

Vietnam Forests and Deltas Program - Adaptation



The USAID-funded Vietnam Forests and Deltas Program (2012 - 2017) is pioneering approaches for increasing the resilience of people, places and livelihoods in delta areas.

Goals of the USAID Vietnam Forests and Deltas Program

The five-year USAID Vietnam Forests and Deltas Program (VFD) helps to move Vietnam's progressive and proactive climate change policies into practice. Focusing on sustainable natural resource management, improving land use planning and engaging communities in developing action plans to address climate risks and vulnerabilities, the program supports Vietnam's transition towards a low emission, climate resilient development pathway. The program is built around three main components:

Adaptation: Through this component the program aims to strengthen climate resilience and reduce disaster risks in Vietnam's coastal delta areas, while also supporting climate-smart livelihoods.

Sustainable Landscapes: Interventions under this component aim to improve natural resource management and reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in larger forested landscapes in Thanh Hoa and Nghe An provinces, north-central Vietnam.

National Policy Support: At the national level, the program aims to support government stakeholders in developing and reviewing climate change policies.

Supporting Vietnam's transition towards a low emission, climate resilient development pathway



In **Nam Dinh** climate change is affecting the way that people are able to use their land to sustainably sustain their livelihoods. Delta communities need to learn new approaches to agriculture and aquaculture. In response, VFD is working to introduce climate smart rice and potato production practices that not only help to increase yield, but also reduce the inputs and consequent emissions. The project is also helping vulnerable communes develop improved disaster preparedness plans and support structures such as disaster response teams and early warning systems to increase the resilience of these communities to climate-related natural disasters.



Long An is particularly susceptible to floods resulting from rises in sea level. VFD is focusing on a series of activities related to climate change, adaptive livelihoods and water resource management that provide practical solutions to government, businesses, and communities living in Long An. These activities, such as introducing corn as an alternative to rice in areas where salt water intrusion leaves fields no longer suitable to rice production, are providing new opportunities that respond to a changing climate.

Adaptation key activities and achievements

Our adaptation work falls into three main categories:

Disaster Preparedness

Climate change increases the risk of natural disasters, and delta communities are particularly vulnerable to these impacts, including storms, sea level rise, and salt water intrusion. We are working with 60 communes across Long An and Nam Dinh to help them reduce the risks to these disasters. Key activities include:

- Community Based Disaster Preparedness and Management Helping communities build comprehensive local Disaster Risk Management (DRM) plans. This work supports the National Strategy for Natural Disaster Prevention, Response and Mitigation to 2020.
- Disaster Response Training – Increasing emergency response capacity by training local officials and community leaders in essential disaster response skills from search and rescue to emergency first aid.
- Early warning systems – Current systems have been audited and VFD has funded upgrades where required.
- Safe schools activities – VFD is working with schools, targeting 4th and 5th grade students and their teachers, to provide skills training and safe school plan development support.
- Safe shelter and other small scale infrastructure improvements.

Building Resilience Through ClimateSmart Livelihoods

Climate change is already affecting the way that people are able to use their land to sustainably sustain their livelihoods. Delta communities need to learn new approaches to agriculture and aquaculture. We are working to:

- Introduce climate smart rice, potato production, shrimp and fish-rice practices in Nam Dinh.
- Trial rice and corn models in Long An, both through training and demonstration models.
- Better utilize water resources - studying effective use of ponds and running workshops on the sustainable management of both surface and underground water.

Supporting Governance and Building Capacity

- Capacity building on climate change for local government officials: Training local officials and leaders on climate change and climate smart agriculture to build understanding and support.
- Provincial Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP): Supporting 5 provinces to review, revise and update their actions plan to respond to climate change.



The Way forward

Through VFD's work on adaptation we are supporting Vietnam and particularly the provinces of Long An and Nam Dinh to plan for, and adapt to, the changes and challenges that climate change is bringing. The research, training and planning they are undertaking will prepare them for what lies ahead, and provides models that can be applied across Vietnam.