

Women & Girls Power through Partnering in Việt Nam: Deaf-Led Disaster Action

Audrey C. Cooper
Gallaudet University
Professor/Program Director
USA

Nguyễn Trần Thủy Tiên
PARD (NGO)
Executive Director
Việt Nam



Global Deaf Communities & Disaster Risk Reduction

**More than 70 million deaf people in the world;
80% live in LICs** (WFD 2019)

**Deaf people overwhelmingly excluded from
disaster information and communication in most
countries** (Cooper, et al 2021; Neuhauser, et al 2013;
Rogl 2017; Takayama 2017; Tannenbaum-Baruchi, et
al 2014)



Disasters & Deaf People in Việt Nam

Global ranking for exposure to disaster and extreme weather events: 6th highest in the world (2020)

Deaf Population: est. 1.3 million deaf or hard of hearing people (2016 National Survey on People with Disabilities; total pop: 96.2 million)

Deaf community clubs: est. 30+ clubs in North, Central, and South Việt Nam

Officially recognized Deaf-led NGOs: one (PARD VN)



Deaf Women and Girls in Việt Nam: Key Policy Mechanisms

2006 Law on Gender Equality (73/2006/QH11)

2010 National Law on Disability (51/2010/QH12)

2013 Natural Disaster Prevention and Control (33/2013/QH13)

ISSUE: Access to education and training in Vietnamese sign language limits women and girls' disaster preparedness and participation in decision-making



Deaf-Led Organizations & Disaster Communication in Việt Nam (Cooper, et al. 2021)

Table 2

Characteristics of the study population by province, research method, and gender.

Province	Interviews with deaf organization leaders (DOL), by gender identity (N = 28)			Group surveys with deaf organization members, (DOM), by gender identity (N = 83)			Drawings and photographs, by gender identity (N = 15)		
	Female	Male	Other	Female	Male	Other	Female	Male	Other
Cần Thơ	1	4	0	8	7	1 [+1 no answer]	0	1 drawing	0
Đà Nẵng	2	2	0	1	2	0	0	0	0
Hà Nội	1	4	0	8	4	2 [+1 no answer]	0	1 photo	0
Hồ Chí Minh	4	1	0	6	11	1	4 drawings	3 drawings	0
Huế	5	0	0	8	1	0	0	0	0
Tiền Giang	1	3	0	9	11	1	3 drawings	0	0
							0	3 photos	
Total	14	14	0	40	36	5 [+2 no answer]	7 drawings	4 drawings	0
								4 photos	

*Gender parity in deaf organizational leadership and participation



DEAF CLUB NETWORK



Gallaudet University - PARD Partnering

- 2013-15 - Collaboration in education-related capacity development projects in Việt Nam
- 2014-present - Joint research on language ideologies that interfere with deaf education access in Vietnamese sign languages
- 2019 NGO status in VN requires proof of higher education degree, publications, and other achievements. [PARD Executive Director the only deaf person in VN with an MA degree (Gallaudet University, Master of Arts in Sign Language Education; partnering with Gallaudet faculty generated peer reviewed research publications.)]
- 2021 - Collaboration on international Disaster-focused webinar “Deaf-Led Disaster Action” hosted by Gallaudet University and the Global Alliance for Disaster Resource Acceleration (GADRA)



**PARD is the first deaf-led
non profit organisation in
Việt Nam**

**We are working for an
inclusive and barrier- free
society for deaf people.**



Nguyễn Trần Thủy Tiên, MA in Sign Language Education

Deaf Women & Girls Participation in Disaster Planning: BARRIERS

- Persisting negative attitudes about disability. Impacts: limited access to education, employment, interaction with government
- Even within disability circles, deaf people marginalized due to language differences.
- Lack of interpreters (no university-level interpreter training degree programs, no interpreter testing and credentialing)
- Traditional social attitudes about women and girls as primarily responsible for home and children



Deaf Women & Girls Participation in Disaster Planning: ACTIONS

In General:

- Deaf clubs self-produce and disseminate disaster information and communication (via social media, group video messaging)
- Deaf clubs also mobilize resource sharing with disaster-impacted areas

Women and Girls:

- High level of voluntarism in disaster outreach, awareness raising, and communications
- Lead efforts to identify maternal, infant, and family food resources, milk/formula, and reproductive health needs



Sign Language News Program

Accessible information in sign language for deaf people



References

- Calgato, E., Craig, N., Craig, L., Dominey-Howes, D., & Allen, J. 2021. Silent No more: Identifying and Breaking through the Barriers that D/deaf People Face in Responding to Hazards and Disasters. *International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction*, 57: 1–12.
- Calgato, E., Villeneuve, M., & Roberts, G. 2020. Inclusion: Moving Beyond Resilience in the Pursuit of Transformative and Just DRR Practices for Persons with Disabilities. In A. Lukasiewicz & C. Baldwin (Eds.), *Natural Hazards and Disaster Justice: Challenges for Australia and Its Neighbors*. Singapore: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Cooper, Bùi HTT, Nguyễn LT, Nguyễn KP, Nguyễn THT, & Phan NDP. 2021. Deaf-led Organizations and Disaster Communication in Việt Nam: Interdisciplinary Insights for Disaster Risk Reduction. *International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction*, 65: 1-16.
- Craig, L., Craig, N., Calgato, E., Dominey-Howes, D., & Johnson, K. 2019. People with Disabilities: Becoming Agents of Change in Disaster Risk Reduction. In F. Rivera (Ed.), *Emerging Voices in Natural Hazards Research*. Oxford, UK: Elsevier.
- Cripps, J.H., Cooper, S.B., & Austin, E.N. 2016. Emergency Preparedness with People Who Sign: Toward the Whole Community Approach. *Journal of Emergency Management*, 14(2): 101-111.
- Engelman, A., Ivey, S., Tseng, W., Dahrouge, D., Brune, J., & Neuhauser, L. 2013. Responding the Deaf in Disasters: Establishing the Need for Systematic Training for State-Level Emergency Management Agencies and Community Organizations. *BMC Health Services research*, 13: 84. doi: 10.1186/1472-6963-13-84.
- Neuhauser, L., Ivey, S.L., Huang, D., Engelman, A., Tseng, W., Dahrouge, D., Gurung, S., & Kealey, M. 2013. Availability and Readability of Emergency Preparedness Materials for Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing and Older Adult Populations: Issues and Assessments. *PLoS ONE* 8(2): e55614.
- Rogl, R. 2017. Language-Related Disaster Relief in Haiti: Volunteer Translator Networks and Language Technologies in Disaster Aid. In R. Antonini, L. Cirillo, L. Rossato, & I. Torresi (eds.), *Non-professional Interpreting and Translation: State of the Art and Future of an Emerging Field of Research*. Amsterdam: Benjamins.
- Takayama, K. 2017. Disaster Relief and Crisis Intervention with Deaf Communities: Lessons Learned from the Japanese Deaf Community. *Journal of Social Work in Disability & Rehabilitation*, 16(3-4):247-260.
- Tannenbaum-Baruchi, C., Feder-Bubis, P., Adini, B., and Aharonson-Daniel, L. 2014. Emergency Situations and Deaf People in Israel: Communication Obstacles and Recommendations. *Disaster Health*, 2(2):106-111.
- World Federation of the Deaf. 2019. <https://wfd deaf .org/our-work/>



Nothing about Deaf without Deaf

