Scaling up small-scale food processing to promote food security for women subsistence farmers and children in rural Việt Nam.

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Focus of project: 3 provinces in North Việt Nam:

• Lào Cai, Lai Châu, Hà Giang

• Poverty rates: 26, 22, 35%

• Stunting: 35.2-36.7%

• Underweight: 20-23.2%

• Wasting: 5.8-9.8%
mothers & women of reproductive age

food processing employees

female farmers

crop aggregation

FARMERS' UNION

crop production

WOMEN'S UNION

marketing

LITTLE SUN & SHOPS

product distribution

HEALTH CENTRES & NIN

improved nutrition

RURAL HOUSEHOLDS

food processing

NINFOODS

ecosystem

ecosystem

ecosystem

ecosystem

ecosystem

ecosystem

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ecosystem

ecosystem

ecosystem
Challenges:

• Improving knowledge of IYCF

• Increasing sustainable agriculture practices
Existing programming:

• Infant and early childhood materials

• Little Sun Nutritional Counselling Centres
Existing programming:

• “VAC” ecosystem
  - “V” garden
  - “A” pond
  - “C” cattle shed
Project innovation: scaling-up NINFoods™ experience in producing Ready-to-Use-Therapeutic-Foods (RUTFs) and fortified complementary foods for children made from locally grown crops, and using Small-Scale-Food-Processing (SSFP) facilities.
Development of complementary feeding products at NINFoods™:

• Instant rice porridge fortified with Fe and Zn

• Dried vegetables (carrot, pumpkin, sauropus, mushroom) with vitamin & mineral premix

• Ready-to-eat fresh porridge
From field, to processing, to table:
Finding local private-sector partners for SSFPF:
Product branding and identity
Next steps:

• Baseline research (Household food insecurity access scale, anthropometric, socio-economic data) and focus groups;

• Initialization of SSFPF at Lào Cai and production of complementary foods;

• IYCF counselling of mothers at Little Sun centres;

• training of farmers in agroecological practices via Helen Keller Insitute (IrishAid funding).
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