



Vietnam COVID-19 Huddle

DATE: Thursday, 2 September 2021

TIME: 2.30pm-3.45pm SGT / 1.30pm-2.45pm VNT

VENUE: Zoom (Online)

Speakers:

- **Dominic Scriven**, APC Member
- **Mafruza Khan**, CEO, Asia Philanthropy Circle (APC)
- **Nguyen Tuan Khoi**, Founder and CEO, Foodbank Vietnam
- **Natalie Kennedy**, Deputy Director, APC

Moderators:

- **Mimi Vu**, Vietnam Country Representative, APC
- **Van Ly**, Vietnam Country Representative, APC

Programme:

1.30 PM	Welcome
1.35 PM	Around the room introductions
1.45 PM	Voice from the ground Nguyen Tuan Khoi, Founder and CEO Foodbank Vietnam <i>Followed by Q&A</i>
2.00 PM	Hearing from members and guests
2:30 PM	Exploring next steps
2:40 PM	Future APC gatherings and events
2.45 PM	End of event

Meeting notes:

1.30pm: Welcome

Dominic Scriven, APC Member, and Mafruza Khan, CEO, APC

- Dominic welcomed everyone to the meeting.
 - Mafruza introduced APC to guests, sharing that APC is a member-based philanthropy network with 48 members in 13 markets.
 - She shared key points on the work that APC does and how it generates peer-to-peer connection, encourages learning and provides a safe platform for philanthropists to debate and discuss topics.
 - Mafruza gave an overview of the situation in Vietnam, emphasising how the strict social distancing measures that begun (Directive 11) on 23rd August has caused difficulty for people to go about their daily lives. She also shared anecdotes and examples of what companies are doing to support employees and communities.
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1.45pm: Voice from the ground

Nguyen Tuan Khoi, Founder and CEO, Foodbank Vietnam

- Khoi shared some background to how Foodbank Vietnam was established and their goals:
 - Mr Khoi started by delivering food and supporting vulnerable groups to alleviate hunger in Vietnam. In 2006, his team imported Foodbank International's model, establishing Foodbank Vietnam.
 - Foodbank Vietnam has two main goals: No hunger and No food waste
 - Foodbank Vietnam works with a diverse range of partners and has a large volunteer base that helps deliver food and meals to people and increase their ability to gain access to food.
 - Foodbank Vietnam advocates for laws that help govern food waste. The organisation also works with food processing companies, including CP Group to redirect and reduce food waste.
- Khoi shared some challenges in their work:
 - The concept of a Foodbank is still relatively new and not always well understood in Vietnam. People sometimes have concerns in terms of sanitation of the food and are hesitant to take them.
 - Vietnam currently does not have good laws surrounding food waste and in preventing hunger and starvation.
 - Foodbank Vietnam has increased awareness and provided solutions to these problems.
- Khoi shared what Foodbank Vietnam has done to support the community during COVID-19:
 - Foodbank Vietnam helped to collect produce that vendors were unable to sell due to restricted mobility, cooked the food and served it to those who needed it.
 - They also worked with farmers from rural areas who have excess produce and connected them to urban areas in HCMC, where there was shortage of food, working with the Ministry of Rural and Agricultural Development
 - The organisation also started community refrigerators, mobile rice crews and a community hotel.

- Khoi concluded his presentation by sharing that the pandemic has worsened the hunger situation and that there is much work to do. It is important to come together and work alongside one another to support each other in challenging times.

Q&A Summary

- Guests asked Khoi to elaborate on some of his work, especially those involving the government. They also asked if there were any immediate ways that people could support Foodbank Vietnam in the upcoming weeks.
 - Khoi shared his learnings that it was important to ensure transparency and a sense of shared value when working with governments.
 - For immediate asks and actions, Khoi mentioned connection to businesses and companies who may be able to provide food.
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2.00pm: Hearing from members and guests/Exploring next steps

Mimi Vu & Van Ly, Vietnam Country Representatives, APC (Moderators)

- Mimi and Van facilitated this sharing session for members and guests to share the ways they are currently supporting their employees and communities through COVID-19 and generate some possible next steps.
 - Guests shared common areas they were supporting:
 - **Ensuring food security in the community**
 - Guests shared how they had become more hands on, getting involved to distribute food to those in need.
 - **Providing access to medical supplies**
 - Guests shared that they were supporting employees, such as by dispatch ventilators to those whose families are infected with COVID-19,
 - Guests also shared how they were supporting their community both through their business and personal philanthropy, leveraging on existing logistical networks (trucks, drivers) and connections (friends in medical profession, volunteer networks).
 - Guests also shared how they were supporting **accurate information around vaccines**, as well as continuing to support **longer-term education initiatives**.
 - Mimi and Van summarised some key learnings and opportunities:
 - **Importance to balance short term and long term goals**
 - Guests agreed that quick solutions are valuable at the moment, but also shared how they are continuing to support long-term initiatives. Van added that this was an important consideration to ensure continuity in our work, while also being ready to respond to current needs.
 - **Access to communities and governments were common challenges**
 - Guests mentioned mobility as a current concern. They also shared similar sentiments about bureaucratic red tape and roadblocks in working with authorities.
 - **A key opportunity was to leverage on community networks**
 - Guests shared various ways they had tapped on existing networks to mobilise resources and gain access to food and medical supplies and reach communities quickly.
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2.40pm: Future APC gathering and events

Natalie Kennedy, Deputy Director, APC

- Natalie shared 2 upcoming events that APC will be holding that guests are welcome to join:
 - Strategic partnership for education (in Vietnam), Q4 2021
 - Natalie shared that APC's Vietnam members are highly involved in their educational giving. This event is an opportunity for guests to partner with other philanthropists to support educational causes in a more strategic way.
 - Natalie highlighted examples of how the COVID-19 vaccine was developed with the help of initial grant funding and how supporting education is hence a way to catalyse transformative change.
 - APC Strategic Climate Philanthropy Workshop Series, Oct-Nov 2021
 - Natalie shared APC's upcoming workshop series in strategic climate philanthropy and invited guests to get in touch with her if they are interested to join.
 - She shared that the platform would provide an Asia-focused programme and be attended by peers in the region.
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2.45pm: End of event

- Mafruza closed the event by thanking guests for their time and sharing her hopes that APC could work more closely with and support NextGen leaders in Vietnam going forward.
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