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# Civil Action of Socio-economic Inclusion in Northern Vietnam (CASI)

**EMPOWERING WOMEN AND ETHNIC GROUPS IN NORTHERN VIETNAM.** Despite rapid economic growth, persistent pockets of poverty remain in remote rural areas in Vietnam. Different ethnic groups and especially women in these areas lack access to natural resources such as forests, land and water, which are essential for the development and security of their livelihoods. They have limited access to resources and information and they have a limited voice to influence decisions that affect their own lives.

**Through CASI, CARE and civil society organisations work together with ethnic group people and women to strengthen their voice in local decision making, to improve their livelihoods and to be able adapt to climate change.**

## KEY OUTCOMES



**CASI's partners are legitimate and valued agencies towards their peers, authorities and communities.**



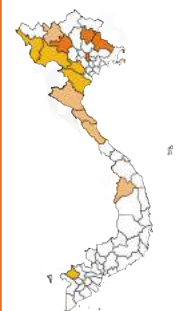
**Ethnic minority representatives are empowered and have the confidence and capacity to deal with issues that affect their community.**



**Policy makers and stakeholders have more access to accurate and relevant evidence on key issues that improve development.**

### Participants

Over 12,000 women and men who depend on natural resources in remote rural areas in northern Vietnam



### Locations

Vietnam:

127 villages, 18 communes, 9 districts in An Giang, Son La, Dien Bien, Hanoi, Yen Bai, Bac Kan, Lang Son, Thanh Hoa provinces.

*CASI is working here*  
*CASI has worked here*  
*CASI has reached here*

### Partners

- » Agriculture and Forestry Research and Development Centre for Northern Mountainous Region (ADC)
- » Culture Identify and Resource Use Management (CIRUM)
- » Institute for Studies in Society, Economics and Environment (iSEE)
- » Sustainable Rural Development (SRD)
- » Vietnam Union of Science and Technology Associations (VUSTA)

### Timeframe, budget and donor

2002-2017  
from 2002 - 2015 approx. US\$12 million  
DANIDA



**12,227+** people have actively participated in the CASI project, benefiting from strengthened voice, rights, discussions on policies that affect them and more sustainable livelihoods.

**97,816+** people\* have benefited from identifying and implementing sustainable livelihoods and improved access to information. They gained increased access to food and increased the quality of their lives.

**336** Vietnamese NGOs are recognised organisations for empowerment. They have increased their capacity, gained advocacy and networking skills and grown their knowledge on various topics. They are recognised and valued by authorities, their peers and communities.

**3284** Community Based Organisations are established and active at grassroots level. They are recognised and respected platforms. Their capacity and confidence has increased and their voices are being heard at community and provincial level.

**8** VNGO and EM networks were established and linked together to make a bigger impact. They are facilitated with training to deal with issues; advocate for themselves and act collectively.

\*including direct and indirect participants

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## HOW DOES CASI WORK?

CASI supports remote ethnic minority communities to gain increased decision-making power over matters that affect their lives.

### EVOLVING CIVIL SOCIETY

Growing government recognition for ethnic minority people; representatives; community based organisations; and civil society organisations.

Ethnic group representatives are considered as co-implementing partners rather than beneficiaries at the local level. Legitimacy of civil society organisations is recognised by government and communities.

### FOUNDATION FOR THE FUTURE

Large networks of ethnic groups are build, representatives are facilitated with training to deal with issues and advocacy themselves.

Start-up point for civil society organisations to collaborate with peers and influence policies together.

Community based organisations are set-up outside of the CASI project by partners, communities and local authorities.

### ENHANCING WOMEN'S VOICE

- » Women have increase their capacity and skills to actively participate in their own development.
- » Women have gained a legitimate and respected voice through Livelihoods and Rights Clubs.

### IMPROVED KNOWLEDGE ON RIGHTS

- » Communities increased their ability to implement advocacy activities with local authorities, so they can address issues related to their communities and to women's rights.
- » Increased knowledge leads to more confidence and the ability for communities to advocate themselves.
- » Women get legal training to become aware of their rights.

### SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS

- » Household incomes increased through more sustainable livelihoods.
- » Communities are more aware and better prepared for the impacts of climate change.

## How does CASI help to strengthen ethnic communities to secure their livelihoods?

High in the mountains of northern Vietnam, Vi Thi Ngoc of the Tay ethnic groups knows how hard it can be to make a living from the land.

**"I always found it difficult to put food on the table. Ever since I had my first child, it was very hard to survive."**

In recent years the Tay have had to deal with unpredictable climate change. It rains more in the summer; during the winter there is more fog and land freezes more frequently than before. The unusual weather has been taking their toll on people's lives and livelihoods. CARE has been working with the Tay community to adapt their farming skills to the changing climate.

With the knowledge of how to deal with and adapt to climate change, Ngoc can continue farming and earn a living. She makes sure her fields are never empty, she plants rice twice a year, plants green beans in February instead of July, has a field of bananas and grows trees for timber.

As a result of her improved knowledge and techniques, Ngoc's and her husband saved enough money to replace her wooden home with a concrete house and she has been able to send her two eldest daughters to university, with her third daughter likely to follow.

**"My new knowledge and techniques have led to more food and income. We can do everything by ourselves now."**



### CARE International in Vietnam

P.O. Box 20, Hanoi  
 9th floor, CDC Building, 25 Le Dai Hanh  
 Hai Ba Trung district, Hanoi, Vietnam  
 T: (+84) 24 3716 1930 | F: (+84) 24 3716 1935  
 VNM.info@careint.org | www.care.org.au/vietnam



MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF DENMARK  
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