

Coordination of VCT activities in HCMC

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VCT network

- **Up to June, 2005 there are 24 VCT sites in HCMC, distributed as following:**
 - **14 sites at district community counseling and support centers**
 - **06 sites at city hospitals (DV hosp, Tropical Disease Hosp, TB hosp, Pediatrics I, Obs-Gyn hospitals Từ Dũ, Hùng Vương)**
 - **04 sites others (Women Union, Marie Stopes clinic, Đồng Hành mobile clinic)**
- ***At the end of 2005, there will be 20 VCT sites in 20 rehab centers***

VCT network

- **Principle of activity**
 - **To follow the CDC guidelines on VCT**
 - **To focus on personal risky behaviors of client**
 - **To do pre-test and post-test counseling**
 - **To do the HIV test with the consent of client, and the client will return back to receive the test results 3-5 days later**
 - **To organize the “one-way” of client move inside the VCT site: to begin at waiting room, then go to counseling room, then testing room, and go home**
 - **The counselor works professionally (full time)**

VCT network

Counselor

- To attend the basic training course
- To have the training certificate from HCMC AIDS Committee
- To have the supervision and counseling quality raising regularly
- To attend networking activity and refer client to the general support network in the city

*** There are now *100 counselors at 24 VCT sites, and 600 others having received basic training courses (ATS project staff has organized and done the training)***

VCT network

- **Services provided at one VCT site**
 - Pre-test and post-test counseling
 - Testing and/or sending blood sample to confirmative HIV lab in HCMC
 - HIV positive card provision for HIV infected people, and patient referral to other care and treatment services (including ARV) (from 2005)
 - Client referral to other support system in HCMC

VCT network

- **Regular VCT networking**
 - **Report and discussion: Complementary VCT topics**
 - **Experience sharing and discussion**
 - **Update: current AIDS epidemic and related activities**
 - **Case presentation**
 - **Update: information of support, care and treatment networks in HCMC**

Lessons learned

- **The number of clients at some VCT sites in HCMC is less than 100 clients/month**
 - **VCT “trade mark” needs a long time to reach people**
 - **Increase advertisement, introduction, and referral from**
 - **Media**
 - **Health care system**
 - **Community outreach teams**
 - **Peer educator network**
 - **Clubs, and**
 - **Other sectors**

Lessons learned

- **Increasing number of clients**
 - 2001: 1 VCT sites (ATS), 300 client/year
 - 2003: 4 VCT sites, more than 4,000 clients/year
 - 2005: 24 VCT sites, about 20.000 clients/year
- The number of clients has increased quickly after implementing the programs like Care & Treatment; PMTCT for the whole city, and others
- **→ Linkages with other prevention and care & treatment programs are crucial condition for the success of a VCT site**