

13 April 2020

## **HSBC Vietnam acts to assist vulnerable groups during COVID-19**

*\*\* Relief fund of VND3 billion to support “no symptom victims” who are adversely impacted by the pandemic \*\**

*\*\* The relief measures curb beneficiaries’ distress during the tough time, providing them with resilience and preparedness in post-pandemic time \*\**

(Ho Chi Minh City) – HSBC Bank (Vietnam) Ltd. (HSBC Vietnam) has officially announced its relief programme to support Vietnam in the fight against Covid-19. The programme of VND3 billion will support the most vulnerable groups in Vietnam who are adversely impacted by Covid-19. It will not only provide immediate support, the programme also aims at building resilience and preparedness for these groups of people for any similar crisis in the future, creating a positive long-term impact for the community. HSBC Vietnam is cooperating with experienced non-governmental organisations such as Worldwide Orphans Foundation (WWO), VinaCapital Foundation and Supporting Community Development Initiatives (SCDI).

Tim Evans, CEO and Chairman of the Corporate Sustainability Committee of HSBC Vietnam, said “It is deeply touching to see all Vietnamese people coming together and providing a helping hand to support each other in this unprecedented time. HSBC Vietnam is proud to be able to join hands with Vietnam in the fight against this historical pandemic. Having been in discussions with our NGO partners, we have come to the decision to stand together with the Vietnam Government in supporting the most vulnerable people in society. We are all in this situation together and we hope that our donation can help make a difference for the least fortunate in the community in which we operate.”

The programme includes three projects which are expected to extend support to around 10,000 people of different backgrounds who are also the most vulnerable groups in Vietnam. As an initial action, two projects will provide basic relief such as food, shelter, medicine, therapy sessions, special home education platforms for migrants, the homeless, off-the-book workers, disable children with disadvantage background and their caregivers who are seriously impacted by Covid-19. In the meantime, for the long-term effect, another project will look to install clean water filtration systems for public hospitals in remote communes, benefiting healthcare workers and patients in these areas. In addition, it will set up training on the needs of clean water for local people, and provide economic recovery to the people in need.

Tim Evans said “We would like to thank our NGO partners. It is critical at this point in time, that we are all able to work from home in order to comply with the social distancing guidance of the authorities. There are a number of designated essential services such as banking that continue to function, but it is the volunteers of these organisations who still go out and provide assistance to the most vulnerable people that makes a material difference to the lives of many. These people together with people in the medical profession are all part of the front line in the battle against Covid-19 and we would like to provide them with the means to continue doing their invaluable work.”

HSBC Vietnam will continue to assess the situation and demands for further relief programmes. In parallel, the bank has also rolled out measures to support our clients in this critical time. Besides the financial support to the most impacted customers, the bank is

working tirelessly to offer flexible operations framework for those who are mostly in the Business Continuity's working from home mode as well as to support customers to move to and leverage HSBC's digital platforms.

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**Notes for Editors:**

Background information of three sponsored projects:

Project name 01	COVID-19 Immediate relief and post-pandemic preparedness for children with disabilities or at high-risk in Viet Nam
Partner	Worldwide Orphans Foundation (WWO)
Time	April 2020 – March 2021
Location	Hung Yen, Ho Chi Minh City, Long An, Ben Tre, Can Tho
Beneficiary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 800 vulnerable children aged at 3 – 12 years old, living with disabilities or at high risk.</li> <li>• 300 low-income caregivers/parents of the above children who were impacted financially and emotionally by Covid-19</li> <li>• 100 adolescents who lost their part-time employment due to the industrial shutdown</li> <li>• 10 project partners including Rehabilitation boarding schools, District Medical Units, Social work centres from 5 cities/provinces</li> </ul>
Summary	<p>The programme aims at providing basic needs support to 800 vulnerable children aged 3-12, 300 caregivers and 100 youth who are seriously impacted during and after the Covid-19. The supported fund from HSBC will help achieve project goal through the following activities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Provide alternative nutrition, home-based play activities (including books and toys) and therapeutic exercises at home to 800 vulnerable children</li> <li>2. Provide stipends for low-income caregivers and youth in the Future Skills project during home-sheltering and better prepared for the pandemic aftermath.</li> <li>3. Provide online consultation and counselling for caregivers and youth traumatized because of COVID-19 impact.</li> <li>4. Coordinate with partners to carry out immediate relief package and maintain their facilities safe and clean for the aftermath.</li> <li>5. Respective communities will be aware of this action and respond to the interventions in terms of in-kind contribution, voluntary services, financial support and advocacy for Disaster Preparedness.</li> <li>6. Provide influenza vaccination and health check for at least 60% of the children in the project.</li> </ol>

<b>Project name 02</b>	<b>Clean Water – Reducing the Risks of virus spread</b>
Partner	VinaCapital Foundation (VCF)
Time	June 2020 – June 2021
Location	Ha Giang, Dak Lak, Quang Ngai
Beneficiary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 hospitals at rural areas</li> <li>• 2,000 – 2,500 patients and their families are able to access clean water each day</li> </ul>
Summary	<p>The project goal is to prevent Covid-19 from spreading into rural areas of Vietnam. These are poor provinces and it is always the poorest who suffer the most. Clean water sources are critical to protect these poor vulnerable communities from Covid-19.</p> <p>The installation of 3 filtration systems will immediately reduce water born disease including Covid-19, slow the spread of this highly contagious disease and improve the health outcomes for healthcare professionals, patients and their families.</p> <p>By avoiding the pandemic and improving the healthcare generally in ‘at risk’ communities, economic development can proceed, children will be healthier and people can thrive.</p>

<b>Project name 03</b>	<b>Mitigating negative impacts and building resilience among the most vulnerable populations</b>
Partner	Center for Supporting Community Development Initiatives (SCDI)
Time	April – July 2020
Location	Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh City, Binh Duong, Hai Phong, Thai Binh, Hai Duong
Beneficiary	<p>200 homeless people and 200 homeless families who are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Permanent” homeless are street persons who live on the street, majority are men. Around 30% of them suffer physical or mental disability. Around one third is senior people (over 60 years old). Around one fifth is adolescents, women and children.</li> <li>• “Temporary” homeless who sleep at their workplaces (eg: restaurants or shops). As their workplaces are closed due to the pandemic, they become temporary homeless and cannot return to their hometowns for some reasons. Majority of them are at working age.</li> <li>• Slum dwellers are people who rent places in slum to stay. Rooms are usually very small without air ventilation or sunlight. Women and children account for half of them.</li> </ul>

Summary	<p>People who are most affected by Covid-19 pandemic are those who are economically poor without family supports or insurances and not able to access public welfare. They live hand-to-mouth, do informal works with no labour contracts and insurance whatsoever. Many of them don't have identification cards, many more don't have resident registration at the cities where they live.</p> <p>The project aims to provide emergency support on 1) Food, 2) Temporary accommodation 3) Economic recovery package in order to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• prevent hunger and crimes among the poorest and most economically disadvantaged people during and after the pandemic;</li><li>• help them recover from negative impacts of the pandemic;</li><li>• build their resilience in prevention of other crisis in the future.</li></ul>
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**HSBC Bank (Vietnam) Ltd.**

HSBC has been in Vietnam for 150 years – the bank first opened an office in Saigon (now Ho Chi Minh City) in 1870. HSBC was the first foreign bank to launch its locally incorporated entity on 1 January 2009 as HSBC Bank (Vietnam) Ltd. The bank's current network includes two branches and five transaction offices in Ho Chi Minh City, one branch and four transaction offices in Hanoi, and two full-service branches in Binh Duong and Da Nang. HSBC is one of the largest foreign banks in the country in terms of investment capital, product range, and customer base.

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