Antiretroviral therapy target declared by country:

Estimated number of people needing antiretroviral therapy (0-49 years), 2005:

VIETNAM

25 000*

Antiretroviral therapy target declared by country:

Estimated number of people needing antiretroviral therapy (0-49 years), 2005:

VIETNAM

25 000*

Antiretroviral therapy target declared by country:

Estimated number of people needing antiretroviral therapy (0-49 years), 2005:

VIETNAM

25 000*

Antiretroviral therapy target declared by country:

Estimated number of people needing antiretroviral therapy (0-49 years), 2005:

VIETNAM

25 000*

Antiretroviral therapy target declared by country:

Estimated number of people needing antiretroviral therapy (0-49 years), 2005:

VIETNAM

25 000*

Antiretroviral therapy target declared by country:

Estimated number of people needing antiretroviral therapy (0-49 years), 2005:

VIETNAM

25 000*

Antiretroviral therapy target declared by country:

Estimated number of people needing antiretroviral therapy (0-49 years), 2005:

VIETNAM

25 000*

Antiretroviral therapy target declared by country:

Estimated number of people needing antiretroviral therapy (0-49 years), 2005:

VIETNAM

25 000*

Antiretroviral therapy target declared by country:

Estimated number of people needing antiretroviral therapy (0-49 years), 2005:

VIETNAM

25 000*

Antiretroviral therapy target declared by country:

Estimated number of people needing antiretroviral therapy (0-49 years), 2005:

VIETNAM

25 000*

Antiretroviral therapy target declared by country:

Estimated number of people needing antiretroviral therapy (0-49 years), 2005:

VIETNAM

25 000*

Antiretroviral therapy target declared by country:

Estimated number of people needing antiretroviral therapy (0-49 years), 2005:

VIETNAM

25 000*

Antiretroviral therapy target declared by country:

Estimated number of people needing antiretroviral therapy (0-49 years), 2005:

VIETNAM

25 000*

Antiretroviral therapy target declared by country:

Estimated number of people needing antiretroviral therapy (0-49 years), 2005:

VIETNAM

25 000*

Antiretroviral therapy target declared by country:

Estimated number of people needing antiretroviral therapy (0-49 years), 2005:

VIETNAM

25 000*

Antiretroviral therapy target declared by country:

Estimated number of people needing antiretroviral therapy (0-49 years), 2005:

VIETNAM

25 000*

Antiretroviral therapy target declared by country:

Estimated number of people needing antiretroviral therapy (0-49 years), 2005:

VIETNAM

25 000*

Antiretroviral therapy target declared by country:

Estimated number of people needing antiretroviral therapy (0-49 years), 2005:

VIETNAM

25 000*

Antiretroviral therapy target declared by country:

Estimated number of people needing antiretroviral therapy (0-49 years), 2005:

VIETNAM

25 000*

Antiretroviral therapy target declared by country:

Estimated number of people needing antiretroviral therapy (0-49 years), 2005:

VIETNAM

25 000*

Antiretroviral therapy target declared by country:

Estimated number of people needing antiretroviral therapy (0-49 years), 2005:

VIETNAM

25 000*

Antiretroviral therapy target declared by country:

Estimated number of people needing antiretroviral therapy (0-49 years), 2005:

VIETNAM

25 000*

Antiretroviral therapy target declared by country:

Estimated number of people needing antiretroviral therapy (0-49 years), 2005:

VIETNAM

25 000*

Antiretroviral therapy target declared by country:

Estimated number of people needing antiretroviral therapy (0-49 years), 2005:

VIETNAM

25 000*

Antiretroviral therapy target declared by country:

Estimated number of people needing antiretroviral therapy (0-49 years), 2005:

VIETNAM

25 000*
Summary Country Profile for HIV/AIDS Treatment Scale-Up

Viet Nam

Assessment of overall health sector response and capacity

Viet Nam is committed to ensuring a vigorous response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic. In 1995, the Standing Committee of the National Assembly adopted an ordinance on HIV/AIDS prevention and control, which provided the legal framework for HIV/AIDS prevention efforts in Viet Nam. In February 2003, the Prime Minister signed a directive on strengthening HIV/AIDS prevention and control that includes prevention, care and treatment in a multisectoral framework. The Prime Minister approved the National Strategy on HIV/AIDS for 2004–2010 with a Vision to 2020, which is the first national strategy for Viet Nam’s response to HIV/AIDS and adopts most international best practices on HIV/AIDS prevention, care, support and treatment, including harm reduction for drug users and sex workers. Significant progress has been made in recent years in HIV prevention among vulnerable groups through the Preventing HIV in Viet Nam Project being implemented in 21 provinces. Overall health indicators in Viet Nam are quite good given its low gross domestic product per capita. Viet Nam has demonstrated its capacity to manage several infectious diseases, including severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS). Viet Nam has the advantage of having an extensive network of health care and a myriad of community-based organizations. However, the capacity of the various levels of the government structures administering and leading HIV/AIDS work, including antiretroviral therapy scale-up, needs to be further strengthened.

Critical issues and major challenges

Although significant progress has been made in HIV prevention among vulnerable groups through several initiatives such as Preventing HIV in Viet Nam Project in 21 provinces, prevention, care and treatment programmes targeting vulnerable groups such as injecting drug users and sex workers remain inadequate, and their access to health services is limited. Rapidly scaling up antiretroviral therapy in Viet Nam requires paying attention to the special challenges posed by injecting drug users, who comprise more than half the population of people living with HIV/AIDS. Community-based service delivery models linked to rehabilitation centers for injecting drug users and sex workers need to be developed in order to integrate and coordinate the management of the clients, particularly in regions with high drug use rates. WHO and UNODC have been supporting procurement for the Global Fund HIV Project. The Global Fund HIV Project has focused on developing home- and community-based care and voluntary counseling and testing in 20 provinces, which should serve as the foundation of antiretroviral therapy service delivery, which will start in early 2006.

4. Resource requirements and funds committed for scaling up treatment and prevention in 2004-2005

**WHO estimated that about US$ 14.5 million was required to support scaling up antiretroviral therapy to reach the WHO “3 by 5” treatment target of 11,000 people by 2005.**

- The state budget for the National AIDS Programme has almost doubled in recent years. With extensive support from international donors, financial resources for the National AIDS Programme have now increased to about US$ 50 million per year.
- Viet Nam submitted a successful proposal to the Global Fund in Round 1 for a total of US$ 12.0 million. As of November 2005, US$ 7.5 million has been disbursed for implementing activities. Round 1 funding from the Global Fund has permitted immediate start-up of activities that lay the basis for scaling up.
- The United States President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief added Viet Nam to its focus countries in 2004. Under the Emergency Plan, Viet Nam received US$ 17.3 million in 2004 to support a comprehensive HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and care programme. In 2005, the United States committed an additional US$ 27.3 million to support Viet Nam’s fight against HIV/AIDS.
- The Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation and the United Kingdom Department for International Development are providing funding support of more than US$ 25 million for 2003-2005.
- Other partners providing financial support in the country include United Nations agencies, the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank and the Australian International Development Agency.
- Prevalence of HIV among injecting drug users in Viet Nam has now increased to about US$ 50 million per year.
- Viet Nam submitted a successful proposal to the Global Fund in Round 1 for a total of US$ 12.0 million. As of November 2005, US$ 7.5 million had been disbursed for implementing activities.
- The government declared a national treatment target of 15,000 people by the end of 2005.
- Ethiopia and other partners are providing support for people living with HIV/AIDS who are living in institutions or at risk.
- Effective interventions for prevention or harm reduction that reach vulnerable communities of sex workers, drug users or mobile populations have been implemented; however, they remain limited in outreach and are not adequately linked to health services.

5. Treatment and prevention coverage

- In 2003, WHO estimated Viet Nam’s total treatment need to be 22,000 people based on the estimated number of people living with HIV/AIDS of 140,000 at that time, and the WHO “3 by 5” treatment target was calculated to be 11,000 people (based on 50% of estimated need). As of November 2005, about 800 people were on treatment supported by bilateral agencies including the United States President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS (PEPFAR) and the Global Fund. In 2006, the Ministry of Health has predicted producing antiretroviral drugs that would be able to cover around 2700 people in 2005. The Global Fund and Round 1 grant aims to put 650 new people on antiretroviral therapy in early 2006.

6. Implementation partners involved in scaling up treatment and prevention

**Leadership and management**

- The Ministry of Health in collaboration with other relevant ministries and institutions is responsible for the overall coordination and management of the national antiretroviral therapy programme, including the legal and policy framework, determining the costs of scaling up and raising funds, human resource planning and strengthening the health system. WHO has been expected to serve as a focal point among many partner agencies involved in care and treatment to ensure coordinated and harmonized support for the development of the national care and treatment programme.

**Service delivery**

- The Ministry of Health takes the lead in delivering HIV prevention, care and treatment services. WHO is supporting the Ministry of Health for the implementation of the Preventing HIV in Viet Nam Project in 21 provinces. Other partners supporting implementation of the national response include UNDP, UNAIDS, UNICEF, UNODC, World Bank, Australian Agency for International Development, ESTHER, and the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the United States Agency for International Development, ESTHER, the Viet Nam CDC (United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) and Harvard Medical School AIDS Partnership (V-CHAP), Family Health International, POLICY Project, FACT, WHO and other agencies have been jointly supporting the development of the national normative guidelines, protocols and training programme. Under the leadership of the Ministry of Health in Hanoi, there is a growing consensus that continuum of care should be established as an essential foundation for successfully scaling up antiretroviral therapy, through networking from the home and community level to the tertiary care level and linking with other relevant health services (such as tuberculosis) and other sectors (such as rehabilitation centres for injecting drug users and sex workers) and mass media. The number of comprehensive care sites at the district level (such as community counselling and support centres on Ho Chi Minh City) is being expanded as the “hub” or “heart” of continuum of care. People living with HIV/AIDS and their peer support groups are playing a critical role in this context. WHO and Management Sciences for Health have been involved in supporting the Ministry of Health in establishing the national procurement and supply system for HIV-related medicines, and UNICEF and WHO have been providing procurement for the Global Fund HIV Project. The Global Fund HIV Project has focused on developing home- and community-based care and voluntary counselling and testing in 20 provinces, which should serve as the foundation of antiretroviral therapy service delivery, which will start in early 2006.

**Community mobilization**

- A range of non-governmental organizations, United Nations agencies and bilateral donors work alongside the government in mobilizing communities and supporting people living with HIV/AIDS. People living with HIV/AIDS and their peer support groups are increasingly seen as essential players in HIV/AIDS prevention, care and treatment. They are especially playing a vital role in adherence and psychosocial support with contributions from international nongovernmental organizations in the context of continuum of care. The Ministry of Health provides leadership for programme communication and advocacy at the community level as well as nutrition support.

**Strategic information**

- The Ministry of Health provides leadership in the areas of surveillance, monitoring and evaluation including patient monitoring, antiretroviral drug resistance, information management and operational research, with support of several agencies including the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, United States Agency for International Development, Family Health International, POLICY Project and WHO.

7. Staffing input for scaling up HIV treatment and prevention

WHO’s response so far
• Providing continued support for advocating, planning, implementing, monitoring and evaluating harm reduction interventions for rapid scale-up by developing a multisectoral legal and policy framework; developing technical guidelines; and providing technical assistance to the Preventing HIV in Viet Nam Project, including supporting innovative and inclusive approaches to prevention activities to reach vulnerable groups and to involve civil society, people living with HIV/AIDS, etc.
• Providing continued support as a focal point among many partner agencies for the development of the national care and treatment programme in the areas of continuum of care, case management procedures, TB/HIV, training, procurement and supply of HIV-related medicines and patient monitoring.
• Providing appropriate and timely guidance for developing HIV/AIDS care and treatment among injecting drug users and integrating this with HIV prevention.
• Developing community-based approaches that will integrate harm reduction, drug dependence treatment and antiretroviral therapy.
• Providing support for strengthening laboratory services, including counselling and testing.
• Supporting the development of communication and advocacy strategies.
• Providing support for reviewing surveillance systems, developing reporting mechanisms and standardizing indicators.
• Supporting the development of a national monitoring and evaluation system for HIV/AIDS’ prevention, care and treatment.

Key areas for WHO support in the future

Staffing input for scaling up HIV treatment and prevention:

• Supporting Ho Chi Minh City for more than three years in developing a district-focused model of service delivery (comprehensive care site or day care centre as the “hub” and “heart” of the continuum of care).
• Collaborating with the Ford Foundation in 2004 to develop a report on Affordable ARV drugs for people living with HIV/AIDS in Viet Nam: legal and trade issues.
• Providing technical assistance since 2004 for developing a national implementation guide for HIV/AIDS care and treatment (based on HIV/AIDS care and treatment guide for implementation of the WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific).
• Supporting the Ministry of Health in performing relevant normative works and in coordinating and harmonizing the different initiatives and administering funds provided by the United States President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief to accelerate the development of the national care and treatment programme.
• Serving as a focal point among many partner agencies involved in care and treatment for ensuring harmonized support for the Ministry of Health and Ho Chi Minh City to develop unified care and treatment programme in the areas of continuum of care, case management procedures, TB/HIV, training, procurement and supply of HIV-related medicines and patient monitoring.
• Providing technical support to the Global Fund HIV Project managed by the Ministry of Health and ensuring consistency between the Project and other international initiatives, including the United States President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief.
• Providing technical assistance and advice on legislation on matters related to intellectual property.
• Playing a critical role in advocacy for the harm reduction as well as supporting the implementation of harm reduction interventions in 21 provinces through the Preventing HIV in Viet Nam Project with funds from the United Kingdom Department for International Development and the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation.
• Supporting the Ministry of Health in implementing a 100% condom use programme, social marketing of condoms, provision of services for sexually transmitted infections for vulnerable populations using syndromic management and services for injecting drug users including outreach and needle and syringe programmes.
• Providing technical support and advice on pharmacotherapy treatment of injecting drug users.

© World Health Organization 2005

This country profile was developed in collaboration with national authorities, the WHO Country Office for Viet Nam and the WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific.