

THE PRIME MINISTER THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM
Independence – Freedom – Happiness

No: **286/2006/QĐ-TTg**

Hanoi, 27 December, 2006

DECISION
on the Issuance of the National Program for the Promotion of
Foreign Non-Governmental Organization Assistance 2006-2010

THE PRIME MINISTER

Pursuant to the Law on the Government Organization dated 25 December, 2001;

On the proposal of the Chairman of the Committee for Foreign Non-governmental Organization Affairs,

HEREBY DECIDES:

Article 1. To issue the “National Program for the Promotion of Foreign Non-Governmental Organization Assistance 2006-2010”, aimed at enhancing the administration and improving the effectiveness of cooperation with foreign non-governmental organizations.

Article 2. The Chairman of the Committee for Foreign Non-governmental Organization Affairs shall be responsible for organizing and guiding the implementation of the National Program for the Promotion of Foreign Non-Governmental Organization Assistance 2006-2010.

Ministers, Heads of Ministry equivalents, Chairmen of the People’s Committees of provinces, centrally-administered cities shall take the National Program for the Promotion of Foreign Non-Governmental Organization Assistance 2006-2010 as the basis to develop and implement Programs for the Promotion of Foreign Non-Governmental Organization Assistance for their respective ministries, agencies and localities.

Article 3. This Decision shall come into force 15 days after the date of publication in the Official Gazette.

Ministers, Heads of Ministry equivalents and Government agencies, Chairmen of the People's Committees of provinces, centrally-administered cities, shall abide by this Decision./.

FOR THE PRIME MINISTER
DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

(Signed and Sealed)

Pham Gia Khiem

- Secretariat of the Party Central Committee;
- Prime Minister, Deputies;
- Ministries, ministry equivalents, Government agencies;
- Office of Central Steering Committee for Anti-corruption;
- People's Committees and People's Councils of provinces and centrally-administered cities;
- Office of the Party Central Committee and Party Commissions;
- Office of the President;
- Council for Ethnic Affairs and Commissions of the National Assembly;
- Office of the National Assembly;
- People's Supreme Procuracy;
- People's Supreme Court;
- State Audit;
- Management Board of Bo Y International Border Economic Zone;
- Central bodies of mass organizations;
- National Institute of Administration;
- Office of the Government: Minister-Chief and Deputies, Website of the Government, Steering Committee 122, the Spokesman of the Prime Minister, Departments, Administrations, dependent units, Official Gazette;
- File: Secretariat, External Relations Department (3).

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No: **286/2006/QĐ-TTg**

Hanoi, 27 December, 2006

**NATIONAL PROGRAM FOR THE PROMOTION OF
FOREIGN NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION ASSISTANCE
2006-2010**

*(Promulgated in accordance with Decision No. 286/2006/QĐ-TTg
dated 27 December, 2006 of the Prime Minister)*

Part 1
**DESCRIPTIONS OF THE NATIONAL PROGRAM
FOR THE PROMOTION OF FOREIGN NON-GOVERNMENTAL
ORGANIZATION ASSISTANCE 2006-2010**

I. Basis for the development and orientation of the Program

The National Program for the Promotion of Foreign Non-governmental Organization Assistance 2006-2010 (herein after referred to as the Program) is developed with reference to the following key documents:

- Documents of the 10th National Congress of the Communist Party of Vietnam;
- The 2001-2010 National Socio-Economic Development Strategy;
- The Sustainable Development Strategy;
- The Comprehensive Poverty Reduction and Growth Strategy;
- The 2006-2010 Target Program for Poverty Reduction;
- The 2006-2010 Socio-Economic Development Plan.

II. Program Objectives

1. General Objective

To strengthen the promotion and raising the effectiveness of foreign non-governmental organization (NGO) assistance, contributing to poverty reduction and socio-economic development in Vietnam.

2. Specific Objectives

- To further develop the existing partnership cooperation between Vietnam and foreign NGOs, and broaden the relationship with potential foreign NGOs;
- To maintain and increase disbursement value of foreign NGO assistance, combined with improving the effectiveness of assistance from foreign NGOs by enhancing monitoring, evaluation and capacity building in the partnership with foreign NGOs;
- To develop an appropriate and favorable legal environment for foreign NGOs' activities, and improve the activeness of related sectors, localities and people's organizations in their relationship with foreign NGOs.

III. Descriptions of the Program

1. General orientation

Foreign NGO assistance should be in line with the country's orientations for socio-economic development and strategy for hunger eradication and poverty reduction, along the lines of sectoral and local priorities and development planning, supporting the poverty reduction and development efforts of the Government of Vietnam.

2. Sectoral orientations

- Sectoral orientations of the Program define sectors and activities prioritized by the Government of Vietnam for foreign NGO assistance;
- Foreign NGO assistance should be oriented along the advantages and strengths of foreign NGOs, supporting the implementation of national programs in specific areas.

a) Agriculture-Forestry-Fisheries and rural development:

- Assistance to the network of agriculture-, forestry-, and fisheries-extension: education, training, and knowledge and experience sharing to workers in this field;

- Support to small-scaled aquaculture, promoting community participation in the management of coastal fisheries resources, environment protection and diseases control.
- Rural infrastructure: developing infrastructure for small-scaled production such as irrigation works, pumping stations, inter-communal roads...;
- Building of models for integrated rural development; developing trades, handicrafts, small-scaled production and services; promoting changes in the economic structure by increasing non-agricultural income;
- Community-based credit and savings;
- Prevention of avian flu epidemic;
- Conducting of scientific studies in agriculture, forestry, fisheries and rural development.

b) Health:

- Training of health workers: supporting health worker training schools by ways of sharing experience and expertise, methods and professional skills; providing scholarships for training health workers locally and overseas;
- Public health infrastructure development: upgrading, constructing and providing equipment and facilities and technology transfer... to specialized central hospitals, provincial hospitals, district health centers and communal health stations;
- Assistance to national programs on prevention of malaria, tuberculosis, leprosy, dengue fever, safe water and sanitation...;
- Prevention of HIV/AIDS, support to and treatment for people living with HIV/AIDS, prevention and reduction of drug harms, dissemination about the dangers and hazards of drugs, and about using safe contraceptive methods...;
- Assistance to population activities such as family planning, birth control, dissemination and raising of awareness on population, reproductive health care...;

c) Education:

- Training of teachers at different levels with priorities given to primary and secondary school teachers in distant, remote and ethnic minority areas;
- Development of education infrastructure: construction of firm and modern universities, primary and junior high schools, preschools and kindergartens, boarding schools and dormitories for ethnic minority children; development of a proper system of libraries satisfying each level's requirements;
- Assistance to education exchange, foreign language teaching and learning, providing volunteer teachers of different fields of specialization for in-depth training institutions and secondary schools;
- Assistance to the training of information technology for primary and secondary schools, particularly those in rural, mountainous and remote areas.

d) Vocational training:

Providing assistance to vocational training, with adequate attention given to rural areas, urbanizing areas and outskirts:

- Assistance to developing vocational training curricula in line with orientations for sectoral development, sharing experience on efficient vocational training models;
- Infrastructure development for vocational training: building vocational training centers; providing equipment and facilities to vocational training schools and centers;
- Provision of high skilled vocational experts and instructors;
- Vocational training combined with job creation for disadvantaged people and people with disabilities.

e) Addressing social issues:

- Assistance to education for orphans, children with disabilities and homeless children;

- Assistance to victims of Agent Orange;
- Replacement of temporary houses for the poor and disadvantaged people, particularly in the remote, rural and/or ethnic minority areas and areas prone to natural disasters;
- Anti-trafficking of women and children;
- Awareness raising, prevention and minimization of traffic accidents.

f) Environment:

- Environmental protection: encouraging projects on environmental protection and improvement of living and natural environment (planting and protection of forests, especially salt-marsh forests, environmental sanitation...);
- Natural resources management: encouraging projects on improving the efficiency of sustainable use of such resources as land, water, air, forests;
- Preservation of wildlife and biodiversity;
- Addressing war consequences (dealing with war un-exploded ordnance, chemicals).

g) Prevention and mitigation of natural disasters and emergency relief:

- Assistance to programs on prevention and mitigation of natural disasters, forest plantation and protection (including salt-marsh forests), establishing early alarming systems...;
- Emergency relief (providing medicine, food, shelter, reconstructing productive infrastructure) in case of emergency or natural disaster.

h) Culture and sports:

- Cultural and sports exchange; training coaches and sportsmen;
- Promoting cultural values and preserving intangible cultures, preserving and developing the traditional culture and cultural heritages.

3. Geographical orientations

In terms of geographical orientations for foreign NGO assistance, priorities should be given to poor and mountainous provinces and those with ethnic minority people. Specific priorities shall be identified basing on the real situation of each locality:

a) Urban areas:

- Vocational training combined with job creation;
- Development of trades, handicrafts; supporting small and medium sized enterprises;
- Provision of healthcare services with greater attention given to disadvantaged people, support to specialized health centers; training and refreshment training health workers;
- Prevention of HIV/AIDS, drugs and prostitution;
- Assistance to disadvantaged people (orphans, homeless children and people with disabilities...).

b) Rural areas:

- Vocational training; developing trades, handicrafts, creating jobs and non-agricultural income; supporting community-based credit and savings programs;
- Development of agriculture- and forestry-extension; supporting the development of small-scaled production infrastructures, such as irrigation works, pumping stations, inter-communal roads...; developing models of integrated rural development, territory-based rural development, maximizing the comparative advantages of each region;
- Training of health workers; supporting health worker training schools by ways of sharing experience and expertise, methods and professional knowledge; development of public health infrastructure such as upgrading, constructing and providing equipment and facilities and technology transfer... to specialized central hospitals, provincial hospitals, district health centers and communal health stations; provision of safe water, improvement of environment sanitation;

- Prevention of HIV/AIDS, support and treatment for people living with HIV/AIDS, prevention and reduction of drug harms, dissemination about the dangers and hazards of drugs, and about using safe contraceptive methods; assistance to population activities such as family planning, birth control, dissemination and raising of awareness on population, reproductive health...;
- Training of teachers at different levels with priorities given to primary and secondary school teachers in remote and ethnic minority areas; construction of education infrastructure, concretization of primary and secondary schools and branches, preschools and kindergartens, boarding schools and dormitories for ethnic minority children;
- Assistance to disadvantaged people (orphans, homeless children and people with disabilities...);
- Addressing war consequences (un-exploded ordnance, fixed cultivation and resettlement, raising of awareness on the danger of un-exploded bombs, mines and ordnance, assistance to war victims with priorities given to victims of Agent Orange...);
- Environment protection and improvement (planting and protecting forests, especially salt-marsh forests); preservation of wildlife and biodiversity; preservation of cultural heritages;
- Developing the model of community-based disaster mitigation and prevention.

Part 2

MEASURES AND ORGANIZATION FOR IMPLEMENTATION

I. Implementation measures

1. Amendment of related legal documents to create favorable conditions for foreign NGO operation and their aid in Vietnam to be implemented with simplified and speedy procedures, at the same time improving the efficient management of this source of assistance.

- Formulating, guiding and concretizing regulations on value added tax, income tax... for expatriates and Vietnamese working for foreign NGOs;

- Formulating policies to encourage, promote, commend and reward organizations and individuals with significant achievements and contribution to the improvement of foreign NGO assistance in Vietnam.

2. Strengthening cooperation and information sharing to disseminate Vietnam's needs with foreign NGOs and donors, targeting assistance towards prioritized areas and regions.

- Developing state-of-the-art information systems, ensuring timely and adequate information on the situation and sectoral and local needs, serving as a basis for foreign NGO review for funding. Information can be uploaded to the Internet, newsletters can be developed, and appropriate and practical forms of seminars can be organized to strengthen cooperation;
- Organizing overseas study visits to learn about the organization and operation of foreign NGOs, organizing seminars on Vietnam abroad; enhancing the participation of the Vietnamese diplomatic missions and representative offices abroad in promoting foreign NGO assistance;
- Enhancing the operation of the VUFO-NGO Resource Center to better serve the need for information of foreign NGOs, donors, and better information sharing on the needs of Vietnamese agencies, localities, and partners; annual conferences with foreign NGOs could be organized depending on specific conditions and situation;
- Strengthening cooperation and coordination with foreign NGOs in building their long-term country strategies in Vietnam; building a cooperation framework with foreign NGOs and bilateral, multilateral development cooperation agencies;
- Sectors and localities should provide regular updates on their needs to central competent agencies in systematic ways so as to widely disseminate and share with foreign NGOs.

3. Enhancing monitoring and evaluation to improve aid effectiveness.

- Developing a system for monitoring and evaluating foreign NGOs' programs and projects for timely experience learning and adjustment of program activities and outcomes nationwide;

- Enhancing information and dissemination on the effectiveness of this source of assistance, effective project models, practical experience and lessons learnt, to funding organizations and Vietnamese partners.
- Strengthening and promoting the monitoring and evaluation model for foreign NGO-funded projects with participation of the Fatherland Front, its member organizations and the community.

4. Improving human resources in foreign NGO affairs.

- Enhancing capacity building and training in professional knowledge for staff responsible for NGO-related work in sectors and localities, providing them with skills on relationship development, aid raising, implementation, management, monitoring and evaluation of foreign NGO-funded projects..., and in-depth understanding of government regulations...;
- Promoting a pool of staff from central to local levels and a network of domestic independent consultants to complement resources for foreign NGO affairs, particularly in project identification, planning, monitoring and evaluation (promoting the role of experts, universities and colleges, research institutions... in these activities);
- Enhancing information and experience sharing among the Vietnamese working for foreign NGOs.

5. Strengthening the apparatus of both central and local management agencies relating to NGO's activities and assistance.

- Step-by-step improving the functions, responsibilities and authority of the Committee for Foreign NGO Affairs;
- Strengthening the capacity of the Standing Agency of the Committee for Foreign NGO Affairs;
- Building capacity of focal point agencies in charge of foreign NGO affairs in localities, ensuring well-trained, appropriate and specialized staff as well as adequate facilities to undertake efficient aid raising, management and utilization.

II. Organization for Implementation

- The Committee for Foreign Non-governmental Organization Affairs shall assume the responsibility in promoting and monitoring the implementation of the Program, and concretizing the Program by detailed plans of action; providing instructions and assistance to and coordinating with ministries, sectors, people's organizations at central and local levels in raising foreign NGO assistance;
- The Vietnam Union of Friendship Organizations shall act as the focal point for aid raising and relationship with foreign NGOs; bear the responsibility of monitoring, guiding, collecting and disseminating information to agencies and localities with regards to aid raising and relationship with foreign NGOs;
- Relevant agencies in the framework of the Committee for Foreign Non-governmental Organization Affairs shall take part in monitoring and promoting the implementation of the Program according to their functions;
- The ministries, sectors, central bodies of people's organizations, taking the national Program as the basis, shall concretize priorities for further enhancing foreign NGO assistance according to each sector's real situation; enhancing the coordination among agencies and with localities in the orientation and management of NGO aid raising;
- The People's Committee of provinces and centrally-administered cities, based on the national Program, shall concretize the priorities for foreign NGO assistance according to the real situation of each locality with provincial programs on the promotion of foreign NGO assistance;
- The budget for the planning and implementation of the Program shall be allocated from the State budget, which shall be incorporated in the annual budget of ministries, sectors and central bodies of people's organizations, the People's Committees of provinces, centrally-administered cities and the Committee for Foreign Non-governmental Organization Affairs./.

**FOR THE PRIME MINISTER
DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER**

(Signed and sealed)
Pham Gia Khiem