

Brief Travel Report – Olivier Rubin (May 24th-31st)

Purpose with field visit:

Assess the impact of climate-induced WD and analyze the coping capacity of social groups, local communities and local institutions to WD. Gathering additional qualitative data to triangulate with quantitative survey. In particular information from local authorities (which were not part of the survey) Inputs used for article on the social capital dimension of flooding vulnerability in Vietnam (WP5).

Conducted 20 interviews with a total of 26 informants.

24 May 2014:

Travel from Copenhagen

25. May, 2014:

Arrive in Hanoi. Meet up with the research team (Danish and Vietnamese colleagues). Travel to Vinh.

26. May, 2014:

NGHE ANH PROVINCE

HUNG NGUYEN DISTRICT

HUNG NHAN COMMUNE

Villages 1,2,6 and 8.

Interviews with local authorities

- Nghe Anh Province: Hung Nguyen District, District Headquarter, Deputy chief of office of district

Interviews with households

- Nghe Anh Province: Hung Nguyen District: Hung Nhan Commune, Village 1, in-depths household interviews
- Nghe Anh Province: Hung Nguyen District: Hung Nhan Commune, Village 2, in-depths household interviews

27. May, 2014

NGHE ANH PROVINCE

HUNG NGUYEN DISTRICT

HUNG NHAN COMMUNE

Villages 1,2,6 and 8.

Interviews with local authorities

- Nghe Anh Province: Hung Nguyen District, District Headquarter (People's Committee of the District), Head of agricultural and rural development division, also head of the disaster management

commission, Deputy Chief of office of the District, Vice Chairman of People's Committee of the district Nghe Anh Province: Hung Nguyen District: Xa Hung Loi Commune, Commune Headquarter (People's Committee in the Commune)

Interviews with households:

- Nghe Anh Province: Hung Nhuyen District: Xa Hung Loi Commune, Village 6, in-depths household interviews
- Nghe Anh Province: Hung Nguyen District: Xa Hung Loi Commune, Village 8, in-depths household interviews

May 28, 2014

Ha Tinh Province

Duc Tho District

Yen Ho Commune

Interviews with local authorities:

Chairman of the People's Committee
Vice chairman of the People's Committee
Women's Union Leader

Interviews with households:

- Ha Tinh Province: Duc Tho District: Yen Ho Commune, Village 5 (Trung Van Minh), in-depths household interviews
- Ha Tinh Province: Duc Tho District: Yen Ho Commune, old village (Dien Hoa), in-depths household interviews
- Ha Tinh Province: Duc Tho District: Yen Ho Commune, new village (Tien Hoa), in-depths household interviews

May 29, 2014

Ha Tinh Province

Duc Tho District

Interviews with local authorities:

District Headquarters (People Committee in the District), agricultural office which was in the district headquarters
Deputy Chief of Agricultural Office

Interviews with households:

- Ha Tinh Province: Duc Tho District: Yen Ho Commune, Village 6, in-depths household interviews

May 30th, 2014

VINH

HANOI

Writing up interviews.

May 31st 2014

Back in Copenhagen

Excerpt of findings so far:

Flooding is the dominant natural disaster stress-factor for vulnerable households in the four provinces selected for this study. Only 1 percent of the households surveyed declared that floods have no adverse impacts on their livelihoods while 80 percent categorized themselves as highly vulnerable to floods (Survey, 2013). Relative to other stress-factors (such as illness, access to credit and access to land) flooding disasters were pointed to as having the most serious impact on people's livelihoods (Survey, 2013). Flooding is thus a part of life for the vulnerable households and their susceptibility to flooding is primarily caused by variations in flooding patterns both with respect to timing and severity. The qualitative evidence clearly indicated that vulnerable households were less concerned with the existence of floods as such and much more concerned with a perceived increase in variability and severity. The qualitative evidence clearly indicated that vulnerable households were less concerned with the existence of floods as such (most are actually dependent on limited flooding for irrigation of their crops), and more concerned with a perceived increase in variability and severity. The interviewed households complained that traditional coping strategies such as elevated storage facilities in-house and conduits to protect against saturation were no longer enough against floods that they considered to be more severe, faster (flash floods) and out of sync with the usual weather patterns. Most interviewed households across research sites pinpointed the year 2010 as particularly flood prone in recent times. The reported damages that year were greater than the years 2009, 2011, 2012 and 2013 combined (Survey, 2013).

95 percent of the respondents had received disaster relief. The large majority of those 95 percent appear to be satisfied with the relief they have received: 93 percent answered affirmatively when asked whether they were satisfied with the relief (Survey, 2013). Although we did encounter a more critical attitude towards the quality of the relief in our qualitative interviews, there is little doubt that disaster relief (mostly in-kind) has a high degree of penetration and is met with satisfaction in the vulnerable communities. In-kind support (mainly clothes and food) was the all-dominant type of support received by 98 percent of those who got relief from the local authorities, 30 percent received cash, and less than one percent got a loan (Survey, 2013). In the 2013 survey, the respondents were also asked to specify the sources of their support: 88 percent answered they had received support from the local government; 22 percent that they had received support from local social unions (in effect state associations that were often considered synonymous with the local authorities); 15 percent had received support from relatives; 10 percent had received support from neighbors; and 6 percent had received support from friends. Respondents overwhelmingly rely on the state for support. Both the objective indicators of disaster management (did you receive support and what kind?) and subjective indicators (rate the importance and usefulness of the support) point to this strong dependence on disaster relief from local authorities.