

Interactive comment on “Exposure to Floods, Climate Change, and Poverty in Vietnam” by Mook Bangalore et al.

Anonymous Referee #1

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The paper deals with a very interesting topic. It shows the exposure on the one hand of the Vietnamese population and on the other hand of the population in HCMC to current and future flooding. Interestingly, the authors find out that at the local level especially the poor are highly exposed. The paper has a clear structure and is well written. All in all, I think that this paper has the potential to be a major contribution. Overall, I recommend a revision.

I restrict my comments to the following aspects:

1. The paper is a pure empirical paper on the exposure. As there are many studies on the exposure to risks in Vietnam, the question is really about the value added of this contribution. In my opinion a strong selling point is the consideration of socioeconomic characteristics and the focus on the poor. Therefore, a stronger theoretical foundation

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on the relationship between poverty and vulnerability is suggested.

2. The authors promise that “we combine high-resolution flood hazard data with spatial data on slum location, urban expansion, and migration...”. In my opinion, nothing is really said on urban expansion, and migration. It would be very good to discuss development trends of HCMC – to get a much better understanding of the context conditions, and the driving forces behind the urban expansion.

3. The reader is more or less left alone with the results. The authors claim to have shown the “benefits of investing in risk and flood management today”. But, no in-depth discussion on the possible positive advantages of introducing a management system has been addressed. The central question is how such a management system should look like and how it could be implemented in HCMC or Vietnam – where institutional framework conditions are not easy.

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