

ACTIONAID VIETNAM – MONTHLY UPDATES
January 2019

I. KEY HIGHLIGHTS/UPDATES

1. Assistance to provide accessible, affordable, and quality public services to the communities:
 - Health clinics are built/upgraded at commune and districts levels to meet the local needs for healthcare that had been voiced by the local people themselves; and
 - Expanded and improved kindergarten services for children of women migrant workers, sharing the burden of unpaid care work and contributing to realising the social rights of this neglected group of women in urban areas.

2. Literacy classes that do not simple teach the locals, particularly ethnic minority people, to read, write, and make calculations; but also give them knowledge to improve their livelihoods and paving the road to enhancing their voice and participation in demanding quality public services.

II. ACTIVITIES AND THEIR IMPACTS

1. Literacy classes open doors to better opportunities for local and ethnic minority people

In January 2019, Supporting Programme for Development (SPD) of LRP12 conducted two Reflect literacy classes for a target group of over 40 illiterate women and youths in Nam Dao and Nam Ninh villages, Nam NDir commune. These classes were organised in collaboration with the People’s Committee Education and Training Department, and Women Union of Krong No district.



Figure 1: The opening ceremony of the literacy classes

This series of literacy classes respond to the fact that illiteracy rate in Krong No districts is very high. According to the findings of the CSP VI baseline study by ActionAid in 2018, about 13% of the respondents (majorly Dao and M’nung ethnic minority people) had never attended school/class and were illiterate. As shared by the Director of the district Education and Training Department, the local people needed literacy classes that incorporate contents on livelihood development, as most of the illiterate persons came from also the poor households needing support to improve income as well.



Figure 2: A local woman practices writing in a literacy class

As a result, learners of these classes have not only become literate but also obtained knowledge about farming and a range of issues prevalent in the locality such as poverty, human rights to governance, public services. Furthermore, they will roll out the effect of these classes by teaching their children, spouses and relative. This training series will continue in the following months to enable more and more local, particularly ethnic minority, persons to read, write, and make calculations of income and expenses. Naturally, these basic capacities remove the barriers between them and opportunities to improve the results of their income generating activities (via access to credits, training classes, higher bargaining power in the market, etc.), promote education of their children, and encourage their voice to claim for rights and better public services. This makes significant contribution in community development, which is one of the expected results of AAV's CSP VI aiming at enhancing grassroots capacity and democracy for livelihoods development and advancing their entitled rights.

2. Advancing the accessibility and quality of local healthcare systems

To tackle the inadequacy of healthcare systems in LRP11 and LRP 18 and ensure high quality health services for local communities, especially the poor, ethnic minorities, women and children, ActionAid and ChildFund Korea join hands to build two health clinics in these areas (with the total budget of over 250,000 USD).

As reported in the CSPVI baseline research in LRP11, approximately 68,4% of the surveyed households did not received services at the commune health stations (CHSs), due to low quality of the CHSs (as claimed by 22,3% of respondents) lack of facilities (11%). Thus, ActionAid took a prompt response by taking a project to build a health clinic in Vinh An commune, Vinh Bao district. The new clinic will have five functional rooms serving local people's and children's needs for medical examination, consultation, and treatment. There will also be a child-friendly playroom for children patients, the special target group of this project. This clinic will help to improve the health and wellbeing of the local people, especially women and children in Vinh An commune by improving their access to quality healthcare services in their living area so that they will not have to travel to district hospitals.

In LRP18, on the other hand, more and more people prefer going straight to district healthcare facilities for services including birth giving and reproductive healthcare as shared by over 75% of the survey respondents. This shows an increasing demand for healthcare services at the district level which will be better accommodated once the Krong Bong district hospital is expanded and upgraded by a joint support by CFK and ActionAid. The upgraded hospital will be expanded by eight rooms (32 beds) providing a dedicated paediatric department and private spaces for obstetric and gynaecological examinations. The addition of newer facilities will help to ensure there are safe and clean spaces for local people especially women and children to be treated. It is estimated that this project will benefit directly 59,600 people and reach other 99,317 indirect beneficiaries.

These projects demonstrate ActionAid’s commit to assure access to affordable and quality health care services for local people, particularly women, children, and ethnic minority groups.

3. Helping women migrant workers by expanding and upgrading kindergarten services

Under the framework of the agreement between ActionAid and with ChildFund Korea to improve access to kindergarten for migrant families in Binh Tan district (LRP21), a group of CFK staff visited and worked with Cam Tu kindergarten and the Management board of SPD21 in January to prepare for a volunteer camp in February with the participation of 30 volunteers from Kyowon Co. Ltd. in Korea, the donor who has committed a project to expand the capacity of Cam Tu kindergarten. In the volunteer camp, Kyowon’s staff will participate in many interactive activities such as wall decoration, games, singing and dancing with children, helping teachers with care works, as well as engage in a variety of cultural exchange activities.



Figure 3: The visitors from Kyowon Co. Ltd. share lunch with a SPD21 project official and staff of Cam Tu kindergarten

This project funded by Kyowon Co. Ltd. will contribute to reduce the pressure caused by the influx of migrants on the available childcare available facilities of Binh Tan district. Currently, there is a serious lack of schools and kindergartens for children of migrant families, which fails to help with the burden of unpaid care work on the women. “I am from the South-West, I came here to work at Pougen Co. Ltd. Child rearing and education is a weighty for migrant women like me. Although there are local

kindergartens and nurseries, and the company does provide financial support for childcare expenses; these mostly benefit the more senior workers. New workers as I am must either leave the children to in the hometowns under the care of our parents or send them to private schools which cause VND 1,7 – 1,8 million (equivalent to almost USD) per month, exclusive of overtime service, other fees, and gifts to the teachers, etc.). We hope the company extent the support to us and the local authorities to expand the nurseries and kindergartens so that we can send our children will to safe and affordable childcare”, shared a migrant woman in the 48 Boarding House, Binh Tan district.

The findings of a research on social rights for women migrant workers conducted by ActionAid in 2018 show that despite the available and accessible public kindergartens, many women migrants do not benefit from these because of limited hours (work hours on weekdays only) while they work over-time and on Saturdays; extra-hour childcare in these facilities is requires extra charges. Those who work in the informal sector face financial difficulty; one shared “My child is three years old but remains at home because the kindergarten is costly, which is about 1,5 million Dongs/month”.

In parallel to policy advocacy for gender-responsive public services including quality and affordable kindergarten services for children; ActionAid efforts to make direct and concrete contributions to this goal itself. This project in Binh Tan district is the first of an expected series of kindergartens to be built and upgraded across the LRPs in Vietnam. The impacts shall be visible and significant in supporting the life of migrant women un urban areas.

III. TOWARDS A BRIGHTER FUTURE BUILT BY EMPOWERED INDIVIDUALS

Mr. Tran Gia Chien and his family live in Buon Ol, Dak Dr commune, Krong No district. They run one of the successful businesses in the community with an annual income of over one hundred million Dongs. The household has escaped from poverty, their income is growing, and the children’s schooling is ensured.

Married in 2003 with only a plot of 5 acres of gravel soil, Mr. Chien’s dealt with numerous difficulties. The couple had to work hard for just over 100,000 Dongs a day, which was barely not enough to afford living their living. They decided to get loans to acquire more land for agriculture; but the harvest was poor at first due to the drought. Gradually, with the support of the local, the household’s economy became more stable.

In 2015, Mr. Chien was introduced to a interest group of cow farming organised by a project supported by ActionAid. The group provided him with a loan of 14 million Dongs and technical training on farming skills, enabling him and his household to start breeding cows. After 3 years, with the hard work of the family, their cow herd has grown to 4 heads; all are healthy and reproducing well.



Mr. Chien and his cows

A year ago, they expanded the business to raising and breeding pigs, started with 5 heads which have now grown to 30, generating an annual earning of nearly 40 million VND. Besides, they invested in a pepper garden of nearly 5 acres with a harvest up to 1 ton per year.



Mr. Chien and his pepper garden

These achievements have been the results of the hard work of Mr. Chien and his family as well as the constant technical assistance and support from ActionAid. Recently, receiving technical training on keeping earthworms, Mr. Chien has boldly invested in raising earthworms to provide inputs for organic fertilizers and feed for the pigs.

With constant efforts and effective support by ActionAid, his family has been an inspiring and motivating model household for young people and other households in his community.

IV. REACHING OUT

1. Social Media: ActionAid Vietnam’s Facebook page:

Page view:

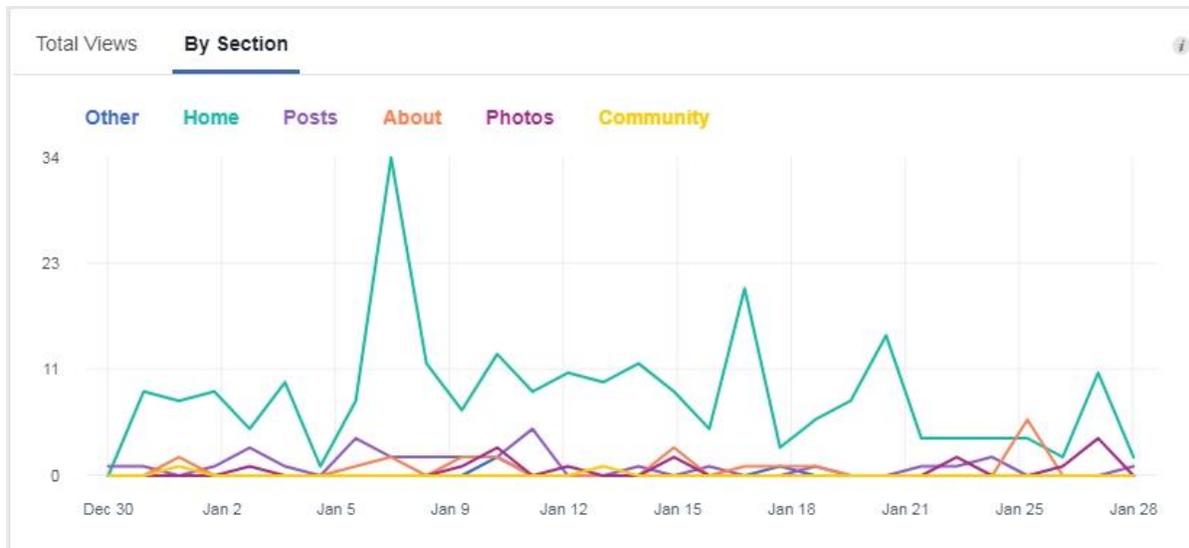


Figure 4: ActionAid Vietnam’s Facebook page - Views

Post Reach:

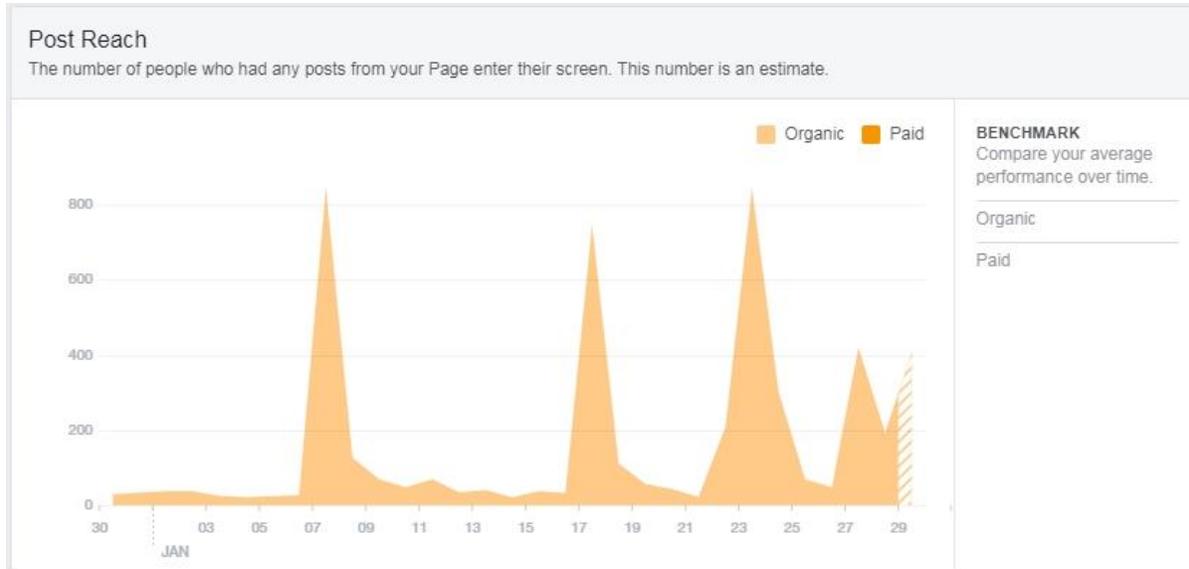


Figure 5: ActionAid Vietnam’s Facebook page - Post Reaches

