

DEVELOPMENT COORDINATION

A. Major Development Partners: Strategic Foci and Key Activities

1. Significant international assistance has been provided to the Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR) and Viet Nam from 2008 to 2012 to support HIV/AIDS programming in their respective countries. In the Lao PDR, notable major providers of assistance are the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM), Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID), Asian Development Bank (ADB), and United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The focus has been on capacity building to improve health systems and to plan and manage a sustainable approach to combat HIV/AIDS. In Viet Nam, major funding agencies for HIV/AIDS control are the United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID), Norwegian Aid, the United States President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (US-PEPFAR), and the World Bank. The Health Partnership Group, chaired by the Viet Nam Ministry of Health (MOH) and the World Health Organization (WHO), provides a forum for sector coordination and dialogue between the government and development partners.¹

Major Development Partners			
Development Partner	Project Name	Duration	Amount (million)
LAO PDR			
ADB	Second Greater Mekong Subregion Regional Communicable Diseases Control Project	2011-2016	\$12.00
AFD	Business Support for the Fight Against HIV/AIDS	2006–present	\$3.00
AusAID	Regional Program across Burma, Viet Nam, Cambodia, the Lao PDR, the Philippines and China, with a focus on Harm Reduction Among People Who Inject Drugs	2007–present	A\$59.00
AusAID	Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria	2011–present	A\$210.00
AusAID and UNODC	Reduce the Spread of HIV Harm Associated with Drug Use Amongst Men and Women in the Lao PDR: HAARP Country Flexible Program the Lao PDR (LAO/K18)	2009–Present	A\$ 4.00
GFATM	Scaling up HIV and AIDS Prevention, Care and Treatment in the Lao PDR	2009–2012	\$7.20
GFATM	Scaling up HIV and AIDS Prevention, Care and Treatment and Strengthening Management, Increasing Demand and Ensuring Quality of HIV/AIDS/STI Interventions in the Lao PDR	2010–2012	\$12.50
Swiss Red Cross	Lao Red Cross Branch Development and Basic Health	2004–2012	\$1.20
UNFPA	Fifth Country Programme	2012–2015	\$22.50
VIET NAM			
ADB	HIV/AIDS Prevention Among Youth	2007–Present	\$20.00
ADB	Second Greater Mekong Subregion Regional Communicable Diseases Control Project	2011–Present	\$27.00
AusAID	HIV/AIDS Asia Regional Program—Viet Nam Country Flexible Program	2009–2013	\$4.00
DFID	HIV/AIDS Prevention Programme	2008–2012	£18.30
SIDA	WHO IDUs	2007–2010	\$2.38
GFATM	Strengthening Health Systems to Improve and Sustain Outcomes for HIV/AIDS, TB, Malaria and MCH programmes in Viet Nam	2011–2022	\$39.90

¹ ADB. 2006. *Viet Nam Country Strategy Program 2007–2010*. Manila.

Development Partner	Project Name	Duration	Amount (million)
GFATM	Strengthening Care, Counseling, Support to People living with HIV/AIDS and Related Community-based Activities to Prevent HIV/AIDS in Viet Nam	2010–2012	\$12.00
GFATM	HIV and Drug Relapse Prevention, Linked to HIV/AIDS Care and Treatment in Provinces with High HIV Burden	2010–2012	\$8.20
GFATM	The Global Fund supported project on HIV/AIDS	2011–2012	\$36.10
World Bank	Viet Nam HIV/AIDS Prevention Project Supplement	Approval, 2010	\$36.00
World Bank	HIV/AIDS Prevention	2005–2012	\$35.00

ADB = Asian Development Bank; AFD = L'Agence Française de Développement; AusAID = Australian Agency for International Development; CIDA = Canadian International Development Agency; DFID = Department for International Development; GFATM = Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria; HAARP = HIV/AIDS Asia Regional Program; IDU = injecting drug user; Lao PDR = Lao People's Democratic Republic; MPWT = Ministry of Public Works and Transport; SIDA = Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency; SSTA = Small Scale Technical Assistance; STI = sexually transmitted infection; TB = tuberculosis; UNAIDS = Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS; UNDP = United Nations Development Programme; UNFPA = United Nations Food Programme; UNODC = United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime; USAID = United States Agency for International Development; PEPFAR = President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief; US-CDC = United States Center for Disease Control.

Source: Asian Development Bank estimates.

2. In June 2004, USAID funding to Viet Nam for HIV/AIDS was increased substantially under the US-PEPFAR. USAID works in collaboration with and through the Government of Viet Nam at the national and local levels in support of goals identified in the National HIV/AIDS Strategy. Together with civil society, USAID helps deliver prevention, care and treatment services, and advocate for policies that will improve access to and the quality of HIV/AIDS services and strengthen the overall health system. It also supports comprehensive HIV interventions to prevent HIV transmission among high-risk populations, including injecting drug users and their partners, commercial sex workers, potential male clients of sex workers, and men who have sex with men.

3. The Government of the United Kingdom, through DFID, has a 10-year development partnership arrangement with Viet Nam that will end in 2016. DFID's Operational Plan for Viet Nam for 2011–2015, supports the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and aims to keep the HIV and AIDS prevalence rate below 1%. DFID is funding action to improve external controls and address challenges in the promotion of the wider application of selected best-practice, value-for-money interventions in provinces (e.g., harm reduction for HIV prevention, and household sanitation improvement through social marketing and behavior change).

4. The World Bank's country partnership strategy for Viet Nam for 2012–2016 includes funding to increase affordable quality health care services and in rural and urban areas. Additional contributions center on improving services delivery and enhancing access to and the quality of these services, as well as supporting regional blood transfusion centers and safe practices in relation to HIV/AIDS. The World Bank continues to leverage assistance through more strategic partnerships with other development partners in the areas of HIV/AIDS, rural transport, poverty, governance, gender and most recently climate change.²

B. Institutional Arrangements and Processes for Development Coordination

5. Three types of development coordination are needed to ensure effective use of project resources: (i) ensure complementarity regarding the capacity building provided by the ADB-supported project, and by provincial-level strategic plans and resource allocations for HIV/AIDS

² World Bank. 2011. *Country Partnership Strategy for the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam for the Period 2012–2016*. Washington, D.C.

programming; (ii) coordinate and avoid duplication with other development partners that support HIV/AIDS programming in both countries; and (iii) synergy with existing regional coordination and health sector-strengthening activities supported by ADB.

6. Development partners have made significant investments in HIV/AIDS programming in both countries, and government partners at the national and provincial levels play an important role in coordinating activities and investments by their development partners. In Viet Nam, the national strategic planning process and GFATM country coordination mechanism have provided opportunities for development partners to share resource allocation plans and identify areas of overlap. However, some fragmentation within the Viet Nam Administration for HIV/AIDS Control departments and the MOH remains, resulting in challenges in developing a clear overview of resource allocation for different components of the national program. In particular, there is a lack of clarity on the process by which annual resource allocations are made to the provincial level from various budgetary sources (the Viet Nam Administration for HIV/AIDS Control national targeted programme, MOH staff and facility budget, provincial government budgets, and development partner budgets).

C. Achievements and Issues

7. The Lao PDR has been responding effectively to the threat of the epidemic in the region. The number of infections is currently stable. However, the possibility exists that ongoing economic development at the country's borders may infect vulnerable populations. Increased mobility across borders coupled with the existing commercial sex vulnerabilities and the emergence of high-risk groups, places the Lao PDR on a continuous alert of a new HIV threat.³ Consequently, the government is remaining vigilant, and focusing on early prevention. Viet Nam is responding to the HIV epidemic through concerted action by the government, development partners and civil society. HIV is recognized as a development issue, and the government is committed to ensuring favorable conditions for implementation of HIV prevention and control activities. Passage of the Law on HIV Prevention and Control in 2006 was an important milestone and provides a strong legal environment as well as protections for those at higher risk, and for people living with HIV. Viet Nam has improved coordination, has scaled up service delivery and prevention activities, including provision of antiretroviral therapy to people living with HIV and has increasingly engaged civil society in the national response to HIV.⁴

D. Summary and Recommendations

8. The Lao PDR's HIV response must be better equipped to monitor risk behaviours, understand the predisposing factors these behaviours, and identify those sub-groups with the highest risk and vulnerability, and those hardest-to-reach. This requires further involvement of networks and communities in the design and implementation of the national research agenda. Moreover, there is a need to scale up HIV related health services that would require a paradigm shift towards integrating HIV management into the public health system.⁵ Viet Nam's MDG 6 targets will not be met unless access to HIV services is significantly scaled up, in particular for high-risk populations.⁶ External support will begin to decrease in the near future (as in the case of the GFATM), meaning that the government's financial commitment to addressing HIV will need to be substantially increased, with a renewed focus on universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support. An effective national response can only be implemented with continued effort and investment, and strong multi-sectoral coordination involving all levels of government as well as civil society (e.g., local associations and organizations).

³ UNAIDS. 2012. Global AIDS Response Progress-Country Report, Lao PDR.

⁴ United Nations in Viet Nam. 2010. Balancing Human, Economic and Sustainable Development *Synthesis Analysis of Viet Nam's Development Situation and Medium-term Challenges in Preparation of the UN One Plan 2012-2016*

⁵ UNAIDS. 2012. Global AIDS Response Progress-Country Report, Lao PDR.

⁶ United Nations in Viet Nam. 2010. Balancing Human, Economic and Sustainable Development *Synthesis Analysis of Viet Nam's Development Situation and Medium-term Challenges in Preparation of the UN One Plan 2012-2016*