

Press Release

World Vision Viet Nam and Orion Food Vina join hands to create a safe and loving environment for children at schools

Thanh Hoa City, Việt Nam, September 17, 2020 – In response to the five-year campaign to **End Physical Violence against Children at Home and School** launched by World Vision Viet Nam in 2017, Thanh Hoa Department of Foreign Affairs and World Vision Viet Nam today kicked off the **“Hope in Class – Ending Violence against Children at School”** project.

The goal of the project is to build a safe and loving environment at school for children by enhancing their capacity to learn and practice positive, loving and cooperative behavior as well as strengthening the collaboration and involvement of educational leaders, teachers and parents in educating children and tackling violence.

With a budget of **\$212,766**, the Hope in Class project, funded by the Orion Foundation and Orion Food Vina, will be implemented over a course of three years (April 2020 to September 2022) and is expected to benefit **10,000** children from **40** schools in Thanh Hoá province (Thường Xuân, Bá Thước and Lang Chánh districts) and Hải Phòng city (Ngô Quyền district).

Viet Nam has witnessed a significant change in people’s awareness and approach to reduce violence against children. However, this change is not yet spread across all groups in society. World Vision Viet Nam’s Baseline Survey in 2018 found that physical violence is the most common form of violence against children with **33.2%** of those who participated in the survey having experienced it in the past 12 months.

At the kick-off event, Mr. Kim Jae Sin, CEO of Orion Food Vina stated: “Children are the hope of Vietnam. They have rights to quality education in a safer environment and become resources for the country. Orion Food Vina, whose products become best friends of children such as Chocopie or Custard, finds significant meaning in our support to the Hope in Class project that is implemented by World Vision and local partners in Vietnam.

Statistics have confirmed that together with home, schools are where children encounter most violence in the forms of peer violence and disciplinary methods used by teachers. The same Baseline Survey from World Vision Viet Nam noted that **57.8%** of children who suffered from violence experienced it at school. According to the Ministry of Education and Training’s annual statistics, **1,600** cases of violence inside and outside of schools were reported during the school year 2014 - 2015. A joint survey between the Ministry of Public Security and the Ministry of Education and Training also recorded **18,571** incidents of violence at school from 2011 to April 2018.

At the kick-off event, World Vision Viet Nam’s Operations Director Thân Thị Hà stated: “Violence against children, particularly that in schools, inflicts lasting damage on children’s development that is carried into their adulthood and has a negative impact on their quality of life. Unfortunately, it has become children’s everyday experience in many parts of the world, including Viet Nam. The Hope in Class project is developed based on the belief that anyone can contribute to the creation of a safe and loving environment where all children can learn and grow up without fear.”

“The Hope in Class project activities will equip children with peaceful communication techniques and help them cultivate the habits of expressing their feelings responsibly, listening to their peers actively, and finding mutual solutions with compassion and empathy. All activities are designed in youth-friendly formats to ensure that the embedded values of solidarity, patience and respect are acknowledged, embraced, and shared by children,” explained The Hope in Class Project Manager Phan Thị Kim Liên.

“Teachers, parents and caregivers have a crucial role to play in preventing and addressing violence in schools. Through the Hope in Class project, they will be involved in various activities to become more aware of violence in schools, acquire basic skillsets to openly discuss the topic, and improve positive parenting skills, especially when dealing with challenging behaviors of children,” added Phan Thị Kim Liên.

The Hope in Class project is part of World Vision Viet Nam’s long-term effort to end all forms of violence against children. The signing of the three-year cooperation agreement for this project between World Vision Viet Nam and Orion Food Vina is expected to encourage future involvement of the private sector in ending violence in schools in particular and violence against children in general.

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About World Vision Viet Nam:

World Vision is a Christian relief and development humanitarian organization, working to improve the quality of life of people, especially children, who are marginalized and living in poverty. World Vision helps all who are in need regardless of their religion, race, ethnicity or gender.

World Vision started working in Vietnam with emergency relief assistance in 1988 and opened an office in Hanoi in 1990. Since 1990, World Vision has implemented many relief and development programs, partnering with the Vietnamese government, other non-governmental organizations and communities. World Vision's long-term development programs are currently operated in 37 districts of 14 cities and provinces throughout Vietnam.

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