

THE IMPACT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON ENSURING SOCIAL SECURITY IN VIETNAM

Bui Ngoc Quan

Political Officers College

ngocquan20@gmail.com

Do Van Hai

Army Armor Branch Officer School

anhhai.nb@gmail.com

Abstract: The Covid-19 pandemic has caused a health crisis, degrading the socio-economies of all countries in the world in general, and Vietnam in particular. The negative impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on most areas of social life poses an urgent requirement to implement social security to recover people's lives, develop the socio-economy of the country. On the basis of using the annual data of the General Statistics Office, the research has shown the negative impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the Vietnamese labor market: increasing unemployment rate, reducing laborers' income, increasing the number of poor households and near-poor households; increasing the number of people in need of social assistance; affecting the assurance of some basic social services for people, especially education and health care, etc. By synthesizing and assessing the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on ensuring social security in Vietnam, the article proposes some solutions to ensure social security against the impact of the COVID-19 epidemic in the new situation.

Keywords: Ensuring social security, COVID-19 pandemic, Vietnam

Code: JHS – 83

Revised: 9 November

Received: 3 October 2022

Accepted: 20 November 2022

Reviews Received: 21 October 2022

1. Introduction

In the process of the country's modernization and development of the socialist-oriented market economy, the assurance of social security has always been paid special attention by the Party and State in order to stabilize socio-political system and sustainable development, showing the good nature of the socialist regime. Our Party affirms: "We must pay attention to guaranteeing the social security and taking care of people's material and spiritual life" (Communist Party of Vietnam, 2011). Simultaneously, the guarantee of social security is a key part of social policy; is a regular and important

task of the Party, the State, the whole political system and the whole society.

Currently, the Covid-19 pandemic - a global disease, has a strong impact on most countries in the world. According to experts, this pandemic caused the world economic crisis, made businesses go bankrupt on a large scale, increased unemployment, declined the growth of the world economy, created a burden on countries in solving social problems, etc. In Vietnam, the impacts of the Covid-19 epidemic have negatively affected all socio-economic fields, especially the guarantee of social security for people, leading to an increase in unemployment

rate; hindering the implementation of sustainable poverty reduction goals; increasing the number of people in need of social assistance; education and health have been heavily affected, etc. The context of the COVID-19 pandemic has revealed the urgent need for social development to build a prosperous, inclusive, equal, fair, safe and humane society. Therefore, the assessment of the impact of the COVID-19 epidemic on guaranteeing social security is to develop policies and solutions to protect people's lives is essential.

2. Literature review

There have been many studies on ensuring social security in many different aspects and scopes. These studies have certain scientific values, providing a basic theoretical system, assessing situations, proposing solutions to ensure social security especially, in the context of COVID-19 in Vietnam.

According to Phuc (2012), "Social security in Vietnam towards 2020", said that social security policy is a system of intervention policies of the State (social insurance, social assistance,...) and institutional or private support (non-statutory regimes) to reduce poverty and vulnerability, improve the self-protection capacity for people and community against risks or threats of reducing or losing income, ensuring stability, development and social justice. The above concept considers that ensuring social security is a policy of the State to reduce poverty and protect people against risks. In a study by Son (2013), "Experience in economic development associated with ensuring social security in Vietnam", ensuring social security is guaranteeing a peaceful and happy life for all classes of people in the society, avoiding unhappiness and risks in their lives. This concept emphasizes that the purpose of ensuring social security is to ensure a peaceful and happy life for people, but does not point out the subject, contents and measures to ensure social security.

Thu (2020), "Ensuring social security: issues raised in sustainable development", assessed the important achievements that Vietnam had achieved in ensuring social security: there are more and more types of beneficiaries of social security policies, the level of support has been increased, the material and spiritual lives of people, especially the poor, and ethnic minorities have been improved. However, in the context of globalization, Vietnam's

further integration into the world economy has posed problems that need to be resolved to ensure social security towards sustainable development. That is coverage of social security is still narrow; social insurance policies are still limited, lack of synchronization and have not caught up with new development trends and requirements of life; poverty reduction is fast but not really sustainable, especially in remote and ethnic minority areas poverty reduction is slow, the risk of falling back into poverty is high... Therefore, the author proposed 7 solutions to develop and complete the social security system in the coming time.

Dung (2022) in a study of "Ensuring social security in the context of safe, flexible adaptation and effective control of the COVID-19 epidemic" affirmed the important role of the social security system in ensuring safety for people in the context of socio-economic fluctuations, preparing resources to ensure a number of basic social services to avoid risks and creating equal opportunities for the entire population. On that basis, the author outlined the key solutions that the Ministry of Labor - Invalids and Social Affairs has been focusing on implementing.

Ninh & Huong (2022), "Ensuring social security in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic", the article outlined the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic on the lives of Vietnamese workers. On the basis of affirming the role of social security in Vietnam in the context of the pandemic, the author proposed solutions to be implemented in the coming time.

Lam (2022), "Social Security Policy in Response to the Pandemic COVID-19: A Case Study from Vietnam". The article affirmed that a stable social security system is a priority for the Government of Vietnam because it lays a strong foundation for the vulnerable, who are not expected to overcome the pandemic based on their low level of "resistance". Thereby, the author provides examples, illustrating Vietnam's social security strategies and interventions in the face of the global COVID-19 pandemic, based on which he draws some experiences for reference in the implementation of Social Security witnessed from the reality of Vietnam.

3. Research methodology

The authors conducted a literature review on the impact of the COVID-19 epidemic on ensuring social security in Vietnam at present. The study

used the method of document synthesis to analyze the data collected from many different sources, in which, it searched for and used information from the data reported on the socio-economic situation by the General Statistics Office (GSO). The data was checked based on the criteria of accuracy, relevance and up-to-date to the research topic. On that basis, the article summarized, analyzed and evaluated the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on ensuring social security based on data that reflects the analytical content with high reliability and clearly cited sources.

4. Guaranteeing social security in Vietnam and the current situation of the impact of the COVID-19 epidemic on ensuring social security in Vietnam at present

4.1. Ensuring social security in Vietnam

According to the World Labor Organization (ILO): social security is the protection that the society provides to its members through a number of widely adopted measures to cope with difficulties, economic and social shocks resulting in severe loss or reduction of income due to illness, maternity, work-related injury, loss of work capacity or death. Providing medical care and subsidies to victims' families with children (Christina & Quynh, 2018).

In Vietnam, social security is paid attention by the Party and State to develop a socialist-oriented market economy in order to bring a warm and happy life to all people. The Document of the 12th Party Congress identifies the guarantee of social security as one of the general tasks of developing the country in the next 5 years: "Good management of social development; ensuring social security, improving social welfare etc" (Communist Party of Vietnam, 2016) The Document of the 13th Party Congress affirmed that it is necessary to continue: "implementing social policies well, ensuring social security and welfare, human security, creating strong changes in social development management, making progress and social justice, improving people's quality of life and happiness" (Communist Party of Vietnam, 2021). This confirmed that social security is identified as a cross-cutting factor in the development of the country in the coming time. Thus, ensuring social security is one of the basic rights of citizens, and is one of the important undertakings and policies to protect people's lives, and helps all members of society to overcome difficulties or risks in life in order

to build a society of "rich people, powerful country, democracy, justice and civilization" in our country.

On that basis, it can be understood that ensuring social security is an activity of the State and the whole society by means of socio-economic measures in order to improve the material and spiritual life of the people, make progress and social justice in economic development through redistribution of national income.

Ensuring social security plays an important role in building and defending the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. It shows the good nature of the socialist regime that brings a prosperous, happy, equal, fair and safe life to all members regardless of ethnicity, religion, gender, etc. At the same time, it also shows the good tradition of our nation that is the spirit of solidarity, mutual help, "The leaves protect tattered ones". That tradition creates the Vietnamese culture to help our nation overcome all challenges, defeat all enemies, preserve and protect the national independence. Ensuring social security contributes to promoting socio-economic development, ensuring the stability of people's lives, and realizing social progress and justice in developing a socialist-oriented market economy in our country. In addition, ensuring social security contributes to maintaining political stability, strengthening national defense and security, and enhancing Vietnam's position.

Ensuring social security in our country is expressed in four aspects: Employment, Income, Poverty reduction, Social insurance; providing social assistance to people in particularly difficult circumstances; ensuring a minimum level of some basic social services for the people, especially the poor, people in difficult circumstances and ethnic minorities.

4.2. The current situation of the impact of the COVID-19 epidemic on ensuring social security in Vietnam at present

The impacts of the COVID-19 epidemic on ensuring social security in Vietnam at present:

Firstly, the COVID-19 epidemic increases the unemployment rate and reduces the income of workers.

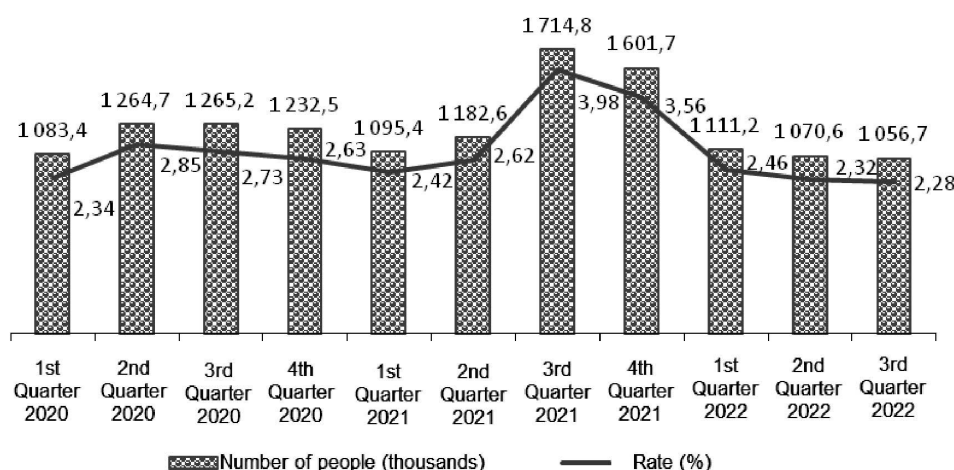
In fact, the negative impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the labor market has caused many families to lose their income and even their livelihood, which leads to fluctuations in the labor market and influence on the society.

According to a survey by the GSO on the impact of the COVID-19 epidemic on businesses' production and business activities, up to 85.7% of businesses in the survey said that they were negatively affected by the COVID-19 epidemic. The labor and employment situation in the second quarter of 2022 continued to maintain recovery momentum, the labor force, the number of working people, the average monthly income increased as compared to the previous quarter and the same period last year. Although the rates of unemployment and underemployment among working age people decreased as compared to the previous quarter and the same period last year those rates were still high. Specifically, in 6 months of 2022, the unemployment rate of general working age population was estimated at 2.39%, of which

the unemployment rate in urban areas was 2.93%; the rural area was 2.05%. The youth unemployment rate (from 15-24 years old) was estimated at 7.78%, of which this rate in the urban area was 9.21% while in the rural area it was 7.01% (GSO, 2022). The high unemployment rate has led to a decrease in the income of workers.

According to the GSO, in the labor and employment situation in the third quarter and nine months of 2022, the unemployment rate of young people aged 15-24 years old in the third quarter of 2022 was 8.02%, increasing 0.39 percentage points as compared to the previous quarter and decreasing 0.87 percentage points over the same period last year. The youth unemployment rate in urban areas was 10.54%, 3.84 percentage points higher than in rural areas.

Figure 1. Number of people and unemployment rate in working age by quarter, 2020-2022



Source: GSO

Secondly, the COVID-19 epidemic may increase the percentage of poor and near-poor households.

Statistics submitted by localities to the Ministry of Labor - Invalids and Social Affairs show that there are 1.3 million poor households and 1.23 million near-poor households with a total of nearly 10 million people. Implementing the National target program on sustainable poverty reduction, poverty reduction work in our country has achieved important results.

According to the GSO in the fourth quarter of 2020, the multidimensional poverty rate in 2020 was estimated at 4.7%, decreased by 1% compared to 2019 (GSO, 2020). However, the COVID-19

epidemic has had a significant impact on the implementation of our country's poverty reduction goal. Because the poor are low-income people who have no savings, they will face more difficulties when affected by the COVID-19 epidemic. According to statistics during the 4th outbreak of the Covid-19 epidemic, nearly 30,000 poor and near-poor households in urban areas were severely affected by the Covid-19 pandemic, of which there were over 4,400 households in Hanoi; over 3,100 households in Ho Chi Minh City; over 3,100 households in Binh Duong province and over 3,700 households in Dong Nai province... (according to the local poverty line

in the period 2021 - 2022). Social security work is concerned by all levels from the central to local levels. According to local reports, the value of allowance for social protection beneficiaries from the state budget and socialization is nearly 1.7 trillion VND; the value of money, gifts and supports for poor and near-poor households is more than 1.4 trillion VND; the value of money and gifts for preferential subjects who are people with meritorious services, relatives of people with meritorious services to the revolution is nearly 2.4 trillion VND; support for people affected by sudden and unusual events (natural disasters, storms, floods, etc.) in the locality is more than 4.3 trillion VND. However, the number of households that have just escaped poverty are now facing the risk of falling back into poverty due to unemployment and job loss. Especially, the near-poor households in urban areas, self-employed, migrant workers, are likely to be affected the most.

Thirdly, the COVID-19 epidemic has increased the number of people in need of social assistance.

With the goal of “leave no one behind”, Vietnam has researched, developed and promulgated a system of documents stipulating the social assistance regime in order to ensure a minimum standard of living for people, especially those in difficult circumstances. Facing the strong impact of the COVID-19 epidemic to stabilize people’s lives, the Government issued Resolution No. 42/NQ-CP dated April 9, 2020 “on measures to support people facing difficulties due to the COVID-19 pandemic”, the Prime Minister issued Decision No. 15/2020/QĐ-TTg, dated April 24, 2020, “Regulating on the implementation of policies to support people facing difficulties due to the COVID-19 pandemic” with a social security package of 62 trillion VND to support more than 20,000 people, with seven groups of beneficiaries, Resolution No. 116/NQ-CP dated September 24, 2021 on policies to support employees and employers affected by the COVID-19 pandemic from the Unemployment Insurance Fund. This is a timely and unexpected social assistance policy of our Party and State to ensure people’s lives.

According to the report of the GSO, as of June 15, 2022, the support package stipulated by the Resolution No. 68/NQ-CP dated July 1, 2021 and Resolution No. 126/NQ-CP dated October 8, 2021 with more than 43.5 trillion VND has

been deployed for 36.7 million employees and nearly 381.7 thousand business units/households using labor; The support package stipulated by the Resolution No. 116/NQ-CP dated September 24, 2021 with a total support of nearly 38.4 trillion VND for nearly 13 million laborers and nearly 346.7 thousand business units/households using labor has been implemented; the support package under Resolution No. 11/NQ-CP dated January 30, 2022 with a support level of 14.1 billion VND has been deployed for 25,660 employees of 487 employers. Nearly 28.7 million health insurance cards, books, cards for free medical examination and treatment were distributed and donated to policy beneficiaries nationwide (GSO, 2022).

The Government has issued Decree No. 20/2021/ND-CP stipulating social assistance policies for social protection beneficiaries. Among the increasing social assistance beneficiaries, orphans who lost their parents due to COVID-19 were cared for and supported with 5 million VND/child and 124 newborn babies who are children of the women infected with COVID-19 were supported with 1 million VND/child from the Vietnam Children’s Fund.

The Covid-19 pandemic has impacted all basic social services to ensure a minimum life standard for people, especially education and health care.

Regarding the guarantee of minimum education, since the outbreak of the epidemic, public, non-public and private schools and educational institutions had to stop direct teaching and learning. The Ministry of Education and Training rearranged the plan of exams and quality assessment for all levels of education. Accordingly, the Ministry had to issue a Decision amending and supplementing the school year time plan framework for preschool education, general education and continuing education. The system of domestic and non-public educational institutions had to actively implement online teaching and training, and E-learning to reduce crowding and limit the spread of disease in the community. Some training institutions had to reduce tuition fees by 15-20% for all students to share the burden with the learners, contribute to solving social problems, reduce difficulties for students and parents.

Figure 2. The Government's policies to support people and business affected by COVID-19

SUPPORT POLICY	BUDGET (billion VND)	TYPES OF SUPPORT AND BENEFICIARIES
Financial packages to support businesses	180.000	Tax deferral and deferral of land use tax and rent... for affected businesses in more than 30 manufacturing and service sub-industries
Zero-interest loans to pay workers	236 - 1.000	- Enterprises with 100 employees or more, at least 30% of employees must take cumulative leave for 1 month or more. - Enterprises that are dissolved and go bankrupt need to borrow capital to pay wages to employees. - Enterprises with 50 employees or more and at least 10% quit; or there is no financial source to pay the employee's salary and must terminate the labor contract with the employee
Social protection package	61.580	Cash help for 3 months (April, May and June 2020); people with meritorious services to the revolution, poor and near-poor households, formal workers who have lost their jobs but are not eligible for unemployment insurance benefits, informal workers (for some types of non-agricultural jobs) job loss; Business households with annual revenue of less than 100 million pay to stop operating...
Electricity price reduction	11.000	10% discount on electricity prices (April - June 2020) for all households and businesses
Lower interest rates on bank loans		Banks reduce interest rates, waive and reduce transaction service fees. Businesses providing essential goods and services are eligible to borrow at an interest rate of 4.5% - 5%/year (lower than the deposit interest rate).
Credit packages of commercial banks	285.000	Loans to businesses that are least affected or least affected but need capital to grow after the COVID-19 pandemic, in the areas of: aquaculture, agriculture, healthcare services and electricity... Severely affected businesses can also borrow if they can prove their ability to repay

Source: UNDP và UN WOMEN (2020)

Fourthly, the COVID-19 epidemic affects the assurance of some basic social services for the people.

The Covid-19 pandemic has impacted all basic social services to ensure a minimum life standard for people, especially education and health care.

Regarding the guarantee of minimum education, since the outbreak of the epidemic, public, non-public and private schools and educational institutions had to stop direct teaching and learning. The Ministry of Education and Training rearranged the plan of exams and quality assessment for all levels of education. Accordingly, the Ministry had to issue a Decision amending and supplementing the school year time plan framework for preschool education, general education and continuing education. The system of domestic and non-public educational institutions had to actively implement online teaching and training, and E-learning to reduce crowding and limit the spread of disease in the community. Some training institutions had to reduce tuition fees by 15-20% for all students to share the burden with the learners, contribute to solving social problems, reduce difficulties for students and parents.

Regarding minimum health insurance, the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic showed the strengths of the Vietnamese health system in terms of a relatively strong preventive health system, public health system, a team of experts presenting high altitude, unified

direction, quick response, relatively efficient. However, it also revealed limitations and difficulties in prevention, limited medical resources and unpotential, inadequate facilities and equipment. Due to ensuring regular medical examination and treatment, and Covid-19 disease prevention and control, epidemic surveillance, support at all levels, isolation of infected and suspected people, treatment of infected people, support epidemic prevention and control, etc., some medical facilities had a prolonged overload and were easy to be infected. Many medical facilities had to work overtime to serve medical examination, treatment, screening, isolation, monitoring and treatment of patients infected and suspected with Covid-19. The Covid-19 epidemic has caused great pressure, difficulties in ensuring the continuity of activities of the preventive health system, inadequate human resources for epidemic investigations, conducting test samples, organizing isolation centers with a large scale and protecting environment in a short time. At the same time, that led to a shortage of medical equipment, supplies, drugs, protective and personal equipment for medical staff, etc. In fact, the recent COVID-19 epidemic prevention and control has revealed many shortcomings and limitations in the state management of grassroots and preventive health system. Specifically, in fact, when the COVID-19 epidemic broke out, some localities were not active and lacked the ability to prevent

and control the epidemic, unable to respond to the “super-contagious” scenario. There was almost no locality able to resolve the COVID-19 without support from the Government and other localities. The number of grassroots health workforce was quite few, health policies still had many shortcomings and overlaps, the resolution of the Covid 19 was still confused, increasing corruption and interest groups. For example, the Viet A case clearly showed the gaps in the process of implementing legal policies on epidemic prevention and control.

Causes of the above effects:

- Lack of awareness of Party committees, authorities, socio-political organizations, cadres, party members and people about the role of social security and the impacts of the Covid-19, they considered it as the responsibility of the State. Therefore, the work of ensuring social security has not received the proper attention of the state management agencies in the locality, while the mindset of waiting, relying on the actions of the State and Government, mechanisms and policies led to lack of initiative in building mechanisms and policies specific to local characteristics. In addition, the attention is not enough paid to the subjects like farmers, ethnic minority areas, employers and employees in enterprises. A part of people and businesses are not aware of the meaning of humanity, and the sharing responsibility in the community. So the development of mechanisms and policies to ensure social security is not high and mobilizing resources for ensuring social security is still limited.

- The capacity to develop social security policies and improve the effectiveness of social security after the COVID-19 pandemic is still limited. The propaganda and dissemination of policies and laws, and the inspection of the implementation of ensuring social security policies have not been paid due attention. The inspection and examination of the implementation of mechanisms and policies to ensure social security have not been regular, especially for labor-using units and non-regular medical examination and treatment facilities; sanctions for violations of the law on social insurance, health insurance, etc., are not enough strong, so some businesses still deliberately delay paying debts, paying social insurance and health insurance for employees.

The state management of social security and ensuring social security is not really good due to the promulgation of many policies for many different

subjects, leading to lack of systematicity, causing difficulties for policy management and policy beneficiaries. The fields of ensuring social security are wide, related to many different socio-economic fields, so there is still a lack of synchronization and overlap in the development of mechanisms and policies to ensure social security against the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The heterogeneity in employment policies and social security policies to solve the great challenge of a large proportion of employees (54.6% of employment; 68.1% of agricultural workers) the informal sector and this is often not covered by social security policies, especially social insurance and social assistance policies in case of risk, health, or employment and income as well as other problems that cause people to fall into unemployment, poverty, etc.

- The implementation of policies on economic recovery and development to create a material basis for ensuring social security is still limited. Resources for policy implementation are limited, the level of support from the state budget is still low.

- Resources have not been effectively mobilized for ensuring social security, especially the participation of the community (organizations, businesses and people).

- Lack of supportive policies to encourage and create conditions for people to improve their ability to ensure their own security, and the poor to lift themselves out of poverty in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

5. Some solutions to ensure social security in Vietnam against the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in the near future

Currently, Vietnam’s economy is still quite stable, the Covid-19 epidemic is under control, the activities of production and business have returned to normal as before the epidemic. Agencies at the central and local levels have adapted safely and flexibly to effectively prevent and control the Covid-19 epidemic, and the high rate of vaccine coverage for the people is one of the important conditions for a quick and sustainable socio-economic recovery. Although the Covid-19 epidemic has been basically controlled in Vietnam, even new variations, the epidemic is still complicated in the world. Therefore, Vietnam’s economy in the last 6 months of 2022 continues to face many difficulties. In order to achieve the growth targets, control inflation and ensure the people’s life, it is necessary to have the joint efforts and consensus of the Party, the National Assembly, the Government, businesses and people of our country.

To limit the impact of the COVID-19 epidemic, ensuring social security for people it is essential to implement some basic solutions as follows:

Firstly, enhance the responsibilities of the Party committees, authorities, socio-political organizations, and people's participation in ensuring social security after the COVID-19 pandemic.

Party organizations at all levels thoroughly grasp and take the initiative to play the key role; strengthen coordination between sectors and localities; promote the role of the Vietnam Fatherland Front, socio-political organizations, the participation of officials, party members and people in order to ensure social security for people after the COVID-19 epidemic.

- Enhance the responsibilities of Party committees at all levels for ensuring social security to protect people's lives.

Party committees at all levels should closely adhere to the viewpoints, guidelines and strategies of the Communist Party of Vietnam in formulating Resolutions, ensuring the implementation of social security in accordance with the actual conditions of the impact of the COVID-19 epidemic in each locality; organize the inspection and supervision of the implementation of ensuring social security; attach the task of ensuring social security with the task of socio-economic development in each policy and direction. Party committees at all levels should regularly study and firmly grasp the reality of the process of ensuring social security, set goals and tasks, determine action plans to ensure social security, and promptly detect problems arising in ensuring social security for the people "Leave no one behind" after the pandemic.

- Enhance the responsibility of the Government and authorities at all levels in directing and organizing the implementation of ensuring social security

On the basis of the Party's leadership resolutions, the Government's direction and administration, and the actual situation of ensuring social security of each locality, authorities at all levels need to have appropriate measures of operation and management. reforming administrative procedures to strengthen the effectiveness of state management over ensuring social security; strengthen the responsibilities of all levels and branches in solving and handling jobs, gradually eliminating complex procedures, simplifying administrative procedures related to social security policies for people. Ensuring people's access to policies on employment, poverty reduction, social insurance,

social assistance, etc., step by step increase income to ensure people's living standards.

- Promote the role of socio-political organizations, especially the Fatherland Front at all levels to ensure social security.

It is necessary to further promote the role of the Veterans Association, Farmers' Union, Women's Union, Youth Union, etc., poverty reduction, economic development, job creation to generate more income after the COVID-19 pandemic. In particular, it is necessary to promote the role of the Fatherland Front at all levels in mobilizing the resources of the society together with the State to ensure social security, especially the issue of hunger eradication and poverty reduction, health care for the disadvantaged in the society. In the Document of the XIII National Congress, our Party orients: "Develop a comprehensive and progressive social security system that covers the entire population with policies to prevent, reduce and overcome risks for migrant fishermen, protect people, ensure support for disadvantaged groups" (Communist Party of Vietnam, 2021). The Fatherland Front at all levels has raised an important voice to detect limitations, shortcomings and injustices in ensuring social security of the State and localities, making social security policies truly effective, practical, ensuring a minimum living standard for the disadvantaged.

- Enhance the responsibility of enterprises to ensure social security in the context of the COVID-19 epidemic

This is the commitment of enterprises to have ethical behavior and contribute to economic development; to improve the living quality of workers and their families as well as of local community and the society. It is necessary to promote communication and have policies to encourage enterprises to participate in ensuring social security to protect the lives of workers after the COVID-19 epidemic, improve their social responsibility for the market and consumers; their responsibility for environmental protection; responsibility for employees (vocational training, employment, salary, social insurance, health insurance, occupational safety, housing, etc); responsibility for participating in charity activities to help people in difficult circumstances (the poor, the elderly, the disabled, protect children,...), help victims of storms, floods, natural disasters or accidents, contribute to the Gratitude Fund, actively respond to the emulation movement "The whole country joins hands for the

poor - Leave no one behind” and the movement “The whole country joins hands to build new countryside”. Consistently implement the motto “Living safely with the Covid-19 epidemic”; actively implement timely, safe and effective vaccination.

Secondly, continue to improve mechanisms and policies and improve the effectiveness of ensuring social security after the COVID-19 pandemic.

Regarding job creation and income assurance: Developing a healthy, synchronous, modern and integrated labor market; decent employment development, accelerating the formalization of the informal sector. Focusing on training skilled and high-quality human resources; enhancing the role and responsibility of enterprises in training. Strengthening the building of harmonious, stable and progressive labor relations. Effectively implementing supportive policies to ensure income for workers affected by the COVID-19 epidemic.

On sustainable poverty reduction: implementing poverty reduction according to multi-dimensional approach, especially in ethnic minority areas; effectively implementing the National Target Program for Sustainable Poverty Reduction in the 2021-2025 period in a comprehensive and inclusive manner, ensuring that “Leave no one behind”; supporting people with sustainable livelihoods to minimize negative impacts from the COVID-19 epidemic. Promulgating regulations on career channels after finishing secondary schools, high schools and the connection between vocational education and university education. Having policies to train and re-train workers to meet the requirements of the industrial revolution 4.0; strengthening the connection of vocational education with the labor market and sustainable employment.

Regarding social insurance and health insurance: Accelerating the effective implementation, ensuring quality and progress in accordance with the Government’s Action Plan to implement Resolution No. 28-NQ/TW, dated 23/5/2018, of the 7th Plenum of the 12th Central Committee, “On reforming social insurance policies”. Speeding up the roadmap of implementing universal health insurance, expanding the coverage of social insurance and unemployment insurance to stabilize workers’ lives as affected by the COVID-19 epidemic.

Regarding social assistance for people in extremely difficult circumstances, those who were affected by

the COVID-19 epidemic: Designing supportive programs in a flexible way, meeting the basic needs of people at risks and communities after natural disasters; ensuring timely support for disadvantaged people, disadvantaged groups and communities at risks from epidemics and natural disasters; preventing and combating violence and abuse to women and children. Paying more attention to the areas of ethnic minorities, mountainous areas, and the areas affected by natural disasters and climate change.

About ensuring some basic social services: developing professional social services. Pay more attention to the quality of primary and preventive medical system in the context of the COVID-19 outbreak. Completing the national education system in an open direction, building a learning society, and improving the quality of education universalization; having a plan to adjust the appropriate study time to minimize the impact of the COVID-19 epidemic on education.

Thirdly, develop policies for economic recovery and development to create material resources for ensuring social security

This is a fundamental long-term solution, which is decisive to the work of ensuring social security after the COVID-19 epidemic. Because, ensuring social security is an economic guarantee for those who are guided by social security policies. Socio-economic development will create conditions and material resources for ensuring social security. Therefore, in the coming time, the Government needs to come up with strong solutions to remove difficulties, recover and develop the economy after the COVID-19 epidemic.

- Focusing on accelerating the process of economic restructuring. Supporting the development of potential industries and fields with deep participation in value chains through preferential policies on - state finance budget, credit and other supportive policies, restoring and stabilizing agricultural production, ensuring national food security and exporting appropriately, effectively, and adapting to the new situation; consolidating and improving capacity for disease prevention and control. Focus on recovering and developing new supply chains and value chains; diversifying, avoiding depending on one market for both export and import; increasing exports.

- The Government, all levels, sectors and localities, need to speed up the implementation of the solutions and continue to propose more practical solutions

so that these solutions become the driving force for enterprises to overcome difficulties, restore, stabilize and develop production and business.

- There are policies to support credit, tax exemption and reduction for businesses

The State needs to have a policy to reduce loan interest rates and delay current loans for businesses that are facing difficulties due to the impact of the COVID-19 epidemic. Supporting enterprises with preferential loans of 0% interest rate or partial support for labor costs so that the enterprises can maintain their existing personnel apparatus, retain skilled and qualified workers; The State Bank needs to identify and evaluate the banks that have supported businesses before applying lower operating interest rates.

Implementing the solutions on taxes, fees and charges: cutting a number of taxes, fees and infrastructure fees: traffic fees, tolls and yards; deploying the application of corporate income tax reduction to a number of specific industries on the list of supporting industries; continuing to accelerate the implementation of tax and land rent exemption and reduction; reducing the rental price of production and business premises.

Fourth, effectively mobilize resources for social security.

Due to the state limited budget, the needs for ensuring social security due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic increased more so it is necessary to diversify resources for social security. In fact, during the recent COVID-19 epidemic, the country has mobilized resources from socio-political organizations, businesses, people etc, to spend on epidemic prevention and control and ensuring social security for the people. Focusing on solutions to ensuring social security, comprehensive and sustainable poverty reduction. Improving the effectiveness of social assistance work, continuing to expanding beneficiaries with appropriate forms of support; gradually raising the regular social allowance level, promulgating policies to support the elderly and people in extremely difficult circumstances. Promoting the movements of "Gratitude", improving the quality of care for revolution contributors, etc., Mobilizing all resources for poverty reduction according to the poverty line with the multi-dimensional approach.

In the coming time, in order to limit the impact of the COVID-19 epidemic, it is necessary to maximize all resources of individuals, communities and the whole society with activities to ensure social security. The State should create favorable mechanisms

and policies for mass organizations, enterprises, communities, society and individuals to participate in ensuring social security; there are mechanisms and policies to encourage diverse development, models of social security assurance, charity activities, community-based volunteering, support for the development of community groups (organizations, religious groups, families, etc.) to become resources for the poor, near-poor households, disadvantaged groups in the society; to encourage the society's investment in the development of the service system, such as investment in the development of the education, health care, clean water, and environmental sanitation systems, to provide basic social services to the people.

Fifth, develop supportive policies for people to thrive on their own to ensure social security in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Ensuring social security is not only the role of the State, but also the efforts of people to strive for protecting their own lives. However, to let people thrive on their own to ensure social security in the context of strong impacts of the COVID-19 epidemic, there should be the State's support. The Government and localities need to have policies so that people, especially farmers, the poor and people with disabilities can access the "input" factors of production for economic development; infrastructure development, public services; renovating mechanisms and policies, creating an equal business environment, supporting the development of small and medium enterprises, diversifying economic forms such as farm economy, cooperatives, household economy, especially in ethnic minority areas and mountainous areas.

Solving poverty and hunger problems must come from production, business, and employment, agricultural production and services, especially the programs that have been deployed to focus on low-income areas. In the immediate future, providing timely support for people to repair their damaged houses, support food, medicine, prevent people from being homeless, starving, sickness, diseases especially the COVID-19 at present.

It is necessary to create conditions for people to be more active, dynamic, capable and motivated, to be more autonomy in the implementation of poverty reduction models from building and implementing policies.

Adopting supportive policies for people to understand the market and products to improve competitiveness, on that basis to increase values and income for people; strengthening market information and trade promotion for the people to consume products. In addition, it is necessary to continue the implementation of Resolution No. 42/NQ-CP (Government, 2020) and Decision No. 15/2020/QĐ-TTg dated April 24, 2020 of the Prime Minister, ensuring the right beneficiaries, strictly handling cases of payment to the wrong subjects, and corruption.

6. Conclusion

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused considerable damage to the world in general and Vietnam in particular. To control this pandemic, it is necessary to join hands of all people, as the General Secretary and President Nguyen Phu Trong affirmed: Solidarity and global action are the certain basis for

the world's final victory against this pandemic, and each country also needs to have a post-COVID-19 recovery strategy soon.

Currently, Vietnam has successfully controlled the COVID-19 epidemic. The victory in disease prevention up to this point is very important and significant, affirming the determination and consensus in the actions of the Party, the army the people of the whole country in prevention and control of the epidemic. However, the COVID-19 epidemic is still complicated with new variants, which have had a strong impact on the Vietnamese economy and caused great pressure to solve social problems, especially the pressure on the work of ensuring social security to guarantee people's lives due to the decrease or loss of income. To ensure social security against the impact of the COVID-19 epidemic, it is necessary to carry out many synchronous solutions, focusing on implementing the above basic solutions.

REFERENCES

- Communist Party of Vietnam. (2011). *Document of the 11th National Congress of Deputies*, National Political Publishing House. Hanoi
- Communist Party of Vietnam. (2016). *Document of the 12th National Congress of Deputies*, National Political Publishing House. Hanoi.
- Communist Party of Vietnam. (2021). *Document of the 13th National Congress of Deputies*, Volume I, Truth National Political Publishing House. Hanoi.
- Christina, B & Quynh, A.N. (2018). *Innovative approaches for offering universal social protection for the future of work*. International Labor Office - Geneva: ILO.
- Dat, T.T. (2020). Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on Vietnam's economy and solutions. *Economic and Development Review*, No. 274, pp.14-22.
- Dung, D.T. (2022). Ensuring social security in the context of safe, flexible adaptation and effective control of the COVID-19 epidemic. *Communist Journal*, No. 991, pp.23-26.
- General Statistics Office. (2022). *Report on socio-economic situation in the second quarter and first 6 months of 2022*. Hanoi.
- Government. (2020). *Report on the implementation of the socio-economic development plan for 2020 and 5 years for 2016-2020; Plan for 2021 and directions and tasks for the year 2021-2025*. Hanoi.
- Government. (2020). *Directive No. 11/CT-TTg, On urgent tasks and solutions to remove difficulties for production and business, ensure social security to cope with the COVID-19 epidemic*, dated March 4, 2020.
- Government. (2020). *Resolution No. 42/NQ-CP, On measures to support people facing difficulties due to the COVID-19 pandemic*, April 9, 2020
- Lam, H.V.L. (2022). Social Security Policy in Response to the Pandemic COVID-19: A Case Study from Vietnam. *Journal of Applied Social Science*, 16(1), 124-139. <https://doi.org/10.1177/19367244211026912>.
- Le, N.T & Thuy, N.T. (2022). Ensuring social security in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic. *Journal of Economics and Forecasting*, No. 8, pp.20-23.
- Letter, M (2020). Ensuring social security: issues raised in sustainable development. *Journal of Facts Numbers*, No. 574, pp.34-36
- Ministry of Planning and Investment. (2020). *Quick report on the impact of the Corona epidemic on the world economy and Vietnam*. Hanoi.
- <https://www.quanlynhanuoc.vn/2022/01/20/tac-dong-cua-dai-dich-covid-19-den-giam-ngheo-ben-vung-o-viet-nam/>
- Phuc, V.V. (2012). *Social Security in Vietnam towards 2020*. Truth National Political Publishing House, Hanoi
- Son, N.H. (2013). Experience in economic development associated with ensuring social security in Vietnam. *Journal of Propaganda*, No. 1, pp.65-68.
- State Bank. (2022). *WB forecasts global economic outlook 2022* (sbv.gov.vn)