



Welcome message

With this 2005 annual report on the UN Volunteer Programme in Viet Nam we would like to thank all of the volunteers and partner organizations that have greatly contributed to another successful year! We can proudly congratulate one another that our joint efforts have indeed further promoted the cause of volunteerism for development.

The highlights of the year include the English Tutoring Scheme which demonstrated that many volunteers with professional skills are eager to support the capacity development of People living with HIV/AIDS and

health care workers. The year also marks the beginning of the GIPA (Greater Involvement of People living with and affected by HIV/AIDS) project which is now being led by the Vietnam Women’s Union after a period of resource mobilization and careful preparation. This annual report will also inform you of the achievements of the Youth Volunteerism in World Heritage Preservation project, which is drawing to a close but leaving a lasting impact.

The UNV Programme in Viet Nam witnessed significant growth in 2005, and we are very pleased to engage in

a number of new and exciting partnerships under the UNV Millennium Development Goals Facility.

It is thanks to these many enhanced partnerships and the strong commitment and professionalism of ever increasing numbers of volunteers (with more than 60 UN Volunteers currently serving), that we can promote our conviction that volunteerism is an essential and precious component of successful human development. The everyday work of volunteers in Viet Nam has continued to demonstrate that the values of solidarity and engagement make a difference when put into action!

Hand in hand, they are making a Flame of Hearts (*)

It’s almost 15 years since the first person was diagnosed with HIV in Viet Nam. Since then the number of people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) has been increasing sharply.

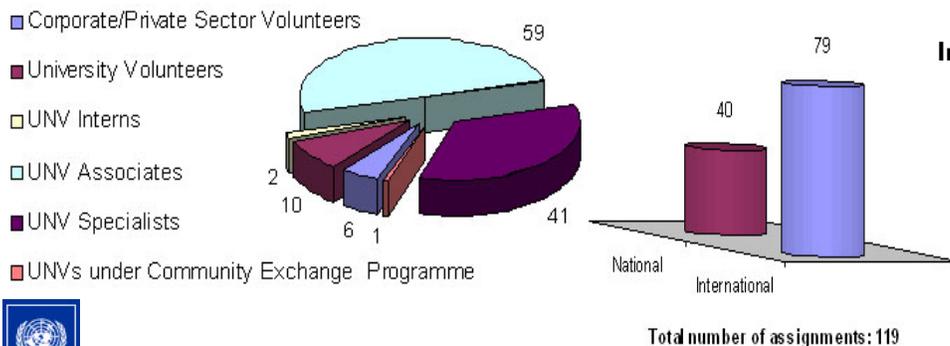
However, unlike in the past , nowadays PLWHA are not ignored by the public but are starting to be engaged in

(Continued on page 4)



Members of the Hoa Phuong Do group and UN Volunteers are joining an outdoor activity to practice English.
Photo: UNV

UN Volunteer Assignments in 2005



Inside:

GIPA project starts in Viet Nam	2
Youth Volunteerism in World Heritage Preservation	2
UNV Viet Nam & MDG Small Grants	3
Beauty in Diversity 2005 at a glance	5





GIPA Project starts in Viet Nam

The Greater Involvement of People Living with HIV/AIDS (GIPA) - a joint project between Vietnam Women's Union, UN Volunteers and UNAIDS - was launched on 21 February 2006.

The project aims at promoting the voluntary participation of people living with and affected by HIV/AIDS in the

planning and implementation of HIV/AIDS activities to help improve their lives, families and communities.

The three-year project involves UN Volunteers who work closely with local partners and communities in Ha Noi, Hai Phong, Quang Ninh and Ho Chi Minh City.

The total project budget of USD

655,000 comes from the Special Voluntary Fund of UNV, and the German, U.S and Australian governments.

The project started with a five-day orientation training for new UN Volunteers.

The volunteers are now starting to map PLWHA groups and identify possible partners.

Youth Volunteerism in World Heritage Preservation: The end or the beginning?

2005 marked the second and final project year in which the entire team of UN Volunteers assisted the Youth Union to promote volunteerism in the preservation of Ha Long Bay, Hoi An Town and My Son Sanctuary. An independent, final project evaluation was conducted in the beginning of 2006.

It was great to hear from the volunteers and local counterparts in the evaluation workshop that volunteerism had made 4 distinct contributions in the project:

Volunteerism had allowed a more diverse range of young people become

involved in heritage preservation. More young women and more youth from less wealthy families were able to engage.

Volunteerism had enhanced the employability of the young volunteers. Through volunteering they developed marketable skills and learnt from hands-on experience.

The expressions of volunteerism in the community had sent out a strong message to local community leaders. As a result, the latter started to provide more support for volunteer activities and integrated volunteerism as an essential component in local develop-



UN Volunteer Tran Xuan Cuong is introducing the volunteers' role in World Heritage preservation at Ha Long Bay. Photo: Horst Wagner

ment strategies.

Volunteers helped reach out to new partners and mobilize more resources for heritage preservation activities.

What do the project participants say?

Mr. Tho: (Youth Volunteer Group Leader):

"Through the project the youth volunteers have helped the local community understand the importance of Cultural Heritage. As a result of this project, we have ongoing restoration activities in my village temple."

Mr. Dong:

"After working with the other volunteers on this project I realized that life is not just about making money but also about contributing to significant local activities. I especially believe in the school-based activities as a way to educate the children and their families about the importance of Cultural Heritage Preservation."

Ms. Dzung:

"I heard about this project from a friend and decided to volunteer to fill some of my free time."

"After participating in some activities, I soon realized the value of my contributions to Cultural Heritage Preservation and the benefits to the local community."

Ms. Huyen:

"We have proposed and mobilized volunteers for three of our own initiatives which will be ongoing after the end of the project."

Mr. Viet:

"After telling my neighbor about this project, he later came to ask me how he could participate. Since then he has developed many new skills."





Viet Nam leads the way in achieving the MDGs

Viet Nam is one of the leading countries in terms of attracting financial support from the Special Voluntary Fund (SVF) for local projects to help achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

The global Small Grant Facility provided by UNV aims at building part-

nerships with Volunteer Involving Organizations to strengthen their MDG related initiatives.

Under the partnership scheme, UNV provides financial grants ranging from USD 10,000 to 50,000. The scheme requires a 'matching contribution', which means that UNV will match an

amount proposed and committed by the requesting organization.

To date, UNV Viet Nam has already established successful partnerships with two organizations (see below) which will significantly enhance volunteerism to support MDG related activities.

HVO - Health Volunteers Overseas



Organization brief: Working in Viet Nam since 1992, HVO is an American NGO dedicated to support people with disabilities.

Project: "Self-Help Groups and other Volunteers: Attaining the Millennium Development Goals"

Main project activities: Organize cross-country trips for people with disabilities; provide capacity development support to enhance the role of women self-help groups; help raise awareness on the link between disability issues and the MDGs; promote gender equality and empower women and girls with disabilities; promote volunteerism for the MDGs among people with disabilities.

Total budget: USD 94,500 (UNV: USD 50,000; HVO/VSO/local partners: USD 44,500).

Contributes mainly to MDGs: 1 and 3



Young people with disabilities and youth volunteers are leading the 'Continuing the Tradition' cross-country trip on three-wheelers. The 25-day trip aims at promoting volunteerism for the MDGs among people with disabilities throughout the country.

Photo: Disability Forum

EFD – Education for Development



The project launch held in Ho Chi Minh City on 4 November, 2005 attracted much attention of partners, volunteer groups and media. Photo: UNV

Organization brief: Established in 1996, EFD is a small international organization that works with Vietnamese partners to improve and expand educational services for disadvantaged children and youth.

Project: "Enhancing Volunteer Contributions to achieving MDGs in Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam, through EFD and community-based organizations"

Main project activities: Raise awareness of volunteerism in MDG related activities; increase visibility of the contributions that female and male volunteers make to achieving the MDGs; establish volunteer networks and information-sharing mechanisms between local organizations and NGOs working for the improvement of the lives of disadvantaged children and youth through educational services; provide micro grants to local volunteer-involving organizations; and, increase their capacity to mobilize local resources.

Total Budget: USD 100,050 (UNV: USD 45,800; EFD: USD 54,250)

Contributes mainly to MDGs: 2 and 8 www.EDUCATIONforDEVELOPMENT.org





Hand in hand, they are making a Flame of Hearts

(Continued from page 1)

the National Strategy on HIV/AIDS.

Members of “Hoa Phuong Do” – a self-help group, are some of the most active PLWHA that I have known since I started teaching English to PLWHA.

Founded in February 2003 by Pham Thi Hue, an openly HIV-positive activist in HIV/AIDS, the group has 8 key members and 45 collaborators of which some are family relatives, HIV positive as well as HIV negative people living in Hai Phong.

When the GIPA project was developed in Viet Nam, Hue became a National UN Volunteer in early 2005. Since then, Hue has received valuable support in scaling-up her group’s activities.

Since its inception, the Hoa Phuong Do group has been deeply engaged in many community-based activities. They provide counseling directly and via telephone to PLWHA and their families. Thanks to this initiative, the scared and isolating attitude of family relatives towards PLWHA has significantly changed, such that they are more accepted and cared for at home.

With support from CARE International, the Royal Danish Embassy, from July 2004 up to now, the group has provided material (e.g. rice, milk and other basic goods), as well as spiritual support for PLWHA. They also offer funeral services for people who died of AIDS. Moreover, they have organized many festivals

for children infected and affected by HIV/AIDS on the occasion of 1 June, Mid Autumn Festival, as well as provided study facilities, such as books, notebooks, school fees, etc.

Having been injecting drug users themselves, many of the male members can effectively consult others on using sterilized and new syringes, and they also promote condoms in behaviour change campaigns at the community. In addition,



A class was established in Hai Phong by UNV in 2005 to introduce English to members of Hoa Phuong Do group. Photo: UNV

tion, they help to guide people with high-risk behaviours to access voluntary counselling and testing services available in Hai Phong.

Besides that, the group has conducted many media campaigns and topic discussions where participants share experiences, knowledge and skills to help empower their peers.

Smiling happily, Hue informed me: “The students of the Regular Education Center are my new target audience. I’ve worked with the Head of that center and had an agreement to discuss HIV/AIDS in 18 classes. Soon I’ll be able to ex-

pand this activity to other centers”.

Hue is one of my students. She and her peers are joining English classes to improve their English and self-confidence. This initiative has attracted more people, including myself, to become involved in voluntary work related to HIV/AIDS issues.

Kim Thi Hau, one member of Hoa Phuong Do, said: “Joining the class, I am now more confident to speak in public and able to help people in similar situations. My family is more understanding and is supporting me by encouraging me to volunteer and openly participate in the group”.

Over the years, the involvement of PLWHA in the fight against HIV/AIDS has changed from being mere target audiences to becoming contributors, speakers, implementers and experts. Nowadays, they are acting proactively in terms of reducing the harm of this pandemic in Viet Nam.

The Hoa Phuong Do group is one of many emerging examples of PLWHA living positively and productively. Like the symbol of the World AIDS Day, a red ribbon of solidarity, together they are making a flame of belief and hope for a bright future of PLWHA.

** Story by Pham Thi Thanh Van, UNV Specialist on GIPA, former English tutor for Hoa Phuong Do group. People whose names and photos appear in the story are aware of the use of this in public as well as media.*





Beauty in Diversity 2005 at a glance

The second annual Beauty in Diversity day to mark World AIDS Day (1 December), International Day of Disabled Persons (3 December) and International Volunteer Day (5 December) was held in Ha Noi on 3 December 2005.

The event is dedicated to highlighting the economic, social and cultural contributions that those living with HIV/AIDS and with disabilities make to our society. At the same time, it presents the diversity of individuals who choose to volunteer to promote these ideals and to work for Viet Nam's development.



"I'm happy to be here to join this event"



UN officials are commending UN Volunteers on their contributions



Young people are very keen getting to know about UNV



Children also like to participate in the fun event



UN Volunteers are demonstrating face painting skills for the visitors of Beauty in Diversity 2005

Organizers and sponsors are sharing the joy with contestants of the Miss Beauty in Diversity contest



This annual report has been put together by the collective effort of UN Volunteers in Viet Nam and Online Volunteers.

UN Volunteers in Viet Nam:

25-29 Phan Boi Chau
Ha Noi, Viet Nam
Phone: (84-4) 942 1495
Fax: (84-4) 942 2267
Email: unv@undp.org.vn
Website: <http://www.un.org.vn/unv>

