

SOCIAL WELFARE IN VIETNAM-ACHIEVEMENTS AND BARRIERS TO EXPAND

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1. The statistic

- 13,47% poor households (2008);
- 61 districts are poorest where more than 50% of household are in poverty;
- About 5.3 million people with disabilities;
- 1.2 million children in Difficult circumstances;
- About 9 million elderly;
- Millions of people suffer serious consequences of natural disasters per year...
- 100,000 plus People with HIV/AIDS; single parents...

2. The policy

- A national program on “Hunger eradication and poverty reduction” since 1998.
Together with this, many programs concentrating on increasing living quality for mountainous and difficult areas.
- Resolution on “Rapid and sustainable poverty reduction for 61 poorest Districts” since 2008.

Policy for social protection

- Monthly social allowance program for 9 disadvantage groups people providing 120.000 VND/month (7 USD). The groups are chosen according to criteria mentioned in section 1.
- The poor and disadvantage people, who are unable to stay in communities, can live in government institution and non-government homes.

(continue)

- Provide support for people, who suffer from natural disaster or facing food shortage.
- provide free health insurance for the poor and people in difficult circumstances.
- Beside the government supports, encourage contributions and supports from community as well as individual and organizations to build houses for the poor and needy.

Solutions for current situation

- In response to the impact of the world-wide financial crises, the Government has many resolutions to simulate the nation economy and ensuring social protection to the most needy.
- With respect to social protection: Instituted the "Rapid and sustainable poverty reduction program" for 61 poorest districts ;

The solution (continue)

- Provided cash handout to all poor households during the Tet (Feb 09) Vietnamese New Year 2009;
- Proposed increase monthly social allowance from 7 USD to 10 USD/month;
- Central Government also provided guidance and requested provincial authorities to allocate funding and other resources and develop plan to carry out the national policy on social protection.

3. Impact and lessons learned

- Poverty reducing from more than 50% (1998) to 13.5% (2008);
- More than 1.2 million people receive regular social allowance;
- 40 thousand senior, orphans and other disadvantage groups are cared for in government social institutions and non-government homes for the poor;
- People affected by natural and man made disasters receive both in-kind and financial supports;

Lessons learned

- Economic development can go hand in hand with strong social protection policies which has promoted a more equal society.
- Responsibility and implementing ability of staff and inclusion of the local people are very important to ensure proper implementation of social protection policies;
- The strong co-ordination and collaboration between concerning government and non-government organizations should be encouraged;
- Responsibility and ability of local administration and public authorities to carry out the social protection policies need to be enhanced

Lessons learned (continue)

- Allocation of sufficient funding resources from the government
- Encourage civil society to contribute to providing additional funding and in-kind support to social protection programs
- Partnership with International donors and non government organizations to strengthen the financial and implementation of the social protection policies

Lessons (continue)

- Policies need to be frequently updated, review criteria of target groups, increasing social allowance amount and transparency and user-friendliness of social protection policies and programs.

4.1 The challenges

Changing in family
and social structures



Increased in number
of people needing
social protection



Dynamic Social
Protection Program
and Policies

4.2 The challenges (continue)

New disadvantage groups (HIV, Single HH, and mentally ill and others)



This disadvantage groups are sometime not included



Increased information and awareness

4.3 The challenges (continue)

Increase number of disadvantage groups needing social protection



Limitation of funding resources



Need to increase allocation of funding, and seek addition funding support from communities and international donors

4.4 The challenges (continue)

Lack of qualify staff
to implement social
protection programs
and policies



Poor programs and
policies
implementation



Need to incorporate and develop
modern approach in working with
disadvantage groups (Studies,
trainings, and implementation and
monitoring systems)

4.5 The challenges (continue)

Lack of up to date national data and research on disadvantage groups



Difficult to design and implement appropriate programs and policies



Need to conduct regular national surveys and in-depth studies and establish national data-base

THANK VERY MUCH
FOR YOUR
ATTENTION