



PRESS RELEASE
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NEW ZEALAND SUPPORTS THE RECOVERY OF VIETNAM FROM THE PANDEMIC WITH NZD\$2MILLION ASSISTANCE

HANOI – Today, the New Zealand Ambassador to Vietnam, H.E. Tredene Dobson, and Vice Minister of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Nguyen Minh Vu announced a NZ\$2million contribution from Aotearoa New Zealand to support Vietnam’s recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. The project will include NZ\$1 million for medical equipment, provided through UNICEF Vietnam, and NZ\$1 million for community level economic recovery support through CARE International and Oxfam in Vietnam.

“There is a well-known Māori proverb *“Naku te rourou nau te rourou ka ora ai te iwi”*, which means *“With your food basket, and my food basket, the people will thrive”*. In Viet Nam you have a similar expression *“Lá lành đùm lá rách”*. In this spirit, humanitarian support remains an important part of the strategic partnership between New Zealand and Viet Nam,” said Ambassador Tredene Dobson. “This project acknowledges that there is a two-fold approach to COVID recovery. On the one hand there is an on-going health response and this is why Aotearoa New Zealand is working with UNICEF to deliver medical equipment to areas where it is needed for the ongoing safe and effective response to COVID-19. However, there is also a significant economic impact from the pandemic so following consultation with the Government of Viet Nam, we wanted to ensure that this project also supported economic recovery amongst some of Viet Nam’s most vulnerable communities – both in the major urban centres but also in hard hit rural areas.”

“By working closely with many trusted partners, this holistic approach will hopefully set a strong course for recovery. It is now more important than ever that we work quickly at pace, to achieve our collective vision of a strong, prosperous and resilient Viet Nam,” Ambassador Dobson emphasised.

The partnership with UNICEF Vietnam will focus on providing medical equipment to support vaccination and treatment of children in Vietnam. Ms Rana Flowers, UNICEF Representative in Vietnam said: “Health systems have experienced terrible disruptions in essential health and other social services worldwide, including health services not related to COVID. This has had a significant impact on the well-being of children and women beyond that of the COVID-19 disease itself. While it is necessary to focus on the response to the pandemic, it is essential to also strengthen the preparedness of the health system to future outbreaks. Evidence shows that countries with a health expenditure below \$150 per capita will not be able to adequately prepare for or respond to future pandemics. They will not be able to close gaps in immunisation or meet targets set by the Sustainable Development Goals. Building on Viet Nam’s remarkable achievements, it is now critical to invest more to strengthen health systems, so that children and the communities have better chance to survive and thrive in the future. The medical equipment provided thanks to New Zealand will contribute to the preparedness of the health system for future outbreaks.”

The projects with CARE International in Viet Nam and Oxfam in Viet Nam will support a total of 5,400 persons who have been negatively impacted by the pandemic. Most assistance will be directed to women, people with disabilities and members of ethnic minority communities in Ho Chi Minh City, Binh Duong, Quang Tri, and Ha Giang.



Speaking of the collaboration with the New Zealand, Ms Le Kim Dung, Country Director of CARE International in Vietnam said: “CARE believes that this grant will support over 3,100 people from vulnerable households in ethnic minority communities in Quang Tri and Ha Giang to recover quickly from the shock after Covid-19 pandemic. Applying a gender-responsive approach in conducting activities, we are making sure that poor and marginalised ethnic minority people of all genders, particularly women, equitably benefit from immediate assistance and development in general. Once recovered from the effect, they will gradually build their ability to withstand shocks altogether and remain resilient in the long term.”

Ms. Vu Thi Quynh Hoa, National Director of Oxfam in Vietnam also shared: “In this project, Oxfam will support job skill trainings and financial assistance for at least 2,300 informal workers such as street vendors, small family business shops, lottery ticket sellers, etc. in Ho Chi Minh City and Binh Duong province for them to build their livelihood resilience. We will focus on helping women and people with disabilities as they are the most affected by COVID-19. This project, following the COVID-19 response in Ho Chi Minh City and Binh Duong funded in 2021, implemented by Oxfam with the Center for Disability and Development (DRD), which timely supported people’s emergency needs during the peak of the crisis, once again shows your solidarity with Vietnam in fighting the COVID-19 pandemic and recovering its economy”.

Over the past two years, the New Zealand Embassy has successfully delivered several COVID-19 response projects totalling NZD\$270,000 through its partners, assisting more than 3,300 female workers in various sectors and 130 children with disabilities as well as members of the hearing-impaired community in Viet Nam by Oxfam in Vietnam, ActionAid in Vietnam, East Meets West, CARE International in Vietnam, Vietnam General Confederation of Labour, Tan Binh Centre, and SCDeaf.

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Background information:

About New Zealand and Viet Nam bilateral relations:

New Zealand and Viet Nam celebrate 47 years of diplomatic relations this year. As a strategic partner of Viet Nam, New Zealand has worked closely with Viet Nam to develop shared prosperity and stability, drawing on the best of New Zealand’s knowledge and skills.



About UNICEF

UNICEF works in some of the world's toughest places, to reach the world's most disadvantaged children. Across more than 190 countries and territories, we work for every child, everywhere, to build a better world for everyone.

About CARE International in Vietnam

CARE International is a leading development and humanitarian aid organisation fighting global poverty and injustice, focusing on working with women and girls to bring lasting change to their communities.

CARE International in Vietnam (CVN) has actively collaborated with diverse Vietnamese organisations and counterparts over the past 30 years in more than 300 projects. CVN realises that keys to equal development achievements are interventions to address deeply rooted, underlying structural causes of poverty, social injustice, and gender inequality that pull part of the population out of the development process and make them vulnerable.

CVN's long-term objective is that poor and marginalised ethnic minority and urban people of all genders, particularly women, equitably benefit from development. For more information, please visit www.care.org.vn

Bio of Oxfam confederation

Oxfam is a global movement of people who are fighting inequality to end poverty and injustice. Our global confederation includes 21 member organisations working in 70 countries. We have a vision of a just and sustainable world. A world where people and the planet are at the center of our economy. Where women and girls live free from violence and discrimination. Where the climate crisis is contained. And where governance systems are inclusive and allow for those in power to be held to account.

Bio of Oxfam in Vietnam

Oxfam in Vietnam aims to influence the current growth-based development model to shift to a Human Economy Development Model built around nine core concepts, (1) measure what matters with multi-dimensional poverty and inequality, unpaid care work, environment, (2) manage markets, not being managed by them; (3) end extreme concentration of wealth, (4) progressive taxation, (5) universal public services, (6) gender equality and women's agency, (7) decent jobs with fair and living wages for employees, (8) responsible and inclusive business models, (9) citizens' participation.