



**act:onaid**



**Annual Report** 2014

[www.actionaid.org/vietnam](http://www.actionaid.org/vietnam)



## “ACTIONAID BE LOUDER”

**ActionAid Vietnam (AAV)** is a member of ActionAid International Federation, working in Vietnam since 1989. All these years, AAV has been assisting Vietnamese people to empower women, girls and poor people and advocate for policy change in order to ensure rights of people living in poverty, vulnerability and marginalization.

Over the last two decades, AAV has expanded its programs to more than 20 provinces in the poorest pockets of the country in Northwest Mountains, Central Highlands and Mekong Delta Regions. AAV is well recognized by the Government of Vietnam, development partners and communities for its contribution to the socio-economic development of the country.

AAV continues to improve its governance and management, ensuring a better transparency and accountability to its stakeholders at all levels with the target to become a full member of ActionAid International Federation by end of 2017.



### Our Vision

A world without poverty and injustice in which every person enjoys their right to a life of dignity



### Our Values

The following are the values guiding our work to transform ourselves, the society, the community, the culture and to free people from poverty and injustice.

- **Solidarity** with people living in poverty, the powerless and the excluded.
- **Transparency and Accountability** of our actions and decisions
- **Independence and neutrality** from any religious and party-political affiliation



### Our Theory of Change

We believe that an end to poverty and injustice can be achieved through purposeful individual and collective action, led by the active agency of people living in poverty and supported by solidarity, credible rights-based alternatives and campaigns that address the structural causes and consequences of poverty .



AAV's Staff volunteer in an event to raise public awareness on greening urban environment and transportation in Hanoi, October 2014 - Photo: AAV

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# MESSAGE

from



## COUNTRY DIRECTOR

Dear all supporters, partners, communities and friends,

Thank you for your continued support to ActionAid Vietnam!

We are proud to report to you that with your support, in 2014 ActionAid Vietnam has assisted 4,689,059 people, including hundreds of thousands of children and women, in the country. Through the report that follows, I hope you will find joys in meeting many people, women, children who have enjoyed a better life and dignity through ActionAid programmes.

In 2014, ActionAid Vietnam was recognized as the first country in Asia getting the certification by ActionAid International to have been achieved the Top Ten Basics in finance management. This is evidence of our capacity to develop and maintain an effective and transparent system in finance management.

Continuing with the internationalization process that was re-started in 2013, ActionAid Vietnam's management and the Founding Board of Aid for Vietnam Development Foundation, together with staff and partners worked real hard to fulfill all the criteria for becoming an Associate of the ActionAid International federation by 2015.

All of our achievements would not have been possible without the generosity and trust from you, our sponsors, donors, partners and communities. Thank you very much for your help.

I would also like to thank all of ActionAid Vietnam staff, Board and partners for the inspiring passion and commitments they give to work.

We are grateful for your continued companion and solidarity. Together we will make change for a better wellbeing of Vietnamese people.

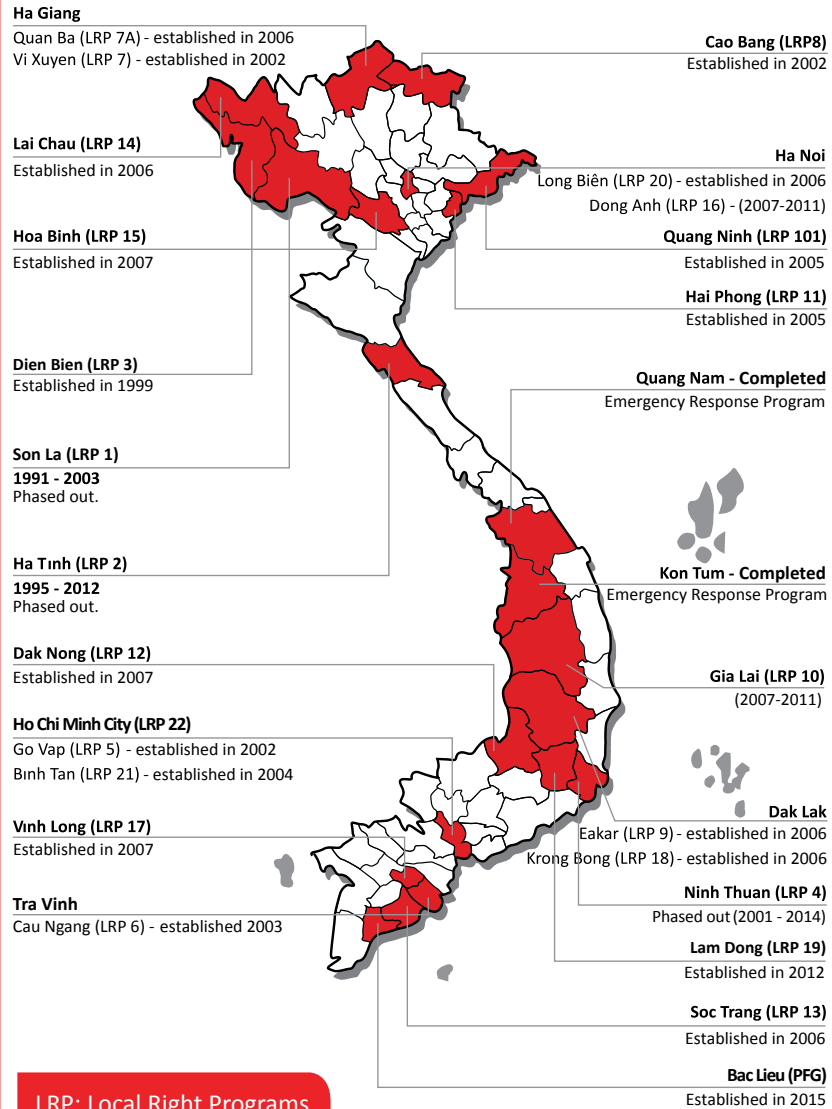
**Hoang Phuong Thao**

Country Director  
ActionAid Vietnam

## ABBREVIATIONS

<b>AA</b>	ActionAid	<b>GBP</b>	Great Britain Pound Sterling
<b>AAI</b>	ActionAid International	<b>GBV</b>	Gender Based Violence
<b>AAV</b>	ActionAid Vietnam	<b>HRBA</b>	Human Rights Based Approach
<b>ADF</b>	Aid for Vietnam Development Foundation	<b>LRP</b>	Local Rights Programme
<b>CCA</b>	Climate Change Adaptation	<b>M&amp;E</b>	Monitoring and Evaluation
<b>CDG</b>	Community Development Group	<b>MDP</b>	Membership Development Plan
<b>CEMA</b>	The National Committee for Ethnic Minority Affairs	<b>MoU</b>	Memorandum of Understanding
<b>CGFED</b>	Research Centre for Gender, Family and Environment in Development	<b>NGO</b>	Non-Governmental Organization
<b>CFT</b>	Cross - Functional Team	<b>NTSC</b>	National Traffic Safety Committee
<b>CIFPEN</b>	Civil Society Inclusion in Food Security and Poverty Elimination Network	<b>OP</b>	Organizational Priority
<b>CP</b>	Country Programme	<b>PFG</b>	"People Participation in improvement of forest governance and poverty alleviation in Vietnam" project – PFG Vietnam
<b>CS</b>	Child Sponsorship	<b>PLD</b>	Research for Policy, Law and Development
<b>CSEED</b>	The Centre for Community Socio-economic and Environmental Development	<b>PP</b>	Programme Priority
<b>CSO</b>	Civil Society Organization	<b>PRS</b>	Promoting Rights in School
<b>CSP</b>	Country Strategy Paper	<b>PVA</b>	Participatory Vulnerability Assessment
<b>CRSA</b>	Climate Resilient Sustainable Agriculture	<b>SMT</b>	Senior Management Team of ActionAid Vietnam
<b>DGT</b>	Democratic Governance Team	<b>SPD</b>	Support Programme for Development
<b>DRR</b>	Disaster Risk Reduction	<b>TPC</b>	Tax Power Campaign
<b>EC</b>	European Commission	<b>TOT</b>	Training of Trainers
<b>EM</b>	Ethnic Minority	<b>UK</b>	United Kingdom
<b>EUR</b>	Official Currency of the Euro Zone	<b>VLA</b>	Vietnam Lawyers' Association
<b>GBDC</b>	Governance and Board Development Committee	<b>VND</b>	Vietnamese Dong - Currency of Vietnam
		<b>YlePA</b>	"Youth leadership in enhancing public service provider's accountability" project

## AAV Working Areas



LRP: Local Right Programs

## AAV's LOCAL RIGHTS PROGRAMME AREAS MAP



## AAV HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR 2014

### KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

In 2014, AAV continued investing resources and focused on building capacity of the people living in poverty especially women, children, landless people and ethnic minorities through five programme priorities. The empowered people could take actions to improve their own lives and challenge the power that keeps them in poverty and injustice.

The year marked the official launch and use of the M&E framework at both local and national levels to ensure our programme is systematically and consistently monitored and evaluated while meeting the criteria of accountability and learning process.

We are pleased to report that in 2014 ActionAid Vietnam has positively impacted the lives of 4,689,059 people. Of this, 2,243,636 (47.84%) were women (703,077 children; 790,714 youths; 951,632 adults) while men accounted for 52.16% with 2,445,423 people (687,027 children; 718,831 youths; 837,777 adults). A total of 875,260 people (437,769 women and 437,491 men) have been directly influenced. This was made possible through our 18 long-term Local Rights Programmes (LRPs), 16 other special projects and 409 community development groups throughout the country.



## Five Program Priorities (PPs)

*PP 1: Promote alternative livelihoods and sustainable agriculture*

*PP 2: Advance accountability and people to people solidarity for social change, increase youth leadership and civil society credibility*

*PP3: Promote equal access to quality education for children*

*PP 4: Respond to disaster and climate change impacts with people-centered alternatives*

*PP 5: Build social and political alternatives for Women and Girls*

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GROUP: Empowering people and transforming their lives

2014 saw significant efforts to sustain and strengthen *Community Development Groups (CDG)* to build the power in people. By fully mainstreaming the Human Rights Based Approach (HRBA) in all processes of planning, implementing and monitoring its operations, AAV reconfirms its solidarity with the poor and marginalized people, recognizes their capacity and agency in changing the power relations and undertaking alternatives for a life with prosperity and dignity. Believing that people's powers in solidarity bring out the changes, organizing and mobilizing community groups based on their common interests have been prioritized to call for collective actions against poverty and injustice. By the end of 2014, 409 groups were supported to establish and actively operate. These groups are the agents of change in the communities, empowering people to understand their rights and take actions to secure them, while mobilizing the support from local authorities and stakeholders. .

To improve programme quality and cohesion, impacts and accountabilities, AAV conducted a review of all CDGs it supported. The review focused on the processes of establishment, operation and governance of the groups, the relevance/efficiency/effectiveness/impacts and sustainability of CDGs at three LRPs in three regions: LRP101-Quang Ninh (Northern urban area); LRP12-Dak Nong (Mountainous area in Central Highland) and LRP13-

Soc Trang (Southern rural area). The review also identified best practices and improvement areas for learning and for wider sharing. Based on the findings of the review, AAV has documented specific guidelines for group establishment, operation, monitoring and support in the future.

Report can be obtained by sending request to the email:

[congvan.aav@actionaid.org](mailto:congvan.aav@actionaid.org)



A regular Community Development Group meeting in LRP13-Soc Trang  
Photo: LRP13/AAV

*"Now we know that through CDG, our voice will be heard stronger, clearer, collectively, therefore the change will come faster and more sustainable. Women like me are having our space and gain respect from the husbands, the families and communities that we can also work, think and make change. No matter how busy we are, my husband and me will both reserve the time for making our CDG much better - as we truly believe that community bonding and actions will happen and be strengthened through CDG". Ms. Hoa said.*



*The couple (Ms. Hoa and Mr. Son) at the Year End Meeting of the CDG K62 Team  
Photo: LRP12/AAV*

## Becoming a member of CDG changed our life

Ms Hoa (39) and her husband, Son (40), live in K62 village, DakD'Ro commune, Krong No district, Dak Nong Province with their two children (16-year-old daughter and 14-year-old-son). The family lives on income from agriculture.

*"Frankly, when we first heard about CDGs promoted by AAV in our village, we were not sure how this would help our people change our lives. At first, my husband did not allow me to join CDG because he was afraid that "exposing" his wife outside of farming work may bring bad luck. And in the evenings when CDG members meet we were to take rest from busy day on the farm. We were wrong. We later changed our mind and joined CDG having seen the change in the life of other members in our community who joined CDGs. I was impressed and convinced my husband to let me join the CDG", shared Ms. Hoa.*

Ms. Hoa continued 'Initially, I participated in CDG meeting twice a month. I learnt a lot, and

my confidence and success impressed my husband so much that he started to eagerly join the CDG and activities. We both actively participated in all CDG learning, sharing and mobilization. A year after, my husband decided to run for the post of the village head in the election at my encouragement and CDG member's support.. He won the election and has been working as the village head for the last few years. We have become so busy now as we need to deliver our social commitments to the villagers, too".

Ms. Hoa happily shared *"CDG has brought about positive changes in our village. Parents now value their children's education more than before. Ethnic minorities know how to apply improved technologies to boost agriculture production. We have been able to comment and contribute to prepare our socio-economic development plan for the village. We have learned more, we support each other and participate in decision making and hence we feel CDGs has helped us transform".*

## ActionAid Vietnam ranked top in Asia: TOP TEN BASICS ACCREDITATION

2014 is a remarkable year with AAV and finance team in particular as we were amongst the first three countries in the entire ActionAid federation (and the only one in Asia) receiving the **"TOP TEN BASICS"** Accreditation by AAI. AAV is recognized for the quality of finance management, scoring highest percentage of 'top ten basics' implementation.

ActionAid Vietnam team is so proud of the result which is built from the continuous effort to improve the policies and internal control system in the past several years by AAV management, staff and partners.

The next target in the coming year is to improve the quality of Top Ten Basics implementation and expanding the good practices at all levels.



*Ms. Tran Lan Huong (First left) – Head of Finance on behalf of AAV receiving the "TOP TEN BASICS" Accreditation from AAI in the Global Finance and Internal Audit Conference in Thailand - Nov, 2014 - Photo: AAI*

## ActionAid Vietnam continues to improve its governance on the journey towards becoming a full member of ActionAid International

AAV continues to improve its governance and management, ensuring a better transparency and accountability to its stakeholders at all levels with the target to become a full member of ActionAid International Federation by end of 2017.

AAV's Country Strategy Paper V (CSPV) prioritizes that it will **"improve Governance to become a full member of AAI by 2017"**. The marathon process started in 2003 but made substantial progress in 2014. A rigorous and comprehensive assessment was conducted first by AAV and then by the Cross - Functional Team (CFT) from AAI against about 200++ indicators required for becoming an Associate/Affiliate of the Federation. The self-assessment gave a panorama of the current situation of AAV in terms of its readiness of systems, human and financial resources, legality and supporter engagements. The AAI's CFT then visited Vietnam to understand the context, review and validate the self-assessment report and further advice for developing the Membership Development Plan (MDP).

With support from AAI and diligent efforts by AAV team, the MDP with objectives, activities, criteria, indicators, timeline aiming at improving the current status of AAV to the required standards were made and finally approved by AAI's Governance and Board Development Committee (GBDC) in June 2014. In October 2014, AAV was approved to receive Association Review team in the first quarter of 2015 and recommendation for status change will be submitted to the AAI General Assembly in June 2015.

On top of this, respected individuals throughout the country were identified and invited to join Aid for Vietnam Development Foundation (ADF) as the Board. The Board was inducted to ActionAid mission, vision, values and working approach to development.



ADF's Board Members  
Photo: AAV

Throughout the year, the Board actively participated in the internal and external forum of ActionAid, linking AAV to potential strategic partners, as well as representing ActionAid in strategic policy and media forums. Most importantly the Board was reported on the Plans and Budgets of ActionAid in country and in the world, to give strategic advice on the way forward. The Board is supported by AAV's Senior Management Team (SMT), Organizational Development (OD) team as well as capacitated by AAI's Governance team.

AAV organized several trainings/meetings/dialogues with all staff to induct, update and debate on the process of governance improvement. All staff are well informed on the need and requirements for a democratic and just governance in the organization.

This stride will bring AAV one step closer to becoming a full member of AAI Federation, having space to bring the Vietnamese voice to the international arena, and bring a Vietnamese perspective to the agenda setting to end poverty and injustice in country and worldwide.

## AAV for the first time successfully raised fund from a new institutional donor

In 2014, AAV secured a strategic funding support from Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland (MFA) with a significant funding of over EUR 1 million for three years. The project is known by the name "People Participation in improvement of forest governance and poverty alleviation in Vietnam (PFG - Vietnam)".

The project aims to create an open and interactive space, for the first time in Vietnam, for people from grassroots communities in five districts of five poor provinces of Cao Bang, Hoa Binh, Dak Lak, Tra Vinh and Bac Lieu and at national level to participate in the national forest management information system.

*For the first time, forest owners and people living on income from forestry will have a chance to take part in the management of their very own forest resource, raise voice about forest management, and contribute to poverty alleviation in Vietnam.*

*This is the first time, AAV, in fact ActionAid International as a whole, received funding from MFA, Finland. This opens the door to a new institutional donor not only for AAV but also for the entire federation.*



AAV's Staff, Partners and Ambassador of Finland in Inception workshop - Photo: AAV

## Tax Power Campaign (TPC) gives a wake - up call to public and media

A basic training on taxation was organized for media networks and people in 6 LRPs to raise public awareness about tax. At the national level, media engagement and advocacy on tax reform was significantly strengthened. Dozens of leading national and local newspapers, TV and radio stations joined AAV to campaign against the tax dodging by some multinational companies in Vietnam. Journalists visited LRPs to write about how tax has been used at localities to finance public services. Online poll and online discussion were held by the Vietnam Economic Times (website: <http://goo.gl/eiHgRw>) receiving over 7,500 responses and comments by the readers. 3 radio reportages and one dialogue carried out on the well-recognized Vietnam Television Channel 1 (VTV1) (Website: <http://vtv.vn/video/doi-thoi-chinh-sach-05-10-2014-50612.htm>). The media campaigns are supported by evidence collected by research on tax policies and practices, which was jointly conducted by AAV and the Vietnam Tax Consulting Association. This research with alarming evidence generated huge public interest in the issue, pushing for actions outlined by the government to tackle tax evasion. AAV was also elected as the co-chair of the Asia-Pacific Financial Transparency and Tax Justice Network to take this struggle further from national to international levels.

This is the first time ever the media in Vietnam was engaging with the people and public on the tax justice issue. AAV will continue working to empower and mobilize more youth and rural citizens through awareness and space of dialogues and actions. AAV's research evidence and data was repeatedly quoted in the media and in the dialogues between policy makers and parliamentarians on possible tax incentives to foreign direct



# ActionAid facilitates space for people to engage in national legislation processes

## YOUTH LAW

ActionAid Vietnam, ChildFund Vietnam and Plan International Vietnam collaborated with National Committee on the Youth of Vietnam to organize the National Youth conference with an objective to give inputs towards amendments of the current Vietnam's Youth Law.

The conference was attended by over 100 youth from 13 Vietnam provinces and a cross section of policy makers. As part of its core objectives, the conference provided a platform for youth to raise pertinent policy issues on employment, education, recreation and access to information and they had a chance to have a meaningful dialogue with officials from Ministry of Home Affairs, Youth Union, Ministry of Culture, Tourism & Sports and National Committee on the Youth of Vietnam. Representative of the National Assembly assured that he would take up the issues the youth raised and the inputs they provided to the National Assembly debates with a view to incorporate them into the amendment of Vietnam 2015 Youth Law.



*There were 5 local dialogues at grass root level between youth and local authorities about their issues related to public services and youth program and 5 youth were selected from each LRP to bring youth voices at local level to policy makers and to present recommendations related to Youth Program and Law.*

*There were some major recommendations from youth to policy makers as follows:*

**Education:** *School infrastructure, student loan, policy research and welfare for teachers should be significantly improved so that they will help youth access to decent livelihoods with quality education.*

**Labor and employment:** *Training Need Assessment should be carried out before implementing vocational trainings.*

**Entertainment:** *Budget for youth programme should be increased for public cultural activities, sports and enhancing youth participation in protecting and promoting cultural values, sports and good lifestyle.*



*Mr. Giot - General Secretary of Binh Lu Commune Youth Union (Tâm Duong, Lai Chau) asked questions at National Youth Forum on revising and amending Youth Law 2005 in September 2014, Hanoi. Photo: AAV*

## LAW ON THE RIGHT TO ACCESS INFORMATION

During 2014, AAV continued the focus on improving transparency, galvanizing people's awareness on the necessity of the right to access information - a determiner of transparency. A survey collaborated with the Centre for Community Socio-economic and Environmental Development (CSEED) (website: <http://www.cseed.org.vn/>) on the ability to access information was conducted in Quan Ba District, Ha Giang Province and Thong Nong District, Cao Bang Province with the participation of local people. The report has found out that the right to access information of people and communities are limited, especially ethnic minorities. The findings will be evidence to revise the law on the right to access information.

## TRANSPARENT ADMINISTRATION PROCEDURES IN HANOI

In an effort to support Hanoi City Authority in making the administration procedures much more transparent and accessible to the citizens, AAV cooperated with Institute for Research on Policy, Law and Development (PLD) (website: [www.pldvietnam.org](http://www.pldvietnam.org)) to carry out policy research and many consultation meetings and dialogues in Hanoi. The consultation and dialogues were held with direct participation of local people and Hanoi senior officials on how to get the information on administration procedures more transparent and accessible to the people. The findings and recommendations were sent to Hanoi People's Committee seeking to improve quality of public services with innovative alternatives to allow people and clients who use the public services in the city to have a channel to feedback, therefore monitoring of the service can be more transparent, fair and accountable.

*"We would like to thank ActionAid Vietnam for the cooperation and support to this significant research. It is not significant in terms of finance support, but in the meaning it gives to our efforts to democratize the process and creating space for citizens to get heard. We hope AAV will continue working with us in the future" – said Prof. Nguyen Dang Dung, PLD Senior Technical Advisor.*

# City authorities prompted to address sexual harassment in public transportation

AAV is an active member of the international campaign to make cities safe for women and girls. AAV undertook a study involving women and men to find out how safe the cities were and the sources of insecurity. AAV joined hands with Plan in Vietnam and the Research Centre for Gender, Family and Environment in Development (CGFED) (website: <http://cgfed.org.vn/>) to present the findings to a wide audience including vulnerable children, Civil Society Organizations, UN Women, media and government.

Rigorous analyses and convincing data showed women and girls on the street living and working in urban public areas face with rampant sexual harassment due to inappropriate public services along with "none of my business" attitude of witnesses. The sharing atmosphere added to the success of the event, with almost a hundred personalized messages with recommendations of actions making cities safe voiced.

The launch drew huge media attention with coverage from more than 20 media agencies. This arguably induced the National Traffic Safety Committee (NTSC) (website: <http://antoangiaothong.gov.vn/>) to send a request to Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City authorities to take proper actions to mitigate sexual harassment against women and girls on public transportation.

*ActionAid believes that in a **safe city**, women and girls will:*

- Travel without experiencing violence and be safe during the day and at night
- Dress without facing discrimination
- Go to school without being excluded
- Work safely in the knowledge that employment rights will be upheld
- Access and use public services without fear or harassment
- Enjoy recreational activities
- Contribute to planning the future of the city
- Be proud of their city

To move forward, AAV and the Safe Cities Alliance will work more closely to build up strong evidence and programme on the ground. We will work with women and girls, men and boys to initiate ideas and initiatives for safer cities for everyone.



# PROGRAMME REPORTING

## Promote alternative livelihoods and sustainable agriculture

No. of people AAV directly reached	Men				Women			
	Total	Children 0-14	Youth 15-30	Adult >= 31	Total	Children 0-14	Youth 15-30	Adult >= 31
9,117	3,543	14	934	2,595	5,574	14	1,638	3,922

In 2014, AAV continued to support community especially people living in remote regions, ethnic minority, women, youth and children to ensure the rights to food. Many training courses (planting coffee and grass for cows, raising bee and silk worm, growing mushroom...) were organized providing more than 9,000 people in LRPs with the knowledge and skills to culture plants, to reduce the impacts of weathers/nature on their products to increase agricultural productivity. After trainings, participants applied acquired knowledge to their models effectively achieving a better crop seasons in 2014.

AAV in collaboration with the Civil Society Inclusion in Food Security and Poverty Elimination Network (CIFPEN) (website: <http://www.cifpen.org/home.htm>) conducted research on Land Rights for ethnic minority people in three LRPs (Hoa Binh, Dak Lak and Dak Nong). (Report can be downloaded here <http://www.actionaid.org/vietnam/new-land-law-2013-opportunity-ethnic-minority-people-escape-poverty>). The report presented a panorama on the ability to access to the land of ethnic people to practice their livelihood. Another survey on the impacts of land grabs on the livelihood of local people was carried out in three communes of An Lao District in LRP11 with the participation of 20 land lost women. (Report can be downloaded here: <http://www.actionaid.org/vi/vietnam/bao-cao-ket-qua-khao-sat-dat-tai-lao>)

A series of events (dialogues, workshops) were organized in LRP7, 8, 9, 12 on land use certificate registration under the names of both husband and wife. 2,258 women had improved knowledge on the rights to land through communication, trainings and activities in their CDGs. Through the training, most women have been able to claim their names on the "Red Book" (land use certificate), and they have been able to practice their livelihood to improve their living condition and food rights. Most importantly, having their name on Red Book has built their sense of security and confidence, increased their position and the voice in the family. Especially, they had better access to get loan from the bank using the Red Book as the collaterals.

### Organic fertilizers increase food production and improve environment

ActionAid held 17-day training for 50 families on compost making from peat, leaves and corn-cob. This is cheaper, easy to make and better for the soil health, as compared to expensive fertilizers. Technical assistance was provided on the farms, once the families started using this method.

"My husband and I used to think that organic fertilizer made of cheap materials like leaves and corn-cob could not be useful for the land. But we changed our mind after taking part in the organic fertilizer project piloted by ActionAid.

Amazingly, our rice crop increased from 490 kg to 570 kg per harvest! We began having enough food for family and could sell some rice to generate income. We also saved about 3

million VND (about 116 Euro) as we did not have to buy chemical fertilizer. With this money, we can now buy more warm clothes, books and learning materials for my two sons this year, so that they feel confident at school." explained Lo Thi Sum (28) in Binh Lu commune, Tam Duong district, Lai Chau province.

Sum's family land and that of others in the area was getting less productive due to years of using chemical fertilizers. Sum continue, "Thanks to the training, we learned how to produce better agricultural inputs and save money. Our soil health is improving and so is our environment since we collect agricultural waste to producing compost! I will continue this for my next crops too."



After seeing the 50 families in Binh Lu commune being so successful with this work, 100 families in 5 other villages have started using the model.

### The garden of hope and future

Yen Son's population is only 1,190 people but the poverty rate at 86.06% is striking - the highest of all 3 communes in Thong Nong District, Cao Bang Province. Most people live on agriculture. The area has rocky terrain and suffers from harsh weather which make the already scarce arable land less productive, this causes immense difficulties to local people's lives.

Mrs. Luc Thi Nhung (32), from Nung minority, shared about her hardship. "Every day I carried the same worry: how can I feed my family today? Every day my husband and I climbed up the rocky mountain and toiled on our small plot of land. We grow corn and different types of vegetables, but the poor soil and meager production made it really difficult for us to live without fear of hunger. The money we earned, 10 million VND (about 351 Euro) per year, was not enough for us to cover our daily expenses. My son thus suffered from malnutrition, which made him underperform at school. In those hard days I used to wish for a miracle, which never happened'.

"ActionAid came and encouraged me to join the project to grow banana for sale. At first, I thought a simple plant such as banana cannot get me out of poverty. But ActionAid totally changed my attitude and took me gradually through each step of the project. Instead of planting them randomly, I now know to plant them in clumps and increasingly master the cutting and trimming techniques.

Like other 75 families who joined the programmes, initially, I was supported with 27 banana trees as seedlings. With those seedlings my husband and I started banana farming. After a year of hard work we were so stunned that our first harvest could earn 18 million VND (about 720 Euro). This money increased my total annual income to 45 million VND (about 1,800 Euro). Additionally, no piece of the tree is ever wasted. Banana leaves make great fodder for livestock whilst tree-trunks are for poultry feed. This is truly my garden of hope and future.

With an annual income that is doubled now, my family is no longer struggling for food and my son is healthier. With the benefits I have achieved from the project, I share my experience and knowledge with other young people in the hamlet so that they also can find their own way to success and happiness. Thank you, ActionAid for bringing hope to me and future to my children". Ms.Nhung said



Ms. Nhung in her family's banana garden

### Biogas improves women's quality of life

More than 100 families in Long Phu, SocTrang built biogas plants for cooking after receiving AAV support. This low-cost initiative is beneficial in many ways. Women no longer need collect firewood and hence they can participate in the community development activities which help strengthen their position and power. It also helps families save money on cooking material, women's health from smoke and protect the environment.



Families are using biogas for cooking



Environment before applying biogas model



Environment after applying biogas model

## Advance accountability and people to people solidarity for social change, increase youth leadership and civil society credibility

No. of people AAV directly reached	Men				Women			
	Total	Children 0-14	Youth 15-30	Adult >= 31	Total	Children 0-14	Youth 15-30	Adult >= 31
9,575	5,058	57	2,299	2,702	4,517	84	1,597	2,836

### CSOs and their network communicate and learn from each other on-line

A tab named danchucoso online (grassroots democracy online) was added to the current website [doitacaav.vn](http://www.doitacaav.vn) (<http://www.doitacaav.vn>) which had been previously set up as a space to share information among partners at different levels on AAV's programmes. With introduction of this added feature, all AAV's partners in more than 20 provinces have reliable sources of information on "grassroots democracy" in Vietnam. All articles, policies and information uploaded onto the site is fully granted with copyrights.



This forum is a connecting point to link local activities with national initiatives and campaigns by promoting the involvement of local groups and sharing their practical experiences with more established CSOs. The local groups were able to share information through this forum, exchange practices, keep contact and send updates and case studies through emails to the forum administrators. This interaction strengthened civil society organizations and networks to enhance the civic and political rights of ethnic minorities and under-represented groups in Lai Chau province, Vietnam giving additional impact to wider society.



## Vietnamese citizens' participate in drafting on referendum

Vietnam is implementing legal reforms to guarantee citizens' basic rights. Many laws including one on referendum are being drafted or currently under review. Although the 2013 Constitution provides space for a referendum, this provision has not been implemented due to lack of an enabling law. The issuance of an enabling law with specific issues to be voted on by citizens and the procedures for such voting will enhance citizen's democratic rights enshrined in the Constitution. Vietnam National Assembly in its 2013 landmark decision recognized Vietnam Lawyers Association (VLA) as a competent legal agency and consequently assigned it to take lead in drafting the law on referendum. VLA was tasked to submit the draft law to the National Assembly in 2015 for further discussion and promulgation.

AAV cooperated with Vietnam Lawyers Association (VLA) (website: <http://www.hoiluatgiavn.org.vn/>) to push up the process of drafting the Law on Referendum through the policy research and advocacy workshops. The Law on Referendum was drafted and revised with the technical support from members of VLA and will be submitted to National Assembly in 2015.



Consultation workshop on "Draft Law on Referendum" in HCMC on 17/10/2014 - Photo: VLA

VLA collected citizens' views and opinion on the main content of the referendum law from all 63 provinces of Vietnam. There have been nearly 500 people participating in the survey and poll, including some 300 lawyers in all provinces in the country. In addition, a comparative study on referendum laws of selected countries including Bangladesh, Latvia and Estonia among others was conducted to identify possible best practices for Vietnam. One workshop each was organized in Ha Noi and Ho Chi Minh City to get technical inputs from VLA members nationwide on the draft law.

In a project review meeting with AAV, Mr. Le Khac Quang, Legal Advisor for VLA expressed his delight for the achievements reached through the cooperation. He noted "This is the first time such a Law is being drafted with no previous experience. The country wide consultations and indeed the international best practices have guided VLA to draft a pro-people Law. Without support from ActionAid Vietnam, VLA would have found it extremely challenging to undertake this noble task".

"With AAV's support, we have been able to consult with around 500 lawyers and citizens from all provinces in Vietnam, so that our recommendations to the National Assembly for the Law on Referendum will be more reflective of our Association's constituencies' and people's needs". - said Mrs. Le Thi Kim Thanh - VLA Vice President cum Secretary General on the partnership between the two organizations.



Mrs. Thanh (in blue) spoke in a consultation workshop for the Law on Referendum - Photo: AAV

## Promote equal access to quality education for children

### Passion fruit model helps a Thai youth escape poverty

AAV cooperated with Nghe An Cooperative Alliance and Committee for Ethnic Minority Affairs to undertake a project called “Sustainable livelihood for ethnic minority youth in western areas of Nghe An”. This project was set against the backdrop of wide spread poverty among ethnic minority youth in NgheAn.

The project trained and supported ethnic minority youth to engage in modern livelihood schemes for new harvest. This would translate into more household income and boost the youth’s confidence in reaching out to the wider community. Most importantly, the project facilitates youth from ethnic minorities to organize into collectives, so that they will have stronger power in negotiating price and better protecting each other in the markets. Among the crops experimented, passion fruit cultivation was the most successful. The project saw cultivation expanding from 1 ha to 150 ha in Nghe An in a span of just two years.

Mr. Lo Van Chien, 30 years old is an example of one of the success stories of the project. He is a youth from the Thai minority group and lives in San Village, Tri Le Commune, Que Phong District, Nghe An Province. Chien married in 2010 and has two children. Before joining the project, his family survived on 1 ha of food production mainly maize, cassava and livestock. Annual income for Chien’s family of 4 people was VND 14-18 million/annum (EUR 560-720) and the household is rated as poor according to the provincial/national poverty line. Though he worked hard on his land, he still faced financial challenges.

This was because he was only involved in subsistence farming and a few times he produced surplus, he could hardly sell his produce due to lack of self-confidence which limited his communication with the wider community, a phenomenon so common among ethnic people.

In 2013 Chien got trained by Nghe An Cooperative Alliance and



Mr. Lo Van Chien with gloves in the middle, attended the training course. Photo: AAV

AAV in both modern passion fruit growing and life skills. With confidence and enthusiasm, he secured a small loan of VND 120 million (EUR 4,800) from Que Phong People’s Committee. He initially invested in 1 ha and earned VND 80 million (EUR 3,200) of net profit after 6 months of planting the fruit. The production now is expanded to 2 ha of land and the net profit increased to VND 140 million (EUR 5,600).

Thanks to the training and facilitation from the project, Chien organized other youth in the community and they were able to negotiate a ready market for the passion fruits at NAPAGA Company. NAPAGA agreed in writing – for the first time, to buy all the products from Chien’s and his friends’ garden, at the minimum price (6,000 VND/1 kg) that ensure a reasonable net profit for the producers. Chien is sustaining the production as his income gradually increases.

Talking with us, Chien proudly shared his joy and appreciation: “Thanks to Cooperative Alliance and AAV for the training opportunity and guidance, we are better off financially and ably cater for my family. I am now a living example of the impact of the project and certainly, all ethnic minority people dream of this opportunity.”

No. of people AAV directly reached	Men				Women			
	Total	Children 0-14	Youth 15-30	Adult ≥ 31	Total	Children 0-14	Youth 15-30	Adult ≥ 31
<b>39,814</b>	<b>20,190</b>	<b>18,364</b>	<b>1,761</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>19,624</b>	<b>17,784</b>	<b>1,755</b>	<b>85</b>

### Training on Promoting Rights in Schools

Promoting Rights in Schools (PRS) is a flagship programme in AAV. This will allow children and stakeholders to sit down together and build a school improvement plan (SIP) for a school without discrimination, with transparent and accountable governance as well as quality learning. PRS training was organized for staff and partners in three regions of Vietnam, PRS surveys were conducted at 54 schools all over the country. All LRPs finalized their schools reports on PRS surveys, series of workshops were held providing information on actual situation of children’s rights, creating channels for students, parents, teachers and local authorities to build an improvement plan together, aiming towards a quality learning environment for children. In 2014, 351 schools having activities involved PRS and 54 primary schools having SIP reaching 15,912 people /children, who participated in the survey, training, PRS workshop or any other PRS events.

### Community people monitor school budget, and management

ActionAid has launched a training course on budget monitoring techniques and education management. During the course, parents learnt about legal documents on budget expenditure, school socialization activities, and skills on budget analysis. It helped to connect parents with school management boards, to have open discussion to hold the school teachers and boards accountable. Parents themselves can be a bridge to bring their children’s feedbacks to the people in-charge. Parents are now cooperating with school management board to fixing and rebuilding restrooms. The cost of design, construction, and materials will only be decided jointly in agreement between school management board and the parents.

### Ethnic Minority people can learn in their mother tongue

In 2014, series of activities were conducted to promote the right of the Ethnic Minority (EM) people to access education in their mother tongue. EM groups were supported to develop books in their own language and scripts. They were also supported to conduct research on the EM languages and to organize dialogues at both local and national levels for policy change to encourage learning in their mother tongue.

As a result, in 2014 AAV and its partner, the Centre for the Sustainable Development in Mountainous Area (CSDM), supported a network for preserving indigenous knowledge of EM people (VTIK). The network wrote textbooks for the Dao (ethnic minority) students and people in their own language and scripts. These books are used in 10 provinces of Vietnam and more than 700 Dao people can now learn reading, writing and their culture in their own language.

In 2014, another research was conducted to review the preference of Vietnamese origin in H’Mong language. Its findings were used for the policy dialogue with the Committee for Ethnic Minority Affairs (CEMA) to advocate for change of the H’Mong script into Latin, which is easier and liked by H’mong of people as they can easily read and write with this Latin-scripts of Mong language. At the same time, if the Latin-based script is put into use, it will be seamless for the Vietnamese Mong people to interact and communicate with their peers (Mong people) in other countries. The research and its report were appreciated by the Ministry of Education and Training (MOET) and CEMA. AAV will support more research nationwide and consultations to seek more opinions, inputs and evidence for the policy change in favor of H’Mong language.



## Thanh Hoa province endorsing the Dao books

Thanh Hoa province issued the decision number 877/QĐ-UBND on 17 March 2015 to endorse the set of 9 Dao books to be used in the province. This is the result of continuous advocacy that CSDM (The Centre for the Sustainable Development in Mountainous Area), one of AAV's partners, has attempted to achieve. With the financial and technical support from AAV, CSDM has gone through series of consultation and advocacy with different stakeholders including Vietnam Indigenous Knowledge Network (VTIK), Provincial Committee for Ethnic Minorities Affairs (PCEMA), as well as Ethnological Association in Thanh Hoa. At the highest efforts, after 2 conferences having taken place to advise the local government on the legal framework and its practical purposes of the 9 Dao books, the authorities have accepted the set to be widely used within the province. This endorsement brings a great joy to the Dao community in Thanh Hoa in particular and gives hope for other groups to keep trying and advocating and conserve their own cultural identity including language.



## Now I feel I belong to my school

Truong Viet Hoang, a 5th grader in Uong Bi, was born in a family of 2 siblings. His parents don't have regular jobs and hence they do various jobs such as fetching firewood, chopping trees and making coal, or construction... Hoang's life is harsh and he does not get much attention from his parents like many other kids do. Hoang himself did not appreciate the importance of school and education. He used to be a very naughty kid who often teased classmates, did not focus on his study, bullied other kids therefore it is really rare to find Hoang amongst other friends. They all were afraid of him.



Hoang (in white) in his old and new classroom. Photo: AAV

In 2014, Hoang was tasked by the school to engage in decorating the classrooms. He was very happy to do this job. He said *"Hello, I was very pleased because I was assigned to take part in painting the classroom along with my classmates. I was feeling great as I was accepted by my friends. Before, I thought nobody cares about me. I thought I was of no use to my school and my class. I used to be a misbehaved kid and did not want to go to school because I was alone all the time. I fought with my school mates many times. The classroom was very smelly and mounded. In the winter, we often got coughing and cold. Sometimes I wished I would not have had to go to school"*.

Hoang is one of thousands of children involved in development programme of AAV and partners. He was at loss because he needed attention and care from family, school and communities. He felt he was not a part of the school, where he went to everyday. By engaging Hoang and children, even in small interventions, they got a space to share and to participate. He said *"Now I feel cheerful to go to school because I can engage in many activities organized by schools such as extra curriculum activities, life skills training, PRS training and especially making my school better day by day. I don't bully friends and have better learning results. My mom takes me to school also after she joined the PRS training. When I grow up, I wish to become a policeman or a teacher to support my family. I thank the programme and my school for all these changes"*.



Nhung (holding microphone) was talking about child's rights in schools. Photo: AAV

## I am happy to share

*"My name is Do Thi Phi Nhung, 10 years old. At the moment, I am in the 5th grade of a primary school in Krong Bong - a district in the Central Highlands. My parents are farmers and grow rice, maize and wheat. Every day I go to school in the morning and support my parents to do housework and school assignment in the afternoon. I love to study and I love my school"*.

Nhung's school consisted of 3 satellite branches with the main branch located at the village number 2. There were 680 children coming to study in all these 4 locations.

Nhung's school was supported by AAV and partners to enhance the quality of education. In 2014, the school received support in construction of school play yard, training on life skills, child's rights and activities to promote rights in schools (PRS). Nhung was an active participant. She said *"I am so lucky to be a part of the activities. My classmates and I are very happy. I used to get nervous while performing on the stage. But slowly I got used to it and no longer felt afraid or shy. I am confident now."*

*I heard my school would set up student councils next year and I am looking forward to being a member. Through extra curriculum activities, I have learnt a lot to be more confident when speaking in front of the crowd. With the encouragement from my teachers, I have improved my test results. My friends and I will share what we have learnt from PRS training, about 10 core rights of children in school with other classmates and schoolmates so that they are aware of their rights at school. And I feel so happy to do so. I am grateful to AAV to give us a space for playing and sharing. I wish to be a doctor in the future to help people in need"*.

## A dream comes true

Ms. H'Cir Mlo is a 28 year old youth who comes from a poor family of Suk Village, Ea Dar Commune, EaKar district of DakLak province (Central Highlands of Vietnam) - LRP9 of AAV.

As an active member of the YLePA Project (Youth Leadership in enhancing public service providers' accountability) since 2012, Ms. H'Cir Mlo benefited from the empowerment and capacity building activities of the project. She was trained on leadership, communication skills, and public service assessment. H'Cir Mlo spoke at a debate with public service providers on result of the assessment. Thanks to the knowledge and skills she gained from the project, she is now held with high esteem in her community, a phenomenon which led her to become a representative of the People's Council and Commune Communist Party General Secretary in 2014.

Together with actively participating in social activities, she pondered on how to improve family economic condition. Via YLePA project, she had chance to visit some good economic models in the district. In the end, she confidently learned to grow coffee trees. She attended AAV trainings on making bio-organic fertilizer for coffee trees. Besides, thanks to AAV small loan, she was able to raise pig and feed fish to increase her family income.

Ms. H'Cir Mlo proudly credits her success to this unique AAV project which equipped her with the requisite skills and knowledge which have seen her move to greater heights in her community and in her own words, *"this is a dream come true"*.

In her special message to fellow youth, she calls for determination, confidence and enthusiasm as a way of realizing one's dreams. *"I would like to call other youth to nurture their dreams. Don't give up when facing difficulties. Be confident, with youth spirit and enthusiasm, I believe you can do it"*, said Mlo.



Introduced to AAV staff her coffee model. Photo: LRP9/AAV

## Respond to disaster and climate change impacts with people-centered alternatives

No. of people AAV directly reached	Men				Women			
	Total	Children 0-14	Youth 15-30	Adult >= 31	Total	Children 0-14	Youth 15-30	Adult >= 31
55,718	27,035	237	14,674	12,124	28,683	379	16,380	11,924

### Community based disaster preparedness using Microsoft data gathering system

The project “Connecting people to save lives and improve disaster preparedness in the Mekong Delta” is an innovative cooperation between ActionAid and Microsoft to improve community based disaster response and preparedness using Nokia’s open data gathering system. Activities are being implemented in 16 villages in three different communes

of Soc Trang Province. About 28,000 people of which 15,000 women directly benefited and 113,000 people will indirectly benefit from this project. This is the first DRR related project that uses technology in Vietnam and has a great potential to multiply to national level.

### Promoting youth participation in poverty reduction and disaster preparation

Benoy Foundation supported the project engaging young people in disaster risk reduction (DRR) and community development activities. The project has tackled the target communities’ vulnerability to natural disasters and poverty for the ethnic minority communities living in Thong Nong district in Cao Bang province, an area prone to natural disasters.

The project benefited 23,136 people. By replication of the successful models in other parts of the province, it will benefit another 18,000 people. The project helped establish 16 Youth Rescue Teams in 16 villages, 11 Village Disaster Reduction Committees were set up with 380 young people participating. A new road 30.5 km long was built, connecting 25 villages and their access to markets, and improving their ability to conduct rescues when disasters hit. 120 teachers were trained on disaster risk reduction,



Youth Rescue Team in Can Yen village in first aid training - Photo: LRP8/AAV

and they have passed on this knowledge to 1,000 pupils in 20 schools.

Considering the success of the project, the local government has agreed to continue supporting young people to carry on the project activities, and to replicate the initiatives in other areas of Cao Bang province. They will also

integrate DRR into their development plans for the area.

AAV provided trainings on first aid for disaster-caused accidents for 390 local people in 3 LRPs. Participants were equipped with basic knowledge on handling accidents/injuries related to disasters to rescue people.

Several training courses on Participatory Vulnerability Analysis (PVA) and community based disaster preparedness planning were carried out in Central and Southern region; namely LRP 6, 9, 13, 18 and 19 with 429 participants who are members of community development groups, disaster risk reduction board at commune and village levels, Rescue Teams and villagers. In the training, participants were introduced about types of disasters in Vietnam and socio-economic consequences of disaster. They were also equipped with methods of making plan for disaster risk reduction.

## Local people are better protected from risks posed by natural disasters

“We never thought of preparing ourselves for disasters before. We just thought that it was a natural thing that happened in life and that there was nothing that we could do about it. In August last year, for example, we suffered a large storm and heavy rain. Sadly 2 missing, 12 injured and many properties were destroyed. We didn’t even know how to save people who were drowning”, shared Mr. Dang Van Hau (28 years old) who is one of the members of the five search and rescue teams that are supported by ActionAid.

Every year, people in Ha Giang suffer the effects of natural disasters such as hurricanes, frost, hailstone, floods and landslides. This deepens the hardship faced by a community that is already struggling with abject poverty. This year, ActionAid helped to establish and train five search and rescue teams in five villages and these teams now protect a total of 1,500 people who are vulnerable to disasters. As a part of the same project, a total of 240 people were also trained on drowning prevention, first aid specific to natural disasters (fix broken limbs) and also in the prevention of infectious diseases such as cholera, mumps, malaria and diarrhoea which are common occurrences after disasters. ActionAid also provided these villages with basic equipment such as stretchers, first-aid kits and tools, loudspeakers, flashlights and arm and leg splints.

“The training ActionAid gave us really opened our eyes. We learnt that we could minimise the damages and control certain situations

if we were prepared. ActionAid equipped us with tools and skills to respond to common disasters. We learned how to help people to be aware of the changes in weather so we can prepare better for emergency situations such as during flash floods. Our team meet once a month to develop plans to help people in the villages to prepare and practice for potential disasters. As a result of our preparation, no one died or went missing this year during the recent floods. Our team also instructed people on how to prevent damages such as putting heavy sand bags on the roofs to prevent them from being blown off in the strong wind, how to chop big trees that are at risk of falling during strong winds and how to place netting around trees on the main road to prevent the risk of them collapsing into houses or people.

I am so proud that I can help my community. I will try harder to share my knowledge to help more people in the future”, said Mr Hau.



Mr. Hau in a first-aid training Photo: LRP7/AAV





## Local community is better prepared to cope with natural disasters

“We live near Hau, one of the biggest rivers in the Mekong River Delta. Every monsoon, the river water level rises very high, inundating our house and garden for days. We feel very sad witnessing the destruction of our crops and other properties. Some families lose relatives and we all feel terrible. Fortunately now, thanks to ActionAid, we have the equipment and skills necessary to respond to such disasters thereby saving lives and properties”, said Trinh Quoc Viet (55) in Chau Khanh village.

Viet’s story is typical in Soc Trang, a province crisscrossed by a dense network of rivers and streams. The province is often hit hard by floods during the rainy season. For example, in 2012 one common flood caused 2 deaths together with a loss of about 2,915 hectares of rice and vegetable.

To help the community cope with natural disasters, ActionAid has been working in 3 villages near the Hau River, by setting up a committee in each of these for the

reduction and prevention of disaster risks. Each committee is made up of 9 people who are committed to mobilize all the people when a disaster occurs. They also monitor the early warning system installed by ActionAid along the river, which signals the participants when the water level rises, promptly informing the community. To facilitate their work, ActionAid has provided them with motor boats, megaphones, rescue jackets and torches.

Over 450 households received information and safety warning from the committee. Over 10 thousand people have been feeling safer thanks to the presence of the committees and rescue teams.

Viet shared: “Thanks to ActionAid, our community now can better monitor the river level and avoid floods. Each members of the disaster prevention team take turns to manage the monitoring system and the team keeps the whole community updated about the dangers on a regular basis. We were trained on



Mr. Viet, a member of search and rescue team  
Photo: LRP13/AAV

how to use the monitoring equipment and we practiced along the river. We also learnt how to use the boats and survival kits, such as jackets and rescue buoy; and cut big trees before storms. Along with the committee on risk reduction, we organized meetings with all the villagers to inform and prepare a plan to cope with disasters. My community has shown a great spirit of solidarity and our stamina is improved. I am convinced that damage from this year’s floods will be minimized.”

## Build social and political alternatives for Women and Girls

No. of people AAV directly reached	Men				Women			
	Total	Children 0-14	Youth 15-30	Adult >= 31	Total	Children 0-14	Youth 15-30	Adult >= 31
44,191	13,997	1,279	6,518	6,200	30,194	2,121	11,970	16,103

### Community based Counseling Center against domestic violence

Under “Women’s Rights Programme”, AAV and its partners of LRP5 have successfully implemented the model **“Community based Counseling Center against domestic violence”**. Started in Go Vap district, Ho Chi Minh City (LRP5) the initiative provides a “shelter” where women who are beaten up by their husbands can go to avoid further violence or they can find the free counseling services relating to domestic violence. This model has been highly valued by the city authorities and it was expanded to other districts following the instruction of local authorities.

### Improve knowledge, attitude, behavior and practices of the community on GBV

Series of activities have been conducted at LRP level for different groups including youth, women living in rural and urban areas on Gender-based violence (GBV), sexual and reproductive health care through communication activities such as drama, music, dialogues and interactions. Women, students and community people could identify 4 standard types of GBV and understood GBV is illegal, even when violence happened within or outside the family. By the end of 2014, ActionAid reached 31,625 people.

### Cultural interventions for alternative livelihood: folk songs, traditional weaving and local cuisine

Eighteen cultural groups (498 members with 415 women and 83 men) were set up and supported in Tam Duong district of Lai Chau province. Members got training courses on weaving traditional brocade and reviving Thai folksongs.

People learned special techniques and process of weaving brocade of Lu ethnic minority. The women learned about the history and importance of original Thai folksongs. These activities are very meaningful in preserving traditional culture and indigenous knowledge for future generations. In the ethnic minority groups culture plays an important role in building solidarity among communities for taking collective actions.

The project trained 29 landless and land-lost women to cook varieties of food such as traditional spring roll, mushroom soup, and sticky rice etc. The women learned to make

the dishes in a professional way with decorations - fit to be served to conferences or parties. Afterwards, the participants were able to establish their own business. They have 50 contracts to provide catering services to customers who are happy with the services and the quality and taste of food. The women are more confident and thank AAV: “We now have stable monthly income of VND 1 million (GBP 30) for each member in the group. I use part of my income to enable my 2 children to continue their study”.



## I was empowered to change my own life

This woman is a sufferer of all forms of violence including physical, psychological, economic and other gender based discrimination. Her parents gave her away to a childless family just because she was a girl. She is Ms. Nguyen Thi Thuy, 52, from Uong Bi city, Quang Ninh province.

Ms. Thuy hoped to have a son for the family because she was neglected and abandoned by her own parents as a girl. Her husband was conservative and preferred having a son, like many other men in the village. In the process, she ended up having 3 daughters, which brought her further misery and scorn from her parents-in-law and even her own husband. Tearfully, she shared further: "I think nobody has suffered as much as I did. I was regularly beaten up by my adopted mother when I was a child. At 10, my body got swollen because of her pounding when I once stole some food to please my hunger. I sat in the corner and begged her to let me go back to my own parents, who

would never took or returned my call. Luckily, one day my brother came over and saw my conditions. He asked my adopted parents to bring me back home. At long last, I was free from her violence".

After her marriage, she found it hard living with her husband. "Having 3 daughters was as miserable as the time when I stayed with my adopted mother. My husband and his mother would beat me and yell at me almost every day. I can't recall how many times but I will never forget the time when I delivered my second daughter. I was too hungry because nobody cooked for me, I was supposed to produce a son. My in laws and husband threatened me and my children with a knife. My children motivated me to go on; otherwise I could have finished my life. As if that was not enough, my in laws encouraged my husband to have an affair to get an heir. I was in fear and wished someone could help me to be happy like many other women".

Ms. Thuy has been participating in a women's rights programme of AAV and partners since 2012. She feels empowered by the knowledge and skills provided by the programme. She said "I was invited to attend the psychological counseling support with other women who had the same problem. It was an opportunity for me to learn self-defense and many other activities, share my plight, my life, which is full of violence and I can tell them all days. I feel relieved and my heart feels warmer, I also have chance to listen to



Ms. Thuy at self-defense training class - Photo: AAV

others' stories. This helped me and others' to lessen our burdens and build solidarity. The psychologist gave me knowledge and strength to move on. I am now determined to fight and change and with my daughters to build a happy family".

After the training, Ms. Thuy and her daughters tried to persuade her husband to come along when she participated in the programme activities. She talked to him every day whenever he was in good mood. Gradually he changed and respected her more. She was happy saying "Recently my husband has been transformed which helped me and my daughters. We now know how to take care of each other, especially him; he is no longer beating me and the kids. He stopped thinking about having a son and instead he tried to make the family better. I am very grateful to the programme; you have listened to my story, give me a chance to learn and change my life. I hope many women in the same situation like me can live a life without violence"



Ms. Thuy at home

## GREEN OFFICE

To reduce carbon emission, AAV and its staff have applied many good practices such as reducing number of printers, limiting the duration of air conditioners usage to 10 hours/working day, minimizing the usage of paper by using electronic copies, printing both sides or re-using paper where possible, using public transportation, etc. As a result, volume of electricity usage reduced by 4.33% and this saved ActionAid of around VND 7 million (USD 333.00) as the cost for electricity consumption.

It is witnessed that there are more staff practicing green actions, on a more regular

basic, and becoming a source inspiring for others to join. These can be very simple as taking bus or using bicycles more regularly, planting trees, taking more veggies and less meat, or using less nylon bags.

Besides, ActionAid Vietnam demonstrates the close link between green initiatives and sustainability through the programme on ground. We help people living in poverty to establish household biogas plants to not only generate clean energy but also to save cost and protect environment. Thanks to this, AAV was conferred The Green Champion Award from AAI for the year 2014.



ActionAid International is proud to confer on ActionAid Italy and ActionAid Vietnam the Green Champion award for their extraordinary contribution towards organisational sustainability and green initiatives.

Chris Kinyanjui  
Deputy Chief Executive  
/DD Director  
ActionAid International

Farah Kabir  
Country Director  
ActionAid Bangladesh

## STAFF RECEIVED ACTIONAID CITIZENSHIP AWARD IN 2014

From 2013, AAV initiated the "ActionAid Citizenship" Award to formally recognize the excellent efforts made by individual staff for the success of the organization. This year, two ActionAiders, Mr. Tran Duy Khoa - Central Programme Coordinator, Mr. Vu Minh Duc - Programme Monitoring and Evaluation Coordinator and Central Regional Office team were selected.



Staffs in Central Regional Office are using the tablets (from Award) in daily work (From left: Ms. Tran Tuan Anh; Mr. Tran Duy Khoa; Mr. Nguyen Van Luan; Mr. Nguyen Minh Thuat) Photo: AAV

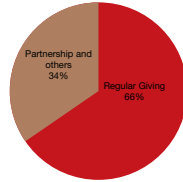


Mr. Vu Minh Duc receiving the "ActionAid Citizenship" Award in the Gala Dinner 2014 Photo: AAV

# FINANCE

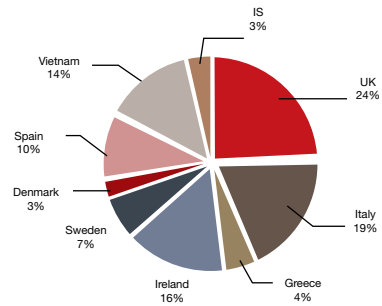
## INCOME SOURCES

Income sources 2014	Amount in '000GBP	%
Regular Giving	1,429	66%
Partnership and others	751	34%
<b>Total:</b>	<b>2,180</b>	<b>100%</b>



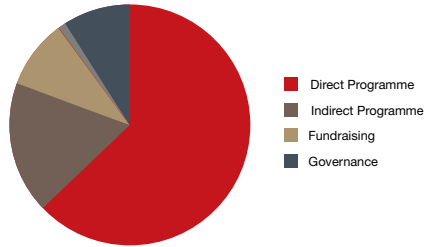
## INCOME ANALYSIS

Income 2014	Amount in '000 GBP	%
UK	530	24%
Italy	418	19%
Greece	95	4%
Ireland	340	16%
Sweden	143	7%
Denmark	57	3%
Spain	220	10%
Vietnam	302	14%
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>2,180</b>	<b>100%</b>



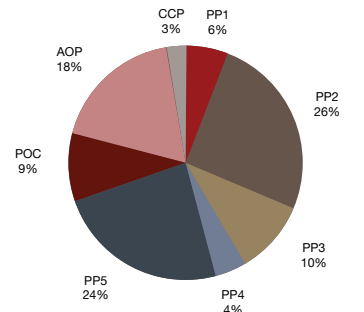
## EXPENDITURE

Expenditure	Amount in '000 GBP	%
Direct Programme	1,280	63%
Indirect Programme	355	17%
Fundraising	197	10%
Governance	17	1%
Support	185	9%
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>2,034</b>	<b>100%</b>



## PROGRAMME EXPENDITURE

Programme Expenditure 2014	Amount in '000 GBP	%
PP1 – Livelihood & Agricultural	94	6%
PP2 – Governance	420	26%
PP3 – Education	165	10%
PP4 – Emergency	71	4%
PP5 – Women & Girls	391	24%
Partners' Operation cost (POC)	153	9%
AAV's Operation cost (AOP)	298	18%
Cross cutting PPs (CCP)	43	3%
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>1,635</b>	<b>100%</b>



# AUDIT REPORT



**KPMG Limited**  
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 Me Tri West, South Tu Liem District, Hanoi City Internet www.kpmg.com.vn  
 The Socialist Republic of Vietnam

## INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Management Team  
 Representative Office in Vietnam of ActionAid International

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Representative Office in Vietnam of ActionAid International ("the Office"), which comprises the balance sheet as of 31 December 2014, the statements of income and expenditure and the statement of changes in fund balance for the year then ended and notes, comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and the explanatory information ("financial statements"), as set out on pages 4 to 22.

### Management's Responsibility for the financial statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with the basis of accounting and the accounting policies described in Note 2 to the financial statements, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatements, whether due to fraud or error.

### Auditors' Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatements.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on our judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, we consider internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

KPMG Limited, a Vietnamese limited liability company and a member firm of the KPMG network of independent member firms affiliated with KPMG International Cooperative ("KPMG International"), a Swiss entity.





### Audit Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements of the Representative Office in Vietnam of ActionAid International for the year ended 31 December 2014 have been prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the accounting policies as described in Note 2 to the financial statements.

### Basis of accounting and Restriction on Use

Without modifying our opinion, we draw attention to Note 2 to the financial statements, which describe the basis of accounting and the accounting policies adopted by the Office. The financial statements are prepared for the information of and use by the management and donors of the Office. As a result, the financial statements may not be suitable for another purpose. Our audit report is prepared for the information of and use by the management and the donor of the Office and should not be delivered to or used by any other parties.

### Other matters

We draw attention to the fact that we have not audited the Appendix 1 – Revolving fund, as set out on page 23 and, accordingly, we do not express an opinion on this Appendix.

**KPMG Limited**  
Vietnam  
Investment Certificate No.: 011043000345  
Audit Report No.: 15-02-029



**Dam Xuan Lam**  
Practicing Auditor Registration  
Certificate No.: 0861-2013-007-1  
Partner, Audit Services

Hanoi, 10 July 2015

### Representative Office in Vietnam of ActionAid International Balance sheet as at 31 December 2014

	Note	31/12/2014 GBP'000	31/12/2013 GBP'000
<b>ASSETS</b>			
<b>Current assets</b>			
Cash	3	2,034	1,600
Amount due from other ActionAid members	4	703	367
Amount due from Partners	5	1,159	1,129
Prepayments		101	54
Deposits		22	22
Prepayments to suppliers		23	21
Other receivables		2	5
Advances to employees		24	-
		-	2
<b>Non-current assets</b>			
Tangible fixed assets	6	-	-
Cost		38	38
Accumulated depreciation		(38)	(38)
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>2,034</b>	<b>1,600</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE</b>			
<b>Liabilities</b>			
Accrual of Gratuity		111	105
Taxes payables to State Treasury		51	39
Accrued expenses		2	1
Other payables		52	58
		6	7
<b>Fund balance</b>			
Accumulated surplus		1,923	1,495
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE</b>		<b>2,034</b>	<b>1,600</b>

10 July 2015

Prepared by:

**Tran Lan Huong**  
Head of Finance and Administration

Approved by:

**Hoang Phuong Thao**  
Country Director

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements

Representative Office in Vietnam of ActionAid International  
Statement of income and expenditure for the year ended 31 December 2014

	Note	2014 GBP'000	2013 GBP'000 Reclassified
<b>Income</b>	7		
Supporter Marketing - Regular Giving		1,429	1,514
Supporter Marketing - Other		-	8
High Value		129	142
Institutional		614	449
Other income		8	11
		<b>2,180</b>	<b>2,124</b>
Net transfer in from/(out to) ActionAid International	8	282	(3)
<b>Total income</b>		<b>2,462</b>	<b>2,121</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>	9,10		
Program/Project cost		1,635	1,387
Fundraising cost		197	215
Governance cost		17	15
Support cost		185	240
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<b>2,034</b>	<b>1,857</b>
<b>Surplus of income over expenditure</b>		<b>428</b>	<b>264</b>

10 July 2015

Prepared by:   
Tran Lan Huong  
Head of Finance and Administration

Approved by:   
Hoang Phuong Thao  
Country Director



The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements

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Representative Office in Vietnam of ActionAid International  
Statement of changes in fund balance for the year ended 31 December 2014

	Accumulated surplus GBP'000
<b>Fund balance at 1 January 2013</b>	<b>1,231</b>
Surplus of income over expenditure	264
<b>Fund balance at 1 January 2014</b>	<b>1,495</b>
Surplus of income over expenditure	428
<b>Fund balance at 31 December 2014</b>	<b>1,923</b>

10 July 2015

Prepared by:   
Tran Lan Huong  
Head of Finance and Administration

Approved by:   
Hoang Phuong Thao  
Country Director



The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements

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# RESOURCE MOBILISATION

## DIVERSIFIED FUNDING SOURCES

In 2014, AAV successfully diversified its funding sources. It raised funds from different supporters and new Institutional and High Value donors, despite the unstable global financial situation. Vietnam's middle income country status opens up opportunities for local fundraising, helping AAV to make a number of achievements in resource mobilization:

AAV aims at having 15,000 supporters by 2017 and starts raising funds locally as outlined in the Country Strategy Paper V (2012-2017). In 2014 AAV completed restructuring to build a competent team for fundraising. The Resource Mobilization Department (RMD) has now been fully established, with most of the new positions within the department having been successfully filled.

AAV would like to thank Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland (MFA) who has for the first time identified ActionAid as the programme partner. MFA supported ActionAid through ActionAid Vietnam EUR 1,049,652 with matching funds from AAV of EUR 46,103 for a three year (2015-2017) project to facilitate "People participation in improvement of forest governance and poverty alleviation in Vietnam".

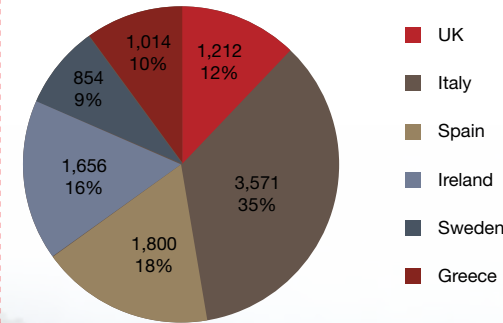
AAV started its first project funded by Microsoft for "Connecting people to save lives and improve disaster preparedness in the Mekong Delta". The project has a total budget of EUR 99,931 (USD 136,000) and supports 112,000 people in Soc Trang Province, Mekong River Delta.



## CHILD SPONSORSHIP

Child Sponsorship remains a core source of income for AAV, achieving 85% of 2014 plan. By end of 2014, Child Sponsorship income was reported at GBP 1,429,000 (accounting for 66% of AAV's total income) with 11,834 financial supporters from UK, Italy, Spain, Ireland, Greece, and Sweden.

### Child Sponsorship Links in 2014



AAV organized the First Hand Experience programme with 28 volunteers from UK. The volunteers contributed GBP 12,000 and 5 work days building a new classroom in Tan Quoi Trung Kindergarten, Vung Liem District, Vinh Long Province, benefiting 114 children with a new classroom in improved physical conditions. The First Hand Experience programme has been documented at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cLGarLzGqcA&spfreload=10>.

This is one of many initiatives under "Small Bricks, Big Changes" - a programme launched by AAV in 2012, aiming to improve the education facilities for about 10,000 rural and disadvantaged children. If you would like to be a sponsor or join this community development programme to engage directly with the people, you may contact us at: [vongtaybeban@actionaid.org](mailto:vongtaybeban@actionaid.org).



## >> MOVING FORWARD IN 2015

In 2015, ActionAid Vietnam will continue strengthening programme quality in all three regions under five programme priorities as stated in CSPV, applying Human Rights based approach. Our strategy approach encourages initiatives, promote partnership, apply modern technology combined with traditional practices, involve media in advocating good works and ensure programme quality through promotion of Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, Learning (MEAL), and evidence based actions. Below are our main priorities for 2015.

### PROGRAMME

- Strengthen programme quality under 5 programme priorities
- Hand-over matured programmes and open new programme partnership, highlighting the need of community, partnership cooperation, and fighting poverty through the HRBA lenses
- Build flagship programmes in typical areas of AAV as models for future strategy and initiate new projects addressing typical issues
- Apply mobile technology in disaster management and community participation in public management

### MONITORING & EVALUATION

- Develop the "Web-based programme management and monitoring system" which will be used to improve all steps of a programme's life cycle

### POLICY AND CAMPAIGN

- Prepare engagement plan with strategic media agencies to provide them with induction, information about ActionAid Tax Power and Safe Cities Campaign and encourage them to report about these campaigns and their associated issues
- Improve connection between campaign activities at national and LRP levels to create a synergy
- Lobby for development of new law e.g. Law on Association, Law on the Right to Access to Information, Law on Referendum and on revision of the Youth Law 2005
- Actively participate in networking to support national partners in developing national strategies plan from 2016-2020 for social protection and ethnic minorities
- Strengthen Capacity Building plan and implementation in order to serve the need of AAV partners, staff and CSOs,
- Build up viability of SEAComHub to be independent training arm of AAV

### RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

- In 2015, AAV will continue giving a high level of priority to diversifying our funding resources with focus on:
  - Establishing an efficient system for supporter development program with a focus on building a competent fund raising team, database and equipment
  - Developing partnership relationship with strategic donors
  - Coordinating with different stakeholders and partners to develop concept notes/ proposals and tenders, submit proposals and follow up with contract management

### MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE

- Continuing investment in ActionAid staff development and women leadership
- Further promoting Green Office with new initiatives in all three offices to reduce carbon emission
- Preparing further for transition period upon AAV becoming an associate of ActionAid International



ActionAid staff and the Board in Annual Staff Retreat, October 2014  
Photo: AAV

The year 2014 has witnessed AAV's multiple efforts to ensure fairness and justice for the development of the poor, the marginalized and the powerless in form of many successful campaigns and projects.

The detailed acknowledgement of those efforts by the mass media can be accessed at the links below:

English

<http://www.actionaid.org/vietnam/media-coverage-aav-s-out-standing-activities-2014>

Vietnamese

<http://www.actionaid.org/vietnam/media-coverage-cac-hoat-dong-noi-bat-cua-aav-trong-nam-2014>



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**act:onaaid**