



# ADVOCACY COALITION SUPPORT PROGRAMME

## What is the Advocacy Coalition Support Programme?

The Advocacy Coalitions Support Programme is a part of the Vietnam Empowerment and Accountability Program - VEAP of the UK Department for International Development (DFID). This is an initiative designed to increase opportunities for Vietnamese citizens to participate in decision-making, by supporting coalitions to engage in policy advocacy, monitoring the implementation process to ensure that the policies are relevant and responsive to people's needs and expectations. By 'coalitions', we mean multi-stakeholder cooperation among Vietnamese NGOs, state agencies at different levels, media, universities and research institutes, the private sector, and media, bringing together influential elites and community perspectives.





## → Vision

State, social and professional organisations, and private actors, communities and individuals in Vietnam are better able to cooperate closely to better influence policy-making and implementation at local and national levels, leading to measurable changes in people's lives.

## → Aims

The Programme aims to

1. Foster multi-stakeholder issue-based coalitions on issues of public concern with high capacity and potential for sustainability.
2. Achieve specific planned impacts on policy and implementation on the issues coalitions identify.

## Who implements the programme? ←

Oxfam was selected by DFID to manage the Programme. The programme is implemented from July 2012 to the end of March 2016. The Programme benefits from an Advisory Panel consisting of 7 Vietnamese experts and practitioners with participation from six coalitions.



## → What is Oxfam's role?

Oxfam does not establish or lead coalitions. With a small group of staff, Oxfam facilitates and supports coalitions to work effectively together around a common vision and interests, including:

- Organising joint workshops/meetings if needed;
- Providing training and coaching to coalition coordinators and coalition members to build and strengthen capacity of coalitions and coordinating organizations to lead coalitions, engage in advocacy, and link with the media and other actors;
- Convening coalition events, reflection and learning sessions, and cross-visits to successful coalitions;
- Core funding for coalitions, aiming at sustainability;
- Funding and technical support to issue-based projects carried out jointly by two or more coalition members towards jointly agreed objectives.



## Outcomes of the ← inception phase

The Coalitions Support Programme inception phase lasted from July 2012 - January 2013 and focused on research, analysis and preparation activities. Oxfam and implementing partner Oxford Policy Management (OPM) completed a series of political economy analysis (PEA) reports on land, health, industrial pollution, urban and labour to understand the governance context in Vietnam, identify key themes and sectors, and narrow the focus to specific issues around which effective coalitions can influence policy, public attitudes and practices. In the end of 2013, one more PEA on agriculture was completed. A summary PEA report is available from Oxfam on request.





## COALITION ACTIVITIES

### → Coalition selection

In 2013 and early 2014, the Programme selected six coalitions for support. They are:

1. Coalition for Extractive Industrial Policy Advocacy
2. Forest Land Coalition (FORLAND)
3. Land Alliance (Landa)
4. Coalition for Policy Advocacy Towards Water Pollution Control and Prevention
5. Evidence-Based Health Policy Development Group (EBHPD)
6. Coalition for Farmers' Rights and Effectiveness of Vietnamese Agriculture

Each coalition has a coordinating organisation responsible for legal, administrative and programme management.

### → Cross-learning events

Oxfam supports coalition activities through a Cross-Learning Fund to provide capacity building, learning and sharing, and exposure opportunities to coordinators and participants in multiple coalitions. Activities will focus on cross-cutting issues, such as gender, ethnicity and media engagement, and include international sharing with other coalition programmes in certain cases.

Examples of cross-learning activities include:

- Annual reflection and learning days;
- Training on monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) and use of Coalition Quality Assessment Scorecards, facilitated by Oxfam and OPM;
- Media and communications assessment and workshop for coalition core group members and key journalists;
- Reflection workshop on gender equity and diversity in coalition work;
- Retreats for coalition coordinators and MEL focal points;
- Cross-coalition learning and sharing workshop on policy advocacy experience.

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For more information on Oxfam's programmes in Vietnam, please see [www.oxfam.org/vietnam](http://www.oxfam.org/vietnam) and <http://oxfamblogs.org/vietnam>.