



2018 ANNUAL REPORT

# HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

The **Center for Development and Integration (CDI)** is a Vietnamese non-government, non-profit organization working for the rights of the disadvantaged groups to build a society of equity, solidarity and sustainable development.

In 2018, CDI continued to implement different projects and activities under three prioritized programs: **#Good Governance**, **#Labor Rights**, and **#Inclusive Growth**. CDI has supported many community groups (women clubs, groups of migrant workers, farmers' groups/cooperatives, groups of ethnic minority youth...) in several areas by **capacity building and connecting with relevant stakeholders**, through which these groups were able to make plan and carried out their initiatives towards positive changes in their areas. In other words, the year 2018 is considered as “**Year of Community Initiatives**”, when these groups actively participated in monitoring the state budget, monitoring the implementation of some welfare schemes of the Government and improving the quality of public services at local level.

Moreover, CDI organized many communication activities to **raise the voice of community groups** to related stakeholders (such as the photo-voice *Safe working day*, communication activities for migrant workers, etc.) Regarding the Inclusive Growth program, one of the outstanding results in 2018 is the development of **VietFarm Standards** which promotes the sustainable production for small farmers. In addition, CDI also introduced and promoted agricultural products through various channels, in national and international events, to support the small farmers get linkages with the market.

Based on good practices and community initiatives, supplemented by researches and surveys, CDI has actively participated in **advocacy** at different levels. In 2018, the initiative of **Provincial Open Budget Index (POBI)** got the attention of many provinces and it is considered as one of the effective tools to promote the open and transparency of the state budget at local level. CDI and other members of BTAP (the Budget Transparency, Accountability and Participation) Coalition launched the report named “*Voices of people and local authorities on the National Target Program on New Rural Development in the period 2016-2020: Case studies in Hoa Binh and Quang Tri province*” with recommendations for adjustments and improvements of the Program in the next phase. In regards to the Labor policies, CDI continued to advocate for some topics in the **revision of the Labor Code**, including: *Wages and overtime working; particular policies for women employees, and the Workers Representative Organizations.*

After a year of endless efforts, with the support of donors, international and local partners, government agencies, alliances / networks, research institutes and media agencies..., especially the support of the community, CDI has achieved some results as summarized in this report. We believe that the core values that CDI has been following will continue to grow, contributing to narrowing the social gaps and the sustainable development of the country.

>60

training courses, workshops, dialogues, research were conducted in Hanoi city, Quang Tri & Ha Giang province

3,221

participants, of whom 1,256 are women, directly participated in the GG's activities

610,672

beneficiaries from activities under the Good Governance (GG) Program

13

initiatives of monitoring the state budget and quality of healthcare service at communal level were implemented with participation of 93 women

52

recommendations of community groups were submitted to the local authorities and other stakeholders.

23

recommendations were accepted by the local authorities.

70

conclusions and recommendations

on state budget management and transparency on the environmental protection fees from mining activities were communicated to relevant stakeholders by Quang Tri's People Council, Quang Tri 's Women Union, Ha Giang Union of Science and Technology and Ha Giang Fatherland Front.

The environmental protection fees collected from mining activities in Cam Lo district reached

VND 870 millions in 2018, which was

7 times higher than the estimation, after

implementing the Regulation on coordination in supervising and disseminating the law and policies of mining in Quang Tri province.

The amount of VND 1,328 millions

was allocated by Yen Minh District People's Committee in Ha Giang and Cam Lo District People's Committee in Quang Tri province to Mau Due and Cam Thanh commune from the environmental protection fees in 2018 through organizing dialogues between stakeholders on the transparency and accountability in using the environmental protection fees collected from mining activities.

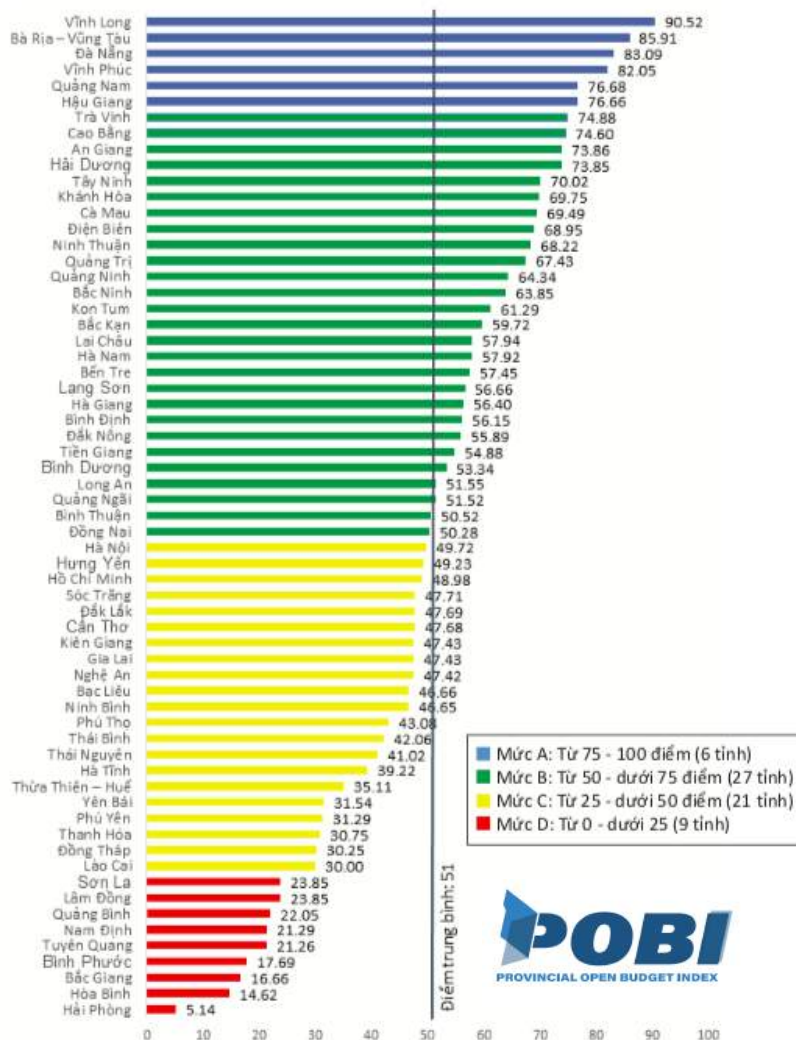
# #GOOD GOVERNANCE

Good Governance program contributes to enhance the accountability, transparency and participation of people and social organizations in state budget management from central to grassroots levels

For the first time, there is a meeting between the Ministry of Finance of Vietnam and CDI to discuss CDI's recommendations of 2019 Executive's Budget Proposal.

2 recommendations (out of 13) were implemented after the meeting.

The average of Provincial Open Budget Index is significantly improved: from 30.5 point (2017) to 51 point in 2018.



# #LABOR RIGHTS

Labor Rights program aims to promote and protect workers' rights towards better working conditions and access to quality social protection.

**1** network of ~100 core migrant workers (70% of them are women) from 6 CDI projects areas was established and had joint activities

**7** projects are implemented in Dong Anh (Ha Noi), Hai Phong city, Hai Duong, Bac Ninh and Dong Nai province

**207** worker group meetings were organized at housing areas of migrant workers in Dong Anh (Ha Noi), Hai Duong, Bac Ninh, Hai Phong

# 4

working groups were established and have been working on different themes:

- Worker rights protection mechanisms
- Workers' representative organizations
- Ethical Business
- Living wage

community initiatives were conducted to enhance the quality of health-care services at Hai Boi commune's Health Center:

- Monitoring the quality of vaccination and provision of vitamin A
- Monitoring the quality of initial medical examination and treatment
- Supervision of propaganda and communication on healthcare
- Supervision of administrative procedures, medical examination and treatment procedures

## LEGAL AID TO WORKERS

**276,113** visits to website laodongxanha.net

**152** posts on Facebook fanpage DIỄN ĐÀN PHÁP LUẬT DÀNH CHO NGƯỜI LAO ĐỘNG

**161** questions of workers were received and responded through website, Facebook, hotline

**858** questions of workers were responded through mobile legal aids and worker group meetings at migrant worker housing areas

**24** recommendations of workers on improving social protection and access to public services (~68.2% of total recommendations) for migrant workers were accepted and implemented by local related actors

**13** recommendations of workers on improving working conditions (~40.3% of total workers' recommendations) were accepted and implemented by enterprises

## COMMUNICATION

Photo-Voice "Safe Working Day":

**122** photos including stories of 32 workers from 7 provinces in Vietnam were submitted to the photo contest and posted on the Facebook Fanpage, which attracted **35,071** engagements in nearly 3 months.

**2** communication events on preventing sexual harassment at the workplace, which attracted the participation of **2,250** workers

**3** communication events on labor law, social protection and monitoring public health services in the localities, were organized in living areas of migrant workers, attracting about **1,000** participants, including local authorities, people & workers.



*Inclusive Growth program promotes the small producers into supply chain with building capacity of sustainable production through adoption of VietFarm standards and access to market.*

## #INCLUSIVE GROWTH

**128** members (36 women) of **6** groups received training on sustainable agriculture.

Total of **42** cooperatives and **producer groups** know and show their interest in adopting VietFarm standards for exporting agro products (29 groups in Central Highland, 8 groups in Mekong Delta, 5 groups in Northern mountainous areas).

Total **14** cooperatives and **groups** in the North West Region and Central Highlands were trained on adopting sustainable agricultural practices and VietFarm standards.

Total of **136** ha for plant tea, coffee, fruits, vegetables, garlic etc. got direct support in farming coach and monitoring.

In December 2018, the **first VietFarm Awards** was organized for the prominent farmers/producers groups and attracted **100** applicants from **9** provinces. The awards of best practice in agriculture were given to **28** cooperatives and farmers.

Supports for producers to develop products and access to markets:

**14** new products from cooperatives on market with branded and traceability: 2 coffee products, 1 macadamia, 1 cashew nuts, other 10 of fruits and vegetables.



**VietFarm standards** was developed and officially launched in September 2018

**Farmers commodities** (5 coffee products, 3 tea products, 4 cocoa products, 1 cashew nuts, 4 spice (garlic, star anise, cinnamon, pepper), 1 macadamia are on the market for price with value added above **20%**.

The farmers' products in new designed packages from cooperatives are uploaded and traded on global and domestic **e-commerce channels** such as Alibaba, Lazada, and Shopee.

**3** new producer groups were established with support of CDI, including 1 tea-macadamia group in Nam Tang, Tam Duong district (Lai Chau province), 1 garlic Thai Women Group of 30 members in Yen Chau district and a vegetable producer group with 8 members in in Moc Chau district (Son La province).

The **VIETFARM** training school has organised **2** training courses on food processing for young ethnic people including Thai, H'Mong, Muong from 3 districts (Phu Yen, Yen Chau, Moc Chau district) of Son la province. This model of farming school is a potential model to be replicated in North West region, Thai Nguyen province and one in Hanoi.

**28** farmers from **6** cooperatives participated in a training course on bio farming to produce micro-biological applications in soil improvement and use natural recycled energy and bio fertilizer in farming. There were also **training courses in start-up agri-businesses** for ethnic minority youth and farmers in Son La and Hai Duong province



# STORY OF CHANGE



## Empowerment of migrant workers

“Almost 2 years ago, it was the first time we took part in a survey in which we were the target - the respondents. It was also the first time we knew that **migrant workers had the right to participate and monitor** local socio-economic development plans (including many social protection schemes such as healthcare, education, housing...).

And now, we have participated in a survey again, but the position has been changed. With the support of the CDI and the Women's Union of Dong Anh District, we, the migrant workers, were proactive and self-organized **4 monitoring activities related to the quality of healthcare services** at Hai Boi Commune Health Center, Dong Anh District, Hanoi.

We have been supported through the process of identifying the issues, improving our skills of interviewing, observation, development of questionnaires and collecting information from related stakeholders. For the first time, we became "supervisors" who asked doctors at the Health Center about operation and quality of healthcare services, communication materials, hygiene and disease prevention at the center, etc. We also asked the people who directly used services about their access to services, quality assessment, level of satisfaction and suggestions. This whole process is something that we have never thought we were able to do before. In the past, when our children were vaccinated, we did not dare to ask the doctor what kind of medicine they used because the doctors would say "You can not understand it". But now, we confidently voice up to share our monitoring findings and propose solutions for improving the quality of services.

In December 2018, our recommendations were shared with the Head of the Health Center, local authorities and other stakeholders at the sharing workshop - *Results of workers' initiatives of improving the quality of healthcare services in the Health Center in Hai Boi Commune*. As a result, **9 of 11 recommendations were accepted** and planned for solutions by local authorities, the Head of the Health Center and other related actors.

Not only migrant workers like us but local people also appreciate the cooperation of the Health Center in improving services' quality. Just a few days after our sharing, some changes were quickly made. For example, in responding to the lack of drinking water for people while waiting for vaccination, the Health Center has provided two water jugs. Another change is that now the doctors give the medicine boxes for us to check the name and expiry date after every injection, which was not very popular before.

**Developing ideas and realizing these initiatives** are important steps in the process of learning and empowerment of migrant workers. At this time, we do not know further improvements, but at least we see the status of migrant workers has been significantly improved. **We are respected, listened and acknowledged** by the local authorities and people. We are very proud and happy, to be part of the local life here!"

# STORY OF CHANGE

## Growing as we do monitoring initiatives together

"My name is Mai Thi Luu, leader of a community based group in Dong Tan An village, Hai An commune, Hai Lang district, Quang Tri province. Since my commune was selected as the BTAP project area by the Provincial Women's Union, I have participated in several training courses on monitoring skills, I feel confident in public speaking, facilitating group meetings and monitor the implementation of public investment projects or policies in my area. Participating in state budget monitoring helps me realize that state budget is not only about data or figures but also policies, infrastructure, public services that bring about benefits for local people.

During the last two years, in collaboration with the communal Women's Union, Dong Tan An community group has conducted 3 monitoring activities: (i) Monitoring the implementation of the policy on support for single moms with children under 16 years old in the commune; (ii) Monitoring the construction of concreted inter-village road in Dong Tan An village, (iii) Monitoring parents' contribution to the meals for children in Hai An kindergarten.

Each monitoring initiative focuses on one specific topic. Therefore, activities and challenges vary from one to another. Each monitoring initiative gives us a lesson on "overcoming difficulties". For example, when we monitored the quality of meals in Hai An kindergarten, we had no collaboration of the school because they thought that we did not have legitimacy to monitor their activities. To solve this problem, we had to report the issue and got the direction of the Commune Party to adjust some monitoring contents. Finally, after several attempts, we succeeded in getting the collaboration of the kindergarten who allowed us to monitor the payments of parents for their children's lunch. Based on monitoring findings, the kindergarten took action to build waste management facility and get parents' signatures for their payments.

After 3 monitoring initiatives, witnessing different parties adopting our recommendations and taking responsive actions, we are very happy and proud of what we have been doing and impacting on other agencies. We think that even though not all of our recommendations have been taken into account, we have strong belief that our knowledge and skills will be utilized in reality to bring about benefits for local people."

**"Participating in state budget monitoring helps me realize that state budget is not only about data or figures but also policies, infrastructure, public services that benefit local people."**



# STORY OF CHANGE

In 2017, 15 women from the Muong ethnic established the Muong Do Bio-Tea Producing Group. Based in Muong Do village, Son La Province in Northwestern Vietnam, the Group produces high-quality tea using sustainable, traditional farming practices, markets the tea through traditional and innovative networks, and helps teach other women-and-minority-owned businesses how to enhance their livelihoods through high-quality tea production.

In Muong Do village, the tea trees come from ancient stock and they grow best at high altitude (~800m above the sea level). These trees also thrive in biodiverse, chemical-free environments. Women are often the primary tea pickers, and their work begins before dawn, while the leaves are still covered by the mountain dew. This ensures that the leaves are fresh and that the finished product retains the strong tea flavors and aromas.

The final product from Muong Do Bio Tea Producing Group — tea in the cup — reflects the intimate relationships between people and the environment and the high standards of agricultural practices the Group follows. This handmade village tea is not blended with other teas, so the consumer is guaranteed the highest quality and a drink that distinctively reflects the region where it is grown. Because the tea is so flavorful (due to the tea being picked and processed at just the right time) it can be infused several times in the cup. The group has learned about and adopted the VietFarm standards for growing and processing tea. By gaining the ability to use the VietFarm label, the Group can access global markets for sustainable produced agricultural products. The label and the marketing effort also affords the opportunity to teach the world about how traditional agricultural practices can be environmentally and socially sustainable, including by restricting chemical use for the health of producers and consumers.



## Muong Do Bio-Tea Producing Group: Improving livelihood for ethnic women with bio-teas

Together the 15 households in the group own 3.500 trees and produce 6 tons of fresh tea each year. Previously, the households would sell only fresh tea, and at 7.000 VND/kg, the households earned, collectively, just 2.8 million VND per household per year. Today, after adopting the VietFarm production standards and developing a tea-processing facility, they can sell finished tea for 180.000 VND/kg and the 15 households are realizing revenue of 25 million VND per year — that is nearly a nine fold (890%) increase. The Group's branded tea products are sold at a "shop-within-a-shop" at Noi Bai International Airport and at 4 other locations in Hanoi.

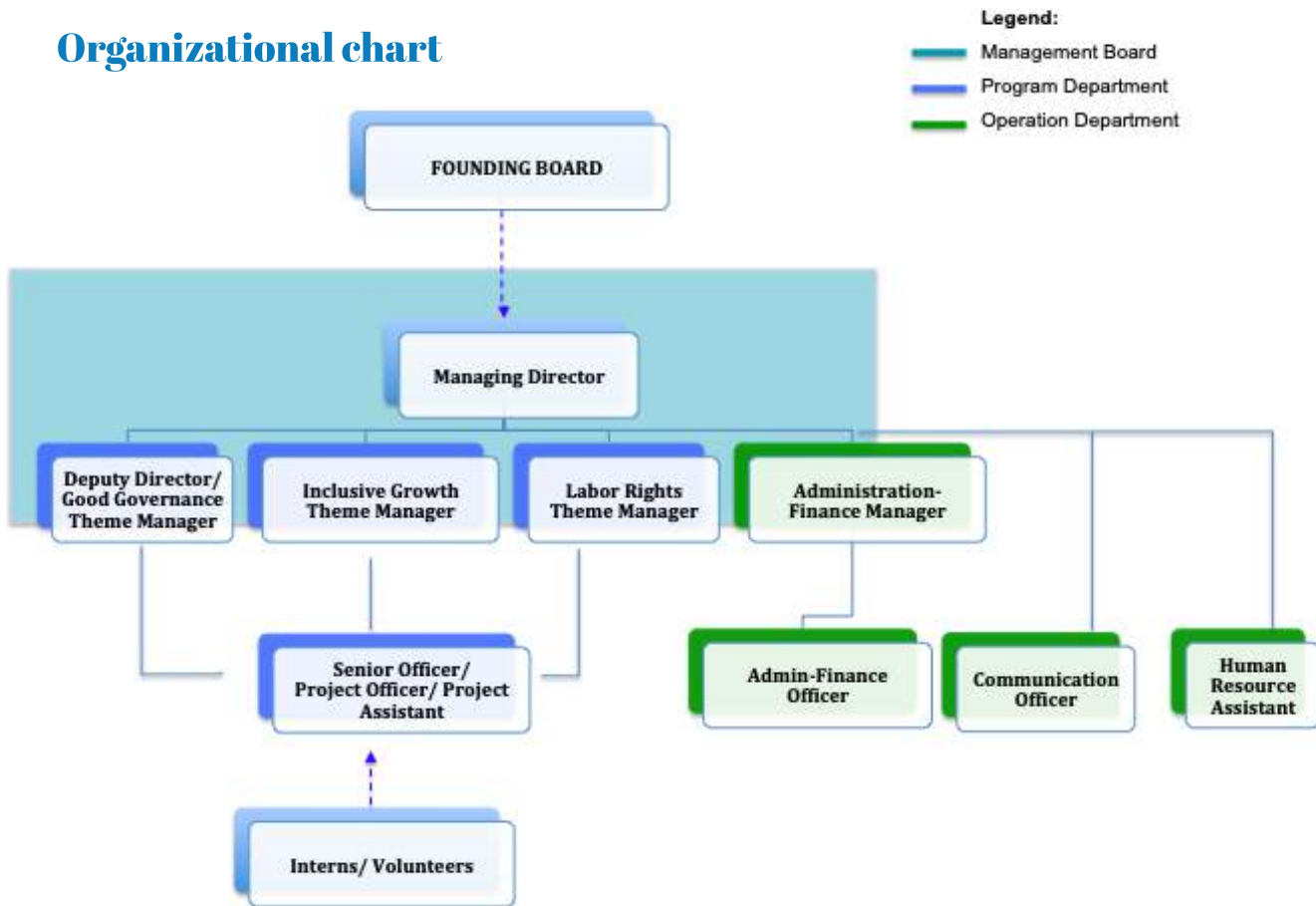
Mrs. Ha Thi Nu, women group leader of Muong Do's 15 Muong women, learn to lead the group, now learn to lead, produce tea and sell tea to market. She even exposures to build Brand of Son Tra Tea to the international market.





# ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

## Organizational chart



In 2018, CDI team was maintained with 15 - 18 staff. The organizational structure was changed at the management level, with the **Management Board** to replace the Director Board, in order to expand the participation of Theme Managers/Head of Department in decision making.

Aiming at building capacity for the staff, CDI organized many internal **training activities** with different forms (training, sharing of information and materials, “Happy Hours” talks...) and supported the staff to participate in many training courses organized by other organizations on various themes and essential skills (project management, communication, advocacy...). Thanks to all of this, the capacity of CDI team and the quality of programs have been significantly improved.



During the year, there were 3 meetings with all staff, including: **Annual planning meeting, Staff retreat and team-building** and **Mid-term review of the Strategy 2015-2020**. Particularly, in the Mid-term review meeting, with the support of external consultants, CDI team worked together to analyze the strengths and weaknesses in current interventions and proposed some adjustment of methodologies. The result of discussions is a foundation for the Management team to identify key elements for the next strategy.

2018 is remarked as the first year of **application of the Key Performance Indicator (KPI)** instead of the annual performance review. After several rounds of consultation with all staff, the KPI template was applied, which helps the staff to better plan for their work and personal development, contributing to better working results of the whole team.



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## Key interventions:

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Alliance and Coalition to take actions for changes

Website: [www.cd vietnam.org](http://www.cd vietnam.org)

## CDI is a member of:

Network of Action for migrant workers (M.net)

Budget transparency, accountability and participation (BTAP)

Vietnam Mining Coalition (VMC)

Asian Network for the Rights Of Occupational and Environmental Victims (ANROEV)

Mekong Migration Network (MMN)



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KHOÁNG SẢN**