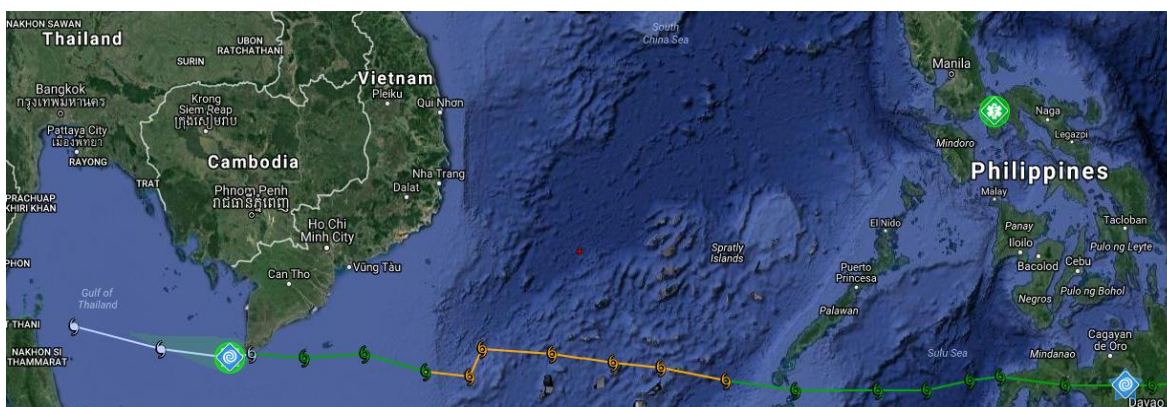




This report is produced by Office of the UN Resident Coordinator in Viet Nam in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It covers the period from 24 to 26 December 2017.

## Situation overview

- Tropical Storm Tembin, the 16<sup>th</sup> tropical storm to threaten Viet Nam in 2017, was first classified as a weak tropical depression on 16 December, and gradually intensified into a tropical storm on 20 December. On 25 December, the storm was downgraded to a tropical depression.
- The storm was expected to hit Viet Nam on late Monday, 25 December 2017, in the Southern provinces of Ba Ria - Vung Tau to Ca Mau in the Mekong River Delta with winds up to 120 km/hour and squalls at a maximum of 150 km/hour, but failed to make landfall. In Viet Nam's Truong Sa archipelago, the hardest-hit area of Typhoon Tembin, the storm uprooted trees and blew off house roofs, and destroyed parts of the water irrigation system and power grid.
- As of 25 December, more than 650,000 people have been evacuated, using schools and community buildings as temporary shelters for residents. On 26 December, all evacuated people could return to their homes. In addition, pupils, students and workers were instructed to stay at home on 25 and 26 December, and provincial authorities near the shoreline banned all fishing vessels to go out to sea.
- No major damages to infrastructure have been reported so far. All health care services are fully functioning, and no risks to the public health have been recorded. No requests for central assistance have been made by local health authorities.
- The Government of Viet Nam, through the Central Committee for Natural Disaster Prevention and Control (CCNDPC) coordinated preparedness and response activities in the threatened provinces at national level. The Viet Nam Red Cross, as well as the UN, both at country and regional level, and INGOs are closely monitoring the situation, and will provide support if required.



Source: Pacific Disaster Center (PDC), Status: 25 December 2017)

## Humanitarian Response

- On 24 December, Prime Minister Phuc chaired a CCNDPC teleconference at the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) in Hanoi, where he ordered local authorities to evacuate residents, and mobilized police and army forces to assist with reinforcing houses and to ensure the safety of offshore oil rigs. In addition, local farmers were instructed to harvest crops to minimize harvest losses.

- The CCNDPC closely monitored the situation, and kept a close eye on reservoir and water discharge operations to prevent downstream flooding. On 25 December, a CCNDPC delegation led by MARD Minister Cuong carried out visits to the provinces of Kien Giang and Ca Mau to directly oversee preparedness activities.
- Authorities at both central, provincial and local level proactively carried out preparedness activities, including setting in place necessary measures for safety and evacuation of more than 650,000 residents and tourists, measures for effective drainage and irrigation, and ship/boat inventories to better prepare for potential rescue missions.
- Authorities from coastal provinces from Khanh Hoa to Kien Giang issued offshore fishing bans and instructed vessels to not go out to sea, while the provinces of Ba Ria - Vung Tau, Ho Chi Minh City, Tien Giang, Ben Tre, Tra Vinh, Soc Trang, Bac Lieu, Ca Mau and Kien Giang implemented mass evacuation plans. Concerns have been expressed by both national and local authorities given there is a lack of experience for the affected provinces in coping with storms of this magnitude and insufficient storm-resilience of infrastructure.
- The Ministry of Health (MOH) issued urgent letters to provincial departments to direct preparedness and response measures to ensure full access to emergency health services, if needed.
- Local authorities mobilized volunteers and vehicles in the Southern provinces to support potential clean-up efforts, and have applied measures to protect thousands of hectares of shrimp and aquaculture farms, and rice fields.
- On 25 December, the Viet Nam Red Cross met to prepare for the worst potential scenarios, and to discuss the preparation of response activities.

## General Coordination and Forecast

Heavy rains, strong winds and rough seas are expected to continue along the coast of Southern-Central and Southern Viet Nam in the coming days, with downpours of up to 150 mm in the Mekong River Delta region and 100 mm in Ho Chi Minh City. Heavy rains are expected to spread to the Central and North-Central provinces on Tuesday and Wednesday, 26 and 27 December. Central and local authorities remain alert, as there is a risk of flash floods and landslides, especially in mountainous and low-lying areas.

The Government of Viet Nam, through the Central Committee for Natural Disaster Prevention and Control (CCNDPC) and the Viet Nam Disaster Management Authority (VNDMA) under the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD), serving as the CCNDPC Secretariat, is coordinating the response in the affected provinces and at the national level. The UN, both at country and regional level, as well as INGOs and the Viet Nam Red Cross are closely monitoring the situation, and will provide support if required.

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