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# Country report

Disaster in Vietnam and The National Strategy for  
disaster mitigation and management in the decade of  
2001-2010

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## A. INTRODUCTION DISASTER IN VIETNAM

### Country statistics

- 331'114 square kilometers, 25% delta & 75% mountainous areas
- Coastline: 3,444 km (excludes islands)
- Climate: tropical in south; monsoonal in north with hot, rainy season (mid-May to mid-September) and warm, dry season (mid-October to mid-March)
- Population: 82 million;
- Consists of 64 cities & provinces (~ 500 districts, 9000 communes);
- In 2004: GDP growth rate 7.69% with income is 553 USD.



## Relative Frequency of Disaster Hazards in Viet Nam

High	Medium	Low
Flood	Hail & Rain	Earthquake
Storm	Drought	Technological Accident
Inundation	Landslide	Frost
Erosion/silting	Fire	
Sea water intrusion	Deforestation	

- Storms and floods are the disasters that effect the largest areas and cause the greatest loss to human life, property, and agriculture production;
- 4 to 6 storm reach Viet Nam each year

- Man-made disasters are often caused by environmental accidents, occur less frequently in Vietnam than natural disasters

- The country can be divided into 5 geographical zones

  - The mountainous zone,

  - The midland zone,

  - The plain zone,

  - The coastal zone,

  - And the sea zone

- Disasters in Vietnam that occur over the largest area, and cause the most severe damage are water disasters or water-related disasters.

**Assessment of Disaster Severity in Different Geographic Areas  
and in the Coastal Economic Zone of Vietnam**

Disaster	Geographic Areas and Economic Zones							
	North east and north west	Red River Delta	North central coast	South central coast	Central highlands	North east south	Mekong River Delta	Coastal Economic Zone
Storm	+++	++++	++++	++++	++	+++	+++	++++
Flood	-	++++	++++	+++	+++	+++	+++++	++++
Flashflood	+++	-	+++	+++	+++	+++	+	+++
Whirlwind	++	++	++	++	+	++	++	++
Drought	+++	+	++	+++	++	+++	+	+++
Desertification	-	-	+	++	++	++	+	++
Saline intrusion	-	+	++	++	+	++	+++	++
Inundation	-	+++	++	++	-	++	+++	+++
Landslide	++	++	++	++	+	++	+++	++
Storm surge	-	++	++	++	++	++	+++	++
Fire	++	+	++	+++	-	+++	+++	+++
Industrial and environmental hazard	-	++	++	++	+++	+++	++	+++
Earthquake	+++	+	-	-	+	-	-	-
Reservoir problems	+++	++++	+	+	-	+	+++	-
Unexploded ordnance	+	+	++	+++	++	+	+	++

The Table shows the assessment of disaster severity in each zone:

Very severe (++++)

Severe (++++)

Medium (++)

Light (+)

None (-)

In recent years, a number of specific disasters have caused the Vietnamese people to undergo severe ordeals. These are in addition to the disasters that usually occur in Vietnam:

- In August 1996, large floods occurred on the Red River.
- In early November 1997, Typhoon Linda struck the coastal area of Southern Vietnam
- In November and December of 1999, two extremely heavy rain storms inundated a large area of Central Vietnam
- In the year 2000, Severe flooding of the Mekong River System began very early, at the beginning of July.
- In this year 2006, Chanchu, Xangsen, Durian storm struck the coastal area of Southern Vietnam.

## ***Process of Disaster Mitigation and Management in Vietnam***

- 1. Tens of thousands of pumping stations and tens of thousands of kilometers of canals.*
2. Dyke systems consisting of about 5,000 km of river dykes and 3,000 km of sea dykes were constructed mostly in the North and in the North of Central Vietnam.
3. Most of the reservoirs were built for multiple purposes, such as flood regulation, water storage, electricity generation, and water supply in the dry season.
4. Flood forecast capacity has been improved.



# ***GOVERNMENT CONCERNS AND OVERARCHING POLICIES FOR DISASTER MITIGATION IN VIETNAM***

- The Government of Vietnam considers disaster mitigation and management to be one of the most important items on its development agenda.
- Vietnam has already enacted a number of laws and put in place an effective structure for mitigation of disasters.
- Efforts to prepare a nation-wide disaster mitigation strategy are ongoing.
- The beginning of a system of forecasting and warning of disasters.
- Coordination of disaster mitigation staff between different sectors needs to be further strengthened, and the capacity of disaster mitigation staff at local levels needs to be improved.
- Policies for disaster mitigation also need to be updated to keep pace with rapid socio-economic changes and to effectively develop disaster management capacity. Strategies and master plans for regions that are especially vulnerable to disasters need to be designed or improved.

## ***Long-term Government Strategy***

1. Reduce loss of human life
2. Reduce loss of property
3. Reduce economic losses caused by reduced production
4. Reduce the incidence of poverty
5. Protect the environment
6. Provide equitable development
7. Ensure sustainable development

## ***B. NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR DISASTER MITIGATION AND MANAGEMENT DURING THE DECADE OF 2001-2010***

1. Disaster planning will be based on multi-hazards identification and risk assessment; based on the different types of disaster hazard and different levels of disaster risk in different parts of the country.
2. Disaster preparedness and disaster forecasting are the preferred methods of disaster mitigation.
3. Disaster preparedness and disaster mitigation are the task of each local area throughout the country.
4. Measures for ensuring the long-term benefit of disaster mitigation for the whole community are to be given the highest priority.
5. Measures for reducing the risk of a particular type of disaster must be compatible with reducing the risk of other types of disasters.

6. All measures must be carefully considered, both for practicality and technology, and these measures have to be realistic in the Vietnamese context in its current and future state of development.
7. Reduction of disaster risk must be compatible with traditional disaster coping mechanisms of local people; and must support hunger eradication and equitable poverty reduction.
8. Measures for disaster preparedness and mitigation must be consistent with the economic development level of each local area, as well as the desired general economic development of the country.
9. Measures for disaster mitigation must be compatible with measures for protecting the environment, protecting equitable development, sustaining natural resources and preserving cultural heritage.
10. Co-operation and co-ordination between the central level of government, local level of government, state agencies, non-government organizations, and the general public must be well established using a bottom up approach starting at the grassroots level. Similarly, cooperation and coordination of external assistance needs to be strengthened and aggressively pursued

## ***Government Vision to Year 2020***

- The population by the year 2010 may reach 90 to 92 million; and by the year 2020 may reach 100 to 103 million.
- Large industrial and service zones will continue
- The population in big cities and towns is predicted to be 30% to 35% of the total population by 2010; and 40% to 45% by 2020.
- The Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of Vietnam is expected to be US\$90 to US\$92 billion by the year 2010; and US\$195 to US\$200 billion by the year 2020. Consequently, the national GDP per capita should be US\$1,000 by the year 2010 and US\$1,950 by the year 2020.

The Government will also make significant efforts toward improving the human development index through achieving Vietnam specific Millennium Development Goals. Important targets related to effective disaster mitigation include: Reducing poverty from 17% in 2001 to below 10% in 2005, and to 5% by 2010 based on the national poverty line; reducing substantially the vulnerability to household and to community shocks, particularly disaster shocks; and measuring environment protection such as having 85% of the population gaining access to clean water by 2010, and 95% by 2015; and 43% of the country's territory to be reforested by 2010

## ***National Strategic Goals to be Achieved by the Year 2010 – to Make Vietnam a Safe Country from Disasters by the Year 2020***

1. Continue to improve community awareness and local participation to ensure that people live and work in disaster safe communities.
2. Minimize the number of people killed and injured. The number of 800 deaths per year in the decade of the 1990's, should be reduced to 200 deaths per year in the decade from 2001 to 2010.
3. Reduce economic losses caused by disasters from an average of 2% of national GDP in the decade of the 1990's, to below 1% of national GDP in the decade from 2001 to 2010.
4. Minimize negative impacts caused by disasters on poverty, the environment, sustainable development, equitable development and cultural heritage. Based on experience gained from the decade of the 1990's, the objective of improving community awareness needs to be a priority in the strategy for the decade from 2001 to 2010. Disaster preparedness and mitigation is the responsibility of each individual, to ensure personal safety and community safety.

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## ***Basic Components of the National Strategy***

1. To conduct disaster identification, disaster risk assessment, and disaster damage assessment for all types of disasters
2. To undertake and apply research; to use technological innovations; to disseminate knowledge on technical solutions, methods and measurement; and to strengthen organizations for reduction of disaster risk, impacts, and losses.

(1) Forest plantation, changing of cropping patterns, animal breeding and seed types.

(2) Enhancement of ICT and communications equipment, relocation of residential areas, and better adjustment to disaster conditions.

(3) Upgrading of river and sea dyke systems in North Vietnam and the North of Central Vietnam. Building embankments for flood mitigation and desalination in the Mekong River Delta.

(4) Construction of flood corridors and flood retention areas in the South of Central Vietnam and in Southern Vietnam.

(5) Construction of multi-purpose reservoirs for flood water regulation in high rainfall seasons and for increase of water flow in dry seasons.

(6) Construction of erosion prevention works in downstream areas

(7) Upgrading the safety of fisher folk by providing communication equipment and life belts; construction of storm shelters for ships and local fishermen.

(8) Construction of fire break lanes for forest fire control.

(9) Effectively dealing with Unexploded Ordinance

3. To transfer technology to experts; and to supply information to leaders and decision-makers at all levels of government and to the general public
4. To mobilize all resources including labour, materials, science and technology, financial resources, incentive mechanisms and policies
5. To use disaster mitigation for poverty reduction, environment protection, sustainable development and equitable development
6. To organize and to direct coordination activities prior to, during and after disasters



THANK YOU  
FOR YOUR ATTENTION