of Viet Nam. The emergence of Delta variant was a driving force of the outbreak. Since the onset of the outbreak, the authorities have been imposing restrictions and preventive measures. However, the concurrent outbreak in different localities has made tracing impossible. Large-scale infections in communities and industrial zones have put health facilities under pressure. The outbreak has significantly impacted children, leaving more than 3,417 children orphaned; disrupting 22 million children's adequate learning; revealing that water and soap were not available in 30 per cent of schools; witnessing many children face increased violence at home and elevated mental health challenges of children and adolescents to a significant concern.

Viet Nam is racing to vaccinate their population against COVID-19, including children aged 12 and above, with two doses of COVID-19 vaccines. As of 31 December 2021, almost 152 million doses of COVID-19 vaccine were administered. With approximately 95.8% of the country's target population (over 12) were vaccinated with the first dose and 84.8% with the 2nd dose.

The Government of Viet Nam is committed to a combined approach of supporting vaccine roll-out while focusing on efforts to contain the spread of the virus and respond to the social-economic impacts to save lives and alleviate suffering, especially for children. With the coverage of COVID-19 vaccination increased, local awareness raised on the pandemic, and health facilities' capacity strengthened, Viet Nam issued guidelines on easing social distancing measures and flexible adapting measures depending on local situations to get prepared for living with COVID-19.

Storms and Floods in Central Viet Nam

In 2021, Central Viet Nam suffered from the consequences resulting from the typhoon season in 2020. From 6 October to 17 November 2020, the central region of Viet Nam was hit by consecutive storms and tropical depressions, which brought sustained heavy rains, resulting in landslides and cascading floods in 10 provinces: Binh Dinh, Da Nang, Ha Tinh, Kon Tum, Nghe An, Quang Binh, Quang Nam, Quang Ngai,



Map Sources: VNDMA, UNCS, JTWC

The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Map created on 12 November, 2020

Quang Tri and Thua Thien Hue. In some locations, floodwaters exceeded historical highs recorded in 1979 and 1999.

Many communities in the most affected provinces have pre-existing vulnerabilities and were severely impacted by COVID-19. Adding to the consequences of COVID-19 prevention and control measures, children and families in these areas faced tremendous challenges and struggled to cope with the effects of such disasters. Extremely adverse conditions paired with COVID-19 transmission risks disrupted education, strained healthcare services, limited access to safe water and heightened threats from poor hygiene and sanitation. All these factors put the central region's 1.5 million children at high risk. In 2021, many households in the central region were still struggling to recover from their losses and damage.

Humanitarian Results

Viet Nam experienced the worse COVID-19 impacts in 2021, with the highest number of positive cases and deaths and struggled to recover from the damages caused by storms and floods in 2020. UNICEF – in collaboration with other UN agencies – continue taking a leading role in the WASH, nutrition, education and child protection sectors and sub-sectors to deliver a comprehensive response. UNICEF also used SBCC as one of the key implementation strategies to enhance programme results, delivering life-saving messages to millions of people.

Health & Nutrition

The unprecedented turbulence caused by COVID-19 has crippled the health system in Viet Nam. The pandemic and social distancing measures hindered families with children from accessing routine maternal and child healthcare services. In response to the most severe wave of COVID-19 in Viet Nam, UNICEF procured and distributed 250 patient monitors, 125,000 masks and 2.5 million syringes to support COVID-19 prevention and vaccinations. In general, UNICEF focused on COVID-19 vaccine procurement under the COVAX facility and supported the Government to effectively implement the vaccination campaign.

COVID-19 pandemic also poses grave risks to young children's nutritional status and survival due to limited access to food and adequate dietary intakes during quarantine. In response to the COVID-19 outbreak in southern Viet Nam, UNICEF and the Government of Viet Nam procured a total of 10.2 tonnes of RUTF³ for the treatment of children with malnutrition. UNICEF trained 80 local health workers in Ho Chi Minh city and Binh Duong province. In collaboration with NIN, UNICEF conducted two rounds of nutritional rehabilitation for children under-5 with malnutrition in Ho Chi Minh city and Binh Duong province. By the end of the intervention, a total of 3,210 children with acute malnutrition, of which 2,850 in Ho Chi Minh city and 360 in Binh Duong province, were detected and treated with RUTF. The nutritional interventions ensure young children are safe from malnutrition and its long-term effects. In addition, UNICEF conducted 1,100 communication sessions with local health care workers to provide information and knowledge on infant health nutrition care under the context of the COVID-19 pandemic to women and childcare givers in 27 communes in Dien Bien, Gia Lai and Kon Tum provinces. As a result, 12,000 parents or childcare givers benefited from improved knowledge on children's nutrition, and 400 households benefited from home counselling services provided by local health workers.

In early 2021, children were at risk of malnutrition due to floods and storms. Natural disasters put families' ability to secure nutritious food for their children in peril, and disrupted their children's access to routine nutrition services, such as growth monitoring, complementary feeding counselling, and multiple micronutrient supplementation. For families already suffering from the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19, these disasters exacerbated the situation: as a result, severe acute malnutrition (SAM) increased. In response, UNICEF procured 60 tonnes of RUTF to treat SAM and moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) in six affected provinces (Ha Tinh, Kon Tum, Quang Binh, Quang Nam, Quang Ngai and Quang Tri). The Ministry of Health's National Institute of Nutrition (NIN) and commune health centres have been distributing RUTF to children with SAM and MAN in these provinces. With UNICEF's technical assistance, NIN completed a series of rapid trainings for 660 frontline health staff who conducted SAM screenings for children under-five through the campaign rolled out in early January 2021. By the end of the campaign, 124,914 children under-five have been screened to detect acute malnutrition, and 3,606 children with SAM and 2,629 with MAM were identified and treated. The screening campaign reached hard-to-reach children,

who were usually not in daycare centres or kindergartens. In an emergency context, children with MAM also needed immediate treatment similar to SAM with a 50 per cent dose of RUTF for SAM. Treatment of children with acute malnutrition by RUTF was complemented by NIN's multiple micronutrient supplementation to pregnant women and young children 6-23 months old. The nutrition intervention package was a joint effort between the NIN and UNICEF to form comprehensive nutrition in emergency programming for children in the most affected communities.

To facilitate collaboration during storm and flood emergency, UNICEF led the nutrition sector coordination group and worked with ministries and partners, UN agencies and INGOs on a joint comprehensive response plan on nutrition. As the disasters intensified in the central region in September 2020, UNICEF activated the coordination group was activated for timely information sharing and collaboration, mapping exercises and regular updates to ensure that children were provided with life-saving therapeutic feeding. The group continues to facilitate such exercise in early 2021.

Indicators	Cluster/sector 2021 Target	Cluster/sector total results	UNICEF 2021 Target	UNICEF Total results
COVID-19 responses				
Number of children under-5 with acute malnutrition who are detected & treated	2,000	3,210	1,000	3,210
Flood and storms responses				
Number of children under-5 who are screened for detection of Severe Acute Malnutrition	200,000	140,000	112,350	124,914
Number of children (6-59 months) with Severe Acute Malnutrition admitted for treatment	6,500	6,500	4,650	3,606 ⁴
Results are achieved through contributions against appeals, as well as resources from UNICEF's regular programmes where necessary.				

WASH

In response to the storm and flood emergency, the WASH programme pivoted to water shortages and inadequate hygiene caused by floods and landslides by distributing WASH supplies, including 4,034 ceramic filters and 51,389 detergent packs and soap bars, to some of the most affected communities in Ha Tinh and Quang Binh provinces as an immediate intervention, reaching 174,366 people – including more than 38,500 children (49 per cent girls) through VNDMA support. UNICEF further procured and distributed 13,404 bottles of hand sanitizer to 87 schools and 36 commune health centres, 1,212 water tanks, and 2,020 ceramic water filters to 3,232 vulnerable households, and installed 36 water filtration systems in schools of 33 communes in Ha Tinh, Quang Binh, and Quang Tri provinces. As a result, 30,300 people in these provinces benefited from the supplies. The third batch of WASH supplies was distributed to four other provinces (Kon Tum, Quang Nam, Quang Ngai and Thua Thien-Hue) in March 2021, with the list of items

⁴ This is the outcome of the screening of 124,914 children under-five.

similar to the second batch. A joint field assessment by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) and UNICEF was conducted in these provinces and has informed the ongoing repairing of WASH facilities in schools and health centres. By May 2021, all planned activities for storm and flood response were completed. As a result, upgraded WASH facilities in 105 schools and health stations reached more than 73,000 people in seven provinces. During monitoring trips, it was observed that communities and children practised healthier hygiene and operated WASH supplies properly as a result of extensive communication activities conducted in local languages with proper instructions on operation and maintenance in ethnic communities. To build the resilience of localities in preparing for future emergencies, UNICEF collaborated with VNDMA in prepositioning a total of 383 water filters in Quang Binh, Quang Tri, Quang Nam and Phu Yen provinces, potentially benefiting 37,972 people, of which 23,745 are children with access to sustainable WASH services.

UNICEF leads the WASH sector emergency coordination and worked with line ministries, partner UN agencies and INGOs on a thorough joint response plan on WASH. The coordination group was activated in September 2020 and continues to facilitate timely information sharing and collaboration, mapping exercises and regular updates to ensure children and their families have access to clean water and sanitation facilities in 2021.

Indicators	Cluster/sector 2021 Target	Cluster/sector total results	UNICEF 2021 Target	UNICEF Total results
Flood and storms responses				
Number of people who have access to safe drinking water	177,000 ⁵	353,347	93,600	283,438 ⁶
Number of people provided with access to appropriately designed hygiene and sanitation facilities	-	-	33,791	73,000
Results are achieved through contributions against appeals, as well as resources from UNICEF's regular programmes where necessary.				

Education

In response to COVID-19, UNICEF continued to support the Ministry of Education and Training (MOET) in monitoring and addressing the impacts of COVID-19 on learning and well-being of students, and to support the recovery of students' learning loss. UNICEF has turned this crisis into an opportunity to make education more resilient, equitable and efficient in delivering learning for all. As such, the UNICEF-supported safe school protocols continued to be implemented and operationalized as Viet Nam experienced its third and fourth of COVID-19 in 2021 and is preparing for better school reopening as COVID-19 Omicron variant takes hold globally.

⁵ Sectoral target is only available for flood and storms responses which are planned in 2020.

⁶ UNICEF's total number exceeded the target due to the large number of beneficiaries reached (174,366 people) with the first immediate response to floods, of which the target was not set in the UNICEF response plan developed at a later stage. The total number includes responses conducted at the end of 2020, as an immediate response to the flood and storm emergency.

As for the educational needs of children in Central Viet Nam, an early assessment on education indicated that an estimated 153,000 children (of whom 49 per cent are girls), who had already experienced learning loss due to COVID-19, had their learning further disrupted due to the storms and floods. Many school facilities and learning materials were destroyed. In response to the education needs, UNICEF procured 900 emergency Early Childhood Development (ECD) kits prioritizing the most affected students and schools, mainly remotely located satellite schools. 900 ECD kits were distributed in April 2021, benefiting 45,000 children in four provinces (Quang Binh, Quang Nam, Quang Tri and Thua Thien-Hue). The educational supplies contributed to the continuation of quality and stimulating learning environments for the most affected children.

UNICEF also acted as a crucial government partner by co-leading the education in emergencies sector with Save the Children. UNICEF supported the MOET in effectively coordinating the emergency response, such as facilitating information sharing and mapping partner interventions to avoid activity overlaps and duplication of efforts, thus strengthening advocacy and boosting resource mobilization to ensure continued learning and safety of affected students.

Indicators	Cluster/sector 2021 Target	Cluster/sector total results	UNICEF 2021 Target	UNICEF Total results
COVID-19 responses				
Number of schools implementing safe school protocols	-	-	43,186	43,186
Flood and storms responses				
Number of children (3-14 years) who are enrolled in formal/ non-formal education, including early learning and received learning materials	153,000	49,434	144,000	45,000
Results are achieved through contributions against appeals, as well as resources from UNICEF's regular programmes where necessary.				

Child Protection

The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed children to increased protection risks. Therefore, UNICEF prioritized and advocated the need for addressing protection risks for children and adolescent girls, including those in COVID-19 quarantine centers, resulted in several policies and guidelines for better child protection developed, approved and implemented. Notably, the Prime Minister issued a decision⁷ to provide free treatment and support to children during quarantine, and to pregnant and infant-nurturing women. The Prime Minister also approved another document⁸ on improving care and protection of children from violence, promotion of mental health, and expansion of family-based alternative care for children orphaned due to COVID-19 on 31 December 2021. Furthermore, several key decisions and guidelines were promulgated by the Ministry of Health (MoH) and Ministry of Labour - Invalids and Social Affairs (MOLISA) on child-appropriate measures during COVID-19-related quarantine for children, child protection case management, and alternative care for orphans and children without parental care. The guidelines and policies have resulted in actions on care and support for children affected by COVID-19, especially in Ho Chi Minh city and other heavily affected provinces.

⁷ Decision No.23/2021

⁸ The Prime Ministerial Directive No. 36 / CT-TTg

Beyond policies and guidelines, UNICEF prioritized support in strengthening the capacity of the social service workforce, particularly responding to child protection needs during emergencies. UNICEF supported training of more than 5,000 child protection officers and 2,000 teachers with improved their capacity to respond to violence against children and gender-based violence, and on primary mental health and psychosocial support to children during emergencies.

COVID-19 has impacted the lives of more than 3,000 children who lost parental care due to death, illness or separation in 2021, thereby placing them at heightened risk for violence, neglect or exploitation. Mobilizing to protect these children from institutional placement, UNICEF worked with government and civil society partners to identify, gather information and provided essential case management for all affected children, prioritizing family and community-based care, education and social protection support. UNICEF also supported MOLISA to develop national guidelines on child safeguarding in residential care institutions. UNICEF also supported capacity building of the child protection system to mitigate child protection risk in UNICEF targeted provinces. UNICEF extended support to the provision of case management, emergency support, food packages, learning aids, legal aid, and psychosocial support, reaching 11,762 children. Furthermore, through the partnership with Ho Chi Minh City Association for Protection of Children's Rights (HAPCR) and the Ho Chi Minh City Youth Union, UNICEF supported a joint initiative⁹ to provide relief packages to 6,300 families with children who have lost one or both parents, as well as extremely vulnerable families with children who have been hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The emergency situation adversely affected children's mental health and psychosocial well-being as children and their families faced increased protection risks, stress, trauma, and anxiety. School closures exposed children, particularly girls, to domestic violence and left them at higher risk of neglect, exploitation and abuse. Threats to children's protection were assessed to be immediate, but also medium-termed and long-termed. Children faced numerous safety risks of accidents and injuries at the onset and during the floods, including drowning. Children without parental care were counted among those who were particularly vulnerable. Loss of family livelihoods translated into an increased risk of child labour in the aftermath of the emergency. Insufficient data related to violence and abuse during the emergency was due to the fact that most cases often went unreported, making children and women victims at risk of violence particularly vulnerable. In close coordination with UNFPA and the MOLISA, UNICEF reached 3,900 children in identified vulnerable districts in all targeted six provinces with dignity kits containing essential supplies. The supplies provided girls and women in Ha Tinh, Kon Tum, Quang Binh, Quang Nam, Quang Ngai and Quang Tri provinces with immediate and gender-sensitive support, including personal safety and hygiene items. The dignity kits served as an entry-point for UNICEF to reach communities, allowing it to identify those vulnerable to violence and abuse in collaboration with national and sub-national authorities, and refer cases to relevant services.

With UNICEF technical support, the MOLISA intensified its work at grassroots level to identify the most affected girls and boys in need of specialized case management and psychosocial support. For this purpose, under UNICEF-supported interventions, 34 facilitators at the central and provincial levels were trained on psychosocial support, psychological first aid (PFA) and case management. Later, these trained facilitators provided support to selected districts as resource persons in training 425 frontline workers to provide protection and psychological support to children and their families in affected communities. UNICEF reached a total of 30,282 children and parents with psychosocial support and case management services. To keep children and women safe from violence and abuse, from injuries and life threats as well as to

⁹ The joint initiative named "Delivery for Good" is a partnership among Mastercard, Grab Viet Nam and Central Retails

prevent family separations, in parallel with provision of essential supplies and psychosocial support, UNICEF conducted communications activities with messages on prevention of risks during emergencies that were effectively conveyed to those most in need.

Indicators	Cluster/sector 2021 Target	Cluster/sector total results	UNICEF 2021 Target	UNICEF Total results
Flood and storms responses				
Number of children who received emergency protection supplies	4,956	N/A	3,400	3,900
Number of children and caregivers reached with psychosocial support and case management services	120,000	N/A	33,400	30,282
Results are achieved through contributions against appeals, as well as resources from UNICEF's regular programmes where necessary.				
COVID-19 response				
Number of children who received emergency protection supplies	N/A	N/A	N/A	6,300
Number of children reached with case management and psychosocial support	N/A	N/A	10,000	14,762

Social & Behaviour Change Communication

COVID-19 responses

UNICEF and its partners were successful in bringing about positive social and behavior change during the pandemic using communications tools. To enable behavior change for life saving, UNICEF disseminated messages on COVID-19 prevention and vaccination on social media, resulting in 77.2 million reaches on UNICEF Viet Nam Facebook page. Theme-based campaigns were conducted under the context of COVID-19 pandemic on social media and mass media. Notably, UNICEF celebrated the World Breastfeeding Week with messages on the importance of breast feeding to young children during COVID-19, reaching more than 13 million people. UNICEF also advocated messages on the promotion of clean water solutions during COVID-19 via the 2021 World Water Week “Building Resilience Faster” campaign, reaching 15 million people.

UNICEF collaborated with Government counterparts (MOH, MARD) and other partners (NGOs, private sector) to organize a communication campaign in celebration of the Global Handwashing Day (GHD) 2021 to promote and advocate for daily handwashing with soap, especially during COVID-19. GHD 2021 with the theme “Our Future is at Hand – Let’s Move Forward Together” campaign’s messages have reached 16 million people via social media. UNICEF supported Dien Bien provincial government to organize GHD

celebration events at 18 schools with the participation of more than 8,000 students and teachers to promote handwashing with soap.

In response to the learning loss of students during school closure, UNICEF conducted “Keep Children Safe and Learning during COVID-19” campaign, promoting and ensuring the continuity of learning for all children in Viet Nam. The campaign’s messages have reached 15 million people via social media.

Natural disaster responses

In 2021, UNICEF’s substantial support strengthened Viet Nam Disaster Management Authority’s capacity and institutions in disaster risk management in COVID-19 context. Online training courses were conducted to update disaster risk management plans in light of COVID-19’s pandemic. The plans which included a communication component were specifically focused on the most vulnerable people, especially children, and aimed to enhance people’s resilience to “the dual challenges” natural disasters and COVID-19’s pandemic. Over 21,000 specialized officials from 63 provinces participated in the training through online platform. In addition, to sustain the effort, several rounds of consultations were held to develop guidelines on managing disaster risks in COVID-19’s context, which were disseminated to all 63 provinces in the country.

UNICEF also supported VNDMA to produce and disseminate a series of communication materials including video clips and infographics, to educate children, families, and communities about disaster risk reduction in the COVID-19 context. These materials were sent to more than 27 million people via mass media and social media including Zalo – the Vietnamese most used SMS platform.

In order to respond to the storms, flood and landslides in the central region, and for disaster preparedness in the northern mountainous region, UNICEF provided a cross-sectoral child-friendly communications package of messages for emergency preparedness, response and recovery periods. UNICEF developed the messages package and reach 1.2 million people, in close coordination with VNDMA. With UNICEF’s support, VNDMA has produced and distributed, via mass and social media channels including local TV/Radio stations and Zalo, seven video clips and eight radio spots in three ethnic languages (Kinh, Pako, Van Kieu) and sign language. The messages promoted critical life-saving practices such as use of clean water and hygiene including handwashing, health issues including immunization and water-borne disease prevention, nutrition, food hygiene practice, child drowning and injury prevention, child protection, psychosocial support, and well-being. VNDMA’s Zalo account now has nearly 200,000 followers, helping to widely disseminate life-saving messages during the storms and floods in central Viet Nam. These messages on storms and floods reached more than four million people in central region through Zalo, out of 4.7 million of the total population in the affected central provinces. Interpersonal communication (face-to-face communication) is also conducted on topics such as WASH and child protection through group discussions and school activities for children, including one-minute videos.

Besides, UNICEF activated communication plans during floods emergency to raise awareness of children most-in-need and to support resource mobilization emergency responses. With the comparative advantage of high visibility online, UNICEF Viet Nam was also able to attract public attention to its compelling communications content on digital platforms during the floods and storms in the central region, thus successful mobilizing more funding for the humanitarian response.

Important lessons learnt, in relation to active and continuous communications, included the importance of investment in the creation of innovative, engaging, fact-based professional multimedia assets tailored to platforms and targeted to specific audiences to boost engagement at a time when people are spending more time online and looking for trusted information. Adapting content to ethnic minority and sign languages also ensured that messages reached and engaged the most vulnerable children.

Indicators	Themes	Cluster/ sector 2021 Target	Cluster/ sector total results	UNICEF 2021 Target	UNICEF Total results
Number of people reached through social media	COVID-19 emergency responses	N/A	N/A	60 million people	60 million people
	Storm and floods (central region)	N/A	N/A	4.7 million people	4 million people ²
	Extreme cold weather (nationwide) ¹	N/A	N/A	N/A	27 million people
<p>¹ Due to the severely cold weather in the week of 11 January 2021, UNICEF supported VNDMA to send a series of Zalo messages on life-saving behaviours to avoid serious impacts of the extremely cold weather on people, especially children, as well as on cattle and crops. The messages were sent to 31 affected provinces, including the six central provinces already affected by the floods.</p> <p>² Through VNDMA's Zalo</p>					

Results Achieved from Humanitarian Thematic Funding

The humanitarian thematic funds contributed to reaching 67,654 people with WASH supplies and 45,000 school children with ECD kits for the education sector. The fund also contributed to strengthening the preparedness for emergency by prepositioning emergency WASH supplies, benefiting 37,972 people with resilient WASH services during emergencies. As such, the thematic funding for the humanitarian response greatly supported both the WASH sector, which required immediate responses and the education sector, which was critically underfunded.

Thematic funding added value by ensuring that UNICEF could respond quickly and equitably to the needs of children affected by crisis and flexibly address the most affected provinces as typhoons hit. Notably, the humanitarian thematic fund supported the immediate response in WASH supplies which were urgently needed at the time when regular water sources were contaminated and access to clean water and sanitation was disrupted. In addition, the flexible funding allows the ECD kits to be prioritized for distribution to the most affected students and schools, mainly remotely located satellite schools. This contributed to children's sense of normalcy which helped their psychosocial well-being, and their right to education protected by gaining access to learn-through-play opportunities with child-friendly and age-appropriate content provided by the ECD kits. The thematic funding also strengthens future emergency responses by supporting the procurement of water filters which strengthens the resilience of communities in responding to disasters.

The humanitarian thematic funding complemented other resources available and contributed to the overall results. Primarily, the funding was used to support VNDMA for the distribution of WASH supplies of 1,565 ceramic filters and 19,939 detergent packs to some of the most affected communities in Ha Tinh and Quang Binh provinces. It also contributed to the prepositioning of a total of 383 water filters in Quang Binh, Quang Tri, Quang Nam and Phu Yen provinces, benefiting 37,972 people, of which 23,745 are children. UNICEF's procurement of 900 ECD kits which reached the most vulnerable and affected children and supported their continued learning in four provinces, i.e., Quang Binh, Quang Tri, Thua Thien Hue and Quang Nam.

Thematic funding facilitated the collaboration between the government counterparts and UNICEF. For example, it facilitated collaboration between UNICEF and MOET in delivering education supplies to remote schools to which no additional funding by the State was allocated. The funding also contributed to closer collaboration with VNDMA, the lead agency in coordinating emergency responses in the central Viet Nam and promoted awareness among partners on the importance of prepositioning supplies before an emergency. In addition, thanks to the thematic funding (and other resources), UNICEF was able to co-lead the education sector with Save the Children (an INGO) and lead the WASH sector emergency coordination, which strengthened UNICEF's support to the Government in emergency response coordination, such as promoting information sharing and mapping partner interventions to avoid overlaps of activities and duplication of efforts.

Assessment, Monitoring and Evaluation

UNICEF Viet Nam had a system in place to closely monitor the development of humanitarian situations in constant contact with VNDMA for real-time updates from it and National Centre for Hydro-Meteorological Forecasting. When UNICEF, together with United Nations Disaster Response Management Team, and VNDMA agree on an emerging situation that demands urgent action, rapid assessments are conducted alongside a series of early actions. From 20 to 23 October 2020, when the severe floods and storm emergency in central Viet Nam emerged, UNICEF joined VNDMA, UN agencies and other partners to conduct rapid assessments in the most affected provinces. The assessments identified 1.5 million children at risk. Storm Molave, which hit Viet Nam on 25 October 2020, further increased the number of children at risk to more than 2.5 million. The assessment informed emergency responses conducted in late 2020 and early 2021 to provide life-saving supplies and services to children and families at risk.

Viet Nam's response to the coronavirus pandemic was launched on January 15, 2020 with the convening of the National Steering Committee (NSC) with the Ministry of Health (MoH) playing an important role. As for the UN, the Resident Coordinator has the mantle of overall leadership of the UN COVID-19 response effort, driving coherence between this socio-economic response and recovery and the health response. UNICEF worked with WHO in health and COVID-19 prevention and control in several joint efforts, such as advocacy letters, media releases and high-level meetings, advocating for further attention and support to reduce disparities in maternal and child mortality and health outcomes, and in providing COVID-19 vaccines free of charge to all. UNICEF also partnered with FAO on advocacy on social protection and food security for populations made vulnerable by emergencies, including COVID-19.

UNICEF continued to monitor the social and economic impacts of COVID-19 on children and vulnerable populations and advocated, together with UN agencies and International Financial Institutions including the World Bank and International Monetary Fund, for increased public investment in social protection. UNICEF commissioned a follow-up study on the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19 on children and families to inform Viet Nam's policies and plans on COVID-19 recovery.

The overall response to the storms, floods and landslides was coordinated by line ministries as members of the Central Committee for Natural Disaster Prevention and Control (CCNDPC), with VNDMA playing a key role. The Disaster Management Group (DMG) was convened by the UN Resident Coordinator's Office (RCO) that led coordination among UN agencies, while the Disaster Management Working Group (DMWG) consisted of INGOs in Viet Nam engaged in disaster management. The DMG conducted a joint assessment with VNDMA and developed a cross-sectoral response plan based on each sector's plans, with support from OCHA's Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP). UNICEF led the Nutrition and WASH sector coordination groups, co-led the Education sector with Save the Children, and led the Child Protection sub-sector under the Protection sector, led by UN Women. In 2021, UNICEF continue coordinated the development of a comprehensive joint emergency response plan covering all sectors (WASH, education, child protection, health and nutrition) with line ministries, UN agencies and INGOs. All sector coordination groups were activated for timely information sharing and collaboration. Partners' interventions, mapping exercises and regular updates were shared to avoid duplication of efforts and maximize effectiveness.

Since the beginning of the roll-out of emergency responses, UNICEF regularly monitored the implementation of joint plans to ensure expected results on the ground by working closely with the partners and through field monitoring trips. Monitoring teams visited affected schools, health centres and households to obtain feedback on the UNICEF-supported response. This allowed adjustments to programmes designed

to meet the needs of the affected population. For example, in the WASH sector a language barrier was identified that prevented local communities from using WASH supplies correctly. UNICEF immediately took corrective measures by translating the WASH materials into local languages and conducted face-to-face communication sessions on usage of WASH supplies.

Financial Analysis

UNICEF appealed for \$5,453,800 to address the urgent needs of the most vulnerable children, their families, and communities in the most affected provinces by the storms and floods in the central region and COVID-19 pandemic. UNICEF mobilized \$875,975 thanks to the generous contributions of donors. The mobilized contributions supported responses that included, but were not limited to, providing health, nutrition, education, WASH and child protection services to children in emergency situation. The resources allowed UNICEF and its partners to deliver a principled, timely, quality and child-centered humanitarian response during the COVID-19 emergency.

UNICEF Viet Nam is especially thankful for the flexible humanitarian funds received that allowed timely, flexible and equitable responses addressing the urgent needs of children, their families and communities. The below list only captures funding received for COVID-19 emergency responses in 2021. For storms and floods specific funding, please go to consolidated emergency report 2020 for more information.

Table 1: Funding status against the appeal by sector

Sector	Requirements	Funds Available Against Appeal as of 31 December 2021*		% Funding Gap
		Funds Received in 2021	Carry-Over	
Health & Nutrition	969,600	196,361	0	20%
Education	1,599,800	104,639	0	8%
Water and Environmental Sanitation	794,800	53,975	0	3%
Child Protection	794,800	524,000	0	66%
Communication	794,800	N/A	0	0%
Total	5,453,800	875,975	0	16%

* Funds available includes funds received against current appeal. Carry-over amount should be refer to CER 2020.

Table 2: Funding received and available by 31 December 2021 by donor and funding type (in US\$)

Donor Name/Type of funding	Programme Budget Allotment reference	Overall Amount*
I. Humanitarian funds received in 2021		
a) Thematic Humanitarian Funds		
See details in Table 3		
b) Non-Thematic Humanitarian Funds		

Norwegian Committee for UNICEF (Accenture)	SM210869	367,500
UNFPA - USA	SM210290	410,000
FAO - Italy		34,189
Total Non-Thematic Humanitarian Funds		811,689
Total humanitarian funds received in 2021		878,975

* Programmable amounts of donor contributions, excluding recovery cost.

** 2020 loans have not been waived; COs are liable to reimburse in 2021 as donor funds become available.

Table 3: Thematic humanitarian contributions received in 2021

Thematic Humanitarian Contributions Received in 2021 (in USD): Donor	Grant Number	Programmable Amount	Total Contribution Amount
		(in USD)	(in USD)
Australian Committee for UNICEF	SM1899100957	18,843.35	19,786
United States Fund for UNICEF	SM1899100937	45,247	47,500
Total		64,080	67,286

*Global **Thematic** Humanitarian Funding contributions are pooled and then allocated to country and regional offices by EMOPS. A detailed list of grants will be available in the 2020 Humanitarian Action Global Annual Results Report.

Future Work Plan

COVID-19 and frequent natural disasters exposed new challenges to the realization of children's rights. Building upon the lessons learnt, UNICEF will work towards strengthening the coherence between humanitarian and development work. The socio-economic impacts of the pandemic made it even more critical for stakeholders to close the digital divide, address adolescent mental health issues, strengthen social protection and address violence against women and children. Child-sensitive climate change adaptation, mitigation, disaster risk reduction, environmental protection are urgently needed to ensure children live in a safe, green and clean environment. The new country programme 2022 – 2026 embraces these needs and challenges through innovative and risk-informed programming and expanded strategic partnerships. It will also strengthen the capacity of implementing partners to leverage technology and digital tools in overcoming challenges during COVID-19 and natural disasters.

UNICEF will also strengthen its emergency preparedness and responses which are equity focused. Lessons learnt from monitoring trips and evaluation show that there is a need to ensure inclusive communication interventions in ethnic minority languages and address challenges for the most vulnerable population, including the ethnic population. As COVID-19 continues, UNICEF will support reinforcing the messaging on COVID-19 preventive practices including COVID-19 vaccination, especially reaching the hard-to-reach population, including ethnic population and those with disabilities.

*For any feedback, please fill in this [donor feedback form](#).

Case Study 1: Bringing the gift of learning to children in central Viet Nam

The Regional Humanitarian Thematic Funds contributed by the French National Committee of UNICEF supported the continuation of learning during humanitarian crises, reaching 45,000 young children in the most affected communities through emergency educational supplies.

From 6 October to 17 November 2020, Viet Nam's Central region was hit by seven consecutive tropical storms, which brought sustained heavy rain resulting in devastating landslides and cascading floods. An estimated 153,000 children (of which 49 per cent are girls) who already experienced learning loss due to COVID-19 have had their learning further disrupted. At least 862 school buildings have been reported damaged, with broken latrines and or unroofed. Many school facilities and learning materials are destroyed by strong wind and floodwater. The MOET requested assistance from international and national organizations to provide school supplies and repairs.



Representatives of UNICEF and the Ministry of Education and Training inspected the quality of ECD kits during the handover ceremony in Da Nang city, Viet Nam

To support the continuity of learning, there was an urgent need to provide learning materials that are child-friendly to the affected schools. As a result, the fund from French Committee for UNICEF contributed to the procurement of 900 ECD kits, with support from MOET to distribute the emergency educational supplies. In addition, UNICEF provided technical support to MOET to identify the most vulnerable and affected communities to ensure the continuity of learning.

The provision of ECD kits offers young children access to play, stimulation and early learning. Through this process, young children are in a protective and developmental environment for physical and mental health, optimal growth, lifelong learning, social and emotional competencies and productivity. It contributes to children's sense of normalcy which helped their psychosocial well-being, and their right to education by having access to learn-through-play opportunities provided by the child-friendly and age-appropriate content of the ECD kits.

The intervention is critical for UNICEF and added value to the overall humanitarian programme by responding to the disruption of learning caused by the damages of school supplies and teaching materials and ensuring the continuation of a stimulating and quality early childhood education. The provision of ECD kits is expected to meet the immediate needs of children and respond to their learning loss caused by the disaster.

One lesson learnt was UNICEF's dependence on offshore procurement and shipment caused delays in response to the emergency. Learning from the experience, UNICEF will work towards prepositioning emergency educational supplies with partners to facilitate rapid deployment to the impacted areas in emergency contexts. Thus, the humanitarian fund received also contributes to the preparedness for future emergency situations in Viet Nam.



Clean water amid natural disasters in Viet Nam

Story by Chu Huu Trang

(Ho Thi La and her son Ho Van Huy are happy to receive ceramic water filter from UNICEF. ©UNICEF Viet Nam/Vu Le Hoang.)

Quang Tri, 18 January 2021:

“Our roof was blown off. It was flooded everywhere. There was not enough drinking water, so we had to collect rainwater and even use the runoff around the house,” said Ho Thi La, as she recounted the trail of destruction left by two typhoons that slammed into Xare village and central Viet Nam more broadly in October, 2020.

Like many villages in Quang Tri province, this poor Van Kieu ethnic minority-dominated one was also confronted by an immediate challenge in the aftermath of consecutive

typhoons that caused widespread flooding and landslides in nine provinces and severely affected 7.7 million people, including 2.5 million children.

“We used to take water from a neighbor’s bore well. Every month we would contribute VND 20,000 (nearly USD 1) worth of electricity for water pumping to this family. But during the typhoons, the electricity was cut off and our family had no water containers. So, my family and my mother-in-law did not have enough water to drink,” added 25-year-old La.

The household she shares with her two children aged 3 and 7 years along with her 30-year-old husband Ho Van Do is one of the

poorest in the village, located in Huong Hoa district’s Huong Tan commune. During the typhoons, the family had to stay with La’s mother-in-law next door, one of two charity houses the commune helped build in 2016.

While they rebuilt the roof last month after other families in the village donated old roofing, the severe impacts of the recent typhoons are still evident on the torn bamboo walls.

“What we want most now is to fix our house to make it more sturdy. Our second wish is to build a well so that the family can have enough drinking water, especially during typhoons,” said La.



(Ho Thi La washes ceramic water filter before using. ©UNICEF Viet Nam/Vu Le Hoang)

The threat of typhoons and flooding is very real for La's village, with Viet Nam one of the world's most vulnerable countries to the intensifying impacts of climate change⁽¹⁾.

Her family's livelihood also came under threat, with its 500-square-metre rice field completely flooded during the typhoons. Normally if the weather is good, the plot can yield two crops of rice each year to feed her family for 10 months. To cover other living costs, the couple does odd jobs and picks coffee beans, but only during the two-month coffee harvesting season. However, due

to the COVID-19 pandemic and since the typhoons especially, it has been a struggle to find work.

"We would wash ourselves and our clothes in the stream behind the house. When we need to go to the toilet, we would just go out and dig a hole. We do not have a toilet. And most of our neighbours don't either," said La. Open defecation remains a problem for this community, despite Viet Nam making significant strides to become open defecation free. This problem is exacerbated by natural disasters as it increases the risk of infectious diseases⁽²⁾.

In response to the typhoons and the vulnerability of Xare village and others like it in central Viet Nam, UNICEF with funding from

the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) is taking action to meet these communities' needs and heighten their resilience against the increasingly intense impacts of climate change. To ensure the family can access clean and safe drinking water, especially during natural disasters, La and Do endured 10 degree temperatures – in one of the most extreme cold snaps to hit the tropical region in the last 20 years – to go five kilometers to the commune people's committee building to receive a ceramic filter provided by UNICEF for disadvantaged households affected by the storms.

In addition to relief goods for improved WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene) practices in the

aftermath of the storms, UNICEF is also working to support such communities with interventions in the areas of child protection, nutrition and disease prevention, with a strong focus on disadvantaged groups like La's family. To further boost community resilience, UNICEF has conducted communication activities to provide the

knowledge and skills to help people mitigate the impacts of natural disasters. This information is widely spread across mass and social media, with an offline approach also taken with group discussions and household visits to ethnic minority communities that face language barriers and lack access to mass media.

While waiting for its own well, La's family is now confident it is better prepared to weather future storms with this UNICEF-delivered ceramic filter guaranteeing one of the essentials of life – clean water, even in times of crisis.

(1) Viet Nam is the sixth most climate change-affected country globally at risk from a variety of threats, including floods, droughts, typhoons and saltwater intrusion.

(2) Reduced access to water for washing, ablutions and handwashing results in increased incidences of diarrhea, dysentery, and skin diseases that mainly affect children and women. Moreover, children's health is also potentially further compromised by risks of malnutrition.

(Ho Van Huy is very happy to drink clean water. ©UNICEF Viet Nam/Vu Le Hoang)

