

Progress Report on “Smiles & Health for Children,” a Sustainability Initiative to Improve the Health and Nutritional Status of Children in Vietnam

Constructions of the cooking facility & Trainings to the Staff begins

Morinaga Milk Industry and World Vision Japan (hereinafter WVJ), an international NGO, have launched "Smiles & Health for Children," a program called to provide meals to kindergarten children in Vietnam as a part of the Tuan Giao Area Development Program, in the Tuan Giao District of Dien Bien Province in the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, starting in May 2023. To improve the health and nutritional status of children, we are improving the meal service facilities of supported kindergartens and strengthening the knowledge and skills of nutrition and hygiene of teachers and health staff. The following is an introduction of the program's activities over the past seven months since its launch.

1. Improvement of the meal service facilities

Construction of a new cooking facility has begun in January 2024, and is expected to be completed in April.



Groundbreaking Ceremony (January 18, 2024)

2. Improvement of knowledge and skills related to nutrition and hygiene

1) We have surveyed parents of children in the project area and staff of the target kindergartens regarding the current school lunch program. Based on the survey results, a handbook on nutrition, hygiene, and kindergarten lunch menu will be prepared and completed by the end of February.

2) On December 1-3, 2023, training on nutrition and hygiene was provided by the Tuan Giao Health Center staff and WVJ health staff to the teachers, and the health and cooking staff of the target kindergartens (22 in total). During the training, lectures of nutrition, hygiene, and menu planning were given by using the handbook, and practical applications were discussed.



Training on nutrition and hygiene were given to the teachers and staff.



Draft of the Handbook



Lunch menu provided utilizing the training

3) With the aim of creating healthy menus while reducing the cost of purchasing the ingredients of kindergarten lunches, we provided seeds and agricultural materials for growing nutritious vegetables (such as mustard greens) in the target kindergarten's garden and started a self-sufficient vegetable garden.

4) For the purpose of ensuring children to receive a well-balanced nutrition, "Kodomil," a grow-up milk sold in Vietnam by our group company Morinaga Le May, is offered to children aged 3 years and older at lunchtime from January to March.

3. **Strengthening the knowledge and skills of teachers and health staff in measuring the nutrition and health of children**

Training was provided to teachers and health and cooking staff at the target kindergartens on how and when to measure children's height and weight to monitor their nutritional status. In the future, we will provide them with the necessary tools for measurement, such as scales, height scales, and recording boards, and prepare them for management.



Kodomil



Growing mustard greens



Children drinking Kodomil

◆**Main details of Smiles & Health for Children**

Project Location: Tuan Giao Area Development Program site in the Tuan Giao District, Dien Bien Province, Socialist Republic of Vietnam

Number of kindergartens: 3

Beneficiaries: 134 children and 22 teachers

Project Period: May 2023 to April 2024

1. **Improvement of the meal service facilities**

- ① Improvement of cooking facilities at kindergartens
- ② Provision of furniture (desks, chairs, etc.) and cooking equipment for use when eating meals

2. **Improvement of knowledge and skills related to nutrition and hygiene**

- ① Survey of the current menu and development of a nutritionally balanced menu using locally available ingredients.
- ② Provide training on nutrition and hygiene to teachers, health and cooking staff

3. **Strengthening the knowledge and skills of teachers and health staff in measuring the nutrition and health of children**

- ① Implementation of training on measuring height and weight and nutrition monitoring
- ② Provision of tools (scales, height scales, recording boards) for monitoring children's nutrition and health status
- ③ Case studies and workshops on topics such as school lunch, nutrition, etc.

◆**Relationship between the Morinaga Milk Group and Vietnam**

- In 2010, Morinaga Milk started exporting formula milk to Vietnam through Le May Production, Trading and Service Company Limited (Le May), a local distributor in Vietnam.
- In June 2021, Elovi Vietnam Joint Stock Company (Elovi) became a wholly owned subsidiary to strengthen sales in the Vietnamese market. In November 2022, Elovi began local production and sales of Morinaga Milk Industry Co., Ltd. brand products.
- In 2023, Morinaga Milk Industry Co., Ltd. established a joint venture company with Le May, Ltd. and signed a share transfer/underwriting agreement and a shareholder agreement with the aim of making Morinaga Le May Vietnam Joint Stock Company (Morinaga Le May) a subsidiary.

**“For Ever Brighter Smiles”
MORINAGA MILK INDUSTRY CO., LTD.**