



Hanoi Headlines

December 2010



U.S. Ambassador Michalak Michalak, fourth from right, Hanoi's Department of Health Director, Le Anh Tuan, center, and USAID/Vietnam's Jonathan Ross, far left, open a methadone clinic in Hanoi, supported by USAID/PEPFAR. Photo: Richard Nyberg, USAID

New Methadone and HIV Outpatient Clinics Open with USAID Support

Commemorating World AIDS Day marking 20 years of national commitment to address HIV/AIDS, Vietnamese officials opened two new clinics in Hanoi showcasing American support to address HIV/AIDS. On November 29, officials opened a methadone clinic for heroin drug users in the city's Son Tay District — the third methadone clinic USAID has supported in Hanoi and the 13th supported by the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) in Vietnam. PEPFAR supports methadone in Vietnam to reduce HIV and related diseases among heroin users, reduce drug dependence, and support drug users' reintegration into the community.

"Since 2004, the United States has provided more than \$400 million, which accounts for over 70 percent of financial resources allocated for HIV programs in Vietnam," Ambassador Michael Michalak told officials and residents in Son Tay. Assistance includes training of health and outreach workers, counseling and testing, equipping health facilities, supporting clinic staffing, and providing all of the methadone and over 70 percent of the anti-retroviral treatment in the country.

On November 30, authorities opened an HIV outpatient clinic in Hanoi's Soc Son District. This facility will provide people living with HIV in Soc Son and surrounding districts with high-quality clinical care, support, and treatment services for 400 patients in its first year. It will also offer voluntary counseling and testing and prevention counseling for 750 individuals over the next 12 months. It will also provide services to people staying in a state-run drug rehabilitation center nearby.

U.S. Supports New TB Laboratory at Hanoi Hospital of Lung Disease

The Hanoi Hospital of Lung Disease today formally opened a specially designed and highly bio-secure tuberculosis laboratory funded by USAID to improve case detection of multidrug-resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB) in Vietnam.

The facility is one of five TB laboratories which have been strengthened with \$1.4 million in USAID funding through the TB Control Assistance Program (TB-CAP) project. Since 2009, the project has provided funding for facility layout, equipment and training in five MDR-TB laboratories in Can Tho, Danang, Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh City, and Thanh Hoa.

"These bio-safety labs, with their special equipment and highly trained staff, are essential in the fight against TB," said Acting USAID Mission Director Michael Foster, noting that the labs provide access to rapid diagnostic and treatment services for patients in Hanoi and other provinces. Several laboratories in Vietnam, including the one at the Hanoi Hospital of Lung Disease, have recently been upgraded to bio-safety level 2, commonly referred to as BSL2. These labs have features such as special cabinets that keep TB bacteria away from workers, and autoclaves, which treat and sanitize waste.

According to the World Health Organization, Vietnam is ranked 12th of 22 high-burden TB countries in the world, with about 180,000 TB cases reported each year.

In addition to the TB-CAP project, implemented by the Dutch KNCV Tuberculosis Foundation, USAID supports comprehensive TB and TB/HIV programming through Path, the University Research Company, Management Sciences for Health, and the World Health Organization.



Vietnamese officials examine bio-safety cabinets funded by USAID for a TB lab in Hanoi. Photo: Richard Nyberg, USAID.

Vietnam and U.S. Strengthen Cooperation on Dioxin Cleanup in Danang

HANOI, December 30, 2010 – The governments of Vietnam and the United States today signed a memorandum of intent (MOI) paving the way for cleanup of dioxin at Danang Airport. The MOI between the Department of Science, Technology and Environment of the Ministry of National Defense, Vietnam's ministry responsible for remediation, and the U.S. Agency for International Development confirms the mutual desire of both governments to cooperate in hopes that cleanup can begin in July 2011 and be completed in October 2013. Since 2007, the U.S. Government has provided \$23.3 million for environmental, health, and disabilities activities in Danang.

Flood Relief Assists Central Vietnam

The U.S. Government provided \$50,000 in emergency assistance in Vietnam's central provinces, after heavy rains from Tropical Depression 14 caused widespread flooding. Following an appeal issued on October 7, 2010 by the People's Aid Coordinating Committee for emergency assistance, U.S. Ambassador to Vietnam Michael W. Michalak issued a disaster declaration, making way for a grant by USAID's Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance to the International Federation of the Red Cross and the Vietnamese Red Cross.

USAID Backs Financial Sector Oversight and Enforcement in Vietnam

In collaboration with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, and the Vietnam State Securities Commission (SSC) in Hanoi, USAID held five days of training in October. The training is helping the SSC strengthen the legal and policy framework for capital market development, including the development of the Securities Law, and build capacity of SSC staff and other market stakeholders in Vietnam.

Project Supports Trade Agreements

In partnership with the Government of Vietnam, USAID has launched a three-year project to continue supporting national efforts to enhance trade and Vietnam's fuller integration into the global economy. The project will assist the Government of Vietnam in implementing new legal documents to fulfill the country's international commitments in the World Trade Organization and other trade and investment related agreements. USAID will work with the main Government counterpart, the Ministry of Justice, and other Vietnamese authorities and support Vietnam's further global economic integration. The \$11.7 million project builds on USAID's previous Support for Trade Acceleration (USAID/STAR) projects.

Since 2001, USAID has provided technical support to Vietnamese authorities on legislation such as trade-facilitating laws on the labor code, credit institutions, securities, standards, and arbitration. Recent activities include technical assistance to Vietnamese officials on regulations affecting imports/exports, investment, and intellectual property rights.

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USAID Supports Global Dance4Life Program to Fight HIV Stigma



Participants enjoy the USAID-sponsored dance4life activity in Hanoi. Photo: Richard Nyberg, USAID

On November 27, USAID funded and took part in a live television broadcast on national Vietnamese television drawing 1,000 local high school students who danced together with local celebrities and tens of thousands of young people in 27 countries around the world. Connected via satellite, the young dancers reminded world leaders of their pledges to address HIV and AIDS as part of the Millennium Development Goals.

Journalists Trained as Behavior Change Agents for a Healthy Society

USAID's Avian and Pandemic Influenza Initiative conducted a one-day training workshop on avian and pandemic influenza and behavior change messaging on September 6, 2010, in Hanoi for 20 journalists representing national and local media. As a result, news on USAID's Avian and Pandemic Influenza Initiative and its community-based surveillance activities were reported in television programs, newspapers, and government agency websites in the provinces of Ha Nam, Hung Yen, and through national media channels.

USAID, JICA Launch Cooperation to Support Infrastructure Development

USAID and the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA) signed a memorandum of understanding on September 7 to coordinate support for the Ministry of Planning and Investment and other government agencies in developing infrastructure planning to attract private sector financing of infrastructure.