

Through NZAID, all New Zealanders are making a difference in the lives of some of the poorest people in the Pacific, Asia, Latin America and Africa.

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| NZAID making a difference in Viet Nam

## RESPONSE TO VIET NAM'S RAPIDLY CHANGING DEVELOPMENT ENVIRONMENT

### NZAID snapshot

- NZAID is the Government's international aid and development agency
- New Zealand's total aid budget for 2008/09 is NZ\$471.3 million
- NZAID will spend close to NZ\$52.1 million in Asia in 2008/09
- NZAID's assistance to Viet Nam in 2008/09 will be up to NZ\$13 million

### The facts

- The population is 86 million (December 2008)
- 87 percent of the population are Kinh (Viet) and the remaining 13 percent consists of ethnic minorities such as Tay, H'mong, and Thai
- 13.1 percent of people live in poverty (December 2008)
- Communist government
- 6.7 percent economic growth (estimate December 2008)
- Registered Foreign Direct Investment achieves US\$60 billion in 2008
- Two million tourists visit annually
- Main exports are oil, rice, coffee
- HIV and AIDS is a growing problem



Ambassador James Kember visits a newly built early childhood classroom, funded by NZAID in Binh Dinh Province

### The issues

Despite Viet Nam's overall achievements in socio-economic development, there remain significant challenges.

Most of the households recently lifted from poverty have an income of just 5-10 percent over the poverty line and are therefore vulnerable to falling back into poverty due to economic turmoil, disease, poor harvest, loss of employment and natural disasters. Poverty is particularly prevalent in rural and mountainous areas, Central Highlands, and among ethnic minority people. The poor have limited access to good quality education, health care services, and sustainable livelihood opportunities.

### New Zealand development assistance

The goal of NZAID's assistance in Viet Nam is to support development through improving rural livelihoods and basic education opportunities, especially for marginalised people.

New Zealand's assistance is as follows:

- up to 50 percent on supporting sustainable rural livelihoods
- up to 33 percent on supporting basic education at national and provincial level
- 17 percent health, governance, and other programmes to support development.

NZAID also assists in building capacity for government officials through English language training and development scholarships

NZAID engages in policy dialogue with the Government of Viet Nam and donors, and provides assistance in times of emergency at the request of the Government of Viet Nam.

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# NEW ZEALAND'S DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE

## Achieving education for all

Recognising the importance of education, NZAID has committed up to one-third of its resources in Viet Nam to supporting achievement of the Education for All (EFA) National Action Plan.

Early childhood education is important for children as it prepares them to maximise their learning once they reach primary school. Unfortunately, many ethnic minority children in Viet Nam miss out on early childhood education because they do not speak the taught language, Vietnamese, putting them at a disadvantage even before they start school.

Together with six other donors, New Zealand helped the Ministry of Education and Training to improve the quality of primary education through budget support to the Education National Targeted Programme over the past three years. The programme finishes in 2009.

NZAID also supports an Early Childhood Care and Education project in Binh Dinh province. To date, 67 satellite class rooms have been put into operation. Eleven main schools and two remaining satellite class rooms will be completed in the first quarter of 2009. Teaching materials and toys will also be provided to all new facilities in 51 communes. Awareness campaigns on early childhood education have been conducted. The quality of teaching staff has been improved through refresher and ongoing training, which has been developed with support from an Early Childhood Advisor recruited by Volunteer Service Abroad.



Ethnic minority children enjoy their new classroom in Binh Dinh Province

## Sustainable rural livelihoods

NZAID's assistance to Viet Nam in sustainable rural livelihood focuses on phyto-sanitary capacity building, bird flu preparations and prevention, and linking producers to markets. Phyto-sanitary capacity building

As a primary producer, New Zealand has developed animal and plant health systems

designed to improve food safety, strengthen export potential in niche markets and protect the country from imported pests and diseases.

NZAID funds a regional phyto-sanitary capacity building programme. In 2009 the bilateral programme will continue to support the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) to develop a new information management system which will lead to improved quarantine procedures and pest and disease management. This will contribute to increased agriculture exports and thus rural incomes and help reduce agricultural losses and reduce farmer vulnerability.

## Bird flu preparations and prevention

Viet Nam received praise from the international community for its prompt and thorough response to outbreaks of avian influenza (bird flu) in recent years. However, highly pathogenic avian influenza will remain in Viet Nam for the foreseeable future and other zoonotic diseases may develop.

NZAID has funded NZ\$450,000 for the Government-United Nations Joint Programme on Avian Influenza since 2006. Further support of US\$1.5 million was provided to MARD through the Avian Influenza Support Programme to build the capacity and skills of animal health workers and to help the government better understand how the H5N1 virus is spreading amongst ducks and other bird species in the Mekong Delta. Through this programme, a series of epidemiological studies has been undertaken by Department of Animal Health (DAH) and animal health workers in the Mekong delta. These will be led by four DAH staff as part of their Masters and PhD studies at Massey University.

## Linking producers to markets

NZAID recognises that creating sustainable rural livelihoods is a complex task.

NZAID will support Binh Dinh province through NZ\$3 million funding for a programme that links poor rural households to markets and creates value chains relevant to their local context. This project is expected to start in mid-2009 and bring about real improvements in the farmers' income by enhancing competitiveness of the provincial agricultural and rural development sector and farmers' capacity and opportunities.

## Improving health in Binh Dinh province

NZAID joined the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) to provide support to the Department of Health in Binh Dinh to improve the delivery of maternal, child and adolescent health services.

Upon the completion of the project in November 2008, reproductive and adolescent health is no longer seen solely as the work of the Department of Health work but a key responsibility across all provincial Departments and agencies. Health workers throughout the province have received training and equipment has been provided to provincial and district hospitals, commune health stations and for village health workers. They are now utilising this in their daily practice.

A workshop was held in Binh Dinh in early December to review the findings of an independent evaluation of the project and celebrate the productive and collegial partnership between the donor agencies and the province.

Ongoing support for the Department of Health in Binh Dinh will be considered and NZAID will continue to support NGOs active in the province.



A peer educator provides information about reproductive health to members of a Cham community in Binh Dinh province

## Developing professional capacity

For over a decade, the English Language Training for Officials (ELTO) Programme has funded hundreds of government officials from the Mekong region to study English language in New Zealand with specialised themes such as sustainable development, governance, rural development, economic and trade policy. The

new ELTO Phase 3 (2009-2015) will provide support for up to 90-100 Vietnamese government officials to study English for special purpose over the next five years.



ELTO participants present NZAID Executive Director with a farewell gift

The New Zealand Development Scholarships (NZDS) programme offers 17 postgraduate scholarships per year for government officials and another three for individual applicants. These are targeted at NZAID's priority sectors of sustainable rural livelihoods, basic education and governance.

NZAID also offers Viet Nam, along with other countries from the Greater Mekong Sub-Region, the opportunity to participate in capacity building and institutional strengthening courses offered at the Mekong Institute in Khon Kaen, Northern Thailand.

## Policy engagement

NZAID is actively participating in policy dialogues as it believes policy engagement will contribute to enhanced programme delivery and vice versa.

NZAID has funded US\$2 million for the Seventh Poverty Reduction Support Credit (PRSC). The PRSC is a modality whereby the international donor community, led by the World Bank, provides general budget support to the Government of Viet Nam's programme of socio-economic development and poverty reduction. NZAID is considering participating in PRSC 8-10 with a focus on the education and rural livelihood sectors.

NZAID is providing US\$4 million to the One Plan Fund of the United Nations in Viet Nam over four years 2007-2010. NZAID aims to provide the Government with impartial advice based on best international practice with particular attention to social policy.

## New Zealand Government

For more information visit [www.nzaid.govt.nz/programmes/c-vietnam.html](http://www.nzaid.govt.nz/programmes/c-vietnam.html)