



**UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR  
INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT  
USAID / VIETNAM OFFICE**

**DONOR MAPPING SUMMARY  
FOR HIV/AIDS ACTIVITIES IN VIETNAM**

**February 27, 2002**

**SUMMARY**

This report summarizes the current HIV/AIDS programs and new initiatives being developed by the major bilaterals, multilaterals and foundations in Vietnam. Originally drafted by Monique Derfuss from USAID/Washington in March 2001, it has been updated by USAID consultant Nina McCoy in February 2002, as part of USAID's new 5-year strategy development exercise.

**BILATERAL DONORS**

**United States**

The United States Government has two major programs through which financial and technical support is provided to the Vietnamese. The first is through the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). CDC is supporting a training and research program for physicians and others working on HIV/AIDS in Vietnam. More than 300 have been trained and ten operational research projects have been undertaken. Findings from these projects will be used to strengthen HIV prevention efforts throughout the country. CDC has signed an agreement with the Ministry of Health to significantly broaden its support of the national program. With funding from the U.S. Global AIDS Program, CDC will provide an estimated \$2 million a year for five years to support a wide range of prevention, care, and treatment programs, including peer education, voluntary counseling and testing, prevention and treatment of other sexually transmitted infections, tuberculosis diagnosis and treatment, and related training.

USAID funds a set of activities complementary to those of CDC. USAID has been funding HIV/AIDS prevention activities through NGO partners for the past five years; the current program totals approximately \$2 million per year. Through its global IMPACT Project, implemented by Family Health International, USAID supports comprehensive HIV/AIDS prevention projects in four provinces (Quang Ninh, Hai Phong, Binh Dinh, Can Tho) designed to reduce risk behaviors among the epidemic's highest-risk groups— injection drug users and commercial sex workers. The IMPACT program also funds behavioral surveillance surveys in five provinces (to detect changes in risk behaviors) and social marketing of condoms through partner agency DKT in six provinces.

USAID's Horizons Project, implemented by the Population Council, is conducting operations research among migrant construction workers in HCMC, comparing different models of peer education. In addition, USAID has given a grant to Vietnam Assistance to the Handicapped (VNAH) to work on a youth education initiative in Hanoi, and to the NGO Networks for Health

Project to do an HIV/AIDS prevention initiative in Lao Cai province with the ethnic minority population; this activity focuses on youth workers in tourism and mining. USAID has also begun planning for two new activities: a study on stigma and discrimination to be carried out by the International Center for Research on Women (ICRW), and a policy development activity focusing on people living with AIDS, through the Futures Group's POLICY Project.

## **Australia**

The Australian Government (through the Australian Agency for International Development) has provided over US\$5 million in total for HIV/AIDS prevention and support activities in Vietnam. Most activities are implemented through INGOs and UN Agencies. The program focuses on the following objectives:

- preventing the spread of HIV;
- mitigating the impact of HIV/AIDS on the individual and on society; and
- addressing the social and economic needs created by the impact of HIV/AIDS.

AusAID is currently supporting two significant capacity building projects implemented through UNDP: the *UNDP HIV/AIDS Capacity Building Project (2000-2002 US\$426,000)* which aims to strengthen the capacity of the National AIDS Standing Bureau, Ministry of Health and selected Provincial AIDS Committees (Lang Son, Hai Duong and Danang) in the planning, management, monitoring and coordination of HIV/AIDS in Vietnam. AusAID is also supporting the *UNDP HIV/AIDS Youth Awareness Project (2001-2004 US\$425,000)* which aims to increase the capacity of the Vietnam Youth Union to implement HIV/AIDS education and awareness activities - particularly targeting young people practicing high risk behaviors.

AusAID supports a number of HIV/AIDS activities implemented by international and local NGOs. These include a three year project implemented by CARE Australia which deals with HIV/AIDS prevention and support activities in the workplace in Quang Ninh (US\$320,000); an Australian Red Cross project (ending January 2003) aimed at increasing safe behavior through peer education and life skills training for young people in Hanoi and HCMC (1998-2003 US\$750,000); a harm reduction project targeting drug users implemented by the Macfarlane Burnet Centre for Medical Research (US\$75,000/ 2 years); a social marketing program implemented by CARE Australia in An Giang, Soc Trang, and Khanh Hoa Provinces which aims to integrate condom distribution initiatives with communication strategies targeted at high risk groups (2000-2002 US\$185,000); a regional HIV/AIDS prevention and sexual health training program in Tay Ninh and Kien Giang in VN and one in Cambodia (assertiveness training for women and sexual health training for youth) (2002-2002 US\$180,000); a project targeting mobile populations (truck driver, seafarers, service women) and STI/HIV vulnerability in Hai Phong implemented through World Vision (2000-2003 US\$350,000); capacity building for HIV/AIDS Care and Support in Hai Phong with World Vision (2000-2002 US\$210,000).

Recognizing the role of local NGOS, AusAID funds several small projects through the STD/HIV/AIDS Centre (SHAPC) and other groups aimed at peer education activities and care for people infected with AIDS. At the regional level, AusAID will be supporting a new project (2002-2005 US\$3 million for the region) aimed at strengthening the capacity of governments and communities to reduce the HIV related harm associated with injecting drug use in Vietnam, Myanmar and Southern Provinces of China (project still subject to GOV approval). Several

other regional activities are targeted at capacity building for care and support of people living with AIDS.

On the advocacy front, the Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs recently hosted the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Meeting on HIV/AIDS in Melbourne aimed at developing a regional approach to HIV/AIDS prevention. At this meeting, the Minister announced Australia's support for the establishment of an Asia-Pacific leadership forum on HIV/AIDS. This forum will serve as a network for regional collaboration on HIV/AIDS issues.

## **Canada**

From 1999-2001 CIDA supported 2 STI clinics in HCMC at a budget of \$450,000 CND over 2 ½ years. CIDA is currently in the planning stages of a new HIV/AIDS initiative, which builds on the British Columbia Centre for Disease Control's previous experience in collaborating with Vietnamese officials to establish the community clinics. The project will build a network of comprehensive Mekong STI/AIDS services for low income sex workers: (i) at key points from which they migrate to and from Cambodia and (ii) in some of the major cities in the Mekong Delta where many young women go on to work in the sex trade. The proposed provinces are Can Tho, An Giang and Kien Giang. Education, training and support will be provided to at-risk youth in order to help prevent them from entering sex work and experimenting with drugs. The project will also support the Ho Chi Minh City AIDS Standing Bureau in improving the AIDS reporting system in HCMC and in establishing a resource center to collect, translate and analyze HIV/AIDS information. This center will then disseminate it to policy makers, professionals, the public and especially persons with HIV/AIDS. CIDA's contribution will be up to a maximum of \$4.5 million CND (\$2.5 million US).

The Canada Fund has given small grants over several years to various INGO and local NGO projects, including IEC materials on HIV/AIDS, sexual health and gender written by PATH Canada, which have been widely used by other organizations in their community HIV/AIDS projects.

## **Germany**

Health is one of three of the German official technical co-operation priority sectors in Vietnam. The overall investment in this sector is \$25 million over the first five years. An additional \$3.5 million grant which includes HIV work has just been made. Within that scheme, GTZ recently designed the third cycle (2001-2004) of the reproductive health promotion program. The geographic focus of this program is Ninh Binh, Nghe An, Ha Tinh, Quang Binh, Binh Dinh, Hanoi, Quang Ninh and Lao Cai. From 1995-2000, these provinces were part of two separate programs, "Family Health" and "HIV/AIDS Control". From 2001, a strategic decision was made to incorporate them into the bilateral Promotion of Reproductive Health Program. However, GTZ's HIV/AIDS/STI control activities are limited to Hanoi, Lao Cai, Ninh Binh, Quang Ninh and Binh Dinh provinces, as selected by GOV, and they are carried out at the provincial level, whereas the other reproductive health activities reach even the commune level.

Through peer educators and outreach activities, the objectives of the HIV/AIDS/STI project are to promote safe behavior among high-risk groups and to establish and improve prevention,

diagnosis and management of STIs. Specifically, the former includes peer education and outreach activities while the latter provides training of health care workers and the development of relevant materials. Provision of equipment support for HIV/STI testing laboratories is also planned. Future planning will emphasize increased sustainability of peer education through other agencies, and increased care and support activities, specifically through preparation of guidelines and appropriate manuals.

In addition to GTZ's activities are those of KfW. In 2000, a \$3 million dollar grant was made to the National AIDS Standing Bureau (NASB) for the period 2001-2003. This is reportedly the first time that NASB received program funds directly from a donor for the purchase of condoms as opposed to having to request them from the National Committee for Population and Family Planning and/or the MOH. These funds are being used for two tasks. The first is the procurement of condoms and the second is for the procurement of laboratory and testing equipment for HIV/AIDS and STIs, as well as for needle exchange programs.

## **Japan**

In Vietnam, as in most countries, JICA's assistance is mainly in the form of diagnostic and test equipment provision, including HIV test kits. In 2001, JICA spent US\$4 million to strengthen National Institutes and Provincial Health Service Stations in each of the following provinces: HCMC, Dong Nai, Ba Ria, An Giang, Lam Dong, Long An, Kien Giang, Can Tho, Tien Giang, Binh Duong and Hanoi. This year the GOV requested that Japan support Phase 2 of this project to expand this activity into several northern provinces. This is under consideration by the Japanese Government but not yet committed. Even if this request is not approved by Japan, it is likely that these provinces will be covered under a subsequent activity since long-term plans include expansion into the northern and central provinces.

In addition in 2000 and 2001 JICA provided US\$340,000 for the procurement of 12.5 million condoms and support to IEC development for UNFPA activities in twenty-two provinces. From March to May, 2002, JICA will organize a training course in Japan on HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control for eight Vietnamese Administration Officers working in HIV/AIDS to observe and learn about Japanese HIV/AIDS control and management.

## **The Netherlands**

The health sector is one of the three key sectors supported by The Netherlands' structural bilateral development co-operation with Vietnam. The overall objective of the support is to contribute to poverty alleviation. Poverty reduction and improving the health status of people are closely interlinked. The government of Vietnam formulated the following objectives for the health sector for the next ten years (2000-2010):

- To improve the health status of the population
- To enhance the access of the poor to public health services
- To increase the quality and cost effectiveness of the health services.

The Netherlands acknowledges the substantial achievements of Vietnam in the health sector and supports its national health policy. Consultations between the Vietnamese side and the embassy led to the concentration of the co-operation in three sub-sectors: *tuberculosis control, nutrition*

*and reproductive health.* With Dutch assistance the Ministry of Health is developing Master Plans for Action for Safe Motherhood and Nutrition. Capacity building of future medical staff is supported through improved curricula and training in community health.

Working towards a more integrated health care system, giving due attention to women's health and contributing to a *sector wide approach* through effective donor co-ordination are the pillars of the support to the health sector in Vietnam. Ownership and political commitment of the government of Vietnam and strong partnerships with donors (and civil society at large) are essential for the success of this approach. Budget disbursed for support in the health sector in 2001 is Euro 4,54 million.

The Dutch government has been on the forefront of putting HIV/AIDS on the international agenda. HIV/AIDS is considered more than a health problem alone. The most cost-effective option is prevention. But developing countries also need access to affordable drugs. The Netherlands supports the fight against HIV/AIDS through the Global Program on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS).

At country level in Vietnam the Netherlands supports the fight against HIV/AIDS through assistance to ongoing health programs, such as the tuberculosis control program. The Dutch-supported capacity building program of curriculum reform and training in community health and management at the eight Medical Faculties in Vietnam and the Hanoi School of Public Health may be considered as indirect support to fight HIV/AIDS.

## **Sweden**

Sida supports UNAIDS in Geneva to a great extent although the total is unknown to the Sida Vietnam office. In addition, Sweden funds one UNAIDS program officer position in Ha Noi and provides an advisor to the Vietnamese Ministry of Health's Project Coordination Unit (PCU). Among other activities, the PCU maintains a donor activity database and is currently mapping donor HIV/AIDS projects. Of direct relevance to HIV/AIDS prevention work is Sida's support to the Health Policy Unit Planning Department of the MOH, in developing an Adolescent Health Policy.

## **United Kingdom**

DFID's country strategy for Vietnam commits it to working in partnership rather than setting up bilateral projects. It has designed a program to support HIV/AIDS control in Vietnam. The program is intended to have two main thrusts. Firstly, it will support the development of policies consistent with international best practice and human rights standards, and secondly, it will implement priority activities. The latter will focus on increasing the access to quality condoms particularly where risky sex occurs, as well as programs that target sex workers and their clients. DFID is also considering supporting harm reduction for injecting drug users during Phase 2 of the program. The partnership will include GOV, WHO and DKT. The indicative overall budget for DFID's strategy is \$ 21.3 million (15 million £) over the next five years. These programs may not begin until the third quarter of 2002 as the final plans have not been signed off on.

## **MULTILATERAL DONORS**

### **ADB**

The Asian Development Bank began to address the pandemic through a new regional project that includes Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam. It was approved on 9 May 2001. The actual implementation began in June 2001. The project runs through 2003. ADB's budget for the overall project is \$8 million, with \$3.5 million estimated for Vietnam. In addition, the GOV redirected \$1 million in money from the current ADB loan project, Population and Family Health, to this new initiative. ADB is planning a few national-level activities. However, its focus is community-based HIV/AIDS prevention activities in Lai Chau, Quang Tri, Dong Thap, An Giang and Kien Giang provinces. Within these target areas, ADB directs its activities to mobile populations, the hospitality industry and men in uniform. Adolescents will not be specifically targeted but benefit from population based behavior change communication activities.

The project is designed with three components. The first is community-based HIV prevention activities. Working with provincial AIDS authorities, ADB will implement behavior change communication activities for both local and mobile populations; social marketing of condoms; and STI care and management.

Secondly, ADB's new initiative supports capacity building activities. Specifically, it focuses on the development of AIDS care models in Cambodia that may be later adapted to the Vietnamese situation; behavioral sentinel surveillance of second generation HIV surveillance for 2002 and 2003; and advocacy targeted at policy makers. Lastly, the project will support a staff of international and domestic consultants to implement and monitor the activities.

ADB is also planning a Prevention of Communicable Diseases Project (earlier called the Health Sector Development Project) to be implemented in 2004-2009. This project with the estimated cost of US\$100 million will have an HIV/AIDS prevention component filling a financing gap for activities in high-risk provinces.

### **European Commission /UNFPA**

The European Commission/UNFPA Initiative for Reproductive Health in Asia (RHIA) is a regional program that also covers Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Laos, Nepal, Pakistan and Cambodia. Besides the country programs, there are also three Regional Dimension Projects. The initiative aims to increase the quality and accessibility of reproductive and sexual health care. In Vietnam, the initiative focuses on the reproductive health needs of adolescents, including HIV/AIDS, and national NGO capacity building. With a delay in actual implementation, the Vietnam program recently received a one-year extension and is now scheduled to end in 2002.

It concentrates on five urban provinces – Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh City (HCMC), Haiphong, Danang and Hue and three rural provinces – Nghe An, Ninh Binh and Tien Giang. The objective is to have improved the reproductive and sexual health status of young people by improving RH services, and by developing and promoting information, communication and knowledge of adolescent RH through NGOs implementing six specific activities.

The first activity, Introduction of Adolescent Health Services for Youth in Vietnam, is being implemented by the Vietnam Family Planning Association (VINAFPA) in collaboration with

International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) in Hai Phong, Hanoi, Hue, Danang, Tien Giang, Nghe An and HCMC. Specifically, this activity targets working adolescents and other out of school youth with awareness creation, service delivery through centralized and mobile services and capacity building aimed at service providers and peer educators.

The second activity, Stepping Stones, targets a consortium of eight Vietnamese NGOs in Hanoi and HCMC partnered with CARE International/Germany. The goal is to build the technical and management capacities of these NGOs in adolescent RH information and services. This is an area of great demand in Vietnam. The third project further addresses the human capacity needs of the health sector. It focuses on strengthening the skills of midwives in Hue. Working with Marie Stopes International (MSI) and the national affiliate, the Vietnamese Midwives Association (VAM), the project is working towards improved, user-oriented service delivery.

Collaboration with local youth and women's unions is another entry point for donors. The EC/UNFPA initiative teams MSI and its national affiliate with the Viet Nam Youth Union in Hanoi. The activities entail the setting up of sustainable youth oriented services and enhanced RH awareness among urban unmarried people. The renovated Hanoi clinic provides these services. In Ghi Loc district of Nghe An province, World Population Foundation (WPF) works with the district women's union on the improvement of reproductive health services and information.

The last two activities are designed to work hand in hand. The Centre for Reproductive and Family Health (RaFH) focuses on the greater community in Hanoi and Ninh Binh province. Parents, teachers and other indirect audiences play key roles in the welfare of adolescents. Therefore, this activity is designed to increase awareness among these key influence groups. In eighteen of the fifty-four communes covered under the first activity, RaFH also addresses the issue of quality of care. Specifically, it provides training of medical staff, equipment and supplies.

In order to strengthen the Vietnamese reproductive health NGO network, UNFPA has developed a common database and offers training to disseminate lessons learned.

The total funding includes: The EU grant of 29,900,000 euro (4,000,000 euro goes to Viet Nam), the UNFPA contribution is 2,500,000 euro and the NGO contribution is 2,500,000 euro (with approximately 551,200 euro going to Viet Nam) A euro approximately equals one US dollar.

### **The United Nations Theme Group on HIV/AIDS**

The United Nations Theme Group on HIV/AIDS consists of the co-sponsoring agencies of UNAIDS, including UNICEF, UNDP, UNFPA, UNDCP, UNESCO, WHO, ILO and the World Bank and the UNAIDS secretariat. The Theme Group recently prepared a paper "*United Nations Strategic Priorities on HIV/AIDS in Viet Nam*" which describes a broad framework for United Nations support to the Government of Viet Nam as part of the national response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

### **UNAIDS**

The primary purpose of the UNAIDS Secretariat is to support and strengthen the UN system in providing leadership to an expanded national response to the epidemic. The UNAIDS Secretariat

has three main functions: first, through policy and strategic leadership and coordination to provide the guidance in support of the UN system response; second, through the mobilization of political, technical and programme resources to enhance national political commitment and mobilization of the broad range of partners; and third, through enhanced access to strategic information to generate, analyze and disseminate the information. The UNAIDS Secretariat will work on implementation of activities defined during the twenty-sixth special session of the UN General Assembly (UNGASS), held in New York from 25-27 June 2001 and adopted unanimously a Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS. The UNAIDS Secretariat will facilitate Vietnam's access to the Global AIDS and Health Fund. In particular, UNAIDS will facilitate access to pilot projects and the strengthen capacity of national authorities to work on HIV/AIDS related interventions. The estimated value of planned commitments in 2002 is US\$ 600,000.

## **UNDCP**

The mandate of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme links to the HIV/AIDS issue through its approach towards activities that involve Intravenous Drug Users in risk management (preventing harmful consequences of drug use). At the same time it encourages members of this high-risk target group to reduce or abstain from illegal drug use and instead opt for treatment. The ultimate objective is that the IDUs can be reintegrated into society sustainably supported by licit ways of generating income.

In Vietnam, UNDCP has implemented (1998-2000) a three-year pilot project in 5 northern project sites working with IDUs through peer educators promoting risk reduction behavior both in relation to injecting and sexual practices. Project peer educators also provided basic health care and basic counseling. In addition, the project provided job training to enhance IDUs chances of accessing licit income opportunities.

Present activities mainly relate to research studies (in cooperation with, and funded by, UNAIDS and their Programme Acceleration Funds, \$83,000 / 1 year) looking into the IDU situation in both urban and rural settings. The HIV/AIDS issue is very much a daily threat to this target group and therefore in many ways influences their lives. Another relevant activity is the ongoing formulation of a project that aims at working with IDUs and affected groups in their social environment, a project concept based on experiences made through earlier work with IDUs. Together with UNESCO, UNDCP is also preparing a small project for care and support to PLWA, a vulnerable group that include substantial number of drug users.

## **UNDP**

UNDP is strongly committed to the fight against HIV/AIDS in Vietnam through its specific project activities as well as through the United Nations Theme Group on HIV/AIDS, which is currently chaired by the UNDP Resident Representative/UN Resident Coordinator.

The two ongoing UNDP projects in the field of HIV/AIDS in Vietnam aim at strengthening the capacities of two important institutions: the National AIDS Standing Bureau (NASB) and the Vietnam Youth Union (VYU). Both UNDP projects are supported by generous cost sharing from the Government of Australia. (AusAID portion equals \$852,000 US total, see above.)

The project with NASB (VIE/98/006) aims to combat the spread of HIV/AIDS in Vietnam by enhancing the institutional capacities of the Ministry of Health (MOH) and NASB to effectively manage and coordinate the National AIDS Programme of the Government of Vietnam.

The two main focus areas of the project are:

- Improving the planning, management and coordination capacities of the MOH/NASB to undertake their leadership role in the implementation of the National AIDS Programme;
- Supporting the local implementation of the National AIDS Programme and strengthening the coordination capacity of provincial and local authorities as well as of the AIDS divisions of relevant ministries and mass organizations.

This project, which started at the end of 2000, is currently focused on preparing an evaluation of the effectiveness, impacts and constraints in existing strategies, policies, management and implementation of the National AIDS Programme. A comprehensive evaluation of the National Aids Programme report, assessing this effectiveness and offering recommendations and priorities, is in the final stages of preparation. Upon completion of the evaluation, new project activities will be identified to provide further technical assistance to MOH/NASB. Training and research will feature as important components in the effort to strengthen planning and management capacity.

The second project, VIE/01/009, works to strengthen the capacity of the VYU at the Central, Provincial and Commune levels to develop and deliver innovative and effective behavior change communications strategies. Through community-based models, this project aims at raising HIV/AIDS awareness and facilitating behavior change among young people, especially vulnerable young people and young IDUs, CSWs and PLWHA.

This project's focus in 2002 is on strengthening the managerial and training capacity of the VYU at central and local levels to deliver participatory community-based HIV/AIDS activities with and for young people.

## **UNFPA**

The UN Population Fund, like many other donors, does not have separate HIV/AIDS activities. Instead, components are incorporated into its larger programs. In 2001, UNFPA embarked on a new five-year country program. With a budget of \$27 million, the Agency will focus on policy implementation, behavior change communication, and service provision in the areas of population and reproductive health. UNFPA projects will be implemented at central level as well as in 11 provinces: Ha Giang, Yen Bai, Phu Tho, Hoa Binh, Thai Binh, Da Nang, Quang Nam, Khanh Hoa, Binh Phuoc, Binh Duong and Tien Giang.

Overall, the reproductive health subprogram will concentrate on improving the access to high quality reproductive health services and information for men, women and adolescents. HIV/AIDS will be a cross-cutting issue in all projects and activities; assistance will be provided to MOH to formulate clinical standards and guidelines on HIV/AIDS prevention, care and counseling, and to provide training for health service providers at all levels. In addition, the Fund will address the country's high maternal mortality rate with a safe motherhood activity. By the end of the five-year program cycle, UNFPA intends to provide training, as well as facility improvements, in the provinces approved by the Government for UNFPA assistance.

The objective of the second subprogram, population and development strategies, is the creation of an enabling environment to promote the country's population and reproductive health strategy. Under this subprogram, UNFPA focuses on behavior change in service delivery providers, as it relates to clients' rights. These activities are carried out at the provincial level. Other activities include sensitization seminars for Government officials, mass media campaigns, youth counseling centers and radio talk shows targeting adolescents.

## **UNICEF**

In 2001, UNICEF entered a new five-year, \$70 million country program cycle. The agency supports Government efforts to address the HIV/AIDS pandemic through a multi-tiered and multi-sectoral approach that incorporates both advocacy and capacity building interventions. Specifically, UNICEF will integrate care and support through its protection and rights program, prevention of mother to child transmission (MTCT) through its health/nutrition program, a life-skills component into its education program, and advocacy support through its communication program. UNICEF support for the next five years will be coordinated by an internal HIV/AIDS Task Force and cost an estimated \$ 5.1 million.

Although UNICEF plans to have several national-level activities, it intends to focus its HIV/AIDS-related activities, particularly MTCT in five high prevalence districts. These targeted geographic areas are a combination of urban and semi-urban ones: Ho Chi Minh City, Quang Ninh, Hai Phong, An Giang and Lang Son provinces.

UNICEF's national-level partners include the NCDPA, The Ministry of Education and Training, Ministry of Health, The Committee for Protection and Care of Children, Vietnam Women's Union, Vietnam Youth Association and Young Pioneer Council. Emphasizing the importance of good donor coordination, implementation of these projects is done in close collaboration with other UN agencies, particularly WHO, UNDCP, UNFPA, UNDP, and local and international NGO's. These players include the Australian Red Cross, Save the Children (UK), World Vision, Medecins du Monde, CARE International and the World Bank.

## **WHO**

During the next two years WHO will provide selective support to the MOH and other partners, in dealing with the new challenges created by the HIV/AIDS epidemic. It will focus its financial and technical resources on a limited number of technical areas but will continue to respond to requests and legitimate expectations from Government and its partners within clearly defined boundaries. It will move from supporting routine long-term implementation to more strategic functions, including providing the catalyst for the adoption of technical strategies and innovations, developing pilot projects and providing policy and technical advice. WHO will work in close coordination with the UN Theme group and will look for opportunities to increase and strengthen partnerships within the national plans and frameworks. Emphasis will be put on strengthening capacity of the health sector to deal with the epidemic, advocacy at the highest level for the adoption of evidence based policies, including strategies to combat stigma and discrimination and enhancing leadership and coordination by the Government.

### Main areas of work

1) *Strengthening surveillance*

- In supporting the Ministry of Health to extend sentinel surveillance to 30 provinces and second generation surveillance to 5 provinces. In addition during the year 2002, WHO will support a consensus workshop on surveillance.

2) *Reducing the vulnerability to HIV infections of Sex-workers, IDUs and other groups if needed*

- By introducing harm reduction measures, including 100% condom use programme, syringe exchange and diagnosis and treatment of STIs.

3) *Developing care and support*

- By supporting the implementation of the national operational plan on HIV/AIDS care and support for 2002-2005

4) *Combating stigma and discrimination*

- By supporting the constituency of organizations of people living with HIV/AIDS and ensuring the involvement of such organizations in the policy debate and in the formulation of plans and interventions;
- By introducing universal precautions in the health services.

Technical support to other partners

This support is part of WHO's mandate but does not constitute the core of the activities of the WHO office in Viet Nam; it is in general technical assistance to on going projects carried out by other partners:

- Prevention of mother to child transmission of HIV (PMCT) with UNICEF;
- Adolescent health and reproductive health with UNFPA;
- European initiative on care and support with the French Government;
- "The Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM)" with the Ministry of Health;
- HIV in the workplace with the ILO.

Involvement in global issues under the UN Theme Group umbrella

- Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS;
- Human rights;
- General advocacy to high level Government;
- Support to the Government and MOH to coordinate efforts of all partners.

Funding available in February 2002: \$400,000 for the 100% condom projects (including STI and some VCT in four provinces; beginning July 2002 and over five years in the expansion of the 100% condom project there will be \$25 million available (\$15 million for activities and \$10 million for condom purchases); \$115,000 in 2002 for AIDS care activities. Additional funds are expected to become available during 2002.

## **World Bank**

The Bank has reallocated the remaining \$1.5 million (2002-2003) of its Population and Family Health Project (PFHP) to HIV/AIDS prevention in the following 7 selected provinces: Thanh Hoa, Nghe An, Ha Tinh, Long An, Binh Phuoc, Binh Duong And Soc Trang. Both the PFHP and the newly focused activities are carried out in collaboration with ADB and KfW.

## **FOUNDATIONS**

### **Ford Foundation**

Most of the Foundation's HIV/AIDS grants (\$683,000 from 2000-ongoing) fit within its *Innovations in Reproductive Health Initiative* within the Sexuality and Reproductive Health grant-making program. The long-term goal of this Initiative is to support asset-building organizations to improve the sexual and reproductive health and rights of under-served groups including poor women, adolescents, and people living with HIV/AIDS. Ford Foundation began funding activities in Vietnam in this field in 1999 and is currently supporting a number of HIV/AIDS programs.

Specifically, four of the eight grants are to the Ho Chi Minh City AIDS Standing Committee (HCMC ASC). Activities include internal capacity building to effectively design, implement and evaluate prevention programs for migrant populations, factory and construction workers.

The Foundation is funding efforts to address HIV/AIDS in the workplace with support to both the Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Thailand Business Coalition on AIDS (TBCA). Both are designed to address capacity strengthening needs of Vietnam's commercial sector. The Foundation is concurrently supporting TBCA to develop an Asia Business Coalition on AIDS which aims to support the business response to AIDS in the region and create networks of business sector specialists in this field.

In addition, the Foundation's Strengthening Social Science Research on Sexuality and Reproductive Health Initiative supports scholarships for Masters level training in sexuality, reproductive health and the social sciences and the establishment of high quality social science research and training programs on sexuality and reproductive health in Vietnam. The Foundation is working with different government institutions to develop research and training programs on sexuality, reproductive health and the social sciences in Vietnam. For example, the Hanoi School of Public Health, with support from the Foundation, is integrating the social sciences into the curriculum of the school's bachelors and masters level programs.

In January 2001, the Foundation and the Vietnam National AIDS Standing Bureau co-hosted two Asia regional roundtable meetings, one on sexuality and another on access to HIV/AIDS prevention and care. As a result of these meetings, the Foundation has recently made a regional grant to Deakin University in Australia to work with national teams of researchers and people living with HIV/AIDS groups to conduct national situation analyses on stigma and discrimination against PLWHA.

With grants to national and provincial levels, the Foundation is also supporting harm reduction, peer education and HIV/AIDS prevention and care programs for injecting drug users and sex workers in Lang Son and Nha Trang. In addition, HIV/AIDS prevention and care is integrated

into Foundation-supported reproductive health programs for the homeless in Ho Chi Minh City and for youth in Ha Long City.

The Ford Foundation has supported Vietnamese participation in international HIV/AIDS conferences and has funded study missions for Vietnamese officials to visit sexuality research programs and HIV/AIDS interventions in Asia, Europe and the United States.

Foundation support is likely to continue to focus on HIV/AIDS prevention and care work in the future. Current Foundation areas of interest include efforts to promote active and meaningful participation and leadership of people living with HIV/AIDS in policies and programs, sexual health and rights, especially for women and young people, and a broader assets building approach for marginalized groups such as injecting drug users and sex workers.

## **CONTACTS from 2001 Interviews and 2002 updates**

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### USAID

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### AusAID

Fiona Tarpey, Second Secretary, (Development Cooperation) 2002

Shaanti Sekhon, First Secretary

### CIDA

Camille Baudot, First Secretary, Canadian Embassy 2002

### GTZ

Curt Fischer, Senior Advisor, Program Director, Health 2002

Vo Van Nhan, Deputy Program Director

Deborah Lawrence, Social worker

### JICA

Kozo Watanabe, Assistant Resident Representative 2002

Koyumi Enomoto, Medical Advisor

### The Netherlands

Maaïke M. van Vliet, First Secretary (Gender and Health), Royal Netherlands Embassy 2002

### Sida

Anna Runeborg, First Secretary (Development Cooperation) 2002

### ADB

Indu Bushan, Health Sector Specialist 2002

Alessandro Pio, Principal Country Officer

EU

Eva Capa Corrales, Program Officer 2002

UNAIDS

Laurent Zessler, Country Programme Advisor 2002

UNDCP

Per Vogel, Program Officer 2002

UNDP

Jerome Bouyjou, Program Officer 2002

UNFPA

Omer Ertur, Representative 2002

Tran Thi Van, Assistant Representative

UNICEF

Ellen Barclay, Senior Project Officer, Health 2002

Guido Borghese, Senior Project Officer, Health

WHO

Pascale Brudon, Representative 2002

Dominique Ricard, Medical Officer 2002

WORLD BANK

Tran Thanh Mai, Vice Director, Population and Family Health Project,  
National Committee for Population and Family Planning of Viet Nam 2002

FORD FOUNDATION

Lisa Messersmith, Program Officer, (Reproductive Health) 2002