MONTHLY UPDATES
May 2019
ActionAid Vietnam

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May 14, the National Week for Natural Disaster Preparedness and Control was launched in Haiphong city, aiming to encourage all level authorities, organizations and people to stand ready for disaster combat, with attention prioritized to the vulnerable groups like the elderly, people with disabilities, women, children, and ethnic minority people. It is estimated that by May, 2018, natural disasters have caused 224 people dead and missing, and 20 trillion VND in economic losses (VOV May 22). The local livelihoods as well as the country’s sustainable development are badly affected.

Responding to the increasing intensity of climate hazards, AAV has been working closely with the affected communities, especially in Mekong Delta to build their preparedness and resilience to climate change, focusing on sustainable livelihoods.

Image source: https://vietnamnews.vn/environment/519930/national-week-for-natural-disaster-preparedness-launched.html#GPfojiY7FqArUs2j.97
May 2 – 4 in Bonn, Germany, Ms. Hoang Phuong Thao – AAV’s Country Director was honored to represent the "Leave No One Behind" coalition at the SDG Global Festival of Action, focusing how to make the VNR an effective tool for multi-stakeholder cooperation in SDG implementation and monitoring.

Bringing the voice and experience from the ground to the global SDGs discourse, AAV Leave No One Behind are contributing efforts to make the VNR process more inclusive in light of the variations in what SDGs mean to different countries.
On the afternoon of May 15, AAV was honored to welcome H.E. Kari Kahiluoto - Ambassador of Finland to Vietnam at our office in Ha Noi. The Ambassador listened to reports on AAV’s programs and projects and their impacts, and discussed the priorities in Vietnam’s inclusive and sustainable development.

These discusses has broadened the space for future cooperation between the Finnish Government and AAV to better support the Vietnamese communities.
May 13, a delegation of AAV and AFV attended Rosa-Luxemburg-Stiftung Southeast Asia’s conference marking their 10th anniversary with the theme "Achievements & future prospects". The conference included sessions discussing social justice, change of ecological society, and future perspectives on ASEAN.

Ms. Hoang Phuong Thao represented AAV and AFV’s delegation and delivered a presentation on “Social rights for internal women migrant workers in Vietnam – a note for policy makers and NGO actors in ASEAN”, stressing how female migrant workers in both formal and informal sectors are being marginalised from the development processes. She took the opportunity to called for development workers to gear their attention to the struggle of migrant workers – a shared issue of ASEAN countries which requires adequate regional policies to address.
May 27, project “Improving healthcare facilities for women and children at Ward 9, Trà Vinh city” announced its successful completion with a new healthcare clinic with 9 fully-equipped treatment rooms and private facilities for male and female, and children patients.

May 30, a delegation of the donors: Hanwha Life Vietnam and ChildFund Korea visited the health clinic to regard the its status and operation.

Providing clean, safe and private facilities, the new clinic has substantively improved the accessibility, quality, and gender-responsiveness of healthcare services for the communities in this area. It is especially appreciated by the poor, ethnic minorities, women and children, those who used to have difficulties in getting adequate and proper healthcare in the past.
In Hồ Chí Minh city, 11 members of the Local Activist Groups Against Sexual Harassment groups gathered and learnt about sexual autonomy and body integrity. Their counterparts in Hải Phòng city (20 women workers) went through a 3-day to make videos with daily footages to their stories.

After the training, these agents of change have become capable to:
- better understand about sexual harassment, its the causes and consequences, and available mechanisms to cope with attacks
- provide counselling, case management and emergency support for victims in their factory
- document and share about the actual situation of sexual harassment in their factories

Enabling individuals to be capable of protecting themselves and others in their communities makes the start to build effective mechanisms to eradicate inappropriate behaviours and sexual abuse at the work place.
May 6 – 8, in Đắk Lắk province, 38 representatives of AAV’s partners across the country took part in a ToT course on skills to prevent school-based violence and sexual harassment. The course was organised by AAV in cooperation with Community Knowledge Center (CKC).

Going back to their LRPs, these core trainers will support communities to detect sexual harassment behaviours, analyse their consequences, and build tools/mechanisms to prevent and respond to attacks, contributing to the objective of building safe communities for women and girls.
ACTIVITIES AND IMPACTS
Prevention of sexual harassment and school violence

Following the ToT at national levels, a series of training courses on “Preventing sexual abuse and school violence” for primary and secondary students took place in 4 communes in LRPs 12 and 19.

With creative participatory tools: multiple choice questions, role plays, group discussions, etc., the training managed to engage hundreds of students. Through active participation, they are able to identify perpetrators based on manifestations, and how to protect themselves and seek support when attacked. With boosted confidence and communication skills, they are encouraged to share with family and friends, contributing to building communities of students, parents and teachers well aware to combat sexual harassment against children.

The collaboration between AAV and local schools is part of AAV’s joint efforts with local stakeholders to build safe cities/communities for women and girls.
On May 5-7, 28 members of the Women-led Community Development Groups in LRP 102 participated in a Participatory Vulnerability Analysis (PVA) training course. In addition to acquiring information on disaster risks, the trainees practiced the tools for community-based disaster risk management, including the disaster history, seasonal calendar, disaster risk mapping, and disaster ranking.

Being able to evaluate the risks of natural hazards, the community’s vulnerability, these women will identify the gaps in their capacity to respond to disasters. Based on such information, they will take the leading roles in building appropriate and effective action plans and solutions to address those gaps and enhance their resilience. A safer and more sustainable community will be developed step by step with their active and persistent efforts.
346 students and teachers of 5 primary schools in LRP23 and LRP102 took part in separate PVA training courses and learnt about: (i) Natural hazards and potential damages to people’s lives; (ii) Climate change and people’s behaviours that have caused and are worsening it; (iii) The Dos and Don’ts in case of emergency; and (iv) The changes they should make in their daily lives to protect the environment and mitigate climate change’s impacts.

95% of the students reflected that they understood the contents and would confidently practice what they had learnt. These training activities were highly practical as the students were enabled to support their parents in preparing and responding to disasters. In longer terms, the daily activities that they perform differently will little by little bring about a shift in living habits of the community. Promoting grassroot-level actions have been widely recognized as an effective approach to accompany top-down measures to curb climate change.
Trương Thiên Kim, aged 12, lives in Cái Keo hamlet, An Phúc commune, Đồng Hải district, Bạc Liêu province

“My friends and I attended the PVA class for 4th and 5th graders. After the training, I will no longer play in a low and unsafe places or near the river side where the bank has collapsed. I also learnt to not get in the water if there are broken electricity wires. Burning or cutting down trees in the forests for illegal logging are bad as well, it harms the environment.

On the other hand, I will make sure to eat cooked food, drink clean and boiled water, and sleep in mosquito nets. Following the weather forecasts on TV, I will help my parents reinforce and embank around the house to prevent floods.

Before the training I did not know that small actions like planting trees, not littering, and cleaning up the surroundings can help to mitigate disasters. Small action – Big impacts. I look forward to more events like this to know more interesting things and tell my family and friends to apply in our daily lives.”
Media coverage

Closing workshop of project *Improving healthcare facilities for women and children in Ward 9, Tra Vinh city*

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Media coverage

Donors’ visit to Health Clinic in Ward 9, Tra Vinh city

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Facebook page

1. Page view

Number of views at AAV Facebook page

Number of viewers by age and gender
Facebook page

2. Reach

Post Reach
The number of people who had any posts from your Page enter their screen. This number is an estimate.
3. **Most popular post in month**

**ToT on skills to prevent gender-based violence and sexual harassment for partners**