

HO CHI MINH NATIONAL ACADEMY OF POLITICS

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**IMPLEMENTING THE POLICY OF HUNGER ERADICATION AND
POVERTY REDUCTION IN THE SOUTHWEST REGION TODAY
ACCORDING TO HO CHI MINH THOUGHT**

SUMMARY OF DOCTORAL THESIS

MAJOR: HO CHI MINH STUDIES

Code: 9310204

HA NOI - 2024

**The thesis is completed at
Ho Chi Minh National Academy of Politics**

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INTRODUCTION

1. The necessity of the topic

Solving hunger and poverty is an issue that countries and scholars around the world are always of special interest in both theory and practice. Effective hunger eradication and poverty reduction help each country, nation develop in a sustainable way and demonstrate the humanity of the political institutions that that country, nation is building.

Born in a country that was immersed in slavery, Ho Chi Minh clearly felt the suffering of the people in extreme poverty by the brutal colonial regime. On the journey to find a way to save the country, he always carried with him the aspiration of national liberation, regaining independence, freedom and happiness for the Fatherland and the people. When the country gains independence and as President, Ho Chi Minh was always concerned, sought and mapped out the general line and tasks of the revolution, including socio-economic and cultural and spiritual development, in order to constantly improve the people's life, help the working people get out of poverty, with the desire that all people have food, clothing, jobs, prosperity and a happy life. He affirmed: "The Party and the Government must take great care of the people's lives. If the people are hungry, the Party and the Government are at fault; if the people get cold, the Party and the Government are at fault; if the people are ignorant, the Party and the Government are at fault; if the people are sick, the Party and the Government are at fault." Taking comprehensive care of people's lives is the responsibility of the Party, the Government and the whole society. This is a very long-term, difficult and complicated task, in which it is necessary to focus on building material and spiritual premises to build and develop people. In Ho Chi Minh's view, "poverty" is also a dangerous enemy like ignorant enemies and foreign invaders. Therefore, he early launched a campaign to build a new life, emulate patriotism, call on the whole people to participate in many different methods and ways such as increasing production, practicing thrift, giving rice and sharing clothes, and donating rice to relieve hunger.... According to Ho Chi Minh, the quality of the people's lives is the indicators and objective requirement of the country's development. Hunger eradication and poverty reduction to bring a peaceful, beautiful society, happiness to the people are both an inevitable requirement of the revolutionary cause led by the Party and a criterion for assessing the quality of the cause of socialist construction.

Thoroughly grasping President Ho Chi Minh's viewpoint, the Communist Party of Vietnam has always taken care of the issue of hunger eradication and poverty reduction in order to improve the people's life. In the period of Doi Moi (Renewal), hunger eradication and poverty reduction are the policies throughout the congresses that the Party pays attention to, takes care of, and focuses on directing the implementation. Since the 11th Party Congress, the Party has set out the policy of rapid and sustainable development, in which the issue of hunger eradication and poverty reduction is placed at a higher level - hunger eradication and poverty reduction in a sustainable way in the overall National Sustainable Development Goals (the Millennium Goals) as proposed by the United Nations.

After nearly 40 years of implementing the Doi Moi policies, the tasks of hunger eradication and poverty reduction have been socialized, attracting the participation of all levels, all sectors, and a large number of people from all walks of life. Vietnam's achievements in hunger eradication and poverty reduction have been highly appreciated by the world, and have been recognized as a bright spot in hunger eradication and poverty reduction, and people's lives have gradually improved, including those in the Southwest region.

The Southwest is a long-standing inhabited land of the Khmer, Kinh, Cham, Chinese, and some other ethnic groups. In the process of national renewal, the Party Committee and authorities at various levels have led and organized the implementation of many programs and policies on hunger eradication and poverty reduction and achieved many important results. The field of hunger eradication and poverty reduction has always been prioritized to allocate resources for implementation, creating conditions for poor and near-poor households to better access investment resources and support policies. As a result, the task of poverty reduction in the Southwest region has achieved promising results, making an important contribution to the economic growth of the region.

Currently, the whole country in general and the Southwest region in particular are implementing policies to eradicate hunger and reduce poverty in a sustainable manner with new criteria. Besides the achievements, the process of implementing policies to ensure compliance with the national target criteria on the basis of Ho Chi Minh's thought is facing some difficulties: many households have escaped poverty, but the income level is close to the poverty line, making the risk of relapse into poverty high; the gap between rich and poor between regions and among groups of population is still quite large; the life of the poor in general is still difficult and limited, especially in areas with a large number of Khmer ethnic

people, border areas, islands, faraway and remote areas; the psychology of those people who prefer to be on the list of poor households so that they can receive subsidies and enjoy benefits from policies; the capacity of some officials directly implementing the tasks of hunger eradication and poverty reduction is still weak,.... Along with that, the implementation of the National Target Program for Sustainable Poverty Reduction for the period of 2021 - 2025 has shifted from broad-based poverty reduction investment to in-depth poverty reduction investment, focusing on synchronously implementing projects to ensure 3 factors: multi-dimensional, inclusive and sustainable; with direct investment focusing on people, improving the capacity of the poor; clearly identifying the causes of poverty to solve fundamentally and absolutely the problems of the poor and the core areas of the poverty. Facing the specific goals that have been set and in order to successfully implement the goal of hunger eradication and poverty reduction on the basis of Ho Chi Minh Thought in the Southwest region, it is clear that it is a difficult and complicated journey with difficulties and challenges that can directly affect the results of poverty reduction.

From the above-mentioned practical situation, it is necessary to have systematic and in-depth studies to be able to propose specific, synchronous and feasible solutions to continue implementing the policy of hunger eradication and poverty reduction in the Southwest region according to Ho Chi Minh Thought in the coming time. Therefore, the author has chosen the issue: "*Implementing the policy of **hunger eradication and poverty reduction in the Southwest region today according to Ho Chi Minh Thought***" as the topic of the doctoral thesis in the major of Ho Chi Minh Studies.

2. Research objectives and tasks

2.1. Research objectives

Comprehensively and systematically study Ho Chi Minh's thought on hunger eradication and poverty reduction; thereby, apply it into practice to improve the effectiveness of the implementation of sustainable hunger eradication and poverty reduction policies in the Southwest region.

2.2. Research tasks

To achieve the research objectives, the thesis has the following main tasks:

Conduct literature reviews related to the topic, thereby point out those contents that the thesis needs to be inherited and those that need to be continued to be researched and clarified.

Clarify some basic concepts related to the topic of research and systematically analyze the content of Ho Chi Minh's thought on hunger eradication and poverty reduction.

Analyze the current situation, point out the achievements, limitations, causes and arising problems in the implementation of the policy of hunger eradication and poverty reduction in the Southwest region according to Ho Chi Minh Thought (the period from 2011 to now).

Forecast the influential factors and propose directions and solutions to effectively implement hunger eradication and poverty reduction policies in the Southwest region according to Ho Chi Minh Thought to 2025, with a vision to 2030.

3. Research objects and scope

3.1. Research objects

Ho Chi Minh's thought on hunger eradication and poverty reduction.

The current situation of implementing hunger eradication and poverty reduction policies in the Southwest region according to Ho Chi Minh Thought

3.2. Research scope

On the content: The thesis focuses on researching Ho Chi Minh's thought on hunger eradication and poverty reduction and the application of the thought by the Party committees and authorities of various levels in the Southwest region.

On the space: The thesis assesses the application of Ho Chi Minh's thought on hunger eradication and poverty reduction in the Southwest region. This is an area consisting of 13 provinces/cities (Long An, Ben Tre, Tien Giang, Dong Thap, Vinh Long, Tra Vinh, Can Tho city, Kien Giang, An Giang, Hau Giang, Soc Trang, Bac Lieu, Ca Mau). Due to limited time and resources, the author only focuses on surveying 05 provinces/cities: Kien Giang, Tra Vinh, Soc Trang, Can Tho City and Dong Thap

On the time: The thesis focuses on investigating the current situation of applying Ho Chi Minh's thought on hunger eradication and poverty reduction in the Southwest region in the period from 2011 to now.

4. Theoretical basis and research methods

4.1. Theoretical basis

The thesis is carried out on the basis of the theory of Marxism-Leninism, the Party's line and viewpoint, the State's policies and laws on hunger eradication and poverty reduction.

4.2. Research methods

The thesis uses the research methods of dialectical materialism and historical materialism. At the same time, it combines a number of methods such as: the logical method combined with the historical method, analysis method, synthesis method, comparison and contrast method, which can help clarify the research tasks.

5. Scientific contributions of the thesis

Contributing to the clarifying of Ho Chi Minh's thought on hunger eradication and poverty reduction.

Comprehensively assessing the situation of implementing hunger eradication and poverty reduction policies in the Southwest region from 2011 to now according to Ho Chi Minh Thought.

Proposing a number of solutions that contribute to enhancing the effectiveness of the implementation of the current sustainable hunger eradication and poverty reduction policy in the Southwest region according to Ho Chi Minh's thought.

6. Theoretical and practical significance of the thesis

6.1. Theoretical significance

The thesis contributes to supplementing and developing Ho Chi Minh's thought on the implementation of hunger eradication and poverty reduction from the perspective of Ho Chi Minh Studies; contributing to affirming the significance and role of Ho Chi Minh's thought in the contemporary era.

The thesis helps provide a clearer picture of the implementation of hunger eradication and poverty reduction policies in the Southwest region from 2011 to now.

6.2. Practical significance

The thesis proposes a number of groups of solutions that are valuable for reference for the Southwest region in implementing hunger eradication and poverty reduction policies in the coming time.

The thesis can be used as a reference for teaching and research in scientific research agencies, undergraduate and postgraduate training schools in the fields of political sciences, social sciences and humanities.

7. Structure of the thesis

In addition to the introduction, conclusion, the author's list of published works related to the thesis, and the list of references and appendices, the thesis consists of 4 chapters and 10 sections.

Chapter 1

OVERVIEW OF THE RESEARCH SITUATION

1.1. RESEARCH SITUATION RELATED TO THE THESIS TOPIC

1.1.1. Studies on hunger eradication and poverty reduction in Vietnam

Over the past time, especially in recent years, there have been many research works and reports of organizations and scientists on hunger eradication and poverty reduction in Vietnam in general such as the World Bank, Oxfam, the Ministry of Labor, Invalids and Social Affairs, the Committee for Ethnic Minorities, Center for Analysis and Forecasting of the Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences, General Statistics Office, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Vietnam, Nguyen Thi Anh, Nguyen Quoc Dung, Vo Thi Kim Thu.... In general, these works and reports are meticulously researched by organizations and authors in a serious and thorough manner, demonstrating the generality, associated with Vietnam's practical conditions through the periods associated with the Party's guidelines and policies, the State's laws on hunger eradication and poverty reduction; affirming the role of ensuring high economic growth associated with progress, social justice, the environment, a peaceful and beautiful environment, which is an important indicator showing the correctness of lines, policies and solutions in national construction and development.

1.1.2. Studies on Ho Chi Minh's thought on hunger eradication and poverty reduction

Studies on Ho Chi Minh's thought on hunger eradication and poverty reduction, so far there have been many scientists such as Vo Nguyen Giap, Pham Ngoc Anh, Ngo Van Luong, Song Thanh, Le Quoc Ly, ... Such studies, with scientific evidence, have shown the great theoretical value of Ho Chi Minh's thought on hunger eradication and poverty reduction for the current development of the country.

1.1.3. Studies on the application of Ho Chi Minh's thought on hunger eradication and poverty reduction and implementation of hunger eradication and poverty reduction in the Southwest region

Regarding the application of Ho Chi Minh's thought in implementing the policy of hunger eradication, poverty reduction in order to promote social development and improve people's lives, there are works by authors such as Luong Thi Hong, Nguyen Cong Lap, Nguyen Tuyet Hanh, Vi Thi Lai... These works express a number of views of Ho Chi Minh in general and Ho Chi Minh's thought on hunger eradication and poverty reduction applied in the overall policy systems of the Party and the State in particular. The results of these research are a theoretical guide for the author to build a theoretical framework for the process of continuing their thesis research in the Southwest region today.

However, up to now, there has been no specialized work directly discussing "Implementing the policy of *hunger eradication and poverty reduction in the*

Southwest region today according to Ho Chi Minh Thought" in a comprehensive and systematic way.

1.2. EVALUATE THE RESEARCH RESULTS ACHIEVED AND THE ISSUES THAT THE THESIS NEEDS TO BE FURTHER RESEARCHED

1.2.1. Research results achieved

The research results of international organizations, the Government of Vietnam, scholars and scientists have shown that: *Firstly*, there has been an overview of the basic concepts of poverty, hunger eradication, poverty reduction, and sustainable poverty reduction in accordance with the development process of society; *Secondly*, some basic contents of Ho Chi Minh's thought on hunger eradication and poverty reduction have been interpreted; *Thirdly*, there have been important contributions affirming the consistency of our Party and State in applying Ho Chi Minh's thought on hunger eradication and poverty reduction, specifically in solving the needs of economic development and improving people's lives in both theoretical and practical aspects; *Fourthly*, studies and evaluations on hunger eradication and poverty reduction in the Southwest region have also pointed out many factors affecting the implementation of hunger eradication and poverty reduction policies.

1.2.2. Issues for the thesis to continue research

Firstly, due to different research purposes and approaches, authors who have studied the content of Ho Chi Minh's thought on hunger eradication and poverty reduction interpret the matter in different aspects. Particularly from the perspective of Ho Chi Minh Studies, the application of Ho Chi Minh's thought in the implementation of hunger eradication and poverty reduction policies in the current period in a sustainable direction, according to multidimensional poverty criteria (2021-2025 period) requires further research on the implementation of hunger eradication policies, poverty reduction according to Ho Chi Minh Thought. This is one of the "gaps" that need to be filled and clarified. *Secondly*, it is necessary to systematize and put forward basic concepts related to the thesis topic such as "Policies on hunger eradication and poverty reduction", "Ho Chi Minh Thought on hunger eradication and poverty reduction", "Implementation of policies on hunger eradication and poverty reduction according to Ho Chi Minh Thought". *Thirdly*, the content of Ho Chi Minh's thought on hunger eradication and poverty reduction needs to be continued analyzing in order to provide a theoretical basis for studying the implementation of the current hunger eradication and poverty reduction policy in the Southwest region. *Fourthly*, the thesis points out the achievements and limitations and causes of these achievements and limitations in the implementation of the current hunger eradication and poverty reduction policies in the Southwest region and the problems posed. *Fifthly*, on the basis of forecasting the advantages and difficulties affecting the implementation of hunger eradication and poverty reduction policies, the thesis proposes solutions to apply Ho Chi Minh's thought to

continue to effectively implement hunger eradication and poverty reduction policies according to multidimensional poverty criteria of the 2021-2025 period towards the goal of sustainable development in the Southwest region.

Chapter 2

SOME THEORETICAL ISSUES ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF HUNGER ERADICATION AND POVERTY REDUCTION POLICIES ACCORDING TO HO CHI MINH THOUGHT

2.1. SOME BASIC CONCEPTS

2.1.1. The concept of "hunger eradication and poverty reduction policies"

To come to a consensus on the concept of "hunger eradication and poverty reduction policies", the author proposes a number of related concepts and terms:

Hunger and poverty are a situation in which a part of the population is deficient (or not satisfied with basic human needs), limited, restricted with basic human rights, opportunities to access services, is even pushed away, marginalized by society and is a difficulty, challenge to the development of the countries, nations.

"Hunger eradication and poverty reduction" are measures to gradually improve the living standards of the poor population, gradually get out of poverty, manifested in a decrease in the percentage and number of poor people. On the other hand, poverty reduction is about moving from a situation with fewer options to a situation with more choices, in order to improve all aspects of each person's life.

Policies on hunger eradication and poverty reduction are the overall lines and policies of the Party and the State for those who fall into the category of hunger and poverty, in order to create conditions for them to increase their incomes and meet the minimum needs on the basis of the poverty line prescribed in each locality, regions and countries.

2.1.2. The concept of "Implementation of hunger eradication and poverty reduction policies"

The implementation of hunger eradication and poverty reduction policies is the bringing of the Party's and State's decisions into life, on the basis of concretizing the decisions, through information, guidance, assignment of tasks, preparation of necessary resources to ensure that the implementation is on schedule, in accordance with the objectives and requirements pointed out in the policy.

2.1.3. The concept of "Ho Chi Minh's thought on hunger eradication and poverty reduction"

Ho Chi Minh's thought on hunger eradication and poverty reduction is a system of profound views on the objectives, subjects, contents and methods of implementation of hunger eradication and poverty reduction, in order to create conditions for those people who are falling into poverty and backwardness have the opportunity to escape poverty towards sustainable development.

2.1.4. The concept of "implementing the policy of hunger eradication and poverty reduction according to Ho Chi Minh Thought"

The implementation of the policy of hunger eradication and poverty reduction according to Ho Chi Minh Thought is the process of applying the system of Ho Chi Minh's views on hunger eradication and poverty reduction to formulate and implement the Party's guidelines and policies, the State's policies and laws on hunger eradication and poverty reduction in order to constantly improve people's lives towards the sustainable development of the country. Specifically:

Entity: "all forces of the whole country"¹, that is, the coordination of the whole political system of households, of each person, under the leadership of the Party, in order to implement the policy of hunger eradication and poverty reduction.

Scope: synchronous from central to local

Objectives: To minimize and prevent the potential of new poverty or re-poverty "in all dimensions and everywhere"² with the goal of "constantly improving the material and spiritual life of the people"³.

Targeted group: people belonging to poor households, near-poor households, and households that have just escaped poverty. In the implementation of the policy, first of all, priority is given to supporting those households who gave contributions to the country's revolution, poor households of ethnic minorities; children, people with disabilities, women belonging to poor households, near-poor households, households newly escaped from poverty; people living in poor districts and communes with special difficulties in small islets, coastal and island areas; provinces with poor districts; poor districts and communes with special difficulties in the small islets, coastal and island areas⁴.

2.2. CONTENT OF HO CHI MINH'S THOUGHT ON HUNGER ERADICATION AND POVERTY REDUCTION

The content of Ho Chi Minh's thought on hunger eradication and poverty reduction is expressed through the following system of viewpoints:

2.2.1. Ho Chi Minh's views on the objectives of hunger eradication and poverty reduction

According to Ho Chi Minh, hunger eradication and poverty reduction are part of the overall strategy of developing the country in the socialist orientation.

First, the elimination of poverty, hunger and backwardness is the goal of the socialist regime in Vietnam;

¹ Ho Chi Minh (2011), *Complete Volume*, National Truth Publishing House, H, vol.4, p.108

² Government (2021), *Decree No. 07/2021/ND-CP, dated January 27, 2021 Regulations on the standard of multidimensional poverty for the period of 2021 - 2025.*

³ Ho Chi Minh (2021), *Complete Volume*, Ibid, Volume 13, p.30

⁴ The Government (2022), Decision No. 90/QĐ-TTg of the Prime Minister, dated January 18, 2022 Approving the National Target Program for Sustainable Poverty Reduction for the period of 2021 - 2025.

Secondly, to eradicate hunger and reduce poverty is to improve the material and spiritual life of the people;

Third, to eradicate hunger and reduce poverty is to bring a good, fair and equal life to the people.

2.2.2. Ho Chi Minh's views on entities of hunger eradication and poverty reduction

Firstly, the Party and the State are the entities leading and managing the implementation of hunger eradication and poverty reduction

As the leading and managing entities of the country, the Party and the State plan and implement specific policies for socio-economic development in each period, distributing benefits on the principles of democracy, equality and openness; fully mobilize all material and spiritual potential resources of the people to serve the national interests. That role is also reflected in a complete, comprehensive and strict legal system, ensuring that everyone in society performs their civic obligations well and enjoys common interests.

Secondly, the participation, management and organization of the implementation of the Fatherland Front and socio-political organizations

In Ho Chi Minh's viewpoint on the implementation of the policy of hunger eradication and poverty reduction, there is the participation, management and organization of the implementation of social management organizations. Therefore, building socio-political organizations of the masses, a constituent part of the political system is to actively create the strength of the social base of the Party and the State.

Thirdly, the whole people are both the entities and the force that implement hunger eradication and poverty reduction

With the view that revolution is the cause of the masses, President Ho Chi Minh said that the masses of the people are the implementers and beneficiaries of the fruits of the policies of hunger eradication and poverty reduction. Therefore, hunger eradication and poverty reduction are the responsibilities of the whole society.

2.2.3. Ho Chi Minh's views on hunger eradication and poverty reduction

For President Ho Chi Minh, building the country and building socialism aims to constantly improve the material and spiritual life of the people. Hunger eradication and poverty reduction in material life: according to President Ho Chi Minh, it is to ensure that all people have enough food, warm clothing, housing, and medicine when sick. Hunger eradication and poverty reduction in spiritual life: according to President Ho Chi Minh, first of all, it is to ensure education for everyone, health care, Ho Chi Minh's view of poverty alleviation is not only to improve material conditions but also to include education, health, creating conditions for a rich spiritual life and eliminating outdated customs and customs. These factors all contribute to creating a comprehensively developed society. Economic development is associated with cultural development.

2.2.4. Ho Chi Minh's views on methods of implementing hunger eradication and poverty reduction

From Ho Chi Minh's point of view, in order to successfully implement hunger eradication and poverty reduction, it is necessary to use a whole range of methods such as: promoting communication and education; being organized, planned, and democratic in the plan; increasing production and practicing thrift; resolutely fight bureaucracy, embezzlement, corruption and waste in the process of organizing the implementation of policies on hunger eradication and poverty reduction; mobilizing resources in the implementation of hunger eradication and poverty reduction; launching a patriotic emulation movement.

Chapter 3

IMPLEMENTATING THE POLICY OF HUNGER ERADICATION AND POVERTY REDUCTION IN THE SOUTHWEST REGION ACCORDING TO HO CHI MINH THOUGHT - CURRENT SITUATION AND ARISING PROBLEMS

3.1. OVERVIEW OF THE SOUTHWEST REGION

3.1.1. Geographical location and natural conditions

The Southwest region has 13 provinces/cities from Long An to Ca Mau; the natural area of the region is 40,553 km² (accounting for 12.2% of the country's area); there are 04 provinces bordering Cambodia with a land border of 338km/1,137 km⁵. Every year, the Southwest region has contributed 33% of the country's agricultural GDP, contributed 56% of rice production (24.5 million tons), 98% of pangasius production (1.41 million tons) and 60% of the country's fruits (4.3 million tons) and 60% of Vietnam's seafood exports⁶. It is the largest agricultural production center of the country, carrying out the mission of ensuring national food security and export. This is one of the great advantages contributing to the successful implementation of the goal of hunger eradication and poverty reduction in the Southwest region according to Ho Chi Minh Thought.

3.1.2. Population, labor and living standards of the population

In 2023, the population of the 13 provinces in the Southwest region is 17,463.3 thousand people (accounting for 17.4% of the country's population).⁷ The region's human resources are in the stage of "golden population structure" and are focused on applying many solutions to improve the quality of labor resources, thereby making important contributions to the implementation of hunger

⁵ Vo Thi Kim Thu (2018), "*The Impact of Free Trade Agreement on Agricultural Development in the Mekong Delta: The Case of the Vietnam-Japan FTA (VJEPA) and the Vietnam-Korea FTA (VKFTA)*", Ministerial Science Project, Academy of Politics Region IV.

⁶ Chuong Phuong (2023), *2023: Mekong Delta attracts about 100 trillion VND to invest in agriculture* at <https://vneconomy.vn/nam-2023-dong-bang-song-cuu-long-thu-hut-khoang-100-nghin-ty-dong-dau-tu-vao-nong-nghiep.htm>, [accessed on 23/05/2024]

⁷ General Statistics Office (www.gso.gov.vn), [accessed on 13/8/2024].

eradication and poverty reduction policies as well as the overall economic development of the region.

3.1.3. Socio-economic development situation

The process of industrialization and modernization has helped the economic structure of the Southwest region shift in a more positive direction; the region's economic growth rate (GRDP) in 2023 reached 6.37%, ranking 2/6 of the economic regions. In 2023, the scale of gross domestic product (GDP) at regional current prices reached VND 1,263 trillion, accounting for 12.1% of the country. The economic structure of the region has many positive changes, the proportion of agriculture and forestry industries has decreased, the proportion of industry - construction has tended to increase; the proportion of the service sector has increased slightly.

Socio-cultural development: Cultural diversity combined with history spontaneously creates different consequences between groups of people, making human resources at risk of difficulty in coordinating, leading to fragmented, small labor activities.

3.2. THE CURRENT SITUATION OF IMPLEMENTING THE POLICY OF HUNGER ERADICATION AND POVERTY REDUCTION ACCORDING TO HO CHI MINH THOUGHT IN THE SOUTHWEST REGION FROM 2011 TO NOW

3.2.1. Achievements in the implementation of hunger eradication and poverty reduction policies in the Southwest region according to Ho Chi Minh Thought (from 2011 to now)

3.2.1.1. Always ensure the objectives and orientations of hunger eradication and poverty reduction policies in order to constantly improve people's lives

In 2023, the average per capita income (at current prices) of the Southwest region is 4,077 million VND/person/month. After more than three decades since Doi Moi, the Southwest region has succeeded in escaping hunger. The rate of poor households in the Southwest region according to the Government's poverty standard is 4.15% in 2023. The results of the implementation of the Poverty Reduction Program in the period 2011 - 2023 have contributed to social stability, promoting sustainable economic growth, and ensuring social security. The poor have been supported to gradually improve their living conditions, have better access to policies and support resources of the State and the community; a number of essential social needs of the basic poor are met (housing, running water, environmental sanitation, medical examination and treatment, study, information, etc.)

3.2.1.2. The role of entities in the implementation of hunger eradication and reduction policies has been increasingly enhanced and constantly promoted

The planning and formulation of policies have undergone very fundamental changes. The national target program on poverty reduction has been implemented

by provinces/cities in the Southwest region from the beginning of the period, with the direction of the Party Committee, authorities at all levels, the active participation of the Fatherland Front and its member organizations, businesses and the efforts of officials in charge of poverty reduction together with local people have achieved many important results. The results of basic poverty reduction have achieved the set goals, gradually improving and enhancing people's living conditions and contributing to socio-economic development in the provinces/cities in the Southwest region.

Localities have established and consolidated district- and commune-level poverty reduction steering committees; developed programs and plans of poverty reduction; directed and assigned members of the Steering Committee for Poverty Reduction to monitor and take charge by locality; organized an annual review of changes in poor households and organized annual and mid-term assessments of poverty reduction in the areas under their management.

3.2.1.3. The contents of the hunger eradication and poverty reduction policies on material life and spiritual life are promptly supplemented and perfected in accordance with each period

(1) Achievements in the implementation of policies on hunger eradication and poverty reduction in terms of material life are reflected in the results achieved in the implementation of the group of credit policies to support poor households, in the project to replicate the poverty reduction model, policies to support labor export, policies to support housing, group of support policies on clean water and sanitation, policies on job creation and labor export

(2) Achievements in the implementation of policies on hunger eradication and poverty reduction in spiritual life: reflected in the results of the implementation of the group of education and training policies, the group of health support policies, the group of policies on legal aid, and training projects to improve the capacity of poverty reduction and communication.

3.2.1.4. Achievements in diversifying methods of implementing hunger eradication and poverty reduction policies

Regarding funding resources for the implementation of poverty reduction policies: the balance of capital allocation for poverty reduction programs, schemes and policies is implemented in accordance with the plan.

The task on cadre: constantly equipped with knowledge, experience and skills in developing programs, planning, evaluating and implementing poverty reduction in localities.

Inspection and supervision activities: the contents of inspection and supervision include: the direction and administration of all levels in the

implementation of the Program; the implementation of programs and projects in the locality; policies to support investment in infrastructure in the Program communes are increasingly strict, all-round.

3.2.2. Limitations in the implementation of hunger eradication and poverty reduction policies according to Ho Chi Minh Thought in the Southwest region from 2011 to now

3.2.2.1. Limitations in ensuring the objectives of implementation of hunger eradication and poverty reduction policies

Recently, the rate of poor households in the Southwest region has decreased rapidly but is not sustainable.

Multidimensional poverty still has significant disparities between urban and rural areas, with the proportion of multidimensional poor households in rural areas much higher than in urban areas, leading to an increase in income inequality. The risk of relapse into poverty in remote and border areas is increasing. The review of poor and near-poor households is still slow compared to the plan. Although the annual survey of poor households is carried out in accordance with the process, some districts and communes do not accurately reflect the rate of poor and near-poor households in the locality.

3.2.2.2. Limitations in promoting the role of entities implementing hunger eradication and poverty reduction policies

The poverty line is slow to be adjusted and is not close to reality because most households have just escaped poverty according to the income standard but have not yet escaped from poverty. Some measurement indicators are not suitable, affecting the identification of poor households in localities; the government has not yet announced the results of the national synthesis of the shortage of basic social services. The organization of the implementation of some policies is not timely, resources for poverty reduction are spread across many policies, there are policies in which investment resources are allocated in the last year of the implementation period. The mobilization of resources from businesses and people is still limited.

Officials who are in charge of poverty reduction are both weak and in shortage, mainly hold more than one position concurrently; therefore, they have not met the requirements and tasks set out in the new context and situation.

3.2.2.3. Limitations in implementing hunger eradication and poverty reduction policies

Some policies that have not been closely followed and amended to suit practical conditions, which is one of the reasons why the effectiveness of policies is not high. Some support and intervention policies have not reflected distinctiveness among targeted groups and localities (credit policies are not really suitable for targeted groups; infrastructure construction policies are not suitable for

practical conditions of localities; regarding the group of policies on legal aid, the Law on Legal Aid just stipulates that beneficiaries are only poor people and ethnic minorities, but not near-poor households or households just escaping poverty).

The current implementation of hunger eradication and poverty reduction policies is mainly still in an average situation and based on the will of the State, which means that there has been no real understanding of the needs and of the reality on the capacity in using the support from the State. Some policies on hunger eradication and poverty reduction in mountainous, faraway and remote districts inhabited by ethnic minorities have not reflected the customs and practices of the local people; therefore, inappropriate methods and forms of support lead to the fact that targeted groups do not use the support or only use the support partially or for a few times, then they return to the previous mode of production, leading to the waste of supporting investment.

3.2.2.4. Limitations in organizing the implementation of hunger eradication and poverty reduction methods

The mobilization of investment resources: resources spent on hunger eradication and poverty reduction are limited, the use of resources is scattered and overlapped; the management mechanism for allocation and use of resources is still loose, leading to low efficiency in the use of resources for poverty reduction.

Officials directly implementing poverty reduction: issues which are related to the capacity of grassroots poverty reduction officials, along with unclear regulations on the position and role of poverty reduction officials in localities in the Southwest region affect the development of plans, advise and assist the Steering Committee for Poverty Reduction. In addition, funding for training activities and training of cadres to implement hunger eradication and poverty reduction policies is still quite low.

The supervision, evaluation and monitoring of the implementation of policies, projects or poverty reduction solutions are sometimes not implemented in time; some localities still emphasize the appearance of achievements, bringing many households out of poverty, but in reality, these households are still facing many difficulties and high risk of relapse into poverty, especially when they encounter disadvantages from the outside or if they do not continue to enjoy preferential policies. Some supervision and assessment contents have not been integrated in the guidance for monitoring and evaluation of the program such as annual review of poor households and near-poor households; have not completed the database system on poverty reduction, the management system of the National Target Program for Sustainable Poverty Reduction connected to the monitoring and evaluation system of the National Target Program.

3.2.3. Causes of achievements and limitations

3.2.3.1. Causes of achievements

The process of implementing the policy of hunger eradication and poverty reduction in the Southwest region according to Ho Chi Minh Thought has always

received the attention and direction and help of ministries, central sectors, provincial/municipal Party committees, provincial/municipal People's Councils, domestic and foreign socio-economic organizations; Party committees and administrations at all levels are constantly innovating methods of leadership, direction and administration in poverty reduction; the creative application of the Party's Resolution to local practice; the correct identification of key areas, potentials, strengths, breakthroughs and the taking of appropriate steps and promulgation of many policies to promote hunger eradication and poverty reduction in accordance with the locality. The personnel resource is constantly trained, fostered, and firmly grasped the area of management.

3.2.3.2. Causes of limitations

Common causes: The economy of the Southwest region is still unstable, facing many challenges such as population aging, population migration rate, lack of jobs, low labor productivity, main occupations based on agriculture but the price of agricultural products is unstable and difficult to be sold.

Human resources in the Southwest region are abundant, but the quality of human resources has not met the set requirements.

The rate of poor households is decreasing rapidly, but the possibility of returning to poverty is high because people do not have much capacity to respond to unexpected risks

The Southwest region has favorable natural conditions, but it is currently facing a severe impact from climate change.

Hunger eradication and poverty reduction are the needs, aspirations and desires of the whole society, but some poor households still have the mentality of dependence, waiting, not trying to rise out of poverty.

3.3. ARISING ISSUES

Vietnam has entered the fourth year of the 5-year socio-economic development plan 2021-2025 and the socio-economic development strategy 2021-2030. The country continues to implement development goals after having overcome the most difficult period caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The year 2022 was also the first year that Vietnam applied the new multidimensional poverty line designed for the period 2021-2025. This marks an important substantive change in terms of the measurement, monitoring as well as implementation of the solutions and policies on poverty reduction. In the period of 2021-2025 witnesses the implementation of the multidimensional poverty line with the goal of not only reducing poverty in terms of income but also reducing the deficit of basic social services in 6 dimensions, focusing on the most difficult poverty core of the country. Therefore, the effective implementation of the current policy of hunger eradication and poverty reduction in the Southwest region according to Ho Chi Minh's thought is facing a number of problems as follows:

3.3.1. Human resources in the Southwest region are abundant, but the quality of the human resources has not met the set requirements

Currently, poor families cannot afford to invest in the education of their children, leading to many children dropping out of school early to make a living; many children-laborers migrate to big cities or industrial parks in search of work, leading to a shortage of high-quality local human resources.

3.3.2. The rate of poor households decreases rapidly, but the possibility of relapsing into poverty is high because people do not have good capacity to respond to unexpected risks

The situation of high relapse into poverty is a prominent problem, reflecting the difficulties in maintaining stable living standards and long-term improvements for people.

3.3.3. Failure to assess in detail the specific objectives and results of the implementation of projects, mini-projects and targets that address the shortage of basic social services of the Program in 2021-2023

When the poverty line is determined and measured in the direction of a multidimensional approach, the development of policies and programs for poverty reduction targets, socio-economic development plans related to component indicators, and multidimensional poverty indicators also need to be studied, innovated to respond to new approaches to poverty in order to improve the efficiency of sustainable poverty reduction and comprehensively socio-economic growth.

3.3.4. The nature provides the region with many incentives, but the Southwest region is currently facing a severe impact from climate change

The Southwest region is the country's rice basket but is facing challenges due to the impact of climate change. Climate change, sea level rise and the impacts from the issues of using cross-border water resources will continue to be great challenges that threaten the implementation of sustainable poverty reduction policies in the Southwest region.

3.3.5. Hunger eradication and poverty reduction are the needs, aspirations and desires of the whole society, but some poor households still have the mentality of waiting, dependence, and not trying to rise out of poverty

Currently, there are too many support policies as mentioned above, which increases the mentality of dependence and not wanting to escape poverty among a part of the poor. Besides, the motivation for becoming rich is on a downward trend. This problem is not only of poor households of ethnic minority areas but also shows signs of spreading to other poor and near-poor households in the Southwest region.

Chapter 4

DIRECTIONS AND SOLUTIONS TO EFFECTIVELY IMPLEMENT THE POLICY OF HUNGER ERADICATION AND POVERTY REDUCTION IN THE SOUTHWEST REGION ACCORDING TO HO CHI MINH THOUGHT

4.1. FORECASTING FACTORS AFFECTING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF HUNGER ERADICATION AND POVERTY REDUCTION POLICIES IN THE SOUTHWEST REGION

4.1.1. Impact of the world situation

Sustainable development has become an overarching trend in the world; digital economy, circular economy, and green growth are models of development chosen by many countries. However, in parallel with the above opportunities, the world is experiencing great fluctuations, changing in a very fast, complicated manner, and is difficult to forecast. All of these will be challenges for the Sustainable Poverty Reduction Target Program of our country in general, in the Southwest region in particular, to transform itself to adapt to the new context.

4.1.2. Impact of the domestic situation

Domestically, our country's position and strength have grown much better; the scale, potential and competitiveness of the economy have been raised; the autonomy of the economy is improved; more accumulation of experience in leadership, direction and administration; the quality of economic growth has been gradually improved; the economic structure initially shifted towards an extensive fashion, the efficiency of using input factors for the economy has been significantly improved. The remaining poor households are more concentrated in faraway, remote, and disadvantaged areas, where structural issues related to property and geography become constrained (such as infertile land, lack of education and training, limited infrastructure and public services).

4.1.3. Intra-regional impacts

The directions and solutions on hunger eradication and poverty reduction aims at developing the Southwest region more sustainably in all three aspects: economy, society, and environment. New policies and visions, strategic orientations, comprehensive, fundamental and synchronous solutions help maximize the mobilization of resources with the participation of economic sectors for the sustainable development of the Southwest region in general, ensuring sustainability in the implementation of hunger eradication policies, poverty reduction of the region in particular.

However, in addition to the opportunities that are opening up in the implementation of hunger eradication and poverty reduction policies, the Southwest region, in the coming time, may face major difficulties such as

difficulties related to climate change and epidemics, demographics, quantity and quality of labor, economy, science and technology.

4.2. DIRECTIONS FOR THE EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF POVERTY REDUCTION POLICIES IN THE SOUTHWEST REGION IN THE COMING TIME ACCORDING TO HO CHI MINH THOUGHT

4.2.1. Party committees and local administrations at all levels should clearly identify the effective implementation of hunger eradication and poverty reduction policies as one of the key and long-term tasks

Hunger eradication and poverty reduction are the main goals in improving people's living conditions and promoting the implementation of social justice. For the Party and the State, the effective implementation of hunger eradication and poverty reduction policies is a key issue to ensure and consolidate political, socio-economic stability, and at the same time create conditions for the long-term sustainable development of the nation. Poverty reduction policies and programmes are not only designed to address pressing issues but also adapted and developed in line with the new situation, reflecting consistency in development strategies. Sustainable poverty reduction is not only part of the first stage of the renovation process but also a long-term goal throughout the country's development process.

4.2.2. The poverty reduction strategy needs to be shifted from large-scale poverty reduction investment on intensive poverty reduction investment; focusing main investments on "core areas of poverty" and on people, improving the development capacity of the people.

In the coming time, poverty reduction solutions must focus on synchronous implementation to ensure 3 factors: multi-dimensional, inclusive and sustainable. It is aimed at solving the problem of poverty and hunger for everyone, all targeted groups, everywhere, at all times, in every dimension of shortage. Wherever there are poor people, there are mechanisms and policies aimed at reducing poverty, leaving no one behind, missing no targeted group.

4.2.3. To effectively implement policies on hunger eradication and poverty reduction on the basis of promoting the spirit of independence, self-reliance, the will of self-help, self-strength and the strength of the great national unity bloc

To effectively implement the policy of hunger eradication and poverty reduction, it is necessary to promote the forces of the whole people and the poor themselves, poor households; the government cannot do it on their behalf. The role of the government is very necessary but only stops at guiding and supporting the necessary procedures for people and communities to comply with state regulations; supporting the formation of groups, playing the role of "midwife"... It is necessary to support the poor so that they are confident in their capacity, dare to think and dare to do. Linking cooperatives and production is much more sustainable.

4.3. SOLUTIONS TO EFFECTIVELY IMPLEMENT HUNGER ERADICATION AND POVERTY REDUCTION POLICIES IN THE SOUTHWEST REGION IN THE COMING TIME ACCORDING TO HO CHI MINH THOUGHT

4.3.1. Solutions to raise awareness and responsibilities of entities implementing sustainable hunger eradication and poverty reduction policies

4.3.1.1. Enhance the awareness, leadership and direction of Party committees, administrations and mass organizations for poverty reduction:

Firstly, raising awareness of the importance of hunger eradication and poverty reduction policies;

Secondly, well implementing the National Target Program on Sustainable Poverty Reduction will create conditions for population stability, limiting migration, especially the phenomenon of free migration in border areas.

4.3.1.2. Create a coordination mechanism between relevant units and mass organizations

Coordinating the strength of the Fatherland Front, mass organizations, Religious Affairs Committees, and provincial/municipal Ethnic Affairs Committees to form a broad united front to carry out communication and mobilize the whole people to implement the hunger eradication and poverty reduction program. Properly organize the movements that "The whole people unite to build cultural life in residential areas", "build a sense of mutual support for villages and neighbors", in order to contribute efforts, finance and experience to help each other in times of difficulties and needs.

4.3.1.3. Raise the awareness of the poor to rise out of poverty

In the implementation of hunger eradication and poverty reduction policies, in addition to the State's support measures, it is necessary to strengthen the sense of personal self-reliance as the main one, transforming the poor and poor households from the targeted group of hunger eradication and poverty reduction to the main force in the implementation of hunger eradication and poverty reduction.

Mainly concentrate the budget on supporting poor households to develop production and business to escape poverty, improve the market access of the poor to help them escape poverty sustainably. Create conditions for the poor to participate in the value chains of agricultural products. Replace the current support for scattered and small-scale livelihood with mini-projects that support livelihoods and have time of operation that is long enough to develop poverty reduction livelihood plans according to people's conditions and capabilities.

4.3.2. Solutions to improve mechanisms and policies for sustainable hunger eradication and poverty reduction

4.3.2.1. Formulate and complete policies to create opportunities for poor households and near-poor households to access social services

Firstly, well implement policies on credit support for the poor, support loans

for production development and industry transformation; *secondly*, well implement health support policies for the poor; *thirdly*, focus on education and training policies; *fourthly*, legal aid policies; *Fifthly*, improve the provision of information for the poor; *Sixthly*, promote the application of information technology and digital transformation in poverty reduction; continue to replicate the application of software in reviewing poor households and near-poor households according to the multi-dimensional poverty line in the 2021-2025 period.

4.3.2.2. Policies to create livelihoods for the poor and poor households

Regarding support for residential land, production land, support for vocational training, job creation, labor export, support for domestic water

4.3.2.3. Synchronously and effectively implement programs and policies to support poverty reduction and multi-dimensional poverty standard in association with sustainable development goals

First, integrate poverty reduction policies that needs to be implemented at both the central and provincial levels;

Second, improve the capacity of officials working on poverty reduction;

Third, consolidate the organization and operation of the Steering Committee for Poverty Reduction at all levels.

4.3.3. Solutions to mobilize and effectively use resources for sustainable hunger eradication and poverty reduction policies

4.3.3.1. For capital sources of support from the central and local budgets

Continue to strengthen the mobilization and effective use of support resources of the central government and local counterparts to implement poverty reduction; increase capital sources for the implementation of specific preferential credit policies of the province to support poor households and near-poor households. Encourage and mobilize the participation of organizations and enterprises to support the poor to rise up and build their lives and poor areas out of difficult situations. Promote the effective mobilization and use of domestic and international resources for poverty reduction.

4.3.3.2. For other capital sources

Promote the socialization of the mobilization of resources in the community, take advantage of funding sources from international organizations and businesses to increase investment sources.

4.3.3.3. Socialization of poverty reduction

Poverty reduction must be considered the responsibility of all. It is necessary to take specific measures and be implemented by collectives or individuals always within the framework of the Party's policies and the State's laws; expand opportunities for people from all walks of life to participate proactively and equally. The State must regularly create additional revenue sources to gradually increase the budget expenditure rate for these activities, and

at the same time strengthen better management to improve the efficiency of the use of allocated funds.

4.3.4. Solutions on inspection, supervision, preliminary review, conclusive review and replication of effective poverty reduction models and promotion of emulation movements

4.3.4.1. Strengthen the inspection, supervision and evaluation of the implementation of hunger eradication and poverty reduction programs.

Annually, conduct surveys, review and accurately identify poor households, classify poor households as a basis for formulating and implementing appropriate solutions for hunger eradication and poverty reduction. Separate those groups of poor households who are unable to work and often have to be subsidized from the budget and funding sources, in order to accurately determine the rate of poor households, from those groups of poor households who needs to influenced by solutions that make them rise out of poverty on their own.

Officials participating in the investigation must be carefully trained in professional skills and have a sense of responsibility. The survey of poor households must ensure fairness, publicity, transparency, and promote the democratic regulations at the grassroots level to ensure accuracy before issuing certificates of poor household books to avoid lawsuits.

4.3.4.2. Improve the quality of preliminary and conclusive review work

The preliminary, summarizing and learning experiences must be maintained in a regular, disciplined, practical and effective manner, annually and semi-annually. Good models, good examples, lessons learned from reality are the basis for local governments at all levels to formulate resolutions and directives on leadership in the implementation of hunger eradication and poverty reduction to achieve greater victories.

4.3.4.3. Replicate effective poverty reduction models

Step up communication work in order to arouse the will to strive to rise and eliminate the idea of waiting and dependence from poor households and near-poor households, considering this as a key and breakthrough solution to reduce poverty quickly and sustainably; so that people participating in the project clearly understand the regulations on responsibilities and rights when participating, especially the regulations on the level of recovery, the form of capital recovery and circulation, how to handle situations when crops and livestock are at risk, etc.

4.3.4.4. Continue to promote the emulation movement

Continue to promote and improve the quality of the emulation movement "The whole country joins hands for the poor - leaving no one behind"; implement the movement "Each commune, ward and township builds a typical poverty reduction model" in accordance with the conditions of each locality, with creative ways; build a model of cooperatives, 6 cooperative groups, self-management groups, households that have escaped poverty, had good production, and done good business. Build and replicate good models and initiatives on poverty reduction.

CONCLUSION

Implementing the policy of hunger eradication and poverty reduction according to Ho Chi Minh Thought aims at gradually improving the material and spiritual life of the people, towards a happy life of every person.

President Ho Chi Minh is a person who always takes care of people's lives, including the issue of hunger eradication and poverty reduction. He founded and laid the foundation for the "hunger eradication and poverty reduction" in Vietnam. It was Ho Chi Minh who found the way to save the country and liberate the nation along the path of the proletarian revolution, led and organized the exploration of the path to socialism in a backward agricultural country, which had not yet experienced capitalism, devastated by war, and gradually moved towards a society with rich people and a strong nation. He always determined: hunger eradication and poverty reduction are the goal, a content, a consistent direction, a long-term strategy of socialism, it is not a work of relief, a blessing, but a great, persistent, dedicated, committed, devoted, and hardworking revolution. Ho Chi Minh's thought on hunger eradication and poverty reduction is imbued with a profound humanistic philosophy, ensuring the full realization of human rights. Although it has been introduced for many years, in the current context, Ho Chi Minh's thought on hunger eradication and poverty reduction is still profoundly modern, in line with the spirit of sustainable development, "leaving no one behind" in the 2030 Agenda of the United Nations. That is also the theoretical foundation, reality and guideline for the planning and implementation of hunger eradication and poverty reduction policies of our Party and State today.

For the Southwest region, hunger eradication and poverty reduction are still a major social issue, a major policy, and a noble revolutionary cause. In the period from 2011 to now, the successful implementation of policies and programs on sustainable poverty reduction has created conditions for the poor to better access basic social services; the infrastructure of poor districts and communes has been strengthened; the life of the poor has been markedly improved; the rate of poor households in the Southwest region has decreased sharply. However, the results of poverty reduction are not really sustainable, the number of households that have escaped poverty but the income level close to the poverty line is still large, the rate of households returning to poverty is still high; the gap between rich and poor between regions and population groups is still quite large, and the life of the poor in general is still difficult, especially in the Khmer ethnic minority area, border areas and islands.

It is forecasted that in the coming time, the situation in the world, the region and the country will have rapid, complicated and unpredictable changes.

Domestically, natural disasters and epidemics will greatly affect the socio-economic development and people's lives, especially the poor and people in difficult circumstances, increasing the gap between rich and poor, increasing pressure on the country's sustainable development goals; new requirements of the implementation of the National Target Program on Poverty Reduction in the direction of sustainability in the period of 2021-2025, the vision to 2030 is approached according to the multidimensional poverty criteria of the United Nations,... In order to continue to effectively implement the policy of hunger eradication and poverty reduction in the Southwest region, on the basis of applying Ho Chi Minh Thought, it is necessary to synchronously implement the following directions and solutions. Regarding the direction: *First of all, the* Party committee and local authorities at all levels need to clearly identify the effective implementation of hunger eradication and poverty reduction policies as one of the key and long-term tasks; *secondly*, the poverty reduction strategy needs to be shifted from the large-scale poverty reduction investment to the intensive poverty reduction investment, focusing on key investments, focusing the investment on the "core areas of poverty" and on people, improving the development capacity of the people; *thirdly*, effectively implement the policy of hunger eradication and poverty reduction on the basis of promoting the spirit of independence, self-reliance, the will of self-help, self-strength and the strength of the great national solidarity. Regarding the solutions, from raising awareness and responsibilities of entities that implement hunger eradication and poverty reduction policies to perfecting mechanisms and policies for sustainable poverty reduction; mobilizing and effectively using resources for sustainable poverty reduction policies; inspecting, supervising and replicating effective poverty reduction models and promoting emulation movements. Implementing these directions and solutions well will contribute to more effective implementation of the current policy of hunger eradication and poverty reduction in the Southwest region, contributing to the construction and development of an richer, more prosperous and civilized country.

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