



Girls going to collect fresh water in flood water, Quang Tri  
Credit: Plan International

## Who are we?

The Zurich Flood Resilience Alliance is a multi-sectoral partnership focusing on finding practical ways to help communities in developed and developing countries strengthen their resilience to flood risk.

### Our definition of resilience:

The ability of a system, community, or society to pursue its social, ecological, and economic development and growth objectives, while managing its disaster risk over time in a mutually reinforcing way.

**Vision:** Floods have no negative impact on people's and businesses' ability to thrive.

**Goal:** To increase social, political, and financial investment in community-based flood resilience-building through public, private, and third sector partnerships.



*Eastern dike, Quy Nhon, 2021*  
Credit: Tho Nguyen, ISET – International

## Impact of flooding in Viet Nam

Flooding is one of the most dangerous and damaging climate-related hazards, responsible for around two-thirds of all deaths and significant economic losses caused by natural disasters in Viet Nam. According to the report on Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction by the Viet Nameese Disaster Management Authority (2020), the recent historic flooding event in 2020 killed 356 people, injured 876, and resulted in an economic loss of more than VND 35,000 bn (~US\$1.5 bn).

Flooding poses slightly different challenges in our four project locations. Quang Tri province in central Viet Nam, where Plan International has a long-term presence, is often severely affected by natural hazards, especially typhoon, floods, and flash floods as a consequence of heavy rain (average rainfall of 2,100–2,800 mm per year). In Thua Thien Hue province, also in central Viet Nam, there was an average of 3.4 flood events per year between 1977 and 2017. The province is frequently and seriously damaged by extreme floods. Similarly, Binh Dinh province in the south-central region, especially its low-lying coastal areas, is frequently affected by flooding. In 1999, the province was hit by eight floods; less extreme but still serious damage occurred in 2009, 2013, and 2016. Finally, Can Tho city in the Mekong River Delta is subjected to annual flooding and inundation that is strongly influenced by local rainfall, rising river level caused by upstream flooding, and high tides. During the last decade, flooding in Can Tho has become less predictable and more damaging for many reasons, such as climate change and sea level rise, land subsidence, and urbanization.

## Alliance partners working in Viet Nam



**Plan International** is an independent development and humanitarian organization that advances children's rights, with a special focus on equality for girls, and over 80 years of experience working in more than 75 countries. Plan International has been working in northern and central Viet Nam since 1993, supporting marginalized children and youth, especially adolescent girls, to start life and grow up physically and mentally healthy. Plan's ambition is to work alongside these girls and together take action so that 2 million girls in Viet Nam can learn, lead, decide, and thrive by 2025.



**The Institute for Social and Environmental Transition–International (ISET)** is a non-governmental organization with offices in North America and Southeast Asia, committed to inclusive and transformative resilience building in the face of natural resource, environmental, and social challenges, especially related to climate change, natural hazards, and urbanization. Officially operating in Viet Nam since 2010, ISET has intimate understanding of the Viet Nam institutional landscape, its strengths and challenges, and proven expertise in working effectively across levels to bridge the still significant divide between science, policy, and implementation.



*Focus group interview, baseline FRMC study (T0) in Quang Thai commune, Hue, 2022*  
Credit: Thanh Ngo, ISET – International

## Zurich Flood Resilience Alliance objectives in Viet Nam

- Acquire a comprehensive understanding of community-level resilience to flood hazards across contexts;
- Strengthen flood resilience capacity of the communities by addressing identified gaps;
- Generate evidence and learning to support a systemic and holistic approach for flood risk management planning; in order to
- Improve governance, funding, and practice for flood resilience across levels.

## The communities we are working with

Many resilience-building actions can be taken at community level, as communities often know best how and where they need to build resilience. Working with communities, we can demonstrate tangible impact on people's lives and learn from best practices which can help to shape policy at a higher level.

Plan International Viet Nam is working in 18 communities in three districts of Quang Tri province with different geography and vulnerability: Dakrong district is a mountainous area with elevations up to 1,251 m and at risk of flash flood and landslide; Trieu Phong district is a coastal area divided into hills (51 per cent), plains (38 per cent), and coastal sandy areas (11 per cent) with high risk of flooding in the storm season; and Dong Ha city is a lowland area where flooding has become more severe in recent years as a result of increased urbanization.

ISET is working with 12 communities in 3 provinces of Viet Nam. The selected communities are those highly vulnerable to flooding, located in the coastal flood plain areas of Binh Dinh (five communities) and Thua Thien Hue (five communities) provinces in central Viet Nam and in Can Tho city (two communities) in the low-lying Mekong Delta. Of the 12 communities, 5 are rural and 7 are urban or peri-urban.



Female field worker conducted household survey in T0 study, Huong Hiep community  
Credit: Ms. Ho Thi Hoa

## Duration of the Viet Nam flood resilience programme: January 2021 – December 2024



Return home after a history flood in 2020, Quang Tri  
Credit: Plan International

## The Flood Resilience Measurement for Communities



Can Tho CRO – Flood in Can Tho, 2018  
Credit: Khanh, CRO Can Tho

The Flood Resilience Measurement for Communities (FRMC) framework comprises two parts: the Alliance’s framework for measuring community flood resilience and an associated tool for implementing the framework in practice.

### Uses of the FRMC:

- As the first measurement of resilience to be applied on a large scale; fully integrated into community programming
- To help analyse problems before seeking solutions
- To support impact measurement
- To generate data for empirical evidence on flood resilience

## The Flood Resilience Portals

The Alliance’s Flood Resilience Portals are online spaces for sharing practical knowledge about why and how to build community flood resilience. They bring together the knowledge generated and exchanged through the Zurich Flood Resilience Alliance and beyond.

 [www.floodresilience.net](http://www.floodresilience.net)

 [@floodalliance](https://twitter.com/floodalliance)



In partnership with:



**Practical ACTION**

## Contact

### Plan International Viet Nam:

To Thi Minh Trang  
Technical Lead on DRM  
+84 912348038  
[trang.tothiminh@plan-international.org](mailto:trang.tothiminh@plan-international.org)

### ISET:

Vu Canh Toan  
Technical Lead  
+84 982941479  
[toan@i-s-e-t.org](mailto:toan@i-s-e-t.org)



Members of the Zurich Flood Resilience Alliance are funded by the Z Zurich Foundation, with the exception of Zurich Insurance Group. However, the views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the official position of either the Foundation or the company.