



## Enhancement of Food Security for Ethnic Minorities in Northern Vietnam (EFSEM)

Vietnam generally is a food secure country as it produces enough rice to feed the whole population. Despite the high food export figures, many groups are still facing poverty and intermittent food shortages. In Vietnam, ethnic minorities account for 14.6% of the population but 52% of the poor. As food security is inherently linked to poverty, ethnic minorities are among the most vulnerable groups, especially when it comes to [the four dimensions of food security](#) as defined by FAO including Food availability, Food access, Utilization, and Stability.

In the target location of Tan Uyen district, Lai Chau province, farmers rely on rain-fed rice cultivation; of which over 50% of rice paddy fields can only grow one crop annually. They do not have access to extension services as well as quality inputs for agricultural production. In addition, the old-fashioned cultivation practices in a changing climate and degrading environment significantly limit EM farmers' capacity to produce enough food for consumption. This also challenges their ability to earn income or cash – a key determinant of the access to food.

Within ethnic minority groups, the burden of poverty tends to fall more heavily on women. While women and men report joint decision-making on household finances and farming practices, husbands most often have final decision-making power on livelihoods and important spending. Women often have limited mobility, low literacy rates and a lack of knowledge of the Vietnamese language.

EFSEM is part of CARE's long-term programme on Remote Ethnic Minority Women, and will be implemented in [InfoAct](#) locations. The project will leverage a lot of InfoAct's capacity building interventions, savings groups and other infrastructure such as loudspeakers to disseminate climate information, and mini-meteorology stations. EFSEM is also built up on CARE's 30-year experience in supporting ethnic minority women's economic empowerment Vietnam. EFSEM will adopt CARE International (CI) SuPER approach to smallholder agriculture that promotes Sustainable, Productive, Equitable and Resilient livelihoods, and food and nutrition security, in a changing climate.

### Participants

1,000 ethnic minorities women

### Locations

4 communes in Tan Uyen district, Lai Chau province

### Partners

Lai Chau Women's Union and Provincial Crop Production Department

### Timeframe

May 2021 - April 2024

### Donors



shegrows  
thefuture

**THROUGH EFSEM PROJECT, CARE WORKS TO ENSURE ETHNIC MINORITY WOMEN AND THEIR FAMILIES IMPROVE FOOD SECURITY THROUGH AGRICULTURAL LIVELIHOOD DIVERSIFICATION AND CLIMATE RESILIENCE.**

### OBJECTIVES

Ethnic minority women and their families have improved food availability from sustainable agricultural production

Ethnic minority women and their families have better capacity to mitigate disaster and climate risks

Ethnic minority women have increased participation to climate change (CC) & disaster risk reduction (DRR) planning at various levels

### HOW WILL THE PROJECT WORK?



Promote climate resilient livelihood strategies and new agricultural techniques that are more resilient to changing climate



Implement Village Savings & Loans Association (VSLA) model to strengthen livelihood/producer groups



Prioritise community-based solutions to identify the vulnerability and adaptive capacity of local ethnic minorities through the Climate change Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (CVCA) process



Facilitate dialogues between men and women, promote more equitable sharing of household chores and increase men's support for their wives

**"... reaching at least 1,000 ethnic minorities women & directly benefiting 4,500 people in four remote communes of Tan Uyen district, Lai Chau provinces in Vietnam..."**

