



**The National Assembly of  
Viet Nam**



**United Nations  
Development Programme**



**Swedish International  
Development Cooperation  
Agency**

## PRESS RELEASE

### New project launched to support leaders of the National Assembly to implement National HIV/AIDS Strategy

**HA NOI, March 27, 2006** -- The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) will support the National Assembly of Viet Nam in an effort to improve the coordination and implementation of the National Strategy on HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control.

The new three-year \$1.37-million project will be implemented by the Committee for Social Affairs of the National Assembly of Viet Nam, in coordination with the elected bodies and local governments of the provinces of Lang Son, Khanh Hoa and An Giang.

"Effective leadership is essential in the fight against HIV/AIDS. Good policy and a solid legal framework will encourage all society, especially those affected by HIV and AIDS, to get involved," said Acting UNDP Resident Representative Subinay Nandy at the project signing ceremony. "It is vital to ensure that everyone, including people living with HIV/AIDS, participates in decision-making, has easy access to accurate information, quality treatment and health-care services and, perhaps most importantly, is free from discrimination. International experience shows, leaders have a valuable role to play in engaging the general public to fight stigma and intolerance and to set an example in the struggle against HIV/AIDS."

#### **UN-produced film on HIV in Viet Nam screened at signing ceremony**

*HA NOI -- As part of the signing ceremony, a documentary film about the struggles of people living with HIV/AIDS was shown to raise the awareness on stigma and discrimination against PLWHA in Viet Nam.*

*The film is one episode from a series of eight 30-minute films supported by the UN to raise public awareness of the Millennium Development Goals in Viet Nam. The series, Tomorrow is Yours and Mine, is expected to be launched widely in Viet Nam soon.*

Beyond the central level, the project will support the elected bodies and local government at all levels of the three provinces to integrate HIV/AIDS concerns into local socio-economic development plans, and to ensure that the approach to HIV/AIDS prevention at the local level is collaborative and involves different sectors. Peoples Councils and the local government will be supported to take a leading role in guiding the implementation of public information campaigns for behaviour change to eliminate stigma and discrimination directed at people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA), and in promoting the participation of PLWHA in the battle with HIV.

"There are still many difficulties and challenges in the fight against HIV/AIDS in Viet Nam. HIV itself is a disease but effective prevention and control of HIV does not depend solely on the efforts of the health sector, but also the efforts of all society, including government and peoples-elected bodies at all levels," said Mme. Nguyen Thi Hoai Thu, Chairwoman of the Committee for Social Affairs, Office of the National Assembly.

Together with a similar initiative implemented by the Party Commissions, this project forms an integral part of the UNDP-supported "Strengthening Leadership and Multisectoral Collaboration in HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control" programme.

\*\*\*

For further information, please contact:

*Michael Coleman, UNDP Communications*  
(84-4) 942-1495 ext. 161 [michael.coleman@undp.org](mailto:michael.coleman@undp.org)

*Nguyen Thi Thanh Van, Poverty and Social Development, UNDP*  
(84-4) 942-1495 ext. 124 [Nguyen.Thanh.Van@undp.org](mailto:Nguyen.Thanh.Van@undp.org)

*Katja Gray, Poverty and Social Development, UNDP*  
(84-4) 942-1495 ext. 162, [katja.gray@undp.org](mailto:katja.gray@undp.org)