

VIETNAM



BACKGROUND

Vietnam is one of the most hazard-prone countries in the East Asia and Pacific region. Located within the “Pacific Ring of Fire”—an area where a large number of earthquakes and volcanic eruptions occur in the basin of the Pacific Ocean—this rapidly developing country is highly exposed to a variety of other natural hazards, such as typhoons, floods, droughts, sea water intrusion, landslides and forest fires. Typhoons and floods are the most frequent and devastating of these, resulting in numerous casualties and damaged livelihoods. With a coastline of 3,200

kilometers, an estimated 70 percent of the population live in coastal areas and low-lying deltas, and therefore have increased exposure to flooding risk.

Further, a 2007 assessment report of the World Bank lists Vietnam as one of the five countries in the world most affected by climate change. For example, one-meter rise in the sea level would partially inundate one commune out of five—or five percent of the national land area, 11 percent of the population, and seven percent of the agricultural land.

QUICK FACTS

COUNTRY INDICATORS¹

GDP per capita (PPP)	\$5,294
Total Population	89,708,900
Income Level	Lower middle
Poverty ²	17%
Urban Population	32%

RISK PROFILE³

Lack of coping capacity	 4.7
Vulnerability	 2.0
Hazard and exposure	 5.3
Overall risk	 3.7

KEY PRIORITIES

1. Integration of DRM into development planning
2. Financing platform for DRM investments
3. Community-based DRM
4. Early warning and weather information systems
5. Financial protection

¹ World Bank: free and open access to development data in countries around the globe. <http://data.worldbank.org/>

² Poverty rates at national poverty lines, World Bank Open Data.

³ INFORM: a global, open-source risk assessment for humanitarian crises and disasters. INFORM uses a scale from 0-10 (10 is the highest level of risk) <http://www.inform-index.org/>

Over the last decade, Vietnam has made important strides in building resilience to natural hazards. In 2007, the government approved the National Strategy for Natural Disaster Prevention, Response and Mitigation Towards 2020. Two years later, the government approved the implementation plan, and in 2012, the National Strategy and its National Action Plan for Climate Change. These actions reflect a clear shift from ex-post disaster relief and response to ex-ante risk reduction through preparedness and resilience. The establishment of a national program to support community-based disaster

risk management (DRM) is another illustration of strong political commitment to the resilience agenda.

To further advance the DRM agenda, priorities include: (i) integrating disaster and climate risk considerations into development planning; (ii) developing a financing platform for DRM investments; (iii) promoting community-based DRM; (iv) developing information and communications technology for DRM; and (v) establishing risk financing mechanisms to mitigate the impact of natural hazards.

GFDRR PROGRESS TO DATE

GFDRR and the World Bank have been supporting Vietnam's efforts to create a more comprehensive approach to DRM. Today, Vietnam is one of the few countries in the East Asia and Pacific region with an ex-ante DRM program financed by the World Bank's International Development Association (IDA).

In 2005, the World Bank approved the National Disaster Risk Management Program with initial financing in the amount of US\$86 million. In 2010, the project was expanded with US\$75 million in additional financing. Building on the achievements of this project, the World Bank recently approved the US\$150 million Managing Natural Hazards Project to strengthen capacities in order to: (i) improve plans to mitigate hazard risks; and (ii) improve weather forecasting and early warning systems to enable timely and effective responses to disaster.

In addition, GFDRR has leveraged substantial investments in DRM through the following areas—incorporated into larger IDA programs—: (i) promoting climate resilience into urban investments in Ho Chi Minh and other low-lying coastal cities; (ii) improving transport network development on the Mekong Delta, rural roads and highways; and (iii) developing plans to protect community livelihoods. Moreover, GFDRR also provided support to: (i) improve cities' disaster preparedness through provision of tool sets to city managers; (ii) increase community resilience to natural hazards; (iii) assess current tools to finance disaster losses; and (iv) develop guidelines for screening small infrastructure upgrades for resilience to extreme weather.

LOOKING AHEAD

Moving forward, GFDRR will continue to support: (i) the integration of DRM measures in future World Bank projects, including climate and disaster resilience screening; (ii) development of a platform to coordinate financing and implementation of DRM investments; (iii) a public awareness campaign tied to community-based DRM; and (iv) the role of Information and

Communications Technology in DRM, with a particular focus on improving community access to early warning and weather information (mobile-based systems and open data for resilience initiatives); and (v) long-term risk financing mechanisms to decrease the government's fiscal exposure to natural hazards.

PROJECTS AWARDED BY GFDRR 2007-2015

Project	Description
Strengthening National DRM Investments in Vietnam   US\$800,000 Start date: 2015 (Ongoing)	Preparation of a national DRM investment platform for coordinating and predictably financing the government's significant infrastructure and capacity building needs. Activities include: (i) stocktaking of DRM investments financed by both government and donors in the recent years; (ii) an evaluation of international best practices on government implemented investment platforms; (iii) strengthening information systems for better disaster resilience planning and investment decision-making; and (iv) enhancement of DRM measures in the national dam safety regulatory framework.
Hazard Risk Management Institutional Development     US\$1,000,000 Start date: 2012 (Ongoing)	Strengthened the coordination and mainstreaming of hazard risk management in Vietnam's socioeconomic development planning processes across various sectors. Activities include: (i) mainstreaming DRM into poverty reduction initiatives in the rural northern mountain provinces; (ii) increased availability of risk information and mitigation options to populations in low-lying coastal cities and most vulnerable communities; (iii) increased prevention and preparedness capacity in the cities of Hanoi, Dong Hoi, and Can Tho, supported by a Local Resilience Action Plan; and (iv) guidance on affordable and effective options for disaster risk financing.
DRM Capacity Building Program   US\$ 3,278,060 Start date: 2010 (Completed)	Supported the government in the implementation of the National Strategy for Natural Disaster Prevention, Response, and Mitigation Towards 2020. Activities included: (i) guidelines and methodologies for hazard-resistant infrastructure; (ii) provincial emergency preparedness plans; (iii) an upgraded master plan of the hydro-meteorological sector, including improved early warning system capacity; (iv) enhanced institutional capacity for DRM at provincial levels; and (v) an action plan to raise public awareness to support the implementation of the government's community-based DRM program.

 Pillar 1
Risk Identification

 Pillar 2
Risk Reduction

 Pillar 3
Preparedness

 Pillar 4
Financial Protection

 Pillar 5
Resilient Reconstruction

GFDRR KEY PARTNERS

The following projects are part of the World Bank's efforts to mainstream DRM:

- **Medium Cities Development Project:** Increases access to improved urban infrastructure services in three cities, Lao Cai, Phu Ly, and Vinh, in a sustainable and efficient manner.
- **Third Rural Transport Project:** Reduces travel costs and improves access to markets, off-farm economic opportunities, and social services for poor rural communities in 33 provinces.
- **Second Urban Upgrading Project:** Improves infrastructure services in low-income areas in the Mekong Delta Region.
- **Climate Change Development Policy Operation Series:** Supports efforts to address climate change by adopting relevant policies and strengthening institutional capacity to promote climate-resilient development and decrease carbon-intensive development.
- **Danang Sustainable City Development Project:** Expands access of city residents to improved drainage, wastewater collection and treatment services, the arterial road network, and public transport in selected areas of Da Nang City.
- **Managing Natural Hazards Project:** Strengthens community-based disaster risk preparedness, improves weather forecasting and early warning capacity as well as mitigates the impacts of natural disasters in selected disaster-prone provinces.
- **Mekong Integrated Water Resources Management Project – Phase II:** develops the capacity of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Vietnam National Mekong Committee and relevant agencies to manage trans-boundary water resources and climate risks through river basin approaches and improved water resources data collection, analysis, and exchange.
- **Results-Based National Urban Development Program-Northern Mountains:** Strengthens the capacity of cities to plan, implement and sustain urban infrastructure.
- **Vietnam Irrigated Agriculture Improvement Project:** Improves the sustainability of irrigated agricultural production systems in selected provinces in the central coastal and northern mountainous regions.
- **Sovereign Disaster Risk Financing and Insurance-SECO Program:** Provides advisory services and institutional capacity building on public financial management of natural disasters and public-private partnerships for disaster risk financing and insurance.

World Bank

GFDRR STAKEHOLDERS

National Services	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Ministry of Information and Communication, and Ministry of Finance
International Organizations	World Bank, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Women, International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Regional Organizations	Asian Development Bank, Asian Disaster Preparedness Center
