



Developing capacity to reduce vulnerability & poverty Central Viet Nam



Reducing vulnerability to natural hazards and climate change and poverty reduction are intimately linked issues in Central Viet Nam. Too many people still live at risk and face complex and unpredictable climate events.

Creating an environment in which people can live and work is fundamental to the development of communities and the region.

"Typhoons happen every year, and we just live with it and move on...."

*Do houses get damaged and rebuilt? "Yes every year..It'll cost us years of savings to get out our lives going again...poorer people like me might have no chance."
(Huynh Thi Kem – Danang, after Typhoon Ketsana 29 September 2009)*

Development Workshop France undertakes actions in Central Viet Nam that help families, communities, community leaders and civil society reduce vulnerability to natural disasters and climate change and develop the opportunities and a safer environment that contribute to poverty reduction.

- **'10 key points' of typhoon resistant construction – generic principles that apply to all types of housing using local resources.**
- **Safer houses mean safer families and safer livelihood resources, reducing poverty: since 1999, DWF has been helping people strengthen their home at 15-25% of the original construction cost.**
- **Wide-reaching participatory awareness rising to relay the core message: "Take preventive action".**
- **Credit for house strengthening; a programme for poor families in partnership with the Vietnam Bank for Social Policy.**
- **Safer schools and infrastructures: working alongside the communes of the province of Thua Thien Hue, schools, markets, cultural houses etc. have been reinforced against storm damage.**
- **Trained school teachers and children are mobilised to pass on the message: "Vaccinate your home against storms!"**
- **Local builders are trained to advise and assist families in reinforcing their homes and public buildings.**



Supporting commune People's Committees for disaster risk reduction

Assisting the People's Committee in partner communes to encourage preventive strengthening of houses and public building to resist cyclones. The DWF programme has encouraged inter-commune 'prevention' networking that builds on ten years work on disaster risk reduction, so that Communes now participate in sharing their experience with additional communes.

Working with provincial institutions

DWF assists the Provincial Committee for Flood and Storm Control and works with the Department of Construction in helping their promotion of safe construction techniques.

Preparing for the future - Establishing commune damage prevention action plans

DWF works with families and with the People's Committees to develop multi year action plans for prevention. DWF promotes democracy in the village decision making process to ensure equitable selection of partner families and a balanced gender approach.

Developing 'safe' construction skills

DWF trains local building brigades in all the communes where it works, to improve the general quality of building and in order to develop skills in disaster resistant construction. Trained builders work on local construction programmes that bring in revenue, and act as building advisers to families in the community.

Awareness rising - Making prevention a priority through participative animation

DWF makes information exchange and animation about the need for prevention against disaster a cross cutting priority, using popular media, theatre, concerts, inter commune boat races, mobile displays and school events and plays by children – anything that will lodge the prevention idea in long term memories!



Safer shelter & infrastructure

- **Retrofitting existing houses** to resist floods and cyclones
- Integrating hazard resistance into new construction
- Making public buildings safer
 - Since 1999 DWF has encouraged and supported the preventive strengthening of existing houses in central Viet Nam. Roughly 70% of rural housing has been rebuilt by families since 1985, but the quality is poor and the result unable to resist the effects of storms and floods. DWF helps families strengthen their existing home at an average extra cost of 15-25% of the total value of their house. By 2009, *2000 family homes* have been made stronger and have shown that they resist cyclones and floods.



Credit for safe and affordable houses

In 2008 DWF launched loans for house strengthening to inhabitants of Thua Thien Hue Province with the Vietnam Bank of Social Policy and partner communes. Families recognise the social and economic value of a resistant safe home and the contribution it makes to family stability and growth.

Access to safe schools and infrastructure

DWF partners with communes in Thua Thien Hue to strengthen existing public infrastructure and build safe new schools, markets, health facilities. At village level, providing kindergartens helps small children access early education.

Getting prevention into the school curriculum

DWF works with schools to train teachers about disaster prevention, and runs workshops with children about their concerns. Children are active in school and in the community in promoting the vulnerability reduction message.





AWARDS & RECOGNITION
Winner of the 1998 & 2008 World Habitat Award
Thua Thien Hué Certificate of Merit, 2008
UN ISDR Sasakawa Certificate of Distinction, 2009



Development Workshop works with the People's Committee of Thua Thien Hue province and the Flood and Storm Control Committee, the Thua Thien Hue Consulting & Designing Construction Company, and Commune authorities. DWF work builds on experience gained by DW in disaster and development related work in Viet Nam since 1989, including UNDP and Australian Aid supported projects in central and northern Viet Nam.

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Development Workshop France

Development Workshop France is a registered European non profit NGO working to improve the living conditions of the poor in less development communities, with more than 35 years experience working in Sub Saharan Africa and Central and South East Asia.

DWF is a specialist in the fields of urban and rural shelter and settlement amongst poor communities, developing local capacity and skills to address emerging issues and problems, and with a particular focus on the issues of environmental change and exposure to natural and man made hazards and the related issues of vulnerability. DWF respects indigenous knowledge and practice and has over decades used this as a starting point in identifying durable approaches to local problems.

DWF places an emphasis on interactive and participative communication and awareness rising.

DWF collaborates with local authorities and communities to develop sustainable solutions to collectively identified concerns.

DWF experience is broad, and covers the development of national and donor shelter and settlement strategies, urban planning, local resources and environmental management, disaster risk reduction, training and skills development that leading to income generation and affordable and durable homes and infrastructure that make optimum use of local human and material resources, the establishment of institutional, legal and financial support mechanisms including credit to ensure the continued operation of programme and actions after external support has ended.