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

INTRODUCTION

Viet Nam is considered one of the 30 countries at most extreme risk to climate change.¹ According to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE), climate change has contributed to temperature increases of more than 0.50C and a 20cm rise in sea level over the past 50 years in Viet Nam. Extreme climate events also have been increasing. Between 1990 and 2012, disasters caused nearly 500 deaths, destroyed more than 96,000 houses, and accumulated losses equivalent to 1.3 percent of GDP annually. In Viet Nam, more than 500,000 people live within 200 meters of the coast. Their homes are usually affected by typhoons and many of them live in unsafe houses. The poverty rate in the coastal areas is 23 percent; more than twice the national average, partly due to disaster related losses.

Moreover, the coverage and health of mangrove forests and coastal ecosystems, which provide a vital buffer against storms, sea surges and salt water intrusion, has reduced significantly in recent years. This is primarily due to population growth and the expansion of poorly planned shrimp aquaculture.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE

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

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

WHAT ARE THE EXPECTED OUTPUTS?

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

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

¹ Climate Change Vulnerability Index

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

WHO BENEFITS FROM THE PROJECT?

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

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

Selected coastal districts will benefit from community based disaster risk management, vulnerability assessment and planning, and from increased access to quality risk data. Participatory approaches to supported mangrove regeneration, replanting and maintenance will help facilitate sustainable livelihoods practices in target communes.

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

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

Budget and Timeframe:

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

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

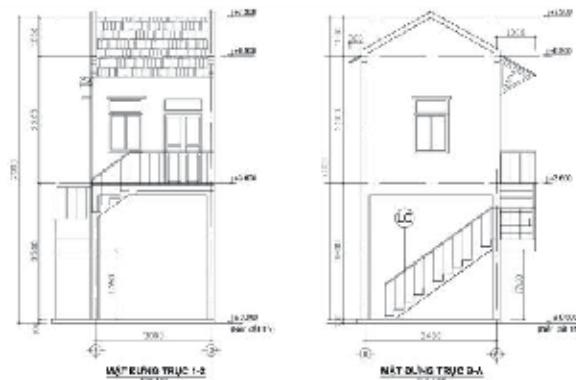


Figure 1: Flood and storm-resilient house design



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

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

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