



# Voice and Rights for Ethnic Minority Women in Vietnam

**GENDER ROLES IN ETHNIC MINORITY COMMUNITIES IN VIETNAM** Ethnic minority communities as a whole have less opportunity to make choices; women across Vietnam are often subject to inequalities as a result of gender roles, and women in ethnic minority communities often experience even greater gender inequality. Ethnic minority women are therefore especially likely to have less access to land, markets and education, and are often excluded from decision-making within their households and communities.

**Through the Voice and Rights project, CARE contributes to securing the rights of women from Tày, Nùng, Dao and H'Mong communities by enhancing their voice, and ensuring that both government agencies and civil society value, respect and respond to it.**

## KEY OUTCOMES



By developing a **co-research approach** and presenting their findings to **civil society** and **policymakers**, ethnic minority women have **enhanced capacity to identify, articulate and advocate** on issues that affect them.



The Ethnic Minority Working Group (EMWG) and the Committee for Ethnic Minority Affairs (CEMA), both within the National Assembly, have **increased respect** for and sensitivity to the **rights of ethnic minority women**, and enhanced capacity to recognise and **respond to their needs**.

### Participants

70 women from the Tày, Nùng, Dao and H'Mong ethnic minority communities are serving as co-researchers

### Beneficiaries

More than 10,000 people, including Women's Union members, community members and members of the EMWG and the CEMA



### Locations

Ba Be district, Bac Kan province and national level advocacy and policy dialogues

### Partners

- » The Institute for Studies of Society, Economics and Environment (iSEE)
- » The Bac Kan Women's Union

### Timeframe, budget and donor

July 2015 - June 2018  
 Approx. US\$385,000  
 The European Union



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## HOW DOES THE VOICE AND RIGHTS FOR ETHNIC MINORITY WOMEN PROJECT WORK?

Voice and Rights supports ethnic minority women at the grassroots level to define and advocate for their own development agenda.

### ETHNIC MINORITY WOMEN BECOME RESEARCHERS

CARE and iSEE work with the Bac Kan Women's Union to support Livelihoods and Rights Club (LARC) members from CARE's Ethnic Minority Women's Empowerment project in developing a co-research approach. Seventy ethnic minority women, all of them LARC members, conduct research in their communities. They set the research questions and investigate key challenges in their local communities.

### EVIDENCE COLLECTED BY THE RESEARCHERS IS PRESENTED TO LOCAL AND NATIONAL AUTHORITIES

The researchers are supported with advocacy and presentation skills training to present their evidence to stakeholders such as local authorities (like the Women's Union and People's Committees) and, at the national level, the Ethnic Minority Working Group (EMWG) and the Committee for Ethnic Minority Affairs (CEMA). This will be achieved through meetings, workshops, media engagement and the publication of policy papers.

### EMWG AND CEMA BECOME MORE RESPONSIVE ON ETHNIC MINORITY COMMUNITIES' NEEDS

Through consultation, publication of policy briefs, advocacy efforts and training, national level stakeholders become better able to react to the evidence produced by the local researchers and to formulate policies and plans which work in the interests of ethnic minority communities.

### EVIDENCE IS USED TO INFLUENCE POLICIES AND PROGRAMS THAT BETTER RESPOND TO ETHNIC MINORITY WOMEN'S NEEDS



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## How can participation in the Voice and Rights project give women new options and skills?

Sam Thi Xinh, 22, is a H'Mong ethnic woman living in the mountainous province of Bac Kan, as well as one of 32 ethnic minority women in her commune selected to be a co-researcher in the Voice and Rights project. Through the project, Xinh and her colleagues were trained on how to use photography to identify issues in their communities, before taking those skills back to their villages to document the challenges back home.

"When our trainers mentioned 'research' and 'co-research', I found myself confused. I imagined doing research was something like we have to 'conquer a very high hill that it is hard to climb over'. But with our trainers' help, we understood that co-research is about working together to explore and discuss issues," Xinh said.

"In my village, students leave school at a very early age. And I always wonder why, after finishing secondary school, most of the students continuing to high school are boys. Together with my group, I really want to find out the reasons for that."

As the project continues, so will their research and their search for solutions. Xinh and her group will share their findings with local authorities and they expect to receive support from them to improve the situation. The H'Mong women are also thinking of ways to create change themselves: meetings to advocate education issues with parents, establishing small libraries in villages, and organizing fun summer activities for children.

**"Going to school is the only way for our children to have a brighter future."**

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Delegation of the European Union to Vietnam