



IMPROVING THE RESILIENCE OF VULNERABLE COASTAL COMMUNITIES TO CLIMATE CHANGE RELATED IMPACTS IN VIET NAM

INTRODUCTION

Viet Nam is a long, narrow country stretching from 23°23 in the North to 8°27 in the South, with 3,260 km of coastline. In the North lies the Red River Delta and in the South the Mekong River Delta, while the narrow, beautiful central provinces have short and steep rivers. With this terrain, Viet Nam is one of the countries most frequently affected by natural disasters, especially water-related disasters. Every year, natural disasters cause considerable losses of life and property damage in Viet Nam, with economic losses accounting up to 1.5% of the country's GDP. In 2017 alone, storms and heavy rain have resulted in 375 people dead or missing and caused thousands of houses to completely collapse. The estimated total damage of storms and heavy rain in 2017 has been nearly 51.6 trillion VND.

Likewise, Viet Nam is one of the countries most affected by global climate change. According to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, climate change has increased the world's average temperature by 0.5°C and has caused sea levels to rise by 20 cm over the last 50 years. Climate change has a tremendous effect on people living in coastal areas, especially on those whose livelihoods depend on coastal ecosystems as well as poor people living in slums or poorly constructed houses that are not built on safe ground. In addition, in recent years the pressures of population growth and structural changes in production have significantly reduced the area of mangrove forests. This is a problem because mangroves create important buffer zones against storms, tide, saline intrusion, and also can minimize the impact of storm surges.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE

The objective of the project is to improve the resilience of vulnerable coastal communities to climate change related impacts in Viet Nam through: safe housing to protect vulnerable communities from increased flooding and storms; robust mangrove coverage to provide a natural buffer between coastal communities and the sea; and enhanced climate risk information to guide climate resilient and risk-informed planning.

The project scales-up and integrates existing government efforts proven to increase the resilience of vulnerable coastal communities in Viet Nam.

WHAT ARE THE EXPECTED OUTPUTS?

Output 1: Storm and flood resilient design features applied to 4,000 new houses on safe sites, benefiting 20,000 poor and highly disaster-exposed people in 100 communes

Output 2: Regeneration of 4,000 hectares of coastal mangrove in storm surge buffer zones using successful evidence-based approaches

Output 3: Access to climate damage and loss data enhanced for private and public sector application in all the 28 coastal provinces of Viet Nam

WHO BENEFITS FROM THE PROJECT?

Working with the Government of Viet Nam, the GCF-UNDP activities will benefit all the 28 coastal provinces of Viet Nam, with more focused investment planned in Hue, Thanh Hoa, Quang Nam, Ca Mau, Quang Binh, Quang Ngai and Nam Dinh.

All provinces will have access to improved risk data and mapping, and capacity building support to enable improved adaptation decision making.

Selected coastal districts will benefit from disaster preparedness planning through community-based disaster risk assessment, including vulnerability assessment, disaster preparedness and capacity and awareness of the local people from increased access to quality risk data. Participatory approaches to supported mangrove regeneration, replanting and maintenance will help facilitate sustainable livelihoods practices in target communes.

Housing support will benefit households categorized as “extremely poor” and “poor” according to the established government criteria, and will prioritise:

- Ethnic minority households
- Households with difficult living circumstances (i.e. elder citizen-headed, single member, those having members with disabilities, etc)
- Households living in difficult administrative (remote) locations of highly disadvantaged zones and villages of the provinces
- Households located in the poorest districts under the government’s poverty targeted programme
- Other socially vulnerable groups

Budget and Timeframe:

The Ministry of Planning and Investment is the National Designated Authority for Green Climate Fund projects in Viet Nam. The implementing entity for this project is the Ministry of Agriculture and Development, while Ministry of Construction is the focal point for housing activities and Provinces will be actively participating throughout implementation.

The project duration is five years (2017-2022) and the agreed grant funding is USD 29.5 million (approximately 653 Tn VND).

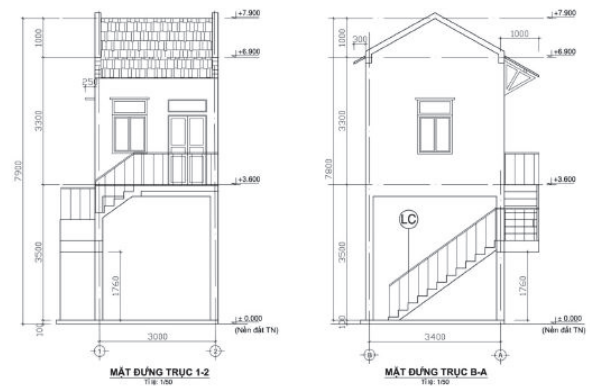


Figure 1: Flood and storm-resilient house design



Figure 2: 28 coastal provinces benefit from the GCF-UNDP project