



**act:onaid**

# **ANNUAL REPORT**

## **VIETNAM 2017**

**Helping people, changing lives!**

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# Table of Abbreviations

<b>AAI</b>	ActionAid International
<b>AAV</b>	ActionAid Vietnam
<b>AFV</b>	Aid for social protection program Foundation Vietnam
<b>BfdW</b>	Bread for the World
<b>CBM</b>	Christian Blind Mission
<b>CKC</b>	Community Knowledge Centre
<b>CSP</b>	Country Strategy Paper
<b>EC4</b>	The project “Civil Society-Led Promotion of Reproductive Healthcare Services”
<b>ECHO</b>	European Commission’s Humanitarian aid and civil protection department
<b>EMT</b>	Extended Management Team
<b>EU</b>	European Union
<b>FAO</b>	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
<b>FORMIS</b>	Forest Management Information System
<b>GFW</b>	Global Fund for Women
<b>ILO</b>	International Labor Organization
<b>INGO</b>	International Non-Government Organization
<b>IOM</b>	International Organization for Migration
<b>LRP</b>	Local Rights Program
<b>M&amp;E</b>	Monitoring and Evaluation
<b>NGO</b>	Non-Government Organization
<b>PFG</b>	Project “People’s Participation in Forest Governance”
<b>PP</b>	Program Priorities
<b>PRS</b>	Promoting Rights in Schools
<b>RLS</b>	Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung
<b>S-City</b>	S-City application
<b>SDGs</b>	Sustainable Development Goals
<b>VST</b>	Video Storytelling

# Message from the Country Director

**“I look forward to working with you all, to advance human rights for social justice!”**



**Hoang Phuong Thao**  
Country Director  
ActionAid Vietnam

Dear supporters, partners, communities and friends,

2017 was a special year for ActionAid Vietnam (AAV). It marks the 25th anniversary of ActionAid's working alongside Vietnam in poverty reduction and development. Through 25 years of operation, AAV has been recognized not only as one of the largest international NGOs in the country, contributing to the development of Vietnam, but our support to partners and communities has also been appreciated for rights-based approach focused on empowerment, capacity building, and building awareness for disadvantaged groups.

2017 was also the last year of AAV's Country Strategy Paper V, and marked the transition to a new strategy for the next phase 2018-2023. Rooted in our current context, AAV's Country Strategy Paper VI aims to continue to leverage the strengths of ActionAid's programmatic approach to empowering people by building their capacity to be agents of change in their own lives. We focus on disadvantaged groups, including people with disabilities, in parallel with our longstanding priority groups – women, children and ethnic minorities.

Vietnam has successfully lifted 53 million people out of poverty between 1986 and 2016, now the road ahead is so much more difficult as there are still more than 10 million people living on less than USD 2 per day. Inequality and pollution are very much on the rise in country, and at the same time Vietnam has entered into a few more Free Trade Agreements (FTA), including the Vietnam – EU FTA and the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CP-TPP). The extensive commitments it made to enter those FTAs and internationally binding agreements have reduced significantly the policy space of the government to ensure resources for public services and therefore – sustainable development of the country.

We are entering 2018 with the strong support and cooperation of strategic national and local partners, including Aid for Social Protection Program Foundation Vietnam (AFV), and the communities we work with. We have benefited from the invaluable guidance of the AFV Management Board, and the generosity of donors and supporters. ActionAid Vietnam team is eager to focus its strength and commitments toward a better future for all.

I look forward to working with you all, to advance human rights for social justice!

# ActionAid Vietnam

ActionAid is a global federation headquartered in Johannesburg, South Africa. ActionAid works with over 15 million people in 45 countries for a world free from poverty and injustice.

ActionAid started its program in Vietnam in 1989 and officially established its representative office in 1992. Over the past two decades, AAV has expanded its operations and programs to support more than one million people in 21 provinces and cities in some of Vietnam’s poorest regions: the Northwest, the Central Highlands and the Mekong Delta. AAV is recognized throughout the country for its contribution to the development of Vietnam.



## VISION

A just, equitable and sustainable world in which every person enjoys the right to a life of dignity.



## MISSION

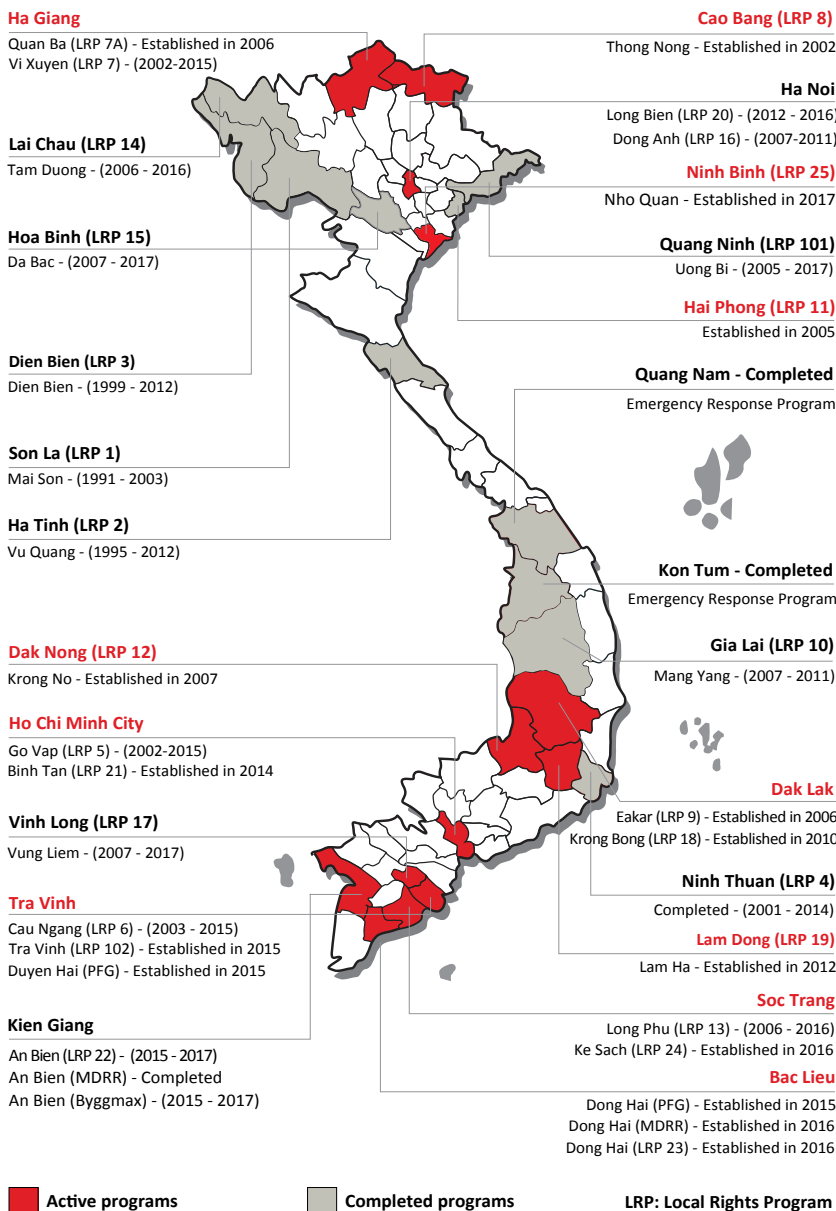
Working with people living in poverty and exclusion to eliminate poverty and injustice.



## VALUES

- Solidarity with people living in poverty and exclusion.
- Transparency and accountability.
- Neutrality and independence from all religions and political parties.

## AAV Working Areas



## Highlights of the year



### Evaluation of Country Strategy Paper V and development of Country Strategy Paper VI

ActionAid's new global strategy for the period 2018-2028, Action for Global Justice, was approved by the ActionAid International General Assembly on 7 December 2016 in Arusha, Tanzania and was published in February 2017. The ActionAid Vietnam Board, staff and partners participated actively in the formulation of the **Global Strategy Action for Global Justice 2018-2028** with inputs in several rounds. The approved Strategy was introduced to members of the AFV management board and provincial and district partners at the Partnership Forum in Buon Ma Thuot City, Dak Lak Province and to all AAV staff at the staff retreat in April 2017 in Ninh Binh Province.

In accordance with the new global strategy, AAV undertook the development of the Sixth Country Strategy Paper (CSPVI) 2018-2023 from December 2016 and completed the strategy in December 2017. This strategy is called **Advancing Human Rights for Social Justice**.

**CSPV review** was conducted from March to June 2017 by an independent consultant group (T&C Consulting) with consultation and validation by AAV staff and counterpart staff from selected regions. The review included a study of relevant secondary literature and a field survey conducted from 6 to 15 March 2017 in five selected areas: LRP 7A (Quan Ba), LRP 8 (Thong Nong), LRP 15 (Da Bac), LRP 9 (Ea Kar) and LRP 17 (Vung Liem) as well as exchanges with AFV's Board, national partners, NGOs, donors and key AAV staff. Additionally, there was a perspective paper that was prepared by an independent consultant to give an account of the vision for Vietnam and the factors that will influence AAV's work in country in the next decade. Results and lessons learned from this review were the foundation for the key priorities set in CSP VI.

**There have been two writing workshops** which were held in March and April 2017 with active participation of the AFV Board and Strategy Writing Taskforce, who discussed, agreed and wrote program priorities for the new strategy. This draft was sent to the Fund Management Board, partners and AAV staff for comments by 10 May 2017. Based on the comments, Draft 2 was finalized in July 2017 and sent to local partners for reference to develop the 2018-2020 budget plan. Other stakeholders and members of AAI contributed comments. CSPVI development was completed in November 2017, and approved by the Board as well as ActionAid International in December 2017 for launching in January 2018.



## ActionAid's 25 years in Vietnam

Over the past 25 years, with an average annual budget of £3 million pounds, AAV has directly supported millions of people across Vietnam, with particular focus on women, children, ethnic minorities, migrants, landless people, disadvantaged people and others not benefiting from the development process. In 2017, AAV directly assisted 76,561 people in disadvantaged areas and scaled up our work with people with disability.



ActionAid has trained and built core groups at all levels in 30 provinces throughout the country. AAV has provided direct technical and financial support to establish, maintain and develop nearly 20 local NGOs, from district to provincial to national level.



ActionAid Vietnam's staff base has grown significantly. ActionAid was one of the first international NGOs in Vietnam to have a Vietnamese Country Director and senior Vietnamese managers. Many of ActionAid's former staff now hold key positions in non-governmental organizations, government agencies, research institutions, national and international donors.





ActionAid’s identity in Vietnam is based on our active participation in building the capacity of the community and local partners, and our efforts to bring Vietnam’s voices and experiences to international friends all over the world:



Over the years, AAV has consistently provided funding and support to the people’s organizations in Vietnam, led by the Vietnam Union of Friendship Organizations (VUFO) and Vietnam Peace and Development Foundation (VPDF) and participated in the ASEAN People’s Forum, the Asia-Europe People’s Forum, the World Social Forum, and people’s forums in India, Kenya, Belgium, Brazil, Venezuela, Finland, Laos, Cambodia, Thailand, China, Mongolia, Canada and within Vietnam.

ActionAid Vietnam attaches great importance to the application of information technology and the development of management and communication systems within the organization, of which the most notable is the M&E Online system. ActionAid has also brought technology to local governments and communities to use for local emergency needs, such as natural disaster warning, and plantation management. This includes the project “Connecting People to Enhance Rescue and Improve Disaster Preparedness and Response in the Mekong Delta” and the use of the S-City smartphone application to assess the safety of women and girls.



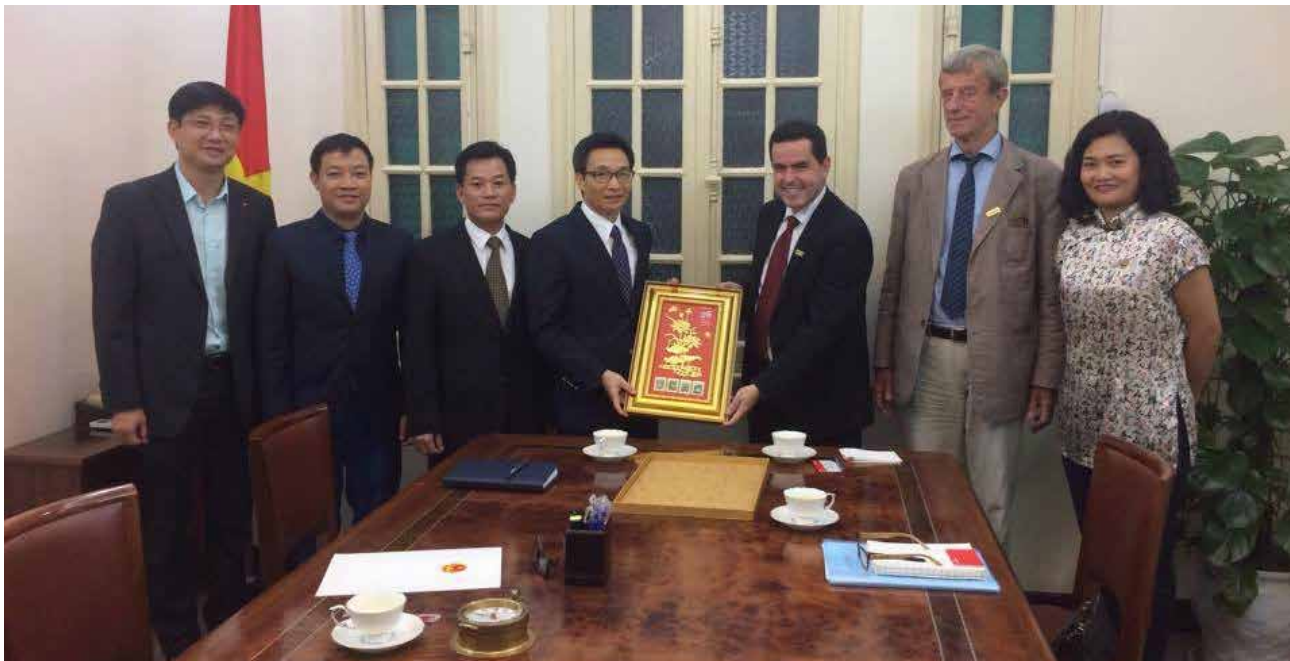
Another special feature of ActionAid Vietnam is that we do not receive funding from organizations with policies that do not benefit people living in poverty in Vietnam. AAV's major sponsorship is from individual donors in countries such as UK, Italy, Greece, Spain, Sweden, and Ireland. Through reports to our donors, AAV has contributed to providing up-to-date and honest information on Vietnam's history, culture, land and people to friends around the world and contributing in the process of building friendship among nations. Since 2014, AAV has accessed project funding from government and intergovernmental donor agencies (such as the European Union, Government of Finland, CBM and Bread for the World), diversifying our funding sources, which are narrowing for middle income countries, and developing new programs and projects that meet the immediate needs of Vietnam such as environment, resources, and emergency relief.

Over the past 25 years, with funding of approximately £40million (equivalent to VND 1,400 billion), AAV has contributed a small part to poverty reduction and development in Vietnam. Since Vietnam has become a middle-income country, some organizations have changed their priorities and stopped their programs. ActionAid continues to affirm its long-term commitment to Vietnam. With long-term programs being maintained and developed, ActionAid Vietnam continues to seek and implement solutions for urban poverty, climate change, governance, and enhancing the leadership of youth and people's organizations, and continues to emphasize the role and status of women and girls.

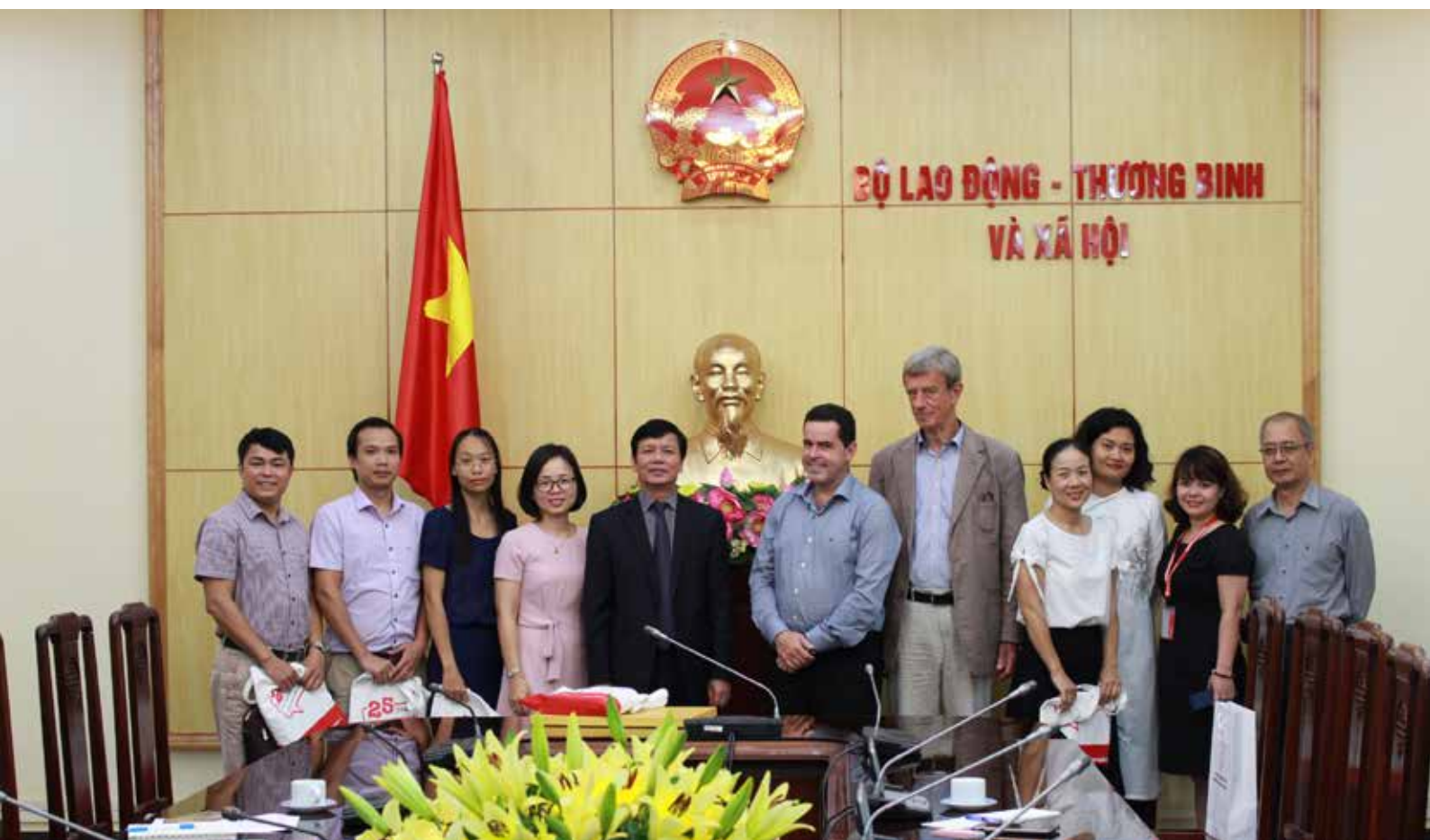
On this special occasion, the Secretary General (SG) of ActionAid International Global Secretariat, Mr. Adriano Campolina and the Chair of ActionAid International Board of Trustees, Ms. Nyaradzai Gumbonzvanda, a human rights lawyer, paid a visit to Vietnam from 24<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2017. In this visit, the ActionAid SG and Board Chair had chance to interact with landless women and street vendors in Tra Vinh City, Tra Vinh province on the opportunities that ActionAid has initiated for them to make collective actions to improve their economic situation. They also had chance to witness the serious impact of climate change, land erosion and salination in Mekong Delta.



During the trip, Vice Prime Minister Vu Duc Dam extended a meeting with ActionAid International and ActionAid Vietnam leaders. Both parties agreed to support each other and ActionAid committed to work on the development of Vietnam, especially to empower women and girls and act to end poverty.



During his trip, Mr. Nguyen Trong Dam, Vice Minister of the Ministry of Labour - Invalids and Social Affairs also had a meeting with Mr. Adriano Campolina, CEO of ActionAid International with other leaders of different Departments such as Gender Equality Department, Social Protection Department, International Public Relations Department. Both parties committed to cooperate in development programmes and replicate initiatives in Vietnam.



## Stories of change

### Story 1: ActionAid's support helping people escape poverty



*“Before, it was very hard to go to the field to collect more wood to go home and cook for the family and also look after the pigs. When it rained for a long time, I did not have fuel to cook. I had to buy a gas bottle in the market for 420,000/bottle that would be used for just over two months. Now, having a biogas digester, I don't have to take time to collect firewood and I have more time to care for myself and my family. Thanks to the financial and technical support of LRP9, and the training I attended, I now have more knowledge and determination. I find that when I always try, I succeed and do not need to rely on anyone.”*

- Dinh Thi Duong, 35 years old, Ea Kar district, Dak Lak province -

Dinh Thi Duong, 35 years old, lives in EaPal village, Cu Ni commune, Ea Kar district, Dak Lak province. Together with her husband, Y Nguyen Niê, 36 years old, they have two daughters, Dinh Niê Bao Ngoc (10 years old) and Dinh Niê Bao Ngan (5 years old). Ms. Duong and her husband work hard to grow crops on their 5 perch land each year, as well as breeding livestock.

Life became harder when their children reached school age and prices escalated with droughts becoming increasingly severe, damaging crops and the harvest. Ms. Duong's husband had to go to the fields every day, as well as farming his own land and laboring for other families to make extra income, while she stayed at home to look after the children and the family pig. Previously, her family - and many other people in the village - kept livestock and poultry under their house. In addition, the productivity of coffee trees was not high, and incomes from crops and livestock were not enough for the family. This hard life turned Ms Duong into a shy and self-deprecating woman, with few opportunities for communication.

Since 2008, Ms. Duong has been involved in the Community Development Group organized by the Ea Kar District Development Assistance Program. From the beginning, she and other group members in the village have actively participated in activities implemented in the LRP. Through the information kiosk and the community development team, she gained new knowledge on cultivation and livestock techniques; new information on market prices; and information on new plant varieties - which she gradually applied to domestic production. The effects were soon seen in her farming and livestock raising: her pigs had fewer diseases, grew faster with less feed; corn and coffee harvests increased with less pesticide and chemical fertilizers. This initial success, with the encouragement of the community development team, helped her to build confidence. Gradually, she became an active member of the Community Development Group, encouraging other women in the village to participate in LRP activities. In the village, she is considered an expert on pig breeding and is ready to help others when needed.

By mid-2013, when her pigs had increased in quantity, the animal waste became a source of pollution, affecting not only the family but also the surrounding neighbors. Through training courses, she learned about the use of a biogas cellar and the benefits that biogas can bring. Through LRP9's revolving fund, she bravely borrowed VND 5,000,000 to develop a biogas model. Ms. Duong's was one of the first households in the village to implement this model. The model brought significant benefits: no odor caused by raising pigs, the family has an independent source of fuel from biogas, and their manure is well treated for planting in the garden.

## Story 2: People directly participate in managing forest resources in Vietnam

*“The people here are only farmers and livestock keepers – they do not know how to use a computer or how to access the internet. Now there are information kiosks from the project. Since I attended the training with the other women from my village, now I know how to use the computer, and how to access the internet and FORMIS maps to find my land. The first time, we saw the satellite map and saw what our plot of land looks like and its boundaries. This information also tells us the status of our Land Use rights paper. In many cases the boundaries are not correct. We had a chance to voice our concern on this and people in the village feel more confident to speak up with local authorities on their forest land. We hope the project will have more training and activities so that people have more information about forest resources.”*

- Thach Kim Duyen, Khmer Ethnic Minority 50 years old, Dong Hai district, Bac Lieu province -



More than 40% of Vietnam’s total area is forests. Since 1982, the Government has promoted a policy of allocating land and forests to people with the goal of “connecting people and forests”. Subsequent policies and decrees have also formally empowered people to manage land and forests through land use certificates, thereby confirming the role of communities in forest protection.

However, in reality, the area of forest allocated to local people has not been demarcated in maps, while the management has not been strict or comprehensive. As a result, many of the allocated forest areas have not been effectively utilized, leading to many phenomena of land disputes or the abuse of illegal land use rights.

In this context, the Finnish Government - Embassy of Finland and AAV funded the project **“Encourage people to participate in improving forest governance for poverty reduction in Vietnam” (PFG)**. The project was implemented from 2015 to 2017 in Thong Nong District, Cao Bang Province, Krong Bong District, Dak Lak Province, Duyen Hai District, Tra Vinh Province and Dong Hai District, Bac Lieu Province.

The project activities focus on promoting awareness of, and building capacity in, community forest management through improved access to information on forests. With networked computers located at the information kiosks of each project commune, for the first time people have access to the Forest Sector Management Information System (FORMIS). The digitized data from this system has improved the transparency and up-to-date information on the forest, thus helping the community to detect and prevent violations in forest management as well as prevent corruption related to forest resources.

In July and August 2016, AAV organized two training courses for the community on computer skills and data mining from the FORMIS system in 15 communes of 4 project districts. After 6 days of training, 103 core group members who were representatives of households in the villages in the project communes were able to use information extracted directly from the FORMIS system to actively learn about forest governance.

The project PFG has created a space that enables people to interact directly with the national forest management information system, contributing to improved governance and poverty reduction in Vietnam. In the near future, the project will continue to expand its activities to the communities in the project communes so that the community can better access FORMIS and implement transparent forest governance.

### Story 3: Ms. Ngan Thi Phu overcomes the drought



*“Natural disasters and droughts have made my family’s life more difficult, but thanks to the support of the project, I have received VND 2.2 million in cash to buy materials for a chicken coop, and can expand my brood. Now in my coop there are more than 100 chickens. On the occasion of New Year I sold some chickens in order to have money to spend for the Lunar New Year and pay for medicine and medical bills for my husband and myself. Others I have spoken to in the commune are also happy because, thanks to this support, many households now have more income and a more stable life. I am very thankful for this practical support from the project.”*

- Ngan Thi Phu, 71 years old, Ea Sup district, Dak Lak province -

“I am Ngan Thi Phu, a 71 year old woman of Thai ethnicity. I live in hamlet 14 of Ea Rok commune, Ea Sup district, Dak Lak province. My children are grown up, married and living out on their own, this family is only me and my husband now – and we are both old and sick.”

Ms. Ngan Thi Phu’s household is one of the poorest in Ea Rok commune. In the commune, there are 2,200 households, of which 954 are ethnic minorities (42.5%). Most of the households in the commune are living in poverty. In 2016, Ea Rok commune was one of the most severely affected by drought, causing great damage to the villagers’ property and livelihoods. Moreover, the drought has led to scarcity of water for drinking and daily activities because almost all water from surrounding rivers, streams and wells has dried up or been exhausted.

In this difficult situation, the project “Food Security and Livelihood Restoration for poor communities in the Central Highlands affected by drought” funded by the European Commission’s Humanitarian aid and civil protection department (ECHO), implemented by AAV and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), has supported many poor households with cash, vouchers and plastic buckets to restore their livelihoods after drought.

Ms Phu’s household received VND 2.2 million (approx. USD 96) cash support from the project, which she used to buy materials to make a chicken coop. She expressed her happiness that she and her husband now have a stable income and can gradually escape poverty.

### Story 4: Sharing unpaid care work within the household

Mr. Duong Minh Tuan, a member of the H’Mong ethnic minority in Thong Nong District, has participated in ActionAid and AFV’s unpaid care work time diary survey since 2016. As part of this study, Mr. Tuan has used a time diary to log his daily activities at regular intervals, noting how much time is spent on paid work, unpaid care work (like housework, looking after children and cooking), and leisure or self-care. Mr. Tuan is one of more than 825 people nationally who participated in ActionAid’s unpaid care work program between 2015 and 2017. As well as completing the time diary, participants in the program have held community discussions to reflect on the division of unpaid care work in their households and communities, and discuss what actions they could take to recognize, reduce and redistribute unpaid care work. As a result of this program, several community groups have developed collaborative action plans with their local governments for initiatives to reduce the amount of unpaid care work that women and men have to do, or support men and women to share care more equally.



*"I realized that housework isn't just women's responsibility, it should be shared among men and the family as well. I always help my wife with housework so she can feel better and we can have more time to look after the children."*

- Duong Minh Tuan, 27 years old, Thong Nong district, Cao Bang province -

Since participating in the study, Mr. Tuan has changed his views on unpaid care work. Mr. Tuan now helps his wife with cooking, cleaning, washing dishes and looking after their one year old daughter. Mr. Tuan's wife, Ms. Giang Thi Nu, appreciates the opportunities to participate in community activities: *"Now I have more time for social activities such as local meetings, events or going to the market"*.

To watch a video of Mr. Tuan's story, visit: <https://youtu.be/G4zsytM-TIA>

## Evaluation of Membership Development Plan

In 2017, AAV continued its efforts to complete the systems and management mechanism needed to become a full member of the ActionAid International Federation. As part of this, several audits, self-assessments, direct and online assessments have been conducted. In August 2017, Mr. Chris Kinyanjui - Executive Vice President and International Director and Ms. Helen Njie, Management Advisor conducted an Orientation Program for the AFV Board and the AAV Management Board. From September to December 2017, Independent management consultancy T&C Consulting conducted a study on the nationalization of AAV and provided research findings and recommendations to AAV to improve its governance in line with national and international contexts. AAV has completed the Membership Development Plan to submit to the ActionAid International Board of Management for review.



# Program Achievements

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## PP1: Promote alternative livelihoods and sustainable agriculture

In 2017, the project “**Promoting People’s Participation in Forest Governance and Poverty Reduction**” (PFG) continued to implement livelihood models associated with community-based forest protection and development. Through eight training courses and 15 community meetings with the participation of 325 people (202 men/123 women), community members, forestry staff and related actors collaborated to build livelihood models associated with forest protection and development. For example, in Thong Nong district, in addition to planting local species, the project participants have been experimenting with growing chukrasia (Indian mahogany) in rocky terrain. These species have a higher economic value while still being suitable for the local climate. The project has also operated 15 information kiosks and trained 130 core group members and households (72 women, 58 men) on using a smartphone application to monitor and manage their forest-based livelihood models. This has increased the interaction between the 425 plantation households.

In February 2017, the Vietnam Forest Association, Department of Forestry and ActionAid conducted 15 community surveys on draft revisions to the Law on Forest Protection and Development in five locations: Cao Bang, Dak Lak, Lam Dong, Tra Vinh and Bac Lieu. The research showed that some rights and obligations of forest owners (particularly ethnic minorities and women) have not been enforced due to difficulties implementing legal regulations. The survey results were shared at a workshop which provided an opportunity for the parties – including representatives of Ministries and departments, the drafting board for the revision of the law, and community members - to discuss broader issues around forest land allocation, management, protection, and the rights and obligations of forest owners and resulted in some of the issues raised by communities being incorporated into the revised law.

*“Since ancient times, forests are not only livelihoods but also cultural space of ethnic minority people. We hope the new law will reflect the connection between the people and the forest. “*

- Mr. Y Suom Nie, Trader of Ngo A village, Krong Bong district, Dak Lak province -



Within the framework of the PFG project, AAV collaborated with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) to conduct research and organize a **workshop on “Forest and Timber Trade”**. Despite significant increases in Vietnam’s timber product export turnover, quality and sustainability issues limit the potential of this industry to deliver significant benefits for the forest owners. The workshop provided space for policymakers and stakeholders to discuss solutions to maximize the potential of the domestic timber market as well as the standards that domestic suppliers should reach to meet the requirements of the international market. This was also a great chance for us to celebrate 100 years of Independence of Finland, country that has a highly developed timber processing, design and trading sector.

Under the project **“Promoting Inclusive Development for People with Disabilities through Social Initiatives”** sponsored by CBM, AAV and partners conducted a study in Nho Quan to analyze and improve participation of vulnerable groups in local economic and social development planning. The study reached 409 households, including 130 households with disabilities (246 respondents were women). The study results were shared with local authorities as a basis for future AAV and AFV interventions.

In 2017, AAV also took the first steps in **developing its new value chain models**. AAV collaborated with CKC to conduct participatory training on value chain analysis for 26 participants (16 male, 10 female), in order to build AAV staff and partner capacity to respond to rural economic development trends and promote sustainable management of forest resources. At the LRP, the Management Board has also organized training courses on market access skills, negotiation skills, financial management and value chain development for members of community development groups, cooperatives and community production groups. As a result of this training, AAV and community partners have collaborated to develop business plans for community-based tourism and high-value flower production to launch in 2018.





## PP2: Advance Accountability and People-to-People Solidarity for Social Change, Strengthen Youth Leadership and Civil Society Credibility

### Advocacy on taxation, women's rights and decent work

In 2017, ActionAid Vietnam undertook a range of activities in order to influence the development of national economic, tax and industrial policies, and to promote economic growth models that are inclusive of women and people living in poverty. A policy dialogue organized in August attracted media organizations, policymakers, research institutes and civil society organizations to discuss how reconsidering tax incentives and economic policies can promote economic development that promotes women's rights. At this event, three ActionAid Vietnam reports were released, including *Double Taxation Treaties: Red Carpet for Whom?*, *Stitching a Better Future: is Vietnam's boom in garment manufacturing good for women?*, and *Not just lip service: Advancing women's economic justice in industrialization*.

In an open discussion, more than 50 participants discussed challenges and solutions to build an economy that improves the lives of marginalized people, especially women. Discussions among the panel and participants highlighted that companies in Vietnam should raise minimum wages, improve conditions for garment workers in factories, strengthen workplace monitoring and provide childcare for workers. The government should invest in women's access to decent work in the future through vocational and higher education programs or employment programs for women to access skilled jobs or start their own businesses. Tax incentives must be reconsidered to ensure there is sufficient budget for gender-responsive public services. Finally, future industrial policies should empower women to have satisfactory employment and economic opportunities to ensure improved gender equality along with economic development. Research and policy discussions also enabled representatives of vulnerable groups to share their views with policy makers.



## Improve people's participation in developing the legal framework

In 2017, AAV continued to work with strategic partners to lobby and contribute to the development of Vietnam's legal framework. AAV has had a fruitful cooperation with the Vietnam Lawyers Association (VLA) since 2014, and in 2017 partnered with VLA to provide reference information for the drafting of the Law on State Management by translating and conducting a comparative study of the draft Public Administration Law. In addition, two stakeholder consultations were held, in which close to 100 delegates from District and Provincial Lawyers Associations and AAV LRPs discussed the need for stronger administrative law and the main content of the draft law, including administrative procedures, the government portal, controls on public administration and coordination among stakeholders in administrative management. Comments from the workshop were collected by the VLA and sent to the Drafting Committee of the National Assembly for amendments and supplements to the draft law.

AAV also cooperated with the Centre for Legal Research on Human and Citizen Rights (HRC) and the Committee for Ethnic Minority Affairs to draft the **Law on Development Support for Ethnic Minorities and Mountainous Areas**. In the framework of cooperation, a number of thematic reports have been prepared including on international experience on customary law, review of policies and legislation related to the law in Vietnam and effectiveness of the development, implementation and monitoring of the code. The reports were shared at a consultation workshop in November 2017 in Hanoi to review and analyze current policies and legal systems related to ethnic minority and mountainous areas support and development, and thus develop a new policy and the basic contents of the law. Under the work plan of CEMA, this law will be submitted to the National Assembly by the end of 2018.

To study the types and structure of associations and NGOs in the UK as well as related laws and state management mechanisms, in September 2017 AAV coordinated with the Vietnam Union of Friendship Organizations (VUFO) to support a research delegation to visit the UK. The delegation included representatives from various agencies, including the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government Office, Office of the National Assembly, VUFO and ActionAid Vietnam. The visit saw many lessons shared that could be appropriate for developing the Law on Association in Vietnam.



### PP3: Promote Equal Access to Quality Education for Children

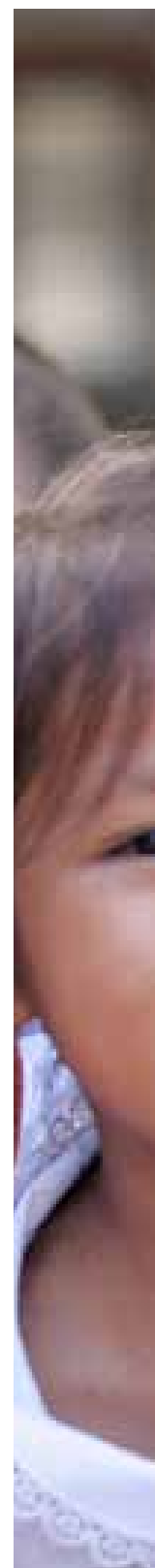
In 2017, AAV and its partners continued to implement the **Promoting Rights in Schools (PRS) Program**. Within the framework of this program, with the support of AAV, LRPs have organized dozens of training sessions on children's rights, on the prevention of violence against children, reproductive health, bodily integrity and life skills for children, parents, and teachers. After the training, participants, especially children, have demonstrated a better understanding of their rights, including the right to sexual and reproductive health, while teachers and parents have shown more knowledge and skills to better protect their students in dangerous situations. In addition, training courses on school administration were also conducted in Lam Ha (Lam Dong), Krong Bong (Dak Lak) and Krong No (Dak Nong) districts for more than 300 parents. Participants were able to acquire and practice tools such as the Community Scorecard and Citizens Report Card - important and practical tools for monitoring the quality of public services including education. After the training, participants used Community Scorecards to analyze and assess the current status of education and related issues, including the provision of services in schools, and the coordination between the authorities, schools and parents in the education and training of children. After analyzing the issues and extent of the problems, a dialogue will be held to discuss and develop a joint action plan (school, parents' association, government) to improve the quality of education in general and ensure a quality and fair education for children.

Within the framework of the PRS program, AAV has supported local governments and partners (especially district education divisions and youth unions) to hold dozens of **soft skills** training courses for students, especially elementary school students. After the training, the knowledge, attitude and skills of the children have been significantly improved. Many students who were formerly shy or did not dare to speak in front of the crowd, have now become leaders including leading school clubs (such as the chess club, maths club, or sports club). In addition, in summer 2017, the district education department (with the support of AAV) organized swimming lessons for students to improve their skills and prevent drowning. These courses have been very successful with the participation of more than 1,000 students. The local education authorities have appreciated the success of this activity and expect AAV to continue to support similar activities in the future.

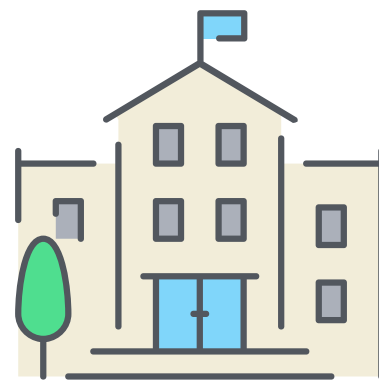
In order to ensure people can enjoy the right to read, write and learn in their local language, AAV has continued to support local groups to maintain and expand the **Reflect Program** for adults. In 2017, the Reflect class saw strong results. For example, in Lam Ha district (Lam Dong province), the provincial inter-departmental review mission (Provincial People's Committee, Department of Education and Training, Department of Planning and Investment, Department of Culture, Sports and Tourism, Department of Agriculture and Rural Development) visited and expressed their appreciation of the Reflect model, proposing to consider it for replication.

AAV also supported the establishment, capacity building and operation of the **"school counseling corners"** in Dak Lak, Dak Nong and Lam Dong for more than 1,200 students. Under this initiative, teachers have been trained to become counsellors for their students along with providing books and other related materials.

AAV continues to support and promote the **"Vietnamese Language Enhancement"** Program for more than 1,100 ethnic minority students. The requirement to read in the Vietnamese language has always been a major barrier for ethnic minority children, making them afraid to go to school and preventing their engagement in the school environment.



Vietnamese language classes are held continuously, especially during the summer, and through this young children (5-8 years old) from the E'De, M'Nong and Mong ethnic minorities have improved their ability to use Vietnamese language (listening, speaking, reading and writing). As a result, children can confidently communicate and integrate themselves into education using Vietnamese language in school.



## PP4: Respond to Disaster and Climate Change Impacts with People-Centered Alternatives

During 2017, ActionAid commenced the project “Capacity Building for Disaster Mitigation and Climate Change in the Mekong Delta”, co-funded by ActionAid and Bread for the World (BfdW). The project aims to build the capacity of the community (especially women and young people from ethnic minorities) to mitigate the negative impacts of climate change and develop improved coordination mechanisms. It also aims to ensure lessons learned from the project on community-based disaster risk management and climate change mitigation are replicated at the provincial and national levels.

During 2017, AAV **continued to respond to emergencies**, providing immediate relief and supporting communities to build resilient livelihoods in the wake of disaster. After a historic flood in Nho Quan in October 2017, AAV, with funding from CBM, supplied 1,440kg of non-GM maize and 43,200kg of organic fertilizer to 720 households in three communes. AAV bolstered this contribution with activities to help affected households, especially poor and near-poor households and people with disabilities, to quickly recover their production. Assistance was distributed to a list of affected households and public meetings held to ensure transparency and that local authorities and community members could monitor the distribution of seed and fertilizer.

Responding to the greatest drought and salinity intrusion in 90 years, AAV implemented an emergency response project in central and southern Vietnam, supported by European Union’s Department for Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (ECHO) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in Vietnam. Under this project, 3,077 poor households in Gia Lai, Dak Lak and Dak Nong received two unconditional cash transfers each of 1.1 million VND (US \$48) during the hardest times (in November and March). At the same time, 2,392 households were provided with vouchers worth 2.5 million VND (US \$112).







Farmer Dinh Van Tuong, the eldest son-in-law of the Dinh family from An Thanh Commune, Gia Lai Province, was one of those affected by the drought. “Last year, we lost 60% of our crop production” said Mr. Tuong. “As a family of 11 members, we used to produce 100 bags of maize annually that would feed the whole family. But after losing a huge portion of our crop, we couldn’t pay back the debt at the local store with our harvest and we really didn’t know what to do. We were really out of options. That is when we heard of the cash distribution for households affected by drought.”

“We received 2.2 million Vietnamese Dong (96 US Dollar) for the emergency response. My family spent VND 2 million to buy rice for the whole family and medicine for our sick mother-in-law. With the VND 200,000 that is left, we are planning to buy salt or spices and save it for emergencies” said Mr. Dinh Van Tuong with a bit of relief on his face.

Ms. Roberta Tranquilli, FAO Emergency Operations Coordinator for Viet Nam, said: “Distributing cash and agricultural vouchers to farmers for immediate drought response supports families to restart their livelihoods and avoid negative coping mechanisms such as incurring debt, selling assets, and reducing the amount and portions of meals per days. From the recent monitoring trip, we have found out that the food security and nutrition of the households that we are assisting has improved and the cash/ voucher modality is adapted to their needs. We now need to ensure that these communities increase their resilience to climate related disasters in the long term”.

Source: FAO



## PP5: Build Social and Political Alternatives for Women and Girls

### Safe Cities and Communities for Women and Girls

In 2017, ActionAid launched S-City – a mobile application that aims to make cities safer for women and girls. The application enables users to map safe and unsafe places in the city, rate the quality and safety of public services, find safe routes for travel, contact friends and call for help in an emergency. The launch of S-City on 27 June 2017 (in partnership with AFV, Irish Aid, the Gender Equality Department of the Ministry of Labor, Invalids and Social Affairs, and the Vietnam Volunteer Centre) drew more than 600 young people, VIP guests, celebrities and LRP community members to Hanoi to learn about the app and the campaign, listen to live music and share updates on social media. S-City currently has more than 800 users, and can be downloaded from <http://safecity.vn>.

On International Youth Day, 12 August 2017, Youth Act to End Poverty networks in 9 LRPs across the country, as well as Ton Duc Thang University in Ho Chi Minh City, led their own events to share S-City and discuss harassment against women and girls. These youth-led events, which involved more than 1,600 young people, built awareness around violence and harassment in urban and rural areas, and brought young people and local authorities together to talk about how to combat harassment.

As part of our drive to generate innovative solutions to deep-rooted problems, ActionAid and AFV partnered with the Civil Engineering University of Hanoi to host a public toilet design competition. The competition attracted 59 entries from students of 15 universities across the country, with entries combining good design principles with measures for disability access, environmental sustainability and safety and security for women and girls. The competition garnered media attention and drew awareness to the urgent need for more safe, accessible and gender-responsive public toilet facilities in cities and towns, schools and other public areas.



2017 also saw the development and national launch of the Safe Cities and Safe Communities criteria. This ActionAid initiative had been included as part of the government's National Project for Gender-Based Violence Prevention and Response 2016-2020, and provides a set of safety goals that cities and communities can work towards to improve safety for women and girls. In 2017, ActionAid partnered with the Gender Equality Department, Plan International and UN Women to hold consultations with women and men, including young people, from across Vietnam on the content of the criteria and how they could be implemented. The pilot criteria were launched on 4 November 2017, with the project partners committing to work with local authorities and citizens groups in 14 locations to begin the process of implementing them.



### **Working with communities and government to recognize, reduce and redistribute unpaid care work**

ActionAid continued its multi-year research on women's and men's time use, highlighting women's disproportionate burden of unpaid care work and the significant contribution this work makes to society and the economy. In 2016, more than 800 women and men participated in community discussions on unpaid work and used time diary tools to measure their contribution to care within the household. The research results are being released across three reports, and the second report, launched on 19 October 2017, highlighted that women spend 207 working days per year on unpaid care work and that this represents a subsidy of 996 trillion VND to Vietnam's economy. The report was launched in a workshop chaired by the Vice Minister of Labor, Invalids and Social Affairs which brought community members and policymakers together to discuss how public services could reduce the burden of unpaid care work for women. This research has contributed to Vietnam's Gender Equality Strategy and National Action Plan to Implement the SDGs, both of which include commitments to reduce women's unpaid care burden. Key statistics from the research were also featured in a viral TV advertisement by Neptune cooking oil and have been widely shared in media and social media.

# Financial report



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## INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

**To: The Management and Donors  
Representative Office in Vietnam of ActionAid International**

### *Audit opinion*

We have audited the accompanying Balance sheet as at 31 December 2017, Statement of Income Expenditures and Statement of changes in fund balance for the year then ended ("the financial statements"), a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information for the Representative Office in Vietnam of ActionAid International ("AAV"). The financial statements of AAV for the year ended 31 December 2016 were audited by another firm of auditors whose report dated 25 April 2017 expressed an unqualified opinion on the financial statements.

In our opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the fund balance as at 31 December 2017, its income and expenditures and changes of funds of the Representative Office in Vietnam of ActionAid International for the year ended 31 December 2017 in accordance with the accounting policies set out in Note 2 to the financial statements.

### *Basis for Opinion*

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing ("ISAs"). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of our report. We are independent of the Representative Office in Vietnam of ActionAid International in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the statement in accordance with ISAs, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

### *Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements*

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the statement in accordance with accounting policies set out in Note 2 and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of statement that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.





### ***Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements***

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditors' report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this statement.

A further description of the auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is included in Appendix 1 of this auditors' report. This description, which is located at page 21, forms part of our auditors' report.



**NEXIA STT Co., Ltd.**  
Nguyen Viet Nga  
*Deputy General Director*  
Audit Practising Registration Certificate  
No. 2041-2018-225-1

Audit report No.: 026-2018HN/AUD/AAV

Hanoi, 20 April 2018

**Representative Office in Vietnam of ActionAid International**  
**Balance Sheet**  
**As at 31 December 2017**

	Note	31/12/2017 GBP'000	31/12/2016 GBP'000
<b>ASSETS</b>			
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
		<b>441</b>	<b>412</b>
Cash	3	300	149
Amounts due from other ActionAid members	4	34	49
Amounts due from Partners	5	52	140
Prepayments	6	29	36
Deposits	7	16	17
Deferred income		-	13
Other receivables		10	7
Advances to employees		-	1
<b>NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Tangible fixed assets	8	-	-
Costs		38	38
Accumulated depreciation		(38)	(38)
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>441</b>	<b>412</b>
<b>RESOURCES</b>			
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
		<b>163</b>	<b>234</b>
Accrual of gratuity		62	70
Taxes payable to the State Treasury		21	6
Accrued expenses	9	67	130
Other payables		13	28
<b>FUNDS</b>			
		<b>278</b>	<b>178</b>
Accumulated surplus		278	178
<b>TOTAL RESOURCES</b>		<b>441</b>	<b>412</b>

Prepared by:



Nguyen Thi Huyen Minh  
 Head of Finance and Administration

Hanoi, 20 April 2018

Approved by:



Hoang Thi Phuong Thao  
 Country Director

The accompanying notes form an integral part of these financial statements

**Representative Office in Vietnam of ActionAid International**  
**Statement of Income and Expenditures**  
**Year ended 31 December 2017**

	Note	2017 GBP'000	2016 GBP'000
<b>INCOME</b>			
Supporter Marketing – Regular Giving		1,248	1,306
Supporter Marketing – Others		-	75
High Value		28	1
Institutional		929	606
Other income		18	8
	<b>10</b>	<b>2,223</b>	<b>1,996</b>
Net transfer out to ActionAid International	11	(214)	(73)
		<b>2,009</b>	<b>1,923</b>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>			
Program/Project cost		1,515	2,060
Fundraising cost		136	389
Governance cost		45	54
Support cost		212	251
	<b>12,13</b>	<b>1,908</b>	<b>2,754</b>
Surplus/(deficit) of income against expenditures		101	(831)
Foreign exchange loss		(1)	-
Opening fund balance		178	1,009
<b>Closing fund balance</b>		<b>278</b>	<b>178</b>

Prepared by:



Nguyen Thi Huyen Minh  
 Head of Finance and Administration

Hanoi, 20 April 2018

Approved by:



Hoang Thi Phuong Thao  
 Country Director

*The accompanying notes form an integral part of these financial statements*

**Representative Office in Vietnam of ActionAid International**  
**Statement of changes in fund balance**  
**Year ended 31 December 2017**

	<b>Accumulated surplus GBP'000</b>
<b>Fund balance at 1 January 2016</b>	<b>1,009</b>
Deficit of income against expenditures	(831)
<b>Fund balance at 31 December 2016</b>	<b>178</b>
Surplus of income against expenditures	100
<b>Fund balance at 31 December 2017</b>	<b>278</b>

Prepared by:



\_\_\_\_\_  
 Nguyen Thi Huyen Minh  
*Head of Finance and Administration*

Hanoi, 20 April 2018

Approved by:



\_\_\_\_\_  
 Hoang Thi Phuong Thao  
*Country Director*

*The accompanying notes form an integral part of these financial statements*



## New Initiatives

In 2017, AAV was successful in mobilization of funding from high value organizations, businesses and supporters with a total funding of £1,005,749. This is mainly because the donors and supporters are inspired with our pioneering initiatives:

- **“Initiative to end gender-based violence in the Garment Industry”** and **“Promoting global social rights for female migrant workers in Viet Nam”** are two new projects focusing on the rights of female workers in Hai Phong and Ho Chi Minh City. The former has a budget of US \$500,000 and is funded by the Global Fund for Women, while the latter has a budget of EUR €99,995 and is funded by Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung. The project “Initiative to end gender-based violence in the garment industry” aims to improve the capacity and voice of women workers in the garment industry in order to protect their rights through mechanisms to prevent sexual harassment in the workplace. Meanwhile, the project “Promoting global social rights for female migrant workers in Viet Nam” will contribute to ensuring female migrant workers enjoy their social rights by facilitating the process of participatory decision making to ensure social security and wellbeing. Securing these projects represents a success in fundraising because urban areas such as Hai Phong and Ho Chi Minh City are generally de-prioritized for funding over other difficult areas throughout the country.

- The project **“Strengthening the Role of Women in Sustainable Socio-Economic Development and Climate Change Adaptation”** is funded by Forum Syd for a total of SEK 2,000,000 (EUR 201,000). Through the project, women in Tra Vinh will be empowered to actively build sustainable communities, engage in dialogue with government and access quality public services related to water supply and drainage services.

- For the first time, ActionAid Vietnam has successfully established a strategic partnership with Cai Lan Oils & Fats Industries (CALOFIC) to implement a campaign on unpaid care work. A total of EUR 72,000 from the project will be used to help raise awareness and promote social behavior change in unpaid care work, working towards equality in the role and rights of women in family and society.

- ActionAid Vietnam, ChildFund Korea and Hanwha have set up a new cooperation agreement in the field of health care. The project will improve the quality of the local health system in Ward 9, Tra Vinh City, Tra Vinh, thereby ensuring high quality health services for local communities, especially people living in poverty, ethnic minorities, women and children. The total project budget is over USD 153,000, which is expected to support nearly 13,000 local residents.

- As a strategic partner of AFV, AAV has supported a collaborative initiative with Inditex (ZARA) and AFV to donate shoes for the benefit of the community. Children in difficult mountainous areas (Ha Giang and Cao Bang) have been supported with over 2,500 pairs of shoes, contributing to improving living conditions and promoting their access to quality education through the program to promote children’s rights in schools.



## Focus in 2018

- **Sustainable livelihoods:** groups of cooperatives will be established and equipped to implement new value chain models; value chain models will be effectively implemented, creating safe products and connecting them to market. Successful livelihoods models will be shared and ready for replication. People with disabilities and their families will be encouraged to deliver inclusive support to people with disabilities to access appropriate health care and employment services.

- Specific programmes will be implemented to improve the **quality of public services** to ensure human rights: (i) **Safe Cities and Communities:** In 2018 we will work closely with national partners, LRPs and local authorities to pilot the Safe Cities and Safe Communities Criteria in at least 6 LRPs. This pilot will be an opportunity for people to use the criteria to improve community safety and provide feedback to develop consolidated standards for adoption by national and local governments. We will also develop and release upgraded versions of the S-City application, with new features (including group chat) and modifications to existing features to improve the user experience. A media campaign to accompany the new app will attract hundreds of women and girls using the app as a tool to improve gender-responsive public services in cities and towns across Vietnam; (ii) **Unpaid care work:** A study on unpaid care work in 2018 will be completed, using media and social media to inspire behavior change through discussions on redistributing unpaid care work. The launch of the third research report on unpaid care work will provide an opportunity to engage policymakers and influential individuals in discussions on the recognition, reduction and redistribution of this work.

- **Ending Sexual harassment:** The initiative aims to support 5,000 empowered women and their peers to reduce their vulnerability and empower action to prevent sexual harassment. We will provide counseling, safe spaces and legal support for women who experience harassment and work to change the social norms that underpin gender-based violence. In addition, garment companies are encouraged to take specific measures to ensure the safety of women workers. The purpose is to influence different factories across Vietnam to implement the Code of Conduct on Sexual Harassment, impacting 330,000 women and men.





On top of that, the AAV team will also conduct training for its staff and partners on sexual harassments in work place. This will be an effort to walk the talk in AAV.

● **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):** In 2018, Vietnam will deliver its first Voluntary National Review report on progress in the implementation of the SDGs. ActionAid will actively participate in consultations to develop this report and will play an important role in coordinating the involvement of civil society organizations. In 2018, ActionAid will play the lead role of the Leave No One Behind project, a joint initiative of 14 international civil society organizations to ensure that the voices of disadvantaged groups are included in the implementation of SDGs and will also participate in ActionAid International's commitment to SDGs.

● **Promote global social rights for female migrant workers in Viet Nam:** In 2018, AAV will implement a project that will improve the rights of 3,000 women migrant workers and their access to social protection in Ho Chi Minh City and Hai Phong. The project builds on the experience and success of AAV in empowering vulnerable and marginalized groups. We will gradually work to improve policies and budgets for social welfare of female workers, beginning with the study of global social rights for health care, housing, child care and freedom of association. With participation of many stakeholders in policy dialogues at different levels, good practices and lessons learned from these initiatives will contribute to the legal framework for social rights and provide inputs that can be replicated in other areas.



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