

Disaster risk reduction and gender

SON LA, LAI CHAU, NORTHERN VIETNAM

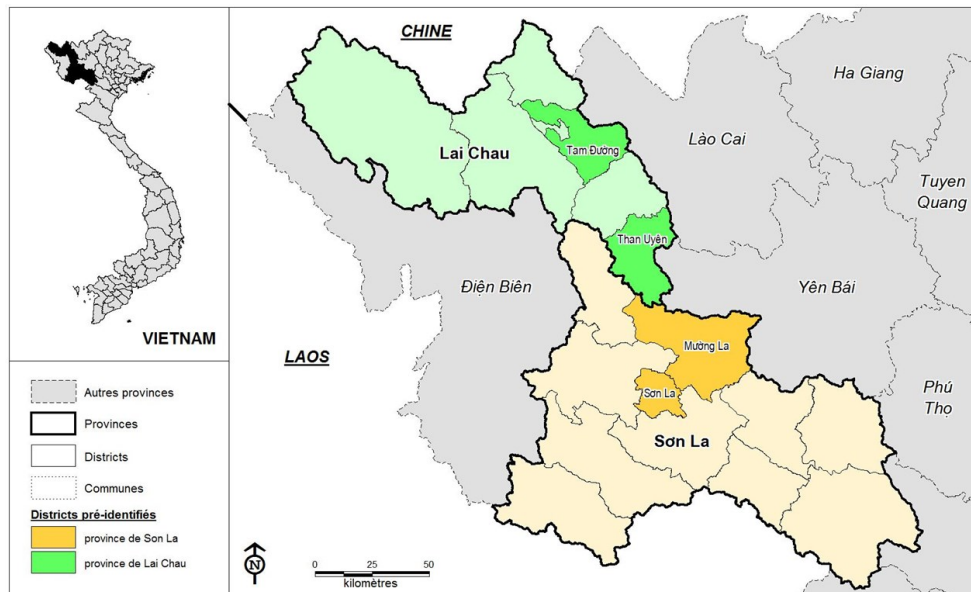
Contribute to the resilience of North-West Vietnamese women, men and youths facing the impacts of natural disasters

Context

Located in an area characterized by tropical monsoons, Vietnam is one of the most hazard-prone countries in the Asia-Pacific region. This rapidly developing country of 90 million people is highly exposed to a wide range of natural hazards (typhoons, floods, droughts, sea water intrusion, landslides, forest fires, cold waves and occasional earthquakes). A 2007 assessment report of the World Bank lists Vietnam as one of the five countries in the world most affected by sea level rise as a direct consequence of Climate Change. In mountainous regions, native places of many ethnic minority groups, which did not enjoy the last decades of astonishing development in Vietnam, socio-economic difficulties are compounded by increasing impacts from natural hazards.

Approach of the project

As defined by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in 2012, resilience is the ability of individuals, communities, organizations, or countries exposed to disasters and crises to anticipate, reduce the impact of, cope with, and recover from the effects of adversity without compromising their long-term prospects. Resilience is therefore not just the immediate ability to respond to negative 'events' but rather a process of positive adaptation before, during and after adversity. The project design is thus based on two interlinked strategies. On one side, the interventions will aim at **preparing communities** to better react to emergencies through increase of their **disaster knowledge, training on life-saving**



skills and provision of safety equipment's. On the other side, the activities will contribute to **community empowerment and development** in order to address broader poverty reduction issues, since it is widely recognized that poverty affects the coping capacities of the populations when facing disasters

Focus on... Gender...

Although the last two decades of development have given opportunities for women empowerment, gender stereotypes and discrimination against women remain strong in Vietnam and perpetuates inequalities between women and men. In the project targeted areas, mostly populated by poor, remote

and rural ethnic minority groups with less formal education, gender inequalities bring very severe limitations to development initiatives. Support to women empowerment is a pre-condition to successful and sustainable communities' intervention. This project aims at putting **Gender equality at the center of the intervention**. From project's design to local partner's capacity building to grassroots interventions and monitoring and evaluation, improving gender equality is one of the core principles that will drive the action of this **Community Based Disaster Risk Management project**.

Duration :

39 months
From April 2014 to September 2017

Budget :

1 475 000 Euros
50% Agence Française de Développement,
25% French Red Cross (Ready Fund*)
25% American RedCross

Beneficiaries :

59 240 people (direct) in **12 communes** of **Son La and Lai Chau**.

Local Partners :

VNRC, Women's Union, People's Committees, relevant local Technical Departments, Schools

Ready Fund:

The Ready Fund, the French Red Cross disaster preparedness and response fund, is a **financial reserve which can provide immediate support to ensure a fast and efficient response to disasters**, natural or man caused. It is **funded by corporate members** (Total Foundation, Sanofi Foundation, Technip, Bolloré Logistics), and **individual donors** who wish to support a sustainable humanitarian action. As a comprehensive response tool, it allows the French Red Cross to intervene before, during, and after crises, whether these occur in the media spotlight or silently.

Expected Results and Main Activities

The main objective of this project is **"to increase capacities of vulnerable ethnic minority communities and local actors to prepare for disasters and reduce risks through a gender-sensitive, participatory and replicable approach"**.

R1: Capacities of the VNRC and local authorities in the targeted provinces to implement gender-sensitive DRM and DP activities are increased

Induction training on gender and project management; CBDRM + communication and advocacy trainings at provincial level; Formulation and development of a communication strategy for awareness raising activities, integrating DRM, Climate Change and gender issues; Training of Disaster Response Teams and training of trainers for First Aid and Emergency response at the Provincial level;

R2: Targeted vulnerable communities have reduced their risks through participatory planning and action

Induction training on CBDRM; gender and project management for commune stakeholders; Implementation of Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment leading to the formulation of communal DRR plans including the Early warning system; Implementation of small-scale mitigation activities; Pre and Post simulation exercises in each commune; Training of Commune Emergency Response Teams.

R3: Targeted schools are better prepared to respond to disasters

Pre and Post simulation exercises in schools; Safe school model induction training for school board members (4th and 5th grades); First Aid / Search and Rescue for teachers; Implementation of mitigation activities based on school action plan.

R4: Learnings from the project are shared at national level

Contribution to national coordination mechanisms; Organization of exchange visits for stakeholders; Production of case studies about successful components of the project; Project review and evaluation.