



Photo: Save the Children\2006

THE DISASTER MANAGEMENT WORKING GROUP (DMWG)

The Disaster Management Working Group was created in 1999 and brings together NGOs, the Government (through NDMP) and UN agencies (through the UN's PCG 10). The group is currently chaired by PCG 10. Based on discussions at monthly meetings, members take on joint activities related to disaster reduction and management. These can include joint research projects, promoting common standards and guidelines such as Sphere to better coordinate interventions in emergency situations, and general information sharing to avoid overlaps and improve the efficiency of interventions.

Recently, the DMWG commissioned a study on the applicability of the thematic Cluster Leadership Approach in Viet Nam. Following the result of the study, the Government along with the NGO community, and supported by PCG 10, is now implementing the cluster approach which will allow for a more effective response in case of a natural disaster. The DMWG is yet another example of the current cooperation between UN agencies (represented by PCG 10), the Government and the NGO community.

WORKING TOGETHER AS ONE

Approved by the Prime Minister in September 2008, the UN project “*Strengthening institutional capacity for Disaster Risk Management in Viet Nam*” demonstrates the added value of the UN working “as one” in project development, implementation and coordination with the Government of Viet Nam.

UN reform allows each agency to contribute their respective strengths to the project. For example, UNIFEM is mainstreaming gender in project activities while FAO will work on the livelihood component. While eight UN agencies are participating in the project, UNDP is in charge of the overall implementation and communication with the Government. UNDP interacts with the Government as a “One UN” representative, making coordination more efficient and effective. By combining the different strengths of the UN agencies, the One UN Initiative leads to more successful projects with the Government of Viet Nam in disaster management.



Photo: UN Viet Nam\2008\Do Quoc Trung



THE GOVERNMENT OF VIET NAM AND ONE UN WORKING TOGETHER IN DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT



Photo: UN Viet Nam\2008\Do Quoc Trung

Due to its geographical location, Viet Nam is particularly at risk of recurrent natural disasters. Droughts, floods, typhoons and landslides are only a few examples of the types of natural disasters that affect not only livelihoods but also Viet Nam's economic development.

“Over the past 15 years, the United Nations has closely worked with Viet Nam in natural disaster mitigation and control. This cooperation has begun to bear fruit, helping to improve the country’s policy making and legal framework, leading to better natural disaster control.”

John Hendra, UN Viet Nam Resident Coordinator

THE PROGRAMME COORDINATION GROUP ON NATURAL DISASTERS AND EMERGENCIES

Different United Nations agencies have, over the years, developed expertise in various aspects of disaster risk management. In Viet Nam, the One UN Initiative, which aims to enhance the efficiency and impact of the United Nations in Viet Nam, has resulted in the creation of the Programme Coordination Group on Natural Disasters and Emergencies (PCG 10). This innovative approach brings together eight UN agencies (FAO, IOM, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNIFEM, UN-HABITAT and WHO) and allows them to work together on projects, combining these agencies’ strengths to benefit the people of Viet Nam. Through PCG 10 the UN is able to coordinate its efforts and work with the Government of Viet Nam in a united and coherent fashion to tackle disaster-related issues. This unique partnership allows not only more efficient coordination of emergency efforts but also mutual learning and sharing of expertise. PCG 10 acts as a focal point for the Government of Viet Nam as well as for donors,

NGOs and other disaster management practitioners. This continuously evolving relationship has contributed to building stronger communities against disasters in Viet Nam and serves as an example to other countries of the benefits that come from UN agencies working as one with the Government.

THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (MARD)

Established in 1995, MARD chairs the Central Committee on Flood and Storm Control (CCFSC). Through this committee different ministries are able to meet and coordinate their efforts in the disaster management sector. Over the years, UN agencies have developed a strong relationship with the department. With UN reform, government officials now have a single focal point for interacting with the UN.

In times of emergency, with support from PCG 10, MARD takes the lead in coordinating disaster-related interventions by the international community and NGOs. MARD is also working with PCG 10 to implement a thematic Cluster Leadership Approach in Viet Nam. This new coordination mechanism allows for a more effective response from the Government, NGOs and UN agencies in case of a natural disaster or emergency. PCG 10 members act as co-leads of different clusters (such as emergency shelter, early recovery and nutrition), with overall leadership by the Government.

For more information please visit:

- UN Viet Nam website at <http://www.un.com.vn>
- MARD website at <http://icd.mard.gov.vn>

THE NATURAL DISASTER MITIGATION PARTNERSHIP (NDMP)

The Natural Disaster Mitigation Partnership, of which PCG 10 is a member, actively supports the development of disaster management institutions and arrangements, and through them national strategies and programmes in a government-led, coordinated and accountable manner. The Partnership has four main objectives:

1. Regular and transparent information sharing;
2. Policy dialogue and advice;
3. Development of institutional capacity for disaster risk management; and
4. Effective resource coordination.

The UN has been one of the most active supporters of the Partnership and through it, the UN has been able to engage with the Government and other development partners to promote better coordination, harmonization and a more strategic approach to disaster risk reduction in Viet Nam. In 2009, the roles and responsibilities of NDMP will be changing in accordance with a new national structure for disaster management and PCG 10 is supporting NDMP in this transition phase.

