



PROJECT REPORT

Supporting ethnic minority adolescent girls

Since 2017 MCNV has been implementing a project namely "*Supporting ethnic minority adolescent girls*" in Huong Hoa district of Quang Tri province. In this remote mountainous area, the Bru Van Kieu adolescent girls face serious and long-lasting problems, including early school dropout, early marriage, pregnancy at adolescence, joblessness and lack of income after school dropout. These problems generally occur as a consequence of socio-economic, cultural and geographical constraints, and badly put long-lasting impacts on the girls' lives and future. Poverty, the lack of knowledge and skills in sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) among adolescent girls, local people's acceptance towards early marriage and school dropout, and the lack of job orientation and opportunities for adolescent girls are mainly attributed to the adolescent girls' negative situation.

Besides different interventions to change the awareness of local authority and community people about the adolescent girls' problems, MCNV also pays attention to helping community groups in Huong Hoa have new jobs and alternative livelihoods to deal with poverty, thus contributing to improving the living and studying conditions for their adolescent girls. Since early 2019, MCNV has started supporting poor households with adolescent girls improve their livelihood and income by setting up 3 production groups that mainly focus on producing bamboo products and preliminarily processing tung seeds - collected from the forest, having oil extracted for wood varnish production. The HULZA's donation (EUR 10,000) in the last four months of 2019 has enabled MCNV to improve the quality of work related to these production groups.

Below is a brief review of what have been done with HULZA's donation as of late August 2019 to the end of December 2019.

1. Provision of 5 bamboo straw cutting machines for 10 households in Cu Bai village of Huong Lap commune and Ta Puong village of Huong Viet commune. Every two households take turn to use one cutting machine for the production of bamboo straws.



Changing from cutting bamboo straws by hand into cutting them by a machine

2. Building a workshop and greenhouse for dying bamboo materials in Ta Puong village. A cook stove for boiling bamboo materials was also built at the greenhouse. Some facilities for bamboo lathing were also provided for the production group. Five households benefit from this support.



Boiling bamboo materials with the cook stove in the drying house

3. Provision of a seed peeling machine for tung seed processing group in Ta Puong village. Five households benefit from this peeling machine, which enabled them to participate in preliminarily processing tung seeds. The processed tung seeds were then supplied to a tung oil production enterprise. In the harvest season of 2019 (September-October), the group tried using the machine to process 500 kg of tung seeds which brought about an added values of VND 5,000,000. It is promising that this first experience will enable the group to process tung seeds more effectively in the harvest season of 2020.



Preliminarily processing tung seeds when the harvest comes

4. Vocational training and job creation for youth: In 2019, MCNV planned to send some female youths to Hoi An to work as hired labor for Hoi An Roastery enterprise, an MCNV's partner who is the main buyer of the bamboo products made by the production groups in Huong Hoa. However, this plan could not be realised because the adolescent girls preferred having jobs in their community or in Quang Tri province, rather than working far away from home.

Instead, MCNV organised two vocational trainings on bamboo lathing in Dong Ha for four youths in September and December 2019. This was the first time the ethnic minority youths were trained and able to produce and add values to non-timber forest products. With some facilities equipped after the training, these youths are now able to produce bamboo tubes, bamboo candle holders and bamboo cutleries to provide for Hoi An Roastery. These four youths are from two production groups and can facilitate other members in their groups to work on bamboo lathing.



Vocational training on bamboo lathing

5. Planting bamboos in the buffer zone and home gardens

In 2019, bamboo straw production was slowed down due to a lack of bamboo materials. The reason of this shortage was a forest fire in late 2018 and the area of bamboo plantation in the natural forest was small. The solution was to help 10 households in Chenh Venh village plant 100 bushes of bamboo in their home gardens and the buffer zone. This source of bamboo materials can be exploited in the end of 2020. In 2020, MCNV will continue supporting the other two production groups to plant bamboo trees in their home gardens and the neighboring areas.



6. Market linkage to promote bamboo products to domestic and international markets

In 2019, MCNV facilitated to promote the selling of bamboo straws, bamboo cutleries and bamboo tubes to Hoi An City and the Vrije University in the Netherlands. Currently, Hoi An Roastery maintains their monthly orders on bamboo straws and starts ordering bamboo tubes, candle handles and cutleries. In 2020, MCNV will pay attention to more intensive advertising and creating market linkages for the bamboo products of the production groups to be shown up more effectively in the market.



Bamboo straws sold to VU and Hoi An Roastery

7. Monitoring

Field trips for supportive monitoring by MCNV staff played a very important role in promoting the production activities of the production groups. MCNV staff visited the production groups almost on a weekly basis to make sure they received sufficient technical and advisory assistance. In 2020, regular field trips will remain necessary so that the production activities can become stable and grow.

Expected results of the project in 2020:

- Create 20 skilled jobs for 16-20 youth (out of 250 jobless youths in three communes) in producing bamboo products;
- 30 households increase extra income by about 30% from bamboo production jobs;
- 30 households create bamboo material plantation areas to meet their production requirements;
- 3 production groups in 3 communes, with the participation of 30 household members, can operate effectively and are linked to the markets.



Sundrying bamboo straws



Bamboo tubes

Planned activities in 2020

No.	Key activities	When	Estimated budget (EUR)
1	Development of bamboo plantation material areas (supporting the production groups to plant bamboo in land areas near their houses)	May - Jul 2020	392
2	Vocational training on producing bamboo products for new members	Mar - May 2020	392
3	Facilities for new members of bamboo production, including bamboo cutting machines, saws, lathe machines.	Mar - Jun 2020	2,158
4	Design new bamboo products and train three production groups	Mar - Aug 2020	784
5	One drying house/workshop	Apr - May 2020	1,961
6	Training on producing bamboo products with new designs (in addition to bamboo straws, tubes and cutleries)	Apr - Jul 2020	392
7	Support on market linkages: Send product samples to potential buyers; Visit of production group members to potential buyers inside and outside Vietnam; Attend annual fair trade outside Quang Tri;	Feb - Nov 2020	784
8	Hire a site staff to monitor production activities	Feb - Nov 2020	2,745
9	Traveling for MCNV and site staff	Feb - Nov 2020	392
	Total		10,000

