



# Evaluation of the Cash Transfers for Development Project in Vietnam

Executive Summary

Oxfam GB Programme Evaluation

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## **BACKGROUND**

From mid-2006 Oxfam Great Britain (OGB) in Vietnam directly disbursed nonemergency cash grants to 550 poor and near poor households in An Loc commune.

These were to support empowerment by enabling household's to utilise their knowledge and skills to determine the best investments for livelihood development.

An Loc commune has had its fair share of 'emergencies' in the past. Over the last few years there have been droughts, flooding and typhoon events which have contributed to An Loc being the poorest commune in Ha Tinh province. The ongoing OGB project proves to be a fertile ground for learning. In addition to the development of impressive 'nuts and bolts' mechanisms for transfers, data management, partnership and outreach, the programme has also responded to shifts in the status of the beneficiaries organisation by introducing capacity building interventions and related information (OGB, 2007).

This review draws lessons from the rich experiences of the OGB cash transfers project to inform and strengthen future developments and interventions. Conducted in November and December 2008 through document review, household data, interviews with stakeholders and a field visit, it documents and reflects on the evolution, achievements and constraints of the Cash transfers for Development: an Oxfam Learning Project in Vietnam<sup>1</sup>.

## **KEY ACHIEVEMENTS**

Based on its outputs, this review notes four key achievements, all worth striving to replicate in the lifetime of the pilot project and any future replications that OGB implement:

- A. Providing new 'spaces' in which the poor (particularly women) can be empowered to raise their voice, claims their rights and engage in community life
- B. Enabling households to sustainably diversify incomes in the way that they see fit
- C. Reduced intra-household conflict and peace of mind
- D. Wider economic and social development that went beyond the project beneficiaries

It was not the remit of this review to assess the progress before the March 2008 however the field work and challenges with statistical data made this an inevitable part of the review. Less emphasis has been placed on the quantitative data but significantly more attention has been paid to qualitative evidence.

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