



# Health risk management in a changing climate:

## An operational research on dengue fever prevention in Vietnam

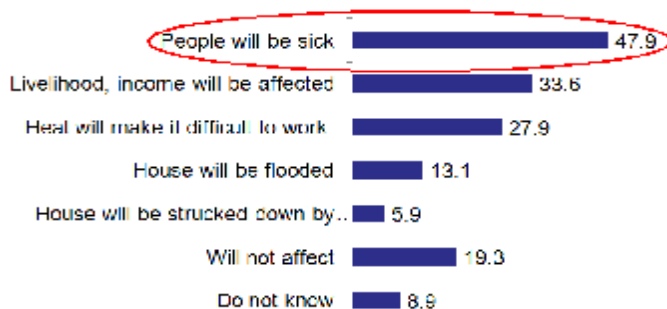
**C**limate change means health risks are changing and it poses the need of addressing climate-sensitive diseases in the context of uncertainty.

There is a lack of documented experience in communicating on changing health risks due to climate change.

The Vietnam Red Cross Society (VNRC) with support from the International Federation of Red Cross Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is implementing a unique operational research project to prepare for health risks due to climate change, focusing on:

- § Strengthening the partnership between VNRC and Ministry of Health in addressing climate-sensitive diseases
- § Operational research on community member's knowledge, attitude and practices with regards to dengue and their perception of climate change and the links to health.

*How will climate change affect your family?*



*\*VNRC, Community survey on dengue fever and climate change*

- § Developing and testing communication messages on dengue fever and climate change. Key questions include how best to communicate that dengue risks may change due to climate change but that much uncertainty still exists on what the effects will be. We will also determine whether the inclusion of messages of climate change serves to reinforce the importance of

basic health messages, or whether they confuse community members.

- § Engaging communities in the implementation of local actions in dengue fever prevention
- § Building capacity for VNRC to mitigate dengue fever in communities.



Local actions to prevent dengue fever that implemented by VNRC

With its auxiliary role to the government, the Vietnam Red Cross works in partnership with UN agencies, researching institutes and civil society organizations to contribute to the process of developing and implementing national action plan on climate change adaptation in health.

The project is implemented in Hochiminh City and Tiengiang Province from 2010-2011. The project is supported by a grant from the Rockefeller Foundation through the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre. The Foundation also supports projects on climate change and health in Indonesia, Kenya and Tanzania.

*For more information about overall program, please contact:  
Lina Nerlander (MD, MPH), Health Specialist, Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre  
Email: [nerlander@climatecentre.org](mailto:nerlander@climatecentre.org)*

*For Vietnam project, please contact:  
Thuan Nguyen, Programme Officer, International Federation, Vietnam  
Email: [thuan.nguyen@ifrc.org](mailto:thuan.nguyen@ifrc.org)*