

REGIONAL ASIA-PACIFIC CONFERENCE ON

## GENDER AND DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

16-18 May 2016  
Ha Noi, Viet Nam



# Gender equality in Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction

**Good Practices and Lessons Learnt**

**CCWG**

# Content

- Vietnam: Climate change impacts and vulnerabilities
- The Climate Change Working Group
- Women's role in DRR and CCA – good practices of CCWG members
- Lessons learnt and recommendations



# Vietnam: Climate change impacts and vulnerabilities

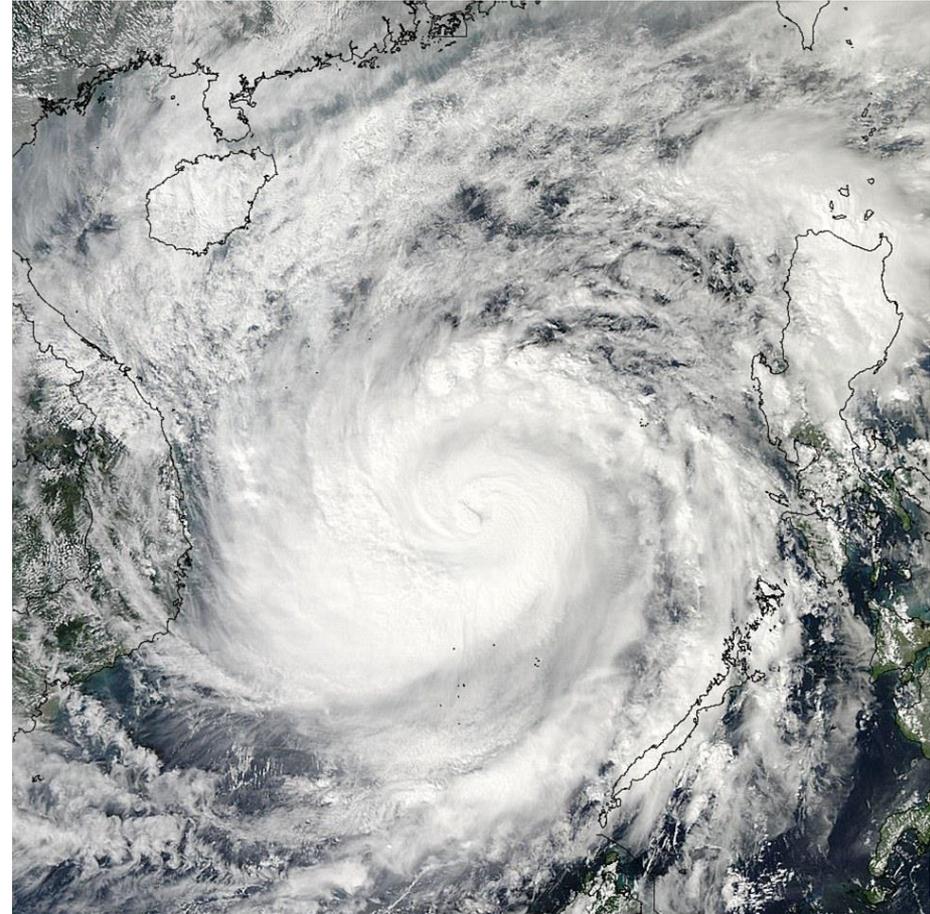
- Vietnam: ranked among the top ten countries of most affected by climate change<sup>1</sup>
- Over the last two decades, natural hazard related disasters caused more than 13,000 deaths and property damage in excess of US\$6.4 billion – about **1.5%** of GDP<sup>2</sup>
- Almost 60% of Vietnam's land area and over 70% of its population are at risk of natural hazards



1. Germanwatch Global Climate Risk Index, 2015;  
2, 3, 4. Intended Nationally Determined Contribution of Viet Nam, 2015 – COP21

# Vietnam: Climate change impacts and vulnerabilities

- Over the last 50 years<sup>3</sup>:
  - Average temperature: increased by **0.5°C**
  - Sea level rise by **20 cm**
- By 2100: **2-3°C** increase in annual average temperature and **78-100 cm** rise in sea level<sup>4</sup>
- Increasing frequency, severity and unpredictability of extreme weather events<sup>1</sup>



1. Germanwatch Global Climate Risk Index, 2015;  
2, 3, 4. Intended Nationally Determined Contribution of Viet Nam,  
2015 – COP21

# Women are affected seriously by natural hazards worsened by climate change

- **Poor men and women** living in urban, rural and coastal areas are specially prone to climate related hazards, such as typhoons, floods and salt water intrusion
- Effects their **safety, health, livelihoods**, ecology, environment, and socio-economic development
- Limited understanding of climate change, its **linkages to disaster risks, gender vulnerability** and roles in CCA and DRR



# Women are affected seriously by natural hazards worsened by climate change

- Women are often **more vulnerable**, because of social norms, socio-economic stereotypes, and development issues
- Women often seen as “victims”
- Have **less access** to information and resources
- **Limited participation** in decision-making, access to information, and leadership roles in CCA and DRR



# The Climate Change Working Group

- Established in **2008** under NGO-Resource Centre, Vietnam
- Brings together **VNGOs, INGOs, institutions and individuals** involved with climate change
- Aims to help reduce the **vulnerability of poor people** to the impacts of climate change through NGO **coordination, advocacy and capacity building**
- **Three thematic groups** – Attitude, Behavior, Change; Adaptation; and Mitigation (2008-2015) strive to: i) integrate CCA and DRR into socio-economic development plans; **ii) mainstreaming gender into climate change response**; and iii) build resilient livelihoods and promote climate smart agriculture (2016 onwards)
- **11 core members**: CARE, Green-ID, Live and Learn, MCD, Malteser International, Oxfam, Plan International, RECOFTC, SNV, SRD, and WWF
- **Mailing list**: about 1,100 subscribers
- **Website**: [www.ngocentre.org.vn/ccwg](http://www.ngocentre.org.vn/ccwg)

# Focus of core members and the network

- **Building resilience** to climate change - **for women, men, children, ethnic minorities, and older people, and people with disabilities**
- **Raising awareness** about climate change - linkages to natural hazards and disasters, impacts, potential adaptation measures, mitigation, safe living and adaptive livelihoods
- **Promoting sustainable, environmentally friendly** agricultural livelihoods
- Carrying out **joint and evidence-based advocacy** to improve national and local policies, and programmes in climate change, gender equality, and sustainable development
- Improving with the Disaster Management Working Group (many members are in both networks) enhancing DRR and CCA for effective dealing with climate risks and **promoting cross-cutting themes**, e.g. gender equality, and environment

# Women's role in DRR and CCA – good practices of CCWG members



# Key issues for gender equality in DRR and CCA

1. Increasing agency and decision-making power
2. Economic empowerment and building resilient livelihoods
3. Increasing participation and voice in DRR and CCA
4. Awareness raising and capacity building (cross-cutting)



# 1. Increasing agency and decision making power (1/2)

**Creating spaces, opportunities, and fostering an enabling environment (CARE, L&L and Plan International, SNV):**

- Setting up Legal Awareness and Rights Clubs as **platforms to voice concerns**.
- Promoting **schoolgirl and youth-led climate change and DRR initiatives**: coaching, enabling networking, sharing and connecting with NGOs, media, Government, and the private sector.
- Promoting women's **technical and scientific leadership** in climate change programs.
- Engaging **men to support women in decision-making**.



# 1. Increasing agency and decision making power (2/2)

## Creating spaces, opportunities, and fostering an enabling environment (Oxfam, CARE, Plan International, Red Cross)

- Engaging women and men, girls and boys in **Participatory Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment**
- Promoting **women's and young girls' leadership in capacity building and awareness raising** in DRR/CCA through cooperating with the Vietnam Women's Union
- Identifying DRR and CCA **solutions responding to the needs and capacities of poor women and men**
- Including **gender mainstreaming in guidelines on integrating DRR and CCA into SEDP and CBDRM**



## 2. Economic empowerment and building resilient livelihoods (CARE, OXFAM, SNV, Plan International)

Improving options, skills, knowledge of women and their control and access over assets and resources; improving linkages and organization:

- Increasing options and decisions making in **diversified, resilient livelihoods**
- Mobilizing **sustainable agribusiness** through Women's Economic Empowerment and DRR and CCA
- Promoting **climate and 'gender-smart' agricultural development (CSA/GSA)**
  - Supporting women and male farmers with low risk and low-carbon cultivation techniques: (↓ climate risks and GHG, ↑ income and women's role)
  - Consolidating and scaling-up adaptive livelihood models
  - Strengthening cooperative capacity and mechanisms to enable women to lead and benefit
- Increasing **women's leadership in adaptive livelihood and reducing disaster risks** in common interest groups
- Improving **control by women over household finance**



### 3. Increasing participation and voice in DRR and CCA (CARE, L&L, OXFAM, PLAN International, RC)

Increasing participation; improving integration and responsiveness to women's needs, interests and capacities and enabling women or girl-led activities and institutionalization:

- Facilitating **women-inclusive DRR and CCA planning** through women's community based organizations
- Increasing **women's participation and leadership in action planning** on DRR and CCA in their communes and districts
- Supporting women to conduct and take leadership on communicating CCA and DRR through **Participatory Action-Oriented Training**
- Engaging women in rapid response teams and institutionalizing these practices.
- **Strengthening school children's involvement**, especially girls views , roles and ownership, through platforms, events, peer group knowledge sharing and child centered sharing formats (videos).
- Providing **seed grants for youth** to carry out their **CCA and DRR initiatives**.



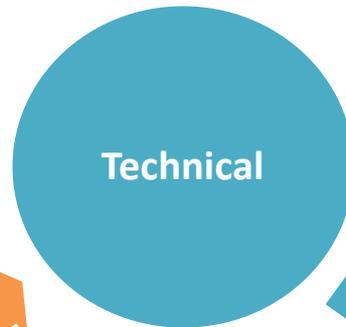
## 4. Awareness raising and capacity building: cross-cutting (CARE, L&L, OXFAM, PLAN International, SRD)

- Strengthening capacity to enable women to make better decisions on resilient livelihood options and diversification and engaging men to ensure support to women's decisions
- Providing Training and knowledge in Gender Equality and/or DRR and CCA targeting women, men, school children and local authorities
- Providing awareness raising and capacity building through training, communication activities and other livelihood improvements related to gender equality in DRR and CCA in particular activities
- Capacity building for community members and local authorities on gender-sensitive in DRR and CCA
- Collecting and sharing local experiences and knowledge in DRR and CCA
- Developing material such as practical guidelines on Gender and CC and DRR: Making it Count, handbooks, videos
- Developing manual on gender mainstreaming in CBDRM



# Some achievements

- Documented good practices on gender/ women/men in DRR/CC together
- Policy dialogue on gender in DRR/CCA organized
- Policy recommendations compiled



- Drafted National Technical Guideline on Gender Mainstreaming on DRR and CCA
- Set-up Gender Technical Working Group to share technical knowledge and experience among organizations



- Commitment
- Processes and structures, not events



- Agree and share approaches, methods, among partners (↓ duplication, ↑ impact)
- Reach further as a network: multiply and maximize
- Enable not overwhelm



- Worked with those in charge and tasked (VWU and DMC) and develop their understanding and capacity
- Promoted the role of VWU in DRR/CCA and in the National Committee for Natural Disaster Prevention and Control (beyond administrative roles)

# Why is there still long way to go? Did we go wrong?

- Disaster and climate related work is dominated by men
- Women's roles in DRR and CCA is undermined by pre-existing barriers and inequality in decision making
- Women are under represented in the decision making body of the Natural Disaster Prevention and Control Committee at all levels
- Gender equality is equated to women's rights by many people, including by some women
- Number of women in decision making positions does not equate to improving gender equality
- Lack of political will to bring about significant change to address inequalities
- Lack of male champions to promote gender equality, especially within the government agencies involved with DRR and CCA

# Lessons learnt

- Changing perceptions and behaviour takes time
- Collaboration and partnership between the VN Women's Union, gender equality champions, national and sub-national agencies in charge of DRR and CCA needs to be strengthened and promoted
- Necessary to strengthen women's organisations and networks continuously, for example, the VN WU and other organisations engaged in promoting gender equality at all levels, by building their competence and confidence
- Educating and raising awareness of boys and male youths of the importance of gender equality in general terms but especially in DRR and CCA, is needed
- Legislative framework for gender equality is vital, however, follow through by carrying out policies, strategies, and national programs at the local levels is equally important



# Recommendations

- Embed gender equality into strategies, and national and regional action plans of Government agencies involved with DRR and CCA, such as MARD, MoNRE, MoET, and MoLISA, and mass organisations (Vietnam Women's Union and Red Cross)
- Standardise, approve and carry out guidelines to mainstream gender equality into the national CBDRM programme and into socio-economic development planning
- Coordinate technical support from NGOs, UNWOMEN, the VWU and other stakeholders to maximise resources and avoid confusion in gender mainstreaming into DRR and CCA, using existing and new networks
- Carry out continual capacity building and awareness raising in gender equality in DRR and CCA for personnel in Government agencies and mass organisations, and in the private sector, through technical and financial support
- Create equal opportunities for women and men in socio-economic development to safeguard their resilience to climate change and extreme events
- Build innovative partnerships with groups that have expert knowledge on gender and DRR and pursue experimental projects

# Thank you for your attention!



*For further information, please visit:*  
<http://www.ngocentre.org.vn/ccwg>