



# **EMPOWERING**

*People in Poverty  
and Distress*



**ADRA** |

ADVENTIST DEVELOPMENT AND RELIEF AGENCY IN VIETNAM

# MISSION

The Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) is a global humanitarian organization comprising of 134 supporting and implementing country offices. We work with people in poverty and distress to create **JUST** and **POSITIVE** change.

## ADRA in Vietnam

- Commenced its first project in **1989**.
- Registered as an official Non-Government Organization operating in Vietnam since **1993**.
- Implements more than **200** development and relief projects nation wide, targeting over **4.5 million** of the most marginalized population in society including women, children, elderly, ethnic minority groups and people with special needs.
- Focuses on five core sectors: **Sustainable Livelihoods; Health; Education; Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management**



## Our work in Vietnam



### SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS

ADRA Vietnam has been delivering livelihood improvement programs for over 25 years. Our activities apply holistic and people centric models, which enhance individuals/communities' strengths and capabilities for the long-term rather than simply helping address immediate needs. We focus on building capacity and promoting leadership and ownership of local communities, enabling our beneficiaries to become more proactive in seeking solutions for themselves, instead of relying on outside intervention.

### *The Cow Bank and Community Development Model*



*ADRA Vietnam is well-known for its micro-credit program in the form of cow loans and its technical training in animal husbandry and market-based economic development. This combining model easily expands over time with minimal financial support, after initial investment in the first phase. To optimize the achieved impacts, Farmer Groups are established to facilitate participatory self-monitoring and planning, at the same time provide a forum for discussion, problem sharing and implementation of socio-economic initiatives developed from the grassroots. Issues brought in discussion vary from clean water access to environmental protection, health, education, children's and women's rights. With a focus on leadership and good governance, our local partners and beneficiaries are trained to adequately identify local needs, efficiently utilize and seek local resources, effectively manage new development projects and provide higher quality services to local communities.*



## EDUCATION

*“is seen as an essential key leading to sustainable development and the first step towards improving the socio-economic status of marginalized groups”.* During 25

years of delivering services, ADRA Vietnam has empowered ethnic minority men and women in remote and mountainous regions through literacy, numeracy training and community development education. Additionally, with increasing HIV prevalence, the lack of formal sexual and reproductive health education in the school curriculum and a high incidence of teenage pregnancy and abortion, we are working on integrating sexual and reproductive health education and counseling programs in rural and ethnic minority communities. This is conducted through an innovative peer education model in schools and alternative education centers. By bridging the knowledge gap, ADRA enables adolescents and adults to make healthy lifestyle choices, contributing to the improvement of the rural socio-economic and health status in Vietnam.

### Community Empowerment through Literacy and the REFLECT Approach

*Far Northern Vietnam, the remote mountainous province of Cao Bang holds an illiteracy rate of women aged 26 and above as high as 70%. Since the implementation of literacy training and community development education by ADRA project, over 1,200 ethnic minority men and women have been empowered. A developed curriculum employs the innovative Training of Trainers and REFLECT methodology, at the same time creatively applies the local context and needs in a wide range of topics: health, agriculture, gender equality, income generation and socio-political issues, etc.; all trigger proactive motivation for participants. As the extension of the literacy classes, a network of Community Development Clubs at commune level is established, serving to nourish and advance local initiatives. The whole process not only aims at improving literacy, but more importantly equipping vital life-skills, as well as know-hows for a better well-being.*



## DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT



More than 150 operations in 40 provinces, carrying millions of relief and nutrition packages to address the urgency and help communities recover have approached the most impacted

victims since 1988. While strengthening community’s preparedness, ADRA works intensively to provide Community-based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM) capacity development and encouraging CBDRM schemes to thrive and enter into practice. The agency also puts special focus on the most marginalized groups such as people with disabilities. The most remarkable achievement is a full set of IEC materials (including CDs, Cassette Tapes, and Braille Books) on disaster risk reduction for People with Visual Impairments which was issued in cooperation with the Vietnam Blind Association.

## CLIMATE CHANGE



ADRA Vietnam aims to facilitate sustainable agriculture and natural resource management while dealing with climate change adaptation techniques. This ensures that rural community members possess the tools they need to plan for the future in building resilience. For sustainability reasons, a number of elements have been incorporated, such as cooperation with local district government counterparts, community members and corporate partners to take on the responsibility of driving climate change responses. Finally, climate change adaptation has been systematically integrated into all our program activities to achieve a more holistic approach while approaching the issue.



## Partnerships and Capacity Building for sustainable development

To enhance our impact and ability to respond to specific needs, while minimizing duplication of effort, ADRA Vietnam has developed strong and collaborative partnerships with local associations and authorities with whom we work. With local and specialized knowledge, our partners help us to more effectively implement our projects and achieve our goals. One of the challenges we face is ensuring the sustainability of development activities and impacts after each project ends. For this reason, ADRA Vietnam has adopted an intense focus on leadership and good governance for its projects. We seek to strengthen local capacity in leadership, project cycle management

and holistic economic development of our partners and beneficiaries, which enables them to design, implement, manage and evaluate each project during its lifecycle and also to ensure project sustainability.

The Training of Trainers model is incorporated into all of our program activities to further contribute to project sustainability and scalability. It is then our direct beneficiaries who are empowered to pass on their knowledge and skills and are responsible for developing the capacities of other community members.



### Partners & Donors

- Provincial People's Committee, Department of Labor Invalids and Social Affairs, Department of Health, Department of Education and Training
- Women's Union, Farmers' Union, Youth Union
- National and Provincial Blind Association

gtz



Canada



Australian AID



EMBASSY OF SWEDEN



### CSR and Public Private Partnerships

*Traditionally, Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) strategies were implemented by businesses as a reactive and charitable measure to enhance brand image. These days, businesses need to see CSR as a corporate sustainability practice and mitigate the impact that their business activities have on the local community and environment. ADRA Vietnam is focused on working with businesses to implement CSR initiatives. We have partnered with a large construction company to implement a sexual health education and HIV/AIDS prevention awareness program, which aims to empower over 5,000 staff and neighboring residents with the knowledge and tools to help secure the health and safety of not only company employees, but also reduces the risks for the surrounding community. We believe that this kind of public private partnership is the future of sustainable development and we are committed to helping interested parties achieve more socially responsible and sustainable business practices.*

Find ADRA VIETNAM on the Internet

Website: [www.adravietnam.org](http://www.adravietnam.org)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/adrainvietnam](https://www.facebook.com/adrainvietnam)

