

Press release

**NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF NUTRITION AND WORLD VISION INTERNATIONAL IN VIET NAM
LAUNCHED THE “ENOUGH” NUTRITION INITIATIVE**

Hanoi, August 5, 2024 – World Vision International in Viet Nam joined hands with the National Institute of Nutrition to launch ENOUGH, a Nutrition Initiative with the vision of "A world where every child enjoys enough nourishing food so they can thrive". The event also honours World Breastfeeding Week, which is observed every year from August 1 to August 7.

Mr. Nguyen Tri Thuc – Deputy Minister of Health, leaders of agencies under the Ministry of Health and public health units; representatives from the Ministry of Labour, War Invalids and Social Affairs; Ministry of Education and Training; Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development; humanitarian agencies; enterprises; children and the community, were among those present at the ceremony.

With the theme "Close the Gap—Breastfeeding Support for all", this year's "World Breastfeeding Week" focuses on the "Warm Chain of Breastfeeding Support" to reduce inequality in access to maternal and child health care services.



Mr. Nguyen Tri Thuc, Deputy Minister of Health delivered an opening speech for the ceremony, called for cooperation among parties in building a world where every child has enough nutritious food.

"The Ministry of Health expects departments, units, and organisations nationwide to prioritise and allocate funds wisely in carrying out Essential Nutrition Actions, especially targeting children in mountainous areas and ethnic minorities. We consider the ENOUGH Nutrition Initiative, a collaboration between the National Institute of Nutrition and World Vision International in Viet Nam, an excellent example of mutual efforts in building a world where every child has access to enough nutritious food to thrive, is protected from diseases, and has improved stature, physical strength, and intelligence," said Mr. Nguyen Tri Thuc, Deputy Minister of Health, in his opening remarks for the ceremony.

Viet Nam has significantly reduced child stunting prevalence from 29.3% (2010) to 19.6% (2020). However, the country still faces a double nutritional burden. Children who live in mountainous or ethnic minority areas have a high rate of stunting malnutrition (the rates in the Central Highlands and Northern Midland are 29.8% and 27.1%, respectively). Simultaneously, there is a rise in micronutrient deficiencies in children in various parts of the nation, as well as overweight and obesity in children under five in both urban and rural areas¹. Furthermore, the climate emergency is severely impacting household food security, creating another barrier to improving children's nutritional conditions.

In the light of this, the ENOUGH Nutrition Initiative was launched by World Vision International in Viet Nam and the National Institute of Nutrition to carry out their mission of ensuring child wellness, especially for vulnerable children. This initiative unites the community, government agencies, enterprises, donors, and relevant parties to ensure sustainable community wellbeing.

¹National Nutrition Survey (2019-2020), National Institute of Nutrition



Mr. Doseba Tua Sinay, National Director of World Vision International in Viet Nam stated the organisation's efforts to end malnutrition, in which ENOUGH Nutrition Initiative is a part.

Mr. Doseba Tua Sinay, National Director of World Vision International in Viet Nam, stated, " The ENOUGH initiative, jointly implemented by World Vision International in Vietnam and the National Institute of Nutrition, is one of our efforts to fulfil our promise to healthcare, and more broadly, to ensuring sustained child wellbeing. To effectively implement the Initiative, we seek the companionship and support of government agencies from national to local levels, international organisations, development partners, businesses, children and communities in planning and allocating the best resources to further enhance Essential Nutrition Actions. We strongly believe that, with our joint efforts, we can strive to end all types of malnutrition in Vietnamese children, and create positive changes for children, so that every child enjoys life in all its fullness."



World Vision International in Viet Nam and the National Institute of Nutrition signed a cooperation plan for implementing ENOUGH in the upcoming 2 years.

A cooperative plan for the ENOUGH Nutrition Initiative in the Fiscal Year 2024 was signed during the occasion by World Vision International in Viet Nam and the National Institute of Nutrition. The strategy is a significant step in raising the nutritional status of Vietnamese children in 2024 and beyond. The primary endeavours of ENOUGH encompass:

- (1) Improve and enhance the source of nutritious and healthy food for children through households livelihood enrichment activities;*
- (2) Improve nutrition care practices for child-care providers through communications and community consultation activities;*
- (3) Organise forums to share good practices, lessons learned, evidence, and recommendations for promoting the implementation of the Government's policies on nutrition and nutrition sensitivity;*
- (4) Mobilise stakeholders' participation and resource contribution, including donors, local and international non-governmental organisations, international organisations, communities, and the Government in addressing the Initiative's priority areas.*

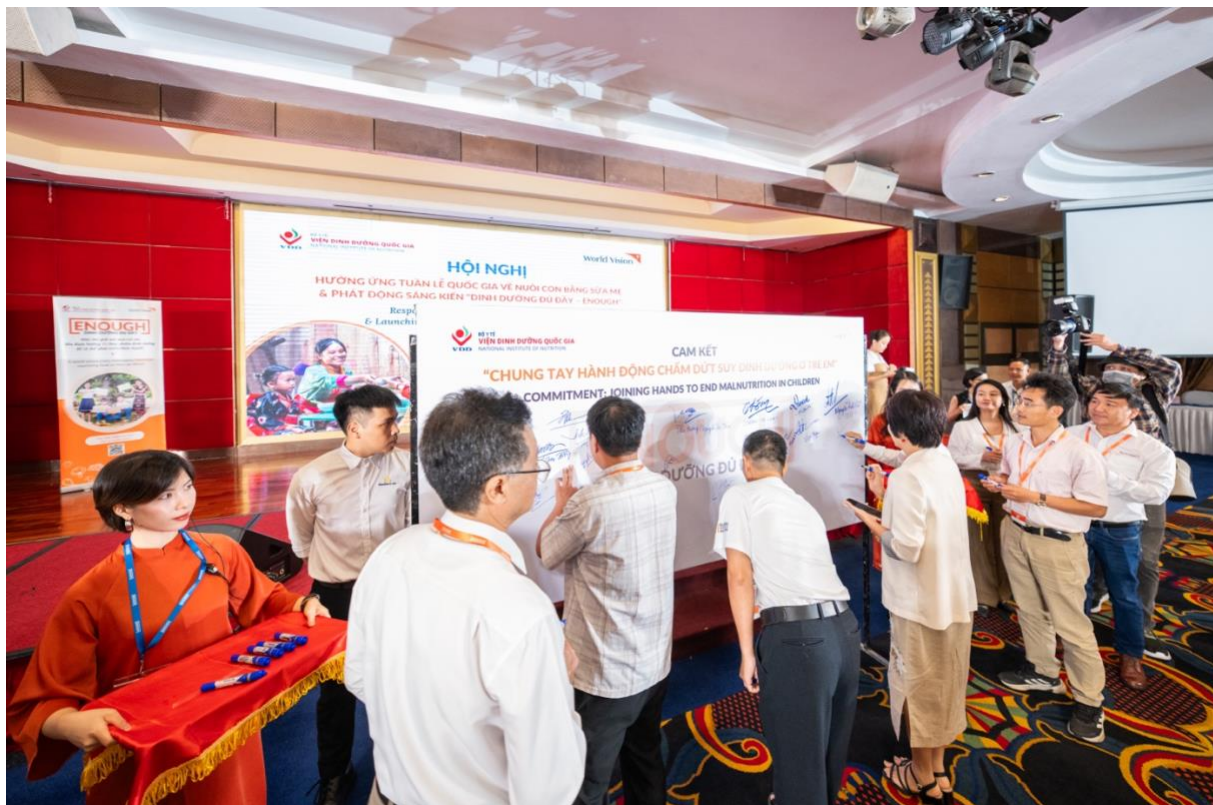
These actions will be integrated into the 25 Area Programmes' activities in cities/provinces across the country where World Vision operates, including Dien Bien, Hai Phong, Thanh Hoa, Quang Tri, Da Nang, Quang Nam, Quang Ngai, Dak Nong, Ho Chi Minh City. Globally, ENOUGH will benefit 125 million children in 67 countries.



Children also had the space to voice their concerns and suggestions during the ceremony. Before attending the event, representative children discussed the issues related to nutrition and health in their hometown and proposed practical actions to solve them.

A Phu (14 years old) shared that in his hometown, there are still plenty of children malnourished cases due to mothers giving birth at a young age, poor health, and lack of knowledge about child care. He hopes that *"there will be more communication activities for parents and children on topics such as nutrition importance and how to prepare safe, nutritious meals; the consequences of early marriage."* While Thanh Phuong (17 years old, Quang Tri) raised the issue of fast food, which is of unknown origin and unhygienic, and made a lot of sales near schools, which may harm students' health. Phuong proposed these cases to be handled.

In his closing remarks at the event, Associate Professor, Dr. Tran Thanh Duong, Director of the National Institute of Nutrition, called for cooperation from all parties *"towards a bright future for Vietnamese children."* Speaking on behalf of the National Institute of Nutrition, he also affirmed: *"In realizing this initiative, period of 2024-2026, the National Institute of Nutrition and World Vision International in Vietnam will implement this Initiative with a series of action programmes."*



Before the end of the ceremony, all participants signed a pledge to demonstrate solidarity in bringing enough nutrition and abundant love to every child.



- More information about the global ENOUGH Nutrition Initiative <https://enough.wvi.org.vn/vi/>

About the National Institute of Nutrition

The National Institute of Nutrition was established in 1980 by the Government Council and is the leading research institute of the Ministry of Health in nutritional science, food science, and food safety. The Institute is responsible for scientifically identifying important nutritional issues in the country and proposing specific intervention strategies and solutions to improve the nutritional status of the people. The Institute is responsible for researching important nutritional issues in the country, including proposing strategies and specific intervention solutions to improve the nutritional status of the people. The Institute also proposes to the State measures to improve health and prevent and treat diseases following the nutritional needs and socio-economic development conditions of the country at each stage.

About World Vision International in Viet Nam

As a leading child-focused organisation, World Vision is driven by our desire to ensure that every boy and girl has what they need to grow in mind, body, and spirit. World Vision works alongside governments, sponsors, communities, and children to create positive impacts and, as a result, enrich the lives of communities and children. Our staff in nearly 100 countries work hard together with our partners to positively impact the lives of more than 200 million vulnerable children worldwide, including more than 200,000 in Viet Nam.

World Vision is privileged to have received the Registration Certificate for its operations in Viet Nam since 1988. In 2023, we received support from the Government of Viet Nam in implementing our programs and projects in 14 cities and provinces nationwide.

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