



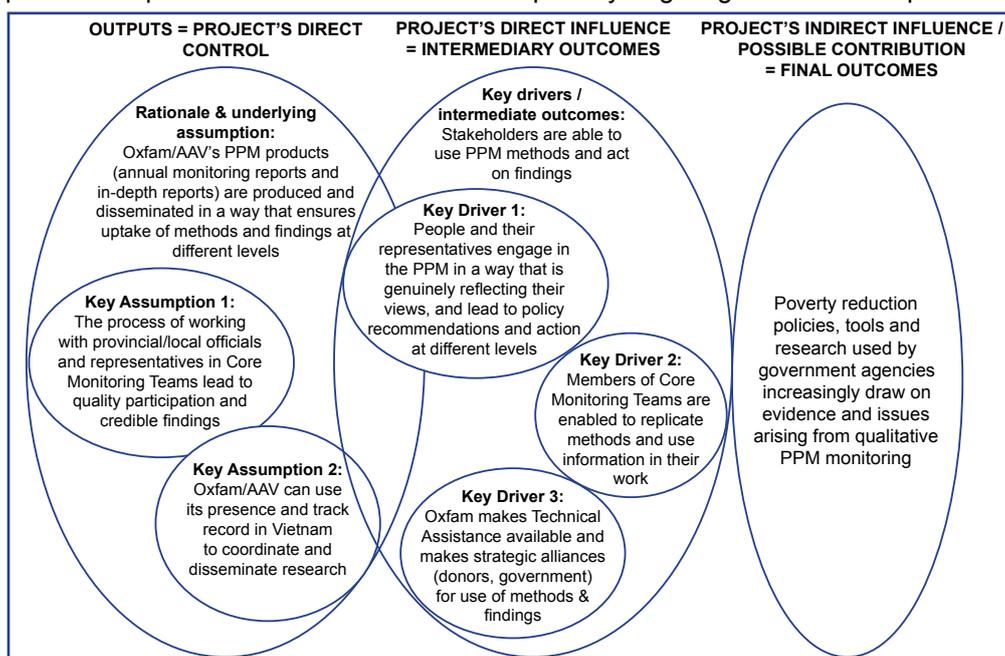
Vietnam

Policy Influence

2013/14

## Participatory poverty monitoring

The project was designed in 2006 with its first phase running from 2007-13 as a joint Oxfam GB and ActionAid Vietnam (AAV) initiative, funded by DFID. The main activity was to conduct on-going, participatory monitoring of poverty in selected communities in either Oxfam or ActionAid project areas. This was in response to a perceived need among NGOs to better understand and be able to regularly monitor effects of national policies at the grassroots level. During this phase, the project focused on gathering qualitative information from sampled 'social monitoring checkpoints' in 10 rural communes in 9 provinces as well as in 3 urban sites. It had a dual purpose of (i) conducting high quality participatory poverty monitoring that could inform grassroots level feedback about poverty into national policy discussions about poverty reduction, and (ii) building capacities of local stakeholders to use and apply the skills learned and the information gathered. In addition, the project aimed to provide a solid evidence-base for Oxfam and AAV in formulating campaigns and public outreach efforts by having access to instant data to feed into dialogue. At the time of project design, monitoring the effects on the poor after Vietnam's World Trade Organisation accession, and providing more qualitative inputs into national debates about poverty targeting were seen as particularly relevant.



This diagram presents the re-created theory of how this project was expected to achieve change, outlining key assumptions and drivers of change

Project date: August 2007 - March 2013

Evaluation: February 2014

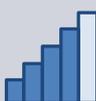
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# Evaluation Design

The evaluation identified and sought the effectiveness of specific outcomes the project sought to achieve. Areas of improvement or approaches that can be replicated in other projects were also identified. For details on evaluation design, see the 'How are effectiveness reviews carried out?' document, and the full report for how these designs were tailored by individual reviews.

## Results

Outcome Area	Outcome	Rating
The project contributed to an increased level of participation in poverty monitoring, particularly focusing on vulnerable groups and emerging poverty issues	The process of involving a wide range of government (and some non-governmental) actors in poverty monitoring widened their awareness and understanding of poverty issues and ways to monitor effects of poverty reduction interventions	
	Sampled individuals and households are increasingly heard in poverty monitoring as they articulate their own issues	
	Internal participation by Oxfam/AAV staff enabled findings to feed into wider learning, to be put to use internally and in collaboration with other NGO actors for programming and campaigning	
The project produces credible findings, using rigorous and sound methodologies	There is a perceived credibility of research findings among targeted user groups (primarily stakeholders at national level and the international community)	
	Perceived credibility is well supported by solid methods of implementation in conducting and quality assuring the monitoring process on the ground	
Dissemination of research leads to uptake of findings among relevant actors with an ability to influence policy making and implementation	Dissemination of research leads to extensive use of findings among target groups at national and provincial levels leading to the uptake of findings and ideas in national policy discussions and decisions	
The project has been able to influence national policy discussions and decisions	The project has been strategically positioned in relation to national policy influence	
	Uptake of research by national actors indicate some indirect influence on policy discussions and decisions	
	PPM findings have been used by donor agencies to inform their strategies and positions	

Other outcomes were also investigated, only those outcomes related to policy influence have been included in the table above.

**Rating key:**  - Outcome realised in full; evidence that intervention made a crucial contribution;  - Outcome realised in part & evidence that intervention made a crucial contribution; Outcome realised in full & evidence that intervention made an important contribution;  - Outcome realised in part & evidence that intervention made an important contribution;  - Outcome realised in part & evidence that intervention made some contribution; Outcome realised to a small degree & evidence that intervention made an important contribution;  - Outcome realised, to any degree, but no evidence that the intervention made any contribution

## Going forward

As the project entered a second phase, almost all the recommendations from the effectiveness review have been taken into account in its design and during implementation. In particular, with a credible research process established, the project has been able to shift its focus to strategically disseminate research findings in order to influence/set the agenda and support selected provinces to develop follow up action plans. In the second phase, improved data coding will ensure anonymity of respondents and minimise reporting bias. Critical analysis of potential biases and limitations are now more consistently included in published reports. Finally, the Oxfam in Vietnam team have been exploring opportunities with other NGOs to make research processes more inclusive.

Photo credit: Oxfam. Image is from the photo contest "Land and People" held under GROW campaign in Vietnam