



Can Tho Urban Development and Resilience Project

SECO (Swiss State Secretariat of Economic Affairs) supports Can Tho city to address the two biggest threats to its socioeconomic development: flooding and unplanned urbanization.

Context

Situated in the middle of the Mekong Delta, Can Tho city is prone to flooding because of the Mekong river high tides and extreme rainfall. Seasonal flooding typically affects 30% of the city area, but has, in recent years, increased to 50%. The reasons for this increase are manifold and interlinked. Climate change, ground subsidence and fast urbanization are but a few of the driving forces.

More and more Mekong Delta migrants are drawn to Can Tho as it is the economic hub of the region. This influx generates additional challenges for Can Tho which has to face fast and, at times, uncontrolled urban development. Its infrastructure (e.g. roads, sanitation and drainage etc.), come under increased pressure.

Objectives and Components

The project supports the city to be more resilient to adverse climate change impacts through the following investments:

- new infrastructure to protect the city centre from flooding and improves connectivity of the city (ex. dams, sluice gates, bridges and new transport corridors);
- improve urban planning and development through a spatial planning platform; and
- develop better disaster response and management mechanisms to support the vulnerable population who are living outside the center of the City and are affected by flooding .

SECO provides a USD 10 million grant for technical assistance, which complements the investments of the World Bank. The funds strengthen the capacity of Can Tho to effectively operate its new flood control and drainage system. The SECO component ensures that city leaders can make informed decisions based on data built scenarios. Improved planning and better flood emergency response will mitigate financial risks for the city. The entire system is designed to support the City to be better prepared and cope with climate change impacts.

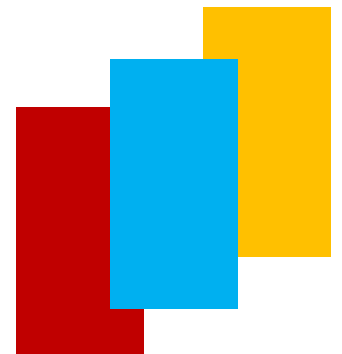
Country/region
Vietnam

Executing agency
The World Bank in Vietnam

Executing period
2016-2021

Total budget
USD 320,000,000

SECO contribution
USD 10,000,000



Expected results

The project is expected to improve the physical, social and financial resilience of the city to climate related disaster events. This will happen through a reduction of risk exposure due to the infrastructure investments into the flood protection of the city's core as well as enhanced institutional capacities for effective integrated flood risk management. With the help of the information from the new spatial planning platform as well as the early warning system, the city will be able to better manage the remaining disaster risks and take better-informed risk prevention decisions in view of investments and urban development.

The project will directly benefit about 420,000 residents in the urban core of Can Tho city as well as immigrant workers and students. Indirect beneficiaries include residents from Can Tho City (1.25 million people) and around 10.3 million from Mekong Delta Region, which is equivalent to 60 percent of total population in this area.

Further information

Website:

- **SECO:** www.eda.admin.ch
- **World Bank:** www.worldbank.org/en/country/vietnam

Contact:

- **SECO:** Tran Van Giai Phong, *National Program Officer*
Email: phong.tran@eda.admin.ch
- **World Bank:** Zhiyu Jerry Chen, *Title: Sector Coordinator for Urban and Disaster Risk Management, Task Team Leader*
Email: zchen1@worldbank.org
- **Government:** Huynh Thanh Su, *Title: Director, ODA Project Management Unit, Can Tho City*
Email: pmuodacantho@gmail.co