

Unite and Action for Justice and Development

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**ANNUAL
REPORT**

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TOGETHER TO FURTHER HUMAN RIGHTS
AND DEFEAT POVERTY FOR ALL.





Annual Report 2016

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Message from the Country Director

"Dear donors, collective efforts, partners and communities!

2016 is a year of successes and joys. Our achievements of the year reconfirm ActionAid Vietnam's strong commitment in taking side with Vietnamese government to eradicate poverty and ensure that everyone can live with dignity.

2016 also marks strategic partnership between ActionAid Vietnam and AFV (Aid for social protection program Foundation Vietnam). For the first time, local fundraising model has been established, giving Vietnamese people opportunities to contribute and share with their own community, as a Vietnamese saying: "The good leaves cover the torn leaves". With the target of raising 8,000 local child sponsors by 2020, fund diversification and stabilization will also help ActionAid Vietnam become more financially secure and independent in this world changing context.

None of these achievements would have been made without the strong will of all ActionAid colleagues, the dedication of the Board Management Committee and most importantly, the trust and generosity of you – sponsors, partners and communities.

This coming year 2017 is the last year of ActionAid Vietnam's Country Strategic Plan V (2012 – 2017). It also marks the 25th Anniversary of ActionAid Vietnam in our mission to promote justice and development. ActionAid commit to keep working tirelessly for the values that we have been pursuing. We appreciate and are touched by your support and sympathy to people living in poverty. And above all, we look forward to another year of fruitful cooperation in the journey of helping people, changing lives!"

Hoang Phuong Thao
Country Director
ActionAid Vietnam

ABOUT AAV

ActionAid is a global federation working to end poverty and injustice. Formed in 1972, for over 40 years, we have been growing and expanding to where we are today. We work in 45 countries and territories to help over 15 million poor and less fortunate people around the world. Our head office is in Johannesburg, South Africa.

ActionAid started its program in Vietnam in 1989 and the Representative Office was registered in 1992. Over the past two decades, AAV expanded its presence and programs to more than 21 provinces in the poorest areas of the country in the Northwest, Central Highlands and Mekong regions. AAV directly support millions of people and the organization has been recognized and is well known in the country for its contribution to the development of Vietnam.

Our vision

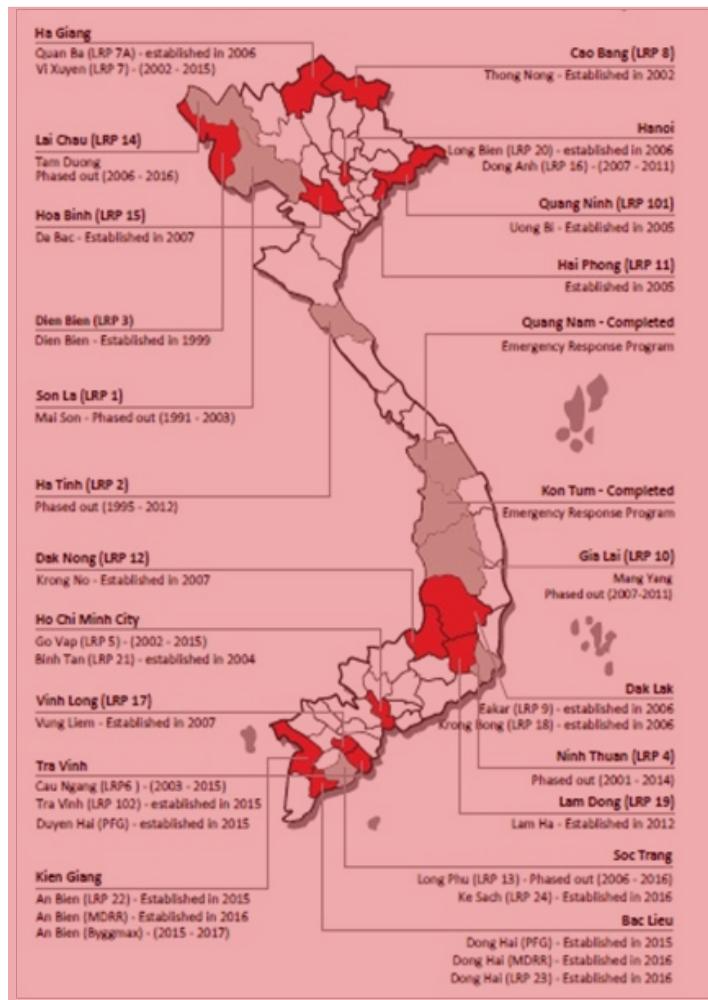
A world without poverty and injustice in which every person enjoys the right to a life with dignity

Our mission

To work in solidarity with people living in poverty to eradicate poverty and injustice

Our values:

- Solidarity with people living in poverty, the powerless, and the excluded
- Transparency and Accountability
- Independence and neutrality from any religious and party political affiliation



Hundreds of youth joined flashmod dance to raise their voice about a safe city





HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

1. Campaigning for safe cities and tax justice for all

Campaign for a safe city for women and girls

In December 2016, the report **“A safe city for women and girls”** was presented to public. The report has reviewed the current situation of gender-based violence against women and girls in five cities including Hanoi, Hai Phong, Uong Bi, Tra Vinh and Ho Chi Minh cities. Findings highlighted alarming figures about the safety level of public spaces. Report called great attention of public, policy makers and media, urging for practical actions to change. Although the numbers of women and girls suffered from sexual harassment in public space has slightly decreased from 2014-2016, there are still 67% women experienced sexual harassment in public space, according to the report.

Public events were widely organized in five provinces, attracting the participation of thousands of people. Most importantly in December, the event **“Sing for a safe city”** was successfully held to mobilize the Government and communities to build their own safe cities, where everyone, particularly women and girls, can have freedom in moving, working and living as well as accessing and benefiting from transparent, efficient and quality public services.

S-city ActionAid smart phone application was developed to provide a solution for enhancing people’s actions and voice while witnessing violence against women and girls in public areas, or reporting when seeing gaps of public services. It is also the channel to collect information of users’ feedbacks on public services which, then, will be used to advocate for better quality of public services.

Campaign on Tax Justice

A focus during the year was on the impacts of Free Trade Agreements, tax incentive policies and tax avoidance on public revenue and essential services in Vietnam. AAV published two policy briefs **“Cost of tax incentives and tax avoidance by FDIs to Vietnam”** and **“Impact of Current and Proposed FTAs and BITs on Vietnam’s Food Processing Sector”**. This research was used to inform key government and civil society stakeholders on the implications of tax incentives and FTAs (Foreign Trade Agreements), that Vietnam gives a lot more tax incentives to FDI, comparing to neighboring countries. This does not bring more investment or employment, at the same time reduced significantly public revenues for essential health care and education services, the report confirms.

AAV also built capacity for media on tax through a workshop co-hosted with the Vietnam Journalist Training Center (VJTC). Aiming at getting media attention on tax responding to Panama Papers, a **“Tax - Employment – Tax Policy in Vietnam”** Roundtable Workshop was successfully organized with senior representatives from the Central Institute for Economic Management, the General Department of Tax, and the Academy of Finance.

At local level, more than 1,200 youth actively participated in communication events on tax. The events helped raise awareness of the public, especially youth on role of tax in development. The youth spread key messages about the importance of taxation to the public.



2. Improving resilience in the face of disasters

In 2016, the project ***“Connecting people to save lives and improve disaster risk reduction in the Mekong Delta”***, funded by Microsoft was successfully completed. During two years of implementation, the project supported 140,000 residents in Soc Trang province. Technical infrastructure was developed for quick and easy access to information on climate, epidemics, crop seasons, market prices and livestock raising techniques from local government to the community. A network of Disaster Prevention and Reduction group was also established, equipping its members with essential skills on first aid and rapid response to natural disaster.

This is the first time women from communities, especially ethnic minority groups have chance to participate in analyze vulnerabilities and develop disaster risk management plan for their communities. Local communities had work with related State Agencies to formulate the coordination mechanism to response to an emergency. In addition to that, women have gained necessary knowledge and skills of First Aid and emergency response to cope with disaster that often strike their villages.





Empowering women and ethnic minorities to access land

In 2016, 2844 women were supported to claim their right to access and control over land through communication activities, trainings, and dialogues. The legislation prescribing the wife's name to be included on the Land Use Certification helped assure their condition, position and their voice in the decision making process of the family. More access to bank loans also contributed to improve women's livelihood.

Empowering children to have a say in their school

"The difficulties of pupils with disabilities when going to school", "Poor students' lunch box", "My school Library", "Together we save the environment" ...are just a few of more than 30 videos in the national video story telling contest "I love my school", run by AAV and AFV in 2016. Each video told a story about the school, the teachers and friends, about the dreams and life lessons, seen through the innocent and creative lens of the children. This initiative was under the framework of the "Promoting Rights in Schools" (PRS) program, which has been implemented by ActionAid Vietnam since 2013. This program has found that children have few opportunities to participate in the decision making, planning and monitoring process of school revenues and expenditures. This contest therefore provided an opportunity for students to share their views on how their school should be managed. Before the contest, AAV provided training on writing scripts, recording and video making to thousands of primary school children, parents, teachers and young people. As well as showcasing the voices of students, the entries from around the country attracted around 6,000 interactions on social media, continuing the discussion on child rights and quality education.

PROGRAM ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2016

The number of direct beneficiaries	Men	Women	Total
PP1 – Promote Alternative Livelihoods and Sustainable Agriculture	2,315	2,844	5,159
PP2 – Enhancing youth leadership via capacity building, engagement in policy	5,751	6,495	12,246
PP3 – Promote equal access to quality education for children advocacy and taking action to tackle community issues	19,585	23,939	43,524
PP4- Respond to disaster and climate change impacts with people-centered alternatives	73,076	73,804	146,880
PP5 - Build social and political alternatives for women and girls	19,852	36,532	56,384
Total	120,579	143,614	264,193



Priority Program 1: Promote Alternative Livelihoods and Sustainable Agriculture

In 2016, ActonAid Vietnam and partners **supported communities to explore alternative livelihood models to alleviate poverty and food insecurity**, including delivering training on coffee cultivation, climate-resilient mushroom planting models, safe reproductive pig raising, traditional sewing techniques, chicken raising, market access and value chains, and developing a small business.

2179 people enrolled in interest clubs, women's clubs and farmers' groups were trained with knowledge and skill to practice climate-resilient sustainable agriculture.



These training inputs have enabled communities to develop and implement plans to increase the profitability of their small enterprises. For example, in Nghe An Province, Nghe An Cooperative Alliance was supported to train 150 young people from ethnic minorities on growing Selasian wood and passion fruits. After the training, the young people were supported to develop economic models to increase their income and enhance their role in community development. As well as training smallholders on techniques to increase production and access value chains, we also held an exhibition to introduce local products to consumers, manufacturing units, restaurants, businesses and tourism units. This work aims to stimulate demand for smallholder products at the consumer end of the value chain. We also organized dialogues with local government to discuss the policy environment for smallholder farmers and provide space for smallholders to raise their concerns and support needs directly with government. At the end of the project, the number of youth with fully secured income has increased significantly.

We also supported women and ethnic minorities to improve their access to land and improved connection with local government. Throughout the year, approximately 112 meetings, training and workshops were organized to share information at different levels. AAV trained officers of the Natural Resources and Environment Dept. on the policy of Registration of Land Use Certificate with the names of husband and wife, violence against women, and sexual violence against women in the urban public areas. We created opportunities for local communities to ask questions of local government and created spaces for women to share their own stories of how their lives changed after acquiring a Land Use Certificate. We also published a study by the Research Center for Human Rights in Mountainous Areas on the shortage of productive land in Southeast Vietnam. The study results were shared in a workshop chaired by the Vice Minister of the Central Committee for Ethnic Minority Affairs, and these

The project **People's Participation in Improvement of Forest Governance and Poverty Alleviation in Vietnam (PFG)**, co-funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and AAV, aims to create opportunities for local people to participate in the forest resource monitoring system, thus improving accountability in forest management and reducing poverty. In 2016, the PFG project helped 384 community members raise awareness on their roles and rights in forest governance, enabled 150 community members to access farming information, created livelihood improvement solutions for about 3,110 of Vietnam's poorest people, and helped 180,000 community members gain better understanding of their Joint Community Agreement for forest governance. During the year, the PFG project trained 15 master trainers in using FORMIS (the digital forestry sector information management system) and facilitated training on computer skills for community groups to allow them to access and download agro-forestry information. The project supported communities in four Districts to explore, learn about and implement appropriate new livelihood models – including tree planting for carbon exchange (which allows communities to make money from tree planting by selling carbon credits), mangrove plantation - shrimp and crab raising and eco-tourism. The livelihood models are forest-based, aiming at improving income for local poor households while promoting the protection and development of local forests.

Unemployment is also a critical issue impacting on livelihoods in both urban and rural areas. We undertook a survey on unemployment with participation of 257 people in three communes in Vung Liem District, Vinh Long Province to better understand about the challenges that unemployed people face to have decent works and sustainable income. Results of this survey were shared and discussed in a workshop with community members and local authorities focusing on solutions and recommendation. Lack of vocational skills was identified one of the key barriers to employment while to the quality of local vocational programme is often far from people's expectation and needs. This activity was considered key contribution to the development of local authority for the next year's vocational programme.

We also worked with the local Youth Union to organize a workshop in DakLak Province on increasing budget allocation to vocational training, providing participants with the financing policy and vocational training agenda being implemented in their locality, to enable them to access vocational training support that is on offer.

The power of documentation and reflection

Honey farmer groups in Na Chieu village, Cao Son Commune were launched in 2016 as part of the sustainable and alternative livelihood programme of AAV in LRP15. The activity was created to expand its successful model happened in Son Phu village of the same commune.

In Son Phu village, the journey started with Bui Van Son who joined his group Son Phu Beekeepers since 2 years ago. At the beginning of the activity, Mr. Son was invested 3 crates of bees along with being provided technical trainings on beekeeping by LRP15 and commune's Department of Agriculture and Rural Development. After 1 year of deployment, Son managed to learn new techniques and practices as well as self-studied on bee and its characteristics. He has learnt to create new queen bee, grafting bridge, splitting the beehive, raising the family's bee crates into 70. In 2015 - 2016 his family has harvested 380 liters of honey, of which about VND 200,000/liter, totally he earned nearly VND 80 million.

Having kept recording of Son's story, LRP15 decided to document his own lessons and the whole process of the income generation activity was replicated in another village. A group of 10 farmers was established in the village Na Chieu, Cao Son commune. Those 10 farmers, 100 per cent were ethnic minority, were selected based on their interest, their family condition and their commitment in the programme. Each farmer was invited to participate in technical training project for honey beekeeping. They also supported VND 3 million to buy three crates of bees.

As part of the project, new farmers took part in the actual field visit to other beekeeping households in the areas and to Mr. Son's family. There the farmers discussed and shared issues facing during the process of adoption new technique, alongside with additional learning from books, television. They also met regularly to talk about the breeding process, grafting, creating new queen bee, taking caring of bee during winter season and other essential steps.

Now the beekeeping model has been developed possibly and effectively, from 30 crates of original bee now the group has split them into 300 ones. There are households that have from 50 to 70 crates such as the family of Mr. Bui Van Sau, Ms. Bui Thi Thanh.

The beekeeping story in Cao Son commune has emphasized the importance of reflection and learning process of AA's work in the community. It also showed the importance of working together of the farmers in a value chain approach to ensure their capability of change for new market demand. This is also an example of highlighting the power of collective/interest groups and requirement for advocating for further public investment in sustainable livelihood models for small farmer households of poor ethnic minority, who are earning a living relying on the forest a great deal.



**Group members visiting a
beekeeping household**

Photo: LRP15/AAV

Priority Program 2 - Enhancing youth leadership via capacity building, engagement in policy advocacy and taking action to tackle community issues

In 2016, AAV engaged more than 3000 young people in project and campaign activities and invested in their development, to support them to be drivers of change and partners of programs at all levels.. To realize this commitment, AAV organized many training courses to build capacity for youth including Reflection Action tool, Microsoft Data Gathering (MDG) tool, Participatory Vulnerability Appraisal and video story telling.

AAV also encouraged youth engagement in policy advocacy work via Youth Law contest, research, and campaign. 750 youth representatives actively participated in the contest to explore the national and international Youth Laws in order to raise awareness on implementing the Youth Laws in practice. In addition, more than 100 youth members actively participated in gender-based violence research and Irish Aid project end-line evaluation research and more than 3,000 youth members were engaged in the Tax and Safe Cities campaigns at both national and local level.



From enhanced knowledge and awareness, youth took actions to tackle the issues either directly by themselves or influence other community stakeholders to create changes for their community. Youth actively acted to protect the environment on the International Youth Day when ten Youth Act to End Poverty Networks (YAEP) in 10 LRPs across three regions of Vietnam organized 10 youth-led communication events to increase youth and community awareness on environment protection. During the event, the youth planted 400 trees to help reduce carbon footprint, cleaned up market areas, cleared bushes, raised awareness on dengue disease, and called for joint effort to mitigate natural disaster risks.

Additionally, YAEP network showed their leadership in promoting the usage of S-City application for safe cities and communities for women and girls and was **awarded Excellence Prize - Big Ideas Competition for Sustainable Cities and Communities** co-organized by Government of the Republic of Korea, UNDP Asia and the Pacific and the United Nations Global Pulse. Accordingly youth use S-City application and will communicate for communities to use S-city to feedback on safety in public places and assess the space of public services in the cities, which impact on the safety of women and girls in public areas.

Advancing accountability in public investment.

A series of events were facilitated to advance accountability at both local and national level. At LRP level, communication events on improvement of quality of public service and dialogues on public services evaluation monitoring results were carried out. Via these activities, more than 600 participants, especially those from ethnic minority groups, understood forms of current public services, rights and responsibilities of the participants when using those services and solutions to improve quality of public services. Participants are then encouraged to participate actively in monitoring and evaluating of public administration and developing projects. A training course on rights to access to social insurance for Community Development Groups (CDG) was also held for 150 members to raise awareness on rights to access to social insurance.

At national level, a research on “**Public Expenditure on healthcare, education and public transportation in selected provinces in Vietnam – Some findings and recommendations**” was carried out by AAV and Central Institute for Economic Management (CIEM) in seven provinces to provide an independent assessment of specific issues related to public investment in education, healthcare and transportation at both provincial and central levels. A **workshop** was then organized to share research results and provide recommendations on enhancing allocation and efficiency of budget allocation on education, healthcare and public transportation in Vietnam, thereby putting human development at the center of the socio-economic development process. The activities were under project “Civil Society Empowering Rural Communities” with financial support from the European Commission (EC) aiming at strengthening and empowering civil society in fighting poverty and promoting the rule of law to reduce social and economic inequalities in Vietnam.

Supporting civil society to engage with ASEAN integration

ASEAN economic integration presents opportunities as well as threats for vulnerable communities, particularly farmers. In 2016, AAV worked to build the capacity of NGOs, civil society organisations and farmer groups to understand and engage with ASEAN mechanisms. This included a workshop on the ASEAN mechanism for CSOs, which brought together 40 delegates from civil society and government, including the Deputy Director – ASEAN from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. We also worked with partners to host a workshop for 40 participants on expanding social protection for vulnerable groups in order to address inequality under ASEAN integration. In collaboration with ActionAid Thailand AAV and our partners participated in a farmer exchange visit to learn from the success of Thai organization Maetha Organics in market access and agro-ecological production and discuss challenges facing farmers in ASEAN. Farmers developed a plan to work jointly to strengthen their advocacy on sustainable livelihoods.

Fostering dialogue between government and civil society and strengthening democratic space

AAV worked with partners to support and strengthen important democratic reform processes during 2016. After the new Referendum Law was passed in November 2015, AAV and the Vietnam Lawyers Association (VLA) organized three regional workshops for Provincial Lawyers' Associations and local government officials to build their understanding of the law and how to use it. AAV and VLA also disseminated 300 handbooks providing simple guidance on the new law. With support from AAV, the VLA also conducted an international comparative study on public demonstration laws. The study analysed overseas experiences and recommended models that would be suitable for the Vietnam context. The report was provided to key government stakeholders and was a useful input for agencies responsible for developing the draft Law on Demonstration, which will greatly contribute to enhancing democracy and realizing basic citizen rights stated in the Constitution. During the year, AAV and partners also brought government and civil society together to discuss civil society's role in implementing the SDGs, and co-hosted an international conference on Peace and Security in Asia and Europe to input into discussions at the 11th Asia Europe People's Forum in Mongolia. We also worked with the Committee for Ethnic Minority Affairs (CEMA) to assess the implementation of international laws and conventions to ensure human rights in Soc Trang and Bac Lieu province. The survey report was used to inform the national report on implementation of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD). More importantly, recommendations from the survey report provided inputs to advocate for policy change on respecting, protecting and fulfilling human rights in Vietnam.

A proactive and enthusiastic female leader – Vice secretary of YAEP in Central and Highland areas

Ms. Nguyen Thi Thanh Huyen got the honor of being awarded the prize Ly TuTrong for outstanding youth union leaders by President Truong Tan Sang in March, 2016. It is acknowledged for her great effort in leading many programs and events attracting many young people and children to participate in EaDar commune, Eakar district, Dak Lak province. There are many activities organized such as Youth's voice, Youth's football, sport festival, music festival, folk games, and so on. In the past 3 years, these activities got the participation of about 5,000 youth and children in the commune area.

Furthermore, in order to support young people to have livelihood and set up their career, Huyen and Commune Youth Union committee have been doing well in management the investment trust fund and providing consultation for youth members to get two billion loans. In addition, she also promotes the disbursement process and effective use of the fund to support economic model from the fund 120 of Central Youth Union. She also leads to organize different study tours for young people to learn about developing economy models by youth as well as creates chances for them to take part in trainings and conferences at different levels.

In addition to the Ly TuTrong Prize, there are so many other honored awards she was given: Advanced youth following Uncle Ho's advice given by Central Youth Union in 2009, Certificate for having excellent achievements in patriot movement by People Committee of EaKar district in 2010, "Outstanding youth leader" by Vietnam Youth Union honored in 2011, and so on. Huyen said that these achievements she got mostly through taking part in youth's activities from Support Development Program by ActionAid Vietnam (AAV). She has been a member of YLEPA youth club under the project "Youth Leadership in enhancing public service providers' accountability" since 2013 and participated in Youth Acts to End Poverty Network (YAEP) since November, 2015. In the partnership meeting of AAV's Youth program in 2015, she has been elected as the Vice Secretary of the Central and Highland area of YAEP.

She said that before participating in Youth program by AAV, she had not known much about how to organize a big event or open discussion on the current issues in her area as well as to develop an action plan with others to solve the problem.

“After participating in a series of events like trainings on leadership and presentation skills, conference on replicating excellent economic models, sport and culture exchange festivals with other clubs, Youth forum and advocacy for new Law on Youth by AAV, I have gained more confidence in communication, presentation and negotiation different issues of youth and carried out more meaningful activities for youth”, proudly Huyen said: “For rural youth, there are two significant works to do: having a job to create stable economy and supporting the community to develop a better society”, Huyen shared the messages with local youth.

Priority Program 3 –Promote equal access to quality education for children



In 2016, AAV and its partners continued to implement the **Promoting Rights in Schools Program**. Within this program, we supported equitable access to education through **Vietnamese language training for 1,197 ethnic minority children**. The requirement to speak and understand Vietnamese is a barrier that prevents ethnic minority children from attending school, reinforcing their marginalization. These classes build children's confidence in speaking, listening, reading and writing in Vietnamese to prepare them for school.

Not only Vietnamese language, other comprehensive knowledge and skills were also provided to the students and teachers. A series of trainings on children's rights and prevention of violence against children, reproductive health and right to control their body, life skills, for students and teachers were implemented. Participant students came away with a greater understanding of their rights on reproductive health and sexuality. After the training, the teachers are expected to have better teaching skills and know how to protect their students in dangerous situation. Training on school management skills was also carried out in Quan Ba District, Ha Giang Province for 321 parents. Trainees learned about community score cards – an important tool to address quality issues and rights violations in schools. After the training, participants used community score cards to analyze and evaluate existing problems resulting from the loose collaboration among schools, local authorities, and parents. Detected problems will be dealt with in common action plans, as set up between the schools and the Parent's Unions after the training.

AAV also established three '**counseling corners**' in three primary schools in Kien Giang Province, serving over 1,300 students. Teachers have received training to provide free counselling to students, and the counselling corners have also been stocked with books.

Also as part of our Promoting Rights in Schools Program, in 2016 we also organized participatory communication events with our partners to improve children's knowledge of their rights and to mobilize children to participate in enhancing the quality of local education. Activities included a painting contest for 500 children in Kien Giang, video storytelling training in all LRPs to empower students to share their own messages and stories, the development of student-led radio programs on child rights and violence in schools, and the national video-storytelling contest "I love my school".

Bringing reading joys to poor children in Ho Chi Minh city

Huynh Phan Thanh Ngoc is a grade 3 pupil at Tran Van On primary School in Binh Tan district, Ho Chi Minh city, which is home to more than 400 migrated households. She is 9 years old. Like many other migrated families in the area, Ngoc's family do not have access to basic needs due to their difficult economic condition. Her parents do not have stable jobs therefore, their income is not secured. On average they earn about 3,000,000 VND a month which is insufficient to make ends meet, let alone to cover education expenses for Ngoc and her siblings. Whenever a new school semester comes, Ngoc's parents struggle to earn money for their children's textbooks, pens and other learning kits, but she has never enjoyed a school year with sufficient textbooks as required. This has made it difficult for her to cope with all the subjects at school, especially mathematics due to the unavailability of textbooks. To help Ngoc's and other migrant families cope with this issue, ActionAid and its partner in Binh Tan district have provided 1,148 textbooks, historical and scientific books, and cartoon stories to Tran Van On primary School. In addition, ActionAid has also supplied four bookshelves, eight sets of table and chair to help the school set up a library. School children are invited to share their own ideas on how to decorate and organize the library to make it a useful and fun place. Since the opening of the library, children in the area now have access to textbooks and other study materials which help them study better. More importantly, they have gradually adopted the good practice of reading and learning new things. For these children, going to school has become more fun and interesting than ever.



More than 1,200 school kids at Tran Van On school have benefited from this support so far. In 2015 alone, Ngoc borrowed six textbooks from the school and for the first time ever, Ngoc had all the required text books. Doing her homework particularly in mathematics is never a challenge anymore. "I have performed much better this year, getting higher marks and I feel really happy. I want to become a doctor one day" – Ngoc said with a radiant smile.



Priority Program 4 - Respond to disaster and climate change impacts with people-centered alternatives

Establishment of emergency relief

In 2016, the drought and salinity in Mekong area seriously affected the lives of local people. In response to this incident, various emergency relief actions were taken, including provision of seeding corns, water pumping motors, and cement water tanks to households impacted by adversely droughts to help local households be capable of maintaining their livelihoods and getting more income. Additionally, the MRDD project supported water purifiers and upgraded water systems for schools. 2,900 students, 287 teachers and many households within 3 communes benefited from clean and qualified water so that they could overcome the situation of severe salinity at the communities.

Building community's capacity in disaster preparedness and response

With the purpose of building community's capacity and resilience to tackle with natural disasters, many training courses were organized during the year. Thanks to 22 training courses, 734 people understand about Community-based disaster risk management plan, community-based disaster risk management plan, community-based disaster prevention, first aid and emergency response. Especially, the PVA training (Participatory Vulnerability Assessment) equipped participants with important tools so as to improve their hazard assessment and prevention system to become more proactive in disaster response. Participants who joined these training will farther disseminate the skills and knowledge with their community members.

Different livelihood training also took place to improve community's livelihood resilience, including training on triangle oat wine cooking technique, frog breeding technique and mushroom planting technique. During the training, people learnt how to apply science and advanced technology to the implementation of livelihood models and adapt to climate change. By managing these techniques, local households got a step closer to sustainable economic development and improved living conditions.

Besides official training, various communication events via artist performance were organized to raise people's awareness on climate change problems and possible actions to reduce disaster risks. Especially, under the MDRR Project, communication events on adaptation to hot weather to protect health, hygiene and environment protection rolled out for 2,140 people including communities, students and teachers at schools. Dialogue between local government and people about supports for recovering from disasters and sanitation in local schools was also organized for participants to understand more about the situation in local community through Q&A sessions and proposed suitable solutions.

Under the PFG (People's Participation in Forest Governance) project, co-funded by Finnish Government, a series of trainings for Community Core Groups on Human Right Based Approach, soft skills, people's role in forest management, computer skills, digital mapping, sustainable natural resource management, etc. were delivered. Besides, information kiosks were established to provide space for community meetings for sharing and learning between community members in order to boost their capability and activeness to participate in local forest management were delivered.



Local people actively participating in PFG's forest governance training

Besides, information kiosks were established to provide space for community meetings for sharing and learning between community members in order to boost their capability and activeness to participate in local forest management. Totally, in 2016 PFG helped 384 community members raise awareness on their roles and rights in forest governance, enabled 150 community members to access needed information for farming and life, create livelihood improvement solution for about 3,110 poorest people, and helped 180,000 community members gain better understanding and attention to their Joint Community Agreement for forest governance.

LOCAL PEOPLE ARE AWARE AND PARTICIPATE IN STATE SUPPORT PROGRAMS FOR DROUGHTS AND SALT INTRUSION

Mr. Le Thanh Phe, 43 years old, is living in Dong Ap hamlet, Nam Thai commune (An Bien, KienGiang province). He has three children but two of them have married and moved away from home. The income of the whole family mainly depends on 1.7 hectares of land for rice and shrimp farming. Within the last 3 years, drought and salt intrusion have badly affected the livelihood of the local community. When the sown season comes, salinity makes the soil become so bad that the crops could not grow and local people suffer from big loss.

Since 2015, drought and salt intrusion have become more serious. The water contains 40% of salt, which makes shrimp, crab and shellfish species die. Shrimp farming used to be the alternative livelihood model besides rice but not is not stable. The situation of people like MrPhe has become worse and worse

In order to help people overcome this difficulty, the State has timely supported money and water for their daily use. However, local people did not have information about who will get the support, and how to get support. *“Only when we were informed to come and receive the money did we know how much support we would receive”*, Mr. Phe said. Government support so far in the area has not paid much attention to the adaptability of the community through the provision of relevant and timely information.

In order to help grassroot level people to get information on government support policies and to participate in monitoring budget expenditures, so as to actively prevent natural disasters, in August 2016, ActionAid Vietnam and ChildFundcollaborated to organize a training **“Monitoring state supports programs for droughts and salt intrusion”**. The training is one of many activities within the project **“Disaster Mitigation in Mekong delta”**, sponsored by ActionAid Vietnam and Childfund and implemented in 7 communes in 2 districts of An Bien, KienGiang and Dong Hai, Bac Lieu since June to December 2016, aiming at helping local people in Mekong delta area improve their climate change resilience. Activities of the project include emergency support, organizing training on monitoring the state budget on emergency supports.



Mr. Le Thanh Phe (right) at the training on “Monitoring state supports program for droughts and salt intrusion

In Nam Thai commune, An Bien district, Kien Giang province, a 3 day training course helped the commune authorities and especially people like Mr Phe understand better about the state support policies. “After attending the training, I also help my family and community make plans to prevent and respond to natural disasters, especially salt intrusion. We now know how to store drink water, buy water containers so that we have enough water for dry season. We also make plan to save money so that we can ensure our food security and livelihood during natural disasters”. Furthermore, thanks to the training, he got to know that many banks have its preferential policy to support people suffering from natural disasters.

“Thanks ActionAid and Childfund for such training opportunity. This is a great motivation for us to get to know more about our rights as well as state supports. We also hope that in the future, the State supports will be more suitable, timely and especially transparent to help people recover from natural disasters”.

Priority Program 5 - Build social and political alternatives for women and girls

Empower women with knowledge and skills for more economic and politic opportunities

With the aim of equipping women with important knowledge to protect their rights, as well as promoting their social status, various training courses were organized during the year. 401 women and girls received training on women’s rights and knowledge on reproductive and sexual health. 56 potential women from the Department of Education and Training, Women Union at district level acquired leadership skills through 2 trainings. Potential women candidates were provided with trainings on presentation and election campaigning skills so as they are empowered to participate in the process of decision-making at local area.

Promote public understanding of women’s rights and Unpaid care work through training and workshops

In 2016, ActionAid Vietnam and Gender Equality Department published the report “*Make a house become a home*”. With data collected from time diary method in 8 provinces, the report provided important figures to compare unpaid care workload that men and women do, and calculate high contribution of women’s unpaid care work to national economy. The result of the report was widely disseminated among public and policy makers. 1,289 people were provided with knowledge on gender norms, unpaid care work burden, and women’s rights through public events and activities.

SHARING UNPAID CARE WORK WITH WOMEN

Unpaid Care Work (UCW) is essential daily work for every household, for example fetching water, cleaning house, taking care of children, of elders or the sick. However, it is usually taken care by women without sharing from men.

According to the research “Make a house become a home” by ActionAid Vietnam in 2016, Vietnamese women spent more than 5 hours/day on average for UCW while men only did from 2 – 2.5 hours/day. These works are not only time- consuming and heavy, but also not recognized. Most of men consider that it is duty and responsibility of women and girls.

However, not everyone has that prejudice. There are men who strongly voice up to ask for equality, justice and rights for women. Mr. Nguyen Van Dang, a 60-year-old man, living in Phuc Loi ward, Long Bien district, Hanoi, is one of such men.

After so many years serving his factory as a worker, Mr. Dang is now retired and has more time for his family including his wife, son, daughter in law and three little grandchildren. Since then, he has understood and sympathized more with his wife and daughter in law who are in charge of so many “no name” works. Since 2014, Mr. Dang has encouragingly participated in the “Women’s Rights” program conducted by ActionAid Vietnam and Irish Aid as member of self-help group named Blue Dream.



Mr. Dang helping his wife in daily housework

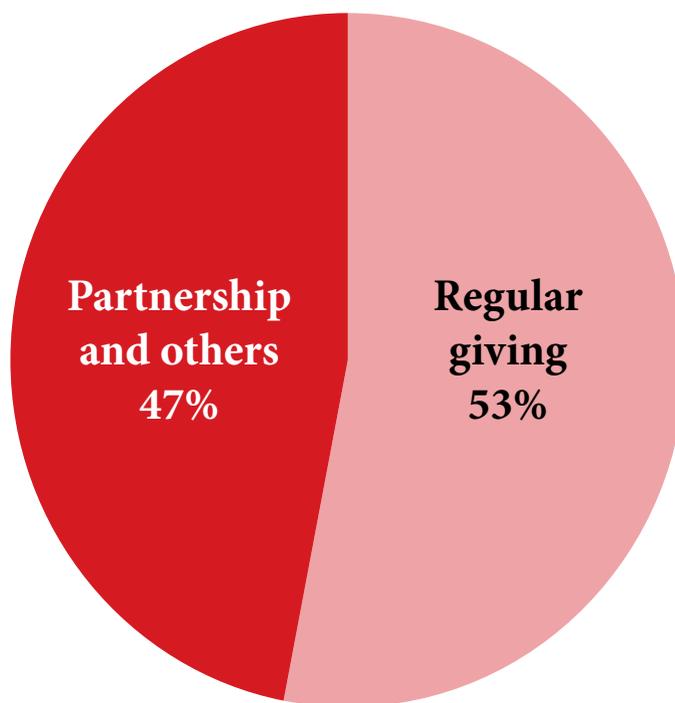
Having chances to attend training courses, communication events, survey on women's rights, he clearly understands about silent sacrifice of wives, mothers, daughters and sisters in every family with a lot of unnamed work. Back to his family, he actively shares housework with his wife, such as sweeping floor, cooking, washing, etc. so that his wife has more time for self-care, healthy exercises and social activities.

Not only changing himself, Mr. Dang communicates with his son and other men living in his area to understand about UCW and women's rights: "I invited them to my house and shared about what women have been doing, advised them to share with their wives, mothers, daughters and sisters to reduce burdens of women so that they could have time for relaxing and taking care of their health". The community meetings with participation of Mr. Dang and his wife are always excited and meaningful. They are full of propagating poems and dramas about women's rights. "Since I joined the project, my family has been happier and full of joy. I wish that under the women's rights project there will be more activities in more communes and wards so that men can engage in those activities." Mr. Dang said.

FINANCIAL REPORT

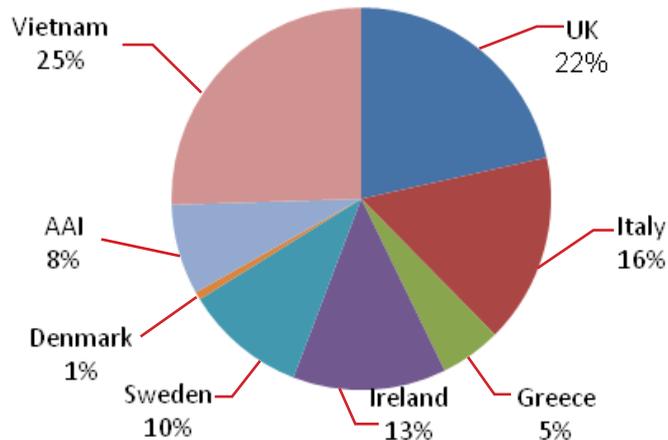
INCOME SOURCES

Income sources in 2016	Amount in '000 GBP	%
Regular giving	1,315	53%
Partnership and others	1,176	47%
Total	2,491	



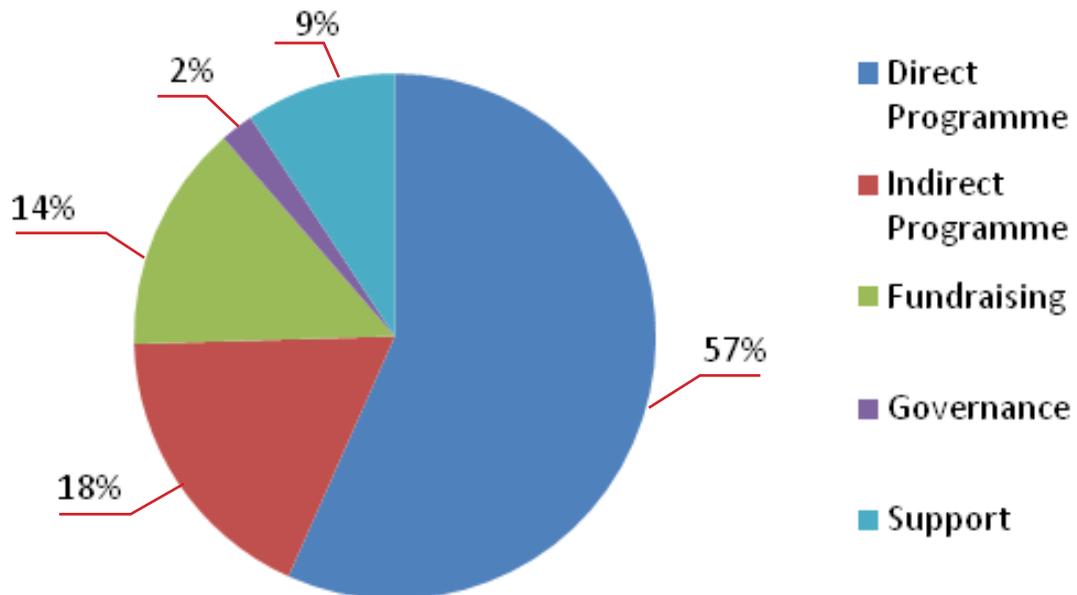
INCOME ANALYSIS

Income in 2016	Amount in '000 GBP	%
UK	536	22%
Italy	399	16%
Greece	129	5%
Ireland	326	13%
Sweden	259	10%
Denmark	17	1%
ActonAid International	190	8%
Vietnam	635	25%
	2,491	



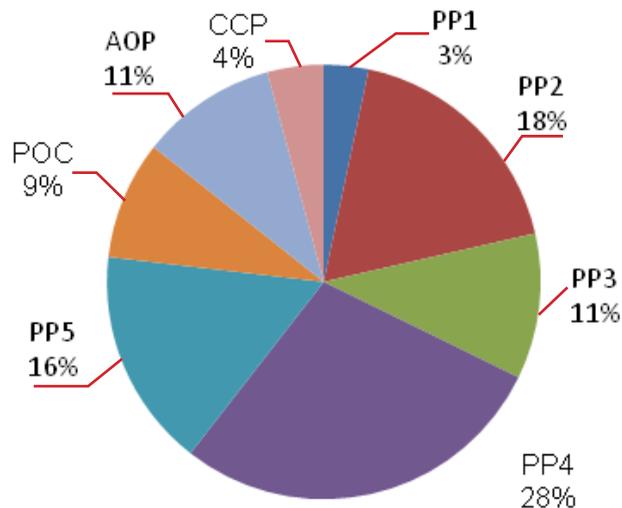
EXPENDITURE

Expenditure in 2016	Amount in '000 GBP	%
Direct Programme	1,572	57%
Indirect Programme	495	18%
Fundraising	390	14%
Governance	57	2%
Support	259	9%
Total expenditure	2,773	100%



PROGRAM EXPENDITURE

Program Expenditure in 2016	Amount in '000 GBP	%
PP1 –Livelihood & Agriculture	69	3%
PP2 –Governance	374	18%
PP3 –Education	223	11%
PP4 –Emergency	586	28%
PP5 –Women & Girls	336	16%
Partners' Operation Cost (POC)	182	9%
AAV's Operation Cost (AOP)	210	10%
Cross cutting PPs (CCP)	87	4%
Total	2,067	100%





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INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Donors Representative Office in Vietnam of ActionAid International

Opinion

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 2016, 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 5 to 22.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements are prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the accounting policies as described in Note 2 to the financial statements.

Basis for Opinion

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

Emphasis of Matter - Basis of Accounting and Restriction on Use and Distribution

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 Donors and management of the Office. As a result, the financial statements may not be suitable for another purpose. Our audit report is intended solely for the Donors and management of the Office and should not be used by or distributed to other parties other than the Donors and management of the Office. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.



Other Matter

We draw attention to the fact that we have not audited the Appendix to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2016 – Summary of Revolving loans as at 31 December 2016, as set out on page 23 and, accordingly, we do not express an opinion on this Appendix.

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation 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.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Office's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to cease operations or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Office's financial reporting process.

Auditors' Responsibility for the Audit of the Financial Statements

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

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit 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 Office's internal control.



- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management’s use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Office’s ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditors’ report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditors’ report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Office to cease to continue as a going concern.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.



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

Hanoi, 25 April 2017

**Representative Office in Vietnam of ActionAid International
Balance sheet as at 31 December 2016**

	Note	31/12/2016 GBP'000	31/12/2015 GBP'000
ASSETS			
Current assets		412	1,179
Cash	3	149	475
Amount due from other ActionAid members	4	49	498
Amount due from Partners	5	140	85
Prepayments		36	37
Deposits		17	16
Deferred income	6	13	-
Other receivables		7	67
Advances to employees		1	1
Non-current assets		-	-
Tangible fixed assets	7	-	-
<i>Cost</i>		38	38
<i>Accumulated depreciation</i>		(38)	(38)
TOTAL ASSETS		412	1,179
LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE			
Liabilities		234	170
Accrual of Gratuity		70	64
Taxes payables to State Treasury		6	5
Accrued expenses	8	130	84
Other payables		28	17
Fund balance		178	1,009
Accumulated surplus		178	1,009
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE		412	1,179

25 April 2017

Prepared by:



Nguyen Thi Huyen Minh
Head of Finance and Administration

Approved by:



Hoang Thi Phuong Thao
Country Director

The accompanying notes from pages 8 to 22 are an integral part of these financial statement.

**Representative Office in Vietnam of ActionAid International
Statement of income and expenditure for the year ended 31 December 2016**

	Note	2016 GBP'000	2015 GBP'000
Income	9		
Supporter Marketing - Regular Giving		1,306	1,327
Supporter Marketing - Others		75	38
High Value		1	14
Institutional		606	198
Other income		8	6
		1,996	1,583
Net transfer out to ActionAid International	10	(73)	(39)
Total income		1,923	1,544
Expenditure	11, 12		
Program/Project cost		2,060	1,848
Fundraising cost		389	211
Governance cost		54	57
Support cost		251	342
Total expenditure		2,754	2,458
Deficit of expenditure over income		(831)	(914)

25 April 2017

Prepared by:



Nguyen Thi Huyen Minh
Head of Finance and Administration

Approved by:



Hoang Thi Phuong Thao
Country Director

The accompanying notes from pages 8 to 22 are an integral part of these financial statements

Representative Office in Vietnam of ActionAid International
Statement of changes in fund balance for the year ended 31 December 2016

	Accumulated surplus GBP'000
Fund balance at 1 January 2015	1,923
Deficit of expenditure over income	(914)
Fund balance at 1 January 2016	1,009
Deficit of expenditure over income	(831)
Fund balance at 31 December 2016	178

25 April 2017

Prepared by:



Nguyen Thi Huyen Minh
Head of Finance and Administration

Approved by:



Hoang Thi Phuong Thao
Country Director

The accompanying notes from pages 8 to 22 are an integral part of these financial statements

RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

It is remarkable that AAV has successfully diversified its funding sources from 6 Institutional and High Value donors, contributing EUR 1,122,928 to AAV's income in 2016. Besides of existing donors such as Irish Aid, Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland, Byggmax, new partnerships with ECHO-FAO, Child Fund, Isle of Man were successfully established. All of three new projects focused on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Resilience issues, specifically:

- Project ***“Restoring food security and provide livelihood support to poor rural communities affected by the drought in the Central Highlands Region of Vietnam”*** was funded by Humanitarian aid and civil protection (ECHO) through partnership with Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). The project aims to restore the food security and livelihoods of the most drought affected communities in Gia Lai, Dak Lak and Dak Nong provinces.
- For the first time, a grant of GBP50,000 (EUR59,705) was successfully raised from Isle of Man for the project ***“Supporting communities affected by drought in Vietnam”***. 3,000 people – mainly poor & ethnic minority women and children in Lam Ha district, Lam Dong province and Krong Bong district, DakLak province was provided emergency relief to be more resilient to future disasters.
- Project ***“Disaster Relief Response in An Bien district, Kien Giang Province and Dong Hai district, Bac Lieu Province”*** is joint effort between ActionAid and ChildFund Australia to help vulnerable communities (especially women and children) living in two project areas suffering from drought and salt water intrusion have secured and improved life through emergency relief and sustainable prevention.

Another key highlight of 2016 AAV's fundraising activities is our success in raising funds from the EC to strengthen the civil society-led promotion of reproductive healthcare services. The grant was confirmed in 2016, contracting procedure will be finalized at the beginning of 2017. Considering the current context of decreasing funding from EC and other institutional donors, together with increasing competition from other organizations, this new 4-year project is particularly critical as it enables AAV to continue to maintain and strengthen positive strategic partnership with the EC. The project also opened new targeting sector - the promotion of access to quality and gender-responsive reproductive health care services in ethnic and rural areas of Vietnam, which would enrich the funded project portfolio of ActionAid nationally and internationally.

One more success was the partnership with local NGO – Aid for social protection program Foundation Vietnam (AFV). In 2016, AFV successfully raise funds from two organizations, including Bread for the World and CBM. Thanks to strong experience and expertise in development sector, ActionAid has been selected to become a strategic partner of AFV, to implement two projects mentioned above. This is considered as an effort and potential opportunity to diversify ActionAid's funding base in local context. By end of 2016, AAV has a total of 9,800 child sponsors, including expatriates and Vietnamese sponsors.

LOOKING FORWARD

In 2017, AAV plans the following key areas of focus and deliverables:

Developing the new AAV Strategy

Final version of AAI new Strategy 2018-2028 – Action for Global Justice – was approved by the Extraordinary Meeting of the AAI General Assembly on 7th December 2016 in Arusha, Tanzania. To prepare for this process in Vietnam, AAV has begun the process of developing its new strategy. Activities to develop the new strategy will include:

- A review of the current CSPV to assess achievements, challenges, gaps and lessons learnt from its implementation and make recommendations and inputs for the next period of new strategy;
- External context analysis for the new strategy
- Consultation workshops to collect ideas from communities, local partners and national partners on the new AAV strategy;
- Writing retreats to continue discussions and draft the new strategy;
- A consultation workshop for AAV staff on the new strategy; reviewed by AAI & AAV's Board
- A launching workshop to introduce the new AAV strategy.

25th Anniversary of AAV in Vietnam

To celebrate 25th year of presence of AAV in Vietnam, a series of events, including a competition to compose an AAV song and story of change, production of a stamp set of AAV's 25th Anniversary, a tree planting ceremony, a celebratory AAV Day will be organized to commemorate 25 years of AAV.

Capacity Building Focus: the Community Knowledge Center (CKC) will focus on providing skills and technical training for AAV and partners on Reflection-Action, women's rights, fundraising, the human rights based approach, livelihoods, ELBAG, etc.

Program Focus:

- **Value chain:** To strengthen peasant's collective power and market competitiveness via improving value chains and promoting cooperatives
- **Governance:** To promote people taking part in decision making, implementing and monitoring processes that impacts their lives and advocate for gender-responsive public services. We will continue to implement the project "People's participation in improvement of forest governance and poverty alleviation in Vietnam" (PFG) to create an open and interactive space for people from grassroots communities to participate in the national forest management information system to improve forest governance and contribute to poverty alleviation in Vietnam.
- **Urban poverty:** To advocate for budget allocation for public services, especially in public spaces
- **Climate Change:** We will continue to promote and replicate people-centered alternatives for disaster preparedness and response and climate resilient sustainable agriculture. Through the project "Building disaster resilient communities in Mekong Delta, Vietnam" co-funded by Bread for the World, we will build the capacity of vulnerable communities (especially women and youth from ethnic minorities) to reduce the negative impacts of climate change and improve coordination mechanisms in emergencies will be enhanced; and best practices on community-based disaster management and coordination as results from the project are replicated at provincial and national levels.
- **Disability:** Through the CBM-funded project "Civil Society-led Promotion of Disability and Inclusive Development" we will build the capacity of communities and local authorities to help persons with disabilities in two communes in Nho Quan district improve their quality of life by overcoming barriers which cause exclusion.
- **Reproductive health:** Through the EC4 project "Civil society-led promotion of reproductive healthcare services", we aim to reach 95,320 final beneficiaries (equivalent to 60% of district population who are young people and women) who will understand their sexual and reproductive health rights and have access to quality and gender responsive sexual and reproductive healthcare. Local and national authorities will better respond to essential sexual and reproductive health needs and rights by mainstreaming gender responsive services into development plans and budgets.
- **New and completed LRPs:** In 2017, AAV will also focus on phasing-in LRP 25 in Nho Quan district, Ninh Binh province, and phasing-out LRP 9 (Eakar District, DakLak province), LRP 15 (Da Bac district, Hoa Binh province), LRP 20 (Long Bien district, Hanoi), LRP 17 and LRP 101
- **Learning and Documentation:** documentation via video, social media on stories of change, process and best practices at communities and policy advocacy work to share among LRP, national and Federation.

Policy and campaign focus

- **Safe City Campaign:** We will continue the joint campaign effort towards safety for women and girls in public areas and services. An application 'S-city' will be developed and launched as a tool for people to report about public services of the cities, which accordingly will lead to safety of women and girls and abolition of gender based violence. A desk review on international safe city criteria will be carried out to analyze criteria on safe and sustainable cities of some countries and cities to get lessons learned to set up criteria on safe cities in Vietnam. Consultation workshops at LRP and national levels will be then organized to advocate for approval of the safe city criteria in Vietnam.
- **Unpaid Care Work:** The third batch of diary survey will be carried out to assess and analyze the time use of women and men and their respective contributions to unpaid care work. This project aims to bring about a change in attitude and behavior at the community among men and women and to advocate for the recognition, reduction, and redistribution of women's unpaid care work.
- **Tax Campaign:** Two researches on "Tax, Women's rights and Decent jobs" and "The impacts of tax treaties in Vietnam" will be launched to build advocate stakeholders for fairer tax to fund for gender-responsive public services.
- **Youth Act to End Poverty (YAEP) network:** AAV's CSP V (2012-2017) identifies youth both as drivers of change and partners of its programs in all levels, and in the last year of implementation of CSPV, we will continue to invest in the YAEP network to ensure it is well established at LRP, regional and national levels with coordinated and collective power bonding the members to act together for a common goal.

Resource Mobilization Focus

- **Supporter Development Program:** Create a strong linkage and synergies among AAV's work in programme, campaign, advocacy and child sponsorship towards enhancing supporters' engagement in LRPs and turning them into AAV's ambassadors.
- **Support Care:** Ensuring quality of supporter services; Maintaining and enhancing child sponsorship (CS) links; Participating in AAI's global projects/initiatives on invigorating CS.
- **Contract management for funded projects from IDP & Corporate:** Ensure reporting for existing projects; Contract management system is strengthened and closely watched by International Partnership Development, program & finance.