

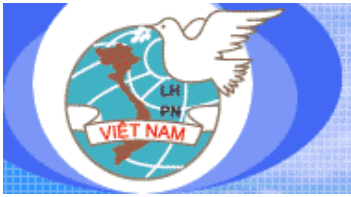
MITIGATING THE IMPACTS OF HIV/AIDS IN VIETNAM THROUGH EMPOWERED OLDER PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES

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Background

- Vietnam has about **8.5 million** OP accounting for ~9,9% the total population. The number of OP impacted by HIV/AIDS is not available.
- Viet Nam has reported **129,715 people living with HIV, 26,840 people with full blown AIDS and a total of 39,664 people having lost their lives** (GSO).
- There are about 74% of people living with HIV/AIDSs who responded to the survey were being taken care of by their **parents or grandparents**, 68% of them by their **mothers and grandmothers** (VWU).
- Among OP who had a HIV/AIDS victim in the family found that 82.6% of these elderly had to care for 1-3 family members (VAE).
- There is **no official policies of support** for the OP who care for their children living with HIV/AIDS, nor for the affected children.



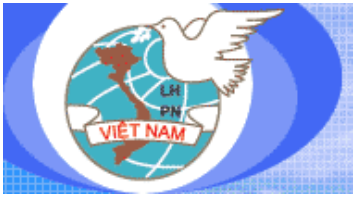
Background

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- The rapid growth in the number of HIV infections in Vietnam is placing older people in a **vulnerable situation**.
- Older people are **becoming poorer** as their children lose their jobs and/or die due to AIDS, and often burdened with the role of caring for their orphan grandchildren.
- Older people are **excluded from** most HIV, health and poverty reduction programmes in Vietnam.





Back ground

- **Project “Community Mechanisms for mitigating the impact of HIV/AIDS in Vietnam”** – coded as VIE 011, co-implemented by VWU, VAE, TNMC, RECAS, SHAPC
- **Project duration/location:** from Oct, 2005 to Sept. 2009 in 4 cities and provinces in the North of Vietnam.
- **Project objective:** To improve the health and livelihoods for those affected by HIV/AIDS (mainly the old people) and to reduce risk of HIV infection, particularly amongst high risk groups.



Self – help clubs for people infected and affected by HIV/AIDS

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- **67 clubs in 4 provinces**
- **50 to 70 members**
- **3-5 members in a Club Management Board**
- **At least 70% OP**
- **At least 70% women**
- **At least 70% are infected or affected by HIV/AIDS**



PROJECT ACTIVITIES

- **Formation and Capacity build of self-helped clubs**
- **Livelihood (Micro Credit and Saving)**
- **Health care**
- **Homecare (Community Volunteers)**
- **HIV prevention**
- **Advocacy**



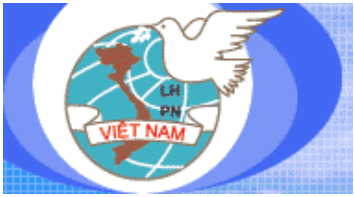
This presentation

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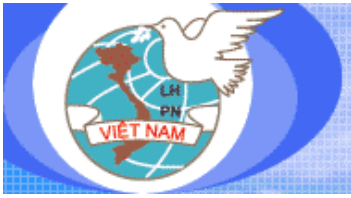
presents findings of a research conducted by VWU and HAI at the end of the project (June –Sept 2009).





Aims of the research

- Understand **impacts of HIV/AIDS** on OP and the **role and contribution of the OP** in providing care and support to people infected and affected by HIV/AIDS.
- Measure the **awareness of leaders and service providers** on the impact of HIV/AIDS on OP and the role and contribution of the OP in providing care and support to people infected and affected by HIV/AIDS, and gauge their level of support for OP and PLWHA.



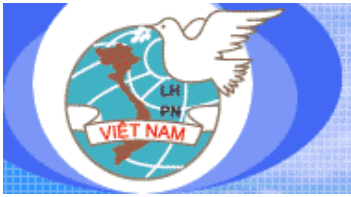
Research location and method

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- **Location:** the research was implemented in 67 communities of 4 city and provinces of Hanoi, Nam Dinh, Quang Ninh and Thai Nguyen in North of Vietnam (having highest rate of HIV infection).
- **Method:** Interviewed almost 4,000 people - mainly of older people, people infected and affected by HIV/AIDS (PIAH), service providers and leaders.





Results



- > 2/3 of the carers of PIAH were women (mostly older women)
- 68.5% reduction in stigma and discrimination
- 78.2% improved health status
- 98% of the club members received at least 2 healthcare check-up annually
- 1,321 PIAH increased access to HIV testing and ARV drug
- 48.3% increased in income of club members



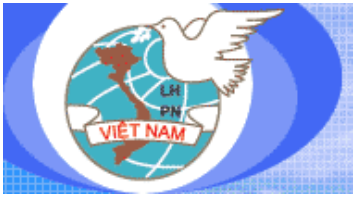
Conclusions

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- Older people are both greatly affected by HIV/AIDS and have made significant **contribution** to addressing its consequences
- Supporting SHGs for PIAH has helped to **raise the profile and status of older carers** and PIAH in their communities and is effective in mitigating the impacts of HIV/AIDS





Conclusions



- **Strengthening linkages** between affected communities, service providers and businesses is an effective way to **increase support** to PIAH, and helps to significantly **reduce stigma** and discrimination within families and communities



Conclusions

- The SHGs are **sustainable** and **affordable** model for local communities and government to replicate to reduce impacts of HIV AIDs on the affected OP and communities. VWU has replicated into 6 new clubs and 12 more will be set up soon in Hanoi and Quang Ninh province
- The research findings have been and will be shared at the HIV/AIDS working network in Viet Nam and in the region.



Thank you

