USAID SUSTAINABLE FINANCING FOR HIV

Over the past few years, Vietnam has been transitioning its HIV response from international donor to domestic financing. To support this transition, the USAID Sustainable Financing for HIV project is helping strengthen the capacity of the Government of Vietnam (GVN) to provide financial protection to Vietnamese persons living with HIV (PLHIV) by minimizing out-of-pocket expenses for HIV services. The project focuses its assistance at the national and provincial levels, with specific attention to Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh City, Tien Giang, Tay Ninh and Dong Nai provinces.

INTEGRATING HIV TREATMENT FACILITIES INTO SOCIAL HEALTH INSURANCE
Through a combination of capacity building, supportive supervision, and advocacy, USAID Sustainable Financing for HIV is helping the last remaining HIV outpatient clinics fully integrate into public health facilities and provide HIV services through the social health insurance (SHI) scheme.

DEVELOPING PROVINCIAL SUBSIDY PLANS FOR FINANCIAL PROTECTION
Many PLHIV are unable to pay for SHI premiums or ARV copayments. Hence, USAID is helping provinces estimate the budget needed to subsidize these costs and track their financial commitments. The project is working in the five focus provinces to customize and implement subsidy plans, as well as support the GVN in national scale-up.

GENERATING EVIDENCE TO ADVOCATE FOR SUSTAINABLE FINANCING OF HIV PREVENTION SERVICES
The USAID Sustainable Financing for HIV project is estimating the costs and financial implications of domestically financing HIV preventive services to help the GVN decide which services should be covered by SHI or by other forms of domestic funding. The project is supporting the Ministry of Health in revising the health insurance law based on this evidence to expand coverage of select preventative services, which will be submitted to the National Assembly for approval in 2020.

IMPROVING FINANCIAL PLANNING FOR ARVS AND TRACKING EXPENDITURES
To accelerate and increase procurement of ARVs through SHI, USAID is guiding provinces on the reimbursement process. The project is also helping the Vietnam Administration for HIV/AIDS Control to track national HIV expenditures that will be used to guide the development of the national HIV Strategy 2021-2030 and supporting Vietnam Social Security in developing and using a financial projection model for budgeting and planning.

EXPECTED RESULTS
By the end of 2020, the project aims to have 80 percent of HIV patients registered under SHI receiving services through SHI-eligible health facilities in supported provinces, and no HIV patients will pay out of pocket for HIV services regardless of their SHI enrollment status. Additionally, Vietnam will have a sustainable financing plan in place for HIV prevention services.

*In the photo: An HIV patient using health insurance card to get HIV services (Health Finance and Governance project)*