

# Rapid Assessment of the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and associated lockdown measures on children, adolescents, and mothers in Son La, Vietnam



## Context

The COVID-19 lockdown began in early 2020. The health system gave full priority to responding to COVID-19, which may affect routine maternal and child health services, especially for ethnic minority communities in remote villages of Son La province, Vietnam

## Goal



To evaluate the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and associated control measures on nutrition, food security and access to health services for children, adolescents and mothers in Son La province Vietnam and identify recommendations to mitigate negative impacts.

## Methods

Qualitative data were collected from:



Mothers



Adolescents



Health workers

Through:



Phone interviews



Online conversations

## Findings

Increase in child marriage and early childbearing.



The lockdown caused further challenges for ethnic minority students who usually receive food support from their school.

Students worry about learning from home due to a lack of resources, supports and connectivity



Communication and awareness raising efforts about COVID-19 have been effective, even in remote villages.

Village health workers were not equipped to safely continue providing essential services throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.



## Recommendations

Implement comprehensive sexuality education curriculum in schools and in the community and ensure access to health services for adolescents.

Adapt and support food programs at the village level for easier access by children and families.



Support ethnic minority adolescents to learn from home through the use of mobile phones, television, internet or distribution of lessons, materials and homework.

Broaden the use of effective health communication channels to include other health topics such as nutrition maternal, newborn, and child health.

Ensure village health workers are equipped with the skills, knowledge and personal protective equipment to continue providing services in villages.

For more information, visit

[https://healthbridge.ca/images/uploads/library/Rapid\\_Assessment\\_Summary\\_FINAL\\_September\\_4\\_2020.pdf](https://healthbridge.ca/images/uploads/library/Rapid_Assessment_Summary_FINAL_September_4_2020.pdf)