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Hanoi, 24th March 2014

Croix-Rouge française

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Sub.: Improving gender equality, watsan and hygiene conditions in ethnic minority areas
(Project DCI-NSAPVD/2010/255-865) – Final External workshop

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am pleased to invite you to attend the final external workshop of the project mentioned in subject which will be held in Vietnam Red Cross premises, 7th floor, 82 Nguyen Du in Hanoi, on Monday 31st March 2014 from 2:00PM.

After more than 3 years of implementation, this project is coming to its end and the project team is delighted to present our results and our lessons learnt.

If you have any questions or need any additional information, please feel free to contact Mrs. Bui Thi Yen by telephone: +84 (0) 4 3941 0967 or by email: admin-vietnam.frc@croix-rouge.fr.

I would really appreciate it if you could also notify to the above mentioned contact before Friday 28th March, as to whether you will be able to attend this workshop.

We look forward to seeing you at the workshop.

Yours sincerely,

Matthieu DREAN
Head of Delegation
French Red Cross Delegation in Vietnam

Encl.: - The detailed agenda of the workshop;
- The last communication fact sheet of the Project.

Annex 1: Agenda of the workshop
(Monday 31st March 2014)

Time	Contents	Facilitator/Speaker
13:45 - 14:00	<i>Arrival of participants and registration</i>	-
14:00 - 14:10	Opening speech and guest presentation Introduction of workshop agenda and content	Ms. Nguyen Thi Thu Ha, Project Director, Vietnam Red Cross
14:10 - 14:20	Opening speech of VNRC leader	Vietnam Red Cross leader
14:20 - 14:30	Speech of the European Union Delegation in Vietnam (<i>to be confirmed</i>)	European Union Delegation in Vietnam (<i>to be confirmed</i>)
14:30 - 14:40	Speech of French Red Cross representative	Mr. Matthieu Drean, Head of Delegation, French Red Cross
14:40 - 15:20	Project presentation, main achievements and challenges faced	Ms. Nguyen Thi Thu Ha, Project Director, Vietnam Red Cross
15:20 - 15:40	Viewing of the Project Movie	-
15:40 - 15:55	Group photo and Tea Break	
15:55 - 16:20	Innovative approaches of the Project: - the gender approach - the WASH capacity building	Ms. Nguyen Thi Nhat Hoai, Project Officer, French Red Cross
16:20 - 16:35	Lessons learned from project, findings of final external evaluation	Mr. Matthieu Drean, Head of Delegation, French Red Cross
16:35 - 17:00	Speeches from commune people: project's results and impact to people's life	Mr. Giang A Tinh, VNRC Chairman, Ho Mit commune, Tan Uyen district, Lai Chau province Mr. Lo Thi Binh, Chairwoman of WU, Nua Ngam commune, Dien Bien district, Dien Bien province Ms Ban Thi Kieu, VNRC Chairwoman, Chieng Yen commune, Van Ho district, Son La province
17:00 - 17:25	Question and answers, and open discussion	
17:25 - 17:30	Acknowledgement and closing speech	Vietnam Red Cross leader
End of the workshop		

Annex 2: Communication fact sheet on the Project

Watsan and Gender

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DIEN BIEN, SON LA, LAI CHAU, NORTHERN VIETNAM



Improving gender equality, watsan and hygiene conditions in ethnic minority areas



Context

In Vietnam, the extreme discrepancies existing between urban and remote rural areas regarding the access to basic services such as water, sanitation and basic health were not chased away despite the astonishing economic development. 15% of the population (i.e. more than 12 million people) is still living under the poverty line (est. 2007) and the poorest provinces present poverty rates as high as 60%. The ethnic minority groups (EMG) are overrepresented in those poor socio-economic categories. In the field of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene, large needs are still uncovered. Indeed, in the Northern provinces especially, the water coverage is less than 50% and more than 87% of EMG do not have access to safe drinking water. Water related diseases (i.e. diarrhea, malaria, cholera etc.) have a strong impact on people's health, mostly in rural areas. It is also pointed out the lack of inclusive approach preventing the participation of grassroots' actors and reflecting the failure of a top to bottom support. The involvement of civil society, local authorities and population itself is often put aside of large-scale development

programmes resulting in a low sustainability. More efforts are needed to increase the local ownership of development initiatives and to forge a stronger civil society.

Another issue is related to the low involvement and participation of women in these development initiatives. Gender issues are not properly taken into account in the scope of development programmes. The promotion of gender equality should not only be seen as a possible positive side effect to development programs but rather as one core component ensuring their success. Women empowerment appears to be a precondition to the development of a more equitable and democratic society.

Approach of the project

The actions are built on the lessons learnt and successes of the former WatSan EU-funded project implemented in Bac Kan province by FRC and VNRC (2008-2011). Participatory approach strengthened ownership and appropriation of the project by the communities and local partners. Two tools, PHAST and CHAST, were developed and successfully implemented in 34 EMG villages. This project is a logical continuation integrating improvements (gender-sensitive) and a strong focus on advocacy and dissemination of the participatory approach and tools developed. The project is encouraging a strong participation and coordination with local actors at district/commune level as well as local and national authorities. VNRC local branches are in charge of implementing and monitoring the activities, supported by provincial chapters and under the supervision of Headquarters in Hanoi. As a

key milestone, the project will target the VNRC strategy and technical departments to improve their capacities to mainstream gender equality within Watsan programmes. WatSan programme benefits from a special attention since it is a sector where women bear the most of responsibilities because of their traditional tasks. This approach is also an open door to identify specific gender issues within the communities. Thus, it will strengthen knowledge and competencies of our partners in both sectors, reinforce self-esteem and involvement of communities and ensure a better sustainability of the project.

Focus on

Small grant proposals: the three communes are awarding of small grants (4000 EUR each) to develop their own initiatives aiming at securing the competencies acquired during training. It provides the opportunity for grassroots' actors to set up and run independently a small-scale project leading in higher self-confidence and autonomy and enabling the implementation of a project addressing the most relevant gender related issues and needs identified by the communities themselves. They are key actors contributing to every step of project management (field assessment, proposal writing, monitoring...). **Gender Talks:** this activity aims at producing gender-related communication tools to promote gender equality in villages and contributes to the raising of awareness and sensitivity on gender issues to local stakeholders, so they are taken into account in the project design. This training recalls basic gender knowledge and equip the partners with essential communication skills.

Duration : 39 months

From January 2011 to March 2014

Budget : 666 666.37 Euros

75% funding by EuropeAid / 25% FRC

Beneficiaries : 8 500 people (direct) and 116 people (indirect) in 3 communes: Nua Ngam (DB), Chieng Yen (SL) and Ho Mit (LC).

Local Partners : VNRC, Women's Union (WU), People's Committees (PC)

Acronym : Ethnic Minority Group (EMG), French Red Cross (FRC), Vietnam Red Cross (VNRC), Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation (PHAST), Children Hygiene and Sanitation Training (CHAST), Household (HH)

Expected Results

The main objective of this project is to contribute towards improving health, increasing gender equality and reducing poverty of ethnic minority groups located in three Northern provinces of Vietnam through the use and dissemination of a participative, decentralized and inclusive approach.

R1: VNRC reinforces its capacity in mainstreaming gender issues within its development programs and in first place in its WASH programs at national level.

R2: The awareness and sensitivity about gender issues of the local stakeholders is increased and gender issues are taken into account into the project activities design (e.g.: training on gender, gender talks/communication)

R3: The local stakeholders reinforce their capacities in participative program planning, management, implementation, M&E (e.g.: training in programme and finance management, computer use, small grant proposals)

R4: The targeted population is aware of the environmental and health risks associated with bad hygienic behaviors and the beneficiaries practices good hygienic behaviors. Men and women are also aware of the importance of sharing the tasks related to hygiene as well as the need for an equal participation of men and women in decision-making. (e.g.: training on CHAST, PHAST, hygiene promotion sessions)

R5: The targeted HH has a sustainable access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation and men and women know how to operate and maintain them (e.g.: water network construction, school latrine design, family latrine construction)

R6: The positive results and lessons learnt from the program are disseminated among the national WASH stakeholders.



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