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AWARENESS RAISING

Social media campaign promotes action against child labour among the general public

To mark 2021 as the International Year for the Elimination of Child Labour, a social media campaign on child labour was implemented via the ILO Facebook page to promote action against child labour throughout the year. In June in particular, for the occasion of World Day Against Child Labour (WDACL) during the Week of Action (10– 17 June), a high volume of posts were shared. A game on child labour was organized to promote engagement, and celebrity influencers were mobilized to strengthen the impact of the campaign. In addition to sharing facts on child labour, and the increased risk of child labour resulting from COVID-19, information was shared on the recently implemented National Child Labour Programme, and the latest global estimates on child labour were disseminated. The campaign reached an audience of around 1,083,000 in total. In addition to online posts, messages via mobile loudspeakers were organized in An Giang on the occasion of WDACL.

Two songs awarded first prize in Music Against Child Labour competition

On 27 April 2021, Viet Nam launched its music against child labour song competition, which attracted 88 entries from 68 musicians from across Viet Nam. On 2 December 2021, an awarding ceremony was held in Hanoi, during which two first prizes were awarded, as well as two second prizes, five third prizes and four encouragement prizes. The two winning songs include "Tre em nu bup

tren canh" (Children are young buds on the trees) by composer Khanh Vinh, and Em uoc mong sao (my wish for the world), by songwriter Tran Van Hung. The initiative was launched by the Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs (MOLISA), the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the Viet Nam Musicians' Association, in collaboration with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Save the Children International, and Good Neighbors International. Implemented as part of the UN International Year for the Elimination of Child Labour, the goal of the competition was to harness the power of music to raise public awareness on child labour and mobilize engagement. The winning songs will provide a powerful advocacy tool to promote action against child labour at all levels of society

Second National Programme to Prevent and Reduce Child labour Launched

The second Programme on the Prevention and Reduction of Child Labour for the 2021– 25 period was officially launched on 1 December 2021 in Hanoi at a hybrid event with the attendance of both online and offline participants. Developed by the Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs (MOLISA) with leadership from its Department of Child Affairs (DCA) and technical support from the ILO, the programme builds on the successes and lessons learned from the implementation of the first National Child Labour Programme, implemented from 2016– 2020. The latest programme was approved by the Prime Minister through Decision No. 782/QD - TTg on 27 May 2021. With a long-term vision towards 2030, the programme has three core aims: to prevent and detect cases of child labour, and support and provide interventions for children engaged in and at risk of child labour; to raise awareness on child labour prevention and reduction; and to deliver training and capacity building on child labour prevention and reduction. The launch of the programme represents a pivotal landmark along Viet Nam's path towards achieving SDG Target 8.7 to eliminate child labour. Accordingly, the programme is aligned with Viet Nam's Road Map towards SDG Target 8.7. It is also informed by findings from Viet Nam's 2018 National Child Labour Survey.

The launch event was attended by around 300 delegates, including representatives from government ministries, the US Embassy and the EU, academic and research institutions, workers' and employers' organizations, UN agencies, NGOs, industry associations and enterprises, and key provincial level implementing agencies. During the event, participants were introduced to the objectives and content of the programme, and provided with guidance on how to translate these aims into concrete action. They also discussed the challenges related to COVID-19 which will increase the risk of child labour, including economic decline, the impact of underemployment and job loss on households, barriers to education, food insecurity, increased mortality and high medical costs.

Following the launch, to ensure the successful implementation of the programme, and to support the development of provincial action plans for implementation at local level, the project collaborated with DCA/MOLISA to conduct two online training sessions on developing effective provincial action plans for implementing the national programme for DOLISA and child protection staff across the country. The first session took place on 6 and 7 December, and the second took place from 8-10

December 2021 The training was intended to familiarize participants with the components and framework of the programme, and provide guidance on the planning, management and implementation of related activities. During the sessions, participants had the opportunity to practice developing a plan to prevent and reduce child labour for 2022, through the framework of the programme. As Viet Nam forges ahead with the implementation of the ambitious programme, the goal is to build on the achievements and lessons learned from the past five years, during which many noteworthy milestones were achieved as a result of the first programme.

Building capacity for agencies engaged in child labour prevention

A five-day online TOT training course was organized on 1-3 and 14- 15 December 2021, to build the capacity of 20 staff members working on child care and protection, and DOLISA officials in four project districts in Hanoi and four districts outside the project area. The training was delivered using the "Understanding Child Labour" training materials, developed by the project and DCA. In addition to deepening the knowledge of participants on issues related to child labour, the training provided participants with the training and communication skills to facilitate further online sessions. 2 days of the training were dedicated to the prevention and elimination of child labour; 1.5 days was spent on training methodologies and 1.5 days was devoted to practicing training. 6 out of 20 trainees can now confidently deliver training on child labour in their communities, and 11 out of 20 participants were assessed as potential trainers pending further coaching. The training will contribute significantly to the implementation of the National child labour programme over the next five years.

INTERNATIONAL ONLINE CONFERENCE ON COMBATING CHILD LABOUR IN ASEAN/SOUTHEAST ASIA

3-4 JUNE 2021

Academic stakeholders in the region join forces to tackle child labour

With support from the project, an "Online Conference on Combating Child Labour in ASEAN/Southeast Asia" was held on 3-4 June 2021. The conference was hosted by the School of Law at Viet Nam National University, Hanoi, in collaboration with the South East Asian Human rights research network (SEARHN) and the programme, Strengthening Human Rights and Peace Research and Education in ASEAN/Southeast Asia (SHAPE-SEA). The conference provided a unique platform for more than 130 scholars, advocates, practitioners, government officials and representatives of ASEAN and the UN. The goal was to share knowledge and experiences on child labour prevention in the region, strengthen multistakeholder collaboration and promote the participation of scholars, researchers, universities and research institutes in the prevention of child labour. 24 abstracts were presented at the Conference, with scholars from Myanmar, Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, Vietnam and China sharing their research. The Conference was organized over two afternoons, with two plenary key note sessions and five panels. The panels explored issues of vulnerability and child labour, child labour in different sectors, the impact of COVID-19 on child labour, and Laws and policies related to child labour. Each presentation was followed by active discussions and Q&As.

After the Conference, selected papers were gathered to form a conference proceedings publication and seven papers were selected for publication in the Lentera Hukum (Journal of Legal Studies)— an academic journal established by the Human Rights Centre of the University of Jember, Indonesia. The final conference proceedings booklet was finalized for printing in October 2021. In addition, a webpage for the conference was developed for papers on the SHAPE-SEA website.

Engaging the fishery sector to prevent child labour in the context of COVID-19

The Vietnam Association of Seafood Exporters and Producers (VASEP) has been collaborating with the project on a series of measures to prevent and reduce child labour in the fishery sector, with a focus on the heightened risk of child labour in the context of COVID-19. As a first step, the project supported VASEP to conduct a rapid assessment on the impacts of COVID-19 on children of seafood workers affected by the pandemic. Following this, an online forum on child labour and social protection for fishery workers in the context of COVID-19 was organized on 29 October 2021 to introduce the results of the assessment and explore solutions and labour management measures to support workers and employers in the fishery sector to prevent child labour. The forum attracted 132 participants comprised of representatives from 74 enterprises and seafood supply chain units, ship owners, fishing port officials, professional officers at Provincial Departments of Fisheries, DOLISA staff, Directorate of Fisheries, Departments of Agriculture and Rural Development, departments of Fisheries, the Management Board of fishing ports, and representatives from relevant Ministries and sectors. On 24 November, a training course on the practical application of social responsibility standards and prevention of child labour in the fishery sector was conducted for officials from 52 units in the seafood supply chain, with a total of 106 participants. The training provided an overview of voluntary standards in use in the fishery sector, regulations and requirements related to child labour and discussions on developing child labour prevention plans in seafood businesses and seafood supply chains.

Officials from across the country supported to implement legislation on minor workers

On 5 and 8 November 2021, the project supported the organization of workshops to provide guidance on implementing articles related to the employment of juvenile workers in the 2019 labour code. The workshop included online and offline participants, with the latter comprised of officials from DCA, the Department of Labour Safety, Department of Labour Relations and Wages and the MOLISA Inspectorate. Online participants included officials DOLISA officials from all 63 provinces, with one labour official, one child protection staff member and one inspector per province. The workshop has enhanced understanding and enforcement of regulations on the employment of minor workers nationwide, contributing significantly to the prevention of child labour.

Viet Nam Cooperative Alliance (VCA) manual on child labour prevention finalized

The ENHANCE project supported VCA to develop a practical and user-friendly manual on child labour prevention and elimination, which is tailored to the needs and conditions of cooperatives and appropriate for the use of cooperative members and officers of VCA system. To collect inputs and comments on the draft manual, a consultancy meeting with 34 VCA experts, trainers, provincial Cooperative Alliances and cooperative staff was organised in September 2021. During the meeting, participants highly appraised the manual and provided ideas for refining it. The manual has since been finalized and made available for TOT cum pre-test training, organised in November 2021 for 26 trainers and core staff of the VCA system. This was followed by two roll out trainings on child labour prevention for 54 cooperative members and provincial Cooperative Alliance representatives, during which four trainees from the TOT delivered training sessions.

Project partners supported to enhance online conferencing skills

In June and July 2021, the Project provided two trainings on designing and conducting and facilitating interactive virtual trainings and conferences. The training provided practical techniques and tools to design and conduct engaging and interactive virtual events, guide learners, promote productivity and motivate participants. A total of 101 participants benefited from the training, comprised of project partners from government, mass organizations, social work centres, research and training institutions, and employers' and workers' organizations from provincial, district to central levels. At the beginning of the course, some participants seemed skeptical about their ability to conduct an online event. However, during a practical session towards the end of the training, most of the trainees were active in participating in group work, taking responsibility in group activities, either in a leading role or supporting roles in facilitating mini online sessions.

DIRECT INTERVENTIONS

Project collaborates with partners to support children affected by COVID-19 and identifies new beneficiary children for education support

In HCMC, an IA with HCMC DOLISA was agreed and signed in October 2021. As a priority, HCMC DOLISA will update information on current beneficiary children, as well as profiling new children who are heavily impacted by COVID-19 and at risk of engaging in child labour, for immediate and timely support. These activities are expected to be conducted in January 2022, depending on situation of the social distancing order in the locality. From 16– 17 and 29 December 2021, in collaboration with DOLISA and Saigon Children's Charity, 180 gifts were presented to 180 disadvantaged children and their families who have been affected by COVID-19 in Cu Chi, Tan Phu, Tan Binh, Binh Hung Hoa A and Binh Tan districts in HCMC. Each gift is worth VND1,500,000, and includes 15 essential items, mainly comprised of essential foods such as noodles, canned foods and cooking oil, along with other necessities intended to improve the nutrition, health and living conditions of children.

In Hanoi, Hanoi DOLISA has been updating information of beneficiary children in the Local Direct Beneficiary Monitoring and Reporting (DBMR) system, and has so far profiled about 138 new children for further needs assessments and immediate support in 11 project communes. To strengthen the capacity of DBMR focal point staff and collaborators on this process, 2 one-day refresher training courses are were conducted in Hanoi in Oct 2021, targeting 20 focal point staff at provincial, district and commune levels, together with 54 commune/village collaborators. It is expected that information on the emerging needs of beneficiary children and their families will be available for further processing by the end of December.

In An Giang, based on needs for education support identified through the DBMR system in August 2021, a range of school items, including school bags, notebooks, pens and calculators were procured and handed over to An Giang DOLISA for timely delivering to beneficiary children in early October 2021. Beneficiaries included 140 primary school children and 128 secondary school children.

Livelihood support progresses in Hanoi and An Giang in the face of COVID-19 restrictions

In An Giang, after the final list of targeted households for livelihood support was reviewed in September 2021, the Centre for Adanced Science and Technology Application under An Giang Department of Science and Technology, the Environment and Mekong Agricultural Service and the Aquarium Cooperative have been selected to provide supplies to beneficiary households, including eel breeds, mushroom embryos, and irrigation spraying systems for chilli cultivation. By November 2021, 88,000 mud-free eel breeds were handed over to 41 households in three districts, and Cho Moi and Chau Phu vocation training schools have since provided households with technical training on mud-free eel breeding. Follow up monthly monitoring visits are being conducted by the supplier to ensure sustainability.

In Hanoi, a "Quick Assessment of Socio-Economic Situation and Needs for Livelihood Support" was carried out by Hanoi Cooperative Alliance (HCA), Vietnam Rural Industries Research and Development Institute (VIRI) and consultants in October 2020. Consultations were held to discuss proposed activities for livelihood development support and plan for implementation. These activities include: (i) support to replicate the model of livestock/vegetable cultivation in Trung Hoa, Hoang Dieu, and Huong Ngai communes; (ii) support for a business development package to add value to products from selected communes; iii) provision of household financial management skills; and iv) sustaining and developing traditional bamboo handicraft models for beneficiary households in Trung Hoa commune.

Under an IA signed between VIRI and the ILO in July 2021, the focus is on improving livelihoods of the project's beneficiary households through the development of sustainable production and business models in Duong Lieu commune, in Hanoi. To this end, four vermicelli and confectionary production facilities have been selected for the project's support. Furthermore, a guidebook for households/production facilities and businesses in the food supply chain has been drafted for further comments and inputs from the project, with the aim of raising awareness among households and production facilities on the child labour free model.

Under the IA with HCA, despite difficulties due to the fourth wave of COVID-19 and extended social distancing measures, two technical training sessions for 15 members of an animal husbandry cooperative group were delivered in April and July 2021, and one technical training on harvesting techniques for taro/chives was implemented for 12 cooperative members in July 2021. Monthly visits to support beneficiary households in the animal husbandry and taro/chive cultivation groups continue to be carried out regularly, with support groups and local authorities playing an important role in the monitoring and implementation of livelihood support.

Thanks to this strong support, all targeted households participating in the animal husbandry and vegetable cultivation groups have earned income from supported production activities and used part of their income for further investment. In addition, the pig farming model has been scaled up in Trung Hoa commune.

In July 2021, households were provided two technical training sessions and each household received two breeding pigs with a 10 per cent contribution from households.

Livelihood support in action

Hoan lives in a small village on the outskirts of Hanoi with her four children, including three girls aged 18, 16 and 9, and a boy aged 7. Hoan's husband passed away in 2016 leaving her as the sole breadwinner for the family. To make ends meet over the years, Hoan has divided her time between rattan and bamboo weaving, making rice wine and pig raising. In 2020, not only was the single mother faced with the impacts of COVID-19, she also lost her livestock to a widespread swine disease, depriving her of her main source of income. In September of 2021, the project stepped in, providing Hoan with 2 piglets and 1 sow, along with the provision of technical training on disease prevention and sustainable breeding techniques. As a result, Hoan has gained the confidence and capital to reinvest into pig farming. After 7 months of raising the pigs with support from the technical expert, Hoan was able to sell the pigs to a local butcher, and subsequently purchased 7 more pigs, which are currently thriving thanks to the new techniques she learned during training.

"The income I earn from pig raising makes it much easier for me to pay for my children's schooling, which is very costly at the beginning of the school year. In the past, I had to take out a loan to cover these costs", she explains. In addition to tuition fees, the cost of books, uniforms, school lunches and other learning tools places a significant financial burden on the single mother, who is keen for her children to have a brighter future. Hoan's oldest daughter is currently enrolled on her second semester of an accountancy course, which Hoan hopes will enable her to find decent employment nearby the family after she graduates. "I don't want my children to work as pig farmers; I want them to find better jobs with stable incomes", Hoan explains. In addition to the livelihood support Hoan has received from the project, she has also benefited from community awareness raising organised through the project, which has given her a better understanding of child labour and the long term benefits of education.

Although Hoan's older daughters help her with rattan weaving for a few hours a day, she is keen for her children to be able to prioritize their education. "Because of the awareness raising events I attended, and the technical training I've received, I now want to expand my pig farming activities so I can invest more in my children's education", she explains.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

- Finalizing the set of M&E indicators for the NPA period 2021 -2025 and providing training for relevant stakeholders
- Supporting the MOLISA Inspectorate to develop and pilot the procedures on child labour
- Dissemination workshop on occupational safety and health risk assessments for children working in selected sectors
- Life skills training courses for children in Hanoi
- Ongoing SCREAM events and training in Hanoi and An Giang
- Provincial level good practices sharing workshops in Hanoi and An Giang
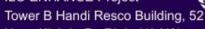- Two-day training workshop for farmers groups and cooperatives on child labour in An Giang