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ACTIONAID INTERNATIONAL VIETNAM

# ANNUAL REPORT 2012

“Twenty years of taking side with Vietnam to end poverty”





## OUR VALUES, VISION, MISSION AND THEORY OF CHANGE

### Our Values

These are the values guiding all of 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**
- **Independence and neutrality** from any religious and party-political affiliation

### Our Vision

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

### Our Mission

To work with poor and excluded people to eradicate poverty and injustice

### 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.



## MESSAGE FROM COUNTRY DIRECTOR

Dear supporters, colleagues, friends:

Welcome to ActionAid Vietnam's Annual Report 2012.

We are happy to share with you about how the poor and marginalized, especially women, children, landless people and ethnic minorities are working together with us to have a better life.

In 2012, ActionAid Vietnam starts implementing actions to achieve our commitments as mentioned in the Country Strategy Paper V (2012-2017). Our programmes on the ground and at the national level have started the transformation, where all programmes are designed and implemented with human rights based approach, where empowerment, solidarity and campaigns are the core elements. All the Local Rights Programmes have been supported to build their own strategies for 2013-2017.

In 2012 ActionAid celebrated its 20 years of taking side with Vietnam to end poverty. On this special occasion, ActionAid Vietnam received Award of Merits from the Vietnam Union of Friendship Organizations (VUFO) and its Country Director received VUFO's Friendship Medal, as a recognition of their contribution in supporting Vietnam, bringing Vietnam to the world and building people to people solidarity. On this occasion the Small Bricks - Big Change Programme was launched with the aim to support 10,000 children in country by the end of 2017 to have better access to quality education.

Our key aim is to build the capacity of the poor in the community so that they can take actions to change their own life and challenge the power imbalance that keeps them in poverty. Significant efforts and resources have been invested in our staff and communities, partners and civil society organizations in Vietnam, so that together we can take actions to end poverty and injustice.

In the report there are a lot more information and great stories of change that our engagement in

many programmes in the year 2012 has brought about. We welcome your critical comments so that we could work better.

On behalf of the team, I would like to sincerely thank you for your contribution and support to ActionAid, for your encouragement and critic to our work, and your solidarity throughout, so that we could continue the road we chose - working side by side with the communities to end poverty.

Yours sincerely,

HOANG PHUONG THAO

Country Director ActionAid  
Vietnam

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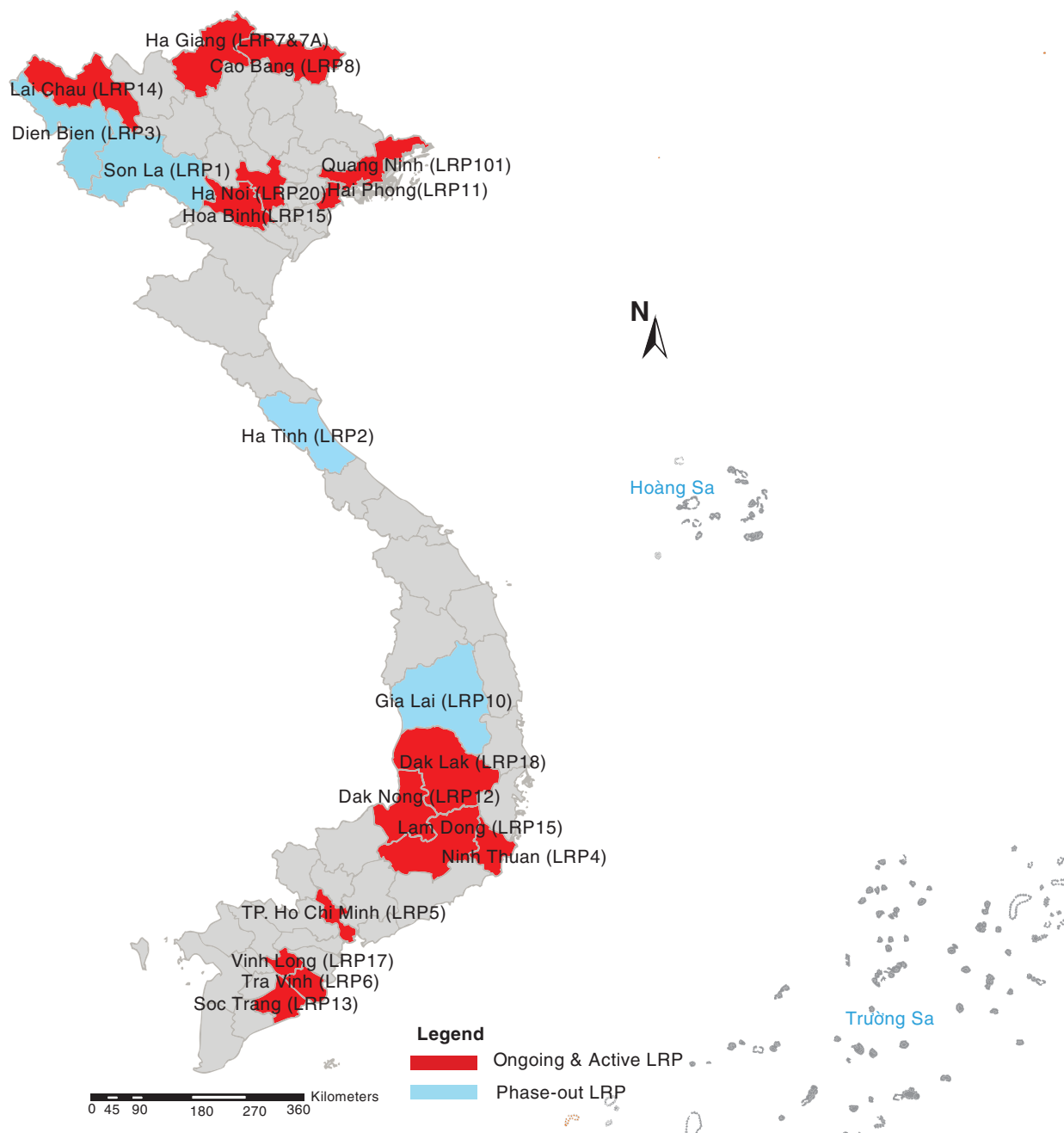


## ABBREVIATIONS

AA	ActionAid
AAI	ActionAid International
AAV	ActionAid International Vietnam
ALPS	Accountability, Learning and Planning System
APF	ASEAN People's Forum
AEPF	Asia Europe People's Forum
CCA	Climate Change Adaptation
CCD	Center of Community Development
CIFPEN	Civil Society Inclusion in Food Security and Poverty Elimination Network
CFRC	Committee and Community Finance and Resource Centre
CRSA	Climate Resilient Sustainable Agriculture
CP	Country Programme
CS	Child Sponsorship
CSO	Civil Society Organization
CSP	Country Strategy Paper
DFID	Department for International Development
DGT	Democratic Governance Team
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
EC	European Commission
EIDHR	European Instrument for Democracy and Human Right
ELBAG	Economic Literacy and Budget Accountability in Governance
EUR	Official Currency of the Euro Zone
FACE	For A Clean Education
GBP	Great Britain Pound Sterling

GBV	Gender Based Violence
GPAP	Governance Public Administration Reform Network
HRBA	Human Rights Based Approach
IEC	Information, Education and Communication
IFSN	International Food Security Network
IPD	International Partnership Development
IT	Information Technology
JANI	Joint Advocacy Network Initiative
KCP	Key Change Promise
LRP	Local Rights Programme
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NSA	Non-State Actor
OP	Organizational Priority
PP	Programme Priority
PVA	Participatory Vulnerability Assessment
SBC	School-Based Counseling Center
SMT	Senior Management Team
SPD	Support Programme for Development
TCDC	Training Centre for Development and Cooperation
TOT	Training of Trainers
UK	United Kingdom
VDRC	Village Disaster Risk Reduction Committee
VND	Vietnamese Dong - Currency of Vietnam
VUFO	The Vietnam Union of Friendship Organizations
WTO	World Trade Organization
YTC	Youth To Change

## AAV's WORKING AREAS MAP – Local Rights Programmes (LRPs)



## AAV HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

### 1. Celebration of 20 years of actionaid taking side with Vietnam to end poverty

In 2012, ActionAid Vietnam (AAV) celebrated its 20 years of taking side with Vietnam to end poverty. The celebration was launched in Hanoi together with the launching of the Country Strategy Paper V (2012-2017) in November 2011 culminating with an ActionAid Day in Hanoi on November 22, 2012. Series of activities were organized around the year, in different locations for the celebration. Some key activities were: ActionAid staff Community Day, ActionAid Village, ActionAid Gala.

For the first time, **ActionAid Staff Community Day** was organized, giving space for staff to volunteer their time and efforts that directly benefited the community. AAV staff built a kitchen serving 215 children from ethnic minorities in a boarding school in Da Bac District, Hoa Binh Province. Before the kitchen was built the students had to cook out in the open. The kitchen now saves children from rains, storms or open fire when preparing food.



ActionAid staff joining Community Day in Da Bac, Hoa Binh (Photo: AAV)

ActionAid Vietnam organized an event called '**ActionAid Village**' in which, people from communities where ActionAid works brought their products to exhibit and introduce to outside world. All the local products exhibited at the Village were the result of ActionAid programme. A wide range of products were exhibited such as: from organic vegetables, teas, coffee to research reports on

issues of local interests. The Village exhibition and exchange attracted hundreds of visitors, from Vietnam as well as foreigners. All products exhibited at the Village were sold out well before the close of the day. Part of funds thus collected was allocated for Small Bricks - Big Change Programme. In the Village, items donated by LRPs and AAV staff were auctioned to raise funds for Small Bricks - Big Change Programme, too. A total of VND 17,000,000 (equivalent to GBP 530) was collected.



ActionAid Village Photo: AAV)

AAV also organized an '**ActionAid Gala**' in which nearly 300 delegates and guests participated. The participants came from communities supported by AAV programmes; central, provincial, district level management agencies and partners; representatives from peer international NGOs in Vietnam; embassies and international organizations who are AAV's donors and partners. Media agencies; ex & current AAV staff also attended the Gala.



The Gala was an occasion for AAV to honor institutions and individuals from the above mentioned agencies that helped build ActionAid identity and credibility in the country and abroad.

At the Gala, Vietnam Union of Friendship Organizations (VUFO) presented the Awarded of Merits to AAV for its valuable contribution towards poverty reduction and development in Vietnam in the past two decades. AAV's Country Director Ms. Hoang Phuong Thao was awarded with the People to People Peace and Friendship Medal - for her significant efforts in bringing Vietnam to the world and building people to people solidarity. In the event AAV reaffirmed its commitment to continue its dedication to support the country's development process. It also shared its resolve to become a full member of ActionAid International Federation from now until 2017.

*"The first 20 years of an organization or of a person is not a long time, but extremely important because this is the first landmark to show the maturity of the person or organization. At the age of 20 full of passion, together with youth and hope, we have inherited rich experiences from our predecessors, giving us a strong foundation for our program, and above over all, we have the support and companionship from all of you to continue to innovate, improve ourselves and confidently walk our choice, even we know that the way is not always covered with flowers"* (Ms. Hoang Phuong Thao, Country Director of AAV speech at the Gala)



Ms. Hoang Phuong Thao - Country Director of AAV Receiving the medal from VUFO at the Gala Dinner (Photo: AAV )

The Gala was also a cultural event in which people from the communities and ActionAid staff from all regions and functions shared their songs and dances.

*"ActionAid has helped us change our lives. Now we are confident to choose our own development path, reinforce our brand name as a local non-governmental organization, and support the local community to shape their own destiny. Thank you ActionAid"* - Said Mr. Le Van Dinh - Director of the Ha Tinh Center for Community Development, one of the first local NGOs in Vietnam. AAV had played a key role in registering the Centre as a local NGO.



Mr. Dinh (3rd from the right) spoke in the talk show at the Gala Dinner (Photo: AAV)



The leaders of AAV's partners in AAV's 20<sup>th</sup> year in Vietnam ceremony

Media news on the Celebration of ActionAid 20 years taking side with Vietnam to end poverty could be seen at:



DCSVN newspaper (Vietnam Communist Party newspaper)



Nhan Dan newspaper



Thoi Dai newspaper



Thoi Dai newspaper



Thanh Nien newspaper



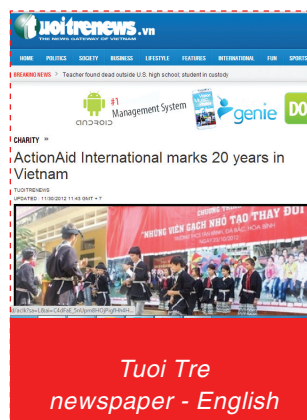
Thanh Nien (online) newspaper



Sinh Vien newspaper



Tuoi Tre newspaper



Tuoi Tre newspaper - English



Vietnamnet



## 2. Translating human rights based approach into actions

We spent major part of 2012 on rolling out AAV's fifth Country Strategic Paper of AAV for 2012-2017 (CSPV) at all levels. Considerable time and energy was invested into unpacking Programme and Organizational Commitments, and developing Strategic Plans for all Local Rights Programmes.

- All five Programme Priorities (PPs) and five Organizational Priorities (OPs) were rolled out at all levels. Each of the PP and OP was elaborated with detailed activities and intermediate outcome. This makes it much easier to monitor the changes made and progress achieved from now till end of the CSPV in 2017. For the first time, all ActionAid field activities had been clubbed with a detailed guideline. The guideline is a part of the monitoring and evaluation (M&E) framework to measure the changes in the communities during the CSPV.
- Substantive efforts were made on building capacity of staff and partners on Human Rights Based Approach (HRBA).

HRBA builds ActionAid identity - we believe that power is in people, they can take actions for their rights to live in dignity.

- For the first time, HRBA training is designed and delivered by Vietnamese resource staff, who formed the HRBA core group in AAV after attending AAI's international training on HRBA. AAI's HRBA Manual - People's Action in Practice was used as key training curriculum for this training.
- Locally, 2 follow-up training courses were conducted in May 2012 for all staff and key partners from all LRPs. The follow up courses were organized in Dak Lak province for partners in Central and Southern Regions and in Hanoi for partners from Northern Region respectively. A total of 74 participants were equipped with HRBA which helped enable them to design, implement and monitor ActionAid programme using HRBA at the local level on a daily basis.



**HRBA training for staff of AAV's Partners at Southeast Asia Training Hub (Photo: AAV)**

The five-day course was a forum for all AAV staff to learn the new concepts, principles and share their views on rights, definition of ActionAid's Human Rights Based Approach, poverty and injustice, 3 key elements (Empowerment, Solidarity and Campaigning), stakeholder analysis, gender analysis, power relations and programme design based on key elements of HRBA.

- All training materials, including the Vietnamese version of HRBA Manual, agenda and plan for HRBA launching in all LRPs have been developed and uploaded on HIVE for ready use. 18 follow-up HRBA training courses at district level were organized in all LRPs. All key partners at district and head of communes in all LRPs were trained on HRBA.

Strategic Plans of all LRPs for (2013-2017) were developed together with AAV's local partners, local community and relevant stakeholders at district and commune levels. The plan was developed in each LRP taking into considerations the local contexts, alignment with CSPV and HRBA. Bottom-up and participatory approaches were strictly applied in all related processes.



### 3. “Small bricks - Big change” initiative

To celebrate ActionAid’s 20 years of working in Vietnam, the “Small bricks - Big change” programme was initiated by AAV. It aims at improving the quality of education for rural and disadvantaged children. Each donation is a small brick, contributing to big change in the local community, schools, and especially in children’s future. In Oct 2012, the pilot case of supporting Tan Minh school students with the new and safe kitchen was implemented in Hoa Binh province (LRP15) to help 215 children have better access to education through better meals at boarding school. This programme received enthusiastic support from donors, students’ parents, local communities, local authorities and ActionAid staff at all levels in Da Bac District, Hoa Binh Province.



*AAV's staff members joined to plant vegetables for Tan Minh Primary School, Da Bac District, Hoa Binh Province.*

Learning from the success of the pilot fundraising programme in Hoa Binh, AAV will continue to raise funds for the “Small bricks - Big change” initiative, so that until the end of 2017 at least 10,000 students will participate in and benefit from the program.

### 4. Programme consolidation and deepening

ActionAid started its long-term support programmes in Lam Ha District, Lam Dong Province (Local Rights Programme - LRP19), and in Long Bien District, Hanoi Capital (LRP20). This expansion is to take into account the shift in the focus of AAV programmes in the next five years, the need to maintain our presence in the key strategic locations to address issues of conventional and new aspects of poverty.

➤ The programme just started in Lam Ha District will benefit 6,113 poor men, women and children from ethnic minorities groups in 2 communes. The programme is supported by child sponsors in Italy. Based on the community’s needs and aspirations in the first 5 years, our interventions mainly aim to:

- (i) promote equal access to quality education for children and adult literacy programmes;
- (ii) promote sustainable agriculture and alternative livelihoods of people living in poverty and strengthen their access to and control over land and natural resources;
- (iii) promote social and political alternatives for women and girls;
- (iv) improve access to quality public services and local governmental accountability; and
- (v) respond to disaster and climate change impacts with people-centered alternatives.

➤ Urban poverty and marginalization is emerging as a problem in Vietnam. To address the issue, LRP20 was started in Long Bien - an urban district of Hanoi City- in June 2012. With funding from Irish Aid, a women’s rights project on “Preventing gender-based violence and promoting women’s empowerment” was started in August 2012, benefiting over 6,000 people in 2 wards. Major goals of the project are to:

- (vi) mobilize women and girls in the project area to challenge all types of gender-based violence; and
- (vii) increase women’s participation in advocacy activities to improve the quality and gender responsiveness of public services in project area.

The workshop on Review and Handing over of the Development Programme (period of 1997-2012) supported by AAV took place in Dien Bien District, Dien Bien Province on October 19, 2012. It concluded AAV’s 15 years of programme operations in Dien Bien which was handed over to the local authorities and partners. After its long

association with people in Dien Bien, AAV is proud of the changes it helped bring to their lives and livelihoods. During the past 15 years, 300,000 people directly benefited from about one million GBP (equivalent to more than VND 30 billion). The funds were raised by AAV from different sources including child sponsorship. Amongst other stories of changes, women from ethnic minorities that were illiterate when AAV started the programme and now they have been confidently working as the people's representatives at the local level. ActionAid has been well recognized and appreciated by local authorities and community for positively contributing to lifting people out of poverty.



*Ms. Nguyen Thi Minh Hang (AAV's Northern Program Coordinator), Mr. Tong Minh Sang (left) (Vice President of the People's Committee of Dien Bien District) and Mr. Vu Dinh Loi (right) (CCD's Director) at the Conference (Photo: AAV)*

## 5. Building capacity to sustain the results and reach out

ActionAid's theory of change clearly identifies the people as agents of change. The poverty and injustice could only be defeated if the people have capacity and take actions. In the past 20 years ActionAid Vietnam is proud of its high caliber staff, who are not only dedicated and committed, but also the lead thinkers and pioneers in development in country.

Civil Society in ASEAN countries are highly fragmented and varied in terms of capacity, staff of

civil society organisations (CSO), NGOs, development agencies and organizations have limited knowledge/skills on working with poor/marginalised groups. More important, most of them are left behind the development trend which is dynamic and quickly changed. Therefore, there always is a big demand for capacity development and regular knowledge update and exchange in these areas. On the other hand, there are only few competent and experienced training institutions all over the South East Asian region, which specialises in strengthening capacity for local governmental officials, staff of CSOs and those working in the areas of poverty reduction and development.

The Training Hub was established in AAV's Head office with the purpose of capacity building and networking for non-government groups and other institutions in Vietnam and other neighboring countries of Southeast Asia.

In 2012, the Training Hub has organized a number of training courses, meetings and workshops for AAV and Asia region with 41 certificates given to AAV staff. AAV successfully organized five training courses in the hub which included HRBA, Economic Literacy & Budget Accountability for Governance (ELBAG) tools, Proposal writing and Participatory Vulnerability Assessment (PVA). The training on HRBA provided basic concept on human rights to 38 participants from Management Board of LRPs with an expectation that they could apply the acquired knowledge to their work at the real context of local areas. Two sharing meetings of "Enhancing local governance and accountability - tools for people's participation" were carried out for 21 AAV staff. The theory and the main tools were introduced to participants together with practice in the field. A core group of ELBAG was set up with 9 members who are expected to be trainers and conducting the ELBAG for communities and other stakeholders. Training on Using log-frame Analysis to formulate project proposals was conducted with participation of 19 AAV staff aiming at providing basic knowledge and practice for staff to enhance their proposal writing skill. To set up a core group and frame knowledge for climate change and its link to disaster preparedness work, The PVA training was delivered to 13 participants from AAV.

Besides it, there were soft skills and advanced long term training courses including Media training for SMT, Fire and safety to staff in Head office, Communication training, English, Master course provided to staff with emphasis on giving priority to female staff.

AAV has been insisting on the training agreement with its staff for clarifying both financial and non-financial responsibilities of staff before who is sent to training course, to make sure the training will contribute to the development of both the staff and the organization.



**Using Community Scorecard to seek for accountability and transparency in health service- direct interaction between people in local community and staff of Health Care Center in Tam Duong, Lai Chau (Photo: AAV)**



**PVA training at AAV's Southeast Asia Training Hub (Photo: AAV)**

For Asia, a TOT training on governance with 14 participants organized by AAV and Training Centre for Development and Cooperation (TCDC- Tanzania)

was completed in July 2012 showing a fruitful result on the joining work between AAV-TCDC and Asia trainers. That is a good starting point for the training hub to develop more training programmes for partners, CSOs or within AA federation.

## **6. New and green office in Hanoi and two regional offices**

In 2012, in line with the commitment of AAI on the "Promoting a Greener Organization", ActionAid Vietnam has established a taskforce with staff from different functions such as Admin, Child Sponsorship and Programme etc.

The team has actively coordinated with ActionAid International's Carbon Adviser to develop a guideline for guiding all ActionAid's staff to act on reducing the volume of carbon emission for contributing to reduce the impact of CO2 emission into the environment. Throughout the year, there were many actions taken in place such as integrating the guideline on office greening practice into Admin and IT policy, minimizing the use of paper by using both side printing or re-using the paper where possible, not turning on air-con during cool season, setting temperature of air-con from 26°C up, turning off electrical equipments after working hours, virtual meeting (through Skype) instead of travelling to the meeting and plans to install solar windows film in the future. In Southern Regional Office we used public transportation to travel to the field, instead of long leased or owned vehicle. Especially, for saving electricity consumption, maximizing the usage of Natural light, Office's space and toward the "Green Office" in 2012 we have reallocated all of our three offices in Hanoi, Central and Southern regional office.



**Ho Chi Minh Office (Photo: AAV)**





Central Highland Office (Photo: AAV)



Hanoi Office (Photo: AAV)

## PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

### “Unite and Act on Justice and Development”

In 2012, it was an important transitional year for AAV to move forward with its new Country Strategic Paper V namely “*Unite and Act on Justice and Development*”. Guided by AAI’s key principles of Accountability, Learning and Planning System (ALPS) and being aligned with AAI’s global strategy 2012-2017, the CSPV confirms the commitments of AAV to be a part of the poverty reduction and sustainable development process in Vietnam and actively participate in the search for solutions and alternatives to neoliberal philosophy of development. By fully mainstreaming the HRBA in all processes of planning, implementing and monitoring the Country Programme, AAV again reaffirms its solidarity with the people living in poverty and marginalized people,

recognizes their capacity and agency in changing the power relations and undertaking alternatives for a life with dignity. Through the aspiration, shared vision and commitments for change to a sustainable, just and equal society, the CSPV (2012 - 2017) concretizes of five Programme Priorities: (1) Promote alternative livelihoods and sustainable agriculture; (2) Advance accountability and people-to-people solidarity for social change, increase youth leadership and civil society credibility; (3) Promote equal access to quality education for children; (4) Respond to disaster and climate change impacts with people-centered alternatives; (5) Build social and political alternatives for women and girls.

In 2012, AAV celebrated its milestone of 20 years of taking side with Vietnam to end poverty. The occasion was an opportunity for us to review AAV’s contributions to the poverty reduction and development in Vietnam in the past two decades, and at the same time reaffirms its commitment to continue working in Vietnam, participate in the future country development process.

As a strategic direction for AAV in the period of 2012 - 2017, HRBA has identified as our core approach and guiding principles for implementation of any interventions in the country. By placing people living in poverty at the centre of HRBA and focusing on women’s rights as a cross cutting issue, it has been translated in to our work as follows:

- *Engaging the people living in poverty and marginalization in recognizing root causes of poverty as a consequence of historic process of exclusion and injustice then empowering them to undertake collective actions for changes.*
- *Recognizing roles and importance of the Government at different levels in delivering fair and sufficient public services and ensuring a good system of mobilization and distribution of resources. Together, consolidating the system both in policy and practice to remove equality, eliminate injustice and enhance regressive process.*
- *Building up partnership alliances with governmental agencies, with community based*



*groups/organization and their network and with private sector to leverage for more tangible impacts and changes.*

- *Raising awareness of public in poverty issues and mobilizing them as supporters in influencing the policy change forward social equality and justice, especially of women and girls.*

Through three components of HRBA, including empowerment, solidarity and campaigning, we thought and acted globally and locally and together with alliance and partners, we have committed to contribute to the delivery of ten (10) Key Change Promises (KCP) in AAI's strategy as follows:

**Key change promise 1:** Securing women's land rights

**Key change promise 2:** Promoting sustainable agriculture

**Key change promise 3:** Holding governments to account on public services

**Key change promise 4:** Achieving redistributive resourcing of development

**Key change promise 5:** Transforming education for girls and boys

**Key change promise 6:** Harnessing youth leadership to end poverty and injustice

**Key change promise 7:** Building people's resilience to conflict and disaster

**Key change promise 8:** Responding to disasters through rights

**Key change promise 9:** Increasing women's and girls' control over their bodies

**Key change promise 10:** Generating women-centered economic alternatives

## 1. ACHIEVEMENTS IN NUMBER BY AAV

<p><b>Programme Priority 1</b></p> <p>Promote alternative livelihoods and sustainable agriculture</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 570 women and 600 community members are aware of the equal rights of women to have their names in land certificate together with their husbands through the Hunger Free campaign and dialogue with local authority.</li> <li>• 200 groups of small farmers, poor women in different forms and such as community development clubs, interest groups, and extension clubs were established and maintained.</li> <li>• 32 trainings and 32 workshops have been delivered to the poor farmers on production techniques, sustainable agricultural practices, with more than 2,194 attendants.</li> <li>• 24 types of piloted models on sustainable agriculture, such as diversified household production modality, organic fertilizer production, bio-gas production, livestock etc... have been successfully introduced to and adapted by the farmers.</li> <li>• 700 households received financial supports with revolving funds for pursuing their income generation initiatives.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Programme Priority 2</b></p> <p>Advance accountability and people-to-people solidarity for social change, increase youth leadership and civil society credibility</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 811 people (266 Women, 293 Men and 252 Youth members) were enhanced knowledge and skills in governance.</li> <li>• 14 people (4 AAV staff and 10 others from ASIA and Training Centre for Development and Cooperation -Tanzania) were participated in the TOT training on governance.</li> <li>• 21 AAV staff were participated on two sharing meetings of “Enhancing local governance and accountability - tools for people’s participation”.</li> <li>• 102 people (72 Women and 30 Men) were trained on ELBAG tools.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Programme Priority 3</b></p> <p>Promote equal access to quality education for children</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 24 youth clubs are maintained and operated with directly engagement of 587 youth members (260 women, 327 men)</li> <li>• 336 young members of community were trained with communication and facilitate group skills.</li> <li>• 764 youth members participated in communication activities and infrastructure building.</li> <li>• 2,052 youth members (620 women, 832 men, 300 girls and 300 boys) at local level were equipped with knowledge on economy, finance and education.</li> <li>• 2,445 children received direct supports and 1298 teachers were improved teaching methods.</li> <li>• 1,000 children at 11 schools received training on English and life skills, it was provided by 22 volunteers from Denmark.</li> </ul>



<p><b>Programme Priority 4</b></p> <p>Respond to disaster and climate change impacts with people-centered alternatives</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 74 Village Disaster Reduction Committees (VDRC) were maintained throughout the year.</li> <li>• 22 LRP's staff and community core group members were trained on PVA.</li> <li>• 12 trainings on disaster risk reduction (DRR) were delivered to communities.</li> <li>• 1,000 women and 3,865 school children were enhanced awareness on DRR through communication activities.</li> <li>• 230 children were provided school supplies so that they could quickly return to school after flood.</li> <li>• 70 households (with about 300 people) were provided seed so that they could recover farming after drought.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Programme Priority 5</b></p> <p>Build social and political alternatives for women and girls</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 20 "reliable addresses" have been established and maintained at 3 LRPs.</li> <li>• 524 Gender Based Violence (GBV) cases were resolved through reliable addresses.</li> <li>• 331 women have been trained with leadership and management skills such as presentation skills, resource mobilization, negotiation and election planning skill.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Organizational Priorities 2</b></p> <p>Invest in our staff capacity and women's leadership</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All AAV staff and 38 participants from Management Board of LRPs have been trained on HRBA.</li> <li>• 9 AAV staff have been trained on Economic Literacy and Budget Accountability for Governance (ELBAG)</li> <li>• 21 AAV staff have been shared on "Enhancing local governance and accountability - tools for people's participation".</li> <li>• 19 AAV staff have been trained on Using log-frame Analysis to formulate project proposals.</li> <li>• 13 AAV staff have been trained on Participatory Vulnerability Analysis (PVA)</li> <li>• 14 participants from TOT training on governance with</li> </ul>
<p><b>Organizational Priorities 4</b></p> <p>Stabilize and diversify funding base</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GBP 2,235,000 is total income in 2012</li> <li>• In which: GBP 1,791,000 comes from Child Sponsorship, next step, Amico</li> <li>• GBP 444,000 comes from Partnership and others</li> <li>• 12,847 is the total children sponsors in 2012</li> <li>• In which: 11,043 Children sponsors from United Kingdom, Ireland, Spain, Greece, Sweden, and Italy.</li> <li>• 1,638 Next Step from United Kingdom</li> <li>• 166 Amico from Italy</li> </ul>

## **2. PROGRAMME PRIORITY 1: Promote alternative livelihoods and sustainable agriculture**

### **Achievements**

At LRP level, nearly 200 groups of small farmers, poor women in 13 LRPs were supported to maintain in different forms, such as community development clubs, interest groups, and extension clubs. These community structures created a strong background for sharing production experience as well as enhancing community coordination for implementing different initiatives, and pilot models for improving production and sustainability of local livelihoods.

Activities in awareness raising and capacity building on techniques of Climate Resilient Sustainable Agriculture (CRSA) were implemented in 8 LRPs (9, 18, 14, 7, 6, 15, 12, 19). During the year, 32 trainings and 32 workshops were successfully delivered to the poor farmers on production techniques, sustainable agricultural practices, with more than 2,194 attendants. These technologies have brought new patterns to do livelihood for poor farmers which are less affected by natural disasters. In general, LRPs focused in delivering agricultural technologies to farmers so that they can apply new alternatives in livelihood especially non-rice ones. This contributed significantly to the improving the income and food security of the poorest people in AAV's working areas.

In addition, 24 types of piloted models on sustainable agriculture, e.g. diversified household production modality, organic fertilizer production, bio-gas production, livestock etc. were successfully introduced to and adapted by the farmers. More than 700 households have been financially supported with revolving funds for pursuing their income generation initiatives. The participation of the poor, mainly poor women in the credit scheme involves them more in social activities when they have better economic conditions, their role is more active and their voices in the community and society are better heard and respected.

Moreover, the Hunger Free campaign in 2012 was implemented in 3 LRPs (Cau Ngang-LRP6, Eakar-LRP9 and Ninh Phuoc-LRP4) successfully with

series of communication activities for 570 women and dialogue activities for 600 community members with local authority with the content of the equal rights of women to have their names in land certificate as their husbands did, through this campaign not only women but also men who are living in the project areas were aware about the provisions of the law on Land and law on the marriage and family. This campaign was at covered by a wide range of local media, drawing stronger attention of public and policies makers towards sustainable agriculture and protection of small scale farmers. With these activities, women are aware of their rights and legal entitlements and organized to claim these in practice.

At National level, AAV and CIPFEN completed the activities of the project "Strengthening the International Food Security Network (IFSN) for an Increased Food and Nutritional Security" funded by European Commission and ActionAid. This is the third year and the final year of the project. The results of the project were successful in setting up an active network of organizations and institutions for strengthening the food security and sustainable agricultural development in Vietnam. To acknowledge recognize the impacts of the project in building partnership and networking with different agencies in the country, the European Commission has confirmed it supports on continuing the third phase of the project.

### **Challenges faced and Lessons learned**

We lack like minded partners, who share our perspectives on self sufficient and sustainable agriculture for the small scale farmers. Besides, there is a very strong preference to market driven commercial farming systems at all levels. This makes AAV efforts to promote sustainable livelihood of small scale farmers become more difficult, both in terms of finding innovative approaches at community level as well as advocating at national level.

### **Case study**

#### ***Higher income, better lives***

Quoi An is one of the poorest communes in Vung Liem district, Vinh Long province, where 45% of people do

not have land for cultivation. To survive, most of them have to migrate to a big city to work as a hired labor. However, they earn very low income from an insecure job. Their average monthly income is only about VND 1.8 million (USD 90). This amount falls below the poverty line. They could only buy less nutritious food while paying for healthcare and children's education were a luxury they could not afford.

To help these families get more income, from 2012 ActionAid piloted a bamboo plaiting project with an initial participation of 20 poor households. ActionAid has signed a long term contract with an export company in Long Hiep commune, who will deliver training on basket plating to farmers. The farmers were provided bamboo strings to start the initiative. Each finished product fetched VND 20,000 (USD 1). The farmers had a choice to either sell the baskets to the market or to the company. After the training; these farmers also-visited this company to get more ideas for applying to their own products. After one year, all the producers earned higher income for their family expenses. Each household can earn about VND 5.2 million (USD 260) per month from selling bamboo baskets.

Let's hear the story of Pham Thi Xuyen, (29), one of the first 20 households that participated in this project: "Since joining the project promoted by ActionAid, our life has much improved. Previously, being landless, my husband had to go to Vinh Long city where he worked as a mason for a construction company. He worked very hard but his wages were only enough for our daily food. We never had any savings for other expenses such as medicine or my children's new clothes. We had to live in a rotten house for years because we lacked money to repair it."

"We were lucky to join this project. We got new skills from the training to weave bamboo basket and gained new ideas after the study tour. ActionAid also helped us get bamboo strings from the company to make basket and buy back our products when they were finished. Each day, my husband and I can produce 20 baskets and earn about VND 20,000 (USD 1) for each basket. My husband no longer needs to work far from home because we can earn a stable income of VND 6.5 million (USD 325) per month from selling baskets.

"With more income, we could buy more food and we have started saving for my daughter's education. I wish she will get university degree and find a good job in the future!" smiles Ms. Xuyen.

After this success, the project has been expanded to 50 more households in Vinh Long Province in 2012.



*Basket making project helps my family earns more income!" says Ms Xuyen*  
Photo: LRP17, Vung Liem, Vinh Long

### **3. PROGRAMME PRIORITY 2: Advance accountability and people to people solidarity for social change, Increase youth leadership and civil society credibility**

#### **Achievements**

AAV empowered women, youth, people from ethnic minority, leaders of community organizations by providing trainings to enhance their capacities. In 2012, 811 participants (293 men, 266 women and 252 youth members) in six LRPs (LRP 4, 7, 7A, 9, 13, 15) were equipped with knowledge and skills to help them analyze and understand poverty and political economy conditions, public administration and development issues. To hold the government accountable for its services to people, influence the legal frameworks on rights to information, to social protection and employment, AAV ran three courses on the ELBAG tools for 102 beneficiaries in LRPs 7 and 9 (with 2/3 women). Monthly meetings were organized for local community member especially youth, women and ethnic minority groups in LRPs 6, 7A, 15, 9 to share information on the right to access



to the basic public service of citizens like health, education, agricultural extension, social security and public administration (e.g. citizenship papers etc). AAV supported members of Governance Public Administration Reform Network (GPAR) at national level to learn and enhance their skills on analysis, consultation and feedback to policies/laws that related to the basic rights of human. This helped CSOs participation in decision making process and consultation for drafting laws, policy, and constitution revision. AAV conducted research to advocate and lobby at local and, national level to influence governments to adopt alternatives in national development strategies to reduce poverty and ensure social equity. The findings of research “Access to Social Protection of Migrant Workers in Selected Urban Areas” and “Post WTO poverty monitoring” were taken into consideration by government, local authority and stakeholders with changes in attitudes, view of government and local authority when designing program, policy and implementing activity toward the poor.

AAV supported member organizations belonging to Vietnam Union Friendship Organizations (VUFO) to attend Asian People Forum in Laos and Asian Europe People Forum in Cambodia in 2012. These representatives brought people's view and voices to the related parties (policy makers, government) in improving the existing policy/programmes for the poor, strengthen solidarity and cooperation among the Vietnamese and ASEAN/European people for promoting real people-oriented ASEAN/European community, for the common benefit of people, exchange ideas in a proactive and constructive manner on the common issues of ASEAN/European as well as to share information about current situation in Vietnam and Vietnamese experience on the issues of APF's/AEPF's concern.

To sensitize, mobilize and create network with youth, young minded and enthusiastic who take action to help the poor and the excluded in Vietnam have a life with dignity, AAV not only provided funding support for their activities, connect with volunteers and send them to LRPs but also provided technical guidance for youth when they take action. Twenty four youth

clubs are maintained and operated with directly engagement of 587 youth members (260 women, 327 men) in 5 LRPs (4, 6, 7, 8, 13). There are 336 young members of community were trained with communication and facilitate group skills in 5 LRPs (4, 6, 7, 7A, 15). Through working with youth, AAV promoted their role in community development that involved the participation of 764 youth members (in LRPs: 4, 7, 7A, 8, 13) and national in communication activities (exchange information on health, HIV, engage in Youth Box Channel program, setting up “careers in homeland” Column in Vietnam Student Newspaper and infrastructure improvement (e.g. build road in Ha Giang or school for children in Cao Bang). “Youth with culture and sport” programme benefitted 2,052 youth members (620 women, 832 men, 300 girls and 300 boys) at local level in 2012. Being equipped with knowledge on economy, finance and education, young women and men became confident rights activists and strong campaigners. They led on innovative ways of communicating, organizing and challenging power. At national level, 569 young contestants were attracted in “Youth Unite and Act on Justice and Development” Photo Contest and this encourage Vietnamese youth recognize the problems facing communities, whereby enhancing their awareness so that rightful acts will be performed.

YTC (young volunteers' network of AAV established in 2011) is more and more developed with many network activities with other organizations like Toward Transparency Organization, FACE (For A Clean Education) Club - Lotus University to set up platform for young enthusiastic members who have the same direction with AAV. Youth feel connected themselves and empowered to actively participate in decision making around issues that impact on them, at local and national levels.

### **Challenges faced and Lessons learned**

It is sensitive to try and hold the government accountable in provision of public services, and to tackle corruption. The “Law on Access to Information” is yet to be promulgated in Vietnam which makes it difficult to get evidence for our advocacy work on sensitive issues, such as payment of tax.

Therefore, to deal with the above issue, we rely heavily on our research to gather facts and evidences to inform the policy makers. We also build on the experience obtained from our grass root programme that gives us sound basis and credibility for advocacy work. Improvement of communication skills (propagandize information, laws, policies related to community; skills to deliver speech or negotiate) is needed to work with local authority or public service providers in order to get effective cooperation among parties to solve the problem. This can be done through trainings, sharing experience during meetings, exchange visits.

To create impact in youth work, it is necessary to mobilize them in solidarity and utilize the large number of youth in campaigning to advocate for the change. Youth is active, creative- that is good characteristic we need to take advantage.

The close cooperation between AAV, and LRPs' Management Board, people in communities supported the success of intervention activities by AAV at LRPs.

## Case study

### ***An active local woman communicator in Suk Village***

H Kiang Mlo, 26, lives with her family in Suk village, Eadar commune, Eakar district, Dak Lak province. As deputy head of Women Union of the village, she is always active in collective activities in her village.

Ethnic minority people account for 95% of Suk Village's population. People were not very aware of socio-economic issues like poverty, corruption, sanitation...The 365 households in the village are too busy in working their field to make their living. This and their poor access to information leaves them little time to know the legal system and the government rules and regulations.

But big changes happened since H Kiang was elected as deputy chief of the village's women union. She has successfully introduced the information on laws and administrative procedures into the common activities of the village. However, owing to her own limitations, she could only transfer simple, easy-to-understand information to her neighbors at first. In order to

help active members of community like H Kiang in propagation knowledge, the Support Programme for Development co-operated with Commune People Committee to organize forums to answer questions and wonders from local residents. This programme provided opportunity for people to ask questions about the most frequent difficulties they faced when following administrative procedures such as: re-registering for birth certificate, land-use, family record book... All questions were answered by local administrative officers and people were furthermore guided to complete the procedures. After such a forum, ordinary people could follow these procedures on their own. Moreover, by attending such a forum, people like H Kiang has gained more useful knowledge to transfer to other people who don't attend the discussion.

Having completed high school, H Kiang is also a very persistent learner. She always learns to be able to help people in her village become more conscious and knowledgeable. The Head of her village, Mrs. H Droch shared her views about this committed women leader: "She's a very active member in every common activity in our village. Through our meetings, I can recognize improvements of people in their awareness; and as a results, they have complied with regulations much better. H Kiang told us about the regulation that we have to drive our motorbikes on the right side of the road and that we're not allowed to run when the red light is on. We are supposed to wear helmet all the time while driving to ensure our own safety... All of us agree with her and follow; and so on our families also comply with the known regulations."



*Ms. H Kiang is introducing rights to women group in the LRP9 - Eakar, DakLak*  
Photo: LRP9, Eakar, Daklak

These are just the very first move in H Kiang's career as a communicator. But this is a good spring board for her because she has gained trust and care from the local people on what she says. She's moving firmly on her way of helping the others to improve their knowledge and perspectives on the legal system.

#### **4. PROGRAMME PRIORITY 3: Equal access to quality education for all children**

##### **Achievements**

###### ***Promoting right to education of children***

In the remote hilly areas, boarding schools are children take some rest and have food without worries of their safety to walk home in far distance. However, not all schools can afford adequate beds, blankets, mats or nutritious food for the children although the parents also pay for their child's food. Therefore, many children have to drop out or miss many school days just because school is far from home and difficult to reach during bad weather. AAV has provided supported such schools, to have basic facilities such as blankets, mats, mosquito nets or beds so that more children can go back to school or increase their school attendance. Together with contribution from schools, AAV helped to establish vegetable gardens and build cages to raise pigs to provide more vegetable and meat for children. AAV also supported in many other activities such as repairing school desks, providing lighting system for some schools in very remote areas. We successfully provided support to 2,445 children in 2012

###### ***Improving teaching methods for teachers***

Training on innovative teaching methods and friendly school models were conducted for teachers where they learnt how to improve the teaching learning atmosphere and attract children to actively participate in the classroom. They realized that the traditional way of teaching had put children in passive position to perceive knowledge. Some feedbacks of teachers after the training on "child-friendly school model" said "It was useful, now I can make more visual aids for my class. I and my students together decorated the classroom with our own drawings and colors.

I can see that my students are more excited and participating more in my class. I was trained to give knowledge, but now I play my role to guide them to gain knowledge by their own participation". We have reached around 1,298 teachers (859 are female) to improve their teaching methods.

###### ***Promoting youth participation in local activism on education***

Twenty two volunteers from Denmark stayed in 5 LRPs for 3 months per batch and actively supported local community in education. They taught English and life skills for more than 1,000 children of 11 schools. They also actively joined with local youth to repair some rural roads. Their engagement was welcomed by the children and schools as children had more interesting activities, more chance to learn and speak English and to gain life skills from the volunteers.

"Youth to Change network" (YTC) actively participated in the construction of a new school for kindergarten and elementary students in Nam Dong commune. They raised VND 35 million (approx. GBP 1,100) and cooperated with Supporting Programme for Development (SPD) in LRP8 to complete the construction of a new school for kindergarten and elementary pupils in Nam Dong commune - a village with poverty rate of more than 80%. Furthermore, 9 YTC core members also spent 2 days working at the construction site together with border guards from the local, members of local youth emergencies club and Youth Union. Local youth contributed 600 working days to transport 1,530 bricks, 3.5 tons cement, and 12m3 stone powder. SPD also invested VND 27 million from their budget for Youth Programme to supplement the construction expense. Apart from being a direct support to the right of having safe school of children, this is also a unique example of youth empowerment and solidarity in community development.

###### ***Challenges faced and Lessons learned***

We realize that language barrier is one of the reasons to limit ethnic minority children to fully enjoy their education. Long distances to schools pose further challenges for children to attend schools regularly.



Teachers should be able to instruct children in their mother tongue as well to have good learning outcomes. Boarding schools are good alternatives to maintain and improve for children to stay and study in the schools without worries of long distance to home in hungry stomachs.

### Case study

#### ***Parents' association play crucial role for quality education***

I am Nong Thi Huyen from Da Thong village, Thong Nong district, Cao Bang province which is a small and remote village in Northern Vietnam. I am 33 years old and I live with my husband and two sons. My sons are nine and six years old. Most families here rely on growing rice on the hilly land for living but our crops are poor and our incomes are low.

Like many parents, we could not afford to contribute money towards our children's school fees. At schools, the classrooms were dilapidated, there was no clean water and the toilets were dirty. Because of the poor sanitation, my children got frequent diarrhea, sore eyes and skin diseases. Because of these, my boys had to stay home and missed school.

Through capacity building activities funded by ActionAid, we learnt about national educational policies and the responsibilities of the school governing body. We also knew about the rights of children and the roles parents can play in the management of schools.

For the first time we felt we could join our voices and claim for the minimal educational standards. With support from ActionAid, we formed a parents' group in our community with 60 members and met regularly every month we discussed the schools' issues and the importance of education. We also had meetings with local government officers, heads of schools and education managers in the district and made recommendations based on agreements of the parents' group. We were quite nervous at the beginning, but soon our confidence grew.

Building proper toilets and water points for children at school was at the top of our agenda. After several

meetings, the school management agreed to allocate part of the school's budget for building a sanitary system. ActionAid contributed additional funds to buy construction materials, and we parents provided the labor. Now our children don't have to suffer from using unclean toilets and frequently attend the school. As parents, we all feel so happy and proud about this positive change. From our first group, there are now six parents' groups with nearly 300 members in the area. I was elected to become head of our group. I talk to many other parents and children in our community to make sure they understand the benefits of getting a good education.



*Ms. Huyen is facilitating a parent's group meeting in Da Thong commune  
Photo: LRP8, Thong Nong, Cao Bang*

## **5. PROGRAMME PRIORITY 4: Respond to disaster and climate change impacts with people-centered alternatives**

### **Achievements**

Taking into account the new ActionAid international strategy context as well as the new CSPV of AAV, the Programme Priority 4 (PP4) of AAV has been

reoriented with specific focus on building up the efficient system for communities to engage in disaster risk reduction and response to emergencies with people centered measures. .

AAV provided emergency relief support to LRP8 (Cao Bang) against flood and LRP18 (Dak Lak) against drought. In LRP8, school supplies such as book, pen, pencil, student bag were provided to 230 school children mostly comprising of ethnic minority so that they could quickly return to school after flood. In LRP18, AAV provided maize and rice seed to 70 households (about 300 people) so that they could cultivate, crop and recover farming which was ruined by drought.

The model of building community based resilience for disaster reduction and the application of Village Disaster Reduction Committee (VDRC) and PVA has continued with 4 more new VDRCs set up in LRP12 (Krong No district, Dak Nong province). This has increased the number of VDRCs in the programme area of AAV to 74. PVA training was conducted with 22 participants who were SPD staffs and community core group members of 4 LRPs of the Central Region Programme of AAV. The objective of the training was to establish stronger disaster preparedness plans for the communities. Trainees could facilitate the PVA process at the village level after this training. AAV organized twelve trainings to communities to impart them with knowledge and skills for disaster risk reduction. Communication activities were organized for 1,000 women and 3,865 school children for greater awareness in DRR. LRP 12 helped build 2 water-wells in two schools which benefited 560 school children. LRP4 provided the community loudspeaker system for 1,200 households who live in a flood prone area. The system will be used as early warning system in DRR. In the frame of Benoy DRR project, LRP8 mobilized youth groups to build 2,800 m of inter-village and evacuation road for communities.

At National level, AAV continued to actively engage with Disaster Management Working Group (DMWG), Climate Change Working Group (CCWG) and JANI network, the most active networks engaged in advocacy on DRR/CCA in Vietnam.

In order to strengthen staff's capacity in DRR work f, AAV conducted a PVA training course for 12 staffs to set up a core group to facilitate PVA process at local level with SPDs in the future.

### **Challenges faced and Lessons learned**

Due to limit of funding AAV still does not have its contingency plan for emergency. This makes emergency response works more difficult and reduce the response capacity of the organization as well as AAV's partners.

### **Case study**

#### ***“Evacuation road- the road of every villager”***

Lung Quang is a hamlet of Thong Nong Township, surrounded by high mountains. The main road is rugged and highly steep. Every year, local residents are threatened by flood as there is no way for water to retreat. In June 2012, the whole hamlet was 5-6m deep in water during the flood. Nong Thi Huong is a young girl in the village. She lives in the village so she understood the situation but she and other villagers did not know how to address the issue.

With support from Benoy Foundation and AAV, a DRR project was started. Huong joined the Village Disaster Reduction Committee (VDRC). She was trained in PVA so that she and villagers could analyze and understand the vulnerability of their village. They identified that the priority for their village was to build an evacuation road so that people could move to a safer place during flood. Huong and other VDRC members discussed this idea to project management board, local government for supports. Building materials were mobilized from different sources: stone from SPD and cement from Communal People Committee. Then, residents, members of VDRCs and Youth Union did the construction themselves. The road construction was completed in 15 days. Every villager was happy because now they have a road that they can use to escape to a safer place if flood happened. Nong Thi Huong cheerfully shared: *“Residents in the hamlet and I are very pleased with the new evacuation road. For us, this evacuation road is the road of every villager. This is the only road*

*to connect the most flood-prone area to safer one. In case of natural disasters, it is easier for us to move our belongings, poultry, cattle, old people and children to the mountains. We would like to thank Benoy Foundation, ActionAid, People Committee and Youth Union for their support for the road Construction. We hope that, in the future, other hamlets will also be supported to build their own evacuation roads."*



*Nong Thi Huong is building the evacuation road with fellow villagers for their village  
Photo: LRP8, Thong Nong, Cao Bang*

## **6. PROGRAMME PRIORITY 5: Build social and political alternatives for women and girls**

### **Achievements**

***Empowerment of women and critical consciousness of wider communities on the rights of women and girls to be free from all forms of violence, including harmful traditional practices***

Recognizing that Gender Based Violence is rooted in stereotypical gender roles, cultural norms and behaviors, series of activities were designed and implemented for awareness raising and behavioral changes of women, men, girls, boys, communities and local authorities.

Monthly meetings among women's rights club members at grass root level are opportunity for 1,528 women to share and talk, children's education to husband, conflicts and violence that happened in their family. Through this activity, many women have become open to share their problems (which they had never done before) about how their husbands

are violent to them and their children, how care works at home are unequally divided among male and female members or how money is decided to spend between wives and husbands. By sharing, problems are exposed and all members can discuss solutions to help each other.

IEC (Information, Education and Communication) activities were organized to raise communities' awareness on GBV. IEC activities have been organized in different forms such as dramas, singing, dancing and other theaters based performances integrating contents on domestic violence, harmful cultural practices such as child marriage combined with contest on legal knowledge on GBV. In LRP8, dramas and plays were performed by Danish volunteers and women group members together with folk games, questions on anti-domestic violence for local people. The events were highly appreciated by the people and local authorities. As a result, our IEC activities have reached 16,782 people of which 13,515 were women. Behavior changes in men were more apparent when the wives shared that their husbands perpetrated less violence to them. Community leaders are more sensitized in gender equality and aware that domestic violence is not only personal but a social evil affecting the health of community.

Community based "reliable addresses" as one of referral mechanism for GBV survivors have been established and regularly maintained by local partners. Reliable addresses' members are local women who are willing and committed to devote their time to help women as victims of GBV and reduce violence cases in the areas. They were trained on communication skills, counseling skill, psycho-social care, referral skills to work with GBV victims in order to be able to provide quality services to GBV cases. After 4 months of operation, 524 GBV cases were reported and resolved through reliable addresses. By end of 2012, we have 20 reliable addresses at 3 LRPs.

It is important to empower women to tackle issues of gender based violence. For this dozens of training courses for women were conducted in 2012. They are courses designed for heads of women's rights clubs on club operation skills and for local communicators on gender equality, sexuality and reproductive health.



All these have increased understanding of women about their own bodies, their sexual and reproductive rights and elimination of gender based violence.

Activities to stop violence against girls at schools and their understanding on sexual and reproductive health rights were particularly focused. School based counseling centers (SBC) have been set up and equipped with computers and books on relevant issues such as how to cope with puberty, understanding about forms of violence or legal information. There are 146 teachers (127 women ) at 6 schools of 3 LPRs who are also the counselors having been trained and equipped with knowledge and skills on children's rights, counseling skills and life skills such as how to avoid injury and be safe from home to school. According to the teachers, the training courses not only provided them with skills and knowledge but also made them more committed to their counseling job to help the children. They initiated 24 hours service which could be through mails/email or face to face if there was any query. As a result, there were 792 children counseled by the teachers, in which surprisingly boys were 454 (57%) on the issues of psychological development during their puberty, risks of being sexually harassed, family, love, friendship and education (how to study well). The trained teachers were also responsible to organize talks/forums for children to share about GBV related to school, and issues often encountered by girls. They also conducted regular meetings among community leaders, teachers and parents on issues of violence against girls in schools.

### ***Promoting women in politics***

Promoting women in politics is one of priorities of women's rights programme. Vietnam is a patriarchal country, and hence it is important that we promote more women into leadership position who can fight to protect rights of women and girls. In 2012, series of training courses were designed and delivered to provide leadership skills to potential leaders in almost every LRP. As a result, in 2012, 331 women have been trained with leadership and management skills such as presentation skills, resource mobilization, negotiation and election planning skill.

### ***Challenges faced and Lessons learned***

As Vietnam is a patriarchal country, gender equality is still a neglected phenomenon or poorly understood by people. Vietnamese Government, in general, is more gender sensitive compared to years ago, however, it applies to only some ministries directly involved in promoting advancement of women and girls. Therefore, gender equality in Vietnam is far from reaching the target in all aspects. Domestic violence is still considered as a personal or family issue with very limited involvement of legal authorities even when it might be quite a serious issue. All these challenges are constraining our work at grass root level to eliminate GBV.

To eliminate GBV, it takes times, patience, huge efforts, collective action and especially understanding and support of the Government. In this process, men including husbands, life partners, male colleagues, boys, male youth, etc... need to be involved. All government departments should be sensitized for actions and changes. Gender equality and women's rights should be in education curriculum since early stage to build up mind set for respect and equality between men and women. At the same time, negative cultural norms, harmful practices and traditional stereotypes should be eradicated.

### ***Case study***

Mrs. N is now living in Phuc Loi ward, Long Bien Dist, Hanoi. She was born in 1956 in a loving family. In 1977, she got married and was not be able to bear any child during the first year. Her husband left her for another woman and she decided to divorce. After divorcing, she had a small business at the local market. In 1985, she remarried to another man who already had 2 children of his own. 2 months after getting married, she discovered that she was pregnant. He forced her for abortion but she resisted. Therefore, he asked his own son to cover her body with mud. He bet her so many times that she had to go back to her parents' house to deliver the child. In 1988, her husband went to her parents' house and asked her and her son to go home. She agreed. She gave birth a daughter in 1993.

In 1989, she was beaten heavily by her husband. He took clogs to break her head on the 3rd day of Lunar New Year. She did not go to the hospital but stay home. He cut her hair and fix the injury himself. He repeated violence against her many times. He gambled, went home drunk, took off her clothes, used hammer to break her legs, put his fingers to her eyes... She has never reported to the local authority because she thought she would be beaten more severely. She tried to bear herself. Sometimes, she asked her parents for help but her aunt, as a dominant member, did not allow them to help her. Her relatives treated her as death. In 2011, she got compensation from Government when her land was withdrawn, she decided to build a new house. Her husband, without any contribution, threatens to break the new fence and kitchen. She called local policemen to prevent him. After the policemen left, he continued to beat her. She sought help from the policemen again but they refused because it was her personal issue, not their business.

Since 2012, through women's right programme and through untiring support, motivation and encouragement from the reliable address members, Mrs. N accepted her faith, upholds her rights and turn to be a confident women and she made decision to put an end to her misery.

Now she knows where to seek help. She has been consulted on how to prevent violence against her, on divorce procedure and on peace home shelter where GBV victims could go to stay away from violence.

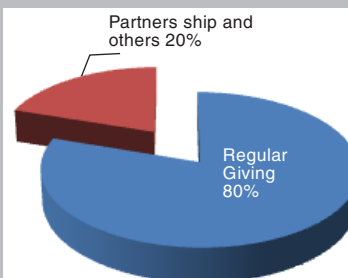




## FINANCE

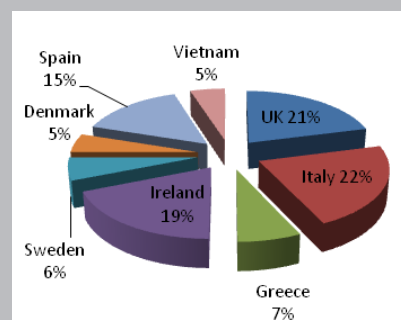
### Income sources

Income sources 2013	Amount in '000GBP	%
Regular Giving	1,719	80%
Partnership and others	444	20%
<b>Total:</b>	<b>2,235</b>	<b>100%</b>



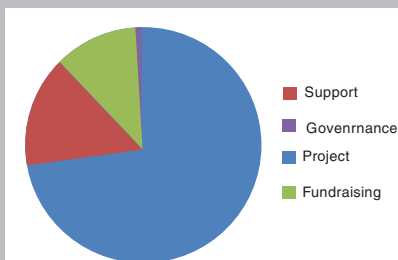
### Income Analysis

Income sources 2013	Amount in '000GBP	%
UK	469	21%
Italy	497	22%
Greece	159	7%
Ireland	415	19%
Sweden	141	6%
Denmark	121	5%
Spain	317	15%
Vietnam	118	5%
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>2,235</b>	<b>100%</b>



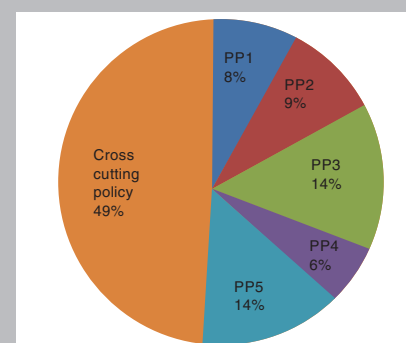
### Expenditure

Expenditure	Amount in '000GBP	%
Projetct	1,376	73%
Support	280	15%
Fundraising	215	11%
Governance	24	1%
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>1,895</b>	<b>100%</b>



### Programme Expenditure

Programme Expenditure	Amount in '000GBP	%
PP1 - Livelihood	104	8%
PP2 - Governance	115	9%
PP3 - Education	197	14%
PP4 - Emergency	85	6%
PP5 - Women & Girl	196	14%
Cross cutting PPs	679	49%
<b>Total:</b>	<b>1,376</b>	<b>100%</b>



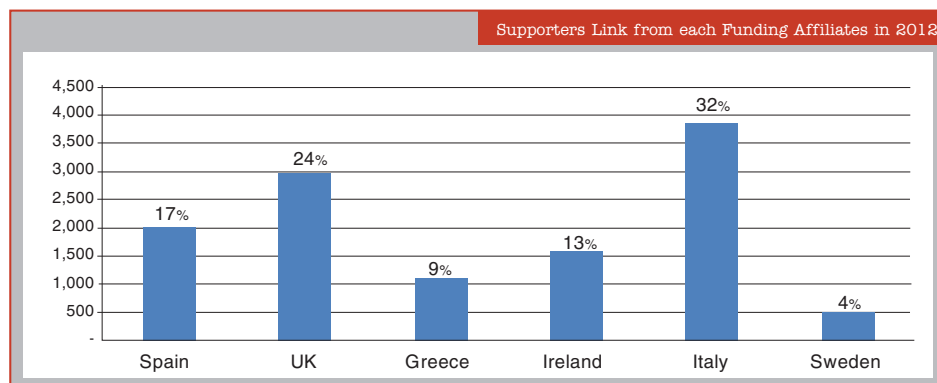


## FUNDING AND FUNDRAISING

In 2012, the total income of AAV was GBP 2,235,000. The funds mainly came from regular income such as child sponsorship (CS), Next Step and Amico sources followed by grants from Institutional donors (IrishAid, DFID and EC) and High Value donors (Benoy Foundation, Stanley Thomas Foundation and AA International). Actual income from Partnership was recorded at GBP 444,000, accounting for 20% of the total income of AAV. Regular income from all child sponsorship products, Next Step and Amico reached GBP 1,791,000, this made up 80% of the total income of AAV. In total, AAV gross income declined by 25% between 2011 and 2012.

### Child sponsorship

Child sponsorship is the major source of funding for 16 active LRPs across the country. The fund was raised from 11,043 children sponsors from United Kingdom, Ireland, Spain, Greece, Sweden, and Italy. In addition, 166 Amico (from Italy) and 1,638 Next Step (from UK) sponsors were maintained in 2012. By end of 2012, we have a total of 12,847 sponsors.



### International Partnership Development

Partnership income (GBP 444,000) declined by 48% as compared, to that of 2011 (GBP 920,000). It was due to the phase-out of a number of projects in 2012, while the newly confirmed projects in the second half of 2012 were not yet started (two projects funded by EC started only in January 2013).

Active funded projects of 2012 were mainly from institutional donors, on 4 out of 5 Programme Priorities set out in AAV's CSP V.

AAV has tried hard to raise more funds for LRPs in need and in 2012, a list of 17 concepts notes and proposals were developed. Some new concept notes and proposals have been developed to fill the gaps with participation of all related functions and persons in charge in LRPs.

### Local Fundraising

Vietnam has become a low middle income country in 2010. Consequently, numerous international and bilateral donors in Vietnam have either departed or have plans to leave in the near future. This has increased the need for AAV to find new funding sources in order to achieve the ambitious objectives set out in its new Country Strategy Paper which stated that by 2017, its annual income will be 4 million GBP. In addition to this, the regular income received from Child Sponsorship has declined over the last year (25% decreases in total income) as competition grows in these markets and the financial crisis has led to increased withdrawal rates from child sponsors.

With the steady growth of the middle class in Vietnam, we consider that fund raising from affluent individuals would be possible. With the target of 15,000 regular supporters (both from inside and outside Vietnam), AAV has ambitiously launched several programmes

in 2012 which initially achieved very encouraging results. The very first event was the call for donation for 14 disadvantaged children at LRPs which raised VND 39,2 million (USD 1,960) and 3 wheelchairs.

A long-term programme named "Small bricks, big changes" which aims to benefit 10,000 children in Vietnam (at the end of 2017) was implemented recently with different events such as building kitchen for 215 poor ethnic minority students in Tan Minh School in LRP15 or selling greeting cards during Tet holiday and many more events in the near future.

AAV has learned several lessons from its initial attempt in local fund raising that will help its future fund raising initiatives. AAV getting its Legal status in Vietnam by the national registration process will be given high priority in 2013 and 2014. More careful preparation and clearer plan surely makes the programme more effective. Back-up plan for the unpredicted situation is also one of the issues which need to be considered. Last but not least, all the announced figures and objectives should be consistent which will maintain and increase the credibility of the potential donors. As the saying that “Practice makes Perfect”, local fundraising programmes is believed the most effective tool for stable income of AAV for its career in fighting poverty in the near future.

### Newly funded projects

In 2012, AAV with the support of AA Asia and AA UK won 2 contracts with EC for in-country calls for proposals. One project is named as **“Civil Society Empowering Rural Communities”** under EC call for Non-State Actors in Development (NSA) in Viet Nam. The total budget of the project is EUR 665,712.60 of which EUR 499,284.45 is the contribution from EC. The project will be implemented for two LRPs in Cao Bang, Ha Giang provinces and at national level for 4 years (2013-2017).

The other project under European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR) is **“Strengthening civil society organizations and networks to enhance the civic and political rights of ethnic minorities and underrepresented groups in Lai Chau province, Viet Nam”** budgeted at EUR 313,373 with EC’s contribution of up to EUR 290,400.

AAV has been the first country in AAI who won two contracts in one year which is a special case while in 2012, the whole Federation of AA won a total of 8 contracts only.

Through AA Ireland, AAV’s project on Women’s Rights **“Preventing gender-based violence and promoting women’s empowerment”** in urban areas (Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh City and Quang Ninh Province) was approved for EUR 175,000 confirmed from IrishAid for 2012. This will be a four year programme

from 2012 to 2015. The programme was also unified among 4 Country Programmes of ActionAid (Vietnam, Nepal, Malawi and Kenya) through the management of result-based framework. Upon the approval of IrishAid on results of 2012, the funding for 2013 will be released.

Two projects on **“Youth Leadership in enhancing public service providers’ accountability”** (YLEPA) and **“Engaging women, youth, civil society organizations and media in advocating for universal social protection in Vietnam”** (NDS) received the support from AAI’s Democratic Governance Team (DGT), with the funding from DGT started in 2012 for each project is GBP 138,931 and GBP 36,500 respectively.

## MOVING FORWARD IN 2013

In the year of 2013, key areas will be focused and prioritized by AAV as follows:

- Update HROD policy through developing and approving the Capacity Building Framework for AAV staff under a consultation process.
- Finalize and put in to operation the Finance Policy, Partnership Policy, Admin Guideline.
- Organize trainings for AAV staff and key staff from partners on refreshing HRBA, Diversity, Research Proposal Writing, Reporting Skills, Tax Knowledge, and advanced ELBAG.
- Conduct at least one training course for external clients on HRBA or governance tools under the framework of AAV training hub development for Southeast Asia and the Pacific.
- Finalize and launch the Development Strategies of all LRPs which are in line with AAV's CSPV.
- Recruit and appoint the right manning for nationalization process with the support from international Governance and related organizations in and out of Vietnam.
- Engage in Laws, Policy and Constitution process.
- Conduct baseline survey at national and LRPs levels to gather key and accurate data and information to describe the current socio-economic and political trends and conditions of different communities and sectors where AAV works. These data and information will be used as basis against the predicted changes and promises of AAV.
- Prepare and document all results and achievements and lessons learnt during 17 years AAV supported LRP2 in Ha Tinh province and organize an event on officially phasing out from this area.
- Conduct PVA and develop Contingency Plan for AAV on emergency response, including emergency guidelines.
- Actively involve and take part in preparation and the implementation of 3 AA campaigns, including "Safe Cities"; "Tax Power" and "Land Grab" where AAV is acted as strategic roles in Safe Cities campaigning.
- Engage and actively participate in ASEAN's Common Water Committee
- Continue to support people to people solidarity
- Improve the quality of CS programme and maintain links for sustainable regular income by strengthening M&E system of supported children, supporter care, communication and building relationship with FAs.
- Raise an additional amount of at least GBP 1.3 million from different funding sources, especially from institutional donors, High Value Donors, Trusts and Foundations, as well as companies with support from International Fundraising Team and Funding Affiliates.
- Local Fundraising Programme will be prioritized with at least one fundraising event and preparation of launching Face to Face fundraising programme.





# AUDIT REPORT

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## INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

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

We have audited the accompanying balance sheet of the Representative Office in Vietnam of ActionAid International ("ActionAid Vietnam" or "AAV") as at 31 December 2012, the related statement of income and expenditures for the year then ended, and the notes thereto (collectively referred to as "the financial statements"), prepared on 26 April 2013, as set out from page 04 to page 17.

### Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with the accounting policies set out in Note 3 of the Notes to the financial statements. This responsibility includes: designing, implementing and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

### Auditors' Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these 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 whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers 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 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.

### Opinion

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements give a true and fair view of, in all material respects, the financial position of ActionAid Vietnam as at 31 December 2012 and its income and expenditures for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting policies set out in Note 3 of the Notes to the financial statements.



**Dang Chi Dung**  
Deputy General Director  
CPA Certificate No. D.0030/KTV

*For and on behalf of*  
**DELOITTE VIETNAM COMPANY LIMITED**  
26 April 2013  
Hanoi, S.R. Vietnam

**Le Anh Son**  
Auditor  
CPA Certificate No. 1961/KTV

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FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
For the year ended 31 December 2012

**BALANCE SHEET**  
*As at 31 December 2012*

Unit: £'000

	Notes	31/12/2012	31/12/2011
<b>ASSETS</b>			
Cash		196	295
Cash on hand		1	1
Cash in bank	5	195	294
Receivables		1,136	940
Amount due from other ActionAid members	6	1,031	851
Amount due from partners	7	51	55
Prepayments		48	23
Other receivables		6	11
Other current assets		4	3
Advances to employees		4	3
Tangible fixed assets	8	-	-
Historical cost		38	38
Accumulated depreciation		(38)	(38)
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>1,336</b>	<b>1,238</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND FUNDS</b>			
Liabilities		105	152
Amount due to employees		33	53
Taxes and other payables to the State budget		4	27
Other payables		68	72
Fund		1,231	1,086
Reserve		1,231	1,086
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUNDS</b>		<b>1,336</b>	<b>1,238</b>



Hoang Phuong Thao  
Country Director

26 April 2013

Tran Lan Huong  
Head of Finance and Administration

The notes set out on pages 06 to 17 are an integral part of these financial statements

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURES  
For the year ended 31 December 2012

Unit: £'000

	Notes	Year 2012	Year 2011
<b>INCOME</b>			
Regular giving income		1,791	2,011
Official partnership income		315	704
Other partnership income		74	216
Other income		55	(13)
	10	2,235	2,918
Net transfer in and out from ActionAid International	9	(195)	(142)
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<b>2,040</b>	<b>2,776</b>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>			
Programme/Project cost		1,376	1,883
Support cost		280	352
Fundraising cost		215	172
Governance cost		24	27
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	11 & 12	<b>1,895</b>	<b>2,434</b>
<b>SURPLUS</b>		<b>145</b>	<b>342</b>
<b>FUND BALANCE AT THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR</b>		<b>1,086</b>	<b>740</b>
<b>FOREIGN EXCHANGE DIFFERENCE</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>FUND BALANCE AT THE END OF THE YEAR</b>		<b>1,231</b>	<b>1,086</b>



*Hoang Phuong Thao*  
Country Director  
26 April 2013

Tran Lan Huong  
Head of Finance and Administration

The notes set out on pages 06 to 17 are an integral part of these financial statements





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Edited by: **AAV**

Proof read by: **Dr. Ramesh Khadka**

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AAV is an international non-governmental organization to end poverty. Working in Vietnam since 1989, it sides with the poor and marginalized people, and commits to the sustainable development of the country.

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