

## IN THIS ISSUE

**DIRECT INTERVENTIONS:** Livelihood support: A closer look; Vocational training: A closer look; Handicraft interventions  
**CAPACITY BUILDING:** Evaluation of National Action Plan; child labour data software upgrade; Textbook development  
**AWARENESS RAISING:** SCREAM: A closer look; Developing handbooks; raising awareness in the fishery sector; public awareness raising  
**UPCOMING ACTIVITIES:** 3rd policy dialogue; WDA CL 2020; Labour code workshops; VCCI training; ongoing SCREAM events; development of awareness raising videos

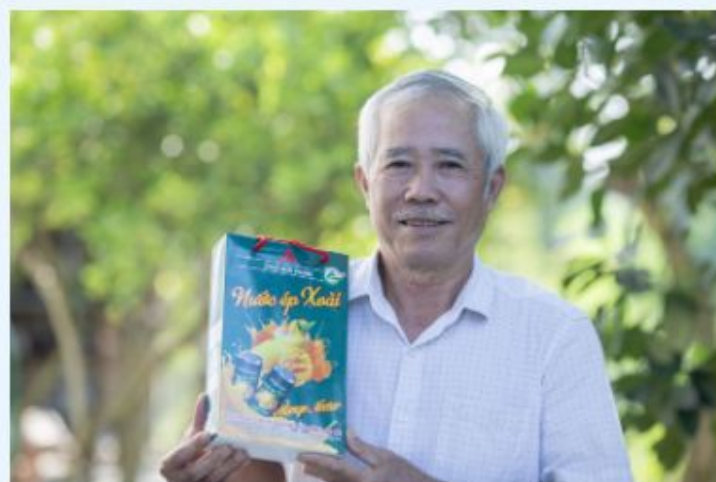
## DIRECT INTERVENTIONS

### Livelihood support: A closer look

Since 2015, experienced farmer, Tran Van Ban, has helped to run a small farming cooperative in his home village in Choi Moi District, An Giang. With support from the ENHANCE Project, the local farming cooperative, which used to focus primarily on rice cultivation, is now expanding into a lucrative mango juice processing venture. The coop is currently comprised of 21 local members, and Ban has taken on the role of sales director.

The introduction of the mango juice processing facility in Choi Moi has made a huge difference to the small community. According to Ban, the venture has created more opportunities for local families with at risk children. "So far, ten local people with children in child labour have been hired and we hope to eventually expand these benefits to more community members in need of work", he says. "I hope local families will be able to enhance their incomes so that they can send their children to school", he goes on.

Following eight months of technical support from the Center for Technology Transfer and Services (CTTS) at Can Tho University, production began in October 2019 and, by late January 2020, 6000 cans and 200 bottles of mango juice had been produced and sold. According to Ban, the most useful element of the intervention has been the technical and marketing assistance provided by CTTS. This has provided cooperative members with techniques for processing the crops, operating the machinery and marketing the product. Ban is now confident that the cooperative will be able to maintain



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production independently. Optimistic about expansion, the local entrepreneur is considering processing dragon fruit in the future, and also aspires sell the products in other communes and eventually export them internationally. As the cooperative develops further and more local jobs are created, priority will continue be given to disadvantaged families, to ensure that such households are able to choose education over child labour. "It is very important that children attend school, because children are the future. When parents have higher incomes, this is possible, and their children can go on to help their families and communities later in life", Ban stresses.

## Vocational Training: A closer look

Nguyen Thi Tu Binh is 17 years old and lives in My Thien Hamlet, An Giang, with her mother and disabled father and older brother. To help her mother provide for the family, Binh dropped out of school in the eighth grade to work cultivating rice and picking vegetables, leaving her with minimal skills or future prospects. However, in 2019, Binh's life took a dramatic turn. The family was approached by commune officials and staff at An Giang University who introduced them to the ENHANCE project's work supporting young people to access vocational training. Through An Giang University, with the project's support, Binh was connected with Thao, the owner of a local beauty salon, who is currently training Binh to become a hair stylist.

Binh now travels ten minutes to the salon every day to learn her new trade. So far, Binh has learnt hair washing and is now working on colouring skills. During the first few weeks, Thao explains, Binh was very closed and unsure of herself, but she has grown exponentially in confidence over the months. Besides technical skills, Binh is also learning a lot about customer service and how to resolve difficult situations. "The most enjoyable and rewarding part of the job is making people feel good about themselves", she elaborates. In exchange for her help with cleaning and hair washing at the salon, Binh is earning a daily allowance of 30,000 Vietnamese Dong (around US\$1.30) per day, which Thao explains will increase soon. Binh's life now is unrecognizable from her years spent working the fields.



*"It would have been impossible to pursue this dream without the training and I would have probably continued working with my mother in the fields"*

Now in a much happier place, she is finally able to envision a brighter future for herself and her family. She plans to continue with her training at the salon, and eventually, with Thao's support, she will start to learn hair cutting. Her dream is to own her own salon one day so that she can support her family. "It would have been impossible to pursue this dream without the training and I would have probably continued working with my mother in the fields" she emphasises.

## Eliminating child labour in Hanoi's handicraft sector

With the Project's support, Viet Nam Rural Industries Development and Research Institute (VIRI) and Vietcraft are collaborating with Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) specialists to develop training materials on improving OSH and preventing child labour in handicraft supply chains. The goal is to help local businesses to eliminate child labour, improve working conditions and meet the requirements of international buyers. Throughout March 2020, five training sessions on OSH and workplace improvements were provided to around

200 handicraft businesses in Hanoi. After the training, technical coaching will be provided at workplaces to develop two to three models on good OSH practices and child labour free production for replication in handicraft villages throughout Hanoi. Ensuring safe and child labour free production throughout supply chains will not only contribute to broader child labour prevention efforts but will also make local handicraft businesses and household enterprises more competitive in the global market. This will enhance the livelihoods of local producers, reducing the likelihood of households resorting to child labour in the first place.

## Evaluation of the National Plan of Action (NPA) on the prevention and elimination of child labour (2016-2020)

For the last four years, the ENHANCE Project has been supporting the implementation of the NPA on the prevention and elimination of child labour for the period 2016-2020, through capacity building, training and policy guidance. The NPA aims to improve the national legislative framework on the prevention and elimination of child labour, and implement Viet Nam's international commitment to eliminate the worst forms of child labour by 2016, and reduce child labour by 2020. As the current phase of the NPA reaches its end, the ENHANCE Project will support the Ministry of Labour Invalids and Social Affairs (MOLISA) to evaluate the effectiveness of the NPA which will be assessed by an independent evaluator.

The evaluation will assess the extent to which the programme has achieved its stated objectives and expected results, while identifying supporting factors, and constraints. It will also identify unexpected results of the programme; assess the relevance of the programme design and implementation strategy and identify lessons learned and potential good practices

Led by an external assessor, the evaluation took place throughout March 2020 through to June 2020 and the results will support the development of the upcoming NPA for the next period (2021 -2025). The next phase of the NPA will also form Viet Nam's roadmap for achieving Sustainable Development Goal Target 8.7. Drawing on lessons learnt and replicating the good practices from the previous phase of the programme will ensure the sustainability and effectiveness of future child labour prevention strategies in Viet Nam.

## Textbook on Child Rights and Child Labour developed for Master's Programme

Despite the importance of academic insight and research, the issue of child labour has never been extensively covered as a subject at universities in Viet Nam. Notably, the Master's programme in Human Rights at the Law School of the National University (VNU-LS) does not currently include Child Rights and Child Labour as part of its syllabus.

To address this gap, the Project is working to support the development of a textbook for a new module on child rights and child labour for use on the programme, with support from the Institute of Public Policy and Law (IPL). Following collaborative efforts between IPL, VNU-LS and the project, a detailed outline of the specialized textbook has now been developed and shared for review.

Academic research and learning can make important contributions to the fight against child labour. Engaging academic stakeholders in this endeavour is an opportunity to carry out education and research activities on the elimination of child labour in a sustainable manner, at nationwide scale

## Department of Child Affairs to upgrade child labour data software

The ENHANCE Project is supporting the Department of Child Affairs (DCA) to upgrade the current child database system, with a goal of enhancing capacity to collect information, monitor, prevent and respond to cases of child labour. Currently, the DCA, under the Ministry of Labour Invalids and Social Affairs, is operating a computer-based child database system which serves as an information hub and mechanism to collect, manage and aggregate information on children across the country.

In collaboration with DCA and an external contractor, the project is reviewing and upgrading the current child database system to enhance information management on children in difficult circumstances, including those in child labour or at high risk of engaging in child labour. The upgraded system will take the form of a web-based portal with mobile technology which can be accessed and managed at multiple levels ranging from Central to commune and ward levels. The upgraded system is expected to be up and running by the end of June 2020 with a goal to enhance capacity to monitor and eliminate child labour across the country.

## AWARENESS RAISING

### Supporting Child's Rights through Education, Arts and the Media (SCREAM): A closer look

On Thursday 9 January, 2020, students and teachers at Phú Nghĩa school, on the outskirts of Hanoi, organized an afternoon of drama, performances, presentations and quizzes as part of the SCREAM- Stop Child Labour Programme. Attended by students, teachers, journalists and local officials, the event gathered around 500 participants.

In addition to dance performances, a series of three plays written by the students were performed on the topic of child labour. The message of the first play, Chi's Story, stressed the importance of mobilizing community members to speak out against child labour when encountered in local businesses. The second play, Mr and Mrs Nam's family, highlighted the impact of dropping out of school early and the vital role of teachers in preventing child labour; and the final play, Poor Family, skilfully illustrated the role of poverty in driving child labour and the power of children's voices in asserting their own rights.

After the performances, students took part in a quiz on child labour followed by three student led presentations on the topic, which demonstrated an impressive level of knowledge among the students and highlighted the capacity of children to clearly articulate the impacts of child labour to their peers with confidence and conviction.

Oanh, a teacher at Phú Nghĩa School who was trained to deliver the programme, emphasizes the significant changes she has witnessed since the innovative methodology was introduced into the curriculum. "We're now confident that students are able to explain the impacts of child labour, and the legal regulations against it to their families and caregivers", she comments.

Phú Nghĩa is one of the many schools in the region implementing SCREAM with support from ENHANCE. The programme equips young people with the tools to convey messages on child labour via artistic expression, which has proven a powerful medium to inform young people and catalyse social change within communities. By engaging young people in the global campaign against child labour, the goal of SCREAM is to promote a culture of respect for children's rights within schools, families and communities.



*"We're now confident that students are able to explain the impacts of child labour, and the legal regulations against it to their families and caregivers"*



A number of teachers have been trained to deliver the SCREAM methodology to students and multiple SCREAM events have been organized with the participation thousands of targeted students and households, teachers, commune officials and child care and protection collaborators. The project will continue to support the Ministry of Labour Invalids and Social Affairs to expand the pool of SCREAM trainers at national level across all 63 provinces in Viet Nam. This will enable the Government to integrate the SCREAM approach into the upcoming phase of the Plan of Action for the Prevention and Reduction of Child Labour. By leveraging the power of education and the arts to transform perceptions of child labour, and actively involving target groups in this process, long term results can be sustained.

## Project initiates Endline KAP Survey

At the early stages of Project implementation, a baseline survey on Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices (KAP) related to child labour in Vietnam was conducted. The aim was to identify knowledge gaps and barriers to child labour prevention, and inform the development of awareness raising strategies, campaigns and capacity building initiatives. After four years of project implementation, an end-line KAP survey has been implemented to measure the impact of project activities on the KAP of the project target groups and key stakeholders at different levels.

The fieldwork was carried out between November 2019 and February 2020 with the participation of households, children, media and communication agencies and staff of social agencies, government organizations and

associations (SAGAs). In total, 1,196 household and 405 children from 27 communes of 12 districts in 3 project localities (Hanoi, An Giang and Ho Chi Minh City), 79 staff of media and communication agencies and 103 SAGA officials have been surveyed. In addition, 26 in-depth interviews and 24 focus group discussions were implemented with 181 key informants, including SAGA staff at national, provincial, district and commune levels, business owners, students and teachers in target areas to collect in-depth information on knowledge, attitudes and practices on child labour.

The draft report is currently under review and, when available, results from the survey will inform the development of awareness raising strategies for the upcoming National Plan of Action to prevent and reduce child labour (2021-2025).

## Developing user friendly handbooks to guide key stakeholders in the fight against child labour

The ENHANCE Project is currently collaborating with the Vietnam General Confederation of Labour (VGCL) and external consultants to produce a manual on child labour prevention and elimination for the use of trade union officials. The manual will help them in their routine work to promote child rights and child labour prevention and reduction among enterprises. Development of the manual began in March 2020.

In addition to this, the Project is collaborating with the International Cooperation Department (ICD) and an external consultant to produce a user friendly handbook on implementing commitments on child labour standards in the context of new generation Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) and other international commitments. In addition to clearly outlining standards, commitments and requirements on child labour prevention and elimination in the context of international integration, the handbook will document experiences and highlight good practices related to child labour prevention in supply chains. As a member of the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) and the EU-Vietnam FTA, the country is required to follow internationally recognized labour commitments.

## Raising awareness on child labour regulations in Viet Nam's fishery sector

In 2018, nearly 7.74 million tons of seafood was produced in Viet Nam, making the country the fourth largest seafood producer in the world and the third largest seafood exporter in the world. Employing around 10 million workers, the sector plays an important role in poverty reduction and has significantly contributed to socio-economic development in Viet Nam over the last decade. It is therefore critical to eliminate child labour in the industry to protect the sector and its workers and comply with international child labour standards.

To address this, ENHANCE is collaborating with the Viet Nam Association of Seafood Exporters and Producers (VASEP) to raise awareness on child labour prevention and elimination commitments within the industry and highlight the prohibition of Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing. A two day training workshop for staff of seafood processing enterprises is being arranged as well as 4 dialogues on enforcement of child labour and IUU regulations amongst ship owners and fishermen in 4 key fishing provinces. Coverage of the dialogues will be broadcast on provincial television stations and 2 video clips will be produced and broadcast to promote knowledge of regulations and enforcement on child labour and IUU commitments in the fishing industry.



## Reaching out to the general public

Throughout January and February 2020, a social media communication campaign was organized to advocate child labour prevention among the general public in Viet Nam. Four video clips previously developed by the project were posted on YouTube, Facebook and Instagram by CleverAds, a leading digital ads company in Viet Nam. The campaign achieved significant results with 633,095 YouTube True views instream; 479,565 YouTube Discovery views; 374,965 Facebook video views and 234,047 Instagram video views.

To complement this, further public awareness raising efforts have been initiated through the installation of communication signboards on child labour, which have been installed in public spaces (near schools, local People's Committees, markets, main roads) in Hanoi and An Giang province to raise awareness at community level. 22 signboards were installed in various communes of 4 project districts of Hanoi (Chương Mỹ, Thạch Thất, Gia Lâm and Hoài Đức). In An Giang, 24 signboards and a further 10 replacement signboards were installed in 5 localities (Long Xuyên City, Chợ Mới, Châu Phú, An Phú and Châu Đốc) in March and April 2020.



## Upcoming activities:

- Third Policy Dialogue on international labour standards and trade related obligations, with a focus on child labour in agriculture and vocational training, to be held in June 2020.
- World Day Against Child Labour (WDACL) 2020 to be celebrated in Viet Nam and around the world on 12 June, to draw attention to the impacts of COVID-19 on child labour.
- Two workshops in Hanoi and HCM city will be organized to disseminate updated content related to minor workers in the revised Labour Code 2019.
- Ongoing SCREAM activities will be implemented to raise awareness among targeted groups in the three project provinces. Awareness raising materials will also be developed to support the SCREAM activities.
- Two training courses on child labour prevention will be organised in collaboration with the Viet Nam Chamber of Commerce and Industry (VCCI) for representatives from employer organisations, enterprises and suppliers.
- The Project will support the development of four awareness raising videos on child labour prevention to be aired on provincial and national television stations.

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