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Childbirth
in Ethnic Minority Communities
A Qualitative Study in Binh Dinh Province



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HANOI, OCTOBER 2008

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List of Abbreviations

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| BCC | Behaviour Change Communication |
| DOH | Department of Health |
| ICPD | International Conference on Population and Development |
| IEC | Information-Education-Communication |
| IUD | Intra-Uterine Device |
| MDG | Millennium Development Goals |
| MOH | Ministry of Health |
| NZAID | New Zealand's International Aid & Development Agency |
| PCPFC | Provincial Committee for Population, Family and Children |
| RH | Reproductive Health |
| STDs | Sexually Transmitted Diseases |
| SWOT | Strength, Weakness, Opportunity, Threat |
| UNFPA | United Nations Population Fund |

Preface

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), in collaboration with the Binh Dinh People's Committee, is in the final implementation stage of a US\$3 million project on maternal and child health scheduled for completion at the end of 2008. The project is funded by the New Zealand International Aid and Development Agency (NZAID).

In 2005, the mid-term review concluded that, while the project had made positive progress in delivering quality reproductive health services to the urban and lowland populations of Binh Dinh province, this was less evident among the more vulnerable ethnic minority people living in mountainous and remote areas, and among migrants and youth.

In response to this situation, a qualitative research study was undertaken in September, 2007, led by Mr. La Manh Cuong, lecturer from the Hanoi School of Public Health, to determine the current situation and to make recommendations for improvements. The study included a short field visit to 3 of the project communes of the H're, Bana and Cham minority groups in An Lao, Vinh Thanh and Van Canh districts, respectively.

Particularly, the research team focused on identifying the strengths, weaknesses, threats and opportunities inherent in the existing reproductive health service and delivery network available to ethnic minority people living in these geographically challenging areas. This report examines the results of the research study, raises discussion on culture and traditions that prevent optimum access to the health network and finally and makes recommendations on how RH service delivery might be improved.

I would like to thank Mr. La Manh Cuong for completing the study. I would also like to thank Dr. Duong Van Dat and Dr. Nguyen Tien Dung of UNFPA Viet Nam for providing coordination and technical support for the study. Special thanks to Mr John Egan of NZAID for his constructive and valuable comments.

On behalf of UNFPA, I uphold the view that the findings in this report will be particularly useful to policy makers, programme managers, health professionals and donors in designing and implementing more appropriate reproductive health programmes for ethnic minority people, in alignment with the Millennium Development Goals and commitments of the International Conference on Population and Development.

Ian Howie

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