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giz Deutsche Gesellschaft
für Internationale
Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH



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Final report
Promotion of post Covid-19 recovery in
buffer zones of protected areas in
Lam Ha and Lac Duong district, Lam
Dong province



Imprint

Published by the

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

Registered Offices

Bonn and Eschborn, Germany

Programme on Conservation, Sustainable Use of Forest Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in Viet Nam

As of 2020

In cooperation with

ActionAid International in Vietnam (AAV)

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On behalf of the

German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)

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I. General information

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Project title	Promotion of post Covid-19 recovery in buffer zones of protected areas in Lam Ha and Lac Duong district, Lam Dong province
Project duration	1st Aug 2020 – 15th November 2020
Amount granted	EUR 119,964.00

II. Assessment of implementation of Action activities

1. Executive summary of the action

Funded by a grant of **EUR 119,964.00** from the Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) which was made available by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, ActionAid Vietnam working in close collaboration with Bidoup – Nui Ba National Park and local governments in Lam Ha and Lac Duong districts to implement the project **“Promotion of post Covid-19 recovery in buffer zones of protected areas in Lam Ha and Lac Duong district, Lam Dong province”** (15.2053.5-002.00). Its implementation was started on 1st August 2020 and completed on 15th November 2020. The project aims to “amplify Vietnam’s results in Covid-19 management and recovery through a comprehensive approach to protection of the rights of the most vulnerable populations.” The project not only successfully supports poor and near-poor men, women and children in Lam Ha and Lac Duong districts in post Covid-19 sustainable recovery, focusing on household livelihood, health care and education, also strengthens civil society action and national park’s engagement in post-Covid-19 support to buffer-zone community development in Lam Ha and Lac Duong districts, Lam Dong province.

This report highlights the key activities and achievements of the project throughout its swift and timely implementation. The project is considered a success story from its early and timely establishment via

identification of the vulnerable communities whose livelihoods are endangered due to double-disaster situations of severe drought and Covid-19 to restore their lives. Within only 3.5 months, the project has directly supported to build resilience to a total 4,549 people including children and ethnic minority people in Lac Duong and Lam Ha districts, particularly those living in buffer zones and protected areas. This success is made possible due to the attribution of relationship that ActionAid has been continuously strengthening with its related stakeholders. It is also through these activities that our partners, Bidoup – Nui Ba National Park and local governments in Lam Ha and Lac Duong districts had opportunities to draw on lessons learnt through resources mobilization for future similar urgent disaster events.

2. Project results and impact

Overall, the project objectives have been achieved as planned through the achievement of results on i) supporting poor and near-poor households in sustainable post Covid-19 recovery, focusing on household livelihood, health care and education; and ii) strengthening civil society action and local authorities' engagement in community development against Covid-19 pandemic. The achievements are well demonstrated by the following indicators:

Indicator 1: 280 farmers affected by Covid-19 will be provided with organic fertilizer and maize seedlings to restore their farming production and develop their stable livelihoods and become less dependent on collection of timber and non-timber products in local forests.

This indicator has been fully achieved. By end of the project 280 households (140 in Lam Ha, 140 in Lac Duong) affected by Covid-19 have restored their farming production and stable livelihoods by organic fertilizers and maize seeds provided by the project. They became less dependent on timber and non-timber products in local forests. This contributes to forest preservation and sustainable development in the buffer zones of the protected areas of Bidoup – Nui Ba National Park.

Indicator 2: 100 people will be provided with medical insurance packages for securing access to healthcare in post Covid-19 situation

This indicator has been fully achieved. By end of the project 105 people (55 in Lam Ha and 50 in Lac Duong) now have access to public health care services and covered by medical insurance packages for secured healthcare in post COVID-19 situation. The communities understood the importance of such insurance card and were inducted on how to use it for their better health security.

Indicator 3: 160 poor farmers affected doubly by Covid-19 and serious drought will be provided with water tanks for water storage for their daily use.

This indicator has been fully achieved. By end of the project 194 poor farmers' households affected by Covid-19 and severe drought now have enough clean water for daily use stored in new water tanks which were provided by the project. The households therefore became more resilient to future disasters, pandemics and droughts included. At the same time, with safe water supply, the community members are less likely to be infected by common digestive diseases, local women's and children's health generally will be improved.

Indicator 4: 6 schools will have healthcare room upgraded with medical devices and materials to better prepare themselves for another wave of Covid-19 and similar public health emergencies.

This indicator has been fully achieved. By end of the project 06 schools, with 2,558 students and 210 teachers in total, in Lac Duong and Lam Ha districts have been benefiting from medical devices and materials for better preparation and prevention of potential waves of Covid-19 in the future and similar public health emergencies. This activity also raised the awareness of schools' managers on contamination of covid-19 pandemic and preventative measures to ensure a safe learning environment for the students and teachers.

Indicator 5: 180 poor, near-poor and ethnic minority children will be supported with school materials to start their new school year after Covid-19 pandemic

This indicator has been over-achieved. By end of the project 200 students from poor, near-poor and ethnic minority families in both Lac Duong and Lam Ha districts received school materials from the project to start their new school year after Covid-19. This timely provision, especially textbooks, was crucial in the context of double disasters, a relief for the children and their family as they had struggled with financial issues. This support was highly appreciated by the poor and ethnic minority families, school managers and local authorities in both districts when government's subsidy of school materials for poor children is no longer granted this year. This activity has also contributed to reducing the number children dropping out of school and promoting equal access to education for all children, especially the disadvantaged.

Indicator 6: 125 teachers will be built capacity about active teaching and learning methodology, inclusive education to combat discrimination due to disability or health-related issues and how to guide students to protect themselves from Covid-19 pandemic and other infectious diseases. They could therefore apply these knowledge and skills to support their students.

This indicator has been fully achieved. By end of the project:

- 23 teachers/educators representing 21 schools in 12 provinces across the country have well strengthened their knowledge and skills of participatory teaching methodology, inclusive education to combat discrimination due to disability or health-related issues and how to guide students to protect themselves from Covid-19 and other infectious diseases. The trained participants thereon have demonstrated what they perceived from the course by facilitating 02 roll-out trainings per district for their fellow teachers in the 2 project districts.
- 96 local teachers in 14 primary and secondary schools (03 primary schools in Lam Ha and 11 primary and secondary schools in Lac Duong district) have improved their capacity of participatory teaching methodology, inclusive education, indiscrimination and prevention of Covid-19 and other infectious diseases. The activity has raised interest and awareness of the leaders of district Education and Training Department and school managers on the prevention and management of covid-19 and other diseases in the local schools.
- 2,558 students and 210 teachers from 06 primary and secondary schools in Lac Duong and Lam Ha have improved their knowledge and known what to do to protect themselves from Covid-19 and common infectious diseases. This played an important role and contributed to the common efforts to reduce risks of Covid-19 infection in the community, and to protect students in particular and their communities in the project areas in general from the negative impacts of the COVID19 pandemic and infectious diseases.
- 21 community development facilitators from the two project districts and other 10 regions of the country strengthened their knowledge of participatory vulnerability assessment tools. They knew how to use it to assess disaster and disease risks, response capacity of communities in their areas and local vulnerability and needs as well as to mobilize communities to develop and

implement action plans. Afterwards, they now act as facilitators for similar training and assessment at their localities.

It is also important to highlight actors of the project success and sustainability. There are many, but the following are the most important good practices and lessons learnt:

- The project team members conducted weekly/monthly visits to the site to keep a close connection to the reality of the project to monitor the project progress – technically and financially.
- People participation and community monitoring were well ensured throughout the need assessment, provision of post Covid-19 support, and capacity building for school and communities.
- In Lam Ha District, the project builds on the existing Supporting Programmes for Development that AAV has been implementing over 8 years in Lam Ha, during which it has established high level of trust and cooperation with local partners. It also applies lessons and experiences in mobilizing and empowering community, developing and implementing community-based disaster risk reduction and emergency response plans, promoting people participation, participatory governance, grassroots democracy and effective capacity building. In Lac Duong District, ActionAid have worked closely with the established project management unit in GIZ-Bio project site in Lac Duong District to reach out to community living around the Bidoup-Nui Ba protected area.
- ActionAid have retained an ongoing presence in Lam Dong for continued engagement with stakeholders through our broader program. Participation, capacity building and engagement of the ethnic minority groups, women, young people helped us sustain their role in participatory vulnerability analysis process and holding government accountable beyond the project period.
- This project implementation has close links with the existing government commitment which will help secure the sustainability of the project.

Learning from the project have been and will be shared at district, provincial and national level to allow for wider replication/sharing of good practices, which we aim for the project to contribute to amplify the results of Vietnam in Covid-19 pandemic management.

3. Activities & outputs

Outcome 1: Improved recovery and resilience of local people who suffered from Covid-19 through provision of post Covid-19 recovery support packages to poor and vulnerable households.

3.1 Provide health insurance packages for near poor households affected by Covid-19 pandemic

AAV worked closely with Bidoup – Nui Ba National Park and local authorities in Lam Ha and Lac Duong districts to identify and select beneficiaries against the criteria of the project from middle to the end of August 2020. Subsequently, the list of beneficiaries was reviewed and verified by the Social Insurance of Lam Dong province to ensure its validity. The insurance distribution was carried out in Lac Duong and Lam Ha districts on 21st and 22nd October 2020, respectively. As the activity has been implemented within the scope of public service category, the project directly signed a contract on providing medical insurance with Lam Dong Social Insurance. No third-party agencies or companies were involved in the provision of the health insurance. As a result, 105 people (55 in Lam Ha and 50 in Lac Duong) were provided with medical insurance to access to public healthcare services in post-Covid-19 situation. This

number of beneficiaries is little higher than the plan (105 versus 100 people) due to the buying price is lower than the planned cost.

3.2 Support poor and ethnic minority farmers restore farming production after Covid-19 pandemic

In close cooperation with local governments, AAV and the National Park have organized village meetings to introduce the project objective and criteria for beneficiary selection, discuss and select the beneficiaries based on comments from participants and local officials. The beneficiary list was then publicized at village offices and forest ranger stations for a minimum of 03 days. A tender on provision of organic fertilizers and maize seeds was published on the NGO center website and through direct contact with local providers in Lam Dong province to accumulate a range of quotations. Selection of providers based on submitted quotations was conducted by AAV's procurement committee which included 3 staff members from 3 different departments. The selection process strictly followed principle of transparency and was in line with AAV procurement policies and GIZ requirements as specified in Article 6 of MoU. The minutes on this selection process was also prepared by the procurement committee and approved by AAV country director. Following this official approval, a procurement contract was signed with the selected provider, Thien Phu Phuc Company. The delivery of organic fertilizer and maize seeds was carried out between 11 and 22nd September 2020 to local beneficiaries in 4 project communes. A total of 280 households (140 in Lam Ha, 140 in Lac Duong) significantly affected by Covid-19 were provided with 29,400 kg of organic fertilizer and 700 kg of maize seeds to restore their farming production and develop stable livelihoods for themselves, and especially become less dependent on collection of timber and non-timber products in local forests.

3.3 Support poor and ethnic minority households to access to safe water in the context of Covid-19 pandemic and serious drought in Lam Ha and Lac Duong districts

AAV and the National Park worked closely with local authorities in 4 project communes to follow the same procurement steps and transparency process as of Activity 3.2. The delivery of 1,000-liter water tanks was implemented between 14th and 17th September 2020 in 4 project communes. As a result, 194 households doubly affected by Covid-19 and serious drought provided with water tanks to store clean water for their daily use.

Outcome 2: Strengthen capacity of the poor and marginalized schools to mitigate impact of Covid-19 pandemic and better prepare themselves for other public health situations

3.4 Provision of medical devices and medical materials for primary and secondary schools in target districts

To enhance the capacity of local poor schools in two project districts on prevention, detection and combating Covid-19 and infectious diseases and public health emergencies, 06 school were selected as per criteria of the project to receive necessary medical equipment and materials. Their medical rooms were equipped by the project with a total of 18 electronic thermometers, 30 sets of protective clothing, 30 boxes of anti-epidemic gloves, 06 sets of first aid toolkits for health workers and specialized teachers. The delivery was carried out from 14th to 22nd September 2020. As the result, the schools are now better prepared for not only future Covid-19 waves but also other similar public health emergencies.

3.5 Provision of school materials for children of poor, near-poor and ethnic minority families affected by Covid-19 pandemic

The project provided 200 poor, near-poor and ethnic minority students (110 in Lam Ha and 90 in Lac Duong) from households affected by Covid-19 pandemic with school materials to start

their new school year. The supported school materials including 90 sets of textbooks for 1st to 5th grades, 2,550 pens, 6,750 notebooks, and 200 school bags for school children. The support contributed to promote the equal access to education for all children, including the most disadvantaged ones.

3.6 Teaching life skills to children to combat the Covid-19 pandemic and other public health emergencies

The TOT workshop on life skills for children to combat the Covid-19 pandemic and other public health emergencies took place from 28th to 30th September 2020 in Da Lat city, Lam Dong province with the participation of 23 teachers (6 from 5 schools in the project districts and 17 from 16 schools across the country). Regardless the differences in geographic backgrounds and emergency management experiences, the participants engaged in the workshop actively and corporately. With the facilitation of 2 experienced trainers, the participants were knowledgeable and skillful on i) active teaching/learning methodology which puts the learners in the center of the learning process and focuses on developing life skills for children; ii) inclusive education with focus on building safe and friendly learning environment for children; iii) participatory process for teaching children how to prevent Covid-19 and infectious diseases. Particularly, the participants acknowledged the transmission ways of Covid-19 and other common infectious diseases (hand - foot - mouth disease, worm infection, pink eye), and practiced individual and public prevention and control measures which needed to be taken in order to provide and maintain a safe and friendly learning environment for students. In addition, the participants discussed and outline practical prevention plans for their own schools. They improved their knowledge and skills of communication with students during crises and/or epidemics like Covid-19 pandemic and training of trainer. Finally, the participants practiced in groups on how to train their peers on what they have learnt after the workshop.

04 rolling-out trainings (02 per district) were conducted by the 04 trainees from TOT workshop for 96 teachers from 14 primary and secondary schools (03 primary schools in Lam Ha districts, and 11 primary and secondary schools in Lac Duong district). The activity was implemented from 24th October to 1st November in both Lam Ha and Lac Duong districts. The participants improved their knowledge and skills of active teaching methodology, inclusive education, and instruction for children on how to prevent Covid-19 and common infectious diseases. The participants practiced Covid-19 and infectious diseases prevention methods including washing hands, wearing medical masks, littering disposable medical masks after using; as well as behaviors that should not encourage at public places. With role-play method, the participants worked together to develop communication plays and practiced carrying out successful communication events for students. Many approaches were discussed considering each school's context, for instance: cultural activities, knowledge competitions, trendy song lyrics rewritten with informative contents, etc. They also discussed and developed plans to implement extra classes for their students. Many participants committed to continue facilitating communication sessions not only for students but also for the local community.

Total number of the participants in the TOT workshop and roll-out trainings is lower than the plan (119 versus 125) due to the teachers were busy for their duty of new school year.

From 2nd to 10th November 2020, 12 communication sessions (02 sessions per school) on Covid-19 and infectious diseases were conducted with a total participation of 2,558 students and more than 200 teachers from 06 primary and secondary schools (Tan Thanh primary schools 1 and 2, Dan Phuong primary school in Lam Ha district; Da Chais primary school, Da Chais secondary school, Da Nhim primary & secondary school in Lac Duong district). The events were carefully prepared by the schools and teachers in charge with diverse contents and

communication methods to be suitable to the context of each school. Therefore, these events attracted students' participation. The students not only understood of prevention methods of Covid-19 and infectious diseases, but also practiced proper hand washing, littering of disposable masks after use, and recognizing symptoms of Covid-19 and infectious diseases. In Da Nhim primary school and Tan Thanh I primary schools, teachers conveyed their communication messages on Covid-19 and infectious diseases prevention by local ethnic languages so that students, particularly 1st and 2nd grade students, could understand and enthusiastically participated in the activities. The events helped them know what to do to protect themselves from Covid-19 and common infectious diseases.

3.7 TOT course on participatory vulnerability assessment (PVA)

From 17th to 21st September 2020, a training course on participatory vulnerability assessment (PVA) was held for 21 participants (13 male and 08 female, of which 03 are people with disabilities) in Da Lat city. The participants are significantly diversified since they come from different areas of Vietnam including northern mountainous areas, central highland and southern areas. This situation created a diversity in the class in terms of local context and their experiences in disaster and disease preparedness, response and mitigation to maximize peer-to-peer learning and exchange of experiences. The number of participants is lower than the plan (21 versus 25) due to unexpected reasons. One in Lac Duong met with a traffic accident on 1st morning and could not participate in the course. 03 other participants from Mekong delta could not join the training as the local government's travel restriction regulation to avoid Covid-19 contact.

On the first day of the training, the participants learned and understood the importance of community-based approach in disaster management through the game of building a safe house in disaster area. This helped them identify principles, objectives and steps of community-based disaster risk management process. On the second and third days, participants acknowledged and practiced PVA tools for information collecting including natural disaster and disease history, seasonal calendar, natural disaster and disease mapping, analysis of stakeholder's strength and weakness, priority ranking – risks, causes and solutions. In order to support participants to apply learned knowledge to reality, on the fourth day of the training course, the project conducted a field trip to Tan Thanh commune, Lam Ha district so that participants had opportunity to use PVA tools. Through this field trip, participants had an opportunity to practice the PVA tools and experience the difficulties in mobilizing the community and collecting needed information. On the last day, participants shared their thoughts, lesson learned to the class and importantly, a follow-up plan was developed and agreed upon by the class.

After the training, the participants achieved the following results: i) understood the objectives, principles, process, methods and tools of PVA; ii) were able to use PVA tools to assess disaster/disease risks, vulnerability, response capacity and needs of communities in local areas; iii) had ability to facilitate PVA exercise in their local areas to develop community risk management plans and iv) can mobilize communities to develop action plans to combat causes of their vulnerability and prepare comprehensive solutions to build up the community's resilience. With the learned knowledge and newly equipped practical skills, 21 participants were capacitated to become local facilitators in participatory vulnerability assessment to implement the process of developing community risks management plan at their localities.

4. Project modification

While ActionAid Vietnam strictly followed the activities and commitments that we proposed in Project Document, during our project implementation, we recognized some needed modifications due to the

actual situation in the two project areas. As a result, some revisions and modifications to the project activities were applied based on proposals by the local governments and the project team. It is worth mentioning that in this context, all these decisions have been made with consideration to ensure the project success and maximize our impact so that the project reach as many beneficiaries as possible. All the modifications are detailed below and were approved by GIZ project team via emails:

Activity	Approved plan	Revision/modification	Reasons for modification
6.2. Support poor and ethnic minority farmers restore farming production after Covid-19 pandemic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Maize seeds: 140 households per district (5kg/hh) - Fertilizer: 140 households per district (50kg/hh) <p>Total households: 280</p> <p>Total budget: 266,000,000 VND</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In Lac Duong district: no provision of maize seed; and provision of organic fertilizer for households changed from 50kg/hh to 140kg/hh - In Lam Ha district: increased provision of organic fertilizer from 50kg/hh to 70kg/hh. <p>Total budget: 265,800,000 VND</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In Lac Duong, the poor households mainly cultivate coffee trees to earn a living, maize generally for family use only. They also plant maize with small area for family use, not for sale. Their maize seedlings are local and self-made. Moreover, recent support from the government has provided enough seeds for local farmers who were affected by hoarfrost. Therefore, they had no need of maize seeds and asked for more fertilizer instead. - The unit price of fertilizer was lower than estimated cost (6,700 VND/kg < 9,000 VND/kg)
6.3 Support poor and ethnic minority households to access to safe water in the context of Covid-19 pandemic and serious drought in Lam Ha and Lac Duong districts	<p>80 households per district (1 water tank/hh, 1,000 liters/tank)</p> <p>Total budget: 368,000,000 VND</p>	<p>97 households per district (1 water tank/hh, 1,000 liters/tank)</p> <p>Total budget: 368,000,000 VND</p>	<p>The unit price was lower than estimated cost (1,900,000VND/tank/1000l < 2,300,000 VND/tank/1,000l)</p>
6.5 Provision of school materials for children of	<p>90 students with 1 million VND/student (including 01</p>	<p>In Lam Ha district: No provision of textbooks to students and</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In many households, textbooks had already been bought by the

poor, near-poor and ethnic minority families affected by Covid-19 pandemic	schoolbag, 10 notebooks, 10 pens, 01 set of textbooks) Total budget: 90,000,000 VND	number of notebooks provided increased to 45 per student, and that of pens increased to 15 per student. Total budget: 810,000 VND/ student) Total number of students: 110 Total budget: 89,100,000 VND	parents or supported by others from the beginning of the school year.
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5. Budget execution

The brief budget execution is mentioned in detail as follows:

Category (budget line according Grant article 1.2)	Actual costs for the current period	Total agreed amount of budget lines	Unspent amount	Unspent %
Staff	36,352.96	36,370.00	-412.26	0.05%
External experts-Consultants	4,762.26	4,350.00	385.00	-9.48%
Transportation-Travel costs	25,685.00	26,070.00	748.60	1.48%
Training costs/Workshop Costs	4,501.40	5,250.00	2,711.40	14.26%
Procurement of goods	34,306.60	37,018.00	0.00	7.32%
Administration Costs	10,906.00	10,906.00	-412.26	0.00%
Total €	116,514.21 €	119,964.00 €	3,449.79 €	2.88%

Respectively following the prescribed norms and commitments agreed by all parties involved and with the clear vision of overall goal, the project optimized the resources granted and mobilized to implement its activities. The utilization of budgets was proved to be efficient by the consistency of expected and achieved outcomes. Nevertheless, throughout the implementation, underspent budgets upon the project's completion is **€3,449.79**, mainly due to the two following reasons:

- Saved cost (EUR 748) from budget line for transportation cost: Airfare reduced dramatically due to the impact of the Corvid 19 pandemic
- Saved cost (EUR 2,711.40) from budget line for procurement of goods: Cost for purchasing medial insurance package peer head reduced largely as we could run bulk buys for members of same family.

The unspent budget **€3,449.79** is requested to be reallocated for the sheer purpose of intensifying the project's impact by an additional number of 20 households to be provided with 30 water tanks

(1,000l/tank) to the poor and near-poor farmers affected by Covid-19 pandemic and their families in the target districts, and some travel costs for the distribution activities. This budget mobilization, if approved, will be well managed and additionally reported in the same manner as the initial agreement stated in the MOU.

6. Monitoring & evaluation

The project applied various methods of monitoring and evaluation to track progress and ensure its effectiveness and quality. The project team members conducted weekly and monthly visits to the project sites to maintain close observation and surveillance of the actual and local context therefore better monitored the project technically and financially and evaluated the achieved results. Those visits also were opportunities for the project staff in charge to directly supervise the implementation of the project activities, and to strengthen capacity of local partners in project management so that the project compliance and effectiveness were well ensured.

The before and post training tests were used to assess the TOT courses effectiveness, measuring knowledge and skills that the participants gained from the courses and the anticipation of change and impacts they would bring to their localities afterwards. Photos have been used to capture all project activities illustrating the actual implementation and results. Online and offline meetings among the project team members and with local partners were organized weekly to update and review the project progress, achieved results as well as to discuss follow-up work plans. Frequent communication and contacts by phone, emails and social network with local partners and GIZ project team were conducted to keep track of the progress and acknowledge the real situation or changes in the project areas to seek for approval of revision or change of activities. The project team also prepared monthly update submitting to the senior management team of AAV for internal monitoring and evaluation as well as in reports to GIZ project team.

7. Beneficiaries selection

Selection of beneficiaries was carried out based on the project criteria that had been discussed and agreed by GIZ project team and local partners. The priority was given to i) those who came from near-poor (with monthly individual income of less than 40 EUR) or poor (with monthly individual income of less than 25 EUR) - based on the provincial government's approved standards; ii) households or schools where national support/ relief package hadn't reached; iii) women, children, the elderly, especially those of minorities or ethnic groups (given as top priority). The beneficiary lists were first prepared and/or proposed by forest ranger staff in the project communes (Lac Duong district) or by the village heads or community development groups (Lam Ha district). Then they were checked and reviewed by AAV project team members and National Park through their field visits to the proposed households. The proposed lists of beneficiary households were referred and later verified consensually by the related communities in village meetings and the commune authorities. The beneficiary lists were also posted at village office's information board and forest ranger stations (in Lac Duong district).

As a result, 280 farmers were selected to provide agricultural materials as they met the criteria and were capable of using these materials on their current farming land. 105 poor people supplied with medical insurance cards were the elderly or those who suffered from chronic diseases but could not afford proper medical care. 194 water tanks were provided to the households struggling with clean water shortage. 200 children receiving school materials all were from poor or near poor and ethnic minority families.

Regarding TOT courses implementation, prior the training courses, official letters were sent to 6 primary and secondary schools in Lac Duong, Lam Ha and other 8 districts across the country where

AAV's programmes have been implemented for years. 44 selected participants had guaranteed their commitment to participate fully the entire training period and to take responsibility for training students at their schools to prevent Covid-19 and other diseases and/ or to participate in facilitating PVA process in their local areas.

III. Annexes

ANNEX 1: Case studies

STORY 1: PROVISION OF SCHOOL MATERIALS FOR STUDENTS IN LAM HA

"I am very grateful to the uncles and aunts of the project for the gifts. I promise to study more hardly at school." Vo Chi Hung, a 4th grader from Tan Thanh II secondary school said with twinkle lights in his innocent eyes and a new school bag on his back. Hung was among the 110 students studying in Tan Thanh I Primary School, Tan Thanh II Primary School, and Dan Phuong II Primary School in Tan Thanh and Dan Phuong Communes, Lam Ha district who received school materials from the project. This activity was part of the project "Promotion of post Covid-19 recovery in buffer zones of protected areas in Lam Ha and Lac Duong districts, Lam Dong province" funded by GIZ.

The 10-year-old boy lives with his mother and a younger sister in one of the poorest households in the commune. Without a stable job and no farming land, earning a living for the family was constantly a struggle for the hardworking mother. She had been on her own after the divorce few years ago and now raising two children only by doing temporary labor work. She told the project team "although my child has entered the new school year for a long time, I had no money to buy him a new backpack due to the Covid 19 pandemic. I have no job, no money... Today, my child received notebooks, pens, schoolbag from the project, we are so happy and want to say thank to the donors."



Left photo: Vo Chi Hung wearing his new backpack supported by the project. Right photo: Vo Chi Hung (second standing from the left) with his teacher and classmates (Tan Thanh II primary school, Lam Ha district)

According to Mr. Nhu Van Ba - Principal of Tan Thanh II Primary School, there were 713 students in the school, of which 449 were from ethnic minorities, 210 girls and 239 boys. 40 gifts including notebooks, pens and schoolbags were brought to the poor students. "This activity of the project is really meaningful and practical, especially after the prolonged epidemic, contributing to alleviate the difficulties for the people and encourage students at our schools." said Mr. Nhu Van Ba.

STORY 2: PROVISION OF SEEDS AND FERTILIZERS IN LAC DUONG

The impacts of a severe draught followed by Covid -19 resulting in decrease in prices and demand of major farming products, along with difficulty in farming conditions (lack of financial resource, materials) pushed many households into more severe poverty with little hope of recovering. Many local farmers felt tempted to sell their farming land.

Among the families seriously affected in Lac Duong district, Mrs. K. Chêm, a single mother of two children, was one of the most vulnerable cases. She lives in Da Chais commune, Lac Duong district, due to poverty, her children had to drop school after 10th grade to work fulltime in coffee field. Her family became hopeless after the disaster and pandemic.



Mrs. K. Chêm was standing in front of fertilizers and transporting her received fertilizer from the project (Lac Duong district)

With the purpose to bring a sustainable livelihood for those vulnerable people, the project supported 280 households (1,120 people) living in buffer zone areas of Lac Duong and Lam Ha districts with 700 kg of maize seedlings and 29,400 kg of organic fertilizer. Mrs. K. Chêm's family was one of the project beneficiaries who now could use the provided materials (140 kg of organic fertilizer) to re-start their farming cultivation in the period July/August, 2020. She was happy as she talked about the family's future "I will use the fertilizer to serve our family's farming work, the yield and quality of my coffee product will be improved". This brought them with a short-term income given the fact that their sources of income from forestation would take 5-15 years to be earned. With this support, Mrs. K. Chêm was now capable of providing a decent living for her children and hopefully would send them back to school to finish their education.

STORY 3: PROVISION OF WATER TANKS IN LAM HA

In 2020, due to Covid-19 and severe drought in the Central Highlands of Vietnam, Lac Duong and Lam Ha are two districts facing various challenges, particularly the poor and near-poor households. There has been extremely little water for their field and drinking because the local rivers, streams, and ponds are running out of water. The availability of underground water is reducing after long devastating drought.

Living in Tan Thanh commune, Lam Ha district, Mr. Ha Dung is an unofficial employee to make a living. The responsibility to raise a family with a 2 years-old kid particularly under the context of Covid-19 impact and devastating drought have made Mr. Dung and his wife more suffering.

From 14, September to 22nd October 2020, the project supported 160 poor and ethnic minority households with water tanks to contain clean water for longer use.

Mr. Dung said “The distance from my house to clean water fetching is more than 2km. Every day we have to go at least 3 times to get clean water since there is no water tank in my house. The water fetching has made up a lot of time in day.”. Now, with the support of the project, Mr. Dung family and others have able to store 1,000 m³ of water, enough for their need for at least 2 weeks.



Mr. Ha Dung was standing in the yard of Tan Thanh commune People’s Committee office and in front of his provided tank and ready to bring it home (Lam Ha district)

STORY 4: TOT WORKSHOP ON ACTIVE TEACHING METHOD AND COVID-19 PREVENTION IN LAC DUONG

The TOT workshop for teachers on life skills to teach children to combat the Covid-19 pandemic and other public health emergencies was one of the activities of the project. It focused on Covid-19 transmission and prevention, and active teaching/learning method in order to effectively deliver the knowledge to and train young students with life skills. The TOT workshop attracted the participation of 23 teachers from primary and secondary schools in the project areas and across the country.

Cil Phi Criêu Ensaï – an ethnic minority teacher from Da Nhim primary school, Lac Duong district was one of the participants. Having taught the children of Da Nhim for 7 years, he has grown a caring bond with the children. As a teacher, facing an unprecedented crisis like Covid-19 pandemic, as much as for himself and his family, he has a great concern for his students. He shared his concern: *“At such a young age, it was difficult for my students to comprehend the seriousness of this pandemic, and as any child would behave. They are very active and careless sometimes, it’s not an easy task for me to keep them safe. That’s why I really appreciated the effort and enthusiasm of trainers and project team in providing me and other participants with this important and practical knowledge and skills at the TOT workshop. I was eager to apply what I have learnt in our school.”*

Being as one of the most dynamic trainees in the course, he was trusted to lead the roll-out trainings for local teachers from other schools in Lac Duong district. *“I was inspired by the project team to bring this course to as many teachers as possible. So that we can build a safe living and learning environment for our students and protect effectively themselves from COVID-19 and common infectious diseases in the Lac Duong district and hopefully beyond.”* said 28 years old teacher.



Left photo: Mr. Cil Phi Criêu Ensaï was presenting his team’s work in the TOT workshop organized by the project (Da Lat city). Right photo: He was facilitating a roll-out training for his peers (Lac Duong district)

STORY 5: TOT WORKSHOP ON PARTICIPATORY VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT



Mr. Pham Quang Khoat at the TOT workshop of PVA (Da Lat city)

Being a Vice Chairman of Hanoi Youth Association of People with Disabilities cum Chairman of Hoang Mai District's Association of People with Disabilities, Mr. Pham Quang Khoat participated with excitement and eagerness in the TOT workshop on Participatory vulnerability assessment (PVA). The training workshop took place from 17 – 21 September 2020 with the attending of more than 20 participants from the Northern, Southern, and Middle Highlands of Vietnam.

Sharing about the first day of training, he said *“Before, I have never paid attention to the vulnerability of people with disability in the context of natural disasters. This is a limitation since I work for Hanoi Youth Association of People with Disabilities and Hoang Mai District's Association of People with Disabilities. Moreover, as a person with disability myself, thanks to the training, I now recognized the effect of natural disasters on people with disabilities.”*

Following days, he learned technical tools to assess the local natural disaster and disease risks, identify the vulnerable locations and appropriated road trip to safe locations, etc. He also participated in the field trip to Lam Ha district practice PVA tools and to apply the learned knowledge to discuss with local people. *“With those tools, it is easier for us to approach and get information from the communities. In my opinion, these technical tools are highly effective and easy to use as well as to communicate with the communities, even with the children. After the training course, I will share the knowledge to people with disability in my localities and my peer colleagues in the committee.”*

The activity of Training of Trainers workshop on Participatory vulnerability assessment (PVA) is under the project “Promotion of post COVID-19 recovery in buffer zones and protected areas in Lam Ha and Lac Duong district, Lam Dong province” funded by GIZ.

Annex 2: Photos and news of the project activities

1. Field trip to households to check the beneficiaries and post the lists in public places



Visiting a household in Da Nhim commune, Lac Duong district to check the beneficiaries



Beneficiary list posted in the information board, Tan Lap village, Dan Phuong commune, Lam Ha district

2. Provision of health insurance packages and school materials



Poor and ethnic minority households receiving healthcare insurance cards (Lac Duong district)



Students in Long Lanh primary & secondary school receiving their new school materials provided by the project (Lac Duong district)

3. Provision of seeds and fertilizers



Seeds and fertilizers ready to be provided to local farmers (Da Nhim commune, Lac Duong district)



Families carrying their fertilizer bags to home (Dan Phuong commune, Lam Ha district)

4. Provision of medical materials and equipment to schools



AAV project officer and National Park staff handing over medical materials and equipment to Long Lanh primary & secondary school (Lac Duong district)



National park staff showing a teacher how to use an electronic thermometer (Lac Duong district)

5. Provision of water tanks in Lac Duong



Local people instructed by the provider on how to use water tanks in their household (Da Nhim commune, Lac Duong district)



The local people signing on the list of water tanks' receivers (Da Nhim commune, Lac Duong district)



Local households waiting to receive their new water tanks (Tan Thanh commune, Lam Ha district)



A local person transporting his newly receiving water tank to home (Tan Thanh commune, Lam Ha district)

6. TOT training course on teaching life skills to students to combat Covid-19 and other health emergencies



A remarkable memory for participants and trainers during the TOT training course (Da Lat city)



Opening welcome of the donor in the TOT training course (Da Lat city)



Participants learning about Covid-19 and other common infectious diseases transmission mechanisms and practice on how to prevent those ((Da Lat city)



A participant presenting his team's plan on communication during emergencies (Da Lat city)

7. Roll-out training for teachers in Lam Ha and Lac Duong districts



A roll – out training course in Lam Ha district



A roll – out training course in Lac Duong district



A TOT participant facilitating a roll-out training in Tan Thanh 1 secondary school (Lam Ha District)



Local teachers participating the roll- out training in Tan Thanh 1 secondary school (Lam Ha district)

8. Extra class/out-door events on prevention of Covid-19 and common diseases for school children



Communication event in Tan Thanh primary school, Lam Ha district



Communication event in Tan Thanh primary school, Lam Ha district



Communication event in Da Nhim primary & secondary school, Lac Duong district



Communication event in Da Nhim primary & secondary school, Lac Duong district

9. TOT training course on participatory vulnerability assessment (PVA)



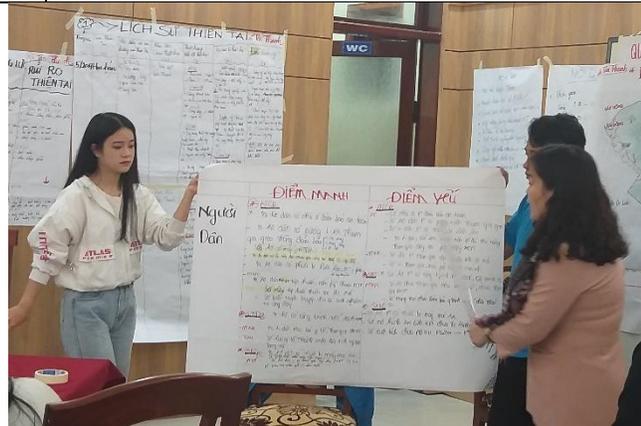
Participants of the training course met and communicate with AAV/ AFV's delegation (Da lat city)



Participants practicing PVA tools for information collection & analysis (Da lat city)



Field trip to Tan Thanh commune and practicing using PVA tools with a local youth group (Lam Ha district)



Participants presenting their group work at the end of field trip to practice PVA tools (Lam Ha district)

10. Links of news broadcasting on Lam Dong television

The distribution activities were broadcasted by Lam Dong Television: from 12'35 – 13'30:
https://www.youtube.com/c?v=h-B3ikTS1R0&list=PL-WNYXED-n9i-8S0HwudUG6R3v_V-4u6_&index=59&t=816s

Other news from Lam Dong Television was public on:
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1SG9Va4WvKoON6Ewa2wXlCG3nJyCsEa0/view>

-End-

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