International NGO Partnerships for Sustainable Development

December 2016
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Letter from the Managing Co-Director

Welcome to 2016 edition of the International NGO Partnerships for Sustainable Development Report! Thank you for taking a moment and reading about activities performed by 12 active Working Groups during the year, with the support of the VUFO-NGO Resource Centre. In this letter, I would like to mention a few events and activities which have made an impact on the large community of international non-governmental organisations (INGOs) in Vietnam.

In 2016 INGOs continued their activities in poverty reduction and sustainable development. Throughout the year they also participated in several important consultations regarding the new decree on Law on Associations and the ongoing revision of Decree 93. In November the National Assembly officially postponed the voting for the new Law on Association, while dialogues about Decree 93 with the Ministry of Planning and Investment continued. Two important events dominated political, economic and development environment in the country: the 12th Party Congress in January and parliamentary elections in May. The Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc assumed office in April and the new Government has been appointed.

Although six member INGOs closed their missions and left Vietnam, the majority of INGOs remained financially strong and committed to a long-term support. Amongst our members fifteen new country directors have been appointed in the past 12 months. Currently, the VUFO-NGO Resource Centre brings together 105 international organisations. In September this year we introduced some changes in order to secure high quality of services and long-term sustainability. All non-members and other partners started paying a modest contribution fee when advertising jobs through our mailing lists and website. Existing members continue to use all services free of charge and will keep other privileges.

Our fruitful relationship with the People’s Aid Coordinating Committee (PACCOM) remained strong and has expanded to include a newly established Vietnam Institute for International and Public Diplomacy Studies under the Vietnam Union of Friendship Organisations (VUFO). PACCOM teams have been joining most meetings of the active Working Groups and have participated in many joint initiatives during 2016.

I would also like to mention a sad event that happened a year ago, when our community lost one of the biggest supporters of the Vietnam’s war victims, particularly those who suffered from the toxic defoliant Agent Orange. In late November 2015 the Secretary of the Britain-Vietnam Friendship Society Mr. Len Aldis passed away in London, aged 85. His legacy will stay alive through the smiles of Vietnamese children whom he supported all his life.

Lastly, I would like to express our gratitude to INGO members, associated members, partner organisations and individuals for their continued support. We look forward to improving our services and continuing our efforts in 2017 for the benefit of people in Vietnam.

Sincerely,

Marko Lovrekovic, Managing Co-Director
The VUFO-NGO Resource Centre

The VUFO-NGO Resource Centre provides valuable services to the international and Vietnamese community and occupies an important niche in supporting Vietnam's development. The centre is a partnership between international non-governmental organisations (INGOs) working in Vietnam, and the Vietnam Union of Friendship Organizations (VUFO). This year 105 international non-governmental organisations working in Vietnam are members of the centre. Our services and support also benefit Vietnamese NGOs, non-member NGOs, UN agencies, the donor community in Vietnam, local institutions, Vietnamese Government agencies and international and national researchers.

The centre’s objectives are to:

1. promote, facilitate and contribute to the sharing of information, resources and experiences within and between INGOs, their partners and local organisations, in order to improve the quality and impact of their work in Vietnam; and

2. strengthen relationships and enhance dialogue between INGOs and other development 'actors' in Vietnam, including government agencies, donors and local organisations.

History

The VUFO-NGO Resource Centre was established in 1993. It grew out of a loose network of INGOs working in Vietnam in the early 1990s. Since the early, informal meetings on the last Friday of every month, INGOs have continued to share information and collaborate to improve the quality of their programmes. In 1998, the link with the Vietnam Union of Friendship Organizations (VUFO) was strengthened with the establishment of a co-directorship with VUFO and expansion of the centre's Steering Committee to include Vietnamese agencies.

Activities and Services

**INGO Forum:** The Resource Centre hosts the INGO Forum once or twice every year. Open to representatives of INGOs affiliated with the Resource Centre, it offers them the opportunity to share experiences and better co-ordinate common activities. The Forum is the highest decision-making authority of the Resource Centre, electing the Steering Committee and representatives for external meetings and endorsing joint statements. The Resource Centre welcomes visiting experts wishing to attend or make presentations. For more information, contact the Managing Co-Director at <director@ngocentre.org.vn>

**Website:** Our website at <www.ngocentre.org.vn> provides information to support the work of INGOs, Vietnamese NGOs, institutions and others involved with development in Vietnam.

**Working Groups:** The Resource Centre encourages and facilitates its members to establish working groups on different issues. INGOs, Vietnamese NGOs and other interested parties also participate. In 2016 there were 12 active working group.

**INGO Directory:** The Resource Centre maintains an online directory of INGOs providing support to Vietnam, available at the following link: <http://www.ngocentre.org.vn/ingodirectory>

**Library:** The Resource Centre maintains a library at its office of publications on development and Vietnam, with an online catalogue: <http://ngocentre.org.vn/library>
Newsletter: We email a newsletter about Resource Centre activities and general development news every two weeks to member organisations.

Dialogue and Advocacy: The Resource Centre works to support, and advocate on behalf of, international NGOs in the changing development context of Vietnam, and to improve coordination and dialogue between INGOs and government institutions, Vietnamese NGOs and donors. This includes:

- participation in drafting of government strategies and policies;
- facilitation and support for consultation on donor strategies and reports;
- representation, participation and preparation of a written joint INGO statement for the Consultative Group meetings between the Government and donors;
- support for preparation of INGO reports, such as the INGO Complementary Report on the Convention of the Rights of the Child;
- participation in different partnership groups and local NGO networks, such as the Ministry of Health's Health Partnership Group.

Structure

The centre's office in Hanoi is staffed by a small secretariat headed by the Managing Co-Director. The other Co-Director works within the People's Aid Coordinating Committee (PACC) under the Vietnam Union of Friendship Organizations (VUFO).

As noted, the INGO Forum is the highest decision-making authority and selects the five INGO representatives for the Steering Committee, as well as INGO representatives to the Vietnam Development Forum meetings and partnership groups. The Steering Committee has the responsibility to govern, oversee and decide on the strategic direction of the centre, as well as to provide guidance, support and oversight of the activities of the Managing Co-Director. It meets each quarter and comprises five INGO representatives and five Vietnamese agencies. The activities of the Resource Centre are almost entirely funded by membership fees. It raises funds for the remaining amount as needed.
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<th>Acronyms</th>
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<td>ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency</td>
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<td>AAF</td>
<td>Animals Asia Foundation</td>
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<td>AAV</td>
<td>ActionAid Vietnam</td>
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<td>ABA</td>
<td>The American Bar Association’s Rule of Law Initiative</td>
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<td>ABC</td>
<td>Awareness and Behaviour Change</td>
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<td>ACDI/VOCA</td>
<td>Agricultural Cooperative Development International Volunteers in Overseas Cooperative Assistance</td>
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<td>ACR</td>
<td>A Child’s Right</td>
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<td>ADPC</td>
<td>Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre</td>
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<td>ADRA</td>
<td>Adventist Development and Relief Agency in Vietnam</td>
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<tr>
<td>AECID</td>
<td>Spanish Agency for International Cooperation and Development</td>
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<td>AED</td>
<td>Academy for Educational Development</td>
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<td>AEPD</td>
<td>Association for Empowerment for Persons with Disability</td>
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<td>AEAI</td>
<td>Aide et Action International in Vietnam</td>
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<td>AFAP</td>
<td>The Australian Foundation for the Peoples of Asia and the Pacific</td>
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<td>AIDA</td>
<td>Aida Ayuda, Intercambio y Desarrollo</td>
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<td>Allianz Mission e.V.</td>
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<td>AMCROSS</td>
<td>American Red Cross</td>
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<td>CED</td>
<td>Coalition for Environment and Development</td>
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<td>CEDAW</td>
<td>Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women</td>
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<td>CEMA</td>
<td>Committee for Ethnic Minorities’ Affairs</td>
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<td>Abbreviation</td>
<td>Full Name</td>
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<td>CESVI</td>
<td>CESVI Fondazione Onlus</td>
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<td>CCWG</td>
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<td>COP18</td>
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<td>CRC</td>
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<td>CSAGA</td>
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<td>CSO</td>
<td>Civil Society Organisation</td>
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<td>Cic</td>
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<td>CWS</td>
<td>Church World Service</td>
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<td>DMC</td>
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<td>DMHCC</td>
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<td>DOLISA</td>
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<td>DPO</td>
<td>Development Project Objective</td>
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<td>Disability Research and Capacity Development Centre</td>
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<td>E&amp;D</td>
<td>Enfants &amp; Developpement</td>
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<td>EAST</td>
<td>Eau Agriculture Santé en milieu Tropical au Vietnam</td>
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<td>ECF</td>
<td>Eye Care Foundation</td>
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<td>EFD</td>
<td>Education for Development</td>
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<td>ELAN</td>
<td>Ecosystems and Livelihoods Adaptation Network</td>
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<td>ELI</td>
<td>English Language Institute Vietnam</td>
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EM  Ethnic Minorities
EMW  East Meets West Foundation
EMWG  Ethnic Minorities Working Group
ENDA  Environment and Development in Action
ERW  Explosive Remnants of War
FES  Friedrich Ebert Stiftung
FFI  Flora and Fauna International
FHF  The Fred Hollows Foundation
FHI  Family Health International
FIDR  Foundation for International Development / Relief
FOSCO  Service Company to Foreign Missions
FPSC  Foundation for the Social Promotion of Culture
GCSF  Global Community Service Foundation
GIHCD  Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining
GNI  Good Neighbors International
GRC  German Red Cross - Vietnam Country Office
GRET  Research and Technological Exchange Group
GVI  Glocal Ventures, Inc.
Habitat  Habitat for Humanity Vietnam
Hagar  Hagar International in Vietnam
HDI  Humpty Dumpty Institute
HealthBridge  HealthBridge Foundation of Canada
Heifer  Heifer International Vietnam
Helvetas  Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation
HHC  Hue Help
HI  Handicap International
HICS  Handicap International Federation
HIV  Human Immune-deficiency Virus
HKI  Helen Keller International - Vietnam
HUFO  Ho Chi Minh City Union of Friendship Organizations
IC-VVAF  International Center - Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation
IDE  International Development Enterprises
IE  Inclusive Education
IFRC  International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
IIE  Institute of International Education
ILO  International Labour Organization
INGO  International Non-Governmental Organisation
IPCC  Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change
iSEE  Institute for Studies of Society, Economy and Development
JANI  Joint Advocacy Network Initiative
JAT  Joint Assessment Team
JPA  Joint Principles for Adaptation
LA  Lien Aid
LCMS  LCMS World Mission
LDSC  Latter-day Saint Charities
LVAP  Loreto Vietnam Australia Program
M&E  Monitoring and Evaluation
MAG  Mines Advisory Group
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
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<tr>
<td>Maison</td>
<td>NGO Maison Chance</td>
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<td>Maryknoll</td>
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<td>MEDRIX</td>
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<td>Mobility International USA</td>
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<td>Men who have sex with men</td>
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<td>ORBIS International</td>
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<td>RECOFTC</td>
<td>Regional Community Forestry Training Centre</td>
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<td>REDD</td>
<td>Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation</td>
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RLS  Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung
RT  Room to Read
Rutgers WPF  Rutgers WPF
RWSSP  Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Partnership
SBV  State Bank of Vietnam
SCC  Saigon Children’s Charity
SCV  Save the Children in Vietnam
SNV  Netherlands Development Organisation
SODI  Solidarity Service International
SPIR  Samaritan’s Purse International Relief
SPM  Social Performance Management
SPMWG  Social Performance Management Working Group
SP-RCC  Support Program to Respond to Climate Change
SRC  Spanish Red Cross
SRD  Centre for Sustainable Rural Development
STI  Sexually Transmitted infection
TAF  The Asia Foundation
TBS  Targeted Budget Support
TOR  Terms of Reference
TOT  Training of Trainers
UNCRPD  United Nation Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
UNDP  United Nations Development Programme
UNODC  United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UNFPA  United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF  United Nations Children’s Fund
UNMAS  United Nations Mine Action Service
UN-PCG  UN Natural Disasters & Emergencies Programme Coordinating Group
UXO  Unexploded Ordnance
VAPRC  Vietnam Association for Protection of the Rights of the Child
VAVA  Vietnam Association for Victims of Agent Orange
VBMAC  Vietnam Bomb and Mine Action Centre
VECO  Vredeseilanden - VECO Vietnam
VFPV  Volunteers for Peace Vietnam
VIA  Volunteers In Asia
VMAPG  Vietnam Mine Action Partnership Group
VNAH  Vietnam Assistance for the Handicapped
VNGO-CC  Vietnamese NGOs Climate Change Network
VNMAC  Vietnam National Mine Action Centre
VSO  Voluntary Service Overseas
VNIIO  Vietnam National Institute of Ophthalmology
VUFO  Vietnam Union of Friendship Organizations
VVAF  Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation
VVMF  Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund
VVOB  Flemish Association for Development Cooperation & Technical Assistance
VWAM  Vets With A Mission
WARECOD  Centre for Water Resources, Conservation and Development
WASSH  Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene
WCV  World Concern Vietnam
WHO  World Health Organization
WIMR  Woolcock Institute of Medical Research Vietnam
WJCF  The William J. Clinton Foundation
WSPA  World Society for the Protection of Animals
WUSC  World University Service of Canada
WVI  World Vision International - Vietnam
WWF  World Wide Fund
WWO  Worldwide Orphans Foundation
xin chao  xin chao Kinderhilfe Vietnam
YWAM-MRDA  Youth With A Mission, Mercy, Relief and Development - Asia
Background and objectives

The Agent Orange Working Group (AOWG) was formed in July 2004, under the VUFO-NGO Resource Center. The group was initiated by international NGO members of the Resource Center. Participation is open to INGOs, Vietnamese counterpart agencies, international organizations and other interested local and foreign personnel.

Participants in the Working Group approach the issue of Agent Orange from a broad variety of perspectives, including scientific research, assistance to people with disabilities, resolution of war legacies, environmental remediation, public health interventions and risk communication to reduce exposure for local people at dioxin hot spots, the arts and humanities, and US-Vietnam relations. Members share information, research findings and experiences in order to better understand and respond to issues related to dioxins in Agent Orange and other defoliants used in the war in Vietnam.

Objectives

1. To share information and views on international and local NGO projects and various Vietnamese and international initiatives relating to Agent Orange/ dioxin.
2. To enhance participants’ understanding of the range and complexity of issues relating to Agent Orange / dioxin.
3. To form and strengthen a network of relevant groups and individuals to meet and discuss current events and issues around Agent Orange / dioxin.

Activities

As in past years, the primary function of the AOWG in 2016 has been to share information about policy, political, and practical assistance initiatives related to the issue of Agent Orange dioxin, with the main focus on Vietnam. E-mail correspondence has been the major channel of communications, providing announcements, reports, and news clips. In 2016 the AOWG did not meet at all – not a good practice, generally speaking, although there was also no particular imperative for the group to meet. Many members are not in Hanoi and are not able to attend meetings, so participation is usually limited. The AOWG may hold one meeting before the end of 2016 to review and summarize any developments during the year.

In 2016 there were two main initiatives regarding AO dioxin, continuing from previous years:

1. the technical cleanup of the dioxin-contaminated area around the Da Nang International Airport; and
2. expanded assistance to Persons With Disabilities (PWD) funded by USAID.

Phase 1 of the Da Nang Airport cleanup was completed, at a cost of around US$105 million. U.S. President Barack Obama, during his April visit to Vietnam, indicated that the United States would consider continuing cleanup efforts with a likely focus on the former U.S. air-base at Bien Hoa.

USAID, with funding earmarked by Sen. Patrick Leahy and colleagues in the U.S. Senate, expanded its assistance to PWD families with special attention to the needs of families suf-
Suffering from health consequences presumably caused by Agent Orange / dioxin. Total funding was around US$21 million, with priority to Vietnamese national NGOs and local organizations. Some support was channelled through international NGOs.

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Background and Objectives

The Child Rights Working Group (CRWG), established in 2006, is a technical working group, consisting of representatives from both international and local NGOs, mass organisations, research institutes, experts, individuals and other community groups in Vietnam. Other agencies and organizations, such as UN bodies and specialised agencies (such as UNICEF, ILO, and UNODC) and Government ministries are our partners and guest speakers in information/experience exchanging sessions.

The overall purpose of the CRWG is to promote the rights of the child and to strengthen their implementation, by increasing and enhancing the communication, collaboration and coordination between all actors who work in the child rights area.

The CRWG’s aims are:

1) Share experiences, improving the development practice of members' organisations

- To share practical experiences, best practices and lessons learned from the practice, theories and approaches both outside and inside Vietnam for the mutual benefit of all organisations involved;

- To provide a forum for new ideas and a platform for topic-oriented group work, presentations and discussions with concrete outcomes;

- To develop coordination mechanisms/tools;

- To document, discuss and disseminate lessons learnt to improve best practice and facilitate our ability to adapt projects appropriately;

- To collaborate on common areas for capacity building, raising awareness, lobbying and advocacy, particularly in the areas of child participation and child protection.

2) Policy dialogue and advocacy

- To facilitate networking among child focused organisations and associations, and serve as a focal point for consultation, policy dialogue and common strong line/positioning/statements;

- To advocate for and make programme and policy recommendations for a supportive and enabling environment to strengthen the implementation of Vietnam's commitment to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC);

- To collaborate in view of the development of relevant Government policies and legal frameworks as well as in support of the implementation of government programmes, with the aim to support the implementation of the CRC;

- To raise a common voice and play an active role in child rights promotion and advocacy with stakeholders;
Membership

The CRWG meets every two months. Its chair rotates annually and at present, its Co-Chairs are Plan International Vietnam and Vietnam Association for the Protection of Child’s Rights.

Key members of the CRWG include:

- Vietnam Association for the Protection of Child’s Rights
- World Vision International in Vietnam
- Good Neighbour International
- Plan International Vietnam
- O Xinh (Pretty Umbrella)
- ChildFund Vietnam
- Save the Children
- CENFORCHIL
- CEFA COM
- UNICEF

Key Activities During 2016 (updated till 3 November 2016)

1. Preparing for policy dialogue with relevant ministries on the implementation of child rights in Vietnam

CRWG members, especially UNICEF, World Vision International, ChildFund, Save the Children, the Vietnam Association for Protection of Child’s Rights, CENFORCHIL, O Xinh and Plan International, have discussed together to prepare for policy dialogue with relevant ministries on the implementation of child rights in Vietnam which will be organised by UNICEF in December this year. Children in ethnic minorities areas and children with disability have been selected as two key themes for CRWG to present at the policy dialogue. Relevant research, studies and data have been collected for drafting the policy brief. We have also contacted the Ethnic Minority Working Group and Disability Working Group for inputs from their members.

2. Continuing to prepare for the Complementary Convention of the Rights of the Child (CRC) report

During the consultation workshop in October 2015 CRWG members, with UNICEF support, identified priority issues; agreed on the road map for developing the complementary CRC report; and divided responsibilities for coordination and technical assistance in different areas. They defined a monitoring framework with indicators to monitor Decree 535. A follow up workshop was organised by Save the Children, Vietnam Association for Protection of Child Rights and CRWG in October 2016. An outline for the report has been developed and
agreed amongst members. Furthermore, lessons learned on supporting children to develop their own report have been shared by UNICEF for further discussion.

3. Join with UNICEF to conduct a study on budgeting for child protection

The Concluding Observation from the UN Committee for Child Rights has pointed out the issue of the limited budget allocation for implementing child rights. However, we do not have any accurate data about it. Therefore, with financial support from Child Fund, CRWG and Child Fund have worked closely with UNICEF to conduct a study on budgeting for child protection in Vietnam. The MoU between UNICEF, Child Fund, Children Bureau and CRWG has been drafted. It is expected to be completed by March 2017. The result of this study will be used as evidence-based advocacy for increasing the budget for child protection in Vietnam.

4. Nominate local NGOs for Stars Foundation award

Stars Foundation invests in organisations and ideas that help improve the lives of disadvantaged children and their communities globally. Annually, they give Stars Impact Awards to recognise and reward outstanding local organisations working to improve the lives of disadvantaged children and their communities in the countries including Vietnam.

Following the success of the nomination last year, CRWG has again been selected by Star Foundation to nominate local CSOs working for children. The criteria are similar to last year. Nominees should be not-for-profit organisations, child-focussed, needs-led, ambitious, strong, inclusive, collaborative, local, autonomous and independent. Each award comprises US$50,000 of flexible funding and capacity building support.

This year three local NGOs have been nominated by the CRWG - Live and Learn, Saigon Charity Fund for Children and iSEE. We are waiting for the result from Star Foundation.
5. Connecting local NGOs and CSOs with donors, international NGOs and potential donors

In order to connect local NGOs and CSOs with potential donors, CRWG invited International Hanoi Women Club to join our regular working group meeting in September 2016. They have funding opportunities for organisations registered in Vietnam and working on health, education and community development. The funding application can be accessed on their website.

CRWG is planning in November 2016 to meet Manan Trust – a Hong Kong-based organisation to share with it the landscape of local NGOs working on child rights in Vietnam. The results of the meeting will be then disseminated widely for all CRWG members.

Future Directions for 2017

- Policy dialogues with the National Assembly's Committee for Culture, Children and Youth and other relevant ministries on child rights-related topics.
- Continue to prepare the CRC complimentary report.
- Complete the study on budgeting for child protection and use it as evidence-based advocacy.
- Continue to build capacity on child rights, child protection, child participation and child labour for CRWG members and other interested parties.
- Enhance collaboration with other working groups such as the Ethnic Minority Working Group, Disability Working Group, Disaster Reduction Management Working Group and Climate Change Working Group.
- Elect new co-chair for CRWG.

Current Co-Chairs for the CRWG

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Climate Change Working Group

http://www.ngocentre.org.vn/ccwg

Background and Objectives

The Climate Change Working Group (CCWG) is an open network of NGOs in Vietnam under the auspices of the VUFO-NGO Resource Centre, working on climate change. It was set up in 2008, has over 100 NGO members including 12 core member organisations, and more than 1,150 individuals subscribe to its electronic mailing list. The CCWG aims to reduce the vulnerability of poor people to the impacts of climate change through NGO coordination, advocacy and capacity building for environmentally and economically sustainable and socially just responses to climate change. It advocates for such improvements based on considerable experience with community-based climate change initiatives (CBCCIs), on a wide range of specific topics, on which it engages leaders at the local level. The CCWG, along with the network of Vietnamese Non-Governmental Organisations and Climate Change (VNGO&CC), has agreed memorandums of understanding on coordination and information sharing with two ministries, which enhance dialogue at the national level on disaster risk reduction (DRR), community-based climate change adaptation, and GHG emissions mitigation.

Key Activities

1) Post COP21: The Paris Agreement and its Implications for Vietnam

On 21 January 2016, CCWG in cooperation with the Department for Meteorology, Hydrology and Climate Change (DMHCC) organised successfully a workshop named ‘After COP21: The Paris Agreement and its implication for Vietnam’ with a view to sharing the achievements of COP 21, the main contents of the Paris Agreement and its implications for Vietnam as well as discussing the next steps to implement the Agreement. The workshop was chaired by DMHCC and attracted a number of representatives from NGOs, research institutes, universities, embassies, development organisations and media as well as individuals.

Besides sharing key results of COP21, important presentations were made by DMHCC and CCWG regarding implementation and the role of NGOs, which were valuable inputs to help the network develop the annual plan for 2016. This was also the biggest achievement of the Post COP21 event.
2) **Theory of Change workshop**

In order to effectively influence policies to improve the resilience of vulnerable groups, CCWG organised two days of workshops to develop an advocacy plan for the network from 2017 to 2020. With effective guideline from an independent consultant and an updated on implementation progress from all core members, CCWG successfully completed the influence strategy.

Key outputs of the strategy are:

- Disseminate information and about good practices and successful case studies of Community-Based Climate Change Initiatives (CBCCIs), which have been documented during the last phase in Vietnam, and developing a wide range of target-specific communications products (report, policy brief, poster/infographics) to engage with national and provincial level policy-makers but also increasingly with development partners who are advising them.

- Develop common positions and recommendations from civil society organisations on gender, adaptation and mitigation to generate high-quality input into the policy making process.

- Contextualising the Joint Principles of Adaptation (JPA) further and flexibly promoting the localized JPA among other national networks (e.g. Vietnamese NGOs and climate change) through learning/sharing events and integrating JPA through MARD (Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development) and MONRE planning processes through the consultation events where local voices and concerns on climate change realities and improving the connection between local people and national level policy-makers can be raised.

- Engage with MARD and MONRE to ensure a focus on vulnerable groups in some key national program/policies as well as their planning processes.:  
  - MARD’s Action Plan on Climate Change Response 2016 – 2020, vision to 2050
  - The new phase of the Support Program in Response to Climate Change (SP-RCC).
  - Preparation of implementation of the Paris Agreement coordinated by MONRE.

3) **Providing evidence on and promoting community-based climate change initiatives (CBCCI)**

With the aim to make Vietnam and its vulnerable people stronger in the face of climate change, Vietnamese and International Non-Governmental Organisations with their partners have implemented numerous community based climate change initiatives (CBCCI) for more than 10 years and in over half of the country (36 provinces and five cities). CBCCIs have proven to generate four key benefits: 1) Reduced vulnerability to disaster and climate change; 2) Protection of natural resources and greenhouse gas mitigation; 3) Poverty reduction, food security and economic development; 4) Social cohesion, empowerment and solidarity. CBCCIs also demonstrate the benefits of community involvement, highlighting capacities and contributions to socially and environmentally sound climate change response measures and offer a feasible and affordable way of making the INDC commitment operational.

To show how community-based climate change initiatives can enable policy makers to live up to and realise their climate response commitment in Vietnam, the Climate Change Working Group (CCWG), chaired by Oxfam together with the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, held a workshop at the Hanoi Club on June 3. Different climate change experts from Vietnam and abroad, Government representatives from the Department of Meteorology and NGO repres-
entatives from the ASEAN region all provided insights and different angles on how to tackle the climate challenge.

During the workshop three publications that aimed to help to improve policy makers’ climate change response through promotion and integration of community-based approaches were launched: 1) The Community Based Climate Change Initiatives (CBCCI) Report; 2) The CBCCI Policy Brief; 3) The accompanying CBCCI fact sheets on how community-based adaptations are mitigating climate risks.

The CBCCI report showcases 16 tested and readily-available initiatives that directly address climate risks and impacts for the most vulnerable social groups all over Vietnam. It provides lessons for improved practice as well as recommendations for policy makers on how community-based initiatives and participatory policy making that link top-down with bottom-up approaches can make Vietnam more resilient.

The policy brief features clear messages and evidence for policy makers on how CBCCIs are generating multiple wins for all involved. It demonstrates the success of government collaborating with NGOs in integrating CBCCI into policies and programmes making strategic choices, proactively mobilising resources and showcasing leadership. Having a fundamental value for all steps in the policy making process, CBCCIs help to identify pertinent issues, build up the evidence, formulate, implement and monitor policies, and translate these into inclusive local action.

Mitigation position paper and adaptation position paper were completed in November: https://www.dropbox.com/sh/u236u2usrgnnfp7/AACdlj2QD5erHVorGHhWunHYa?dl=0

4) Pre-COP22 International Conference

In Paris, developing and emerging countries succeeded in securing equal importance for CC adaptation in the Paris Agreement, and CC finance (GCF etc.). However, there is a widening gap between the discourses, institutions, and finance between adaptation and mitigation, instead of thinking and planning together from the outset. To address this gap, an International Conference on Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation – Promoting Linkages and Synergies was co-organised by the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung office in Vietnam on 21 September 2016, at the Hanoi Club. The International Conference was a pre-COP event in the run up to this year’s UNFCCC Conference of Parties (COP) to be held 7-18 November 2016, in Marrakech, Morocco.

The conference in Hanoi explored how improved linkage and synergies between adaptation and mitigation can contribute to making not only Vietnam but also many other countries more resilient in the face of climate change. It hosted presentations on the mitigation–adaptation nexus by Vietnamese Government experts, experts from Morocco, IPCC scientists and from the perspective of vulnerable groups. The afternoon was dedicated to discussing how to promote the mitigation–adaptation nexus in specific topics related to climate change response measures such as linking adaptation and mitigation regarding the Paris Agreement/INDC implementation for Vietnam, urban resilience, rural development, agriculture and forestry, the energy field and climate finance.

The event was very successful in exploring the potential for co-benefits to make the climate change response more effective and equitable and drew a lot of attention from media, policymakers, development partners, and NGOs.
5) Participate in COP22

Every year since 1995, delegations from all over the world gather to discuss how to fight climate change at the Conference of Parties (COP), the supreme decision-making body of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

This year COP22 in Morocco is expected to be a ‘COP of action’. The Paris Agreement was a big success in declaring the 1.5-2C target, and the importance of adaptation. However, the question of how to achieve those commitments is still open. Therefore, the delegates in Marrakech need to agree on guidelines, procedures, and processes for the implementation of the Paris Agreement in six topic areas, which beside adaptation and mitigation are also transparency, technology transfer, capacity building and loss and damage.

With sponsorship from Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES), this is the second time CCWG had a great opportunity to attend and bring the Vietnamese perspective and the voice of vulnerable groups affected by CC in Vietnam to the negotiation table of COP. This is also an excellent networking opportunity for CCWG in Vietnam to learn from the experience and lessons of other NGOs and climate change networks, which are engaged with and working in cooperation with government in climate change fighting efforts.
Regular Meetings

CCWG regularly organised monthly meetings and core members meetings. As recent years, both meetings focused on sharing information to the network as well as initiatives and activities implementation.

Other Activities

- **Media training courses**

In order to enhance capacity for core members about how to communicate with journalists as well as report the most suitable information, CCWG organized four media training courses in 2016. Based on questions from journalists, core members had the practical chance to answer and make a full report. The training content was designed with a lot of group work and exercises, so that all core members were much more confident in answering and providing information to journalists.

- **Consultation meetings with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE)**

CCWG has signed an MOU with both MONRE and MARD under which several dialogues and consultation have been conducted through the support of Southern Voice and others throughout the year. Both ministries and MARD especially are aware of the of initial success and supporting the community based approach in principle. MARD is considering integrating
gender and the most vulnerable farmers in their climate change action plan towards 2020 and has already actively approached the network for input. This means we can assume that there is a realistic chance that the objective can be achieved within the time frame.

Through a series of meetings and workshops with these two partners, MARD and MONRE officially acknowledge the role of community-based initiatives in planning and implementing their Climate Change Action Plans, by involving communities’ representation in planning processes in demonstrated provinces; and inclusion of community-based initiatives including in their sectoral plans.

- **Regional meetings and workshops**

CCWG representatives attended the Asian Pacific Adaptation Forum in Sri Lanka in October and were invited to deliver a presentation on ‘Why improving the evidence base on community based adaptation is not enough for effective and equitable climate action’.

CCWG representatives also attended a regional workshop of partner networks of the Southern Voices in climate change program in Colombo.

**Directions in 2017**

- CCWG will continue to organise two annual high-level workshops focusing on climate change, one before the next COP for agenda setting of climate related topics relevant for Vietnam and one after the COP to share the results of the COP and its implications for Vietnam.

- Based on the clear successes in 2016, CCWG decided to continue organising media training courses in 2017.

- Having been approached by the adaptation department of DHMCC for collaboration in the development of the National Adaptation Plan (NAP), CCWG would like to engage around this topic to support the Government in the development of this important policy throughout 2017.

- CCWG will continue to engage with MARD to support the implementation of the current five-year climate change action plan promoting an implementation focus on vulnerable groups.

- CCWG will continue to engage in advocacy to promote the integration, resourcing and implementation of community-based adaptation in SEDP and sectoral plans in several provinces.

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Background and Objectives

The Corporate Engagement Working Group (CEWG) was established in late 2014, under the VUFO-NGO Resource Centre, as a forum for INGOs, Vietnamese non-governmental organisations (VNGOs), international agencies, governmental agencies, the private sector and interested individuals. The aim is to exchange ideas, experiences and good practices, create partnerships, stipulate discussions and advocate for policy changes – all of which would benefit both the private sector and the people of Vietnam.

This year is the second year for the Corporate Engagement Working Group. We held 15 whole-group meetings by the end of 2016.

The main goal of the CEWG is to nurture an environment conducive to good corporate engagement through shared learning and collaboration between international, local and government entities, by addressing and resolving emerging development challenges in Vietnam.

Key Activities

Our efforts in 2016 have centred around inviting guest speakers, sharing knowledge and providing space for internal updates and lessons learned from the group members. Based on the scope of engagement of the Core Group members and their partners, there are five topics/areas that were the focus of the CEWG: 1) Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) support/Social Impact Funds and Social Enterprises; 2) Rights/Legislation / Policy development / Advocacy; 3) CSR / Social Responsible Business: awareness raising, education and partnerships; 4) Direct Financial Support / Philanthropy: resource mobilisation; 5) International Trade Policies and Practices – World Trade Organization, Trans-Pacific Partnership.

Regular Meetings

Some specific activities of the CEWG in 2016 include:

- **March 2016 meeting was hosted by ChildFund:**

  The CEWG hosted Ms Pham Kieu Oanh, founder and CEO of the Center for Social Initiatives Promotion (CSIP), who came to discuss ‘Social enterprise towards sustainable development’. We also heard Mark Jerome, director, International Development Assistance Services, Asia Pacific at KPMG, who came to present on ‘Citizenship at KPMG’.

  Mr. Florian Beranek, Principal Consultant at the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) announced an event which aims to get feedback from businesses on the SDGs in April.

  The group also planned 2016 meeting topics. The group came up with the following inputs: a) There is a need to look inside organisations and companies to see how to avoid violence, sexual harassment, etc. This is real CSR work that also has an impact on productivity. What can we do for the workers? This is an interesting topic that can be implemented with focus on specific sectors, for example in the textile industry. KPMG provided training on domestic violence to its staff and there was a demand; b) Social enterprises in Vietnam are recognised now. However, this is true on paper but not in reality. There is a fear that no one is taking care of this issue. A suggestion was made to define a framework in this group to address
support for social enterprises. The group should lobby for this document; c) A decision was made to invite businesses with an interest in CSR to join the working group and by doing so to support them with our know-how. Special focus needs to be placed on SMEs by showing them what they can do. There is a need to develop real projects that work and have a real impact on our society which could be shared with the business community.

- May 2016 meeting was hosted by PACCOM:

CEWG invited Phuong Nghi, Team Leader of Think Tank YVN to speak on ‘Young Leaders and Youth with Environment and Transparency for TPP’. YVN Think Tank is a new research model for youth, established in October 2014 under the umbrella of the Cooperation and Development Foundation (CD Fund). Among the challenges Ms Nghi mentioned are lack of experience and resources of YVN. Members are students and they are not very confident, having low awareness of laws, and are still scared to share information and opinions. The public research channels and networks that YVN has represent a forum with established dialogues and connections with almost all universities and colleagues in Vietnam. High schools are not a part of the network yet, but have been included in the group’s plan. YVN tends to share the topic of CSR with start-up enterprises in order to raise their awareness about sustainable business practice. The main point is to persuade start-ups (which are mainly led by young people) to have a good awareness of recent social issues, to use environmentally friendly materials in their products and to follow good compliance with labour laws. This will ensure a good surrounding environment and support to run their businesses in a sustainable way.

The CEWG also hosted Ms Hanh Do, Enterprise Advisor of Better Work Vietnam (BWV) to discuss ‘BWV support to garment and footwear factories in making improvement on labour compliance which contributes to CSR practices of factories’. Better Work Vietnam is an ILO project that supports solutions for the improvement of labour standards in Vietnam's apparel industry. The project targets those working in the garment and footwear industry. CEWG and Ms Hanh had an interesting discussion. Among the questions raised were: Did your investigation find any occupational risk, violation and abuse affecting female employees (especially when 80% of employees in garment companies are female)? Ms Hanh responded that her investigation found some cases related to discrimination toward female workers. For example: some workers were transferred to work different from their original work when they came back from maternity leave. In such cases the Enterprise Advisor will work with the factory to find out solutions to solve the issues in a sustainable way. With other cases, they have to report the incidents to stakeholders like buyers, MOLISA and DOLISA for further actions when critical issues were found out. Another question raised was related to child labour cases. Ms Hanh answered that whenever they find any factory using child labour, they have to report the case to the manager and buyers within 48 hours. They also engage the local government enforcement agency in this case. The factory will have to stop child labour activities right away and work with the Child Protection Department for guidance to solve the problem to ensure the right of that child. Finally, Ms Hanh explained that the program is currently funded up to 2019 and they are making plans/strategies for the period of 2019-2022.

Further ideas for our 2016 meetings include value chain development; TPP discussion; corporate representatives are invited to discuss corporate engagement and, partnerships between NGOs and the sector. CEWG will also participate in the TPP workshop to be hosted by PACCOM in May.

- June 2016 meeting was hosted by Care International:

The Corporate Engagement Working Group was privileged to host Ms Luyen Shell, Founder/Director Donkey Bakery Hanoi, to present ‘Donkey Bakery a socially responsible company’. Ms Luyen received many question from the participants such as ‘Do you have to follow many governmental rules?’ Donkey Baker has been able to operate in Vietnam for
many years now. She does not like to engage with the bureaucratic apparatus and deal with formalities, but she has good staff members who take care of this. She gets through with it. That is why she works as a business and not as an NGO. ‘Do you get any benefits or privileges because you hire disabled people?’ No, there were no tax deductions for this. She did not get any benefits. She works from the inside out. She has lived in many countries and this helps her in shaping her mindset and vision. She also has six Catholic charities supporting her to fulfil her goals and organisational mission. ‘What is your recommendation to anyone who wants to open a social business?’ She has very little time for outside things. There is a lot of private sacrifice. You have to take risks. If you have a family do not do it. It is not easy. Her main advice is to be focused - set your goals and if you fail, get up and start again. Have enough financial support as well as other private support. If you know exactly what you want to do, you have passion for it and you work hard, it will very likely become a success. Accept that private life will be challenging during this period of your life. She wants to show her staff members that they are able to do something. It helps them to have good self-esteem to deliver to ambassadors, for example. Self-esteem is often low because in the Asian thinking people with disabilities are looked at like a punishment for the deeds in a former life. It is important that staff start to change their mindset. She treats them as if they had no handicap.

- **September 2016 meeting was hosted by The Asia Foundation:**

  The CEWG hosted Nick Thorpe, Policy Researcher, PanNature, who came to discuss ‘Free Trade Agreements (FTA): Opportunities and Challenges’. The discussion showed that the Free Trade Agreements will bring new challenges, and civil society is going to be able to, and needed to, contribute to address them. Among the legal and environmental challenges Mr Thorpe mentioned are: effective enforcement of environmental laws and regulations, especially those regulating industries set to expand (textiles and apparel, footwear, and seafood); adhering to the TPP and EVFTA’s environmental and social standards; threats to governing in the public interest at the national and provincial levels, in particular due to Investor-State Dispute Settlement; the ‘middle-income trap’, as mentioned in the ActionAid report on EVFTA and Free Trade Agreements; issues with land grabbing and land-use compensation at the local level.

  We also heard a presentation from Mr Vo Ly Hoai Vinh, Senior Sustainability Officer from Coca Cola, who shared with the group about on ‘EKOCENTER – a CSR Innovation by Coca-Cola’. The visit of Mr Vo Ly Hoai Vinh was an opportunity for CSOs and a business to get to know each other better. Mr Vinh and the CEWG group had an interesting discussion. He received many question from the participants such as: ‘What about the sustainability of the project?’. An additional question was raised on the income of women and whether it is going to be big enough to maintain the centre financially. Mr Vinh explained that Coca Cola took different lessons learned about sustainability. For example, it is important that the centre sells what is needed locally. Additionally, Coca Cola is supporting the centre at the beginning only, and then Coca Cola will phase out and the centre will be self-sustainable. Mr Vinh also said that the planned centre in Hanoi will be placed in an area where there are water problems. The final question was related to the role of the Government and Mr Vinh explained that the Government supported this project with land, ensuring security for the site as well as discounted prices for both water and electricity for the centre.

- **November 2016 meeting was hosted by UNIDO:**

  In November CEWG was hosted by Mr Florian Beranek, Principal Consultant, UNIDO, who presented on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 16 and 17. UNIDO and guest speakers from UNDP gave an update on SDG discussion on the national and international levels. The meeting was focused on stocktaking of CEWG members’ capacity and practices alongside SDGs 1 to 15. There was also an interactive discussion and group work on the op-
opportunities for cooperation and coordination by utilising the framework of SDG 17 (Partnerships), with focus on contributing to achieve the targets of SDG 16.

**Directions in 2017**

We will further commit in 2017 to engaging specific sectors, Foreign Direct Investment and Foreign Investment Enterprises (FDIs/FIEs) and local companies to join the working group and discuss with the group their CSR experiences, needs, lessons learned, and hesitations in engaging with CSOs. Besides maintaining the engagement of the companies that have already attended the 2016 meetings, such as Coca Cola, KPMG, Hanesbrand and others, the group will aim to bring to the table some other big enterprises such as Canon, FPT, ABB, Vingroup and Bao Viet Insurance.

CEWG is keen to conduct joint research and efforts in advocacy and policy dialogue through a public workshop to present some of our joint research and findings to the wider community.

We recognise that within the group there is a wide range of activities that constitute corporate engagement, some of which overlap. Moving forward we plan to better coordinate both internally and externally so as to be more inclusive and efficient.

Partners and friends of the working group such as PACCOM, VCCI, UNIDO and WTO are working hard in the areas of Small and Medium Enterprises, advocacy, Social Responsible Business, Direct Financial Support / Philanthropy, International Trade Policies and practices. However, Value Chain Development is one area that represents both a gap in the current landscape and area where we can leverage our efforts. This will be further pursued in 2017.

The Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) negotiations are likely to be finalised during the 2015-2020 period and Vietnam is set to sign 14 Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) during that same time, including one with the European Union. CEWG would like to continue to provide a space for discussion about FTAs’ impact on our work as NGOs and on our beneficiaries.

**Current Challenges and future direction:**

Corporate engagement as a concept in Vietnam remains poorly defined and broadly interpreted. Regardless, there is a strong interest in the topic from INGOs, VNGOs, government agencies, mass organisations, and other professionals. Everyone is ‘doing’ corporate engagement. The reality however can be anything from social impact funds to social enterprises, inclusive business projects, policy dialogue and advocacy, value chain development and philanthropy and fundraising.

As such, the Corporate Engagement Working Group continues to be committed to providing a space to foster collaboration and share lessons learned in the area of how the private sector can join with international and domestic NGOs and government entities to resolve difficult and emerging social and economic problem.

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Background and objectives

Since the Ordinance on Disabled Persons of Vietnam was issued in 1998, supporting work for people with disabilities (PWDs) has developed rapidly and achieved positive results. Along with the increasing contribution of international sources of assistance for people with disabilities, the need to strengthen and improve linkages and information among stakeholders has also become more urgent.

Therefore, in 2007 the Disability Working Group (DWG) was formally established and operated under the guidance and auspices of Data Center about Non-governmental organisations. DWG not only operates with within INGOs but also with government agencies, individuals, local non-governmental organisations and other organisations that work with disabled people.

The main activities of the DWG are meetings every two months to discuss topics selected based on information exchanged by participants annually. The overall purpose of the Disability Working Group (DWG) is to increase communication and coordination and to share learning between all actors working to support people living with disabilities.

Operations management

Coordination and operations management of the Working Group are undertaken by the Core Group, which includes international and local NGOs. The member organisations of the core group work together to share tasks with the co-chairs of the group, contribute ideas for group activities, participate in meetings and support the writing of the meeting minutes. They also work to support translation services when needed.

The role of the chair of the group is alternated between group members. Holding the positions of co-chair of the group in 2016 are Ms Nguyen Thi Hong Ha, Director of Hanoi ILC and Ms Nguyen Thi Thanh Thuy, Program Officer of MCNV.

Main activities in 2016

In 2016, at the time of writing this report, the group had held one Core Group meeting in February and four regular group meetings in March, May, July and September. The meeting venue was the Independent Living Centre in Hanoi.

Main outputs of the working group in 2016

- The TOR of the DWG were updated. The overall purpose of the Disability Working Group (DWG) is to increase communication and coordination and to share learning between all actors working to support people living with disabilities. The operation of DWG is mainly based on regular meeting every two months. The main aim of meetings is to share practical experience, successes and learning to the mutual benefit of all attending. A secondary aim is to act as a time-efficient and effective mechanism for actors to communicate and coordinate working plans. Attendance at the meeting is open to representatives and relevant staff of all actors working to support people living with disabilities. The meetings are conducted in an open, transparent and participatory style. Beside the regular meeting, DWG can initiate and cooperate with other networks and organisations to conduct events in order to improve communication, knowledge sharing, experience sharing and coordination among its members and external bodies.
Recommendations of 2015 were reviewed and follow-up plans were discussed. Three questions were asked: ‘What recommendation to select?; ‘Who will be responsible for what?’; and ‘What actions to take?’ All the recommendations were useful for organisations to consider when they plan and implement their projects. However, there were resource constraints in perusing them. Group members decided that there will not be any specific activities but rather member organisations will keep others updated on their own projects/programs. VFD has an independent review on the situation of people with disabilities in Vietnam and 10 recommendations are quite close to VFD review outcomes. Members recognised that VFD has a strong voice in talking to the Government so DWG and VFD can join together to make stronger suggestions. There should be specific solutions and pathways as well.

Reports on CRPD are one of the focuses of both the Government and NGOs in 2016–2017. In the DWG meetings in 2016, the NGO shadow report on CRPD was one of the key topics for discussion too.

The Government of Vietnam ratified the CRPD in 2014. According to the CRPD, two years after the ratification a report by the Government of each member state and a shadow report by NGOs on the implementation of the Convention are required to be submitted to the CRPD Committee. The Government report is prepared by the Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs and the shadow report is prepared by VFD. The mutual understanding was that VFD is responsible for supporting member DPOs to write the report. ACDC is the technical supporter for VFD on the report. The report schedule was drawn up with some key milestones in June, July, September and November 2016. It was expected that the final report would be available in February 2017 to submit to the CRPD Committee. The report will focus on eight thematic topics of social protection policies, health, education – work – employment, justice, privacy – family rights, women – children, and general issues/articles. Each of the topics will consist of specific articles and are the responsibility of a group of DPOs. All NGOs are welcome to participate as group member to provide information and data. DPOs undertake the active implementations but it is expected that NGOs will provide DPOs with feasible technical and financial assistance to complete the report to a high standard.

The Child Rights Working Group is preparing for the CRC shadow report, for submission in 2017. In this report, one of the issues is children with disabilities. Thus, DWG and CRWG should share information so that the two groups have the same voice and statements on disability in the two reports.

In 2016, the group successfully created a forum for NGOs to share on outstanding projects and innovation on support for people with disabilities in Vietnam. The groups received the following presentations:

- Alternative report on CRC of CRWG by CRS
- A365 IT in early detection and care for children with autism by CCIHP: 
  http://a365.vn/chi-tiet.html/5617855ebd5347bb588369ea
- Vietnam Women Entrepreneurs Council and social responsibility – VCCI
- Renewal of project in Quang Tri (land mine, rehabilitation, income generation)
- Occupational therapy for people with disabilities by MCNV
- Home-based mobility devices for people with physical disabilities by IC-VVAF
- Mobility devices by ICRC – SFD
- Work Plan for implementation of CRPD and Decision 1100 by VNAH
Directions for 2017

DWG will continue to cooperate with the government agencies to implement the 1019 scheme, the disability law, the International Convention on the Rights of PWDs and an independent report on the implementation of the International Convention on the Rights of PWDs. The following two topics will be given priority in sharing information, learning and advocacy:

- CRPD government report and NGO report;
- Implementation of policies and programs for PWDs and necessary changes and supplements for policies.

The topics selected for presentation at the DWG’s meeting should be more focused, and should include more participation by government experts. Next year’s planning should be developed and completed in the last meeting of each year, based on the policies, events and related topics that all organisations can participate in and support.

Co-chairs of the DWG

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Background

The Disaster Management Working Group (DMWG) was established in 1999 with the aim of enhancing disaster management in Vietnam through improved information sharing, coordination of initiatives and joint action to promote the highest possible standards and practices.

Participation in the DMWG is open to all individuals, organisations, and government agencies concerned with disaster management in Vietnam. Member organisations include government departments, UN organisations, partnerships, INGOs, VNGOs, donor agencies, institutions and individual researchers. In 2015, the 11 core members of the DMWG were: Action Aid Vietnam, CARE International, Habitat for Humanity Vietnam, International Federation of Red Cross, Malteser International, Oxfam, Plan International, Seed Asia, Save the Children International, the UN Disaster Risk Management Team, and World Vision International.

Chairmanship of the Disaster Management Working Group is rotated on a six-month basis. In 2016 for Humanity Vietnam chaired from January to December.

Key Activities for the Disaster Management Working Group in 2016

In 2016, DMWG’s activities were mainly focused on 2 objectives:

1) Improve coordination among all agencies working in disaster management through information sharing, experience exchange and joint initiatives; and

2) Improve coordination and collaboration in emergency responses, especially when big disasters happen, namely:

- 9 monthly meetings were organized for its member organisations to update on the organizational disaster risk reduction and response operations and exchange information, knowledge and initiatives;
- 3 emergency/ ad hoc meetings were held to update on disaster situations and damages and to prepare for joint rapid assessments to the worst hit communities.

In early 2016, drought and saline intrusion happened in a large scale and severely affected 18 provinces of the Central Highlands and the Mekong River Delta of Vietnam. Agriculture and Water sectors were hit hardest by the crisis. 13 provinces out of those declared the states of emergency and called for support from outsiders.

Considering the damages caused by drought and saline intrusion DMWG sent 6 joint rapid assessment teams to 6 provinces, Gia Lai, Kon Tum, Ninh Thuan, Binh Thuan, Ben Tre and Kien Giang, to evaluate damages, needs and gaps/ unmet needs. Right after the assessment, a debriefing meeting was co-organized by DMWG, UN agencies, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and People's Aid Coordinating Committee (PACCOM) to share the key findings of the assessments. Donor communities, bilateral and multilateral agencies, governmental bodies and INGOs attended the meeting. Consequently, many donors provided financial support to those affected to overcome the crisis aftermath.
DMWG - Joint Assessment Team members worked with Kien Giang leaders on the situation of drought and saline intrusion

- 2-days refresher training workshop for preparation 2016 disaster season, 22 joint rapid assessment team members participated on September 22-23. During the workshop DMWG invited the key/experienced experts/core members from IFRC, WHO, CWS, Habitat Vietnam, Save The children, Care Vietnam to share about Joint assessment tools and disaster response simulation (field assessment), Sphere Standards and Core Humanitarian Standards were the main topics that were discussed and exchanged during the training. Save the Children and Church World Services co-financed the training, contributing to the success of the event.
All the training material at workshop are now available on DMWG subpage, NGO RC's website. You can easily download from the link below:


- DMWG members conducted one more Joint Assessment trip in Ha Tinh and Nghe An

Mid October 2016, heavy rains caused big flooding in five central provinces including Nghe An, Ha Tinh, Quang Binh, Quang Tri and Thua Thien Hue. According to reports from local authorities, cultivation and livestock farming are two sectors most severely affected. Many fruit trees were broken, damaged, thousands of cattle (cow/buffalo) died and millions of poultry were killed and swept away from water, resources and issues related to hygiene were serious infections. DMWG has sent a rapid assessment team to Ha Tinh and Nghe An to conduct a preliminary assessment on the damages, demands and unmet needs by local authorities. As observed by the assessment team, most of the institutions / organizations / individuals involved in responding to just concentrate on the essential needs of the people including food assistance, and family packages. Several organizations such as Plan International, Save the Children and Habitat for Humanity Vietnam also undertook to support the people in improving the issues related to water and sanitation, livelihood and education in two provinces of Ha Tinh and Quang Binh.

- Other activities: DMWG members also active participating in different related forums/events organised by UNDP, MARD, MONRE...etc.

DMWG members participated to joint monitoring visit together with UN agencies, Government Partners and other NGOs to Gia Lai province.
Future directions:

- Maintain monthly meetings of DMWG and calls for ad hoc meetings in case of emergency;

- Update the Joint Assessment Team regularly and enhance and provide re-freshment assessment skills to members;

- Continue to support integration of DRR/CCA into the Socio Economic Development Plan at policy and practice levels;

- To make close collaboration with international and internal networks, especially Climate Change Working Group and Disability Working Group.

Chairperson 2016: Mrs. Nguyen Thi Yen
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Background

The Ethnic Minorities Working Group (EMWG) was formed in 2002, under the VUFO-NGO Resource Centre with the aim of providing a forum for Vietnamese non-governmental organizations (NGOs), international NGOs, development partners, Government agencies and interested individuals to exchange ideas and lessons learned about good practices of development projects for the benefit of ethnic minorities. Additionally, the EMWG prioritizes policy consultations and dialogues in the development of ethnic related policies by the government, in order to advocate for improvements of policies targeting ethnic minority communities in Vietnam.

The EMWG is managed by a core group who voluntarily contribute human resource, time and financial support to the working group's activities. Up to date, there are 11 core group members, including: ActionAid Vietnam (AAV), Care International in Vietnam, Centre for Sustainable Rural Development (SRD), Center of Help for Indigenous value promotion and Sustainable environment (CHIASE), Centre for Community Empowerment (CECEM), Institute for Studies of Society, Economy and Environment (iSEE), Oxfam, Plan in Vietnam, Save the Children, the Culture Identity and Resources Use Management (CIRUM), and the Agriculture and Forestry Research & Development Center for mountainous Region (ADC).

CARE International in Vietnam and iSEE act as co-chairs of the group in the term 2015–2017. The chairmanship role will be rotated every two years on the basis of nomination and election.

Activity planning and implementation mechanism of the EMWG

Annually, the core group members organize a planning workshop to develop a work-plan, select priorities and contribute human resource and finance to the group activities. Based on the set-up work plan, the core group members meet up monthly or have additional meetings to exchange information, discuss and agree about approaches of activity implementation and task division among the members.

The Working Group's daily activities are assigned to a coordinator. The coordinator works closely with the group's co-chairs to organize meetings and activities, take minutes of meetings, compile the database of agencies working with ethnic minorities, budgeting, facilitate group communication internally and externally, manage the group’s email and website, and prepare the group’s activity and annual report. The coordinator is assigned to participate in external meetings and workshops on behalf of the group in the case when the co-chairpersons are not available.

Goal and Objectives

The overall objective of the EMWG is, together with efforts of the government, to contribute to the improvement of living conditions of ethnic minorities in Vietnam, through by increasing direct intervention actions in project sites, building capacity of ethnic minority communities, encouraging and empowering them to fully participate in development process.

The goal is specified through objectives as below:
Sharing and disseminating information

The Working Group provides a forum for discussions regarding development issues related to ethnic minorities in Vietnam. It disseminates information as widely as possible regarding laws, policies, research and documentation of projects and programs relating to ethnic minorities.

Improving the development practices of member organizations:

Working group participants share experiences and lessons learned in order to improve the impact (both in quality and quantity) of their development interventions.

Policy dialogue:

The group share about experiences and information on issues and policies related to ethnic minorities, seek for opportunities of dialogues, cooperation with governmental agencies and other development partners, which aims to positive changes of the planning, consultation and development process of ethnic minority policies.

Facilitating the voice of ethnic minority people:

The working group enable and facilitate different mechanisms/channels with governmental agencies at all levels so that ethnic minority people can voice out their opinions on the development programs and their influence towards their lives.

EMWG’s main activities from November/2015 - October/2016

Information sharing:

Sharing results of the research ““Debt without fear”: Transforming livelihoods and debt of settled ethnic minorities in the Central Highlands in current situation” (November 2015)

The research report ““Debt without fear”: Transforming livelihoods and debt of settled ethnic minorities in the Central Highlands in current situation” pointed out that with limited resources and a high risk of agricultural markets, the turnaround of market-oriented livelihoods does not make people richer, but drives many families into debt and poverty. Furthermore, according to the research report, one of the causes of the current debt in some villages of the Central Highlands is that the input and output of agricultural products are completely controlled by intermediate focal points that are private sector in the communes and villages.

The sharing attracted 60 representatives of governmental agencies (Committee for Ethnic Minority Affairs), local and international NGOs, media, EMWG members and individuals who are interested in development issues of ethnic minority communities. Particularly, it had actively participation of representatives of ethnic minority groups supported by the EMWG members. They shared about stories related to their production life, advantages and difficulties which they face in the life.

iSEE scaled up the research in the northern mountainous provinces. The research report is currently being finalized. The EMWG will widely circulate the final report to its members and other interests.

Participating in conference on Promoting Investment and Assistance for Socio-Economic Development in Ethnic Minority and Mountainous Areas organized by Committee for Ethnic Minority Affairs (CEMA) and The Vietnam Union of Friendship Organizations (VUFO) (December 2015)
The conference provided embassies, development partners, international non-governmental organizations, domestic and foreign enterprises with the situation of ethnic work, development issues of and governmental policies towards ethnic minorities. In addition, the attendees discussed and consulted about orientations and measures to promote cooperation between CEMA, VUFO, ministries, branches and localities with development partners, international organizations and domestic and foreign enterprises, in order to attract maximum investment of resources and aid for socio-economic development in mountainous and ethnic minority areas for the period 2016-2020.

One representative of the EMWG delivered a thematic paper at this important event. He stressed, in the coming time, the EMWG will continue its commitment to promote cooperation between the group and government agencies, to intensify information sharing activities and resource mobilization for sustainable poverty reduction of ethnic minority communities. It is our commitment as well as recommendations for poverty reduction activities in Vietnam, in the period 2016-2020. Detailed contents of the position paper can be downloaded via the link: http://www.ngocentre.org.vn/pub/emwg-thematic-paper-conference-promoting-investment-and-assistance-socio-economic-development--0

Meeting with CEMA’s leaders on the ethnic work and the partnership between the group and CEMA in the coming time (June 2016)

In order to strengthen the partnership with CEMA, the EMWG had a meeting with CEMA’s Deputy Minister, Ha Hung and several leaders of related departments such as Policy Department, P135 Coordination Office and Justice Department.

At the meeting, representatives of EMWG and the departments actively discussed concrete contents and opportunities of collaboration in the coming time, of which focuses on essential needs of ethnic minority and mountainous areas such as supporting production development, developing livelihoods, enabling stable job, increasing income and living standard; investing in infrastructure; supporting education, health, preserving and promoting traditional values, identity and culture of ethnic minority groups; diversifying ways of information access so that they are able to timely catch up with information about production and application of technology and science; protecting forests in line with forest-based economic development, protecting ecosystem environment, water supply; promoting gender equality for the advancement of women and children; supporting ethnic minority youths to start-up, etc.
Deputy Minister Ha Hung highly appreciates great efforts made by the EMWG to the development of ethnic minorities in Vietnam. The Deputy Minister expects for more comprehensive support and cooperation towards ethnic minorities and mountainous areas by the EMWG members in the coming time. Details of the meeting can be found via the link: http://dantocmiennui.vn/kinh-te-xa-hoi/thu-truong-pho-chu-nhiem-uy-ban-dan-toc-ha-hung-lam-viec-voi-nhom-cong-tac-ve-dan-toc-thieu-so/81472.html

Learning forum “Rights on community forest and the importance of forest land to ethnic minorities in Vietnam” (September 2016)

This event is a part of the quarterly learning forum on development issues of ethnic minorities in Vietnam - an initiative for partners, organizations and individuals interested in the development issues of ethnic minorities in Vietnam, which is under the framework of the Civil Action for Socio-economic Inclusion Program in Northern Vietnam programme (CASI), co-implemented by CARE, iSEE, CIRUM and ADC. Given the learning theme of this time, CIRUM and iSEE invited the representatives of the Ethnic Minority Leaders Network, LandNet (the Forest Peoples Land Rights Network), and the Vietnamese Thai network for Indigenous Knowledge (VTIK) coming from 17 provinces to share stories on conflicts over forest land rights in their communities. The event has created a valuable opportunity for interested participants, especially ethnic minority participants to voice out and have a vibrant discussion on forest land right of ethnic minority communities.

In the presentation, CIRUM’s speaker clearly stated land and forest is an indispensable source for the spiritual life and food security of ethnic minorities. Community forests (or traditional forests) are their common property. That is forests of the villagers as collective benefits. This is stated at Decree 17/HDBT/1992 as “Villages are legal owners of their traditional forests” (ND17/HDBT1992: Enforcement of the Law on forest protection and development). Villages are owners of their land and forests. They have rights to use and dispose land and forests that they own. This is one of key messages which LandNet/CIRUM, CARE, and other partners have been conveying and sending to Drafting Board of the Law on forest protection and development and to delegates to National Assembly term XIV in the first and second meeting session in 2017. Presentations can be downloaded via the link:

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1 The Ethnic Minority Leader Network: The network includes more than 50 members from 14 provinces across the country. The network is the representation of EM communities to voice out at national policy dialogues and forums. At the community level, they join iSEE as well as implement their own initiatives to create changes at their local level. They also join different local programs to voice out EM needs and rights.
Engagement in policy dialogues/platforms with DPs and other networks for the improvement of EM policies/programs and the promotion of EMs rights and voice

Support representatives of EM communities to participate in the Annual Policy Forum on ethnic minority development with focus on “The implementation of the MDG Action Plan for Ethnic Minorities in the 2016-2020 SEDPs”, towards the goal “Leave no one behind”

This platform is regularly organized by CEMA in partnership with National Assembly deputies, Government agencies, UN agencies, development partners, local and international NGOs and academia, especially 15 representatives of the Ethnic Minority Leader Network from 5 provinces: Soc Trang, Dak Lak, Yen Bai, Lao Cai and Thai Nguyen actively participated in the forum and lively discussed issues that they are facing in the course of development and proposed possible solutions.

In the forum, they shared about stories on their life, culture, education and livelihoods. The beauty of culture and identity was well and lovely expressed through their artistic performance. They themselves choreographed and performed the songs and dances. Besides, successful stories of theirs and EMWG members in generating incomes were widely exhibited at the forum.

The EMWG and development partners constructed a paper of key messages on SEDPs and National Targeted Programs, period 2016-2020. Messages can be found at the link: http://www.ngocentre.org.vn/pub/emwgs-and-dps-key-messages-annual-ethnic-minority-policy-forum-2015

To be continued from 2015, the EMWG has been engaged in meetings/technical workshops with DPs and ministries to provide comments or inputs on the design of P135, phase III and project components of the National Targeted Programs on Sustainable Poverty Reduction (NTP/SPR), (December 2015 - present).

Presently, the NTP framework was signed by the Prime Minister, ministries are developing Decisions and Circulars to guide the implementation of the NTP. The EMWG will continue its engagement in policy dialogues for better improvement of ethnic related policies. The NTP framework (Decision no.1722/QĐ-TTg), period 2016-2020 can be downloaded via this link:
Participation in the organization of “Companions for Development” Journalism Award (October 2015 – March 2016)

Continuing the theme “Live with kindness” of the 2014, the Journalism Award “Companions for Development” in 2015 with focus on a “A society with kindness” to honour the best journalistic works reflecting collective actions and joint efforts to build a decent society. This activity is annually coordinated by iSEE with the engagement of several working groups and networks such as the People’s Participation Working Group (PPWG), Climate Change Working Group (CCWG), the Civil Society inclusion in Food Security and Poverty Elimination network (CIFPEN), Gender and Community Development Network (GENCOMNET), (Cooperation Group for Governance and Public Administration Reform (GPAR), and Gender-based violence network (GBVNet).

Support CEMA to organized the workshop: “Planning workshop on building capacity of the development and implementation of Ethnic – related policies” (October 2016 - present)

With the technical and financial support of EMWG core members (CARE and CHIASE), the group supported CEMA to organize the workshop in order to review their capacity and training needs in the development and implementation of ethnic – related policies in Vietnam. 39 participants who are representatives of the central level and 6 northern mountainous provinces (DEMA) as listed Cao Bang, Yen Bai, Lao Cai, Bac Can, Lang Son and Hoa Binh actively participated in the workshop.

On behalf of the Policy Department, Mrs. Nguyen Ngoc Anh stressed CEMA staff are different from majors, expertises, locations, ages and education, which affects the quality of their staff. Many staff feel embarrassing and show a big gap of knowledge compared to their job requirements and positions for many reasons, particularly because (i) Ethnic policies in Vietnam are inter-linked with many sectors; (ii) Limitation of professional knowledge and skills in the policy formulation and implementation; (iii) a shortage of skills at monitoring, supervising and appraisal of policies; (iv) Limited knowledge of the situation of livelihoods, culture and social issues of ethnic minorities (not least groups of very few population), and priorities for ethnic minority development; (v) inadequate knowledge of approaches in addressing poverty reduction in ethnic minority and mountainous areas, etc.

Representatives of participants and organizers at the workshop. Photo: EMWG
At the end of the workshop, the participants selected their priorities of professional knowledge and skills which they need further training in order to better their responsibilities. The EMWG and CEMA are currently finalizing the workshop report to circulate widely to its members.

Achievements and challenges of the EMWG in 2016

Achievements:

- Through the group’s activities, the participation of representatives of EM communities and local authorities in policy consultation and development is promoted;
- The group’s inputs in the development of NTP are recognized and reflected in the Decision no.1722/QĐ-TTg and the feasibility report of the NTP;
- Key messages related to issues such as poverty, debt, approaches, forest land use and management of ethnic minorities are shared with the group’s members and related governmental agencies, organizations and individuals.
- Through the group’s activities, information on governmental policies and programs related to EM development, as well as the group member’s activities is efficiently exchanged among the members, which contributes to the better cooperation among the group in supporting CEMA and avoidance of the overlap.
- Partnership between the EMWG and governmental agencies such as CEMA is much strengthened;
- The EMWG’s engagement in other networks and working groups which share the same concerns is greatly increased to avoid the overlap in group activities.

Challenges:

- In comparison with 2015, the group organizes fewer direct activities. The commitment of core group members in collective activities is reduced because they give priority to their organizational responsibilities rather than the group’s; thus, their engagement and inputs in group activities is limited;
- Because of the members’ commitments and staff turnover, the group’s focal persons often change and miss group meetings;
- Core members’ financial commitment to the group activities depends much on their organizational budget plan.

Direction to the 2017

In 2017, the EMWG will continue collective activities developed by the members to fulfil the group objectives as follows:

- Continuously promoting the EMWG as a open forum to share information and discuss topics related to ethnic minority development issues in Vietnam;
- Fostering policy advocacy work and policy dialogues between NGOs and governmental bodies related to development issues of ethnic minorities;
- Increasing opportunities to strengthen the voice of ethnic minorities in the EMWG activities and policy dialogues at all levels.
- Promoting the cooperation between the group and related governmental agencies through concrete activities.
Strengthening connection and resource contribution among the EMWG core members and between the EMWG and other networks sharing the same concerns about development issues of ethnic minorities in Vietnam.

For any further information on the EMWG, please contact:

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In order to subscribe to the EMWG mailing list to receive updated information on the EMWG activities, please submit your email at:
http://ngocentre.org.vn/mailman/listinfo/ngo-emwg
(item: Subscribing to Ngo-emwg)
The non-governmental organizations (NGOs) working in the field of eye care and blindness prevention in Vietnam include Brien Holden Vision Institute (BHVI), CBM, Eye Care Foundation (ECF), Fred Hollows Foundation (FHF), Helen Keller international (HKI), Orbis International, and International Agency for Prevention of Blindness (IAPB) began implementing eye care programs and blindness prevention activities in Vietnam since 1995. In 2007, an eye care working group (ECWG) was established, with the aim to share experiences in the implementation of eye care programs and projects in local areas, collaborate in mobilizing the resources, avoid overlapping, and improve collaboration to enhance the effectiveness and impact of eye care and blindness prevention activities on a national scale.

After more than 20 years of operation in Vietnam, the NGOs have made very significant contributions to the development of ophthalmology and blindness prevention of Vietnam. In 2016, the NGOs continued implementing eye care and blindness prevention activities in the country and have recorded remarkable achievements.

General activities and achievements

- Provided financial and professional supports to improve capacity for almost 4,000 health care staff including eye doctors, nurses, refractionists, optical dispensing technicians and community health workers of 37 provinces/cities of Vietnam. This support enhances detection capabilities, and comprehensive treatment of pathological eye problems resulting in blindness include cataract, refractive error, paediatric eye problems, glaucoma, ocular fundus problems, corneal diseases, visual impairment and other eye diseases.

- Funded more than 20 projects with a total budget of over 80 billion VND, of which investment in ophthalmology medical equipment for eye care facilities was over 14 billion.

- Within the framework of programs and projects, the NGOs supported eye exams for nearly 1.2 million cases (including more than 730,000 children), eye surgeries for more than 6,000 patients (including 1,678 children), and provided for free 13,746 glasses / visual aids for patients (including 12,706 children).

Training

Continue to pioneer in supporting Vietnam to provide quality training for eye care personnel. The training includes development of ophthalmological curriculum, eye programs for general doctors, refractionists, optical dispensing technicians and care for the people with low vision and visual impairment. Especially with the support of NGOs, the first program for bachelor of optometry, and advanced training program for paediatric eye care that equivalent to the international standard have been developed and formally put into training in Vietnam.

Research and survey

The NGOs promoting research activities to collect evidence and implement advocacy activities. In 2016, there were some studies conducted such as situation of trachoma in Vietnam toward elimination of trachoma completely in Vietnam; research on the status of eye care institutions in the country and recommendations on strengthening them in the near future. The NGOs also collaborated with WHO and Ministry of Health completed a national rapid assessment of avoidable blindness in Vietnam in 2015 (RAAB- 2015) to assess the eye care and
prevention of blindness in Vietnam in recent years and to develop a strategy for the next period.

Support policy development and advocacy

- Continue supporting Vietnam Ministry of Health and Vietnam National Institute of Ophthalmology to develop Vietnam national strategy for blindness prevention, period 2015-2020 and vision 2030. This strategy has been approved by the Ministry of Health and is in the process of approval by the Vietnamese Government.

- With IAPB’s coordination, the NGOs have come together to build a framework plan for the joint activities of advocacy. The priorities are mainly focused on: continuing advocacy for the approval of the Vietnam national strategy for blindness prevention by the government; working to integrate eye care into medical school program; expanding the health insurance coverage for more eye care treatments to increase people’s access to eye care services; expanding inclusive eye care model to improve the access to eye care of vulnerable groups such as the poor, ethnic minorities, people with disabilities, women and children.

In 2017, the NGOs will focus their efforts on supporting policy development and implementing activities to improve the quality of eye care services, which is also a priority in the strategy of health care of the Ministry of Health. The NGOs also prioritize their support to Vietnam to cope with emerging challenges in the prevention of blindness, such as modelling of screening and treatment of diabetic retinopathy, improving quality of service refractive services.

Contact detail:

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Background

For more than 11 years, the HCMC INGO Discussion Group has been functioning as a forum for representatives and staff from international non-governmental organizations that have an office and are operating in Ho Chi Minh City or in the southern provinces of Vietnam. Meetings on specific topics and issues of interest to international NGOs are held three times a year at the office of the HCMC Union of Friendship Organizations (HUFO), 31 Le Duan, District 1, Ho Chi Minh City. Advance notification and invitations are sent out via the <ingo-hcmc@ngocentre.org.vn> mailing list.

Speakers and guests from government agencies, donors and partner organizations are invited to join in the meetings.

Chair and Core Group

A core group of seven INGO representatives is responsible for organizing the meetings and other activities. In 2016, the core group met on the first Thursday of each month. The core group was composed of the representatives of seven foreign NGOs: Christina Noble Children’s Foundation, Loreto Vietnam–Australia Program, Norwegian Mission Alliance, Saigon Children’s Charity, Mekong Plus, VinaCapital Foundation, and KOTO. Christina Noble Children’s Foundation served as the coordinating agency with support from Loreto Vietnam-Australia Program from January to August 2016. Loreto had a change of leadership and no representation on the Core Group from August to October. In November Loreto re-joined the Core Group. In November the chair from Christina Noble Children’s Foundation resigned but stayed on until December 2016 to provide support to the incoming chair from Saigon Children’s Charity supported by Loreto.

Purpose and objectives

The HCMC INGO Discussion Group provides a forum for sharing information, knowledge and experience. Its aim is to act as an entry point for more concrete forms of coordination or collaboration among international NGOs in areas such as research, training, as well as advocacy and policy dialogue.

Activities in 2016

Networking

Organization of regular meetings

At the first meeting of the year on 18 March (19 participants) the theme was Storytelling. The group welcomed two dynamic speakers, Ms Lucy Kullman, Resource Development and Communications Manager, Habitat for Humanity with the theme, “Telling the Habitat Story” and Ms Linh Phan, freelance creative producer, with the theme, “Community Storytelling & Digital Media”. The second meeting was scheduled for June 17, 2016. However, another meeting organized by PACCOM on TPP and ASEAN was scheduled for the same week. The Core Group sent out the meeting invitation for the PACCOM meeting to all INGOs and decided to reschedule the June meeting.

The second meeting took place on September 8 (34 participants) with the theme ‘Legal Environment and policy regarding corporate giving’ and two speakers. The first speaker,
Dr Han Manh Tien, from The Asia Foundation, gave the first presentation titled, “Promotion of corporate philanthropy and partnership between corporates and civil society in Vietnam: A quick review of legal and policy environment. The second speaker was Mr Eli Mazur, Partner of YKN and Advisor to LIN with a presentation titled, “Tax Incentives for Corporate Giving”.

The third and final meeting of the year will take place on December 2, 2016.  
The main theme of the meeting will be a wrap-up of 2016 presented by the VUFO-NGO Resource Centre Managing Co-Director, Marko Lovrekovic. There will also be a second speaker, Ms Renata Pio from Alliance Anti Traffic, who will be presenting a new project to implement a preventative program in schools. At each meeting, representatives of the three thematic working groups in HCMC are invited to give updates on their activities.

Facilitation of thematic working groups

The three thematic working groups in HCMC are: HCMC Child Rights Working Group, HCMC Gender Working Group, and Southern Climate Change Working Group (which is a sub-group of Climate Change Working Group in Hanoi).

For detailed information on the work of the HCMC Child Rights Working Group, please refer to the respective section of this report.

Information about the Southern Climate Change Working Group can be found in the annual report from Climate Change Working Group. A detailed report for the HCMC Gender Working Group is available on the NGO Resource Centre website.

The HCMC Disability Working Group has not been active since the beginning of 2016.

Plans for 2017

- Maintain the dynamic makeup of the HCMC INGO Discussion Group for information sharing and collective learning as well as for joint advocacy and policy dialogue activities.

- Support the thematic working groups to ensure their smooth functioning, including good communication with the broader NGO community and look to build closer ties with these groups.

- Encourage more participation from among the Southern INGO community by actively recruiting more members to the Core Group, including representatives from the working groups.

Contact Details

As of November 2016 the Coordinating Agencies for the HCMC INGO Discussion Group are:

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HCMC Child Rights Working Group

Background

The HCMC Children’s Right Working Group (CRWG) was established in 2008 to promote communication, share experiences, enhance collaboration and strengthen cooperation between individuals and groups in order to respond more actively and effectively in the field of children's rights.

Purpose and objectives

- Sharing practical experiences on children’s rights, successful models and practical lessons for the mutual benefit of all parties;
- Facilitating a network of social organizations and associations working for children in HCMC to have the opportunity to update references, discuss policies and action-oriented programs related to the care of children and child protection;
- Organizing activities related to the promotion of children’s rights;
- Cooperating in order to contribute feedback to the compilation of policies, documents and laws of the state as well as to uphold the implementation of programs of the state related to children’s rights (according to Hanoi CRWG);
- Hold training sessions to strengthen advocacy work to promote children’s rights and include the participation of people from all walks of life, including mass media.

Activities in 2016

CRWG planned four quarterly meetings on the following topics: vocational training and career guidance for children/adolescents in difficult circumstances; supporting, intervention and counselling model for vulnerable children and their families; and promotion network for child rights practice; enhancing, supporting and cooperating with the media in child rights protection.

- The first CRWG meeting took place on 15 March with the theme, “Vocational training and career guidance for children/adolescents in difficult circumstances” (35 participants) and featured two presentations:
  "Creating a chance for children/adolescents to live independently through vocational training and career guidance” by Nguyen Thi Duy Huong, Saigon Children’s Charity; and
  "Model of vocational training for children/adolescents in difficult circumstances – Advantages, challenges and lessons learnt” by Tran Hoang Minh, Enfants et Developpement
- The second CRWG meeting took place on 7 August, with the theme, “Supporting, intervention and counselling model for vulnerable children and their families; and promotion network for child rights practice” (36 participants) and also featured two presentations:
  “Supporting intervention and counselling model for vulnerable children and their family” by PhD researcher Bui Thi Thanh Tuyen, HCMC University of Social Sciences and Humanities; and
  “Promotion network for child rights practice”, by Pham Truong Son, LIN Center for Community Development
The third CRWG meeting took place on 30 September on the theme of “Enhancing, supporting and cooperating with the media in child rights protection” (30 participants expected) and featured three presentations:

"Overview of current condition and the demands of raising awareness and response of communities in Child Rights Protection work" by Mr Tran Cong Binh, UNICEF Vietnam; and

"Sharing on efforts, initiatives, lesson learnt and challenges/difficulties in connecting with the press from social organizations and NGOs" by Mr Tran Cong Binh, UNICEF Vietnam; and

“Some suggestions to enhance cooperation and support efforts of Child Rights protection from the press towards social organizations and NGOs” by the Reporters group from Vietnam Television, Law Newspaper, Voice of Vietnam, family newspaper

The fourth CRWG meeting is scheduled in December 2016. Topic and date to be determined.

Networking: Network and share information with Hanoi Children’s Rights Working Group and promote networking with mass media and representatives of CSOs, NGOs to enhance the cooperation and support for child rights protection.

Contact Details:

CRWG can be contacted by email at <hcmc_crwg@googlegroups.com> or Mr Nguyen Ngoc Phuc, Member of the Standing Committee of HCMC Child Welfare Foundation, <ngoc-phuc132@yahoo.com> or Ms Nguyen Thi Bao Tran: <tran@nnav-org>
Landmines Working Group
http://www.ngocentre.vn/landmineswg

Background

It has been 20 years since the establishment of the Landmines Working Group in 1996 by NGO representatives working in the mine action sector at the time. The LWG has created a significant contribution to the development of mine action in Vietnam to mitigate the impact of landmines and unexploded ordnance (UXO) in Vietnam.

In 2016, the Landmines Working Group is made up of 10 members operating in different sectors areas of mine action including survey clearance, victim assistance, mine risk education and advocacy. The group serves as a forum for mine action operators and other interested parties to share information on the progress of mine action in Vietnam and how the group members can work together to enhance the focus on humanitarian needs towards socio-economic development and poverty reduction.

Structure and Management

LWG Chair:

Elected by participants on an annual basis. The LWG encourages the position to be co-chaired by two participants where possible. Ms Nguyen Thu Ha of IC and Mr Bekim Shala, Country Director of MAG, are the co-chairs for the term of 2016.

Goals and Objectives

Contribute to the socio-economic development of Vietnam through provision of ERW survey and clearance, risk education, technology transfer, victim assistance, coordination and capacity building. This will be achieved through five distinct activities:

- Facilitate networking between participants of the LWG.
- Advocate on issues presented and agreed upon by participants.
- Liaison between participants and key stakeholders such as relevant government agencies.
- Represent participants through broader socio-economic development forums.
- Promote activities of its members.

Key Activities in 2016

Landmine Working Group meetings:

The Landmine Working Group held two meetings during 2016, with one planned before the end of the calendar year. The meetings were attended by 20 attendees from all organisations working in the mine action sector in Vietnam. Topics covered throughout the meetings include:

- Updates from all members on their activities.
- Updates from the 504 Program.
- Mine Action Partnership Group (MAPG) and the participation of LWG in MAPG.
- Main content and development plan of the Decree on MA management.

**Quang Tri Conference on 20 years of international cooperation in action:**

On September 23, Quang Tri People’s Committee and the Department of Foreign Affairs organized a conference to review 20 years of international mine action in the province and to introduce the province strategy for mine action 2016 – 2025. This event commemorated a tremendous milestone – 20 years of international cooperation in mine action, especially the close collaboration between the provincial authorities and International non-Governmental organisations.

Participants included donors, national and provincial mine action authorities and LWG members. PM/WRA, Irish Aid and DiFID as donors and MAG, NPA and Peacetrees Vietnam as organisations were awarded certificates of the province’s recognition for their great contribution to the mine action in the province.

![LWG members attended the 20 Year Review Conference on International Mine Action Programs, Hosted by Quang Tri provincial authorities](image)

**Inauguration ceremony of VNMAC’s new premises and the 2016 Development Partnership Conference on Mine Action in Vietnam:**

On October 20, VNMAC/504 Office held the inauguration ceremony of VNMAC’s new headquarters and the 2016 Development Partnership Conference on Mine Action in Vietnam. The event attracted many attendees including high-ranking representatives from national authorities, international donors, embassies, development partners and INGOs including members of the Working Group.

At the inauguration of VNMAC’s new headquarters, the Development Partnership Conference on Mine Action focused on: 1) Announcing the results of the implementation of the 504 Program in 2010-2015 and its implementation plan for the period of 2016-2020; 2) Publishing
the landmine/ERW contamination map of Vietnam; 3) Announcing the Decision on the establishment of the MAPG and launching of the MAPG.


The establishment of the Mine Action Partnership Group (MAPG):

After the Decision 767/QD-BKHĐT on the establishment of the Mine Action Partnership Group (MAPG) was approved by the Minister of Planning and Investment, IC continued to work with relevant parties, especially the Ministry of Planning and Investment as well as the 504 Office, to strengthen and consolidate the working mechanism and organisational structure of MAPG.

This topic was also brought up in the LWG meeting in August for members to discuss the roles and functions of the LWG in MAPG. It was agreed that the LWG’s co-chair would represent the whole group on the MAPG’s Executive Committee for the term of one year.

Report on the results of implementation of the 504 Program in the period 2010-2015:

LWG members have been cooperating with national authorities, especially VNMAC, to support the objectives of the 504 Program over the past five years. In the group meeting on August 19, VNMAC, as the national focal agency for mine action, officially announced the results of implementation of the 504 Program for the period 2010-2015. The results are as follows:

- Successfully established the system of relevant agencies and units.
- Developed an operational structure and established VNMAC headquarters and the database centre and attended trainings.
- Mobilised resources and international cooperation, MOU signing, conferences and workshops concerning resource mobilisation, MAPG establishment.
- Conducted MRE activities and launched Program 504 website.
- Conducted UXO/landmine clearance in 19 provinces and involving 50,000 hectares.
Carried out victim assistance activities for victims.

Implementation plan for the period 2016-2020:

The national mine action program (2016-2020) has set ambitious objectives that need resources from both national and international stakeholders to accomplish. Vietnam expects to develop the management capacity to regulate and coordinate a more dynamic working environment with participation of more stakeholders.

The main objectives of the implementation plan are:

1. Issue new decree on MA and relevant mechanism.
2. Develop VNMAC headquarters and training centre.
3. Operate national database centre.
4. Promote the resource mobilization by different means.
5. Target 200,00 hectares in numerous regions for clearance.
6. Implement the UXO victim assistance projects.
7. Enhance awareness on UXO and MRE in multiple ways.
8. Operate R&D programs.
9. Raise knowledge on contamination status and call for international support.

Progress of the development of the new Decree on implementation and management of mine action and its Directive:

The Government of Vietnam is in the process of formulating a Decree on the management and implementation of mine action activities. The draft of the Decree will be circulated amongst relevant Ministries, other local authorities and international and national mine action organisations for feedback. The 504 Office expects to complete and submit the Decree to the Government for approval by the end of 2016.

The next step will be to issue a specific Directive guiding the implementation of the Decree, which is expected to take six months after the promulgation of the new Decree.

Future Directions

- Cooperate with VNMAC to carry out the implementation plan of the 504 Program for the period of 2016-2020; continue to work with relevant parties to consolidate the organisational structure of the MAPG and put it into operation efficiently.

- Prepare to join and support the work agenda of the Vietnam Mine Action Partnership Group (VNMAPG) in 2017. The overall goals of VNMAPG are to mobilise and coordinate international financing to support the implementation of the 504 Program based on mutual understanding between Vietnam and its development partners on policies, plans, solutions and collaboration of activities to address unexploded ordnance (UXO) left after the war.
• Participate in the consultation process under the new Government Decree on management and implementation of mine action in Vietnam and contribute to the development of its guidance Directive.

• Coordinate with relevant sectors and ministries to arrange technical workshops on different required topics such as the national mine action standards, information management in mine action and victim assistance.

LWG Co-Chairs 2016

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Sustainable Agriculture and Natural Resources Management Working Group
http://www.ngocentre.org.vn/workinggroups/sanrm

Background
Despite outstanding achievements in Vietnam's economic development since the 1986 ‘doi moi' strategy, some problems and challenges remain. Currently (2012), 68.06% of the population live in rural areas, and roughly 70% of the population is engaged in agricultural activities. The country’s poorest rural people generally have small plots of low-quality land or are landless, and their opportunities for off-farm employment are scarce. The poorest people live in remote villages in upland areas, with limited access to transportation and services. Poor ethnic groups constitute almost 30% of poor people. And rural households and family farmers continue to face the issues of environment degradation, loss of native forests and biodiversity, high costs of production and market distortions, among others.

Various efforts are being undertaken by the Vietnamese Government to address these issues in both policy and program terms. And in contributing to these various initiatives, INGOs under the auspices of the VUFO-NGO Resource Centre have formed the Sustainable Agriculture and Natural Resources Management Working Group (SANRM- WG). This WG is the continuation of the former working group on Agro forestry and Sustainable Development, which was established in 1998 and its Terms of Reference updated in early 2014.

Goal
Sustainable Agriculture and Natural Resources Management (SANRM) policies, principles and practices are promoted amongst different stakeholders in Vietnam.

Objectives
- Share SANRM information and experiences among the WG constituents.
- Reach-out to partners through the WG members to enable promotion of SANRM.
- Create avenues for policy dialogue with relevant Government agencies, donor institutions and others.
- Create visibility as a professional group, and exert influence on policy makers and decision-makers related to SANRM.
Expand membership and participants of the WG.

**Key activities in 2016**

In 2016, the WG organised and conducted three regular meetings and other specific events. The following are the key outcomes of these meetings and events:

1) Action Plan for 2016 developed, implemented and reviewed.

2) Sharing and learning on Climate Change Adaptation of rice-shrimp farming in the Mekong Delta.

3) Sharing and learning on food safety including improving smallholder farmer livelihoods, enhancing inclusive market/business, matchmaking between producers and retailers and promoting food safety.

4) Organise advocacy planning workshop with members of EMWG and other actors on the legal framework of collaboration group (Decree 151).

5) Support members to organise their specific events

6) Sharing information through the email network on GMO and sustainable agriculture.

7) Link to and provide information for journalists / researchers on the group’s activities.

**Membership and Structure**

- Chair and Co-Chair: VECO and CHIASE.
- Core Group: VECO, BftW, CHIASE and SRD.
- Two Sub-Groups: GMO and Organic Farming/Agriculture.

**Future Directions for 2017**

The priority activities of the SANRM-WG for 2017 are built on experiences and lessons learnt from 2016 activity. The plan will be further developed by SANRM members and will not limited to the following:

- Review membership, sub-group and coordination mechanism, specifically on how to link with other working groups.
- Development of an effective communication strategy for the WG.
- Continue regular sharing and learning among members.
- Sharing on specific topics including the context of poverty reduction especially at the policy level on: 1) Sustainable Agriculture and Agriculture Restructuring in Vietnam; 2) GMO; 3) Green Growth Strategy; 4) Organic Farming.
- Develop a specific action plan especially on collective action and advocacy activities in areas of: 1) Sustainable Agriculture and Agriculture Restructuring in Vietnam; 2) GMO; 3) Green Growth Strategy; 4) Organic Farming.
- Support sub-groups and members to take action on their specific interests that are related to SANRM’s goal and agenda.

**Chi tiết liên hệ:** Tổ chức VECO Vietnam Ông Hoàng Văn Tuấn Email: tu@veco.org.vn và Ông Nguyễn Văn Anh – Giám đốc tổ chức SHARE email: anh@chiasenet.vn
Background and Objectives

The VUFO-NGO Resource Centre’s Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene Working Group (WASH) was established in 2003 to enhance the development of the urban and rural water sector in Vietnam. The objectives are to create a forum for international NGOs and other stakeholders to increase their knowledge of the issues related to water supply, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) in and outside Vietnam, and for participants to improve their contribution to the development of the sector. Formerly known as the Water Supply and Sanitation Working Group, it changed to its current name in 2010.

The group’s objectives are:

- To facilitate communication and information exchange between the INGO sector, multilateral and bilateral agencies, local partners, and Vietnamese authorities.
- To give those organisations working in the water supply and sanitation sector a recognised forum to discuss practical program issues.
- To raise the profile of the sector in Vietnam.
- To collaborate and share technical expertise on water supply and sanitation issues.
- To improve the impact of water supply and sanitation activities.
- To share information on water supply and sanitation policy and to improve understanding of related issues.

Key Activities

Meeting 1 had been organised at ChildFund on 25, May, 2016 The theme is sharing information and lessons learned includes of:

- Share information from the PACCOM-NGORC meeting with chairs of Working Groups under the NGORC.
- Share information on the drought assessment (April 2016) of the Mekong Delta, South Central and Central Highland provinces and on actions to cope with disasters.
- Sharing from Ms. Pham Bich Ngoc - Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Partnership on WB Loan Project on scaling up Sanitation and other related activities
- Information shared by Plan International in Vietnam (PIV) about a mobile application, using smart phones, to collect field data to monitor the Open Defecation Status (ODF) under Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) as an effective approach to promote rural sanitation.
- Presentation from Mrs. Kieu Hanh - Childfund on pilot model in water treatment at household level and sanitation marketing results (project implemented by Childfund).
Meeting 2: The main discussion at the meeting was a technical training by WASH specialist, Ms Lena from CAWST presented about household water-treatment technology. It was agreed to consider the possibility of organising a training session with facilitation support from CAWST and participation from NGOs based on the self-payment principle.

Meeting 3: Bio-Sand Filter training organised in Xuan Mai, Hanoi, from 26 to 28 October, 2016, with 18 participants from Plan International in Vietnam (PIV), Child Fund, Church World Service, EMW, IDE, Partners of CWS from Dai Tu District Centre of Thai Nguyen Province and people from NVCARD. Ms Lena from CAWST conducted the training with Mr Hoa from Plan International Vietnam providing translation.

Other activities:

Members joined meetings organised by Government-led working groups such as: National Sanitation Working Group under VIHEMA-MoH; RWSS Partnership; O&M Water Group under MARD; Join meeting organised by member – EMW launching post-CHOBA project.

Directions in 2017

Regular WG meetings will be carried out regularly every three months. Members will continue to meet and share information, lessons learned and experiences in WASH.

ToT technical training: WASH WG will work with CAWST to organise a ‘Delivering Effective WASH Training’ session where participants learn to effectively facilitate and adapt lessons on WASH (water, sanitation, and hygiene). They will discuss what learners need, practise creating a safe learning environment, motivating learners, and ensuring that information is relevant and appropriate. Through lessons and practical experience, participants will also learn to formulate effective questions, respond to learners, and manage challenging training situations.
Exchange visits: WASH WG members will consider organising exchange visits to each other to learn about experiences of project implementation and the successful model being implemented under the scope of cooperation between NGOs and the local government.

Jointly participate in Government forums such as RWSSP under MARD and the National Sanitation Working Group under VIHEMA-MoH to share, learn and influence the Government in country WASH development.