

COMPENDIUM OF PROJECTS

JULY 2009



International Organization for Migration
Mission in Vietnam



Photo by Trung Kien



International Organization for Migration
Mission in Vietnam

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) is committed to the principle that humane and orderly migration benefits migrants and society. As an intergovernmental body, IOM acts with its partners of member states, civil society, and the international community to:

- assist in meeting the operational challenges of migration;
- advance understanding of migration issues;
- encourage social and economic development through migration;
- uphold the human dignity and well-being of migrants.

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INTRODUCTION

IOM's operation in Viet Nam is concerned with the welfare and quality of life of the Vietnamese people, particularly migrant and mobile populations. The programme focuses on safe migration and mobility including:

- climate change
- counter trafficking
- emergency and post-crisis response migration
- labour migration
- migration assistance to local embassies and consulates
- public health and social services
- social and behaviour change (information, education and communication)

IOM's Mission in Viet Nam is based in Ha Noi with a sub-office in Ho Chi Minh City, and has over 80 experienced staff dedicated to assisting the government and the people of Viet Nam in the field of migration. IOM first began operations in Viet Nam in 1987 and works under a Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Since then, IOM has had close working relationships with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs, Ministry of Public Security, Ministry of Transport, and the Viet Nam Women's Union, and has carried out project activities in provinces throughout the country.

A number of IOM's partner agencies on the United Nations (UN) Country Team in Viet Nam work on different aspects relating to migration. Working together on these issues results in synergies and a greater development impact for the people of Viet Nam. In this way, IOM plays an integral role in the One UN Initiative in Viet Nam, an initiative that owes its success to the strong leadership role taken by the Government of Viet Nam, a committed United Nations Country Team, and a supportive donor community. The goals of the One UN Initiative in Viet Nam include an enhanced relevance and coherence of the UN in Viet Nam, increased development and aid effectiveness, and ensuring efficiencies and cost savings.

Established in 1951, IOM is the leading intergovernmental organization in the field of migration and works closely with governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental partners in over 100 countries. With 125 member states, of which Viet Nam is one, IOM is dedicated to supporting both governments and migrants in promoting humanitarian and orderly migration. The IOM Constitution recognizes the link between migration and economic, social and cultural development, as well as to the right of freedom of movement. IOM works towards practical solutions for migration problems, providing humanitarian assistance to migrants in need, and with partners to promote international cooperation on migration issues.



VIET NAM FACTS & FIGURES

IOM Member State

Capital: Ha Noi

Population: 86,116,560 (July 2008 est.)

Total Area: 331,689 km²

Official Language: Vietnamese

Currency: dong (VND)

Migration Issues

Viet Nam's rapid economic development is fuelling large migration flows from rural areas to urban and peri-urban areas where employment opportunities are increasingly more available. According to some government offices, an estimated 25-30 percent of Viet Nam's largest cities consist of migrants. These internal migrants often have difficulty accessing accommodation, education for their children, and health care. With regard to international migration, some three million Vietnamese live permanently overseas with another 400,000 residing abroad as temporary workers.

Remittances from overseas migrants continue to play an important role in the country's development, as do remittances from internal migrants. As one of its strategies to combat poverty, the government organizes overseas employment; still, many labour migrants find it difficult to earn enough money due to the excessive pre-departure costs. In addition, human trafficking has been closely associated with people seeking better employment opportunities; therefore, government agencies are placing increasing priority on combating unsafe migration and on counter-trafficking.



Photo: Trung Kiên



CURRENT PROJECTS

Return and Reintegration of Trafficked and Other Vulnerable Vietnamese Women Between Selected Countries in the Greater Mekong Sub - region, Phase II

Timeframe: 4 years

Location: Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, Viet Nam, China

This Greater Mekong Sub-region-wide project seeks to establish systematic and sustainable cross-border return and reintegration of trafficked women and children in the region. There are two main activities being executed in Viet Nam from the regional funds:

- Facilitating the return of Vietnamese women from Cambodia and Thailand, as well as other countries in the region.
- Working with IOM Cambodia and the Department of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs (DOLISA) in HCMC on the sustainable return of Cambodian children working primarily as beggars in Ho Chi Minh City.

Comprehensive Return and Reintegration through Partnership and Collaboration

Timeframe: 3 years

Location: Throughout Viet Nam

Viet Nam has recognized trafficking as a significant social concern and has developed a National Plan of Action (NPA), as well as a government decision mandating responsibility for return and reintegration.

The Government has also recognized the importance of incorporating successful models, and learning from the experience of other organizations.

IOM therefore intends to draw upon its experience in Viet Nam, as well as the experience of other organizations, to assist the Government in implementing a comprehensive return and reintegration mechanism. This requires strong central government support and involvement to maintain national coverage and sustainability. The return and reintegration mechanism will build on the reintegration network, the development of systems in the assessment centres, the provision of psychosocial support through counseling, IOM's experience with self-help groups, and the training modules developed by IOM and the Population, Refugees, and Migration Bureau of the U.S. Department of State (PRM).

The objectives of this project are to:

- increase understanding in Viet Nam of effective return and reintegration of trafficked women in the region and analyze gaps in current approaches;
- establish and demonstrate an effective, confidential, and non-judgmental mechanism to identify and support trafficked women;
- work together with other organizations involved in reintegration to provide relevant and appropriate services through risk assessments and provide life-skills training, health care, and psychosocial counseling and mental-health treatment;
- develop evidence of effective programming through the partnership and support of demonstration sites.

IOM therefore intends to draw upon its experience in Viet Nam, as well as the experience of other organizations, to assist the Government in implementing a comprehensive return and reintegration mechanism.

CURRENT PROJECTS



Combating Human Trafficking in Viet Nam through Capacity Building and Technical Assistance for the National Steering Committee and Law Enforcement Agencies

Timeframe: 2 years
Location: 6 provinces in Viet Nam (Ha Giang, Lao Cai, Lang Son, Quang Ninh, An Giang and Dong Thap)

This project will provide assistance to the Government of Viet Nam to implement the four components of the National Plan of Action (NPA), to mainstream victim support and assistance into the NPA, and to develop coordination, monitoring and evaluation mechanisms. The project will also focus on capacity building activities for law enforcement staff, provide technical assistance to the Border Guard offices in 6 provinces, and provide legal aid for victims of trafficking.

The target group for the NPA implementation is the National Steering Committee and the appointed bodies under the committee. A small fund will be provided as an incentive for innovative ideas from provincial level agencies. Capacity building activities will consist mainly of training for Border Guard officials and Police officers in six border provinces. In order to provide victims of trafficking returning from abroad with appropriate assistance and information, six Border Guard offices will be upgraded and provided with victim friendly interview rooms and other necessary equipment.

Viet Nam Reintegration Model Development

Timeframe: 1 Year
Location: An Giang

An important development in the efforts to ensure effective return and reintegration of trafficked women has been government policy that includes learning from the experience of international and non-governmental organizations in Viet Nam and globally.

The primary objective of this project is to continue to create and demonstrate a return and reintegration model that has been proven effective and can be used by the government for national expansion. The project's demonstrative model is the An Giang Department of Labour and Social Affairs (DOLISA) Assessment Center, where trafficked women will be able to stay for two to four weeks in a safe and supportive environment and be assessed by professional staff. The assessment will include determining whether physical or mental health services are necessary, ascertaining what future goals and plans the women have, and assessing interest in participating in vocational training and other support activities.



Photo: Trung Kien

Addressing Human Trafficking in Viet Nam through Capacity Building and Technical Assistance

Timeframe: 2 Years
Location: Ha Noi and throughout Viet Nam

Drawing on past experience, this project intends to build capacity and strengthen co-operation amongst the Government ministries involved in the National Plan of Action (NPA). Each of these participating agencies has been requested to develop and implement an individual plan to support the NPA. Over the past two years, IOM has been working with the Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs (MOLISA) to support their work on the development and implementation of their plan. Through this support it has become clear that trafficking remains an issue and that technical assistance and capacity building are essential to the plan's success. The aim of this project is to contribute to national efforts to address trafficking in persons through prevention, protection, return, and reintegration.

IOM supports the Government of Viet Nam in their counter-trafficking efforts through a partnership with the National Steering Committee, strengthening of the working group, the development of a behaviour-change strategy and capacity building, as well as training with the ministries playing a role in countering-trafficking according to the NPA.

In addition to improving general cooperation on counter-trafficking, the project will focus on each of the four components of the NPA including:

- community education and prevention activities;
- the fight against the crime of trafficking;
- reception and support to returned trafficked persons;
- the development of the legal framework in regard to the prevention of trafficking.

A critical element of the project will be capacity building, with technical support provided to the provincial DOLISA and other government offices, including the Women's Union, Health Service, Police, and the Border Guards.

The specific outcomes to be achieved are:

- establishing a reintegration model for the national use of the central government;
- establishing an operational mechanism with care providers in destination countries and communities of origin for the reception and ongoing care of returned women;
- establishing a referral network with care providers in destination countries and communities of origin for the reception and ongoing care of the returned victims.

The aim of this project is to contribute to national efforts to address trafficking in persons through prevention, protection, return, and reintegration.

**PROPOSALS
UNDER DEVELOPMENT**

Holistic Counter - Trafficking Project

Timeframe: 2 Years
Location: Border provinces

Counter-trafficking efforts often address the issue after the victim has already been trafficked. Through its pilot project in one select province, IOM seeks to strengthen its prevention activities by empowering young women and men at risk of being trafficked by strengthening their life skills and self-confidence, and by decreasing their vulnerability by diversifying livelihood options in order to raise their income level.

Innovative livelihood options will be identified and tailored to meet the needs of the beneficiaries, with empowerment of young women playing a crucial role throughout the process. Survivors of trafficking will also be targeted so as to contribute to their healing and reintegration process. Sustainability will be an important consideration in the design and implementation of activities.

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Photo: Trung Ken

Formative Research on Trafficking of Persons in Viet Nam

Timeframe: 10 months
Location: Hai Phong City
Required Funding: USD \$100,000

IOM proposes to conduct research to investigate the reality of trafficking in persons in Viet Nam, including its potential link with male trafficking and labor exploitation. Such research will provide the information necessary for international organizations and NGO's to implement effective programming, for the Government to develop appropriate legislation, and for national Government programmes to better address the human trafficking issues.

The two main objectives of the project are to increase the understanding of the determinants, scope and dimensions of human trafficking, and to improve the use of accurate and relevant data in programming and policy making. The research will be conducted in Hai Phong City and will include a literature review, qualitative and quantitative research, and a results dissemination meeting.



Photo: Trung Kien

COMPLETED PROJECTS

Trafficking and Victim Prevention Project Phase II

Timeframe: October 2006 - May 2009
Location: Throughout Viet Nam

At a critical time of government exploration in ways of dealing with returning victims of trafficking, this project contributed significantly by demonstrating a model of how to improve the existing return and reintegration system.

As one of the steps in establishing an improved return and reintegration model, an Assessment Center was set up in An Giang province to support individuals who have been trafficked, groups at risk of being trafficked, and other organizations working internationally to assist trafficked persons.

An important aspect of the project was the establishment of a nation-wide, 24-hour, toll-free counter-trafficking hotline, to provide support to trafficked and at risk persons by phone.

This project demonstrated a clear need to continue this advocacy and work with Government agencies to further develop this model and exhibit its effectiveness.

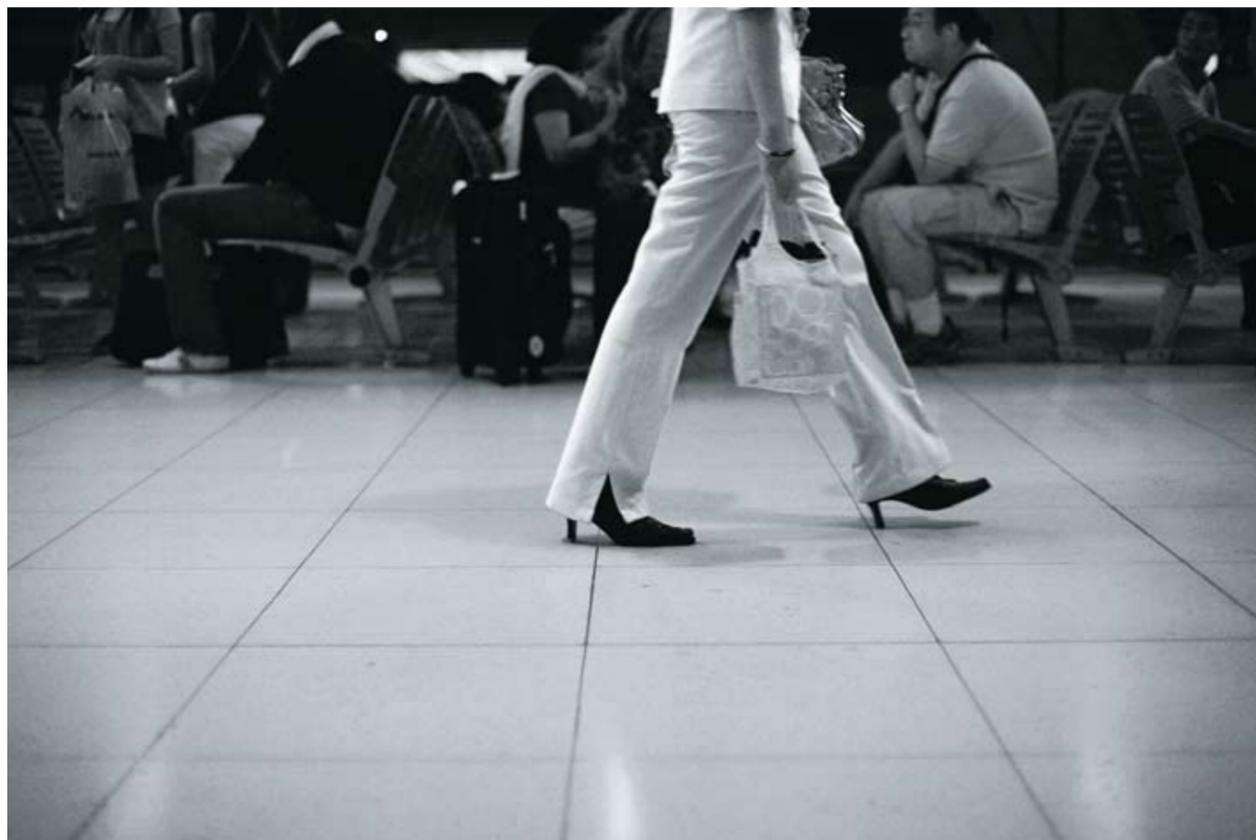


Photo: Trung Kien

Support to the Government of Viet Nam to Implement the Bilateral Agreement on Counter - Trafficking Activities between Viet Nam and Cambodia

Timeframe: June 2006 – June 2008
Location: Throughout Viet Nam

The primary focus of this project was to support the Government of Viet Nam in implementing the Bilateral Agreement between the Royal Government of Cambodia and The Government of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam on cooperation to Eliminate Trafficking in Women and Children and Assist Victims of Trafficking, which was signed in October 10, 2005.

IOM Viet Nam works closely with the United Nations Inter-Agency Project on Human Trafficking in the Greater Mekong Sub-region (UNIAP) and the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), as well as non-governmental organizations, to support the National Steering Committee on Counter trafficking in carrying out a series of activities enhancing bilateral cooperation against cross-border trafficking in women and children.

An exchange visit of key ministry officials from both sides was conducted in January 2007 to assess the situation and discuss potential areas for collaboration in the implementation of the Bilateral Agreement. As part of the assessment, the delegations toured a number of project sites on their common border and held a planning workshop in Ho Chi Minh City. The exchange visit was evaluated and a plan of action with prioritized areas and activities for cooperation was developed with the goal of overcoming the current major difficulties of cross-border cooperation in combating human trafficking. Following the exchange visit, a number of activities were carried out between the two sides according to the agreed plan of action, including the development of Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) on Reception and Reintegration of trafficking victims and signing of the Cooperation Agreement between the law enforcement agencies of the two countries on suppression of crimes in the trafficking of women and children.

Comprehensive Counter - Trafficking Project in Lao Cai Province

Timeframe: January 2008 – December 2008
Location: Lao Cai Province

Vietnamese women and girls are increasingly trafficked internally and regionally for sexual exploitation, forced marriages, and labour. With growing numbers of trafficked women returning from China, the Vietnamese Government requested the assistance of the international community to support their reception and reintegration.

IOM’s main objectives in this project were to provide appropriate services to trafficked and at risk women through a comprehensive counter-trafficking model, including the establishment of an assessment centre and capacity building. The project contributed to Viet Nam’s efforts to prevent and reduce trafficking in the following ways:

- An Assessment Centre for trafficked returnees was established and provided support for 111 Victims of Trafficking (VoT). Support included counseling, psychosocial support, life-skills education, vocational training, job placement, support for sustainable livelihood/production, HIV prevention, health care, legal aid, and return and reintegration support.
- The project built capacity of government staff, assessment centre staff, trafficked returnees, and women at risk through training courses and workshops.

IOM's main objectives in this project were to provide appropriate services to trafficked and at risk women through a comprehensive counter-trafficking model, including the establishment of an assessment centre and capacity building.

COMPLETED PROJECTS



Photo: Trung Kien

Public Information Campaigns in Hai Phong and Quang Ninh provinces

Timeframe: October 2006 – February 2007, September 2007 – February 2008
Location: Quang Ninh and Hai Phong provinces

In Viet Nam there are virtually no channels of information to counter that provided by smugglers, and often decisions to migrate are based on misconceptions and misleading information. IOM, in partnership with the Hai Phong City Viet Nam Fatherland Front (VFF) implemented the UK Migration Information Campaign in Hai Phong to provide potential migrants to the UK with essential, accurate and up-to-date migration information. A similar campaign was also conducted in Quang Ninh, in partnership with the VFF.

The project strengthened informed decision-making amongst potential migrants to the UK by using the following strategies:

- Highlighting the existing legal migration options;
- Providing information about the realities of life abroad as an illegal migrant;
- Highlighting potential consequences and risks related to various forms of irregular migration;
- Supporting potential migrants in decision making.

To build capacity, four training workshops were held to increase government officials' and mass organization staff understanding of the risks involved in smuggling, and the close association between smuggling and trafficking.

After researching the scope of the migration situation in Hai Phong and Quang Ninh, and holding various focus discussions and consultations with mass organizations, the communication campaign involved the development of leaflets, pamphlets, posters and a website. In total, trained volunteers visited over 80,000 households to disseminate and explain the information contained within the developed materials.

Assistance to the Government in the Identification of Trafficking Victims and Their Reintegration

Timeframe: September 2005 – December 2007
Location: Ha Noi

IOM supported the Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs (MOLISA) in developing guidelines on victim return and reintegration in the context of the National Plan of Action. The following assistance has been provided to MOLISA in these activities:

- Organization of two study tours to Indonesia and Thailand to learn good practices in reintegration assistance for victims of trafficking;
- Organization of two workshops, one in Ha Noi and one in Dong Thap, on victim identification and assistance in the development of guidelines for this purpose;
- Support in developing the mechanisms for return and reintegration;
- Training on the need for psychosocial intervention as a critical aspect of recovery and reintegration of victims of trafficking.

In addition, IOM provided support for the Immigration Department to develop and issue an Inter-Ministerial Circular on Reception Procedures for Trafficking Victims returning from abroad, as well as to conduct two training courses for involved immigration officers and border guards to pass on the contents of and give guidance on how to implement this circular.



Photo: Trung Kien

Building Networks of Support for Trafficked Persons in Ha Noi

Timeframe: November 2005 – October 2007
Location: Ha Noi

The greatest difficulty facing programmes designed to rehabilitate, provide psychosocial and public health support, and integrate returnees back into mainstream society, is reaching the trafficked persons. The government agencies tasked with this responsibility have not been particularly successful, largely due to the deep-rooted stigma attached to having been trafficked and the lack of confidential services.

In response, IOM demonstrated a pilot identification mechanism that effectively reached trafficked persons and provided services that were specifically tailored to their environment and needs.

The project contributed to improving the physical and mental well-being of trafficked persons through the following:

- Established an effective, confidential, and non-judgmental mechanism to identify trafficked persons and to demonstrate to local authorities;
- Assessed the psychosocial, mental health, and physical health needs of trafficked persons and provided appropriate and confidential services;
- Supported the development of peer-led, self-help groups;
- Contributed to decreased risk environments by providing risk assessment skills, life-skills training, health care education, and psychosocial counseling.



Photo: Trung Kien

COMPLETED PROJECTS

Awareness Raising Activities on Counter - Trafficking along the Border Between Viet Nam and Cambodia

Timeframe: June 2005 – January 2007
Location: 4 provinces in Viet Nam (An Giang, Dong Thap, Ca Mau, and Kien Giang)

This information campaign aimed to combat the trafficking of Vietnamese women and children to Cambodia in a comprehensive manner by raising awareness on how to migrate safely both within Viet Nam and internationally. The campaign was implemented in coordination with the Viet Nam Women’s Union; Committee for Population, Family and Children; the Department of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs, and NGOs, including the Co-ordination of Action Research on AIDS and Mobility (CARAM) and the Center for Social Work, Community Development Research & Consultancy (SDRC).

The project addressed the problem of trafficking using a preventative approach with the main objective of raising awareness and promoting safe migration in the following ways:

- The implementation of a trafficking information campaign using various information channels such as leaflets, posters, notebooks, videos, meetings, cultural performances, and the dissemination of information through mass media. In addition, young girls and women were provided with information on safe migration and destination countries, as well as empowerment training.
- The development of migration information centres and local hotlines that offered direct assistance to both women and children at risk of being trafficked and trafficked returnees. They also provided information on safe migration, job opportunities, vocational training, and pre-departure orientation, as well as how to avoid becoming a victim of trafficking.

Counter - Trafficking Project in Quang Ninh Province

Timeframe: January 2005 - September 2006
Location: Quang Ninh Province

In close cooperation with the Quang Ninh Women’s Union, this project contributed to the development of an effective and sustainable infrastructure in Quang Ninh province for prevention and reintegration activities for trafficked persons returning from China. Its aim was to reach persons at high risk of being trafficked in order to diminish the overall number of people trafficked from the province, and support those victims of trafficking who had returned to the province to reintegrate.

The project set up a vocational training centre in which persons at high risk of being trafficked, as well as trafficked persons, received training in the tourism sector, combined with life-skills training to help them escape stigmatization and improve their social and economic opportunities. Other training topics included preventing trafficking, preventing HIV, and public health.

The project developed and implemented a comprehensive vocational training model, combined with job promotion and placement, in order to provide a complete package to trafficked and vulnerable women. Fifty women received training, most of who are currently employed.

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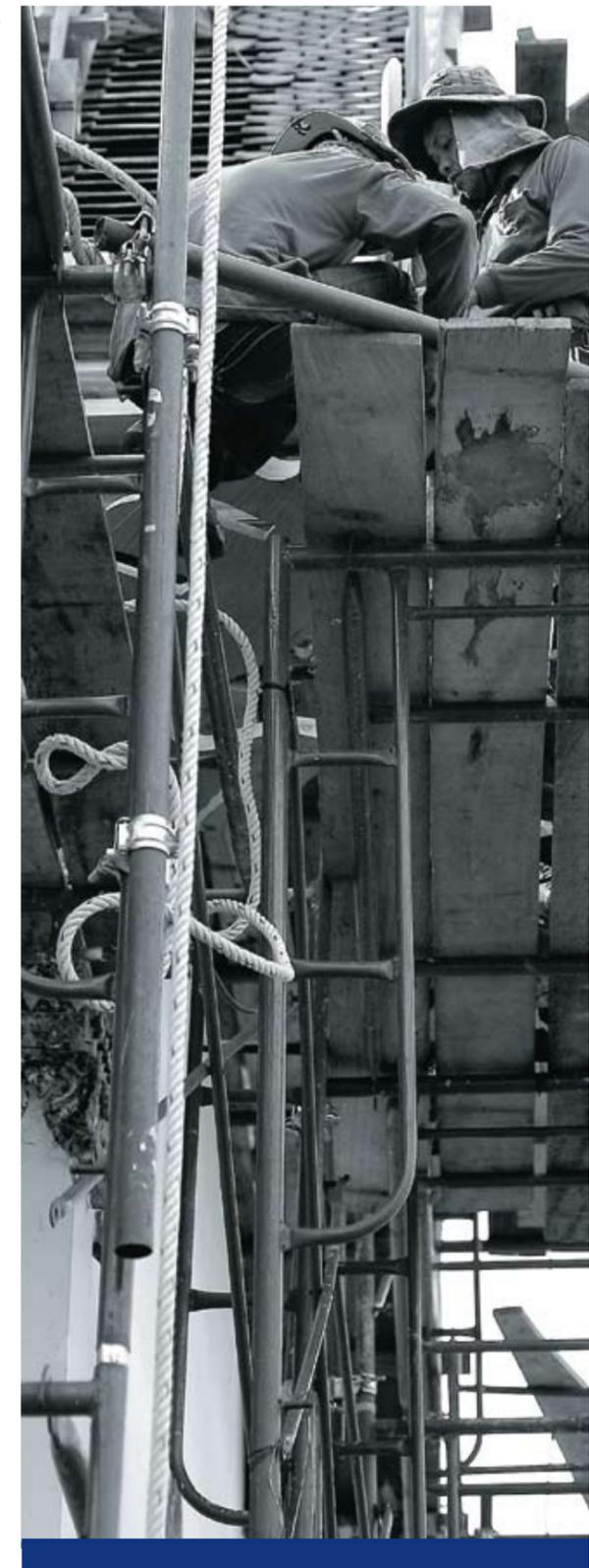


Photo: Trung Kien

Capacity Building of the Viet Nam Women's Union on Counter - Trafficking

Timeframe: January 2002 – December 2004
Location: 5 provinces in Viet Nam (Yen Bai, Hai Duong, Thai Binh, Tien Giang, Soc Trang) and Ha Noi City

This project was designed to support the Viet Nam Women's Union (VWU) in managing and coordinating activities relating to counter-trafficking in women and children. It also helped to strengthen the national mechanisms in order to be able to further address the problem in Viet Nam. Within the project, a new and updated counter trafficking action plan was developed and approved by the Presidium of the VWU for implementation. At the same time, a small-scale awareness raising campaign was implemented within a number of selected communes in five provinces. This was done in order to raise the operational capacity of all levels of the institution in managing counter-trafficking activities.

COMPLETED PROJECTS

This project was designed to support the Viet Nam Women's Union in managing and coordinating activities relating to counter-trafficking in women and children.

Reception and Reintegration of Trafficked and Other Vulnerable Vietnamese Women Who Have Returned from China

Timeframe: 1997-2001
Location: Lang Son Province

This project was one of the first in Viet Nam to provide on-the-ground assistance to trafficked women and children. A reception centre was built and managed by the Lang Son Women's Union to assist trafficking victims returning to Viet Nam from China through the Lang Son border gate. The project provided accommodation, immediate care, and financial assistance to return home. Some 2,900 trafficked and vulnerable women living in Lang Son were also provided with micro-credit and life-skills training to be able to setup income-generating activities to assist their reintegration.

National Anti - Trafficking Information Campaign for Viet Nam

Timeframe: January 2000 – December 2000
Location: 14 provinces in Viet Nam (An Giang, Bac Giang, Bac Ninh, Can Tho, Dong Thap, Ha Noi, Ha Tay, Ho Chi Minh City, Kien Giang, Phu Tho, Quang Ninh, Thanh Hoa, Tay Ninh, Vinh Phuc)

Following a pilot campaign in Lang Son province, this extensive public information campaign was developed to raise public awareness of trafficking in 14 of the most severely affected provinces of Viet Nam. Some 6,600 trained activists of the Viet Nam Women's Union implemented grass-roots activities such as door-to-door visits, meetings and other community events, along with the distribution of 500,000 information pamphlets. The project also provided training for the staff of local authority and community agencies, as well as journalists who were encouraged to cover the issue in the media.



Photo: Trung Kiên

CURRENT PROJECTS



Photo: Trung Kien

Pandemic Preparedness for Migrants and Host Communities

Timeframe: April 2008 – December 2009
Location: Cross border provinces of Svay Rieng, Cambodia and Tay Ninh, Viet Nam

With funding from the Central Fund for Influenza Action, the overall objective of this project is to ensure continuity of essential social, economic and governance services and effective implementation of humanitarian relief under pandemic conditions for migrant and mobile populations and their host communities. The project draws upon the results and recommendations of knowledge, attitudes, practices and behaviour surveys and focus group discussions among migrants and key stakeholders conducted during the pilot phase.

Specifically, the project is designed to achieve the following objectives:

- Enhance the communities’ resilience when faced with a foreseen pandemic or other threats;
- Strengthen capacities to ensure inclusion of the needs of migrants in pandemic preparedness and contingency plans;
- Conduct pandemic preparedness information and social mobilization activities for migrant communities, civil society and national agencies;
- Facilitate simulation exercises to test pandemic and disaster preparedness plans at the district, community and household levels.

This project intends to work within the framework of existing national structures (such as the ministries of health, defense, communication, labour and social affairs, and the national/provincial avian influenza and pandemic preparedness task forces) and gain from experiences with pandemic preparedness for migrants and host communities in Cambodia, Thailand, Laos, and Egypt. It will continue to build knowledge and heighten awareness and capacity among governments, particularly key stakeholders from the health and non-health sectors.

Technical Support through Donation of Laboratory Equipment

Timeframe: Ongoing from 1990s
Location: Ho Chi Minh City

In support of three partner health institutions in Ho Chi Minh City- Cho Ray Hospital, the Pasteur Institute and the International Health Quarantine Centre- IOM has provided training support and the following technical equipment:

- DNA Gen Probe to Cho Ray Hospital
- a refrigerated centrifuge to Cho Ray Hospital
- a bactec sputum culture machine for TB samples to the Pasteur Institute
- a power generator and specialized refrigeration equipment to the International Health Quarantine Centre.

Through an international staff position, IOM also supports training in TB culture detection and drug susceptibility testing, quality assurance performance monitoring at the laboratories of Cho Ray Hospital and the Pasteur Institute, and as a result of these continual efforts, contributes to capacity building in the health sector of Ho Chi Minh City.

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Migrant Health Assessments

Timeframe: Ongoing
Location: Ho Chi Minh City

As part of the migration process many governments require migrants to undergo a health assessment prior to travel. IOM in Viet Nam is a designated panel physician for the Governments of Australia, Canada, New Zealand, and the United States of America, for whom it provides such health assessments.



Photo: Trung Kien



**PROPOSALS
UNDER DEVELOPMENT**



Photo: Trung Kien

**HIV with Migrant and Mobile Drug Users,
and Marginalized Groups Project**

Timeframe: 2 Years
Location: Ha Noi, Ho Chi Minh City and Hai Phong
Required Funding: USD \$750,000

HIV prevention, harm reduction, and treatment for people who use drugs are critical interventions in Viet Nam as people who use drugs continue to be the greatest proportion of people infected with HIV. UN and non-governmental organizations are addressing HIV amongst people who use drugs, but the mobility-specific vulnerability to HIV has not yet been included in activities targeting this population. In addition to trying to remain invisible due to stigma, discrimination and law enforcement, migration and mobility makes it more difficult to reach many people using drugs with accurate and relevant information and services.

The HIV with Migrant and Mobile Drug Users and Marginalized Groups Project aims to:

- conduct a qualitative study on Migrants who inject drugs in Hanoi in order to have a better understanding of migration patterns, drug use behaviours and unsafe sexual behaviours, health seeking behaviours and psychosocial support as well as to identify difficulties in reintegrating in the community;

- develop a model to increase treatment and support activities with migrant and mobile people who inject drugs to be undertaken in three urban areas: Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh City, and Hai Phong;
- build capacity of government partners, international organizations, and local NGOs in effectively reaching migrant and mobile people who use drugs;
- advocate for the inclusion of migrants and mobile populations in plans for harm reduction, drug treatment and treatment of HIV, TB, and STIs.

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**Migrant - Youth - Friendly
Reproductive - Health Project**

Timeframe: 3 years
Location: Ha Noi and Da Nang cities
Required Funding: USD \$2,935,000

Emerging issues facing Vietnamese adolescents and youth include unemployment, HIV, STIs, unplanned pregnancies, gender violence, substance abuse, mental health, and lack of access to quality social services. Adolescents and youth are particularly vulnerable as they are provided with little or no information on sexual health and their access to reproductive-health services is often judgmental and discriminatory.

The Migrant-Youth Reproductive-Health Project aims to:

- raise the awareness of government leaders on the needs and concerns of migrant youth;
- improve and increase access to appropriate and relevant reproductive-health information and quality migrant-friendly reproductive-health services;
- build capacity of local government agencies and NGOs.



COMPLETED PROJECTS



Photo: Trung Kien

Violence Against Women: A Rights - Based Approach to Empowering Migrant Women Affected by Violence

Timeframe: January 2008 – June 2009

Location: Ha Noi

The enactment of the 2006 Gender Equality Law and a draft law on domestic violence signaled the Vietnamese Government's growing recognition of the importance of gender equality, however women in Viet Nam who have been raped, sexually assaulted, or abused in the home have virtually no access to support services or opportunities for recourse, and are further victimized by stigma.

With the support of the EU, This project worked towards the promotion of the rights of women and to contribute to national efforts to reduce violence against women. The specific goals were:

- to empower migrant women affected by violence to speak out and raise awareness of violence against women in order to strengthen policy development and implementation;
- to increase psychosocial support for migrant women affected by violence;
- to ensure policy development and implementation is based on proven, effective methods with direct involvement and participation of women affected by violence.

IOM achieved these goals by partnering with three local NGOs, the Center for Studies and Applied Sciences in Gender – Family – Women and Adolescents (CSAGA), the Research Center for Family Health and Community Development (CE-FACOM), and the Community Health and Development Organization – LIGHT to develop self-help groups to empower migrant women who had experienced violence. In total, nine self-help groups were established with 120 members, providing a safe environment for women to share their experiences, to exchange information and to support each other. For women who otherwise lacked access to services, the self-help groups also provided a source for referrals to professional health providers and social services. Capacity building was undertaken with the facilitators, as well as the local NGO staff partnering in the project, through training sessions on topics such as communication, group management and counseling. Through the self-help groups, the needs and priorities of migrant women affected by violence were also discussed, developed, and articulated through various channels to the government, mass organizations and the media.

Programme Support for HIV Activities and Infrastructure Projects

Timeframe: August 2007 – July 2009

Location: Viet Nam, Greater Mekong Sub-region

Roads, bridges, power plants, dams, airports, and railways are just a few examples of the large infrastructure projects increasing in number throughout the Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS). These large infrastructure projects result in dramatic growth and development, and draw thousands of itinerant workers who enter regions of countries that have often been remote and isolated, and face increased vulnerability to HIV. The relationship between migration and HIV, however, extends beyond migrants to the members of both receiving and sending communities.

The purpose of this project was to strengthen HIV prevention activities conducted for infrastructure and development projects through a database and resource manual. The project carried out the following:

- The development of a comprehensive compilation and review, including annotated bibliography of the literature on HIV prevention interventions in relation to the infrastructure sector. The review includes literature from international and national programme agencies and from closely related areas such as HIV risk in relation to mobility and migration. It examines and summarizes project reports, articles, evaluations and studies reporting on HIV-prevention activities conducted at infrastructure projects in the GMS. This can be accessed on the website www.hiv-infrastructure.info.
- The creation of a resource manual to be used as a tool for governments, donor agencies, contractors, NGOs and other stakeholders to raise awareness of the importance of HIV prevention. The resource manual is available in hard copy, a CD-ROM version and a website which can be regularly and systematically updated.
- The development of an inventory of activities on HIV prevention in the infrastructure sector, including detailed programme information from a range of organizations.

The purpose of this project was to strengthen HIV prevention activities conducted for infrastructure and development projects through a database and resource manual.



COMPLETED PROJECTS

Adapting Information and Education Communication Materials for HIV Prevention in Infrastructure Projects: Using the IOM Safe Mobility and HIV/AIDS Video and Life - Skills Activity Package

Timeframe: November 2007 – December 2007
Location: Ha Noi

The strategy of this project was to demonstrate the use of a facilitated safe mobility and HIV prevention video life-skills package titled “For Life, With Love”. The package features an animated eight-episode video series DVD, three posters and a life-skills activities manual on HIV and AIDS. The package was developed with the cooperation of various international, government, and private sector partners working in mobility and HIV.

The package was developed with the cooperation of various international, government, and private sector partners working in mobility and HIV.



Photo: Trung Hien

Study on Gender - Based Violence Experienced by Migrant Women Factory Workers

Timeframe: October 2006 – June 2007
Location: Industrial zones in Ho Chi Minh City and its environs

While domestic violence has gained programme awareness in recent years, sexual and gender-based violence are not often adequately addressed. This has resulted in virtually no information available on violence against women in Viet Nam, particularly migrants. With over three million migrants living in Ho Chi Minh City and up to one million in Ha Noi, it is important to increase their awareness of these issues.

The aim of this study was to improve the understanding of the violence situation against female migrant workers in Viet Nam and to provide accurate information about migrant women’s perceptions, experiences and responses to gender-based violence that can be used to support advocacy efforts through policy and programme development.

IOM partnered with The Quality of Life Promotion Centre, a local NGO, for the study with the following objectives:

- To determine the nature, scope and magnitude of gender-based violence against migrant workers;
- To build a knowledge base of concerns, perceptions, behaviours and awareness related to gender-based violence against factory workers;
- To determine services, and access to services for migrant factory workers.

Mobility and HIV Policy Review Self - Audit

Timeframe: July 2008 – June 2009
Location: Ha Noi

National governments, international organizations, local NGOs, and financial institutions have increasingly reported escalating HIV vulnerability in locations and situations that attract and accommodate migrant and mobile populations. It is essential to understand the laws and policies that affect these communities, and the implementation and enforcement of these laws and policies.

The National Policy Self-Audit is a tool for governments in Southeast Asia and the Southern Provinces of China to measure their compliance with international, regional, intergovernmental, and local agreements relating to migrants, mobile populations and HIV and AIDS. IOM, in partnership with Canada South East Asia Regional HIV/AIDS Program (CSEARHAP), prepared, published and disseminated the Viet Nam National Policy Self-Audit on Mobility and HIV Vulnerability Reduction 2005 report.

Since 2005, the audit tool was revised and updated following feedback from national and regional stakeholders. IOM, with technical support from the UN Regional Task Force on Mobility and HIV Vulnerability Reduction (UNRTF), used the updated tool to conduct the Viet Nam National Policy Self-Audit 2008, to identify progress made since 2005 in four broad policy areas: international and regional agreements; national coordination and planning; prevention, treatment, care and support; and vulnerability reduction. The 2008 report also contains a summary of recommendations made by the respondents during interviews.

Labour Migrants' HIV Knowledge and Behaviour Study

Timeframe: October 2005 – September 2006
Location: Ha Noi and Ho Chi Minh City

Labour migrants overseas are particularly vulnerable to HIV. Countries with a long history of labour migration are now recognizing that an increasing proportion of migrants are returning home with HIV. The lack of protection against HIV is largely due to poor understanding and behaviour prior to overseas travel. Labour migration from Viet Nam is increasing and there are a number of training centres and locations established to train migrant workers.

The Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs (MOLISA) has developed a 2004-2010 plan to provide job training for up to 70 percent of the migrant workforce and expects the number of migrant workers to double during that time. The growing number of labour migrants travelling overseas, their vulnerability to HIV and the risk of HIV transmission when returning, indicates considerable need to reach migrant workers prior to their departure.

The project conducted qualitative and quantitative research with migrant workers in training centres in Viet Nam and at IOM offices in Ha Noi and Ho Chi Minh City, to assess migrant knowledge and behaviour related to HIV transmission, and developed information and educational materials.

COMPLETED PROJECTS

Research on Communities Affected by HIV

Timeframe: April 2006 – July 2006
Location: Northern, central and southern transport corridors

This research project was conducted among communities affected by new roads and road improvement projects. The research used qualitative and quantitative methods to determine:

- how roads change the community's vulnerability to HIV;
- how roads change mobility patterns and access to services;
- health-seeking behaviour.

The research results were used for the development of an eight episode series aimed at encouraging these populations to better protect themselves against the HIV virus. These cartoons became one of the tools used in the communication strategies of IOM's project titled, 'Adapting Information Education Communication Materials for HIV Prevention in Infrastructure.'

This research project was conducted among communities affected by new roads and road improvement projects.

Truck Drivers and Public Health Study

Timeframe: April 2006 – June 2006
Location: Northern, central and southern transport corridors

Migration and mobility across the Greater Mekong Sub-region is affecting the public health of mobile populations. In Viet Nam, provinces with the highest prevalence of HIV, STIs and other public-health concerns also have the highest degrees of mobility. Separated from the support of their families and the norms and expectations of society, mobile and migrant populations are especially vulnerable to drug abuse, risky sexual behaviour, and sexual exploitation, and may experience reproductive health problems without adequate access to health services.

The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) designed a project to address the needs of transport workers with the long-term goal to improve the health of long-distance road transport workers in the Greater Mekong Sub-region.

IOM facilitated research for UNESCAP to achieve the following:

- Determine the major risk factors relating to public health and HIV transmission among truck drivers;
- Identify the most realistic public-health activities for truck drivers and determine barriers towards the use of condoms;
- Identify existing health-care services used by truck drivers, including STI and HIV testing services, and determine the health-seeking behaviour of drivers;
- Identify social networks amongst truck drivers and the community along major transport routes;
- Estimate the populations of truck drivers along major transport routes.



Photo: Tung Kien



**PROJECTS SUBMITTED
TO DONORS**



PHOTO: Trung Kiên

**Standing Up Against Violence (Stand Up)
Migrant Women and Men Working Together
to Prevent Violence Against Women**

Timeframe: 2 Years

Location: Ha Noi and Ho Chi Minh City

Funding is being sought for the second phase of Violence Against Women: A Rights-Based Approach to Empowering Migrant Women Affected by Violence, renamed Standing Up Against Violence (Stand Up).

The second phase will build on the activities of the first phase: capacity building of local NGOs; mapping and inventory of service providers; establishing a service referral system/network of services; establishing self-help groups; conducting outreach and communication; promoting policy, advocacy and implementation; and providing social and health services.

While maintaining the goals of phase 1, Stand Up will expand geographically beyond Ha Noi to include HCMC. Due to the different predominant trends of violence against women manifested in Ha Noi and HCMC, it is estimated that Ha Noi self-help groups will continue to mainly address domestic violence, while the migrant women in HCMC will

be dealing with several different kinds of violence including domestic violence, violence by intimate partners, violence in insecure living quarters, and sexual harassment in the workplace. New activities such as self-defense classes will provide the opportunity for women to break out of gender assigned roles.

Also key to the next phase will be the involvement of men standing up against violence. Migrant men will be recruited to form their own self-help groups where issues of gender inequality and violence against women will be addressed. Communication and outreach will actively involve men as well, advocating for women and men to work together to stand up against violence against women.



PHOTO: Trung Kiên

New activities such as self-defense classes will provide the opportunity for women to break out of gender assigned roles.



CURRENT PROJECTS

Assisted Voluntary Return

Timeframe: Ongoing
Location: Throughout Viet Nam

There are a number of migrants in irregular status in the United Kingdom, some of whom are Vietnamese. IOM in Viet Nam works with the IOM Office in the UK, and the Government of the United Kingdom, to implement the reintegration component of a return programme for those who return home to Viet Nam voluntarily. This project assists returnees in a number of ways including providing initial funding for micro business start-up, and funding further education and vocational training. The primary aim is to help returnees gradually integrate into the community, stabilize their lives and enjoy a brighter future based on knowledge and employment.

In October 2007, a new approach to supporting reintegration was adopted to facilitate a move from a “one size fits all” model towards a model of reintegration assistance that is more tailored to the individual needs of returnees and their families. The approach requires the returnee to provide considerably more information on the activity they propose to engage in, and divides the financial support for business start-up into two installments. The second installment is made only upon a successful evaluation of the business after 6 months. After more than a year of implementation, the new approach has proven to be most effective in addressing specific needs for assistance and has succeeded in improving the chances of returnees reintegrating successfully back into Vietnamese society.



Photo: Trung Kien

Gender Joint Programme

Duration: 2 Years
Location: Ha Noi

Under the three-year Joint Programme (JP) on Gender Equality, twelve UN agencies and programmes, in partnership with the Government of Viet Nam, will provide strategic, coordinated and multi-sectoral capacity building and technical assistance to national and provincial partners. This will support better implementation, monitoring, evaluating and reporting on the Law on Gender Equality and the Law on Domestic Violence Prevention and Control for 2009-2011.

The JP has been jointly developed and will be implemented by Government concerned agencies and the 12 UN agencies. The JP specifically aims to build national institutional capacity and has developed the following three outcomes:

- Improved skills, knowledge and practices for the implementation, monitoring, evaluation and reporting of the Law on Gender Equality and the Law on Domestic Violence Prevention and Control;
- Enhanced partnerships and coordination around gender equality within and outside of the government;
- Strengthened evidence-based data and data systems for promoting gender equality.

To achieve the three outcomes, the Joint Programme will focus on key interventions that will contribute to overall capacity building of line Ministries at national and provincial levels involved in coordination, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and reporting on the two laws. The aim is also to improve networking and partnerships with and among relevant Ministries and civil society involved in GE and DV laws, whilst further strengthening and disseminating currently under-utilized and reported GE and sex-disaggregated indicators and identifying data gaps.

The Joint Program has been jointly developed and will be implemented by Government concerned agencies and the 12 UN agencies.



COMPLETED PROJECTS

Mind the Gap: Networking and Awareness for Ensuring Rights and Social Inclusion of Ethnic Minority Women in two Rural Districts of Bac Giang Province

Timeframe: March 2007 – February 2008

Location: Bac Giang Province

For ethnic minority populations, economic gains from recent periods of economic growth have been modest, while socio-economic gaps with the majority of the population are widening. Limited economic and social resources reduce dramatically their power of self-representation, their ability to promote their rights and interests, and their capacity to fully participate in economic and political life.

This project contributed to the empowerment of ethnic-minority women in two mountainous districts of Bac Giang Province (Son Dong and Luc Ngan) through self-representation, participation, intercultural understanding, and rights promotion. The project was implemented through a partnership between GVC (Gruppo di Volontariato Civile) Bac Giang Women’s Union, and IOM.

The specific objective was to increase the level of participation in the public life of women belonging to ethnic minority groups by increasing the awareness of their civil rights and roles in society through the organization of women’s “Caravans of Dialogue” in 10 municipalities. Each dealing with specific roles and functions of women in the society and focusing on various issues, such as health, civil rights and participation, the dialogues allowed to women increase their knowledge, exchanged their practical know-how, and reflect on their own and others personal stories.

This project contributed to the empowerment of ethnic-minority women in two mountainous districts of Bac Giang Province (Son Dong and Luc Ngan) through self-representation, participation, intercultural understanding, and rights promotion.



Photo: Trung Kien



**PROPOSALS
UNDER DEVELOPMENT**

Empowered Urban Youth

Timeframe: 1 Year
Location: Ha Noi

As migrant youth are particularly vulnerable compared to their resident counterparts, the proposed project will predominantly target migrant youth living in and around Hanoi, and their needs. Vocational training and other skills training will be provided, such as technical job skills, communication skills, life skills, and English.

Youth-led self-help groups will bring together and empower youth to learn about and address concerns collectively. They will also be trained on communication and advocacy skills to influence their landlords and local authorities to improve their living conditions.

Networks will be strengthened and established among the young migrants through the project's linkages with existing youth networks. A mapping of service providers and support systems will allow the youth to access greater support.

The overall outcomes of the objectives of the project are as follows:

- Youth beneficiaries will acquire improved life skills and knowledge including communication and advocacy skills, self-esteem skills, and knowledge of important issues such as health, gender equality, and worker's rights.
- Youth beneficiaries will acquire improved living standards through increased income, higher skilled jobs, and improved living conditions.
- Youth beneficiaries will have increased knowledge regarding and access to service providers and support systems.

Networks will be strengthened and established among the young migrants through the project's linkages with existing youth networks. A mapping of service providers and support systems will allow the youth to access greater support.

Support for Rural Development through Remittances

Timeframe: 2 Years
Location: Ho Chi Minh City and three labour migrant sending provinces

Despite high economic growth in Viet Nam in recent years, a concentration of investment and allocation of resources in urban areas, coupled with weak linkages to rural development, is increasing the poverty and development gap between urban and rural areas.

Remittances are an important component of household income, and enhancing their management is key for reducing poverty in rural areas of Viet Nam. IOM Viet Nam believes that remittances remain a largely untapped development resource for the rural poor, and seeks to investigate and test models for replication through the proposed project.

This project intends to carry out the following objectives:

- To fill knowledge gaps and inform policy makers, development actors, and financial institutions on the significance, scale, and potential of domestic remittances on rural communities in Viet Nam;
- To increase the utilization of remittances in improving livelihoods and bolstering community development through the testing and creation of models;
- To improve and expand the access of the rural poor to remittances, and to magnify its development impact by supporting the diversification of money transfer services in Viet Nam by exploring and testing new possibilities using telecommunications technology.



Photo: Trung Hien

**PROPOSALS
UNDER DEVELOPMENT**

Care for Workers

Timeframe: 2 Years
Location: Dong Nai and Binh Duong provinces

Viet Nam is one of the world’s most quickly developing economies, and economic restructuring has paved the way for rapid industrialisation and urbanisation, creating employment and income opportunities and influencing migration trends.

The overall objective of this project is to enhance the working and living conditions of migrant factory workers and their communities by strengthening the knowledge and capacity of target workers, factory decision makers, local authorities, and mass organizations and their networks and systems. Activities will seek to address the issue comprehensively by targeting relevant actors at the workplace and communities of residence, at all levels.

The project is envisioned to indirectly support the implementation of Viet Nam’s Labour Code, while directly improving knowledge and capacity, as well as creating/strengthening systems, relationships and activities supporting migrant factory workers and their host communities.

Specific issues addressed will include improving working conditions and basic services, as well as communication between the workers, supervisors and managers within the factory. The project will also address the issues of strengthening mass organizations to enhance their work supporting migrant workers and their communities, establishing service referral systems within the communities, and improving living conditions by working with landlords.

The overall objective of this project is to enhance the working and living conditions of migrant factory workers and their communities by strengthening the knowledge and capacity of target workers, factory decision makers, local authorities, and mass organizations and their networks and systems.

Building Stronger and Healthier Central Highland Communities through Integration of Marginalized and Vulnerable Populations

Timeframe: 2 Years
Location: Kontum and Dak Lak Provinces, Central Highlands
Required Funding: USD \$780,000

Despite impressive economic growth and rapid development in Viet Nam, social exclusion and growing disparities among various population groups are increasing. Community leaders have acknowledged the need for improved social and health services.

Through this project IOM intends to strengthen the economic status of marginalized, vulnerable populations of the Central Highlands by improving community resilience to absorb economic and social shock, and increasing youth opportunities and involvement.

Ethnic Minority Community Development in Son La Province

Timeframe: 2 Years
Location: Son La Province
Required Funding: USD \$2,000,000

The construction of a hydroelectric dam in Son La province will force approximately 90,000 people, 80% of whom are of Thai ethnicity, to relocate, many into areas inhabited by other ethnic groups. This resettlement is likely to result in increased poverty, conflict amongst ethnic groups, increased drug use, further isolation, and increased vulnerability to HIV, STIs and other infections, as well as poor quality of life in general.

The objective of the Ethnic Minority Community Development project is to improve the quality of life and opportunities for positive change in rural communities, by supporting low-income, rural ethnic minority communities to build the assets they need to overcome poverty and develop in a sustainable, enabling manner.





COMPLETED PROJECTS

Environmental Change and Forced Migration Scenarios: Vietnam Case Study Reports Linkages between Flooding, Migration and Resettlement

Timeframe: October 2007 – December 2007

Location: Mekong Delta region of Viet Nam

IOM Viet Nam together with the United Nations University Institute for Environment and Human Security carried out research on the Environmental Change and Forced Migration Scenarios (EACH-FOR) in Viet Nam, which explored linkages between flooding, migration and resettlement.

This was part of a European Commission funded research project, which aimed to provide a greater understanding of the role of environmental degradation and change in causing forced migration and its related societal consequences.

Cyclical flooding in the Mekong Delta is an annual event and essential to the livelihoods of those people living in the region. The study highlighted that natural disasters, in combination with rapid socio-economic development and threats posed by climate change, places Viet Nam's in a precarious position. In the face of environmental stress, people in the Mekong Delta may likely decide to migrate (mainly seasonal and internally), particularly in light of rapid economic changes that will create stronger pull factors towards urban environments. This study also highlighted the associated challenges with this migration, including the increasing vulnerability of the people during the resettlement process.

This was part of a European Commission funded research project, which aimed to provide a greater understanding of the role of environmental degradation and change in causing forced migration and its related societal consequences.

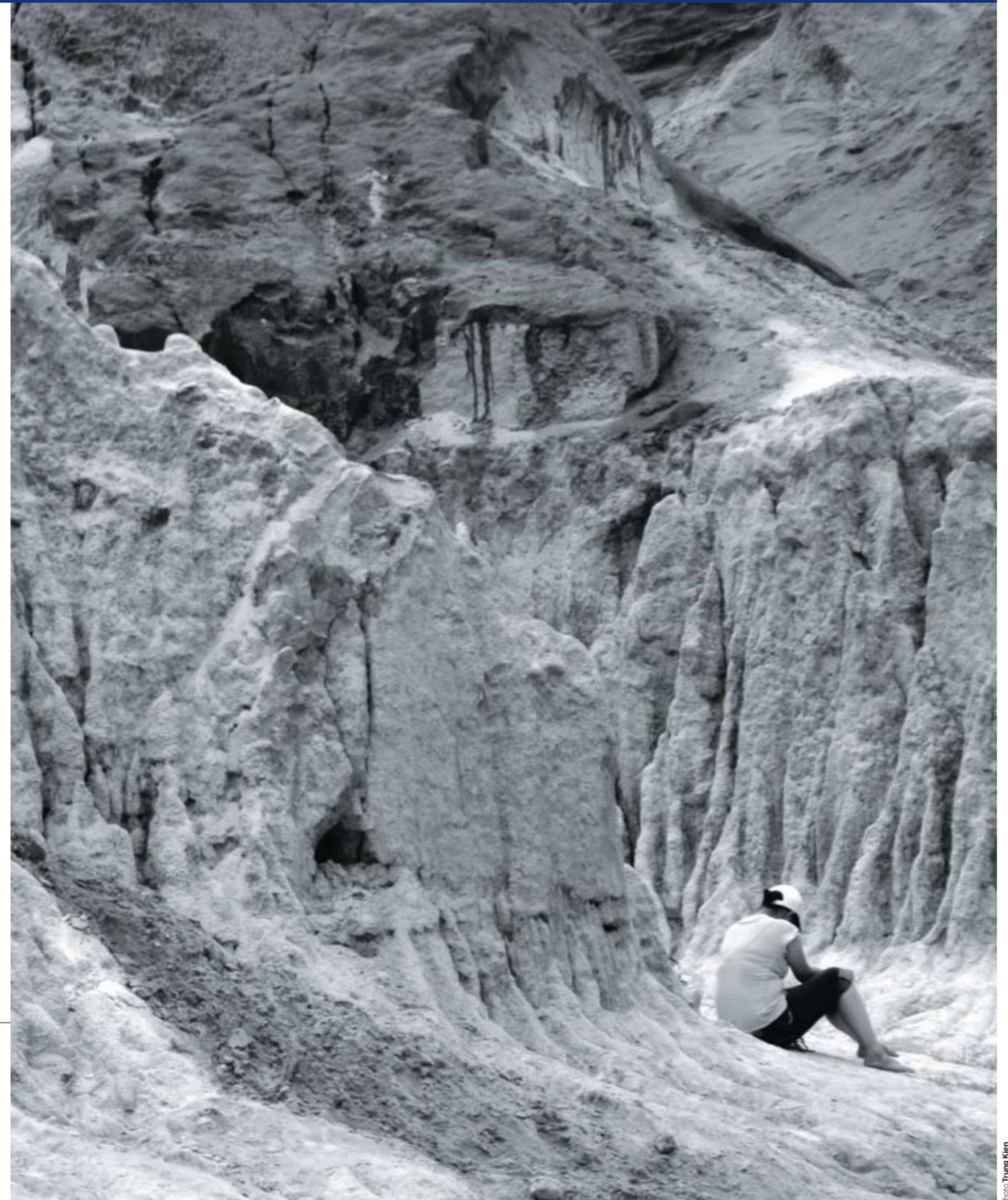


Photo: Trung Kien



**PROPOSALS
UNDER DEVELOPMENT**

Climate Change and Migration & Building Community Resilience

Timeframe: 4 Years
Location: Mekong Delta

IOM Viet Nam is seeking funding to conduct multi-year research to investigate the cause and effect relationship between environmental degradation and migration. By collaborating with a research institution(s) and regularly following up with cohorts for the duration of the project period, the research will include data collection and mapping of:

- climate change in vulnerable areas of the Mekong Delta;
- the impact of environmental degradation on the communities and how they are responding and coping;
- using collected data, modeling tools and information technology to determine migration trends, current status, and future movement based on climate change forecasts;
- analysis of existing structures for assistance, and identifying steps forward to build preparedness strategies.

A pilot project is being proposed to build community resilience to climate change by creating a two-way information flow between the community and both IOM and a partner research institution. Information about changes in their environment will be provided by the communities, while IOM and its partner provide updates, training and equipment to communities to incrementally adjust to their changing environment. This component is envisioned to be a pilot for replication in other areas. Accessible technology such as mobile phones and SMS will be used to communicate as well as share information. All of the findings will be disseminated to government authorities, service providers, and institutions of research and higher learning with the goal to strengthen resilience, planning and preparedness.

IOM Viet Nam is seeking funding to conduct multi-year research to investigate the cause and effect relationship between environmental degradation and migration.





International Organization for Migration
Mission in Vietnam

Viet Nam's rapid economic development is fuelling large migration flows from rural areas to urban and peri - urban areas where employment opportunities are increasingly more available. According to some government offices, an estimated 25 - 30 percent of - Viet Nam's largest cities consist of migrants.



Photo: Trung Kien



CURRENT PROJECTS

Travel Assistance for Migrants

Timeframe: Ongoing
Location: Ha Noi and Ho Chi Minh City

IOM offers comprehensive and reliable travel assistance to migrants who have never flown before or traveled to a foreign country, including escort assistance for medical cases, elderly migrants, and unaccompanied minors.

In many cases, as part of this support, IOM provides airport assistance at departure, during transit and upon arrival at the port of entry into the migrant's new country. IOM's arrival assistance is particularly helpful to new migrants, facilitating smooth processing at foreign customs and immigration arrival checkpoints

In many cases, as part of this support, IOM provides airport assistance at departure, during transit and upon arrival at the port of entry into the migrant's new country.

Support to the US Government's Humanitarian Resettlement Activities

Timeframe: Ongoing
Location: Ho Chi Minh City

At the request of the US Government, IOM performs government mandated medical assessments and provides movement assistance for Vietnamese applicants who are selected for resettlement in the United States under this activity.

COMPLETED PROJECTS

Evacuation of Vietnamese Workers from Lebanon

Timeframe: July and August 2006
Location: Lebanon

In 2006, during the crisis in Lebanon, IOM arranged the safe evacuation and transport of seventy-seven Vietnamese nationals who wished to return home.

As part of the process, IOM emergency operations staff on the ground in Lebanon and Syria assisted the Viet Nam Ministry of Foreign Affairs representative with logistical support, facilitating expeditious travel documentation issuance for the group of evacuees.

Evacuation of Vietnamese Workers from Iraq

Timeframe: 1990
Location: Iraq

In 1990, prior to the start of the First Gulf War, IOM evacuated some 17,000 Vietnamese workers from Iraq to Viet Nam at the request of the Vietnamese Government. Funding for the operation was provided by the international community.





3 | MIGRANT INTEGRATION

Awareness Raising and Information Dissemination Project for Korea - Bound Migrant Brides

Timeframe: April 2007 – December 2008

Location: Provinces with significant outflows of Vietnamese women marrying Korean men

Since 2001, the number of brides migrating to Korea has increased dramatically. Currently, more than 12,000 Vietnamese women migrate to Korea each year after marrying Korean nationals in Viet Nam. This is often through a broker-arranged process. The aim of this project was to provide information to women considering marrying Korean men with regard to what entering into such a marriage entails as well as to provide accurate information to those who have already made the commitment.

COMPLETED PROJECTS

One component of the project was creating awareness raising materials for potential migrant brides in Viet Nam. A second part entailed the training of counselors from the Viet Nam Women's Union and Justice Departments so that they may disseminate accurate information during required marriage interviews. Through the dual-approach of providing informational materials of available support networks to migrants in Korea, in addition to brief counseling sessions, migrant brides have been empowered to assert their personal rights in Korea and seek assistance when needed.



CHANGE PICT

Pre - departure Orientation for Korea - Bound Migrant Brides

Timeframe: October 2007- January 2008

Location: Ho Chi Minh City

In response to the rapid increase in the number of Vietnamese brides migrating to Korea through a two to three-day broker-arranged marriage process, IOM implemented a pre-departure orientation programme targeting women marrying Korean nationals. In the first four months of the project's implementation - October 2007 through January 2008 - more than 1,100 women attended the day-long class which provided basic information regarding Korean culture, societal norms, rights and citizenship. The project also included the operation of a toll-free telephone hotline, whose trained counsellors gave advice and support on the topic of marriage migration.

The assistance provided through the class and telephone hotline helped this group of young women, typically from poor, rural Mekong Delta communities, to become increasingly empowered and better prepared to face the twin challenges of cross-cultural marriage coupled with migration. Following the completion of this first stage of the project, responsibility for its delivery was handed over to a non- governmental organization.

The project also included the operation of a toll-free telephone hotline, whose trained counsellors gave advice and support on the topic of marriage migration.





4 | FACILITATED MIGRATION

CURRENT PROJECTS

Service Delivery Partnerships

Timeframe: Ongoing

Location: Ha Noi and Ho Chi Minh City

The IOM offices in Ha Noi and Ho Chi Minh City are the designated visa application submission sites on behalf of the Australian Department for Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) and Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC). IOM staff assist applicants by verifying that all necessary documentation is present before forwarding the application to the Embassy or Consulate for processing. IOM assists with both permanent and temporary applications for the Australian Government, and temporary applications for the Canadian Government.

Before IOM provided this visa application submission service, all applicants from Ha Noi applying for temporary visas to Canada had to do so in Ho Chi Minh City. Under the new arrangement, applicants are able to submit applications at the IOM office in Ha Noi as well. The new process offers longer service hours, an easily accessible forum to ask visa related questions, and on-line case status tracking. Applicants applying for visas for Canada may also submit their applications by mail, thereby improving access and saving on travel costs. IOM's involvement in these processes has contributed to the visa processing times being significantly reduced.

IOM assists with both permanent and temporary applications for the Australian Government, and temporary applications for the Canadian Government.

Facilitating Migration

Timeframe: Ongoing

Location: Ha Noi and Ho Chi Minh City

In support of migrants and at the request of local Embassies and Consulates, IOM provides counseling, informational resources, fingerprinting, and logistical assistance to both on-shore and offshore immigration processing posts.



CURRENT PROJECTS

Support to the Colombo Process (Ministerial Consultation on the Management of Overseas Employment and Contractual Labour for Countries of Origin in Asia)

Timeframe: Ongoing
Location: Asia Region

IOM facilitates the ministerial consultations (as well as the informal consultations leading to those events) at which labour sending countries:

- share experiences, lessons learned and best practices on overseas employment policies and approaches;
- consult on issues faced by overseas workers, countries of origin and destination;
- propose practical solutions for the well-being of overseas workers especially the more vulnerable ones;
- optimize development benefits from organized overseas employment;

- enhance dialogue with countries of destination;
- review and monitor the implementation of the recommendations and identify further steps for action.

In addition, under this process, IOM conducts labour migration workshops for Government officials and organizations, and also supports officials attending workshops on related issues in the region and around the world.

As one of the follow-up actions to ministerial recommendations, in 2007, IOM also supported the participation of three labour sending agencies at an IOM workshop in Manila on Placing Workers in Asia and Europe.

Support to the Abu Dhabi Dialogue (Ministerial Consultation on Overseas Employment and Contractual Labour for Countries of Origin and Destination in Asia)

Timeframe: January 2008 (with another ministerial consultation planned in 2010)
Location: Asia Region and the Middle East (mainly the GCC states)

IOM facilitated this ministerial consultation (as well as the informal consultations leading to that event) in order to promote the development of partnerships between countries of origin and destination on:

- developing and sharing knowledge on labour market trends, skills profiles, workers and remittances policies and flows, and their relationship to development;
- building capacity for more effective matching of labour supply and demand;

- preventing illegal recruitment and promoting welfare and protection measures for contractual workers;
- developing a framework for a comprehensive approach to managing the entire cycle of temporary contractual work that fosters the mutual interest of countries of origin and destination.

The Abu Dhabi Dialogue, an offshoot of the Colombo Process, served as a forum to mobilize new ideas and concrete activities towards development of a comprehensive and practical regional framework for contractual labour mobility in Asia, promoting the welfare and well-being of workers and the development of countries of origin and destination, with the active support of international and regional partners.



CURRENT PROJECTS

Development of Migrant Profiles and a Comprehensive Migration Database

Timeframe: 2 years
Location: Throughout Viet Nam

Viet Nam is experiencing increasing migration and mobility, with greater numbers of labour migrants, travellers, internal migrants, as well as women marrying foreign husbands and moving overseas. As suggested by the Commission of the European Communities, collecting information on migration provides support to policy makers, government implementers, destination countries, and migrants, resulting in a better understanding of the migration environment and issues around safe migration.

Migration profiles aim to gather information on such issues as:

- the labour market
- unemployment rates
- labour demand and supply
- present or potential skill shortages by sector and occupation
- skills needs in the country
- skills within the Diaspora
- migration flows
- incoming and outgoing financial flows linked with migration (including migrant remittances)
- relevant gender and age aspects.

The profiles will also include an overview of the national migration and labour policy framework, including legal instruments relevant to migration.

The migration profiles in Viet Nam, will provide the opportunity to bring together the various, relevant Government officials, build capacity on migration issues, and provide both Viet Nam and the EU member states with a detailed summary of the migration issues.

Consular Project, Capacity Building in Migration Policy Development

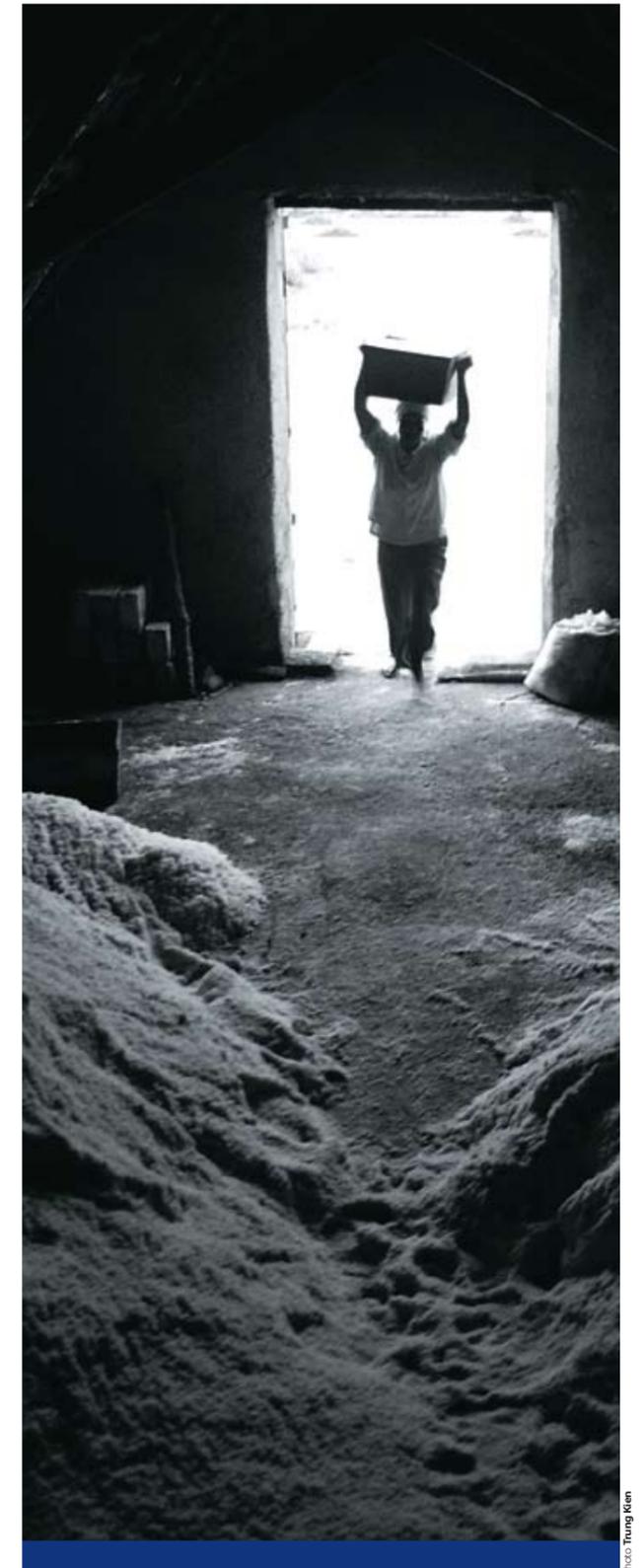
Timeframe: December 2008 – May 2009
Location: Ha Noi

This 6-month Technical Cooperation project is intended to build Viet Nam's migration management capacity through enhancing the knowledge of migration legislation of government officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) and other concerned agencies. It will also contribute to improving the citizen protection work in general.

The Capacity Building in Migration Policy Development Project concentrates on the capacity building of MOFA and other related agencies, in order to reach levels required by today's ever-changing migration environment. Its main components include the provision of training on international migration law and migration policy development, a study tour, and establishment of a library on migration.

This project will increase and consolidate the capacity of Viet Nam's Consular Service to tackle challenges posed by increasing mobility both within the region and globally. By extension, this will contribute to the regional and sub-regional cooperative efforts in consolidating security and ability to combat and prevent migration-related crimes in South East Asia and globally.

This project will increase and consolidate the capacity of Viet Nam's Consular Service to tackle challenges posed by increasing mobility both within the region and globally.





COMPLETED PROJECTS

Support to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as the Secretariat of the Asia - Pacific Consultation on Refugees, Displaced Persons and Migration in General

Timeframe: 2002
Location: Ha Noi

IOM in Viet Nam provided technical and administrative support to the Government of Viet Nam to participate in the process of the Asia-Pacific Consultation on Refugees, Displaced Persons, and Migration in general. In 2002, in collaboration with UNHCR, IOM Viet Nam supported the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Viet Nam in its role as secretariat of the process, and its hosting of the 7th Plenary Meeting. The support included the provision of office space for the secretariat, a salary for a secretary and an assistant, administrative and logistical arrangements, and technical input.



DONORS TO IOM ACTIVITIES IN VIET NAM



Government of the United Kingdom



Asian Development Bank



Government of Australia



European Union



Government of New Zealand



Government of the Netherlands



Government of the Republic of Korea



The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific



Government of the United States of America



Government of Canada





International Organization for Migration
Mission in Vietnam

Headquarters

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