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### INTRODUCTION

IOM first began operations in Viet Nam in 1987 and operates under a Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. IOM's Mission in Viet Nam is based in Ha Noi with a sub-office in Ho Chi Minh City and has over 100 experienced staff dedicated to assisting the government and the people of Viet Nam in the field of migration.

IOM's operation in Viet Nam is concerned with the welfare and quality of life of the Vietnamese people, particularly migrant and mobile populations. The programme focuses on safe migration and mobility including:

- · Counter trafficking
- Labour migration
- Emergency and post-crisis response migration
- · Public health and social services
- Access to information
- · Migration assistance to local Embassies and Consulates

Since 1987 IOM has had close working relationships with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs, Ministry of Transport, Ministry of Public Security and the Viet Nam Women's Union, and has had project activities in provinces throughout the country.

Established in 1951, IOM is the leading inter-governmental organization in the field of migration and works closely with governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental partners in over 100 countries. With 122 member states, of which Viet Nam is one, and 19 states with observer status, IOM is dedicated to supporting both governments and migrants in promoting humanitarian and orderly migration.

IOM works with partners to promote international cooperation on migration issues, to assist in the search for practical solutions to migration problems, and to provide humanitarian assistance to migrants in need. The IOM Constitution recognizes the link between migration and economic, social and cultural development, as well as to the right of freedom of movement. IOM Mission in Viet Nam Horison Hotel, Ground Floor 40 Cat Linh Street Ha Noi, Viet Nam Email: Hanoi@iom.int http://www.iom.int.vn Tel: +84 4 736 6258 Fax: +84 4 736 6259

IOM Sub-Office in Ho Chi Minh City 1B Pham Ngoc Thach Street District 1 Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam Email: Hochiminh@iom.int http://www.iom.int.vn Tel: +84 8 822 2057 Fax: +84 8 822 1780

# VIET NAM: FACTS AND FIGURES

#### IOM MEMBER STATE

Capital: Ha Noi Population: 87,375,000 (2007 estimate) Total Area: 331,689 km<sup>2</sup> Official Language: Vietnamese Currency: dong (VND)



#### **MIGRATION ISSUES**

Viet Nam's rapid economic development is fuelling large migration flows from rural areas to urban and peri-urban areas where employment opportunities are increasingly more available. According to some government offices, an estimated 30 percent of the population of the largest city - Ho Chi Minh City -consists of migrants and in Ha Noi it may be as many as 25 percent. These internal migrants often have difficulty accessing accommodation, education for their children, and health care. With regard to international migration some three million Vietnamese live permanently overseas with another 400,000 residing abroad as temporary workers.

Remittances from overseas migrants continue to play an important role in the country's development, as do remittances from internal migrants. As one of its strategies to combat poverty, the government organises overseas employment, but many labour migrants find it difficult to earn enough money due to the excessive pre-departure costs. Human trafficking has been closely associated with people seeking better employment opportunities and government agencies are placing increasing priority on combating unsafe migration and on counter-trafficking.







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# SAFE MIGRATION

COUNTER-TRAFFICKING HEALTH DEVELOPMENT



### SAFE MIGRATION: COUNTER-TRAFFICKING

### CURRENT PROJECTS

Return and Reintegration of Trafficked and Other Vulnerable Vietnamese Women Between Selected Countries in the Greater Mekong Sub-region, Phase II

#### Duration: 3 years

**Location:** Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, Viet Nam, China

This Greater Mekong Sub-region-wide project seeks to establish systematic and sustainable cross-border return and reintegration of trafficked women and children in the region. There are two main activities being executed in Viet Nam from the regional funds:

- Facilitating the return of Vietnamese women from Cambodia and Thailand, as well as other countries in the region.
- Working with IOM Cambodia and the Department of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs (DOLISA) in HCMC on the sustainable return of Cambodian children working primarily as beggars in Ho Chi Minh City.

Support to the Government of Viet Nam to Implement the Bilateral Agreement on Counter-Trafficking Activities between Viet Nam and Cambodia

**Duration:** 1 year **Location:** Throughout Viet Nam

The primary focus of this project is to carry out a campaign along the border of Viet Nam and Cambodia to suppress human trafficking, and to involve police of both countries in the rescue and return of trafficking victims. The project also aims at establishing bilateral cooperation against cross-border trafficking in women and children, by bringing together key Ministries of Cambodia and Viet Nam through an exchange visit.

The visit will enable the concerned officials of Viet Nam and Cambodia to assess the situation and explore as well as discuss potential areas for collaboration in the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding between the two countries. As part of the assessment, the delegations will tour a number of project sites on the border between Viet Nam and Cambodia. IOM, working with the United Nations Inter-Agency Project on Human Trafficking in the Greater Mekong Sub-region (UNIAP) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), will host a planning workshop between the two delegations in Ho Chi Minh City, during which the exchange visit will be evaluated and plans will be developed to overcome the current major difficulties of crossborder cooperation to combat human trafficking.



Assistance to the Government in the Identification of Trafficking Victims and Their Reintegration

# **Duration:** 2 years **Location:** Hanoi

IOM is supporting the Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs (MOLISA) in developing guidelines on victim return, and reintegration in the context of the National Plan of Action. The following support is being provided to assist MOLISA in these activities:

- Organization of two study tours to Indonesia and Thailand to learn good practices in reintegration assistance for victims of trafficking;
- Organization of two workshops, one in Ha Noi and one in Dong Thap, on victim identification and assistance in the development of guidelines for this purpose;
- Support in developing the mechanisms for return and reintegration; and
- Training on the need for psychosocial intervention as a critical aspect of recovery and reintegration of victims of trafficking.

Comprehensive Counter-Trafficking Project in Lao Cai Province, Viet Nam

**Duration:** 1 year **Location:** Lao Cai Province

Vietnamese women and girls are increasingly trafficked internally and regionally for sexual exploitation, forced marriages and labor. With increasing numbers of trafficked women returning from China, the Vietnamese Government has requested the assistance of the international community in supporting their reception and reintegration.

IOM's strategy in this project is to work on both prevention and reintegration in a unified and integrated manner, while strengthening the successful approaches of both IOM and the government. The project goal is to contribute to Viet Nam's efforts to prevent and reduce trafficking through a comprehensive counter-trafficking model, improved communications, vocational training, psychosocial and physical care, and guidance on employment opportunities.

The project's two objectives have been established, namely to provide appropriate services to trafficked and at-risk women, as well as to include capacity building and sustainability ensuring long-term, quality implementation of project activities.

IOM's strategy in this project is to work on both prevention and reintegration in a unified and integrated manner



### SAFE MIGRATION: COUNTER-TRAFFICKING



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### CURRENT PROJECTS

#### BUILDING NETWORKS OF SUPPORT FOR TRAFFICKED PERSONS IN HA NOI

#### Duration: 20 months Location: Ha Noi

The greatest difficulty facing programmes designed to rehabilitate, provide psychosocial and public health support, and integrate returnees back into mainstream society, is reaching the trafficked persons. This is largely due to the deep-rooted stigma attached to having been the victim of trafficking. As a result, IOM is establishing a pilot identification mechanism that can effectively reach trafficked persons and provide services that are specifically tailored to their environment and needs.

This project focuses on the needs of trafficked persons by determining an effective identification mechanism, sustaining the development of self-help support groups, and providing specialized mental health, as well as psychosocial aid. Health and risk assessments are also provided to improve their general wellbeing. Capacity building and technical assistance have been included for Women's Union staff, health staff and authorities to strengthen their knowledge on trafficking and their activities to effectively reach trafficked persons.

#### ADDRESSING HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN SOUTHERN VIET NAM

Duration: 1 year Location: Throughout Viet Nam

The Government of Viet Nam has been faced with increasing numbers of people being trafficked to Malaysia and Taiwan Province of China, as well as the traditional destination countries of China and Cambodia.

This project aims to combat trafficking in persons by strengthening the capacity of NGOs and the Governments of Cambodia and Viet Nam. The main objectives include responding to the problem of trafficking by developing comprehensive prevention, protection, return and reintegration measures with a view toward eliminating trafficking to, from, and within Cambodia and Viet Nam. Thus strengthening cross border cooperation.

This project seeks to improve the current existing return and reintegration system for returnees from Thailand and Cambodia in the following ways:

- · Co-operate with NGO's in countries such as China and Malaysia where IOM currently has no office, in order to establish a continuum between pre-return assistance and reintegration assistance in Viet Nam.
- Improve the current standard operating procedure for the return of trafficked people from Cambodia to Viet Nam and develop new standard operating procedures with other countries.
- Establish a returnee assessment centre in HCMC in co-operation with the Government of Viet Nam and NGOs to provide short term shelter, health screening/care and counseling for victims of trafficking. Stay in the centre will be voluntary and for a maximum period of two weeks. The centre will link with other services for referrals and the identification of victims of trafficking.
- · Establish a referral network of service providers which include the Viet Nam Women's Union, the Department of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs (DOLISA), NGOs, local clinics, vocational training centres and other community based services and initiatives.





# COMPREHENSIVE RETURN AND REINTEGRATION THROUGH PARTNERSHIP AND COLLABORATION

#### Duration: 1 year Location: Ha Noi, Lao Cai, Ho Chi Minh City

Viet Nam has recognized trafficking as a significant social concern and has developed a national plan of action, as well as a government decision mandating government responsibility for return and reintegration.

The Government has also recognized the importance of incorporating successful models and learning from the experience of other organizations.

IOM, therefore intends to draw on its experience in Viet Nam as well as the experience of other organizations, to ensure a comprehensive return and reintegration mechanism is implemented. This requires strong central government support and involvement to maintain national coverage and sustainability. The return and reintegration mechanism will build on the reintegration network, the development of systems in the assessment centers, the provision of psychosocial support through counseling as well as the selfhelp groups, and the development of modules by IOM and the Population, Refugees, and Migration Bureau of the U.S. Department of State (PRM).

The objectives of this project are to:

- Increase the understanding of effective return and reintegration of trafficked women in the region and analyze gaps in current approaches Establish and demonstrate an effective, confidential, and non-judgmental mechanism to identify and support trafficked women
- Work together with other organizations involved in reintegration to provide relevant and appropriate services through risk assessments and provide life-skills training, health care, and psychosocial counseling and mental-health treatment
- Develop evidence of effective programming through the partnership and support of demonstration sites

COMBATING HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN VIET NAM THROUGH CAPACITY BUILDING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE NATIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE AND LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

#### Duration: 18 months

**Location:** 6 provinces in Viet Nam (Ha Giang, Lao Cai, Lang Son, Quang Ninh, An Giang and Dong Thap)

This project will provide assistance for the Government of Viet Nam to implement the four components of the National Plan of Action (NPA), to mainstream victim support and assistance into the NPA and to develop coordination, monitoring and evaluation mechanisms. The project will also focus on capacity building activities for law enforcement staff, provide technical assistance to the Border Guard offices in 6 provinces and provide legal aid for victims of trafficking.

The target group for the NPA implementation is the National Steering Committee and the appointed bodies under the committee. A small fund will be developed as an incentive for innovative ideas from provincial level agencies. Capacity building activities will consist mainly of training for Border Guard officials and Police officers in six border provinces. In order to provide victims of trafficking returning from abroad with appropriate assistance and information, six Border Guard offices will be upgraded and provided with victim friendly interview rooms and other necessary equipment.



### SAFE MIGRATION: COUNTER-TRAFFICKING

### PROPOSALS SUBMITTED TO DONORS

ADDRESSING HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN VIET NAM THROUGH CAPACITY BUILDING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

#### **Duration:** 2 years **Location:** Ha Noi and throughout Viet Nam

This project intends to build capacity and strengthen cooperation amongst the Government ministries involved in the National Plan of Action (NPA). Each of these participating agencies has been requested to develop and implement an individual plan to support the NPA. Over the past two years, IOM has been working with the Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs (MOLISA) to support their work on the development and implementation of their plan. Through this support it has become clear that trafficking remains an issue and that technical assistance and capacity building are essential to the plan's success. The aim of this project is to contribute to national efforts to address trafficking in persons through prevention, protection, return, and reintegration.

IOM supports the Government of Viet Nam in their countertrafficking efforts through a partnership with the National Steering Committee, the creation of a working group, the development of a behaviour-change strategy, and capacity building as well as training with the ministries involved in countering trafficking through the NPA.

In addition to improving general cooperation on countertrafficking, the project will focus on each of the four components of the NPA including:

- community education and prevention activities
- the fight against the crime of trafficking
- the reception and support to returned trafficked persons
- the development of the legal framework in regards to the prevention of trafficking.



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### PROPOSALS UNDER DEVELOPMENT

#### SUPPORT TO A SHELTER FOR TRAFFICKED CHILDREN

#### Duration: 12 months Location: Ho Chi Minh City and An Giang Province Required Funding: USD \$100,000

Between 1999 and 2004 IOM worked with the Little Rose Shelter to provide support to trafficked and at-risk children. The "Rehabilitation of Trafficked Children from The Mekong Delta Provinces" project, which ended in 2004, supported a large number of these children.

The recommendations which resulted from this project include:

- Increasing psychosocial support and rehabilitation activities to promote child self-awareness, self-protection, self reliance and self-dependence
- · Continuing child rights and life skills training
- Improving the capability of social workers and case workers

IOM proposes to address these needs by developing mechanisms to identify and reach children who have been trafficked and who are at risk. This would be achieved by providing relevant psychosocial support, counseling, education as well as vocational training, and by developing the capabilities of social workers.

# FORMATIVE RESEARCH ON TRAFFICKING OF PERSONS IN VIET NAM

Duration: 10 months Location: Hai Phong City Required Funding: USD \$100,000

IOM proposes to conduct research to investigate the reality of trafficking of persons in Viet Nam, including its potential link with labor exploitation. Such research will provide the information necessary for international organizations and NGO's to implement effective programming, for the Government to develop appropriate legislation, and for national Government programmes to better address the trafficking of persons.

The two main objectives of the project are to increase the understanding of the determinants as well as the scope and dimensions of trafficking of persons and to improve the use of accurate and relevant data in programming and policy making. The research will be conducted in Hai Phong City and will include a literature review, qualitative and quantitative research, and a results dissemination meeting.







#### SAFE MIGRATION: COUNTER-TRAFFICKING

### COMPLETED PROJECTS

#### AWARENESS RAISING ACTIVITIES ON COUNTER-TRAFFICKING ALONG THE BORDER BETWEEN VIET NAM AND CAMBODIA

#### Timeframe: June 2005 – January 2007

Location: 4 provinces in Viet Nam (An Giang, Dong Tap, Ca Mau, and Kien Giang)

This information campaign aimed to combat the trafficking of Vietnamese women and children to Cambodia in a comprehensive manner by raising awareness on how to migrate safely both within Viet Nam and internationally. The campaign was implemented in coordination with the Viet Nam Women's Union; Committee for Population, Family and Children; the Department of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs, and NGOs including the Co-ordination of Action Research on AIDS and Mobility (CARAM) and the Center for Social Work, Community Development Research & Consultancy (SDRC).

The project addressed the problem of trafficking using a preventative approach with the main objective of raising awareness and promoting safe migration in the following ways:

- The implementation of a trafficking information campaign using various information channels such as leaflets, posters, notebooks, videos, meetings, cultural performances, and the dissemination of information through mass media. In addition, young girls and women were also provided with information on safe migration and information about destination countries, as well as empowerment training.
- The development of migration information centres and local hotlines which offered direct assistance to women and children at risk of being trafficked and trafficked returnees. They also provided information on safe migration, job opportunities, vocational training, pre-departure orientation as well as how to avoid becoming a victim of trafficking.
- The establishment of community networks in the four project provinces to combat trafficking by providing basic information on safe migration. A series of training courses were provided to build capacity in the area.

#### COUNTER-TRAFFICKING PROJECT IN QUANG NINH PROVINCE

**Timeframe:** January 2005 - September 2006 **Location:** Quang Ninh Province

In close cooperation with the Quang Ninh Women's Union (QNWU), this project contributed to the development of an effective and sustainable infrastructure in Quang Ninh province for prevention and reintegration activities for trafficked persons returning from China. Its aim was to reach persons at high risk of being trafficked in order to diminish the overall number of people trafficked from the province.

The project set up a vocational training centre in which persons at high risk of being trafficked as well as trafficked persons, received training in the tourism sector, combined with life-skills training to help them escape stigmatization and improve their social and economic opportunities. Other training topics included preventing trafficking, preventing HIV, and public health.

The project developed and implemented a comprehensive vocational training model, combined with job promotion and placement, in order to provide a complete package to trafficked and vulnerable women. Fifty women received training, most of who are currently employed as a result.



# CAPACITY BUILDING OF THE VIET NAM WOMEN'S UNION ON COUNTER-TRAFFICKING

**Timeframe:** January 2002 – December 2004 **Location:** 5 provinces in Viet Nam (Yen Bai, Hai Duong, Thai Binh, Tien Giang, Soc Trang) and Ha Noi city

This project was designed to support the Viet Nam Women's Union (VWU) in managing and coordinating activities relating to counter-trafficking in women and children. It also helped to strengthen the national mechanisms to be able to further address the problem in Viet Nam. Within the project, a new and updated counter-trafficking action plan was developed and approved by the Presidium of VWU for implementation. At the same time, a small scale awareness raising campaign was executed within a number of selected communes in five provinces. This was done in order to raise the operational capacity of all levels of the institution in managing counter-trafficking activities.

#### RECEPTION AND REINTEGRATION OF TRAFFICKED AND OTHER VULNERABLE VIETNAMESE WOMEN WHO HAVE RETURNED FROM CHINA

**Timeframe:** 1997-2001 **Location:** Lang Son Province

This project was one of the first in Viet Nam to provide on-the-ground assistance to trafficked women and children. A reception centre was built and managed by the Lang Son Women's Union to assist trafficking victims returning to Viet Nam through the Lang Son border gate. The project provided accommodation, immediate care and financial assistance to return home. Some 2,900 trafficked and vulnerable women living in Lang Son were also provided with micro-credit and life-skills training to be able to setup income-generating activities to assist their reintegration.

#### NATIONAL ANTI-TRAFFICKING INFORMATION CAMPAIGN FOR VIET NAM

Timeframe: January 2000 – December 2000 Location: 14 provinces in Viet Nam (An Giang, Bac Giang, Bac Ninh, Cao Tho, Dong Thap, Ha Noi, Ha Tay, Ho Chi Minh City, Kien Giang, Phu Tho, Quang Ninh, Thanh Hoa, Tay Ninh, Vinh Phuc)

Following a pilot campaign in Lang Son province, this extensive public information campaign was developed to raise public awareness of trafficking in 14 of the most severely affected provinces of Viet Nam. Some 6,600 trained activists of the Viet Nam Women's Union implemented grass-roots activities such as door-to-door visits, meetings and other community events, along with the distribution of 500,000 information pamphlets. The project also provided training for the staff of local authorities and community agencies, as well as journalists who were encouraged to cover the issue in the media.



### CURRENT PROJECTS

#### MIGRANT HEALTH ASSESSMENTS

#### **Duration:** Ongoing **Location:** Ho Chi Minh City

As part of the migration process many governments require migrants to undergo a health assessment prior to travel. IOM in Viet Nam is a designated panel physician for the Governments of Australia, Canada, New Zealand, and the United States of America, for whom it provides such health assessments.

# TECHNICAL SUPPORT THROUGH DONATION OF LABORATORY EQUIPMENT

**Duration:** 1990s and Ongoing **Location:** Ho Chi Minh City

In support of three partner health institutions in Ho Chi Minh City: Cho Ray Hospital, the Pasteur Institute and the International Health Quarantine Centre, IOM has provided training support and the following technical equipment:

- · a refrigerated centrifuge to Cho Ray Hospital
- a bactec sputum culture machine for TB samples to the Pasteur Institute
- a power generator and specialized refrigeration equipment to the International Health Quarantine Centre.

Through an international staff position, IOM also supports quality assurance processes at the laboratories of Cho Ray Hospital and the Pasteur Institute, and as a result of these continual efforts, contributes to capacity building in the health sector.

#### STUDY ON GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE EXPERIENCED BY MIGRANT WOMEN FACTORY WORKERS

#### Duration: 9 months

**Location:** Industrial zones in Ho Chi Minh City and its environs

While domestic violence has gained programme awareness in recent years, sexual and gender-based violence have not been addressed. This has resulted in virtually no information available on violence against women, particularly migrants. With over three million migrants living in Ho Chi Minh City and up to one million in Ha Noi, it is important to increase their awareness of these issues.

The aim of this study is to improve the understanding of the violence situation against female migrant workers in Viet Nam and to provide accurate information that can be used to support advocacy efforts through policy and programme development.

IOM is partnering with the local NGO The Quality of Life Promotion Centre for the study with the following objectives:

- To determine the nature, scope and magnitude of genderbased violence against migrant workers
- To build a knowledge base of concerns, perceptions, behaviour and awareness related to gender-based violence against factory workers
- To determine services, and access to services for migrant factory workers





# PROGRAMME SUPPORT FOR HIV ACTIVITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

#### Duration: 8 months

Location: Viet Nam, Greater Mekong Sub-region

Roads, bridges, power plants, dams, airports, and railways are just a few examples of the large infrastructure projects increasing in number throughout the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS). These large infrastructure projects result in dramatic growth and development, and draw thousands of itinerant workers who enter regions of countries that have often been remote and isolated, and face increased vulnerability to HIV. The relationship between migration and HIV, however, extends beyond migrants to the members of both receiving and sending communities.

The purpose of this project is to strengthen HIV prevention activities conducted for infrastructure and development projects through a comprehensive toolkit. The project will:

- Support and complement existing rationale, toolkits, and guidelines for HIV activities, as well as support country governments and project implementers by providing a concrete model (in the form of a complete toolkit) for implementation of HIV activities.
- Review existing HIV-prevention activities related to infrastructure development and consolidate experiences to support the development of new projects to implement HIV prevention activities.
- Develop an established method, to be demonstrated in Viet Nam, to build government support and capacity in the implementation of HIV prevention activities related to infrastructure projects.
- Strengthen regional knowledge on financial commitments to conduct HIV-impact assessments when planning infrastructure projects and allocating funds to HIVprevention activities.

#### VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN: A RIGHTS-BASED APPROACH TO EMPOWERING MIGRANT WOMEN AFFECTED BY VIOLENCE

#### Duration: 18 months Location: Ha Noi

The project will work towards the promotion of the rights of women, specifically related to violence against women. IOM intends to achieve these goals by partnering with three local NGOs, Center for Studies and Applied Sciences in Gender - Family - Women and Adolescents (CSAGA), Research Center for Family Health and Community Development (CEFACOM), and Community Health and Development Organization - LIGHT, in the development of self-help groups for migrant women affected by violence. Through these groups, the needs and priorities of migrant women affected by violence will be discussed, developed, and articulated through various channels to the government, mass organizations, media and through communities. The participating NGOs will not only support the development of self-help groups and provision of non-judgemental services, but will also increase the involvement and capacity of the local NGOs in activities to improve the rights of women through empowerment, awareness raising and advocacy.

The overall objective of the project is to contribute to national efforts in reducing violence against women, improving the protection and support of women who have experienced violence. The specific objectives are:

- To empower migrant women affected by violence to speak out and raise awareness of violence against women, strengthening policy development and implementation
- To increase psychosocial support for migrant women affected by violence
- To ensure policy development and implementation is based on proven, effective methods with direct involvement and participation of women affected by violence





### PROPOSALS UNDER DEVELOPMENT

#### MIGRANT-YOUTH-FRIENDLY REPRODUCTIVE-HEALTH

**Duration:** 3 years **Location:** Ha Noi and Da Nang Cities **Required Funding:** USD \$2,935,000

Emerging issues facing Vietnamese adolescents and youth include unemployment, HIV, STIs, unplanned pregnancies, gender violence, substance abuse, mental health, and lack of access to quality social services. Adolescents and youth are particularly vulnerable as they are provided with little or no information on sexual health and their access to reproductivehealth services is often judgmental and discriminatory.

The Migrant-Youth Reproductive-Health Project aims to:

- Raise the awareness of government leaders on the needs and concerns of migrant youth
- Improve and increase access to appropriate and relevant reproductive-health information, and to quality migrant-friendly reproductive-health services
- Build capacity of local government agencies and local NGOs

RESEARCH OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE AGAINST MIGRANT WOMEN

**Duration:** 5 months **Location:** Viet Nam **Required Funding:** USD \$39,000

This research project intends to facilitate six partners with varying programmatic missions, in developing a proposal on sexual violence and rape against women migrants in Viet Nam, the cooperation enhancing the respective strengths and experience of each partner. The partners will include local NGOs focused on the empowerment of women, NGOs with research experience, mass organizations focused on the advancement of women and an international organization with experience on research, migration and vulnerability. The research will be designed to define the situation of sexual violence and rape among migrant women, determine policies and legislation, and identify services available for migrant women.

The majority of migrants are under 25. Emerging issues facing Vietnamese youth include unemployment, HIV, STIs, unplanned pregnancies, gender violence, substance abuse, mental health, and lack of access to quality social services.



### COMPLETED PROJECTS

#### RESEARCH ON COMMUNITIES AFFECTED BY HIV

**Timeframe:** April 2006 – July 2006 **Location:** Northern, central and southern transport corridors

This research project was conducted among communities affected by new roads and road improvement projects. The research used qualitative and quantitative methods to determine:

- how roads change the community's vulnerability to HIV
- how roads change mobility patterns, and access to services
- health-seeking behaviour

The research results were used for the development of an eight-episode cartoon aimed at encouraging these populations to better protect themselves against the HIV virus.

#### TRUCK DRIVERS AND PUBLIC HEALTH STUDY

**Timeframe:** April 2006 - June 2006 **Location:** Northern, central and southern transport corridors

Migration and mobility across the Greater Mekong Sub-region is affecting public health of mobile populations. In Viet Nam, provinces with the highest prevalence of HIV, STIs and other public-health concerns also have the highest degrees of mobility. The Vietnamese Government has invested heavily in road construction and renovations, and major urban areas such as Ho Chi Minh City and Ha Noi now report that migrant populations comprise approximately 30 percent of the urban population.

Mobile populations, such as drivers, have considerably increased in numbers as population, migration and trade has increased. Separated from the support of their families and the norms and expectations of society, mobile and migrant populations are especially vulnerable to drug abuse, risky sexual behaviour, sexual exploitation, poor access to services and reproductive health problems.

The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) designed a project to address the needs of transport workers with the long-term goal to improve the health of long-distance road transport workers in the Greater Mekong Sub-region. Through this project, it was expected that transport workers would learn to adopted healthier lifestyles.

IOM facilitated research for UNESCAP to achieve the following:

- Determine the major risk factors relating to public health and HIV transmission among truck drivers
- Identify the most realistic public-health activities for truck drivers and determine barriers towards the use of condoms
- Identify existing health-care services used by truck drivers, including STI and HIV testing services, and determine the health-seeking behaviour of drivers
- Identify social networks amongst truck drivers and the community along major transport routes
- Estimate the populations of truck drivers along major transport routes.



### COMPLETED PROJECTS

# LABOUR MIGRANTS' HIV KNOWLEDGE AND BEHAVIOUR STUDY

#### Timeframe: October 2005 – September 2006 Location: Ha Noi and Ho Chi Minh City

Labour migrants overseas are particularly vulnerable to HIV. Countries with a long history of labour migration are now recognizing that an increasing proportion of migrants are returning home with HIV. The lack of protection against HIV is largely due to poor understanding and behaviour prior to overseas travel. Labour migration from Viet Nam is increasing and there are a number of training centres and locations established to train migrant workers.

The Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs (MOLISA) has developed a 2004–2010 plan to provide job training for up to 70 percent of the migrant workforce and expects the number of migrant workers to double during that time. The growing number of labour migrants travelling overseas, the vulnerability to HIV and the risk of HIV transmission when returning, indicates considerable need to reach migrant workers prior to their departure.

The project conducted qualitative and quantitative research with migrant workers in training centres in Viet Nam and at IOM offices in Ha Noi and Ho Chi Minh City, to assess migrant knowledge and behaviour related to HIV transmission, and developed information and educational materials.

#### MOBILITY AND HIV POLICY REVIEW

Timeframe: September 2005 – March 2007 Location: Ha Noi

The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) funded the Canada South East Asia Regional HIV/AIDS Programme (CSEARHAP) project to strengthen the national response of Thailand, Viet Nam, Cambodia and Lao PDR to reduce the vulnerability of both male and female mobile populations to HIV, in a regionally-coordinated and gendersensitive manner.

The project had a two-pronged approach which included supporting the implementation of the UN Regional Taskforce's 'Strategy on Mobility and HIV Vulnerability Reduction in the Greater Mekong Sub-region' and building capacity in the four project countries to develop and implement national work-plans that address the issues related to mobility and HIV. IOM facilitated a participatory assessment of policy and planning related to HIV and mobility at both national and provincial levels. This assessment identified policy gaps and opportunities, mechanisms, and challenges in the law and policy development, and reinforced processes relating to migration and HIV.

The activities included:

- National Policy Self Audit
- Migration and HIV policy documentation review
- Policy, planning and advocacy workshop
- Convening a meeting of key ministries





### PROPOSALS SUBMITTED TO DONORS



#### IMPROVING REMITTANCES MANAGEMENT AMONG MIGRANT DOMESTIC WORKERS AND SHORT-TERM CONTRACT WORKERS IN HA NOI

Duration: 18 months Location: Ha Noi

Despite high economic growth in Viet Nam in recent years, a concentration of investment and allocation of resources in urban areas, coupled with weak linkages to rural development, is increasing the poverty and development gap between urban and rural areas.

Remittances are an important component of household income, however, many obstacles continue to hinder effective management. Enhancing remittance management is a key tool for reducing poverty in rural areas of Viet Nam and will be especially effective when engaging not only money senders and receivers, but also formal financial intermediaries, microfinance institutions, financial cooperatives, non-financial institutions, policy makers and postal networks.

The purpose of this project is to:

- Increase the awareness and confidence in basic banking services for remitting money
- Manage savings by organizing training or informative packages for domestic workers coming from rural areas
- Provide feasible plans to promote innovative transfer mechanisms to rural areas and innovative financial services and products linked with remittances
- Promote linkages between post offices and banks to establish a remittance network able to reach to the commune level by organizing national and regional workshops

### PROPOSALS UNDER DEVELOPMENT

BUILDING STRONGER AND HEALTHIER CENTRAL HIGHLAND COMMUNITIES THROUGH INTEGRATION OF MARGINALIZED AND VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

**Duration:** 2 years **Location:** Kon Tum and Dak Lak Provinces, Central Highlands **Required Funding:** USD \$780,000

Despite impressive economic growth and rapid development in Viet Nam, social exclusion and growing disparities among various population groups are increasing. Community leaders have acknowledged the need for improved social and health services.

Through this project IOM intends to strengthen the economic status of marginalized, vulnerable populations of the Central Highlands by improving community resilience to absorb economic and social shock, and increasing youth opportunities and involvement.

#### ETHNIC MINORITY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT IN SON LA PROVINCE

Duration: 2 years Location: Son La Province Required Funding: USD \$2,000,000

The construction of a hydroelectric dam in Son La province will force approximately 90,000 people, 80% of whom are of Thai ethnicity, to relocate, many into areas inhabited by other ethnic groups. This resettlement is likely to result in increased poverty, conflict amongst ethnic groups, increased drug use, further isolation, increased vulnerability to HIV, STIs and other infections, as well as poor quality of life in general.

The objective of the Ethnic Minority Community Development project is to improve the quality of life and opportunities for positive change in rural communities, by supporting low-income, rural ethnic minority communities to build the assets they need to overcome poverty and develop in a sustainable, enabling manner.





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MOVEMENT MANAGEMENT, AND RESPONSE TO EMERGENCY AND POST-CRISIS MIGRATION



### CURRENT PROJECTS

#### ASSISTED VOLUNTARY RETURN

Duration: Ongoing Location: Throughout Viet Nam

There are a large number of illegal migrants in the United Kingdom, a significant number of whom are Vietnamese. IOM Viet Nam works with IOM in the UK and the Government of the United Kingdom to implement the reintegration component of a voluntary return programme.

This project includes providing assistance to returnees in developing business proposals, which are then funded by the programme. The aim is to help voluntary returnees reintegrate into their community. TRAVEL ASSISTANCE FOR MIGRANTS

**Duration:** Ongoing **Location:** Ha Noi and Ho Chi Minh City

IOM offers comprehensive and reliable movement assistance to many migrants who have never traveled by airplane or to a foreign country before.

In many cases, as part of this support, IOM provides airport assistance at departure, during transit and upon arrival at the port of entry into the migrant's new country. IOM's arrival assistance is particularly helpful to new migrants, facilitating smooth processing at foreign customs and immigration arrival checkpoints. SUPPORT TO THE US GOVERNMENT'S HUMANITARIAN RESETTLEMENT ACTIVITIES

**Duration:** Ongoing **Location:** Ho Chi Minh City

At the request of the US Government, IOM performs government mandated medical assessments and transportation for Vietnamese applicants who are selected for resettlement in the United States under the activity.

IOM's arrival assistance is particularly helpful to new migrants, facilitating smooth processing at foreign customs and immigration arrival checkpoints.



### COMPLETED PROJECTS

EVACUATION OF VIETNAMESE WORKERS FROM LEBANON

**Timeframe:** July and August 2006 **Location:** Lebanon

In 2006, during the crisis in Lebanon, IOM arranged the safe evacuation and transport of seventy-seven Vietnamese nationals who wished to return home.

As part of the process, IOM emergency operations staff on the ground in Lebanon and Syria assisted the Viet Nam Ministry of Foreign Affairs representative with logistical support, facilitating expeditious travel documentation issuance for the group of evacuees. EVACUATION OF VIETNAMESE WORKERS FROM IRAQ

Timeframe: November 1990 - January 1991 Location: Iraq

In 1990, prior to the start of the First Gulf War, IOM evacuated some 17,000 Vietnamese workers from Iraq to Viet Nam at the request of the Vietnamese Government. Funding of the operation was provided by the international community.

In 2006, during the crisis in Lebanon, IOM arranged the safe evacuation and transport of seventy-seven Vietnamese nationals who wished to return home.







# MIGRANT INTEGRATION



### CURRENT PROJECTS

AWARENESS RAISING AND INFORMATION DISSEMINATION PROJECT FOR KOREA-BOUND MIGRANT BRIDES

#### Timeframe: July and August 2007

**Location:** Provinces with significant outflows of Vietnamese women marrying Korean men

Since 2001, the number of brides migrating to Korea has increased dramatically. Currently, more than 12,000 Vietnamese women migrate to Korea each year after marrying Korean nationals in Viet Nam. This is often through a broker-arranged process. The aim of this project is to provide information to women considering marrying Korean men with regard to what entering into such a marriage entails as well as to provide accurate information to those who have already made the commitment.

One component of the project is creating awareness raising materials for potential migrant brides in Viet Nam. A second component is training counselors from the Viet Nam Women's Union and Justice Departments so that they may disseminate accurate information during required marriage interviews. It is hoped that through the dual-approach of providing informational materials of available support networks to migrants in Korea, in addition to brief counseling sessions, migrant brides will be empowered to assert their personal rights in Korea and seek assistance when needed.

#### PRE-DEPARTURE ORIENTATION FOR KOREA-BOUND MIGRANT BRIDES

#### **Duration:** Ongoing **Location:** Ho Chi Minh City

In response to the rapid increase in the number of Vietnamese brides migrating to Korea through a two to three-day broker-arranged marriage process, IOM is implementing a pre-departure orientation programme targeting women marrying Korean nationals. In the first four months of the project's implementation --- October 2007 through January 2008 --- more than 1,100 women attended the day-long class which provides basic information regarding Korean culture, societal norms, rights and citizenship. The project also includes the operation of a toll-free telephone hotline, whose trained counsellors provide advice and support on the topic of marriage migration. The assistance provided through the class and telephone hotline will assist this group of young women, typically from poor, rural Mekong Delta communities, to become increasingly empowered and better prepared to face the twin challenges of cross-cultural marriage coupled with migration.



# FACILITATED MIGRATION





### CURRENT PROJECTS

SERVICE DELIVERY PARTNERSHIPS

**Duration:** Ongoing **Location:** Ha Noi and Ho Chi Minh City

The IOM offices in Ha Noi and Ho Chi Minh City are the designated visa application submission sites on behalf of the Australian Department for Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) and Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC). IOM staff assist applicants by verifying that all necessary documentation is present before forwarding the application to the Embassy or Consulate for processing. IOM assists with both permanent and temporary applications for the Australian Government, and temporary applications for the Canadian Government.

Before IOM provided this visa application submission service, all applicants from Ha Noi applying for temporary visas to Canada had to do so in Ho Chi Minh City. Under the new arrangement, applicants are able to apply at the IOM office in Ha Noi as well. The new process offers longer service hours, an easily accessible forum to ask visa related questions and on-line case status tracking. Applicants applying for visas for Canada may also submit their applications by mail, thereby improving access and saving on travel costs. With IOM's assistance, Australian and Canadian visa processing times in Viet Nam have been significantly reduced.

#### FACILITATING MIGRATION

**Duration:** Ongoing **Location:** Ha Noi and Ho Chi Minh City

In support of migrants and at the request of local Embassies and Consulates, IOM provides counseling, informational resources, fingerprinting, and logistical assistance to both onshore and offshore immigration processing posts.







# LABOUR MIGRATION



## CURRENT PROJECTS

SUPPORT TO THE COLOMBO PROCESS (MINISTERIAL CONSULTATIONS ON OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT AND CONTRACTUAL LABOUR)

**Duration:** Ongoing **Location:** Asia Region

IOM facilitates an annual Ministerial Level meeting in the region to:

- Share experiences, lessons learned and best practices on overseas employment policies and approaches
- Consult on issues faced by overseas workers, countries of origin and destination
- Propose practical solutions for the well being of vulnerable overseas workers
- Optimize development benefits
- Enhance dialogue with countries of destination
- Review and monitor the implementation of the recommendations and identify further steps for action
- Conduct labour migration workshops for Government officials and organizations, and also supports officials attending workshops on related issues in the region and around the world.



TECHNICAL SUPPORT FOR MIGRATION MANAGEMENT AND CAPACITY BUILDING

### PROPOSALS SUBMITTED TO DONORS

#### DEVELOPMENT OF MIGRANT PROFILES AND A COMPREHENSIVE MIGRATION DATABASE

#### Duration: 2 years Location: Throughout Viet Nam

Viet Nam is experiencing increasing migration and mobility, with greater numbers of labour migrants, travellers, internal migrants, as well as women marrying foreign husbands and moving overseas. As suggested by the Commission of the European Communities, collecting information on migration provides support to policy makers, government implementers, destination countries and migrants, resulting in a better understanding of the migration environment and issues around safe migration.

Migration profiles aim to gather information on such issues as:

- the labour market
- unemployment rates
- labour demand and supply
- present or potential skill shortages by sector and occupation
- skills needs in the country
- skills within the Diaspora
- migration flows
- incoming and outgoing financial flows linked with migration (including migrant remittances)
- relevant gender and age aspects

The profiles will also include an overview of the national migration and labour policy framework, including legal instruments relevant to migration.

The migration profile in Viet Nam, will provide the opportunity to bring together the various, relevant Government officials, build capacity on migration issues, and provide both Viet Nam and the EU member states with a detailed summary of the migration issues.

### COMPLETED PROJECTS

SUPPORT TO THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AS THE SECRETARIAT OF THE ASIA-PACIFIC CONSULTATION ON REFUGEES, DISPLACED PERSONS AND MIGRATION IN GENERAL

#### Timeframe: 2002 Location: Ha Noi

IOM in Viet Nam provided technical and administrative support to the Government of Viet Nam to participate in the process of the Asia-Pacific Consultation on Refugees, Displaced Persons, and Migration in general. In 2002, in collaboration with UNHCR, IOM Viet Nam supported the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Viet Nam by performing the functions of the secretariat and hosting the 7th Plenary Meeting of the process. The support was provided with the provision of office space for the secretariat, a salary for a secretary and an assistant, administrative and logistical arrangements, and technical input.

# DONORS TO IOM ACTIVITIES IN VIET NAM



Government of the United Kingdom



Asian Development Bank



Government of Australia

Government of the

Netherlands



Government of New Zealand

United Nations ESCAP

Nations Economic

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Commission for Asia and the Pacific



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