



SUCCESS STORY

Family HIV/AIDS Care Addresses Multiple Needs

Coordinated HIV/AIDS services enhance a family's health and quality of life

Mrs. Van Anh is a client of an HIV/AIDS program in Vietnam that is helping district clinics to provide family-centered care to HIV-positive parents and children. Before the program began, Van Anh's daughter, Ha, who is also HIV positive, could only receive pediatric HIV care in Ho Chi Minh City, a 12-hour bus ride away. Van Anh was only able to save the money to take Ha there twice, and antiretroviral treatment (ART) was out of the question.



Kimberly Green, FHI Vietnam

Clients of family-centered care in Vietnam.

With funding from the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) is working to support and expand comprehensive family-centered care—including nutrition, HIV treatment and prevention, care for opportunistic infections, and palliative care. This level of service is important because families living with and affected by HIV/AIDS have multiple needs. If they are unable to receive coordinated care services, their care can be more complicated, costly, and fractured.

In October 2006, the project supported the introduction of pediatric HIV care and treatment and mother-to-child HIV

prevention into existing district services for adults. Now, many more families can receive coordinated medical services – that is, care in the same facility, at the same time, and by the same staff. In addition, the project has supported service by community and home-based care teams and family care case managers to orphans and vulnerable children (OVC).

Thanks to these advancements in care, young Ha was able to begin ART in December 2006 at a nearby clinic in Tan Chau. She and her sister, who is HIV negative, also receive support that allows them to stay in school and attend a monthly playgroup for children in the community, including those infected with or affected by HIV.

A USAID-supported project in Vietnam has made it easier for families living with and affected by HIV/AIDS to access essential care and treatment services in one place at one time.

To date, the USAID project has enrolled 60 children in clinical HIV care, supported ART for 40 children, and reached 1,700 OVC. At least 200 pregnant women have received counseling and testing, and nine have received ART. Building on this success, the project's activities will be expanded to new districts in the next few years, and USAID and the Vietnamese Government are working together to eventually provide family-centered care on a national scale.