

MULTIDIMENSIONAL CHILD POVERTY

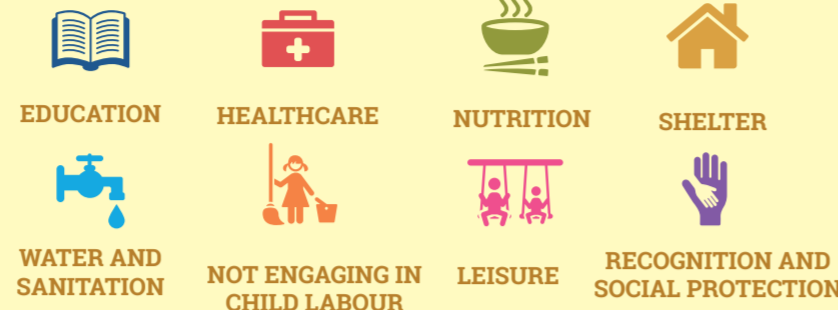
IN ETHNIC MINORITY AREAS IN VIET NAM

1 WHAT IS CHILD MULTI-DIMENSIONAL POVERTY?

Children live in multidimensional poverty if at least two basic needs are not met

Children living in poverty and deprivation do not have their fundamental rights met, with no opportunity for comprehensive physical, mental and intellectual development.

Poor children are often defined as those living in poor families under the national poverty line. This single dimensional measure has limitations, as it does not take into account the specific needs of children:



According to multidimensional perspectives detailed in the study "Multidimensional Poverty of Ethnic Minority Children: Situation, Dynamics, and Challenges by the Committee for Ethnic Minority Affairs (CEM) and UNICEF, a child is defined as poor if at least two of these basic needs is not guaranteed to be met. The study makes use of data from the baseline and end-line surveys of Programme 135-II, as the main data source for its analysis. These two surveys were conducted in 2007 and 2012, respectively, and covered the same sample of nearly 6,000 households in 400 communes characterized by challenging socio-economic conditions ('pockets of poverty'), with 76% of surveyed households inhabited by ethnic minority groups.

The Socio-Economic Development Programme for the Most Disadvantaged Communes in Ethnic Minority and Mountainous Areas (Programme 135) is a Government poverty reduction programme in Viet Nam conducted from 1998. Phase two of the programme (P135-II) was undertaken from 2006 to 2010.

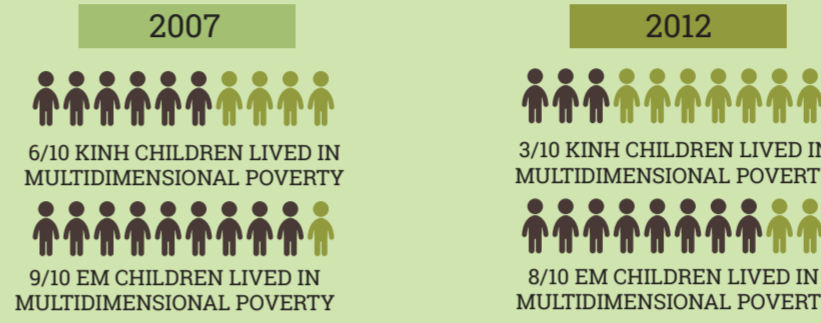
2 HOW MANY CHILDREN LIVE IN MULTIDIMENSIONAL POVERTY?

Eight-in-10 ethnic minority children live in multidimensional poverty, this rate has negligibly reduced



The income of residents in ethnic minority areas has considerably improved, but the multidimensional poverty rate has negligibly reduced. Nearly half of children live in multidimensional and income poverty during this five-year period.

A key problem is the gap in multidimensional poverty rates between Kinh and ethnic minority children:



This result is reflected in ethnic minority children's lack of access to basic social services. This trend results in poverty being passed from generation to generation and affects the development of human resources of ethnic minorities.

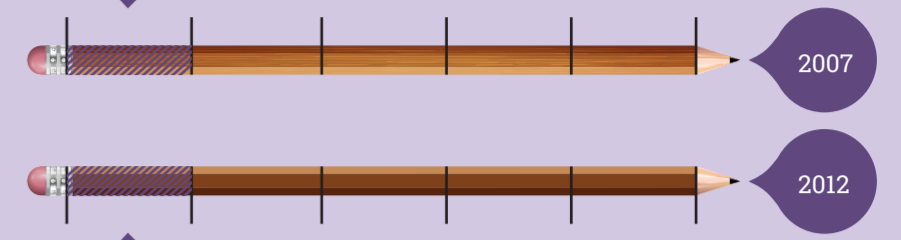
3 POVERTY IN THE DOMAIN OF EDUCATION

The rate of children defined as poor in education has not reduced or negligibly reduced

This rate is measured by the percentage of children either not going to school at the appropriate enrolment age or children aged between 11 and 15 years not completing primary level education.

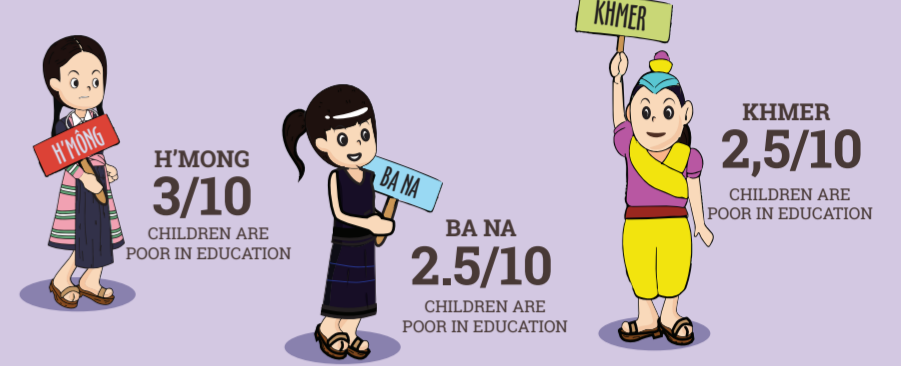


In "pockets of poverty", for every 5 children, 1 is poor in education



After five years, this rate is still 1/5

The rate of poverty in education is still high in some ethnic minorities:



Meanwhile, more than 15% of children are not from poor families, but are still defined by levels of education as poor. This is a challenge for the Government, as educational priority policies during the last five years have not addressed education challenges for children in ethnic minority-populated areas.

4 POVERTY IN THE DOMAIN OF HEALTHCARE

The rate of children who are not poor as defined by income, but poor in healthcare increases significantly

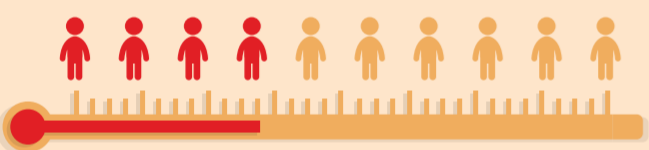
This rate is measured by the percentage of children aged between two and four years who have not been taken to formal health facilities (e.g. commune health centre, hospitals).

This report presents a worrying situation for the health care of children

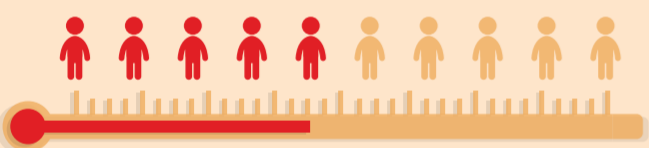
The rate increased to 13 percentage points within five years.

There has been a significant increase in the rate of children who are not poor as defined by income, but still poor in healthcare from 9.8% to 19.4%.

2007 4/10 children not received adequate medical care



2012 5/10 children not received adequate medical care



Nearly one-in-five children are not poor in income, but are still poor in healthcare. This means many parents are not poor, but do not take their children to health centres for treatment. This rate increased in most regions and especially in some ethnic groups such as Dao, H'Mong, Khmer and Thai, from 23 to 19 percentage points.



5 POVERTY IN THE DOMAIN OF SHELTER

This is the most markedly improved children's living condition in recent years

This rate is defined as the percentage of children residing in temporary shelters or in shelters without access to the national electricity grid.

The more this rate declines, the more living conditions of children are improved. Within five years, the shelter poverty rate has fallen to a quarter, most obviously in northern areas and the Central Highlands.

2007 For every 10 children, 6 were poor in shelter



2012 For every 10 children, 4 were poor in shelter



From 2007 to 2012, number of children poor in shelter and income decreased. However in some ethnic groups like the Co Tu, H'Mong and Khmer, for every 10 children, six do not live in concrete dwellings nor have access to electricity.



6 POVERTY IN THE DOMAIN OF WATER AND SANITATION

80% of children lack access to clean water and hygienic latrines. This influences their health and physical development

This rate covers two aspects of living conditions, safe drinking water and hygienic toilets.

In particularly under developed areas, this is the most deprived domain and has improved little over the last five years.



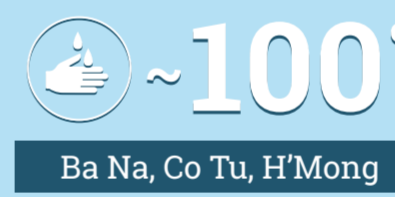
2007 9/10 children were poor in water and sanitation



2012 8/10 children were poor in water and sanitation



This rate for Ba Na, Co Tu and H'mong ethnic children is still approximately 100% with no reductions in the past five years.



After five years, although the poverty rate for water and sanitation has fallen by about 11%, faster in southern than northern areas, it is still a significant problem for the Government to address.

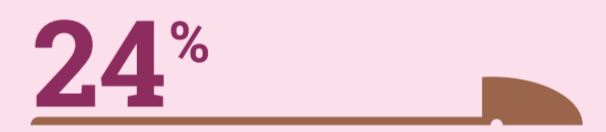
7 POVERTY IN THE DOMAIN OF ENGAGING IN CHILD LABOUR

The rate of ethnic minority children involved in early labour is almost four times higher than for Kinh children

This rate is measured by the percentage of children aged between 6 and 15 years and engaged in some paid work.

The more this rate increases the less time children have to study, play and grow.

The percentage of child labour has fallen by a half within five years



But in 2012, this rate is still high in some ethnic minorities:



In particular, it is encouraging almost half of children in poor households in terms of income do not need to work for income.

8 POVERTY IN THE DOMAIN OF SOCIAL INCLUSION

More and more ethnic minority children do not communicate in Kinh language

This rate is measured by two criteria

- Children staying in the family whose household head cannot work because of disability or old age;
- Children using a common language in communicating outside the household.

The more this rate declines, the greater the opportunity is for them to develop in society.

This rate is increasing:



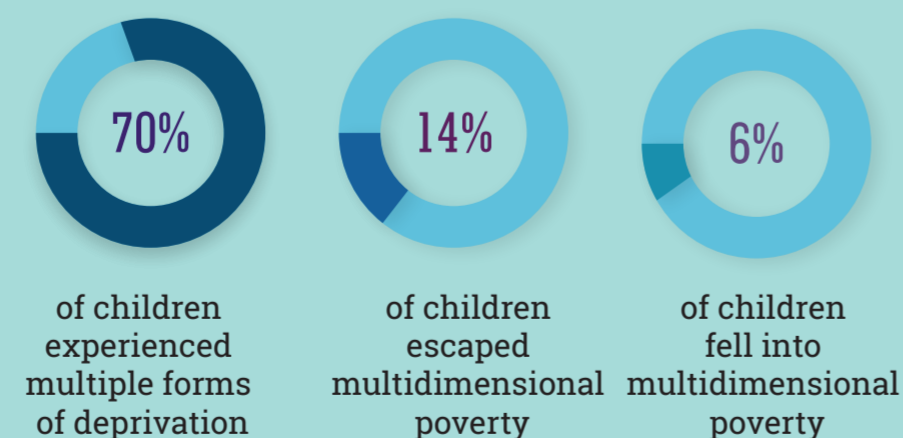
Without using the Kinh language, children's chances are restricted.

More ethnic minority children do not communicate in Kinh language, specifically this percentage increased to 30.6% in the south central coastal region. This is an important finding because language is considered an important factor to help ethnic minority children learn and better access labour market opportunities.

9 WHAT AFFECTS MULTI-DIMENSIONAL CHILD POVERTY REDUCTION?

The lives of 80% of children in ethnic minority areas have improved little over five years

From 2007 to 2012 In particularly under developed areas



The report also pointed out some shortcomings in institutions and effectiveness of poverty reduction policies:

"Leaks" in targeting beneficiaries when based only on poverty in income. This casts a large proportion of children out of the policy scopes, while they need to be supported;

There are too many policies and programmes, but insufficient resources and effective coordination mechanisms.

Poverty negatively impacts on the development of children in many ways. Therefore, along with these highlighted results, the report emphasized the urgent need to have appropriate and stronger interventions to improve the welfare of children living in "pockets of poverty".

10 POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

Firstly, poverty reduction for ethnic minority children should be a central goal of sustainable poverty reduction programmes, particularly in "pockets of poverty".

The Government should have a consistent child poverty approach to:

- Update and regularly analyze the multidimensional poverty situation of ethnic minority children;
- Use the criteria of monetary poverty and multidimensional poverty to determine the direct beneficiaries of policies;
- Track, and monitor ethnic minority children multidimensional poverty in monitoring national poverty reduction programmes;
- Prioritize construction programme priorities and resource allocation for multidimensional poverty reduction targets for children.

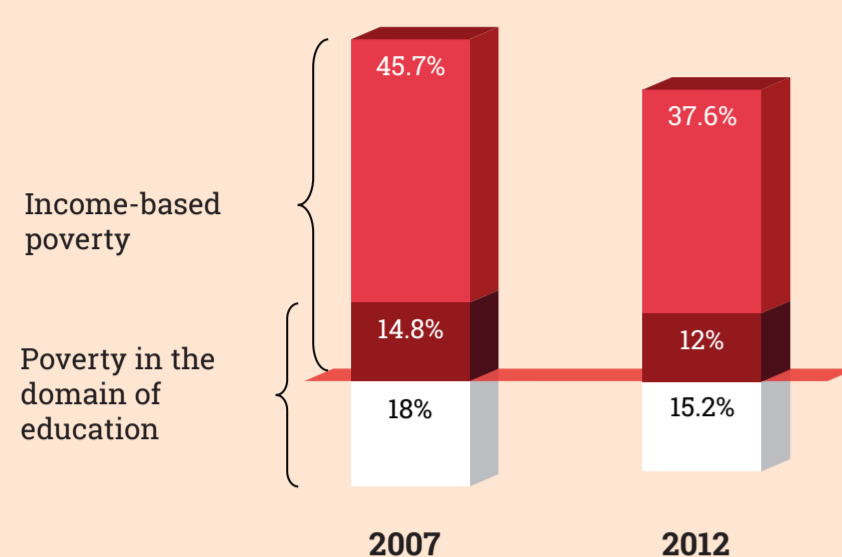
Rationalization and integration of poverty reduction policies and programmes is recommended. The integrated policy response is recommended to be complemented by effective coordination mechanisms performed by one or two leading agencies in the field of poverty reduction.

Thus, allocating resources for policies and programmes to reduce poverty must be improved by strengthening transparency and accountability.

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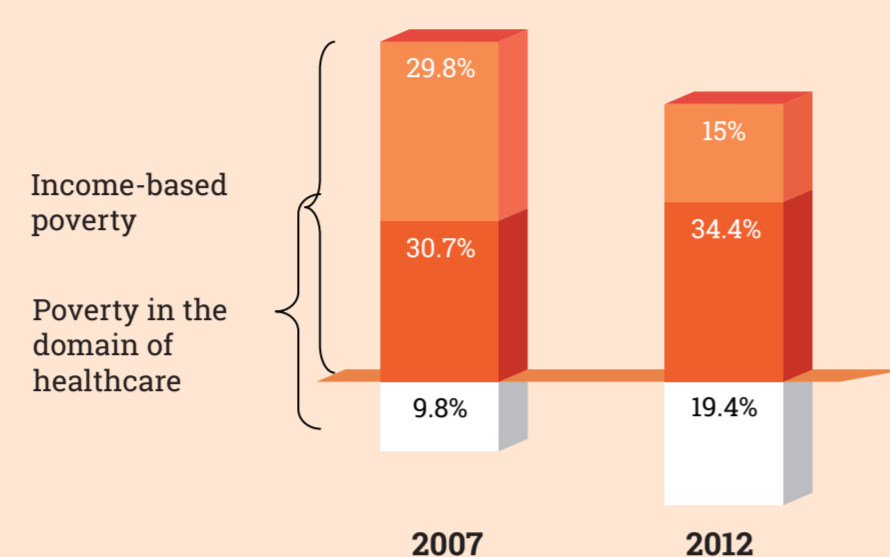
INCOME-BASED POVERTY VS. POVERTY IN THE DOMAIN OF EDUCATION



Note:

- % CHILDREN SUFFERING FROM INCOME POVERTY AND NOT FROM EDUCATION POVERTY
- % CHILDREN SUFFERING FROM BOTH INCOME AND EDUCATION POVERTY
- % CHILDREN NOT SUFFERING FROM INCOME POVERTY BUT FROM EDUCATION POVERTY

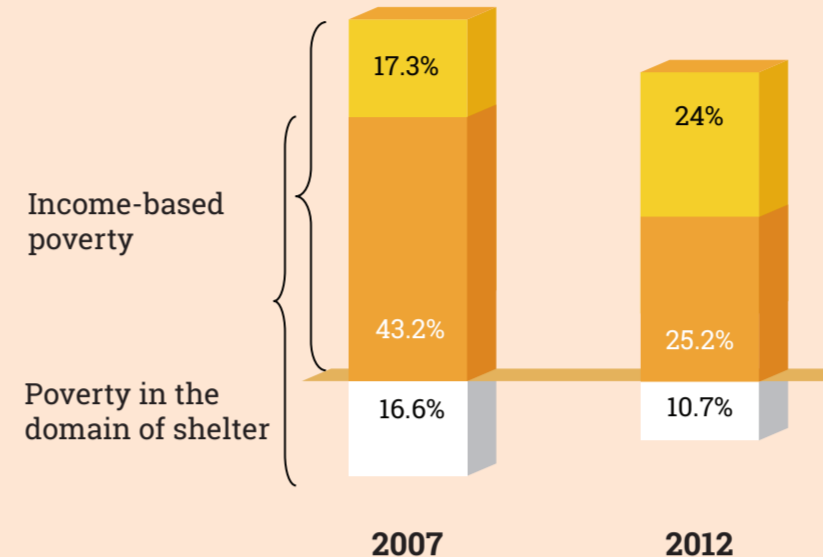
INCOME-BASED POVERTY VS. POVERTY IN THE DOMAIN OF HEALTHCARE



Note:

- % CHILDREN BEING IN INCOME POVERTY AND NOT BEING IN POVERTY IN HEALTHCARE
- % CHILDREN BEING IN INCOME AND HEALTH POVERTY
- % CHILDREN NOT BEING IN INCOME POVERTY AND POOR IN TERMS OF HEALTH

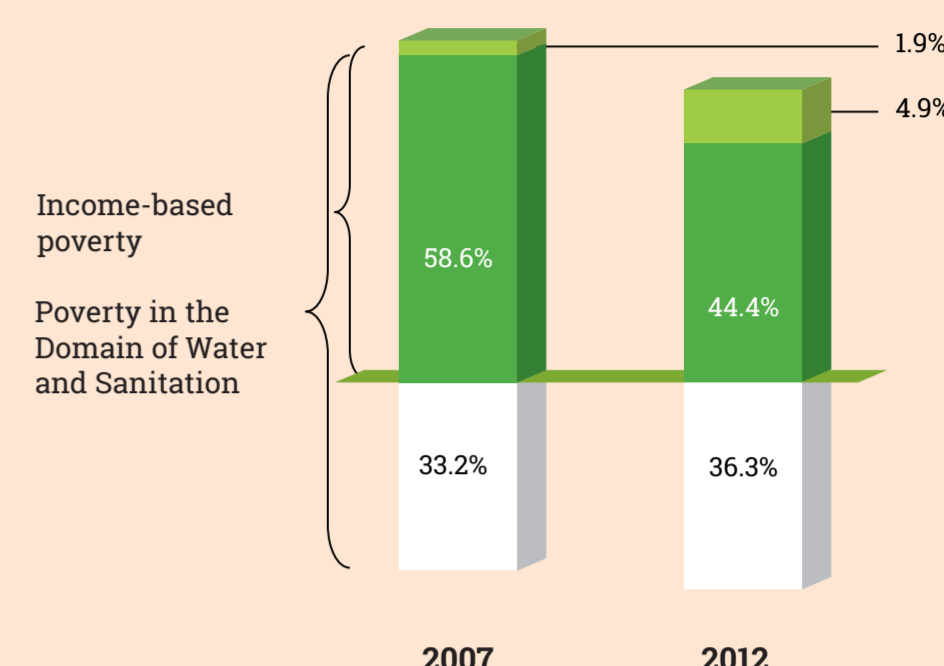
INCOME-BASED POVERTY VS. POVERTY IN THE DOMAIN OF SHELTER



Note:

- % CHILDREN BEING IN INCOME POVERTY AND NOT BEING IN SHELTER POVERTY
- % CHILDREN BEING IN BOTH INCOME AND SHELTER POVERTY
- % CHILDREN NOT BEING IN INCOME POVERTY AND BEING IN SHELTER POVERTY

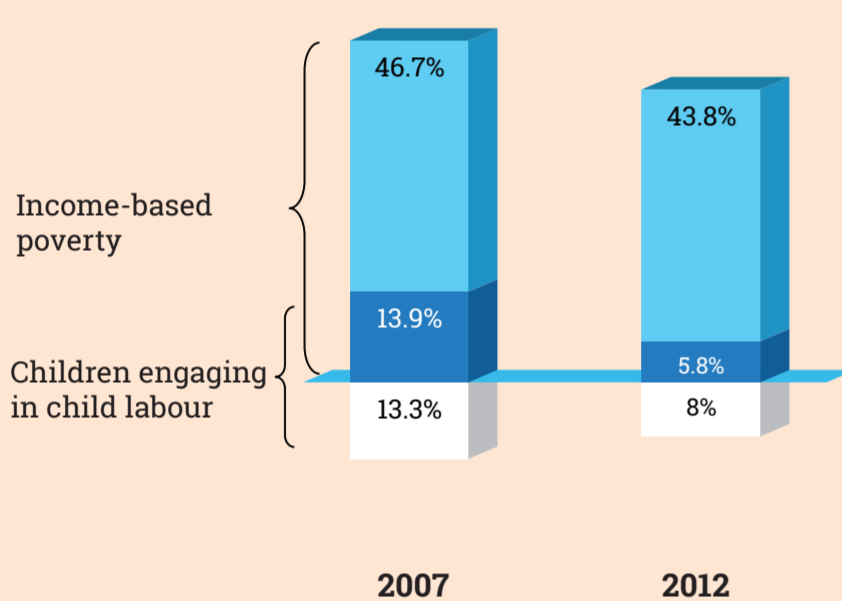
INCOME-BASED POVERTY VS. POVERTY IN THE DOMAIN OF WATER AND SANITATION



Note:

- % CHILDREN BEING IN INCOME POVERTY AND NOT BEING IN POVERTY IN SAFE DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION
- % CHILDREN BEING IN BOTH INCOME AND SAFE DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION
- % CHILDREN NOT BEING IN INCOME POVERTY AND BEING IN POVERTY IN SAFE DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION

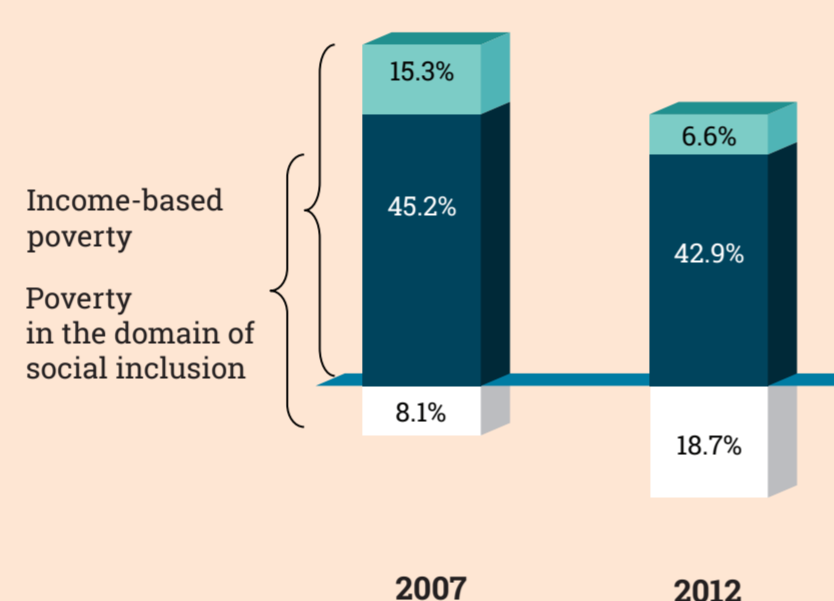
INCOME-BASED POVERTY VS. POVERTY IN THE DOMAIN OF CHILD LABOR



Note:

- % CHILDREN BEING IN INCOME POVERTY BUT NOT BEING IN POVERTY IN TERMS OF ENGAGING IN CHILD LABOUR
- % CHILDREN BEING IN POVERTY IN TERMS OF BOTH INCOME AND CHILDREN ENGAGED IN CHILD LABOUR
- % CHILDREN NOT BEING IN INCOME POVERTY AND BEING IN POVERTY IN TERMS OF CHILDREN ENGAGED IN CHILD LABOUR

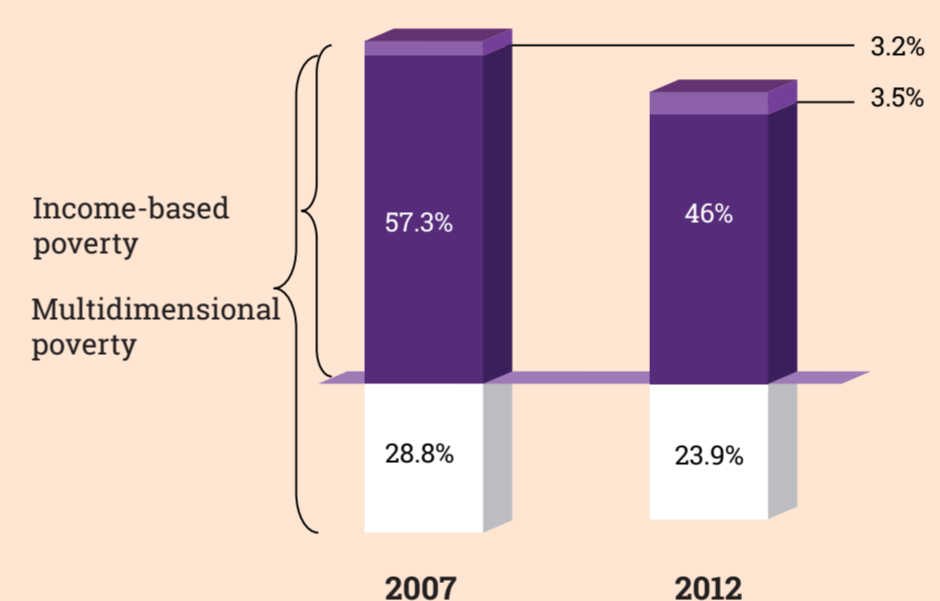
INCOME-BASED POVERTY VS. POVERTY IN THE DOMAIN OF SOCIAL INCLUSION



Note:

- % CHILDREN BEING IN INCOME POVERTY AND NOT BEING POVERTY IN TERMS OF SOCIAL INCLUSION
- % CHILDREN BEING IN POVERTY IN BOTH INCOME AND SOCIAL INCLUSION
- % CHILDREN NOT BEING IN INCOME POVERTY AND BEING IN POVERTY IN TERMS OF SOCIAL INCLUSION

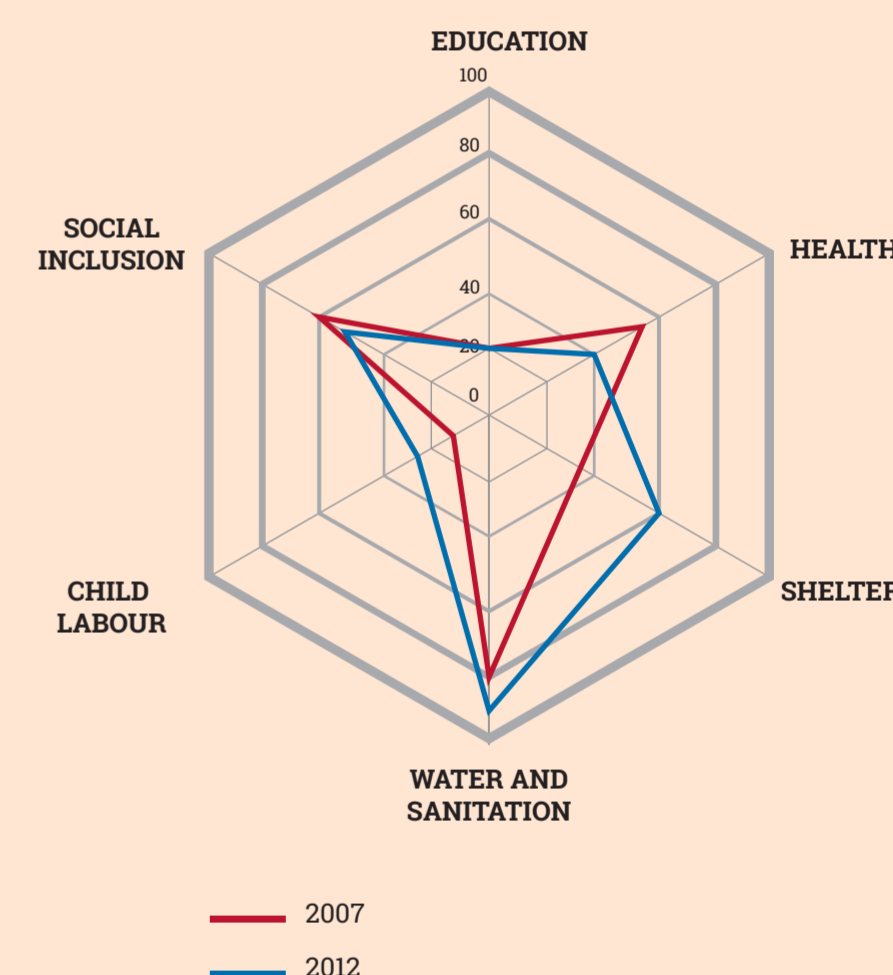
MULTIDIMENSIONAL POVERTY VS. INCOME-BASED POVERTY



Note:

- % CHILDREN BEING IN INCOME POVERTY AND NOT BEING IN MULTIDIMENSIONAL POVERTY
- % CHILDREN BEING IN BOTH INCOME AND MULTIDIMENSIONAL POVERTY
- % CHILDREN NOT BEING IN INCOME POVERTY AND BEING IN MULTIDIMENSIONAL POVERTY

TEMPORAL COMPARISON OF CHILD POVERTY ACROSS DIFFERENT DOMAINS



CONTACT INFORMATION

COMMITTEE FOR ETHNIC MINORITIES AFFAIRS

Ms **Be Thi Hong Van**

Deputy Director of Ethnic Policy Department

Email: behongvan@cema.gov.vn

Website: www.cema.gov.vn

Tel: 84-4-3717 3181

Fax: 84-4-3843 8704

UNICEF VIET NAM

Ms **Nguyen Thi Van Anh**

Social Policy Specialist

Email: ntvananh@unicef.org

Website: www.unicef.org

Tel: 84-4-3850 0206

Fax: 84-4-3726 5520

The study makes use of data from the baseline and end-line surveys of Programme 135-II, as the main data source for its analysis. These two surveys were conducted in 2007 and 2012, respectively, and covered the same sample of nearly 6,000 households in 400 communes characterized by challenging socio-economic conditions ('pockets of poverty'), with 76% of surveyed households inhabited by ethnic minority groups.

PREVALENCE OF INCOME POVERTY (unit: %)

	2007	2012	DIFFERENCE
AVERAGE	60.5	49.5	-11.0***
ETHNICITY			
Kinh	37.4	31.1	-6.2**
Ethnic minorities	66.8	54.5	-12.3***
Tay	62.6	52.9	-9.6***
Thai	58.4	57.7	-0.7
Muong	52.7	43.3	-9.5***
Nung	64.3	45.7	-18.6***
H'Mong	85.5	61.5	-24.0***
Dao	68.7	62.4	-6.3**
Other EMs in the Northern areas	60.2	40.5	-19.7***
Bana	76.3	45.0	-31.3***
H're	79.6	59.2	-20.4***
Co Tu	74.0	67.0	-7.1
Other EMs in the Central Highlands	70.4	61.3	-9.2**
Khmer	38.8	35.0	-3.8
Others	73.1	64.0	-9.1***
GEOGRAPHIC REGION			
Red River Delta	42.2	37.4	-4.8
Northeast	69.9	51.3	-18.6***
Northwest	64.4	52.1	-12.3***
North Central Coast	61.8	63.2	1.3
South Central Coast	63.7	52.1	-11.6***
Central Highlands	62.0	47.2	-14.8***
Southeast	41.9	31.1	-10.8*
Southwest	34.6	37.7	3.1
CHILD AGE GROUP			
Ages 0-5	63.9	50.4	-14.2***
Ages 6-10	61.8	50.1	-11.4***
Ages 11-15	56.3	48.2	-8.1***
CHILD GENDER			
Male	60.0	49.0	-11.0***
Female	61.1	50.1	-11.0***

Note: ***, **, and * indicating statistical significance of estimates at 1 percent, 5 percent and 10 percent, respectively

MULTIDIMENSIONAL CHILD POVERTY (unit: %)

	2007	2012	DIFFERENCE
AVERAGE	81.4	69.9	-11.5***
ETHNICITY			
Kinh	55.5	28.9	-26.6***
Ethnic minorities	89.3	81.1	-8.2***
Tay	81.2	50.4	-30.9***
Thai	86.9	87.2	0.3
Muong	70.6	56.3	-14.3***
Nung	86.0	62.7	-23.3***
H'Mong	96.9	97.3	0.4
Dao	93.2	89.4	-3.8**
Other EMs in the Northern areas	97.2	92.2	-5.1***
Bana	93.5	96.5	3.0
H're	78.3	97.8	19.5***
Co Tu	90.8	93.0	2.2
Other EMs in the Central Highlands	95.3	77.5	-17.9***
Khmer	88.4	73.3	-15.1***
Others	92.7	92.0	-0.7
GEOGRAPHIC REGION			
Red River Delta	25.7	27.7	2.2
Northeast	85.3	81.0	-4.3***
Northwest	90.3	81.8	-8.5***
North Central Coast	70.9	73.1	2.1
South Central Coast	69.7	71.9	2.2
Central Highlands	83.9	61.1	-22.8***
Southeast	63.9	48.9	-15.0**
Southwest	80.6	61.7	-18.9***
HOUSEHOLD INCOME-BASED POVERTY STATUS			
Non-poor	69.1	60.7	-8.4***
Poor	89.5	79.3	-10.2***
CHILD AGE GROUP			
Ages 0-5	81.8	70.4	-11.4***
Ages 6-10	82.4	69.0	-13.4***
Ages 11-15	80.3	70.24	-10.1***
CHILD GENDER			
Male	81.6	69.6	-12.0***
Female	81.3	70.3	-11.0***

Note: ***, **, and * indicating statistical significance of estimates at 1 percent, 5 percent and 10 percent, respectively