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Evaluating Impact: Turning Promises into Evidence

Program 135-2: Socio-economic development program for Vietnam's poorest ethnic minority communities

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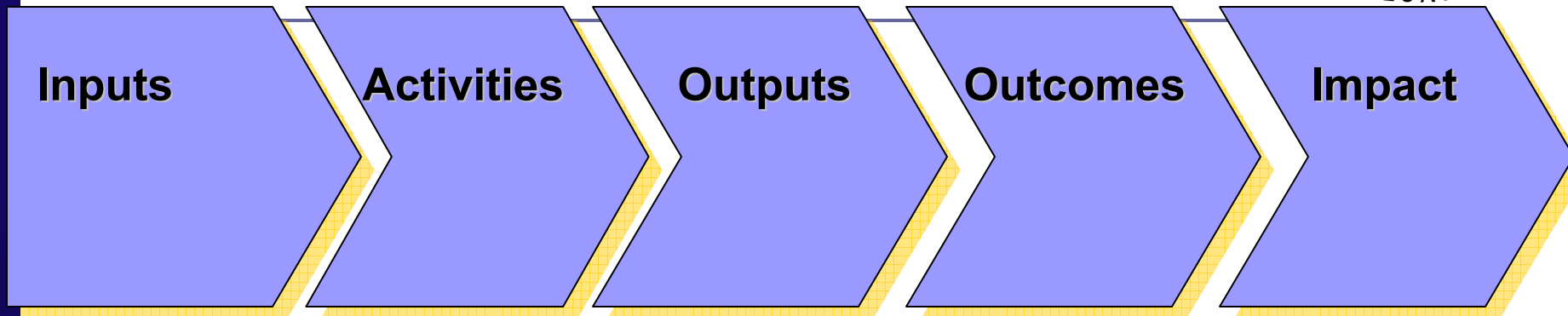
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1. Background

Vietnam is a nation composed by 54 ethnic groups in which there are 53 ethnic minority groups who mainly inhabit in poorest communes of the country.

- ❑ P135-2 targets over 1,850 poor communes in 47 provinces with a budget of \$1 billion funded by the GoV and international donors
- ❑ Duration: 2006-2010
- ❑ Program target:
 1. Sustainable poverty reduction
 2. Income generation
 3. Improved access to social welfare
 4. Capacity building for officials at all levels and local poor to better implement the program.
- ❑ The Committee for Ethnic Minorities (CEM) is the lead agency, assigned to coordinate and oversee the program implementation, with participation of several related agencies in different aspects of the program at different levels.
- ❑ Actual program implementation is carried out by districts and communes under guidance from central agencies and provinces.

2. Results Chain



1. Budget from Gov and donors: 1 billion USD

2. Beneficiaries : 1,850 communes with 3,149 villages

3. Officials at central and local levels

1. Infrastructure building

2. Productivity enhancements and generation of new employment opportunities

3. Capacity building

- Road construction
- School upgrading
- Rural electrification
- Irrigation works
- Community house construction
- Health clinic upgrading and new construction
- Sanitation investments
- Technical training and transfer of agricultural technology
- Transfer of seed stock and livestock to the most poor
- Training of central cadre, local cadre, and community members in management
- Vocational training of youngsters

• Increased access to public services and markets

• Increased school enrollment

• Increased electrification rates

• Cultural and traditional activities and meetings

• Increased access to healthcare services

• Increased access to clean water
Increased agricultural productivity

Increased quality of agricultural products
Effective utilization and management of program budgets

Increased employment opportunities

Sustainable reduction in measured poverty rates and improvement in livelihoods; enriched culture life; improved population health; elimination of illiteracy

3. Primary Research Questions

- Does Program 135-2 reduce poverty and improve welfare (health, education, etc.) for the program communes?
- Does increased community participation affect the quality of the program?
 - Village residents determine local program activities, manage budgets, and conduct program monitoring.

4. Outcome Indicators

- Village level poverty rate
- Village level school enrollment
- Access to healthcare services
- Level of community participation
- Level of community satisfaction with program activities

5. Identification Strategy/Method

- To answer whether Program 135-2 reduces poverty and improve welfare for the program communes:
 - Regression discontinuity
 - Strict cut-off for program participation: only villages with 55% of households below poverty line (income per capita: VND 200,000/month) are treated
- To answer whether increased community participation affect the quality of the program:
 - Randomized promotion
 - Conduct promotion campaigns to treatment villages selected randomly in a sub-sample of provinces

6. Sample and data

Sample: 400 communes (6000 households) in which:

- ▣ Treatment : 3,990 households in 266 communes randomly selected
- ▣ Control: 2,110 households in 134 communes randomly selected from the set of communes close to but above the cut-off point
- ▣ 100 communes randomized promotion equally assigned to treatment and control groups

Main topics of survey:

- 1) Income
- 2) Access to education
- 3) Access to healthcare
- 4) Community participation and satisfaction
- 5) Infrastructure

Baseline conducted in 2007

We also collect administrative data at the villages, communes and provincial level to monitor the program implementation, costs and project choice at village level.

7. Time Frame/Work Plan

- ❑ 2006: Program kick-off
- ❑ Apr-Oct 2007: Baseline survey
- ❑ Mar 2008: start-up of participation promotion (3 provinces)
- ❑ Jan 2009: 10 more provinces included in random promotion of participation
- ❑ Dec 2009: TOR, budget, questionnaire, pilot for follow-up survey
- ❑ Jan – Feb 2010: finalisation of questionnaire,
- ❑ Mar 2010: Training of trainers for follow-up survey
- ❑ Apr-Sep 2010: Survey, Data cleaning
- ❑ Oct-Nov 2010: Data analysis
- ❑ Dec 2010: Disclosure, policy recommendation for P135-3
- ❑ Dec 2010: Program end

8. Sources of Financing

- Total project budget: \$1.0 billion
 - Gov: \$725,000 million
 - Donors: \$275,000 million
- Evaluation budget: approximately \$500,000 (Gov. + donors)

Xin cam on cac quy vi



THANK YOU!