



SUCCESS STORY

Gender Champions for Viet Nam's Next Generation of One Health Professionals

W It is important for students to understand the importance of One Health and gender, they are our future workforce that will prevent pandemics and other infectious disease outbreaks.”
-Hien Nguyen

The Vietnam One Health University Network (VOHUN) consists of 24 Vietnamese universities working together to prepare the next generation of professionals with the knowledge and skills to put the One Health approach in practice. Central to success, is equipping these professionals with an understanding of the importance of gender in health. Due to gendered differences in our societies, women and men often have different levels of exposure to pathogens that cause disease. For example, if the majority of women in a community are the primary caretakers of livestock such as poultry or pigs, then these women may have higher levels of exposure to zoonotic diseases from these animals. Impactful training and outreach strategies must

acknowledge these gendered difference in their design and implementation. To address this challenge, VOHUN planned and executed a two-day webinar series on gender and One Health including how to conduct a gender analysis. The webinar series was planned by Hien Nguyen, VOHUN's monitoring, evaluation, and learning officer. The webinar included presentations by OHW-NG's Gender Lead Dr. Ndola Prata and VOHUN's Gender Specialist, Kavitha Sriparamanathan. Hien and Kavitha expressed that when surveyed, students reported great interest in gender trainings. As proof, this gender webinar had the highest number of registrations of all the webinars VOHUN has ever organized.

WHAT IS A GENDER ANALYSIS?

An approach to explore how gender and gender relations impact people's lives, their livelihoods, and society.

The webinar series was attended by 434 students and lecturers from the 24 VOHUN member universities including some that are not officially part of the Network. During the webinars, many students expressed that they believed gender was important but did not have the knowledge to analyze gendered differences in practice. To check attendees' understanding of concepts, the organizers used apps like, Mentimeter allowing immediate feedback from attendees. In addition, they students joined in break-out rooms and worked in groups to apply concepts they learned. Students were also assigned a case study to develop a gender analysis for the poultry food value chain so they could apply their skills in a real-world context.

Following the webinars, students rated both sessions highly, above nine out of 10 (Figure 1). They also requested additional gender trainings, with greater focus on applying knowledge and skills to real-world scenarios they may encounter in their future professions.

These trainings have the potential to make a big difference for local communities in Viet Nam as students take what they learn and apply it in their work. Due to the interdisciplinary nature of One Health, many of the students come from diverse backgrounds such as environmental science and animal science and health. By bringing them together as a One Health cohort, these future professionals destined for different industries in Viet Nam, will have a shared perspective on the importance of understanding gender along with the skills to conduct a gender analysis.

Going forward, VOHUN plans to host trainings, specifically for university lecturers on how they can incorporate gender in their curriculum Hien expressed that teachers are the key individuals

for spreading gender awareness to students. In addition, VOHUN hopes to work more closely with professionals serving their communities by providing them with the tools to use gendered approaches in their work. Lastly, they plan to provide these trainings in Vietnamese to enable further knowledge transfer to individuals of all educational levels.

Xin vui lòng đánh giá Buổi tập huấn trên thang điểm 1-10?

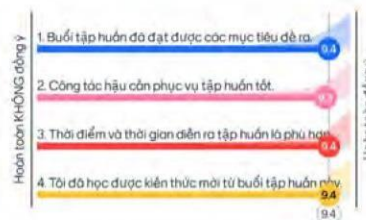


Figure 1. Mentimeter results of student evaluations for the webinar

Đối với bạn, khía cạnh Giới trong Một sức khỏe quan trọng như thế nào?

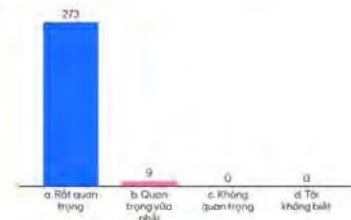


Figure 2. Mentimeter quiz



Gender is a sensitive topic and when it is shared in their native language there is a level of comfort that comes with it. ”

-Kavitha Sriparamanathan

Figure 1 Translation: Please rate the webinar quality based on the following criteria on a scale from 1-10 points:

1. The webinar has achieved its objectives.
2. The logistics preparation for webinar is good.
3. Time and duration of the webinar is appropriate.
4. I have learned new knowledge from this webinar.

Figure 2 Translation: How important to you are gender perspectives in One Health?

- a. Very important
- b. Somewhat important
- c. Not Important
- d. Don't know



VOHUN

VIETNAM ONE HEALTH UNIVERSITY NETWORK

NETWORK OVERVIEW



24

Universities

30

Faculties



17

One Health Student Clubs



1,734

Individuals trained in One Health topics



288

Individuals trained in COVID-19 related topics



7

Completed activities increasing capacity to respond to COVID-19



1,599

Individuals reached via COVID-19 related RCCE activities



4

Gender champions and gender experts

ABOUT VOHUN

- Connecting Vietnamese universities from the fields of human medicine, veterinary science, public health, nursing, and food technology, to equip a new generation of lecturers and researchers with a full range of One Health knowledge and skills.
- Vision: Foster sustainable transdisciplinary capacity building to respond to emerging and re-emerging infectious and zoonotic diseases.
- Mission: To leverage the training, education, and research capacities of the University Network to build the skills, knowledge, and attitude base for OH leaders.
- Partnered with key government agencies, research institutes, and international development organizations working towards One Health.
- Member of the Viet Nam One Health Partnership for Zoonoses.
- Established in November 2011.

Visit our website at www.vohun.org.

Year 2 Highlights

- Supported 17 One Health Student Clubs to organize club activities. These efforts engaged 945 students in a range of activities from community outreach on livestock biosecurity for poultry farmers and drinking water sources to capacity building for OHSC members through contests, seminars, and more (October 2020 - September 2021).
- Led a three-day training course on applying One Health Core Competencies towards zoonotic disease prevention plan for 31 human and animal health officers, 26-28 April 2021.
- Conducted the National One Health Camp for 40 Vietnamese students focused on Risk Communication strategies to address Avian Influenza, June to August 2021.
- Facilitated the application of One Health practices in communities including; a biosafety survey conducted by 35 students on poultry farms in Binh Long commune, Thai Nguyen province; an on-site training course on 'OH in Practice' for 43 health and 39 veterinary staff in Thanh Mien district, Hai Duong province, a field-based rabies awareness campaign conducted by 44 students in the O Mon district, Can Tho city.
- Assessed the Knowledge Management (KM) system of VOHUN member Universities finding the majority of the current KM practices are relatively sufficient, and identifying areas to strengthen their KMS. Findings and recommendations were shared with our Universities through the workshop.
- Successfully held a virtual Training of Trainers on Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning for 111 lecturers from 23 VOHUN universities and 5 representatives from other OHUNs that developed understanding and skills in reliable project reporting, September 2021.
- Organized a webinar series on One Health and COVID-19 Risk Communication in collaboration with Veterinarians Without Borders and the Institute of Environmental Health and Sustainable Development attended by 530 students, August to September 2021.



Activities

Objective 1

From October 2020 to September 2021, VOHUN engaged 945 students from 17 One Health Student Clubs (OHSCs) in a variety of One Health activities.

A total of 15 activities were conducted by OHSCs, from recruiting new members to replacing graduated members in the

clubs to contests organized; to improve understanding of the One Health approach.

The clubs and the National Coordinating Office (NCO) held three seminars and a webinar on biosecurity in poultry production, applying a One Health (OH) approach in implementing intervention research to reduce the use of antibiotics in livestock production, One Health and zoonotic disease/ *Streptococcus suis.*, and gender

perspectives in One Health. Through these seminars, 541 students gained insight in applying the approach to solve health issues.

Clubs conducted community outreach activities. The Thai Binh Club, for example, taught 345 primary school pupils how to protect and not waste drinking water. Through such community outreach initiatives, club members are able to apply OH core competencies, especially their communication skills.

OHSCs participated in the workshop “Sharing experience with all OHSCs” with the participation of 147 students. The workshop was an opportunity for all OHSCs to share their operating experiences, learn from other clubs how to organize activities, and develop a step-by-step plan to coordinate activities between clubs in the VOHUN network and clubs in other networks in the coming years.

From 26-28 April 2021, 16 human health officers from five provincial Centers for Disease Control (CDCs) and 15 animal health staff from five Sub-Departments of Livestock and Animal Health (SDLAHs) were trained on and practiced developing a zoonotic disease prevention plan for priority health issues.

For the National One Health Camp 2021 held from June - August, 40 students were selected to participate. They completed three competitions, including an online test, debate, and video production contest on avian influenza.

From October 2020 to September 2021, VOHUN’s One Health Sites (OHSs) engaged

their learning communities for learning about One Health issues.

- Thai Nguyen (OHS) engaged students to investigate the biosafety status of poultry farms and apply OH Core Competencies for the prevention and control of avian influenza in chickens and humans in Binh Long commune, Vo Nhai district, Thai Nguyen province. Through this exercise, 35 students were able to apply their One Health skills and knowledge in a practical setting and positively impact 70 poultry farmers.
- Hai Duong OHS: Set up an OHS field site and organized a training course on ‘One Health in Practice’ for 43 health and 39 veterinary staff in Thanh Mien district, Hai Duong province. The purpose of this training was to introduce local health staff to the One Health approach, core competencies and skills. The local health staff will become local mentors to support VOHUN member Universities by directly guiding students in the field.
- Can Tho OHS: Conducted field-based learning for 44 students to raise community awareness on rabies. They applied OH Core Competencies in field activities, such as to assess people’s knowledge and awareness about rabies, and advise them about rabies prevention. Students learned the functions, tasks, organizational structure, and operation of the preventive medicine and the veterinary systems at the district level.



Meeting professionals from these systems is a good career development opportunity for students.

- Thai Binh OHS: Organized a workshop on reviewing training activities at the OHS set up by the Thai Binh University of Medicine and Pharmacy. The purpose of the workshop was to assess practical training activities at the field site based on the OH approach, as well as review training contents and share experiences in mentoring students. This helps improve field-based training for students in the future.
- VOHUN NCO organized two virtual training courses on biosafety and outbreak investigation for 664 medical and veterinary students. These training courses provided necessary knowledge related to biosecurity, biosafety and outbreak investigations to students, helping them confidently register to participate in activities to combat COVID-19 as well as future outbreaks.
- VOHUN NCO held a virtual workshop on sharing the experience of operating OHSs in order to update operations and provide a roadmap for the establishment, maintenance, and development of the sites. The workshop provided the opportunity for VOHUN faculty members to learn from each other's experiences.

Scholarships were awarded to seven Vietnamese students who were admitted

to the International Master of Public Health Program with One Health orientation at the Hanoi Medical University (HMU). The scholars have a chance to apply One Health knowledge to solve global health issues such as infectious diseases, non-communicable diseases, food safety, antimicrobial, nutrition, and psychological problems. These seven scholarship awardees came from various sectors including governmental, educational, and private institutions, who will, in time, provide an elite workforce to contribute to strengthening multi-sectoral collaboration in the future.

VOHUN provided financial support for the Institute of Preventive Medicine and Public Health, HMU to prepare for accreditation of the Master of Public Health - International program.

To increase utilization and distribution of One Health competencies across member faculties, VOHUN conducted a three-day Training of Trainers (TOT) on OH core competencies for 30 lecturers, 20 of which were from four new members and 10 young lecturers from two old member Universities (March 2021). This training provided VOHUN early career professionals with the necessary knowledge and skills to incorporate OHCC in their teaching, further empowering students to adopt these principles, and enabling them to sharpen on OHCC concepts to colleagues, furthering the reach of One Health and the One Health approach.

Objective 2

From April to July 2021, to explore the current situation of KMS in VOHUN member



Students compete in the debate hosted by VOHUN on their 10th anniversary, 30 August 2021.

Image credit: VOHUN

Universities, the VOHUN NCO conducted an online survey with participation from 192 lecturers and staff. As well, six different focus group discussions (FGDs) were conducted with six universities representing both human and animal health fields in three geographical areas across Viet Nam. The assessment identified the Knowledge Management (KM) practices that are currently being implemented at the surveyed universities/faculties such as a majority of the current KM practices are relatively sufficient, the surveyed universities are aware of the need to strengthen their KM system. Some challenges and bottlenecks were identified (such as a lack of a centralized knowledge database, and a lack of motivation for knowledge sharing). Recommendations to improve the current KM systems included set up of a KM team with specific tasks, design of a recognition or rewards systems for staff, and KM strategies and policies aligned with the mission of their universities.

In September 2021, three sessions of TOT on Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) were implemented with the participation of 111 lecturers from 23 VOHUN Universities and six representatives from five other OHUNs under the guidance of experts from the Global Team, SEAOHUN, and VOHUN NCO. After completing the course, the trainees gained a better understanding of the MEL system of the OHW-NG Project in general, and VOHUN in particular. Additionally, trainees were able to practice using tools for MEL reporting, further strengthening the Network's capacity with regard to monitoring and evaluation and KM.

Objective 3

The VOHUN Annual Meeting 2021 was organized from 23-24 Sep 2021 with participation from among our members and other NGO partners. The experiences,

successes, and lessons learned from the OH activities implemented in Year 2 were shared during this meeting. The meeting was an opportunity to brief them on the Year 3 main activities.

VOHUN nominated three representatives to the SEAOHUN Resource Mobilization Committee. They will help to: (i) identify and screen new funding opportunities; (ii) contribute and/or recommend experts to jointly develop proposals and provide recommendations and guidance on other resource mobilization activities.

The VOHUN NCO, in collaboration with Veterinarians Without Borders and the Institute for Environmental Health and Sustainable Development (IEHSD), organized a webinar series on "One Health and COVID-19 Risk Communication" for OH students and students outside of the VOHUN Network from August to September 2021. Over 120 students from human health, animal health, environmental sciences, and other specialties participated.

To celebrate VOHUN's 10th anniversary, online contests were held to design a new logo, a slogan, a T-shirt, and select a One Health Ambassador (August - September 2021). Ten students participated. The logos received from participants expresses the meaning of the anniversary and what VOHUN accomplished.

Towards organizational sustainability, the VOHUN NCO developed social media channels (Facebook and Twitter) to increase the visibility of the VOHUN Network. Most of VOHUN's online events were live-streamed on VOHUN's Facebook Fanpage, reaching 382,789 individuals, which was a 184.6% increase compared to the period from 1 October 2019 - 30 September 2020. The total number of followers of the VOHUN Fanpage was 8,026 by 15 October 2021.

The VOHUN Coordinator has participated in several international events such as the “University Graduate School Webinar on One Health - its training, networking and practice: An example in Viet Nam” (21 July 2021), Seminar on “Implementation of One Health in the curriculum” (23 August 2021), and the closing workshop for the Emerging Pandemic Threats 2 Program on 19 January 2021, and the USAID Partners’ Meeting on 3 March 2021. Representatives of donors, government agencies, and other projects, shared their experiences and achievements, promoting peer learning and increasing interest in One Health workforce development.

VOHUN collaborated with other organizations to organize One Health events. A digital contest on “Plastic Pollution and One Health” was held in collaboration with the Center for Supporting Green Development and IEHSD in June 2021. A webinar on “One Health during the pandemic” was conducted together with the Gaia Nature Conservation Center in August 2021.

VOHUN supported the registration of four lecturers and NCO staff to attend and present their abstracts as electronic posters at the virtual “Eighth International Meeting on Emerging Diseases and Surveillance” (IMED 2021) on 4-6 November 2021.

USAID emergency COVID-19 response Tranche-4 funding

- Carried out a needs assessment on Bio Risk Management (BRM) in laboratories from the human and animal health sectors in Viet Nam, which identified the current BRM training and knowledge among medical laboratory staff and veterinary laboratory staff.
- Organized two TOT courses on biosafety and biosecurity for laboratory staff, at member Universities in Northern and Southern Viet Nam. A total of 71 laboratory staff were equipped with skills for safely collecting, handling and processing samples, October 2020.
- Organized four training workshops on Emergency Risk Communication for 217 human and animal health workers, November to December 2020.

In October 2020, two five-day TOT courses on biosafety and biosecurity were organized for 71 laboratory staff at VOHUN Universities in Northern and Southern Viet Nam. Five experts with experience in biosafety and biosecurity from the National Institute of Hygiene and Epidemiology, Pasteur Institute in Ho Chi Minh, National Hospital for Tropical Diseases, and Hanoi Medical University were invited as trainers. Participants gained knowledge on how to become trainers, practice competencies, and take a step towards offering training courses for students and staff at district and community laboratories.

From September 2020 to September 2021, qualified lecturers from VOHUN conducted a quantitative survey with participation from 283 laboratory workers from VOHUN member Universities, provincial CDCs, SDLAHs, and other partner laboratories. In addition, 50 in-depth interviews with leaders of these labs and leaders of provincial levels in human and animal health fields were also conducted. The objectives were to identify the current biosafety and biosecurity practices of



Laboratory technicians in South Viet Nam learning biosafety and biosecurity, 23 November 2020.

Image credit: VOHUN

these laboratories and staff, and to provide recommendations for further training on BRM. The assessment results show the current BRM training and knowledge was inadequate, BRM training needs to be enhanced in both quantity and quality, and there is a need for a cadre of BRM trainers in the future. A standardized national BRM training program curriculum and framework should be in place that ensures the effectiveness of the training activities. Three products were produced: (i) a policy brief on the current BRM situation of laboratories at the CDCs and SDLAHs in 13 provinces; (ii) a policy brief on the training needs assessment for medical and veterinary laboratory staff on BRM in Viet Nam in 2020; and (iii) a training package on BRM for students and laboratory staff.

From November to December 2020, four three-day training workshops were conducted on Emergency Risk Communication for Health Workers across the Northern, Southern, Highland, and Central provinces, focusing on COVID-19. Participants trained in COVID-19 risk communication, included 111 staff from provincial CDCs and district health centers, 48 veterinary staff, eight junior lecturers, and 50 undergraduate students. The training workshops covered principles of risk communication. Using the One Health Systems Mapping and Analysis Resource Toolkit, trainees practiced identifying key stakeholders to engage, designing communication materials, and preparing communication plans. After the course, it was expected that the participants could develop risk communication strategies and products suitable for their local conditions.



LESSONS LEARNED/ GOOD PRACTICES

Expanding the Network directly contributes to diversity and future sustainability. The VOHUN Network has expanded, and now comprises both private and public university members. The number of Universities increased from 20 to 24 and faculties increased from 22 to 30, in comparison to last year. The member faculties/Universities not only share experiences in the development and teaching of OH modules, but also collaborate together on research projects and contribute resources toward further Network outreach and development.

Continuation of our programs provided essential capacity building during the pandemic. The VOHUN NCO actively organized several virtual training courses and events related to the COVID-19 pandemic to provide students with essential knowledge and skills in risk management, biosafety in COVID-19 diagnostic laboratories, OH approaches to disease outbreak investigation, as well as emergency risk communications. The training courses and events were designed for students to provide them with sufficient knowledge, skills, and tools in order to build their confidence and willingness to register for COVID-19 control and prevention missions mobilized by state agencies when needed.

Participating in the Viet Nam OH Partnership (OHP) increased opportunities to be seen as a One Health leader in Viet Nam. VOHUN was invited into signing of a OHP framework for the prevention of transmission of zoonotic diseases between animals and people, and is now one of the 31 partners that compose the OHP. VOHUN received recognition for their OH work from other countries such as Canada, Australia, and the USA.

VOHUN has been recognized by the government and non-governmental organizations for their work on OH-related issues in Viet Nam. With this recognition, VOHUN can contribute towards a sustainable partnership through the provision of training services for the OH workforce and by providing opportunities to contribute to the implementation of Viet Nam's commitments in the Global Health Security Agenda.



NEXT STEPS

OHSs form the backbone of our Network: students play a critical role in addressing emerging health threats in Viet Nam.

We will diversify forms of education and training to help students develop the necessary skills for the future One Health workforce. VOHUN plans to develop diverse engagement opportunities such as university training events, experiential fieldwork, and community outreach. We will establish OHSs to provide field learning opportunities for students, enabling them to apply the One Health approach in practical settings.

As well, VOHUN plans to organize similar OHS training for in-service human and animal health professionals working focused on disease surveillance. Finally, a workshop on One Health data analysis and interpretation for district human and animal health workers across five provinces will be organized to develop the capacity of students and health practitioners who

will serve as the first responders for health emergencies at the community level.

VOHUN plans to support new members, helping them expand to additional disciplines like environmental health and develop training modules based on updated OH core competencies. We will facilitate the institutionalization and effective implementation of modules by holding virtual experience-sharing workshops bringing together lecturers from old and new VOHUN members as well as the Global Team.

VOHUN will encourage its members to develop One Health modules for new specializations, field training guidelines, and other resources for local health workers and students. The resources will cover case study investigation, disease surveillance, data analysis and interpretation, and risk communication.

Important Links

Article on small grant “Reducing environment pollution in poultry farming in Vietnam”: <https://www.seahun.org/single-post/reducing-environment-pollution-in-poultry-farming-in-vietnam>
Winning video for Viet Nam in SEAOHUN's Regional Student Competition: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wo3pi0-eIXA&list=PL-B9ZefyHD4y7cTIwMzSb17Sbva5JXvRb&index=3>

Success Stories

Strengthening capacities for project monitoring, evaluation, and learning in Viet Nam

Monitoring, evaluation, and learning (MEL) are essential to any project or program, helping to ensure project activities are implemented on time and according to plan, and demonstrate project outputs and impacts. In September 2021, the Vietnam One Health University Network (VOHUN), together with support from the Global Team of the One Health Workforce - Next Generation Project and the Southeast Asia One Health University Network, organized a three-day virtual training of trainers for representatives of all VOHUN Universities to build capacity to implement the project's MEL framework, as well as to learn applicable knowledge management tools.

“**This training is very professional and useful for VOHUN member Universities.**” Dr. Nguyen Thi Minh Ngoc, Head, Department of Environmental Health, Faculty of Public Health, Hai Phong University of Medicine and Pharmacy

As a direct result of the training, 111 faculty members were equipped with adequate knowledge and skills on using MEL indicators, forms and tools, and became familiar with the reporting process. As these focal points

are expected to train their colleagues in turn, the MEL system of VOHUN is expected to operate more effectively with higher data quality, thus benefiting future project reports as well as MEL processes.

“**The training provided sufficient knowledge, easy to understand and apply to our work.**” Dr. Chu Luong Luan, Lecturer, Faculty of Biotechnology Chemistry and Environmental Engineering, Phenikaa University

This is the first time that VOHUN organized a virtual course, driven mainly by the movement restrictions in parts of the country to limit the spread of COVID-19. Activity planners harvested valuable lessons from the experience of organizing this event. First, backup plans enabled a timely switch to a virtual format when it was clear that the COVID-19 pandemic context precluded face-to-face engagement. Second, regular communication enabled successful coordination between organizers and trainers from diverse backgrounds and who live in different time zones. Finally, practice makes perfect, as a rehearsal on 31 July yielded feedback for improvement prior to the official event.

Participants raise their virtual hands to show they are willing to take a quiz during the Training of Trainers on Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning

Image credit: VOHUN NCO



Emergency risk communication training to support the COVID-19 response in Viet Nam

Emergency risk communication is the dynamic, interactive process of sharing information strategically and effectively about issues of high concern, to help people make informed decisions and understand risks. During a health crisis like the COVID-19 pandemic, it is a critical component of public health interventions, raising both public awareness and action to reduce the spread of the disease.

The Vietnam One Health University Network (VOHUN) developed a three-day training workshop for health professionals, conveying knowledge and core principles of risk communication, and fine-tuning skills to design communication materials and develop communication plans.



Workshop participants practice their skills at communicating how to properly wash hands.

Image credit: VOHUN NCO

Communication experts from VOHUN member Universities and other institutions were invited to be lecturers for the workshops held from November to

December 2020, conducted in each of the four main regions of Viet Nam. The training workshops enhanced the capacity of health and veterinary staff on emergency risk communications, enabling them to identify target audiences who need to understand risks and mitigation strategies to address those risks, then develop risk communication strategies and design communication products tailored for their local conditions.

“This course has helped me to systematize my knowledge related to risk communication. I can immediately apply the knowledge from this training into my daily work, especially emergency risk communication on COVID-19.” Mr. Ta Quoc Hoi, Officer at Department of Health Communication, Phu Yen provincial Center for Disease Control

A total of 217 people were trained in emergency risk communication, including 111 staff from provincial Centers for Disease Control and district health centers, 48 veterinary staff from the Sub-Department of Animal Health, eight young lecturers, and 50 undergraduate students from health fields.

This picture is an A0-size poster designed by participants attending the emergency risk communication training. The key message is located in the center of the hand with the meaning to encourage all Vietnamese people to practice “5K” behaviors to prevent the transmission of COVID-19 according to instructions from the Ministry of Health. Each finger represents for one component including: *Khẩu trang* (wearing a mask), *Khử khuẩn* (decontamination), *Không tụ tập đồng người* (no gatherings), *Khai báo y tế* (health status updates) and *Khoảng cách* (keeping distance). The top and the bottom of the poster highlight two messages: “Together we fight against COVID-19,” and “For a healthy Viet Nam.” This is a simple but intuitive, easy-to-remember, highly effective communication product aimed at all Vietnamese people.