

# Major Disasters in Vietnam

- ✚ Slow-onset floods
- ✚ Flash floods
- ✚ Landslides
- ✚ Typhoons
- ✚ Whirlwinds
- ✚ Drought



# **‘Disaster Resilient Communities’- An Agenda of DM Working Group- Vietnam**

1<sup>st</sup> Session, Global Platform  
June 7, 2007

# Disaster Management Working Group

- An informal working group bringing together all DM stakeholders working in DM in Vietnam
- Formed in 1999 after flooding in Central provinces
- (Informal) members: Government departments, UN organization, INGOs, institutions and professionals
- Monthly meetings
- Disaster Preparedness activities:
  - To coordinate disaster risk reduction;
  - Exchange experiences, lessons learnt etc (link- Hyogo framework for Action HFA- priority 1);
  - To advocate for CBDRM;
  - To work with National Government (Vietnamese governmental DM bodies) on DM policy, strategy issues.
- Emergency response activities:
  - Conduct joint assessments;
  - Donor briefings ( HFA- priority 5)
  - Coordinating donor support (allocation of needs and support)

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# Disaster Preparedness approach by the different stakeholders (1)

- Awareness raising:
  - Community trainings on DM
  - IEC materials
  - Local broadcasting (TV, radio, loudspeakers)
- Participatory/community based:
  - Assessments of vulnerabilities and capacities;
  - Action planning for risk management;
- Risk mitigation measures:
  - Strengthening early warning systems;
  - Strengthening houses
  - Building shelters;
  - First Aid/Search and Rescue training;
  - ...

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Community assessment and risk reduction planning

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# Disaster Preparedness approach by the different stakeholders (2)

- Capacity building of local partners:
  - Rapid assessment training;
  - Training of trainers in community based assessments;
  - Training of builders for safe construction
  - On-the-job support;
  - Bottom-up approaches.
- Advocacy
  - Working with national bodies to integrate DM into broader development strategy and policies





Awareness raising at the community

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# Emergency Response approach by the different stakeholders

- Strong coordination by authorities, NGOs, donors:
  - Developing standards and formats;
  - Training stakeholders in using standards and formats.
  - Joint rapid impact and needs assessments;
  - Information/situation updates;
  - Donor meetings (fund raising);
  - Allocation of support.
- Local capacity building:
  - Establish/train/equip Emergency Response teams
- Mass evacuation by authorities at all levels
- Annual emergency drills
- SPHERE standards:
  - Translated into Vietnamese;
  - Trainings and dissemination on use of SPHERE



# Strengths of DM in Vietnam

- Availability of capable and experienced national staff
- Readiness to coordinate among authorities, NGOs, donors
- Complementary approaches (structural and non-structural)
- Organizational structure (from national to community) and top-down management enable swift response in emergency situations.
- Well-developed infrastructure and public services
  - Road network to local level;
  - Nation wide loudspeaker system (for early warning and response)
  - Community shelter



**Loud speakers for community early warning**

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# Challenges of DM in Vietnam

- Increase practical experience in community based approach and its mainstreaming
- Integration of disaster management into broader development
- More attention for disaster preparedness and prevention at national level, reflecting community based approaches
- More balanced allocation of resources for non-structural preparedness
- Increase adaptation to climate change and drought

## Other network initiatives

Other DM networks have developed in Vietnam, addressing different audiences.

These include:

- Natural Disaster Mitigation Partnership (NDMP)
- Dipecho Advocacy Network Initiative
- Communes Prevention Network

# The Natural Disaster Mitigation Partnership (NDMP)

- **Overall Objective:** To support the achievement of national goals and objectives through a coordinated, strategic, sector-wide approach to natural disaster mitigation in Vietnam.

The NATURAL DISASTER MITIGATION PARTNERSHIP



## Specific NDMP objectives:


1. *Manage and share information*, including lessons learned, results achieved and proposals for future, among participating agencies for improved coordination in natural disaster mitigation; and *raise awareness and community involvement* for effective natural disaster reduction;
2. *Advise Government* on legislation, policies, and strategies on natural disaster risk management; and
3. *Facilitate the development of institutional capacity* for an integrated approach to natural disaster reduction at the central and provincial levels; Facilitate the development and funding of priority disaster mitigation projects.

The NATURAL DISASTER MITIGATION PARTNERSHIP

# Strategy of the NDM-Partnership


- A two-track approach adopted by the Partnership:
- **Support the Government and local communities in developing good policy framework and institutional capacity** to implement national and local priorities for disaster mitigation.
- **Support the prioritization of interventions in disaster reduction** that forms an integral part of development policies and planning and facilitate fund mobilization for and deployment of priority projects suiting to development strategies of Government, Donors and NGOs.

The NATURAL DISASTER MITIGATION PARTNERSHIP



**Newsletter**

**NATURAL DISASTER MITIGATION**



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**In the Spotlight:**

El Nino ends,  
La Nina begins

Rainfall and water forecast  
in the coming months

Organizational  
Chart of Central  
Committee for Flood  
and Storm Control

NDMP Activities in  
the first quarter of 2007

Government supports  
extra 200 billion VND to  
upgrade sea dyke system

Ha Nam grows bamboos  
to protect Red river  
dykes from waves

Long term commitment and  
Community based activities  
contributed to disaster  
mitigation in Hai Phong  
province and other northern  
coastal provinces of Vietnam

More to lose:  
reducing family  
vulnerability to  
floods and storms



Photo: "Donor's Perspectives" workshop in Hanoi, 20 March 2007

**"Donor's Perspectives on the Experiences of Sector Partnerships in MARD" Conference**

H.E. Cao Duc Phat, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development chaired a conference between MARD and the donors in 20 March 2007.

The conference focused on the Partnership's experience, challenges and rising problems in order to help the harmonization and effectiveness of Partnerships' activities.

MARD has openly shared with donors the achievements of Partnership as well as their advantages and limitations. The dialogue between MARD and donors have been enhanced, especially about policies, strategies and priority activities in agriculture and rural development. The conference also aimed at improving the coordination between MARD and donors, NGOs and other relevant ministries.

Nguyễn Thành Phương, NDMP


**Celebration of "World Meteorological Day" (22 March) and "World Water Day" (23 March)**

The celebration ceremony of World Meteorological Day (22/3) and World Water Day (23/3) was held at Melia Hotel on the 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2007 by the MONRE. Mr. Mai Ai Truc, Minister of MONRE, representatives of relevant ministries and agencies, CCFSC, the state media, FAO, UNICEF, etc attend this ceremony. The topic of World Meteorological Day (WMD) in 2007 is "Dealing with Water Scarcity" and World Water Day (WWD) is "Meteorology at the Poles: Awareness of Global Impacts".

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The Netherlands  **Red Cross**

 **Save the Children**

## DIPECHO Advocacy Network Initiative

*Promoting Community Based Disaster Preparedness*

**DIPECHO Partners:** CARE International in Vietnam, Save the Children, Consortium of the Spanish Red Cross and Netherlands Red Cross, Development Workshop France, Consortium of the United Nations Development Program and Canadian Centre for International Studies and Cooperation, World Vision Vietnam.

**Background:** The European Commission through DIPECHO supports Community-Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM) activities in South East Asia. Last year, DIPECHO partner NGOs in Vietnam pledged to work together for the common goal of increasing CBDRM advocacy. The result was the DIPECHO Advocacy Network Initiative (DANI) which supports ongoing efforts to build collaboration between disaster management stakeholders at all levels.



### **Project Objectives:**

- To improve coherence and efficiency of CBDRM project implementation by DIPECHO Partners.
- To increase awareness of CBDRM through advocacy initiatives at the national, provincial and local levels.



**About the project:** DANI builds on a decade of positive results from the DIPECHO partners' projects in Vietnam's central, northern mountainous areas and in the Mekong Delta. The DIPECHO partners work to ensure that both communities and government authorities are able to plan for and mitigate the impact of potential disasters. DANI aims at improving the effectiveness of all CBDRM initiatives by increasing collaboration and building synergies between partners and their projects. The DIPECHO partners will also work together with beneficiaries to advocate for the greater support of CBDRM from the government and national-level agencies responsible for disaster preparedness.

|  |                    |
|--|--------------------|
| Conduct joint events at National Disaster Day and International Disaster Day   | 22 May/ 12 October |
| CBDRM Advocacy Skills Training   | June               |
| Compilation and sharing of CBDRM good practice examples  | June - October     |
| Establishment of an online CBDRM repository including training documents, appraisal tools, project materials, IEC, etc.        | June - March       |
| Collaboration on media campaigns and media promotion of CBDRM at local and national levels                                     | July - December    |
| Cross learning project visits by DIPECHO partners  | October            |
| Organisation of national level workshops (e.g. sharing experience on integration of CBDRM into socio-economic planning)        | November           |
| Organisation of policy-dialogues between local DIPECHO partners (provincial/district/commune) and national agencies and donors | Ongoing            |

**Donor:** European Commission Humanitarian Aid department, Disaster Preparedness Programme (DIPECHO)

**Beneficiaries:** Communities, Local Authorities, Government, DIPECHO Partners

**Project duration:** February 2007 - April 2008

**For further information contact:**



# Communes Prevention Network

Building on the experience of communes in DW prevention programmes since 2000 in Central Vietnam, and supported by Dipecho, the Communes Network, initiated in 2007 will:

- Encourage exchange between Communes of ideas & experience about implementing disaster prevention activities.
- Promote the transfer of community based skills from one commune to another
- Give greater opportunity to capitalise the experience of communes at provincial and higher levels

Whilst we talk of the importance of *community based* DRR initiatives, far too often, the real stakeholders, community leaders and representatives, are missing from the public debate about DRR.

# Many Thanks

