

Healthy living and life skills education for HIV prevention in Vietnam



UN Trust Fund for Human Security



Fast Facts

Country: Vietnam

Duration: October 2003 to December 2005

Implementing UN Agencies: UNICEF

Other Implementing Partners: Ministry of Education and Training; Viet Nam Women's Union; Viet Nam Youth Association

Budget: \$980,309.45

Key Words: HIV/AIDS; children; youth; capacity-building

BACKGROUND

In 2002, the Government of Vietnam reported that close to 60,000 people were infected by HIV in the country and in the absence of effective and comprehensive interventions these numbers were expected to sharply increase in the coming years. Unprotected sex and drug use among youth made adolescents especially vulnerable to the virus, in particular, if they were out of school. For those

enrolled in schools, while health education was part of the standard curriculum, however reproductive health and the risks of drug use were not effectively taught. In addition, frequent stigmatization and discrimination of HIV-positive persons undermined prevention and treatment efforts and adversely affected the quality of life for those living with the virus and their families.

PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

To reduce the vulnerability of at-risk children and adolescents to HIV/AIDS, the project sought to (i) provide awareness-raising education on HIV-transmission to in-school and out-of-school children and adolescents; (ii) build partnerships between

schools, communities and families to jointly manage HIV-prevention strategies; and (iii) implement stigma reduction efforts at the community level in order to decrease discriminatory practices against HIV-positive persons.

BENEFICIARIES

The project benefited 120,000 children and adolescents in the provinces of Hanoi, Hai Phong City, Quang Ninh, Lang Son, Lao Cai, Ho Chi Minh City, An Giang, Kien Giang, Gia Lai and Kon Tum. The beneficiaries were sensitized on HIV/AIDS through fact-based and youth-friendly education. Moreover, by engaging relevant stakeholders, including parents,

community leaders, youth and women's organizations in discussions, capacity-building trainings and workshops, the project promoted behavioural changes within communities and households and served to improve teaching and management skills related to the prevention of HIV/AIDS.