

**ACTIONAID VIETNAM – MONTHLY UPDATES**  
**March 2019**

**KEY HIGHLIGHTS/UPDATES**

**1. Exhibition on Safe cities and communities for women and girls:**

On 6 March 2019, ActionAid Vietnam joined the people of Ha Noi and a large number of embassies, research institutes, national and international non-governmental organisations in the launching event for "Safety Year for Women and Children", organised by the Vietnam Women’s Union. At the exhibition, AAV introduced the findings of the studies on "Safe cities and communities for women and girls" and "Unpaid care work" to the mass interested audience. AAV also welcomed HE Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc to visit and listen to the sharing of these studies.

This event was a valuable opportunity to mobilize agencies, organisations, research institutes and individuals to join hands to ensure and promote safety for Vietnamese women and children.



**2. Campaign #8for8 announces successful completion and paves the path for on-going interventions to make taxes work for women**

March 2019 marked the last month of the *Campaign #8for8*. Launched and hosted by the Tax and Fiscal Justice Asia (TAFJA), this selfie challenge calls for attention and action to realise tax justice for women’s rights. Aiming at upholding gender-just, progressive and transformative tax policies, #8for8 has drawn the attention of organisations, networks and individuals to the prevailing issues and mobilise them to act in solidarity with women around the world as they continue to struggle for genuine empowerment and the fulfilment of their rights (campaign summary video:

[https://youtu.be/RF\\_tBGU1Les](https://youtu.be/RF_tBGU1Les)).



**3. Training on "Human Rights Based Approach and Women's Rights" for staff and partners**

From 18-20 March, AAV-AFV's staff and national and local partners participated in a training course on "Human Rights Based Approach (HRBA) and Women's Rights". The training, under the instruction of Ms. Hoang Phuong Thao – Country Director of ActionAid Vietnam, helped to strengthen the participants' understanding about the historic development of humanitarian approaches, the processes of HRBA in intervention programme work, the issues of gender injustice and how to fight for gender equity. With the equipped knowledge, the trainees conducted case studies on women rights related issues and developed interventions to address them using the HRBA approach. Their analyses and proposal demonstrated their take-home knowledge and skills, which will be applied in their day to day development efforts.



**4. International Conference on Universal Social Protection, Labour, Security and Peace**

Organised by Asia Europe People's Forum, Social Justice Cluster and Integrated Development Society Nepal in Kathmandu from 4-6 April 2019., the conference was attended by around 200 participants coming from different countries and organizations across Asia and Europe. The discussions were focused particularly on labour rights, the weakening of trade unions, and the shrinking space for social movements.

AAV and AFV, with support from Rosa-Luxemburg-Stiftung Southeast Asia, attended the conference to share and exchange experience on promoting social rights for migrant workers under the project framework "Promoting Global Social Rights for Female Migrant Workers" that AFV is cooperating with RLS as well as AAV and AFV/AAV work on decent work and social protection.



## ACTIVITIES AND THEIR IMPACTS

### Preventing sexual harassment to build a safe environment for women and girls

#### Research on the awareness and knowledge about sexual harassment of teenagers and youths in secondary schools, high schools and universities

Under the framework of project “Developing a comprehensive and replicable model of education, communication and building capacity for youth to prevent and respond to sexual violence” co-implemented AAV and Institute for Social Development Studies (ISDS), a research team carried out two field surveys LRP11 and LRP8. Aiming at understanding the awareness and knowledge of relevant stakeholders on sexual violence, the research team interviewed students, teachers and parents in six schools (particularly two secondary schools), two high schools and two universities.



With the enthusiastic cooperation of the SPD staff in LRP8 and LRP11, in total, 1200 questionnaires, 46 in-depth interviews and 10 group discussions were conducted. Following the findings, AAV and ISDS will organize a workshop to share research results, which will provide evidence for policy advocacy and material to build an educational model to prevent sexual harassment among teenagers and youths.

**Communities taking actions to prevent sexual harassment**

In March 2019, the efforts to end sexual harassment continued in LRP12 with three training courses on for students in three secondary schools in Dak Dro, Nam Ndir and Dak Nang communes. The training adopted the material and guideline recently developed by AAV and the Department of Gender Equality the Ministry of Labours, Invalids and Social Affairs (MOLISA). Actively engaged in the training conducted with a child-friendly and participatory method, 120 students have acquired knowledge and skills to protect themselves and others against sexually harassing acts; at least 80% of them will become agents of change by helping other students in their schools, benefitting about 500 other students.



In LRP21, 8,075 students in seven primary schools took part in a campaign in Binh Tri Dong, Tan Tao A and Binh Hung Hoa B wards, creating a mass learning and communication event to obtain fundamental knowledge and practice suitable skills to prevent sexual violence and harassment. This was a continuation of initiatives initiated in other LRPs in 2018 to empower primary students to act against sexual harassment. As a development from the previous events (training courses and smaller-scaled talks), this innovative method managed to mobilise broad and active participation of pupils and teachers and acknowledgement of the local authorities.



While young girls are trained to protect themselves and help the others of the ages, female adults are empowered to become active agents in motivating the wide public awareness and actions. Thus, in LRP11, 30 members in safe the community groups participated in a training which equipped them with knowledge and skills to carry out communications activities as agents of change in their communities. It was estimated that after the training, 80% of the participants understood and practiced communication skills (making scripts and give presentations) and 90% of participants became capable of conducting communication plans for a small group on skills to prevent sexual harassment.

These chains of programmatic activities build a strong ground for developing safe cities and communities for women and girls; and advocating for improved national and local planning and budget allocation for protective public services. Such changes will contribute to achieving AAV’s Programme Priority 1 strengthen people’s capacity to build safe communities, and AAI’s PP 1 to address the structural causes of violence against women and girls and secure women’s economic justice.

## Addressing unpaid care work

### Campaigns to raise awareness on unpaid care work

On 08 March, over 400 local people and authority representatives in two communes of Dak Dro and Quang Phu (LRP12) energetically engaged in a Competition to celebrate the 109<sup>th</sup> year of the International Women’s Day and a Theatricalisation event to raise awareness for community members, especially men and boys, about unpaid care work (UCW). These campaigns assist the journey to creating the following changes:

- Change in perception of boys and men about burden of UCW and that UCW is women’s job, as well as of local authorities to result in increased more budget allocation for gender-responsive public services;
- Change in behaviours: men and boys share the housework with their mothers, wives, daughters, and sisters (cooking, washing, water collection, taking care of children, etc.);
- Change in social welfare: improved quality of public services to reduce the burden of UCW for women and girls, particularly: building and improving the quality of public health facilities; building public education institutions (kindergartens), developing mechanism to support credit/job training from social security programs for women, ensuring girls’ and women’s full access to social, health and unemployment insurance in accordance with state regulations;
- Changes in social position: increased and facilitated participation of women in community and social activities; their roles, capacity and contributions are recognised and promoted.



Learning and sharing to enhance capacities of communities, partners, and authorities to promote access to gender-responsive, child-friendly, and inclusive public services

### Engaging the media in advocacy for improved sexual reproductive healthcare (SRH)

On 28 March, with the facilitation of ActionAid Vietnam supported the Centre for Health and Communication Development (HCDC), more than 30 journalists from many press and media agencies (VTV, VOV, DRT, LDT, LHTV, KRB, Nhan Dan, Thanh Nien, Dak Lak, Lam Dong newspapers, etc.) gathered and established a media group specializing in SRH. As part of the project “CSO-led promotion of quality sexual and reproductive healthcare services” (EC4), this media group completed a two-day training course and studied about the project; will visit project areas in the future to work with the local beneficiaries and stakeholders.



It can easily be seen that media plays a significant role in disseminating information, advocating for policy change, and holding a strong influence on what people know, think and feel. Therefore, this activity aims to enhance the participation and influence of the media at district, province and national levels in promoting quality and gender-responsive SRH services.

**Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials on SHR and gender-responsive healthcare**

One of the key aspects under ActionAid’s Domain of Change #1 *“Building power of people living in poverty and exclusion”* is work with the communities and partners to create and share knowledge. In March, AAV cooperated with HCDC to design the draft IEC materials to reinforce training programmes on participatory governance, Gender Responsive Public Services (GRPS) and sexual reproductive healthcare (SRH). These materials as knowledge products of EC4 project are expected to induce behaviour change both at community and government level, contributing to shifting visible and invisible powers behind the current inequalities in GRPS and SRH.

The materials cover the main challenges in exercising the rights to participatory governance, GRPS and SRH as well as the relationship of gender, sex, poverty and development to analyse inequalities at the heart of development problems and redress unjust distribution of power that impede development progress. This IEC set includes one manual on SRH rights, one brochure on GRPS, one brochure on SHR, one brochure on consolidated impacts of the EC4 project. These materials have been designed and developed in friendly and attractive methods and will be used in both district and national level campaigns.

**HRBA and Participatory Approach are practiced in both decision-making and regular learning and skill development**

The LRP18 **SRH network's first quarterly meeting** of 2019 was conducted on 28 March. This network consists of members of the community SRH groups, the Women Union, local authorities, and other stakeholders. 32 members (29 women and 03 men) shared their experiences on organising community SRH meetings and discussed the topics for the next gatherings. As a result, they had their knowledge on SRH reinforced, learnt how to work with the communities more effectively, and developed an action plan for the SRH network in 2019.



In LRP18 and LRP19, two new **gender-responsive clinics** will be built in 2019 to provide quality healthcare services of the local people, particularly ethnic minority women and youths. In March, the setup of these clinics was finalised basing on the discussion and consensus between local authorities and representatives of healthcare department, specifically: (1) analyses of the local people's needs and the issues that they are facing; (2) details of the essential equipment, facilities, human resource and operational mechanism for the clinics to address the identified needs and issues. This helps to ensure the new clinics will best serve the particular groups in these areas and uphold their rights to accessible, quality, and gender responsive healthcare.



The Management Board of LRP18 and their local partners finalised the **design for the paediatric department construction** supported by ChildFund Korea (CFK). The design was developed based on ideas contributed by children, patients and communities; and was agreed by the Management Board of LRP18 and other stakeholders. Subsequently, the final design will be sent to Krong Bong District People's Committee for their review and approval before the transparent bidding process.



Similarly, the construction of a new **building at Cam Tu kindergarten**, Binh Tan, HCM city was brought into discussion between the Management Board of LRP21 and the pupils and teachers of the kindergarten, local authorities, stakeholders and partners. This series of consultation makes sure that the opinions of the direct beneficiaries and end users of the facility (pupils and teachers), managing bodies, and technical experts and taken into consideration in selecting the design that is most relevant, effective and efficient for this building.



**People with disabilities having their voice strengthened and raised to demand inclusive public infrastructure and social inclusion**

On March 20 & 21, 11 disabled people 17 people representing the local authorities and community in LRP25 took part in a training course on promoting social inclusion for disabled people. The participants worked together and agreed on actions to promote the active engagement of people with disabilities in social and daily life activities.

In the following week, 30 disabled in the same community joined a training to learn how to assess the current situation of local public infrastructure regarding its inclusiveness. They then applied the learnt tools and knowledge to assess the local public infrastructure in the three project communes and district centers such as: hospitals, clinics, schools, bus stops... these skills do not only help them to evaluate the extent to which these facilities are friendly and inclusive to people with disabilities, but also encourage their participation in advocacy to demand for their entitled rights to equal and quality public services.

**Women-led initiative to build community resilient with sustainable livelihoods**

In LRP102, the project “Women respond to natural disasters and climate change in Tra Vinh” was launched on March 22<sup>nd</sup>. This initiative is part of the effort to develop capacity of the people to build resilient community with the focus on women’s role. More than 60 participants from Government ministries, local authorities and representatives of WCDGs. During the workshop, participants were introduced to the project components and the WCDGs members. Participants also took part in discussion on building project’s implementation plan. In the afternoon session, AAV’s representative presented introduction of sponsoring contract’s requirements and conditions, its management and process. Following the launching, a training on “DRR focus on water supply for communities in risk” was conducted in Tra Vinh city from March 26<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup>, 2019. 26 participants who are core members of the WCDGs participated in this course and were introduced to DRR and climate change, how to manage and monitor DRR process. They also took part in exercises and apply new knowledge to develop DRR plan. 100% participants rated the training very useful in their daily life.

In 2018, with the support of AAV, the local people in LRP8 developed a livelihood model of growing organic ginger. After the first harvest early 2019, 26 households participating in this model continued with the new season with the ginger seedlings for with total planting area up to 1000m<sup>2</sup>. On March 5<sup>th</sup>, a technical training was conducted with 35 participants including households who were provided with ginger seedlings. Local agriculture officer and technical supporters also participated in this training. Participants of the training came from 05 communes: Can Yen, Luong Thong, Da Thong, township and Luong Can. The training focused on on-field techniques, providing knowledge on organic agriculture and its processes.

In LRP7A, the community work with AAV to develop Community-based Tourism model. In March, AAV invited Maboutik’s experts from Myanmar to conduct a 4 weeks training course on traditional linen production for 18 H’mong women in Quan Ba, Ha Giang. The experts instructed participants to produce 10 products based on models and available resources. Participants were also guided to create 10 prototypes for marketable products, Organize Chain Production, organize quality Control and initiate the book keeping system.

## IMPACT STORIES OF THE MONTH

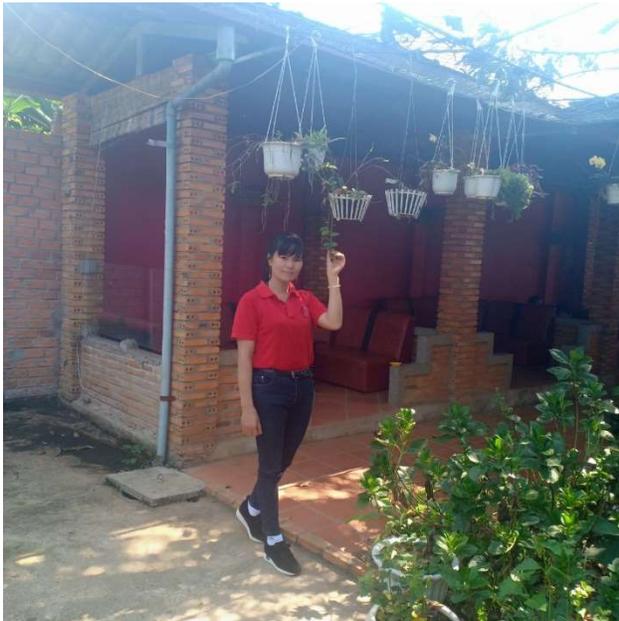
### Women feel more confident in participating in reproductive health project

Ms. Pham Thi Thim (1985) - a married woman with 3 children - is a member of the Reproductive Health Group (RHG) established under the project *“Civil society-led promotion of reproductive healthcare services”* (EC4). Being a Kinh person who is married to a husband of Tay ethnicity, and heavily influenced by the traditional cultures, Ms. Thim used to feel shy to communicate about the issues related to reproductive health, especially STD. For her, this was a taboo that better not be mentioned.

In 2017, the project *“Civil society-led promotion of reproductive healthcare services”* came to Thim’s area. Thim joined the RHG with other local women and since, she has been participating in various training courses on reproductive healthcare, family planning and other gender-related knowledge. She also takes part in group meetings to share her experience and learn from those of the team leaders and other group members. Gradually, Thim has become more confident and active in communication, especially about sexual and reproductive health issues. Furthermore, she has become a reproductive health counselor for herself, family and the community in her area.

With the confidence gained after the trainings, Thim and many other local women are now more active in participating and supporting the community activities where she lived. Along with training on reproductive health, capacity building courses to improve livelihoods in the area help her improve family’s quality of life. For instance, she has gained experience in planting and transplanting fruit trees, growing clean vegetables, thus helping her family's economy to be improved.

With ActionAid’s human rights-based approach (HRBA), the project *“Civil society-led promotion of reproductive healthcare services”* funded by European Commission in Vietnam (EC4) has empowered and raised Thim and other women voice to speak out their wishes and thoughts. Self-confidence in life have helped them significantly improve their lives both mentally and economically. These activities from the project also contributes to the SDG number 3 – Good Health and Well-Being and SDG number 5 – Gender Equality. Besides, Ms. Thim also expects the project to be more widely available to other people so that they can access knowledge that is more useful for life, especially knowledge on sexual and reproductive health care.



Ms. Nong Thi Be is a core team member who joined organic ginger cultivation model in 2018. She has seen the benefits of changing plant structure and switching to organic method. With support from AAV, Ms. Be participated in training courses on organic agriculture. During the process of implementation, Ms. Be also encouraged her neighbors apply this model. In 2019, she expanded her planting area to nearly 1 ha of organic ginger intercropped with peanuts. After harvesting, peanuts will be the fertilizer for the ginger. This has helped to reduce costs and time in production and increase income for the family.



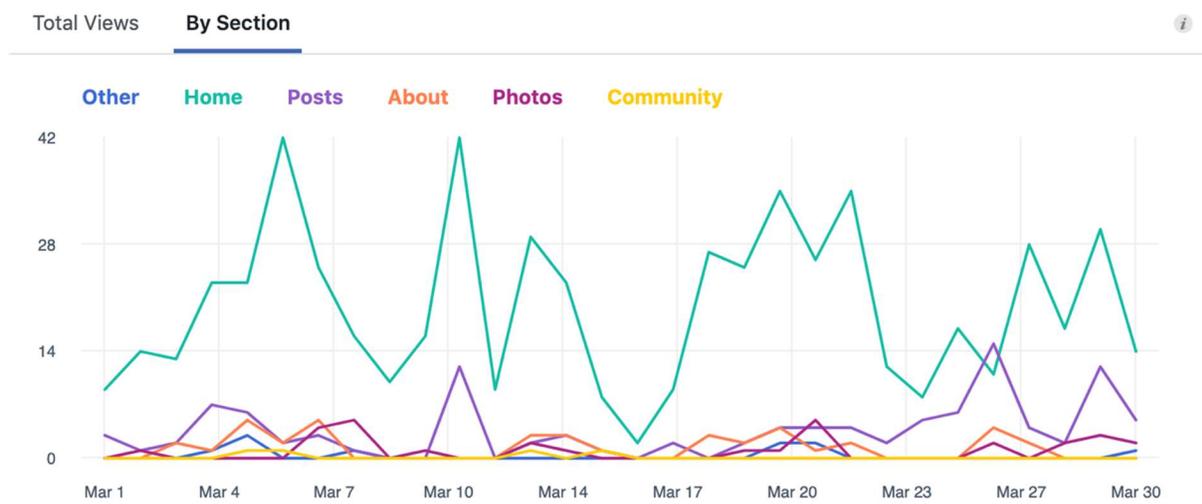
Ms. Be shared: *“I participated in the project activities such as training on human rights, technical training in planting organic ginger. But I am most interested in training courses on organic*

*agriculture. After studying, I applied new knowledge to my own production and encourage my family members, people around me to implement models of organic production. The District People's Committee and AAV/AFV support us to connect with consuming companies, this is a good opportunity for our people to develop our stable market”.*

## REACHING OUT

Social Media: ActionAid Vietnam’s Facebook page:

Page view:



Post Reach:



Most popular post in month:

March had 07 articles published, the post gets the most engagement as below:



**ActionAid Vietnam**  
Published by Tuan Pham [?] · March 6 at 1:56 PM · 🌐

(English below)

Sáng ngày 06/03/2019, tại Hà Nội đã diễn ra sự kiện "Lễ phát động năm An toàn cho phụ nữ và trẻ em" với sự tham gia của các Đại sứ quán, Viện Nghiên cứu và các Tổ chức phi chính phủ Việt Nam và quốc tế cùng đông đảo người dân Hà Nội. Sự kiện là cơ hội quý giá để vận động tất cả các cơ quan, tổ chức, viện nghiên cứu và cá nhân ở Việt Nam cùng chung tay hành động vì sự an toàn của phụ nữ và trẻ em Việt Nam.

Tại gian trưng bày, Tổ chức ActionAid Việt Nam đã giới ... [See More](#)

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**3,178** People Reached

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**138** Reactions, Comments & Shares <sup>?</sup>

<b>103</b> Like	<b>59</b> On Post	<b>44</b> On Shares
<b>19</b> Love	<b>15</b> On Post	<b>4</b> On Shares
<b>1</b> Wow	<b>1</b> On Post	<b>0</b> On Shares
<b>1</b> Comments	<b>1</b> On Post	<b>0</b> On Shares
<b>14</b> Shares	<b>14</b> On Post	<b>0</b> On Shares

**697** Post Clicks

<b>337</b> Photo Views	<b>0</b> Link Clicks <sup>?</sup>	<b>360</b> Other Clicks <sup>?</sup>
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**NEGATIVE FEEDBACK**

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**Media coverage:**

On March 6, 2019, the "**Safety Year for Women and Children**" event took place. Communications team has supported this activity including: Press releases, inviting press agencies to report on the event; designing and printing materials for ActionAid's display booth; supporting at the booth with media activities for ActionAid. Media coverage as table below:

No.	Media Agencies and Title	Publication Date	Content
TV – online video			

1.	<b>VTV1</b>  <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VGNRkMOjHsE&amp;feature=youtu.be">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VGNRkMOjHsE&amp;feature=youtu.be</a>	14/03/2019	<b>“2019 - Safety Year for Women and Children”</b>  This news gave information about the launching event “Year 2019 – Safety Year for Women and Children”. It filmed the event, provided information from ActionAid’s reports on safe city and women as well as interviewed Ms. Nguyen Phuong Nga – Chair of The Vietnam Union of Friendship Organizations, Ms. Hoang Phuong Thao – Country Director of ActionAid Vietnam.
<b>Online news</b>			
2.	<b>Communist Party of Vietnam Online Newspaper</b>  <a href="http://dangcongsan.vn/doi-ngoai/actionaid-viet-nam-tham-gia-le-phat-dong-nam-an-toan-cho-phu-nu-va-tre-em-515372.html">http://dangcongsan.vn/doi-ngoai/actionaid-viet-nam-tham-gia-le-phat-dong-nam-an-toan-cho-phu-nu-va-tre-em-515372.html</a>	06/03/2019	<b>“ActionAid Vietnam participated in the Launching Ceremony of Safety year for Women and Children”</b>  This news gave information about the launching event “Year 2019 – Safety Year for Women and Children”. It showed pictures from the event, provided information from ActionAid’s reports on safe city and women as well as quote of Ms. Hoang Phuong Thao – Country Director of ActionAid Vietnam.
3.	<b>New Newspaper</b>  <a href="https://baomoi.com/actionaid-viet-nam-tham-gia-le-phat-dong-nam-an-toan-cho-phu-nu-va-tre-em/c/29885803.epi">https://baomoi.com/actionaid-viet-nam-tham-gia-le-phat-dong-nam-an-toan-cho-phu-nu-va-tre-em/c/29885803.epi</a>	06/03/2019	<b>“ActionAid Vietnam participated in the Launching Ceremony of Safety year for Women and Children”</b>  This news gave information about the launching event “Year 2019 – Safety Year for Women and Children”. It showed pictures from the event, provided information from ActionAid’s reports on safe city and women as well as quote of Ms. Hoang Phuong Thao – Country Director of ActionAid Vietnam.
4.	<b>Nhan Dan online</b>  <a href="http://www.nhandan.com.vn/nation_news/item/39405002-hanh-trinh-binh-an-vi-an-toan-cho-phu-nu-va-tre-em.html">http://www.nhandan.com.vn/nation_news/item/39405002-hanh-trinh-binh-an-vi-an-toan-cho-phu-nu-va-tre-em.html</a>	06/03/2019	<b>"Peaceful journey" for safety for women and children</b>  This news gave information about the launching event “Year 2019 – Safety Year for Women and Children”. It showed pictures from the event, provided information from ActionAid’s reports on safe city and women as well as quote of Ms.

			Hoang Phuong Thao – Country Director of ActionAid Vietnam.
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## 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	