

EMWG MEETING 20 March 2007

Date: 20 March 2007 **Time:** 3 – 5 PM.

Venue: NGO Resource Centre – La Thanh Hotel, 218 Doi Can st., Ha Noi

Draft Minutes

Chair of the meeting: Steve Thomas – Oxfam Great Britain

Agenda

- Sharing the EMWG Action Plan 2007 and the concept papers of the activities. Discussion and getting members comments/suggestions and involvement to WG activities
- Sharing of each members plan for the 2007 and planning of joint activities

Item 1: Introductions: Welcome to WG meeting made by Chairperson. Steve Thomas and round table introduction of those present.

Item 2: Steve Thomas from Oxfam GB made presentation on Ethnic Minorities Working Group.

He briefs the WG's background, Goal, Objectives and process of its development from time to time and the action plan of Working Group for 2007.

EMWG established 10 years ago as Oxfam Hongkong initiative, through up and down process of development, Caritas Switzerland had picked it up and it restarted in 2002 under the management of a core group. Enfant and Development also was focal point for WG for 2 years and now Oxfam GB take this role and become chair of WG since January 2007. Currently core group members are: Oxfam GB, Caritas Switzerland, Helvetas, Save the Children UK, Care International, and VUFO-NGO RC.

The Goal of EMWG is to improve the impact of EMWG members'work on the livelihoods of ethnic minorities by increasing collaboration and coordinated efforts among members and coordinated efforts among members and other stakeholders. It has 4 key objectives: i. Sharing and disseminating information and Resources; ii. Improving the Development practice of Member organizations; iii. Policy Dialogue; IV Facilitating the voice of ethnic minority people.

He emphasized that the EMWG should be revitalized, firstly because of obtaining huge achievements in poverty reduction, but the challenge of Ethnic Minority poverty reduction remains. Secondly EMWG is a key forum for sharing and discussing ethnic minority issues, many opportunities to improve the quality of work and have a positive impact on policy/ decision making as well.

Steve presents the EMWG focus areas for 2007 and each organization updated their plan and following up action.

1. Engage with Program 135 (OGB+ SCUUK + NGO RC)
2. Enhancing EM voice in decisions that affect them (OHK + Care Int)
3. Learn lessons on community forestry management (Helvetas)
4. Develop long term program to work with media on EM issues (OGB)
5. Learning and sharing approaches and principles to working with ethnic minorities (OHK + Caritas SW)

6. Advocacy approaches in EM areas (Care Int)\
7. Strengthening capacity building and networking with other organization (Care Int)
8. Database and information sharing (Helvetas + NGO RC)

The detail outlined plan for each activities has been distributed to participants in the meeting.

Item3: Agency updates

Oxfam HK and Caritas: For development approach review

Oxfam Hongkong has been nominated to take lead for the process in collaboration with CARITAS and other INGOs to identify the best approaches to work more effectively with Ethnic Minorities. With 2 main objectives to consolidate best practices and worst failures of working with EM in the country and region, increasing the impact of development agencies and government of Vietnam on Poverty reduction and development of ethnic minorities, via different channels, especially CEM and Ethnic Council of National Assembly. Oxfam HK and Caritas encourage interested people from different NGOs, Donor, Government Offices to join this activity. The Task Force will be formed and they will develop TOR; review all available research, study and reports on development approaches with Ethnic Minorities and doing other tasks such as conduct series of focused group discussions among academia, practitioners and policy makers on the findings and different matters; conduct complementary field research; organize workshop to exchange and share the best practices, lesson learn. These activities will start in May, any organization want to join please talk to Binh and Chau from Oxfam Hongkong.

Engage with program 135 phase 2 (Oxfam GB, SCUUK, NGORC)

Steve briefed information on Programme 135 Phase 2 (P135-II) is a five-year poverty reduction program of the government of Vietnam, to be implemented from 2006-10. P135-II targets poor and mountainous communes in 45 provinces. The State Committee for Ethnic Minority Affairs (CEMA) is the lead agency assigned to coordinate and implement this program with several ministries participating in different aspects of the programme.

CEMA has indicated a willingness to engage with NGOs and to learn from NGOs' experience in order to make P135-II as effective as possible in meeting its objectives. The EMWG is an appropriate (but not the exclusive) convening body for this NGO engagement with CEMA. The objective is to work with CEMA, province, district and commune officials to ensure that lessons learned from INGO experience are used when designing and implementing P135-II, in order to make P135-II as effective as possible in meeting the needs of ethnic minority people in the 1,644 poor and mountainous communes targeted by the programme.

(detail task in outline plan for EMWG engagement with Programme 135 phase II)

as Trine reminded participants to send the documented experience/learning on participatory infrastructure management through email or direct to Tam, the deadline is 31 of March.

Learn lessons on community forestry management (Helvetas)

Helvetas implemented Agroforestry/Forestry programme in 3 province Hoa Binh, Dac Nong and Thua Thien Hue, with purpose to strengthened local institutional capacities in selected districts and communes in upland areas; to develop effective and sustainable extension and

training services; to assist MARD in the development and coordination of an integrated system of demand-driven and appropriate research, extension, education and training.

Helvetas intends to organize the workshop with Working Group in mid of April to share practical issue, lesson learn and exchange experiences as well as expect to have chance to hear lesson, experience from other NGOs. Helvetas also wants to organize the Field visit to Dac Nong in June. They expect to invite some other NGOs working in this area join in these activities.

Advocacy approaches in EM areas Care International + Strengthening capacity building and networking with other organization (Care Int):

This is the opportunity to share and doing in practice, as other activities Care International also made the outline plan: forming Task Force and develop TOR, and setup timeframe for each detail activities. Care will collect lesson learn, experiences, document related in May then consolidating all these for workshop (in July).Care Int' wants to organize one workshop to share these in August, expect Other NGOs working on these area join with Care.

Database & Information (Helvetas and NGO RC)

The Group encourages members to updates their information and this information will be posted on NGO RC Website. The members can download form from NGO RC website for updating.

There are 2 database forms : NGO present on 135 program
NGOs activities on EM

Participants in the meeting split into groups (which are working in the same area) to discuss 8 activities above in separately, in order to follow up the detail outlined plan for each one.

**Meeting on EMWG Action Plan 2007
(Ethnic Minorities Working Group – 20 March 2007)**

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