

IMPROVED LIVELIHOOD OF ETHNIC MINORITIES & STRENGTHENED LOCAL NGO IN CAO BANG – LIVE PROJECT

FINAL EVALUATION

1. Background

The project “Improved Livelihood of Ethnic Minorities and strengthened local NGO (LIVE)” is a continuation of the HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation support in Cao Bang province after the phasing out of the previous project Community based Governance, Extension and Market project (CB-GEM). Objectives of the LIVE project are twofold:

- i) Livelihoods of ethnic minorities living in remote and upland areas in Cao Bang are improved
- ii) Civil society in Cao Bang province strengthened

To achieve the development objectives, the project was designed to support access to clean water and sanitation mainly for ethnic minorities in remote areas in Cao Bang, to improve the value chain for local ethnic handicraft, and to strengthen the first local NGO established by the Cao Bang province named DECEN (Cao Bang Community Development Centre). HELVETAS agreed with the Cao Bang province’s authority to delegate the task for implementation of the LIVE project to DECEN.

From July 2011 to December 2014, the project has focused its support in two sectors: Clean water & Sanitation covering five communes in 3 districts; Handicraft covering 6 communes in 4 districts and two district EM boarding schools. In the meanwhile, DECEN has undertaken a number of projects funded by other donors which have helped strengthen its institutional, organisational and management capacities. Within those years, the LIVE project expects to reach about 10,000 men and women of different ethnic groups in terms of clean water and sanitation and at least 150 women in terms of handicraft.

2. Purpose of the evaluation

As the project is coming to an end, HELVETAS has sought to review and evaluate the LIVE project in Cao Bang to systematically analyze the project achievement up to now. In the light of the project’s objective and what has been delivered so far, lessons on supporting model, implementation mechanism and management efficiency, are to be identified to provide recommendations of potential actions to contribute to the poverty reduction and strengthened civil society in Cao Bang province.

The Evaluation therefore has four main objectives:

- 1) Review and assess **the relevance** of the LIVE program in the context of Cao Bang province and HELVETAS core areas of intervention;
- 2) Review **the effectiveness and efficiency** of program regarding its resource allocation and management;
- 3) Assess **the impact** of the project on livelihood of local ethnic minorities regarding access to water and sanitation; on the handicraft value chain in Cao Bang, and on the capacities of DECEN;
- 4) Assess **the sustainability** of the project in terms of (a) poverty reduction and (b) ethnic handicraft sector in Cao Bang. Assess the potential for DECEN as a local NGO in Northern region to thrive

3. Scope and Methodology

3.1 Scope

In general, the consultant will look at the results and achievement of the project to date, identify the drivers behind such achievements in consideration of local contexts, market for ethnic handicraft and ODA developments; propose clear recommendations for sustaining the impacts in future.

To achieve the above, the evaluation should offer answers to the following key questions and not only restricted on them:

Relevance:

- ✚ Does the project respond to the needs of ethnic minorities in Cao Bang (in relation to water and sanitation, to ethnic handicraft sector) and contribute to sustainable improvement of income and poverty alleviation?
- ✚ Does the project address and provide needed technical assistance to strengthen DECEN's capacity?
- ✚ Is the approach and strategy used appropriate to local and market context? Are any significant changes in the context during the project implementation? And if the project has adjusted its approach and strategy accordingly?
- ✚ Has the project worked with the right partners and target groups? How is the collaboration between the project team and the partners?

Effectiveness and efficiency

- ✚ Have the project activities and work plans led to planned results and reached objectives? And to what extent the objectives have been achieved in terms of depth and scope?
- ✚ Were the activities implemented accordingly to the planned timescale? Was the timescale appropriate?
- ✚ Are there unforeseen effects? Were these rapidly identified and responded? What are the reasons behind these?
- ✚ Were the planned resources (human and financial) appropriate for the project implementation?
- ✚ How efficient were the human, material, financial resources used and managed in accordance to the achieved results?

Impact

- ✚ How has the implementation of the project contributed to the achievement of its goals?
- ✚ Which unforeseen impacts (positive or negative) have occurred during the implementation of the project?

Sustainability

- ✚ Do the beneficiaries have enough capacity (technical, management and financial) to keep working with the obtained results in the project once the financial support has finished?
- ✚ Has the project introduced new technologies/knowledge for the beneficiaries? If so, are these technologies appropriate to the needs and requisites of the beneficiaries; be social inclusive (women and ethnicity)?
- ✚ Has the technical and analytical capacity of DECEN staff improved?
- ✚ How would be the results integrated in the future donor or government development program?

- ✚ What is the potential of replication of those results in other places in Vietnam?

3.2 Methodology

The consultant is required to design a clear methodology based on following principles: Participatory approach, combination of desk study, meetings and face to face households interviews, evidence based and corresponding to available resources. The consultant may be required to collect information through 3 main steps: i) Desk study: Consultant will spend time to review LIVE documents and ii) Interview or questionnaires to DECEN staff, related partners; iii) field visit.

4. Consultant

The consultant should meet following requirement:

- ✚ Holding master Degree in International Studies
- ✚ Proven experiences in Managing, Monitoring and Evaluation of development projects
- ✚ Having good understanding on value chain development approach
- ✚ Having good understanding on livelihood support
- ✚ Expertise in organizational support
- ✚ Being able to deliver the committed outputs on time
- ✚ Having excellent analytical skills and reporting skill in English

5. Outputs

- ✚ An oral debriefing after field trip mission and data analysis at the end of November 2014 in the form of synthesis Power point presentation that sums up the main findings, conclusions, and issues for discussion;
- ✚ A draft report in English submitted to Helvetas by 10 December 2014. Annexes will contain detailed information;
- ✚ A final report in English with critical and analytical view and clear recommendation and an executive summary submitted to Helvetas by 20 December 2014.

Non- compliance with the outputs as defined above or with the objectives as stated in the present TOR might lead to retention of final payment.

Interested candidates are invited to submit technical and financial proposal and CVs by 10th November 2014 to this email Hien.Le@helvetas.org. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.