

CLIMATE-RESILIENT COASTAL LIVELIHOODS CAPACITY STATEMENT

BACKGROUND

With over 3,200 kilometers of coastline and 28 coastal provinces and cities nationwide, Vietnam is among the most vulnerable countries in the world to climate change¹. Coastal areas are highly vulnerable to different types of disasters such as typhoons, high tidal waves, inundation, flooding, and other climate change effects, including rising sea levels, coastal erosion, salinization and increasing temperatures. The climate-induced extreme weather events have disrupted livelihoods, destroyed resources, interrupted distribution of essential public services, and triggered displacement. The main livelihoods that are most directly affected are fisheries (especially aquaculture), agriculture, tourism and shipping. For coastal communities, climate change forces them to change their livelihoods strategies towards approaches that are less dependent on natural resources.

In addition, socio-economic development activities in coastal areas that are affected by natural disasters and climate change also contribute significantly to environmental degradation as well as increase other risks, such as ineffective marine debris management and indiscriminate exploitation of aquatic/seafood resources.

Recognizing climate change as a key accelerator of unsustainable livelihoods and environmental degradation, and responding to climate change in coastal areas as a justice issue, World Vision is committed to supporting vulnerable coastal communities in Vietnam to build their climate resilience and adopt alternative sustainable livelihoods practices.

► OUR APPROACHES



Enhancing Climate Resilience through Community-Based Disaster Risk Management

World Vision International in Vietnam (WVI-Vietnam) works with the communities to enhance their climate resilience through Community-Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM). Specifically, we:

- Increase climate change and disaster risk awareness and preparedness among the target population through establishing early warning systems, billboards and other communication products
- Build local capacity on disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation (DRR-CCA)
- Facilitate the development of DRR-CCA plans at community level
- Promote and support community development initiatives on waste management

¹ Germanwatch, *Global Climate Risk Index*, 2021



Supporting Alternative Sustainable Livelihoods Practices

To foster alternative livelihoods for coastal communities, WVI-Vietnam supports them to adopt crop seasonal calendars to adjust to changing climate conditions. Specific interventions include:

- Promote new rice seed varieties with shorter growing time and drought resistant features.
- Train farmers on bio organic fertilizer production to prevent soil degradation.
- Support local communities in improving their infrastructure for agriculture such as upgrading irrigation works, roads, and drainages. These are called community initiatives as the communities need to identify what they need and propose the implementation plans and related costs.



Promoting Ecotourism

At WVI-Vietnam's Area Programs where the natural landscape presents high potential for tourism, community ecotourism interventions are integrated within the Livelihoods Technical Program to leverage local advantages and create more employment opportunities for community youth. Integrated activities include:

- Combine eco-friendly agriculture practices (vegetable planting, chicken and earthworms rearing, etc.) with community-based ecotourism and forest protection.
- Improve the quality of products and services to impress tourists. Promote local products towards OCOP (One Commune, One Product) quality.
- Train community-based livelihoods groups on marketing skills, customer interaction, production and business plans, and brand knowledge.
- Create and operate online channels (Facebook, Zalo, TikTok, website) for tourists/customers to access information on local attraction places and specialties.

OUR EXPERIENCES

WVI-Vietnam has more than 30 years implementing projects to build community-based preparedness and resilience to climate change and natural disasters. Some recent projects with alternative livelihoods interventions are described below:

Project	Donor	Budget	Results
Hai Phong City Resilient to Climate Change and Disaster Risks (2013-2017)	Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT)	US\$2,089,967	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 62,000 people from three districts vulnerable to natural disasters benefited from capacity building on disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation. The project raised awareness among children, communities, and small and medium enterprises on disaster risks and climate change, increased local capacity to respond to disaster risks, and improved Livelihood opportunities in communities prone to natural disaster.

Project	Donor	Budget	Results
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 337 households received support in training and start-up finance assistance and adopting new livelihoods practices. Crop seasonal calendars are adopted and the use of shorter-term rice seed varieties reduced losses. With the support from the project, poor families adopted new income-generating activities that have less dependency on weather events such as vegetable planting, vendors, fish farming, etc. Three networking groups of 52 core small and medium enterprises (SMEs) were established and operated for the SMEs to cooperate and implement initiatives to save energy, water and other production inputs.
Coastal Areas of Thanh Hoa Province Resilient to Natural Disasters (2011-2016)	Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT)	US\$3,277,612	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Over 70,000 people from nine districts benefited from project interventions that built community and institutional capacity in disaster response and climate change adaptation, enhanced inter-agency coordination, and advocated for the National Program on CBDRM and other national policies on disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation. With increased awareness on natural disasters and training on new agricultural techniques, 7,334 households had access to alternative livelihoods opportunities. The project supported households through training in local fishing and aquaculture production. Technical training courses on sustainable fishing and processing were facilitated, aiming at increasing awareness of the local fishermen on the sustainable fishing as well as a better quality procedure of aquaculture production and processing. In-land farming productivity was increased due to the application of seasonal calendars and improved farming methodologies such as the use of drought and flood resistant crops. Communities developed efficient seasonal calendars to respond to extreme weather conditions.

Project	Donor	Budget	Results
Waste no Waste (2022-2023)	World Vision Korea	US\$150,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This new project aims to enable key actors in Ngo Quyen district and Cat Hai coastal district of Hai Phong city to effectively manage marine debris through enhanced inclusion of vulnerable groups. The project will enhance the management of local partners in marine debris through their strong role in leadership and promote the practice of Reduce - Reuse - Recycle (3Rs) and conduct behavioral change intervention in the community and vulnerable groups. Marine households and affected households will receive training on production and business plan as well as materials and tools for their business.

► TECHNICAL EXPERTISE

At WVI-Vietnam we have technical experts at national level and technical officers at field level to participate in proposal development and support project implementation.

- With over 25 and 15 years of experience respectively, our Humanitarian Emergency Affairs and Disaster Risk Reduction Manager and Specialist have solid expertise in disaster risk management, climate change adaptation, and international humanitarian response standards.
- Our Livelihoods Technical Program Manager and Specialist, both with over 18 years of experience, have in-depth knowledge and practical experience of agriculture and market development for the poor, agro-forestry, local value chain development, and emergency response.

Furthermore, World Vision Ireland will support WVI-Vietnam to develop the Blue Action Fund (BAF) proposal and implement the project if awarded. WV Ireland as the contract holder will bear overall responsibility for ensuring donor requirements are adhered to and for backstopping and monitoring of the implementation of the project, as well as reporting and all communication related to the project. The below technical expertise of WV Ireland will be leveraged to support WVI-Vietnam in delivering coastal livelihoods interventions:



Climate Resilient Livelihoods Programing

At the start of this year, WV Ireland launched a 5-year climate sensitive livelihoods program (funded by Irish Aid) in 5 countries, 2 of which are in Asia Pacific – Vanuatu and Solomon Islands. The program, called NOURISH - 'Nature-based Opportunities Underpinning Resilient and Sustainable Households' has four pillars – climate sensitive food production and income generation, nutrition knowledge, disaster risk reduction and gender equity. Sharing of livelihoods and disaster risk reduction approaches particularly from the Vanuatu and Solomon Islands interventions will be used to support the development and implementation of this BAF opportunity.



Climate Consultancy

WV Ireland has taken on a leading climate consultant with extensive experience in climate sensitive programming including work on climate resilience in Southeast Asia. Her expertise will be leveraged to support the development of the BAF proposal.



Youth programming

With a view that youth should be at the heart of any climate programming, WV Ireland have strong programming that focuses on youth action and this experience can be leveraged to support any youth focused interventions. The EU-funded PEACE Mindanao project in the Philippines focuses on action by children in schools and by youth groups at community level towards peace promotion; the EU-funded CVAVAC (Citizens Voices Addressing Violence Against Children) project in Lesotho supports youth to advocate and dialogue with government regarding legislation on protection of children and women. CVAVAC and SAUTI Youth have shown the value of youth-led social accountability actions.

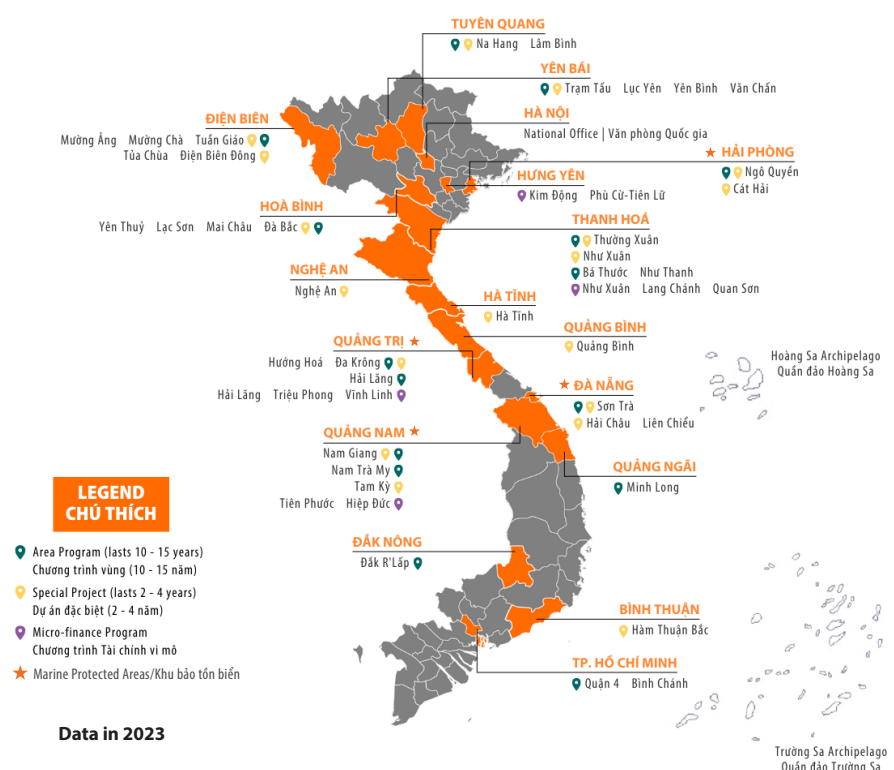


Grant Acquisition and Management

WV Ireland is skilled in grant acquisition and management. Current grants are with Irish Aid (one of the donors of BAF), European Union, WFP, UNHCR and UNICEF.

▶ LOCAL PRESENCE

WVI-Vietnam is currently implementing 30 Area Programs and 10 grant projects at grassroots level during a timeline of 10-15 years. Our operating license covers 8 coastal provinces and cities, including Hai Phong, Quang Ninh, Thanh Hoa, Ha Tinh, Quang Binh, Da Nang, Quang Ngai and Binh Thuan. As our program staff are stationed at the grassroots to work directly with the community people, we are able to fully grasp local contexts and timely respond to communities' needs, based on which our programs and approaches are carefully tailored to ensure efficiency and impact. During the implementation process, communities are empowered and encouraged to provide their feedback so we can make appropriate and timely adjustments in each and every component of our intervention. Over 200,000 Vietnamese children benefit from our work every year.



► PARTNERSHIPS

Given each Area Program's timeline of 10-15 years, we have established solid partnerships with national and local authorities as well as communities, which enables effective mobilization of local resources and participation in programs and projects addressing climate change and coastal livelihoods issues.

- National level: Natural Disaster Risk Reduction Partnership; Disaster Management Group; National Center for Rural Water Supply and Environmental Sanitation - Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development; Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment.
- Local level: the People's Committees at provincial, district, and commune levels, Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, Department of Natural Resources and Environment, and mass organizations.
- International and local civil society organizations, and
- The private sector.

