



Press Release

Korea Funds VND 10.7 Billion to Reduce COVID-19 Impact on Ethnic Minority Groups in Việt Nam

Hà Nội, 16 October 2020 – Twenty-seven thousand vulnerable children and adults of ethnic minority groups residing in Điện Biên, Yên Bái, Quảng Nam, and Quảng Ngãi provinces will benefit from a recovery project funded by the Korean International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) and implemented by World Vision Việt Nam.

The project's budget of over **VND 10.7 billion** [USD 464,158] is aimed to directly support children, families, and schools by stabilizing household economy and strengthening local ability to prevent infectious diseases. The project will be implemented over a course of 4 months in six mountainous districts, namely Mường Chà, Tủa Chùa, Trạm Tấu, Nam Giang, Minh Long, and Sơn Tây.

“Not just being the main cause of the current economic downturn, COVID-19 is also a development dilemma, which carries tremendous negative impact on vulnerable children and families,” stated World Vision Việt Nam National Director Trần Thu Huyền.

A survey conducted last June with 6,856 community people in World Vision's working areas across Vietnam's 14 cities and provinces shows the considerable aftermath of COVID-19. Despite their distance from COVID-19 hotspots in the country, many of the poor households have been put in further difficult circumstances due to job losses. Specifically, 91% of the surveyed households have been suffering from food shortage, 66% have had their livelihoods severely affected, and 80% are struggling to settle their loans.

“Parents are encountering countless difficulties to sustain their lives and take proper care of their children. This is now the most crucial time to help protect children's well-being, development, and future. Alongside with all on-going efforts of the Vietnam's Government, this public-private partnership between KOICA and World Vision is expected to relieve the dire needs of up to 7,000 families,” explained Trần Thu Huyền.

Main components of this recovery project are designed to respond to the crucial needs identified during World Vision's survey. First, to address **food insecurity**, World Vision will provide food aid (with additional micronutrient products or fortified food for malnourished children) and facilitate alternative sustainable livelihoods. Second, to scale up **COVID-19 preventive measures**, World Vision will establish or improve handwashing stations at school and at home while also increasing access to water storage and supply for local people.



This grant to Vietnam is part of KOICA's larger grant of total USD 773,110 [KRW 920,000,000] to help the Mekong Region (including Cambodia, Myanmar, and Việt Nam) cope with the tremendous impact of COVID-19.

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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 Vietnam 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.

Previously in April 2020, World Vision launched a VND 18.6 billion [USD 800,000] worth response and recovery program to support 612,034 direct beneficiaries in 14 cities through food aid and livelihood support, supply of masks and hygiene items, child protection initiatives, strengthened local health system, and communication of preventive measures.

About KOICA's contribution to COVID-19 response in Mekong Region:

This USD 773,110 grant is implemented by a consortium of established international NGOs, with Global Civic Sharing (GCS) as the leading agency.

GCS is a South Korea-based international NGO, committed to promoting sustainable community development in eight countries in Asia and Africa by encouraging vulnerable people in self-reliance activities. In Việt Nam, GCS aims to fulfill self-reliance in poor households in rural areas near Hà Nội as well as in Cao Bằng, Thái Nguyên, Quảng Trị and Bà Rịa-Vũng Tàu.

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