

VIETNAM

Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)

POVERTY ALLEVIATION THROUGH LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT IN NORTHERN UPLAND OF VIETNAM (PALD)



Switzerland supports poor farmers in 121 communes of nine districts in the northwest region in order to directly increase the income of 11,500 households and contribute to an improvement in the livelihoods of about 68,000 households indirectly through local partners involved in small livestock development, capacity building and strengthening of market linkages.

BACKGROUND

Despite Vietnam's high economic growth rates in this decade and the last, along with impressive achievements in poverty reduction, the poverty rate gap between urban and rural areas is still high, and more than 95% of poor people live in rural areas. In the northwest region of Vietnam, home to a large percentage of ethnic minorities, the poverty rate remains as high as 39.2%, in contrast to that of

Vietnam overall, which was 14.2% in 2010.

PALD was designed to tackle poverty in nine poor districts located within three upland provinces in the Northwest of Vietnam - Son La, Phu Tho and Yen Bai. From 2005 to 2010, the project focused its support to women in four poor districts and helped more than 5,600 households, of which more than 90% are ethnic minorities, increase their income by rearing chickens and pigs (to up to VND 420,000 and VND 1,890,000 per month respectively). This has resulted in significant poverty reduction for this group of direct beneficiaries - from 41.2 % (in 2006) to 7.5% (end of 2009).

The increase in income of 5,600 households has made a significant contribution to the overall reduction of poverty within the targeted districts: the average poverty rate of the four targeted districts decreased from 46.9% (in 2006) to 31.3% (in 2009). In addition, over 12 types of PALD's technical documents, including seven manuals relating to livestock production techniques, were published and highly appreciated by local partners and governmental agencies, and widely used by other development partners in other provinces.

Building on the achievements of the last phase, Phase Three responds to needs identified for further support, and is geared towards the up-scaling of the most successful income-raising models from the last phase in 121 communes of nine districts through local partners involved in small livestock development capacity building and strengthening of market linkages.

GOAL

The overall goal of the PALD is to increase farmers' incomes by strengthening sustainable and replicable livestock services, production systems, and by providing remote households with better access to local and regional markets.

APPROACH

PALD aims to strengthen the capacity of local partners through hands-on training and coaching so that partners are capable of providing adequate support to farmers. The project provides technical support in livestock development, including disease control, facilitates access to credit and strengthens market linkages. The project also strengthens farmer groups and helps improve their bargaining power within the value chain through increasing collective action of farmer groups.

TARGET GROUPS

PALD targets poor and near-poor household farmers, of which more than 90% are from ethnic minorities and more than 95% are women within the households. In particular, PALD provides direct support to local livestock service providers including para-veterinary practitioners/livestock extension agents, district public services such as veterinary, extension, local distributors of veterinary products and the Women's Union.

EXPECTED RESULTS

PALD expects to improve the livelihoods of 11,500 farmer households as direct beneficiaries as well as indirectly benefiting 68'000 farmer households improved services and supported capacity. Increased knowledge and skills through adoption of sound, small-livestock production methods and technologies and better access to livestock related services and markets is expected to reduce poverty levels from between 10-40% for direct beneficiaries and reduce livestock mortality rates from between 10 -15%, whilst providing an average additional income of VND 650,000 per month per household (approximately USD 33).

CONTACT

AVSF - Agronomes et Veterinaires Sans Frontieres in Vietnam

Tel: (+84) 43 719 99 34

Email: hoa.hh@avsf.org

Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC

Swiss Cooperation Office for Vietnam (SDC / SECO)

Phone: +84 (4) 39 34 66 27

Email: hanoi@eda.admin.ch



Project at a glance:

Title	Budget	Partners	Project Provinces
Poverty Alleviation through Livestock Development in Northern Upland of Vietnam (PALD)	Previous phases (01/2005-1/2011): <ul style="list-style-type: none">• EUR 830,000 Phase 3 (03/2011-12/2014): <ul style="list-style-type: none">• SDC: EUR 3,000,000• Vietnamese Government; EUR 360,000• Farmer Interest Groups: EUR 1,640,000	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, National Institute of Animal Science, AVSF	Phu Tho Son La Yen Bai