

ACTIONAID VIETNAM – MONTHLY UPDATES
February 2019

I. KEY HIGHLIGHTS/UPDATES

1. Between 19th and 20th February 2019, AAV’s Country Director, Ms. Hoang Phuong Thao took part in the Asia Regional CD/AD Forum in Bali, Indonesia. The leaders shared their countries’ highlights in 2018 and discussed key policy and strategic issues (e.g. financial sustainability and fundraising practices). The meeting also promoted and advanced collective leadership, team bonding and cohesiveness in programming and federation development under the global strategy towards 2020.



2. From 21st to 23rd February, the Governance and Board Development Committee (GBDC) had their first annual meeting of 2019 in Ha Noi, facilitated by ActionAid Vietnam and Aid for social protection program Foundation Vietnam (AFV). The GBDC members also met with AAV-AFV Management Board, had a discussion with AAV-AFV employees, and visited AAV’s LRP25 in Ninh Binh province. On behalf of the GBDC, the Convenor Ms. Janet Sallah-Njie thanked AAV-AFV for the warm welcome and excellent logistics facilitation, and pledged GBDC’s continued support to AAV-AFV in board development and affiliation processes.



II. ACTIVITIES AND THEIR IMPACTS

1. Organic ginger model reaped fruitful harvests

Under Project “*People Participation in improvement of forest governance and poverty alleviation in Vietnam*” which completed in 2018, 59 ethnic minority households in four communes of Cao Bang province developed a model of organic ginger production under the forest canopy. The aim of this model was to motivate the local people to maintain and protect the forest areas that they manage, whilst making sustainable earnings. Plus, the organic farming technique contributes to protecting consumers’ health and the environment.



In February 2019, these households had their first ginger harvests with encouraging results. The total 5.75ha of ginger production had produced 86 tons of ginger (averagely 15 tons/ha). 50 tons of ginger was sold for 320 million Dong, the remaining of 26 tons are maintained as inputs for the next season. Although the ginger of only 35 among 59 households met the organic criteria, the other 24 households were motivated to follow strictly the farming techniques to gain similar crops in the following season. It is expected that the

production area will soon be expanded by 5ha in the same districts. This hopeful outcome has affirmed the effectiveness of the model and its replicability. By adopting the organic ginger under forest canopy – an initiative supported by AAV, the local people, especially those from ethnic minorities, manage to make sustainable income from local natural resources in harmony with environment protection (an expected result under Programme Priority 1 of CSP VI).

2. Community visit by GBDC members to LRP25

As briefly highlighted, late February 2019, LRP25 received a visit by members of the GBDC of ActionAid International. During this trip, the GBDC members met with the community members who take part in AAV-AFV’s supported activities, particularly the project “*Promotion of disability inclusive and disaster prepared communities in Nho Quan*”. The GBDC learned about how the local disabled persons associate and help each other in livelihood development and participation in social, economic and political activities.



The GBDC members were introduced to the livelihood models of organic vegetable farming of Mr. Huy, a person with mobility difficulty in Thach Binh commune. His vegetable garden has been built and equipped to not only yield high productivity but also reduce labour work. Mr. Huy is so motivated that he has been using supporting a weaving workshop of local unemployed women. The GBDC members were impressed by how the persons with disability in LRP25 are supported and encouraged to demonstrate their capabilities and help not only themselves but also their communities.



3. Volunteer camp at a kindergarten in LRP21

From 27 to 28 February 2019, a volunteer event was held with 36 participants consisting of teachers and students in Cam Tu Kindergarten, staff and senior managers of Kyowon Group, representatives of ChildFund Korea, and local authorities in Binh Tan district, Ho Chi Minh city. Joining hands with the volunteer team, teachers and children in Cam Tu kindergarten painted the walls and decorated the campus of their school to be more child-friendly. Besides, the students engaged in interactive activities with the Korean friends and exchanged about two countries' cultures. These experiences help them become more confident to interact with the foreign visitors despite language differences; and demonstrate to the local educators the impacts interactive and experience education.



As part of this event, Cam Tu kindergarten received 20 sets of story books with CD ROM as presents from Kyowon, which would assist the teachers and children in interactive learning. The kindergarten headmistress and staff of SPD21 also had their organization skills improved. Remarkably, the district authority realised the shortage of kindergarten capacity in Binh Tri Dong A ward. Mr. Do Dinh Thien, Deputy Chairman of Binh Tan District People’s Committee (DPC) who is also the Head of SPD21 considers allocating more budget to improve kindergarten facility as matching fund to the project budget. On the donors’ side, they have gained better understanding about the situation in LRP21, particularly regarding children’s access and quality of early education services.

4. Evaluation and learning for better programming work at local level

On 18th and 26th of February, LRP19 and LRP12 successfully conducted two workshops to evaluate evaluating the results of activities in 2018 and consult the stakeholders about the work plans for 2019.

The workshops were chaired by the Head of SPD12 Mr. Nguyen Xuan Danh – Vice Chairman of Krong No DPC, and Head of SPD19 Mr. Nguyen Duc Tai - Chairman of Lam Ha DPC. Engaged in the discussions were representatives of the local targeted groups, community development groups, SPD staff, women unions, youth unions, farmer associations, and local authorities (Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, Department of Education and Training, and other organisations at district level).



The impacts of our programme work in these areas were reviewed by the beneficiaries and stakeholders. The participants acknowledged the good practices and suggested improvements to better serve the communities and contribute to achieve the results of CSP VI towards 2023.



The 2019 work plans of both SPDs were shared with the beneficiaries and stakeholders to consult for their recommendations. People from Krong No district (LRP12) expected the programme activities to be focused on vegetable value chain and sexual-harassment prevention. In LRP19, the priorities were also given to anti-sexual harassment activities, besides building safer environment for local communities, especially children. The SPDs received high commitments from the people, and representatives of local organisations governmental agencies.

5. Continued efforts to end sexual harassment at national and local levels

At national level, AAV collaborates with the Gender Equality Department (GED) within Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs to develop a training manual on sexual autonomy and bodily integrity (SABI). The training manual has been developed with an endeavour to raise women’s and public awareness on sexual harassment and how to prevent sexually harassing acts nationwide. In February 2019, the GED and AAV collaborated to finalise the manual basing on the comments and inputs from relevant stakeholders for expected printing and dissemination in March.

According to recently reports, sexual violence among adolescent in Vietnam is on the rise. Between 2011 and 2016, 322 cases had been reported on media, of which 60% of victims were at the age from 11 to 25 years old. In such context, AAV partners with the Institute for Social Development Studies (ISDS) to undertake the project *“Developing a comprehensive and replicable model of education, communication and building capacity for youth to prevent and respond to sexual violence”*. One of the initial activities of this project is to carry out a research on *“Sexual harassment among adolescents in Cao Bang and Hai Phong”*, tentatively in March 2019. In preparation for the field study, in February, AAV and ISDS collaborated to develop and finalise the research tools (including questionnaire and questions for in-depth interviews) and the survey schedules: 10-16 March in Cao Bang province and 25-29 March in Hai Phong city. The research focuses on accessing the current situation of sexual harassment and the knowledge and skills of adolescents in researched areas to prevent sexual harassment. The findings from this research are expected to provide a strong ground to develop and implement appropriate and effective interventions that contribute to ending sexual violence, including communications campaigns and policy advocacy to institutionalise the measures to prevent and respond to sexual violence among teenagers in Vietnam.

III. IMPACT STORY OF THE MONTH

Members of Community Development Groups (CDGs) improve their economic status and social positioning with the community initiative of rotating fund for production

Dak Dro was one of the poorest communes in Krong No district. However, the recent years have witnessed remarkable improvements in the life of many households in this area. The villagers, especially young people, have been cooperating with the local authority and AAV’s Supporting Programme for Development of Krong No district (SPD12) to carry out activities to stabilise and strengthen the local economic and social development. In such process, they have gathered and formed 12 community development groups (CDGs) in the district with more than 300 active members – the agents of change in their communities.

Mr. Nguyen Huu Khai, 35 years old, is a member of Village 9, Dak Dro commune, Krong No district. He demonstrates a typical example of how the youth in this community is changing their life to better.



Khai was born in a poor family of farmers who could not afford his high-school education. In 2008, he got married with a small amount of money which could bought him and his wife only 0.3 ha of land as initial investment to start their family life. They were only able to build a small house on that plot of land and used to plant and sell corn to make a living. With the average income of between 20 and 22 million Dongs (approximately 900 USD) per year from corn and seasonal labour, Khai found it hard to support his family of five people. Such income was barely enough to feed the whole family and afford the children's schooling. Besides, Khai had to borrow money for seeds and fertilizers at the beginning of each season; thus, he must use part of the little income to pay back the debt at the end of every harvest. As a result, his family was captured in a vicious circle of poverty.

In June 2015, Khai joined the Community Development Group (CDG) named Dong Tam in Dak Dro commune. His CDG runs a Community Development Fund (CDF – supported by SPD12) which gives rotating loans from one member to another for livelihood development. As a member of the CDG, Khai took part in several training courses on "Technique of caring and breeding goats" and developed a feasible and convincing idea of a goat breeding model which earned a loan from the CDF amounted to 11.5 million Dongs (equivalent to almost 500 USD). He and his wife spent 9.5 million Dong to buy three goats and invested the remaining money on animal lodging and feedings.



While raising the goats, Khai applied the techniques that he learnt during the trainings, as well as the skills in making production plan and accessing markets. After three years, the goat herd has grown to 15 heads which brings Khai's family an average annual income of about 35 to 40 million Dongs (1,500 – 1,700 USD), almost two times as much as their earning in the past. They have managed to settle all the debts, cover daily expenses, and afford the children's continuous education.

The initial success has inspired Khai and his wife to expand the breeding facilities, they also started raising chickens to improve the family meals. Their model is getting the attention of more and more people in the commune and from the neighbouring villages. Many have approached them to learn their production model and techniques. Khai has helped other households to develop their production models and gain similar or even greater results. The family, hence, is getting recognised and respected for their achievements and support to the fellow villagers. They have come from struggling to paddle through life to having an economically secured status and improved social position. He also contributes his

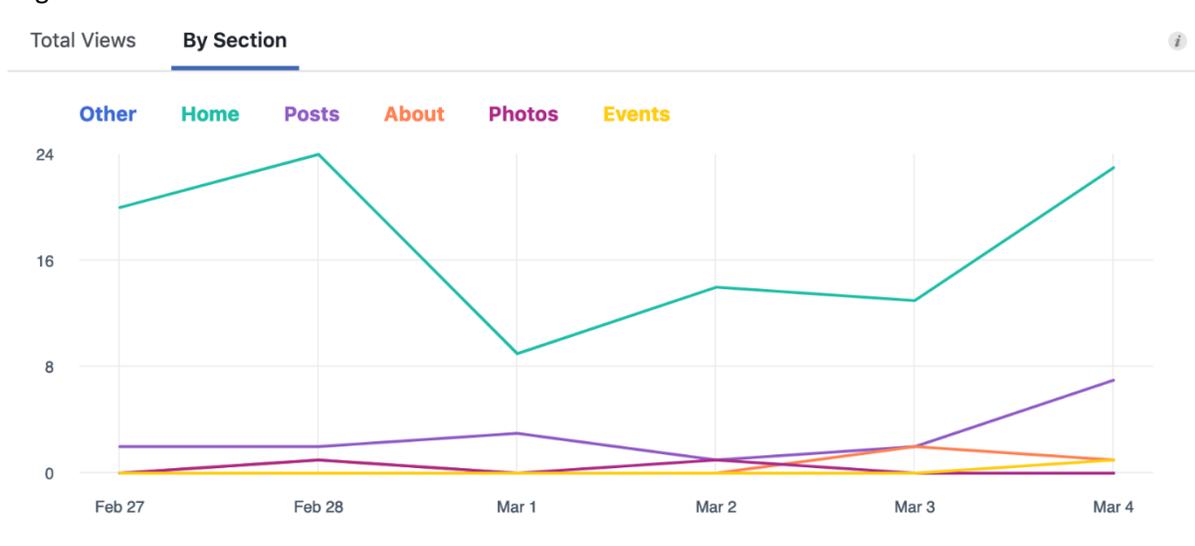
accumulated experiences to help SPD12 improve the standard models of breeding both goats and cows for broad replication among poor households in the district.

Khai and his CDG – Dong Tam, with their successful CDF, have gained higher recognition and support by not only the commune members but also the local authority. They have effectively changed their own lives and contributed to eradicating poverty in one of the poorest communes in the district.

IV. REACHING OUT

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

Page view:



Post Reach:



Most popular post in month:

In February, AAV had 05 articles posted on its facebook page, the post that received the most engagement is about the meeting of AAV’s Country Director – Ms. Hoang Phuong Thao and Ms. Nguyen Phuong Nga – the Chairwoman of Vietnam Union of Friendship Organisation on 26th February. During the meeting, the feminist leaders discussed the potential partnership in promoting the rights of women and girls.

ActionAid Vietnam
Published by Nguyen Phuong Thuy [?] · February 27 at 3:44 PM · 🌐

Chiều ngày 26/2/2019 tại văn phòng Liên hiệp Hữu nghị Việt Nam Bà Nguyễn Phương Nga, Chủ tịch Liên hiệp Hữu nghị đã có buổi tiếp và làm việc với Bà Hoàng Phương Thảo, Trưởng Đại diện tổ chức ActionAid Quốc tế tại Việt Nam. Tại buổi làm việc, hai bên đã trao đổi và bàn bạc kế hoạch hợp tác trong thời gian tới các hoạt động đảm bảo quyền lợi của phụ nữ và trẻ em gái.

On February 26th, 2019, Madam Nguyen Phuong Nga, Chairwoman of Vietnam Union of Friendship Organizations has welcome Ms. Hoang Phuong Thao, Country Director of ActionAid Vietnam in her office to discuss for the future cooperation program with ActionAid Vietnam which focus on girls and women's rights.

<http://vufo.org.vn/Actionaid-mot-trong-nhung-mo-hinh-hoat-d...>

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Actionaid: một trong những mô hình hoạt động tốt tại Việt Nam

Performance for Your Post

1,388 People Reached

139 Reactions, Comments & Shares 🔍

110 Like	33 On Post	77 On Shares
10 Love	2 On Post	8 On Shares
9 Comments	0 On Post	9 On Shares
10 Shares	9 On Post	1 On Shares

153 Post Clicks

2 Photo Views	42 Link Clicks 🔍	109 Other Clicks 🔍
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NEGATIVE FEEDBACK

0 Hide Post	0 Hide All Posts
0 Report as Spam	0 Unlike Page

Reported stats may be delayed from what appears on posts

Media coverage:

The event "Volunteer Camp" in February 2019 took place with media coverage as follows:

VTC10: (from 48m20s): <https://portal.vtc.gov.vn/chitiet/47666-ca-phe-ngay-moi-01-03-2019.html>

Youth Television: <https://youtu.be/2tgniJ3N8IU>

Vietnam News Agency Television: <https://youtu.be/BLFQ2vpDxUc>

The Voice of Vietnam: <http://vov4.vov.vn/TV/chinh-sach-dan-toc/chuong-trinh-tinh-nguyen-tang-cuong-tinh-huu-nghi-giua-viet-nam-han-quoc-c1199-243647.aspx>

Communist Party of Vietnam Online Newspaper: <http://www.cpv.org.vn/xa-hoi/gop-phan-dam-bao-quyen-tiep-can-giao-duc-cua-tre-em-514777.html>

Đầu tư Online Newspaper: <https://baodautu.vn/chuong-trinh-tinh-nguyen-han-quoc-ho-tro-tang-co-hoi-tiep-can-giao-duc-cho-tre-em-tphcm-d96104.html>

Thời đại Newspaper: http://thoidai.com.vn/tam-long-be-ban/chuong-trinh-tinh-nguyen-tang-cuong-tinh-huu-nghi-giua-viet-nam-va-han-quoc_t114c35n102164

Nhan Dan Newspaper: <http://www.nhandan.com.vn/xahoi/nhan-ai/item/39340702-chuong-trinh-tinh-nguyen-han-quoc-vi-tre-em.html>

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	