

Project objectives & approaches

- **Sanitation:** Build up an effective and sustainable sanitation 'ecosystem' within the Vietnamese government. Explore and refine the roles of Gov health workers and the Women's Union within the ecosystem to prepare for scale up.
- **Sanitation Result:** Two provincial governments have demonstrated willingness to phase in budget support. They are convinced by the WASHOBA model — utilizing the Women's Union for mobilization and health sector for technical assistance and monitoring.
- **Water:** Secure financial resources from the Government of Vietnam to scale-up OBA for rural water supply.
- **Water Result:** Three provinces have demonstrated willingness to phase in budget support. A competitive OBA mechanism will be rolled out for different entities from public and private sectors to bid for the subsidy funding. Proposals that are cost effective, ensure equality of access for poor households and demonstrate potential for sustainable services will get up.

Sustainability

- Thrive established a monitoring mechanism for each supported water scheme. The provincial water centres have committed to updating a technical and financial database on each scheme annually.
- The sanitation ecosystem has been established in four provinces. The change agents have the people, skills, systems and motivation to implement OBA sanitation. However, without more resources it will grind to a halt. This would be unfortunate as momentum is strong.

Project challenge

In Bac Giang province, the water component of this OBA project failed. Thrive should have recognized capacity constraints of the Bac Giang provincial water centre earlier and stopped persisting. We could have set up an OBA mechanism targeting the private sector which is providing good water services.

We are proud of:

50 of the 63 provincial rural water centres were represented at a National Water Workshop co-hosted by the Australian Embassy in Hanoi, the National Water Centre and Thrive Networks. During the workshop, WASHOBA provinces recommended that the approach be scaled up through the government system, as did the Vice Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development.



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1. New water connection at Khoi Khi water scheme, Thai Nguyen province, Red River Delta Vietnam
2. 'Nudge' hand washing behaviour change impact evaluation

Lessons learnt

- Water tariff reform in Vietnam must be a high priority in each province as schemes are failing due to financial sustainability problems.
- In the sanitation sector, WASHOBA produced clear evidence that health sector staff have more capacity to conduct data management and verification than the Vietnam Women's Union (VWU). The VWU are the premier partner in Vietnam to work on household mobilization as well as mobilizing micro-finance from the Vietnam Bank for Social Policy. This program is helping to define the optimal roles for each stakeholder in the sector.
- The 'nudge' approach to hygiene behaviour change is an easy and cost effective intervention to impact handwashing with soap. If the nudge is applied and the distance to the handwashing place is less than 10m from the latrine, then handwashing with soap increases by 30%.