

# Applying Forecast-based Financing to Reduce Heatwave Vulnerability in Hanoi, Vietnam



**German  
Red  
Cross**

## INTRODUCTION

In January 2018, the Vietnam Red Cross (VNRC) and German Red Cross (GRC) launched the “FbF Ready” project to reduce the adverse public health effects of heat waves on Hanoi’s most vulnerable populations. Using an FbF methodology already piloted by more than 16 other Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, “FbF Ready” will use forecasts provided by the Vietnam Institute of Meteorology, Hydrology and Climate Change (IMHEN) to predict the onset of heat waves, mobilize funding before a heat wave begins, and take anticipatory measures to lessen the impact of the heat wave upon its arrival.

At the conclusion of the project, the VNRC will retain the capacity to replicate the FbF model when responding to other disasters such as floods and typhoons, and act as a regional leader in anticipatory humanitarian action.

## HEAT WAVES: A GROWING CONCERN

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) predicts that heat waves will occur with greater frequency and last longer



German Red Cross staff speak with a for-hire motorbike driver survey in July 2018 in Hanoi’s Dong Xuan Market.

as a result of global climate change.<sup>1</sup> This trend will be experienced most acutely in urban settings, where concentrated human activity, greater pollution from fossil fuels, and higher density of buildings combine to create “heat islands.” In Hanoi, temperatures have risen steadily in recent years, likely the result of climate change and rapid urbanization.<sup>2</sup> “FbF Ready” will target the groups most vulnerable to heat waves, including street workers, the elderly, and individuals in care centers and hospitals.

Right: The “FbF Ready” project’s progress as of November 2018. Before identifying the forecasts and defining the impact levels at which early actions will be triggered, the VNRC and GRC must conduct extensive surveys and assessments to understand the impact of heatwaves on Hanoi’s most vulnerable populations.



(1) “Climate Change 2014 Synthesis Report Summary for Policymakers.” Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, 2014. Page 6.

(2) Thi Thanh Hiên Pham, Thi Huyen Ai Tong, Van Cu Pham. “Becoming Urban: How Urbanization Influences the Loss of Arable Land in Peri-urban Hanoi,” Computational Science and its Applications, 2013.



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