



ENHANCED COMMUNITY HIV LINK - SOUTHERN

2016 - 2021 | IMPLEMENTER: CENTRE FOR PROMOTION OF QUALITY OF LIFE (LIFE) |
PLANNED BUDGET: \$4,175,000

In recent years, the main cause of HIV/AIDS spread in Vietnam is sexual transmission through men who have sex with men (MSM) and transgender women (TGW) who can be hard to reach due to the stigma surrounding HIV and their reluctance to visit public clinics. The project focuses on identifying high risk, hard-to-reach MSM and TGW (also referred to as key populations or KPs) in Ho Chi Minh City (HCMC) and Dong Nai province and connects them to testing, antiretroviral (ARV) treatment if diagnosed positive and pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) if tested negative.

Community based organizations (CBOs) have the potential to provide effective services tailored to the need of people at risk of contracting and transmitting HIV. However, to sustainably provide community-based HIV related health services, these CBOs need support to run their organizations more successfully. The Enhanced Community HIV Link – Southern (C-Link Southern) project helps CBOs strengthen their technical and advocacy abilities, enabling them to effectively reach most at-risk populations and share success stories with local authorities and other stakeholders.

RESULTS TO DATE

In HCMC, between May 2016 and December 2020, the project has provided HIV prevention, care and support services to approximately 80,000 contacts who are at high risk of HIV. It has identified over 6,000 new HIV-positive cases and successfully linked almost all cases to HIV/AIDS care and treatment in HCMC and Dong Nai. In FY2020, C-Link Southern provided HIV screening tests to 21,575 clients and referred 1,768 new HIV cases to HIV treatment.

During 2020, the project put an emphasis on continuous quality improvement for the services provided. The existing data management system was upgraded to a web-based application – D-Health – with real-time input from clients and CBO caregivers, which allows the project and the CBO management staff to efficiently monitor clients' service uptake and program performance. Clients can also provide feedback on the quality of the services used via D-Health. Additionally, C-Link Southern has further expanded the Community Public Partnership (C2P) model between CBOs and district health facilities that enhances two-way feedback on clients' service uptake and treatment adherence. The Community Public Partnership facilitates a mechanism for CBO caregivers, with proper COVID prevention measures, to receive ARVs on behalf of immuno-compromised patients to reduce patients' risk to potential COVID exposure, ensuring medication delivery and continuous treatment.

Lastly, the project has not only created a more enabling environment for CBOs to work but also built their capacity towards self-reliance through training on project development and resource mobilization. During FY2020, six CBOs have successfully mobilized non-USAID funding to expand their work.

In the photos: CBOs participate in developing D-Health application. (LIFE)