



Call for Papers/Presentations

**International Conference
Gender and Displacement: Evidences and Policy Implications**

Location: Ha Long, Vietnam

Date: December 20-21 2016

Organizers: WB, UNWOMEN, Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs

Introduction

Resettlement is a very complicated process which could result in serious repercussions for affected households (AHs) if inappropriately managed. Given its ambivalent nature, a resettlement program could constitute a real opportunity in transforming AHs' life in one hand, and a development failure in the other hand. Scudder (2012) has argued that resettlement period is very stressful time with physiological stress (relates to health, nutrition – water supply, sanitation and new diseases), psychological stress (pertaining to the loss of home and familiar surrounding as well as chronic anxiety about the future), and socio-cultural stress (relates to power struggles, conflict over control of resources, breakdown in security and social support, and clinging to familiar habits).

The process of resettlement could, and often does, exacerbate existing gender disparities and inequalities. Despite the progress made in Viet Nam's legal framework guaranteeing gender equality, women do not enjoy their rights to land use, access to financial resources or training opportunities to the same extent as men do. Women carry disproportionate burden of unpaid care and family work and participate less in public consultations and decision making processes on development policies. Without taking such pre-existing gender issues and vulnerabilities of women into account, resettlement could adversely affect women than men and preclude them from benefiting from emerging opportunities. The UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, in fact, raised concerns that recent expropriation and relocation programmes in Viet Nam is increasingly negatively affecting the livelihoods of rural women.¹

The Basic Principles and Guidelines on Development Based Evictions and Displacement developed by the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing (A/HRC/4/18) reaffirms that 'everyone has the right to adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard

¹ Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, Concluding observations on the combined seventh and eighth periodic reports of Viet Nam, CEDAW/C/VNM/CO/7-8, 2015, para. 36.

of living' in accordance to international human rights law. Women and men are guaranteed their right to resettlement on an equal basis and States must take necessary measures for realizing its enjoyment without discrimination including on the basis of gender.

Dedicated analysis on gender and resettlement is surprisingly rare. Current resettlement practices are gender blind and women's participation in the decision making processes is overlooked, exposing them to greater risk of impoverishment. In an analysis on gender impact of mining on indigenous women, authors (Anongos et al., 2012) confirmed that inappropriate gender attention (destruction of livelihood options with inadequate replacement by paid employment, forest restrictions affect women more than men) results in double reduction in the position and status of women (lowering their self-esteem and exposing them to more vulnerable situations. At community level, gender bias is usually manifested in the forms of unequal sharing of benefits (male-lead project prioritization, consultation and social project) and risks (majority of risks that a community may experience from a development project would accrue predominantly to poorer women and their children) (Ward and Strongman, 2011).

In the resettlement process, it is necessary to note that displaced women are neither homogeneous entity nor a passive victimized group, but can actually benefit from such processes. Resettlement can cause restructuring of conventional social relations and norms, leading to the redefinition of on gender roles. Gender responsive resettlement planning is not commonly considered, as the materialization of even general participatory strategies is scarce. Thus, improving decision-making for women in resettlement management will enable changes in their status not only in relation with other members at household level, but also in the relation with surrounding stakeholders in the community.

Objective

This workshop will be organized as part of an UFGE Grant. The objectives of this conference are to (i) inform policy makers, development partners and practitioners about the foundation and potential outcomes of gender-informed resettlement; (ii) share experience/knowledge on relevant issues; and (iii) discuss and agree on policy recommendations for Vietnam.

Conference Themes

The paper/presentation should focus on following (but not limit to) themes (with direct or indirect link to gender related issues):

LEGAL FRAMEWORK ON RESETTLEMENT AND ENTRY POINTS FOR GENDER MAINSTREAMING

- Legal frameworks on resettlement in Vietnam: Current practices and potential gender sensitivity in resettlement
- International experience on human rights based and gender responsive legal frameworks on development related resettlements (3-4 countries)

FROM PLANNING TO IMPLEMENTATION: MAKING RESETTLEMENT AND REHABILITATION PROGRAMS GENDER-INFORMED (focus on international experience, Vietnam's cases, relevant research papers)

- Integration of gender specific goals, targets and measures to advance substantive gender equality in resettlement and rehabilitation programmes
- Gender, displacement and Sustainable Development Goals: mechanism for accountability
- Ensuring women's right to participation in decision making processes throughout all cycles of resettlement (including household level).
- Design and implementation of resettlement sites: women's habitability and safety
- Livelihood and income restoration: design and implementation
- Gender responsive compensation and relocation process

GENDER EQUALITY AND SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC RECOVERY IN POST-RESETTLEMENT PHASE (focus on international experience, Vietnam's cases, relevant research papers)

- Use of temporary special measures to enable women to benefit from resettlement policies
- Access to social services (education, health) of women and girls.
- Realizing women's economic and employment opportunities and access to land and natural resources in post resettlement period: from policy to actual design
- Household strategy to guarantee women's right to adequate living conditions and improve/restore income and livelihood in post-resettlement phase
- Disruption of social networks in post-resettlement phase and its impact on women and girls
- Post-resettlement and other gender related consequences (domestic violence)

The conference welcomes research papers or projects related presentation that focuses on one or more of the above themes. Project related experiences could be presented in the form of power point presentation or video/film projection. All presentations will be followed by a short discussion.

Timelines

Abstract Submission (250 words): November 4, 2106
Notification of Selected Paper: November 11, 2016
Full Paper/Presentation: December 9, 2016

Please direct all queries, submission to Dung Thuy Vu (dvu1@worldbank.org), Nghi Quy Nguyen (nnguyen9@worldbank.org), and Hoang Thi Thu Huyen (huyenmolisa@gmail.com)