

VietHealth Update



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Irish Aid visits VietHealth, offers continued support to the organization

VietHealth is honored that Mr. Brendan Rogers, the general director of Irish Aid, took the time to visit to Viet Nam in August. Mr. Rogers and his colleagues came by the VietHealth office to see the on-site child rehabilitation center. Mr. Rogers was joined by Mr. Damien Cole, the Irish ambassador to Viet Nam; Mr. Garvan McCann, manager of Irish Aid in Vietnam; Mr. Phan Dang Cuong, social development and governance advisor, and Ms. Nguyen Mai Chi, the project administrator, in his visit to VietHealth. Some of the challenges and successes of the project in Da Nang, which focuses on improving the capacity of health care networks in preventing early child disability and improving early detection in the Cam Le district, where reviewed in the meeting. Mr. Rogers pledged that Irish Aid will continue supporting VietHealth's development projects in Viet Nam.



Representatives from Irish Aid visit the VietHealth office and clinic.

VietHealth opens new reproductive clinic in Hanoi



VietHealth's new reproductive health clinic provides a safe and welcoming space for women seeking information about their health.

In January, VietHealth celebrated the grand opening of its new reproductive health clinic in the Dong Da District in Hanoi. The clinic covers all services related to reproductive health on updated equipment, and operates with the highest standards of excellence. The clinic is led by an experience doctor who specializes in reproductive health. The clinic offers special discounted policies for marginalized populations. Additionally, the VietHealth website has a section devoted to women's health, where it includes an abundance of information about staying healthy.



VietHealth relocated its offices from 39A Xuan Dieu, Tay Ho district to **No. 16 Block 13B, Trung Yen 11** in February. The rehabilitation clinic for CWD is below the new office. We welcome visitors and new patients, so be sure to stop by!

Inside this issue:

New reproductive clinic opens in Hanoi	1
Improving sanitation services in local schools	2
VietHealth offers new consulting services	2
Improve mental health response capacity	2
VietHealth continues birth defects prevention and early identification project.	3
More information about VietHealth	3

Have you noticed our new logo?

VietHealth is rebranding! Let us know what you think about our new look by reaching out on **Facebook** or **Twitter**! We appreciate your support!



VietHealth and LDSC partner up to improve school sanitation systems



Donors and district officials break ground on the project, which will bring toilets to eleven district schools.

In July, VietHealth and participating donors held a ceremony for a new project in the Tan Yen district of the Bac Giang province that will improve the sanitation systems in eleven primary and secondary schools. The Latter-Day Saints Charities (LDSC) will fund the management and construction of the new restrooms. VietHealth will survey the local area to assess immediate needs, act as a liaison between the project and local government, and organize work sessions with the local authorities. VietHealth has held an opening ceremony to generate local support for the project, and will hold a closing ceremony to celebrate the handover of the project to the community once construction is complete. The program includes a drawing contest for the children, so they can demonstrate their understanding of hygiene and sanitation. VietHealth will select three winning pictures for each school, and the pictures will be drawn on the new toilets.

VietHealth acts as consultant on JICA's distribution of MCHHB



Health workers and local people are surveyed as part of the JICA project.

VietHealth has increased its services to include acting as an external consultant on public health development projects. Currently, VietHealth is conducting an end-line survey to estimate the outcome and impact of a project that distributes the Mother and Child Health Handbook (MCHHB) to women of reproductive age and health workers in disadvantaged areas of Viet Nam. The MCHHB is considered an effective tool for public health interventions to address maternal health and child health issues among the populations in rural areas. The project is funded by the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and is managed by the Maternal and Child Health Department of the Ministry of Health. VietHealth will survey caregivers, health workers, local people and mothers, to gauge whether the implementation of the MCHHB has been effective, and is practical for scaling-up nationwide.

VietHealth launches new mental health preparedness project

VietHealth has held a semiannual review for its latest project, which aims to build the capacity for health officials to respond to mental health issues in emergencies. Viet Nam experiences between five to 10 typhoons per year, which can cause extreme psychological trauma for the victims, but mental health is often not included in response activities and disaster preparedness in the national health sector. VietHealth aims develop a sustainable response system to mental health issues in disaster situations. The Norwegian Embassy has partnered with VietHealth for the funding of this project, while the Department of Medical Service Administration - Ministry of Health and the WHO Viet Nam are technical partners, connecting VietHealth with a number of experts in mental health and psychosocial support in emergencies. The project has designed a set of tools to assess the psychological factors and consequences of people who suffer in public health emergencies in the region. Based on recommendations from their consultants, VietHealth has selected nine experts to help develop guidelines on mental health preparedness, in partnership with the Viet Nam Ministry of Health.

"VietHealth aims develop a sustainable response system to mental health issues in disasters."

VietHealth gets positive feedback on its birth defects detection and early identification project in Phu Tho and Bac Giang



R: Parents of CWD receive consulting services from VietHealth educators in Bac Giang. L: Parents and community members sit in on activities led by FELM project leaders.

VietHealth has seen a positive response to its birth defects detection and early identification project in the Phu Tho and Bac Giang. The project aims to build capacity for Village Health Workers (VHW) and Commune Health Workers (CHW) to identify, prevent and respond to birth defects and early childhood disabilities at a grassroots level. The Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Mission (FELM)-funded project responds to an intense need for a community response to these issues. The project, which is currently in the second phase of development, aims to educate VHW and CHW on the legal rights of people with disabilities, and improve the knowledge and resources available to people with disabilities and parents of disabled children. VietHealth has involved other community stakeholders, such as kindergarten teachers and social workers. The project also intends to strengthen existing referral networks between healthcare facilities. In the first six months of 2013, VietHealth conducted 14 training courses in 16 communes of the Phu Tho and Bac Giang provinces. VietHealth also distributed information about early identification through public communication activities, including leaflets and radio broadcasts. Clubs for women of reproductive age were established to encourage discussion about birth defect and disability. Bac Giang Sanatorium & Rehabilitation Hospital partnered with VietHealth to evaluate disabled children who had their first intervention in 2012. Through VietHealth's efforts, the women and children in the Bac Giang and Phu Tho provinces have benefited from the education and capacity building activities of the FELM program, creating a stronger healthcare system that is better able to prevent birth defects and respond with services for children born with disabilities.



The Sustainable Health Development Center (VietHealth) is a Vietnamese non-governmental organization working to improve the health of the people of Vietnam, with a particular emphasis on disadvantaged and vulnerable groups and communities. Focusing on childhood disability, HIV/AIDS, primary health care, reproductive health, and water and sanitation, VietHealth uses a community-based approach to deliver services, build capacity and raise awareness.

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