

Press Release

**World Vision Viet Nam Calls for Collective Efforts  
to Eliminate Child Labour**

**Ha Noi, August 18, 2022** – World Vision Viet Nam today reaffirmed its commitment to step up its efforts to tackle and eliminate child labour with a newly launched project - Against Child Exploitation (ACE).



Photo 1: Project Against Child Exploitation ACE reaffirms World Vision Viet Nam's efforts to tackle and eliminate child labour

More than 100 delegates attended the event, including representatives from Department of Child Affairs and related government agencies at provincial and district levels in the project's three provinces: Da Nang, Quang Nam, and Dien Bien.

The event also welcomed the participation of Mrs. Daphne De Guzman Culanag, Project ACE Director, World Vision Philippines.

Funded by the United States Department of Labour, the ACE project aims to strengthen the capacity of the Government of Viet Nam to address the Worst Forms of Child Labor (WFCL), including Online Sexual Exploitation of Children (OSEC) and violations of acceptable conditions of work.

*"We are thrilled that the project is expanding into Vietnam today,"* said Mr. Kevin Miles, Political Officer, U.S. Embassy in Viet Nam. *"We are grateful to have World Vision, and its partners, as champions in support of the United States' critical mission to combat child labor, forced labor, and human trafficking, especially Online Sexual Abuse and Exploitation of Children."*

## I. Intensified Risks of Child Labour in Viet Nam

In the past few years, Viet Nam has made significant advancements in the fight against child labour through developing a solid legal framework aligned with international labour standards and carrying out several programs and projects to counter child labour nationally and locally.

However, child labour still persists in the country, especially in the economy's informal sector. According to the 2018 Viet Nam National Child Labour Survey<sup>1</sup> conducted by the Ministry of Labour - Invalids and Social Affairs in partnership with the General Statistics Office with technical assistance from the International Labour Organization (ILO), 1,031,944 children aged 5 to 17 are engaged in child labour, of which 34.2% work 40 hours per week or more and 50.4% are involved in hazardous work.



Photo 2: The kick-off ceremony welcomed the participation of delegates from Department of Child Affairs and related government agencies at provincial and district levels

The emerging evidence shows that child labour incidences are existing in increasingly complicated forms in addition to traditional patterns. Among them is the Online Sexual Exploitation of Children (OSEC). The technological advancement in Viet Nam has intensified the vulnerability of children to abuse and exploitation in the cyber world. According to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC)<sup>2</sup>, more than 706,000 cases of online child sexual abuse materials (images/videos) were reported in Viet Nam, ranking 2nd in Southeast Asia. The issue of OSEC, also defined as one of the worst forms of child labour, has presented itself as a new challenge to the government of Viet Nam and its communities.

<sup>1</sup> [https://www.ilo.org/hanoi/Whatwedo/Publications/WCMS\\_764357/lang--en/index.htm](https://www.ilo.org/hanoi/Whatwedo/Publications/WCMS_764357/lang--en/index.htm)

<sup>2</sup> <https://vietnamnet.vn/en/vietnamese-children-need-safer-environment-in-cyberspace-753770.html>

*“The intensified risk of child labour requires the government and related stakeholders to make collective efforts, as individual sacrifice alone will not bring us to zero child labour goal,”* said Mr. Doseba Tua Sinay, National Director of World Vision Viet Nam. *“Immediate actions must be taken to provide timely support and interventions for children at risk of becoming engaged in child labour to uphold children's rights and ensure the fulfilled lives for all children.”*

## **II. How ACE Project Makes a Difference in Viet Nam**

In Viet Nam, three outcomes are expected following the ACE project implementation, including:

1. Improved enforcement of the legal framework and policies pertaining to the WFCL, including OSEC and violations of ACW
2. Improved assistance services for victims of WFCL, including OSEC
3. Strengthened partnerships to accelerate progress in addressing the WFCL, including OSEC and violations of ACW

To achieve those outcomes, five main groups of interventions are designed as below:

1. Awareness raising activities to increase knowledge of the community on available services for children engaged in WFCL, including OSEC
2. Capacity-building activities for Child Protection Committees members, social workers, and service providers
3. Community engagement activities which include providing on-demand assistance services for children affected by WFCL, including OSEC and violations of acceptable conditions of work; promoting home visits, case management, and referral services; and piloting counseling and support points at the district level
4. Partnership promotion to detect, remove, and respond to OSEC as well as share promising practices in addressing child labor and OSEC
5. Strengthening the child protection system through a set of community child labor monitoring tools; revision of criteria to define WFCL and support procedures for children affected by WFCL; and enhancement of the reporting and referral mechanism.

## **III. Adding a Voice to the Global Call to End Child Labour**

Starting in 2019, the ACE project has made significant achievements in the Philippines, contributing to the country's efforts to address child labour. Viet Nam has been selected as the second country to amplify the project impact.

*“Project ACE in the Philippines has accomplished much with support and coordination with the national and regional levels of the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), as well as other government agencies and the local government units in priority areas,”* said Project ACE Director Daphne de Guzman Culana. *“Project ACE, together with the DOLE, has trained hundreds of labor inspectors and personnel of the DOLE Child Labor Prevention and Elimination Program. Just recently, Project ACE has conducted a National Summit of Stakeholders that has resulted in a Joint Statement by government and private sector to address WFCL, including OSEC and violations of acceptable conditions of work.”*



Photo 3: Mrs. Daphne De Guzman Culanag, Project ACE Director of World Vision Philippines, shared about the project's achievements in the Philippines

Mrs. Culanag also congratulated World Vision Viet Nam for the National and three provincial launching workshops. Mrs. Culanag encouraged the ACE Viet Nam team to keep an open communication and work closely together with the Ministry of Labour - Invalids and Social Affairs and other national and local government partners, as close collaboration is the key to ensuring that project goals can be achieved.

*"Building on fruitful results achieved in the Philippines, we have designed the ACE project framework with consideration of the local context in Viet Nam, ensuring the practical effectiveness of the project,"* said Mr. Rafiq Mangi, ACE Project Deputy Director, World Vision Viet Nam.

In May 2022, hundreds of delegates from around the world convened in Durban, South Africa, for the 5th Global Conference on the Elimination of Child Labour. Hosted by the Government of South Africa and organised by the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the conference represents an opportunity to identify gaps and urgent measures needed to accelerate the elimination of child labour. At the conference, delegates agreed on the Durban Call to Action, which outlines firm commitments to end child labour.

*"Interventions made by the ACE project in Viet Nam are adding a voice to the global call to end child labour and contributing to reaffirm Viet Nam's commitment towards the zero child labour goal,"* Mr. Rafiq Mangi added. *"Guided by a community-based approach with a specific focus on local context and the cooperative spirit from concerned government agencies at provincial and district levels, we hope that the ACE project will bring life-changing impact to the most vulnerable children, and towards a life in all its fullness."*

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## About World Vision

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 Việt Nam in 1988. Since then, World Vision has implemented many relief and development programs, partnering with the Vietnamese government, other NGOs, and communities. World Vision's long-term development programs are currently operated in 18 cities and provinces throughout Việt Nam.

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### Note:

Funding is provided by the United States Department of Labour under cooperative agreement number IL-34007-19-75-K. One hundred percent of the total costs of the project or program are financed with USG federal funds, for a total of \$5,000,000 for the ACE Project.

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