

Proposal Summary

Support city-wide upgrading process in 20 small and medium cities in Vietnam

CDS

East Asia and Pacific - Vietnam

Summary

Under the pressure of population growth and shift to a market-oriented economy, Vietnam is facing challenges in various fields e.g. formulation of proper infrastructure development policies. In urban areas, there are following difficulties: • Urban residential areas with high density of population will face with inadequate water supply in the summer, floods as inadequate and weak sewerage system, degraded sanitation as untreated waste water. • The new urban areas are being developed, however the development is done in separate projects and lack of connection to the main infrastructure system. Therefore sewerage and drainage will face problems in the future. -Peripheral residential areas – most of upgraded cities include villages into urban areas creating a large area with low population density resulted in difficulties in infrastructure provision. In the meantime, the local people think that infrastructure must be provided by local authorities. This is a big challenge in urban development, infrastructure investment and management. The rapid urbanization is putting an immense pressure on the countries financial and human resources. Overcoming this infrastructure backlog is therefore one of the main challenges for the government in the next 10 years. Despite a great reduction in poverty and strong economic growth, intra-urban inequality is still evident in the poor living conditions and lack of access to basic services such as housing, land tenure, drainage and sanitation and overcrowding in some wards. Low income areas within cities are characterized by high population densities and a lack of, or poorly maintained, infrastructure and social services. The quality of housing is usually low; many houses are settled around lakes and canals and have limited access to sewerage connections. Flooding occurs frequently due to inadequate drainage. Poor sanitation often results in the direct discharge of waste into nearby drains, canals, rivers or lakes without treatment, posing environmental and health risks. Higher population densities inevitably put additional pressure on these areas that are already destitute of adequate infrastructure and services. In most existing areas, housing and infrastructure have deteriorated. Bad drainage frequently creates flooding which will only increase due to the effects of climate change. Rubbish in many places is not properly collected. Lighting in public areas is inadequate. Public spaces have been shrinking. Many green spaces, ponds and lakes, playgrounds, alleys etc. have disappeared. Investments in infrastructure in existing urban areas are often very small, fragmented and spread out over the city. When ACHR introduced ACCA program to Vietnam, ACVN is the key implement partner and it was received with great enthusiasm. The development process under this program will be broadened and strengthened to move forward to “upgrading of cities of Vietnam” by ACVN. To start off this program, 3 cities are selected in the 1st phase, at the same time the CDF network membership has been increased from 8 up to 30 members. The ACCA program for Vietnam focuses on city-wide upgrading in which all elements will be addressed: housing development, community savings, building platform for cities to link together in a broader scale, using pilot cities as concrete example in a new way, and building stronger role of ACVN in CDF. The advantage of ACCA is that it enables cities to link together internationally: there are 15 countries in the region implementing similar process. By joining ACCA program in Vietnam, ACVN is plugged into this vast source of information, experience and learning which is as fast changing as the cities themselves. The key aspect is to link together cities, people, agencies to work in city-wide process. Support from ACCA program to this new development direction in Vietnam is small, but sufficient to kick start and to kindle the community power in organizing, linking within themselves, and implementing their own development plans. It is necessary however, to have long-term support for this city-wide upgrading process to be expanded to all municipal levels and all cities in the country. In this view, ACVN submit the proposal to Cities Alliance In May 2011, “Consolidating management and implementation of Community Development Fund (CDF) through the Association of Cities of Vietnam” (ACVN), supported by CA helped ACVN build a document for activities of CDF’s members. On the other hand with the support of CA, ACVN built fiscal management soft ware of CDF which makes CDF’s management more coherent and sustainable. From October 7th to 13rd, 2011, the CA delegation worked in Vietnam and appreciated implementation of CDF in some cities member of ACVN. At the final meeting, ACVN suggested with CA for support in the next two years (2012-2013).

Objectives

The following key issues will be addressed through CA funded project: 1) Engaging the community in low-income area upgrading and urban development. 2) Participatory approaches in dealing with urban issues. Through this to promote the implementation of Grass-roots Democracy Ordinance (GRDO) in Vietnam; 3) The governments need a good approach to mobilize community resources 4) Changing approaches in which both the governments and people are responsible for this urgent issue. 5) Calling for assistance from international organizations. 6) The operation and strengthening of Community Development

Activities

1.1. Community participatory city-wide survey/mapping 1.2.1. Community-to-community exchanges through regular meetings of savings groups, CDF at ward and city levels, and community events (ground breakings, inaugurations, forums) 1.2.2. City-to-City exchanges between communities of different cities especially for new CDF member 1.2.3. Establishment/development of savings groups and network 1.2.4. National workshops 1.2.5. Seed funding for small-scale community upgrading projects (shared infrastructure) 1.2.6. Training courses on CDF financial management software

Fund (CDF) network 7) The CDFs in the existing 30-city network can be considered and improved as key factors for other members of ACVN to apply in their contexts. Cities will learn that CDF is accessible to the poor and it provides the initiation for cities to develop their own community-driven process and network. Our goal is to expand this CDF process 50 cities by 2013.

- 2.1. Community forums (for existing community leaders) for 6 cities. 2.1.1. Inter-city and intra-city forums for 6 cities (3 CA funded city and 3 ACHR funded cities) 2.1.2. Regional Urban Poor Forum (with participation of policy makers)
- 2.2. Establish a network of community supporters in each of 20 cities (10 funded by CA) and a national network of 15-20 community supporters. 2.3. Strengthening the YP network to support for CDF cities
- 3.1. Conducting a participatory CDS for one city with strong CDF network 3.2. Documenting and publishing lessons learned and best practices. 3.3. Cooperating with VTV to broadcast about CDF network.
- 4.1. Developing a legal framework to formalize city budget contribution to the CDF 4.2. Developing system for financial contribution of community to CDF 4.3. Developing management structure for CDF involving city and community 4.4. Attract additional resources to CDF 4.5. Promotion of CDF through ACVN's activities with other partners such as FCM,KAS, UN-HABITAT, UN- ESCAP, DELGOSEA project and other sponsors
- 5.1. Implementing CDF activities in cities; 5.2. Support to organize workshops and trainings to enhance capacity for ACVN staff and national community supporters and YP in the CDF network.

Submission

Submitted by:
Association of Cities of Vietnam

CA Sponsor:

Implementation

Implemented by:
Association of Cities of Vietnam
CA Monitor:
Andrea Zeman

Budget and Time

Request to CA:	\$ 524,900	Duration: 24 months
Co-Financing:	\$ 224,200	
Total Budget:	\$ 749,100	

Expected Impacts

Main activities will be implemented to achieve Results include: Result 1: Community process and city process have been promoted and strengthened Result 2: People's participation has been mobilized through city processes, regional and national forums Result 3: Policy advocacy has been strengthened to support for poor community Result 4: CDF has been promoted and institutionalized at (i) city level and (ii) provincial/national level Result 5: ACVN's capacity in CDF coordination has been strengthened