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1 July 2013

Office of High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)

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RE: Report on human rights in Vietnam

Dear Sirs/Madams,

The right to healthcare and health protection is a core right of people around the world. This was enshrined in Vietnam in the 1992 constitution and the 1989 Law on People's Health Protection.

HIV/AIDS is a significant threat to the health and livelihoods of people in Vietnam and thus the provision of healthcare services to people living with HIV/AIDS is a commitment based on human rights. The HIV prevalence of people aged 15-49 is 0.47% in Vietnam with 254,000 adults living with HIV.¹ In addition, it is estimated that 5,700 children are also living with HIV.²

The William J. Clinton Foundation has worked in Vietnam since 2006 with funding from AusAID to provide technical assistance for the care and treatment of children and adults living with HIV. We do not work independently with patients or community groups but operates in partnership with the government of Vietnam and the Vietnam Authority for HIV/AIDS Control (VAAC) to improve the care and treatment system.

Our overall objective is to reduce HIV-related deaths among adults and children with HIV in Vietnam by 2015. To reach this goal, we are operating several programs, which are listed below:

1. Mentoring: comprehensive approach to care and treatment issues at provincial sites throughout the country.

¹ UNAIDS Facts and Figures for 2012

² UNAIDS Facts and Figures for 2012

2. Isoniazid Preventive Therapy: provide TB preventative therapy to pediatric HIV patients to help reduce mortality.
3. Provider Initiated Testing and Counseling: improve case findings and referrals of HIV patients in the normal health system.
4. Early Infant Diagnosis: improves identification of infants born with HIV.
5. Procurement and Supply Management: improves treatment quantification and reduces costs of treatment.
6. Laboratory systems management: improves the quality and efficiency of vital HIV diagnostics.
7. Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission: reduces the infection rates of children by limiting vertical transmission.
8. Multi-drug resistant TB: improves case finding and treatment of MDR TB patients

Together, these programs will make an impact on reducing mortality from HIV in Vietnam and thus improve the lives of those at risk of HIV and those living with HIV. HIV patients are citizens of Vietnam and deserve the basic human rights to live healthy lives.

In these efforts, we have worked closely with VAAC and provincial health systems. The government agencies we have worked with have shown a commitment to reaching our shared objectives and reducing the impact of HIV in Vietnam.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'B. Kamarck', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Benjamin Kamarck
Deputy Country Director-Vietnam
William J. Clinton Foundation

Cc: People's Aid Coordinating Committee (PACCOM)