Recent studies have identified the disproportionately high risk of drowning to rural children in Asia. The threat of flooded waterways, water-filled paddy fields, irrigation flumes, fish ponds, irrigation dams and natural streams propose a significant threat to children in Vietnam, as they do in all countries where children live, play and work in the vicinity of water hazards.

This paper describes personal experience with a major orphanage in Vietnam, from which residential children go to school each day. Recent experience with the threat of flooded watercourses following torrential rains highlights the particular vulnerability of such children. Orphan children in developing countries are at particular risk of a number of trauma threats, in that the normal parent-child and the inter-generational transfer of experiential knowledge, is not present to the same extent that it is in nuclear or extended families. This paper describes threat to this particular class of vulnerable children.

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