

Vietnam

Supports for socially vulnerable people by preventing COVID-19 infections - Leave no one behind -

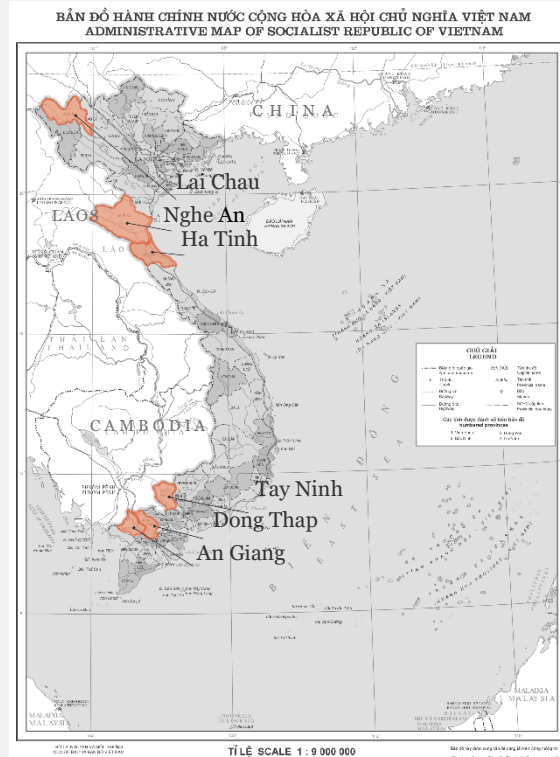
About 14 % of Vietnam’s population belongs to 53 ethnic minority groups, many of whom live in border areas and have their own dialects. The Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA) is taking advantage of the resources of its partner organizations to respond to the Vietnamese Government's measures against COVID-19, supporting the ethnic minority people who lacks information about the pandemic due to language barrier.



Rural landscape in northern Vietnam



Ethnic minority people in Nghe Anh Province, north-central Vietnam



JICA supports socially vulnerable people in 5 provinces bordering Laos and Cambodia, namely Nghe An, Ha Tinh, Tay Ninh, Dong Thap and An Giang, and Lai Chau Province bordering China.

Supports for measures against COVID-19 by responding to Lao and Khmer languages in border areas

From July 2021 to January 2022, JICA has coordinated with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to strengthen the infection-disease prevention system in 5 provinces bordering Laos and Cambodia through “The project for Capacity Development for Medical Laboratory Network on Biosafety and Examination of Highly Hazardous Infectious Pathogens in Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia”.



Seminar on “COVID-19 prevention and safe migration during the COVID-19 pandemic “



MOH’s propaganda posters on infection controls and health declarations are prepared in Lao and Khmer dialects to be used in border areas.

Through this project, IOM and the Ministry of Health (MOH) jointly held the online seminar on “COVID-19 prevention and safe migration during the COVID-19 pandemic” for the 3 provinces of Tay Ninh, Dong Thap and An Giang bordering Cambodia.

In his opening speech to the seminar, Mr. Shimizu Akira - Chief Representative of JICA Vietnam Office said: “It is necessary for involved agencies to cooperate together and strengthen the effective infection-disease prevention from the cross-border logistics and migration”. He also encouraged the involvement of frontline Health Care Providers and Ports of Entry officials, namely provincial Center for Disease Control and Prevention, District and Commute Health Center, Customs and Border Guard in effective border control.



Posters used in border areas (Ha Tinh Province)

JICA also helped publish MOH’s propaganda posters on 5K measures (wearing mask, disinfection, social distance, no gathering, and health declarations), as well as actions to prevent COVID-19 infections and health declarations in Lao and Khmer languages so that ethnic minority people can understand.

Supports for safe vaccination and promoting proper knowledge on vaccination among ethnic minority people



Ethnic minority women who visited for vaccination (Lai Chau Province)



Oxygen tanks provided in vaccination sites



Audio disks published in various dialects

In Lai Chau Province bordering China, JICA has been supporting COVID-19 vaccination campaign of Lai Chau Department of Health (DOH) through the Project of “Support for strengthening the maintenance and capacity of Lai Chau DOH’s vaccination system”. Through this project, JICA has provided medical equipment such as contactless thermometers, sphygmomanometers, hand sanitizers etc. for vaccination at 116 vaccination sites and conducting training for health workers.

In addition, responding to the proposal by Lai Chau DOH, JICA has supported the publication of audio information on vaccination and medical guidelines in various dialects to distribute to the local authorities. Through public broadcasting systems, audio information on vaccination can reach illiterate ethnic minority people, providing them with proper health knowledge in their own dialects. This activity received a positive evaluation from IOM and is expected to be continued in the future.

In 2012, as part of a campaign of measures against polio, JICA supports to broadcast audio information in ethnic minority dialects to support children who are unable to get the vaccination due to language barrier.

JICA will continue to work on infectious-disease countermeasures in order to contain the COVID-19 on the global scale and restore safe and secure life.