

Tien Lu Area Development Programme

Vietnam



Geographical Location

Tien Lu district is located in Northern Vietnam in Hung Yen Province. The district is 85 km away from Ha Noi. Its north borders An Thi and Kim Dong districts, and its south borders Thai Binh Province, its east borders Phu Cu district and its west borders Hung Yen town. The target communes of Tien Lu ADP are Hoang Hanh, Tan Hung, Cuong Chinh and Minh Phuong.

Brief Information

Land area: 9,270 hectares

People group: Kinh

Climate: Tropical monsoon, hot and humid, average air humidity is 86%

Target beneficiaries: 20,925 persons

Project lifespan: 11 years (2009-2020)

Indicative budget: SGD 6.70 million

Project Goals

The overall goal of Tien Lu ADP is to enhance livelihood security at the household level through various integrated development interventions.

With the support and care of Singapore Child Sponsors, World Vision aims to help the children and families attain self-reliance by September 2020.



Background

World Vision has found that almost all of the population of the district lives on agriculture production. The main livestock in the district consists of pigs, poultry and cow kept in small-scale. In communes of Hoang Hanh and Tan Hung, about 6,095 people live far from the national dyke and often experience floods during the rainy season.

People in communes of Cuong Chinh and Minh Phuong are located in lowland areas of the district that often get flooded and waterlogged. The cultivating area per head is very small and cannot provide enough food for the people. Therefore, farmers in the area mainly live on income from working for other people outside the communes whenever there is a need. Work outside the communes is not much and unstable. Working people face many difficulties and risks such as illnesses like AIDS and social evils such as gambling and drug use.

A large number of the population – especially women, children and the old – have no choice but to stay at home and separate lotus seed covers for little income. They do not know what to do to earn a living. Because of this, their meals are meagre.

Health workers lack skills to educate and treat people. Access to improved sanitation such as hygiene latrines are also not easily available, leading to health problems.

The community is found to lack infrastructure for education and people in the community lack the means to send their children to school. Some of these children stay at home to help at the farm while others go to the city to earn a living.

The average income per head in Tien Lu is around US\$400 per year and there is a big gap between the poor communes and the better-off communes. This average income is also much lower than the per capita income (2009) for the country (Socialist Republic of Vietnam) of US\$1,052.

Recognising the needs of people in Tien Lu district, World Vision seeks to partner with local agencies including government and private agencies as well as local and community organisations to start Tien Lu ADP.

Key Challenges



Key Challenges

1. Poor healthcare and sanitation in communities
2. Children's lack of means to education and community's lack of infrastructure for education
3. Inadequate food and lack of livelihood opportunities
4. Lack of empowered community-based organisations



Key Interventions

Health, Sanitation & Water

World Vision has found that 32% of all children under five years old suffer from malnutrition. The average number of population per doctor is 4,800 persons per doctor. Infrastructure and equipment in commune healthcare stations are very poor in quality and they barely meet the basic requirements for health checking and treatment. Health workers also lack skills in health education and common diseases treatment.

It was also found that less than 40% of households in districts that were targeted for intervention have access to safe water sources and less than 30% have access to improved sanitation. The communes experience water-borne diseases such as diarrhoea and worms and the rate of women suffering from anemia is quite high. All these problems are the result of using water from unprotected water sources (ponds, streams and rivers) and from rainfall collections; poor hygiene practices, improper treatment and lack of proper nutrition.

People are found not to know how to treat wastes, especially after floods. The environment is also polluted during the dry season due to households using unhygienic latrines that are in the same areas where their livestock are kept.



A poor household in Phu Sa village, Hoang Hanh commune.

World Vision aims to improve the quality of healthcare services by:

- Assisting to strengthen re-training for existing commune health staff in knowledge and skills in the areas of examining and treating common diseases, and first aid
- Assisting to strengthen grass-root healthcare staff's knowledge and skills in health education and communication
- Assisting to provide training in communication, knowledge and skills to commune and helmet healthcare staff, especially knowledge and skills in nutrition, reproductive health, injury prevention for children, early identification of children with disabilities, prevention and rehabilitation for adults and children with disabilities, and clean water and environmental sanitation
- Assisting to support means and materials for communication networks, especially in the area of nutrition and reproductive healthcare

World Vision aims to improve access to clean water and environmental sanitation by:

- Improving knowledge and awareness of people in the treatment of water sources (e.g. knowledge on building a water supply and filtration system that are suited to the condition of local people)
- Improving people's knowledge and awareness of personal hygiene and prevention of waterborne and environmental diseases
- Assisting the community in the upgrade of inter-helmet and inter-commune roads and to construct drainage systems in helmets
- Introducing models on hygienic toilets and assisting people to set up and use one
- Assisting to provide training on toxicity and use of insecticides



Key Interventions

Education

World Vision has found that less than 80% adults (aged 18-40) are literate in assessed areas. It was also found that less than 75% of boys and girls (aged 11-14) are attending lower secondary school and less than 70% of boys and girls (aged 3-5) attend pre-school facilities.

In many communes in the district, kindergarten children have to study in the pagoda and cultural halls. Children of different ages (e.g. aged 2.5-5) have to study in one classroom. There are also no supporting facilities in kindergarten such as toilets, playgrounds, water systems, surrounding walls and teacher rooms.

99% of the classrooms for pre-school education is borrowed or shared and this is found to affect the enjoyment and learning of the children. Elementary and secondary schools in some communes lack classrooms and function rooms such as libraries. Some students have to use old tables with decayed, uneven legs and there are also rough and holed surfaces on them. Primary schools are found to lack proper sanitation systems like latrines or clean water that also affects school children's health.

There are little concretised areas in schools and children have to play on the sandy grounds that are very dusty during the sunny season. This affects the children's health. During the rainy season, because of the muddiness, children cannot play on these grounds.

The schools also have high drop-out rates due to parents having a lack of economic means to send their children to school. Children end up staying at home to help parents with farming works; otherwise, they go to the city to earn a living or labour as coolies or manual workers.

World Vision aims to increase the community's awareness of the importance of education, and to improve the general level of education by:

- Assisting to build capacity of management staff and teachers through activities such as training
- Assisting the community in upgrading of pre-schools and school-related facilities, e.g. tables and chairs, toys, kitchen, clean water tanks, toilet and material facilities (stationery, teaching and learning tools)
- Improving awareness among the community about pre-school education
- Raising awareness about the roles and responsibilities of community in improving the quality of teaching in school
- Coordinating with the Vocational Training Centre
- Setting up a mechanism to help graduates look for jobs, especially for those in difficult circumstances
- Supporting vocational training tuition fees for students in difficult circumstances

Food Security & Economic Development

The total cultivated land in Tien Lu district is 6,276 hectares with heavy clay soil. In the target communes, besides planting rice, people plant maize, soya-beans, mulberry and bananas. Farmers use hand tools for farming with the exception of those who can afford to hire farm machinery. The farmers have to work very hard on the field but income received from rice is very low.

Weather and insects often damage the crops, increasing food insecurity in the district along with a lack of crop diversification. Land for cultivation has very low levels of fertility. No rotational crops are available to improve the land use and environment. With limited resources – e.g. a lack of funds – farmers cannot access important inputs such as improved seeds, fertilisers, pest control technologies and irrigation systems. Being equipped with these can allow them to improve productivity.

Lack of knowledge – e.g. on household business, market information, breeding livestock and disease prevention – also limits the community from increasing their household income and cause some to be unfairly treated by rice traders.



Key Interventions

World Vision aims to build the community's capacity to generate income and increase food supplies by:

Raising the income of households through improving rice production and plant diversification; this consists of:

- Assisting to strengthen the knowledge of target beneficiaries on rice production through training courses and demonstrations of improved and cost-effective rice production models
- Introducing new and high-quality rice production models that meet the demand for high-quality products of urban consumers
- Linking farmers to the outside market
- Assisting to introduce and transfer plant diversification to farmers

Strengthening the development of cattle and poultry breeding; this consists of:

- Assisting to strengthen knowledge of target beneficiaries on household business, business planning and decision-making related to breeding products
- Assisting to provide training on breeding knowledge of cows, pigs and poultry
- Assisting to strengthen the veterinary network at helmet level

Supporting vocational training in sustainable ways for the vulnerable (e.g. children of poor households, married women and handicaps); this consists of:

- Implementing the study of labour, job chains and training demand
- Supporting communities in searching, introducing and transferring into suitable industries. Attention will be given to married women or handicaps who are not capable of working away from home
- Assisting to provide communities with information on labour markets
- Equipping young people with knowledge and life skills related to working away from home

Strengthening farmers' ability to participate in the market; this consists of:

- Assisting to equip farmers with knowledge on the market and skills to collect and analyse market information
- Providing support to organise a professional association of farmers and create mutual linkages for the association in the market

Capacity Building

World Vision has found that the management systems (at all levels, including political and social organisations) in the assessed communes in Tien Lu district operate rather well and regularly. However, there are limitations to their operation:

- The supporting networks for agriculture, education and healthcare activities are insufficient and weak
- Knowledge and skills of village leaders, commune leaders, clubs or supporting networks are very restrictive especially in the areas of participatory planning, implementation and monitoring, community mobilisation, and guidance and control of activities at commune and village levels
- Capacity to mobilise the participation of communities are limited
- Resources are limited

In order to help build capacity, World Vision aims to:

- Assist communes to set up volunteer facilitator networks to do development works in the community
- Assist in organising training courses and improve capacity for development workers in the following possible areas:
 - Leadership knowledge and skills
 - Knowledge and skills of communication and mass mobilisation
 - Knowledge and skills for training of trainers
 - Knowledge and skills to identify the needs of communes
 - Knowledge and skills to design, implement, monitor and evaluate participatory development projects (DIME)
 - Knowledge and skills of operating and maintaining rural infrastructure (in small-scale), setting up of management teams and groups, operating, repairing and maintaining the buildings
- Support rural people to organise community meetings to discuss, identify development needs of the community as well as participate in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluating of projects in the community
- Assist in organising training courses to support rural people to propose villages development plan to improve livelihoods of communities or community organisations



Key Interventions

Conclusion

Through community interventions to help the people, World Vision aims to strengthen the leadership in the community by increasing their self-esteem and developing their potential in managing their own development process.

World Vision also aims to move them towards making sustainable change so that they can build a better future for their children.

With the support and care of Singapore Child Sponsors, World Vision aims to help the children and families attain self-reliance by September 2020. The children and families in Tien Lu ADP can only do this together with your help!

Thank you for walking this journey of faith and transformation with the children, families and World Vision!



In a kindergarten in Minh Phuong, there are no classrooms. Children study in the cultural hall of the village where it is dark and not well-furnished.



The toilets in Phu Sa village have an open concept and are usually polluted and over-utilised.

***Note: Areas of intervention are in the proposed status as the ADP is still in the design phase.**