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Building Child-Centered Disaster Resilient Communities in Kon Tum Province Central Highlands, Vietnam

Annual Results Report

Fiscal Year 2012

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

CBDRM	Community-based Disaster Risk Management
CCA	Climate Change Adaptation
CFSC	Committees for Flood and Storm Control
DMC	Disaster Management Center
DMWG	Disaster Management Working Group
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
FY	Fiscal Year
KAP	Knowledge, Attitudes, and Practices
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
PBR	Performance Baseline Report
PMB	Project Management Board
PPC	Provincial People’s Committee
ToT	Training of Trainers
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VCA	Vulnerability Capacity Assessments

I. PROJECT SUMMARY

Vietnam is one of the most disaster-prone countries in the world, ranking fourth out of 162 countries in terms of human exposure to floods, and tenth out of 89 countries in terms of exposure to cyclones according to one World Bank report.¹ The economic loss caused by natural disasters is estimated at 1.5% of Vietnam's GDP.² For children and their families in disaster prone communities, experience and indigenous coping mechanisms are increasingly inadequate to protect them when disasters strike. Isolated and often marginalized ethnic minorities face even greater vulnerabilities. The Government of Vietnam introduced the National Strategy and National Program of Community Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM). However, while provincial level planning processes are currently underway, there is little effective coordination or communication between the center and lower levels. Capacity building measures and investment in local preparedness measures and protocols to develop and support the strategy and CBDRM is also weak.

In response, the *Building Child-Centered Disaster Resilient Communities in Kon Tum Province Central Highlands, Vietnam* funded by the United States Agency for International Development's Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA) and being implemented by Plan International is working to increase the resilience and capacities of vulnerable populations (especially ethnic minorities and children) and relevant local institutions to better prepare for, mitigate, and respond to the impact of natural disasters.

The expected results of the project include:

- (1) Local populations (children, ethnic minorities and wider community) living in disaster prone areas have increased awareness of local disaster risks and coping mechanisms;
- (2) Ten communes have increased preparedness to cope with and respond to disaster risk with participatory planning, enhanced early warning systems and small-scale mitigation works at local level;
- (3) Local authorities (at Provincial; District and Commune level) in Kon Tum Province have increased capacity to implement CBDRM in line with the national program on CBDRM; and
- (4) CBDRM & Climate Change Adaptation best practices documented in the province and contributed to national CBDRM program in collaboration with other INGOs working on CBDRM in Vietnam.

By the end of the project (May 2013) the project will have engaged 10 communes in two districts of Kon Tum Province in developing greater resilience to disasters while covering critical gaps in the effective implementation of Vietnam's National Program on CBDRM.

II. SUMMARY OF RESULTS

During the four months of implementation in FY12, the project made significant progress in laying the groundwork for the rapid roll-out of community and institution-level disaster risk reduction (DRR)

¹ PreventionWeb net – Disaster Statistics, 2009

² World Bank, *Weathering the Storm: Options for Disaster Risk Financing in Vietnam*, 2010

capacity building activities beginning in the first quarter of FY13. Among the results achieved to date include: (1) engaging, assessing, and gaining OFDA approval of Project Management Boards (PMBs) who will lead community-level activities in six communes; (2) completing the Knowledge, Attitudes, and Practice (KAP) survey and Performance Baseline Report; (2) consolidating IEC awareness raising materials developed by local actors; (3) developing the training curriculum for community and school-based ‘communication groups’; (4) meeting with local officials to begin the process of forming the CBDRM groups; and (5) working with the Disaster Management Center (DMC) to develop the training package for the training of trainers (ToT) on local action planning around the CBDRM. With the bulk of implementation scheduled over the next two quarters of FY13, Plan expects the project to be on track by January 2013. Please see the Implementation Timeline developed during a Plan USA HQ Backstop start-up visit to the project in October 2012 (*Annex A*). The attached timeline details the intended schedule for activities and the project’s returning to schedule.

III. RESULTS BY OBJECTIVE

Sector: Natural and Technological Risks

Sub-sector: Disaster Preparedness, Mitigation, and Management

Objective: To reduce vulnerability and increase the coping capacities of populations living in areas most affected by recurrent natural disasters in Kon Tum province in the Central Highlands of Vietnam.

Performance against indicators	Target	Achieved
Number of beneficiaries by objective (reporting period)	0	0
Number of beneficiaries by objective (cumulative)	0	0
Number of internally displaced persons reached	0	0

Performance against OFDA required indicators

Indicators	Target	Achieved (Reporting Period)	Achieved (Cumulative)
Number of people trained in disaster preparedness, mitigation, and management	320	0 ³	0
Number and percent of beneficiaries retaining disaster preparedness, mitigation, and management knowledge two months after training	10,000 beneficiaries; 75% of those trained	0 ⁴	0
Number of hazard risk reduction plans, policies or curriculum developed	10	0	0

³Trainings began in the first quarter of FY13 and will be reported on in the coming quarterly progress report.

⁴ This indicator is schedule to be assessed as part of the project’s final KAP survey in Spring 2013.

Result 1. Local populations (women, children, ethnic minorities and wider community) living in disaster prone areas have increased awareness of local disaster risks and coping mechanisms.

Performance against indicators	Baseline	Target	Achieved (Reporting Period)	Achieved (Cumulative)
Percentage of adults and children who know the local hazard risks and can identify contingency measures to adopt in case of disaster	50%	75% of adults and children (50% are women and girls)	0	0
Percentage of children in schools know the local hazard risks and can identify appropriate contingency measures	37%	80% of children in 22 schools	0	0
Number of schools utilizing child friendly IEC materials developed	0	48	0	0
Number of people (including women and children) involved in and exposed to awareness raising and communications events (boys, girls, men and women)	0	10,000	0	0
Participatory video broadcasted at provincial TV	N/A	Completed	0	0

Under Result 1, the project is working with target communities to establish and strengthen communities knowledge, awareness, and capacity to mitigate and respond to future disasters. Activities under this result will include forming and training Communication Groups in effective communication techniques, and involving women, minorities, and children responsible for leading local discussions in communities and schools on disaster preparedness and mitigation measures. With the support of the project, the groups will be equipped with posters, evacuation maps, flip charts, and an adapted Riskland game. Finally, the groups will collaborate to produce a participatory video/radio production on DRR/climate change adaptation (CCA) vulnerabilities affecting children and their communities.

In FY12, the project worked with other Disaster Management Working Group (DMWG) members to consolidate existing awareness raising IEC materials, including those from the Vietnam Red Cross, Oxfam, ADPC, CECI, CARE, and Save the Children, as well as from Plan itself. Set to be finalized and printed in the first quarter of FY13, the project will pilot the following IEC materials:

- Flipcharts illustrating hazards, the impact of disasters, and preparedness and mitigation measures (for both students and local people as targeted groups);
- Household disaster preparedness plans;
- Riskland game (for school and students as targeted groups);
- Picture booklet on DRR targeting at children; and
- DRR calendar targeting at household level.

In preparation for the forming of Communication groups in the communes, Plan has completed the training curriculum and identified participants including staff from school, women unions, youth unions, Department of Education, the standing office of Committees for Flood and Storm Control (CFSC), Red Cross, Department of Agriculture and Rural Development at the commune, district and provincial level. The formation of the groups and the trainings were completed in the first quarter of FY13.

Finally, the ToR and call for tenders was produced for the external consultant who will support the development of the participatory video. Plan DRR/CCA Senior Program Manager, who is trained in the production of participatory videos, will work directly with the consultant to provide technical support for the children to produce the video. The production is expected to take three months, slated to begin in November 2012.

Result 2. Ten (10) communes have increased preparedness to cope with and respond to disaster risk.

Performance against indicators	Baseline	Target	Achieved (Reporting Period)	Achieved (Cumulative)
Number of local community based disaster management groups established trained, and equipped to respond to an emergency and recognized by the wider community	0	10 organizations with 400 people	0	0
Number of Emergency response teams in 8 communes and in 16 schools (600) trained and equipped with appropriate emergency supplies and equipment, and are known to the rest of the community	0	10 communes; 22 schools	0	0
Number of contingency plans in place and verified; with community led mitigation projects done in selected communities and schools by the end of the project	0	22 at school level, 80 village and 10 at commune level	0	0
Number of schools have satisfactory preparedness capacity: Conducting regular drills, evacuations routes mapped	0	22	0	0

Under Result 2, the project will increase commune and institution level capacity to cope with and respond to disasters through disaster risk management activities including participatory assessments, small scale mitigation work, and installation of a local early warning system. Activities that will provide examples of good practice for district and provincial stakeholders to consider when they implement Component Two of the National Program on CBDRM, which focuses on early warning systems, community based vulnerability capacity assessments (VCAs), and preparedness and mitigation planning.

In FY12, the project organized sharing meetings with commune officials to recommend the establishment of the community-based disaster management groups. The criteria for member selection, roles, and responsibilities will be discussed during an orientation workshop with

representatives of provincial, district, and commune partner officials in October 2012. Formation of the groups is expected to be finalized in the first quarter of FY13.

Plan also organized discussion meetings with commune officials in charge of emergency response, including mass organizations (Red Cross, and Youth and Women Unions) and village chiefs, to discuss the gap in availability of emergency equipment. A proposed list of equipment will be considered in the coming year.

Result 3. Local authorities in Kon Tum Province have increased capacity to implement CBDRM in line with the national program on CBDRM.

Performance against indicators	Baseline	Target	Achieved (Reporting Period)	Achieved (Cumulative)
CFSC representatives from 3 provinces oriented on the Implementation Plan of the National Strategy in inter-provincial orientation session	N/A	Completed	0	0
Number of Provincial trainers have demonstrated training capacity in CBDRM; and are conducting community level trainings to roll out the national strategy	0	25 Trainers	0	0
One exposure visit conducted with and key learnings documented	N/A	Completed	0	0

Under Result 3, the project will support the formation and capacity building of key technical staff from CFSC, Red Cross, Women's Union, Youth Union, and Department of Education and Training (DoET) at the provincial- and district-levels to play an active role in VCA, M&E, and local capacity building efforts. Building the capacity of the responsible persons in action planning will ensure the continued implementation of the National CBDRM program at the Provincial level beyond this project, important for the transition from the project to local ownership of critical CBDRM work in Kon Tum.

In FY12, Plan has been working with the DMC, in charge of the implementation of the National Program on CBDRM, on the development of the DRR/CCA training package and curriculum (including the training plan, agenda, methodology and evaluation form). Currently, the training curriculum is being revised based on the DMC's existing approved package of technical documents. The package will be utilized in the ToT course in Kon Tum during the last week of October and will be shared with the DMC and other INGOs including Save the Children and CARE among others. In order to roll out the ToT course, Plan engaged the provincial CFSC office to identify participants and agreed to hold the course during the last week of October 2012. Red Cross staff, together with Plan's DRM Senior Program Manager will be the trainers.

Result 4. CBDRM and CCA best practices with gender and age sensitivity documented in the province and contributed to national CBDRM program in collaboration with other INGOs.

Performance against indicators	Baseline	Target	Achieved (Reporting Period)	Achieved (Cumulative)
Findings of project shared at provincial level, among Districts in Kon Tum, and among national level actors	N/A	70% of Districts and 2 national DRM platforms	N/A	N/A
Presentations on project findings and best practice at the national level	N/A	Completed	N/A	N/A
Number of cross district exchange visits/meetings held across Plan locations, and in other DRR agencies	N/A	10 exchanges and in 3 DRR agencies	N/A	N/A

Under Result 4, the project will measure the outcomes of project activities and consolidate learning for wider dissemination. This work will capture the engagement, changes, and improvements in understanding of vulnerabilities, practices, and behaviors among the target population, disaggregated by gender and age. Together with the findings of the final evaluation and other lessons learned and practices gathered during the project cycle, the outcomes measured will be shared and presented to the National program on CBDRM with the snapshot of highland CBDRM program.

In FY12, the project completed the baseline KAP study and PBR, which are being used to advise project implementation and will be used for comparison going forward.

IV. CHALLENGES

Following award, to improve local ownership, the project elected to engage local PMBs to lead activities in six of the communes. As a result, the project mobilization was protracted to allow for the engagement, assessing, and gaining OFDA approval of the PMBs recognized as sub-grantees. Though not initially planned, given the sensitivity of bilateral funding in the Central Highlands, as well as the desire to operate in a manner familiar to local stakeholders and partners, the PMBs offer a means to better engage the local communities and their officials, while also improving their acceptance of the project and its funding source.

These steps have now been completed and the PMBs are now beginning community-level activities in the first quarter of FY13. In addition, the Plan USA HQ backstop conducted a start-up visit in the first quarter of the fiscal year, training the project team on USG rules and regulations and supported them in the elaboration of programmatic and financial planning processes.

V. MONITORING AND EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

Plan in Vietnam will work with relevant project stakeholders including provincial, district, commune levels as well as community and child groups to establish participatory M&E system. Simple tools to measure indicators of activities, outputs and results set in logical framework will be developed. Indicators will also refer to National Framework on Disaster Management and Mitigation and near future National Action Plan on Disaster Management and Mitigation to prove the policy engagement of the project results. The specific tools developed in the M&E plan will identify the good practices and lessons learned under the project. These will also be documented and shared with actors in the network, such as DMWG,

national platform on DRR, provincial level coordination meeting as well as broader national, regional and international forums through Plan's regional and global outreach.

When the monitoring plan is finalized in the coming quarter, other methods to encourage child-led and women-led participatory monitoring will be used to ensure the involvement of the project beneficiaries in this process (including through the use of photos and video to keep track of project implementation).

VI. COORDINATION

Plan has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the provincial People's Committee (PPC). The project has identified the Standing Office of CFSC at provincial level as the partner under this project. A number of meetings with the Standing Office of CFSC were held. Plan has submitted the request to the provincial People's Committee for the partner selection. At district and commune level, Plan staff has conducted formal meetings to introduce the project interventions and got consensus on the project implementation. At national level, Plan held discussions with the American Red Cross and Save the Children, both OFDA funding recipients, to ensure sharing and learning.

VII. PROCUREMENT

Plan will not procure any equipment under this award. Supplies including Emergency Preparedness Kits (100) and laptops (2) will be procured in FY13Q1 and be reported on in the coming quarterly report.

VIII. SUMMARY OF COST-EFFECTIVENESS

During the first 3 months of the project, Plan has completed the baseline survey. Other field activities are designed to be implemented from October onwards and it is supposed that the project will be on track from January 2013. Project spending has started primarily through payment of project staff salaries".

At this stage the current program structures and staffing remains appropriate to deliver the program outcomes, except for Plan DRM Program Manager who is projected to be on board by January 2013.

Key cost effectiveness identified to date includes:

- The consolidation and modification of existing IEC and training materials from current and previous Plan projects rather than developing entirely new materials for this program will help to reduce the cost for development and design; and
- Utilization of existing methodology and tool for the baseline survey resulted in the consultancy fee to be reduced.

Result 4. CBDRM and CCA best practices with gender and age sensitivity documented in the province and contributed to national Berm program in collaboration with other INGOs									
4.1. KAP Study									
Conduct KAP study	Ongoing								
4.2. Establish monitoring plan to collect lessons learned and best practice									
Develop monitoring plan	Complete								
Orient project team and partners on monitoring plan	Scheduled								
4.3. Conduct final evaluation to identify best practice in disaster preparedness									
Develop ToR and identify independent evaluator	Scheduled								
Conduct final evaluation	Scheduled								
4.4. Develop the child-led and women-led monitoring tool and process									
Identify 5 children and 3 women in each village to monitor implementation	Scheduled								
Equip monitors with camera and train on CBDRM, monitoring, and camera skills	Scheduled								
Produce lessons learned document	Scheduled								
Disseminate document to national and provincial stakeholders	Scheduled								
Conduct cross district exchange visits/meetings	Scheduled								
4.5. Document project materials, tools and methodologies to engage and advocate to national program on CBDRM									
Review and compile all tools utilized or developed by project	Scheduled								
Share tool package with provincial and national stakeholders	Scheduled								
Monitoring and Evaluation									
Performance Baseline Report Due	Complete	X	30-Aug						
Quarterly Financial Report Due				30-Oct					30-Apr
Quarterly Programmatic Report Due				30-Oct					30-Apr
FY12 Annual Report Due (1 Jun to Sep 30)	Complete					31-Dec			
FY12 Annual VAT Report									15-Apr