

# FINAL EVALUATION REPORT

## Project:

**Joint partnership to support scale up of the National Community-based Disaster Risk Management Program in vulnerable provinces in Vietnam**





# Acknowledgement

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The consultant team of the Asian Management and Development Institute (AMDI) would like to express our sincere thanks to the technical staff of three organizations: Mr. Eric Debert, Mr. Le Xuan Hieu and Mrs. Ha Thi Kim Lien of CARE International in Vietnam (CARE), Mr. Nguyen Van Gia and Mr. Tran Duc Manh of Save the Children in Vietnam (Save) and Mr. Nguyen Trong Ninh, Mr. Trinh Dinh Hoang and Mr. Nguyen Dang Thuc of Plan International in Vietnam (Plan) for providing us with valuable information on the project activities, comments on evaluation method and survey tools, field survey organization and feedbacks for the final report. With timely support from three organizations, the consultant team successfully conducted the evaluation in three project provinces: Bac Kan, Tien Giang and Quang Tri in such a short time.

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On behalf of the consultant team

*Team Leader – Ngo Cong Chinh, DRR and CCA Expert*

# Acronyms

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<b>AMDI</b>	Asian Management and Development Institute
<b>CARE</b>	CARE International in Vietnam
<b>CBDRM</b>	Community-based Disaster Risk Management
<b>CC</b>	Climate Change
<b>CCFSC</b>	Central Committee for Flood and Storm Control
<b>DARD</b>	Department of Agriculture and Rural Development
<b>DMC</b>	Disaster Management Centre
<b>DOET</b>	Department of Education and Training
<b>DRM</b>	Disaster risk management
<b>DRR</b>	Disaster risk reduction
<b>FGD</b>	Focus Group Discussion
<b>FSC</b>	Flood and storm control
<b>IDI</b>	In-depth interview
<b>KAP</b>	Knowledge-Attitude-Practice
<b>M&amp;E</b>	Monitoring and Evaluation
<b>MARD</b>	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
<b>MOET</b>	Ministry of Education and Training
<b>PC</b>	People's Committee
<b>PCFSC&amp;SR</b>	Provincial Committee for Flood-storm Control and Search-rescue
<b>Plan</b>	Plan International in Vietnam
<b>PPC</b>	Provincial People's Committee
<b>RC</b>	Red Cross
<b>Save</b>	Save the Children in Vietnam
<b>SEDP</b>	Socio-economic development plan
<b>TA</b>	Technical Assistance
<b>VCA</b>	Vulnerability and capacity assessment
<b>WU</b>	Women's Union

# Executive summary

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CARE, Plan and Save have implemented the ECHO funded project (through the DIPECHO program) *“Joint partnership to support scale up of the National Community-based Disaster Risk Management Program in vulnerable provinces in Vietnam”* (hereinafter referred to as the National CBDRM Program). The project was organized under a consortium coordinated by CARE, starting in June 2012 and ending in December 2013. The consultant team of the Asian Management and Development Institute was selected to implement the project final evaluation in November and December, 2013 in six communes of three project provinces. The final evaluation aimed at three main objectives: (i) To assess the relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, impact, sustainability, equality/non-discrimination, and partnership of the project; (ii) To suggest practical recommendations for an extension/replication of the project in the context of the rolling out of the National CBDRM Program; and (iii) to capture main lessons learnt related to the project.

The AMDI’s consultant team applied a number of evaluation methods, including: desk review, IDI with stakeholders and FGD with partners and beneficiaries at all levels and in schools. There were total 200 people participating in IDIs and FGDs, including project staff, local authorities, members of the provincial TA Groups, community people, teachers and students. Below is the summary of findings, lessons learnt and recommendations.

- **Appropriateness:** Project design was fully in line with the objectives of the National CBDRM Program which was to raise public awareness and effectively organize CBDRM models for all levels, sectors, and especially local authorities and people. The project has supported six provinces in improving CBDRM mechanisms and policies by concretizing the National CBDRM Program into the Provincial Action Plan; supported the establishment of provincial TA Groups under the guidance of the National CBDRM Program and conducted capacity building activities for TA Group members; developed communication materials, established communication groups, organized communication events, provided material and equipment; supported the provinces in pilot implementation of disaster risk reduction (DRR) activities in schools using reference materials approved by Ministry of Education and Training (MOET). The project was carried out in mountainous areas, ethnic minorities and disadvantaged areas, in line with the needs of localities, communities and development strategies of CARE, Plan and Save. However, the Project should consider some other issues such as: establishment of district TA Groups to ensure the feasibility of widespread implementation of the National CBDRM Program; more handouts for students and communities, teaching materials and equipment for teachers; more coherence between activities of schools and authorities, between agencies specialized in flood and storm control (FSC) and education sector, especially at district and commune level.
- **Efficiency:** The total project budget was EUR 978,167 to build capacity for 71,767 direct beneficiaries. As such, the average expense per beneficiary is EUR 13.6.

The total matching budget of three organizations was EUR 146,725, accounting for 15% of the total budget of the Project. Compared to other development projects, this rate was relatively high. The indirect budget of the Project was EUR 198,592, accounting for 20% of the total cost of the Project, which was lower than other development projects.

- **Effectiveness:** By the end of the project, all activities were implemented in accordance with the logical framework of the project and its objectives in terms of number of beneficiaries, intervention indicators and financial disbursement. The total number of beneficiaries was 71,767 people, equal to 92.4% of the targeted number (77,697 people); the proportion of male and female beneficiaries was 49.9% and 50.1% respectively. Project activities were considered by the stakeholders to be effective in creating a policy mechanism, human resources, and perception and attitude changes in terms of CBDRM in the projects sites; however, due to some factors such as: short implementation duration, too many activities, and disaster season, some project activities were conducted in the final stage, which somewhat limited the effectiveness of the project. Below is the detailed effectiveness analysis for each expected outcome and each indicator.
  - **Result 1:** The Project supported six provinces to build legal framework, structure and staff capacity to implement the National CBDRM Program; to establish 18 provincial TA Groups according to the National CBDRM Program guidelines; to provide training for 187 members of TA Groups (62.3% of the plan) on monitoring and evaluation (M&E), vulnerability and capacity assessment (VCA), training and distribution of training materials; to organize three trainings on knowledge and skills to integrate DRR into local socio-economic development plan (SEDP) for 71 specialized staff, reaching 95% of the objective.
  - **Result 2:** Communities most vulnerable to disasters have increased knowledge and skills on disaster response, protection, and mitigation, providing foundation for the extension of the Project to other areas in the province. The project developed a standard set of materials on CBDRM communication; provided training for 288 commune officers on CBDRM, which exceeded 20% compared to the targeted plan; supported 12 communes to develop communication plans and CBDRM plans under participatory approaches and approved by communities. Communication activities attracted the participation of 59,787 people, exceeding 25% of the plan, in which female accounted for 50.5%. According to knowledge-attitude-practice (KAP) report 74% of interviewed people were aware of the main messages of DRR.
  - **Result 3:** The Project has built capacity for teachers of Primary and Secondary schools in project communes with ability to integrate DRR in lessons and extracurricular activities in line with Action Plan of MOET. The Project conducted training on integration of DRR in schools for 384 resource teachers, exceeding 28% of the plan; 80% of the trained teachers had sufficient knowledge and ability to integrate DRR in subjects; 24 pilot safe school plans were developed with participation of teachers and students; 84.1% of surveyed students were able to

recognize main messages on DRR; 700 sets of material were distributed, accounting for 35% of plan.

- **Result 4:** CBDRM best practices were documented and shared with project provinces, which contributed to greater impacts on the National CBDRM Program. The Project recruited a consultant team to conduct a KAP survey of DRR, these KAP reports were disseminated at provincial level and shared with other organizations at the national level; 30 good practices were documented and shared with project stakeholders in the mid-term and final workshops; study tour in Quang Binh was organized for project partners and members of TA Groups in six provinces.
- **Sustainability:** The project activities were in line with the targets of the National CBDRM Program approved by the Government and MARD toward 2020. In particular, six Action Plans for the National CBDRM Program for the period of 2013-2015 were developed in six project provinces and approved by provincial People's Committees (PPC). Project provinces affirmed that even when the project ended they would find other resources in order to realize the National CBDRM Program. All project provinces established the provincial TA Groups, in which members were well-equipped with basic knowledge and skill on CBDRM to continue the implementation of the National CBDRM Program even when the Project finished. Through the project activities, all communes have experience and practice in implementing CBDRM activities, which is a favourable condition to continuously implement the activities of the National CBDRM Program. Regarding Education sector, the MOET issued the Action Plan for the National CBDRM Program and disseminated to all units in the sector for implementation in provinces and schools. The project schools committed to continuance of the project activities when education sector issues the official decision. However, to ensure sustainable implementation of the National CBDRM Program, PCFSC&SR of project provinces need to advocate upper level to provide funding for implementation of the National CBDRM Program. On the other hand, provinces should further strengthen and consolidate TA Groups to ensure constant participation and commitment of agencies in charge. In addition, capacity building activities for specialized staff at all levels should be periodically and regularly organized prior to implementation of new activities or expansion of project sites.
- **Impacts:** All six provinces received support from the Project to set up or update the Action Plan for the National CBDRM Program in the period 2013-2015 which were approved by the PPCs. Recently the project provinces have been successful in carrying out the project activities in the selected districts and communes. Through the project activities, the provinces were well aware the importance of CBDRM and regarded this as the obvious responsibility of the provincial management agencies. The Project provided support for the establishment and operation of the TA Groups in six provinces. The members of TA Groups in some provinces, such as Tien Giang and Quang Tri, are capable of widely implementing CBDRM activities within the province as well as supporting neighbouring provinces in the future. Besides this, the project also supported training and capacity building for ToT (Training of Trainers) trainers of the education sector. Those trainers are core staff to implement CBDRM activities, conducting training

for teachers in schools on integration of DRR into school activities. The project supported the establishment of and capacity building for commune staff and community volunteer team for CBDRM. The project also created changes in attitude and behaviour of local officers and the people in community, particularly women and children toward DRR. Communication activities contributed to increasing people's awareness of active disaster response and preparedness. However, the Project has been implemented for one year at commune level and in schools, some activities were carried out at the final months of the Project, therefore it is impossible to evaluate comprehensive impact of the Project.

- **Gender:** The project was well designed to ensure equal and active participation of both women and girls in all activities. Gender integrated framework developed by CARE was comprehensively applied by project participants in the design, organization, implementation, and M&E of activities. Specifically, in six provinces of the Project, female beneficiaries accounted for 50.12%, female students accounted for 49.75%. Through FGDs, in both community group and student group, women and girls showed their confidence and active participation in all discussions and presentations to male groups and consultant team.
- **Ethnic minorities:** The Project was designed to ensure the participation of ethnic minorities in project activities. In some provinces such as Quang Binh, Quang Tri, Yen Bai, Bac Kan, all project communes have higher proportion of ethnic minorities than Kinh people. In the provincial TA Groups, there have been members of ethnic minorities. In the direct communication activities in communities, the Project encouraged members of local communication group who were of ethnic minorities to use their own language to communicate, such as Pako-Van Kieu language in Quang Tri, H'mong and Tay language in Bac Kan. The communication materials of the Project were well designed to enable the participation of ethnic minorities and take into account the cultural and language features of ethnic minority people such as language of Tay and Pako-Van Kieu.
- **Children:** The Project designed a specific component on DRR education for children. Children have been actively involved in DRR activities such as VCA, safe-school planning, DRR communication, extra-curricular activities and integrated activities in school subjects. The children have been more self-confident and more active to participate in DRR activities.
- **People with disabilities:** Disability issues have not really stood out in the general operation of the project because the number of disabled people in the project area accounted for a small proportion and were not a critical issue in the area. However through FGD, representatives of local authorities, community people and students were able to list the disabled as a vulnerable group that needed special attention in DRR activities, especially responses.
- **Partnership:** CARE, Plan and Save have established a strong and effective strategic partnership with the project provinces, especially regular and timely technical support for project provinces. Through these activities, some typical provinces such as Thanh Hoa, Tien Giang, Yen Bai have experience and capacity in advocating policy and implementing CBDRM activities in the coming time.
- **Partnership among CARE, Plan and Save:** The current cooperation model among three organizations is effective, which promotes the strengths of each organization. For example, the activities for children were hosted by Plan and



Save while communication and gender activities were led by CARE. The cooperative operation of organizations contributed to strengthening the partnership, knowledge and resources sharing, creating greater position and voice in policy advocacy. At the same time, this model of cooperation also created opportunity for the local partners to visit and share experience with project implementers in other provinces.

- **Ownership:** The project was well designed to ensure the ownership of all local partners through the establishment of Project Management Unit at provincial and district level and the project implementing boards at commune level. In future the Project should enhance the ownership of commune partners by empowering them as investors in implementing DRR measures to attract more counterpart resources of communes such as local labor and material.
- **Visibility of the Project and donor:** The images of the project and organizers including CARE, Plan and Save are recognized by beneficiaries and project participants; shown on training materials, communication materials, and project guidelines as well as confirmed by interview with beneficiaries. The image of the main donor ECHO/DIPECHO was recognized by provincial and district partners and shown in all materials and equipment provided by the project.
- **Some lessons learnt:** The Project applied a new and effective approach which focused on policy and building capacity for provincial TA Groups. The Project was successful in conducting policy advocacy on CBDRM by provincial partner. Especially, in Tien Giang PCFSC&SR was successful in advocating the PPC to approve the CBDRM Action Plan and allocate fund from the provincial budget, which steadily increased over the years. ToT trainers were not only provided with knowledge and skills but also with opportunities to practice at project communes in planning, evaluation, training and monitoring. In communication activities, mass communication and communication in small groups were combined to enhance the effectiveness. Communication activities were organized at schools and in communities. The Project also supported in developing communication materials on CBDRM suitable to and with participation of each target group (language, ethnics, gender, region, culture, etc.). Communication activities contributed to raising awareness of local authorities, community members, teachers and students toward positive, effective and active changes of DRR practices. DRR communication models in school such as Child to Child Club in Tien Giang, Communication Club on DRR and climate change in Quang Tri proved to have great efficiency. These Clubs organized activities suitable to children which emphasized children's role in communication with peers. Effective model of joint partnership between CARE, Plan and Save has deployed the strength of each organization to enhance the efficiency of the project.
- **General recommendations on CBDRM policy mechanism:** As for project sites that have experience and competence in policy advocacy and ability to implement CBDRM activities, in the coming time CARE, Save and Plan should have an exit strategy and at the same time move to other disadvantaged areas such as mountainous areas and ethnic minorities. The project approach should be further strengthened and promoted to support the provincial level in widely implementing the project through support for partners in improving policy mechanisms and building capacity for provincial TA Groups. Establishment of

district TA Groups and building capacity for district staff should be considered to support commune level more effectively when implementing the National CBDRM Program on large-scale. Policy advocacy with Governmental agencies on CBDRM should be strengthened, including: Advocating MARD and Ministry of Finance for early provision of funding for provinces to implement activities of the National CBDRM Program in order to effectively maintain and promote project results; Advocating MOET for approval on the official DRR material in school and guideline for district DOETs and schools to integrate material in teaching and extracurricular activities; Advocating Ministry of Planning and Investment (MPI) and MARD for issuance of guidelines and integration procedures so that commune level can develop plans for upper levels to approve and provide funding for DRR measures to ensure sustainable development.

- **Recommendations from communities and local authorities:** The Project should strengthen communication activities by taking advantages of available project materials. Activities in communes should be under consideration for expansion because short implementation duration of the Project led to limitation of activities and lack of time for sustainable awareness changes and practices of local people and authorities. In addition, the projects should also consider expanding the project to other communes in the district in order to share and promote experiences in implementation in pilot communes.
- **From students and education sector:** Communication activities in schools should be regularly promoted and enhanced as this is an effective activity with low cost. Teachers in schools should make full use of the Project material to integrate in school subjects and extracurricular activities. The schools should also be equipped with more material and visual teaching aids. DRR lessons and extracurricular activities should be arranged reasonably throughout the school-year instead of concentrated over a few days to ensure full participation of students and teachers to promote the highest effectiveness. Schools should conduct an annual review and update of safe school plans and relevant stakeholders should provide resources for schools to implement this activity.
- **From district level:** Linkage between district specialized agencies should be strengthened, especially District DARD and district DOET through sharing and exchanging CBDRM activities. Establishment of district TA Groups should be considered, including staff in charge of flood and storm control, agriculture and rural development, education and training, Women's Union, and Youth Union.
- **From provincial level:** Provincial stakeholders expect to receive funding and TA from INGOs to continue the implementation of CBDRM activities in the coming years. PPCs should issue directive documents on integration of DRR from provincial level to district and commune level for official approval of DRR integration activities. Provincial TA Groups should be supported to build and enhance capacity by practicing in communes. In terms of financial issue, the cost-norms for project activities should be considered to be consistent with regulations of Vietnam and other NGOs to avoid different cost-norm for the same activity, for example support for participants of a training course organized by different implementation organizations.

# Table of Contents

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Acknowledgement .....	i
Acronyms .....	ii
Executive summary .....	iii
PART 1 - BACKGROUND .....	1
1. FINAL EVALUATION BACKGROUND .....	1
2. FINAL EVALUATION OBJECTIVES.....	2
PART 2 - METHODOLOGIES .....	3
3. OVERALL STUDY PROCESS .....	3
4. FINAL EVALUATION METHODOLOGY.....	4
5. SURVEY DATA SYNTHESIS.....	4
PART 3 - MAIN FINDINGS .....	5
6. NECESSITY AND APPROPRIATENESS.....	5
7. EFFICIENCY .....	9
8. EFFECTIVENESS.....	10
9. SUSTAINABILITY .....	20
10. IMPACT .....	23
11. PARTICIPATION AND NON-DISCRIMINATION .....	26
12. PARTNERSHIP.....	27

# List of tables and figures

---

Table 1: Number of IDIs and FGDs.....	4
Figure 1: Local budget for annual implementation of CBDRM activities in Tien Giang Province.....	23
Picture 1: FGDs with Provincial Technical working Group, Quang Tri.....	4
Picture 2: Disaster risk prevention and mitigation of Mo O commune, Dakrong district, Quang Tri province.....	14
Picture 3: Female FGD in Mo O commune, Dakrong District, Quang Tri Province.....	15
Picture 4: Flood-warning pole in Mo O commune, Dakrong District, Quang Tri Province.....	25

# PART 1 - BACKGROUND

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## 1. FINAL EVALUATION BACKGROUND

CARE, Plan and Save have implemented the ECHO funded project (through the DIPECHO program) *“Joint partnership to support scale up of the National Community-based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM) Program in vulnerable provinces in Vietnam”*. The project is organised under a consortium coordinated by CARE International in Vietnam.

The project started in June 2012 and ended in December 2013. In order to verify and quantify the outcomes and effects (and potentially the impact) of the project, three organizations selected the advisory group of the Asian Management and Development Institute (AMDI) to implement the project final evaluation. The final evaluation was implemented in December 2013 in six communes of three project provinces (out of six project provinces) including: Khang Ninh and Cao Thuong communes, Ba Be district, Bac Kan province (CARE’s project area); Mo O and Huong Hiep communes, Dakrong district, Quang Tri province (Plan’s project area); Tan Dien and Kieng Phuoc communes, Go Cong Dong district, Tien Giang province (Save’s project area).

Community-Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM) projects were introduced in Vietnam in the 1990s by various international agencies. In 2009, the government introduced the Prime Minister’s Decision 1002 for the national roll-out of CBDRM in Vietnam (hereafter referred to as the National CBDRM Program) which is now a major priority of civil society agencies, government and other interest groups.

The project of three organizations supported the roll-out of the National CBDRM Program that has been institutionalized under the government’s Decision 1002. The implementation of this program was strengthened in the targeted 6 provinces including Bac Kan, Yen Bai, Thanh Hoa, Quang Binh, Quang Tri and Tien Giang, to enable local communities to better prepare for, mitigate and respond to natural disasters more effectively. The roll-out of the CBDRM Program is supported under this project through a strategic approach that combines technical expertise brought from the three implementing organizations with many years of experience in CBDRM and dissemination mechanisms to various stakeholders from governments departments and mass organizations that will be involved in the implementation of the program. In particular, this includes the organizations' participatory approaches and methodologies in community-based DRM, and inclusion and participation of vulnerable groups notably children and poor women. The project used approved tools and guidelines developed/ in development through the national CBDRM-WG and endorsed by the national CBDRM Program. By the end of the project, six provinces have successfully implemented activities under the project log frame.

The specific objective of the project is: *“to strengthen the implementation of the National CBDRM Program in 6 target provinces to enable local communities, in*

*particular the most vulnerable people including those in 'hard to reach' areas, to better prepare for, mitigate and respond adequately to natural disasters”.*

The project has four results as mentioned below:

- Result 1: Provincial and district authorities have systems and structures in place and staff with the knowledge and skills to implement the National CBDRM Program
- Result 2: Communities most vulnerable to disasters have increased knowledge and skills on disaster response, protection, and mitigation, providing foundation for provincial extension.
- Result 3: Commune level teachers are able to conduct DRR lessons at primary and lower secondary schools in line with the MOET Action Plan.
- Result 4: CBDRM best practices are documented and shared in targeted province and brought up to contribute greater impacts to the National CBDRM Program.

## **2. FINAL EVALUATION OBJECTIVES**

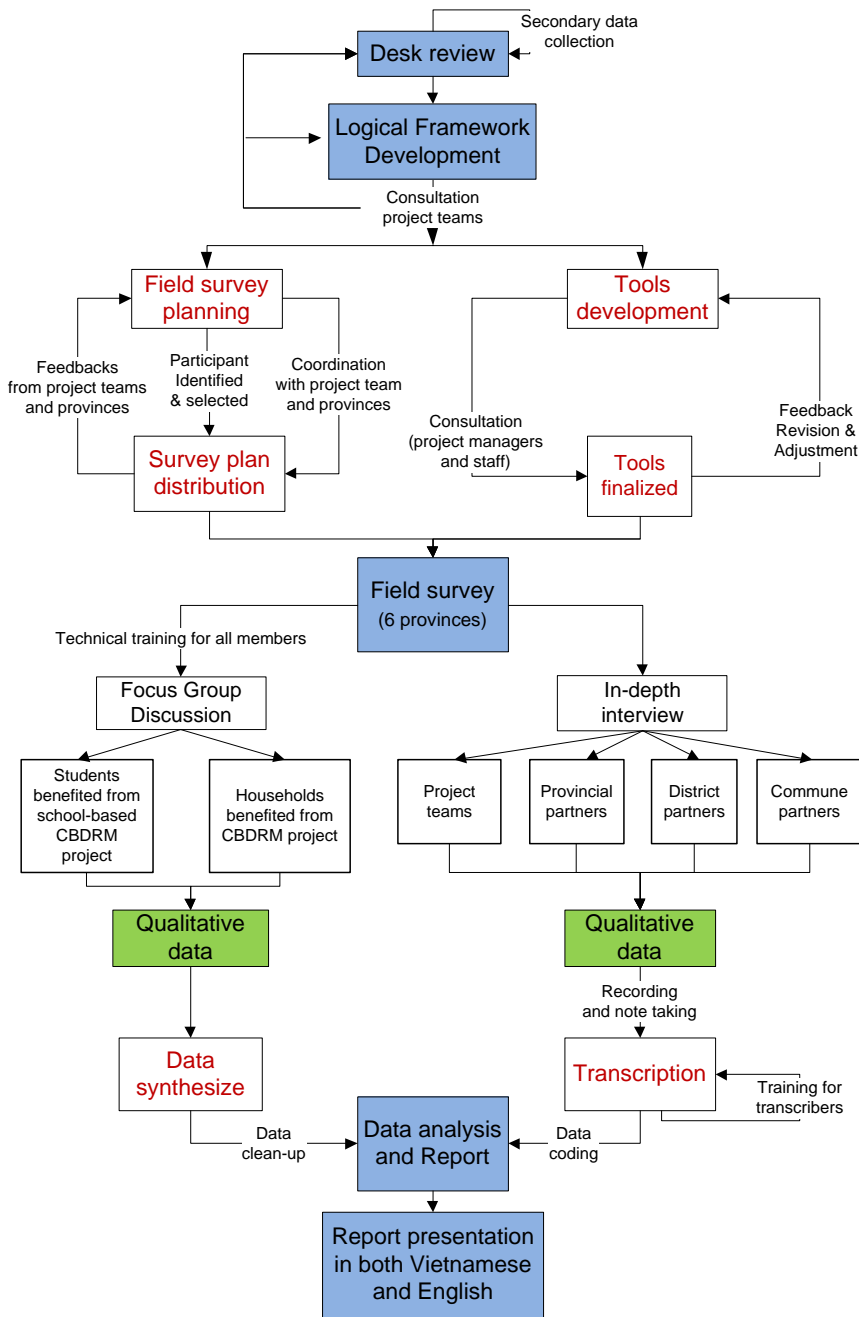
The objectives of the final evaluation are three fold:

- To assess the relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, impact, sustainability, equality/non-discrimination, and partnership of the project.
- To suggest practical recommendations for an extension/replication of the project (in the same province or in different provinces) in the context of the rolling out of the National CBDRM Program. The aspect of gender, vulnerable people, children and youth's role in implementing the CBDRM Program should be tackled as part of the recommendations. Recommendations need to be specific, practical/feasible and achievable. The consultant will explain also how the recommendations can be implemented.
- Capture main lessons learnt related to the project.

# PART 2 - METHODOLOGIES

## 3. OVERALL STUDY PROCESS

The final evaluation was conducted following four steps: desk review to have general understanding of relevant project documents, information on CBDRM in Vietnam; development of survey tools based on the project objectives and information from desk review; consultation with stakeholders and fieldwork in selected areas; synthesis, analysis and writing report. The main steps and methodology of the study are shown in the diagram 1 below:



## 4. FINAL EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

**200**  
Number of people involved in IDIs and FGDs

**5**  
Number of FGDs at provincial level

**5**  
Number of FGDs at district level

**6**  
Number of FGDs with community members in 6 communes

**6**  
Number of FGDs with primary and secondary schools in 6 communes

In order to obtain the information required to evaluate the project progress, different methods were applied to ensure comprehensiveness and quality of data and to cross-check findings from other methods. The final evaluation mainly used qualitative tools such as a desk review, knowledge-attitude-practice report (KAP), in-depth interviews (IDI) and focus-group discussions (FGD) with representatives of community, teachers, students and case studies. In addition, the consultant team has considered the factors of gender, vulnerable groups, ethnic minority groups, the participation of children and youth, poor women in the project evaluation process. At the end of field survey in each province, the consultant team gave a presentation of key findings to get feedback and comments from relevant stakeholders, project staff and partners to improve the final report.

## 5. SURVEY DATA SYNTHESIS

The consultant team conducted 10 IDIs and 3 FGDs with representatives of the

PCFSC&SR, Department of Water Resources and FSC, CBDRM technical assistant group (TA), DARD and the district-level offices of the above agencies. At commune level, 12 IDIs were conducted with representatives of commune PCs, social organizations, school leaders and teachers of Primary and Secondary schools. Consultant team conducted 12 FGDs including practicing exercises with community members and students of primary and secondary schools. The total number of people involved in IDIs and FGDs was 200 people. Table 1 shows the detailed number of participants in IDIs and FGDs.

*Picture 1: FGDs with Provincial Technical working Group, Quang Tri*



*Table 1: Number of IDIs and FGDs*

No	Level	IDIs		FGDs	
		Number of IDIs	Number of participants	Number of FGDs	Number of participants
1	Provincial	5	7	3	14
2	District	5	7	0	0
3	Commune	6	12	6	96
4	School	6	15	6	90
	<b>Total</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>200</b>



# PART 3 - MAIN FINDINGS

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The objective of the Project “*Joint partnership to support scale up of the National Community Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM) in vulnerable provinces in Vietnam*” was to strengthen the roll-out of the National CBDRM Program of the Government in six targeted provinces: Bac Kan, Yen Bai, Thanh Hoa, Quang Binh, Quang Tri, Tien Giang to enable local communities, especially vulnerable groups in difficult areas, to better prepare for, mitigate and respond to natural disasters.

The following findings were collected and analyzed based on information from IDIs and FGDs with project stakeholders.

## 6. NECESSITY AND APPROPRIATENESS

### Consistence with National CBDRM Program: Components and main activities

Project design was fully in line with the objectives of the National CBDRM Program which was to raise public awareness and effectively organize CBDRM models for all levels, sectors, and especially the government and people in communities. The project was implemented in the period 2012-2013, which was an important milestone in the implementation of the National CBDRM Program on a large scale by the specialized agencies of the Government.

**Policy mechanism:** The project supported six provinces in improving CBDRM mechanisms and policies by concretizing the National CBDRM Program into the Provincial Action Plan (AP). Specifically in Bac Kan and Quang Tri, although the National CBDRM Program was approved by the government since 2009, but until 2013 with the support of the Project, DARD has recently completed the development of the Action Plan for period 2013-2015 and has been approved by the PPC. Meanwhile in Tien Giang, in 2010, the province approved the Action Plan for implementation of the National CBDRM Program to 2020. With the support of the Project, Tien Giang DARD has reviewed and updated the annual provincial AP.

*“With support from Plan, Quang Tri has focused more on development of the Action Plan for the National CBDRM Program in the province. With support of Plan in the roll-out of pilot projects, the province has learnt from experience to develop more suitable provincial AP.” – IDI with Deputy Chairman of the Office of PCFSC&SR.*

*“Since the National CBDRM Program was approved by the Government in 2009 and before the project of CARE, there were only administrative decisions on papers. However, since the implementation of CARE’s project, the National CBDRM Program has been put into practice in the province.” – IDI with Manager of Bac Kan Department of Water Resources and FSC.*

**Component of capacity building:** The project has supported the establishment of provincial TA Group on CBDRM under the guidance of the National CBDRM Program. Members of the TA Group are from Departments/sectors such as DARD, CFSC, DOET, RC, WU, etc. PPCs have issued the Decision on the establishment of TA Groups, which was considered as an important document to ensure full participation of all members in the future. The project has provided training to improve capacity in planning, vulnerability and capacity assessment (VCA), monitoring and evaluation (M&E), integrating disaster risk reduction (DRR) in the socio-economic development plan (SEDP) and communication on DRR. The TA Groups were established, operated and well-equipped with necessary knowledge and skills. As such the TA Groups have had adequate qualification and capacity to widely deploy the National CBDRM Program in the coming time when the Government and PPCs allocate implementation budget.

However, in the future it should consider the establishment of district TA Groups, because if the National CBDRM Program is implemented on a large scale, it will require extensive participation of district level to ensure feasibility, ensuring timely support for commune level.

*"After nearly 10 years of participation in the CBDRM projects organized by Save in Tien Giang province, the managers of the province have made major changes in awareness and capacity in coordination and management of DRR activities and policy advocacy at provincial level. "- IDI, Head of FSC Office, Department of Water Resources and FSC of Tien Giang province*

**Component of communication and education:** Communication for community awareness-raising was one of two components of the National CBDRM Program to ensure widespread dissemination of knowledge on disaster preparedness and response to people in disaster-prone areas. The Project focused resources in developing communication materials, establishing communication groups, organizing communication events, providing material and equipment for communication activities.

The Project had developed a set of communication materials (video, flip chart, leaflet, etc.) with participation of community from the step of need assessment (KAP assessment), content design and implementation. This set of communication materials was developed on the basis of ensuring conformity with the characteristics of regional disasters (for example, communication about drought, damaging cold in Bac Kan; communication about floods and landslides in Quang Tri; communication about storms and droughts in Tien Giang), culture, gender (male and female) and ethnic characteristics of each region (in Tay language in Bac Kan, Pako - Van Kieu language in Quang Tri).

The Project established and trained CBDRM communication groups with a core team of WU staff, teachers and ethnic people. The Project applied the model where ethnic people were mobilized to be communicators to ensure the most effective communication to ethnic minorities.

In some communes (Khang Ninh commune, Ba Be District, Bac Kan province; Tan Dien commune, Go Cong Dong district, Tien Giang province), the Project supported repair and upgrading of equipment for communication and disaster warning, such as upgrading commune loudspeakers, providing hand-speakers, DVD/CD readers, etc. However, at present, the wireless loudspeaker system has not yet covered all areas, especially mountainous villages where radio waves cannot reach; therefore, the project should consider increasing the capacity of generators and the height of radio poles to ensure people in the most difficult areas can access communication and disaster warning information.

**Disaster risk reduction (DRR) in schools:** One of the specific objectives of the National CBDRM Program was to provide DRR knowledge in educational programs of secondary schools. In most provinces, DRR education in schools seemed quite new, mainly following the common guidelines of MARD on the integration of topics on environment, disasters and climate change into some subjects without any standard material, detailed guidelines or capacity building for the teachers. The project focused a lot of resources to support the provinces in pilot implementation of DRR activities in schools, using reference materials approved by MOET and in line with the Ministry's Action Plan for the National CBDRM Program. Specifically, the Project supported building DRR materials, manuals for integration of DRR into subjects and extracurricular activities, establishing provincial ToT trainers, training on capacity building for ToT trainers, training for teachers and organizing communication about DRR activities for students. However, in the opinion of students and teachers there should be more handout materials for students, teaching materials and visual aids for teachers.

Most teachers in project schools were trained on integration of DRR into subjects (Geography, Natural Science and Society) and extracurricular activities. The teachers have integrated DRR topics into lessons and organized extracurricular activities for all students. Students in surveyed schools said that the contents of DRR education were appropriate to their level of awareness and equipped them with useful knowledge on DRR in the future, thus this activity attracted great participation of students.

The first time in the framework of this Project, the schools piloted building child-led safe schools, which involved both students and teachers. The safe school plan addressed risks and safe measures for students in disaster season, organizing DRR activities in schools in order to strengthen disaster responding capacity and increase knowledge for students. However, safe school plans were difficult to apply in practice due to lack of resources and heavy dependence on the concern of school leaders, local authorities and upper educational levels. Through surveys, a school leader said that the commune had already prepared a FSC/CBDRM plan and the schools in the commune only needed to follow that plan. Alongside this, the schools also needed to widely disseminate the safe-school Plan to students, parents, teachers, local authorities and periodically update this plan. The local authority and education sector should also support schools in finding resources for implementation of this plan.

In general, DRR education in schools is consistent with the requirements of the education sector and the knowledge raising needs of students; however, the

organization of these activities needs more coherence between activities of schools and authorities, specialized agencies for FSC and Education & Training, especially at district and commune level. At present, it seems that all activities in schools only take place within schools with little coordination with PC and community. In contrast, students have not really been involved in community activities such as CBDRM planning, VCA or communication.

*“Contents of DRR activities in schools are practical and relevant to disaster characteristics in the region, especially drill activities because both students and teachers can practice and increase knowledge on DRR.”* IDI with manager of primary education department under Tien Giang DOET.

## **Relevance to local needs**

The Project was designed to deploy CBDRM activities in mountainous areas, ethnic minorities and disadvantaged areas. The project provinces are also frequently affected by disasters such as drought, damaging cold weather in Bac Kan, floods and landslides in Quang Tri, storms and droughts in Tien Giang. In some provinces (such as Bac Kan) there have never been any CBDRM projects implemented simultaneously at the three levels of province, district and commune before; thus, the implementation of the project in this area was completely consistent with the local needs. In addition, the strategy of project implementation (CARE, Plan, Save) also gave priority support to mountainous areas, ethnic minorities, the provinces that received little attention and support from international organizations and INGOs.

Besides, the project provinces, districts and communes had capacity building needs for specialized staff at all levels including: the provincial TA staff, ToT trainers of education sector, communal staff and communication staff, etc. The project had supported training and enhancing the skills of specialized staff at all levels in planning, assessment, communication, and M&E. TA Groups implemented pilot CBDRM activities in the project communes in each province. In project communes, the implementation organizations supported local governments in improving planning, integrating into local SEDP and implementing mitigation measures such as flood pole, providing water tanks for households.

Project activities were also consistent with the needs of community members. Specifically through awareness raising activities, people in community were better prepared for and active responded to disaster. For example, in typhoon Haiyan in 2013, people in Quang Tri were more aware of the situation, actively cutting trees, putting sandbags on roofs, preparing for evacuation to safe places; households living in coastal areas of Tien Giang also moved to safer areas. On listening to information about damaging cold weather, people in Bac Kan actively prepared measures to prevent damage to themselves, their crops and animals, before, during and after disaster.

The Project supported integration of DRR education into schools to equip students with the knowledge about natural disasters, life skills, ensuring safety for themselves, risk prevention and helping families and adults when disasters occur. Besides, through activities such as Child-to-child club, communication club for

disaster and climate change, the students in the project schools have been more confident in discussing and communicating with other students.

## 7. EFFICIENCY

The project pursues four main outcomes including: (1) Provincial and district authorities have systems and structures in place and staff with the knowledge and skills to implement the National CBDRM program; (2) Communities most vulnerable to disasters have increased knowledge and skills on disaster response, protection, and mitigation, providing foundation for provincial extension; (3) Commune level teachers are able to conduct DRR lessons at primary and lower secondary schools in line with the MOET Action Plan; (4) CBDRM best practices are documented and shared in targeted province and brought up to contribute greater impacts to the National CBDRM Program. The consultant team calculated efficiency of the project for each objective by adding up actual expenses for achieving these objectives and percentage of administrative cost for implementation of activities then divided by total expenses of the whole project.

### Costs for one beneficiary

The total budget of the project was EUR 978,167 to build capacity for 71,767 direct beneficiaries, including: provincial and district TA staff, communal authority, people in community, teachers, students, etc. As such, the average expense per beneficiary is EUR 13.6.

**71,767**

Total number of beneficiaries of the project

### Counterpart fund of three organizations

The total matching fund of three organizations CARE, Plan and Save was EUR 146,725, equivalent to 15% of the total budget of the Project. As such, the Project was able to mobilize USD15 as per USD100 provided by donor. Compared to other development project, the counterpart rate was relatively high.

**92.4%**

Proportion of the actual number of beneficiaries compared to plan

### Indirect cost/total budget

Indirect cost of the Project for three organizations CARE, Plan, Save was EUR 198,592 (including salary of project staff, travelling cost, administrative costs, equipment, etc.), accounting for 20% of the total cost of the Project. Compared to other development project, indirect cost of three organizations was lower.

**50.1%**

Percentage of female beneficiaries

Three organizations applied different management models. For example CARE's project staff directly implemented activities and cover all costs; Save signed an agreement with provincial partners and transferred funds for activity implementation; Plan applied both implementation models. Each model has its own advantages and disadvantages, which, to some extent, affected the efficiency and effectiveness of the Project. For example, in Save's model, it took quite long time to sign the partnership agreement with Tien Giang PC, leading to delay in some activities; CARE's model to some extent limited the pro-activeness of local partners in planning and project ownership; meanwhile Plan's model focused on district and commune partners, thus provincial partners had little participation in the project activities.

## 8. EFFECTIVENESS

By the end of the project, all activities were implemented in accordance with the logical framework of the project and its objectives in terms of number of beneficiaries, intervention indicators and financial disbursement. Specifically, the total number of beneficiaries was 71,767 people, equal to 92.4% of the targeted number (77,697 people); the proportion of male and female beneficiaries was 49.9% and 50.1% respectively. Project activities were considered by the stakeholders to be effective in creating a policy mechanism, human resources, and perception and attitude changes in terms of CBDRM in the projects sites; however, due to some factors such as: short implementation duration, too many activities, and disaster season, some project activities were conducted in the final stage, which somewhat limited the effectiveness of the project. Below is the detailed effectiveness analysis for each expected outcome and each indicator.

**8.1. Result 1:** Provincial and district authorities have systems and structures in place and staff with the knowledge and skills to implement the National CBDRM Program.

**Indicator 1.1:** 6 capacity building plans for technical groups (M&E; VCA; Training) developed in first 6 months of project in 6 provinces

All six provinces had training plans in place for TA Groups on M&E, VCA, and CBDRM training during the first six months of the project. During this period, the project supported the newly-entered provinces of the project (Bac Kan, Quang Binh) with needs assessment and training plan development. As for the provinces which joined in the DIPECHO 7, there was no re-evaluation in this period (Thanh Hoa). Capacity assessment was conducted by an independent consultancy firm to identify needs and develop suitable training plans to meet the local requirements and the National CBDRM Program. Training plans for TA Groups stated clearly the objectives, expected outcomes, implementation plan, resources, time and stakeholders. The project implementing organizations - CARE, Plan, Save and its partners have fully adopted these plans to effectively implement the training activities in the whole project.

**Indicator 1.2:** 18 technical groups on CBDRM including Provincial and District members established (3 per province) and know their responsibilities under the National CBDRM program (30% female participation).

All the project provinces have established provincial TA Groups with the participation of the representatives of some districts and the members of provincial TA Groups were assigned with particular tasks in accordance with the National CBDRM Program. In five provinces (Bac Kan, Yen Bai, Thanh Hoa, Quang Binh, Tien Giang), five provincial TA Groups were established; however, due to limited human resources and participation time of member, those TA Groups hadn't been divided into sub-groups of M&E, VCA, and training yet. Only Quang Tri established a provincial TA Group which was divided into three TA subgroups. The provincial People's Committee issued decisions on the establishment of the TA Groups, which was a favorable condition for the TA members to take part in the training and TA

activities for the community within the project as well as the activities of the National CBDRM Program in the future.

In most provinces, there were only a few active members who are from DARD, RC, WU and districts in the project. The rest of the TA members were from departments and agencies which TA activities were not of their specialization and priority areas or those members had moved to other offices so their participation was very limited. In the future, the provinces should establish specialized and responsible groups under the National CBDRM Program to increase professionalism and reduce time pressure for TA members when the National CBDRM Program is widely implemented. Also, it should be considered to establish and increase the role of district TA Groups, as when the National CBDRM Program is implemented at a wide scale, there should be extensive and intensive participation at district-level to ensure the feasibility and timely support for communes.

**Indicator 1.3:** 300 technical group members at the provincial and district level have been trained on 'building blocks' and equipped with training resources, with 80% of technical groups have demonstrated capacity.

The project provided training support for 187 members of provincial and district TA Groups (62.3% of the plan) on M&E, VCA, training and distribution of training materials. The number of female members in the provincial TA Groups was 50 people, accounting for 26.7%. The trainees were awarded national certificates by the DMC so that in the future they can organize and deliver training for local officers and provide technical assistance for the implementation of CBDRM activities at commune level. From the project evaluation, 85.6% of the TA Group members had adequate capability to provide TA support, training, and M&E. In addition, the consultant team directly surveyed 13 members of TA Groups of three provinces: Bac Kan, Quang Tri and Tien Giang. It showed that 100% of the members had grasped the main contents of the National CBDRM Program, role and responsibilities of TA Groups, and basic skills of a ToT trainer (training-of-trainer). Especially, in Tien Giang Province, some members of the provincial TA Group who participated in the CBDRM activities organized by Save from 2003 to present. Therefore, the capacity of these members was fully adequate for the implementation of activities within the National CBDRM Program in the future. In addition, the project applied the training materials of the National CBDRM Program, these materials were used later by the TA members to deliver training for the community. At the moment, the National CBDRM Program has not provided funds for the provinces so these members have not been able to support other communes apart from the project communes. In the future, these members need to be retrained to update their knowledge to successfully undertake their role as TA members in the National CBDRM Program.

**Indicator 1.4:** 75 responsible staffs have knowledge and skills to integrate DRR into SEDPs.

The project provided three training courses in Quang Binh, Quang Tri and Tien Giang on knowledge and skills to integrate DRR into local SEDP for 71 responsible staffs from agencies such as agriculture and rural development, FSC, finance and planning, RC, WU, and project commune PCs, reaching 95% target (75 staffs). Data summary from training report showed that all participants realized that their knowledge on

**187**

Number of provincial and district TA Group members who were trained on M&E, VCA, CBDRM and provided with training materials

**85.6%**

Percentage of provincial TA Group members capable for implementing CBDRM activities

**75**

Number of the specialized staff with knowledge and skills to incorporate DP into local SEDP

trained content increased. The average increase of all participants was 4.2 points higher than pre-training assessment. These trained staff then supported 12 communes to incorporate DRR into their SEDPs. However, SEDPs need to be approved by higher level authorities (districts) to be implemented and become regular activities of the communes. In addition, the guidelines and integration procedures must also be issued by higher level authorities such as provincial People's Committees, Ministry of Planning and Investment (MPI).

**6**

Number of provinces having developed or updated Action Plans of the National CBDRM Program and approved by PPCs

**Indicator 1.5:** 6 Provinces have annual and 5 year CBDRM action plans for rolling out the National CBDRM program developed and approved (by Provincial authorities and national authorities)

The project supported six provinces in constructing or updating the Action Plans to implement the National CBDRM Program in the period 2013-2015, which were then approved by the provincial People's Committees to pilot CBDRM activities in selected districts and communes. In reality, for provinces had set up their Action Plan to implement the National CBDRM Program towards 2020, they did not need to develop Action Plan for 3 year or 5 year-periods instead just annually updated their Action Plans. For example, Tien Giang province set up an Action Plan since 2010 and this plan had been updated and implemented annually. Bac Kan and Quang Tri provinces had just developed Action Plans for the 2013-2015 period and they had been approved by the provincial People's Committees.

**8.2. Result 2:** Communities most vulnerable to disasters have increased knowledge and skills on disaster response, protection, and mitigation, providing foundation for the extension of the Project to other areas in the province.

**Indicator 2.1:** Standard set of IEC materials disseminated and utilized by provincial and district relevant stakeholders (CFSC, Red Cross, Women Union, Youth Union).

**450**

Number of booklets on floods and storms distributed in Quang Binh and Quang Tri by Plan

The project developed a number of standard sets of IEC materials on CBDRM including: booklets, picture flipcharts, leaflets, calendars, toys, videos, training guides with community participation in need assessment (KAP assessment), content designing and implementation. For example, in Quang Binh and Quang Tri, Plan distributed 450 booklets on floods and storms; 485 picture flipcharts for each following topic: damaging cold weather, floods, tropical depressions and typhoons, droughts; 3,463 leaflets about damaging cold weather, 330 picture flipcharts on landslides; 480 toys about disaster risks; 214 movies on VCDs about DRR; 600 booklets and 600 training manuals on climate change. The communication materials were developed based on themes of disasters such as droughts, damaging cold weather, flash floods, hurricanes and landslides in accordance with natural characteristics of each project area. These material kits were effectively used by the stakeholders of the project at the provincial and district levels (FSC, RC, WU, Youth Unions) in small group communication activities and mass media outreach. According to the local authorities and community representatives, the communication materials had effectively communicated to all targeted people in the villages and initially helped raise people's awareness. These materials can continually be used and replicated in the future. However, in the opinion of the local

**1940**

Number of picture flipbooks for each following topic: damaging cold weather, floods, tropical depressions and storms, droughts distributed in Quang Binh and Quang Tri by Plan



government and communities, there was still a lack of documents to distribute on a large scale for people.

**Indicator 2.2:** 240 of commune level CBDRM stakeholders trained in participatory VCA/CVCA; M&E; communication on DRR.

The members of the provincial TA Groups provided training for 288 commune staff on CBDRM, in which there were 87 female staff (30%), exceeding 20% of the targeted plan (240 officers), on the following contents: participatory VCA, M&E and communication on DRR. The commune staff included officers in charge of FSC, officers of WU, Youth Unions, volunteers and communication staff. The commune officers were provided with training to enhance their capacity to be able to implement CBDRM activities in the future. After training, the commune-level officers involved in the commune VCA, identifying disaster risks in order to incorporate into their annual local SEDP. These officers are the core communication members on DRR topics to the community. However, to ensure the extensiveness and intensiveness of the National CBDRM Program's implementation, the commune staff should be trained regularly and periodically to reinforce their knowledge.

**Indicator 2.3:** 120 target commune authorities with demonstrated knowledge of processes to integrate DRR into SEDP.

The staff in charge of the project provided training for 298 commune officers, exceeding 148% of the plan (targeting 120 officers) on knowledge and procedures to integrate DRR into the SEDP. The commune officers were trained on methods and tools to determine the indicators and development targets to fit with local economic and social conditions as well as top-down targets from upper-level authorities. The results of the training courses and content of DRR had been successfully incorporated into the commune SEDP by commune officers. For example, the two project communes in Bac Kan province had successfully incorporated DRR into their SEDPs subject to the approval of upper level authorities. The SEDPs were highly appreciated by the commune People's Committees, positively contributing to ensure the sustainable development as the risk factors had been identified. However, due to training activities taking place late at the end of 2013, the communes could not apply to SEDPs for 2014 as these plans had been approved by the competent authorities. In addition, the training had just been done at the commune level, so to ensure the efficiency and feasibility of DRR integration into SEDP, policy advocacy in terms of planning, finance allocation and budget is necessary at all levels of decision making.

**Indicator 2.4:** 6 district/12 commune level communication strategies and plans developed & 12 CBDRM commune level plans developed in participatory manner and endorsed by local community.

The project supported 12 communes to develop communication plans and 12 CBDRM plans under a participatory approach, which were approved by the communities. The local authorities highly appreciated the plans as communication tends to have high efficiency (low cost) and attract a large number of participants. Communication contributed to raise awareness of community people leading to behavior changes in order to ensure the preparation towards disasters of the communities.

**20%**

Exceeding proportion of the commune leveled officers being trained on CBDRM compared to the planned target (240 officers)

**148%**

Exceeding proportion of the commune leveled officers being trained on incorporating DP into local SEDPs compared to the planned target (120 officers)

"Previously only FSC plans were only conducted on paper and reported via the mass media of the communes. Now there has been a new working method: the commune staff have chance to practice planning, to plan and then communicate directly to people of the commune, therefore, contributing to awareness raising." - IDI with the community leaders of Mo O commune, Dakrong district, Quang Tri province.

Picture 2: Disaster risk prevention and mitigation of Mo O commune, Dakrong district, Quang Tri province

STT	Nội dung hoạt động	Tổ chức/ Người thực hiện	Số lượng người dân	Địa điểm	Thời gian dự kiến	Người thực hiện	
1	Thảo luận chung của Ban tuyên truyền PCLB	Người dân nhận thức chủ quan phòng tránh PCLB	213 hộ	Trường thôn, ban ngành thôn thị xã, thôn	Nhà SHCD thôn	Tháng 6-8/2013	Dự án Plan
2	Tập huấn PCLB ở dân điểm	Công đồng thôn xã KT nông và hữu hữu cơ ban vì QLRRT	198 hộ	Ban PCLB xã, Ban ngành thôn thị xã	Nhà SHCD thôn	Tháng 6-7/2013	Đề án 1902,
3	Tổ chức thi hoạch sản	Chi vòng sản xuất lúa, dân điểm trong vùng ngập trồng	78 hộ	Người dân	Từ và các thôn	Ngày 5-15/9 hàng năm	
4	Chuẩn bị hàng rào chắn gió	Đảm bảo ANLT trong bão lụt	198 hộ	Người dân	Hộ gia đình	Tháng 7-10 hàng năm	Người dân,
5	Đập vỡ thuốc nổ	Đã phòng án đưa trong thôn xã	5 thôn	Trạm y tế xã	Tạm y tế xã	Tháng 7-10 hàng năm	
6	Đường vận chuyển	Chi đèo đường bị ngập bị gây nguy hiểm đến tính mạng và phương tiện	04 bãi đất	Đoàn Thanh niên xã, thôn	Các thôn và cầu Khe Chấn thôn Ba Rào, khu vực giáp TT Krông Lang xóm người dân Phú Thăng	Tháng 5-6/2013	Dự án Plan
7	Tuyên truyền phòng chống sét đánh	Tham gia hội thảo thiết bị cho các trường học	282 hộ	BQL thôn, Ban ngành thôn thị xã, thôn, Ban NN xã	282 hộ	Tháng 9 hàng năm	UBND xã
8	Đã học về an toàn	Học chữ viết	90 hộ	Ban PCLB xã	40 hộ	Tháng 7/2014	Các thôn/thị trấn
9	Đã học về an toàn	Đã học chữ viết và tài sản trong bão lụt	4 thôn	Ban PCLB xã, thôn Quan lý	2 thôn Khe Hút, Ba Rào	Tháng 7/2014	Các thôn/thị trấn
10	Tổ chức thi hoạch sản	Tham gia hội thảo	198 hộ	Người dân	Hộ gia đình	Tháng 8 hàng năm	Người dân
11	Đã học về an toàn	Phòng chống sét cho gia đình	173 hộ	Ban NN xã, Đoàn thanh niên xã, thôn	Hộ gia đình	Tháng 8-7/2014	Người dân
12	Đã học về an toàn	Chống bão	3 công nhân	BQL thôn, Ban ngành thôn thị xã, người dân	Công trình xây dựng Khe Hút, Khe Hút, Khe Hút, Khe Hút, Khe Hút, Khe Hút	Tháng 2-4 hàng năm	Người dân

**Indicator 2.5:** 47,649 local people in targeted areas exposed to communication events and at least 70% of them can articulate key messages on DRR.

**59.787**

People in community participated in communication activities of the project

The project's communication activities attracted 59,787 participants from the communities, exceeding 25% of target plan (47,649 people), in which female participants accounted for 50.5%. The communication activities of the project included: mass communication on media and direct small group communication conducted by the commune officers and mass organizations (FSC, RC, and WU). The communication activities brought positive results and contributed to awareness-raising for people in terms of prior preparation against natural disasters and active response when disasters happen. For example, in 3 storms number 8, 10, 11 and especially the storm Haiyan in 2013, people in the project communes in Quang Tri province actively prepared before the disasters such as tree pruning, placing sandbags onto their house roofs, preparing to evacuate to safer places. In Bac Kan, people actively prepared for and responded towards damaging cold weather to protect people, plants and animals. In Tien Giang, prior to the Haiyan storm, coastal residents had actively moved to safer locations immediately after hearing about the storm.

The project organized a number of drills and exercises both in the communities and at school on the themes of how to cope with storms, flash floods and whirlwind, landslides, damaging cold weather, etc. This was one of the practical activities and provided high efficiency at low cost by attracting the participation of a large number of people and children, contributing to communication and awareness-raising about DRR.

The target of the project was that at least 70% of people in the communities were aware of the main messages of DRR. According to the results of the KAP evaluation report of project provinces, 74% surveyed people were able to recognize the main messages on DRR. For example in Bac Kan, 70.3% of people had a good overall knowledge of disaster risk management (DRM) and there was no difference in terms of gender (male: 70.6%, female: 69.9%). In Quang Tri, 72.6% of the people had a good overall knowledge of DRM and there was no significant difference in terms of gender (male: 74.1%, female: 71.2%). In Tien Giang, 69.8% of the people had a good overall knowledge on DRM and there was no significant difference in terms of gender (male: 70.9%, female: 68.6%). Through group discussions with community residents in the project communes, the consultant team noticed that both the groups of men and of women had a good grasp on the necessary measures to conduct before, during and after a disaster. As observed in the focused group discussions, the groups of female residents, including ethnic minority women in Bac Kan and Quang Tri were very confident and open to exchange and present their ideas in front of the male groups and the consultants. The female community group and female students were able to facilitate FGDs, raising issue and setting out specific measures for assumed situation of disaster in community, specifying responsibility of individual, women, households and local authorities. The results of FGD are presented in the tables below.

**74%**

People have good knowledge on DRR

**70.6%**

Male people have good knowledge on DRR in Bac Kan

**69.9%**

Female people have good knowledge on DRR in Bac Kan

*Picture 3: Female FGD in Mo O commune, Dakrong District, Quang Tri Province*



The results of the FGD with male group (9 participants) in Mo O commune, Dakrong District, Quang Tri Province

Activity	Carried out by
<b>BEFORE FLOODS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Actively evacuate, move furniture and take the elderly, children, and the sick to safe places.</li> <li>Shield and cover to protect houses</li> <li>Prepare food, water, rice, oil, flashlights, medicine</li> <li>Watch mass media</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Youth Unions</li> <li>Militia</li> <li>Residents</li> </ul>
<b>DURING FLOOD</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ready to rescue and salvage</li> <li>Reinforce shielding and protecting houses</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Active self -help rescue and salvage of the residents</li> <li>Youth Unions</li> </ul>
<b>AFTER FLOOD</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Asset inventory</li> <li>Cleaning houses</li> <li>Restoring homes</li> <li>Recovering productive land</li> <li>Treating drinking water</li> <li>Dredging canals, irrigation, dykes and reopen roads</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The residents, by themselves</li> <li>Youth Unions</li> </ul>

The results of the FGD with the female group (7 participants) in Huong Hiep commune, Quang Tri province

Activities	Responsible person
<b>BEFORE FLOODS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prepare food</li> <li>Prepare water</li> <li>Pack furniture, and important documents</li> <li>Relocate livestock and poultry</li> <li>Prepare food for livestock and poultry</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mother</li> <li>Parents</li> <li>Parents, children</li> <li>Parents</li> </ul>
<b>DURING FLOODS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do not cross rivers, streams</li> <li>No wood picking or fish catching</li> <li>Do not go into the deep forest</li> <li>Do not allow the children out</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The whole family</li> <li>Mother</li> <li>Father</li> <li>Parents</li> </ul>

<p><b>AFTER FLOODS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cleaning houses and villages, dredging ditches</li> <li>• Eat well cooked food, boiled water</li> <li>• Do not eat dead livestock and poultry</li> <li>• Decontamination water wells with chlorine</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adult</li> <li>• The whole family</li> <li>• Parents</li> </ul>
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**8.3. Result 3:** Commune level teachers are able to conduct DRR lessons at primary and secondary schools in line with the MOET Action Plan.

**Indicator 3.1:** 300 resource teachers from education authorities at provincial and district level with demonstrated capacity to conduct trainings on DRR education; at least 70% of these conducting trainings in schools.

Training on integration of DRR contents in lessons was conducted for 384 resource teachers, who are education managers at provincial and district levels, exceeding 28% of targeted plan (300 teachers). Those training courses complied with training material issued by MOET and were provided by MOET experts. Through those courses, Resource teachers gained information on DRR, contents and methods to integrate DRR in lessons and extracurricular activities. After the training, trainers were able to and conducted training courses for school teachers in project area such as: schools leader, teachers of Young Union and Young Pioneers Team, teachers of geography, natural sciences and social sciences. However, some trainers haven't conducted training for school teachers due to tight schedules at work and managing tasks at their own units.

**Indicator 3.2:** 80% of teachers in target schools has demonstrated capacity to provide lessons on DRR or mainstream DRR into school subjects.

The goal of the Project is 80% trained teachers would be able to conduct DRR. Through in-depth discussions, teachers at project's schools had provided training for other teachers and DRR lessons for students of their schools. The consulting team acknowledged that commune teachers had sufficient knowledge and experience in giving DRR lesson and can continue in the coming school years. Most of the trained teachers had sufficient knowledge and ability to integrate DRR in subjects such as: sciences in primary school and geography in secondary school. However, representatives of some schools were of the opinion that training courses at school level should be provided directly by provincial trainers instead of trained teachers from their schools to ensure the best training quality.

**Indicator 3.3:** Child-led safe school plans developed and implemented in schools (100% child participation).

24 pilot safe school Plans were developed for 12 primary schools and 12 secondary schools in 12 project communes. The development of safe school plans involved students in identifying DRR-related issues, the types of disasters that teachers and students are likely to encounter in and out of schools. DRR plans include detailed information about responsibility, resources, and funding for implementation. According to schools' representatives, development of safe school plans is a new, effective method and easy to implement since it attracts the participation of both

**28%**

Exceeding percentage of resource teachers were trained on integration of DRR into school compared to plan (300 teachers)

**24**

Total number of safe-school plans developed for 12 primary schools and 12 secondary schools

teachers and students. Safe school plans also helped school's Management Boards to develop awareness-raising, drills, and extracurricular activities in the school. On the other hand, the difficulties in applying safe school plans are the lack of resources and dependence on school leaders' attention. Safe school plans should be disseminated to all the teachers as well as students and their parents.

"These safe school plans were strong and specifically developed with the participation of teachers and students to meet the content requirements. This is the new and significant difference compared to the older plans that were usually developed solely by school leaders." – IDI, representative of Tien Giang Department of Education.

### 84.1%

Students have good knowledge on DRM in Bac Kan (KAP)

**Indicator 3.4:** 80% out of 9,369 children in 24 schools know the local hazard risks and can identify appropriate contingency measures (20% ethnic minorities).

The project targeted at least 80% of students in 24 project schools to be able to recognize local disaster risks and determine appropriate precautions. According to consolidated KAP report, 84.1% of surveyed students were able to recognize the main messages on DRR. For example, in Bac Kan, 77.8% of the students had good overall knowledge of DRM, in which the proportion of male students with a good knowledge was higher but not significantly more than female students (male: 82.8%, female: 73.3%). In Quang Tri 84.8% of students had good overall knowledge of DRM with no significant differences on gender (male: 81.2%, female: 86.9%). In Tien Giang 89.6% of students had good overall knowledge of DRM, and the percentage of female students with a good knowledge were significantly higher than male students (male: 83.5%, female: 94.6%). Educational and communication activities at schools helped the students understand different types of local disasters and how to ensure safety for themselves. In addition, through focused group discussions with students in the project schools, the consultant team found that both male and female groups of students had a good grasp of the measures that need to be taken before, during and after a disaster. Through observation, the consultant team found that the female students, including female students from ethnic minorities in Bac Kan and Quang Tri, were very confident and open to exchange and present their ideas in front of the male student groups and the adults.

### 94.6%

Female students have good knowledge on DRM in Tien Giang (KAP)

### 83.5%

Male students have good knowledge on DRM in Tien Giang (KAP)

Results of the FGD with students of primary school in Huong Hiep commune, Quang Tri Province

**Results of the FGD with the male student group (7 students)**

BEFORE FLOOD	DURING FLOOD	AFTER FLOOD
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Put books, notebooks in a safe place</li> <li>• Protect family properties</li> <li>• Reinforce the house</li> <li>• Reserve food</li> <li>• Plant trees around the house</li> <li>• Prepare sandbags to put on house roof</li> <li>• Watch weather forecast and flood cautions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Should not go out</li> <li>• Should not stay close to electricity poles</li> <li>• Should not stay close to rivers, lakes, ponds, and the sea</li> <li>• Should not go fishing in the sea</li> <li>• Wear warm clothes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clean the house</li> <li>• Take care of books</li> <li>• Review of family properties</li> <li>• Wash dishes after flood</li> <li>• Clean classrooms and the school</li> </ul>

**Results of the FGD with the female student group (9 students)**

BEFORE FLOOD	DURING FLOOD	AFTER FLOOD
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reinforce the house</li> <li>• Close the door</li> <li>• Prepare rice</li> <li>• Prepare water in the house</li> <li>• Prune trees around the house</li> <li>• Put sandbags on the house roof</li> <li>• Students off from class</li> <li>• Students must put their books in high places</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Should not go out, stay indoors</li> <li>• Watch weather forecast</li> <li>• Take children and grandparents to community houses to avoid the storm</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clean the house</li> <li>• Drain water around the house</li> <li>• Wipe the house yard, cut trees pulled down</li> <li>• Let the children go to school</li> </ul>

**Indicator 3.5:** 2,000 copies of MOET approved DRR school training manuals distributed to key education personnel.

The project distributed 700 copies of manual, equal to 35% compared with the target (2,000 copies), including guidebooks and picture flipcharts on DP training in schools, which had been approved by the Ministry of Education and Training (MOET). These materials were applied in the ToT courses and training courses for teachers of the project schools. The teachers considered these materials an important source of information to develop lessons on DP and organize

**35%**

Percentage of distributed material sets in comparison with the plan (2.000 sets)

communication and extra-curriculum activities. It should be noticed that the material set on DP education at school which was developed by Save and Live & Learn compiled from the previous phase DIPECHO 7 were approved by MOET to be used as the reference material for this project phase. However, in the opinion of the teachers, in the near future, MOET needs to approve these as official documents to apply in DP education.

**8.4. Result 4:** CBDRM best practices were documented and shared with project provinces, which contributed to greater impacts on the National CBDRM Program.

**Indicator 4.1:** KAP/baseline surveys conducted and disseminated to respective Provincial authorities and the national program

The Project recruited a consultant team from the Hanoi School of Public Health to conduct a Knowledge-Attitude-Practice (KAP) survey of DRR in 3 project provinces: Bac Kan, Quang Tri and Tien Giang. In each province, the consultant team conducted a KAP survey in 2 project communes and another commune as a control commune to assess knowledge, attitudes and practices of two targeted groups: community residents and students. The three KAP reports were the basis for CARE, Plan, Save and their partners to measure the indicators of perception changing of the beneficiaries. These reports were disseminated at provincial level and shared with other organizations at the national level.

**Indicator 4.2:** 30 most significant change stories on project good practice documented and shared at national and international forums (60% women and girls; 30% ethnic minorities)

30 typical practices of the Project were documented and shared with project stakeholders in the mid-term and final workshops, shared learning forum. All organizations confirmed to share these practices in other national and international DRR forum in the next years. The content of typical practices focused on changes in knowledge, attitude and practice of women group, female children and people of ethnic minorities toward disaster risks.

**Indicator 4.3:** Learning and exposure visits by TA Groups.

In April 2013, the Project organized a learning and exposure visit in Quang Binh for 36 representatives who were project partners and members of TA Groups of six provinces. In this learning visit, the organizations shared information in various topics such as: partners of CARE shared about communication in community, partners of Plan shared information on VCA and provincial CBDRM planning, Save's partners shared information on communication in schools. The participants then attended field visit on the implementation of VCA results in two project villages in Minh Hoa district of Quang Binh province.

## 9. SUSTAINABILITY

### Central and provincial level

**Policy on CBDRM:** The project activities are in line with the targets of the National CBDRM Program approved by the Government and MARD toward 2020. In



particular, six Action Plans to deploy the National CBDRM Program for the period of 2013-2015 have been worked out in six project provinces and approved by PPCs. Those plans clearly specified the activities, timeframe, budget and the duties of all stakeholders. Project provinces affirmed that even when the project ended they would find other resources in order to realize the National CBDRM Program.

*“Without the project of Plan or other NGOs, we would by ourselves find other resources to deploy the National CBDRM Program in conformity with regulations of the Government” – IDI, Deputy Head of Quang Tri PCFSC&SR.*

**Human resources:** All project provinces have established the provincial TA Groups including specialized staff from province and district level. All members of TA Group were trained with basic knowledge and skills on CBDRM such as: planning, VAC, M&E, integration, communication on DRR and had ability to conduct training for specialized staff at lower level on DRR. The members of Provincial TA Groups are core staff with enough capacity to support the PPCs and PCFSC&SRs in implementation of the National CBDRM Program even when the Project finishes.

However the more regular and sustainable implementation of the National CBDRM Program, PCFSC&SR of the project provinces should approach higher level such as PPC and MARD to provide funding for implementation of the National CBDRM Program. On the other hand, the project provinces should continuously consolidate and strengthen the TA Groups to ensure constant participation of members with commitment of the agencies in charge, avoiding the situation where only some members take part, while others are just in the name list. Besides this, the capacity-building training activities for specialized staffs at all levels should be organized regularly and constantly prior to implementation of new activities or expansion of project sites.

## District level

**Policy mechanism on CBDRM:** Regarding the policy, according to Provincial Action-plan for implementation of the National CBDRM Program, District PCs and CFSC&SR are in duty of deploying CBDRM activities for communes in the area. Though at the moment the district Action-plans for the National CBDRM Program have not been developed, through this project, the project and non-project districts have approached and participated in implementation of pilot CBDRM activities. This is a favourable condition for the districts to conduct activities of the National CBDRM Program in the future. However, the districts should urgently require PPCs and DARD to issue specific guidelines and provide funding for implementation of CBDRM in communes.

**Human resource:** Specialised staff at district level from agencies of FSC, Education and Training, Red Cross have been trained and participated in providing TA for communes; thus, they have had initial knowledge on CBDRM. It is also necessary to establish and maintain the district TA Group to ensure the constant and qualified participation of all members. Moreover, periodical refresher trainings should be organized for members prior to implementation of new activities or expansion of project sites.

## Commune level

Through the project activities, all communes have experience and practice in implementing CBDRM activities, which is a favourable condition to continuously implement the activities of the National CBDRM Program. The authorities and people in communes are interested in CBDRM activities. For example, in Mo O commune, Dakrong District, Quang Tri province, the PC decided to establish TA Group at commune level to promote CBDRM activities. Communes' and civil organizations' staff, volunteers and communicators were trained to improve knowledge and practical experience so that they are able to maintain CBDRM activities of the National CBDRM Program after the Project ends.

However, to ensure sustainable implementation of the National CBDRM Program, there should be concrete guidelines, TA and funding support from upper level. At the moment very few officers and local people know about the National CBDRM Program. Therefore, local staff in charge should regularly and constantly conduct communication activities on the National CBDRM Program in order to enhance knowledge and behaviour changes of local people in CBDRM.

## Education sector

**Policy mechanism on CBDRM:** The MOET issued the Action Plan for implementation of the National CBDRM Program to integrate DRR and CCA in education and disseminated to all units in the sector for implementation in provinces and schools. The project schools committed to continuance of the project activities when education sector issues the official decision.

**Human resource:** During the implementation of the Project, ToT trainers have been trained and are able to conduct training for teachers in the project schools. In the project schools, implementation staffs are young teachers with high qualification and enthusiasm, which greatly facilitates the implementation of integration and organization of extracurricular activities. As for the students, the knowledge obtained through the project activities is effective and have long-term impacts. However, the implementation of MOET's Action Plan has been only realized within the framework of the Project, therefore, the education sector should be more active in finding other resources to maintain the Program activities until funding from central budget could be provided. The education sector should standardize teaching materials and provide sufficient teaching aids for schools to ensure the efficiency and sustainability of the implementation of MOET's Action Plan.

## Organizations

The organizations such as CARE, Plan and Save had experience and established long-term strategic partnership with the project provinces so they can keep on support even when the project ended. For example, Plan committed to continue support in capacity-building for the project communes of Dakrong district and other districts even when the DIPECHO project finished. In so doing, results of the project can be maintained in coming years. CARE, Plan and Save confirm that they are seeking for sponsor resources to support the Government of Vietnam in deploying the activities of the National CBDRM Program in the next years.

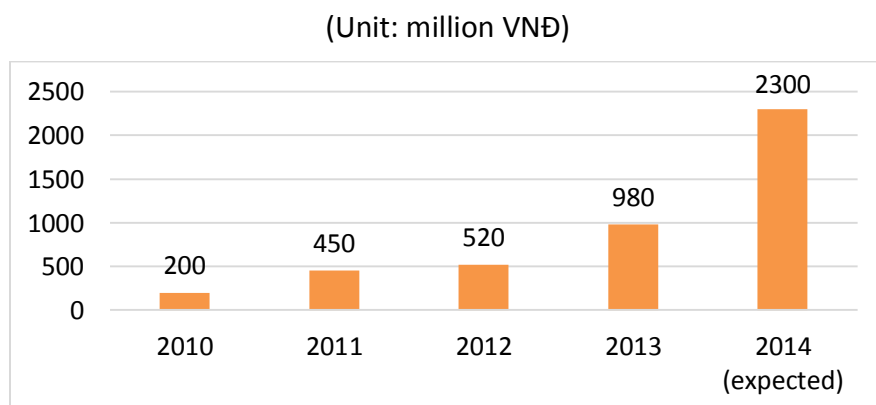
## 10. IMPACT

### Direct impact of DIPECHO Project 8 period 2012- 2013

**Policy on CBDRM:** All 6 provinces have been supported by this project to set up or update the Action-plan for the National CBDRM Program in the period 2013-2015 which were approved by the PCs. Recently the project provinces have been successful in carrying out the project activities in the selected districts and communes. The contents of the Action-plans would be the base to facilitate the implementation of the National CBDRM Program in the future.

Through the project activities, the provinces are well aware the importance of CBDRM and regard this as the obvious responsibility of the provincial management agencies. Through IDI, leaders of Quang Tri PCFSC&SR affirmed that they will mobilize and seek for extra funding to implement the Action-plan in the coming years. In Tien Giang, the PCFSC&SR succeeded in advocating PPC for approval of the annual plan and budget allocation for implementation of CBDRM activities with annual increase.

*Figure 1: Local budget for annual implementation of CBDRM activities in Tien Giang Province*



**Human resource:** The Project provided support for the establishment and operation of the TA Groups in six provinces. The members of TA Groups in some provinces, such as Tien Giang and Quang Tri, are capable of widely implementing CBDRM activities within the province as well as supporting neighbouring provinces in the future.

Besides this, the project also supported training and capacity building for ToT trainers of the education sector. Those trainers are core staff to implement CBDRM activities, conducting training for teachers in schools on integration of DRR into school subjects and extracurricular activities.

The project supported the establishment group of commune staff and community volunteer team for CBDRM; therefore, the capacity of this group has been enhanced in planning, integration, communication and organization of disaster preparedness and response activities.

**980 million VNĐ**

Budget for implementation of CBDRM activities in 2013 by Tien Giang province

**2,300 million VNĐ**

Estimated budget for implementation of CBDRM activities in 2014 by Tien Giang province.

**Changes in knowledge, attitude and behavior toward DRR:** The project supported to improve the knowledge and experience on CBDRM for provincial officers for active management of Central budget and better implementation on larger-scale.

The project also created changes in attitude and behaviour of local officers and the people in community, particularly women and children toward DRR. For example, in Tien Giang previously when being notified about a storm, both local authorities and the people were subjective and passive in strengthening houses or moving to a safer place. The project communication activities have raised awareness in active preparedness and response to disaster, in particular, the people have been more aware and active in strengthening houses, regularly keeping track of weather forecasts and evacuating to safe places.

The project supported communes to develop DRR plan, identifying the areas at risk and capacity of community. Through implementation of the project, the commune capacity in activity organization and operation has been enhanced. After that this plan has been integrated in the local SEDP. The local authorities have been well aware of the importance and efficiency of integrating DP into SEDP. For example, in the SEDP, the construction of school should consider the use of schools as the shelter from storm or flood; expansion of roads should take into account the access of motor vehicles for SAR work and evacuation in emergency.

In Tien Giang, the project supported to established hundreds of child-to-child clubs on DP. The activities of these clubs built up a team of core children and play an increasingly important role in communication in schools, families and the communities. The students have been more confident in discussing with parents not to go out in storms and find safe storm shelter as informed by PC.

However, the Project has been implemented for one year at commune level and in schools. Some activities were carried out at the final months of the Project, therefore it is impossible to evaluate comprehensive impact of the Project. For example, in Bac Kan, loudspeaker systems and early warning systems have just been equipped and have not yet been tested in extreme weather events, other DRR sub-projects including irrigation systems in Bac Kan, flood-warning pole systems in Quang Tri have just come into use; thus, it is difficult to fully evaluate the impact of these systems.

Picture 4: Flood-warning pole in Mo O commune, Dakrong District, Quang Tri Province



## Accumulated impacts

**Policy mechanism on CBDRM:** With the support of CARE, Plan, Save and other NGOs, Vietnam has established a Policy Advocacy Working Group on CBDRM (CBDRM-WG), playing an important role in assisting MARD and DMC to standardize documents, conduct training of trainers, building M&E framework. Through these activities, the Working Group has successfully mobilized financial resources from UNDP, AusAID, WB, Red Cross Associations of other countries, IFRC, Oxfam, World Vision, etc. in order to implement pilot projects, conduct training of trainers, develop and publish materials.

In cooperation with such NGOs as CARE, Plan, Save, Live & Learn, MOET has developed the Action Plan for National CBDRM Program. Recently, the MOET has directed the implementation of the National CBDRM Program to provincial DARDs and schools. With the support of DIPECHO in previous phase, a set of standard materials on DRR has been developed for schools.

*“The project made an important impact on provincial authorities such as PC and department, thus they are aware that CBDRM is of their responsibilities. Save and other NGOs have supported the implementation of pilot activities in Tien Giang in recent years. As a result the locality has been active in developing annual plan and seeking for funding to implement the activities of the National CBDRM Program. For example, the PC approved a funding of 2.1 billion VND from the provincial budget for 2014” – IDI, Head of PCFSC&SR, Department of Water Resources and FSC of Tien Giang Province.*

**Human resource:** With the support of INGOs especially 3 organizations CARE, Plan, Save, in the recent years TA Groups on CBDRM have been established to regularly

and effectively conduct TA activities and implement the National CBDRM Program of MARD and DMC.

## 11. PARTICIPATION AND NON-DISCRIMINATION

### Gender

#### 50.12%

The percentage of female beneficiaries (35,972 women)

The project was well designed to ensure the equal and active participation of both women and girls in all the activities. The gender integrated framework developed by CARE was comprehensively applied by project implementers in the design, organization, implementation and M&E of project activities. The Project provided detailed guidelines, monitoring forms to ensure the equal participation between male and female. Specifically, in six provinces of the Project there were 35,972 female participants out of 71,767 beneficiaries (accounting for 50.12%). The number of female students who benefited from this project accounted for 49.75% (5,271 students) in the total of 10,592 benefited students. Through FGDs, in both community group and student group, women and girls showed their confidence and active participation in all discussions and result presentations in front of male groups and consultant team.

#### 49.75%

The percentage of girl students benefited from the Project (5,271 girl students)

On 7 October 2013, the Chairman of CCFSC signed the Decision No. 261/QD-PCLBTW to appoint the Vietnam Women's Union as an official member of CCFSC. However, in most provinces, provincial WUs have not yet been the official members of PCFSC&SR. The field survey has recognized the active participation of WU at all levels in the provincial TA Groups and local communication groups. The participation and role of women has been enhanced, in particular Commune WU was assigned to lead the community communication group on CBDRM. According to the commune authorities and local people, the communication group works very effectively.

### Ethnic minorities

The Project was designed to ensure the participation of ethnic minorities in project activities. In some provinces such as Quang Binh, Quang Tri, Yen Bai, Bac Kan, all project communes have higher proportion of ethnic minorities than Kinh people, thus in the provincial TA Group there have been members of ethnic minorities. In the direct communication activities in communities, the Project encouraged members of local communication group who were of ethnic minorities to use their own language to communicate, such as Pako-Van Kieu language in Quang Tri, H'mong and Tay language in Bac Kan. The communication materials of the Project were well designed to enable the participation of ethnic minorities and take into account the cultural and language features of ethnic minority people such as language of Tay and Pako-Van Kieu.

### Children

The Project designed a specific component on DRR education for children. Children have been actively involved in DRR activities. Specifically, children have participated in VAC, safe-school planning, DRR communication, extra-curricular activities and integrated activities in school subjects. As a result, the children have been more self-confident and more active to participate in DRR activities. In recent years, with the

support of Save funded by DIPECHO in different periods, Tien Giang has established the model of child-to-child clubs on DRR in many schools and it is expected that this model will be expanded to all communes of this province (120 clubs were established in 2011 and have maintained operation until now). In Quang Tri, with the support of Plan, child-to-child clubs were established on DRR, climate change and environment using child-centred methods with support of Youth Union's staff to organize communication activities in school. However, the participation of children in the community activities remained limited, mostly focused in the activities of schools.

## **People with disabilities**

Disability issues have not really stood out in the general operation of the project because the number of disabled people in the project area accounted for a small proportion and were not a critical issue in the area. However, through FGD, representatives of local authorities, community people and students were able to list the disabled as a vulnerable group that needed special attention in DRR activities, especially response ones.

## **12. PARTNERSHIP**

### **Local partnership**

Three organizers of this project including CARE, Plan and Save have established a strong and effective strategic partnership with the project provinces, especially regular and timely technical support for project provinces. Save has established and maintained strong partnership in CBDRM activities with two provinces of Yen Bai and Tien Giang for 10 years; Plan has provided support to Quang Tri on CBDRM since 2010; CARE has provided CBDRM support for Thanh Hoa province since 2009. Through these activities, some typical provinces such as Thanh Hoa, Tien Giang, Yen Bai have experience and capacity in advocating policy and implementing CBDRM activities in the coming time. Therefore, the implementation organizations should have a strategy to withdraw from the areas with sufficient CBDRM capacity in the future.

By participating in this project, a strong partnership on CBDRM has been built between PCFSC&SR, DARD, WU, RC, and DOET. These provinces have established TA Groups as the provincial leading agencies on CBDRM. However, the cooperation between stakeholders at district level such as FSC, RC, education-training remained loose with sectorial top-down direction and participation. At commune level, local authorities, social unions and other stakeholders have close cooperation, in which commune WU played an important role in CBDRM.

The relationship between local authorities and schools on CBDRM should be further strengthened. At present, the activities for children have been only organized in school without any linkage to community activities. Therefore, local authorities should pay more attention to school activities and at the same time students and teachers should actively participate in community activities.

## **Relationship among CARE, Plan, Save**

The current cooperation model among three organizations is effective, which promotes the strengths of each organization. For example, the activities for children were hosted by Plan and Save while communication and gender activities were led by CARE. The cooperative operation of organizations contributed to strengthening the partnership, knowledge and resources sharing, creating greater position and voice in policy advocacy. At the same time, this model of cooperation also created opportunity for the local partners to visit and share experience with project implementers in other provinces.

However difference in strategy, methodology and implementation methods of each organization may lead to slow implementation progress for some project activities. For example, Save carried out the project activities through cooperation agreement and funding transfer to their provincial partner; CARE organized direct activities in community; Plan provided direct funding for some activities or through local partners for some others. This may cause the inconsistency and difference in activity implementation of three organizations. The different cost-norm of three organizations for joint activity implementation may also cause confusion to local partners. Therefore, a common partnership model should be considered with common cost-norm to implement project activities in the future.

## **Ownership**

The project was well designed to ensure the ownership of all local partners through the establishment of PMU at provincial and district level and the project implementing boards at commune level. In future the Project should enhance the ownership of commune partners by empowering them as investors in implementing DRR measures to attract more counterpart resources of communes such as local labor and material.

At present, planning, project management and financial management are mostly carried out by three implementation organizations; the local partners have not yet been active in planning and budgeting. Moreover, not many activities have been carried out by PMU; thus, in the future the ownership of project partners should be enhanced in both planning and budgeting, especially in the project design there should be agreement with local partners in planning and cost-norm to avoid difficulties in project implementation.

## **Visibility of the Project and donor**

The images of the project and organizers including CARE, Plan and Save are recognized by beneficiaries and project participants; shown on training materials, communication materials, and project guidelines as well as confirmed by interview with beneficiaries.

The image of the main donor ECHO/DIPECHO was recognized by provincial and district partners and shown in all materials and equipment provided by the project.



# PART 4 – LESSONS LEARNT

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**New and effective approaching method:** After many years of implementing pilot CBDRM at commune level by NGOs, at this stage CARE, Plan and Save have focused on policy and building capacity for provincial TA Groups. This new approach has proved its effectiveness when provincial People’s Committees approved the Action Plans to implement the National CBDRM Program and establishment of provincial TA Groups. At the same time, the capacity enhancement for specialized officials will effectively maintain and continue CBDRM activities in future project’s locations.

**Success in policy advocacy by local partners:** One of the valuable lessons learnt, which should be further applied, is that project provinces were successful in conducting policy advocacy on CBDRM at local level. Typically in Tien Giang province, 10 years of participating in CBDRM projects has brought significant changes in perception, project management and coordination abilities, as well as policy advocacy skills to the PCFSC&SR. Tien Giang PCFSC&SR was successful in advocating the approval from the provincial People’s Committee for Action Plan and budget allocation from the provincial budget, which steadily increased over the years. Annually, detailed provincial CBDRM implementation plans were updated, which focused on activities such as: training on legal documents, training on first aid and search & rescues, swimming class for children, establishment and expansion of Child to Child Clubs.

**Learning with practice:** Members of provincial TA Groups participated in the ToT courses organized by DMC. After the courses, ToT trainers were not only provided with knowledge and skills but also with opportunities to practice at project communes in planning, evaluation, training and monitoring. School teachers practiced in integrating DRR into lessons and extracurricular activities. At community level, commune officials practiced in VCA, integration of DRR into local SEDP. Communication officials, especially WU officers had opportunities to practice on DRR communication for the people in different ways.

**Communication for awareness-raising and behavior changing:** In communication activities, mass communication and communication in small groups were combined to enhance the effectiveness. Communication activities were organized at schools and in communities. The project also supported in developing communication materials on CBDRM suitable to and with participation of each target group (language, ethnics, gender, region, culture, etc.). Commune WU played the decisive role in the implementation of communication activities. They have influencing role in the community, especially among women. Communication activities contributed to raising awareness of local authorities, community members, teachers and students toward positive, effective and active changes of DRR practices. For instance, a live discussion on TV was conducted in Tien Giang province with the participation of officials and people of provincial, district and commune levels, which attracted attention of TV viewers from other provinces.

“In Tien Giang province, the PCFSC&SR in cooperation with Department of Education & Training and provincial TV conducted a 1.5 hour live discussion on TV (from 14:00 to 15:30) in October 2013 at provincial Children’s Cultural House (02 participants of each district, representatives from provincial and district Departments and project’s communes, people and students). This activity attracted the attention of many TV viewers, even in faraway provinces (a TV viewer from Khanh Hoa called to ask Mr. Hung about landslides and swimming, others to ask about the National CBDRM Program)” – IDI, Tien Giang PCFSC&SR

**Child to Child Club:** DRR communication models in school such as Child to Child Club in Tien Giang, Communication Club on DRR and climate change in Quang Tri proved to have great efficiency. These Clubs organized activities suitable to children which emphasized the role of children in communication with other peers.

**Effective model of Joint partnership between CARE, Plan and Save** has deployed the strength of each organization to enhance the efficiency of the Project. For example, while CARE has its strength in communication- and gender-related activities, both Plan and Save have great advantage in activities regarding children. Moreover, the tight cooperation between the three organizations also strengthened the cohesion, knowledge sharing and resources to make greater influence in policy advocacy.

# PART 5 – RECOMMENDATION

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## General recommendations on CBDRM policy mechanism

- As for project sites that have experience and competence in policy advocacy and ability to implement CBDRM activities in the coming time, CARE, Save and Plan should have a withdrawal strategy and at the same time move to other disadvantaged areas such as mountainous areas and ethnic minorities.
- The project approach should be further strengthened and promoted to support the provincial level in widely implementing the project through support for partners in improving policy mechanisms and building capacity for provincial TA Groups.
- Establishment of district TA Groups and building capacity for district staff should be considered to support commune level more effectively. For feasible implementation of the National CBDRM Program on large-scale, extensive participation of district level is a critical requirement to ensure timely support for commune level.
- Establishing local TA Groups on the basis of promoting knowledge and experience of provincial TA members who have years of experience in participating in CBDRM projects (Tien Giang, Yen Bai, Thanh Hoa, Quang Tri). The local TA Groups should be approved by DMC so that they receive agreement of the provincial agency in charge in providing TA for other provinces.
- Advocating policy with Governmental agencies on CBDRM, including:
  - Advocating MARD and Ministry of Finance for early provision of funding for provinces to implement activities of the National CBDRM Program in order to effectively maintain and promote project results.
  - Advocating MOET for approval on the official DRR material in school and guideline for Education-Training Office and schools to integrate material in teaching and extracurricular activities.
  - Advocating MPI and MARD for issuance of guidelines and integration procedures so that commune level can develop plans for upper levels to approve and provide funding for DRR measures to ensure sustainable development.

## Recommendations from communities and local authorities:

- The communication activities of the project have brought about positive results with low cost. This is the priority activity in the National CBDRM Program, consistent with the mission and needs of the government and the community. Therefore, the project should strengthen communication activities by taking advantages of available project materials.

- Activities in communes should be under consideration for expansion because short implementation duration of the Project led to limitation of activities and lack of time for sustainable awareness changes and practices of local people and authorities. In addition, the projects should also consider expanding the project to other communes in the district in order to share and promote experiences in implementation in pilot communes.
- The disaster mitigation works such as flood warning poles, radio systems and small-scale irrigation projects have brought about positive results in disaster preparedness, especially during natural disasters. However, this support has been only on a small-scale, it is suggested that the project should provide additional funding to support local implementation of mitigation projects identified by VCA. Besides this, the project communes should also develop management and maintenance plans to promote the effectiveness of mitigation works.

### **Recommendations from students and Education sector:**

- Communication activities in schools should be regularly promoted and enhanced as this is an effective activity with low cost. Teachers in schools should make full use of the Project material to integrate in school subjects and extracurricular activities. The schools should also be equipped with more material (DRR booklets) and visual teaching aids.
- Content on DRR education and extracurricular activities should be arranged reasonably throughout the school-year instead of concentrated over a few days to ensure full participation of students and teachers to promote the highest effectiveness.
- Schools should conduct an annual review and update of Safe School plans and relevant stakeholders should provide resources for schools to implement this activity.

### **Recommendations from district level**

- Linkage between district specialized agencies should be strengthened, especially sub-DARD and sub-DOET through sharing and exchanging CBDRM activities
- Establishment of district TA Groups should be considered, including staff in charge of flood-storm control, agriculture and rural development, education and training, Women Union, and Youth Union. By establishing district TA Groups, members of the groups will improve their capacity to implement commune CBDRM activities.

### **Recommendations from provincial level**

- Provincial stakeholders expect to receive funding and TA from international organizations like CARE, Plan and Save to continue the implementation of CBDRM activities in the coming years.
- PPCs issue directive documents on integration of DRR from provincial level to district and commune level for official approval of DRR integration activities.

- Provincial TA Groups should be supported to build and enhance capacity by practicing in communes.
- In terms of financial issue, the cost-norm for project activities should be considered to be consistent with regulations of Vietnam and other NGOs to avoid different cost-norm for the same activity, for example support for participants of a training course organized by different implementation organizations.

# Annex

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- Evaluation work plan
- TORs of the evaluation
- List of persons interviewed
- List of indicators and criteria

# References

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- The National CBDRM Program and related documents
- The Project documents
- The Project progress reports
- KAP survey reports
- Training reports
- Most Significantly Change (MSC) stories
- Other reports