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Press release

THE EUROPEAN UNION & WORLD VISION SUPPORTS CHILD PROTECTIONS SERVICES IN THE MOUNTAINOUS NORTHERN PROVINCE OF DIEN BIEN

Dien Bien -- World Vision International in Viet Nam in collaboration with the European Union (EU is proud to announce the launch of the "Happy Boarding Schools" Project (2/2025-9/2027), an initiative which aims to enhance ethnic students' access to quality child protection services and other essential services in secondary boarding schools.

Dien Bien is one of Viet Nam's mountainous provinces, characterised by a high poverty rate. It is home to 20 ethnic groups. Children face a high risk of encountering issues such as violence, bullying, and mental health challenges. Besides, there is also a lack of quality child protection services and a lack of facilities to ensure quality childcare and protection services in the province. Therefore, the project aims to address these challenges by improving the quality of life and creating opportunities for all.

In particular, the project will firstly, ensure that children have access to quality child protection services as well as other essential services in ethnic boarding secondary schools. Secondly, enhance the capacity of local authorities alongside the Education and Training sector so that students can access quality child protection services in addition to other essential services in boarding. Finally, strengthen the role of local authorities, the Education and Training sector, and schools in order to provide quality child protection services together with other essential services in schools.

The project, funded by the EU with a total budget of EUR 627,530 through World Vision International in Viet Nam, supports 14 secondary boarding schools in Dien



Bien Province across four districts: Dien Bien Dong, Muong Cha, Tuan Giao and Tua Chua, with additional provincial-level activities in Dien Bien Phu City.

The leading local partner of the project is Dien Bien Provincial Department of Education and Training, along with the other collaborative partners namely Dien

Bien Association for the Protection of People with Disabilities and Children's Rights, the Dien Bien Department of Health, Women's Union, the Provincial Police, the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union, the People's Committees of the four targeted districts, the People's Committees and Child Protection Committees of the 14 target communes, and the 14 target ethnic boarding secondary schools.



Mr. Cu Huy Hoan as a representative from the Department of Education and Training of Dien Bien Province delivered the opening speech at the project launching event.



In the opening speech, Mr. Cu Huy Hoan, Deputy Director of the Department of Education and Training of Dien Bien Province remarked *“This launching event marks an important starting point for a project that will bring significant and practical benefits to the children in ethnic boarding secondary schools specifically, and to the children of Dien Bien Province in general, in the coming period.”*,

The project is expected to benefit a total of nearly 50,000 individuals, including children, caregivers, education officials, teachers, and staff. Specifically, direct beneficiaries include nearly 19,000 individuals at the 14 targeted schools, comprising more than 6,500 boarding students, nearly 450 education officials and teachers and close to 12,500 parents.

Speaking about this event, Mr. Gonzalo Serrano de la Rosa, Deputy Head of Cooperation from the EU Delegation said *“The European Union is committed to supporting initiatives that ensure every child has access to quality education and protection services. This project exemplifies our dedication to improving the lives of ethnic minority children and fostering a safe, nurturing environment for their growth and development.”*



Mr. Dang Van Bai, Zonal Programme Manager for North 1 at World Vision International in Vietnam, expressed appreciation for the long-standing collaboration with Dien Bien Province.

"World Vision International in Viet Nam has been collaborating with Dien Bien Province for nearly 20 years in improving the well-being of vulnerable communities and children," said Mr. Dang Van Bai, Zonal Programme Manager for North 1 (Dien Bien, Hai Phong, Ha Noi), World Vision International in Viet Nam. "We highly appreciate the very effective, timely cooperation and support of local authorities in implementing interventions. Currently, World Vision International in Viet Nam's programmes are being implemented in five districts of Dien Bien Province, including Dien Bien Dong, Muong Ang, Muong Cha, Tuan Giao and Tua Chua."



The delegation had a discussion at the the Kick-off workshop



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