



Press Release

World Vision Việt Nam Launched “Against Child Exploitation (ACE)” Project in Điện Biên

Điện Biên, 1 July 2022 – The Department of Labour, War Invalids and Social Affairs of Điện Biên Province joined hands with World Vision Việt Nam to announce the “Against Child Exploitation (ACE) Project” to ramp up efforts in preventing and addressing child labour.

Participants of the event included senior representatives from concerned local government agencies at provincial and district level, especially those of three project target districts: Mường Ảng District and Tuần Giáo District, as well as relevant communes.

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



Figure 1: Senior representatives from relevant local government agencies at provincial, district, and communal level of Điện Biên Province and World Vision Việt Nam National Director signed the MOU at the workshop.

In the past few years, Việt Nam has made significant strides in the fight against child labour through developing a strong legal framework aligned with international labour standards and carrying out a number of programs and projects to counter child labour nationally and locally.

However, child labour still persists in the country, especially in the informal sector of the economy. According to the 2018 Việt Nam National Child Labour Survey¹ 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.

¹ https://www.ilo.org/hanoi/Whatwedo/Publications/WCMS_764357/lang--en/index.htm



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). It is obvious that the technological advancement in Vietnam 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)², there have been more than 706,000 cases of online child sexual abuse materials (images/videos) reported in Vietnam, 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 Vietnam and its communities.

Điện Biên is one of three project target cities/provinces (along with Quảng Nam Province and Đà Nẵng City) for the duration from April 2022 to September 2024.

Reports by authorized government agencies show that there has been no child labour incidence being recorded so far. In the province, there are more than 215.000 children aged 16 and below, of which over 70.000 children are at risk of living in special circumstances. Notably, most of them are from poor and near-poor households.

“While no child labour incidence has been recorded so far, further attention from the Government should be paid to this group of children in an effort to prevent at-risk children from being pushed into child labour. If those at-risk group of population is left out, or not sufficiently cared about, they are likely to involve in child labour,” Ms. Nguyễn Thị Kim Oanh, Head of Department of Children and Gender Equality shared.



Figure 2: Mrs. Nguyễn Thị Kim Oanh, Head of Department of Children and Gender Equality delivered a speech at the workshop.

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



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.

In order to achieve those outcomes, five main groups of interventions are designed as below:

1. Awareness raising activities to increase knowledge of 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 district level, etc.
4. Partnership promotion to detect, remove, and respond to OSEC as well as share promising practices in addressing child labour and OSEC
5. Strengthen child protection system through a set of community child labor monitoring tools, the revision of criteria to define WFCL and support procedures for children affected by WFCL, as well as the enhancement of the reporting and referral mechanism

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



Figure 3: Mr. Rafiq Mangi, ACE Project Deputy Director, World Vision Việt Nam gave an overview of the ACE project.

"Building on fruitful results achieved in Philippines, we have designed the ACE project framework with the consideration of local context in Việt Nam, ensuring the practical effectiveness of the project," said Mr. Rafiq Mangi, ACE Project Deputy Director, World Vision Việt Nam. "Guided by a community-based approach and the cooperative spirit from concerned government agencies at provincial and district levels, we hope that the ACE project will bring life-changing impacts to the most vulnerable children, towards a life in all its fullness."



Figure 4: Participants joined the group photo at the workshop.

The ACE project is expected to strengthen long-standing partnership between World Vision Việt Nam and the government agencies of Điện Biên Province in an effort to give a fulfilling life for all children in the city.

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About World Vision Việt 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 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 14 cities and provinces throughout Việt Nam.

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