

Navigating the Coronavirus in Vietnam: How Hanoi's Mobile Informal Economy Workers have been Impacted by and Reacted to the Global Pandemic

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Since the implementation of *Đổi Mới*, a series of market-oriented reforms instituted in the 1980s in the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, the country has drastically transformed. In the political capital, Hanoi, a 2008 municipal government street vending ban in areas with high levels of foot traffic has forced mobile informal economy workers such as street vendors, three-wheeled delivery vehicle operators, and informal motorbike taxi drivers (*xe ôm*) to work around a variety of restrictions that threaten their livelihoods and limit their movement. Now, in the context of the Coronavirus, a global pandemic of previously unseen proportions, these workers must navigate further restrictions to protect public health. Although research into Hanoi's mobile informal economy workers exists, research into the impacts of the Coronavirus on this group of workers remains limited. Therefore, this research aims to explore how the COVID-19 pandemic has affected mobile informal economy livelihoods in Hanoi, Vietnam.

Key Words: COVID-19, Hanoi, street vending, everyday politics, livelihoods, mobilities.



(Source: ILO, 2020).