



I. Executive Summary

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<p>Program Title: <u>Building Resilience to Natural Disasters in Central Vietnam</u></p> <p>Cooperative Agreement No.: <u>AID-OFDA-G-11-00087</u></p> <p>Country(ies)/Region(s): <u>Vietnam: Quang Nam, Quang Ngai, Quang Tri and Ha Tinh Provinces</u></p> <p>Sector: <u>Risk Management Policy and Practice</u></p> <p>Reporting Period: <u>April 1, 2016 To: June 30, 2016</u></p>
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<p>Summary of Activities:</p> <p>This narrative report primarily covers the planning period for activities planned under the 18-month cost extension to the original USAID/OFDA award AID-OFDA-G-11-00087-01 ‘<i>Community-based disaster risk management in Viet Nam,</i>’ which began in April 2011.</p> <p>The overall aim of the program remains the same, with a focus on increasing the resilience and capacities of disaster-prone communities as well as strengthening the capacity of Viet Nam Red Cross (VNRC) in community-based disaster risk management (CBDRM). This extension was built upon experiences and lessons learned from previous OFDA-supported activities in 36 communes in Ha Tinh, Quang Nam, and Quang Ngai provinces. The principal change in this extension is the shift to an emphasis on urban DRM, focused on one primary sector and four associated subsectors. The primary sector is Risk Management Policy and Practice, with subsectors including Capacity Building and Training, Building Community Awareness/Mobilization, Policy and Planning, and Integration/Enhancement within Education Systems and Research. The overall goal is to contribute to safer and more resilient communities during times of natural hazards in central Vietnam.</p> <p>Following delays in project start up and holidays during the previous quarter, consortium members this reporting period were fully engaged in implementing activities and advancing the workplan as much as possible. Activities this period included primarily trainings related to CBDRM at various levels and Safe School Framework (SSF) in schools.</p>
<p>Sector: Risk Management Policy and Practice</p> <p>Sub-sector 1: Capacity Building and Training</p> <p>Indicator #1: Number of people trained in disaster preparedness, mitigation and management, by sex</p> <p>Current Measure: 16 female and 56 male participants of TOT/training in CBDRM and CBDRA for LGA, MO, CBO staff at commune/ward levels.</p>

Indicator #2: Number of trainings conducted

Current Measure: 29 trainings included 3 training in CBDRM/CBDRA, 8 trainings on First Aid 2 trainings on shelter protection techniques and 16 training on PEER CADRE.

Indicator #3: Number of people passing final exams or receiving certificates, disaggregated by sex.

Current Measure: 66 people including 16 female and 50 male participants passing the final exam of TOT/training in CBDRM and CBDRA for LGA, MO, CBO staff at commune/ward levels.

Indicator #4: Percentage of people trained who retain skills and knowledge after two months

Current Measure: 81% of the participants retain knowledge on CBDRM and CBDRA 2 months after training

Sub-sector 2: Building Community Awareness/Mobilization

Indicator #1: Number of people participating in training, disaggregated by sex

Current Measure: 933 people including 439 female and 494 male participants trained in First aid, PEER CADRE, shelter protection techniques.

Indicator #2: Percentage of people trained who retain skills and knowledge after two months

Current Measure: 99% of the participants retain knowledge on CBDRM and climate change 2 months after training

Indicator #3: Percentage of attendees at joint planning meetings who are from the local community

Current Measure: no activity this quarter

Indicator #4: Early warning system in target community is in place for all major hazards with appropriate outreach to communities (Y/N)

Current Measure: 1 target ward have improved EWS

Indicator #5: Percentage of community members who received at least one early warning message from at least one source prior to a disaster occurring

Current Measure: no activity this quarter

Sub-sector 3: Policy and Planning

Indicator #1: Number of hazard risk reduction plans, strategies, policies, disaster preparedness, and contingency plans developed and in place

Current Measure: no activity this quarter

Indicator #2: Number of people participating in discussions regarding national risk reduction strategies as a result of the program, disaggregated by sex

Current Measure: no activity this quarter

Indicator #3: Number of communities and stakeholders involved in the development of plans, policies, and strategies

Current Measure: 2930 people participated in developing Disaster Preparedness and Prevention plan at commune/ward level

Indicator #4: National and local risk assessment, hazards data and vulnerability information is available

within targeted areas (Y/N)

Current Measure: no activity this quarter

Sub-sector 4: Integration/Enhancement within Education Systems and Research

Indicator #1: Number of DRR curricula developed, by educational level (e.g. primary, secondary, post-secondary)

Current Measure: no activity this quarter

Indicator #2: Number of students educated on DRR, disaggregated by sex

Current Measure: 1442 students including 737 female and 705 male trained on DRR

Indicator #3: Number of DRR-related programs established within educational institutions

Current Measure: 4 small scale projects implemented in schools to improve safety as identified by assessment

II. Project Overview

Goal:

Vulnerable populations and local government authorities has increased resilience to natural hazard risks, reducing potential loss of life and assets due to extreme climate events.

Aims: To develop the disaster risk reduction (DRR) and climate change adaptation (CCA) capacity of a range of stakeholders through a sustainable partnership to enhance safer and more resilient communities in 4 provinces in Viet Nam.

Objective One: Local government authorities, mass organizations and community based organizations have improved capacities to reduce disaster risk.

Objective Two: Vulnerable Households in selected communes and wards increase their resilience to natural hazards

Objective Three: Targeted primary and lower secondary schools utilize the safe schools framework in both rural and urban communes/wards

III. Progress to Date and Analysis (from 1st April to 30 June 2016):

As outlined in the proposal for the current phase of the project, each consortium partner, with the exception of HelpAge International, is a technical lead (TL) for a sub-sector. The American Red Cross (ARC), Catholic Relief Services (CRS), Save the Children, and Plan International are designated Technical Leads for sub-sectors in which they have distinctive comparative advantage.

Roles and responsibilities applicable to all Technical Leads:

- Take part in the regular Technical Lead planning and coordination meetings.
- Coordinate with Consortium partners to collect existing materials – such as for training events, behavioral change communication, baseline, end line and household surveys – from partners and other sources, relevant to their technical lead focus.
- Work with partners to identify common activity sub-components, or ‘minimum standards’, to be

used consistently throughout the project area by all partners in the specific subsector.

- Promote sharing of human, material and technical resources and the development of a technical support mechanism among Consortium partners.
- Coordinate and collect documentation within appropriate technical area, for the Consortium Lead (ARC) to synthesize for learning, communication and advocacy purposes.

During this reporting period, as activities are being rolled out more fully, the technical leads have taken more active roles in ensuring more consistent approaches among partners in implementing key activities, and offering technical support where needed. Save the Children, as TL for Building Community Awareness/Mobilization, led meetings and communication to develop minimum standards and key messages for communication events. Plan International, as TL for Integration/Enhancement within Education Systems and Research, shared the recommended Safe School Framework (SSF) manual and IEC materials with other consortium partners and also provided technical support for CRS in developing a TOR for recruiting a consultant for SSF training and assessment. As the TL for SSF, Plan International has taken the leading role in working with Ministry of Education and Training (MOET) to revise the comprehensive SS framework as well as to develop guidelines for implementation. CRS, as TL for Capacity Building and Training, shared training material with consortium partners as well as other CBDRM/A related documents and information, such as roles and responsibilities of Technical Support Groups (TSGs) and names of recommended CBDRM/A trainers. ARC/VNRC, as TL for Policy and Planning, organized several meetings to share and discuss the *“Guideline for Integration of DRR/CCA into SEDP at commune level”* with consortium partners. In activities where the RC is the lead (e.g. EWS audit and PEER/CADRE training), ARC/VNRC has provided technical support and trainings to consortium partners and their sub-partners.

In addition to coordination of technical leads, consortium partners are meeting regularly on a monthly basis, and on a quarterly basis with sub-partners to discuss progress, challenges and planning.

Objective 1: Local government authorities, mass organizations and community-based organizations have improved capacities to reduce disaster risk

- **Achievements:**
 - Technical Support Group (TSG) and Community Groups (CG) were established this quarter:
 - Quang Tri province: 1 TSG with 27 members (23 men and 4 women) from different relevant agencies and organizations at provincial level; In Dakrong district, 1 TSG with total 26 members (including 5 women)
 - Quang Nam: 7 commune TSGs and 47 Village CBGs were established in Thang Binh, Dien Ban district
 - Quang Nam & Quang Ngai provinces: TSGs and CBGs in 2 wards (Truong Quang Trong and Phuoc Hoa); Total 17 members in TSGs and 107 members of CBG of whom 33 are female, accounting for 27%
 - Trainings completed:
 - 4-day TOT on CBDRM/CBDRA in urban context for selected Red Cross/DMC certified CBDRM/VCA trainers from 10-13 June in Da Nang with participation of 20 selected Red Cross/DMC certified CBDRM/VCA trainers
 - 5-day training for 30 training of facilitators (TOFs) (female: 5; male: 25) for TSGs, mass organizations (MO), and head of villages in Thang Binh and Dien Ban districts. Two month post test showed knowledge retention rate of 82%; Once CBDRA were completed, 37 TOFs conducted 1,128 FGDs and KIIs with 2,930 household

representatives (female: 1,400, male: 1,530) to develop 47 village CBDRR plans, which will be later consolidated for the commune NDPC plans

- Two TOTs (1 at provincial and 1 at district level) on CBDRM in Quang Tri province targeting TSG members and representatives from the various levels of government
- Two trainings in Quang Nam for 67 participants (female: 7; male: 60), trainings for 10 targeted communes in Quang Tri for 64 participants (18 women) and two trainings in Quang Ngai for 51 participants (16% F, 84% M) on how to integrate DRR and climate change into SEDP; Participants included members of TSGs, local authorities and people in charge of SEDP planning from district and commune agencies

- **Challenges this quarter:**

- Project progress was impacted by the nationwide election during the third week of May 2016. Local government agencies were busy the week before and week after the election for preparations and completion of the event.
- Local authorities were not available for some trainings because they were busy responding to a drought disaster and a massive fish die-off off the Central Coast, including Quang Tri, Quang Ngam, and Ha Tinh provinces, during the reporting period.
- Delays in signing Partnership Agreements in Quang Nam and Quang Ngai for Save the Children, and the unavailability of technical consultant for CBDRM trainings of provincial TSGs, have pushed these trainings to early July 2016.

Objective 2: Vulnerable Households in selected communes and wards increase their resilience to natural hazards

- **Achievements**

- 43 local masons and village heads (male: 43) from Dien Ban and Thang Binh attended training on flood and storm resistant shelter techniques mastering basic knowledge of construction principles and disaster-resistant shelter, techniques on disaster-resistant shelter fortification. Post-test results showed 67% of participants passed the examination. Participants who did not pass the examination will attend two trainings organized for TSG and households in July 2016.
- 16 of 28 CADRE trainings conducted including 2 CADRE trainings for selected wards in Quang Nam and Quang Ngai under VNRC/ARC project site, 10 CADRE trainings for 10 target communes of Plan International's project site, and 4 trainings for CRS's project location with a total of 387 participants (97 female and 290 male participants). All trainings were facilitated by VNRC certified experienced CADRE instructors from Quang Nam, Quang Ngai, Ha Tinh, Quang Binh, Hue and Binh Dinh provinces. Support of VNRC CADRE instructors for OFDA Consortium partners was well coordinated by VNRC Project Management Board to ensure effective project progress and quality of the trainings.
- Rescue supplies were procured and handed over to ERTs in Phuoc Hoa (Quang Ngai) and Truong Quang Trong ward (Quang Nam), ready for simulations/drills and response for upcoming storm season.
- Based on the EWS audit results conducted in 3 wards of Nam Ha, Phuoc Hoa and Truong Quang Trong in previous quarter, the Chapters have started the bidding process for early warning system improvement. EWS improvement equipment has been handed over to ward LGA in Quang Ngai for installment, including improvement of loudspeaker system, provision of megaphones, FM receiver and amplifier.

- Two-month retention testing in Ha Tinh province shows 99.2% of people retained knowledge from training on CBDRR and climate change. Many participants taking the test indicated that the knowledge gained from the training is very practical and is very easy for them to use and share with many people in their ISHCs and communities – which also is the reason why they retain the knowledge very well.
- Eight trainings in Ha Tinh for FA, care and evacuation were conducted in five project sites with total of 503 participants. 99.8% of participants scored 70% or higher in the post test. Participants stated that the knowledge and skills gained were very practical and suitable for their understanding and experience.
- 80 ISHCs conducted 526 communication events in Ha Tinh province for total of 17,226 people, of which 73% were women. Most common CBDRR topics were older people and PWD in emergency response, emergency kits and basic first aid skills. Methodology used were 7 steps of effective communication trained by HelpAge.
- To respond to needs of the most vulnerable (severely disabled and older old) in 80 target villages, 80 emergency buddy systems were established and they have received good feedback from LGA and target communities. Total of 655 emergency buddy volunteers were recruited and trained to take care of 433 beneficiaries, of which 187 were people with severe disability or bedridden (at least 5 beneficiaries in one ISHC/buddy system). The emergency buddy system gives support to the most disadvantaged people in the targeted communities by providing:
 - CBDRR and CCA information
 - Homecare (before, during and after an emergency)
 - Small scale mitigation activities (house repair, house strengthen, cut branches, prepare emergency kits and others)
 - Living support (water containers, food, blanket, lamps and others)
 - Protection
- 80 IDPTs carried out 80 EWS audits in their villages and commune. Most common issues found were: lack of loud speaker to properly cover the entire village/commune, not enough water level measure systems/tools, lack of warning signs in disaster prone areas and most of the vulnerable groups do not have easy access to the early warning messages or news through the public EWS. These issues were recorded and shared with the LGA. IDPTs will continue to work with LGAs to make the suggested EWS improvement in the next quarter.
- **Challenges this quarter:**
 - PEER/CADRE trainings in Quang Tri province was more challenging due to the low education level of ERT members, most of whom are ethnic minorities, with some unable to read and write. Consortium will rethink its strategy towards working with these target groups.
 - Government staff have not taken an active role in coordination and monitoring of trainee participation resulting in absenteeism in trainings. Moving forward, consortium partners will work more closely with LGAs to resolve this issue.

Objective 3: Targeted primary and lower secondary schools utilize the Safe Schools framework in both rural and urban communes/wards

- **Achievements**
 - TOT on Safe School Framework (SSF) conducted to introduce the MOET Action Plan on DRR in education sector, understand the comprehensive Safe school framework and how to establish a safer school:

- Quang Ngai province from 21-23 April for 23 trainees (13%F, 87%M) and in Quang Nam province from 15-17 June for 25 trainees (16%F, 84%M)
- Quang Tri province from 28-29 April, 2016 for 19 educators from Department of Education and training (DOET) and 9 staff members from Red Cross with total of 28 participants (including 21 women). 100% of trainees passed post-training testing (with a score of 80% or more) with a good understanding of safe school framework and good practices of VCA.
- Classes for 4th and 5th graders:
 - In Quang Nam, total of 332 students (female: 130; male: 202) learned about DRR/CCA topics including: what to do before, during and after common disasters at home/community and school, basic concepts of climate change (definitions of climate, weather, greenhouse gas and climate change), what to do to protect environment and response to climate change (planting trees, garbage sorting, saving energy and paper, not using nylon bag, etc.). Classes were followed by additional activities to reinforce their knowledge, including a drawing contest and a golden bell ringing contest.
 - In wards of Ha Tinh, Quang Nam and Quang Ngai, classes have been completed for total of 1,110 students, of whom 575 were female and 535 male.
 - Following completion of classes, school CCA/DRR day was conducted in 4 target primary schools, aiming at raising awareness of students, teachers, parents and local people living around schools on safe school and climate change. Activities include music performance, role plays, competitions, drawings, first aid practices, story-telling, etc. Events were recorded and posted on mass media for visibility and awareness raising purposes. There were total of 2,632 participants, of whom 1,352 were female and 1,280 were male. In addition, 1,200 DP booklets were also provided to schools and distributed to students to bring home for sharing and raising awareness on DP knowledge among family members and neighbors.
- School assessments conducted:
 - Two schools in Quang Nam completed their SSF assessment by using the tools and guidelines developed by UNESCO and MOET. The plans with “hardware” and “software” activities aimed at building safer learning and teaching environments for students and teachers have been developed.
 - Two primary schools in Quang Ngai completed assessments with total of 77 participants including 49 female and 28 male. Safe school assessment reports, showing recommendations and follow-up actions to improve school safety, were approved. Recommendations included provision of rescue supplies for teachers and students, first aid kits, loudspeakers systems for early warning, etc. Procurement was completed and supplies handed over to schools. This activity is significant because it helps not only the project team but also the school population (teachers, board members, students and parents) to better understand different risks that their school faces and they can develop proper actions to reduce those risks.
- **Challenges this quarter:**
 - No challenges this quarter

Reasons why established targets were not met, if applicable, and how it will impact the objective.

n/a

IV. Plans for Next Quarter

Please see Annex 1 for consolidated workplan.

V. Staffing

Personnel Type	Personnel Requirements	Positions Currently Filled	Comments
Expatriate Staff	3	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Diane Francisco, ARC Vietnam Country Representative (arrived Nov 2015)• Chau Lai, ARC Resilience Delegate• Dr. Ian Wilderspin, DRR/CCA Consultant (part-time)
Local Staff	2	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dao Phi Hung, ARC Senior Program Officer• Vu Hoang Khanh Linh, ARC Program Officer
VNRC HQ Staff	5	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dang Minh Chau, Steering committee member• Ha Thai Binh, Project Manager• Nguyen Vinh Hoa, Senior Project Officer• Phi Ho Anh Tuan, Project Assistant• Pham Thi Thanh Hue, Finance Officer
Provincial Chapter Staff	9	9	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Each of 3 Red Cross Chapter consists of 01 Project Manager, 01 Project Officer and 01 Finance Officer
District Branch Staff	3	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1 Representative per District RC Branch
Commune RC Staff	6	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2 Representative per Ward/Commune RC Branch

General staffing issues:

In June 2016, Mr. Le Gia Tien, Head of Healthcare Department, was nominated to be Project Manager replacing Mr. Ha Thai Binh, Former VNRC Project Manager, who retired in May 2016. VNRC sent an official notification letter of the change to ARC, as well as to the Decision of Establishment of Project Management Board of VNRC.

VI. Cross-Cutting Themes

Gender and social inclusion are consistently included in many activities conducted through the project. In order to enhance the participation and pro-active role of persons with disabilities (PWDs) in project activities, particularly those focused on DRR/CBDRM, Plan International recommended to the People's Committee at the provincial level in Quang Tri to add a representative of DPO in the provincial TSG. It is expected that more needs and potential participation of PWDs would be identified and integrated during implementation of the project.

HelpAge emphasizes gender mainstreaming and inclusion of older persons and persons with disability (PWD) through activities such as the following:

a) *First aid, care and evaluation trainings:*

- *Participants:* HelpAge made sure that at least 50% of participants in the trainings are women (the actual was 68%)
- *Training content:* There are many topics related to first aid in emergency NCDs which are common diseases found in older people and people with disability and there are many care topic for people with disability in emergency.

b) *Working with LGA to give input on commune annual DRR plan:*

Local partners and ISHC/IDPTs work with LGA to give inputs and comments on their commune annual DRR plan in order to make sure that vulnerable groups (older people, people with disability, pregnant women, children) are fully included. The success is seen in 50 out of 80 villages and 17 out of 40 communes. The other local partners and IDPTs are still working with LGA to make the changes in other villages and commune.

c) *Giving input for government guidelines on the first draft guideline on gender mainstreaming in CBDRM*

d) *Providing awareness raising in DRR and CCA focusing on gender:*

Up to date there are 17, 226 people in 80 targeted villages participating in IDPT/ISHC communication events, of which 73% are women.

e) *Providing support to the most advantaged people in the community through emergency buddy system*

80 emergency buddy systems were establish focusing on helping the most disadvantaged people in targeted communities, most of whom are weak older people, people with disability, bedridden and the poor.

VII. Success Stories:

None to date.

VIII. Annexes

Annex 1: Consolidated Workplan for Next Quarter

Annex 2: Indicator Tracking Table