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## Building Disaster Resilient Communities in Coastal Vietnam



*A group from an Intergenerational Self Help Club in Nghe An province work on their disaster preparedness and contingency plan before the storm season arrives, bringing typhoons and flooding. Photo: HelpAge International*

### **Local partners:**

Thanh Hoa Fatherland Front  
Nghe An Association of the Elderly  
Ha Tinh Women's Union  
Quang Binh Women's Union

### **Duration:**

August 2013 - May 2015

### **Planned Budget:**

\$299,878

### **Prime Implementer:**

HelpAge International

When disaster strikes, older people and people with disabilities in coastal Vietnam are amongst the worst hit and the most likely to be killed, injured or lose their assets. Mobility, sight or hearing difficulties or other chronic health problems can make it hard for them to quickly evacuate from affected areas, and physical weakness can limit their ability to access relief services. In the longer term, people with disabilities and older survivors often lack the economic resilience to rebuild their lives – leaving them facing long-term destitution. At the same time, their knowledge of previous disasters, traditional cultural knowledge and understanding of who is most vulnerable in their communities, makes them valuable participants in community based disaster risk reduction (CBDRR) and climate change adaptation (CCA) activities.

The Building Disaster Resilient Communities in Coastal Vietnam project, funded by USAID's Center of Excellence on Democracy, Human Rights and Governance provides training and support to older people and persons with disabilities to build resilience and reduce the negative impact of devastating emergencies. Led by 40 Intergenerational Self Help Clubs (ISHC) incorporating Intergenerational Disaster Preparedness Teams, the project conducts community awareness activities and increases mobilization through buddy systems. Community maps of disaster prone areas and evacuation locations along with preparedness plans help community members become better prepared for a disaster. Regular meetings between the ISHCs and key local government representatives, including members of the local disaster managers, the Red Cross, various government bodies and other civil society actors build government's capacity to address the special needs of all vulnerable groups, including older and disabled people, in emergency situations.

### **RESULTS**

- 4,628 people have received training and education in disaster preparedness, mitigation and management in regular ISHC and community meetings.
- 100 percent of the 42 target communities have community maps, early warning systems, emergency buddy systems and community emergency plans.
- 12,054 people have received CCA, CBDRR and first aid communication (talks and informal training): 8,232 are women (68.3 percent), 1,963 are school students and 426 are persons with disabilities.
- 680 poor and needy households have received assistance through new livelihood development activities.

### **For more information:**

#### **USAID**

15/F, Tung Shing Square  
2 Ngo Quyen Street  
Hanoi, Vietnam  
Tel: 84-4-3935-1260

<http://vietnam.usaid.gov>