



Vietnam Programme

REHABILITATION AND DISASTER RISK REDUCTION IN QUANG BINH PROVINCE

BACKGROUND

Quang Binh Province is in the central coastal region of Vietnam. The area has a long history of battering by typhoons and floods during the last few months of each calendar year. Such extreme weather events are increasing in intensity and frequency. 2009 and 2010 were among the most disastrous years on record. Typhoon Ketsana in late 2009 hit 12 provinces in Vietnam's central region, destroying or damaging 22,000 houses in Quang Binh alone and wiping out thousands of hectares of food crops. In late 2010 further torrential rains caused serious flooding in the central provinces of Ha Tinh, Quang Binh, Quang Tri and Thua Thien Hue.

In comparison with other central provinces, Quang Binh has received very little international disaster relief and recovery assistance. Local communities in Quang Binh have used their own resources to repair their houses, and standards of repair have been low. Repaired houses are mostly weaker than they were before the storms and floods hit. No support has been given to high-standard storm or flood-resistant house models. By 2012, communities and local authorities still have limited capacity for disaster preparedness.

PROJECT GOAL AND OBJECTIVES

The overall goal of the project is to rehabilitate houses and to build community shelters after Typhoon

Ketsana, and to develop capacity for disaster risk management, as a model of good practice in the central region of Vietnam. The specific objectives of the project in Quang Binh are:

1. The rehabilitation of houses damaged by Typhoon Ketsana in three districts, enabling the poorest families to live in appropriate storm-resilient houses
2. Local authorities have an understanding of natural hazards, capacities and vulnerabilities in Quang Binh, and a knowledge of future climate change scenarios, and apply this understanding in provincial planning processes
3. Future disaster risk is reduced through the construction of two multi-purpose community shelters and through capacity development for Community-Based Disaster Risk Management.

Project Goal

Rehabilitation of houses and building of community shelters with capacity development for future disaster risk reduction, as a model of good practice in the central region of Vietnam

Budget (GBP)

£ 485,000

Duration

August 2012 to February 2014

Funding Partner Organisations

- Caritas Switzerland
- Swiss Solidarity

Local Implementing Partners

- The Association for Empowerment of People with Disabilities
- Quang Binh People's Committee

Beneficiaries

- Vulnerable families in 3 districts
- Provincial and District authorities and technical departments



Flood victims receive emergency aid after Typhoon Ketsana



Meeting with villagers to discuss house repair

ACTIVITIES AND APPROACH

Project activities are designed and implemented with priority given to poor female-headed households, families with large numbers of dependents (children, people with disability, the elderly) and ethnic minority people.

In the three target districts, new disaster-resistant houses are built, and damaged houses are repaired, applying disaster-resistant models. Local engineers, commune monitors, builders, masons, beneficiaries and community representatives are trained on resistant-to-flood and storm building techniques. Rescue facilities (boats, first aid bags, life buoys, life vests, megaphone, torches, etc) and first-aid trainings are provided to the rescue teams of the three districts. Officers of the districts' Flood and Storm Control Department, representatives of people's organisations and community-based organisations receive training on Community-Based Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change Adaptation. An assessment on Hazard, Capacity and Vulnerability (HCVA) is conducted, taking into account downscaled climate change scenarios for Quang Binh Province. This assessment will serve as a solid basis for disaster risk

reduction planning at provincial and local levels and will help Quang Binh Province to prepare its Climate Change Action Plan, which is required by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment.

Challenge to Change coordinates the project activities among stakeholders at local level and leads the HCVA and shelter construction.

A Vietnamese NGO, 'Association for Empowerment of People with Disabilities' (AEPD), is responsible for the field monitoring of housing construction and for community mobilisation.

The entire project is supported and monitored by Caritas Switzerland, an International NGO in Vietnam. Caritas also participates in trainings and the Hazard, Capacity & Vulnerability Assessment.

Quang Binh Provincial authorities are actively involved in all stages and activities of the project, enabling them to build their capacity and utilise the various project outcomes.

EXPECTED RESULTS

- The project plans to build 150 new storm-and-flood resistant houses. Hundreds of households will benefit

from storm-resistant house repair. Twelve training courses will be organised for local builders, masons, beneficiaries and community representatives on building techniques that resist flood and storm.

- A Hazard, Capacity and Vulnerability Assessment is completed, shared among stakeholder groups and used for strategic planning at provincial level.
- Two multi-purpose shelters will be constructed in Quang Ninh and Le Thuy Districts.
- Twelve commune rescue teams of the three target districts will receive rescue facilities and training on first aid.
- District staff and local people will be trained on Community-Based Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change Adaptation.

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