

UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND



# PROGRAMME PORTFOLIO VIETNAM



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*'Investments in reproductive health save and improve lives, slow the spread of HIV/AIDS and encourage gender equality. These in turn help to stabilize population growth and reduce poverty. Investments in reproductive health extend from the individual to the family, and from the family to the world.'*

**Ha Noi April 2004**

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# Acronyms

<b>AIDS</b>	Acquired Immuno Deficiency Syndrome
<b>ARH</b>	Adolescent Reproductive Health
<b>BCC</b>	Behaviour Change Communication
<b>FP</b>	Family Planning
<b>DOH</b>	Department of Health
<b>HIV</b>	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
<b>HMIS</b>	Health Management and Information System
<b>ICPD</b>	International Conference on Population and Development
<b>IEC</b>	Information Education Communication
<b>IUD</b>	Intra Uterine Device
<b>MCH</b>	Maternal and Child Health
<b>MOH</b>	Ministry of Health
<b>NGO</b>	Non-Governmental Organisation
<b>PCPFC</b>	Provincial Committee for Population, Family and Children
<b>RH</b>	Reproductive Health
<b>RHIYA</b>	Reproductive Health Initiative for Youth in Asia
<b>RTI</b>	Reproductive Tract Infection
<b>STD</b>	Sexually Transmitted Disease
<b>TOT</b>	Training of Trainer
<b>UNFPA</b>	United Nations Population Fund
<b>UNAIDS</b>	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
<b>VCPFC</b>	Vietnam Committee for Population Family and Children

# Introduction: UNFPA's Support to Vietnam

Since 1977, UNFPA has provided assistance to Vietnam in the areas of population and reproductive health, including maternal and child health, and family planning.

UNFPA's work in Vietnam has strengthened the capacity of the Vietnamese Committee for Population, Family, and Children, and the Ministry of Health and related agencies to manage national population and reproductive health programmes. The prevalence of contraceptive use has risen and the national total fertility rate has decreased. Measurable improvements in the delivery of reproductive health services have been recorded throughout the country.

In close collaboration with the Vietnamese Government, UNFPA developed the Sixth Country Programme of assistance to Vietnam for the period 2001-2005, to assist in implementing the new National Population Strategy for 2001-2010 and the first ever National Strategy for Reproductive Health Care for 2001-2010. The programme builds on the experiences and lessons learned through previous programmes and responds to the country's population dynamic and reproductive health needs.

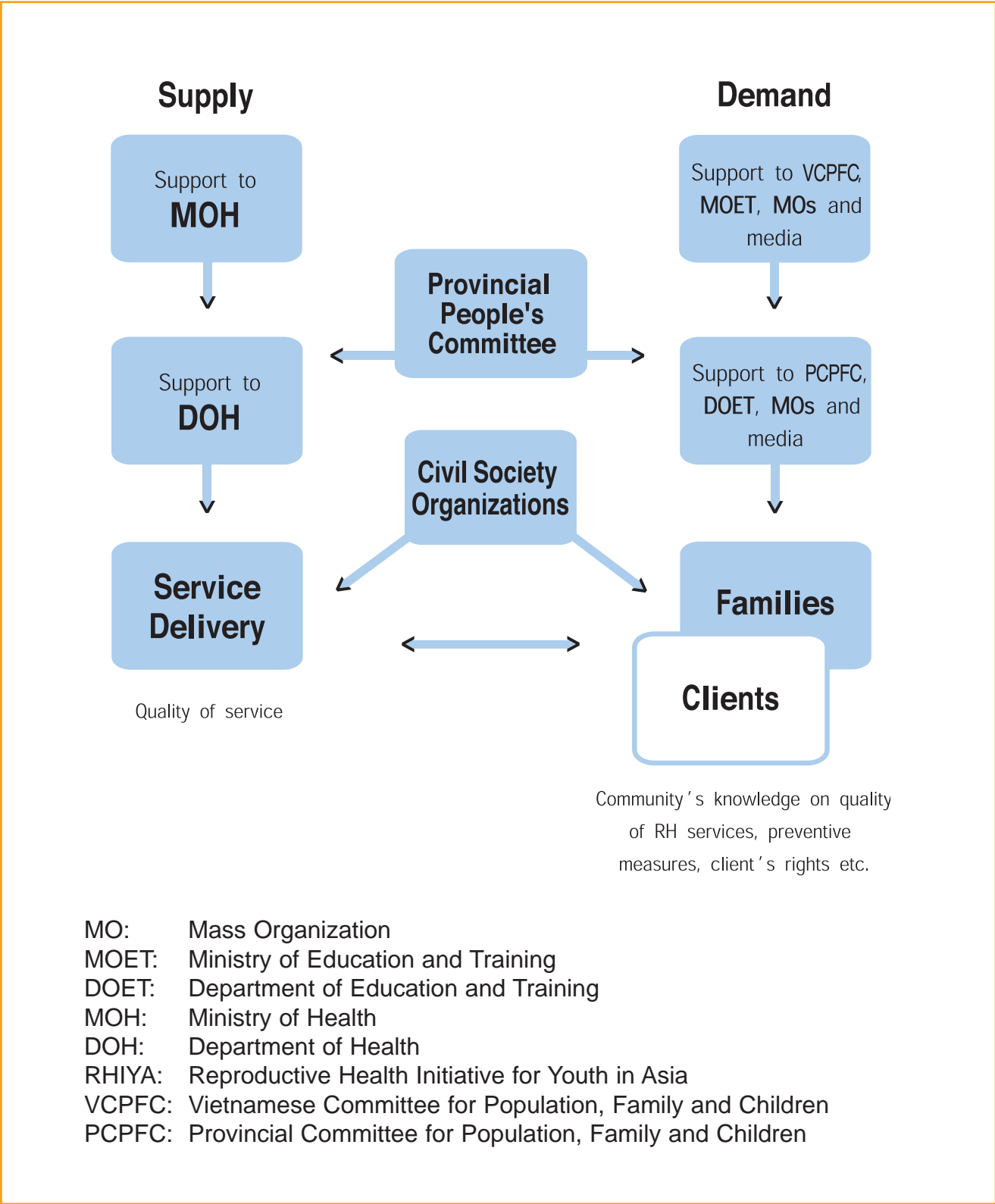
The programme aims to contribute to the attainment of a higher quality of life for the Vietnamese people through improved reproductive health, a harmonious balance between population dynamics and sustainable socio-economic development, and the achievement of equal opportunities in social development.

The focus of the programme is to support Vietnam in improving the relationship between reproductive health service providers and clients to ensure that high quality reproductive health services, including counselling, are provided with respect for the rights of the client. The figure 'Overview of UNFPA Programme' gives a picture of how this will be achieved by providing assistance to government institutions at different levels as well as working directly with people at community level.

First, UNFPA will support the health sector to improve the supply of reproductive health (RH) services. Assistance will be provided to RH services. Assistance will be provided to build the capacity of the Ministry of Health (MOH) and departments of health (DOH) in 12 selected provinces. Service providers will be trained and essential equipment and drugs provided where it is needed. Second, UNFPA will work to increase the demand for high quality services by supporting the population sector, the education sector, mass organisations and the media, to carry out activities aimed at encouraging people to demand quality reproductive health information, services and counselling. In selected areas, special emphasis will be put on adolescents and youth through the Reproductive Health Initiative for Youth in Asia (RHIYA)



# Overview of UNFPA programme



## PROJECTS AT CENTRAL LEVEL

### Support for Management and Co-ordination of CP6

#### Basic Project Data

**Project partner:** Ministry of Planning and Investment

**Project Code:** VIE/01/P01

**Duration:** 2002-2005

**Executing agencies:** Ministry of Planning and Investment and UNFPA

**Implementing agencies:** Ministry of Planning and Investment, Office of the Government, Ministry of Finance, and Ministry of Foreign Affairs

**UNFPA contribution:** US\$ 418,100

**Government contribution:** US\$ 30,000 (In kind: US\$ 30,000)

#### Background

The Ministry of Planning and Investment (MPI) acts as the focal government institution for the co-ordination and management of Official Development Aid (ODA). The ministry collaborates with the Government Office, the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to manage, co-ordinate and monitor ODA resources, which includes the financial support from UNFPA.

UNFPA collaborates closely with ministries on project planning and implementation, and a significant proportion of the projects are executed on a national level. During the Fifth UNFPA Country Programme, UNFPA and MPI set up a mechanism for co-ordination and management of the UNFPA Country Programme and drafted the Accounting Manual and National Execution (NEX) Manual that provides the legal background for the management of project activities. However, the capacity of concerned officials and project personnel in management, monitoring, evaluation and support for project implementation is somewhat limited and the application of NEX is inconsistent.

#### Long-term objective

To contribute to the attainment of a higher quality of life for the people of Vietnam through improved reproductive health, and to contribute to a harmonious balance between population dynamics, stable socio-economic development, and equal opportunities in social development;

To contribute to the improvement of the integration and implementation of policies, programmes and Population and Reproductive Health strategies, gender and development; and

To contribute to building institutional capacity for national execution and strengthen co-ordination of implementation of the population programme.

#### Short-term objectives

1. Strengthen the capacity of government co-ordinating agencies in management, monitoring and evaluation of ODA in general and the UNFPA programme in particular.
2. Strengthen the capacity of government implementing agencies and project management boards in NEX and in the implementation of the projects.

#### Activities

1. Finalise the NEX Manual.
2. Apply the Accounting Manual for all UNFPA projects.
3. Improve the capacity of Government coordinating agencies on NEX modality, management, and coordination of the UNFPA programme and projects.
4. Meet to review and co-ordinate UNFPA programmes.
5. Train project staff and accountants on NEX, project management and accounting.
6. Conduct monitoring and project review meetings.





# Strengthen the Capacity for Integrated Population and Development Planning

### Basic Project Data

**Project partner:** Ministry of Planning and Investment

**Project Code:** VIE/01/P14

**Duration:** 2002-2005

**Executing agencies:** Ministry of Planning and Investment and UNFPA

**Implementing agencies:** The Department for Cultural and Social Affairs, The Ministry of Planning and Investment

**UNFPA contribution:** US\$ 487,300

**Government contribution:** US\$ 50,000 (In cash: VND 50,000,000, In kind: VND 700,000,000)

### Background

The size, structure, geographical distribution and other demographic characteristics of the Vietnamese population are rapidly changing. Within the next 20 years, even if the achieved rate of fertility reduction is sustained, the population size will continue to grow, and the size of specific age cohorts such as young adults will rapidly increase. Improved planning will require visionary ideas and systematic policies and programmes.

Population data in the planning and policy making process has been used inconsistently and insufficiently, at least partly due to a lack of any unified and institutionalised guidelines. Leaders of different sectors and levels have not fully recognised the relationship between population and development, nor the need for integrating population factors into planning. Manuals on methods for integrating population variables into planning in labour and employment, health and sustainable development were developed by the Department for Social and Cultural Affairs of the Ministry of Planning and Investment (MPI) during UNFPA's Fifth Country Programme, 1997-2000, but are yet to be tested or applied.

### Long-term objective

To strengthen the national capacity in development planning in order to contribute to improved integration and implementation of population, reproductive health, gender and development policies, programmes and strategies.

### Short-term objectives

1. To increase the awareness of population and development, thereby strengthening the capacity to analyse and utilise population and socio-economic data and research results for planning and policy making processes.
2. To improve the capacity of planners in integrating population factors into social development planning.

### Activities

1. Improve skills of planners from the MPI and other concerned ministries to analyse and utilise data from the 1989 and 1999 Population Census.
2. Develop and test a training manual on the methods for integrated population and development planning.
3. Conduct advocacy activities to gain the support of leaders from the MPI and other key ministries and institutions for the utilisation of the manual.
4. Use the manual in training and encourage its application by the planning sector at the central and local level.
5. Strengthen the capacity of the MPI in project management and implementation

# Training of Leaders, Managers and Media Practitioners

### Basic Project Data

**Project partner:** Ho Chi Minh National Academy of Politics

**Project Code:** VIE/01/P09

**Duration:** 2002-2005

**Executing agencies:** Ho Chi Minh National Academy of Politics and UNFPA

**Implementing agencies:** Ho Chi Minh National Academy of Politics

**UNFPA contribution:** US\$ 1,379,300 (US\$ 24,300 from UNAIDS Program Acceleration Fund)

**Government contribution:** US\$ 220,000 (In cash US\$ 10,000, In kind: US\$ 210,000)

### Background

The Ho Chi Minh National Academy of Politics (HCMA) is a national institution that trains key leaders and managers of the Communist Party of Vietnam, the Government, social organisations at all levels and members of the media. The trainees of HCMA and sub-academies in Hanoi, Da Nang and Ho Chi Minh City are leaders and managers from central, provincial and district levels. The academy also guides the training programmes in 61 city and provincial political institutes, where trainees are communal managers.

During UNFPA's Fifth Country Programme, HCMA worked with UNFPA to shift the training curricula from demography to population and development (PopDev) and reproductive health (RH), in order to train policy makers on PopDev issues and strengthen the capacity for those in the media to advocate for them. This resulted in increased awareness among managers, policy makers and the media.

The knowledge of lecturers and researchers on PopDev and RH issues is, however, still limited, especially for issues such as the quality of RH care and integration of PopDev and RH into the socio-economic development process. The curriculum needs updating to reflect the programme of action agreed at the International Conference on Population and Development held in Cairo in 1994 and the National Strategies for Population and RH Care of Vietnam for the period 2001-2010.

### Long-term objectives

To contribute to the attainment of a higher quality of life for the people of Vietnam through improved reproductive health, and to contribute to a harmonious balance between population dynamics and sustainable socio-economic development;

To contribute to the improved integration and implementation of policies, programmes and strategies on population, RH, adolescent reproductive health (ARH), gender and development;

To contribute directly to increased awareness on population, RH, ARH, reproductive rights and gender issues integrated into the training system of government officials, media practitioners and members of mass organisations.

### Short-term objectives

1. To strengthen the training capacity of the HCMA, sub-academies and selected provincial political schools on PopDev and RH issues and to have PopDev and RH issues incorporated into regular training programmes.
2. To increase the awareness and support of leaders and managers regarding the integration of PopDev and RH issues into socio-economic development programmes.
3. To improve the knowledge and skills of the media in the integration of PopDev, RH issues and gender concerns into existing media programmes.

## Activities

1. Review and revise the existing curricula and develop new textbooks on the subject of population at the sociology department of HCMA and sub-academies and on the subject of population communication at the Sub-Academy of Journalism and Communication (SAJC).
2. Develop trainers' guides for leaders and managers at HCMA and SAJC. These are to be based on the updated HCMA and SAJC textbooks and curricula, and contain the training programme, course manual and teaching aids.
3. Improve PopDev- and RH-related knowledge, teaching and research skills of trainers of HCMA and Sub-Academies.  
Materials are to be revised and developed; core trainer of HCMA and SAJC are to be trained on PopDev, RH and teaching methodologies. Some managers will take part in overseas study tours to learn about other PopDev and RH training programmes. Others will be sponsored to attend training courses and/or participate in international conferences and meetings.
4. Integrate PopDev and RH issues into the regular curricula of relevant subjects at HCMA and SAJC.

5. Develop and implement a sample module on 'PopDev/RH integration' for provincial political schools.
6. Strengthen the capacity for project management and implementation of HCMA.
7. Increase the support of Party and Government leaders and managers for PopDev and RH issues, and improve their skills to integrate these issues into socio-economic development programmes. Party, Government, mass organisation leaders and teaching staff of different departments of HCMA are to receive training on PopDev and RH issues, the new population and RH strategies and how to implement these strategies effectively. Information bulletins on policy-related PopDev/RH activities are to be distributed.
8. Improve the knowledge and skills of the media on PopDev/RH issues in order to integrate more PopDev and RH issues into existing media programmes. In addition to organising workshops for editors-in-chief and key editors, and training courses for the media, UNFPA will work with key media agencies to integrate issues such as quality of RH care into their media projects. PopDev and RH are to be highlighted on special occasions such as the Word Population Day and Vietnam Population Day, and in talks between the Central Party Cultural and Ideological Commission and key leaders of the media figures.





# Population and Reproductive Health Education in the School System

## Basic Project Data

**Project partner:** Ministry of Education and Training

**Project Code:** VIE/01/P11

**Duration:** 2002-2005

**Executing agencies:** Ministry of Education and Training and UNFPA

**Implementing agencies:** Ministry of Education and Training

**UNFPA contribution:** US\$ 997,200

**Government contribution:** US\$ 410,000 (In cash: US\$ 65,000, In kind: US\$ 345,000)

## Background

Providing reproductive health (RH) information and education is important to help young people explore their own attitudes, values and options, as well as to increase their knowledge and understanding of RH issues. Experience with adolescent education so far has shown that young people need clear information in frank language about sexual development, RH and family planning, gender issues, STDs and HIV/AIDS. Furthermore, they need to be taught life skills to empower them to make their own plans and decisions. Part of the information and skills can be taught within schools through teachers, but also outside schools through parents, peers, the community and the media. (See also on youth p. 53 and information on RHIYA p. 23)

The Ministry of Education and Training (MOET) was aware of the importance of integrating population education (PopEd) in the school system in the early 1980s, and from 1984 UNFPA supported several PopEd programmes implemented by the ministry. Since 1994, PopEd has been integrated in some subjects at all school levels. During the Fifth UNFPA Country Programme (1997-2000), substantial efforts were made to redirect the existing PopEd at primary and lower secondary levels into more appropriate adolescent repro-

However, constraints and limitations persist in education for adolescents on population and reproductive health issues. Some of them are listed below and will be targeted under the new UNFPA supported project with MOET:

- There is no official integrated programme for Population and RH education in secondary schools.
- There has yet to be an official plan for teaching Population and RH subjects to students in teachers' training colleges.
- Reproductive health is a sensitive topic for adolescents. Therefore, besides the official curricula, there should be appropriate extra-curriculum activities with contents that are acceptable to students. Specific contents and methods for conducting extra-curriculum activities have not been developed.
- Advocacy activities for population and RH education have not been carried out. Educational managers at all levels are not fully aware of their roles and responsibilities to speed up the incorporation of population and RH education within the school system.

## Long-term objective

3. To have further improved the awareness and support of MOET managerial staff and teachers on ARHE in the upper-secondary school system.

## Activities

1. Integrate ARHE into textbooks and teacher manuals for biology, geography, civics, and literature and compulsory extra-curricula. A teaching kit including a video is to be developed. The new materials are being tested in schools before printing and distribution.
2. Improve training capacity on ARHE issues among selected biology, geography, civics, literature and compulsory extracurricula teachers at secondary schools.

3. Develop extra-curriculum ARH activities in the school system. A guidebook, key materials and videotapes are being developed.
4. ARH issues are to be integrated into biology, geography, civics and literature education programmes of central level pedagogical colleges on a pilot basis.
5. Awareness of and support to MOET managers, teachers and parents to ARHE is to be strengthened through advocacy activities.
6. Capacity to manage ARHE and project implementation of MOET is to be strengthened.



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