



A. GENERAL INFORMATION

Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs)/HIV/AIDS Prevention Center (SHAPC) is a Vietnamese non-governmental organization established in March 1998 with voluntary participation of professors, medical doctors and sociologists in the fields of STDs/HIV/AIDS prevention, reproductive health, family planning and community development. Over the past 7 years, with its own efforts and experiences, SHAPC has gained many achievements in conducting studies and interventions in STDs/HIV/AIDS prevention, reproductive health care, family planning in many provinces/cities, making significant contributions to health care and community development programs in Vietnam.

I. WORKING FIELD

- HIV/AIDS
- Reproductive health
- Population
- Community development

II. OBJECTIVES OF SHAPC

- Make contributions to the reduction of STDs/HIV/AIDS cases in community
- Make contributions to the improvement of reproductive health for women, especially teenagers.
- Make contributions to the promotion of population and family planning programs; and
- Make contributions to the strengthening of hunger alleviation and poverty reduction activities.

III. HUMAN RESOURCE

At present, SHAPC has 13 full-time staff (professors, medical doctors, sociologists...) and 20 part-time/seasonal collaborators.

Human resource is divided into the following sections:

- ❖ Studies and training
- ❖ Project management.
- ❖ Clinical service (STD counseling, diagnosis/test and treatment, family planning in Hanoi).

They all have high sense of responsibility and a wealth of experiences in studies, training and working with community.

Eager for learning and enlarging knowledge, SHAPC's staff are qualified to shoulder the responsibilities of community activists.

IV. INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL RELATIONS

Right after its foundation, SHAPC has received considerations and assistance from a number of domestic and international organizations. Currently, SHAPC has been collaborating with several organizations in the fields of studies, implementation of projects and programs on community development, including World Vision, DKT, Help Age International, Thai Nguyen Medical University, Vietnam Women Union (VWU), Vietnam Association of Elderly....

Over the past 7 years, SHAPC have received funding from a number of international organizations, consisting of Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID), UNAIDS, WHO, UNICEF, UNDP, World Bank, the Rockefeller Foundation, GTZ, Family Health International (FHI), Ford Foundation, Save Children US, World Vision, Care International Vietnam, and DKT.

Within its working fields, SHAPC has attached much attention to broadening its cooperation with several partners to exchange with and learn from them their experience for our further development.

B. SHAPC'S ACTIVITIES

With assistance and sponsorship from both domestic and international organizations, for several years, SHAPC has been successfully implementing projects on STDs/HIV/AIDS prevention, reproductive health, and community development in many provinces/cities in Vietnam, especially in border areas between Vietnam and China, and Vietnam and Laos.

Our target groups:

1. People living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHAs)
2. Injecting Drug users (IDUs)
3. Female sex workers (SWs)
4. Men who have sex with men (MSM)
5. Minority ethnic populations
6. Mobile populations
7. Youths and adolescents
8. Community women
9. Owners of entertainment services

Past and on-going activities:

I. Studies

- Study of the needs and acceptance of using female condoms in Dong Da District, Hanoi (Sex Workers, STD patients, and community women).
- Survey and assessment on knowledge, attitude, behavior and practice of cross-border mobile populations in border provinces of Lang son, Quang ninh, Lao cai, and Nghe an.
- Formative research on ethnic minority groups and HIV/AIDS in bordering district of Ky son, Nghe an province.
- Comprehensive study on SWs and HIV/AIDS in Da nang city and Hanoi city, in collaboration with World Vision.
- Study on MSM and condoms in Hanoi and Hochiminh city, in collaboration with DKT.

II. Information-Education-Communication activity

- Development of pamphlets, leaflets, posters and panels on STDs/HIV/AIDS prevention.
- Development of cassette tapes and videotapes on HIV/AIDS prevention for ethnic minority populations.
- Organization of propaganda music performances on HIV/AIDS prevention.
- Face to face and phone counseling on STDs/family planning and reproductive health.

III. Intervention activity

- Peer education (IDUs, SWs, PLWHAs, MSM and community women).
- Reduction of HIV-related harm for high-risk behavior groups and mobile populations (provision of condoms, needles and syringes, lubricants, and IEC materials).
- Establishment of “Friends help friends” clubs.
- Condom café.
- Provision of technical support and equipment facilities for the examination and treatment of STDs/family planning in border sites.

IV. Training activity

- Training for private doctors/pharmacists: “Enhancement of STD counseling, diagnosis and treatment skills”
- Training for health personnel at village/grass-root level.
- Training for PLWHAs: “Guidance on home-based self-care”
- Training for PLWHAs’ family members: “Home-based care and support for people living with HIV/AIDS”
- Training for peer educators: “Enhancement of communication and counseling skills on STDs/HIV/AIDS prevention”
- Training for managers of entertainment facilities on STDs/HIV/AIDS prevention.
- Training for entertainment facility employees.

V. Care and treatment

- Establishment of “Friends Help Friends” groups to give care to PLWHAs at home and hospitals.
- Set up a clinic to provide STD diagnosis and treatment to female sex workers, their clients and community women in Hanoi.

VI. Cooperation with bordering provinces of China and Laos

- Collaboration with health department and relevant agencies of Dongxing town (Guangxi province-China) on HIV/AIDS prevention for mobile populations who cross Mong cai international border gate.
- Collaboration with health department and relevant agencies of Xiengkhouang province (Laos) on HIV/AIDS prevention for mobile populations who cross Nam Can border gate.

- Organization of a study tour for a relevant delegation of Xiengkhouang province to visit some of SHAPC's implemented models of HIV/AIDS prevention in Nghe an, Quang ninh, Hanoi and Thai nguyen.

VII- Hunger alleviation and poverty reduction

1. Vocational training for PLWHAs and job generation for PLWHAs who are in hardship circumstance.

C. SHAPC'S ACHIEVEMENTS

All of SHAPC's previously taken and on-going activities have brought about encouraging achievements, making contributions to health care and community development programs in Vietnam. Each of the activities has been monitored, evaluated and praised by National AIDS Standing Bureau, and local authorities.

SHAPC's experience models on STDs/HIV/AIDS prevention have been reported at international health conferences which were held in Spain, Australia, Chiangmai, Bangkok, etc.

Head of National Commission on Social Affairs, National AIDS Standing Bureau, Australian ambassador/ chancellors and other international experts visited SHAPC's project models in provincial sites.

SHAPC also welcomed several international delegations to visit and exchange experiences at our office. The visitors include Australian Parliamentary delegation, Australian chancellors, professors and medical doctors from universities of United States, Australia, New Zealand, Laos, Cambodia, etc; WHO, UNODP, and some other international organizations.

SHAPC's director had honor to receive directly the grant handover from the Australian ambassador at Australian embassy.

Currently, there are still many provinces which need considerations and supports from SHAPC. Therefore, SHAPC would like to receive more assistance and funding from international organizations, in order to help us maintain project activities and replicate the successful models into other provinces/cities nationwide.