Women in disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation in Viet Nam
Disasters

Natural disasters such as floods devastate rural part of Viet Nam every year.

Village women are vulnerable but need to be viewed in a wider context than just victims.
Women are affected by climate change through natural disasters. Rural women in Viet Nam are more affected:
- More vulnerable
- Likely to be poorer
- Put family’s needs before their own
- Have less access to resources and assistance
- Excluded from influencing planning and recovery efforts
The time for action is NOW
2002: Radio soap opera developed by ISDR, WHO, IOM ‘Tiempo de Huracanes’, launched on 132 community radio stations in Nicaragua, El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala, Costa Rica, Panama, Mexico, Cuba, Dominican Republic and Peru

2010: Radio soap opera from ISDR translated to Vietnamese and localised to ‘Empowering Grassroots women to cope with natural disasters’
First soap opera distribution

**Nicaragua**: The audience in Nicaragua having heard this broadcast is estimated at approximately 360,000 people.

**Guatemala**: Potential audience of 40,000 and 29,000 listeners

**Honduras**: Estimated listening audience of approximately 2 million

**El Salvador**: Listening audience of between 5,000 to 10,000 people and at sub national audience approximately 10,000 – 20,000 people);

**Costa Rica**: Potential listening audience of 2 million

**Mexico**: Network of 35,000 receivers within the Mexican educational system.

**Cuba**: Presented in 5 workshops involving 300 participants, and promoted among elderly, women’s shelters, factories, etc.
Radio soap opera with focus on flood and typhoon preparation, reached 80% of households with radios informing women and men to be better prepared as equal partners in the community.
What VWU and UN Women are doing

Natural disasters claim about 500 people each year.

“The training is very useful for me ... I now have knowledge of disaster preparedness,” Tang, 48.
Women have long been **excluded from decision-making** in this area of community life, even though they may be **more affected** by extreme environmental conditions, compared to men.
UN Women has supported local women to be involved in decision making structures such as committees for storms and flood control. This project has now enabled women to be represented on these committees at the provincial level, for the first time in the country.
The project will increase training for local village women in flood preparations and first aid, and also include swimming lessons, a much needed area.
29 000 posters and 58 000 leaflets have been distributed from 2010-2012
5251 people trained in disaster risk reduction/management (80% women)
New initiatives

• Replication: Pakistan, China, Bangladesh and Tanzania interested
• Build in mitigation through small credit projects focused in clean fuel, such as the compact rice brick