



**ACTIONAID VIETNAM
ANNUAL REPORT
2020**

**TOGETHER, WE SHALL
COME BACK STRONGER!**

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ACTIONAID VIETNAM



1. About ActionAid Vietnam (AAV's Map; Vision – Mission - Values)

ActionAid is a global justice federation working to achieve social justice, gender equality and poverty eradication. Throughout the world, ActionAid works to strengthen the capacity and agency of people living in poverty and exclusion, especially women, to assert their rights. ActionAid is present in 45 countries around the world and is actively involved in poverty eradication and development efforts in Asia, Europe, the Americas and Africa.

ActionAid Vietnam (AAV) is an organic part of ActionAid International (AAI), and officially became an Associate Member of the AAI Federation in June 2015. Opening the Representative Office in Vietnam in 1992, AAV has been operating in the country for 28 years through long-term local rights programmes in Northwest (mountainous areas), Central Highlands, the Mekong Delta and disadvantaged urban areas.



Vision

A just, equitable and sustainable world in which every person enjoys the right to a life of dignity.



Mission

To achieve social justice, gender equality and poverty eradication by working with people living in poverty and exclusion, their communities, people's organizations, activists and social movements.



Values

Mutual respect: requiring us to recognize the innate worth of all people and the value of diversity.

Equity and justice: requiring us to ensure the realization of our vision for everyone, irrespective of gender, sexual orientation and gender identity, race, ethnicity, caste, class, age, HIV status, disability, location and religion.

Integrity: requiring us to be honest, transparent and accountable at all levels for the effectiveness of our actions and our use of resources and open in our judgments and communications with others.

Solidarity with people living in poverty and exclusion: will be the only bias in our commitment to the fight against poverty, injustice, and gender inequality.

Courage of conviction: requiring us to be creative and radical, bold and innovative – without fear of failure – in pursuit of making the greatest possible impact on the causes of poverty, injustice, and gender inequality.

Independence: from any religious or party-political affiliation.

Humility: recognizing that we are part of a wider alliance against poverty and injustice.

2. Message from Executive Director

Dear supporters, partners, communities and friends,

2020 was a historic and consequential year with the global outbreak of the Coronavirus (COVID-19), which posed unprecedented challenges to millions of people around the world. Devastating human toll and negative economic impacts have been reported worldwide, but at the same time, we are humbled by the collective and innovative efforts in response. ActionAid Vietnam is proud to be an integral part of global movements that work towards hope, solidarity and a shared sense of global togetherness in the face of this pandemic.

Since the beginning of October 2020, Central Vietnam has been pounded by consecutive tropical storms and typhoons, causing the worst flooding and landslides in 100 years. According to the Global Climate Risk Index, Vietnam is one of the most at-risk countries for climate-related disasters in the world. The reality of climate change is unequivocal and undeniable. Together with our communities and peers across Vietnam, AAV is taking a great leap forward in promoting coherent approaches for the transformation of communities that are resilient and adaptive to all forms of disasters.

2020 was also the milestone that marked the end of the Government's current tenure and the last year of the implementation of Vietnam's five-year Socio-economic Development Plan 2016 - 2020. It is the critical transitional year for Vietnam to prepare for the next Five-year Development Plan (2021-2025) and for the Ten-year Development Strategy (2021-2030). On our journey to achieve social justice, gender equality and poverty eradication, AAV have joined hands with the Government of Vietnam and competent bodies to shift unequal and unjust power, to take action from grass-roots to local, national and international levels.

The year 2020 wrapped up the implementation of the ASEAN-UN Plan of Action 2016-2020, which is part of the ASEAN-UN Comprehensive Partnership and addresses the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Paris Agreement on climate change, gender equality and women's empowerment, among other issues. As an associate of international networks and

alliances, AAV continues our proactive engagement in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) progress, with high focus on climate justice and tax equity to support vulnerable communities solving environmental crises and unequal access to public services.

AAV is halfway through our Country Strategy Paper VI (CSP6). Amidst the challenges and obstacles that have arisen, we found our call for justice resonated: partnerships with institutions and the private sector coming to fruition, cooperation with peer civil society organisations well cultivated, and solidarity with local communities further strengthened. We believe that collective efforts can be more influential and impactful when integrating with campaigning and policy advocacy to drive structural changes.

Guided by our Human Rights-based Approach (HRBA), AAV commit to interlink long-term rootedness in communities, solidarity with people's organisations, social movements and other allies to leverage our strength and empower our priority groups – women, children, youth, female migrant workers, people with disabilities and ethnic minorities. A brighter and more sustainable future can be achieved, against all odds, by mutualism and collaboration at all levels.

Together, we shall come back stronger!

Yours sincerely,

Hoang Phuong Thao
Executive Director
ActionAid Vietnam

PART II: 2020 HIGHLIGHTS





1. COVID-19 PANDEMIC



The COVID-19 pandemic is an infectious pandemic caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus and its variants. On March 11th, 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared this novel coronavirus disease as a global pandemic.

According to Worldometers statistics, by January 1st, 2021, the world recorded a total of 83,770,254 cases, of which 1,824,374 deaths and 59,307,030 cases have been fully recovered. The three most severely affected countries included the US, India and Brazil.

The acute respiratory infection caused by the new strain of Coronavirus (COVID-19) broke out and spread around the world, dramatically affecting the world economy in 2020. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) reported global growth was projected at -4.4 percent in 2020¹. With strives to stamp out COVID-19 outbreak, social distancing measures are implemented worldwide, and many production activities are halted as a result. The supply chain is disrupted, affecting global trade and investment activities, thereby reducing the growth of the world economy in general and many countries and regions in particular.

In Vietnam, the first cases appeared from January to March 2020. From April 1st 2020, Vietnam implemented the first social distancing period for 15 days. On the same day, Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc declared the COVID-19 epidemic nationwide. Since the first case, Vietnam has detected 1,465 COVID-19 cases with 35 deaths by the end of 2020.

As most countries, Vietnam has also been suffering from the COVID-19 pandemic. The disease has negative impact on the economy, resulting in the lowest GDP growth of 2020 in the period 2011-2020 (estimated at 2.91%)². COVID-19 affects all aspects of socio-economic life including economic growth, commercial activities, labor, employment and income of workers.

Obviously, the COVID-19 pandemic has severe health effects, serious implications for economic growth and social development; but it also brings opportunities. Countries that could take advantage of opportunities will be able to rise strongly after the pandemic while countries that do not take advantage of opportunities will face many difficulties in the post-COVID-19 context.



2. 'LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND' AGENDA AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDG) PROGRESS



At the United Nations Summit in September 2015 in New York, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was unanimously adopted by UN members, setting out 17 common goals, 169 specific targets and 230 indicators for implementation from 2015 to 2030. The Sustainable Development Goals call for global action to eradicate poverty, protect the environment and ensure the peace and prosperity for people everywhere.

Vietnam has issued the National Action Plan to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This Plan consists of 17 sustainable development goals and 115 specific targets, showing Vietnam's commitment to the common international effort for sustainable development. The implementation of the National Action Plan in Vietnam has achieved encouraging results, which is reflected in the change of Vietnam's ranking in the sustainable development index in a United Nations's survey. While in 2016, we ranked 88th in sustainable development index, by 2020, with great efforts, Vietnam has ranked 49th³.

In all sustainable development goals, **"Leave no one behind"** is the ultimate goal for the effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In the past 5 years (2016 – 2020), the Vietnam economy has created more than 8 million new jobs for people, including people of working age and those who lost their jobs before. The average income per employee is nearly USD 5,000 a year. Notably, Vietnam's income inequality is among the lowest compared to other countries in 2019. The proportion of multidimensional poverty household in 2020 reduces more than a half, to compare with 2016, from 9,9 percent in 2016 to 4,8 percent in 2020⁴.

Regarding education targets, Vietnam's education index has made remarkable progress. General education was equivalent to the group of developed countries (OECD), in the top 40; Higher education is in the top 70, while



vocational training is in the 90. Compared with other countries at the same level of development, Vietnam's human development index, according to the latest assessment of the World Bank, ranked 69th.

Despite being heavily affected by climate change impacts and natural disasters, in recent years, Vietnam has developed effective strategies adapting to climate change such as enhancing forest protection, promoting clean energy, and especially improving disaster response capacity. According to the Sustainable Development Report 2020, Vietnam is the only South-east Asian country to achieve the five action goals of the United Nations, including performing measures to reduce CO2 emissions, promoting renewable energy and strengthening resilience to climate change.

Vietnam is also considered a bright spot in international cooperation and peace enhancement. In 2020, Vietnam has built official relations with 189/193 countries; signed 15 Free Trade Agreements (FTAs), ratified the EU-Vietnam Free Trade Agreement (EVFTA) and Investment Protection Agreement (EVIPA) following almost 10 years of negotiations; and signed the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (RCEP).

The mobilization of resources for the implementation of the sustainable development goals in the coming years is expected to face many difficulties and challenges, especially in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. However, Vietnam is determined to comply with the sustainable development goals. Vietnam considers sustainable development as a cross-cutting goal in the country's development strategy, and commits with all efforts to successfully implement Vietnam's sustainable development goals in the National Action Plan.

3- <https://en.vcci.com.vn/vietnam-ranks-49th-in-sustainable-development-index>
4- <http://www.mpi.gov.vn/Pages/tinbai.aspx?idTin=47534&idcm=140>

Highlights of the year



1. EMERGENCY RESPONSE TO COVID-19:

The Coronavirus (COVID-19) has resulted in unprecedented human, social, and economic impacts across the globe, affecting billions of lives in vulnerable and disadvantaged communities. In Vietnam, an estimate of 30.8 million workers suffered heavily from the effects of COVID-19, of which 2.4 million lost their jobs during the prolonged lockdown period in 2020 alone, adding to the ever-increasing unemployment rate of the whole country.

In an effort to find a solution to the crisis at hand, and to stand in solidarity with those most affected by COVID-19, from April to November 2020, ActionAid Vietnam (AAV) has implemented a series of activities to support people in 11 provinces and cities of Vietnam during pandemic and post-pandemic recovery.

The total amount of **support package valued up to VND 3.5 billion (GBP 111,087)**. Following the outbreak, AAV and local partners have **delivered a total of 2,199 support packages, each of which contains essentials such as hand sanitizer, face masks, food and a personal hygiene kit, for 7,300 people.**

Furthermore, with AAV's assistance, **more than 1,700 households were able to preserve and restore their livelihoods**, as well as having access to clean water and environmental sanitation post-pandemic. **Over 6,800 students in 05 primary and secondary schools were supported to return to school after a long period of social distancing.**

Aiming to raise public awareness, particularly for ethnic minorities on pandemic prevention, AAV has also successfully developed two sets of communication packages (01 set of infographics and 01 video clip) on COVID-19 prevention illustrated in 05 ethnic minority languages (Mong, Tay, Khmer, E De, Dao) and Vietnamese. The communication program was able to reach nearly 100,000 local people.





2. EMERGENCY RESPONSE TO NATURAL DISASTERS IN CENTRAL VIETNAM

Typhoons Noul, Linfa, Nangka, Saudel, Molave and Goni have hit Central Vietnam and Central Highland from September to November 2020, sweeping away thousands of houses and schools, causing serious damages to the lives of 1.5 million people, including 753,000 women and girls, across 10 provinces in Vietnam.

The series of natural disasters provoked devastating landslides and heavy floods. As of November 22nd 2020, 249 people were killed and/or missing due to the natural disasters. More than 924 hectares of rice, 106,000 hectares of cash crops, 461,000 livestock and poultry have been swallowed under the water. The total damage caused by the flood is estimated to be over VND 30 trillion (GBP 952 million). Around 300 local schools have been heavily damaged, forcing more than 10,000 students in Thua Thien Hue and Quang Tri provinces to stay out of school.

In 2020, AAV will **provide emergency aid to communities affected by floods and natural disasters in the three central provinces of Quang Tri, Thua Thien Hue and Quang Nam**. The support package, which **valued up to VND 2,141,870,000 (GBP 67,981)**, has reached and helped **1,133 households and more than 6,000 students**, promoted post-disaster recovery, and played a key role in helping disadvantaged people and children overcome these dire impacts and rebuild their lives.

- 13,770 notebooks, 12 bicycles and 16 bookshelves were delivered to 1,377 students of Nguyen Huu Da secondary school, Quang Phu 2 primary school, Pho Ninh primary school, Phong Xuan secondary school, Tay Bac Hien primary school, and Phong An secondary school in Thua Thien Hue province.
- 250 packages of household utensils and sanitary kits were provided to 100 local women in 3 communes of Quang Tho, Quang Ngan and Quang Cong - Quang Dien district and 150 women in Phong My and Phong Xuan communes, Phong Dien district, Thua Thien Hue province. Each package included 01 saucepan, 01

blanket, 01 mosquito net, 01 pair of boots, 03 sanitary pads and 2 pillows. These are essential items for girls and women whose basic living conditions have been affected by the disasters.



- 30 tons of organic fertilizer were provided to households of Quang Thanh commune, Quang Dien district, Thua Thien Hue province whose vegetables had been damaged by heavy rains and floods.

- 12,500 tons of rice seeds were delivered to 400 households in Hai Duong commune, Hai Lang district, Quang Tri province. The organic fertilizer and rice seeds were distributed to support local farmers in restoring their farming practice as well as reducing their economic burden.

- 40 sets of student desks, 2 teacher desks and financial support were provided to reconstruct the school fence and repair the library of Trieu Long primary and secondary school in Trieu Phong district, Quang Tri province. This provided 694 students and teachers with a safer and enabling environment for their learning and teaching.

- 03 toilets and a playground for school children were renovated for 560 students at Phong Chuong and Nguyen Huu Da primary schools in Quang Dien and Phong Dien districts, Thua Thien Hue.

- 04 disadvantaged ethnic households with 16 members in Ca Dy commune, Nam Giang district, Quang Nam province were provided with financial aid to rebuild their houses and resettle their lives.





3. TAX AND FISCAL JUSTICE ASIA (TAFJA)

The Tax and Fiscal Justice Asia (TAFJA), formed in Bangkok, Thailand in March 2014 is an alliance of movements, peoples' organizations, NGOs and networks of constituencies in South Asia, East Asia, Southeast Asia and Australia. It belongs to the Global Alliance for Tax Justice (GATJ), a growing movement of civil society organisations and activists, including trade unions, united in campaigning for greater transparency, democratic oversight and redistribution of wealth in national and global tax systems. As a proactive member of GATJ, in recent years, AAV has joined hands with the Alliance, member organizations and partners to implement various activities for both domestic and international tax justice.

In 2020, GATJ initiated the **"Global Days of Action on Tax Justice Amidst the COVID-Induced Crisis"** campaign from 14th - 17th September 2020. Within the framework of the campaign, on September 15th 2020, an online rally was organized by the Asian Peoples Movement on Debt and Development (APMDD) and TAFJA.

On the same day, a discussion session was held in Hanoi by AAV, focusing on Tax reduction burden on people living in poverty; Regressive tax Repeal; Making tax and fiscal policies work for women; and Tax justice for COVID-19 response. Through practical activities during the Global Days for Action, AAV has shown its strong stand and contribution as an active and responsible member of GATJ and TAFJA, and as an agent of change working in solidarity with communities for tax justice for a just and sustainable society.



Photo 1: ActionAid Vietnam's staff held a discussion in Hanoi to promote "Global Days for Action on Tax Justice Amidst the COVID-Induced Crisis" campaign initiated by GATJ

PART III: PROGRAMME IMPACTS



1. ENGAGE YOUNG STUDENTS IN GREEN PRACTICES OF 'REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE' THROUGH "PLASTIC-FREE SCHOOL" CAMPAIGN



Climate change has long been a source of concern in many countries, including Vietnam. Every time the sea level rises for just one meter, 5% of the country's land, 11% of its population and 7% of its agricultural land would be heavily affected, resulted in an estimated GDP loss of around 10%. Climate change is a real threat to

Vietnam's socioeconomic development and Vietnam will need USD 850 million per year for climate change projects from now until 2050.

The Vietnamese Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MoNRE) has officially unveiled a national climate change plan as well as a scenario for climate change and sea level rise in the country. The national strategy aims to offer a solid framework for developing long-term socioeconomic development plans in the face of climate change problems, and it will allow Vietnam to create and trial a community-based climate change adaptation model.

In response to AAI's Climate Justice campaign, in 2020 ActionAid Vietnam continued to launch the **"Plastic-free Schools" campaign in 351 schools in 11 LRPs**, where it has been met with enthusiasm by many local students and teachers.

- A series of 06 training courses was held at 06 local schools within LRP25 - Nho Quan district, Ninh Binh province (Cuc Phuong primary school and kindergarten, Ky Phu primary school and kindergarten, Thach Binh primary school and kindergarten) with the intention of educating local students about the effects that plastic waste has on the environment, at the same time encouraging them to reduce their consumption of single-use plastic products by using recyclable products made from environmental-friendly materials. The training, attended by **3,480 students (1,914 female and 1,566 male students)**, enhanced students' understanding of the detrimental consequences of plastic trash via interactive lessons: visual teaching tools, promotion poster drawing, costume making contest using recycled and eco-friendly material. 100% of participants including students and teachers made commitments to stop using single-use plastic and recycle in 1 week, 1 month or 1 year.

"Even though we knew the harmful nature of single-use plastic products and tremendous plastic product consumption, I and many others couldn't fully grasp the weight of the situation until we attended the "Plastic-free school" training courses organized by AAV. Only now do we realize that even the plastic bottles and nylon bags we use every day are extremely damaging to nature, as they can take as much as several hundred years to completely decompose.

After participating in this training course, I've learned many useful ways to reduce the use of plastic in our everyday life, as well as methods to recycle and repurpose used plastic products. I stopped using single-use plastic food containers and bags for 1 month afterwards. My friends and I also made some lovely toys from used plastic bottles and drew colorful posters to promote this wonderful campaign. Ever since the training course, we have all been very motivated to change our own habits for the preservation of the environment. I do hope that other schoolmates and I can continue these good habits to keep our school and hometown clean and green!", said Nguyen Mai Lan, a student at Cuc Phuong primary school.

- From September to December 2020, AAV organized 02 communication events and 01 competition as part of the "Plastic-free school" campaign at LRP8 – Ha Quang district, Cao Bang province to educate harmful effects of plastic waste on the surrounding environment and engaged in serious discussions on replacing plastic products with eco-friendly alternatives. The series of events was held at several local schools within Tung Vai commune, Ha Quang district with the participation of **995 students, 80 teachers and 65 student parents**.



A lot of good initiatives have been created and sustained by children and teachers from urban to rural areas, from mountains to towns. These efforts had been innovatively duplicated in other LRPs, with at least 11 districts actively participating in the Plastic Free School Campaign.

- In May 2020, the Center for the Disadvantaged Workers of Hai Phong City Labor Union in collaboration with ActionAid Vietnam organized a closing workshop to summarize the operation of the **"Plastic Free School"** campaign for quarter II/2020 in LRP11 - Hai Phong city. An Tho Primary School was awarded the innovation prize for the **"My medicine garden"** initiative, in which teachers and students proposed recycling, reducing, and reusing plastic items within their commune. In detail, plastic waste around the school was used to build a surrounding fence for their medicinal garden. Students also cut 3-liter, 5-liter plastic cans into planter vases/boxes to plant medicinal herbs. In the first quarter of 2020, Dung Tien Secondary School in Vinh Bao District won an innovation prize with a house model using unused paper. Tran Tat Van Primary School in An Lao District won the prize with the initiative: **"School says no to plastic waste"** encouraging students to reuse plastic products such as making school supplies and appliances for daily living, and planting trees in reused plastic bottles.
- The Supporting Program for Development of LRP12 - Krong No district, Dak Nong province and Krong No Education and Training Department, along with representatives from targeted schools had participated in the review workshop of "Plastic Free School" campaigns in June 2020. During the assessment, delegates evaluated students' initiatives on plastic waste recycling and reuse, such as recycling plastic waste into flower beds,

decorations, and learning material, which are simple to implement and will be duplicated in local schools in the near future. Finally, 2 initiatives for plastic waste reuse and recycling of Tran Van on School of Dak Dro commune and secondary School of Dak Nang commune were awarded innovation prizes.



2. IMPROVE PEOPLE'S CAPACITY TO BUILD SAFE COMMUNITIES

Despite various regulations and legislation aimed at protecting women and children, the government's endeavor to prevent sexual harassment and sexual abuse in the community has not been effective in recent years owing to numerous hurdles. The inefficient and delayed reporting procedure, the many gaps in relevant law, and the overall lack of expertise in dealing with sexual abuse and assault cases against women and girls are just a few of the issues preventing Vietnam from creating safer communities for them across the country.

AAV has implemented multiple activities to raise people's awareness of a safe community/safe city, raising their voices to contribute to policy advocacy process and resources allocation to improve the issue. Model of safe city/community for women and girls (urban or rural areas where women and girls live and participate in social activities without sexual harassment, sexual abuse, and fear when using public services) should meet the following criteria:

- **Infrastructure**
 - Security monitoring system
 - Lighting system
 - Space for entertainment
 - Public toilets

- **Cognitive and Attitude**
- Awareness and behavior of women and girls
- Awareness and behavior of men and boys
- **Institutions and mechanisms to support and protect women and girls**
- Agencies and organizations assigned to protect the rights and support women and girls
- Mechanism for implementing activities to protect and support women and girls
- **Participation of women and girls**
- Participation of women and girls in the formulation and implementation of socio-economic development programs and plans
- Participation of women and girls in the development and implementation of programs and plans related to gender equality



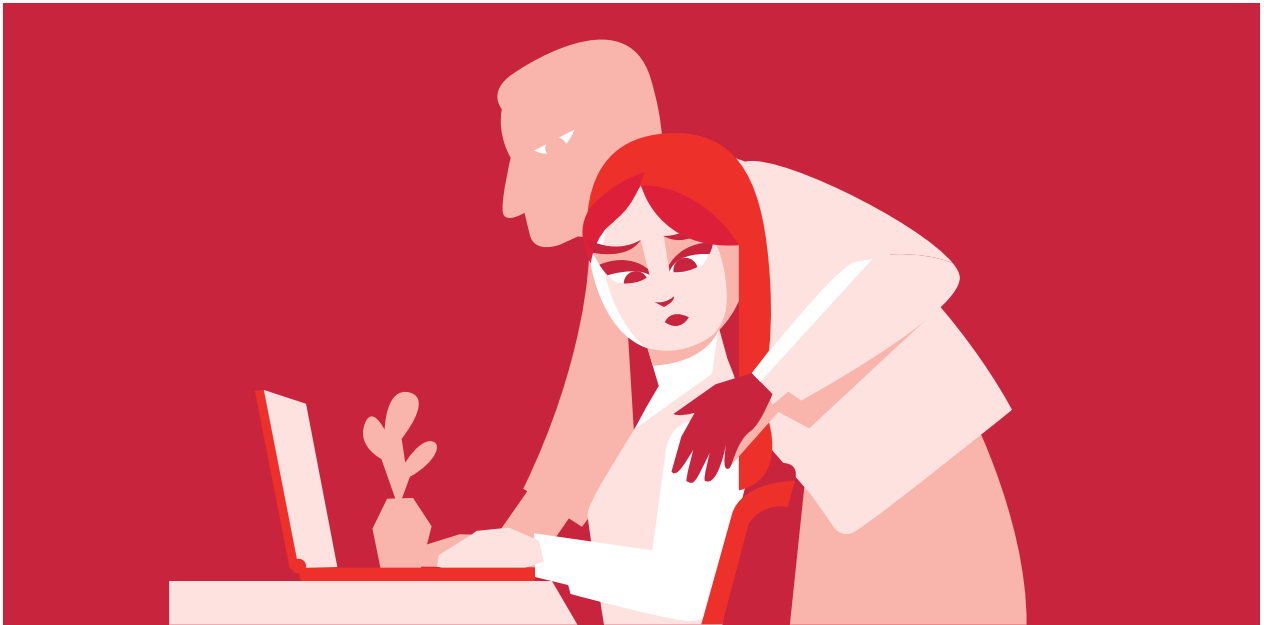
After years of implementation, safe community criteria have been officially recognized in different cities including Hai Phong, Ho Chi Minh, Hanoi, Tra Vinh, and introduced to other LRPs:

- AAV cooperated with the district's Women Union and the People's Committee in LRP23 - Dong Hai district, Bac Lieu province to organize a consultation workshop on the guidelines of safe community. Attending the workshop were **112 representatives of the district department of Labor, Invalids and**

Social Affairs, the district Women's Union, school's management boards, head village, women and leaders of Safe Community and Reflect groups.

Local people were equipped with basic knowledge of the safe city's guidelines, harassment actions toward women and girls in communities, appropriate measurements to deal and prevent abuse and sexual harassment toward women and girls. After the workshop, a detailed action plan has been designed and will be used in the process of preventing sexual harassment toward women and girls.

- In May 2020, a workshop on introducing the set of criteria for a safe community and consult with commune-level stakeholders was organized with the participation of **more than 50 communal delegates, including women union officials, farmers' union officials, commune committee officials, and safe community groups in LRP11 - An Lao district, Hai Phong city.** The trainer shared the basic concept of what is a safe community, the criteria for evaluating a safe community, how to implement those criteria and the survey questionnaire. In particular, the trainers integrated the introduction of S-city software, which provides knowledge on sexual harassment, 24/7 counselling support. After providing information from trainers, stakeholders conducted discussions and provided feedback. The set of criteria for the safe community was adjusted to best suit the local situation and being shared in the meeting of the Community Development Groups (CDGs) as well as at local levels
- In November 2020, AAV conducted an introduction on a safety community criteria workshop in Quan Ba commune of LRP7 - Quan Ba district, Ha Giang province with the attendance of **175 people, all of whom leaders of the Commune People's Committee, representatives of the Commune Office; Association of People with disabilities; Farmer Association; Women Union; Youth Union; and Community Learning Center.** During the workshop, people were presented with a summary of current policies/laws on women's rights, gender equality, and anti-violence; the safe community criteria set including the basic concepts/definitions and criteria; responsibilities of stakeholders for the safe community criteria, and safe community survey toolkit. After the introduction session, 175 participants have improved their understanding and shared recommendations on a set of safe community criteria; while 10 community leaders were able to communicate with the community on how to apply the criteria set in the social audit to assess the safety level in the community.



With the aim to empower children and make them ambassadors in their community to prevent sexual harassment and abuse, an awareness raising event on Community-based Prevention and Control of Sexual Harassment was held at An Lao district, Hai Phong city with the participation of 500 students and teachers from Luong Khanh Thien secondary school. At the event, S-city mobile application was introduced as a mechanism to report sexual harassment, provide reviews on areas that easily exposure to sexual harassment

In order to encourage local people to contribute their opinions to the planning and assessing the quality of the project after implementation, AAV has coordinated with local authorities to organize social audit workshops to provide knowledge for them.

- **35 representatives from 4 project communes in LRP23 - Dong Hai district, Bac Lieu province** attended the social audit training course on safe communities in July 2020 and were provided with basic knowledge on skills and tools on social audit in terms of budget analysis, public expenditure monitoring, community score card using. The training course also engaged participants in a field trip to survey and evaluate public services in the locality. After the training course, related stakeholders organized a workshop to report the results of the training courses as well as the field trip. The results from the social audit will be a base to build Socio-economic development plan and integrate it into local socio-economic development plan.

- In September, the survey of social audit on safety standards in LRP11 - An Lao district, Hai Phong city has been conducted with the participation of **139 members from CDGs, community, women's union, youth union, representatives of children, leaders of the People's Committee, chief/deputy head of the People's Committee, finance/economics department, education**. The social audit activities included the following contents: Training for core groups using effective tools (scoring community card, S-city) to monitor the implementation of safe city/community criteria, organize a social audit on field, synthesize information and data and meeting to share summary of social audit results
- In November 2020, the Supporting Programme for Development of LRP8 - Ha Quang district, Cao Bang province invited **local authorities and stakeholders and 58 community leaders** to join a dialogue on policy advocacy and resources mobilization for the implementation of safe city/community and the prevention of violence and sexual abuse. After the dialogues, the aim of mobilizing different stakeholders to engage in policy advocacy have been further promoted.

Fully equipped with knowledge and skills on assessment criteria and factors related to safe communities, local people could confidently engage in policy dialogue with local authorities with consulting of AAV.

3. PREVENT SEXUAL HARASSMENT, EXPLOITATION AND ABUSE IN GARMENT INDUSTRY FOR PROMOTION OF DECENT WORK

3.1. Disseminate knowledge and information on prevention of sexual harassment in the workplace to garment workers through mobilizing LAGASH members as activists and using friendly and innovative methods

Following up with previous successes, in 2020, AAV continuously cooperated with Global Fund for Women to organize **04 mass communication events** on prevention of sexual harassment in the workplace under the framework of project “Initiative to end gender violence for workers in garment industry”. Informative knowledge and powerful messages of calling for joining hands in building a violence-free working and living environment reached **3,650 garment workers and local people** in Hai Phong city and Binh Tan district (Ho Chi Minh city), **80% of whom are women.**

The 04 communication events were organized in a creative and engaging format of a music event to increase disseminating works and raise awareness of sexual harassment in workplace to a large audience. Especially, the success of these activities were also made of proactive contribution of LAGASH (Local Activist Groups Against Sexual Harassment – a community-based development groups initiated by AAV, working as activists for women’s rights and the eradication of sexual harassment in local areas) in making the show and delivering performances to garment workforce and other residents at the areas.

On these occasions, S-city – a Sexual Harassment Tracking Application on smartphone developed by AAV that allows users to find useful tips about prevention of sexual harassment, report incidents of sexual harassment, seek emergency help or online legal counselling was also introduced largely to the local audience. With practical usage and user-friendly interface, **900 downloads of S-city were recorded**, showing an enthusiastic welcome of the music events’ participants to the application.



Photo 1 – Representatives of local authorities and company leaders presenting gift sets to garment workers

Photo 2 – Representatives of local authorities sharing information about sexual harassment in the workplace

Photo 3 – Flashmob dance prepared and performed by LAGASH

Photo 4 – Music event – a friendly and innovative methods to help increase disseminating works and raise awareness of sexual harassment in workplace to a large audience.

3.2. Enhanced political will, capacity, resources and coordination amongst corporations and other stakeholders to prevent sexual harassment in garment factories

Also within the framework of the “Initiative to end gender violence for workers in garment industry”, AAV cooperated with Gender Equality Department, Ministry of Labor, Invalids and Social Affairs, Vietnam Lawyers’ Association, and The People’s Committee of Binh Tan District, Ho Chi Minh City, The Labour Union of Hai Phong City and Management Board of 04 project factories to hold open dialogues at city-level intertwining with counselling sessions and legal consultation for garment workers. The activities obtained several achievements:

- 400 workers had an opportunity to raise their voice and question the issues of sexual harassment at the workplace as well as to hear the answers from competent bodies and company leaders in return;
- 05 inappropriate sexual conduct were reported and received face to face consultation from experts;
- Psychological support and legal advice were provided free-of-charge to survivors of sexual harassment;
- Workers’ opinions and comments were listened and noted by representative of local authorities and company leaders;

30 staff of Human Resource Department of 02 garment companies in Hai Phong city and 12 local journalists in Binh Tan district, Ho Chi Minh city also received training on different aspects of sexual harassment.

- For Human Resource Staff, the training focused on the Code of Conduct on Sexual Harassment in the Work Place and recommendations for companies in implementing and communicating sexual harassment policy.
- For the media group, the training was organized to inspire journalists about the approach of the project, support awareness campaigns and promote the implementation of sexual harassment policy in garment factories.



Photo 1 – Open dialogue on prevention of sexual harassment held with the participation of 200 garment workers of SyZtec and representatives of local authorities and the company

Photo 2 – Garment workers of SyZtec company listened to the company leader’s answers for question on company policies related to prevention of sexual harassment at work

Photo 3 – Managers of Crystal Sweater Vietnam Co., Ltd. and Jasan VN Co., Ltd. partaking in training for prevention of sexual harassment

Photo 4 – Local journalists shared opinions on influence of the media on supporting awareness campaigns promoting the implementation of sexual harassment policy in garment factories

4. ADVANCE PARTNERS, COMMUNITIES AND ORGANIZATIONS' CAPACITY AND ENGAGEMENT IN SOCIAL AUDIT AND BUDGET ALLOCATION OF PUBLIC SERVICES WITH RELEVANT TRAINING ON ELBAG, PGS MONITORING SKILLS AND HRBA

Phương pháp tiếp cận dựa trên quyền con người (HRBA) là một cách tiếp cận dựa trên quyền con người để xóa bỏ nghèo đói và phát triển bền vững, nằm ở trung tâm của công việc của ActionAid Việt Nam. ActionAid Việt Nam tin rằng nghèo đói là một hệ quả trực tiếp của sự vi phạm hoặc tước bỏ quyền con người và là kết quả của sự bất bình đẳng về quyền lực trong quá trình đòi hỏi và/hoặc thực hiện quyền con người.

Với cách tiếp cận dựa trên quyền con người để xóa bỏ nghèo đói và phát triển bền vững nằm ở trung tâm của công việc của ActionAid Việt Nam, trong suốt năm 2020, **06 khóa đào tạo dựa trên quyền con người để xóa bỏ nghèo đói và phát triển bền vững (HRBA) đã được tổ chức** tại 06 khu vực phát triển bao gồm LRP11 - Hải Phòng, LRP12 - Krông Noê, Dak Nong tỉnh, LRP19 - Lâm Hà, Lâm Đông tỉnh, LRP21 - Bình Tân, Hồ Chí Minh, LRP25 - Nho Quan, Ninh Bình và LRP102 - Vinh, tích hợp với nhận thức về quyền con người, quyền tự chủ sinh sản và toàn vẹn thể chất, quyền chăm sóc sức khỏe sinh sản, bình đẳng giới, v.v.

The activities were successfully rolled out with the participation of 192 people who come from all walks of life including garment workers, people with disabilities, members of community development groups (CDG) and produced positive outcomes:

- 100% of the participants raised consciousness of themselves as right-holders and were empowered for change
- 100% of the participants gained basic understanding of four key pillars of HRBA – Empowerment, campaigning, solidarity and alternatives.
- 70% of the CDG members were confident to share what they learned to other members through group activities and applied the approach in action plan of the community

Besides, a presentation on HRBA and sustainable development by Ms. Hoang Phuong Thao – Executive Director of AAV, was also shared with students of Dean of Faculty of International Study (FIS) at Hanoi University in May 2020 in attempt to facilitate capacity building and career orientation for youth.

Being one of the key highlights of AAV's programme, for the coming years, HRBA training will continuously be replicated and implemented in other project areas to enhance capacity building for disadvantaged people as well as promoting AAV's core value to the community.




Photo 1 – A training course on HRBA and Women Rights organized at Tra Vinh city with the participation of 30 members of women-led community development groups of Ward 8 and 9 and Long Duc commune.

Photo 2 – Representative of each group presenting the results of group discussion

Photo 3 – Ms. Hoang Phuong Thao delivering her speech on HRBA and sustainable developments in the meeting with students of Hanoi University

PART IV: FINANCIAL REPORT





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INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

**To: The Management and Donors
Representative Office in Vietnam of ActionAid International**

Audit opinion

We have audited the accompanying Balance sheet as at 31 December 2020, the Statement of Income and Expenditures, the Statement of changes in fund balance and the Statement of Cash Flows for the year then ended ("the financial statements"), and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information for the Representative Office in Vietnam of ActionAid International ("AAI").

In our opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the fund balance as at 31 December 2020, the income and expenditures, changes of funds, and cash flows of the Representative Office in Vietnam of ActionAid International for the year ended 31 December 2020 in accordance with the accounting policies set out in Note 2 to the financial statements.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing ("ISAs"). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the financial statements* section of our report. We are independent of the Representative Office in Vietnam of ActionAid International in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in accordance with International Ethics Standards, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting policies set out in Note 2 and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial statements that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

FORNEXIA
FORCE OF FINES

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Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditors' report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this statement.

A further description of the auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is included in Appendix 1 of this auditors' report. This description, which is located at page 20, forms part of our auditors' report.



NEXIA STT Co., Ltd STT
Nguyen Viet Nga
Deputy General Director
Audit Practising Registration Certificate
No. 2041-2019-225-1

Audit report No.: 185/090-2021HN/AUD/AVV

Hanoi, 9 June 2021

Representative Office in Vietnam of ActionAid International
Balance Sheet
As at 31 December 2020

	Note	31/12/2020 GBP'000	31/12/2019 GBP'000
ASSETS			
DEBTORS			
BS-Debt-Employees		653	330
BS-Debt-Others		1	-
BS-Debt-Other	3	498	314
BS-Debt-payments	4	83	20
BS-Debt-ICB-AAJ	5	131	(6)
BS-Debt-ICB-Other AA countries	5	-	2
CASH			
BS-Cash-GBP	6	603	904
BS-Cash-USD		222	395
BS-Cash-EUR		60	336
BS-Cash-ILR		148	131
BS-Cash-Others		173	52
TOTAL ASSETS		1,256	1,234
LIABILITIES			
BS-Liability-Employees		106	163
BS-Liability-Tax Payable		20	11
BS-Liability-Accruals		6	5
BS-Liability-Other	7	54	116
BS-Liability-Other	8	25	31
TOTAL LIABILITIES		106	163
NET ASSETS		1,150	1,071
TOTAL FUND BALANCE		1,256	1,234

Prepared by:


Nguyen Thi Hoa
Operations Director
Hanoi, 9 June 2021

Approved by:


Hoang Thi Phuong Thao
Executive Director
10/6/2021

The accompanying notes form an integral part of these financial statements

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Representative Office in Vietnam of ActionAid International
Statement of Income and Expenditures
Year ended 31 December 2020

	Note	2020 GBP'000	2019 GBP'000
INCOME			
Individual Giving - Regular		1,053	1,005
Philanthropy and Partnerships		370	525
Institutional		256	396
Other incomes		(22)	5
9		1,457	1,931
EXPENDITURES			
Program/Project cost		1,379	1,219
Fundraising cost		43	55
Governance cost		9	24
Support cost		68	74
10;11		1,499	1,372
Surplus before Internal transactions		158	559
INTERNAL FUNDING MOVEMENTS			
Flexible Funds (Incoming)		29	70
Flexible Funds (Outgoing)		(80)	(71)
Internal contributions		(28)	(3)
12		(79)	(4)
Surplus after Internal transactions		79	555
Opening fund balance		1,071	516
Closing fund balance		1,150	1,071

Prepared by:


Nguyen Thi Hoa
Operations Director
Hanoi, 9 June 2021

Approved by:


Hoang Thi Phuong Thao
Executive Director
10/6/2021

The accompanying notes form an integral part of these financial statements

5

Representative Office in Vietnam of ActionAid International
Statement of changes in fund balance
Year ended 31 December 2020

	Accumulated surplus GBP'000
Fund balance at 1 January 2019	516
Surplus of income over expenditures	555
Fund balance at 1 January 2020	1,071
Surplus of income over expenditures	79
Fund balance at 31 December 2020	1,150

Prepared by:


Nguyen Thi Hoa
Operations Director
Hanoi, 9 June 2021

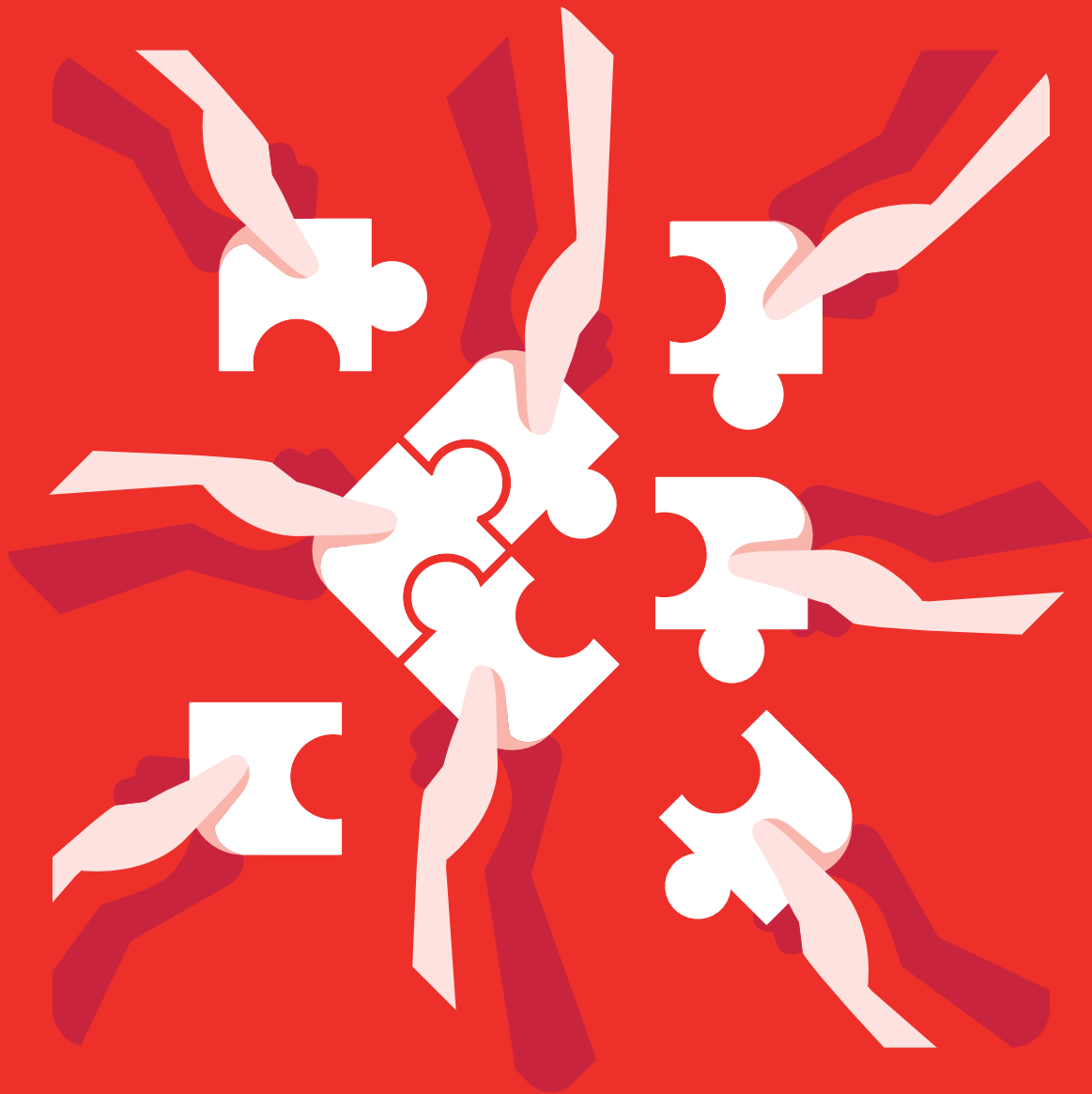
Approved by:


Hoang Thi Phuong Thao
Executive Director
10/6/2021

The accompanying notes form an integral part of these financial statements

6

PART V:
STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP
DEVELOPMENT AND
FUNDRAISING





1. LONG TERM FINANCE AND FUNDING STRATEGY (LTFFS) CONSULTATION PAPER 2020

In the past 10 years, strategic response to the trend of gradually declining income from individual giving has been a critical quest for all INGOs/NGOs including AAV. This has only been partially counterbalanced by humble increases in restricted income from institutional, corporate and foundation funding. The additional impacts of COVID-19 pandemic further challenged us in stabilizing and diversifying our funding sources.

Aiming to transform AAV into a more agile, sustainable, and mission-driven organization, we have joined peer members of the AAI Federation in shaping the Long-Term Finance and Funding Strategy (LTFFS) Consultation Paper 2020. Noticable changes in donor profiles and demands, along with increasing funds available from national philanthropists require us to shift our national focus in alignment with those of both donors and governments, while staying compliance to our core values and vision.

Resources for innovation, sustainability and growth shall be invested to expand public support to AAV and scale up our potential. Radical transition in organizational operation, programme delivery and fundraising strategy shall be taken, in dealing with the unprecedented health and economic crises that the COVID-19 pandemic has posed.



2. DIVERSIFY FUNDING SOURCE THROUGH STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP WITH INSTITUTIONS AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR

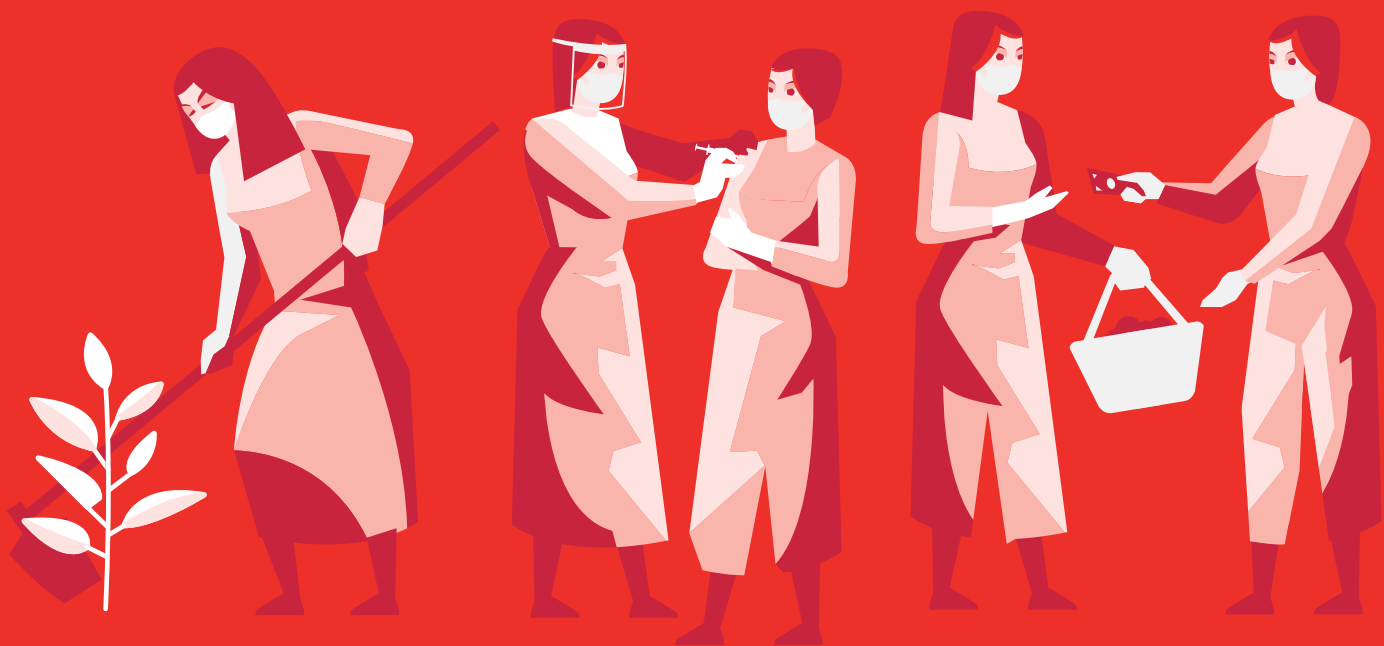
In 2020, AAV continues to strengthen our funding base and programme impacts in response to emergencies through strategic partnership with institutions, high-value donors, and the private sector:

- Responding to the serious impacts of storms and floods in Central Region of Vietnam, AAV raised fund locally and internationally to support the most vulnerable local communities in Quang Tri, Quang Nam, and Thua Thien Hue provinces, with effective assistance in total amount of **GBP 56,655 from AAI IHART, AA UK Disaster Response Team, Taiwan Fund for Children and Families (TFCF), Give2Asia and JW Marriott Hanoi.**
- Providing aid relief and support packages for disadvantaged groups most severely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, especially people and households with reduced or zero income on account of home-quarantine, self-isolation, furlough, or layoff, with prompt funds of **GBP 123,580 from CBM, GIZ, AAI IHART**, which helped people reduce the impacts and recover from the crisis.

To branch out AAV's programme influences and renovate our funding sources, we maintain and enhance our engagement with donors from emerging markets such as East Asia. In 2020, AAV secured a **second partnership agreement with donor TFCF for the "Safe and quality schools in Soc Son district" programme, which valued at GBP 258,589.** The programme is operated in the duration from 2020 to 2025 with child-focused interventions to bring about equal access to quality education for underprivileged children and children with disabilities.

Our team at AAV would like to extend our sincere gratitude to like-minded organizations and corporations for joining hands with us in our efforts to eradicate poverty and injustice across Vietnam. Without your valuable support, we could not achieve what we have done to take actions on alarming issues of climate change, unsustainable development, and inequality in public services delivery. Your help with our people-centred approach are turning our communities into stronger, more resilient and inclusive ones.

PART VI: LOOKING FORWARD TO 2021



1. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDG)



Vietnam's Socio-Economic Development Strategy for 2011 - 2020 underlines that *"Rapid development in close linkage with sustainable development represents an all-thru requirement in the Strategy"*. In September 2020,

Vietnamese Government announced 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) in its Resolution No. 136/NQ-CP on sustainable development through 2030, and nationalized these goals into 115 Viet Nam SDG (VSDG) targets in our *"National Action Plan for Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development"*, based on Viet Nam's development context and priorities, and building on the successful implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

As The 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are in line with the long-term development strategy of Vietnam and AAV, it is critical that we interconnect global, national and grassroots efforts to advance our vision of social justice, gender equality, and poverty eradication.

In 2021, AAV's programme framework shall further focus on collective efforts with people living in poverty, women's movements, including feminist organisations and other women's rights actors to push for accountability to the SDGs' commitment to achieve gender equality; empowerment and solidarity with affected communities and environmental movements to call for climate justice; digitalization of relevant platforms for collective action to raise disadvantaged and excluded people's voices; and promotion of sustainable alternatives to outdated economic and governance models which are reinforcing inequalities and threatening livelihoods.



2. PEOPLE'S ENHANCED PREPAREDNESS AND RESILIENCE IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19 AND 'FREE VACCINES FOR ALL' CAMPAIGN

The COVID-19 pandemic is posing profound social, economic, and political consequences on all countries, including Vietnam. The world has been facing the deepest global recession since the Second World War, which can push approximately one hundred million more people into extreme poverty. The fight against this pandemic is a shared battle where all of us need to step up for our people, especially the most vulnerable and excluded communities.

As the pandemic drags on and communities across Vietnam must grapple with its effects, AAV sets our vision on sustainable change to enhance people's preparedness and resilience against COVID-19. We will continue to work in solidarity with people's movements and campaigns to ensure that in 2021 and beyond, (i) COVID-19 vaccines, treatments and tests can be allocated according to need to people and free of charge, with prioritization on frontline workers, people at higher risk, and marginalized groups; (ii) Resources for improving and expanding public health care services is redistributed appropriately to build resilient, universal and equitable health care systems; (iii) A clear road map to raise vaccination rate across the country is developed; and (iv) Patent monopolies on COVID-19 vaccines and profit-driven ethos of pharmaceutical giants can be abolished to guarantee adequate vaccines delivery to everyone.

Together, we can make COVID-19 an opportunity to create sustainable and generational changes.



3. SUSTAINABLE ENERGY FOR CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION

Greenhouse gas effect, global temperatures and climate change have been rising for over a century, speeding up in the last few years, and are now the highest on record. Vietnam is considered as one of the countries most affected by climate change, while the Mekong Delta is one of the world's three most vulnerable deltas (together with the Nile Delta in Egypt and the Ganges Delta in Bangladesh) to sea level rising.

Reducing Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions is a target for Vietnam as part of its international commitment under the Paris Agreement. Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC) says as of 2030, by employing domestic resources, Vietnam commits to reducing 8% GHG emission against a business-as-usual scenario and the figure may be increased to 25% with international aid.

Energy accounts for two-thirds of total GHG, so efforts to reduce emissions and mitigate climate change must include energy transition to reduce energy-related CO₂ emissions by source. Just energy transition means vulnerable and marginalized groups, including the poor, ethnic minority and women should be able benefit from the process.

In 2021, AAV aims to work in cooperation with local communities in the Mekong Delta to contribute to mitigating GHG from aquaculture through piloting and politically mainstreaming scalable good practice solutions. It is expected that economic benefits will be created by the application of energy-sufficient measures and renewable energy solutions; Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions created by aquaculture activities will be reduced; and favorable conditions for reducing emissions are generated in our working areas.



4. DECENT WORK FOR MIGRANT AND INFORMAL (WOMEN) WORKERS

Research by the ILO and the World Bank into working conditions in 193 factories in Vietnam found that nearly half (47 per cent) of factory employment contracts failed to comply with the Labor Law, collective agreements and work rules. This research also revealed that despite there are more male workers than female workers in the informal sector (55,8% comparing to 44,2%), more women (66,2%) can expect lower incomes than male workers (39,1%).

AAV's research indicated that challenges for women are working long hours, low pay, gender stereotype, violence against women and sexual harassment, representation and voice, training opportunities and personal improvement. Internal female migrant workers face a multitude of challenges, including being denied a work contract, work instability, inadequate compensation, unfair treatment at workplace, limited access to public services and difficulties with affordable access to housing, electricity and water.

In 2021, AAV committed to continue our work with our partners and communities to bring about (i) immediate changes, including recognition and understanding of the various issues regarding women in work by the general population, relevant civil society, industry and government; and (ii) long-term changes including commitment to addressing the various issues regarding women in work by the general population, relevant civil society, industry and government. Our key interventions focus on (a) initiating and partaking in movements on tax justice, anti-sexual harassment, social rights and equal access to public services for women; (b) policy advocacy and mass communication for pro-women regulations in the Code of Labour and social frameworks; and (c) building mechanisms and guidelines for prevention of sexual harassment at work and amongst youth.

