

HEALTH SECTOR COOPERATION BETWEEN VIETNAM & DENMARK,

Annual report for 2019

The Danish Ministry of Health

3 GOOD HEALTH
AND WELL-BEING



Project description

Vietnamese and Danish health authorities are working closely together in a Strategic Sector Collaboration (SSC), to support strengthening of primary health care in the areas of prevention, early detection, management and treatment of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs), such as diabetes and hypertension.

Vietnam has made significant efforts to address a rise in NCDs, including the implementation of a new National comprehensive NCD Strategy in 2015 with subsequent circulars, laws and plans. However, a lot still needs to be done to prevent the burden of NCDs from continuing to rise. The mutual focus on primary health in Denmark and Vietnam, has given a unique opportunity for sharing knowledge and experiences between the Danish and Vietnamese health systems.

Key activities in 2019

2019 marked the successful completion of Phase I. In addition to finalizing the Phase I activities, a new Memorandum of Understanding was signed by the two ministries of health, to support training activities and raise awareness of NCDs, through an eHealth application for healthcare professionals in primary care.

The final year of Phase I was celebrated with a final seminar in June, focussing on recommendations and lessons learned. A lot of effort was put into preparing a possible Phase II successor programme.

Main achievements and lessons learned in 2019

Upon completion of Phase I, 400 local health care professionals in Thai Binh received international standard training in early detection of diabetes and hypertension with communication materials developed by the project.

The project provided basic equipment to 30 Commune Health Stations and 330 Village Health Workers to facilitate their daily work. All these improvements will contribute to provision of affordable healthcare services and increasing chances for local people with diabetes and hypertension to live long and healthy lives.



Throughout Phase I, the SSC project has provided Technical and practical support to establish new working groups on primary healthcare. The new Technical Working Groups, placed under the guidance of the Vietnamese Ministry of Health, are now in full operation with quarterly meetings in Hanoi.

Phase II

The Vietnamese and Danish authorities have agreed to continue and broaden the Strategic Sector Collaboration into a 3-year long Phase II.

The main goal of the Phase II-project is to continue to support strengthening of primary health care in the areas of prevention, early detection, management and treatment of NCDs, such as diabetes and hypertension.

The project will maintain focus on the rural areas in the Thai Binh province, where the poorer part of the population is living with no easy access to specialized treatment. High-risk groups, and the health workers capacity to diagnose, treat and refer patients between levels, are expected to play an important part in Phase II.

The Phase II-project is expected to produce valuable learnings that can be utilized in the established high-level policy dialogue, and support development at the structural and systemic level, for the benefit of public health in Vietnam.

Status: SSC Project Phase 1 completed.

Partners: Vietnamese Ministry of Health (VMOH) and Thai Binh Province Health Authority. WHO as key stakeholder.

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