

THE IMPORTANT CONCLUSIONS OF THE 5 SCIENTIFIC WORKSHOPS

PROJECT 0040232

**Dr. Vo Dinh Vinh
Vice Director of Health Care Department
Project Manager
CCSE**

THE FIVE SCIENTIFIC WORKSHOPS CONDUCTED IN SEP&OCT 2005

1. Fighting against stigma and discrimination toward PWHAs (5 Sep 05)
2. HIV Epidemiology, Estimations & Projections in VN (6 Sep 05)
3. HIV/AIDS treatment (23 Sep 05)
4. Socio-economic impact of HIV/AIDS in VN (5 Oct 05).
5. Harm Reduction in HIV/AIDS prevention (6 Oct 05)

WORKSHOP NO. 1: FIGHTING AGAINST STIGMA & DISCRIMINATION TOWARD PWHAS

- 1. Causes of the Stigma and Discrimination:** i) Ignorance; ii) Fears from frightening IEC messages; iii) The link between HIV and social evils (drug use and prostitution)
- 2. Consequences:** i) PWHAs can not access social and health services; are without care from family; suffer poor health ii) weak management of the PWHAs led to a barrier of social mobilization to provide care and support to PWHAs

WORKSHOP NO. 1: FIGHTING AGAINST STIGMA & DISCRIMINATION TOWARD PWHAS

3. What would we do to fight against stigma and discrimination:
 - To carry out the BCC activities, focal messages “Anyone could contract HIV but HIV infection is difficult to contract and easy to prevent”
 - Create the enabling legal environment without stigma and discrimination
 - Mobilise and encourage PWHAs participation
 - Strengthen the supply of health services to PWHAs (health sector together with family)

**WORKSHOP NO. 2:
HIV Epidemiology, Estimation & Projection
in VN (6 Sep 05)**

1. The epidemic surveillance is very important for the preventive plans at the national and provincial level. But there is still limited and non-effective use of the data
2. The national responses are still based on unclear information without scientific evidences
3. Causes: i) not fully aware of the importance of Epidemic Surveillance ii) The responsible personnel for HIV/AIDS have not yet received comprehensive training iii) Limited budget iv) Still low attention to the role of local NGOs

**WORKSHOP NO. 2:
HIV Epidemiology, Estimation & Projection
in VN (6 Sep 05)**

4. The authorities of the Party and Government at all levels should have a better understanding about the role of the HIV surveillance in order to enhance the system to have adequate budget allocation
5. To set up the HIV surveillance system including i) detection, reporting of new cases, sentinel surveillance ii) STI surveillance; iii) BCC surveillance iv) 2nd generation surveillance
6. Strengthen the systems of surveillance, reporting, target setting, standardized processes and sample collection.

WORKSHOP NO. 3: HIV/AIDS treatment (23 Sep 05)

1. **Need to help the authorities have better understanding of the importance of treatment issue**
 - Treatment services also have the preventive impact; slow down the AIDS development progress
 - The treatment is not only a issue of health but also of psychology, sociology and economy
2. **Need to have a comprehensively integrated programme with community involvement**
 - i) VCT
 - ii) HIV infection stages and clinical examination
 - iii) Preventive and OI treatment
 - iv) Support and palliative care at the end-stage
 - v) PMTCT

WORKSHOP NO. 3:

HIV/AIDS treatment (23 Sep 05)

3. The impact of ART: i) Reduce OI and death ii) Maintain good health status to prolong life expectancy iii) Enhance the immune system; iv) Limit the HIV virus replication and reduce HIV transmission; v) Reduce stigma and discrimination.

4. Need to have National HIV/AIDS treatment programme; HIV exposure treatment, risk insurance, and solutions to support PWHAs

WORKSHOP NO. 4

Social economic impact of HIV/AIDS in VN (5 Oct 05).

1. HIV/AIDS increases the vulnerability of the household/family to poverty, gender inequality, unemployment, and short life expectancy. So it should be given adequate consideration and specific mention in the National Poverty Reduction Strategy
2. HIV/AIDS has created a heavy burden on the health sector. The health sector will suffer the most serious hit from HIV/AIDS.
3. Implement IEC activities to promote behaviour change in the community and authorities at all levels to reduce the impact of HIV/AIDS

WORKSHOP NO. 4

Social economic impact of HIV/AIDS in VN (5 Oct 05).

4. Enhance treatment services, education provided to prostitutes and drug users, job supply and income generation. Decrease the relapse into crime and drug addiction; Reduce the rate of new HIV infections
5. Scale up research based on the existing research in order to have better understanding of the HIV/AIDS socio-economic impact in Viet Nam

Workshop no. 5

Harm Reduction in HIV/AIDS prevention (6 Oct 05)

1. While we address the problem of drug supply-demand and the current prostitution situation, Harm Reduction is very necessary and an urgent solution
2. Strengthen BCC activities to promote behaviour change for all social sectors at all levels and for the whole community (Example: For the authorities: To make clearer the benefits of Harm Reduction and remove the perception that HR supports Drug addiction and Prostitution; For the community: Encourage active support and effective participation.

Workshop no. 5
Harm Reduction in HIV/AIDS prevention (6 Oct 05)

3. The legal instructions from the Party and Government should include and specify Harm Reduction as one of the main solutions (The new Directive of the Party Secretariat, HIV/AIDS Prevention Law)
4. Amend the current law/ordinance to make it the best possible law for HIV/AIDS prevention in VN
5. Set up the national Harm reduction programme