

Country: Vietnam

Language(s) for Concept Papers: English

Language(s) for Full Applications: English

Required format for submission of Concept Papers and Full Application:

Email to vietnam.partnerships@usaid.gov and copy DGP@usaid.gov by local time on *due date*

The types of awards: Cooperative Agreement, Simplified Grant, or Fixed Obligation Grant (FOG)

Maximum size of award: \$1 million for Cooperative Agreement, \$1 million for FOG

Life of the award: Up to 3 years

Sector(s) of Focus or Development problem(s) to be addressed:

Sustainable Economic Development of Ha Long Bay

This program area seeks to develop an alliance of local organizations, public and private partners to protect and restore Ha Long Bay, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of Vietnam's premier tourism destinations. In 2012, Ha Long Bay attracted 7 million visitors, generated \$192 million in revenue in Quang Ninh Province, and created or sustained tens of thousands of jobs for people in the province. Despite its international recognition and classification as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, the bay's natural integrity and surrounding communities are at risk of being destroyed by overfishing, backfilling of the bay for urban and industrial development, deforestation, uncontrolled tourism activities and coal mining.

The program endeavors to foster multi-sectorial cooperation to ensure the sustainability of the Bay by raising the awareness and capacity of local non-governmental and governmental organizations to effectively manage natural resources. Efforts that support the recommendations of the UNESCO World Heritage Center relating to a) urban and industrial development, b) tourism management, c) fishing and aquaculture, and d) an integrated planning approach are preferred.

Targeted Geographic Area: Quang Ninh Province, Vietnam

Illustrative Activities: The following list of activities is only illustrative - other innovative ideas are welcome.

- Carry out a needs assessment for a sustainable Ha Long Bay;
- Establish a forum for problem-solving and sharing of best practices among local and national government officials, businesses, scientists, NGOs, and community organizations;
- Raise awareness levels of local residents and businesses of the need to protect and restore Ha Long Bay;

- Conduct capacity-development on adaptation for resilient eco-tourism development in Ha Long Bay;
- Capacity development or strengthening of the park and biosphere reserve management.

Climate Change Adaptation and Youth

Red River Delta of Vietnam is an area that is projected to be seriously affected by climate change impacts including salinity intrusion, sea level rise, fresh water shortages, and temperature increase. Salinity has already intruded into the Delta. Salinity intrusion 35 km into the mainland was recently observed in Thai Binh province, affecting about one third of the province's areas suitable for rice farming, the only livelihood option for the local communities. The Delta is also subject to severe tropical storms and typhoons which can arrive suddenly and cause extensive damage. The impact of storms is likely to become more severe as global climate change projections indicate that the intensity of severe tropical storms is likely to increase along with paths of storms tending to track further northwards. In Vietnam this may mean more typhoons in the northern areas, including the Red River Delta, rather than the historically disaster-prone central coast region. Programs are needed that can develop a participatory climate change adaptation plan with the involvement of communities, including youth, and to implement the plan in affected provinces and districts of the Red River Delta. Climate change action plans will help address two critical needs of the Delta including livelihoods and fresh water.

Target geographic area(s): Red River Delta provinces, Vietnam

Illustrative Activities: The following list of activities is only illustrative - other innovative ideas are welcome.

- Develop capacity for provincial, district and commune decision makers; and youth unions on participatory planning and climate change.
- Conduct a district vulnerability assessment with the involvement of youth and other relevant stakeholders.
- Work together with provincial, district and commune decision makers, and youth unions to identify suitable livelihoods options.
- Introduce flood and salinity resistant water supply options to the district decision makers, commune leaders and youth union.
- Conduct stakeholder consultation workshops to: (1) map out available resources and ecosystem; and (2) brainstorm potential solutions to address risks identified through vulnerability assessment basing on the health of ecosystems. The potential solutions combine with inputs from vulnerability assessment will be inputs for district climate change adaptation plans.
- Support implementation of some actions identified in district climate change action plans.

Land Tenure and Property Rights Awareness with Emphasis on Gender

The Government of Vietnam is in the process of revising its Land Law. According to land experts, although women's rights to acquire, use, inherit and transfer land are

protected by law, in practice they are not fully realized. Although women make up the majority of agricultural land users in Vietnam, there is very limited knowledge about the gender-related impacts of the country's land laws and related policies – both existing and proposed - including such issues as the loss of use of agricultural and availability of alternative livelihood options for women as different from men. Generally, rural women have fewer options for off-farm employment than men; they often have lower literacy rates, have worked in agriculture their entire lives and have few other skills.

This program area aims to strengthen the reach and efficacy of land related rights for farmers, particularly women. There is a need for land-related awareness-raising for farmers, particularly women, to ensure fairness and transparency under the existing and the proposed Land Law. If a new law is passed, advocacy efforts will be needed to ensure the new guidelines and regulations assess potential gender implications and that land use monitoring activities are gender sensitive.

Target geographic area(s): While the Mission will consider proposals for any region of Vietnam, preference will be given to activities that focus on Vietnam's rural agricultural areas, particularly but not limited to the Central Highlands.

Illustrative Activities: The following list of activities is only illustrative - other innovative ideas are welcome.

- Targeted legal awareness and information for rural communities related to land rights and land administration and management processes;
- Support to existing coalitions bringing gender perspective, especially on the development of implementing guidelines should the draft law be enacted;
- Foster comparative learning opportunities for civil society organizations (CSOs)/others on how to engage economic development for women with a focus on property rights;
- Support access to justice initiatives that relate to women's land rights enforcement; and,
- Provide technical support to Vietnam women's union economic development program, with an initial focus on property rights.

Expanding Local Capacity in Support of Women Farmers

Although Vietnam's rural, ethnic minority groups make up less than 15 percent of the population, they account for nearly 50 percent of the nation's poor. Since Oct 2011, the Sustainable Cocoa for Farmers (SCF), program has worked to improve the economic well-being of Vietnamese smallholder farmers through the growth of a socially, economically, and environmentally sustainable cocoa industry. The project has enrolled farmers, nursery owners, and fermentary operators in training programs that promote sound agricultural practices while building strong local technical and management capacity for long-term economic and environmental sustainability. While rural women make up the largest part of Vietnam's agricultural labor force, only 28% of participating farmers in the SCF program are women. Increasing the role of women in agriculture production, business management and trade activities is a central goal under USAID/Vietnam's strategic commitment to inclusive and sustainable growth.

This program area seeks to develop the capacity of individuals, CSOs, and mass organizations to substantially expand the participation of women in training, mentorship, and social networking opportunities relating to agriculture and rural livelihoods. Identification of and support for such capacity development organizations such as farm cooperatives, local University extension programs, and other innovative approaches to support women farmers would help address inclusive growth goals and help meet the evolving needs of some of Vietnam's poorest, most socially and economically remote populations.

Target geographic area(s): The Mission will consider proposals for activities that focus on improving the role of women from ethnic minority groups of the Central Highlands, Vietnam.

Illustrative Activities: The following list of activities is only illustrative - other innovative ideas are welcome.

- Short-term agricultural sector productivity or food security training;
- Identify and support organizations to meet women farmer's needs not addressed by available or existing services, including adult education, child care, land holding rights education and advocacy, and public health related needs;
- Improve rural leadership by growing programs aimed at supporting women farmers by encouraging participatory decision-making for more self-reliant, informed clubs and cooperatives;
- Encourage broader transfer of the SCF cocoa development approach to local institutions to enhance local capacity through the formation of new and perhaps non-traditional high-impact partnerships including greater engagement with private sector partners and CSOs;
- Provide village-based evening Vietnamese language classes and related learning opportunities for ethnic minority children in the region to help improve basic literacy and broaden future economic and employment opportunities beyond subsistence farming; and,
- Develop "community-based agricultural service centers" headed by a capable farmer in each commune in the target area to provide on-site, hands-on training on high value agricultural crops, and develop cultivation handbooks for each high value crop as the training materials for farmers.

Services for Vulnerable Populations: Disability

In Vietnam, more than 12 million people are identified as having some kind of disability (Vietnam General Statistic Office, 2006). The number of persons with disabilities (PWDs) continues to grow, with road accidents, unexploded ordnance (UXO), and violence contributing to the increase. According to the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), 80% of PWDs in Vietnam live in rural areas, and there is strong evidence linking disability with poverty. While Vietnam has achieved impressive economic growth rates in recent years, the quality of life for PWDs has remained poor. Only about 30% of children of disabilities have access to education. Vietnam suffers

from a serious shortage of vocational rehabilitation and education facilities for PWDs, and only 6.5% of PWDs have earned vocational training certificates. From 25-30% of PWDs are employed, and their wages are often lower than those of non-disabled workers. Low education, poorly designed workplaces, a lack of assistive devices, and negative attitudes about employees with disabilities are key barriers to the employment of PWDs.

This program area aims to improve the Vietnamese Students with Disabilities' access to school facilities (including water and sanitation, classrooms, ramps, braille or sound signs) and to inclusive education. Lack of physical access to school facilities as well as access to education that is inclusive (textbook, teaching aid such as text to speech software, sign language interpretation, etc.), information and communication tools have been identified as key constraints to student with disabilities' education.

In addition, the project's scope would include strengthening the technical capacity of the local schools and social workers. Partnerships with the private sector are also encouraged. The project will work closely with Vietnam's Ministry of Education and Ministry of Labor, Invalids and Social Affairs to achieve the sustainability.

This program area also aims to develop the capacity of local organizations, particularly Disabled Persons Organizations and Parent of Children with Disability Associations in advocating for the rights to education for children with disabilities. The specific categories of assistance targeted under this program are specialized health and education services that address the evolving needs of disabled person population.

Target geographic area(s): While the Mission will consider proposals for any region of Vietnam, preference will be given to activities that focus on the high disability prevalence.

Illustrative Activities: The following list of activities is only illustrative - other innovative ideas are welcome.

- Promote participation of children with disabilities and parents in the designing, constructing and maintenance of school's facilities that meet the needs of children with disabilities;
- Expand the application of assistive technologies to improve students with disabilities' education;
- Increase the role of disabled persons organizations and parent organizations in advocating for the right to education for children with disabilities;
- Increase participation of private sectors in providing services for disabled persons and disabled children; and,
- Enforce the Vietnam barrier-free access codes and standards to construction, transportation, and information.