



VIET NAM

Strengthening resilience to storms and floods in Hue and Central Viet Nam

Local authorities rescuing flood-affected households in Hue | Source: Viet Nam Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment¹

CLIMATE EVENT



Period | 07 to 31 October 2020

Event/s | Severe and widespread flooding, storm surge, and landslides caused by seasonal monsoons and exacerbated by consecutive weather disturbances:

- Tropical Storm LINFA – 9-11 Oct
- Tropical Storm NANGKA – 11-16 Oct
- Tropical Storm SAUDEL – 20-26 Oct
- Tropical Cyclone MOLAVE – 24 – 30 Oct

Area affected | As of 29 October, 9 provinces in central Viet Nam have been affected:

- Ha Tinh
- Quang Binh
- Quang Nam
- Quang Ngai
- Quang Tri
- Thua Thien Hue
- Nghe An
- Binh Dinh
- Kon Tum

SITUATION OVERVIEW

Central Viet Nam experienced four storms, three floods, and series of landslides within a month which left massive destruction:

As of 02 Nov:

- » **235 people** dead and missing
- » **17 trillion VND** (733.4 million USD) estimated economic loss

As of 31 Oct:

- » **1.5M people** directly affected
- » **178K homes** submerged
- » **7K hectares** of crops and **690K** of livestock destroyed

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

An inter-agency meeting was coordinated by Viet Nam's National Steering Committee for National Disaster Prevention and Control (NCNDPC) on October 10 to discuss concerted efforts on preparedness and response. Pre-emptive evacuations were also implemented.

At the onset of the disaster, NCNDPC sent missions to affected provinces to support rapid assessments, search and rescue missions, and basic needs provisions.

On October 13, the Government released a call for international emergency relief and

support to which \$3.5 million have been provided by international organizations by October 27.

The Flood Response Plan released on October 31 and to be implemented within 6 months with a funding request of \$40million, was developed by the Disaster Management Group comprising UN Agencies, INGOs/NGOs, Viet Nam Red Cross and the Government. It prioritizes restoration of infrastructure particularly for potable water and sanitation to prevent disease outbreaks.

CHALLENGES AND GAPS

Approximately 177k flood-affected people were classified as the most vulnerable and to be prioritized. Immediate humanitarian needs and early recovery activities on emergency shelter and non-food items; education; food security, agriculture and livelihoods; nutrition; protection and water, sanitation and hygiene will be addressed.

Recognizing that severe weather conditions due to climate change are becoming common, the Government identified key areas for interventions:

- Building capacity of institutions and prioritizing budget allocations on natural disaster prevention and control;

- Conducting climate assessments and climate change scenarios with appropriate response solutions;
- Improving quality and effectiveness of disaster forecasts and early warning systems and updating hazard maps;
- Increasing investments on infrastructure for resilience; and
- Mainstreaming disaster prevention and response into local and sectoral development plans.

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"Closely monitor, firmly grasp the situation, proactively deal with unpredictable developments of floods with the motto "4 on the spot": on-site command, on-the-spot forces, on-site facilities, and on-the-spot logistics..."

- Nguyen Van Phuong, Vice Chairman of Thua Thien Hue Provincial People's Committee as he directs local authorities on flood response in early October

RESILIENCE STORY

In the first 20 days of October, the amount of rainfall was 3 to 5 times higher than the annual average in the past 30 years in central Vietnam. However, the damage was less devastating than in 1999 wherein 700 lives were lost and a total economic loss of VND 5,000 billion. The Government of Viet Nam attributed this to the concerted efforts of the whole community.

Thua Thien Hue province did pre-emptive evacuation of households in flood-risk areas; established a hotline for flood response; ensured safety of irrigation reservoirs; conducted massive public awareness and information drive on situation and risks; and deployed sufficient

personnel for rescue and relief.

Hue, the capital of Thua Thien province, is one of the priority cities of UCCRTF due to its vulnerability to climate change impacts such as sea level rise and flooding given that it is situated in the delta region of Perfume River and sitting just 3 meters above sea level. Flood maps generated via SPADE for October 8-12 period showed that an area of around 6 sq. km or 8% of Hue's total land area and around 6,693 or 2% of the total population have been exposed to flooding. The Imperial City of Hue, a major heritage and tourism site, has been submerged to 0.5 meter and power was cut off.

UCCRTF PROJECTS IN HUE

Further efforts are needed to improve institutional capacity on climate and disaster resilience.

In 2018, UCCRTF's baseline assessment of Hue's resilience studied the city's four dimensions: health and well-being, economy and society, infrastructure and ecosystems, and leadership and strategy. Results emphasized the need to *"enhance the city's capacities around integrated planning and infrastructure provision in key areas such as flood protection to reduce exposure to hazards."* Furthermore, it was recommended to improve, *"...the road and pavement infrastructure in and around the Citadel area which would also help to boost tourism in the city (Hue City Resilience Profile (CRP))."*

The CRP also suggests *"strengthening efforts to foster community engagement in resilience planning and urban development;*

increasing investment in flood resilience from coastal and river flooding, with an emphasis on green infrastructure and ecosystem-based solutions; and formulating catchment-wide flood management plan that includes efforts to increase tree cover." These proposed measures are aligned with recent public concern about deforestation and unregulated infrastructure works that impede natural water flow and affect land stability.

To contribute to improved resilience in Hue, the ADB is implementing the **Secondary Green Cities Development Project** of which \$224 million is dedicated to environmentally sustainable and socially inclusive development in the cities of Hue, Vinh Yen, and Ha Giang. UCCRTF is complementing ADB's loan project in Hue through a \$1 million technical assistance on disaster risk financing for public assets; and a \$2 million grant for initiatives to build resilience at community level.

SOURCES

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- <https://en.vietnamplus.vn/storms-floods-cause-economic-loss-of-over-730-million-usd-govt-report/189763.vnp>
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UCCRTF FINANCING PARTNERS

