



COMMUNITY HIV LINK - SOUTHERN

MAY 2014 - 2016 | IMPLEMENTER: CENTRE FOR PROMOTION OF QUALITY OF LIFE (LIFE)

Vietnam has recently witnessed rapid growth of civil society organizations active in providing HIV-related services for key populations. However, with limited technical and human capacity and little participation in national or provincial policy dialogue, these efforts have not achieved significant impact. Concurrently, there is a need to move beyond traditional peer outreach to connect groups at greatest risk for HIV - injecting drug users, female sex workers and men who have sex with men –to HIV testing, care and treatment. The Community HIV Link program will advance the community-level response to HIV by strengthening the ability of local organizations to reach most at-risk populations and link them with appropriate HIV services.

Working in Ho Chi Minh City, Can Tho and An Giang provinces, Community HIV Link mobilizes members of local community-based organizations to develop networks of high risk groups. The project establishes referral systems between local organizations and existing HIV service providers to connect clients to HIV services. The project also builds leadership among community organizations and facilitate networking and coordination between local organizations and key provincial and national level stakeholders in the HIV/AIDS sector – giving community-based groups a voice in the provincial and national HIV/AIDS response.

RESULTS

With improved HIV case finding and referral to HIV services between May 2014 and December 2015, the project has provided HIV prevention, care and support services to more than 7,200 high risk individuals and people living with HIV in Ho Chi Minh City, An Giang province and Can Tho City.

In the photo: Local organizations participate in a workshop to build referral systems with HIV service providers. (LIFE)