



TERMS OF REFERENCE

OVERSEAS STUDY-TOUR FOR PARTNERS OF OXFAM IN VIETNAM ON GOOD MODELS OF PROMOTING PARTICIPATION OF CHILDREN AND THEIR PARENTS IN EDUCATION PLANS

BACKGROUND

Oxfam is an international confederation of 17 organisations networked together in 94 countries, as part of a global movement for change, to build a future free from the injustice and poverty. In Vietnam, Oxfam is a leading INGO in rural development, disaster risk reduction and humanitarian response, civil society development, ethnic minorities, and women's empowerment. Currently, Oxfam has been delivering its programmes in 26 provinces throughout Vietnam, working with people, building partnership with Government agencies at all levels and with CSOs together to achieve the above goals.

The Vietnam project RVNA99, "Promoting social accountability in education sector of Vietnam", is a part of the global 8-country programme on "My Rights My Voice" (MRMV), co-managed by Oxfam GB and Oxfam Novib and funded by Sida for the period of 2011-2014. The overall goal of the MRMV global program is "Sustainable changes in policies, practices, and beliefs to meet the specific health and education needs and aspirations of marginalised children and youth, with a particular focus on the rights of girls and young women, to contribute to achieving the Millennium Development Goals"

Overall Goal of the Vietnam Project RVNA99: "More children (especially girls and ethnic minority children) access their rights to quality basic education". During the period of 2011-2014, activities of the Vietnam project have been designed and implemented to achieve following five objectives:

Objective 1: Enhanced capacity of children in understanding their rights, identifying their needs and being able to communicate with teachers, education managers and policy makers in a safe and constructive way

Objective 2: Improved capacity of Parents' Associations (PA) on holding teachers and school managers to be accountable for service delivery of quality education for children

Objective 3: Improved commitment and capacity of teachers and school managers on being accountable for education service delivery for children

Objective 4: Strengthened accountability mechanisms between right holders and duty bearers (district/provincial DOET; district/provincial finance department; district/provincial department of home affairs; elected body), and among duty bearers (teachers and school managers; district/provincial DOET; district/provincial finance department; district/provincial department of home affairs; elected body)

Objective 5: Selected education polices, program, plan incorporate some findings/ recommendations as results of policy research, advocacy, media alliance, networking efforts

Prior to its closure dates (12-2014), the project aims to make following changes:

Change at school level:

- Children (especially girls and ethnic minority children) have opportunity and space to communicate with their teachers
- Teachers and school heads no longer consider themselves as "the givers" but as "service providers"
- Children's parents (especially ethnic minorities and women) have equal voice in the decision making processes of their children's school activities (school planning, budgeting, M&E)
- All school plans, budgets and activities reflect the needs, interests, aspiration of children (especially of ethnic minority children) and gender sensitivity

Change at district/provincial levels

- Children (especially girls and ethnic minority children) have opportunity and space to communicate with their teachers
- Children's parents (especially ethnic minorities and women) have opportunity and space to amplify children's voices to local decision makers
- Children's parents (especially ethnic minorities and women), teachers, school heads have equal opportunity to participate in the processes of decision making of local education planning, budgeting and M&E
- More budgets will be allocated to schools and directly managed by schools
- School heads have a greater say in teacher recruitment, rotation and promotion
- Teachers have more authority to adapt teaching plans to reflect children's interest, needs (especially of ethnic minority children and girls) and local conditions
- Local education policies, programmes and plans reflect the real needs, interests of children (especially of ethnic minority children) and gender sensitivity
- Good models of promoting children's rights in piloted schools are recognised by local authorities to replicate at provincial level

Change at national level

- Children have more spaces and opportunities to communicate with national policy makers
- Contribute to Vietnam being better able to achieving MDG2, as reflected in national education policies, programmes and plans
- Issues of child rights violations are increasingly identified and reported by media

Under the framework of this project, we have planned to organise an overseas study visits for project partners from Lao Cai, Ninh Thuan and Dak Nong provinces of Vietnam to learn good models of promoting children and parents' participation in local education decision making processes (especially at school level). The visit will take place in one of the ASEAN countries which has owned similarities in cultural and socio-economic development conditions such as Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, etc.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY TOUR

- (1) To learn about the **participation mechanism** (practices/policies/legal framework) of children, parents, teachers and local community in education making-decision process and activities (from local to national level)

Related questions: Is there any law or regulation of public participation in education making-decision process? How public (especially children and parents) is involved in education making-decision progress, including barriers, achievement and practices?

- (2) To learn about the successful **methodologies/models** to promote children's and parents' participation in education making-decision processes in school & community activities

Related questions: How do schools, communities and other stakeholders promote children's and parents' participation? What areas can children participate in? What are the supports from local authorities and other organizations?

- (3) To learn about the **correlation** between the **participation of public** (especially, of children and parents) in education making-decision processes in school & community activities and **quality basic education**

Related questions: In what ways does participation of public affect the quality of basic education (examples, evidences) in the visiting country?

- (4) To learn about **advocacy works & campaigns, and ways** to expand the successful models/ methodologies of promoting the participation of children, parents, teachers and communities in education activities at local/ national level? Roles of all stakeholders?

Related questions: What are the strategies for expanding the successful models/ methodologies of promoting the public participation in education activities? What are the roles of Government, NGOs, CSOs and other stakeholders in the expansion processes?

PARTICIPANTS (FROM THE 03 PROVINCES: LAO CAI, DAK NONG AND NINH THUAN)

15-20 people of each province, including:

- Representatives of Provincial Departments of Education and Training
- Representatives of Provincial Youth Union
- Representatives of Provincial Women Union
- Representatives of Provincial People Council
- Representatives of District Departments of Education and Training
- Representatives of project primary and secondary schools
- 2 Oxfam staff

(Detailed list of participants will be provided later)

PROPOSED TIME

5-7 days per study-tour (including travel days) in October/ November 2013 (The number of tour will be identified in consultation with both the Vietnam provincial partners and with the selected visit hosting organization on possibilities for organizing joint visit)

CRITERIA/REQUIREMENTS OF SELECTED SCHOOLS/SPEAKERS

VISITING SCHOOLS

- Located in the disadvantaged areas
- Have good practices/models/methodologies of promoting the participation of children/parents in education plans and activities
- Have groups/clubs for children, parents, operated with participatory approaches

SPEAKERS

- Have thorough understandings on the country education system
- Are from state or local educational agencies or NGOs, CSOs (working on education)

VISIT HOSTING SERVICE REQUIREMENTS

- Provision of a detailed schedule for study-tour activities which includes liaison with resource persons to deliver presentations in briefing sessions, and with hosting organizations for visiting education policy research and/or provincial education agencies/departments, schools and NGOs.
- Logistic arrangements and itinerary which include accommodation arrangements, and in-country travels in visiting country, interpretation when needed

Proposal of the itinerary and estimated expenditures in visiting country will be provided by a visit hosting service provider for reaching an agreement with Oxfam in Vietnam by 30th September 2013.

The proposals are to be **submitted to Oxfam by email** to vttrang@oxfam.org.uk, pvhung@oxfam.org.uk and pthnet@oxfam.org.uk **by Tuesday 17th September 2013**

Contact persons of the Education Governance Programme – Oxfam in Vietnam for any further questions:

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