

Fact sheet

The Global Assessment Report for Disaster Risk Reduction 2011

The following fact sheet provides additional information to the GAR11 by highlighting some of the main findings of the Report together with some relevant facts about Viet Nam. It also briefly describes how UNDP Viet Nam has supported the Government of Viet Nam on various components of Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change Adaptation.



RISK TRENDS: ECONOMIC LOSSES UP, MORTALITY DOWN

“Mortality risk associated with major weather-related hazards is now declining globally, including in Asia, where most of the risk is concentrated. In contrast to mortality risk, estimated economic loss risk associated with floods and tropical cyclones is increasing in all regions.”

“The challenge of adapting to climate extremes gives increased urgency to addressing underlying risk drivers, reducing vulnerability and strengthening risk governance capacities. If disaster risks can be reduced, then the magnifying effect of climate change will also be reduced, and adaptation will be facilitated. The contemporary tendency to characterize all weather related disasters as manifestations of climate change underplays the role of the underlying risk drivers, and may point policy and planning in the wrong direction.”

- From 1990-2009, Viet Nam suffered an average annual loss of 457 people and estimated annual economic loss equivalent to 1.3% per GDP (PPP) or USD3.6 billion in 2010 GDP. In 2010, the estimated GDP (PPP) was approximately USD276.6 billion; there is a clear rising trend in annual economic loss over the last decade (UNDP).
- Viet Nam has a total population of 90.5 million (July 2011 estimate) with an annual population growth of 1.08%.
- As most of the population lives in low-lying river basins and coastal areas, more than 70% of the population is estimated to be exposed to risks from multiple natural hazards including: storms, typhoons, floods, flash floods, landslides, droughts and others..
- Population growth, combined with rapid socio-economic development, urbanization, pressures on natural resources and climate change impacts have increased the exposure and vulnerability of the population to multiple hazards and consequent disaster risks.

- UNDP is supporting the Disaster Management Center, of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) to **improve reporting and recording of disaster damage and needs** to improve risk assessment and analysis and encourage informed and evidence based decision-making.
- With support of UNDP, MARD, in close consultation with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MoNRE) will establish a **National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation** to encourage policy dialogue, research and collaboration.
- UNDP Viet Nam promotes a **comprehensive approach to disaster risk management in the context of a changing climate** that is built on well established and proven disaster risk management approaches integrating climate vulnerabilities and risks.



DROUGHT: THE HIDDEN RISK

“Drought losses and impacts are systematically reported in only a few countries, even though there are clear and significant impacts on agricultural production, rural livelihoods, and urban and economic sectors.”

“Drought impacts are most visible on agricultural production, with significant losses spilling over into other economic sectors. Maybe more than any other disaster risk, drought risk is constructed by economic decisions and social choice.”

“At local level, the social and economic impacts are disproportionately concentrated on poor rural households.”

- Drought is an annual phenomenon in Viet Nam, usually occurring from December to April. After typhoons and floods, drought is responsible for the highest amount of damage to livelihoods and the economy.
- A nationwide drought in 1998 affected around 3.1 million people, particularly in the central and southern provinces and in the Central Highlands, causing estimated damage of approximately VND500billion or USD37million. Other droughts in 2002 and 2005 caused estimated damage of VND2, 060billion (USD 135million) and VND1, 743billion (USD110million) respectively.
- In recent years, drought periods have started earlier and are lasting longer. In 2010, an unprecedented drought impacted on the majority of provinces in the country resulting in severe pressure on agricultural output and the provision of electricity.
- Responsibilities for drought risk management in Viet Nam are fragmented with different ministries and departments responsible for managing forests, agriculture, water and land use.

- In 2010 and 2011, UNDP and FAO issued a number of **situation reports** to raise attention to drought in Viet Nam amongst Government, NGOs and media.
- In August 2010, UNDP and FAO in cooperation with staff from MARD and MoNRE organized a **discussion meeting to raise awareness on drought and its impacts**; to provide updates on how the situation has been dealt with to date; and to discuss what can be done to address the issue of drought and its consequences in the short, medium and long term.
- Recently, UNDP has initiated discussions with JICA on organizing an **expert forum on drought** in Viet Nam and its impact on agriculture, electricity production and reservoir management.



GLOBAL EFFORTS: THE HYOGO FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION EFFECT

“Whereas good progress is being made in early warning, preparedness and response, countries are still struggling to address the underlying risk drivers.”

“Gender and public awareness are still not being adequately addressed.”

- The Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) was adopted by Viet Nam in 2005
- Viet Nam has placed considerable emphasis on upgrading early warning systems via investments in forecasting and in public communication (via TV, radio and local level loudspeakers). Early warning is also being improved for earthquakes and tsunamis.
- To standardize preparedness, response and encourage community participation, the Central Committee for Flood and Storm Control (CCFSC) adopted the *Four on the Spot motto*: ‘human resources on the spot, leadership on the spot, logistics on the spot and materials on the spot’.
- In July 2009, the Government approved the *“Community Awareness Raising and Community-Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM)”* programme. This ambitious USD53.5million programme will be implemented over a twelve-year period in 6,000 communes and villages frequently affected by disasters. A large component of the programme is focused on community education and awareness raising.

- In August 2010, MARD with technical assistance from UNDP carried out a **Mid-Term Review of the implementation of the HFA in Viet Nam** for the period 2009-2011.
- In 2011, UNDP will support the assessment and improvement of end-to-end **early warning systems** in selected provinces.
- UNDP supported MARD in the development of **Emergency Response and Early Recovery Guidelines** to provide detailed instructions for Government staff at the sub-national levels in emergency response operations and early recovery.
- Oxfam GB and UNDP have undertaken research on the **differential impacts of disasters and climate change on men, women, boys and girls** and developed a policy paper: *‘Responding to Climate Change in Viet Nam: Opportunities for Improving Gender Equality’*.



REVEALING RISK: VISIBLE TRADE-OFFS FOR INFORMED CHOICES

“Governments are liable for a significant part of total expected losses and they rarely have the contingency financing to match this liability.”

- Currently, the main sources of post-disaster financing for emergency relief and recovery expenditure of the Government are contingency budgets and in extreme cases, the National Reserve.
- Under the State Budget Law of 2002, central and local governments are required to allocate between 2-5% from their total planned budget for capital and recurrent expenditure to contingency budgets. This represented US\$650 million in 2008 (*World Bank*).
- The Government faces major reconstruction funding gaps in the aftermath of a disaster. Based on a preliminary catastrophe risk analysis, a one-in-50 year event would create an estimated reconstruction funding gap of between US\$850-900 million (*World Bank*).
- The funds are sufficient for emergency response but not for long-term recovery.
- Risk insurance schemes in agricultural sector are being piloted in 16 provinces from 2011-2013 (Decision 315 QD-TTg, March 2011)
- Several social development policies are in place that specifically target urban and rural poor by improving basic services, providing preferential loans, etc. Microfinance projects have been piloted but not yet systematically replicated. There is limited substantial or systematic progress, in disaster risk reduction insurance, social safety nets, cash transfers, etc.

- One of the three focus areas for the UN under the new One Plan 3 for the period 2012-2016 is '**Access to Quality Essential Services and Social Protection**' with targeted support for the development of social protection policies and legislation in response to emerging risks and vulnerabilities.
- Oxfam GB and UNDP have introduced and piloted the **Emergency Market Mapping and Analysis (EMMA)** methodology, an innovative post-disaster assessment approach encouraging market-based response and recovery operations.



REDEFINING DEVELOPMENT: SCALING-UP DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT

“Development must be redefined to be sensitive to disaster and climate risk.”

“Efforts to adapt to climate change must be aligned with disaster risk reduction objectives and strategies. For such integration to succeed, institutions must focus on prospective and corrective risk management, as well as building new partnerships at the local level, rather than on compensatory mechanisms.”

“Ecosystem-based risk management often realizes highly attractive cost-benefit ratios.”

“Truly participatory approaches provide an opportunity for scaling up innovative local initiatives. Affected communities must be allowed to participate in decision making in planning, which drives disaster risk, particularly in urban areas.”

- According to a new index of the vulnerability to the impacts of climate change over the next 30 years, Viet Nam is ranked 13th of 170 countries and is one of 16 “extreme risk” countries.
- 30% of the total population, or more than 30 million people, live in urban areas. 77% of the population growth in the last decade (2000-2009) occurred in the cities, meaning cities grew by 7.3 million over the last decade: the urban population is growing at an average rate of 3.4% per year annually adding one million people to the urban areas. Forecasts are that the urban population will reach 40 million — equivalent to 45% of the population by 2020 (*UN Habitat*).
- The total area of mangrove forests reduced from 400,000ha in 1943 to less than 60,000ha in 2008. Since the mid-nineties, the Government of Viet Nam, the Viet Nam Red Cross Society and various INGOs have undertaken mangrove afforestation programmes.

- UNDP and various INGOs are supporting the Ministry of Planning and Investment in developing **guidelines on mainstreaming disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation into Socio-Economic Development Plans (SEDP)**
- The **National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation** will encourage policy dialogue, research and collaboration amongst a broad cross section of stakeholders.
- MARD together with UNDP is chairing the **Community-Based Disaster Risk Management Technical Working Group**, a partnership of INGOs, Red Cross and UN agencies supporting the Government in the implementation of the CBDRM programme, bringing in technical expertise and local experience.
- In 2011, representatives of the five largest cities in Viet Nam showed their commitment to urban disaster risk management by signing up to the UNISDR **Resilient Cities Campaign**.



REFORMING RISK GOVERNANCE

“Effective local action requires human capacity, financial resources and political authority.

“Central policy responsibility for disaster risk reduction must be complemented by adequately decentralized and layered risk management functions, capacities and corresponding budgets.”

“Engaging citizens and affected communities requires a shift in the culture of public administration.”

- 55% of the budget for the Government’s CBDRM programme will be from the State Fund, 5% from residents and 40% - in the form of grants - from other Governments and international organizations. The budget for 2011 is VND5billion or USD245, 000.
- The Disaster Management Center (DMC) was established in 2009 and addresses an increased range of natural hazards. The DMC acts as the focal point for the CBDRM programme, fostering technical support and dialogue with the provincial authorities, non-government stakeholders and the local communities. Challenges to the implementation of the programme are being addressed by institutional and human resource capacity development and progress is accelerating during the second half of 2011.
- Over the next five years, the World Bank will invest more than USD30million in structural and non-structural CBDRM measures into ten central provinces.

- UNDP is supporting capacity building of Government officials through an extensive technical **training course on disaster risk management and climate change**.
- Technical support is being provided by UNDP to MARD in the development of a new comprehensive and innovative **Disaster Risk Management Law**, scheduled for approval by the National Assembly in 2012/13.
- In 2011, UNDP will support MARD in organizing an **evaluation of the implementation of the National Strategy for Natural Disaster Prevention, Response and Mitigation to 2020**.
- UNDP is forging **innovative partnerships at central and local level** between the Government and Mass Organizations, INGOs, academic bodies and the private sector to facilitate active participation and engagement disaster risk management.
- In close collaboration with partners, UNDP is taking a **pro-active and facilitating role in the different disaster risk management and climate change networks** in terms of knowledge and information sharing and policy dialogue.
- UNDP is taking forward its mandate in early recovery by developing an **early recovery network amongst disaster risk management practitioners**

References and resources

- *Climate Change Fact sheet. The Effects of Climate Change in Viet Nam and the UN's Responses.* UN Viet Nam, April 2011.
- *Breaking the waves: Impact analysis of a coastal afforestation and disaster preparedness programme, in Northern Viet Nam, 1994-2010,* P. Bolte, F. Barnaby, F. Rahmadana, et al, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, February 2011.
- *Building Resilience to Flood and Typhoon Hazards in Viet Nam.* I. Wilderspin, M. Coulier, N.H. Phuc, Viet Nam, 2011.
- *Decision 1002/QĐ-TTg: Community Awareness Raising and Community-Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM).* Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, July 2009.
- *Four-on-the-Spot Motto in Disaster Management. Key Contents and Application.* Joint Advocacy Network Initiative (JANI), 2010
- *Hazard Fact Sheet: The Possibility of Earthquakes and Tsunamis in Viet Nam.* UN Programme Coordination Group on Natural Disasters and Emergencies, March 2011.
- *Viet Nam. National Progress Report on the Implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action (2009-2011) – interim report.* Disaster Management Centre, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, September 2010.
- *Weathering the Storm: Options for Disaster Risk Financing in Vietnam.* World Bank, March 2010.
- <http://www.desinventar.net>
- <http://www.economywatch.com/economic-statistics/country/Vietnam/>
- <http://www.maplecroft.com/about/news/ccvi.html>
- The majority of the publications above are available on the website of the Central Committee for Flood and Storm Control: <http://www.cfsc.gov.vn>