



## UNV Viet Nam and the fight against HIV/AIDS

Fighting HIV is a global priority for the United Nations Volunteers. Large numbers of volunteers have helped mobilize communities, including vulnerable populations in a participatory dialogue, and enhancing service delivery.

The Greater Involvement of People living with and affected by HIV/AIDS (GIPA) in advocacy work and in their own treatment and care is a key priority for UNV. The meaningful participation of People living with HIV/AIDS is critical in an effective response to HIV. Several GIPA projects are underway in Viet Nam, Cambodia, and Laos.

In Viet Nam, UNV works closely with the government and donors on policies for social mobilization and HIV/AIDS prevention, care and treatment. UNV is a member of the UN HIV Theme Group and Joint Team on HIV/AIDS and provides volunteers on HIV to UNDP, UNAIDS, UNESCO, IOM and other UN agencies. UNV supports the Ministry of Labour, Invalids, and Social Affairs, which is establishing volunteer groups on HIV/AIDS and drug prevention in all provinces. UNV also collaborates with the Vietnam Women's Union on HIV/AIDS activities.

### Early Efforts

Through an English Tutoring Scheme, UNV in Viet Nam demonstrated the potential to mobilize large numbers of national and international volunteers to provide professional support to people living with HIV/AIDS and to health care workers.

With improved English language skills, they can participate more easily in international HIV discussions and networks. More than 120 students in Ha Noi and Hai Phong have participated in the classes.

Similarly, volunteers have taught information technology and English for women living with HIV in a drug treatment center in Ha Tay province. The volunteers have developed public-private partnerships and mobilized job placement support to ensure that this training leads to employment.



# GIPA - Greater Involvement of People Living with HIV/AIDS project

**Project Name:**

Promoting the Greater Involvement of People Living with HIV/AIDS (GIPA) in Viet Nam

**Sites:**

Ha Noi, Hai Phong, Quang Ninh, Ho Chi Minh City

**Start Date:**

October 2005

**Projected End Date:**

October 2008

**Budget:**

USD \$655,000

**UNV Volunteer Positions:**

1 international UN Volunteer, 10 national UN Volunteers

**Partners:**

Vietnam Women's Union & UNAIDS

**Donors:**

the German, American and Australian governments, and UNV's Special Voluntary Fund.

**Project Number:**

UNV10-00047016/ VNM10\_00046689



## General information

Since 2006, eleven UN volunteers have worked specifically for the greater involvement of people living with and affected by HIV/AIDS in Viet Nam. Some of the volunteers in the project are people living with HIV/AIDS themselves. They train and support people living with HIV/AIDS, and help them access treatment and other services. By being more visible in society, their work helps reduce stigma and discrimination and promotes understanding of the importance of their meaningful involvement. They also create more opportunities for their peers to network and voluntarily participate in HIV activities.

## Scope of GIPA activities in Viet Nam

- Create an enabling environment.
- Increase access to care and treatment.
- Develop a clear written GIPA policy and implementation guidelines.
- Give PWHA the training they need and provide them with proper support.
- Set up self-help groups and encourage them to work with each other.
- Encourage qualified PWHA to participate.
- Mobilize support in the wider community.
- Document projects to demonstrate the value added of GIPA.

## Contact:

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**“It’s important that the society sees that people living with HIV/AIDS are not useless and can do things that uninfected people can do.”**



Pham Thi Hue, National UNV Specialist, GIPA project



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