



ENHANCED COMMUNITY HIV LINK - SOUTHERN

MAY 2016 - 2021 | IMPLEMENTER: CENTRE FOR PROMOTION OF QUALITY OF LIFE (LIFE) | PLANNED BUDGET: \$2,100,000

Vietnam's HIV epidemic affects different populations in different parts of the country. However, it remains concentrated among three high risk populations: persons who inject drugs; men who have sex with men (MSM); and female sex workers. MSM can often be hard to reach due to the stigma surrounding HIV and their reluctance to visit public clinics. Since HIV is more prevalent among MSM and numerous studies have highlighted risky behavior in the MSM community, the project identifies high risk, hard-to-reach MSM and people living with HIV in Ho Chi Minh City and connects them to testing and treatment services.

Community Based Organizations (CBOs) have the potential to provide relevant, effective and efficient services to people at risk of contracting and transmitting HIV. However, in order to sustainably provide HIV related health services, these CBOs need support to run their organizations more successfully. This project helps CBOs strengthen their technical and advocacy abilities, enabling them to effectively reach most at-risk populations.

RESULTS TO DATE

Between May 2016 and March 2017, the project has provided HIV prevention, care and support services to more than 14,700 high risk individuals and people living with HIV in Ho Chi Minh City. It has identified over 900 new HIV cases and successfully linked almost all of these cases and over 800 existing cases to HIV/AIDS care and treatment. The project has also helped six leading CBOs obtain legal registrations and trained 17 CBOs in communication, branding and public speaking to help them effectively advocate for government recognition and support.

In the photo: Local organizations participate in a training to build mentoring and networking skills. (LIFE)