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In Disaster Management & Humanitarian Assistance

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Country Disaster Response Handbook:



Vietnam

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This report is prepared and updated by the Center for Excellence in Disaster Management & Humanitarian Assistance as part of a series of Country Handbooks planned for the Asia-Pacific region. It is intended to provide basic country information, disaster management plans and structures, and key information about domestic disaster response entities and indigenous and international humanitarian actors present in the country. Inquiries and feedback should be directed to: padmin@coe-dmha.org

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Executive Summary

Vietnam is one of the most disaster-prone countries in the Asia-Pacific region, with 70 percent of the population exposed to disasters, especially water-related events. The central and southern provinces are particularly vulnerable due to the geography of the country, and have recently endured several severe disaster events. Lately, disasters have been occurring across the nation, causing significant losses to human life, properties, economic and cultural infrastructure, and severe damage to the environment. This escalation in both frequency and severity of natural disasters and other extreme climate phenomena can be attributed to climate change, one of the greatest challenges to mankind in the 21st century. Countries around the world have witnessed its severe and unpredictable impacts, and agree that response to climate change cannot rely on efforts by just an individual country, but also by joint actions on a global scale for both mitigation and adaptation.

Vietnam in particular has seen a lot of climactic changes in the last 50 years. For example, the average temperature has increased by 0.5-1.0 Degrees Celsius, the normal sea level has risen by 20 cm, and the number of typhoons and tropical depressions has grown from 7 to 8 per year. While preventive measures have and are being taken, losses and damages from disasters are substantial for Vietnam. In the past 10 years alone, natural disasters have cost Vietnam around 8,000 lives and 1.5% of GDP per year.

After making an economic turnaround, Vietnam has one of South-East Asia's fastest-growing economies and has set its sights on becoming a developed nation by 2020. However, rapid population growth and urbanization have resulted in the degradation of both natural resources and the environment, and increased vulnerability to natural disasters. According to the Government of Vietnam, natural disasters are the direct impediment to economic development, sustainable development and poverty reduction. It is what stands in the way of Vietnam reaching the Millennium Development Goals. More than 80 percent of Vietnam's population lives at risk of direct impacts of natural disasters.

The government of Vietnam has instituted a robust disaster preparedness and response structure, which focuses heavily on water related disasters. The Central Committee for Flood and Storm Control (CCFSC), chaired by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD), was established in 1990 and consists of representatives of government ministries and agencies involved in disaster mitigation, response and relief. The CCFSC is the chief coordinating body that is responsible for disaster management in the country. Each province/city has its own Committee for Flood and Storm Control (CFSC) system and search and rescue teams at all levels (province, city, and commune levels).

Under the MARD, which is in charge of flood prevention measures, is the Directorate of Water Resources, a technical agency for mostly water-related disasters. Under the Directorate, is the Department of Dyke Management and Flood and Storm Control, a technical agency under MARD in charge of disaster risk management (DRM). The Disaster Management Center (DMC) is also a technical agency in charge of DRM and is particularly assigned to implement the Community-based Disaster Management Program (CBDRM) in the country.

An active non-governmental community is also on hand to assist in disasters, meeting monthly as the Disaster Management Working Group, including WHO, Oxfam, UNDP, Red Cross/IFRC, and CARE.

The National Strategy for Natural Disaster, Prevention, Response and Mitigation to 2020, which outlines Vietnam's main disaster risk management objectives and the National Target Program (NTP) form the overarching policy framework for disaster risk management and climate change adaptation activities. The CCFSC's main mandate is to translate this strategy into action. Other decrees and laws are also complementary. The government of Vietnam has prioritized disaster preparedness, recognizing that the most cost-effective measures to mitigate flood related disasters are often non-structural. These measures include flood mapping, river flood warning systems, television-based disaster information and warning systems, training at all government and grassroots levels on disaster preparedness, and reforestation of certain areas. Land use and development have also been addressed through government regulations.

Structural measures to mitigate flood related disasters have also been implemented to a great extent, both traditionally and in modern times. The dyke system in Vietnam today is approximately 3,106 miles (5,000 km) of river dykes and approximately 1,864 miles (3,000 km) of sea and estuary dykes throughout Vietnam.

Such mitigation measures seem to be having a positive effect. In October, 2007, Typhoon Lekima struck central Vietnam, causing flooding of nearly 76,600 acres of rice and other agricultural lands. Property damage was estimated at \$170 million. Disaster preparedness plans, including a mass evacuation of some 400,000 people from at-risk areas was credited with minimizing loss of life.

However, the disaster preparedness structure and strategy could be strengthened further to address other types of hazards such as drought, forest fires, and avian flu or SARS. Furthermore, while the roles and tasks of the government ministries down to local committees are well laid out, less clear is the Vietnam military's roles and functions in national disasters.

A Law on Disaster Management is in development by MARD with the UN Development Program's support, due to the varying number of legal documents underpinning disaster management in the country. Earlier this year, Vietnam launched their National Strategy on Climate Change, while a Law on Climate Change is also being considered for development.

Although Vietnam continues efforts to improve its disaster mitigation and response system, there will likely be disasters in the future that are beyond Vietnam's capacity to manage. While the US military is well-equipped to provide practical assistance in emergency and short-term recovery operations, it is well recognized that good coordination, communication, and cooperation are crucial factors in ensuring a effective response.

Note on sources used:

This report is based primarily on information gathered from open-source material available through the internet. Most of the information used was from US or other government sources and is thus considered to be in the public domain. Such sources could include the CIA Fact Book, US Department of State, and foreign governments web pages. Information that is not in the public domain has been referenced, including a link to its original electronic source. Other sources used include NGO home pages, Relief Web, UNDP or other UN agency web pages, World Bank, and ADB. Whenever further information available electronically may be relevant, a link to the original internet source is provided.

DISASTER MANAGEMENT IN VIETNAM

DISASTER PROFILE

Vietnam is one of the most disaster-prone countries in the Asia-pacific region. Its geography and topography combine to make the Southeast Asian nation highly susceptible to a range of natural disasters year-round, including storms, floods, drought, landslides, hail, and forest fires. The most damaging and frequent disasters affecting Vietnam are tropical typhoons and floods. Knowing its exposure to these hazards, the Government of Vietnam, in collaboration with stakeholders and institutions, are working towards strengthening its disaster risk management (DRM) agenda.

Because of the advent of climate change, within the last decade, natural disasters in Vietnam have been increasingly severe in terms of magnitude, frequency and volatility. Rainfall events are expected to become heavier, increasing the frequency and magnitude of flash floods, seasonal river floods and coastal floods in many areas of Vietnam. Also, typhoons are anticipated to become more frequent and stronger, and storm pattern behavior is expected to change. While climate change has been affecting countries worldwide, Vietnam's geographical factors, such as its long coastline, its already pressured natural resources, location of population, poverty and exposure to sea level rise, was a main reason why the UN Convention Framework for Climate Change (UNFCCC) identified Vietnam as one of the top 5 countries expected to be most impacted by its effects.

Disaster Statistics

<u>Natural Disasters from 1980-2010</u>	
No. of events:	159
No. of people killed:	16,099
Average killed per year:	519
No. of people affected:	73,582,754
Average affected per year:	2,373,637
Economic Damage (US\$ x 1,000):	7,955,750
Economic Damage /year (US\$ x 1,000)	256,637

Source: Preventionweb.net, Vietnam, <http://www.preventionweb.net/english/countries/asia/vnm/?x=18&y=13>

Relative Frequency of Disaster Hazards in Vietnam

High	Medium	Low
<p>Flood Typhoon Inundation</p>	<p>Hail & Rain Drought Landslide Fire Deforestation Plant/Animal Epidemics</p>	<p>Earthquake Accident (Technological) Frost</p>

Map of hazard Zones in Vietnam



Source: http://www.vnwatersectorreview.com/files/Natural_disasters_EN.pdf

Top 10 Natural Disasters in Vietnam 1950-2012

Disaster	Date	No. Killed	Disaster	Date	No. Total Affected
Storm	Sep-64	7,000	Storm	15/09/1980	9,027,174
Storm	2/11/1997	3,682	Storm	23/07/1980	6,624,710
Storm	26/09/1953	1,000	Flood	Jul-00	5,000,004
Storm	23/10/1985	798	Storm	Oct-89	4,635,762
Storm	25/05/1989	751	Flood	Aug-78	4,079,000
Flood	25/10/1999	622	Flood	25/10/1999	3,504,412
Epidemic	1/1/1964	598	Drought	Dec-97	3,000,000
Storm	24/07/1996	585	Flood	7/9/1985	2,800,000
Storm	Sep-83	578	Storm	6/9/1986	2,502,502
Flood	Jul-00	460	Storm	28/09/2009	2,477,315

Created on: May-29-2012. - Data version: v12.07

Source: "EM-DAT: The OFDA/CRED International Disaster Database
www.em-dat.net - Université Catholique de Louvain - Brussels - Belgium"

RECENT DISASTERS

Vietnam – Major Hazardous Events of the Decade (1999-2008)

Year	Event	No. of people dead	No. of people injured	No. of people missing	Economic loss (VND billion)	Areas affected
2008	Storm Kammuri	133	91	34	1,939.733	9 North and Central provinces
2007	Storm Lekima	88	180	8	3,215.508	17 North and Central provinces
2006	Storm Xangsane	72	532	4	10,401.624	15 Central and Southern provinces in
2005	Storm No. 7	68	28		3,509.150	12 North and Central provinces
2004	Storm No. 2	23	22		298.199	5 Central provinces
2003	Rains and floods	65	33		432.471	9 Central provinces
2002	Flooding	171			456.831	The Mekong River Delta
2001	Flooding	393			1,535.910	The Mekong River Delta
2000	Flash Floods (July)	28	27	2	43.917	5 Northern provinces
1999	Floods	595	275	29	3,773.799	10 Central provinces

Source: CCFSC's Website, Historical Disaster Database, <http://www.ccfsc.org.vn/ndm%2Dp/?module=800&sid=NDMP&mnid=67>

Major Disaster Events

Over the past 50 years, Vietnam has endured more than 400 storms and tropical depressions. In addition to incessant storms, the country suffers from frequent drought and salt water intrusion that has negatively impacted agriculture, reducing from 20-30% of agricultural production. Estimated material loss accounts for about 1.5% of GDP per year. In 2010 alone, Vietnam was affected by 6 storms (four at sea and two on land) and four historical floods, resulting in the death of 366 persons, 96 persons missing, 493 persons wounded and over 300 thousand hectares of farm production damaged. The following summarizes some past disaster events by regions.

The Red River Delta

Year 2003: Early September, highly concentrated torrential rains caused severe inundation to most of the rice cultivation area of Thai Binh Province. Other provinces such as Ninh Binh and Nam Dinh also endured serious inundation. The total area of rice cultivation of the three provinces affected by the inundation exceeded 120,000ha; of which 60,000ha was in Thai Binh Province (half of this area was totally destroyed). The damage caused to aquatic production was also large.

The Central Region (the North Central and Central Coast)

1999: Within a month from 1st November to 6th December, almost all provinces in the central and southern parts of Central Vietnam were exposed to two spells of torrential rain which caused two big floods in a vast area from Quang Binh Province to Khanh Hoa Province. The aggregated rainfall was recorded at 2,500mm in Thua Thien-Hue; 2,000-2,500mm in Quang Tri, Quang Nam, Quang Ngai, Binh Dinh and Da Nang; 1,000 -1,500mm in Quang Binh, Phu Yen, Khanh Hoa, and Ninh Thuan. The highest daily rainfalls were 1,384mm (measured from 7am on 2nd November to 7am 3rd November) and 1,009mm (measured from 1pm on 3rd November to 1pm on 4th November) in Hue City and in Quang Ngai Province's Son Giang area, respectively.

The two spells of torrential rain caused two extremely severe floods in Central Vietnam. During the floods, water levels on all rivers exceeded the third alarm levels and water levels on some rivers were equivalent to or exceeded historical flood levels. Flooding killed 715 people, inundated nearly 1 million houses, swept away thousands of houses, and incurred an economic loss of nearly 5,000 billion dong. This loss was among the greatest disaster related damage records of the 20th century in Vietnam.

The Cuu Long Delta

In the last 20 years, the Cuu Long Delta has endured regular substantial flooding, with return frequencies being the highest ever recorded. Extremely devastating floods were seen in years 1994, 1995, 1996, 2000, 2001, and 2002. Particularly, flooding in 2000 caused the highest damage to provinces frequently vulnerable to inundation in the Delta. Flood water levels in some areas were 30-50 cm higher than the ones recorded in previous highest flood years of 1961, 1978, and 1996. The flood killed over 400 people and caused an economic loss of nearly 4,000 billion VND.

Mountain areas

A number of typical flash floods over 10 recent years have been recorded such as the flash floods in provinces of Lai Chau and Son La in 1994, 1996, 2000 and 2002; the flash floods in provinces of Lao Cai, Ha Giang, and Cao Bang in 2000, 2001, 2002 and 2004; the flash flood in Binh Thuan province at the end of July 1999 causing 30 deaths and hundreds of house losses; and especially the historical flash flood from 17 to 22 September 2002 at two districts of Huong Son and Huong Khe of Ha Tinh Province, caused 53 deaths, 111 people injured, 7,253 houses swept away and collapsed, 53,210 houses submerged and affected, 6,881 ha of rice and other crops buried and submerged.

The Central Region – affected most by natural disasters

Provinces in this region from Thanh Hoa (Ma River Basin) to Binh Thuan (SERC Basin) are most affected by typhoon and flood. Statistics indicate that there were 494 storms and tropical low pressures observed in Vietnam from 1954 to 1999. On average, there are about 10.7 typhoons and tropical depressions occur each year.

Types of Natural Disasters

The “**National Strategy for Natural Disaster Prevention, Response and Mitigation to 2020**” approved by Prime Minister, **No. 172/2007/QĐ-TTg**, 16 November 2007 classifies typical natural disasters in Vietnam as follows:

Typhoon

Vietnam is located in the northwest of the Pacific Ocean, one of the storm-prone areas with a vast and violent number typhoons and an increasing trend especially in the recent 3 decades. Typhoon is one of the major and dangerous types of natural disasters in Vietnam. In more than 50 years (1954-2006), there were totally 380 typhoons and tropical depressions in Vietnam, of which 31% hit the North, 36% to the Northern Central and Middle Central Part and 33% to the South Central and the South. Typhoon’s landfalls usually accompany with high tide and heavy rain, thus resulting in heavy and long rains and floods. It is estimated that up to 80-90% of Vietnam’s population are affected by typhoons.

Floods

Floods in Northern river systems

The basin areas of the Red River-Thai Binh River are 164,300 km², in which 87,400 km² are on the territory of Vietnam, crossing 23 provinces and cities and accounting for 75.7% of the natural land area of the North.

Flood season in the Red river and Thai Binh river system normally occurs from May to September, earlier than that in other regions. On average, there are about 3 to 5 floods within the region annually, each of them may last from 8 to 15 days, depending on its scale and strength. Major floods in the Red river are often generated from 3 rivers of Da, Thao and Lo, of which the Da River plays a decisive role contributing 37%-69% of the flood flow in Son Tay (49.2% on average), while the Lo river contributes 17%-41.5% (28% on average) and the Thao

river contributes the lowest proportion – 13%-30% (19% average). Floods in the Thai Binh River are often generated from 3 rivers of Cau. Thuong and Luc Nam and partly from the Red river through the Duong river. Flood amplitude is high on the Red river system, above 10m in Hanoi. Whereas that of the Thai Binh river is above 6m in Pha Lai.

Floods on rivers in the Central

The flood season on the rivers from Thanh Hoa to Ha Tinh is from June to October every year. Floods on these rivers generally occur on main streams thanks to the dyke systems preventing the overflow. Flood amplitude is above 7m on the Ma river system and above 9m on the Ca river system.

On the rivers from Quang Binh to Binh Thuan, the flood season is from September to December. This region is characterized by short and steep river systems with rapid flows. Dyke systems in this region are relatively low or uncompleted. Therefore, floods not only occur on the mainstreams but also spread across the floodplains with the amplitude of above 8m.

Floods on rivers in the Central Highlands

There is no major river system in the region, and annual precipitation is low. The influenced area of floods in this region is narrow and characterized by mountainous and flash floods. Flood amplitude at Dabla bridge on the Dabla river is 10m.

Floods in the Eastern South rivers

Since rainfall is not very high plus a thick and diverse vegetation cover forests, floods in the Dong Nai river are not strong but long-lasting. Nevertheless, historical floods were seen such as in October 1952, the flood discharge crest in Bien Hoa was 12,500 m³/s.

Floods in the Mekong River Delta

The flooding level in the Mekong river delta is generated from upstream floods and also directly influenced by tides and water reserving capacity of Tonle Sap. The progress of floods in the Mekong river delta is slow and floods last for a long period of 4 to 5 months annually, causing inundation in almost areas of the Mekong river delta.

Flash floods and mud floods

Flash and mud floods are often found in mountainous and hilly areas where are characterized by steep slopes, heavy rains and disadvantaged drainage conditions. Flash floods also may occur due to the failures of small reservoirs or landslides blocking up flows, etc. Flash floods have occurred and threatened in all 33 mountainous provinces of the 4 regions, namely the Northern Mountains, the Central, the Central Highlands and the Eastern South of VN. Due to climate changes in recent years, flash floods have become more frequent in Vietnam with 2 to 4 flash floods on average happen every year during the flood season. In many cases, flash floods happen frequently at a same location. The occurrence of flash floods is usually sudden and within a small area, but very severe and often causes tremendous human and asset

losses. Some typical flash floods are the one happened in Son La town on 27 July 1991, in Muong Lay and Lai Chau in 1994, in Ha Tinh on 20 September 2002, in Yen Bai in 2005, etc. Currently flash floods are unpredictable but can be proactively prevented by zoning high risk areas and establishing warning systems.

Inundation

Inundation in Vietnam is usually caused by heavy rains and it last for long time in some areas. Although resulting in limited human loss, it causes remarkably negative impacts on agricultural production and the ecological environment.

Droughts and desertification

Drought is a common type of disaster in Vietnam, which causes the 3rd greatest losses, following typhoons and floods. In recent years, drought continuously happens throughout the country. In some particular years, droughts reduced 20-30% of the food productivity, thus severely threatening people's livelihoods and daily life. Drought control is difficult due to water shortage and depleted upstream reservoirs. Prolonged droughts result in desertification risks in several regions, especially the South Central, sandy coastal areas and slope lands in the highlands and mountain areas.

Salinity intrusion

The coastline of Vietnam is 3,260 km long with many river estuaries, therefore salinity intrusion is found along the entire coastline at different rates. Three zones at higher risks of salinity intrusion are the South West coastal provinces, Central coastal provinces and the downstream part of the Dong Nai River. The South West coastal region is the most severely affected by salinity intrusion with 1.77 million ha of salinity land, accounting for 45% of the total area. Salinity intrusion prevention and fresh water reservation in this area are usually very costly.

Whirlwind

Whirlwind is a phenomenon of accidental strong wind within a narrow extent generated by extremely strong developing thunderclouds. A whirlwind may have sudden change of direction, and the wind velocity is from Grade 8 or more. Accompanying whirlwinds are usually showers, or even hails in some cases.

Cyclone

Cyclone, also called tornado is a whirlwind in a narrow area but has a very powerful strength (equivalent to a strong windstorm), formed by a strong and specially structured thundercloud. A thundercloud may form two or three tornado at the same time, which are then combined into a cyclone. A cyclone often goes with showers, rainstorm or hails with dusts and sand ...

Both whirlwind and cyclone are violent types of natural disaster. They happen suddenly and are not yet forecasted, therefore they cause vast and unpredictable consequences but that of cyclone is considerably more serious. Whirlwinds are often accompanied by strong winds that pull down trees and houses, destroy communication and power systems, as well as sink small

boats and ships ... Cyclones, due to stronger winds, high velocity and frequent directional changes, often cause violent damages. Whirlwinds and cyclones are common phenomena in Vietnam, and their frequency has increased in recent years.

Landslide and erosion

Landslide is a common type of disasters in Vietnam, consisting of river bank erosion, coastline erosion, and landslides on mountain slopes, land subsidence, etc. Landslides are usually caused by external factors (water), internal factors (geological changes) and human activities (unplanned mineral exploitation or construction), etc.

River bank erosion is very common throughout the country. It causes remarkable losses of residential and cultivated land area and destroys many villages along riverbanks.

Coastline erosion happens due to waves, tides, seawater rise and sea currents. Coastline erosion has led to sea intrusion, causing lost land and destroyed environment, etc.

Landslides in hill and mountain slopes are usually caused by heavily concentrated rains combining with weak geological structure and human impacts like mountain destruction for roads, forest destruction, etc. Landslides often come with mud floods and cause serious damage to the human life and assets.

Earthquake and tsunami

Earthquake is the phenomenon of ground surface vibration, caused by the sudden movements of geological blocks in the earth's womb, volcanic eruptions, landslides, cave collapses, etc. Earthquakes have happened in Vietnam though in a limited strength.

Tsunami is the phenomenon of long circle ocean waves at a high-propagated speed. When reaching the coastline, depending on the depth of the sea and the topography of the coastal area, these waves can be tens of meters high and travel deeply into the land, causing vast catastrophes. Tsunami is the result of earthquakes in the ocean bed. Though tsunami has not yet happened in Vietnam, many coastal areas of Vietnam may be affected by tsunami due to earthquake potentials in some neighboring countries.

Sea surge

Sea surge is the phenomenon of annual average of sea level in recent years higher than the multi-year average of sea level, resulted from the effects of global climate change.

Health Issues

Infectious Disease

With today's highly mobile and interconnected world, the opportunities for infectious diseases to spread are greatly heightened. Infectious diseases are also appearing to be emerging quicker than ever. Since the 1970's new emerging diseases have been identified at a rapid rate of one or more each year. There now are an estimated 40 diseases that were unheard of a generation ago, and thousands of epidemics that have been verified by the WHO globally. In the last decade, Vietnam has endured devastating effects of outbreaks of the following emerging and re-emerging communicable diseases:

Avian influenza: Vietnam was one of the country's worst-affected by the highly pathogenic avian influenza A (H5N1) panzootic. There have been three main waves of outbreak in poultry since late 2003, with 93 confirmed human cases and 42 deaths. Overall, 32 provinces and municipalities reported human infections, with a concentration around the Red River delta provinces in the north and the Mekong delta region in the south, matching the distribution of poultry outbreaks. Virus outbreaks in poultry continue to be reported and have again caused human deaths

HIV/AIDS: The number of people infected with HIV/AIDS in need of antiretroviral treatment in Vietnam is increasing rapidly. The country is now facing a major challenge regarding HIV care and treatment. Since the first HIV case was detected in Vietnam in 1990, the majority of reported infections and AIDS cases have been from injecting drug users. However, heterosexual transmission, particularly through commercial sex workers, appears to be increasing. It is estimated that there are around 300,000 people living with HIV in Vietnam.

Intestinal parasites: A large number of Vietnamese children are infected with "worms". A 2004 study found that multiple infestations of roundworms, hookworms and whipworms are very common among children in all parts of the country.

Pandemic Influenza: Vietnam is facing the global human pandemic caused by the A(H1N1) virus. By 24 July 2009, in Vietnam there were 499 cases of A(H1N1). All cases involved people who had arrived in the country by air, or who had been in close contact with infected passengers following their arrival. The Ministry of Health also reported an increase in infections recently among people entering Vietnam by road.

Tuberculosis: Tuberculosis (TB) is an airborne infectious disease that is both preventable and curable. People ill with TB bacteria in their lungs can infect others when they cough. TB is one of the world's leading infectious killers of young adults. In Vietnam, almost 20,000 people die every year (approximately one death every 26 minutes) from TB.

Zoonoses: Zoonotic diseases are communicable diseases that originate in animals, but also infect humans. These diseases are receiving increasing attention from the international community, as they account for 75 percent of newly emerging infectious diseases. Recent examples include avian influenza and SARS.

Major infectious diseases:

Degree of risk: High

Food or waterborne diseases: Bacterial diarrhea, hepatitis A, and typhoid fever

Vector-borne diseases: Dengue fever, malaria, Japanese encephalitis, and plague

Water contact disease: Leptospirosis

Note: Highly pathogenic H5N1 avian influenza has been identified in this country; it poses a negligible risk with extremely rare cases possible among US citizens who have close contact with birds (2009)

Hospitals:

Ho Chi Minh City:

OSCAT/AEA International Clinic

65 Nguyen Du, District 1 HCMC

Tel: 848 829-8520

Fax: 848 829-8551

Columbia-Gia Dinh International Clinic

01 No Trang Long, Binh Thanh District, HCMC

Tel: (848) 803-0678

Hanoi

Ha Noi Family Practice

A1 Van Phuc, Suite 109-112

Tel.: 843-0748

Fax: 843-1750

AEA International Clinic

31 Hai Ba Trung

Tel.: 934-0555

Fax: 934-0556

AEA International Services (emergency medical evacuation)

Tel.: 821-3555

Bach Mai Hospital

78 Đường Giải Phóng

Phường Mai, Hà Nội

Tel: 0844.869.3731
Fax: 0844.869.1607

Viet Duc University Hospital

40 Pho Trang Thi, Ha Noi
Tel: (844) 8253 531
Fax: (844) 8248-308

Vietnam International Hospital

Phuong Mai
Tel.: 574-0740, 574-1111
Fax: 869-8443

International SOS

31 Hai Ba Trung Tel:
(844) 934 0555
Fax: (844) 934 0556

Ha Noi Clinic:

(844) 934 0666

Viet Duc Hospital

40 Trang Thi Street
Tel: (844) 828-9852
Fax: (844) 824-8308

Ha Noi French Hospital

Phuong Mai Road, Dong Da
Tel: (844) 574 0740
Fax: (844) 869 8443

The Vietnamese Government is responsible for overall management of disease prevention and control, according to the **Law on Communicable Disease Prevention and Control, no. 03/2007/QH12** promulgated by the National Assembly on 21 November 2008 (Article 6), and the **Law on HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control, no. 64/2006/QH11** promulgated by the National Assembly on 29 June 2006 (Article 7).

In addition, the **Decree no. 188/2007/ND-CP** dated 27 December 2007 by the Government on the functions, tasks, authorities and structure of the Ministry of Health says that the MoH has the following tasks in relating with communicable disease prevention and control:

- In coordination with the Ministry of Finance, establishing the needs for medical equipment and drugs in service of communicable diseases, disaster, disaster prevention and control (Article 2.3)
- Responsible for the determination and implementation of preventive measures (Article 2.6)

- In coordination with other relevant ministries, responsible for prevention and control against communicable diseases in disaster situation and for providing aid to people in disaster (Article 2.20)
- Guiding and inspecting the participation of NGOs in activities of disease prevention and control (Article 2.22)
- Responsible for international cooperation in its scope of authority (Article 2.25)

Within the Ministry of Health a number of departments are responsible for carrying out different aspects of communicable disease control such as the Preventive Medicine and Environment Department and the HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control Department.

The Law on Communicable Disease Prevention and Control, the Law on HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control, and the Decision no. 255/2006/QĐ-TTg dated 9 November 2006 by the Prime Minister approving the Vietnam National Strategy on Preventive Medicine to 2010 and Orientation Towards 2020, have tasks of other ministries and government agencies laid out as follows:

Ministry	Responsibilities
Ministry of Finance	Planning the budget allocation for communicable disease prevention and control.
Ministry of Planning and Investment	Mobilizing formal funds for communicable diseases preparedness and response.
Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment	Ensuring pollution prevention and control in service of communicable disease prevention.
Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development	Working closely with the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Environment in controlling the use of chemicals in agriculture, protecting the environment in rural areas and controlling animal communicable diseases.
Ministry of Education	Ensuring the dissemination of education and information on communicable diseases prevention and control to the population.
Ministry of Culture and Information	
Ministry of National Defence	Coordinating with the Ministry of Health in rescue and recovery operations to prevent disease infection.

Compared to the abundance of disaster management texts, the legal framework for communicable disease control is relatively well developed through a few key legal instruments. Particularly, the Law on Communicable Disease Prevention and Control (2007). There have also been consultations on a draft Decree on Border Medical Quarantine.

Legal framework for communicable disease emergencies

In general, communicable diseases are governed by the Law on Communicable Disease Prevention and Control (2007), the Law on HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control, no. 64/2006/QH11 promulgated by the National Assembly on 29th June 2006, the Ordinance on Veterinary Medicine (2004), the Ordinance on Protection and Inspection of Food Safety (1993),

the Governmental Decree promulgating the Regulation on Border Medical Quarantine (1998) and the Regulation on Information and Reports on Epidemic Contagious Diseases (2002) as well as other legal texts issued by the Ministry of Health. However, noting that the new Law was just adopted in 2007, any inconsistent provisions in all regulation texts adopted before this should now be annulled. While there remains a lack of clarity in the new Law, new implementing regulations should be adopted to ensure its effective implementation.

The **Decision no. 255/2006/QĐ-TTg** dated 9th November 2006 by the Prime Minister approving the Strategy on Preventive Medicine to 2010 and Orientation Towards 2020 sets the priority on early detection and prevention against communicable disease and reducing infection, as some of the indispensable factors in improving the quality of life.

Socioeconomic Issues/conditions

Rapid population growth and urbanization have caused serious pressure, causing the natural resources and environment degraded. The total population in the country has reached more than 85 million people now. In the near future, the population of Vietnam will be about 100 million people (as reported at APEC 2006). The rapid P1-25 population growth in the areas of potential productiveness has led to land shortages, for both residential and cultivation purposes. The human being has encroached the river channels, river estuaries, coastline, river and stream sides; exploited natural resources and minerals in an uncontrollable manner, as well as cut down and burnt forests, and increased the amount of wastes. These are the factors that constraint the water flow, impoverish the land, silt reservoirs, cause landslides in the mountainous and hilly areas, as well as mud and rock floods. As a result, natural disaster risks have risen.

Natural disaster in Vietnam is the direct hindrance to the economic development, sustainable development and poverty reduction. It is the huge obstacle to the process of striving for the Millennium Development Goals. Vietnam has more than 80% of its population living at risk of direct impacts of natural disasters.

Natural disaster has taken away many achievements of the national socioeconomic development. In (2002-2006), natural disasters killed 1,700 people and caused losses of estimated VND75,000 billion of assessed. Natural disaster intensifies the division in residents' living standard; hinders and lowers the hunger eradication and poverty alleviation, especially in areas frequently at risk of disaster. On average, millions of people are in need of assistance due to natural disasters every year. Many of them, who have just escaped from poverty, are re-impoverished due to the disasters.

Additionally, natural disasters affects educational development, destroys educational infrastructure and interrupts school time, especially in mountainous areas and the Mekong River Delta. Natural disaster also causes negative impacts on vulnerable groups such as the old, the disabled, women, and children.

As expected, natural disasters have also exacerbated the spread of epidemic diseases. Malaria, for example, is more prevalent and has increased in amplitude and intensity. Disaster experts expect climate change to have significant impacts on sustainable human development. It is predicted that climate change will flood millions of hectares of land with the rising sea levels. Climate change will considerably affect Vietnam's economy, society and environment.

LAWS, POLICIES, AND PLANS ON DISASTER MANAGEMENT

Vietnam has diligently worked hard to conquer water-related disasters, such as floods, storms and droughts. They established a dike system to conquer the Red River, which caused floods and inundation annually. Their continuous process of constructing dikes and canals for facilitating rice cultivation have created a wet rice cultivation civilization and a village-based culture. Vietnam's history conquering natural disaster has delivered the creativity and robust vitality helping the Vietnamese nation to overcome all challenges and adapt to natural conditions for its production, existence and development.

By 1248, the Red River dike system had been developed, and currently, the system of river and sea dikes of the nation is thousands of kilometers long. President Ho Chi Minh signed Order No. 70/SL on 22 May 1946 to establish a Central Committee for Dike Maintenance, the predecessor of the current Central Committee for Flood and Storm Control (CCFSC). More than 60 years have passed, a system of storm and flood prevention and control has been established and specifically structured from the central to local level. Vietnam's disaster management system has continually strengthened and improved.

One after the other, certain legal documents were passed, which created a legal gateway for the purpose of flood and storm control and natural disaster mitigation. Some of these legal documents, to be discussed later, are the Ordinance on Dike (1989), the Ordinance on Flood and Storm Control (1993), the Water-related Disaster Control Strategy (1994), the Law on Dike (2006), National Strategy on Natural Disaster Prevention, Control and Mitigation by 2020 (2007) and the Water Resources Law. The organizational mechanism has gradually strengthened, while the capacities, equipment and physical infrastructure have been enhanced.

Vietnam has developed a large amount of legal texts, including laws, ordinance, decrees, etc, regarding various types of disasters, and will be discussed in the following section. It is also important to note, that there is no single comprehensive law on multi-hazard disaster risk management, and that Vietnam's legal system remains dispersed, although it is adaptable to the country's current situation and capability.

Vietnam also participates in many international and regional organizations working in the field of natural disaster mitigation, such as the Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC), the Asian Disaster Prevention Center (ADPC), the ASEAN Committee for Disaster Management, the World's Meteorological Organization, the Typhoon Committee (TC), etc.

The flood, storm control and disaster mitigation network in Vietnam is a political and social structure that has been established to protect communities, infrastructure and economic establishments. The network is closely structured from the central to the local and community level, and has specific functions, tasks and working regulations to ensure effective coordination of activities for flood, storm control and disaster mitigation.

Vietnam's Legal System

To better grasp the organization of Vietnam's disaster management system, it is necessary to be aware of their national legal and policy framework. In Vietnam, there are over 200 laws, policies and strategies. One of the challenges being faced by Vietnam is enforcing these policies effectively. (AMDI, 2011)

Vietnam's Legal System and hierarchy of legal instruments (ADRC, IFRC- 2009)

Vietnam's legal system is based on the socialism legal theory and was inherited from the French civil law system. The National Assembly is the highest office responsible for law making activities. The highest legal document in Vietnam is the Constitution passed by the National Assembly in April 1992. Under the Constitution, there are laws, ordinances, decrees and other affiliate legal documents dealing with different aspects of social life.

The **Law on Promulgation of Legal Acts no. 17/2008/QH12** promulgated by the National Assembly on 3 June 2008 lists a range of legal documents issued by different state bodies and their legally binding effect, but is unclear on their hierarchy. Legal documents listed appear in order of issuing organizations as follows: (IFRC 2009)

- **Constitution, law and resolution** issued by the National Assembly, are Vietnam's highest form of legal directions.
- **Ordinance, resolution** issued by the Standing Committee of the National Assembly
- **Order, decision** issued by the President of State
- **Decrees** are issued by Government and generally implement Laws and Ordinances. Decrees are often supplemented by more detailed Regulation
- **Decisions** are issued by the Prime Minister on the implementation of regulations of different issues
- **Resolution** issued by the Judicial Council of the Supreme Court, and **Circular** issued by the President of the Supreme Court
- **Circulars** issued by the Chief Prosecutor
- **Circulars** are issued by Ministers, Head of Ministerial-level agencies and usually provided guidance as to how a particular ministry will administer a law, ordinance or decree.
- **Decision** are issued by the General Director of State Audit
- **Joint resolution** issued by the Standing Committee of the National Assembly/the Government and the Central Committee of socio-political organizations
- **Joint circular** issued by the President of the Supreme Court and the Chief Prosecutor

- Legal acts** are issued by the People’s Council and Peoples Committee
 This list highlights how vast and complicated Vietnam’s system of legal norms is. After a law is promulgated, governmental decrees are issued to guide its implementation and different Ministries subsequently issue their circulars to guide the implementation of these decrees within their scope of management. As specific disaster management laws are mentioned in this handbook, keep in mind that in each year, a number of new legal texts are issued to amend, modify or replace existing ones. The following diagrams depict Vietnam’s law making bodies and legal system and an example of the organization of disaster management legal documents.

Fig. 1 The diagram of Law making bodies and Legal system in Vietnam ²

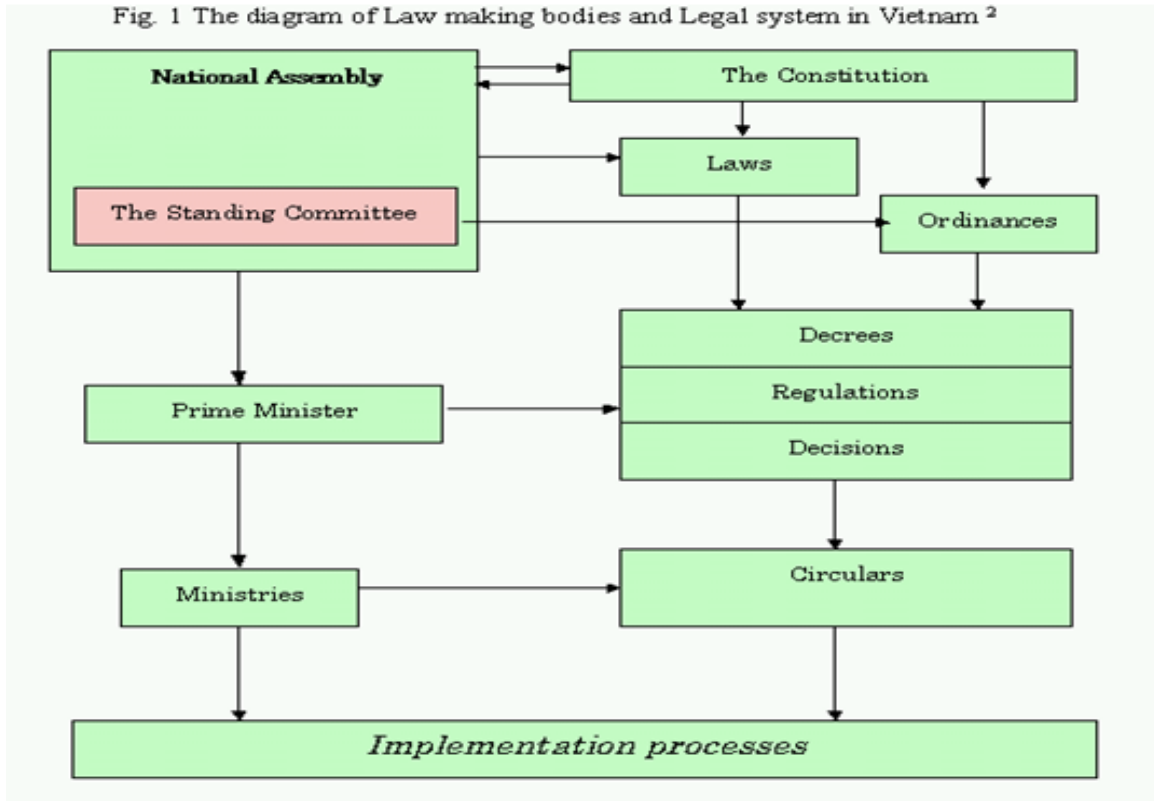
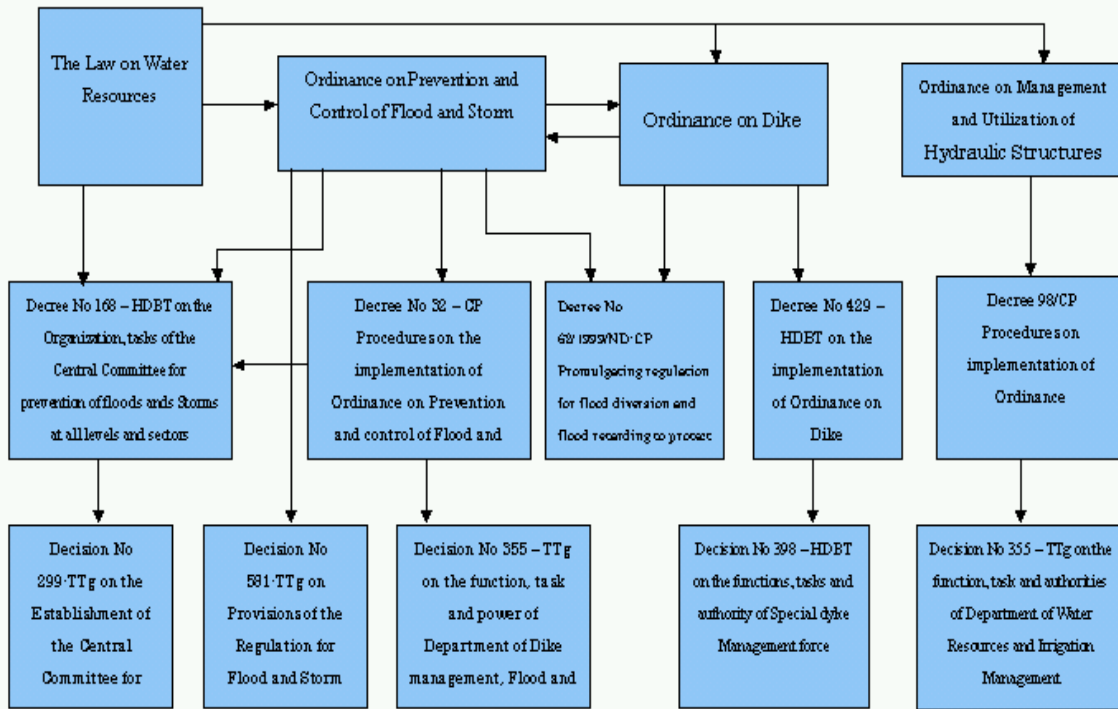


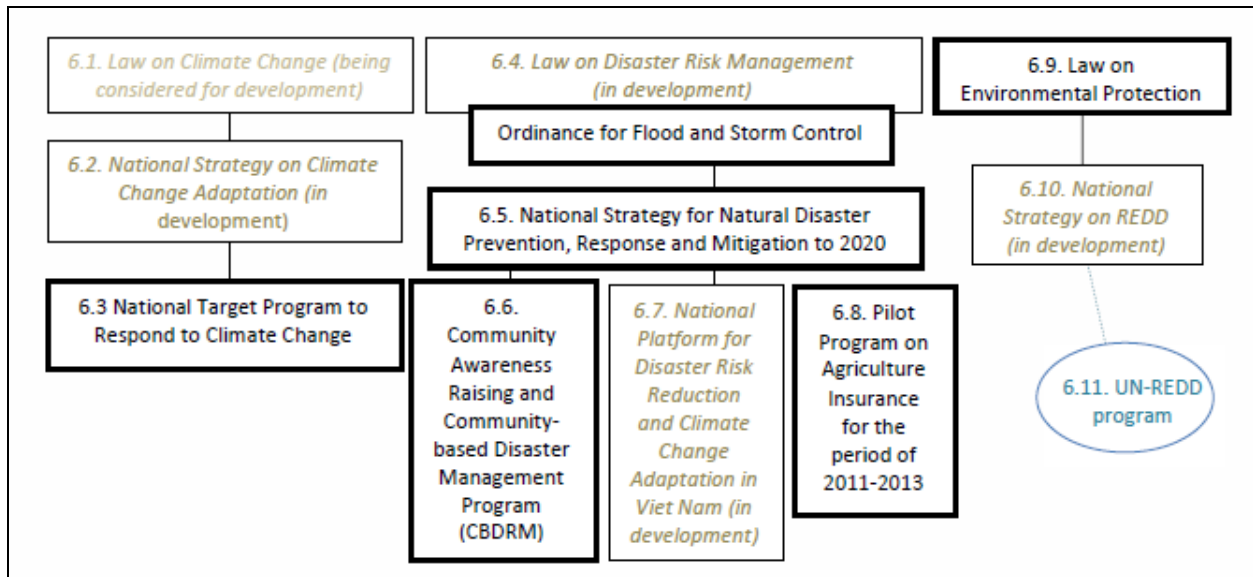
Fig. 2 – Legal documents on disaster management in Vietnam 8



There are a large number of legal texts, comprising laws, ordinances, decrees and circulars covering various types of disaster and related activities, but there is no single comprehensive law on multi-hazard disaster risk management. Thus, the legal system remains dispersed, although it is adaptable to Vietnam's current situation and capability. In addition, among the multitude of disaster planning and strategy documents, there is no common definition of 'disaster' reflected in existing legal instruments. There also are no specific criteria for determining and responding to different levels of disaster and the acceptance of international assistance. (IFRC, 2009)

In comparison to the disaster management, the legal framework for communicable disease control is relatively well developed through a few key legal instruments, specifically the Law on Communicable Disease Prevention and Control, which was adopted in 2007.

The Vietnamese Government has in the last five years honed in on the topics of climate change and disaster management in national strategies and policies. There are now several laws, strategies, action plans and programs that address disaster management in Vietnam. The figure below displays how some of the key policies fit into the legal framework.



Source: Asian Management and Development Institute

National Strategy for Natural Disaster Prevention, Response and Mitigation to 2020

On 16 November 2007, the Prime Minister issued the **Decision 172/2007/QĐ-TTg** to approve the **National Strategy for Natural Disaster Prevention, Response and Mitigation to 2020**. This Strategy is Vietnam’s main disaster risk management framework and is considered one of the most important pieces of disaster management legislation in Vietnam. This framework mainly focuses on water-related disasters, and has a budget of US\$13 billion, of which around US\$1 billion is utilized for structural measures, such as reservoirs, dams, dykes and safe harbors, and more than US\$2 billion for non-structural measures. This Decision stipulates that the government is charged with uniform management of disaster preparedness and response, with the **Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD)** designated as the permanent body charged with coordination with other ministries and agencies in natural disaster management. The **Central Committee for Flood and Storm Control (CCFSC)** is the standing agency, and the MARD as the focal agency.

The Strategy lays out Vietnam’s approach for disaster mitigation and management, particularly focusing on floods, storms and drought. It aims to lessen disasters and their impacts on people, property, agriculture, economic well-being, environment and sustainable development. The strategy also outlines responsibilities of various implementing bodies. The General goal of the Strategy is to:

“Mobilize all resources to effectively implement disaster prevention, response and mitigation from now up to 2020 in order to minimize the losses of human life and properties, the damage of natural resources and cultural heritages, and the

degradation of environment, contributing significantly to ensure the country sustainable development, national defense and security.”

The Decision to Approve the National Strategy for Natural Disaster Prevention, Response and Mitigation 2020 is laid out as follows:

THE PRIME MINISTER

- Pursuant to the Law on Organization of Government dated 25th December 2001;
- Pursuant to the Law on Water Resource dated 20th May 1998;
- Pursuant to the Law on Dyke dated 29th November 2006;
- Pursuant to Ordinance on Flood and Storm Control dated 20th March 1993 and the amended and revised Ordinance on Flood and Storm Control dated 24th August 2000;
- Pursuant to Decree 86/2003/NĐ-CP dated 18th July 2003 of the Government stipulating functions, duties, authority and organizational structure of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development;
- Considering the request of Minister of Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development cum Chairman of Central Committee for Flood and Storm Control,

DECIDES

Article 1. To approve the National Strategy for natural disaster prevention, response and mitigation to 2020 with the main contents as follow:

I. GENERAL PERSPECTIVE

1. Disaster management includes preparedness, response to and recovery of consequences caused by disasters in order to ensure the sustainable socio-economic development and national security and defense.

2. Government agencies, social organizations, economic organizations, armed forces, citizens, and foreign organizations and individuals living in the territory of Vietnam all are duty-bound to disaster prevention, response and mitigation.

3. Disaster prevention, response and mitigation are joint actions of Government and citizens that effectively utilize state resources as well as take advantage of all possible resources of the community, national and international organizations and individuals.

4. Disaster prevention, response and mitigation shall be integrated into socioeconomic development master planning and plans of every region, sector, and nation-wide.

5. Disaster prevention, response and mitigation shall be giving priority to disaster preparedness, keeping studying on impacts of the global climate change, storm surge and other extreme climate phenomena for appropriate response actions.

6. Disaster prevention, response and mitigation shall be succeeding and unleashing traditional experience, learnt lessons and combining them with modern knowledge and technologies through international cooperation.

II. GUIDING PRINCIPLES

1. Government consolidates the State management on disaster prevention, response and mitigation nationwide; Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development is the standing agency and to cooperate with relevant agencies to support Government in executing the state management in the field of DM.

2. Ensure to follow the directions of the ruling Party and the policies, and legislation of the State. Improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the state management and increase the responsibility of every organization and individual for disaster prevention, response and mitigation. Step by step complete institutions and organizational mechanisms from central to local levels Raise awareness and disseminate experience on disaster prevention, response and mitigation, especially at commune, village, and hamlet level.

3. The National Strategy for disaster prevention, response and mitigation must be implemented in synchronous, period-based and priorities-based manners, responsive to both intermediate and long-term purposes. The principles used for disaster prevention, response and mitigation in Vietnam is the “four-on-the-spot” (command on the spot, man-power on the spot, materials on the spot and logistics on the spot) and proactive prevention, timely response, quick and effective recovery. Disaster recovery should be combined with reconstruction and upgrading to ensure sustainable development of each area and sector.

4. Investment for disaster prevention, response and mitigation is critical to ensure a sustainable development. Government shall ensure the availability of necessary resources and mobilize the contribution of community and the whole society for disaster prevention, response and mitigation. Investment for disaster prevention, response and mitigation must combine both structural and nonstructural measures, for multipurpose, and be harmonized with the nature, and environment.

5. Ensure the implementation of international commitments in the field of disaster prevention, response and mitigation.

III. GOALS

1. General goal:

Mobilize all resources to effectively implement disaster prevention, response and mitigation from now up to 2020 in order to minimize the losses of human life and properties, the damage of natural resources and cultural heritages, and the degradation of environment, contributing significantly to ensure the country sustainable development, national defense and security.

2. Specific Objectives:

a) Enhance the capacities of forecasting flood, storm, drought, seawater intrusion, of informing earthquake, of warning tsunami and extreme hydrometeorology phenomena, of which the focus is given to increase the early warning of storm and tropical depression to 72 hours in advance.

b) Ensure that the development planning and building codes of socioeconomic

structures and residential areas in places frequently affected by disaster suit to regional standards for flood and storm control; and socio-economic development plans and sectoral plans are integrated with the strategy and plans of disaster prevention, response and mitigation for a sustainable development.

c) Ensure 100% of local staffs who directly work in the field of disaster prevention, response and mitigation at all levels to be trained and strengthened of capacities for disaster prevention, response and mitigation; ensure more than 70% of population living in disaster prone areas to be disseminated of knowledge on disaster mitigation.

d) Complete the relocation, arrangement and stabilization of the life for people in disaster prone areas according to the planning approved by authorized government agencies. Up to 2010, manage to relocate all population from flash flood and land slide high-risk areas and dangerous areas to safety places.

e) Direct the collaboration and cooperation among forces of search and rescue to take initiative in responding to emergency situations; ensure adequate investment for construction of technical infrastructure and facilities, for procurement of equipment and for human resource development to deal with disaster search and rescue in line with the Master Planning for Search and Rescue to 2015, with vision up to 2020 approved by Prime Minister on Decision 46/2006/QĐ- TTg on 28th February 2006.

f) Ensure safety for the dyke systems at provinces from Ha Tinh province up to the North of the country; improve the flood-resistant capacity of embankment systems in the Coastal Central region, Central Highlands and the Eastern South; complete the consolidation and upgrading of seadyke systems all over the country to protect population, develop the sea economy, and ensure national security and defense in coastal areas.

g) Ensure safety for reservoirs, especially the large reservoirs and the ones related to crowded residential areas, to politically, economically, culturally sensitive areas, and to important structures of national security and defense downstream.

h) Complete 100% of construction of storm shelters for boats and ships according to the planning approved by authorized agencies.

i) Complete the fishery communication system; ensure that 100% of offshore fishing boats and ships have sufficient communication equipment; sign treaties on sea rescue with other nations and territories in the region.

IV. RESPONSIBILITIES AND SOLUTIONS

1. General responsibilities and solutions

a) Consolidate the system of laws, policies and mechanisms

- Go forward to formulate the Law on natural disaster prevention and response based on the existing Ordinance on Flood and Storm Control, suiting the national socio-economic development. Promulgate policies on disaster relief and recovery for each region: living with flood, flood diversion and retention, flashflood and landslide vulnerable areas etc.

- Integrate natural disaster prevention, response and mitigation into social economic development planning and plans

- Stipulate policies encouraging research activities, investment attraction, international cooperation, and resources mobilization ... for disaster management.

- Produce plannings, plans, zonings and conduct disaster risks assessments to formulate suitable policies for each region, locality, and critical zone, and to found bases for a proactive disaster preparedness; stipulate criteria and technical instructions of construction in disaster prone areas; revise and supplement standards and regulations on disaster forecast and warning.

b) Consolidate organizational structure

- Continue to strengthen the leading bodies of disaster management at ministries and sectors, and at both central and local levels.

- Review and complement to improve the functions, duties of and cooperation mechanisms among the Committees for Flood and Storm Control, Committees for Search and Rescue at central, ministerial and local levels.

- Professionalize the staffing for disaster prevention, response and mitigation. Upgrade working places for steering agencies/bodies in the field of disaster prevention, response and mitigation at all levels with appropriate equipments and technologies.

- Encourage the establishment of organizations supporting disaster management, of coaching and training centers, and public service organizations for disaster prevention, response and mitigation.

c) Human resources development and social mobilization

- Adopt socialization policies in disaster prevention, response and mitigation in which favorable conditions are created for the participation of local residents in formulating legislation, plans and programs, in managing and monitoring the implementation of local programmes and projects.

- Promote community awareness raising and information dissemination. Build the resilience to disaster and promote the tradition of mutual support in disaster situation. Organize self-response forces in communities for active emergency search and rescue. Promote the role of social organizations and associations in disaster response and recovery. Develop volunteer networks for disaster propaganda, advocacy, recovery and production rehabilitation. Encourage national and international organizations and individuals to develop diverse and efficient ways of support for disaster affected people and areas.

- Increase the training of the human resource to meet requirements for disaster prevention, response and mitigation, especially human resources for relevant advisory and administration agencies.

d) Financial resources

- The State budget ensures the investment for natural disaster prevention, response and mitigation projects and the contingency for disaster relief and recovery. The reserved state budget can be used for disaster prevention, response and mitigation if necessary. Take advantage of ODA and FDI for disaster prevention and mitigation projects, giving priority of non-refundable ODA utilization for capacities strengthening and technological and management experience transfer.

- The State decentralizes to People's Committees of provinces and districts in investment and mobilization of legitimate resources for disaster prevention, response and mitigation.

- Gradually increase the annual budget for strengthening the management capacities, implementing new construction projects, upgrading and maintaining structures; and for projects of planning, of improving equipment and facilities for disaster forecast, warning, rescue, relief, recovery and production rehabilitation.

- The State has policies to provide preferences and to protect legitimate interests of organizations and individuals investing in disaster prevention, response and mitigation, to encourage national and international organizations and individuals to invest in researching and applying science and modern technologies in the combination with traditional methods.

- Encourage national and international organizations and individuals to finance activities of disaster prevention, response and mitigation and conduct humanitarian and charity activities for disaster affected localities. Conduct studies to establish disaster insurance regimes and disaster self-financing funds.

e) Community awareness raising

- Promote activities for information dissemination, education, awareness and disaster response capacity raising for communities. Include basic knowledge about natural disaster prevention, response and mitigation into school curriculum to help children know how to respond to and support their family and community in disaster situations;

- Provide training for those who are directly involved in disaster prevention and mitigation, especially for decision-makers, managers, planners, practitioners, and local officers;

f) Develop science and technologies related to natural disaster prevention, response and mitigation.

- Promote basic investigation and investment for scientific research and new technology application in disaster prevention, response and mitigation.

- Modernize early warning systems from Central, regional to local levels, focusing on efficient communication methods especially for mountainous areas, territorial water and remote areas.

- The State encourages the application of advanced scientific and technological achievements to improve capacities of disaster forecast, prediction, warning, and communication; to improve research capacities to observe the Earth's variability and natural changes in the region and territory; encourages the application of advanced technology and

new materials for disaster prevention, response and mitigation

- Step by step develop scientific sectors related to disaster: emergencies, disaster management, sustainable development, health care, post-disaster environmental and production recovery.

g) Ensure safety for dyke, reservoir and dam systems

- Build, strengthen and upgrade river and sea dyke systems to meet the design standards, and to be suitably used for multi-purposes of social-economic development. Focus on enhancing quality of dykes, preventing dyke degradation, and reducing the number of weak sections on dyke foundation and sluices underneath the dykes; Complete designed dyke cross-sections, and harden of dyke surface to serve for rural traffic. Increase investment for dyke protection replantation; consider the tending and protection of dyke protection trees as permanent duties in the dyke protection

- Review plannings, and invest to increase flood drainability of flood retention and divergence structures approved by authorized state agencies.

- Regularly inspect and evaluate the situation of the existing reservoirs, repair, upgrade and newly build emergency spillways to ensure safety for reservoirs; complete the reservoirs' operation procedures for multi-usability, particularly in cases of large reservoirs involving to regulate water levels in flood and dry seasons for downstream areas.

h) Enhance the search and rescue capacities:

- Enhance the search and rescue capacities of specialized and semi-specialized forces and local people; regularly organize exercises of disaster prevention, response and mitigation at all levels and localities. Enhance disaster emergency information and communication; improve on-site response capacities for local organizations, individuals, and communities especially those in mountainous, remote and border regions, in islands and water areas.

i) Promote international cooperation and integration

- Boost regional and international cooperation in disaster warning, forecast, in education, training and technology transfer, in sharing of information, experience and practical lessons to build up agreements, and conventions for disaster prevention, response and mitigation, especially for emergency search and rescue; Cooperate with international organizations to implement the UN Convention for Climate Change, the Kyoto Protocol, Hyogo Framework for Action and other programmes; Work in collaboration with countries in the region on water resources exploitation, protection and management.

2. Natural disaster prevention, response and mitigation responsibilities and solutions for each region

a) The Red River Delta and the North Central

The approach applied for the areas is to radically prevent floods, and to take initiatives in prevent and respond to storm, drought and storm surge, for which the following solutions must be taken in places in the same time:

- Enhance flood-prevention capacity for river dyke systems, conduct in a synchronous manner solutions including making flood control plannings for river systems, reviewing and adjusting dyke system plannings as bases for activities of dyke construction, upgrading, protection, and management; strengthening of underdyke structures; treatment of weak dyke foundation; and hardening of dyke surface for rural traffic.

- Continue constructing new reservoirs and establish operation procedures of the existing large reservoirs to regulate water levels for the downstream areas, preventing flood, drought and salt intrusion; reforest to protect upstream watersheds.

- Improve the flood discharge capacity for river channels through removal of obstructions on the river plain and river bed; dredging channels and completing flood divergence projects.

- Implement programs to restore and upgrading sea dykes, to plant mangrove and protection forests, to plant grass to prevent dyke erosion, and to build bank protection structures in coastal provinces.

b) The Central Coast, the Eastern South and Islands

The approach applied for the areas is "Proactiveness in disaster prevention, and adaptation for development", for which following solutions are considered as priorities:

- Establish plannings of residential, industrial and tourism areas; plan and construct disaster prevention and mitigation structures, and transportation infrastructures ensuring a flood resilience and flood drainability.

- Transform crops and animal husbandry structures to suit the regional disaster characteristics and make full use of favorable natural conditions for development; prevent the invasion of sand dunes to plain areas and the desertification.

- Strengthen dykes, take advantage of and preserve natural sand dunes for prevention of tsunami, sea water rise, and salinity intrusion; build reservoirs, increase forestation, conduct solutions to increase run-off and underground water in dry season, build structures to control drought and inundation; build bank protection structures, dredge river channels; build storm shelters for boats and ships; establish and upgrade coastal communication stations for typhoon, sea rise and tsunami warning.

- Promote research to find out solutions to prevent river mouth deposition, to dredge river channels for enhancing flood discharge and waterway transportation.

c) The Mekong River Delta

The approach of natural disaster prevention, response and mitigation applied for the Mekong river delta is "living with flood", ensuring safety for a sustainable development; and taking initiatives to prevent storm, thunderstorm, whirlwind, salinity intrusion, drought at the same time, for which the following solutions are to be focused:

- Establish plannings of flood control, to be proactive in flood prevention, reasonably use land and forest resources and favorable natural conditions of the region.

- Specific measures for flood and salination control include: Construction of residential clusters and infrastructure above flood level, improvement of flood discharge for rivers and canals, construction of sea dykes, estuary dykes, embankments, reservoirs, and other structures for salinity prevention and fresh water preservation.

- Proactively take advantages of flooding; research and invest to explore the flooding environment: alluvium, reduced acidity and salinity, aquaculture, fisheries, ecotourism, water transport, cultural and sports activities which are typical for the flooding region.

- Enhance international cooperation with countries in the Mekong river basin to reasonably use and protect water resources. Continue researching, coordinating with upstream countries to find out solutions for flood control in rainy season, runoff maintaining in dry season to prevent saline intrusion; and for response to the sea level rise.

d) Mountainous areas and Central Highlands

The approach applied for the areas is to "proactively prevent natural disasters", for which following solutions are focused:

- Define and map areas highly prone to flash floods, landslides, geological hazards; make residential planning, evacuate population in dangerous areas, make land use planning, restructure crops, manage mineral exploitation to prevent harmful impacts on the environment and landslide risks, properly plant and exploit forests.

- Establish warning and communication systems down to commune and village levels; build structures to prevent landslides and flash floods; expand flood discharge openings of sluices and bridges on traffic roads to ensure flood drainability; build reservoir system for both flood and drought control.

- Strengthen the cooperation with bordering countries in disaster forecasting, warning, search and rescue.

e) Sea areas

The approach applied for disaster prevention, response and mitigation in sea areas is "proactive prevention and response," to ensure the safety for human life and activities, and take advantages of resources to develop the sea economy, for which the following solutions are focused:

- Establish a management system of vehicles and boats operating at sea, giving priorities for management of fisherfolk before and during disaster.

- Establish communication systems in combination with delivery of disaster forecasts and warnings to vehicles and structures operating at sea. Establish professional search and rescue forces, enhance rescue capacities for semispecialized forces among fishermen on ships and boats.

- Strengthen the cooperation with other countries and territories in disaster forecasting, warning, communication, search and rescue, storm shelter provision and reasonable exploitation of natural resources at sea.

V. ACTION PLAN

Focus to implement the following target programs up to 2020:

1. Non-structural measures

a) The program on improvement of legislation and policies

- *Promulgate the Law on disaster prevention, response and mitigation.*
- *Review, amend, supplement related legal documents.*
- *Promulgate disaster relief and recover policies, preventing speculation and price increase, and supporting the environment and production rehabilitation after disaster.*
- *Promulgate assistance policies for disaster prone areas.*
- *Establish financially self-reliant fund for disaster prevention, response and mitigation.*
- *Implement disaster risk insurance in some sectors*

b) The program on consolidation of organizational structures

- *Annually, consolidate the steering mechanism for disaster prevention, response and mitigation at all levels.*
- *Provide training courses to enhance capacities for staff working in the field of disaster prevention, response and mitigation.*
- *Establish organizations supporting disaster management.*

c) The programme to make and review plannings

- *Define and map areas highly prone to flash floods, river and sea erosion, storm, earthquake, sea level rise, tsunami. Map out the flood areas to assess risks of flood and drought.*
- *Review and amend the flood prevention and control plannings of the Red River and Thai Binh River systems, of the Mekong River Delta, of rivers in the Central region, from Khanh Hoa to Thanh Hoa provinces, rivers in the South Central and the Eastern South of Vietnam.*
- *Review and amend river and sea dyke system plannings*
- *Review and amend the residential plannings in flash flood and landslide prone mountainous areas and in erosion prone areas along riverbank, river mouth and coastal areas.*
- *Review and amend the land use plannings to link with disaster prevention and control.*
- *Review and amend plannings to protect and develop mangrove forests for sea dyke systems and in coastal areas.*
- *Review and amend the construction plannings in disaster prone areas.*
- *Review and amend the integrated exploitation and management plannings of river basins.*

d) The programs on strengthening of disaster warning and forecast capacities

- Strengthen flood warning and forecast capacities for the Red River Delta, Mekong River Delta, rivers in the Central region, Central Highlands and the Eastern South of Vietnam.

- Strengthen capacities to forecast and warn storm, flood, earthquake, drought, salty intrusion, and to warn tsunami. - Strengthening flash flood warning and forecast capacities for mountainous provinces

e) The programs on community awareness raising

- Include disaster knowledge into school programmes

- Conduct trainings for and disseminate information/knowledge/experience on disaster prevention, response and mitigation to communities living in disaster prone areas.

- Disseminate information and propagandize on natural disaster issues via mass media.

f) The programs on forestation and protection of upstream forests:

- Establish, manage, protect, develop and sustainably use 16.24 million ha of forestry land; increase the area of forest coverage to 42-43% by 2010 and to 47% by 2020.

- Pay attention to develop and explore non-wood forestry products in the areas of protection forests to make forests protection beneficial to local people.

- Plant trees to protect dyke systems.

g) The program on strengthening of disaster management capacities and science and technology application

- Strengthen capacities for disaster management agencies from the central to local level, and for search and rescue forces.

- Review and amend/supplement building codes in line with natural disaster characteristics in each region.

- Apply scientific and technological advances as well as new techniques and materials for natural disaster prevention, response and mitigation.

- Improve information and communication systems and management of boats and ships at sea

- Establish procedures to ensure safety for children, old and disabled people in disaster prone areas:

- Establish volunteer networks for natural disaster prevention, response and mitigation

2. Structural measures

- The programme to review, upgrade and newly build natural disaster prevention,

response and mitigation structures matching the designed standards and each region's disaster characteristics.

- The programme to construct reservoirs and establish operation procedures of reservoirs to effectively explore water resources and regulate water levels for downstream areas to respond to flood and drought.

- The programme to expand flood discharge openings of bridges and sluices along road and railroad systems.

- The programme to construct erosion prevention structures

- The programme to enhance dyke systems, to upgrade sluices underneath the dykes, and to harden surface of dykes of grade 3 upward.

- The programme to construct storm shelters for boats and ships.

- The programme to construct residential clusters for flood and storm avoidance. The list of programs and projects, of implementing organizations, collaborating organizations and durations are stipulated in Annex I attached to this Decision.

VI. EVALUATION OF THE STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION

Criteria to evaluate the strategy implementation include:

- The legal documents, mechanism, policies related to disaster prevention, response and mitigation.

- The disaster forecast and warning capacities.

- The organizational mechanism for disaster prevention, response and mitigation at all levels (4 levels).

- The search and rescue capacities of specialized and community forces

- The integration of natural disaster prevention, response and mitigation into overall planning as well as specific projects and programmes for socio-economic development in ministries, sectors and localities.

- Activities for education, information dissemination, community awareness raising on disaster prevention, response and mitigation.

- The community participation in formulating legal documents, in planning, managing and monitoring the implementation of programs, projects at local level.

- The self-preparedness, and response to disaster.

- The efficiency of constructed disaster prevention and control structures.

- The sustainable development of each region, locality under disaster impacts.

- The efficiency of investments for disaster prevention and response.

- The science and technology application in disaster prevention and response.

- International cooperations in the field of disaster prevention, response and mitigation.

Article 2. Organization for the strategy implementation

1. Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and the Central Committee for Flood and Storm Control will preside over the implementation of the National Strategy for natural disaster prevention, response and mitigation to 2020:

- Guide, inspect and urge the implementation of the Strategy in ministries, sectors, localities; and act as the national focal point with international communities in the field.

- Base on the attached annex of the list of programs and projects, establish specific programs and action plans, identify priorities, and assign the implementation responsibilities for ministries, sectors, and localities.

- Inspect, examine and assess the Strategy implementation of ministries, sectors, and localities. Conduct review of the Strategy implementation every year and every five years to draw out experience, and recommend to Prime Minister suitable adjustments to the contents, and solutions of the Strategy.

2. According to their own functions and duties, ministries, sectors and localities are responsible for effectively implementing relevant contents, objectives, duties and solutions stated in the Strategy.

3. Ministry of Planning and Investment takes lead and works in collaboration with Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Central Committee for Flood and Storm Control, National Committee for Search and Rescue and other relevant ministries and sectors to balance and arrange annual investment resources in accordance with the Law on State Budget and other funding resources to effectively implement the Strategy.

4. People's Committees, Committees for Flood&Storm Control and Search & Rescue at provincial and city levels steer its departments to implement the National Strategy, in which priorities are given to strengthen and newly build disaster mitigation, prevention and response structures, to organize disaster prevention, response and mitigation forces, to set plans protecting human life; at the same time, disaster prevention, response and mitigation is integrated into local socio-economic development planning; and report the implementation results to Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and Central Committee for Flood and Storm Control on annual basis.

Article 3. This Decision takes effect 15 days after its publication on the Official Gazette.

Article 4. Ministers, heads of ministry-level agencies, directors of Government departments, and chairmen of People's Committees of provinces and central cities are responsible for executing this decision.

* For further information on the National Strategy for Natural Disaster Prevention, Response and Mitigation to 2020, go to:

<http://www.isgmard.org.vn/VHDocs/NationalPrograms/National%20Strategyfordisasterprevention2020.pdf>

Reportedly, all 63 provinces (58 provinces and 5 municipalities) have developed their action plans to implement this National Disaster Risk Management Strategy. Most ministries represented in the CCFSC have created action plans for the mainstreaming of DRR in their sectors. Having a number of legal documents that support DRM in Vietnam has reportedly caused some complexity in the administration, management and implementation of DRM activities. (AMDI, 2011)

Law on Disaster Risk Management (under development)

The multitude of legal documents regarding disaster management can create complexity in the administration and DRM activities. To remedy this, and strengthen the legal and institutional framework for disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation, the Government is in the process of preparing the First Law on Disaster Risk Management. It is under development by the MARD and was submitted to the National Assembly in My 2012. If the law is ratified, it will be the first comprehensive legislative document that represents DRM in Vietnam.

Second Strategy and Action Plan for Disaster Management and Mitigation (2001-2020)

Vietnam's current National Action Plan is the Second Strategy and Action Plan for Disaster Management and Mitigation (2001-2020), which sets up several strategies in disaster mitigation and management that aim to lessen disasters impacts on people, property, agriculture, economic well-being, environment, and sustainable development. The plan lays out responsibilities of various implementing bodies. (ADRC, ADPC)

First National Strategy and Action Plan for Mitigating Water Disaster

The First National Strategy and Action Plan for Mitigating Water Disaster was prepared in 1994 through a national consultation process. This plan identified the need for a multi-sectoral and multi-disciplinary approach to reduce the vulnerability of the country and improve its capacity to cope with the impacts of natural threats. It serves as a basis for annual state plans. The Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC) reports that the plan strengthened institutions for disaster mitigation and management. Six years after the plan was implemented, disaster awareness increased, particularly that of decision-makers at the central and local government levels. The plan also augmented institutions for disaster mitigation and management at both the central and provincial government levels. It has also set up a raised consciousness and sense of responsibility in the general population for disaster mitigation and management. Disaster preparedness and mitigation have slowly been institutionalized by issuing law documents, such as the **Ordinance on Flood and Storm Control**, the **Ordinance on Water Resources, Structures Protection**, the **Water Law**, and the **Environment Protection Law**.

Decree no. 71/2002/ND-CP of 23 July 2002, issued by the government, is the most comprehensive regulation that remains in force on states of emergency caused by disaster or communicable diseases. It details the implementation of a number of articles of the **Ordinance on the State of Emergency in Case of Great Disaster or Dangerous Epidemics**. Vietnam does not have a single law on disaster preparedness and response, but there a set of legal texts (law, ordinances and governmental decrees) that have been adopted for each specific type of disaster. The IFRC provides the following examples:

- Flood and storm situations are governed by the Ordinance amending and supplementing a number of articles of the Ordinance on Flood and Storm Prevention and Response, no. 27/2000/PL-UBTVQH promulgated by the Standing Committee of National Assembly on 24 August 2000 and the Governmental Decree (2006) implementing Decision no. 245/2006/QĐ-TTg dated 27th October 2006 by the Prime Minister promulgating the Regulation on Announcements of Tropical Depressions, Typhoons, Hurricanes and Floods.
- Earthquake and tsunami situations are governed by Decision no. 78/2007/QĐ-TTg dated 29th May 2007 by the Prime Minister promulgating the Regulation on Earthquake and

Tsunami Prevention and Control and the Decision no. 264/2006/QD-TTg dated 16th November 2006 by the Prime Minister promulgating the Regulation on Earthquake Announcements and Tsunami Warning.

- Accidents at sea are governed by Decision no. 103/2007/QD-TTg dated 12th July 2007 by the Prime Minister promulgating the Regulation on Search and Rescue Coordination at Sea.
- Accidents of civil aviation are governed by the Regulation on Civil Aviation Search and Rescue promulgated by the Decision no. 26/2007/QD-GTVT dated 23 May 2007 by the Minister of Transport.
- Fires are governed by the Law on Fire Prevention and Control no. 27/2001/QH10 promulgated by the National Assembly on 29th June 2001, the Decree no. 35/2003/ND-CP dated 4 April 2003 detailing the implementation of a number of articles of the Law on Fire Prevention and Control and Decree no. 09/2006/ND-CP dated 16th January 2006 by the Government on Forest Fire Prevention.
- Nuclear safety is governed by: Ordinance dated on 25 June 1996 on Radiation Safety and Control, promulgated by the Order of President of State no. 50-L/CTN dated 3 July 1996; Decree no. 51/2006/ ND-CP dated 19th May 2006 providing for the sanctioning of administrative violations in the domain of radiation safety and control; Circular no. 12/2007/TT-BKHCHN dated 12th June 2007 guiding the implementation of a number of articles of the Decree no. 51/2006/ ND-CP dated 19th May 2006 providing for the sanctioning of administrative violations in the domain of radiation safety and control; and Decision no. 12/2004/QD-BKHCHN dated 13th May 2004 promulgating the Organization and Operation Charter of Vietnam Agency for Radiation and Nuclear Safety and Control. Recently, in 2008, the Law on Nuclear Energy⁴³ was adopted, containing a Chapter (Chapter 10) on the response to radiation or nuclear incidents.
- Petroleum incidents are governed by Decree no. 03/2002/ND-CP dated 7th January 2002 by the Government on the Protection of Petroleum Security and Safety and the Decision no. 103/2005/QD-TTg dated 12th May 2005 by the Prime Minister promulgating the Regulation on the Response to Oil Spills.
- Chemical incidents are governed by the Decree no. 68/2005/ND-CP dated 20th May 2005 by the Government on the Chemical Safety.
- Electric incidents are governed by the Energy Minister's Decision No. 90/NL-KHKT on February 22, 1994 promulgating the process of responding to breakdowns of the national power system.

The Government of Vietnam has also approved a number of plans of action for disaster preparedness, such as:

- **Decision 172/2007/QD-TTg** of the Prime Minister on 11th November 2007, approving the National Strategy for Natural Disaster Prevention, Response and Mitigation to 2020.

- **Decision no. 46/2006/QD-TTg** dated 28th February 2006 by the Prime Minister approving the scheme on the general planning for search and rescue up to 2015, with a vision to 2020: This scheme provides for the establishment of an overall mechanism of organization of search and rescue activities, detailing roles and responsibilities of different actors and financial mechanisms.
- **Decision no. 137/2007/QD-TTg** dated 21st August 2007 by Prime Minister approving the scheme on information organization in service of disaster at sea prevention and response.
- **Decision no. 158/2008/QD-TTg** dated 2nd February 2008 by the Prime Minister approving the National Core Programme on Climate Change

Disaster risk management, disaster preparedness and response policy are also addressed in several additional Vietnamese legal documents such as:

- **The Law on Water Resources** promulgated in May 1998 governs water usage and the prevention of water related disasters. It was passed as a result of a growing demand in management issues dealing with the utilization of water resources and prevention of adverse consequences of water-related disasters. The primary purposes of the Water Resources Law are to:
 - Establish the basic policies, principles and framework for the planning, exploitation, utilization, conservation, protection, regulation and management of all water resources, for comprehensive, integrated and sustainable development, with due regard for land and other related natural resources and the environment;
 - Define the rights and obligations of the Government, water users and the public in the use and protection of the water resources and hydraulic works; and
 - Prescribe the administrative authority and responsibility to implement this Law, including the cooperation, communication and coordination of the various ministries and agencies of the Government, provinces, water users and the public.

The Law provides for creation of a National Committee on Water Resources, and River Basin Organizations in major basins, and the harmonization of water management and administration. It provides a mechanism for planning, utilization, and protection of water resources through licensing water uses and granting permits for wastewater discharges. It also provides the means to monitor, evaluate, and enforce the Law.

- **Law on Forest Protection and Development no. 29/2004/QH11** promulgated by the National Assembly on 3 December 2004 (which covers forest fires and disaster caused by forest destruction).
- **The Law on Dykes (2006)**, Chapter IV (Dyke protection) provides for the organization of activities for the protection of dykes in the rainy season or when accidents involving dykes occur. Agencies responsible are the government, the Central Steering Committee

for Flood and Storm Prevention and Control, Presidents of District people's committees, relevant ministries such as the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Ministry of National Defence (Articles 34-36). Individuals, organizations breaching the Law can be administratively sanctioned or examined for penal liabilities; and, if causing damage, have to pay compensation therefore as prescribed by law.

- **The Law on Fire prevention and Control (2001)** and the Decree detailing the implementation of a number of articles of the Law on fire prevention and control (2003) regulate the organization of activities for fire prevention and control, defining clear responsibilities of each agency (Article 37-39 and 58), the information and response mechanism (of 32-35), financial mechanism (chapter VI), and the treatment of breaches of the Law (Chapter VIII).
- **The Law on Environmental Protection no. 52/2005/QH11** promulgated by the National Assembly on 29th November 2005. The Government of Vietnam had been concerned about environmental protection. The issuance of this law contributed to the establishment of a synchronous legal environment to adjust socio-economic activities and to maintain sustainable development. Despite great efforts, industrial disasters happened and the industrial environment continued to deteriorate, affecting the country's sustainable development. (UNISDR 2005 – may be old)

This law states the requirement for Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for all national level policies, programs and plans. Therefore, a key goal is the institutionalization of SEA processes which would where relevant consider DRR as a key environmental or sustainable development issue. (IFRC and HFA 2009)

- **Land Law no. 14/2003/QH11** promulgated by the National Assembly on 26th November 2003.
- **Law on Mineral Resources promulgated by the Order no. 47-L/CTN** of the President of State on 20 March 1996, amended by the Law Amending the Law on Mineral Resources no. 46/2005/QH11 promulgated by the National Assembly on 14 June 2005.
- **Law on Fisheries no. 17/2003/QH11** promulgated by the National Assembly on 26th November 2003.
- **Law on National Defence no.39/2005/QH11** promulgated by the National Assembly on 14 June 2005)which mentions the role of national defence forces in disaster prevention and control activities)
- **Law on Information Technology** (yet to be adopted, indicating the priority of using advanced technology in service of disaster control). **CHECK CURRENT STATUS**
- **The Ordinance of Flood and Storm Control (1993-2000)** regulates the organization of activities against floods and storms, including prevention, response and reparation. The responsible agencies include the Ministry of Water Resources (now MARD), the Local people's Committees, the Central and Local Steering Committee for Flood and Storm Prevention and Control, and the General Department of Meteorology and Hydrology (Article 20 and 33-35); These activities are financed by the State budget, the fund for

flood and storms prevention and control and support from individuals and organizations in and outside the country. Individuals, organizations breaching the Law can be administratively sanctioned or examined for penal liabilities; and, if causing damage, have to pay compensation hence as prescribed by law

- **Ordinance of Exploration and Protection of Irrigation Works no. 32/2001/PL-UBTVQH10** promulgated by the Standing Committee of the National Assembly on 4 April 2001.
- **Ordinance on Protection of Meteorological and Hydrological Works** promulgated by the Standing Committee of the National Assembly on 2nd December 1994.

In addition to the texts mentioned above, there are also related Decrees, Decisions and Circulars. The IFRC also noted that there are a large number of governmental circulars on strengthening preparedness and response to floods and storms or natural disaster promulgated annually, as well as messages from the Central Steering Committee for Floods and Storm Prevention and Control during flood season or in flood situations.

Another important text of note concerns the financial management in cases of disaster. **Decision No. 118/2008/QD-TTg** of the Prime Minister, dated August 27, 2008, promulgates the **Regulation on Financial Management of Search, Rescue, Salvage and Response to Natural Disasters and Catastrophes**.

In particular, concerning floods and storms, it is necessary to mention the **Decree no. 50/CP** dated 10th May 1997 by the government issuing regulations on the setting up and operation of local funds for flood and storm prevention and response. Also, the Ministry of Finance has adopted several circulars guiding the financial management of emergency preparedness and response.

The coordination between relevant actors during a disaster is provided in several specific texts, such as the **Decree no. 29/CP** dated 2 April 1997 promulgating the Regulation on the Coordination of Activities of the State Management Agencies at Civil Airport and Airfields, the **Decree no. 64/2008/ND-CP** issued by the Government, dated 14 May 2008 on mobilization, receipt, distribution and use of sources of voluntary donations for people to overcome difficulties caused by natural disasters, fires or serious incidents and for terminally ill patients, and the **Circular no. 72/2008/TT-BTC** of the Minister of Finance dated 31st July 2008 guiding the implementation of the **Decree no. 64/2008/ND-CP** issued by the Government, dated 14 May 2008 on mobilization, receipt, distribution and use of sources of voluntary donations for people to overcome difficulties caused by natural disasters, fires or serious incidents and for terminally ill patients.

Decree No. 168-HDBT of May 19, 1990 of the Council of Ministers established and outlined the tasks of the **Central Committee of Storm and Flood Control (CCSFC)**, and committees and sectors at all levels (provincial, district, village). The national committee is an interministerial institution, including representatives of all key ministries. Its secretariat is provided by the Department of Dike Management and Flood Control (DDMFC) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD). The CCSFC is responsible for formulating all regulations and mitigation measures related to typhoons and floods. Emphasis is traditionally on dike protection, surveillance and maintenance. Local emergency work is coordinated by the provincial CSFC.

The consequence of an increasing population is the growth of unauthorized settlement in annually inundated floodways and in hazardous coastal areas. To help deal with this problem, the government promulgated the **Statutes on Dike Management, and Flood and Typhoon Mitigation**. This regulation established the responsibilities and powers of various departments, and regulates the authorities for controlling developments in flood-prone areas. In 1993, a Flood and Storm Preparedness Fund was set up with all government levels contributing to it. Again, with so many legal texts, it remains noticeable that there is no unique focal point for disaster preparedness and response. Each relevant ministry has established departments charged with disaster preparedness and response coordination. For example, the Department of Dyke Management and Storm and Flood Prevention and Control is under the MARD.

* For more information on Vietnam's national legal and policy framework, go to http://www.ifrc.org/PageFiles/80197/IDRL_Red-Cross-Report-Vietnam_v11-ENG.pdf

Community Awareness Raising and Community-Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM) Program to 2020

Issued by the Decision No. 1002/QD-TTg, dated 13 July 2009

Community-Based Disaster Risk Management Program (CBDRM) is a national program for enhancing community's awareness and implementing community-based disaster risk management. The program will be implemented in 6,000 communes and villages that are commonly affected by disasters. The CBDRM is designed to improve capacity at national, provincial and local levels along with coordination, quality control, and require strong partnerships between Government and civil society.

The overall objective of the CBDRM project is "to raise community awareness and effectively implement CBDRM program at all levels, especially the local authorities and residents at villages and communes in order to reduce losses to people's lives and property, damages to environment and cultural heritages caused by natural disasters at the greatest extent that contribute to the sustainable development of the country

The program activities include 2 major components:

- I. Strengthening capacity of disaster risk management officials and staff at all levels of GoV to implement CDBRM program
- II. Improving communication and awareness and enhancing community capacity on CBDRM

There have been significant attempts by MARD to implement the CBDRM program. However, delays in budget allocation; a lack of clear implementation guidance for provinces; and weak coordination between many relevant stakeholders has hindered progress.

Coordination of International Assistance

Vietnam does not have a unique national focal point in charge of international cooperation or coordination of assistance from foreign organizations for disaster. But, there are some legal texts that have designated focal points in different types of disaster:

- The Decree no. 64/2008/ND-CP issued by the Government, dated 14 May 2008 on mobilization, receipt, distribution and use of sources of voluntary donations for people to overcome difficulties caused by natural disasters, fires or serious incidents and for terminally ill patients (article 4.2) stipulates that: “Vietnam Red Cross calls for assistance within the Red Cross system in the country and abroad”.
- Article 6.3 also stipulates that: “The receipt, distribution and use of funds and assistance for the recovery from natural disasters, fire, serious accidents by the Red Cross from central to local level will be consistent with the provisions of the Red Cross statutes.”
- Article 20.1 states: “the Central Committee of the Vietnam Fatherland Front and Vietnam Red Cross Society are responsible for organizing and directing the receipt of financial and material assistance to people for the reparation of consequences due to natural disasters, fire, and serious accidents; and monitoring the distribution from central to local level.”

However, the Vietnam Red Cross is not a governmental body or the designated national focal point to request international disaster relief and liaise with international aid providers. A number of other agencies also have the authorization to receive and distribute aid and assistance including the Central Committee of the Fatherland Front, the People’s Aid Committees established for each case of disaster, mass media agencies, social funds and charity funds established in accordance with the law as well as organizations and units authorized by the Fatherland Front (Article 5). However there is no clear and concrete legal provision for requesting international disaster relief and liaising with providers of international aid (including non-state actors).

Climate Change

It is widely known that the Vietnam's topography and location, specifically 50% of the population's location on the coast, make it one of the most disaster-prone countries in the world. The anticipated sea level rise of between 30 centimeters and 1 meter within the next 100 years is expected to significantly increase the flood risk in low lying coastal areas, and will directly impact Vietnam's national GDP. Additionally, increases in the annual average temperature of 0.1 degrees Celsius per decade are and will pose an imminent threat to Vietnam's progress in human development. Impacts will also be felt by nearly all sectors of Vietnam's economy, including agriculture, forestry, aquaculture, hydro-electricity, oil and gas production and sea transport. The following table from the document, *Review of Current and Planned Adaptation Action: East and Southeast Asia*, shows Vietnam's geographic and topographic vulnerabilities to climate change.

Table 1: Vulnerabilities to climate change in Viet Nam by region

Region	Characterization	Main Physical Vulnerabilities	Main Social Vulnerabilities
Mekong Delta Region	High Exposure, Moderate Sensitivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sea level rise, flooding, saline intrusions, rising rates of storms: inland flood zone including An Giang and Dong Thap provinces; Saline intrusion areas: Kien Giang, Ca Mau, Bac Lieu; Lack of freshwater supply in the dry season; Long flood duration areas (the Trans-Bassac depression zone) such as Can Tho city. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Several provinces with poor Khmer ethnic minority; Rising rates of landless; Large numbers of migrants (10 per cent poverty rate).
Central Highlands	Moderate Exposure, High Sensitivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Floods and flash floods; Droughts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High number of ethnic minorities; High rates of poverty (29 per cent incidence by region); Many migrants; High numbers dependent on rain-fed and subsistence agriculture.
Northern Mountains (Northeast and Northwest)	Low Exposure, High Sensitivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Landslides, flash floods, droughts, storms from East China Sea. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 49 per cent poverty in the northwest region; Many provinces dominated by diverse ethnic minorities; High illiteracy rates and large families; Low rates of female education; Many remote areas with poor road access; High rates of subsistence and rain-fed agriculture
Central Coast (North and South)	High Exposure, Moderate Sensitivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased storms from East China Sea, coastal surges, flooding; Some drought-prone areas, especially in southern coast. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 29 per cent poverty in North, 13 per cent in south coast; Pockets of ethnic minorities; Many fishing communities; Dependence on rain-fed agriculture in many areas.
Red River Delta	Moderate Exposure, Low Sensitivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Storms from East China Sea, floods and flash floods, inundation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relatively low (nine per cent) poverty rate but large number of poor people overall; High rates of outmigration and female-headed households.
Southeast Region	Low Exposure, Low Sensitivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coastal storms Drought in inland areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low rates of poverty overall (six per cent) but some pockets, particularly for ethnic minorities; Many migrant workers.

Source: McElwee (2010).

According to MARD representatives, if the mean sea water level increases by one meter by the year 2100, 30 percent of the Mekong Delta will be permanently inundated and more than 80 percent of the Delta will be flooded during the flood season. It will also affect housing of some 20 million people. During the dry season, salt water intrusion would affect 70 percent of the Delta area.

The UNFCC was approved by Vietnam in 1995, and the Netherlands is providing help to apply the methodology developed by the Interdepartmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) to prepare a systematic global inventory on vulnerability of coasts and deltas, in line with Agenda 21 of the UNCED Climate Change Convention. This help included the conduct of the Vietnam Vulnerability Assessment in 1996, which established the framework for identifying a long-term program of assistance to the coastal zone. Vietnam's MoNRE was assigned in December 2007 to collaborate with other Ministries and Sectors to develop a National Target Program on Climate Change Adaptation (NTP-CCA) and submit it to the Prime Minister. MARD played a

significant role in NTP and has been preparing an Action Plan on adaptations on climate change in the agriculture and rural development sector. Details on the NTP-CCA will be further discussed in the following section.

Law on Climate Change *(being considered for development)*

The law on climate change is currently being considered for development in the near future. This law could provide a good advocacy opportunity for the Climate Change Working group and Disaster Management Working Group.

National Strategy on Climate Change

Vietnam's National Strategy on Climate Change was approved by the Prime Minister in December 2011 and launched in March 2006. The strategy includes six major parts, including climate change challenges and opportunities for Vietnam, strategic viewpoint, vision to the year 2100, goals by 2050, strategic tasks and implementation. During 2011-2015, programs will be prioritized, including the National Target Program to respond to climate change, and an expanded plan for 2016-2025, programs on water resource management and response to climate change implemented in the Mekong River Delta and the Red River Delta, programs to respond to climate change in Vietnam's urban areas. This new strategy aims to create a legal framework for implementing climate change adaptation and mitigation.

National Target Program to Respond to Climate Change (NTP-RCC)

The Government of Vietnam launched the National Target Program to Respond to Climate Change (NTP-RCC) in December 2008 to address the international challenge of climate change, and with a goal of developing national policy on adaptation and mitigation by the end of 2010 and full implementation in 2015. For more information on the current adaptation projects and programs Vietnam is involved with, please refer to:

<http://www.preventionweb.net/english/professional/publications/v.php?id=25338>

The NTP-RCC is led by the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment (MoNRE), with participation of key ministries, such as MARD, MoT, and MoC.

The program is divided into 3 main periods: Starting-up in 2009-2010; Implementation in 2011-2015; and development post-2015.

Its strategic objectives are to:

- Assess climate change impacts on sectors and regions in each period and establish feasible action plans to effectively respond to climate change for the short-term and long term stage
- Ensure the sustainable development of the country, taking advantage of opportunities to develop towards a low-carbon economy, and
- Join the international community's efforts in mitigating climate change and protecting the climatic system.

National Target Programme on Climate Change Adaptation (NTP-CCA)

The National Target Programme on Climate Change Adaptation was approved by the

Government of Vietnam in 2009. It is an important strategic document, which clearly integrates a number of proposed actions to reduce the vulnerability of communities, particular regions and sectors to the perceived occurrence of rising, frequent and intensive natural disaster events and hazards associated with climate change.

Action Plan Framework on Climate Change for Adaptation and Mitigation of the Agriculture and Rural Development Sector Period 2008-2020

This action plan framework is enclosed with the **Decision No. 2730/QĐ-BNN-KHCN** dated 5 September 2008 by the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development. The general objectives of the plan are to enhance capability of mitigation and adaptation to climate change, to minimize its adverse impacts and ensure sustainable development of the agriculture and rural development sector in the context of climate change.

For full text, please refer to:

http://www.preventionweb.net/files/10517_ActionPlanFrameworkAdaptationMitiga.pdf

Green Growth Strategy Framework for 2011-2020

Green Growth Strategy Framework for 2011-2020 has vision to boost international cooperation and call for foreign assistance for the implementation of climate change projects.

MoNRE drafted a national action plan on climate change earlier in the year. This draft plan specified key tasks in the 2012-2020 period, focusing on climate change adaptation, actively coping with natural disasters and rising sea levels, ensuring food and water security, preventing floods in major cities and strengthening river and sea dykes. The action plan will focus on lessening greenhouse effects and utilizing all resources to cope with climate change. The draft action plan was projected to be submitted to the Prime Minister for approval in the first quarter of 2012.

There have been many studies in Vietnam focusing on identifying the physical effects of climate change, but there are only a few focusing on the economics of adaptation. More information on the effects of climate change on Vietnam can be found in the *Economics of Adaptation to Climate Change study*. This study also builds on existing climate change studies and projects in Vietnam.

National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation (DRR-CCA) in Vietnam (In development)

In most countries, disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation largely operate separately, but in Vietnam, there is a potential value of integrating the work of these two fields. They are currently developing a National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation. According to sources, the platform will be a national mechanism that will promote better coordination and implementation of disaster risk reduction and climate change actions. Its focus is to support the implementation of relevant policies and strategies, and provide a solid basis for action at the national level and be guided by evidence-based activities at the local level.

Some related tasks have been conducted through the activities of the National Disaster Mitigation Partnership. This has included two National Forums on DRR and CCA in 2009 and 2011. According to Vietnam's CCFSC, the objectives of this national platform are: To serve as a coordination mechanism to enhance multi-stakeholder collaboration and coordination for the sustainability of DRR activities, to foster an enabling environment between stakeholders for

awareness-raising on DRR, integrating DRR into development policies, planning and programs, and to discuss and address the urgent need issues on DRR in context of CCA in order to strengthen and maximize the effectiveness of DRR activities.

Regional and International Cooperation

To combat the effects of climate change and disaster events, including infectious disease emergencies, Vietnam is engaged in both regional and international efforts.

International Level

Vietnam promotes International cooperation on climate change and disaster management. IN the past, Vietnam has cooperated with international agencies and countries including World Bank, Asian Development bank, UNDP, Denmark, Norway, Japan, France, etc. to implement programs on disaster management and climate change. For example: (AMDI, 2011)

- Natural Disaster Mitigation Partnership (NDM-P): (multilateral donors)
- Natural Disaster Risk Management “Credit # CR.4114-VN” (World Bank Project)
- Strengthening Capacity on Disaster Management (UNDP)
- Climate change adaptation and mitigation program in Vietnam (Denmark)
- Support program on responding climate change 2010-2012 (Japan contributing US\$500 million)

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

Vietnam signed the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) at the Rio de Janeiro Earth Summit in June 1992. After it was adopted on 8 May 1992, the Climate Convention was entered into force globally on 21 March 1994. In Article 4.5 of the UNFCCC, it calls for country parties to undertake technology transfer and needs assessment with the goal of adapting to and mitigating the effects of climate change. Vietnam ratified the UNFCCC on 16 November 1994, and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of Vietnam was assigned by the GoV as a National Focal Authority

Kyoto Protocol

The Kyoto Protocol is an international agreement linked to the UNFCCC. The major feature of the Kyoto Protocol is that it sets binding targets for 37 industrialized countries and the European community for reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. These amount to an average of five percent against 1990 levels over the five-year period 2008-2012. The major distinction between the Protocol and the Convention is that while the Convention encouraged industrialized countries to stabilize GHG emissions, the Protocol commits them to do so. Recognizing that developed countries are principally responsible for the current high levels of GHG emissions in the atmosphere as a result of more than 150 years of industrial activity, the Protocol places a heavier burden on developed nations under the principle of “common but differentiated responsibilities.” This Protocol was adopted in Kyoto, Japan, on 11 December 1997 and entered into force on 16 February 2005. The detailed rules for the implementation of the Protocol were adopted COP 7 in Marrakesh in 2001, and are called the ‘Marrakesh Accords.’

Guidelines for the Domestic Facilitation and Regulation of International Disaster Relief and Initial Recovery Assistance (2007)

The Guidelines for the Domestic Facilitation and Regulation of International Disaster Relief and Initial Recovery Assistance (IDRL Guidelines) were adopted by Resolution 4 of the 30th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent in November 2007.¹⁵ The IDRL Guidelines were developed through an extensive research and consultation process, led by the IFRC, to address a number of legal challenges frequently encountered during international disaster relief operations.

The **IDRL Guidelines** provide recommendations to governments for removing legal barriers and unnecessary red tape which can delay the entry and operation of international disaster relief teams, goods and equipment. At the same time, they encourage governments to appropriately regulate incoming assistance to ensure it meets minimum quality and accountability standards.

Some key provisions of the IDRL Guidelines are:

Domestic actors have the primary role

- The Guidelines recognize that it is first and foremost the responsibility of the government of the affected state to address the humanitarian needs caused by a disaster within its borders. National Red Cross or Red Crescent Societies and other domestic civil society actors in the affected state play a key supporting role.
- International disaster assistance should be designed and implemented so as to be complementary to the efforts of these domestic actors, rather than displace them.

International relief providers have responsibilities

- The Guidelines also insist that international assistance providers be held responsible for abiding by certain minimum humanitarian standards in their disaster assistance.
- These include the principles of humanity, neutrality, and impartiality as well as minimum standards of coordination and quality in their relief goods, personnel and programmes, as drawn from sources such as the Code of Conduct of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and NGOs in Disaster Relief and the Sphere Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Relief.

International actors need legal facilities

- The IDRL Guidelines set out specific types of legal facilities or accommodations that governments should provide to assisting states and humanitarian organizations so that they can do an effective job of responding to humanitarian needs. For example, they call for:
 - Expedited visa processing and customs clearance for relief personnel, goods and equipment
 - Facilitation of relief transport
 - Exemptions from taxes, duties and fees on relief activities
 - Simplified means for humanitarian organizations to acquire temporary domestic legal personality in order to operate legally in the country

- A distinction is made in some of these provisions between “relief ” and “initial recovery assistance” because speed is much more critical for emergency relief.
- The IDRL Guidelines also encourage states to reduce legal barriers to disaster relief originating within or passing through their territories to another country affected by a disaster, in order to avoid delays.

Some legal facilities should be conditional

- In order to lend some weight to the responsibilities of assisting humanitarian organizations in particular, the IDRL Guidelines encourage governments (to the extent permissible under international law) to condition the granting of legal facilities to these organizations on their commitment to, and ongoing compliance with, the minimal standards described above.
- The IDRL Guidelines suggest that this could be implemented in various ways, for example, through a simple registration procedure, ideally available not only in the immediate aftermath of a disaster but also as a preparatory measure in advance. The granting state should then monitor the performance of registered organizations for ongoing compliance with the required standards.
- The IDRL Guidelines note that some states may wish to grant legal facilities to private companies providing charitable relief in a disaster setting. If they do so, they are encouraged to hold them to the same standards as humanitarian organizations. No similar conditionality is suggested for government-to-government aid due to the availability of alternative diplomatic means of redressing quality or coordination issues.

Although the IDRL Guidelines are non-binding, they have been used and referred to by a number of international and regional bodies and instruments including the United Nations General Assembly¹⁶ and the ASEAN Standing Arrangements and Standard Operating Procedures (ASEAN SASOPS) which were developed to support of the AADMER (see further below).

The **Tampere Convention on the Provision of Telecommunication Resources for Disaster Mitigation and Relief Operations of 1998 (Tampere Convention)** is a treaty aimed at facilitating the use of telecommunication resources and assistance for disaster mitigation and relief. It establishes an international framework for states to cooperate among themselves and with non-state entities and intergovernmental organizations. The convention seeks to simplify and strengthen the procedures by which international disaster responders may bring telecommunications equipment across borders during and after an emergency, and use them in their operations. It requires state parties to decrease or eliminate regulatory barriers and to confer the necessary privileges, immunities and facilities for international relief providers. It recognizes the sovereign interests of state parties, providing substantial flexibility as to how to conduct their obligations and ensuring that they maintain primary authority in relief coordination in their own borders. IN 1998, 60 states attending the Intergovernmental Conference on Emergency Telecommunications unanimously adopted the Tampere Convention. The Convention entered into force on 8 January 2005 and, as of January 2007, it had 35 State parties. Although Vietnam has not signed or ratified this convention, it is relevant as a reflection of international consensus on reducing regulatory barriers in the use of telecommunications

during disaster response. (IFRC, 2009)

Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters

The HFA is a 10-year plan consisting of a set of non-binding guidelines adopted by 168 Member States of the United Nations in 2005 at the World Disaster Reduction Conference organized by the UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) in Hyogo. Vietnam adopted the HFA framework, which promotes a “strategic and systematic approach to reducing vulnerabilities and risk to hazards” by “building the resilience of nations and communities to disasters.” The HFA outlines five priorities that offer guiding principles and practical means for achieving disaster resilience. The framework aims to substantially reduce disaster losses by 2015. The five priorities for action are:

Priority Action 1: Ensure that disaster risk reduction is a national and a local priority with a strong institutional basis for implementation.

Priority Action 2: Identify, assess and monitor disaster risks and enhance early warning.

Priority Action 3: Use knowledge, innovation and education to build a culture of safety and resilience at all levels.

Priority Action 4: Reduce the underlying risk factors.

Priority Action 5: Strengthen disaster preparedness for effective response at all levels.

Vietnam’s progress towards achieving its goals towards the HFA framework can be found in the latest progress report: *Vietnam: National progress report on the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action (2009-2011) – interim*. Publication date: September 2010. The full report on Vietnam’s progress on the HFA can be found at:

http://www.preventionweb.net/files/15492_vnm_NationalHFAProgress_2009-11.pdf

The progress report assesses current national strategic priorities with regard to the implementation of disaster risk reduction actions, and establishes baselines on levels of progress achieved with respect to the implementation of the HFA's five priorities for action. The preparation of this National Progress Report has been undertaken within the framework of the biennial 2009-11 HFA Monitoring and Progress Review process, facilitated by UNISDR and ISDR System partners.

Regional Level

ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER)

At the regional level, Vietnam is a member of ASEAN and the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM), which was established in early 2003. ACDM is the primary body responsible for disaster response activities and encouraging regional cooperation on disaster management, together with the ASEAN AHA Center, which is responsible for cooperation and coordination among the ASEAN states and with the relevant UN and international organizations,

in promoting regional collaboration on disaster management and emergency response. (IFRC, 2009)

The ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) was signed by ASEAN member countries, including Vietnam, in Vientiane on 26 July 2005. This regional instrument aims to facilitate cooperation between the 10 ASEAN member countries and international partners, to improve regional capacities for disaster preparedness and response. AADMER provides a number of facilities for international assistance providers, including exemptions from taxes, duties and other charges for the import of goods and equipment, the facilitation of the entry, stay and departure of relief personnel, protection and “local facilities and services for the proper and effective administration of the assistance.” International relief providers are expected to conform to the national laws of the host country and ensure that relief goods and materials meet appropriate quality and validity standards. The AADMER requires ratification by all ten-member states before it officially enters into force. As of August 2009, nine out of ten countries have ratified AADMER, including Vietnam. In the meantime, member states and the Secretariat have been practicing some aspects of AADMER. For example, they have established the AHA Center (ASEAN Coordinating Center for Humanitarian Assistance) and developed the ASEAN SASOPS, which provides further details on the process for sending and receiving international assistance.

Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) Framework Agreement on Goods in Transit and Cross-Border Transport

The GMS Cross-Border Transport Agreement is a multilateral agreement for the facilitation of cross-border transport of goods and people signed by Cambodia, China, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam. The agreement was developed under an Asian Development Bank technical assistance initiative, which aims to provide greater consistency in the arrangements for cross-border transport, taking into account existing regional and international agreements. Although the agreement does not specifically apply to international humanitarian relief, it nevertheless includes arrangements of benefit to emergency situations.

Ayeyarwady – Chao Phraya- Mekong Economic Cooperation (ACMECS)

ACMECS was established in 2003 and involves Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam. In August 2003, the Foreign Ministers of each country agreed on an Economic Cooperation Strategy to increase trade and investment, enhance competitiveness and generate more employment and improve distribution of income and quality of life in the sub-region. In support of this strategy, the Economic Cooperation Strategy Plan of Action (ECSPA) was created, consisting of a series of detailed plans between each country. Included in these plans are a number of areas relevant to international disaster assistance and communicable disease emergencies, including the facilitation of cross-border transit and simplified customs procedures and closer regional cooperation and prevent the spread of infectious disease.

Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction and Emergency Preparedness and Response in the Asia Pacific Region: 2009-2015

Vietnam is one of the 21 members states of APEC, which adopted a strategy on risk reduction and emergency preparedness in August 2008. This strategy focuses its importance of regional

cooperation in Asia Pacific, including through 'regional and national harmonization of international relief guidelines'.

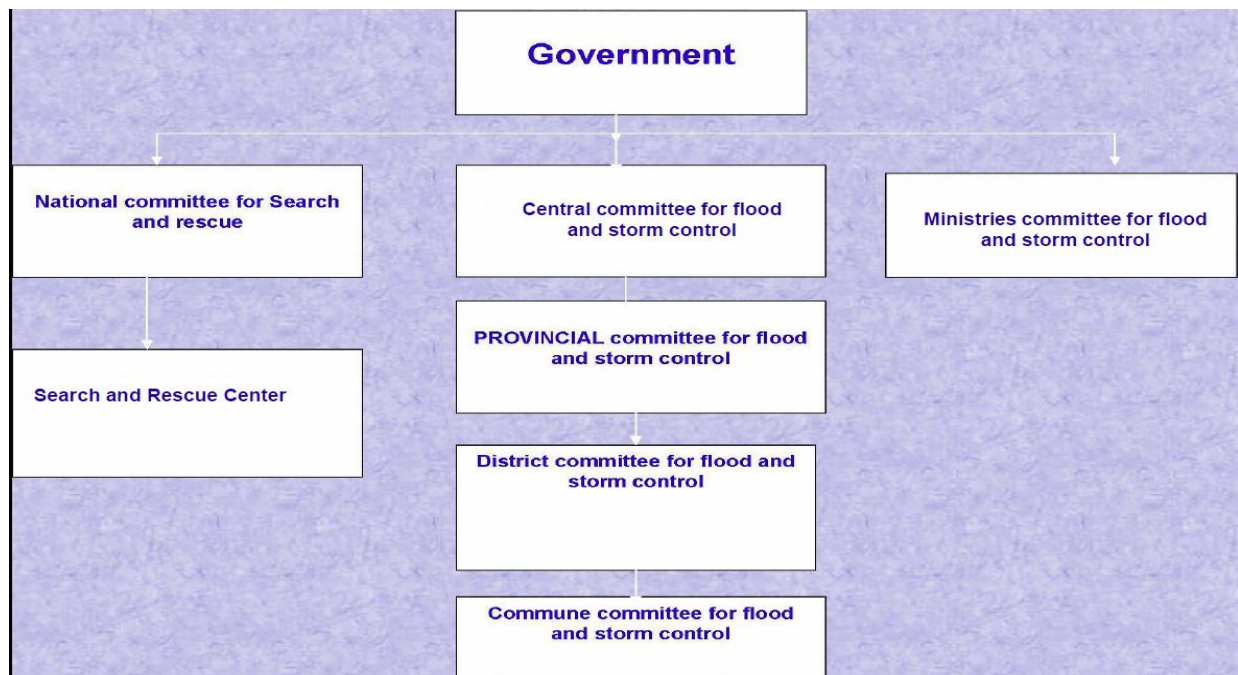
On September 9, 2010, the Government Office of Vietnam issued an official correspondence to the relevant DRM stakeholders to guide the establishment of an AHA Center in Vietnam to facilitate a rapid and well-targeted response within 24 hours. Vietnam's Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) is assigned to be the focal agency to realize the AADMER and operate the ASEAN Coordinating Center for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Center). Vietnam's Ministry of Finance commits to allocate sufficient funding to implement this agreement.

Other regional institutions Vietnam is a member of include the **Mekong River Commission, the Typhoon Committee, and the APEC**. The government has put a greater emphasis to implement its commitment to the regional DRR and CCA initiatives with some recognized progresses.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE OF DISASTER MANGAEMENT

This section will detail the organizational structure of Vietnam's disaster management framework. In Vietnam, government responsibilities for disaster management are delegated between many different committees, ministries and departments, and their roles are dependent on the type of disaster, as opposed to the multi-hazard approach. Along with Vietnam's multitude of legal documents, these dispersed organizational arrangements are appropriate to Vietnam's current situation, allowing an effective allocation of resources and management of some types of disasters, which occur more often in Vietnam.

Flood, Storm Control and Disaster Mitigation Network



Source: Institute of Geography, VAST Vietnam

Central Level: *(Water Sector Review Project)*

The Government of Vietnam performs the function of state management over activities of flood and storm control nationwide, and issues legal documents and regulations in relation to this matter. When a natural disaster exceeds the response capacity of central ministries, agencies and provinces, the Government makes the decision on mobilizing necessary resources for responses, relief, recovery and reconstruction in order to minimize damages and quickly restore public life. When there is an extremely high risk of natural disaster, the Prime Minister is responsible for proposing the National Assembly's Standing Committee or the President of the country to announce an emergency case for timely responses.

The **National Committee for Searching and Rescue (NCSR)** was established according to the Prime Ministers' Decision No. 760/TTg dated 23 October 1996. The NCSR is chaired by a Vice-Prime Minister, who is assisted by four vice-chairmen. Of those, a Vice Minister for National Defense should be the standing vice chairman. The committee also has four other

members who are delegated to provide guidance and organize efforts for search and rescue of humans and the means of transport attacked by natural disasters, the lives and property of individuals and the State in case of disasters; and to mobilize and coordinate various forces and facilities of the central ministries, agencies, provinces and organizations and individuals for timely search and rescue, and be responsible for their decisions in those cases. The NCSR are also expected to coordinate with regional countries to do search and rescue. On 1 July 2009, the **Decision no. 76/2009/QD-TTg** of the Prime Minister was enforced that strengthens the national committee for search and rescue. They are the coordinating agency of the government in the planning and organizing of search and rescue strategies and activities, and a focal point for international cooperation.

Detailed functions of the National Committee for Search and Rescue are stipulated in other legal texts:

- According to the Decree no. 08/2006/ND-CP promulgated by the Prime Minister dated 16th January 2006 detailing a number of articles of the Ordinance on flood and storm prevention and control, which was amended and supplemented on 24 August 2000 (Article 11.3), the National Committee for Search and Rescue has the leading responsibility for organizing search and rescue during floods and storms
- According to the Decision no. 103/2007/QD-TTg dated 12th July 2007 by the Prime Minister promulgating the Regulation on search and rescue coordination at sea, it has authority to mobilize other ministries and agencies' forces and equipment for search and rescue in situations beyond the capacity of coastal popular committees and the Vietnam maritime search and rescue coordination centre (Article 5.6)
- According to the Decision no. 78/2007/QD-TTg dated 29th May 2007 by the Prime Minister promulgating the Regulation on earthquake and tsunami prevention and control (Article 16.10), it has the authority to lead the organization in search and rescue operations after an earthquake or tsunami, and to guide local authorities in establishing plans for preparedness and response.

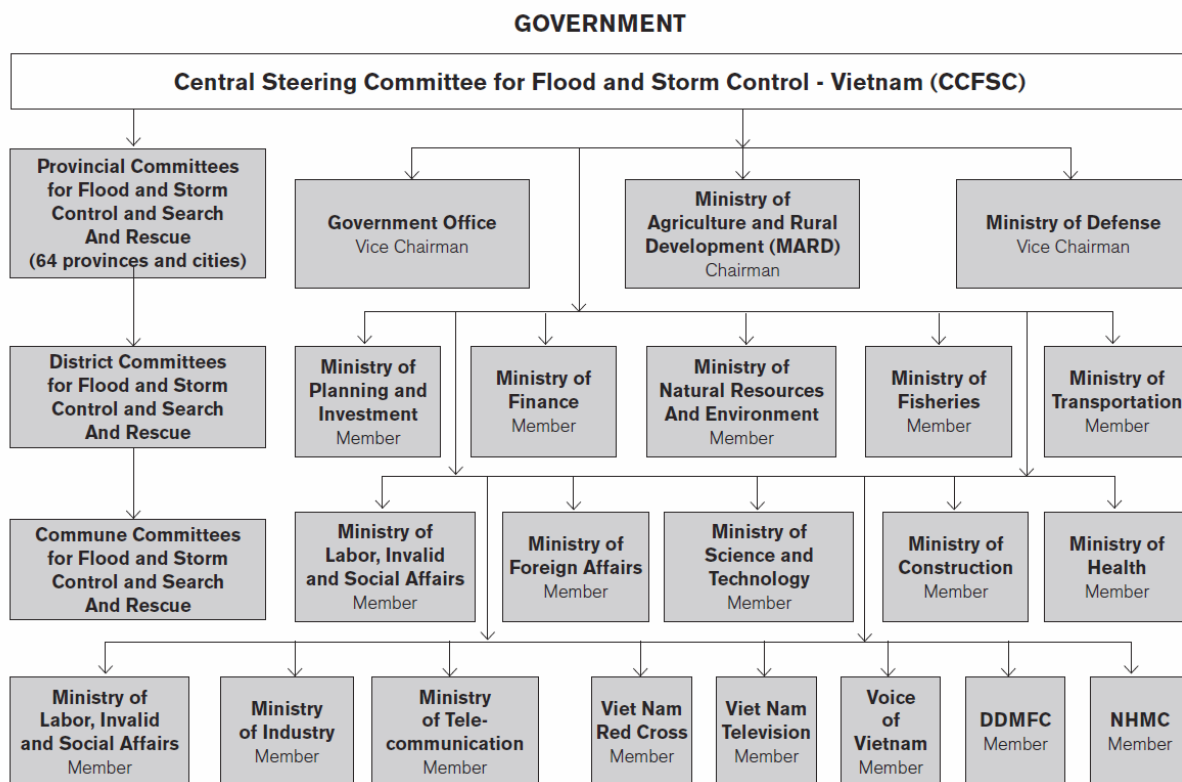
The **Central Committee for Flood and Storm Control (CCFSC)** was established by the Prime Minister. It is chaired by the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD), assisted by the members who are in the most cases Vice Ministers of various ministries. The CCFSC's Standing Office is located in the Dike Management and Flood and Storm Control Department (under MARD). CCFSC has the following tasks and duties: Urge and supervise the Ministries, agencies and provinces in preparation and implementation of annual plans and solutions for flood and storm control; make orders on mobilizing resources, including human, and other facilities for timely responses to emergency cases which go beyond the capacity of one ministry or province; guide the provinces to organize efforts for recovery from flood and storm consequences; organize reviews of results in the field of flood and storm control; communicate with the ministries and provinces on lessons of experience and information on advanced techniques and technologies for flood and storm.

At the local levels (Province, district and commune Communities for Flood and Storm Control)

These local level committees for flood and storm control are established by the People's Committees of the relevant level, and are responsible for assisting the People's Committees of the relevant level in preparing and guiding the implementation of solutions for flood and storm control within their territories. The local level committees for flood and storm control are also responsible for protecting structures of flood and storm control, economic zones and the local people from natural disasters, as well as for recovery of disaster consequences. Provincial Committees for Flood and Storm Control consist of a chairman, who is either the Chairman or a Vice Chairman of the provincial People's Committee; a standing vice chairman who is the Director of the provincial Department of Agriculture and Rural Development; and members who are Directors or Deputy Directors of provincial Departments and agencies involved in the local efforts of flood and storm control.

Committees for Flood and Storm Control of various Ministries.- Committees for Flood and Storm Control of various Ministries are established by the heads of the ministries and are responsible for assisting the ministries' leadership to: prepare and implement the ministries' plans for flood, storm control and disaster mitigation; protect technical, physical facilities and human resources directly managed by the ministries; manage materials in stock and standby facilities for flood, storm control, responses and recovery in accordance with the given functions of the ministries; timely provide, upon the receipt of the CCFSC's orders, the technical materials and facilities managed by the ministries in order to respond and support on time in case of emergency, as well as to help in recovery from the disaster consequences; and learn lessons on storm and flood control so as to disseminate to the provinces and ministries' agencies.

ORGANIZATION CHART OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE FOR FLOOD AND STORM CONTROL



Source: CCFSC

Decree No. 168-HDBT dated 19th May 1990 by the Council of Ministers established and outlines the tasks of the **Central Committee for Flood and Storm Control (CCFSC)**, and committees and sectors at all levels. Institutional organization of natural disaster risk management in Vietnam takes place at 4 levels: Central, Provincial, District, and Commune. The CCFSC is the national standing agency for disaster risk management. The committee operates on a ad-hoc basis and is composed of representatives (leaders) from ministries, mass organizations, media agencies (Vietnam Television and Voice of Vietnam), and some technical agencies (Global Physics Institute, the Hydro-meteorological Services). The committee meets annually to review Disaster Risk Management (DRM) issues of the past year and to plan for the coming year. The Deputy Prime Minister is assigned to be the in resident leader of the whole country's DRM, including: approve legal documents, order for response, call for support; mobilize military and policy, etc. The CCFSC has a Standing Office in the MARD, which is chaired by the Director of the Directorate of Water Resources of MARD.

The Committee also plays an important role in other natural disaster situations. The most recent text on the CCFSCs's structures and functions is the **Decision no. 51/QĐ-PCLBTW** dated 7th April 2009 on the strengthening of the Steering Committee for Flood and Storm Control.

Certain government agencies have responsibilities for climate change and/or disaster management policies in Vietnam. Typically, each ministry establishes a department as its focal point for disaster preparedness and response. According to the National Strategy for natural disaster prevention, response and mitigation 2020 and other relevant legislation, the role and responsibilities of some key government agencies can be seen below:

Key Government Agencies

Vietnam's government agencies are responsible for various disaster management and climate change policies. To describe the complex institutional environment in Vietnam, below list key responsibilities of key agencies.

Disaster Management

Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) is the named leading agency for the CCFSC and key body responsible for natural disaster prevention and control. The Minister of MARD is the Chairman of the CCFSC. The **Decision No. 26/2008/QĐ-BNN** of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development dated 28 January 2008, defining the functions, tasks, powers and organizational structure of the Department for Dyke Management and Flood and Storm Prevention and Control, an agency specifically responsible with the management of flood, storm and dyke protection activities.

- **The Directorate of Water Resources** is the technical agency and resident body for disaster risk management (mostly water-related disasters: flood, flash flood, typhoon, storm, tsunamis and earthquakes)
 - **The Department of Dyke Management and Flood and Storm Control** is the technical agency in charge of DRM. The Department Director serves as the Director of the CCFSC Standing Office. This Department plays a key role in water-related disasters and dyke management. It participates in policy and decision making processes relating to dyke management and flood and storm prevention and response, takes responsibility for control, inspection and management of the implementation of national strategies and response activities, participates in international cooperation within its field of responsibility and guides the participation of NGO's in the process of legislative improvement.
 - **The Disaster Management Center (DMC)** is another technical agency in charge of DRM and is especially assigned to implement the Community-based Disaster Management (CBDRM) Program in the whole country. The DMC also undertakes policy development and provides strategic planning advice and support.

Ministry of National Defense (MND) is a member of the CCFSC and participates in disaster prevention and response planning. It is responsible for the use of military forces and assets for joint search, rescue and evacuation of those affected, if needed

Ministry of Planning and Investment (MPI) Is a member of the CCFSC and the leading agency for program planning and resource (fund) mobilization and ODA allocation for DRM.

- **The Department of Agricultural Economy** is assigned by the MPI Minister to be in charge of policy formulation and management of fund and projects on DRM (mostly flood and storm controls: dyke, irrigation, rural development)

- **The Department of Foreign Economic Relations** is assigned to manage ODA projects on DRM.

Ministry of Finance (MoF) is a member of the CCFSC and the leading agency for finance management, budget allocation and risk financing (trust fund, risk insurance) for DRM

- **The Department of Public Finance** is assigned by the MoF Minister to be in charge of policy formulation and management of fund and projects on DRM (mostly flood and storm controls: dyke, irrigation, rural development)

Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment Finance (MoNRE) is a member of the CCFSC, and is the leading agency for environment protection, eco-system protection, early warning, land management and hydro-meteorology.

- **The Department of Hydro-Meteorological and Climate Change** is In charge of weather forecasting, hydrological information, etc.
- **The National Hydro-meteorology under the MoNRE** is technical agency in charge of weather forecast, hydrological information, etc.

Ministry of Fisheries is a member of the CCFSC, and is responsible for disaster prevention and control on coastal areas, at sea and in the fishery sector.

Ministry of Transport is a member of the CCFSC, ensuring and facilitating the smooth transport flow in disaster situations. Transport means and road networks, and mobilization of the same in case of disaster

Ministry of Labour, War Invalids and Social Affairs is a member of the CCFSC, and follows up on the situation of loss after a disaster in order to propose remedial measures to the government. They also promulgate and ensure the implementation of policies on social aid.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) is a member of the CCFSC, and is responsible for appealing for assistance of international relief or other countries for coordination, with the permission of the Prime Minister, in the case of disaster or serious incidents that have an impact over national territory.

Ministry of Construction is a member of the CCFSC, and guides construction planning and inspection, and ensures the security of construction sites in disaster situations.

Ministry of Health is a member of the CCFSC, and is responsible for the stocking of medical equipment and medicines for emergency situations. Also, they are responsible for hygiene promotion activities and control of diseases stemming from the incidence of disaster, and organization of specialized training for medical teams working during emergency and post-disaster.

Ministry of Industry is a member of the CCFSC and ensures the protection of mineral extraction areas, water reserve lakes and catchments, electricity networks and national industrial zones.

Ministry of Education and Training (MoET) is a member of the CCFSC and the leading agency for integration disaster risk management education into schools. The MoET also guides

school construction planning to adapt to local environments in order to mitigate any occurrence of disaster.

- **The Department of Students Affairs** is assigned by the MoET Minister to be in charge of leading efforts to integrate disaster risk management education into schools. This Department cooperates with other technical departments of MoET to develop curriculum, conduct training for teachers and students.

Ministry of Information and Communications (MoIC) is a member of the CCFSC and is in charge of public awareness raising, communications and information dissemination. It plays a more technical role in communications than the IEC or BCC.

- **The Department of Telecommunications** is assigned by the MoIC Minister to be in charge of DRM technical communication issues.

Ministry of Public Security ensures security and order in disaster situations and participates in search, rescue and evacuation to those affected.

Ministry of Trade coordinates with local authorities to supply goods and services to people in disaster areas

Vietnam Red Cross (VNRC) is a member of the CCFSC is responsible for community mobilization, relief distribution, 1st aid, and capacity building for communities on disaster risk management.

- **The Department of Social Work and Disaster Management** is assigned by the Chairman of VNRC to be in charge of DRM technical issues.

Climate Change

Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment Finance (MoNRE) is assigned by the Government of Vietnam (GoV) (*the Prime Minister*) as the leading agency for climate change in Vietnam.

- **The Department of Hydro-Meteorological and Climate Change** is the management agency for climate change issues, etc.
- **The National Hydro-Meteorology Agency** is a technical agency in charge of weather forecast, sea level rise, hydrological information, etc.

Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) is assigned as the leading agency for dealing with climate change in the agricultural sector

- **The Directorate of Forestry**, is the technical agency and resident body for Reduction Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD)
- **The Directorate of Water Resources** is technical agency and resident body for MARD's climate change program (food security, rural development, water resources management).

Ministry of Planning and Investment (MPI) is the lead agency for program planning and resource (fund) mobilization and allocation for climate change programs.

- **The Department Science, Education and Natural Resources and Environment** is assigned to be in charge of policy formulation and fund management on climate change.
- For ODA projects, management is assigned to Department of Foreign Economic Relations.

Ministry of Finance (MoF) is the leading agency for finance management, budget allocation, risk financing (trust fund, risk insurance) for climate change.

- **The Department of Public Finance** is assigned by the MoF Minister to be in charge of policy formulation and management of fund and projects of climate change.

Ministry of Education and Training (MoET) is assigned by the GoV as the leading agency for integration of climate change education into school.

- **The Department of Students Affairs** is assigned by the MoET Minister to lead the effort to integrate climate change education into schools. This Department cooperates with other technical departments of MoET to develop curriculum, conduct training for teachers and students

The Ministry of Information and Communications (MoIC) is assigned by the GoV as the agency in charge of public awareness raising, communications, and information dissemination. It plays a more technical role in communications than the IEC or BCC.

- **The Department of Telecommunications** is assigned by the MoIC Minister to be in charge of climate change communications.

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Source: VUFO-NGO Resource Center- Vietnam (<http://www.ngocentre.org.vn/pring/book/export/html/45>)

Information Collection

Vietnam has many database systems that provide information of which is collected from and by many different sectors to serve sector-level objectives. The statistical systems of the CCFSC and the General Statistics Office (GSO) are considered the formal systems, used for the state management in efforts for flood, storm control and disaster mitigation. This information collection system for flood, storm and disaster mitigation has been established and operated for many years, and is consistently improved so it can meet the information demand, and increase the accuracy and timeliness of information for facilitating the decision making process.

Current set of statistic data at CCFSC

The CCFSC's synthetic set of data is a set of indicators on disaster damages and losses, used for facilitating decision making on disaster preparedness and responses. This set of indicators was established from the 1950s, and was improved, updated and completed through every stage. This set of indicators mainly gives statistic figures on damages and losses due to storms, floods and flash floods, and focuses on the data relating to emergency responses. The indicators are collected continuously once every day, or twice a day in some cases. The information is collected through reports of committees for flood and storm control, and reports of committees for search and rescue from communes, districts and provinces to their relevant higher levels.

Types of collected information

The statistic system collects data on damages and losses due to natural disasters, mostly water borne disasters such as floods, storms, flash floods, landslides, cyclones and hail storms. However, other types of disasters such as epidemics, earthquake, tsunami, etc. are not yet mentioned in detail. The information in the current system mostly focuses on direct damages of floods and storms, for example, losses of lives (number of deaths, injuries, missing people), damages of state and public assets (e.g. roads, bridges and sluices, schools, health stations, hospitals, etc.) and private assets (e.g. broken or collapsed houses, crop losses, etc.). Secondary information such as the risk of epidemics, water supply and sanitation etc. is not fully and concretely mentioned in questionnaires and information collection forms, though it may be referred to in some specific reports of some provinces.

The information on natural disaster recovery needs is not yet collected by standardized forms, but mainly relies on reports of each province, depending on their specific situation and whether the information is available. This way of information collection may lead to the inaccuracy and inadequacy of the information. In addition, the information in the current forms and reports is mostly statistical and qualitative.

Level of data collection

Information is collected and reported by the flood and storm control network. This network covers from commune to central level and has a multidisciplinary structure. At the commune level, the committee for flood and storm control includes the chairman of the people's committee, and many concerned members such as the chief of the village, commune health worker, irrigation worker, cooperative's representative, statistic division, etc. The information should be collected to facilitate on-the-spot responses and summarized to report to the higher level.

Method of collection

The data is mainly statistical reports. These are usually collected and reported through direct

measurements by the person in charge at the grassroots level. For example, the number of broken and collapsed houses should be reported by the chief of the village, whereas the number of collapsed classrooms should be reported by the school. These data then are consolidated and reported to the district by the commune statistic worker and the commune people's committee. For those structures and facilities directly managed by the district such as hospital, inter-commune or inter-district roads, etc., the data should be reported by the management agencies to the relevant authority. The frequency of information collection and reporting depends on the severity of each natural disaster and on the request of the higher level authority. In the case of large and severe disasters, reports are collected and updated everyday for a period of 1 or 2 weeks until the most accurate data is obtained.

Current set of statistic data at General Statistic Office (GSO)

This set of statistic data is used for statistical purposes and is collected at 3 day, 6 day, 8 day and 10 day intervals after the disaster. It contains particular indicators on damages and losses due to the disaster. The information and data is collected by a professional reporting system from commune to district, provincial and central levels.

Types of collected information

The current GSO's set of statistic data concentrates on the human losses (number of dead and missing people), physical damages (damages of infrastructure and flood and storm control structures), losses in production, damages of cultural facilities, housing, ecological environment and other assets.

Level of data collection

The GSO's collection system is quite synchronous with a professional network going down to the commune level. Every commune has a statistical worker, every district has a statistical division, every province has a statistic department, and above, at the peak, is the GSO. The information is mainly collected from the commune level by the commune statistical worker to the district statistical division, and to the commune committee for flood and storm control. The district statistical division will consolidate the data and report to the city/provincial statistical department, and to the district committee for flood and storm control. Then the city/provincial statistical department will consolidate the data and report to the GSO, and to the city/provincial CFSC.

Method of collection and reporting

The commune statistical worker, by their own observations or in coordination with village level workers or different commune units, will collect information on the situation in the commune, and fill in different forms, which are consistent across the GSO's system. Within the first 5 days of the disaster, the information should be updated and reported everyday by the fastest and most convenient means of communication, such as facsimile, email, telegram, etc. After another 5 days (i.e. within 10 days of the disaster), the final figures on damages and losses will be officially reported in a detailed form.

KEY NATIONAL & REGIONAL AGENCIES IN DISASTER & HAZARD MANAGEMENT

Vietnam has a large array of national and international NGOs and grassroots organizations, many of which are active in various aspects of disaster management. Vietnam Red Cross is fully responsible for proper implementation of both humanitarian works and Statutes and Resolutions of the ICRC.

The Government **Decree NO.12/2012/ND-CP**, which came into effect on 1 June 2012, manages the activities of international NGOs in Vietnam and their administration by the GoV. This Decree replaces the Prime Minister's **Decision No. 340/QD-TTg** of May 1996.

Committee for Foreign NGO Affairs (COMINGO)

The Committee for Foreign NGO Affairs (COMINGO) brings together key Vietnamese government ministries and other bodies to assist the Prime Minister in guiding and addressing issues relating to foreign NGOs. COMINGO was established on 24 April 2001 under decision 59/2001/QQ-TTg of the Prime Minister. COMINGO has the following key tasks:

1. Propose guidelines and policies relating to foreign NGOs in Vietnam; coordinate with relevant agencies to provide guidance, monitoring and oversight for the implementation of laws and policies relating to the operations of foreign NGOs
2. Take the lead in the appraisal, via its member agencies, of foreign non-governmental organizations in order to forward documentation to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the purpose of granting, extension, supplement, amendment and revocation of the Certificates of Revocation of foreign NGOs in Vietnam.
3. Periodically report to the PM on the operations of foreign NGOs in Vietnam
4. Carry out tasks related to foreign NGOs in Vietnam as assigned by the Prime Minister.

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Joint Advocacy Networking Initiative (JANI)

The Joint Advocacy Networking Initiative (JANI) is a joint initiative of 14 agencies, including the Development Workshop in France; CARE International in Vietnam, Save the Children Alliance; Spanish Red Cross; Netherlands Red Cross; Center for International Studies and Cooperation; World Vision International; Asian Disaster Preparedness Center; World Health Organization; Action Aid Vietnam; ADRA; Natural Disaster Management Partnership; Oxfam and the Vietnam Women's Union. All of the 14 NGOs and agencies have experience in community-based disaster risk management (CBDRM), including the Disaster Management Center of the

Department for Dyke Management and Flood and Storm Control (DDMFSC). One of the objectives of the project is to compile, document and develop basic concepts related to CBDRM, and to share these concepts with partner agencies and communities at the central and local levels. To date, the project compiled and published a number of important and influential documents, including: *Good practices in natural disaster prevention and mitigation,*” and ”Community based disaster management framework. Each organization is initiating their own activities with communities to improve disaster preparedness. JANI aims to improve information sharing and coordination between the partners and to promote the benefits of community-based disaster risk management among all levels of government. Activities include: workshops, trainings, exercises and media campaigns. The project is funded by the European Commission Humanitarian Aid Department and is coordinated by Care International Vietnam. (IFRC, 2009)

National Disaster Mitigation Partnership (NDMP)

Website:

<http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/COUNTRIES/EASTASIAPACIFICEXT/VIETNAMEXTN/0,,contentMDK:20247904~pagePK:141137~piPK:141127~theSitePK:387565,00.html>

The Natural Disaster Mitigation Partnership (NDMP) was initiated following the historical floods in seven provinces of Central Vietnam in 1999. The coincidence between the flooding and the conduct of a Government of Vietnam-Donor Consultative Group Meeting (CG Meeting) created a momentum among Government of Vietnam, Donors and NGOs towards pursuing disaster reduction rather than disaster response and the need to coordinate more effectively to help the people of Central Vietnam to overcome the consequences of the disaster and to avoid further human and economic loss caused by natural hazards that are recurrent in the region. Efforts under the NDMP are directed at natural disaster mitigation for development and focus on:

- Contribution to hunger eradication and poverty alleviation;
- Relief including preparation for response to floods, storms, and droughts
- Rehabilitation of disaster damaged economic and social infrastructure;
- Medium and long term investment to reduce the effects of future natural disasters;
- Sustainable management of natural resources, including integrated management of river basins, wetlands, and coastal systems.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) was assigned by the Government to lead this initiative with the support of the Royal Netherlands Embassy (RNE) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), who were nominated as coordinator of the initiative on behalf of the Donor community. The NDM-Partnership initiative was further developed by a Government – Multi-Donor mission that helped to draft Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for the Partnership and a logical framework of priority programs and projects. The NDMP undertook a number of initiatives and projects on disaster preparedness, mitigation and response in the country.

The Overall Objective is to support the achievement of national goals and objectives through a coordinated, strategic, sector-wide approach to natural disaster mitigation in Vietnam. The NDMP’s Specific Objectives include:

1. Manage and share information for improved coordination and awareness raising in natural disaster management;

2. Advise Government and facilitate dialogue on legislation, policies, and strategies on natural disaster management; and
3. Facilitate development of institutional capacity for application of integrated approaches to natural disaster management and for implementation of the NDMP
4. Coordination of resource allocation and support to efficient use of resources in natural disaster management (includes facilitating development and funding of priority disaster management projects).

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Partnership for Avian Human Influenza (PAHI)

Website: www.avianinfluenza.org.vn/

PAHI was established on 1 November 2006 by the Government of Vietnam (represented by the Chair of the National Steering Committee for Avian Influenza) together with representatives of UN agencies, bilateral and multilateral donors, non-governmental organizations and research agencies. The purpose of the Partnership is to facilitate implementation of Vietnam's National Integrated Operational Programme for Avian and Human Influenza 2006-2010, also known as the Green Book or OPI. The Green Book has been endorsed by the Government of Vietnam and international partners as the medium term country programme on Avian and Human Pandemic Influenza, with the overall objective to reduce the health risk to humans from avian influenza: (i) by controlling the disease at source in domestic poultry, (ii) by detecting and responding promptly to human cases, and (iii) by preparing for the medical consequences of a human pandemic.

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The People's Aid Coordinating Committee (PACCOM)

Website: <http://www.ngocentre.org.vn/content/comingo-vufo-and-pacco>

The People's Aid Coordinating Committee is responsible for relations with INGOs and for mobilizing aid. As of 2012 some 900 foreign NGOs have relationships with Vietnam. Most come from Western Europe, North America and the Asia-Pacific region. Its activities are governed by Government **Decree no. 12/2012/ND-CP**, which was implemented in June 2012. PACCOM works closely with INGOs both at the central level and in all 63 provinces and centrally

administered cities to facilitate foreign NGOs' activities in Vietnam. PACCOM was established on June 10, 1989, and serves as the specialized and functional body of the VUFO.

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Vietnam Fatherland Front

Website: <http://www.mattran.org.vn/> (In Vietnamese)

The **Vietnamese Fatherland Front** (Vietnamese: *Mặt Trận Tổ Quốc Việt Nam*) founded February 1977 (merged Vietnamese Fatherland Front of North Vietnam, National Liberation Front of South Vietnam and Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces of Việt Nam in the South Vietnam), is an umbrella group of pro-government "mass movements" in Vietnam, and has close links to the Communist Party of Vietnam and the Vietnamese government. It is an amalgamation of many smaller groups, including the Communist Party itself. Other groups that participated in the establishment of the Front were the remnants of the Viet Cong, the Vietnamese General Confederation of Labour, Vietnamese Pioneer Young Union and the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union (aka the Hồ Chí Minh Youth). It also included the Democratic Party of Vietnam and Socialist Party of Vietnam, until they were disbanded in 1988. It also incorporates some officially sanctioned religious groups.

The Front is described by the Vietnamese government as "the political base of people's power." It is intended to have a significant role in society, promoting "national solidarity" and "unity of mind in political and spiritual matters." Many of the government's social programs are conducted through the Front. Recently, it has been given a role in programs to reduce poverty. The Front is also responsible for much of the government's policy on religion, and has the ability to determine which religious groups will receive official approval. Perhaps more importantly, the Front is intended to supervise the activity of the government and of government organizations. Because the Front is based around mass participation and popular mobilization, it is seen as representative of the people, and both Vietnam's constitution and laws give it a special role. The Front has a particularly significant role in elections. The current Chairman of the Presidium of the Vietnamese Fatherland Front is Mr. Huỳnh Đâm.

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Vietnam Red Cross Society (VNRC)

Website: <http://www.redcross.org.vn>

The Vietnam Red Cross is a humanitarian organization originally established in 1947. Ten years later, President Ho Chi Minh, representing the Vietnam government sent an official letter to the Swiss Federal Government to Ratify the Geneva Conventions, letting the VNRC become a member of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and the IFRC, thus widening the scope of activities.

The Red Cross Society and its local network make up a critical role in humanitarian assistance, as stipulated by the **Law on Red Cross Activities, no. 11/2008/QH12** promulgated by the National Assembly on 3 June 2008 and the **Decision No. 33/QD-BNV** of the Minister of Home Affairs dated January 14, 2008, approving the amended Statute of the VNRC Association, as well as other texts on disaster and health emergency preparedness and response. It also includes the role of Vietnam Red Cross in international cooperation as follows:

- Establishment and implementation of programmes or projects on Red Cross activities
- Execution of tasks with the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement
- Exchange information and experience on Red Cross activities
- Training for personnel taking part in Red Cross activities
- Signing international agreements on Red Cross activities

In addition, in case of disasters or health emergencies, Vietnam Red Cross may request for assistance from the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement in the country and abroad.

Vietnam Red Cross is fully responsible for proper implementation of both humanitarian works and Statutes and Resolutions of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. According to the **Decision No. 33/QD-BNV** of the Minister of Home Affairs dated 14 January 2008, approving the amended Statute of the Vietnam Red Cross Association, Vietnam Red Cross is recognized as a social association, functioning in accordance with the Constitution and Law, its Statute and Fundamental Principles of International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. It is also able to undertake activities in the humanitarian sector and may cooperate with and facilitate activities of the International Committee of the Red Cross and IFRC.

Article 2 of the Decision grants the Vietnam Red Cross its legal status and confirms its headquarters in Hanoi with a network organized at four levels (Central, Provincial, District-level and Commune-level). Local branches of the Vietnam Red Cross are established by the President of Local People's Committees.

The functions of Vietnam Red Cross are described in Article 3, including general participation in humanitarian activities, disaster preparedness and response, communicable disease prevention and control, and assisting people affected by disaster war or other difficulties. The Decision also stipulates that Vietnam Red Cross has the role of promoting international cooperation in humanitarian sectors.

The Law on Red Cross Activities, no. 11/2008/QH12 promulgated by the National Assembly on 3 June 2008 also recognizes the role of Vietnam Red Cross in activities for disaster prevention and response (Articles 2, 7, 11, especially Article 3 on Red Cross activities for disaster preparedness and response), communicable disease prevention and control (Article 8).

Decree no. 64/2008/ND-CP issued by the Government, dated 14 May 2008 on mobilization, receipt, distribution and use of sources of voluntary donations for people to overcome difficulties caused by natural disasters, fires or serious accidents and for terminally ill patients clearly mentions the role of Vietnam Red Cross in the mobilization, receipt, distribution and use of sources of voluntary donations.

Vietnam Red Cross is also a member of national and local committees for disaster or communicable diseases management at all levels, such as:

- Steering Committees for human influenza pandemic prevention and control
- Committees for HIV/AIDS, drug and prostitution prevention and control
- Steering Committees for flood and storm prevention and control
- Local Committees for search and rescue⁷⁷ (but not the National Committee for Search and Rescue)

According to Article 25 of the Statutes of Vietnam Red Cross, financial resources come from contributions of members, national budget allocation, voluntary donations and humanitarian aid. These resources may be used for undertaking activities in disaster preparedness and response, assistance to victims and health care, among others.

The mobilization, receipt, management and use of voluntary donations for Vietnam Red Cross activities are governed by the Law on Red Cross Activities, no. 11/2008/QH12 promulgated by the National Assembly on 3 June 2008 (chapter IV) and the Decree no. 64/2008/ND-CP issued by the Government, dated 14 May 2008 on mobilization, receipt, distribution and use of sources of voluntary donations for people to overcome difficulties caused by natural disasters, fires or serious accidents and for terminally ill patients (Articles 4.2, 5.1, 6.3, 7.3 and 9.1).

The Ministry of Finance has also issued Circulars regulating financial management of some Red Cross activities, such as **the Circular no. 07/2005/TT-BTC** of Ministry of Finance dated January 18, 2005 on financial management over Red Cross Associations and the **Circular no. 60/2002/TT-BTC** dated 10th July 2002 guiding the financial management of humanitarian medical examination and treatment establishments under Vietnam Red Cross.

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Vietnam Union of Friendship Organizations (VUFO)

Website: <http://www.ngocentre.org.vn/>; <http://www.ngocentre.org.vn/ccwg>;
<http://www.ngocentre.org.vn/dmwg>

The Vietnam Union of Friendship Organizations (VUFO) is the standing agency of the Committee for Foreign NGO Affairs (COMINGO). VUFO is a nationwide socio-political organization whose main function is to set up and promote friendly and cooperative people-to-

people relations between Vietnam and other countries. Under **Decree 12/2012/ND-CP**, VUFO is responsible for communication and promotion of foreign non-governmental assistance.

VUFO is a member organization of the **Vietnam Fatherland Front**. VUFO consists of many peace, solidarity and friendship member organizations, both bilateral and multilateral, and provincial and municipal friendship unions in the whole country. These member organizations conduct their activities in accordance with the objectives and statutes of VUFO. They operate within the law of Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

The **VUFO-NGO Resource Center** serves the community of international non-governmental organizations (INGOs) working in Vietnam. It aims to improve their work by facilitating and contributing to the sharing of information, resources and experiences between the INGOs, their partners and local organizations. It also aims to strengthen relationships and enhance dialogue between INGOs and other development actors in Vietnam, including government agencies and donor organizations. The Resource Center was established in 1993 through a partnership between INGOs and the VUFO. As of January 2012, the Resource Center has 125 INGO members.

The NGO Resource Centre's **Climate Change Working Group (CCWG) and Disaster Management Working Group (DMWG)** were established in February 2008 and 1999, respectively. These two working groups bring together Vietnamese NGOs, INGOs, UN agencies, the Red Cross Movement and Government counterparts, development agencies and other professionals to actively participate in climate change adaptation and DRM. The DMWG's main purpose is to support hazard reduction and disaster management through improved information sharing and coordination of interventions amongst all relevant agencies. In 2010, core group members were composed of 13 organizations. The CCWG focuses on contributing to reducing the vulnerability of poor people in Vietnam to the impacts of climate change through NGO coordination, advocacy and capacity building for environmentally and economically sustainable and socially just responses to climate change. Currently in charge of the CCWG is CARE International in Vietnam. Both working groups meet on a monthly basis and CARE International is the current chair for the CCWG and the IFRC is the chair for the DMWG.

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Vietnam Country Office
Programme Manager Disaster Risk Reduction: Mr. Dang Van Tao

Military Role

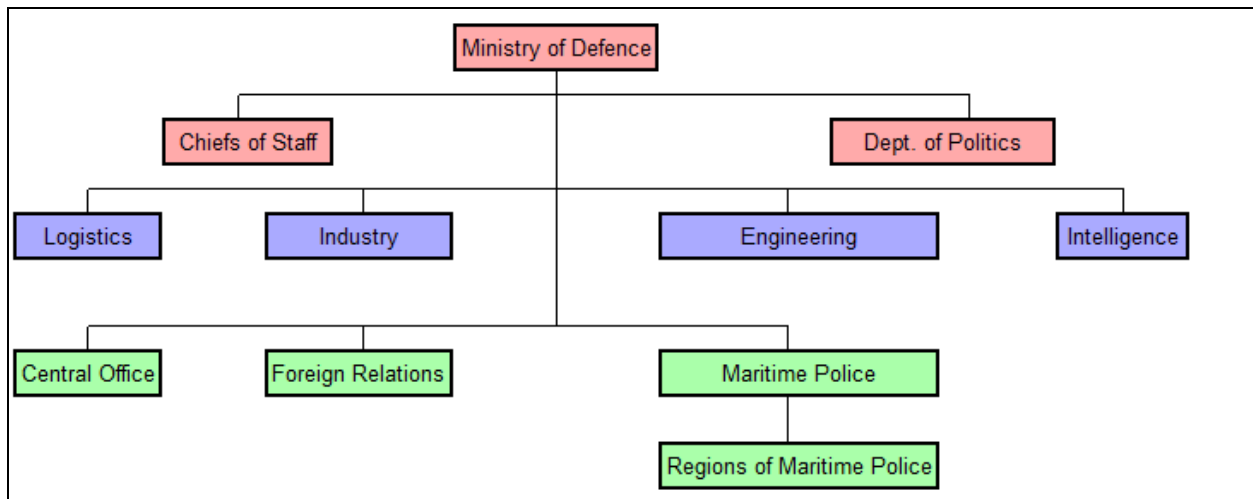
Role in Disaster Management

It is important to note that while the roles and tasks of government ministries down to local committees are well laid out, the roles and functions of Vietnam's military in natural disasters are less clear. Information available to the public about the role of Vietnam's military branches in disaster response is limited. In previous disasters, military branches have performed the following tasks:

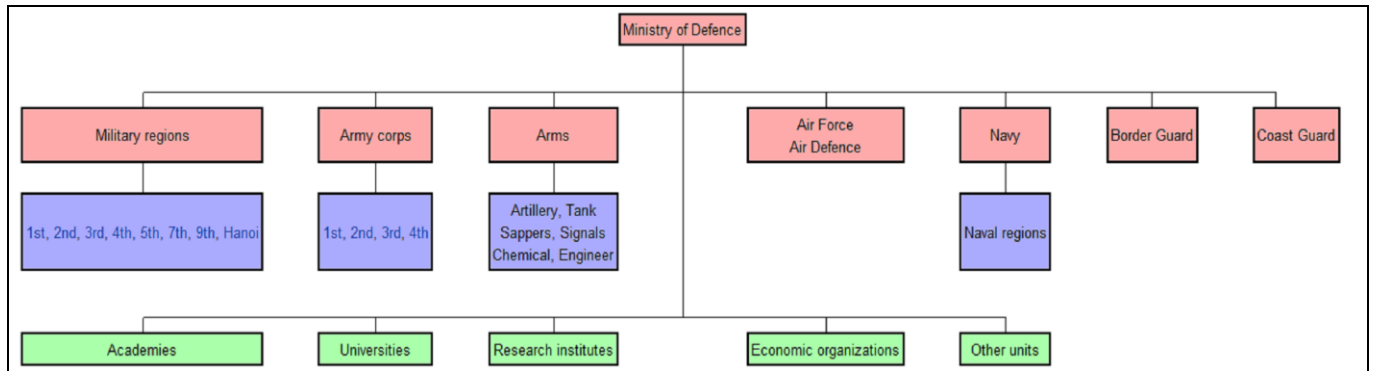
- Vietnam Army : Rescue and Relief Operations
- Vietnam Air Force: Dispatched plans and helicopters to rescue residents and distribute relief goods
- Vietnam Navy: Ships searched for missing fishing boats

The Minister of Defense is the commander-in-chief of the Vietnam People's Army (VPA) and other paramilitary units. It is the governmental ministry of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam that manages, coordinates and supervises military affairs, including all military units, paramilitary units, and similar agencies in the country. In past disasters, the Ministry of Defense has mobilized forces and means of transportation to transport aid commodities to flood-affected areas.

Along with the Ministry of Transport and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, the Ministry of Defense organizes and installs signal posts at harbors and ports, on islands and at dike inspection stations upon receipt of information on approaching storms, tropical depressions and floods. They provide guidance and inspect the installation of signboards and signal lamps in these places, on the ships offshore or on rivers. Also, they install lighthouses and necessary equipment to transmit signals for warning on storms and tropical depressions.



Source: Wikipedia contributors. Ministry of Defence (Vietnam). Wikipedia: The free encyclopedia. October 9, 2012 at 7:20. Available at: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ministry_of_Defence_\(Vietnam\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ministry_of_Defence_(Vietnam))



Source: Wikipedia contributors. Ministry of Defence (Vietnam). Wikipedia: The free encyclopedia. October 9, 2012 at 7:20. Available at: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ministry_of_Defence_\(Vietnam\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ministry_of_Defence_(Vietnam))

The **Vietnam People's Armed Forces (VPAF)** is the armed forces of Vietnam. The **Commander-in-Chief of VPAF is Vietnam's President, Truong Tan Sang**. VPAF consists of 3 parts:

- **Vietnam People's Army (VPA)/ People's Army of Vietnam (PAVN)** is the army of Vietnam, which is their defense force. The VPA was founded in December 1944. The **Ministry of National Defense** is the lead organization, highest command and management of the VPA. The **Minister of Defense, General Phung Quang Thanh**, oversees operations of the Ministry of Defense and the VPA, and also oversees other agencies, such as the General Staff and the General Logistics Department. But, military policy is ultimately directed by the Central Military Commission of the ruling Communist Party of Vietnam. The VPA includes the following service branches: (VPA, Wikipedia)
 - Vietnam People's Ground Force
 - Vietnam People's Navy
 - Vietnam People's Air Force
 - Vietnam Border Defense Force
 - Vietnam Marine Police

- **Vietnam People's Public Security** is the main police and security force in Vietnam. It was created in August 1945. It is part of the Ministry of Public Security, led by Minister of Public Security, Tran Dai Quang. It consists of:
 - Vietnam People's Security Force
 - Vietnam People's Police Force

- **Vietnam Civil Defense Force** is described as the militia of Vietnam. The Vietnam People's Militia has two branches:
 - Cored Militia
 - General Militia

Key US Government Agencies in Vietnam

US GOVERNMENT & OVERSEAS HADR

The US Department of State (DoS) is the lead US agency in responding to overseas disasters. Within the DoS, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is responsible for coordinating international disaster assistance. Within USAID, the Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) is responsible for coordinating humanitarian assistance. DoD involvement in overseas humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations must be requested and coordinated with USAID through OFDA and the relevant US embassy.

Foreign Disaster Relief and Emergency Response (FDR/ER)

Disaster Relief Program Description

Pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 404, the Department of Defense (DoD) can assist foreign countries to respond to man-made or natural disaster situations when necessary to prevent loss of lives. After the local U.S. Embassy has officially declared a disaster, the Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) assesses the needs and priorities of the country and may request DoD assistance. The assistance may be in the form of transportation, excess property items, Humanitarian Daily Rations (HDR), or some other commodity. The Overseas Humanitarian, Disaster, and Civic Aid (OHDACA) appropriation or AID may fund transportation of disaster relief.

Foreign Disaster Relief and Emergency Response Program Process

When a foreign country suffers a disaster, it may request assistance through the U.S. Embassy. The Department of State (DoS) and Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) validate the request. If deemed necessary, the DoS requests disaster relief assistance from the DoD. Assistant Secretary of Defense (Special Operations and Low Intensity Conflict) ASD(SO/LIC) approves the request and forwards it to Defense Security Cooperation Agency (DSCA) for action. DSCA (Programs Directorate) identifies the required supplies (HDRs, Excess Property, etc.) and works directly with the Joint Staff Logistics Directorate (J4) to provide transportation in support of disaster relief efforts.

Congressional Notification for Foreign Disaster Assistance

Not later than 48 hours after the commencement of disaster assistance activities, the President is required by law (10 U.S.C. 404) to transmit a report to Congress containing notification of the assistance (proposed or provided) and a description of the following as is available: the manmade or natural disaster for which disaster assistance is necessary; the threat to human lives presented by the disaster; the U.S. military personnel and material resources involved; the disaster assistance provided by other nations or public or private relief organizations; and the anticipated duration of the disaster assistance activities.

<http://www.dsca.osd.mil/samm/ESAMM/C12/12.09/htm>

US Embassy Vietnam

Website: <http://vietnam.usembassy.gov/>

President Bill Clinton announced the formal normalization of diplomatic relations with the Socialist Republic of Vietnam on July 11, 1995. Both nations had upgraded their Liaison Offices that opened in January 1995 to embassy status. As diplomatic ties between the US and Vietnam grew, the US opened a consulate general in Ho Chi Minh City, and Vietnam opened a consulate general in San Francisco. In 2009, the US was permitted to open a consulate in Danang, and in 2010, Vietnam officially inaugurated a consulate general in Houston.

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Defense Attache' Office

Website: <http://vietnamembassy-usa.org/embassy/offices-sections/defense-attache>

As the senior military office in country, the Office of Defense Attache (DAO) assists in coordinating the implementation of U.S. military policy and represents the interests of the Secretary of Defense, Commander of U.S. Pacific Command, and the Service Chiefs. The DAO is consequently responsible for analyzing and reporting military developments in Vietnam in the context of evolving global and regional security conditions in order to inform the evolution of military policy towards Vietnam and Southeast Asia. The DAO also coordinates all security cooperation activities between the U.S. military and those of Vietnam in both bi-lateral and multilateral fora and in all spheres of military activity.

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US Agency for International Development (USAID)

Website: <http://vietnam.usaid.gov/>

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is the lead agency for the U.S. Government providing economic development and humanitarian assistance to people around the world. USAID/Vietnam's programs help reduce the incidence of HIV/AIDS avian influenza, facilitate trade and economic development, provide support for persons with disabilities, and provide disaster assistance.

USAID's staff in Vietnam consult extensively with the Government of Vietnam, the

nongovernmental organization (NGO) community, the U.S. Embassy, the private sector, and other groups to determine the types of aid that are needed. The Mission then formulates a strategic plan that proposes how the aid will be used and the levels of funding that are required. This plan is reviewed by USAID headquarters in Washington, D.C., and is incorporated into the President's annual foreign assistance bill, which is submitted to the U.S. Congress. Once the bill is passed, USAID officials negotiate the agreements required to release USAID funds. USAID implementing teams monitor the progress of USAID-funded activities, conduct site visits, and carry out evaluations and audits to ensure that activities are being run as planned.

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US Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

Website: <http://www.cdc.gov/globalaids/Global-HIV-AIDS-at-CDC/countries/Vietnam/>

The CDC Vietnam office was established in 2001. CDC focuses its efforts on high prevalence provinces and working in partnership with the Government of Vietnam (GVN) to support targeted programming for most-at-risk populations, which include: injection drug users (IDU), commercial sex workers, and men who have sex with men.

CDC supports Vietnam in developing sustainable infrastructures to accurately and efficiently diagnose, stage, and monitor HIV treatment, these activities include: evaluation of rapid HIV testing technologies for same day results, developing a CD4 testing network, expanded viral load testing capacity, and HIV drug resistance monitoring. CDC supports strategic planning and the creation of national testing guidelines.

CDC builds in-country capacity to design, implement, and evaluate surveillance systems and improves broader national health information systems to collect, store, analyze, and use high-quality data essential to HIV prevention, care, and treatment programs. CDC works with Vietnamese national universities and institutes to strengthen pre- and in-service training in core public health areas related to surveillance, applied epidemiology, biostatistics, informatics, data-use, and research.

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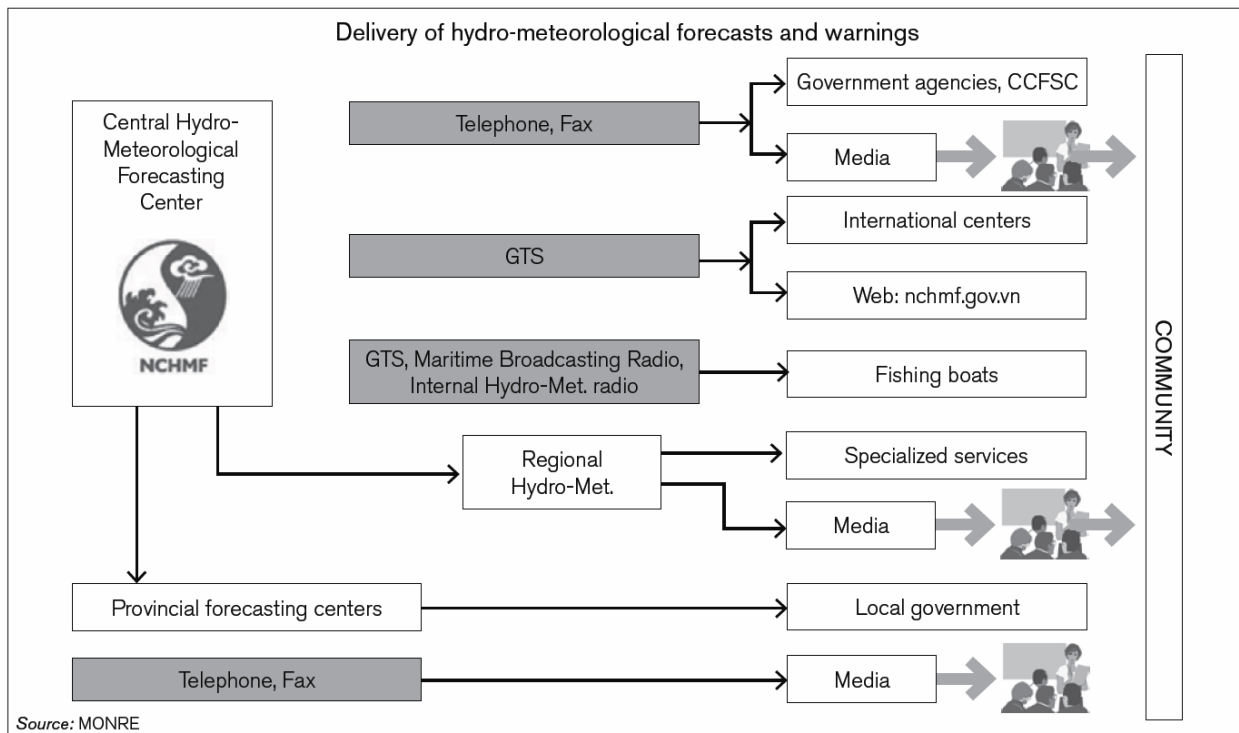
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Early Warning Systems

In Vietnam, government responsibilities for early warning and the declaration of disaster are split between many different committees, ministries and departments. How Vietnam responds also depends on the type of disaster (flood, storm, fire, etc). Vietnam’s strategy is in comparison to the widely used multi-hazard approach, where response procedures function for any kind of disaster regardless of the scenario or magnitude. The severity of a disaster also determines who participates in response. The CCFSC will be chaired by the Minister of MARD or the Deputy Prime Minister/Prime Minister, but its other core members, the NCSR, Ministry of Transportation, Voice of Vietnam, Ministry of Health, and others participate based on the scale and requirements of the event.

The National Progress Report on the Implementation of Hyogo Framework for Action in 2008, describes the overall system of early warning for disaster in Vietnam from central to local levels, as follows:

“Disaster early warning information has been disseminated through two channels: a government system, and a mass media system (television and radio). The government system disseminates the information down to local communities through the communication networks of the Central Steering Committee for Flood and Storm Prevention and Control by using telephone, fax, and finally by loudspeakers systems to local communities. In some isolated areas the dissemination of early warning messages and reports on disaster situations is difficult due to poor communication systems such as the lack of landline or mobile phone systems. However, the Voice of Vietnam (VOV) radio, in collaboration with relevant agencies, also assists to disseminate timely information on disaster situations, as well as response and recovery activities.”



The **Hydro-meteorological forecasting system** in Vietnam mainly serves the objective of natural disaster control, socio-economic development, and assurance of national defense and security. Hydro-meteorological information for the public benefit is posted on the mass media. Forecasts and warnings on dangerous climactic phenomena, such as storms, typhoons, tropical pressures or floods are provided in a timely manner to the CCFSC, NCSR and local authorities and agencies, so that they can organize and guide the people's efforts of preparedness and responses.

The **National Hydro-meteorological Center** is under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment performs the function of conducting baseline surveys and providing hydro-meteorological forecasts, air and water environment observations to facilitate the socio-economic development and national defense as well as security purposes nationwide. There are nine regional hydro-meteorological stations under this National Center. This center informs local agencies and authorities on approaching storms and tropical depressions on the Eastern Sea (the South China Sea), and as floods on Vietnam's major river system. The Center also sends bulletins on the storms, tropical depressions and floods to the concerned organizations, according to the regulated procedures.

The **Regional hydro-meteorological stations** are responsible for conducting baseline surveys, providing hydro-meteorological forecasts and carrying out environmental surveys to facilitate disaster prevention and control, socio-economic development, assurance of national defense and security within the provinces and areas of the respective region.

- **The North West Regional Hydro-meteorological station** is located in Son La town of Son La province, and is responsible for Lai Chau, Dien Bien, Son La and Hoa Binh provinces;
- **Viet Bac Regional Hydro-meteorological station** is located in Viet Tri city of Phu Tho province, and is responsible for Ha Giang, Tuyen Quang, Lao Cai, Yen Bai, Bac Kan, Thai Nguyen and Phu Tho provinces;
- **The North East Regional Hydro-meteorological station** is located in Hai Phong city, and is responsible for Cao Bang, Lang Son, Quang Ninh, Bac Giang, Bac Ninh provinces and Hai Phong city;
- **The Red River Delta Regional Hydro-meteorological station** is located in Hanoi, and is responsible for Ha Tay, Hung Yen, Hai Duong, Ha Nam, Nam Dinh, Thai Binh and Ninh Binh provinces and Hanoi city;
- **The North Central Coast Regional Hydro-meteorological station** is located in Vinh city of Nghe An province, and is responsible for Thanh Hoa, Nghe An and Ha Tinh provinces;
- **The Central Coast Regional Hydro-meteorological station** is located in Danang city, and is responsible for Quang Binh, Quang Tri, Thua Thien Hue, Quang Nam, Quang Ngai provinces and Danang city; Water Sector Review Project ADB TA-4903-VIE - 19 -
- **The South Central Coast Regional Hydro-meteorological station** is located in Nha Trang city, and is responsible for of Binh Dinh, Phu Yen, Khanh Hoa, Ninh Thuan and Binh Thuan provinces;

- **The Central Highlands Regional Hydro-meteorological station** is located in Pleiku city, and is responsible for Kon Tum, Gia Lai, Dak Lak, Dak Nong and Lam Dong provinces; and
- **The Southern Regional Hydro-meteorological station is located** in Ho Chi Minh city, and is responsible for Dong Nai, Ba Ria Vung Tau, Binh Duong, Binh Phuoc, Tay Ninh, Long An, Tien Giang, Hau Giang, Can Tho, Vinh Long, Ben Tre, Tra Vinh, Bac Lieu, An Giang, Kien Giang, Dong Thap, Soc Trang, Ca Mau provinces and Ho Chi Minh city.

Provincial Hydro-meteorological Forecasting Centers. Every province has a hydro-meteorological forecasting center which directly reports to the relevant regional station. These forecasting centers are responsible for providing hydrological and meteorological forecasts to facilitate activities of natural disaster prevention and control, socio-economic development, and security assurance within the provinces.

Hydro-meteorological observatory network

There are 168 stations for surface meteorological observations, and in addition, there are also 393 people's measuring points; For agro-meteorological observations, there are 27 regional stations; For aerological meteorological observations, there are three aerological observatory stations in Hanoi, Danang and Ho Chi Minh city. There are also seven stations for measuring wind by optic theodolite, and three stations for measuring the total ozone and ultraviolet radiation; For weather radar-based observations, there are six radar weather stations that have 8 radars to detect and monitor storms and other special weather phenomena; For hydrological observations, there are 231 hydrological stations, 88 water level self-recording and self-notifying stations, as well as 100 stations in tidal areas; For oceanographic meteorological observations, there are 17 oceanographic meteorological observatory stations and 01 oceanographic research ship; For satellite observations, there is a station in Hanoi that receives data from the GMS geostationary satellite and NOAA high resolution polar equatorial satellite imagery; For air and water environmental observations, there are 154 stations and measuring points.

The hydro-meteorological forecasting system at three levels:

The central level: the Central hydro-meteorological forecasting center;

The regional level: the Regional hydro-meteorological stations; and

The provincial level: the Provincial hydro-meteorological centers.

Types of forecasts

Short term weather forecasts: daily weather forecasts are the most important and popular.

The daily weather forecasts are broadcasted on the mass media (newspapers, radio, television);

Forecasts on storms, tropical pressure and northeast wind: these forecasts are broadcasted according to particular provisions and many times a day;

Hydrological forecasts: these forecasts are to predict the water level on major rivers and give warnings on possible floods on each river. They are broadcasted according to the Government-approved regulations;

Marine hydro-meteorological forecasts: the coastline and adjacent areas are divided into different zones for the purpose of forecasting. The daily marine hydro-meteorological forecasts are broadcasted on the Voice of Vietnam, the Television of Vietnam, and provincial radios and televisions; and

Medium term and long term forecasts: medium and long term hydro-meteorological forecasts (5 day period, 10 day period, monthly and seasonal) are provided to a certain number of agencies.

Information system

The information system for the purpose of hydro-meteorological forecasts is established in the National Hydro-meteorological Forecasting Center.

International information: through the Global Telecommunications System (GTS) of the International Meteorological Organization (IMO), the Vietnam National Hydro-meteorological Forecasting Center connects with three international and regional centers which are namely in Bangkok (Thailand), Beijing (China) and Moscow (Russia). In addition, the National Center receives, through internet, meteorological information from the Chinese Meteorological Department, forecasting products of the Tokyo Meteorological Center (Japan), the European Medium term Forecasting Center, and others;

Domestic information and communication system: this system uses a combination of wire-based and wireless information, WAN and MetTV satellite station. This system ensures the collection of information and data from hydro-meteorological stations and centers nationwide to the National Hydro-meteorological Forecasting Center. The system also provides information and forecasts from the National Center to the Regional Stations and some provincial forecasting centers.

(source: www.kttvqg.gov.vn)

RESPONSIBLE AGENCIES FOR FLOOD AND STORM WARNING

National Hydro-meteorological Center

Establishes regular observations and immediately identifies weather and hydrological status, informs local agencies and authorities on storms and tropical depressions on the Eastern Sea (the South China Sea) as well as floods on the major river system; Sends bulletins on the storms, tropical depressions and floods to the concerned organizations according to the regulated procedures.

Guides and supervises the Regional Hydro-meteorological stations, the provincial Hydro-meteorological forecasting centers and other hydro-meteorological agencies to timely provide information on the storms, tropical depressions and floods to the provincial People's Committees and the Committees for Flood and Storm Control at all levels, as well as to the National and local Radios and Televisions, and the national and local daily newspapers.

CCFSC

Receives from the National Hydro-meteorological Center the bulletins on the storms, tropical depressions and floods. On the basis of the latest bulletins, CCFSC makes decisions on appropriate measures to guide and manage its functions and duties; Provides new information on the storms, tropical depressions and floods so that the National Hydro-meteorological Center can update information on the status of the storms, tropical depressions and floods, as well as review and evaluate the forecasting efforts.

Voice of Vietnam (national broadcasting radio or VOV)

When receiving bulletins on distant or nearby storms, tropical depressions or floods, the Voice of Vietnam will broadcast these bulletins at every two hours (i.e. at the beginning of every broadcasting program), and repeat them during the whole day on all of its channels until they are replaced by the more updated official news; When receiving bulletins on emergency typhoons, tropical depressions near the sea shorelines, fast floods, or official notes from the CCFSC, the Voice of Vietnam will immediately broadcast the bulletins or the official notes twice, and repeat them after every hour during the whole day on all of its channels, until the information is replaced by the more updated official news or until the CCFSC or the National Hydro-meteorological Center requests to change the broadcasting time.

Television of Vietnam (national television or VTV)

When receiving bulletins on distant or nearby storms, tropical depressions or floods, the Television of Vietnam will broadcast immediately these bulletins under the latest news programs on all of its channels; When receiving bulletins on emergency typhoons, tropical depressions near the sea shorelines, fast floods, or official notes from the CCFSC, the Television of Vietnam will immediately broadcast the bulletins or the official notes, and repeat them after every two hours during the whole day on all of its channels, until the information is replaced by the more updated official news or until the CCFSC or the National Hydro-meteorological Center requests to change the broadcasting time.

National and local daily newspapers

When receiving bulletins or official notes from the Committees of Flood and Storm Control at all levels, the national and local daily newspapers will immediately broadcast the news.

Ministry of Information and Communications

Monitors closely and, when necessary, gives the top priority and coordinates with national news agencies (including the agencies under the Ministry of Information and Communications, and those under other ministries) to collect, receive and transmit information on typhoons, tropical depressions and floods from the National Hydro-meteorological Center. The Ministry of Information and Communications will also disseminate instructions of the CCFSC and provincial CFSCs to all levels, local agencies and authorities, all the ships offshore and the entire community, so as to have plans for disaster preparedness, responses and mitigation.

Provincial People's Committees and CFSCs

Receive information on the storms, tropical depressions and floods that are provided by the regional hydro-meteorological stations, the provincial forecasting stations, and the regional hydro-meteorological agencies, as well as receive warnings and instructions of the CCFSC. Based on the specific contents of these warnings, instructions and information, the authorities in provinces and cities will expeditiously inform the local agencies, socio-economic organizations and local people on the status of the storms, tropical depressions and floods, as well as instructions for flood and storm control; Give guidance to provincial and local broadcasting radios and televisions to broadcast bulletins on the storms, tropical depressions and floods, as well as instructions from the CCFSC to all the levels in a timely and precise manner.

Central Ministries and agencies

Upon the receipt of information on storms, tropical depressions and floods that are provided by the National Hydro-meteorological Center, the ministries and agencies shall: Transfer the information to their lower level agencies and units that are located in vulnerable areas so that they can prepare and implement preventive measures for mitigating the disaster consequences; Give guidance, supervise and review the efforts made by their subsidiary agencies and units to inform in a timely manner the ships offshore, managers and operators of irrigation schemes, warehouses, ports, etc. on the status of the storms, tropical depressions and floods so that they can prepare and implement preventive measures for mitigating the disaster consequences; Provide all the necessary support relating to information to the Ministry of Information and Communications and concerned agencies, and when necessary, authorize all the information agencies nationwide to act for the purpose of flood and storm warning.

Ministry of National Defense, Ministry of Transport, MARD

Upon the receipt of information on the storms, tropical depressions and floods, these Ministries shall organize and install signal posts at harbors and ports, on islands and at dike inspection stations; as well as give guidance and inspect the installation of signboards and signal lamps in those places, on the ships offshore or on the rivers; Install lighthouses and necessary equipment to transmit signals for warning on storms and tropical depressions; Closely coordinate with different levels of authorities to transmit warnings on storms or tropical depressions from all channels of coastal information stations to the ships offshore.

**KEY HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE, DISASTER
RELIEF, AND DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATIONS IN
VIETNAM**

NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS (NGOS): REGULATION & REGISTRATION

In 1989, foreign NGOs faced many restrictions to conducting activities and had a small aid budget. Consequently, NGO support was mainly in-kind with the nature of being humanitarian and emergency assistance. As years passed, the number of foreign NGOs working in Vietnam significantly increased and the type of foreign assistance considerably changed from primarily in-kind to the implementation of projects and programs of humanitarian or development purposes. This change drove the first legal frameworks to control the operation of foreign NGOs in Vietnam – **Decision 339/TTg on establishing the Committee for NGO Affairs** and **Decision 340/TTg on issuing Regulations on the Operation of foreign NGOs in the country**. This called for NGOs to apply for permission from the government.

Subsequently, a committee for Foreign NGO Affairs was established under **Decision 59/2001/QĐ-TTg on April 24, 2001**. This committee was responsible for helping the Government in directing the administration of, solutions to issues involving foreign NGO activities and the position of Executive member of the Committee is taken by the president of the Vietnam Union of Friendship Organization (VUFO). The People's Aid Coordinating Committee (PACCOM), the specialized and functional body of VUFO), says its functional activities of processing the issuance, extension and amendment of Permits of different kinds of international NGOs operating in Vietnam in accordance with the regulations.

With favorable conditions created by the GoV, the number of NGOs in Vietnam quickly rose from 183 in 1992, to 514 in 2003, to an estimated 800 in 2010.

The management and coordination of foreign NGO activities are governed by the Regulation on operation of foreign NGO's in Vietnam, issued together with the Prime Minister's **Decision No. 340/TTg** of 24 May 1996. The Steering Commission of Non-Governmental Organizations, established in 1993 and the Working Committee for Foreign Non-Governmental Organizations has been established in 1993⁸³ are in charge of assisting the Prime Minister in directing and handling matters related to Vietnamese and foreign non-governmental organizations operating in Vietnam.

According to Article 2 of the 2001 Decision, the Working Committee for Foreign Non-Governmental Organizations, with a Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs at the head, is tasked to:

- Propose strategies and policies concerning foreign non-governmental organizations operating in Vietnam; coordinate with the concerned agencies in guiding, supervising and inspecting the implementation of law and policies related to activities of foreign non-governmental organizations.
- Manage the consideration, granting, amendment and withdrawal of the operation licenses, permits for establishing project offices, permits for establishing representative offices of foreign non-governmental organizations in VietNam according to the Regulation on operation of foreign non-governmental organizations in Vietnam.
- Periodically report to the Prime Minister on the operation of foreign non-governmental organizations in Vietnam.

- Perform other duties on foreign non-governmental organizations, which are assigned by the Prime Minister.

The Steering Commission of Non-Governmental Organizations, with the Head of the Office of the Government as chair, has been assigned similar tasks with regard to Vietnamese NGO activities.

However, no text contains detailed provisions specific to the coordination of disaster management and emergency activities, or procedures for undertaking communication and consultations with these organizations.

A foreign non-governmental organization (NGO) is eligible for an Operating Permit when it fulfills the following conditions:

1. It has legal status under the law of its country or the law of the country where it is allowed to set up its head office
2. It has a well-defined statute, guiding principle and objective
3. It has worked out or has at least conceived a plan for the programs and projects of development and humanitarian aid in Vietnam in line with the policy of the Vietnamese State on socio-economic development; it is committed to strictly abiding by the Vietnamese law and the traditional customs and habits of Vietnam.

A Social Fund or Charity Fund is defined as an Ngo having the legal status established by a person or any organizations, in order to assist cultural, educational, healthy, scientific, charity or humanitarian activities and other activities for public interest and non-profit making. (IFRC, 2009 – 73)

Key Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief Organizations in Vietnam

When large-scale disasters strike, Vietnam receives assistance from their neighbors and from the international humanitarian community. However, it is important to note that there is no unique national focal point in charge for international cooperation or coordination of assistance from foreign organizations for disaster in general. As previously mentioned, the VUFO-NGO Resource Center in Vietnam established both the Disaster Management Working Group and the Climate Change Working Group, which both comprise a large number of some of the following international NGOs, national NGOs, development agencies and UN agencies. Also mentioned above, the People's Aid Coordinating Committee is responsible for relations with INGOs and for mobilizing aid. As of 2012 some 900 foreign NGOs have relationships with Vietnam.

United Nations

The United Nation's mission, in partnership with the government and people of Vietnam, is to ensure that all Vietnamese people enjoy an increasingly healthy and prosperous life with greater human dignity and expanded choices. Collectively and through its individual agencies, the UN cares and creates opportunities for the poor and most vulnerable, and for youth, to whom the future belongs. According to Vietnam's UN Resident Coordinator, Ms Pratibha Mehta, the UN continues working with the GoV and National Assembly to improve the related legal and policy frameworks and, where necessary, build capacity for an effective implementation of the new law provisions. (June 25, UN.org.vn article- "The UN in Vietnam congratulates the Government and National Assembly for passing of new laws"

United Nations Country Team (UNCT) in Vietnam

Website: <http://www.un.org.vn/en.html>

The **UNCT** in Vietnam consists of all the UN agencies, funds and programs in Vietnam. The UNCT works "as one" to support Vietnam in achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and Vietnam's own National Development Goals through a people-centred, rights-based approach to development as outlined in the One Plan, the combined planning framework for all the UN organizations in Vietnam participating in the One UN Initiative.

The UNCT is led by the **UN Resident Coordinator** as the senior UN official in Vietnam. Designated the "One Leader" under the One UN Initiative, the RC takes the lead on common issues that require the UN Country Team to speak with one voice, and presents a common UN position. He guides the strategic development and management of the One UN Initiative and promotes joint decisions including all representatives of the participating UN organizations.

The **UN Resident Coordinator's Office** provides direct support to the UN Resident Coordinator and the UN Country Team, including advisory, technical, organizational and management support. It also helps coordinate the work of non-resident UN organizations. Coordinating development operations promotes more strategic support for national plans and priorities, makes operations more efficient and reduces transaction costs for governments. This helps the UN to be a more relevant and reliable partner for governments.

Vietnam is one of eight pilot "Delivering as One" countries implementing UN reform at the country level with the aim of making the UN in Vietnam more responsive and effective to the country's rapidly evolving needs.

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United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

Website: <http://www.fao.org.vn/>

FAO Vietnam strives for inclusive growth in Vietnam where resilient food and agriculture approaches become competitive and contribute to an economically viable and an environmentally sustainable society. We contribute to food security and nutrition, poverty alleviation, sustainable and alternative livelihoods, quality and quantity of livestock production, climate change mitigation and adaptation n, environmental protection.

FAO has joined with the Vietnamese Government to develop and implement strategies and policies that will improve coping capacities in order to lessen the adverse impacts of disasters. Currently, FAO is assisting MARD and the Central Committee of Flood and Storm Control (CCFSC) in the northern mountainous region to strengthen technical and institutional capacity building for preparedness and mitigation through disaster risk analysis, good early warning systems and climate change adaptation with a sustainable approach.

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UNAIDS in Vietnam

Website: <http://www.unaids.org.vn/>

UNAIDS, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, brings together the efforts and resources of the UN system organizations to the global AIDS response.

The Theme Group, involving cosponsors in Vietnam and other UN organisations, includes: UNHCR, UNICEF, UNDP, UNFPA, UNODC, ILO, UNESCO, WHO, World Bank, IOM and UNV. UNAIDS supports development, implementation and scale-up of comprehensive AIDS strategies. In Vietnam, UNAIDS works to support the response of the Government and civil society to the AIDS epidemic. UNAIDS facilitates coordination of AIDS -related activities undertaken by the UN system, and other international agencies, including bilateral donor agencies, international NGOs and others. Specific areas of work include promoting and assisting:

Leadership and advocacy for effective action on the epidemic including a rights-based approach; Strategic information and support for coordination efforts for the response to AIDS; Tracking, documenting, monitoring and evaluating of the epidemic and the response; Engaging other stakeholders in HIV, including mass organizations, NGOs, People Living with HIV, and private/business sectors; and Mobilization of technical and financial resources to support an effective response. The UNAIDS Country Office provides strategic support to UN agencies, donor agencies, Government and other national partners in this work.

UNAIDS works mostly at the central level, but also supports provincial AIDS centres in their work. UNAIDS office is located in Hanoi and also has two staff working in Ho Chi Minh City supporting coordination.

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United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Vietnam

Website: <http://www.unicef.org/vietnam/>

UNICEF, the UN Children's Fund, is on the ground in over 150 countries and territories to help children survive and thrive, from early childhood through adolescence. UNICEF began its nationwide program of assistance in Vietnam in 1975 and has since then been working to improve the well-being of all Vietnamese children across the country.

Over the last 30 years, UNICEF's work has evolved from emergency and reconstruction, to meeting basic needs in health and education, to today concentrating on improving social

services, while supporting sound policy and an effective legal framework to ensure each one of the country's 30 million girls and boys could meet his

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United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Website: <http://www.undp.org.vn/what-we-do/focus-areas/disaster-risk-management/?&languageId=1>

For 15 years, the United Nations Development Programme has been working closely with the Government, local communities and international partners to help prepare and respond to disasters, and bridge the gap between emergency relief and long-term development. UNDP offer its global network of experience and expertise to help break the cycle of poverty and natural disasters. They have provided technical support and coordination, and now it supports Government planning and management of natural disaster risks.

UNDP has helped the MARD and the CCFSC to establish the Disaster Management Unit. This Unit has improved disaster mitigation and management of information throughout Vietnam through the use of information and communication technologies. The Unit has also helped prepare a Second National Strategy and Action Plan to mitigate and manage disasters up to 2020.

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United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

Website: <http://www.unodc.org/eastasiaandpacific/en/vietnam/index.html>

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) is the custodian of international legal instruments in the areas of drugs, transnational organized crime, corruption and terrorism. The Office is also the guardian of a considerable body of internationally recognized principles in crime prevention and criminal justice, encompassing such issues as juvenile justice, the treatment of offenders, international cooperation, good governance, victim protection and violence against women. UNODC also helps countries to reform their criminal justice systems.

UNODC's current operational targets include enhancing the drug interdiction and investigation capacity of law enforcement and judiciary system, reducing drug demand through promoting preventive education and improved treatment services, and increasing awareness and knowledge about HIV/AIDS transmission among vulnerable populations, especially IDUs.

To prevent, investigate and prosecute cases of trafficking in human beings in Vietnam, UNODC is assisting in the capacity building of the law enforcement and judiciary. By providing technical assistance to treatment and rehabilitation centres, UNODC is improving the effectiveness of drug abuse treatment and reducing the adverse health and social consequences of drug abuse. To reduce drug use, especially among young people in Vietnam, UNODC is working with mass media on drug prevention reporting and enhancing the capacity of local communities to implement drug prevention activities and vocational training for high-risk youth.

UNODC's current projects have activities in a number of provinces throughout Vietnam. To reach its full potential and to enhance the capacity local partners, UNODC is working together with the ministries and central institutions to implement its projects. With its partners, who include government institutions, NGOs and other UN agencies, UNODC operates both at policy level and as well as at community level.

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United Nations Volunteers in Vietnam (UNV)

Website: <http://un.org.vn/unv/>

The United Nations Volunteers program is the UN organization that supports human development globally by promoting volunteerism and mobilizing volunteers. UNV is administered by the UNDP and operates amidst growing recognition that volunteerism makes important contributions, economically and socially, to more cohesive societies by building trust and reciprocity among citizens.

The UNV has been working in Vietnam since 1990 to increase the involvement of UN Volunteers and volunteers in general in a wide range of development activities that contribute to achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

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UN-HABITAT

Website: <http://www.un-habitat.org/>

The United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT), established in 1978 is the leading agency within the UN system for coordinating activities in the field of housing and urban development. It is mandated by the UN General Assembly to promote socially and environmentally sustainable towns and cities with the goal of providing adequate shelter for all.

UN-HABITAT's strategic vision is anchored in a four-pillar strategy aimed at attaining the goal for Cities without Slums. This strategy consists of advocacy of global norms, analysis of information, field-testing of solutions and financing. These fall under the four core functions assigned to the agency by world governments – monitoring and research, policy development, capacity building and financing for housing and urban development.

In Vietnam, UN-HABITAT has focused its policy and technical advice activities on issues related to urban planning and management. Building on support provided to Vietnam since 1999, UN-HABITAT is currently assisting with the preparation of City Development Strategies for Thanh Hoa province/city and Da Nang City. It has also supported the Association of Cities of Vietnam (ACVN) to localize the MDGs for Vietnamese cities by assessing the current status of the achievement of MDGs and Vietnam Development Goals (VDGs) in selected cities.

Under the Water for Asian Cities Programme (WAC) and in collaboration with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and other governments in Asia, UN-HABITAT has initiated the "Mekong Region Water and Sanitation Programme for Secondary Towns" in which Vietnam has been selected as a pilot implementing country.

In 2007 a Habitat Programme Manager (HPM) was appointed for Vietnam. The HPM is working closely with a wide variety of local, national and international partners to implement the Habitat Agenda in Vietnam.

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United Nations World Health Organization (WHO)

Website: <http://www2.wpro.who.int/vietnam>

The World Health Organization (WHO) has been working side-by-side with the Government and development partners in Vietnam for more than 50 years and has played a critical role in disease control and prevention. Our main office is located in Hanoi, Vietnam's capital, where we have a great team of technical, professional, specialist and administrative staff.

The Organization has been at the forefront of numerous public health efforts, assisting the Government in the elimination of poliomyelitis and neonatal tetanus, devising strategies to combat public health threats and setting standards across a range of public health issues. Today, WHO's close partnership the Vietnamese Government remains stronger than ever – and we continue to formulate and implement health programs and activities to bring about better health and a better quality of life for everyone in Vietnam – particularly those most at risk. WHO is helping Vietnam address its health challenges by providing expertise, developing appropriate systems and tools and advocating policy change. **(Maybe add somewhere a link to Vietnam's National Preparedness Plan: Avian Flu Epidemic and Human Influenza Pandemic)**

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Regional Office- WHO- Western Pacific Region (WPRO)
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Tel: +63 2 528 8001
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International Organizations and NGOs

The following is a list of international organizations and Non-governmental organizations:

Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA)

Website: <http://www.adravietnam.org/>

ADRA in Vietnam is tackling rising inequality by working with the country's poorest people, particularly people with disabilities and ethnic minority communities in the mountainous region of the North. Through collaborating with local partners and building their capacity, our aim is to make lasting positive changes to marginalised groups in Vietnam.

ADRA in Vietnam is a non-government organisation which has been active in Vietnam for more than 20 years, implementing over 180 development and relief projects across the country in various sectors. Currently, we are working in Cao Bang, Ha Noi and Tay Ninh with a focus on sustainable livelihoods, health, education, water and sanitation (WASH), climate change and disaster management.

ADRA in Vietnam works with vulnerable communities, especially focusing on ethnic minorities, women, children and people with disabilities so to help improve their opportunities and quality of life. Our programs and activities are implemented through strong partnerships with local authorities and civil society organizations, in order to develop their capacity to achieve long-term sustainable change.

ADRA in Vietnam is part of the global Adventist Development and Relief Agency network, the humanitarian arm of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. With a presence in over 120 countries, ADRA seeks to identify and address social injustice and deprivation in developing countries.

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Dong Da District, Hanoi, Vietnam
Tel: (84-4) 3852 5183/ 3852 9573
Fax: (84-4) 3852 5184
Email: adravietnam@hn.vnn.vn

Asian Development Bank

Website: <http://www.adb.org/countries/viet-nam/main>

A long period of rapid economic growth, combined with various policies targeting the poor, has enabled Vietnam to reduce poverty dramatically. Still, the country faces many development challenges, including recent macroeconomic instability. Efforts are being made to enable ADB to support the country to achieve inclusive, sustainable, and stable socioeconomic development, and to realize Vietnam's long-term vision of becoming a modern industrialized nation by 2020.

Contact Information:

Country Director: Tomoyuki Kimura
Vietnam Resident Mission
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23 Phan Chu Trinh Street
Hoan Kiem District, Hanoi, Vietnam
Tel: (84-4) 3933 1374
Fax: (84-4) 3933 1373

AusAID

Website: <http://www.usaid.gov/countries/eastasia/vietnam/Pages/humanitarian.aspx>

Australia continues to help Vietnam make the most of opportunities from integration into the world economy. Our aid program is focused on building skills, saving lives, strengthening institutions and expanding infrastructure to support continued high growth that promotes opportunities for all. Our aid program also provides support for climate change mitigation and adaptation, HIV prevention as well as efforts to combat corruption and protect human rights.

Vietnam is particularly vulnerable to natural disasters, which can have significant impacts on Vietnamese livelihoods and infrastructure. In 2011, natural disasters led to flooding of around 450,000 households, inundation of more than 350,000 hectares of rice paddy field, 295 recorded deaths, and an estimated damage bill of US\$620 million. In November 2011, AusAID provided A\$500,000 in response to the International Federation of the Red Cross Emergency Appeal. Australia's contribution assisted around 17,640 people who were affected by the worst flooding to Vietnam's Mekong Delta in more than a decade.

Australia is working with other donors and NGOs to support Vietnam in improving community resilience to natural disasters and implementing a national Community Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM) program. Our support has included a project completed by CARE Australia in mid-2011 that improved the ability of over 17,000 people in the Mekong Delta to prepare and adapt to annual flooding, storms and to improve livelihood security. Through a partnership with Oxfam, we have also provided technical assistance to support Vietnam's Disaster Management Centre in preparing operational guidance, a monitoring and evaluation framework and training materials.

With climate change, natural disasters are expected to become more frequent and intense. Australia is working with Vietnam to integrate disaster risk management activities and approaches to climate change adaptation.

Floods and other natural disasters can present a serious drowning risk to children. Australia supports a drowning prevention program that teaches children important survival swimming skills.

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CARE Vietnam

Website: <http://www.careinternational.org.uk/where-we-work/vietnam>

CARE International in Vietnam is a Non-Government Organization representing the CARE International network in Vietnam since 1989. CARE in Vietnam's Program Strategy is explicitly oriented around achieving impacts for particularly vulnerable and marginalized groups in Vietnam. To achieve this, we work with Vietnamese partners across sectors such as health services, rural livelihood development, disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation. We recognize that women's empowerment is a critical pathway for poverty reduction and place women and girls from marginalized population groups at the heart of our programming efforts.

Contact Information:

CARE International in Vietnam Disaster Management Program

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CARE Vietnam

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Tay Ho District, Hanoi
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Fax: (84-4) 3716 1935

CARE International UK

9th Floor, 89 Albert Embankment
London SE1 7TP
Tel: 44 (0) 20 7091 6000
Fax: 44 (0) 20 7582 0728

CARITAS- Switzerland

Website: <http://www.caritas.org/worldmap/asia/vietnam.html>

Caritas Vietnam reopened in 2008 after it was closed by the Government 32 years earlier. It has since applied for membership of Caritas Internationalis. Extreme climatic events such as drought and typhoons which lead to floods have caused devastation and loss of lives in recent years. Other challenges to development include widespread poverty, damaged infrastructure through conflict, land scarcity and unemployment.

Caritas Vietnam focuses its work on emergency relief, development, social and charitable activities with the aim of promoting integral human development. Activities include:

- Providing emergency assistance to people hit by natural disasters and epidemic diseases.
- Support and care for people with HIV and AIDS.
- Working to improve overall education standards by seeking to eradicate illiteracy,

providing training and sponsoring the education of poor minorities and people with learning disabilities.

- Implementing health programmes for the poor. This includes awareness raising and offering medical examinations.
- Carrying out community development programmes such as water purification projects and assisting in micro credit initiatives.

Caritas Vietnam relies on voluntary contributions for its work. To boost its funds, it launches a fundraising campaign every Lent

Contact Information:

President: Bishop Dominic Nguyen Chu Trinh

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Challenge to Change

Website: <http://www.challengetochange.org/index.htm>

Challenge to Change (CtC) is an international NGO, established in the UK in 2008, working primarily in Vietnam. Since its inception the organisation has focused on climate change issues, supporting poor communities to adapt their livelihoods to the local impacts of changing climate in Vietnam, whilst at the same time persuading those who contribute most to climate change, especially in the UK, to take responsibility for reducing global carbon emissions. Since 2008 the organisation has worked in Da Nang, Quy Nhon, Can Tho, Quang Tri, and Ha Giang Provinces of Vietnam, in coastal and mountainous, rural and urban areas.

In 2012 the organisation is broadening its focus to sustainability issues, including climate change. There are two sides to the majority of current global sustainability issues: on one hand, powerful elements of the global system pursuing unsustainable activities for economic gain, and on the other hand poor or disempowered communities who normally experience the first and greatest impacts of such activities within their daily lives.

Challenge to Change addresses both sides of each issue, and links them. For example it uses experience in Vietnam to inform the UK public about the impacts of CO2 emissions on distant, vulnerable communities; and it informs these vulnerable communities about the global causes of climate change. Our goal is sustainable systems which ensure that the well-being of poor, vulnerable communities, and of future generations, is not undermined by the pursuit of short-term economic gains.

Contact Information

Graham Adutt, Director of Challenge to Change

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Catholic Relief Services (CRS)

Website: <http://crs.org/countries/vietnam>

Catholic Relief Services reopened an office in Hanoi in 1994 as part of a postwar normalization process between Vietnam and the United States. Previously, in a very different context, CRS had worked to meet the social needs of people displaced during wartime in southern Vietnam. Since reopening, CRS programming has focusing on building Vietnamese capacity to respond to emergencies and natural disasters, to reduce poverty, and to foster equitable development. CRS Vietnam now works with both government and nongovernmental partners to improve the education and health care systems in Vietnam.

Since 1995, CRS Vietnam has supported projects in emergency relief in more than 10 provinces, targeting impoverished families who are living in the most hazard-prone areas. Over the years, CRS has helped communities reconstruct key irrigation systems and public buildings, as well as provided trainings on disaster preparedness to minimize the losses to future disasters. In response to 2009's Typhoon Ketsana, CRS helped rebuild schools and houses in some of the most affected areas while also supporting those families most impacted by the disaster with activities to help them get back to making a living.

Contact Information

Catholic Relief Services
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Center for International Studies and Cooperation (CECI)

Website: <http://www.ceci.ca/en/where-we-work/asia/vietnam/>

CECI started operating in Vietnam in 1991. The country had just opened up to international aid with a view to furthering the integration of local communities into the market and increasing their agricultural incomes. Since that time, CECI has provided technical support and sent Canadian and Australian volunteers to support the government and NGO partners in their local development efforts.

In addition, CECI has secured funding from CIDA, USAID, the European Union, and the Asian Development Bank to support our partners' development priorities. They are now gearing our programming towards improving the livelihoods of mountain ethnic minority communities, who have benefited less from the development that has enabled the majority of Vietnamese to emerge from poverty in the last two decades.

After CECI responded to flooding in the central provinces of the Hue region in 1999, our partners asked us to continue our support for the development and implementation of community approaches to disaster mitigation. CECI has successfully introduced several innovative approaches to participatory planning for disaster risk reduction with a view to enabling the poor to better protect their health and property in the event of natural disasters.

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Disaster Preparedness European Commission (DIPECHO)

Website: <http://ec.europa.eu/echo/files/policies/dipecho/presentations/vietnam.pdf>

The European Commission's Humanitarian aid and Civil Protection Directorate General (ECHO) provides rapid and effective support to the victims of disasters beyond the European Union's borders. On average, approximately 16% of ECHO humanitarian relief is a response to sudden-onset natural disasters. The importance of disaster preparedness is clearly recognised in ECHO's mandate and in the European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid adopted in 2007. In 1996 ECHO launched a specific programme, DIPECHO (Disaster Preparedness ECHO) dedicated to disaster preparedness. Disaster preparedness also has a central place in the 23 principles for Good Humanitarian Donorship agreed in 2003 in Stockholm by leading humanitarian donors, including ECHO.

Through its Disaster Preparedness Programme DIPECHO, the European Commission Humanitarian Aid department (ECHO) aims at increasing the resilience of communities facing recurrent natural hazards, in particular floods and typhoons. Since 1998, twenty-three projects have been funded in Vietnam under the DIPECHO programme for over €6 million. In addition, a series of actions have been undertaken through regional projects to support national frameworks and networking. Projects have focused on coastal and delta areas, as well as more recently on remote mountainous provinces. Activities funded include the establishment of flood early warning systems, construction of small scale mitigation projects such as dykes, the improvement of organisational capacities of communities and local authorities, and the development of village disaster management plans as well as education measures in schools. Advocacy and public awareness measures have been strongly reinforced, thanks to a joint initiative launched by DIPECHO partner agencies, to better disseminate and promote disaster risk reduction among the decision-makers, donors and the general public.

Contact Information

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Tel: +66 2 255 10 35 / 36

International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)

Website: <http://www.ifrc.org/en/news-and-media/news-stories/asia-pacific/vietnam/>

Disaster response continues to represent the largest portion of the International Federation work, with assistance to around 30 million people annually from refugees to victims of natural disasters. This section includes our emergency response units and issues relating to humanitarian policies as we strive to improve the quality of our immediate response and long-term rehabilitation work. (Note that news and situation reports relating to all our operations are found in the Where we work section.)

The sharp increase in the number of natural disasters worldwide in recent years has prompted the Federation to devote more attention to disaster preparedness activities. These aim to make National Societies and communities more aware of the risks they face, how to reduce their vulnerability, and how to cope when disaster strikes.

International Organization for Migration (IOM)

Website: <http://www.iom.int.vn/>

Established in 1951, IOM is the leading intergovernmental organisation in the field of migration and it works closely with governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental partners in over 100 countries. With 120 member states and 19 states with observer status, of which Vietnam is one, IOM is dedicated to supporting both governments and migrants in promoting humanitarian and orderly migration. '

IOM first began operations in Vietnam in 1987 and operates under a Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. IOM's Mission in Vietnam is based in Ha Noi with a sub-office in Ho Chi Minh City and has over 100 experienced staff dedicated to assisting the government and the people of Vietnam in the field of migration.

IOM's operation in Vietnam is concerned about the welfare and quality of life of Vietnamese, particularly migrant and mobile populations. The programme focuses on safe migration and mobility, which includes counter trafficking, labour migration, public health and social services, and access to information, as well as assistance to local Embassies and Consulates on migration issues. Since 1987, IOM has had close working relationships with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Labour Invalids, and Social Affairs, Ministry of Public Security, Ministry of Transport, and the Vietnam Women's Union.

Where we work: While IOM's central-level policy activities are focused in Ha Noi, IOM is primarily a decentralized, operational organization with most project activities being tailored to provinces and cities where the needs of migrant populations are most significant. Ongoing activities are being conducted in Ha Noi, HCMC and its environs, Quang Ninh, Hai Phong and in several Mekong Delta provinces.

In addition, IOM works with its regional and global partners to assist Vietnamese migrants when they are abroad.

Contact Information

IOM Chief of Mission in Vietnam: Mr. Florian Forster

IOM Mission in Hanoi

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Japan International Cooperation Agency – Vietnam

Website: <http://www.jica.go.jp/vietnam/english/index.html>

ODA activities of JICA and Japan Bank for International Cooperation have been merged from October 2008. Since new JICA is now able to extend three schemes of Japanese ODA: Technical Assistance, ODA Loans and part of the Grant Aid, new JICA can provide comprehensive assistance that most efficiently addresses the needs of development countries from large scaled infrastructure construction to technical cooperation at grass root level.

The Japanese Government has been contributing support to Vietnam to become a middle income country by 2010 and a modern industrialized country by 2020, as well as to help improve the people's living standards, building a society of justice, enhancing the effectiveness and sustainability of the development. More information of JICA in Vietnam can be found in their brochure: <http://www.jica.go.jp/vietnam/english/office/others/pdf/en.pdf>

Contact Information

JICA Vietnam Office

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Malteser International

Website: <http://www.malteser-international.org/en/home/where-we-help/asia/vietnam.html>

Malteser International is the worldwide relief agency of the Sovereign Order of Malta for humanitarian aid with the status of a non-governmental organisation. The relief service has more than 50 years of experience in humanitarian relief and currently covers around 100 projects in about 20 countries in Africa, Asia and the Americas. Currently, 24 national associations and priories of the Order of Malta are members of Malteser International. Malteser International has been working in Vietnam since 1966.

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Cordula Wasser, Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam

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Malteser International - Headquarters

Kalker Hauptstraße 22 - 24
51103 Köln
Tel: 49 (0) 2 21 98 22 - 0
Fax: 49 (0) 2 21 98 22 179

Oxfam International - Vietnam

Website: <http://www.oxfam.org/en/development/vietnam>

In Vietnam, Oxfam is recognized as one of the leading international non-governmental organizations, especially in rural development, disaster risk reduction and humanitarian response, civil society development, ethnic minorities, and women's empowerment. We have been working in Vietnam since 1955, when we made our first humanitarian grant. After several decades of supporting humanitarian responses, we started to focus on development work in the late 1980s. We work with communities, the government, civil society organizations and other NGOs to promote equity, human development and economic well-being through social and economic change.

Focus of our work

Over 2010-2011 we helped more than 400,000 people in Vietnam. Our five focus areas are:

- Improve livelihoods for people living in rural areas, especially ethnic minorities and women
- Improve livelihoods for migrant workers in urban areas, especially migrant women
- Reduce vulnerability and increase adaptability to disasters and climate change
- Empower women to gain more control over their lives, increase their economic and political power, and gain more space to express their voices and claim their right
- Empower communities and civil society to take part in public policy, the social and economic development of the country, a strengthened governance (rule of law) and government accountability.

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Pacific Disaster Center (PDC)

Website: <http://pdc.org/iweb/pdchome.html>

The Pacific Disaster Center's mission is to provide applied information research and analysis support for the development of more effective policies, institutions, programs and information products for disaster management and humanitarian assistance communities worldwide. PDC, in collaboration with Vietnam's Central Committee Flood and Storm Control (CCFSC), Department of Dyke Management & Flood and Storm Control (DDMFSC), and its Disaster Management Center (DMC), has undertaken a pilot project aimed at better understanding, illustrating, and enhancing the current state of disaster management in Vietnam in terms of:

1. Monitoring and observation systems and networks;
2. Analysis and decision support system capabilities; and
3. Warning and notification dissemination

The objectives of the first set of activities is to raise awareness of the need for coordinated disaster management in Vietnam, to clarify to stakeholders the benefits of coordinated disaster management, to validate the concept of an all-hazards approach to disaster management, and

to generate exemplar products to provide insight into issues ranging from disaster management to data sharing and access.

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Peace Winds America (PWA)

Website: <http://peacewindsamerica.org/readiness/sister-cities-initiative/>

The Asia Pacific is home to millions of people in vibrant cities that drive their nation's economies. Effective disaster preparedness, management, and response capabilities for these cities is critical to public safety, and to political and economic stability. PWA developed the Sister Cities Initiative in response to the pivotal role of cities in disaster preparedness and response. Using the international sister cities network, this program enhances disaster management by building capacities and integrating the various emergency responders, especially the private sector.

The PWA delegation met with members of the Vietnam Disaster Management Center and the Central Committee for Flood and Storm Control in Hanoi, city officials and emergency managers from Hai Phong and Ho Chi Minh City, NGOs, private sector representatives from the Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Japan Business Associations, and American Chambers of Commerce, U.S. Embassy staff, Port Authorities and others. Peace Winds America will work collaboratively with its partners, implementers and experts to craft the next stages of this two year program.

In August 2012 Peace Winds America will expand the Sister Cities Disaster Preparedness Initiative to Vietnam. The Mayors and People's Committee Chairmen from the sister cities of San Francisco – Ho Chi Minh City and Seattle – Hai Phong signed agreements committing to work together in PWA's Sister Cities Disaster Preparedness Initiative. The Mayors and People's Committee Chairmen acknowledged the importance of disaster preparedness at the city level, especially in light of climate change. Through a series of disaster preparedness forums held in Vietnam and the U.S., the sister cities will target collaborative disaster planning, disaster risk reduction, and emergency response and recovery. The Initiative will bring municipal officials and disaster managers together with national authorities and ministries, businesses, NGOs, and community groups. The Initiative strengthens the ability of cities to protect people and local economies from natural disasters and climate change.

Peace Winds America (PWA), a disaster preparedness and response organization (501(c)(3)), focuses on reducing the devastating impact of natural disasters in the Asia Pacific. PWA brings together governments, militaries, NGOs, and the private sector to prepare for and respond to natural disasters, with the Japan – U.S. relationship as the cornerstone of humanitarian assistance in the Asia Pacific region.

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Plan International

Website: <https://plan-international.org/where-we-work/asia/vietnam/>

Plan works to help marginalised children across Vietnam, especially those from ethnic minority groups in mountainous regions. We implement programmes and projects involving some 226,000 households in 142 communes in Central and Northern Vietnam, including 40,000 sponsored children and their families.

Our main priorities are to reduce the malnutrition rate, to improve health care and to provide quality basic education to children. Building good relationships with government bodies at various levels since 1993, Plan has become one of the largest non-governmental organisations working in Vietnam.

Child-centered disaster risk management and climate change adaptation

To better cope with the impact of disasters and climate change, Plan Vietnam promotes the right to protection and assistance in emergencies and builds the resilience of children, families and communities. In emergency preparedness and response as well as in recovery phase and livelihood projects such as agricultural productivity and food security, Plan Vietnam involves communities to better adapt to climate change, preserve and develop their assets, and integrate this issue into their development.

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Save the Children Vietnam

Website: <http://savethechildrenvietnam.wordpress.com/gi%e1%bb%9bi-thi%e1%bb%87u/>

In 1990, Save the Children was invited by the Vietnamese government to be working on the issue of child nutrition. In response, Save the Children developed a highly successful nutrition program, which has been replicated nationwide and in many countries around the world. Vietnam is especially vulnerable to the effects of natural disasters, which often have serious consequences on the well-being of children. Save the Children works directly with local authorities and community people in disaster-prone areas to better prepare and protect themselves in times of emergency. Through collaboration with other members of the Save the Children Alliance, our program supports communities on various aspects of disaster preparedness planning, with a special emphasis on raising awareness for child safety and

protection during disaster situations.

Contact Information:

Save the Children U.S. Headquarters

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Email: twebster@savechildren.org

2000 L Street NW,
Suite 500 Washington, DC 20036
Tel:1.202.640.6600
Donor Services: Toll-free 1.800.728.3843

World Bank Vietnam

Website: <http://www.worldbank.org/en/country/vietnam>

Aligned with the Government's overall strategic priorities and goals, the Bank's Country Partnership Strategy (CPS) 2012 - 2016 will support Vietnam's three breakthrough areas of promoting human resources, improving market institutions, and advancing infrastructure development.

The CPS introduces several new principles of Bank engagement in Vietnam aimed at increasing the Bank's impact: (i) sharpening strategic focus by reducing program dispersion through consolidation and greater selectivity; (ii) improving operational efficiency through the introduction of more systemic approaches, leveraging resources by strengthening policy dialogue and analytical and advisory services (AAA), through synergies with development partners, and across the World Bank Group (WBG); and (iii) accelerating implementation for more timely results.

The CPS program will support investments and policies organized into a strategic framework of three pillars and three cross-cutting themes. The CPS supports a strengthening of Vietnam's resilience on these specific issues in the respective pillars of the framework. The challenge for the Vietnam program is to achieve results faster. During the CPS period, the Bank and Government will work to assess underlying fiduciary systems capacity and to diversify lending instruments for faster development impact. The Bank will also continue to work jointly with the Ministry of Planning and Investment (MPI) and other donors to address systemic official development assistance (ODA) implementation issues and undertake analyses to learn from well-performing provinces and sectors. At the project level, the Bank and MPI are giving priority to improving project readiness for implementation, accelerating preparation, and managing the existing portfolio proactively. A more streamlined results framework of this CPS will serve as a management tool for the Bank's Vietnam Country Team.

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World Vision International (Vietnam)

Website: <http://www.worldvision.org.vn/worldvision/index.php>

World Vision is a Christian relief and development organization working to create lasting change in the lives of children, families and communities living in poverty. World Vision serves all people regardless of religion, race, ethnicity or gender. Founded in 1950, WV currently works in around 100 countries around the world, assisting communities with programs and projects in health, education, agriculture, micro-enterprise development, economic assistance, disability, capacity building, and emergency relief and disaster mitigation. Importantly, activities are tailored specifically to the communities needs, encouraging community participation and ownership, so they become agents of their own development.

World Vision Vietnam (WVV) began working in Vietnam in 1960, providing support to orphaned children and orphanages. Over the past 15 years, WVV developed programs to provide support to homeless people, education and health for children separated from their families and orthopedic rehabilitation services. Following a break in service delivery after 1975, WVV recommenced emergency relief assistance in 1988 and opened an office in Hanoi in 1990.

In 2012, 70,000 registered children are given direct assistance through child-sponsorship in Vietnam and about 2 million people are impacted each year through WVV's work. WVV continues to be one of the largest non-governmental Organizations (NGO) in Vietnam in terms of program and project size and diversity of activities.

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NATIONAL NGOs

While there are several national non-governmental organizations in Vietnam, the majority of them fall under the VUFO- NGO Resource Center and information is not widely available. Often, national NGOs in Vietnam are mentioned participating in DM activities and partnering with the government and international organizations on various programs and projects. The following lists a few local NGOs:

Association for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (AEPD)

Website: <http://aepd-vn.org/index.php?newlang=english>

The Association for the Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (AEPD) is a local Vietnamese non-profit organization that grew out of Survivor Corps/Landmine Survivors Network (LSN-V), an international humanitarian organization, which had worked in Vietnam since 2003.

While the organization continues LSN-V's legacy of assisting landmine/ unexploded ordinance (UXO) survivors in their recovery and rehabilitation process, AEPD has expanded the scope of its work to include the support of all people with physical disabilities. AEPD empowers persons with disabilities in order to permanently improve the quality of their lives. This brand of empowerment seeks to help every person with disabilities fulfill their potential, actively contribute to their communities, and enjoy opportunities equal to those without disabilities.

By using a unique peer support model, AEPD provides a range of services, each tailored to the specific needs of every individual we help. We work alongside participating persons with disabilities to improve their livelihood opportunities, social inclusion and access to health care. AEPD's comprehensive and individual-centric program is the only one of its kind in Vietnam.

In the past seven years AEPD has worked in 68 communes throughout the districts of Dong Hoi, Bo Trach, Quang Trach and Quang Ninh in the province of Quang Ninh. AEPD was established under the Decision No 1177/QD-UBND by the Provincial People's Committee (PPC) dated 31 of May 2010 in Dong Hoi City, Quang Binh Province, Central Vietnam.

Contact Information

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The Centre for Sustainable Rural Development

Website: <http://www.srd.org.vn/>

The Centre for Sustainable Rural Development (SRD) is a leading Vietnamese non-government organisation; supporting poor rural communities to adapt to the changing environment and sustainably manage their own livelihoods. Our success is underpinned by our holistic approach to development, spanning grass-roots capacity building to international advocacy. Founded in March 2006, SRD inherited 28 years of experience from the International Cooperation for

Development and Solidarity (CIDSE) in Vietnam, an international NGO that delivered successful development projects from 1975-2005. When CIDSE realized its ultimate goal of nationalizing local development activities in Vietnam, SRD was established to continue the important support of the rural poor across the country.

Our key areas of expertise are sustainable agriculture and livelihoods, climate change, networking, and research and advocacy. All of our projects have a strong capacity building focus, and integrate cross cutting issues including climate change and gender equity. SRD currently has two operational locations – a head office in Hanoi and a small office in Hue – and maintains an extensive network of consultants and collaborators, locally and overseas. We are also chair and a core member of a number of Vietnamese and International NGO networks, and support community based organizations (CBOs) to achieve the best possible results for our projects. SRD is officially registered as member organisation of Vietnam Union of Science and Technology Associations (number 281/QD-LHH dated 21 March 2006), with an operation permit from the Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment (dated 30 March 2006).

Climate change poses an urgent threat to the progress of development in Vietnam. With a coastline that stretches more than 3,000km, it is expected to be one of the countries worst impacted by climate change and rising sea levels. SRD is committed to helping poor and vulnerable people to adapt and mitigate the devastating impacts of climate change. On-the-ground, our projects range from livelihood adaptation, disaster preparedness and emergency response capacity. In addition to our successful community based interventions, SRD has led the capacity development of other grass roots NGOs to respond to climate change. It is an active member of a number of local and international networks, promoting the sharing and learning climate change knowledge.

Contact Information

Centre for Sustainable Rural Development
56, lane 19/9 Kim Dong Street,
Hoang Mai District, Ha Noi
Tel: (84 4) 3943 6676/78
Fax: +84 4 3943 6449
Email: info@srd.org.vn

The Institute for Training, Research and Technology Development (TDI)

Website: <http://climatechange-vn.com/diendan/>

The Institute for Training, Research and Technology Development (TDI) is a Vietnamese NGO and an active member of the Climate Change Working Group (CCWG). This is an interactive website in Vietnamese and English to change awareness and behavior, exchange information and share experience in climate change. The director is Nguyen Van Cuong and if you are interested in participating in the forum you can register on <http://climatechange-vn.com/diendan>.

Vietnam Non-Governmental Organizations & Climate Change (VNGO & CC network)

Website: <http://vnngo-cc.vn/en/cat/24/1198/1200>

The growing role of civil society organisations in Vietnam's development is gradually building recognition from the government and society. There are hundreds of Vietnamese organisations which are increasingly and diversely involved in sustainable community livelihood and environmental protection, especially at the grass root level. These organisations are also an essential part of receiving and transferring the domestic and international funding resources for Vietnam's development.

However, the separate activities of NGOs in Vietnam are fast becoming the biggest obstacle to hundreds of Vietnamese civil society organisations involved in sustainable community livelihood, environmental protection and climate change. As a result, a unified network of civil society organisations operating in Vietnam has become extremely necessary.

In the current context, climate change is becoming a big challenge to the global development and therefore considered as a vital aspect of the civil society network. With aspirations to jointly combat climate change related problems, the network of Vietnamese Non-governmental organisations and Climate Change (VNGO&CC) was founded on 11th September 2008. Originally initiated by leading Vietnamese NGOs, including the Centre for Sustainable Rural Development (SRD), the Centre for Marinelife Conservation and Community Development (MCD), the Center for Environment Research, Education and Development (CERED) and the Institute for Social Studies (ISS), the network has become an open forum for its members in exchanging information, cooperation, and helping each other to connect to the National Assembly, governmental organisations and other social organisations and donor agencies. VNGO&CC network encourages legitimate policy advocacy, feedbacks to climate change policies' promulgation and implementation and supporting members in capacity building on climate change through communications and training activities, both at the institutional and grassroots level.

The immediate priority of the VNGO&CC is to increase the capacity of members of the network. A three-year (2009 - 2012) project funded by the Embassy of Finland was developed by VNGO&CC network and the Climate Change Working Group (CCWG), which aims to raise awareness and build the capacity of civil society organisations, primarily NGOs in Vietnam on climate change. SRD has been assigned as the lead agency to coordinate this project, attributable to our effective and well established project experience in capacity building and climate change.

Contact Information (same as SRD)

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56, lane 19/9 Kim Dong Street,
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Email: info@srd.org.vn

COUNTRY BACKGROUND

BRIEF HISTORY

The area now known as Vietnam, has had a long history of dynastic rule and Chinese occupation, with intermittent periods of independence and civil war. In the mid-nineteenth century, France launched a naval expedition to Vietnam to force the Vietnamese to accept a French protectorate status in support of French commercial and military interests. Over the course of the next several decades, France kept up military pressure until it eventually gained control over the whole country.

Poor economic conditions, low wages, and high taxes led to growing resentment of French colonial rule. The 1920s saw a growing nationalist movement demanding reforms and independence. In 1930, Ho Chi Min founded the Indochinese Communist Party. During WWII, the communists organized the Vietminh, or League for the Independence of Vietnam and declared an independent Vietnam in 1945. France refused to grant independence, and war ensued.

War with France lasted until 1954, when the Vietminh overran the French base at Dien Bien Phu. The French and Vietminh worked out a temporary compromise under which Vietnam would be divided into South and North at the 17th parallel. While communism was established in the North, an anti-communist US ally Ngo Dinh Diem gained the presidency in the South. War broke out between the North and the South, with the US intervening to support the South.

After more than 15 years of war, the US finally withdrew from Vietnam when the southern capitol Saigon fell to communist forces in April of 1975. On July 2, 1976, the Social Republic of Vietnam was declared.

Peace and stability eluded Vietnam, however, for the period following war with the United States. Growing border tensions with Cambodia escalated, leading to the Vietnamese invasion of Cambodia. Tensions with China also led to a Chinese invasion into Vietnam. Failed economic policies such as agricultural collectivization and nationalization of businesses hampered Vietnam's recovery from war.

By the 1990s, the Vietnamese government began to encourage foreign investment and better relations with the United States. It has seen improved economic growth as it has switched to a market-oriented economy under a reform program called "Doi Moi."

GEOGRAPHICAL DESCRIPTION

Location: Vietnam is located in Southeastern Asia, bordering the Gulf of Thailand, Gulf of Tonkin, South China Sea, as well as China, Laos and Cambodia.

Longitude: 107°5" E

Latitude: 16° 1" N

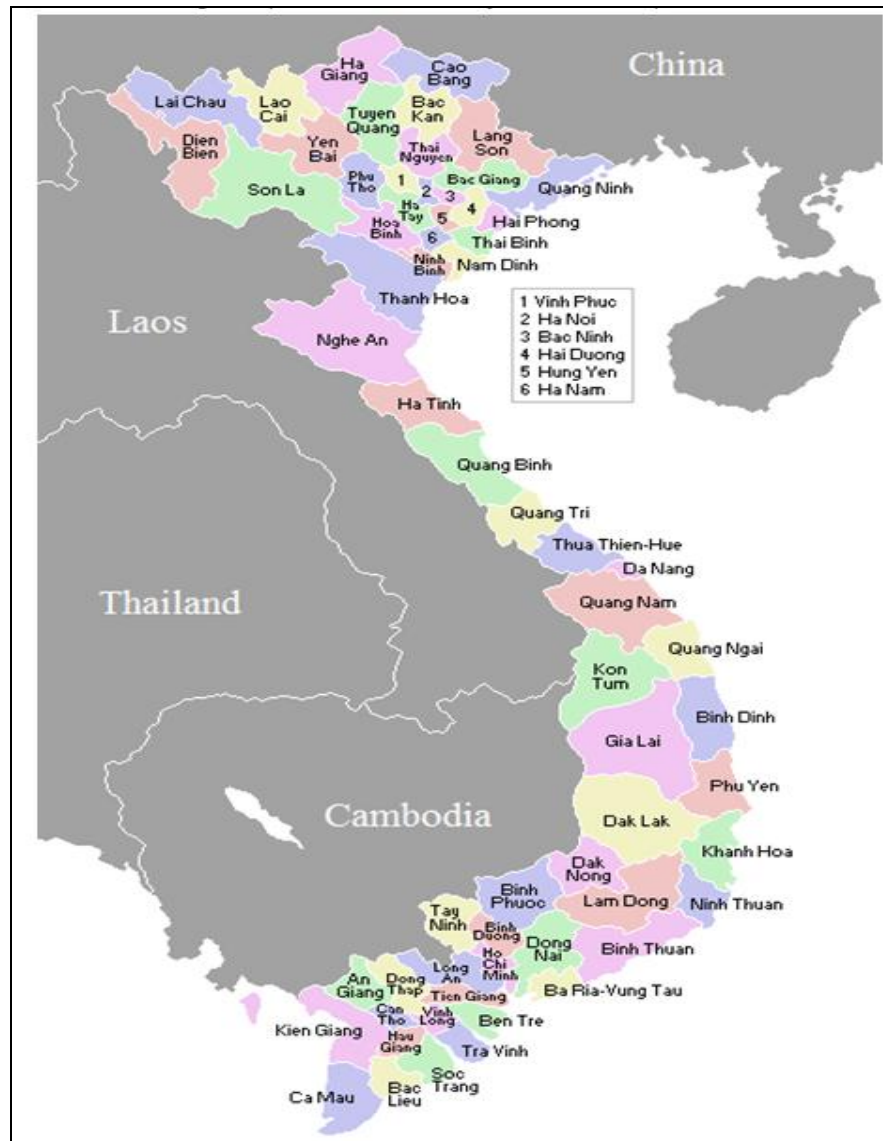
Total Area: 331,210 sq km

Capital City: Hanoi

Largest City: Ho Chi Minh City

Population:

Administrative Divisions:



Source: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adm_1

58 provinces (tinh): An Giang, Bac Giang, Bac Kan, Bac Lieu, Bac Ninh, Ba Ria-Vung Tau, Ben Tre, Binh Dinh, Binh Duong, Binh Phuoc, Binh Thuan, Ca Mau, Cao Bang, Dac Lak, Dac Nong, Dien Bien, Dong Nai, Dong Thap, Gia Lai, Ha Giang, Ha Nam, Ha Tinh, Hai Duong, Hau Giang, Hoa Binh, Hung Yen, Khanh Hoa, Kien Giang, Kon Tum, Lai Chau, Lam Dong, Lang Son, Lao Cai, Long An, Nam Dinh, Nghe An, Ninh Binh, Ninh Thuan, Phu Tho, Phu Yen, Quang Binh, Quang Nam, Quang Ngai, Quang Ninh, Quang Tri, Soc Trang, Son La, Tay Ninh, Thai Binh, Thai Nguyen, Thanh Hoa, Thua Thien-Hue, Tien Giang, Tra Vinh, Tuyen Quang, Vinh Long, Vinh Phuc, Yen Bai

5 municipalities (thanh pho): Can Tho, Da Nang, Hai Phong, Ha Noi, Ho Chi Minh City (CIA Factbook: Updated May 2012)

Described as an elongated “S”-shaped country, Vietnam has 3,000 km of coastline facing the South China Sea and borders China, Laos and Cambodia. The country also has a relatively diverse topography being made up of mountains, highlands, deltas, rivers, coastline, islands and peninsulas. It is the diverse topography that makes Vietnam vulnerable to numerous floods, storms and other natural disasters

Climate: Vietnam’s climate is diverse with its location being in both a temperate and tropical zone. A tropical climate is experienced in the South, while the North experiences temperate. Meanwhile, rainy season is from April to October, and dry season runs from October to March. During the months of May through January, Vietnam endures typhoon events that sometimes trigger floods from the Mekong River.

- North: - November to April winter wet season with average temperatures of 61 ° F (16 ° C)
 - May to October average temperatures of 86 ° F (30 ° C) with heavy rainfall and occasional typhoons

Ha Noi	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Rainfall (inches)	0.7	1.0	1.7	3.5	7.4	9.4	11.3	12.5	10.4	5.1	1.7	0.9
Min Temp (°C/°F)	14/ 57	15/ 59	18/ 64	21/ 70	24/ 75	26/ 79	26/ 79	26/ 79	25/ 77	22/ 72	18/ 64	15/ 59
Max Temp (°C/°F)	19/ 66	20/ 68	23/ 73	27/ 81	31/ 88	33/ 91	33/ 91	32/ 90	31/ 88	29/ 84	25/ 77	22/ 72

- Central/South:
 March – May: hot with temperatures of 90 ° F (32 ° C)
 May – October: Monsoon season

Ho Chi Minh City	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Rainfall (inches)	0.6	0.1	0.4	2.0	8.4	12.	11.	10.	13.	10.	4.7	1.8

						2	6	7	5	3		
Min Temp (°C/°F)	21/ 70	22/ 72	24/ 76	26/ 78	25/ 77	25/ 77	24/ 76	24/ 76	24/ 76	24/ 76	23/ 73	21/ 70
Max Temp (°C/°F)	32/ 89	33/ 91	34/ 93	35/ 94	34/ 94	32/ 90	32/ 90	32/ 90	31/ 88	31/ 88	31/ 88	31/ 88

Bordering countries:

Bordered by **China** to the north for 796 miles (1,281 km)
 Bordered by **Laos** to the West for 1,323.5 miles (2,130 km)
 Bordered by **Cambodia** to the West 763 miles (1,228 km)
 Bordered by **South China Sea** to the East with coastline (excluding islands) of 2,140 miles (3444 km)

Natural resources:

Phosphates, coal, manganese, rare earth elements, bauxite, chromate, offshore oil and gas deposits, timber, hydropower

Natural hazards:

Occasional typhoons (May to January) with extensive flooding, especially in the Mekong River delta, Drought, Landslide

Environmental issues:

Logging and slash-and-burn agricultural practices contribute to deforestation and soil degradation; water pollution and overfishing threaten marine life populations; groundwater contamination limits potable water supply; growing urban industrialization and population migration are rapidly degrading environment in Ha Noi and Ho Chi Minh City (CIA World Factbook, 2007)

Risk levels, areas

There are three distinct regions of the country with different types of water-related disasters and with historically different approaches to disaster mitigation and management:

PEOPLE

Population: 91,519,289 (July 2012 est)

Religions: Buddhist 9.3%
 Catholic 6.7%
 Hoa Hao 1.5%

Cao Dai 1.1%
Protestant 0.5%
Muslim 0.1%
none 80.8% (1999 census)

Languages: Vietnamese (official)
English (increasingly favored as a second language)
French (some)
Chinese
Khmer
mountain area languages (Mon-Khmer and Malayo-Polynesian)

Ethnic groups: Kinh (Viet): 85.7%
Tay: 1.9%
Thai: 1.8%
Muong: 1.5%
Khmer: 1.5%
Mong: 1.2%
Nung: 1.1%
Others: 5.3% (2009 census)

Age breakdown:

0-14 years: 25.2% (male 11,945,354/female 10,868,610)
15-64 years: 69.3% (male 31,301,879/female 31,419,306)
65 years and over: 5.5% (male 1,921,652/female 3,092,589)
(2011 est)

Education, literacy, schools:

Literacy Rate (age 15 and over who can read and write):
total population: 94%
male: 96.1%
female: 92% (2009 est.)

GOVERNMENT

Type of Government:

Vietnam is officially a Socialist State with a political system dominated by the Vietnamese Communist Party (VCP)

Executive Branch:

Chief of state: *President Truong Tan Sang* (since 25 July 2011) is also the Chair of the National Defense and Security Council

Head of Government: *Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung* (since 27 June 2006) also heads the Cabinet of ministries and commissions

Secretary General of the Communist Party

Mr. Nong Duc Manh (re-elected in 2006; first term 2001; oversaw five years of strong economic growth)

Legislative Branch:

Unicameral National Assembly or Quoc Hoi (500 seats; members elected by popular vote to serve five-year terms)

Elections: last held 20 May 2007 (next to be held in May 2012)

Judicial Branch:

Supreme People's Court (chief justice is elected for a five-year term by the National Assembly on the recommendation of the president)

Administrative subdivisions: 63 provinces, 5 municipalities (Can Tho, Haiphong, Danang, Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh City)

Political Party: Communist Party of Vietnam (CPV) with over 3 million members (formerly Vietnam Worker's Party 1951-1976)

Diplomatic representation in the US:

Vietnam has an embassy in the US at 1233 20th Street, NW, #400, Washington DC, 20036, Tel: 202-861-0737; Fax: 202-861-0917; Internet home page: www.vietnamembassy-usa.org

Diplomatic representation in the US:

Chief of mission: Ambassador Nguyen Quoc CUONG
Chancery: 1233 20th Street NW, Suite 400, Washington, DC 20036
Telephone: [1] (202) 861-0737
Fax: [1] (202) 861-0917
Consulate(s) general: Houston, San Francisco
Consulate: New York

Diplomatic representation from the US:

Chief of mission: Ambassador Nguyen Quoc CUONG
Embassy: 7 Lang Ha Street, Ba Dinh District, Hanoi
Mailing address: PSC 461, Box 400, FPO AP 96521-0002
Telephone: [84] (4) 3850-5000
Fax: [84] (4) 3850-5010
Consulate(s) general: Ho Chi Minh City

Names of officials, contact information

President	Truong Tan SANG
Vice President	Nguyen Thi Doan

Prime Minister	Nguyen Tan DUNG
Deputy Prime Minister	Nguyen Xuan PHUC
Deputy Prime Minister	Vu Van NINH
Deputy Prime Minister.	Hoang Trung HAI
Deputy Prime Minister	Nguyen Thien NHAN
Ambassador to the US	Nugyen Quoc CUONG

MILITARY

Military branches:

People's Armed Forces: People's Army of Vietnam (PAVN; includes People's Navy Command (with Naval Infantry, Coast Guard), Air and Air Defense Force (Khong Quan Nhan Dan), Border Defense Command), People's Public Security Forces, Militia Force, Self-Defense Forces (2010)

Military service age and obligation:

18 years of age for male compulsory military service; females may volunteer for active duty military service; conscript service obligation - 2 years (3 to 4 years in the navy); 18-45 years of age (male) or 18-40 years of age (female) for Militia Force or Self Defense Forces (2006)

Manpower available for military service:

Males age 16-49: 25,649,738
Females age 16-49: 24,995,692 (2010 est.)

Military fit for military service:

Males age 16-49: 20,405,847
Females age 16-49: 21,098,102 (2010 est.)

Manpower reaching military significant age annually:

Male: 847,743
Female: 787,341 (2010 est.)

Military expenditures:

2.5% of GDP (2005 est.)
Country comparison to the world: **59**

Participation in International Organizations:

Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)
Asian Development Bank (ADB)
ARF
Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN)
CICA
CP
EAS
Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO)
G-77
International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)
International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)
International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)
ICRM
IDA
IFAD
IFC
International Federation of Red Cross Societies (IFRCS)
International Labor Organization (ILO)
International Monetary Fund (IMF)
International Maritime Organization (IMO)
International Mobile Satellite Organization (IMSO)
International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol)
International Olympic Committee (IOC)
International Organization for Migration (IOM)
Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)
International Organization for Standardization (ISO)
International Telecommunications Satellite Organization (ITSO)
International Telecommunication Union (ITU)
Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA)
NAM
Organisation Internationale de La Francophonie (OIF)
Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)
United Nations (UN)
UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)
UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
UN Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)
UN World Trade Organization (UNWTO)
Universal Postal Union (UPU)
World Customs Organization (WCO)
World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU)
World Health Organization (WHO)
World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)
World Meteorological Organization (WMO)
World Trade Organization (WTO)

ECONOMY OVERVIEW

Vietnam is a densely-populated, developing country that in the last 30 years has had to recover from the ravages of war, the loss of financial support from the old Soviet Bloc, and the rigidities of a centrally-planned economy. Substantial progress was achieved from 1986 to 1997 in moving forward from an extremely low level of development and significantly reducing poverty. Growth averaged around 9% per year from 1993 to 1997. GDP growth averaged 6.8% per year from 1997 to 2004 even against the background of the Asian financial crisis and a global recession, and growth hit 8% in 2005 and 7.8% in 2006. Since 2001, however, Vietnamese authorities have reaffirmed their commitment to economic liberalization and international integration. They have moved to implement the structural reforms needed to modernize the economy and to produce more competitive, export-driven industries. Deep poverty, defined as a percent of the population living under \$1 per day, has declined significantly and is now smaller than that of China, India, and the Philippines. Ha Noi is targeting an economic growth rate of 7.5-8% during the next five years.

However, the enactment of Vietnam's "Doi moi" (renovation) policy in 1986 has put the country back on the path to transforming itself from a state-controlled economy to a market economy. Vietnamese authorities have committed to increase economic liberalization and enacted structural reforms needed to modernize the economy and to produce more competitive, export-driven industries. Since this policy was enacted, it has helped improve the well-being of the Vietnamese people, with substantial poverty reduction and annual GDP per capita growth averaging over 7.5% since 2001. Also, Vietnam further integrated themselves into the world economy in 2006 through the World Trade Organization (WTO). With continuous economic growth, Vietnam is expected to reach middle income status by 2010-2012.

In February 2011, Vietnam shifted its focus away from economic growth to stabilizing its economy and tightened fiscal and monetary policies. In early 2012, Vietnam unveiled a broad "three pillar" economic reform program, proposing the restructuring of public investment, state-owned enterprises and the banking sector. Vietnam's economy continues to face challenges from low foreign exchange reserves, an undercapitalized banking sector, and high borrowing costs. The near-bankruptcy and subsequent default of the state-owned-enterprise Vinashin, a leading shipbuilder, led to a ratings downgrade of Vietnam's sovereign debt, exacerbating Vietnam's borrowing difficulties.

GDP - real growth rate: 5.8% (2011 est.)

GDP - per capita (PPP): \$3,300 (2011 est.)

Unemployment rate: 2.3% (2011 est.)

Population below poverty line: 14.5% (2010 est.)

Household income or consumption by percentage share:

lowest 10%: 3.2%

highest 10%: 30.2% (2008)

Distribution of family income - Gini index: 37.6 (2008)

Currency (code):	dong (VND)
Exchange rates:	20,585.6 VND:1 US\$ (2011, est.)

COMMUNICATIONS

Vietnam's Ministry of Culture and Information oversees the country's mass media and communicates officially approved information.

(Info below from CIA Factbook 5/2012)

Vietnam has been putting considerable effort into modernizing and expanding its telecommunication system.

Telephones, main lines in use: 16.4 million (2010); country comparison to the world: 18

Mobile cell phones in use: 154 million (2010); country comparison to the world: 7

Telephone system:

General assessment: Vietnam is putting considerable effort into modernization and expansion of its telecommunication system

Domestic: all provincial exchanges are digitalized and connected to Hanoi, Da Nang, and Ho Chi Minh City by fiber-optic cable or microwave radio relay networks; main lines have been increased, and the use of mobile telephones is growing rapidly

International: country code - 84; a landing point for the SEA-ME-WE-3, the C2C, and Thailand-Vietnam-Hong Kong submarine cable systems; the Asia-America Gateway submarine cable system, completed in 2009, provided new access links to Asia and the US; satellite earth stations - 2 Intersputnik (Indian Ocean region)

Broadcast Media:

Government controls all broadcast media exercising oversight through the Ministry of Information and Communication (MIC); government-controlled national TV provider, Vietnam Television (VTV), operates a network of 9 channels with several regional broadcasting centers; programming is relayed nationwide via a network of provincial and municipal TV stations; law limits access to satellite TV but many households are able to access foreign programming via home satellite equipment; government-controlled Voice of Vietnam, the national radio broadcaster, broadcasts on 6 channels and is repeated on AM, FM, and shortwave stations throughout Vietnam (2008)

TRANSPORTATION

Airports: 44 (2010); country comparison to the world: 97
37 with paved runways
7 with unpaved runways
1 (2010) Heliports

Airports in Vietnam

<u>Town</u>	<u>Airport name</u>	<u>ICAO</u>	<u>IATA</u>	<u>Usage</u>	<u>Customs</u>	<u>Runway</u>	<u>IFR</u>	<u>Rwy length</u>
Buonmathuot	Buonmathuot	VVBM	BMV	Civ.	No	Paved	No	5900 ft
Camau Vietnam	Camau	VVCM		Civ.	No	Paved	No	3400 ft
Camly Vietnam	Camly	VVCL		Civ.	No	Paved	No	4500 ft
Cantho	Tra Noc	VVCT		Civ.	No	Paved	No	6000 ft
Conson	Conson	VVCS		Civ.		Unpaved	No	3600 ft
Dalat	Lienkhong	VVDL	DLI	Civ.		Paved	No	7700 ft
Danang	Danang Intl	VVDN	DAD	Civ.	Yes	Paved	Yes	10000 ft
Dienbien	Dienbien	VVDB		Civ.		Unpaved	No	4500 ft
Haiphong	Catbi	VVCI	HPH	Civ.	No	Paved	No	7800 ft
Hanoi	Gialam	VVGL		Mil.		Paved	No	6700 ft
Hanoi	Noibai Intl	VVNB	HAN	Civ.	Yes	Paved	Yes	10400 ft
Hochiminh	Tansonnhat	VVTS	SGN	Civ.	Yes	Paved	Yes	10000 ft
Hue	Phubai	VVPB	HUI	Civ.		Paved	No	8800 ft
Nasan	Nasan	VVNS		Civ.		Unpaved	No	7800 ft
Nhatrang	Nhatrang	VVNT	NHA	Civ.		Paved	No	6100 ft
Phucac	Phucac	VVPC		Civ.		Paved	No	10000 ft
Phuquoc	Duongdong	VVPQ	PQC	Civ.		Paved	No	4900 ft
Pleiku	Pleiku	VVPK	PXU	Civ.		Paved	No	6000 ft
Rachgia	Rachgia	VVRG	VKG	Civ.		Paved	No	4900 ft
Tuyhoa Vietnam	Dong Tac	VVTH		Civ.	No	Paved	No	9500 ft
Vinh	Vinh	VVVH	VII	Mil.		Unpaved	No	7100 ft

Explanations on technical data

ICAO-code

International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), a 4-letter airport location indicator. The field above is left blank if no ICAO location indicator is available for the selected airport.

IATA-code

International Air Transport Association (IATA), a 3-letter identifier for the relevant airport. The field above is left blank if no IATA code is available for the selected airport.

Usage

Airports are classified in three categories: civil airports open for public use, military airports and private airports not open to the public. Airports that are joint use, both civil and military, are shown as civil airports.

Civ. Civil airport, open for public use (including joint use).

Mil. Military airport, not open for public use.

Priv. Private airport, not open for public use.

Customs

Yes Customs service available during airport operating hours.

No Customs service not available.

O/R Airport has customs service, prior notification is required.

Pto. Airport has part-time customs service available, not necessarily identical to the airport hours.

ADCUS An airport within the USA for which the FAA 'ADCUS' method of prior notification may be used.

*ADCUS
O/R* An airport within the USA for which the FAA 'ADCUS' method of prior notification may be used but where restrictions apply.

Runway Identification of the surface of the longest runway available:

Paved Paved (hard surface) runway

Unpaved Unpaved (soft surface) runway (Only lighter aircraft)

Water Water (for float planes)

IFR This field indicates if the airport has any officially published instrument approach procedure.

Yes Instrument approach procedure is published.

No Instrument approach procedure is not published. (Airport not suitable for traffic during bad weather or darkness.)

Runway Length

Shows the length in feet of the longest runway available at the selected airport, rounded down to the next full hundred feet. If the airport has both hard (paved) and soft (unpaved) runways, the length of the longest hard surface runway is shown. If the longest runway is both, hard and soft surface, the length of the hard surface portion is shown.

TRANSNATIONAL ISSUES

Disputes- international:

Southeast Asian states have enhanced border surveillance to check the spread of avian flu; Cambodia and Laos protest Vietnamese squatters and armed encroachments along border; Cambodia accuses Vietnam of a wide variety of illicit cross-border activities; progress on a joint development area with Cambodia is hampered by an unresolved dispute over sovereignty of offshore islands; an estimated 300,000 Vietnamese refugees reside in China; establishment of a maritime boundary with Cambodia is hampered by unresolved dispute over the sovereignty of offshore islands; the decade-long demarcation of the China-Vietnam land boundary was completed in 2009; China occupies the Paracel Islands also claimed by Vietnam and Taiwan; Brunei claims a maritime boundary extending beyond as far as a median with Vietnam, thus asserting an implicit claim to Lousia Reef; the 2002 "Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea" has eased tensions but falls short of a legally binding "code of conduct" desired by several of the disputants; Vietnam continues to expand construction of facilities in the Spratly Islands; in March 2005, the national oil companies of China, the Philippines, and Vietnam signed a joint accord to conduct marine seismic activities in the Spratly Islands; Economic Exclusion Zone negotiations with Indonesia are ongoing, and the two countries in Fall 2011 agreed to work together to reduce illegal fishing along their maritime boundary

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