

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM REPORT

FY22



OVERVIEW

Despite the almost miraculous development of effective vaccines against COVID-19 in 2020, the virus continued to spread and mutate throughout the past year. The year 2021 continued to see the postponement of Global Village (GV) program of Habitat for Humanity over the world as well as local volunteering initiatives.

Vietnam's 2021 was, by far, one of the most challenging years to date. While Vietnam was lauded globally for controlling the pandemic in 2020, the Delta variant proved overwhelming resulting in strict lockdowns, interrupted production, and disrupted supply chains. In particular, the fourth wave of the COVID-19 pandemic that has lasted from July to the last months of 2021 in the Southeast provinces, the Mekong Delta and Hanoi were required to implement social distancing according to Directive 16[1]; this mandated closures of non-essential businesses, restaurants, banned public gatherings, and severely limited transportation services for a long time. The situation seriously affected peoples' lives and the country's socio-economic development. It has caused stagnant production and had a negative impact on people's livelihood and psychological health, as in all parts of the world.

Despite the challenges, Habitat for Humanity Vietnam remain staunch about the value of volunteers. No matter where they are, whatever interests they may have, and how old they are, volunteers play a critical role in addressing the housing needs. Habitat Vietnam's revitalized development programs have integrated volunteering as an enabler for families to have improved living conditions, improved health, and have better chances in life.

Under the regional movement of Habitat Young Leaders Build, Habitat Vietnam engaged 74 volunteers through construction and non-construction activities to act together to build homes and communities, speak out for decent shelter, and raise funds and awareness in support of affordable housing to help families achieve strength, stability and self-reliance.

By the second quarter of 2022, guided by Vietnam's policy principle to "co-live with the virus," the country has accelerated its vaccination drive and gradually removed local restrictions, fueling consumer sentiment, leading to an ongoing rebound in local consumption. The re-opening from mid-March this year has allowed Habitat Vietnam to be able to organize three (03) in-country builds engaging 56 volunteers in actual house building activities in the Quarter 4 of fiscal year 22 (FY22). The positive developments signaled for a more optimistic fiscal year 23 with Habitat Vietnam being able to continue its intent of deepening engagement with multi-stakeholders; for example: doing beyond house building with the private sector through skills-based volunteering.



FY22 IN REVIEW



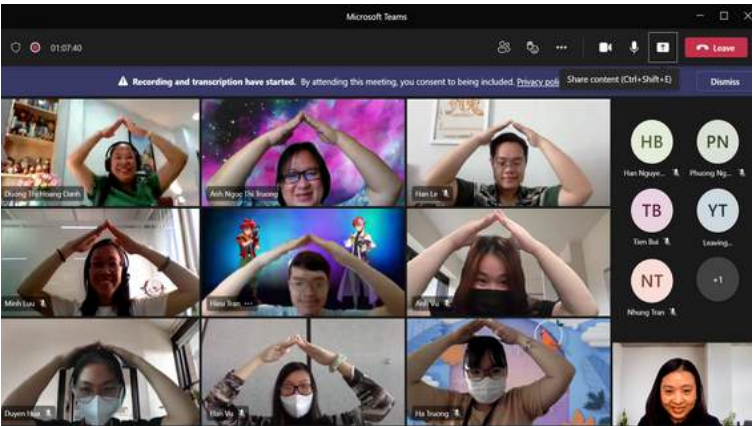
132
VOLUNTEERS



3,087
VOLUNTEER HOURS



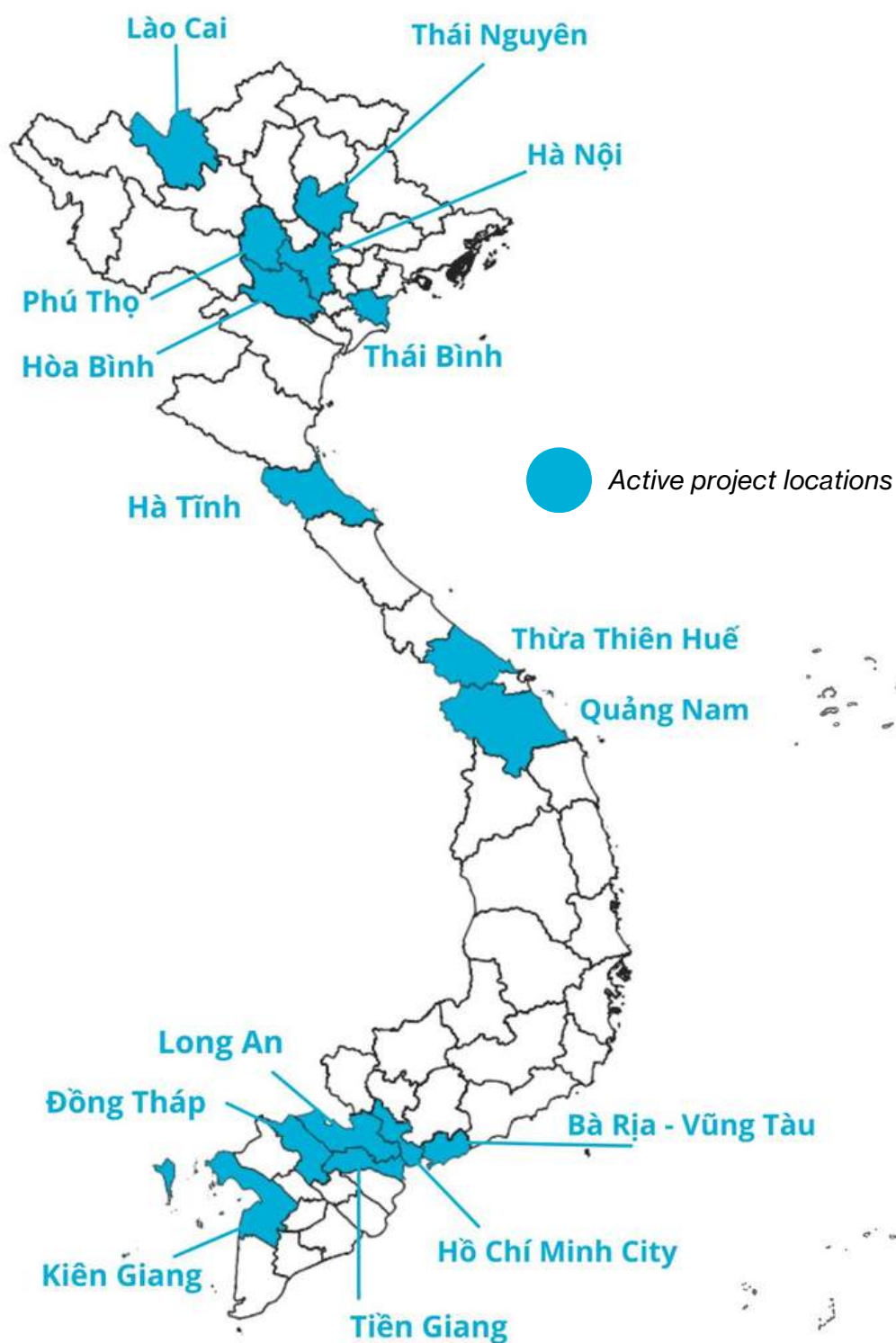
6,310
FUND RAISED



02
FAMILIES SERVED



PROJECT LOCATIONS



BUILDING STRENGTH, STABILITY, SELF- RELIANCE THROUGH SHELTER



Habitat
for Humanity®
Vietnam



HIGHLIGHTS

EVERYONE DESERVES A DECENT PLACE TO LIVE

DOMESTIC VOLUNTEERS CONTINUALLY PARTICIPATED IN DISABILITY INCLUSION - A PROGRAM THEME- FOCUSED APPROACH TO ENGAGEMENT

In the context that COVID-19 has deepened existing inequalities, hitting the poorest and most vulnerable communities the hardest, Habitat Vietnam continues to work to increase equal access to adequate housing with particular focus on serving and partnering with persons with disabilities (PWD), adhering to leaving no one behind.

The three-year project in partnership with JTI in Vietnam to build five (05) houses for PWD in Tien Giang and Hoa Binh provinces was delayed in year-two of project as a result of the fourth wave of Covid-19. Two JTI build events were not able to happen, and the houses were completed by local masons and the homeowners.

When the covid-19 situation had better control, Habitat Vietnam organized a family visit to Tien Giang for three JTI executives to help them witness firsthand and understand how a new house with inclusive features can remove the physical barriers from PWD home partners and reduce some burdens from carers. Meanwhile in Hoa Binh, as the house was completed, Habitat Vietnam organized an alternative volunteer event that hosted a (01) JTI team to paint the wall for the household they supported in Hoa Binh. The activities helped make the house more decent and cleaner.

By the fourth quarter, one of the last activities of the three-year project was implemented. Habitat Vietnam hosted a JTI team to build a (01) new house for PWD in Tien Giang.





WITH TOOLS WE BUILD HOUSE, WITH LOVE WE BUILD HOME

The build included JTI Vietnam's executives and staff who actively participated in learning about the thematic focus through the build. The volunteers learned about individual accessibility needs, and how adequate housing can make an impact in other forms of disability, involving themselves in understanding the housing design, among others. These demonstrate Habitat Vietnam's new approach to volunteer engagement and create a pathway to a more holistic and participatory-issues-based one.

Taking advantage of the relaxed quarter 4, Habitat Vietnam also hosted another team from Bank BNP Paribas (BNPP) in Vietnam to join their hands to build the same new house for PWD in Tien Giang that JTI team supported. This build event was under BNP Paribas Help2Help 2021 Program that was the second year partnership with Habitat Vietnam to support vulnerable families in Vietnam to have decent homes. Because of the outbreak of Covid-19 in the last six months of 2021, the build event couldn't happen. However, one family still received the support from BNPP and had a new and clean house to deal with the lockdown periods. Therefore, having a build event to join their hands with JTI to support the family with PWD access to adequate housing with inclusive design for PWD mainstreamed and applied provided BNPP volunteers an opportunity to open their eyes and understand the needs of PWD to have an accessible house that strengthened the partnership of BNPP and Habitat Vietnam in the next year program to focus the support on specific vulnerable groups, particularly different forms of disabilities.

OVERCOMING BARRIERS IN LOCAL ENGAGEMENT

Local volunteering is a wide-opened door for Habitat Vietnam due to the high need of CSR program from corporates as well as the trend of youth engagement into the social problems lately, as the result of the post Covid-19 period. It has been a trend of increased accountability and partnerships that stakeholders will demand greater transparency and involvement in how CSR is conducted. A majority of people surveyed globally (85%) believe the crisis has revealed issues and is accelerating change that needed to happen anyway.

Together with the context of continually postpone of GV program, local engagement is a huge opportunity of Habitat Vietnam that is not solely on fund-raising but also taps in the societal impact because Habitat Vietnam is utilizing the engagement for awareness raising and advocate for the housing issues. For corporates such as JTI and BNPP, the partnership is not one-time build; the meetings with the staffs before and after the build as well as the events they invite Habitat Vietnam to join as their charity partners provide Habitat Vietnam a bridge to connect to other potential donors. For the youth, IVY Prep and CIS even have their own clubs dedicated to Habitat which organize regular diversified in-house activities to raise fund and awareness on housing issue. The knowledges and experiences the local volunteers gain from Habitat engagement would contribute to their mindset change which leads them to advocate for housing issues when they have chance.

With the domestic partnerships worth almost USD 30,000 to 40,000 per year and the opportunity to visualize Habitat's focuses to the public via the volunteering engagement, if we can overcome challenges while consciously observing local "policy", we positively envision to be able to expand our reach to the hearts and hands (of volunteers) in Vietnam.

To adapt with the trending local engagement, Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy have been localized and adopt based on versions of Habitat for Humanity International for local volunteers to ensure the volunteer role with Habitat for Humanity that acts in a way to promote Habitat's mission, respects the local community, and ensures the safety of all participants. In addition to complying with all laws, regulations and Habitat for Humanity policies, Habitat Vietnam has been finalizing the orientation process. The purpose of this process is to ensure the safety of all the stakeholders including our beneficiaries – especially the vulnerable ones such as children, PWD, etc., partners, community, and Habitat Vietnam team. The process would take time but Habitat Vietnam surely follow the policies and step by step improve our work in Vietnam.



EVERY HAND CAN HELP MORE FAMILIES BUILD STRENGTH, STABILITY AND INDEPENDENCE

INDIVIDUAL VOLUNTEERS PARTICIPATED IN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS

Individual volunteering is not a regular mobilization resource of Habitat Vietnam but has contributed a significant result in qualifying and diversifying fundraising-project proposals and telling Habitat Vietnam's stories in a localized approach that inspires people to join Habitat in fulfilling our mission. In the fiscal year 21, Habitat Vietnam had two (02) remoted individual volunteers from Italia and Canada, in which the one from Italia supported in designing projects for fundraising in different fields such as digital, graphic and project drafts; and the development of Construction Appropriate Technology, Safety Guidance and Quality Control System. The volunteer in Canada supported Habitat Vietnam in Communications areas at programming level and organizational level, as well as nourishing the social media post to help local partners, beneficiaries and our donors reach our organization deeply and consistently; and allow them to get benefit from our information about inclusive housing program, safe, smart and resilient communities program with disaster risk reduction and response sector; housing affordability program with housing finance sector and government and people engagement program; and be moved to take action or contribute to our cause.



Hong, who in the 2nd from the left, is staying in Canada and supported Habitat Vietnam remotely

EVERY BRICK IS A BUILDING BLOCK



04 housing products submitted for CIS House Build Competition

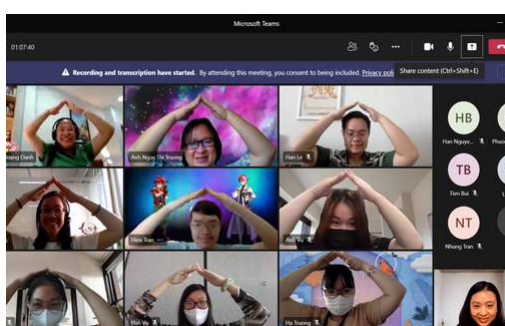
YOUTH VOLUNTEERS TO TAKE ACTION ON HOUSING ISSUES - HABITAT YOUNG LEADERS BUILD

Habitat Young Leaders Build (HYLB) campaign 2022 in Vietnam saw the incredible growth in number of youth volunteers mobilized to take action together to build homes and communities, speak out for decent shelter, and raise funds and awareness of the poverty housing situation even as it remained active online, with the physical volunteering activities limited and highly discouraged for safety reasons. HYLB campaign 2022 mobilized 1,097 supporters, organized 10 activities and raised US\$ 6,310 to support people and families in need of decent housing.

Under the partnership with Vietnamese branch of the Australian research university the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT), eight (08) students majoring in Languages, Interpretation and translation was mobilized in Translation Project in which nine (09) documents of Habitat safeguarding policy and Procurement policy were translated from English to Vietnamese.

The translation done by qualified and certified students that ultimately result in a more professional-looking copy increases the information's ability to resonate with our target audience and propel them into action to build strength, stability, and self-reliance.

Besides, Habitat Club in Canada International School (CIS) organized various activities through the year to raise funds and educate their peers on the housing needs in Vietnam. Those were Instagram page @habitatforhumanity_cisvn launch to attract the young generation's attention into the housing needs in Vietnam; and Miniature house build competition requiring students to use all sorts of recycled and sustainable materials to craft and build a shelter of any kind they want that aimed to spread awareness about Habitat's work and bring the concept of creating safe shelter and sustainability to a younger audience. The club also organized a mini sales to sell merchandises together with other GIN clubs aiming to raise fund and introduce Habitat Vietnam to their peers.



RMIT Translation Project 2022 – Project Introduction Meeting



CIS – Poll quiz to launch Instagram



CIS – Merchandise sales on May 16, 2022

HYLB 2022 - CASESTUDY

YOUTH VOLUNTEERS TO TAKE ACTION ON HOUSING ISSUES

EVERY VOICE CAN ADVOCATE AND HELP MORE FAMILY BUILD STRENGTH, STABILITY AND INDEPENDENCE

To response the call for Housing Building Challenge of CIS Habitat Club, the group of CIS students including Duy Anh, Sahana and Anna worked together to design and build a 3D house made from environmental friendly materials; and also provided the comprehensive solutions for disaster risks and saving energy such as electricity and water in the crowded cities of Vietnam. This case study reflects how talented and creative the young peers are in joining HYLb movement giving solutions for housing issues. It also highlights the success of Habitat Club in CIS in raising awareness on bringing attention to the systematic causes of the housing crisis for their peers.

"Our house model incorporated features that relate to both modern and primitive timelines. The house has a modern house design to fit the modern timeline, giving it the aesthetics of the modern world. While that, the house limits the use of concrete, replacing it with thatch for sustainability and cool temperatures due to the fact that thatch works as an insulator against heat.

To keep the walls strong against storms and unfortunate weather, the thatch sticks on a thin concrete wall. The ceiling is made of nipa layered on top of each other, giving the ceiling the strength to keep things on top of the house.

For electricity, the house has two sustainable methods, including solar energy and wind energy, which are best for Vietnam's hostile climate. The sunny seasons work best for the solar panels to work at full potential. On the other hand, during the rainy season, the wind turbine works to create electricity.

For a sustainable water source, we use a water capture and filtration system to collect rainwater for usage. Around the house are bushes and small trees for a small green ecosystem within the area. The perfect location for the building is in a community in Vietnam, where there is a lot of wind and normal temperature (30-35 degrees celsius). That is our idea for a sustainable modern house in the crowded cities of Vietnam, specifically, H. C. M. C. "

*House Building Challenge,
By Duy Anh, Sahana, Anna*



In front of the house



Side of the house

YOUTH VOLUNTEERS TO RAISE FUNDS TO SUPPORT FOR A WORLD WHERE EVERYONE HAS A DECENT PLACE TO LIVE



IvyPrep Selling Honey Campaign



Rainbow Class's Facebook post to call donation to support a vulnerable family in Thai Binh

"YOUTH ARE AMONG THE ONES WHO ARE MOST ACTIVE IN RESPONDING TO THE PANDEMIC AND HELPING THEIR COMMUNITIES REMAIN SAFE AND DEVELOP COPING STRATEGIES."

- UNESCO REPORT '2020 YOUTH ENGAGEMENT FOR GLOBAL ACTION'

Habitat Young Leaders Build 2022 also witnessed an outstanding advancement in fundraising activities carried out by the young volunteers. That is the fundraising campaign conducted by volunteers of Rainbow Class raised USD 1,300 for Habitat Vietnam to build a new house in Thai Binh. They sold nut cakes and called donation through Facebook to contribute to support a new house in Thai Binh.

The second fundraising project is IvyPrep for Humanity project that was inspired by the partnership of Habitat Vietnam and IvyPrep with the aim to raise an amount of US\$ 5,000 to build a new house for a poor family in Dong Thap province, in Mekong Delta, Vietnam. The project was promoted after an introduction workshop conducted by Habitat Vietnam. The workshop occurred in 2020 actually, but really caught the attention of IvyPrep students in the age of 16 to 18 into the housing crisis in many corners of the country that most of them admitted that they hadn't aware of. After returning from the first engagement with Habitat Vietnam in 2020 through one-day build event, some 2020 Habitat volunteers in IvyPrep, also called IvyPrep alumni, were invited to share their experiences and points of view about the housing needs in Dong Thap. These sharings deeperly motivated the students in taking actions to support in of affordable housing to help a family at least to have a decent house to live.

“EVERY LIVING THING IN THIS WORLD NEEDS A PLACE CALLED HOME.”

"Home is a place to gather, a place to return after a long exhausting day, a place that gives you a feeling of warmth and safety. It doesn't need to be beautiful or glamorous; the house just needs to be strong enough and sturdy enough to protect us from "heavy rain and strong wind" said Nigel, a volunteer of IvyPrep for Humanity project.



IvyPrep Indoor Mini Fair & Selling Honey Campaign

With participation of 25 volunteers, and 05 supporters, the IvyPrep for Humanity project was launched from March to August 2021 with two fundraising rounds including Entrepreneurship campaigns and Crowdfunding campaigns. In Entrepreneurship campaigns, students created and sold food, drinks, souvenirs such as tiramisu cakes, honey bottles, clay pins..., through mini door fairs in IvyPrep campuses and achieved an amount of US\$ 558.

The round Crowdfunding Campaigns reached higher income US\$ 4,442. Each student composed a compelling story or video to express their motivation to join Habitat's mission to support community and posted on their fanpage as a viral marketing strategy to call donation. Through this round, twenty five (25) stories were told and more than 300 participants were engaged to contribute to support a vulnerable family in Dong Thap.

"Since the moment I saw many homeless people rushing to find a place to shelter whenever it started raining, I was no longer in the rain. And I began to think about those. I felt so bad for them. They deserved a house, didn't they?" shared Huynh Yen Phung, volunteer of IvyPrep for Humanity project.

Through the project, the young volunteers are empowered to be creative and active in designing and implementing project and strengthen with leadership skills to work on housing issues and contribute to building sustainable communities. IvyPrep teacher, who supported this project, shared that although this project closed, they hope project can awake people awareness, especially the youth, and inspire them to take action and speak out in support of affordable housing to help families achieve strength, stability and self-reliance.

THE PARTICIPATION OF HOMEOWNER IN DECISION-MAKING REMOVES BARRIERS

Location: Binh Dong Commune; Go Cong Town; Tien Giang Province

Van and Minh's couple lived with two children and two grandchildren in a house of 30m². One of their sons, Duoc, was disabled affected by Agent Orange because Mr. Minh was infected while being soldier in the Cambodian border battlefield during 1984-1986.

Their first two sons were born with limbs impairment, protruding eyeballs and then died at the age of 6 and 7. Only the third daughter was given to birth as normal. The youngest son, Duoc, was born with polio and mobility disabled. He was not able to go to school as he couldn't sit down for a long time. Currently at 15 years old, most of his daily life activities have been relied on his parents including eating and drinking to the personal hygiene. His mother, Van, had to stay home to take care of him and her grandchildren. Father Minh is breadwinner with goat raising and farming that makes him earn 950,000VND per month.

The family of six members with a PWD lived in the house made of leaves, mixed wooden, concrete frame and leaking asbestos sheet for years. It was about to collapse anytime in the rainy season.

"When it rained, there's no place dry in our house. Duoc often asked me when we could have a better place to live. He wished to have a new house, so he doesn't get wet whenever it rains and mom doesn't have to stand for hours to cover the rain for him. I didn't want him to be disappointed, so I promised him that we would have a new house next year, when even myself could not be sure when." - said Van

With the support from the project, the promise of mother was kept when the new house was built and customized with inclusion feature that integrated the sanitation into the bedroom. This newly built and clean toilet supports family in reducing the cumbersome and burdensome when transferring Duoc from his wheelchair to the toilet seat. With this innovation of combining space, the more open space without obstacle of wall and distance help Duoc's father can transfer him to the toilet seat easily and gently. A new house with the clean and inclusive designing toilet for PWD built by Habitat for Humanity means a father can now more easily take care of his son.

"Habitat new house really released my worries. I'm no longer worry if I was strong enough to carry Duoc in and out toilet as I'm getting old and weak everyday. Having a new home makes me really happy. And it's so much better when my needs are heard and now taking care of the children has become easier for me." - Minh shared.



VOLUNTEER TESTIMONIES



"Every living thing in this world needs a place called Home. Sadly, many people do not have that luck. They only have a makeshift shack that could collapse anytime soon or even have no home. Not only that, their life becomes even more complicated when the weather gets worse. That's why Nigel - I decided to stand shoulder to shoulder with Habitat for Humanity Vietnam in the IvyPrep for Humanity project to help people build a place for them to protect their homes!"

***Nigel, a volunteer of IvyPrep.
Quoted from story shared on
Facebook for IvyPrep
crowdfunding campaign.***



"Beside the business work, JTI is focus on social responsibilities that hopes to contribute to the sustainable development as JTI global strategy. This is final house in the three-year project with Habitat Vietnam that brought for PWD the housing solutions for the equal access to their own home. We hope we can have more project partnering with Habitat to support other vulnerable groups in Tien Giang province and others of the country."

***Bao, Corporate Affairs and
Communication Director of JTI
shared in the JTI Build in Tien
Giang.***



"The leaves protect tattered ones." This is a traditional Vietnamese proverb saying that promotes sympathy: people should aid those who require help. To follow that tradition, I, Dung, a 17-year-old Saigonese, am proud to be part of "IvyPrep for Humanity 2021." With a heart of compassion, this is a student campaign that aims to build a house for a family in the Mekong Delta."

***Le Nguyen Quoc Dung, volunteer of
IvyPrep for Humanity Project.
Quoted from story shared on
Facebook of IvyPrep for
crowdfunding campaign.***



REFERENCES

[1] The Directive No. 12-CT/TU on strengthening a number of measures to implement the Prime Minister's Directive No. 16/CT-TTg, on implementing urgent measures to prevent and control the COVID-19 pandemic, in the City is issued on July 22, 2021 by Ho Chi Minh City (HCMC) Party Committee. Accordingly, HCMC Party Committee requests to suspend production and business activities and activities of construction sites, construction and traffic works that are not really urgent. Banks and securities companies must operate at the level of maintaining capacity in order to provide necessary services in a timely manner; branches or transaction offices may operate alternately, arrange personnel to work directly in shifts, but must strictly observe social distancing requirements.

<https://thuvienphapluat.vn/van-ban/EN/The-thao-Y-te/Directive-12-CT-TU-2021-strengthening-implementation-of-Directive-16-CT-TTg-in-Ho-Chi-Minh-city/482349/tieng-anh.aspx>





Habitat
for Humanity®
Vietnam

Contact

Habitat for Humanity Vietnam

53/10 Tran Khanh Du Street, Tan Dinh Ward, District 1,
Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

Tel: +84 (28) 3526 5005 | Fax: +84 (28) 3526 5323

www.habitatvietnam.org ➔

info@habitatvietnam.org ✉

@HFHVietnam 📺

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