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IPs in the NMPPRP-2 and GNTN Viet Nam

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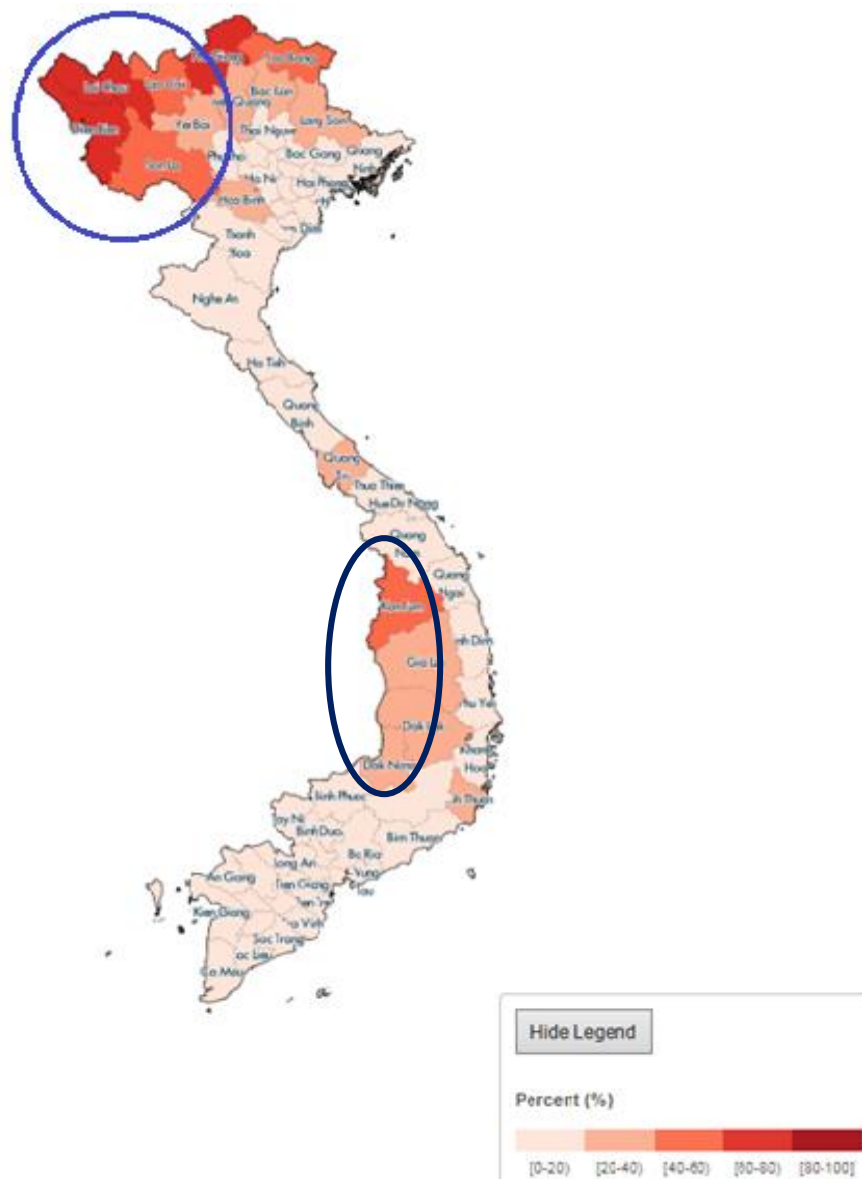
Vietnam has made remarkable progress...

- The poverty headcount fell sharply, from 20.7% in 2010 to 13.5% in 2014 => more than 6 million people were lifted out of poverty in just 4 years.
- However, poverty has become increasingly concentrated among ethnic minorities (EMs)
- EM accounts for 14% of total population, but share 60% of total poor; growing share of the poor live in the Northern Mountains and Central Highlands (where ethnic minorities are concentrated)
- The decline of poverty among ethnic minorities stalled 2010-12 (59.2% to 57.8%);
- **Remaining poor are harder to reach, more heterogeneous.**

Poverty figures

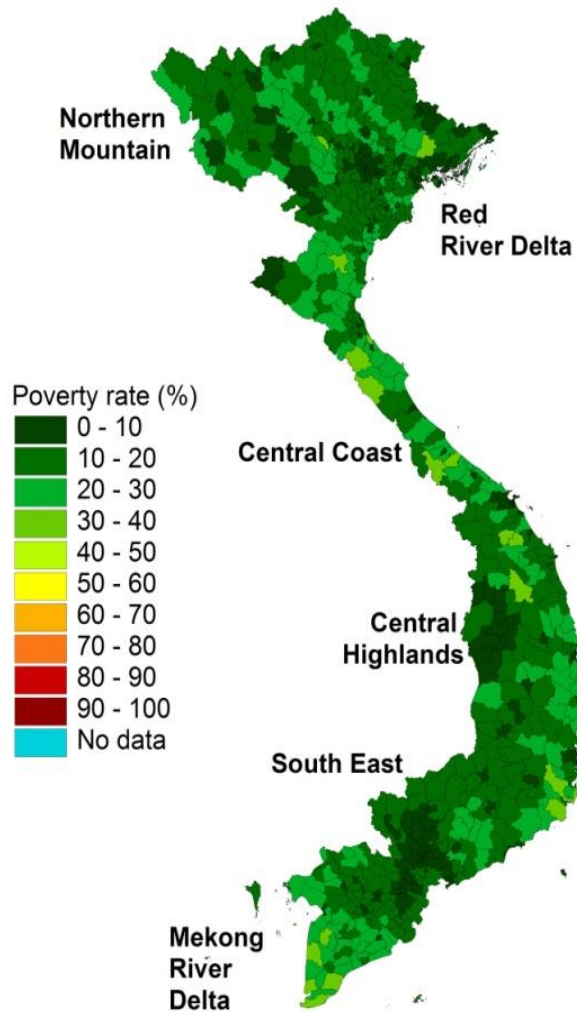
	Headcount Poverty Rate			Share of Population		Share of Poor	
	2010	2012	2014	2010	2014	2010	2014
All Vietnam	20.7%	17.2%	13.5%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Urban	6.0%	5.4%	3.8%	30%	34%	9%	10%
Rural	26.9%	22.1%	18.6%	70%	66%	91%	91%
Ethnic minority	66.3%	59.2%	57.8%	15%	14%	47%	60%
Kinh/Hoa	12.9%	9.9%	6.3%	85%	86%	53%	40%
<i>Region</i>							
Red River Delta	11.4%	7.4%	4.9%	22%	22%	12%	8%
East Northern Mtns	37.7%	33.5%	29.1%	11%	11%	21%	24%
West Northern Mtns	60.1%	58.7%	54.3%	3%	3%	9%	13%
North Central Coast	28.4%	21.2%	19.4%	12%	11%	16%	16%
South Central Coast	18.1%	15.3%	9.7%	8%	8%	7%	6%
Central Highlands	32.7%	29.7%	30.4%	6%	6%	10%	14%
Southeast	8.6%	5.8%	4.1%	18%	19%	7%	6%
Mekong Delta	18.7%	16.2%	9.8%	19%	19%	17%	14%

Poverty Rate (% poor): 2014

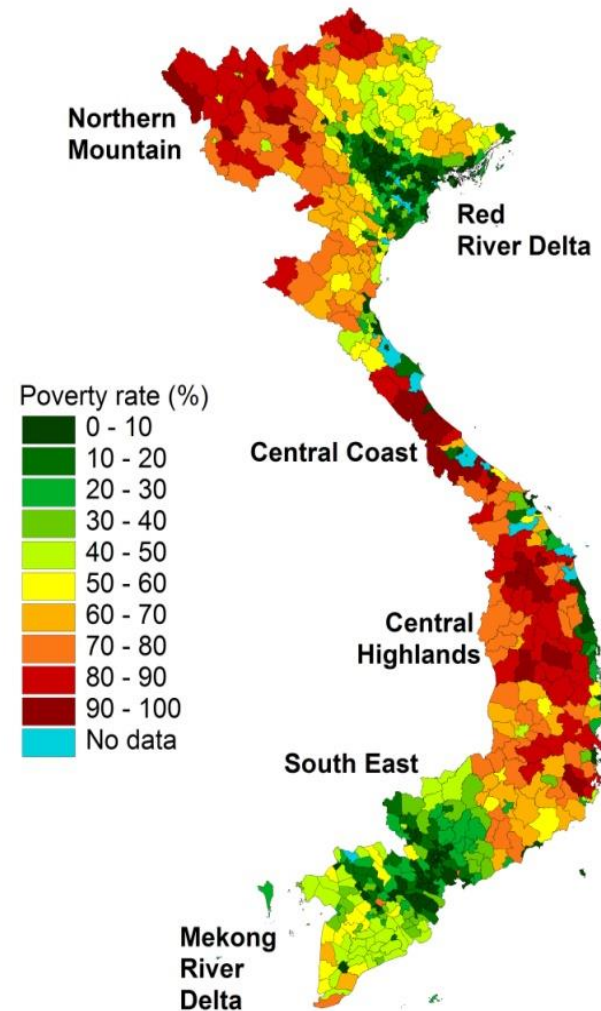


Ethnic minority poverty (2010)

Kinh (majority)



Ethnic Minorities



Second Northern Mountains Poverty Reduction (NMPRP-2)

- **Project Objective:** *to enhance the living standards of the Project Beneficiaries by improving: (i) their access to productive infrastructure; (ii) the productive and institutional capacity of local governments and communities; (iii) commune integrated investment planning and (iv) market linkages and business innovations*
- **Project Duration:** 2010 – 2018
- **Geographical areas covered:** 6 Northwest provinces
- **Components:**
 1. ***District Economic Development:*** productive and economic infrastructure for regional linkages, incl. market linkages for the poor (ag. businesses and farmers)
 2. ***Commune Development Budget:*** block grants to communes to finance small-scale sub-projects (including women-led groups) at the village level for productive infrastructure and livelihood improvement activities that are identified through participatory planning processes.
 3. ***Capacity Building and Communication:*** to improve capacity of project implementation and of communities to do participatory planning (SEDP), communication and information sharing and learning.
 4. ***Project Management*** to ensure effective and efficient project management through facilitation of implementation, monitoring and evaluation (M&E), reporting, coordination, and quality enhancement efforts.

Central Highlands Poverty Reduction (GNTN)

- **Project Objective:** *enhance living standards by improving livelihood opportunities in Project Communes of upland Districts of the central highlands of Vietnam.*
- **Project Duration:** 2014 – 2020
- **Geographical areas covered:** 6 Central Highlands Provinces
- **Components:**
 1. **Village and commune infrastructure development** supports the design, construction or repair, and O&M of small-scale village and commune-level infrastructure through the provision of block grants;
 2. **Sustainable livelihoods development** support EMs and other households in the targeted areas to enhance their food security and nutrition, their productive capacities for more diversified income sources, and their linkages to selected agricultural markets
 3. **Connective infrastructure development, capacity building and communications**
 4. **Project management** focuses on project coordination and implementation and for monitoring and evaluation, including the design and implementation of a simple management information system (MIS).

Key issues and challenges in reaching out to IPs

- **Remoteness:** villages could be 50-60 km from commune center; communes 70-90 km from district center
- **Inaccessibility:** Rugged terrain and inaccessibility during rainy and typhoon seasons, limiting participation and inclusive efforts.
- **Stereotyping:** IPs as ignorant and lazy disincentivizes outreaching efforts and demoralizes concerned IPs
- **Misconception** that poor IPs are exclusively subsistence farmers hindering their market linkages and agribusiness opportunities.
- **Diversity of ethnic groups:** mixed EM groups in one community → one dominating over the others.

Addressing IP/Ethnic minority issues in Project design

IPs Issues	Project's Measures
Under-represented in local decision making	Two village representatives (at least one female) as member of Commune Development Board
Language barriers in participatory processes	Audio-visual project materials; mobilize local teachers and cadres
Participation of women	Women-only farmer groups established, separate women's meeting, priorities over women's choices, wife and husband to participate, one separate subcomponent for women
Low capacity	Community Facilitators recruited and assigned to each commune

Adaptation of project implementation

- Focus more on small scale investment for improving connectivity
- Shifted towards more investment on localized livelihoods support.
- Group-based support, instead of individual households support: promotion of collective actions
- Pilot of agribusiness partnership to connect poor farmers' groups with private firms for contract farming arrangements.
- Put aside contingency fund for livelihoods support
- Activities aiming towards institutionalizing good practices into Gov.'s program (eg. SEDP or community procurement)

Some achievements (mainly NM)

- Socio Economic Development Planning (SEDP) in most of project communes: tool for integrating communes' needs and resources
- More active engagement of EMs in village development-- participatory planning, community involvement in paid work, supervision of construction...
- Sustainable CIGs: expanding in numbers of participating hhs, reinvesting in 2nd, 3rd and more rounds of production, increased group saving, business skills...
- Livelihood results to date: 11,178 CIGs established over the past 5 years; total investment nearly US\$29 million; generated up to US\$42 million worth of produces and assets, out of which more than US\$24 million worth of sold produces.
- Good number of infrastructure in place, easing commute to the production sites, linking with market, increasing irrigated areas leading to improved yields, and improved access to water supply: 2495 km of rural roads built, 8454 ha of paddy field irrigated by 809 schemes, 30,621 HHs connected to 663 water supply schemes, 4,445 meters of 477 rural bridges;
- Longer term business partnership bet. CIGs and ag. businesses
- Capacity increased at all levels

Key Factors of Success

- **Recognition of the diversity of ethnic groups:** planning specifics tailored to the unique social and cultural differences between recipient indigenous populations.
- **Project design and participatory planning.** CDD approach ensured project would start and end with the recipients themselves. Women gained a greater voice.
- **Improved communication through ethnic languages.** Use of EM languages during village meetings, trainings, and communication materials led to a more inclusive project planning and implementation agreement.
- **A programmatic approach** with the principles of a CDD framework; participatory planning with women's participation and the use of EM languages; income-generating opportunities develop market-oriented production and partnering with ag. businesses.
- **Communities being investment owners:** the empowerment of EM communities through ownership of project investments and local infrastructure.
- **Influence to Gov. Policy on Poverty Reduction:** National programs like New Rural Areas Development and P135 took on the livelihood approach, participatory planning and community procurement



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