

MCHIP Country Brief: Vietnam



Health Area:

- HIV/AIDS

Selected Health and Demographic Data for Vietnam	
Maternal mortality ratio (deaths/100,000 live births)	56
Neonatal mortality rate (deaths/1,000 live births)	12
Under-5 mortality rate (deaths/1,000 live births)	24
Infant mortality rate (deaths/1,000 live births)	18
Contraceptive prevalence rate	79
Total fertility rate	.9
Skilled birth attendant coverage	98.8%
Antenatal care, 4+ visits	59.6%
<i>Source: State of the World's Midwifery 2011–Vietnam</i> <i>*worldpopulationstatistics.com/vietnam-population-2013.</i> <i>**World Bank data, 2011</i> <i>*** factfish.com–Vietnam 2011</i>	



Program Dates	October 1, 2011–June 30, 2014					
Total Mission Funding	Redacted					
Geographic Coverage	No. (%) of provinces	National TA	No. of districts	N/A	No. of facilities	N/A
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INTRODUCTION

The Vietnamese Government developed the Ninth Action Program to control the spread of HIV/AIDS among vulnerable target groups. A specific aim is to increase access to antiretroviral (ARV) prophylaxis for HIV-positive individuals. Although technical guidance and protocols for HIV prevention and ARV treatment already exist for several target groups, there are no official guidelines concerning the provision of holistic care for HIV-exposed and infected children at the health center level. The lack of guidelines has resulted in limited implementation of holistic care and confusion among health care staff regarding procedures.

In 2011–2012, with technical assistance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Maternal and Child Health Integrated Program (MCHIP) through Save the Children in Vietnam collaborated with the Ministry of Health (MOH) to develop National Guidelines on care for HIV-infected pregnant women and children exposed to and infected with HIV. These National Guidelines will constitute a framework for health care workers to provide health care and treatment for pregnant women, exposed infants, and HIV-infected children. In 2013–2014, with additional funding from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), MCHIP through Save the Children in Vietnam assisted the MOH in developing a National Training Package for the Care of Newborns and Children Exposed to and Infected with HIV. This training package is designed to equip providers with the skills needed to perform the functions outlined in the 2012 National Guidelines.

The purpose of the project was to develop and obtain approval for National Guidelines and a National Training Package for the Care of Newborns and Children Exposed to and Infected with HIV. The guidelines collected information on care and treatment of HIV-positive individuals in the Vietnamese health care infrastructure. The guidelines include information from many policy and practice documents on HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment and provide concise and consistent procedures for health care workers interacting with these groups. Based on the initial



assessment of the government's existing documents, the guidelines provide updated information about care and treatment of pregnant women and children exposed to and infected with HIV/AIDS. These guidelines are derived from the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United States President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) standards and guidelines.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

With technical input from the Vietnam Administration of HIV/AIDS Control (VAAC), Maternal and Child Health Department (MCHD), and other international nongovernmental organizations (INGOs), training packages were developed. These packages were based on the National Guidelines with updates from the new guidance and HIV/AIDS treatment protocols from WHO, as well as Vietnam's MOH, which were issued after the National Guidelines were approved.

Special emphasis was placed on treatment for HIV-positive mothers to prevent transmission to their infants. Local experts on HIV/AIDS were consulted to ensure that the training contents were contextually appropriate, understandable, and could be followed by the trainees.

Several INGOs and HIV/AIDS programs in Vietnam are conducting training and developing different training materials on similar issues, such as Family Health International (FHI), the

Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, Life Gaps, UNICEF, and the Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI). Therefore, these groups were invited to provide input and share their training materials or references as part of the development of this training package. These programs and organizations expect to have standardized training materials that can be pilot tested and used by everyone.

Many meetings were organized to obtain input and feedback from these stakeholders regarding the development of the National Guidelines and the complementary training package. The National Guidelines were officially approved and distributed throughout the health care system on March 19, 2013. After the second draft of the training package was completed, a trial training course was conducted to pilot test the package content before it was finalized and submitted to the MOH Scientific Committee for final review. Thereafter, the training package was approved by VAAC, the MCHD. The approval from MOH will need more time, it is anticipated that this process will be completed by the end of 2014.

WAY FORWARD

After the approval of the guidelines, the MOH directed all provincial health centers, including Reproductive Health Centers where there is currently limited care for HIV-positive individuals, to follow the guidelines.

Once approved, the training package should be used by the MOH to train all health care workers who are involved in providing HIV-related services to pregnant women, newborns, and children exposed to and infected with HIV. The training package should also be used by other INGOs, NGOs, UNFPA, and UNICEF, which implement HIV programs for these populations.

The process to secure approval from the MOH for training materials is lengthy. Given time limitations, the training package will be approved first by VAAC and MCHD, which are directly responsible for all HIV-related programs as well as PMTCT work integrated with Maternal and Child Health Care. These departments, with continuous support from Save the Children in Vietnam as well as other INGOs and NGOs, will continue to pursue the MOH approval, which is anticipated by the end of 2014.