



To: His Excellency Mr. Nguyen Xuan Phuc
Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam

Care of: International Relations Department
Office of the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam

Copy to: Mr. Pham Binh Minh- Minister of Foreign Affairs
Mr. Nguyen Chi Dung- Minister of Planning and Investment
Mr. Dao Ngoc Dung- Minister of Labour, War Invalids and Social Affairs

Hanoi, 10 April 2020

His Excellency,

I am writing to you on behalf of Oxfam, an international non- profit organization (NGO) working in Vietnam for over 30 years now. We would like to congratulate Vietnam Government's excellent efforts in managing the coronavirus and taking great leadership in the chair role of ASEAN in the difficult of the virus crisis.

The ASEAN chair's statement last February rightly called for "a cohesive and responsive ASEAN" in responding to COVID-19 which underlines the need to act together if ASEAN is to successfully tackle this crisis.

And indeed, the time to act is now in line with "an orchestrated response and collective action of ASEAN in curbing the spread of the disease" as outlined in the ASEAN Chair's statement.

Oxfam welcomes the outcome of the 25th Meeting of the ASEAN Coordinating Council last April 9 and the proposal to focus ASEAN's response to the COVID-19 outbreak in three priority areas of controlling and preventing the spread of the pandemic, preparing an economic stimulus package to affected sectors and communities, and minimizing the impacts of the outbreak to economic development.

In this regard, please accept our assurance of Oxfam's support for an ASEAN collective response to the crisis and may I offer the following propositions which we pray will be conveyed to the ASEAN Heads of State, through your representation and leadership, for their kind consideration in the upcoming ASEAN Special Summit on COVID-19 and the ASEAN Plus Three Special Summit on COVID-19 via video conference to be held on April 14.

To strengthen unity and holistic approach tackling corona virus in ASEAN region as well as to protect the lives and ensures the wellbeing of its people, we recommend the ASEAN:

1. To clarify the holistic plans to the Coronavirus on health, humanitarian, social & economic perspectives.
2. To fight Coronavirus is to effectively provide urgent life-saving measures and prevent the poor & vulnerable from falling further into poverty.
3. To ensure all people in lockdown have enough food and essentials. All workers who have lost incomes, all migrant workers, informal workers, displaced people and marginalized group have access to social protection/economic stimulus package.
4. To immediately upscale testing and treatment facilities and make them available to all people in need, especially poor and vulnerable communities
5. To empower women to fight the coronavirus crisis via delivery pro-women assistance and prevention of violence against women & girls.
6. To support small and medium businesses and workers by mobilizing resources from finance institutions for crisis response and its recovery.
7. To put in place stronger frameworks and fair and transparent structures to deal with transboundary risks now and to prevent future pandemics in the region.
8. Engage with civil society in impact assessments and response implementation to make the needs of vulnerable groups heard and met.

New analysis shows the economic crisis caused by coronavirus could push over half a billion people into poverty unless urgent and collective action is taken. Given the unforgiving and indiscriminating nature of the pandemic, no one, no nation, region, community or person is safe unless all of us are. Not only the recovery from the pandemic but also the future of ASEAN's member states hinges on decisive action on "ASEAN's commitment to collectively respond to the outbreak of the COVID-19".

We trust with your excellent leadership, Vietnam can beat coronavirus soon as Vietnam has won many battles recently and become an inspiration for many other countries in the region and in the world in overcoming the current crisis.

Your sincerely,



Babeth Ngoc Han Lefur
Country Director
Oxfam in Vietnam



Oxfam is a confederation of 20 organizations working together in more than 90 countries. We are part of a global movement for change, empowering people to create a future that is secure, just, and free from poverty.

Oxfam in Vietnam is working to seek transformative changes in policies, practices and beliefs in ways that will fundamentally improve the lives of poor and marginalized women and men and ensure that all citizens have the same opportunity to enjoy their rights. Oxfam in Vietnam current country strategy contributes to shaping the debate on extreme inequality in Vietnam and globally, our four-programme includes women rights', building resilience to disaster, climate risks and emergency response, sustainable food and fair sharing of natural resources, and good governance.

