

WORLD VISION INTERNATIONAL IN VIET NAM CELEBRATES ITS COLLECTIVE EFFORTS TO ADDRESS CHILD LABOR

Ha Noi, September 18, 2024 - *World Vision International in Viet Nam, in partnership with national and local stakeholders, reflected on their achievements, shared best practices, and highlighted sustainable strategies to tackle child labour at the closing ceremony of the Against Child Exploitation (ACE) Project.*



The event was attended by more than 100 delegates, including representatives from the Department of Child Affairs, Department of Information Security, ACE Project representatives from the Philippines, embassies, international organizations, and government agencies at provincial and district levels from the three project provinces: Da Nang, Quang Nam, and Dien Bien.

The Against Child Exploitation (ACE) project, funded by the United States Department of Labor, commenced in 2019 in the Philippines, and from November 2021 to September 2024 in Viet Nam in six target districts of three target provinces (Dien Bien Province, Da Nang City, and Quang Nam Province). The ACE Project aims to strengthen the Vietnamese government's capacity to combat the worst forms of child labor, including the online sexual exploitation of children (OSEC), and promote acceptable working conditions through a unified and participatory approach. The project has focused extensively on enhancing the enforcement of legal frameworks and policies, strengthening support services for children at risk of child labor, and fostering collaboration with a diverse range of stakeholders, both within and outside the government.

A 2023 baseline survey conducted by the project indicated that while no cases of child labor were recorded in the three provinces, there remains a high risk of children engaging in child labor, exacerbated by the severe effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.



Mr. Doseba Tua Sinay, National Director of World Vision International in Viet Nam, gave a speech at the ACE project closing ceremony.

“As a child-focused organization, our goal is to protect children from all forms of abuse and risks that could harm their lives. Among these efforts is the implementation of the ACE Project in Viet Nam,” said Mr. Doseba Tua Sinay, National Director of World Vision International in Viet Nam. “We are pleased to see the successful roll-out of the ACE Project in Viet Nam, demonstrating our joint efforts in addressing child labor in the country and contributing to our commitment to ensuring life in all its fullness for all children, especially the most vulnerable.”



Ms. Tran Thi Nhuan, Head of the Unit of Gender Equality and Child Affairs, Dien Bien Department of Labor, Invalids and Social Affairs, shared the project's impacts in Dien Bien with the participants.

"What impresses me most is the team's unwavering commitment to listening to the local community's needs and desires," shared Tran Thi Nhuan, Head of Unit of Gender Equality and Child Affairs, Dien Bien Department of Labor, Invalids and Social Affairs. "This approach ensures that the project's interventions are not only well-suited to the local context but also make the most of our existing resources. As a result, we're able to prevent and reduce child labor in the area more effectively."

After more than two years of implementation, the project has accomplished several key achievements:

- 1,152 child protection officers and collaborators have had their capacities strengthened, of which 124 core trainers have been built up.
- 62 awareness-raising events have been organized.
- Over 4,000 children at risk of child labor have accessed to supporting services.
- Two district counselling and support centers have been established to assist children at risk of child labor.
- Development of online courses, training materials, communication campaigns, and songs focused on child labor, among others.

Discussing the project's achievements, Mr. Nguyen Huy, Head of the Division of Child Affairs and Gender Equality, Quang Nam Department of Labor, Invalids and Social Affairs, stated: *"With this core group of trainers, we will collaborate with local communities to train grassroots-level staff and carry out awareness-raising initiatives to prevent child labor, integrating these efforts into broader child protection strategies."*



Mr. Nguyen Huy, Head of the Division of Child Affairs and Gender Equality, Quang Nam Department of Labor, Invalids and Social Affairs, emphasized the cooperation spirit in promoting project results at the conference.

Significantly, based on existing legal regulations, the project has developed a Child Labor Monitoring System for screening and identifying children at risk and victims of child labor.



Ms. Nguyen Thi Thu Ha, Vice Head of the Unit of Social Sponsorship and Child Affairs, Da Nang Department of Labor, Invalids and Social Affairs, commented on the project toolkit's valuable impacts.

Ms. Nguyen Thi Thu Ha, Vice Head of Unit of Social Sponsorship and Child Affairs, Da Nang Department of Labor, Invalids and Social Affairs also commented on the toolkit, stating that the screening results have provided valuable insights into the child labor situation in three target districts. *"This information has been crucial in developing intervention plans to support children at risk of becoming child laborers, aiding the local authorities in effectively implementing the Program on Preventing and Reducing Child Labor in the city,"* said Mrs. Ha.

Given the increasing online risks for children, the ACE Project has collaborated with the Viet Nam Information Security Association (VNISA) to establish the first-of-its-kind Viet Nam Cyber Safety for Children Club (VCSC). This initiative also includes 10 other founding members, such as IT companies providing online child protection services and products, as well as child-focused NGOs in Viet Nam. In its first year, the club achieved a significant milestone by launching a set of criteria for services and products aimed at protecting children online.

"Protecting children online demands a unified effort from various sectors, including the government, private companies, international organizations, and society as a whole. This initiative showcases the dedication and joint efforts of these groups, particularly international organizations like World Vision, to ensure the safety of children online.", emphasized Mr. Ngo Tuan Anh, President of the VCSC.



ACE project achievements's exhibition corners

At the event, the three provinces involved in the project had the opportunity to present their results and share lessons learned. Special displays were also set up, highlighting achievements and activities in each province.

A handover ceremony has also taken place at the event, providing an opportunity for the project to transfer all materials, tools, and packages to partners, which helps ensure the project's sustainability.

"We will continue to use the data collected from the screening toolkit to prioritize future interventions," affirmed Mrs. Nguyen Thi Thu Huong, Vice Director, Da Nang Department of Labor, Invalids and Social Affairs. "Additionally, using the toolkit developed by the project, we will

conduct annual screenings to identify children at risk of engaging in child labor across the city. This will help ensure that any child at risk receives timely support and intervention.”

At the close of the event, Mr. Rafiq Ahmed Mangi, Deputy ACE Project Director, expressed gratitude to the partners for their commitment to strengthening the protection of children from child labor, including OSEC. He conveyed his confidence that, even after Project ACE concludes in September, the partners will continue the efforts that have been initiated.



Representatives of World Vision and the ACE project handed over the ACE project results to the three partners in Dien Bien, Quang Nam, Da Nang.

“What we have accomplished with the ACE Project is merely an initial, modest step, but it is sufficient to pave the way for future interventions by our partners. Going from zero to one is just the beginning, but moving beyond that, we trust in the ripple effects the ACE Project has set in motion, guiding us toward a child labor- free future for all children,” said Mr. Rafiq Ahmed Mangi.

THE END.

ABOUT ACE PROJECT

The Against Child Exploitation (ACE) project, funded by the United States Department of Labor, has commenced since 2019 in the Philippines with the view to strengthening the capacity of the Philippine government to address the Worst Forms of Child Labor (WFCL) including Online Sexual Exploitation of Children (OSEC), and violations of acceptable conditions of work.

Building on fruitful results achieved in the Philippines, the ACE project has been implemented from November 2021 to September 2024 in Viet Nam in six target districts of three target provinces (Dien Bien Province, Da Nang City, and Quang Nam Province). The project's expected outcomes are as follows:

1. Outcome 1: Improved enforcement of the legal framework and policies pertaining to the WFCL, including OSEC, and violations of acceptable conditions of work.
2. Outcome 2: Improved assistance services for victims of WFCL and/or OSEC.
3. Outcome 3: Strengthened partnerships to accelerate progress in addressing the WFCL, including OSEC, and violations of acceptable conditions of work.

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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