

CAPACITY STATEMENT

SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS



Although Vietnam has transitioned to upper middle income country status and integration into the global market has created lots of opportunities, neither the opportunities nor the benefits have been equitably distributed. Poverty prevalences in Northern Midland and Mountainous Region (7.4%), Central Highlands (8.9%), Southeast (6.2%) and the Mekong Delta (8.1%) are a lot higher than those of the Red River Delta (0.3%) and North Central and Central Coasts (3.3%)¹. Rural youth have limited economic opportunities, regardless of their ethnicity, and many are forced to migrate to urban centers to earn income. The rate of youth not in employment, education or training in the first quarter of 2021 was 16.3%, equivalent to nearly 2 million people. The COVID-19 pandemic has increased this figure by 0.9% compared to the same period last year².

To sustain our impact on child well-being, World Vision Vietnam seeks to strengthen the community and household livelihoods so that they are better equipped to improve household income and assets, have food security, and provide for their children's uncompromisable needs. This will eventually contribute to the reduction of malnourished children.

¹ The General Statistics Office of Vietnam, 2021

² The General Statistics Office of Vietnam, 2021

Priority Focus

Goal: Strengthen household livelihoods to sustain child well-being

Objective: Build sustainable livelihoods through income, assets, access to finance, access to markets, local enterprise, and natural resource management, so that parents and caregivers can provide well for their children now and in the future

Approach:

- + Empowering households to provide for their children, especially through women's economic empowerment
- + Mobilizing groups in communities to strengthen productivity, resilience, market access and financial inclusion
- + Influencing system-wide changes to promote sustainable employment opportunities, inclusive market systems and positive social and gender norms



FY20 expenditure
2.82 million US dollars



Children impacted
16,566 including
9,104 most vulnerable children
(Quarter 1-2/FY21)



Technical staff
2 national level staff (manager and specialist)
5 zonal level technical officers



Technical models
Ultra Poor Graduation
Building Secure Livelihoods
Savings for Transformation
Microfinance

Technical Expertise

At national level, we have a full-time Livelihoods Technical Program Manager and a Livelihoods Specialist who have sharp knowledge and practical experience on agriculture development and market development for the poor, agro-forestry, local value chain development, emergency response, rural finance, microfinance, and youth development including job orientation and vocational training.

At field level, we have 5 Technical Program Officers and a network of development facilitators and project staff who are specialized in agriculture and rural development, rural finance, microfinance, economic development and disaster risk reduction and work at grassroots level to identify and directly provide technical support to people in need.

Advantages & Strengths

We have a network of 36 Area Programs with interventions implemented at **grassroots** level during a timeline of 10 - 15 years. This enables us to step into the people's shoes, understand their lives, identify the most vulnerable children and be responsive to communities whenever needed.

Due to the **integrated** nature of our program design, households benefit not only from technical models but from other programs/projects focusing in livelihoods development, microfinance, disaster risk reduction and emergency response. This gives households a higher chance of maximizing economic profit and sustaining their income even in the context of economic shocks or disasters.

In addition, we have established trustful **partnerships** with local governments at all levels who help provide guidance related to livelihoods development models, and host workshops/network events to scale up models.

Through the consistently applied cross-cutting themes of gender and disability, **equal participation** of all communities' members is always taken into account during program design, implementation, and evaluation. This inclusive approach helps promote community participation and engagement, enabling us to make a greater impact and sustain child well-being.



Partnerships

We have partnered with **government agencies** at all levels as our program interventions closely align with the Vietnamese government's strategy for economic reform and development. At the national level, we have established relationships with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, the Ministry of Natural Resources & Environment, and the Ministry of Labor and Invalid Social Affairs regarding technical and vocational training for youth.

At provincial/district/commune/village levels, we have established strong partnerships with the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, Department of Natural Resources and Environment, Vocational Training Centers, the People's Committees, and village leaders.

Our interventions that are supported by government agencies include projects that provide livestock breeds, training to enhance livestock, rice and crop farming productivity; support underprivileged adolescents with life skills and vocational training as well as provide initial support for startup of youths.

We also work with local **mass organisations** such as Farmers' Association, Women's Union, and Youth Union in implementing and supporting economic development activities through mobilizing local people to participate in development work and transiting saving groups to these organisations for continued operation and service to local households.

In addition, we have developed a fruitful relationship with **international and local civil society and organisations** such as ADRA, CARE, Oxfam, Plan International, SNV, Save the Children, Vietnam Red Cross and Center for Rural Development in Central Vietnam to implement economic development and emergency response grant projects.

In recent years we put a strong focus on partnering with the **private sector** and have established sound connections with various corporations such as ADM, Alstom, DreamStart Labs, LG Electronics and Mavin Group.



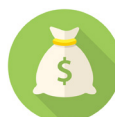


Technical Models



Ultra Poor Graduation provides extremely poor households with a pathway out of poverty by helping families engage in a productive and resilient livelihood. This program gradually builds household capacity and empowers families to become involved with the local economy and community in productive and positive ways. This technical model includes 4 core components:

- + **Social protection:** Helping families to get the support they need to meet basic needs, deal with crises, and access health and education services.
- + **Livelihoods promotion:** Helping families to find a way to make a resilient and sustainable income. Interventions may include asset or cash transfers for a viable livelihood or linkages to formal employment, technical and business skills training, and access to markets.
- + **Financial inclusion:** Financial inclusion provides support to new businesses, to continue and improve their livelihoods. Interventions typically include an informal savings group or access to formal banking facilities, credit and insurance mechanisms and financial literacy training.
- + **Social empowerment:** To become active in their economy, families need to also be fully part of their local community. Activities can include life skills training, social integration, and coaching that cuts across all four pillars, underpinned by a commitment to gender equality.



Microfinance provides small non-collateral loans through borrowing groups with monthly repayment to support business development of vulnerable households and ensure child well-being. Through projects integrated into World Vision's existing Area Programs, clients are equipped with business development knowledge and skills.

Clients also have access to non-financial services including training and capacity building on financial management, sustainable livelihoods, and business development.



Building Secure Livelihoods provides a comprehensive pathway out of poverty for families to improve their livelihoods to levels that are productive and resilient enough to survive a range of shocks and stresses. The project model works particularly with rural households described as 'marginally poor' who have caring responsibilities for young children. We support them to improve their agricultural production and make a profitable farming venture to increase family income in a sustainable manner - moving them from surviving to thriving.

Specific interventions include, but are not limited to, regular savings development, sustainable and profitable agriculture, natural resource management, community-based disaster risk management, local value chain development, and access to and effective use of local financial services and markets.



By introducing **Savings For Transformation** groups into communities, World Vision facilitates a sustainable platform for families to access savings and small loans. Savings For Transformation builds resilience by enabling community members to develop skills and access to funds to cope with household emergencies, learn long-term coping strategies, focus on the health, nutrition and education of their children and invest in their own livelihoods.

These groups become important social safety nets to their members, creating a greater sense of empowerment and trust within communities. This model tries to connect the most vulnerable and marginalized individuals and households in the community to groups, providing accessibility and inclusion to women, people with disabilities and others often left behind.

Grant Experiences

1 Vietnam Ethnic Minority Economic Empowerment Activity (2015-2020)

Budget: 2,013,879 US dollars

Donor: New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Goal: To improve economic well-being of 1,200 poor ethnic minority households with children in 6 target communes in Hướng Hóa District of Quảng Trị Province

2 Local Value Chain Development Project (2017-2019)

Budget: 1 million US dollars

Donor: Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA)

Goal: To enhance income for needy farmers, especially households with children, in five target communes in Triệu Phong District towards sustainable child well-being through promoting natural farming production and market linkage

3 Associated Agriculture for Long-Term Income Stabilization of Ethnic Minorities and Equal Integration in Community Development in Vietnam (2019-2022)

Budget: 642,280 US dollars

Donor: German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)

Goal: To assist ethnic minority households in the mountainous areas of Central Vietnam to improve their livelihoods and participate in community development

4 Improved capacity and access to employment opportunities for disadvantaged youth in Hải Phòng (2020-2023)

Budget: 242,998 US dollars

Donor: LG Electronics

Goal: To promote life skills and provide 300 disadvantaged youth in Hải Phòng City with vocational training and employment opportunities

Our contributions to child well-being in 2018-2022

80% of **17,414** trained farmers applied sustainable cultivation and husbandry models into household production.

17,552 households were members of **861** savings groups that operated stably under World Vision's and local authorities' supervision and support. Therefore, they became part of a mutual support system and had access to loans in times of needs.

347 Ultra Poor Graduation groups with **4,948** active members were operating with the aim to graduate people from ultra-poverty to sustainable livelihoods.

267 Building Secure Livelihood groups involving **4,447** marginally poor households were supported to improve agricultural production and increase family income.

1,976 adolescents received job orientation, life skills education, vocational training (such as hairdressing, manicure, motorbike repair), and were supported to find a stable job as per their needs.



World Vision is a movement of people called to improve the lives of vulnerable children around the world. We believe that a country, and a world, where all children are protected and free from extreme poverty and able to reach their full potential is possible. Since 1988, World Vision Vietnam has been devoted to the most vulnerable children and communities, helping them overcome poverty. Every year, over 200,000 Vietnamese children benefit from our work in three key areas: Child Protection, Nutrition, and Sustainable Livelihoods.