

DMWG Monthly Meeting

Date: September 21, 2012; 9:30 – 12:00 am

Venue: NGO Resource Centre, La Thanh Hotel, 218 Doi Can Str, Ba Dinh Dist, Hanoi

Chair: Mr. Nguyen Van Gia – Save the Children

Participants: 21 representatives from Oxfam, Thanh Hoa Department of Foreign Affairs (DOFA), World Vision, Live & Learn, American Red Cross, PACCOM, Save the Children, CARE International, CBM, Plan International, UNICEF and CFSI.

Minutes taken by: Ha Quynh Nga (CARE)

Agenda:

- Flood situation in Thanh Hoa and the North Central provinces (Thanh Hoa, Nghe An, Ha Tinh, Quang Binh)
- Updates on the organization of the International DRR day (13th October)
- Other updates: Up-coming regional events (the 5th ASIAN MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON DISASTER RISK REDUCTION; Yogyakarta, October 22-25, 2012)
- Technical corner

Content:

A. THE FLOOD SITUATION OF THANH HOA PROVINCE IN EARLY SEPTEMBER 2012

1. An overview of the flood in Thanh Hoa – Mr. Nguyen Song Hoan, Director of Department of Foreign Affairs

- Thanh Hoa is located in North Central Region, is one of the most populous province in Vietnam (ranked 3rd), covering an area of 11,000 km² (ranked 5th)
- Thanh Hoa has 27 districts, towns and cities of which 11 are mountainous districts
- GDP per capital in 2011: US\$960 (= two thirds of the average of the Vietnam GDP per capital)
- A long coastal line 102 km has made Thanh Hoa one of 10 provinces most affected by natural disasters and climate change
- Thanh Hoa has an average of 2.4 typhoons per year. Mã river basin is strongly affected by flooding and flash floods.
- Salinity is a problem in coastal areas, which seriously affects local agriculture and aquaculture production
- The flood in early September 2012 caused damage of nearly 1,000 bill VND
- Thanh Hoa has received tremendous supports from the Vietnamese Central Government, VNGOs and INGOS in terms of DRR in the past few years

- Being a poor province which is frequently affected by disasters and climate change, Thanh Hoa needs assistance, especially from INGOs to recover from recent flooding.

2. Video: Footages of Thanh Hoa in flood

3. Summary of damages caused by the flood in early September – Presentation by Ms. Thuy Linh from Thanh Hoa DOFA

- 5 seriously affected districts are Thọ Xuân, Yên Định, Triệu Sơn, Nông Cống and Lang Chánh. **27** communes are hard-hit. Total damages around 907 billion VND
- A dead toll of **9** recorded
- The flood has caused losses to local agriculture production: **19,097 ha** of winter rice is flooded. **10,569 ha** totally destroyed. Other losses include sugarcane, vegetables, maize, poultry and cattle.
- Irrigation facilities severely impacted with **105** lakes flooded, many dams broken down, **1km** of dike overflowed. Seriously damaged districts are Quan Sơn and Ngọc Lặc
- **17** schools were under water; almost all school equipments such as furniture, books and other teaching equipments swept away by the flood water. Severely damaged districts : Thọ Xuân, Yên Định and Lang Chánh
- **93** houses were completely swept away by floodwater ; **127** collapsed; **7,265** flooded
- Transportation disrupted with a large number of inter-district, inter-commune and inter-village roads were submerged in deep water. **40,232 m³** national roads, **152,144 m³** provincial roads and **84,700 m³** district roads suffered from landslides.
- Aquaculture: **1,668 ha** area of aquaculture overflowed. **280** tons of fish of all kinds washed away by floodwater.
- Other damages: **37** poles of low voltage electricity grids fell down, disrupted access to electricity in many communes. Household wells were submerged in deep water, causing negative influences on domestic water supplies and on the hygiene of local people after the flood.

4. Assistance of state offices and social organizations

- Health sector provided medicaments to seriously flood-stricken districts.
- Central Red Cross provided 2,000,000 VND/household which has deceased; 40,000 water purification tablets; 159.000.000 VND, clothes and food;
- Fatherland Front provided 8,000,000 VND/deceased; 500,000 VND/flooded household and present boxes;
- Authorities of affected districts provided 23 tons of rice, 600 watertanks and necessities. Youth Newspaper provided 5,000,000 VND/deceased;

5. Proposal to international NGOs for help

- Providing food and necessities to flood victims.

- Providing books and school furniture to flooded schools.
- Providing resources to flood victims to restore food production.
- Helping to repair damaged transportation and irrigation systems.
- Helping flood victims to build clean water facilities.
- Providing scholarships to disadvantaged students affected by the flood.

6. Questions and answers

It is observed that there was no storm hitting Thanh Hoa. There is also no detailed report by UN on the situation. However, lingering rain has led to lot of damages and losses in the province. Nghe An, Ha Tinh, Quang Binh were also affected.

Q: Does Thanh Hoa have detailed figures of demand for food, furniture, clean water, ect. in flooded areas? How is the situation at the moment?

A: (Mr. Hoan from Thanh Hoa DOFA) Thanh Hoa was not so prepared before the flood. Unexpected heavy rain over a long time caused heavy damages in a large area. Estimated loss is around 1,000 bill VND. Thanh Hoa has called the Vietnamese GOV for emergency assistance, including: **3,000** tons of rice, **30** sets of medicine; seeds (**300** tons of corn, **20** tons of vegetable; **500** tons of rice); **150** bil VND for damaged dykes; and **100** bill VND for roads rebuild.

Up to present, Thanh Hoa hasn't had enough information on emergency aids from INGOs. Among them, World Vision has been active giving assistance in 7 sites of their Area Development Programs (ADPs). We recognized the importance of self-recovery; however, we are looking forward to assistance from other international organizations, businesses to help vulnerable people in those mountainous districts.

Q: What were WV's responses in Thanh Hoa?

A: (Ms. Hen from WV) WV's ADPs are now working in 7 districts of Thanh Hoa Province including Cẩm Thủy, **Lan Chánh, Bá Thước, Thường Xuân, Như Xuân**, Quan Hoa and Quan Sơn. So far, WV has provided:

- Food aids, HH kits, Learning kits, school equipments
- Budget spent: US\$ **26,500** – Responses are going on
- Has targeted: **1,309** HHs + **958** children

WV's scope of work focuses much on ADP areas, on continued education for children and promoting integration of DRR/CC. WV is organizing International DRR day in Thanh Hoa city and Hoang Hoa district this October.

Q: How many severely damaged districts are not in WV's ADP? Possibilities for budget increase?

A: Given many districts affected by the flood, WV has aided only ones in ADP area. Many others are not supported. Since financial year of 2012 is ending, budget for flood relief is not yet confirmed.

Q: In existing program areas, has WV had any data/estimation on local demand for food (livelihood related); houses and shelters (unsafe houses and totally damaged); sanitation and health?

A: WV does not have specific data on how many weeks local folks can survive without food assistance or have detailed plan in the coming month. However, WV has been working closely with the authorities at commune and district levels to identify specific needs of flood victims.

In terms of houses repair, it is not WV's focus. We prioritize aiding children, helping them continue going to school. In terms of livelihood support, WV will surely have 3-5% budget of ADPs for emergency and disaster responses (e.g, provide free seeds). Regarding health issue, there are not concrete actions yet but health/sanitation is part of ADP activities.

Q: Can WV provide assistance to localities outside its ADP areas?

A: It's up to the seriousness of the situation. In some cases, ADPs can decide level of emergency responses. In other cases, National Office makes final decision.

Q: How many % can WV cover emergency need?

A: Cannot confirm. Even local districts haven't calculated all losses.

Q: (to Thanh Hoa DOFA) The average rainfall from 7th – 10th Sept is 108mm, which was pretty low. Why there were too many damages? Is that early warning was not effective or any other reasons?

A: That average rainfall figure is not accurate. There was heavy rain already from 1st to 7th of September. The actual average rainfall was above 240 mm. In some specific places, it was much higher (e.g Trieu Son: 521mm; Ngoc Lac: 524 mm)

Because most damages are in infrastructure, Thanh Hoa is proposing to get supports from central government. WV has been very active and in-time in responding to emergencies. We really appreciate if CARE, Oxfam and other organizations which are having DRR projects in Thanh Hoa can mobilize resources to aid districts affected by the flood.

Q: Current situation of flooding villages? Viewpoint of Thanh Hoa province on INGOs' participation in quick flood impact assessment?

A: Thanh Hoa welcomes INGOs to join in assessing the flood impacts. DOFA will give full support and act as a liaison between INGOs and local districts/communes.

Due to lack of preparation before the flood, we could not pump the water. 2 villages, Quang Phu, Cat Thuong – Tho Xuan districts are still under water. In Nong Cong, 5 communes are still flooded. As it

keeps raining, water lowers slowly. Up to now, 127 houses were totally damaged, 8000 flooded. We need to provide shelters those whose houses were destroyed.

PACCOM:

There is a need to have a comprehensive report on the situation of the flood. Report formats of provinces and NGOs are different. It's difficult to require Thanh Hoa to have accurate figures on the need of flood victims at the moment.

Thanh Hoa should have a daily update of emergency assistances from INGOs (eg: RC, WV...). PACCOM proposes to have a quick assessment (3-4 districts to be selected). PACCOM needs to improve capacity building (e.g, develop a template to fill in with damage data) & will have an open letter to all INGOs. Organizations which are running projects in Thanh Hoa should cooperate to support Thanh Hoa in flood relief.

Discussion themes:

1. Should we have an assessment trip to Thanh Hoa & Nghe An? Nghe An, Ha Tinh, Quang Binh were also affected by the flood. Damages up to 10 Sep 2012 in Nghe An were even heavier than in Thanh Hoa.
2. Do we need any legal support from PACCOM? (paper procedures)

Q: Thanh Hoa has presented a very comprehensive report on the flood situation. 4 districts seriously damaged. Is there any preliminary assessment on crop damage and its consequence to food securities?

A: Tho Xuan and Nong Cong are main rice production areas in Thanh Hoa. Dyke broken in Tho Xuan, which has never happened before will reduce 20% productivity of the province (estimated rice yield of Thanh Hoa is 1.6 mill tons/year). In recovering rice production, Thanh Hoa has asked government to support foods and 500 tons of rice seeds.

INGOs are very welcome to join Thanh Hoa province to conduct an impact assessment, as they have better assessment tools.

Comment: (Mr. Tuan SC) INGOs mission is helping out local people. If INGOs carry out flood impact assessment, this may create expectation from local people. Another problem is that news on the flood in Thanh Hoa has not been fully updated on TV and mass media, which makes it difficult in fundraising. If reported figures are correct, it is possible to have interventions.

Poverty rate in Thanh Hoa is higher than national average rate. Flood impact assessment is necessary but we need to avoid too much expectation from district and commune authorities.

Comment: (Mr. Viet Oxfam) INGOs need to have more information from Thanh Hoa province.

Comment: (PACCOM) PACCOM has underestimated the consequences of the flood => lack of appropriate responses. In order to help INGOs get more information, PACCOM will send out an open

letter to donors; improve coverage of the flood on mass media to facilitate the involvement of INGOs in a quick flood impact assessment.

Comment: (Mr. Thuy *CARE*) Infrastructure and crops are most affected by the flood. According to our updated news from Thanh Hoa, relief activities after flooding are pretty ok now. It's necessary to pay more attention to relief in the long-term (3 -12 months).

Chair: Ket luan – Tuy theo quy che cua PACCOM: day la 1 co hoi de cac to chuc

B. UPDATES ON THE CELEBRATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL DRR DAY (13TH OCTOBER)

- International Day for Disaster Reduction: “Women and Girls: the [in]Visible Force of Resilience” 13th October 2012
- Many orgs have registered to join DRR day with activities in Thanh Hoa, Nghe An, Quang Tri, Thai Binh, Dong Thap, Ha Noi.
- Oxfam has contributed videos, clips for the movie on DRR day
- Many others submitted stories and provided inputs with preparations for the day

C. MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON DISASTER RISK REDUCTION: YOGYAKARTA, 22-25 OCT 2012

There will be an important conference on DRR in late October in Indonesia. MARD & MONRE will surely participate. However, no involvement of Vietnamese INGOs and NGOs recorded.

D. TECHNICAL CORNER

Community Action for Disaster Responses – by Mr. Hoang Gia Yen (American Red Cross)

1. CADRE is a 3 days training course which covers 8 main topics (funded by USAID):

- Common hazards and community response group
- Securing family and preparing for response
- First Aid and Basic life Support
- Incident Command system and Triage
- Dead Body Management
- Fire Emergencies
- Basic Search and rescue
- Water Emergencies

2. Target and training objectives

- Target: Red Cross Officers; emergency response taskforces; volunteers; community leaders
- Objective: Capacity building with focus on practical response skills

3. Questions and answers:

Q: When serious hazard happens and thousand people die, how can we identify who is who?

A: Many technical steps were introduced in the course to help identify dead bodies. For example, take photos of the dead, encode different parts of the body, document all records, etc,

Q: How many provinces joined the training?

A: 8 provinces in the Central of Vietnam including Hà Tĩnh, Quảng Bình, Quảng Trị, Quảng Nam, Bình Định, Phú Yên,??), with 6 representatives from each province.

ACTION POINTS:

- PACCOM to send out open letter to donors
- Thanh Hoa DOFA to share updated information about the flood and INGOs' assistances
- Organizations to update activities on International DRR day
- Check out NGOs' involvement in Ministerial Conference on DRR: Yogyakarta, 22-25 Oct

PARTICIPANTS LIST:

No.	Name	Organization	Telephone	Email
1.	Nguyen Song Hoan	Director – Department of Foreign Affairs – Thanh Hoa Province (DOFA)	0912 291 498	songhoan_2000@yahoo.com
2.	Kim Ngoc Hiep	Thanh Hoa DOFA	0912 101 226	
3.	Bui Huy Hoang	Thanh Hoa DOFA		buihuyhoangvn@gmail.com
4.	Nguyen Trong The	Thanh Hoa DOFA	0914 305 083	nguyentrongtheth@gmail.com
5.	Tran Thuy Linh	Thanh Hoa DOFA	0125 942 4481	linh_tranthuy88@gmail.com
6.	Pham Lien Huong	Oxfam	0904 461 817	ptluong@oxfam.org.uk

7.	Do Thi Thu Hien	World Vision	0913 507 332	do_thu_hien@wvi.org
8.	Jane Stabb	Live & Learn		Jane.stabb@livelearn.org
9.	Hoang Gia Yen	American Red Cross	0903324642	Yen.hoang@amcross.org.vn
10.	Vu Xuan Viet	Oxfam	09041 493 11	vietvx@oxfam.org.uk
11.	Nguyen T. Quynh Trang	PACCOM	01688 601173	trangnguyen@paccom.org.vn
12.	Vu Thi Lan Anh	PACCOM	0918 650586	lananhvu@paccom.org.vn
13.	Nguyen Trung Dung	PACCOM	0903 29 1945	dungnguyen@paccom.org.vn
14.	Ha T. Quynh Nga	CCWG/DMWG Coordinator	0983 573009	nga.htg@care.org.vn
15.	Nguyen Van Gia	Save the Children	0912 879 888	nguyenvan.gia@savethechildren.org
16.	Truong Duc Tung	CBM	0912 129 707	tung@cbm.org.vn
17.	Doan Anh Tuan	Save the Children	091 353 5560	doanh.tuan@savethechildren.org
18.	Tran Thanh Thuy	CARE International	0989 188 900	tthuy@care.org.vn
19.	Nguyen Thanh Toan	Plan International	0989 748 499	toan.nguyenthanh@plan-international.org
20.	Le Thi Minh Chau	UNICEF	0913 096 784	ltmchau@unicef.org
21.	Nguyen Hoai An	CFSI	0912 338618	annguyen@cfsi.ph
22.	Phan Thu Ha	NGO RC	0912174879	haphan@ngocentre.org.vn