

RCC member countries

Vietnam



Country Information

Region: Southeast Asia

Population: Approximately 95.5 million

Capital: Hanoi

GDP (US\$): \$223.864 billion

Geography: Described as an elongated "S"-shaped country, Vietnam has 3,000km of coastline facing the South China Sea. It also has a relatively diverse topography made up of mountains, highlands, deltas, rivers, coastline, islands and peninsulas.

General climate: Vietnam belongs to a tropical monsoon region, affected by the Asian monsoon regime: northeast monsoon wind and southeast monsoon wind. Annual rainfall is substantial and 90% of precipitations occur in the summer.

INFORM Risk Rating: 3.8

Risk Summary

- Vietnam is exposed to a variety of hazards, including typhoons, earthquakes, landslides, floods, drought, fires, oil spills and maritime accidents.
- Every year, Vietnam suffers from 10 to 15 typhoons and floods that severely affect 50% of the land area and 70% of the population.
- Flash floods mostly occur in mountainous and hilly areas with steep slopes, heavy rains and poor drainage conditions. Due to climate change, flash floods occur almost every year during the flood season in all 33 mountainous provinces.
- The Red river and Thai Binh river systems flood three to five times a year, lasting from 8 to 15 days. Flooding of the Mekong River Delta progresses slowly during the monsoon season, lasting 4 to 5 months.
- Drought is common. In some years, drought reduced 20-30% of food productivity. Drought control is difficult due to water shortages and depleted upstream reservoirs.
- Salinity intrusion can be found along the entire coastline. The Southwest coastal region is the most severely affected with 1.77 million hectares of land with salinity intrusion, accounting for 45% of the total area.
- Due to its high exposure to floods and storms, and the location of two of its most important economic sectors (industry and agriculture) in coastal lowlands and deltas, Vietnam is one of the most vulnerable countries to climate change.
- Logging and slash-and-burn agricultural practices contribute to deforestation and soil degradation; water pollution and overfishing threaten marine life populations; groundwater contamination limits potable water supply; and growing urban industrialization and population migration are rapidly degrading the environment in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City.
- The population is susceptible to several infectious disease threats, e.g. Dengue, HIV, Hepatitis A, Malaria, Measles, Typhoid, Japanese B Encephalitis, Rabies, Bird Flu, and Tuberculosis.
- Vietnam remains heavily contaminated by Unexploded Ordnances (UXO), including extensive contamination by cluster munitions dating from the war with the U.S.

Disaster Management System

In Vietnam, government responsibilities for disaster management are delegated between different committees, ministries and departments, and their roles are dependent on the type of disaster. The current flood and storm control structure also decentralizes management functions to the provincial and sectoral levels.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) and the Central Committee for Flood and Storm Control (CCFSC) are responsible for state management of natural disaster prevention, response and mitigation. They coordinate the implementation of the Natural Disaster Prevention, Response, and Mitigation Plan 2020.

Flood, Storm Control and Disaster Mitigation Network

National Level

- **Government of Vietnam (GVN)**

The GVN performs the function of state management over national activities for flood and storm control, and issues related legal documents and regulations. When a disaster exceeds the response capacity of central ministries, agencies and provinces, the Government mobilizes necessary resources for response, recovery, and reconstruction.

- **National Committee for Searching and Rescue**

The NCSR, chaired by a Vice-Prime Minister, is mandated to provide guidance and organize efforts for search and rescue; address damaged transport infrastructure; address damage to people's lives and property; and mobilize and coordinate relevant agencies for timely search and rescue at national and sub-national levels.

Sub-National Level

- **Province, District, Commune Committees for Flood and Storm Control**

These local level committees are responsible for assisting the People's Committees of the relevant level in preparing and guiding the implementation of solutions for flood and storm control within their territories. They are also in charge of protecting structures, economic zones and people from storms and floods, and for disaster recovery.

Helpful Links and Sources

Vietnam country profile:

<https://data.worldbank.org/country/vietnam>

INFORM country risk profile:

<http://www.inform-index.org/countries/country-profiles>

Vietnam Disaster Management Reference Handbook (2015):

<https://www.cfe-dmha.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=kKT5L9BBuRo%3d&portalid=0>