

## SECTOR BRIEF

# NATIONAL POLICY SUPPORT

### About GREAT

The Gender Responsive Equitable Agriculture and Tourism (GREAT) program is building the social and economic resilience of ethnic minority women in Northwest Vietnam. GREAT partners with the private sector, government agencies and civil society to unlock opportunities for women's economic empowerment in the agriculture and tourism sectors. Funded by the Australian Government, GREAT is delivered in partnership with the Provincial People's Committees of Son La and Lao Cai provinces. GREAT began in 2017 and is a 10-year program with an investment of AUD 67.4 million.



### National programming for ethnic minority households including women

The Government of Vietnam seeks to boost productivity-led growth by investing in human capital, institutional reform, technological advances, and climate change adaptation and mitigation. The country's development agenda encompasses comprehensive strategies to address vulnerabilities beyond poverty, moving the most vulnerable out of poverty and addressing gender inequality to deliver growth that is both inclusive and sustainable. In Northwest Vietnam, policies further emphasise the need to address the high poverty rate amongst ethnic minority communities and encourage sustainable socio-economic mobility to ensure those communities are not left behind.

Through its three National Target Programs (NTP) – Socio-Economic Development of Ethnic Minority and Mountainous Areas (NTP-SEDEMA); New Rural Development (NTP-NRD) and Sustainable Poverty Reduction (NTP-SPR), the Government of Vietnam has set ambitious and far-reaching goals to enhance community quality of life, achieve sustainable development, and reduce regional disparities across the country.

Given the heavy reliance of many ethnic minority women and their communities on agricultural production, supporting this sector is a central pillar of

the NTP strategy, and of NTP-SEDEMA in particular. Recognising the importance of local ownership in effective development, a key foundation for NTP implementation is the delegation of decision-making authority over crucial investment decisions, including production support projects. This opportunity, however, brings the challenge for provincial and district stakeholders to establish the necessary strategies, guidance and resources to operationalise, monitor and manage the NTPs and ensure they deliver tangible benefits for local communities, including ethnic minority women.



## GREAT AND POLICY SUPPORT

### Work to date

During Phase 1, GREAT collaborated with both private sector and government partners to pilot several inclusive and sustainable agricultural value chain models that incorporated production support activities targeting ethnic minority women producers. Support focused on improving production skills and quality, as well as leveraging market opportunities and private sector resources for ethnic minority producers and cooperatives.

GREAT's support enabled lead firms and government partners to integrate improved production support services to enhance the competitiveness of ethnic minority women producers and foster sustainable business linkages. Throughout Phase 1, emerging lessons and experiences were shared amongst relevant provincial agencies and lead ministries responsible for NTP production support policy development.

### GREAT 2 strategy and partnerships

In its second phase, GREAT is working closely with both provincial and national agencies and ministries, particularly those involved in managing and implementing NTP-SEDEMA, to ensure that best practices and lessons learned from production support investments inform ongoing implementation and the design of the NTP initiatives for the period 2026-2030.

**In particular, GREAT is supporting five national agencies whose roles will be critical to the successful design and delivery of the next round of NTP investments:**



### **Ethnic Council of the National Assembly (NA-EC)**

Technical assistance to NTP policy and implementation oversight duties, including evaluation of the NTP-SEDEMA 2021-2025 and appraisal of the NTP-SEDEMA 2026-2030. Support includes strengthening the representative and supervision skills of ethnic minority members of the NA and Provincial People's Councils and knowledge on market oriented product support approaches to enable them to play more effective roles in appraising the NTP-SEDEMA 2026-2030 design and supervising its implementation and other policies for ethnic minorities.



### **Ministry of Planning and Investment (MPI)**

Capacity building, knowledge and experience exchange for monitoring and guidance of implementation of specific NTP mechanisms; systematic evaluation of the management and results of NTPs 2021-2025 to inform recommendations for the period 2026-2030 with a focus on sustainable, inclusive and gender-sensitive production support policy mechanisms; and technical support to consultation and design of NTPs 2026-2030.



### **Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD)**

Technical support to assessments and policy reviews to promote market linkages in the production and consumption of agricultural products; support in guidance and implementation of rural tourism development content of NTP-NRD 2021-2025; and support to the assessment of policies on rural tourism development in the period 2021-2025 to inform the design of rural tourism development policy for the period 2026-2030.



### **Committee for Ethnic Minority Affairs (CEMA)**

Support to thematic NTP evaluation and to research, data collection and design of production support policy in the NTP-SEDEMA program for the period 2026-2030.



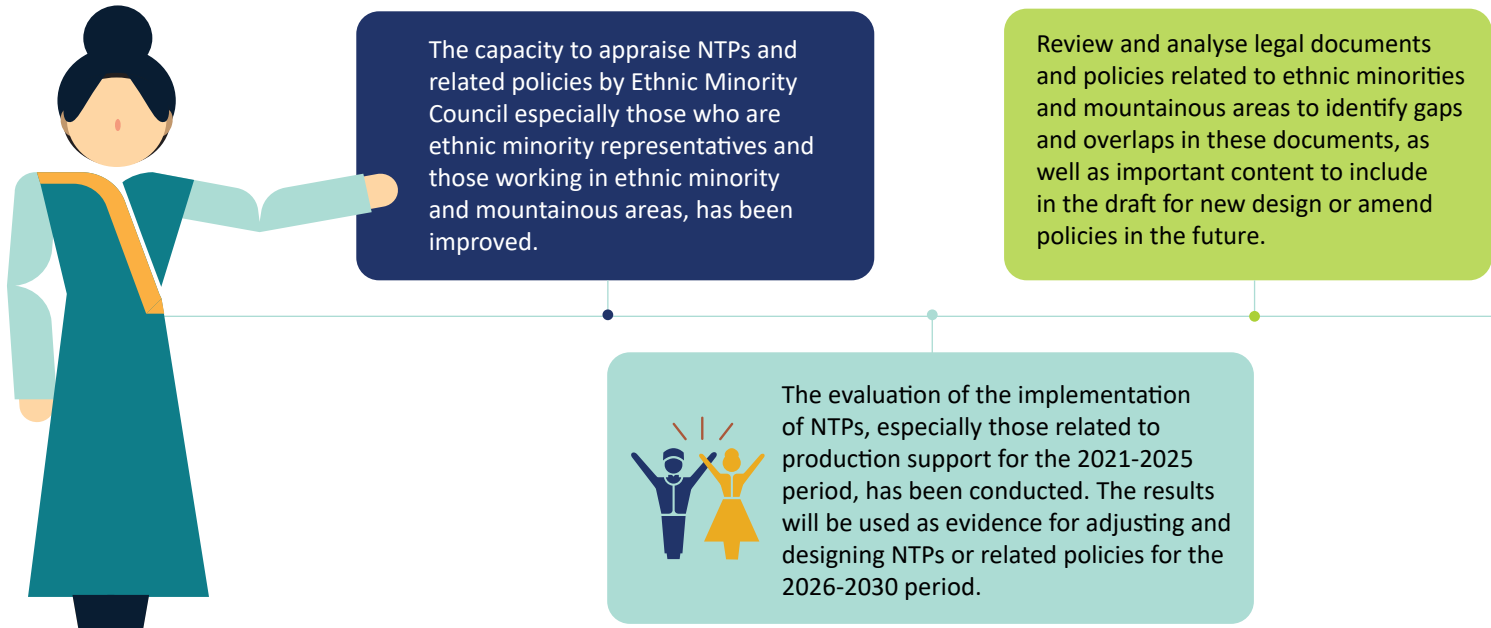
### **Vietnam Women's Union (VWU)**

Improving capacity national and provincial staff to analyse policies through a gender lens; and to assess the result of the gender equality component in the current NTP-SEDEMA (2021-2025) including supporting lesson learning.

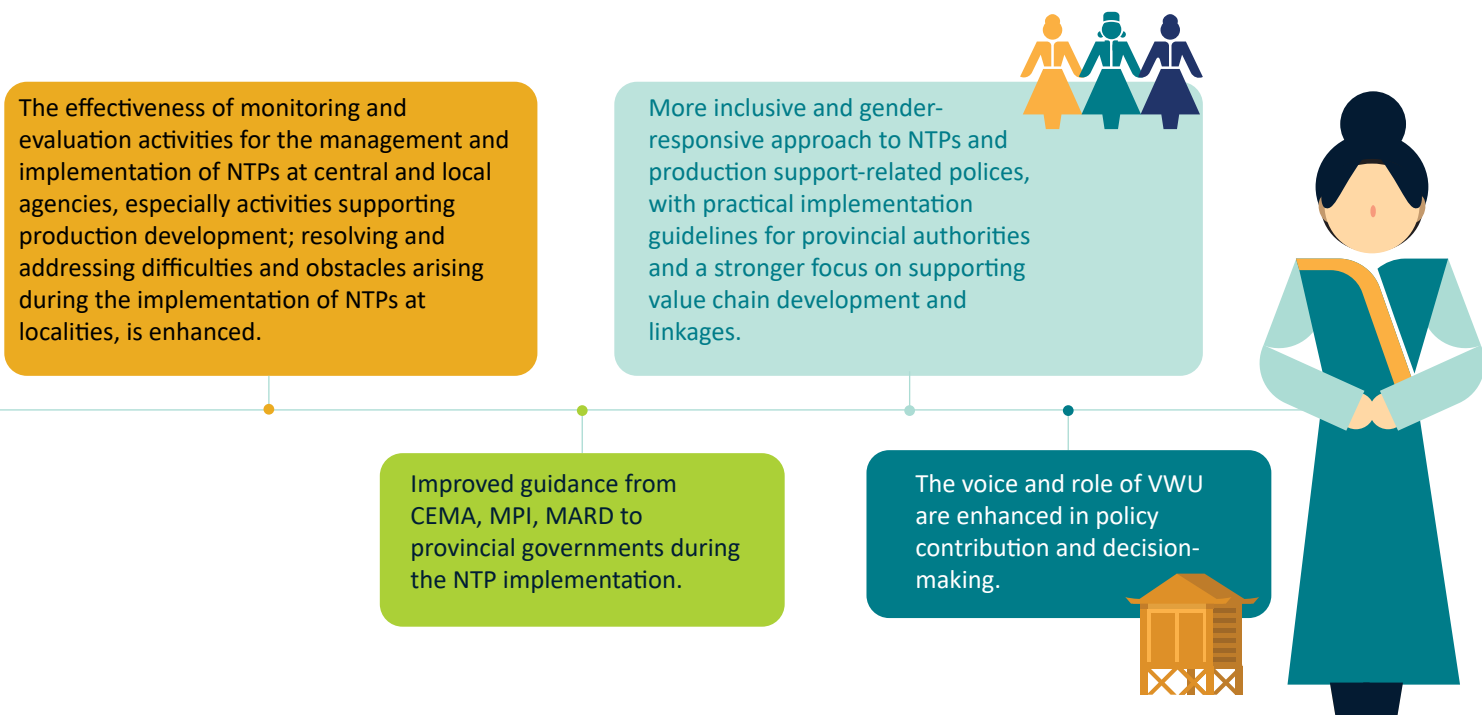


# KEY EXPECTED RESULTS

The results of technical support at the national level will contribute to the GREAT 2 outcomes as follows:



For ministries and sectors involved in the implementation of NTPs, support focuses on technical assistance to evaluating and monitoring the implementation of NTPs to provide evidence for designing or adjusting these programs and related policies in the 2026-2030 period. The key outputs identified as bellow:



## Contact information

For further information on our work in the policy support sector, please contact:

**Vu Quynh Anh (Ms.)**  
Deputy Team Leader  
The GREAT Program

📍 7th floor, Vinapaco Building, 142 Doi Can, Ba Dinh, Ha Noi  
✉ [anh.vu@aus4equalityvn.org](mailto:anh.vu@aus4equalityvn.org)  
☎ 024 3211 5225 | 0904 295 866