

**Updates on steps and measures taken in response to the commitments made by the State President of Viet Nam at the Global Leaders' Meeting on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment on 27 September 2015**

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**Raise awareness of gender equality**

Raising awareness of gender equality in Viet Nam is a high priority and conducted in various forms. Significantly, the Vietnamese Government has decided to annually implement the monthly Campaign on Gender Equality and Gender-based Violence Prevention from 15/11 to 15/12 since 2016. The first-ever one with the theme "Join hands to end violence against women and girls" was organized successfully. Almost all the cities, provinces, authorities, and 18 UN agencies, development partners and non-governmental organizations conducted activities in response to the Campaign, for which over 205,000 people directly participated. More than 50 online newspapers and local websites reported it. Related news and articles appeared 50 times in printed newspapers, 40 times on television, and 1,700 times on the radio. Millions of people got the message of the Campaign.

**Improve the access of women to employment services**

The Vietnamese Government pays great attention to improving the access of women to employment services in the changing world of work. Certain forms of dissemination of labour market information suitable for female labourers have produced in order to help them access information needed in a timely manner. This helped creating jobs for about 1,641 millions of labourers in 2016, of which female labourers accounted for 48%.

Services to assist labourers to access unemployment insurance are implemented effectively. In 2016, 592,440 people applied for unemployment insurance. 57.2% of the cases processed successfully were women.

Besides, the National Employment Fund continues playing an important role in assisting women to access a range of loans. In 2016, the Fund contributed to job creation for 105,000 labourers, of which women accounted for about 60%.

**Promote vocational training for women**

A new policy which benefits female labourers is the Circular No 152/2016/TT-BTC dated 17 October 2016 issued by the Ministry of Finance. This Circular provides in details financial support for female labourers in both rural and urban areas to access vocational training, and development of vocational training models for them.

In practice, vocational training and job creation for female labourers especially those in rural area is also given priority. Thanks to the Government's Master Plan on Vocational Training for Labourers in Rural Area, it is estimated that over 46% of female labourers have received vocational training.

### **Address violence against women and girls**

Authorities, organizations and communities in Viet Nam are now joining hands in addressing violence against women and girls. In 2016, a National Master Plan on Prevention and Response to Gender-based Violence for the period 2016-2020 and 2030 Vision was approved. According to this Plan, a series of models have been developed, particularly hotlines, shelters, safe and friendly cities for women and girls, safe, friendly and non-violent schools, clubs for women who may be forced to get married to foreigners, and so on.

