

# ACTIONAID VIETNAM – MONTHLY UPDATES April 2019

# **KEY HIGHLIGHTS/UPDATES**

#### 1. Promoting global social rights for women migrant workers in Vietnam



On April 1<sup>st</sup>, Aid for social protection program Foundation Vietnam (AFV) and Rosa-Luxemburg-Stiftung Southeast Asia (RLS) had a signing ceremony of the Memorandum on implementing the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of Project "Promoting Global Social Rights for women migrant workers in Vietnam". RLS is one of the largest foundations dedicated to political education in Germany today, and stands in the intellectual and political tradition of democratic socialism.

After one year of implementation with a

strong round built on a successful research, RLS and AFV look forward to the continuation of project activities leading to more profound impacts on the targeted community in 2019. The project is expected to successfully achieve improved social rights to women migrant workers in Hai Phong (LRP11) and Ho Chi Minh City (LRP21), and advocate for strengthened policies and budget allocation to support women migrant workers in Vietnam.

#### 2. Meeting with the senior delegation of ChildFund Korea

On April 23<sup>rd</sup>, a senior delegation from ChildFund Korea met with ActionAid Vietnam staff at the ActionAid office in Hanoi. Representatives of the two organisations reviewed the projects implemented over the past year and discussed plans for future projects.

ChildFund Korea is the oldest and largest child welfare organization dedicated to the well-being of children in Korea. Established in 1948, ChildFund Korea became a member of the ChildFund alliance in 2002. ChildFund Korea supports and creates a child-friendly environment for the children in 24 countries by providing unique and specialized services designed to advocate for children in and outside Korea. ActionAid Vietnam began cooperation with ChildFund Korea in 2018 with projects focusing on improving the quality of health care

and education for children and their families.





# **ACTIVITIES AND THEIR IMPACTS**

# Sustainable livelihood safe based on agricultural production

#### Developing a Participatory Guarantee System for planting organic vegetables

As part of the work to develop sustainable livelihood models, the participating household will apply the PGS to ensure safe agriculture production is a quality assurance system that guarantees the quality of safe agricultural products. In April, the community in Krong No district (LRP12) worked with SPD12 and the Center of Agricultural Services of Krong No District and successfully established a PGS Task Force for planting organic vegetables. The Tast Force consists of 19 members, with have one leader and two deputy leaders who will be in charge of group coordination, liaison and information sharing.

The Task Force the participated in a training course with the technical assistance of by the Center of Agricultural Services. They discussed the advantages and challenges that local farmers have to face when adopting the PGS approach. They also studied several existing PGS models in Krong No district to understand the methodology and process of a PGS. This training has equipped the Task Force's members with the know-how to successfully apply the PGS and instruct other farmers to replicate this system in their localities.



### People with disability enhancing their resilience to climate change and natural disaster

#### They practiced inclusive community-based disaster risk management

In April, the people with disability in Nho Quan district, Ninh Binh province (LRP25) took part in an event with the participation of local authorities and representatives of organisations and governmental bodies working on disaster risk reduction. The event was the chance for these participants to build a network of multi-stakeholder network in resilience to climate change and natural hazards with a focus on recognising the roles of disabled people in this process.

In training in the same LRP, the CDGs' members, of whom many are with disability and the key public officials also learnt about the purpose and significance of evaluating disaster risk and the community's vulnerability and resilience. They then applied the assessment tools to their own situations and developed action plans at commune and district levels basing on the evaluation results. These plans will be the guidance for the localities' activities throughout the year, ensuring the inclusion of people with disability.



### Women's and children's voices for equal and gender-responsive public services

#### Promotion of healthcare services with the focus on women and children

In April 2019, 16 Community Development Groups (CDGs) with 370 members (80% female) in 3 communes of Krong Bong, Dak Lak (LRP18) had their monthly meetings to discuss about reproductive health. During the meetings, women in the central highland felt free to discuss on their reproductive health issues which used to be a taboo in the community. This practice encourages them to be open to share personal knowledge and experience and help their community members in similar health issues. Plus, it enhances their confidence and motivation to represent the community in dialogues with local authorities as the duty bearers and other service providers to get their attention and commitment to gender-responsive healthcare for local disadvantaged women and youth.





Aiming at the similar result of improved healthcare services, SPD11 in Hai Phong city worked with AAV in an effort to raise fund for upgrading the local healthcare station in Vinh An Commune, Vinh Bao District. This proposed project, once successful, will address the poor conditions of the current healthcare facilities in this commune to ensure high quality services for local communities, especially the poor, women and children. With the extension by six new rooms, the capacity of the commune's facility will be increased to accommodate more patients for health checkups and illness treatment. Five of the upgraded rooms will be functional serving local people's (including children's) needs for medical examination and treatment; including four standard-sized rooms for the healthcare practices and one large room for multifunctional tasks including holding medical consultations. The sixth room will be a child-friendly playroom for local children, the special target group of this project.

# Migrant families in Binh Tan District, Ho Chi Minh City (LRP 21) are getting improved access to kindergarten

Based on the consultation with stakeholders in March, Management Board of LRP 21 (Binh Tan) has been actively and continuously working with the construction company to consolidate the comments and ideas from children, local community and partners into consideration to the design of the new building of Cam Tu Kindergarten. This construction will be partly paid for by Binh Tan People's Committee as matching fund for the project, showing their enhanced attention and commitment to improving public services to women migrant workers, one of the marginalized groups in urban areas.



In Ke Sach District, Soc Trang province (LRP 24), the SPD targets improving access to quality primary education for children. Thus, they worked with AAV to prepare and submit a proposal to equip Thoi An Hoi 2 and Ke Thanh 2 Primary School with new facilities for the students to have better education. Spawned from the lack of quality infrastructure in these schools and the limited budget allocation to addressing this situation, the project will provide financial and technical assistance to build new education facilities including classrooms, walls surrounding the school, and a new sanitary facility. It will also upgrade the schoolyard and drainage water system; thereby, increase children's satisfaction and access to better studying environment in their localities.

# Safe community and working environment free of sexual harassment and gender abuse

#### Ending gender violence in the garment industry in Vietnam

A public dialogue was conducted by the Centre for Workers' Rights in the Crystal Sweater textile factory with participation of 120 workers. The talk covered two main issues which are women's rights and how women can deal with sexual harassment and/or any kind of harassment in and outside the workplace. Representatives from Hai Phong Law Association also participated in the event and discussed about the law and regulations related to the rights of women in general and women workers in particular. By telling their stories and experiences, the lawyers made it easier for women workers to understand the legal system and how to protect themselves from sexually harassing acts. Moreover, they also provided the women workers with a hotline number for support or consultation. Among the workers, the

members of Local Activist Groups Against Sexual Harassment (LAGASH) were the most active. They all participated in performing plays to portray the topic of each section and their real situations, what kinds of things they have been facing in and outside the workplace.

Despite being short duration, the topic talk provided women workers with various helpful information on knowledge and skills to protect themselves as well as others from any kinds of sexual violence or harassment in and outside the workplace.



#### Children as agents of change guiding their community to prevent sexual harassment

2,000 children in 06 primary schools in Quan Ba (LRP7A) took part in a variety of communication events on preventing sexual abuse organized by AAV's partner in collaboration with the District Department of Education. By many creative methods and ground activities by the children themselves such as presentation, drawing, and stage plays, they have broadly and strongly called for actions to end sexual abuse against children in school. As a result, 80% of children participants understood how to protect themselves from acts of sexual abuse, and a collaboration with District Department of Education has been is established to support and consultation children.

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In LRP8, two communication events were undertaken with the participation of 385 local people to introduce the use of information technology – the S-city application – in the community's supervision of (1) the pilot of Safe Community/Safe City criteria, (2) the prevention of sexual harassment and abuse, and (3) data consolidation and analysis to report for policy dialogue and advocacy. With this application, the people can also review the of public services, report about sexual harassment in public spaces, and contribute data to advocate for policy changes to build safe communities/cities for women and girls.





### IMPACT STORIES OF THE MONTH

Vuong Thi Sinh is 14 years old and is living with her parents and 2 siblings in Lung Rich hamlet, Luong Thong commune, Thong Nong district. She is currently at Grade 9 in the commune's semi-boarding secondary school.

Living in a remote area with not very advanced education, Sinh and her friends have barely any access to knowledge about protecting herself against child sexual abuse. They are not even familiar with the topic and very much not aware of the damages that sexual harassment, once happens, can cause to their mental and physical well-being. This is due to improper reproductive health education and self-protection skill training at school, absence of communications in the community, and limited access to other sources of information. As a result, Sinh remains vulnerable to sexual harassment which can be take place any time, any place in her day to day life.

In April 2019, Sinh joined the forum "For a safe and healthy life for children" which was organized in her school and five other (lower and upper) secondary schools in the district. At the forum, she and her friends participated in a range of activities which equipped them with knowledge about what sexual harassment is and what consequences it may cause to them. They also discussed methods to prevent sexual harassment at school and where they live, and practiced the skills to protect themselves when being attacked.



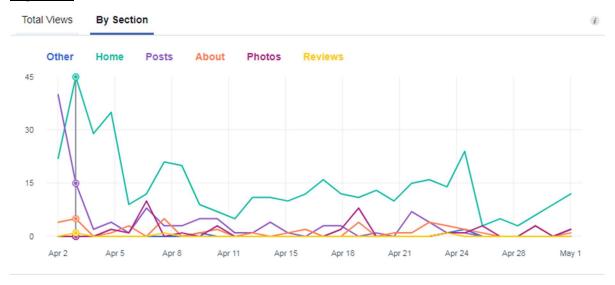
With her strengthened knowledge, Sinh shared with her other friends and community members, which does not only improve the general knowledge about the issue but also helps to prevent possible attacks. Becoming an agent of change, Sinh is now able to speak out the voice of many female students in the remote areas to demand her school's board and local authority to get engaged in protecting students, building capacity for them, and create more of the similar opportunities for them to gain more understanding and encourage initiatives for actions of the local people, especially students in the fight to end gender-based violence in the community.



# **REACHING OUT**

Social Media: ActionAid Vietnam's Facebook page:

# Page view:



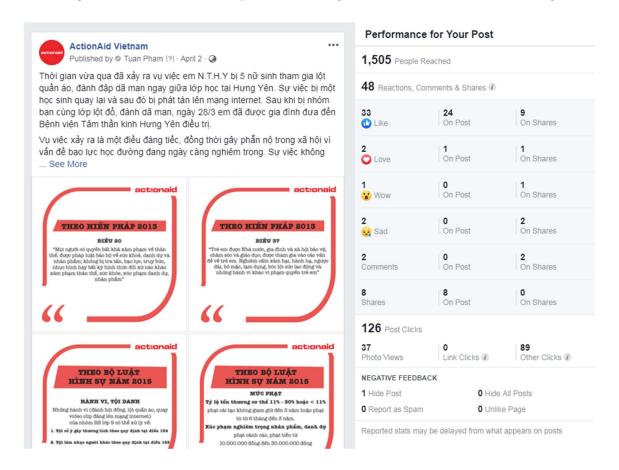
# Post Reach:





#### Most popular post in month:

05 articles were published in April, the post with the most engagement is about the case of sexual and physical violence among female students in Hung Yen province and ActionAid's opinion and call for action to end gender-based violence and promote building safe environment for women and girls.



# Annex: List of LRPs

LRP	District/City	Province/Municipal City	Region
7A	Quan Ba	Ha Giang	North
8	Thong Nong	Cao Bang	
11	Vinh Bao and An Lao	Hai Phong city	
25	Nho Quan	Ninh Binh	
12	Krong No	Dak Nong	Central Highland
18	Krong Bong	Dak Lak	
19	Lam Ha	Lam Dong	
21	Binh Tan	HCMC	South
23	Dong Hai	Bac Lieu	
24	Ke Sach	Soc Trang	
102	Tra Vinh city	Tra Vinh	