



## Personal Advancement and Career Enhancement (P.A.C.E.) in the Community for Migrant Women in Urban Areas

**MIGRANT URBAN WOMEN IN VIETNAM** Many women in Vietnam migrate to find better ways to make a living. However, they often live and work in unsafe environments, working in industries such as street vending, garment factories, domestic work, waste collecting, or in bars, restaurants or entertainment venues. Living far from home, they lose family- and community-based support networks, and often become invisible to the authorities. As a result, they have limited access to protection, services and opportunities.

Through P.A.C.E. in the Community, CARE works with local organisation LIGHT to enable migrant women in urban areas to develop the skills to advocate for their needs and interests, and supports them to access improved economic opportunities.

### KEY OUTCOMES



Migrant women in urban areas develop **personal skills**, such as communication, decision-making, and time management, which aim to enable them to have **increased control over decisions and factors which affect them**.



Migrant women in urban areas develop **increased solidarity and a stronger collective voice**, which they are able to use to **advocate for their own interests**, such as when negotiating for improved working conditions.



Migrant urban women have **improved access to economic opportunities**, as they are referred to market-oriented vocational training, job placement services and business development services provided by private companies, local NGOs and government bodies in Vietnam.

### Participants

230 migrant women in urban areas, working in the informal sector; 30 peer educators and 200 training participants

### Locations

Three communes in Hanoi:

- 1) Thanh Xuan Nam in Thanh Xuan district
- 2) Chuong Duong in Hoan Kiem district
- 3) Phuc Tan in Hoan Kiem district



**Local Partner**  
LIGHT

**Timeframe, budget and donor**  
September 2015 - October 2016  
Approx. US\$100,000  
The Gap Foundation







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## HOW DOES P.A.C.E. IN THE COMMUNITY WORK?

P.A.C.E. in the Community is a pilot project designed to explore a new method for empowering migrant women in urban areas to strengthen their collective voice and access greater economic opportunities.

### LAYING THE GROUNDWORK

CARE and LIGHT introduce the program to target communities, reach out to migrant women interested in taking part, and, using participatory techniques and case studies, adapt training materials to match their specific needs.

### PROJECT DELIVERY

Thirty peer educators, including six Women's Union officers, are recruited and coached on how to deliver four customised training modules. Meanwhile, the project reaches out to government, businesses, landlords and the men in participants' lives.

#### COMMUNICATION

#### PROBLEM-SOLVING & DECISION-MAKING

#### TIME & STRESS MANAGEMENT

#### FINANCIAL INCLUSION

#### NATIONAL ADVOCACY

A key stakeholder with national reach, the Vietnam Women's Union is an important partner of the project. LIGHT is advocating for the VWU to form a sub-group for migrant women, creating a formal structure for raising their voice.

#### JOB REFERRAL NETWORK

CARE and LIGHT maintain referral networks that include companies, local NGOs and government bodies to help connect participants with opportunities for work, market-oriented vocational training and business development services.

#### ENGAGING MEN

With the aim of also impacting the social structures influencing the lives of migrant women, the project conducts workshops with local authorities, as well as the husbands, partners and landlords who play important roles in participants' lives.

### OUTCOMES

#### STRONGER LIVELIHOODS

Participants leave with greater confidence, ability and tools with which to pursue opportunities, grow their incomes and manage their finances.

#### STRONGER VOICE

Solidarity and a stronger collective voice grow from the bonds formed between participants, who now have new tools to advocate for their own interests.

#### STRONGER SUPPORT NETWORKS

By experiencing the project in small 'self-help groups', participants develop an organic support network to complement the formal supports provided by the project.

#### STRONGER RELATIONS

The project's approach aims to transform the relationships in migrant women's lives, while also equipping them with the tools they need to confront gender-based obstacles.

## How does empowering women migrant workers help strengthen families?

Pham Thi Hau, 36, was born in a poor village in Hai Duong province. After losing her father at a young age, she had to move to Hanoi when she was 10 years old to earn money to go to school. At the age of 24, she got married and had a daughter. Not long after, her husband died, and Ms. Hau was left to raise her daughter alone.

**"I just hope that my daughter studies well and gets a good job. Even though I have to work harder, I still try my best to help her get a bright future."**

Today, she sells toothpicks for the Hanoi Disabled People Association to earn her living. Ms. Hau has to walk more than 20 kilometres each day to sell toothpicks and spends a lot of her time working to ensure her family's standard of living, minimal though it is. Making time for her 12-year-old daughter isn't easy, but Ms. Hau is still always working to better her daughter's life, even though there are so many obstacles in her own.

Ms. Hau has learned very quickly in the P.A.C.E. program. She has been selected to be a peer trainer, allowing her to continue training and guiding other people like her. She works with 11 female migrant workers, sharing what she has learned from the program. She has also been sharing it with her daughter. Ms. Hau says she can see that the practical and useful skills they have gained have inspired them both, and have helped to gradually improve their life. Ms. Hau realizes that her daughter has become more open and confident. Hearing about the good marks her daughter earns at school makes Ms. Hau very confident in the future of their family.



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