

# **Environmental Health Initiative in Vietnam**

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# Current health status related to Environment pollution in Vietnam

## *Health matters related to air quality*

About 200 - 230 cases/million inhabitants/year  
get diseases caused by outdoor air pollution;

## Current health status related to Environment pollution in Vietnam (cont.)

### *Health matters related to water supply, housing and sanitary services*

- Surface water and ground water pollution (Cau river, Nhue - Day river, Saigon – Dong Nai river basin)
- Almost ground water at coastal areas was contaminated salt;
- Some provinces were contaminated PO<sub>4</sub> and As.

# Current health status related to Environment pollution in Vietnam(cont.)

## *Health matters related to water supply, housing and sanitary services (cont.)*

- In 2005, tap water output in urban areas nationwide reached 1,05 billion m<sup>3</sup>, up by 34% compared with 2000;
- In rural areas, at the end of 2005, about 62% persons were supplied HVS water;
- The quality of rural and small urban water was limited;
- The systems of controlling and checking the quality of supply water are yet to meet the demand in reality;
- Collection and treatment of solid waste at the urbans and industrial parks reached 70% total of generated waste. At the rural areas and small urbans, this rate was lower.

# Current health status related to Environment pollution in Vietnam (cont.)

## *Health matters related to Food safety and sanitation*

- Food contamination is reason of some diseases such as: diarrhoea, cancers, food poisoning...
- According to the Bureau of Food Safety and Sanitation, in 2005, more 4.000 cases of food contamination in nationwide. Among them, there were 50 cases of death.

# Current challenges

- The legal documents of environmental protection and community health protection are yet to be comprehensive, concrete and connected.
- Health impact assessment have not been sufficiently concerned .
- The monitoring system is quite limited; There is a gap between environment monitoring data and medical indicators

# Current challengers (cont.)

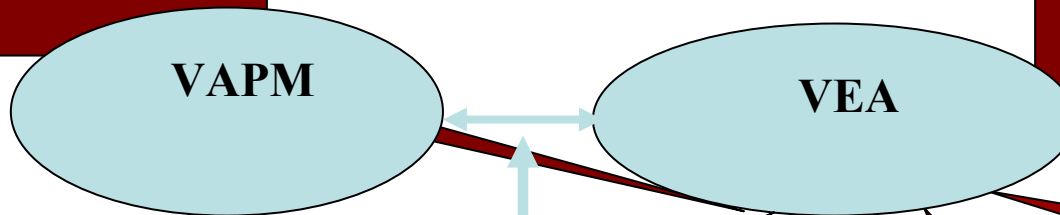
- Important and urgent missions of environment protection and community health have not been conducted sufficiently. Co-operation between health and environment sectors; and other incharged stakeholders is quite limited.
- Due to the limitation of capability and human resources, the demand of information for State management mission has not been met.
- Toxic chemicals used by U.S Army have caused bad impacts on Vietnamese environment and health.

# Environmental Health Initiative in VietNam -2005-2007

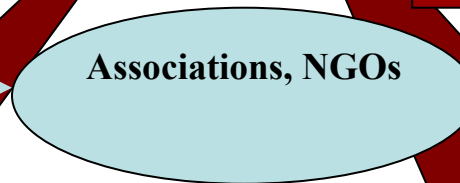
Follow up the recommendations from the first high level meeting on EH in 11/2004

**Drafting the NTP**

**Surveying and Assessment the outcomes from researches on the impacts induced by environment pollution on community health**



**Construct a website on EH**



**EH Projects 2006-2008**

Pilot programs, methodology, guidelines, indicators, EH profiles



**National Forum on EH**  
Hà Nội (12/2005),  
Đà Nẵng (10/2006),  
TP. Hồ Chí Minh (10/2006)  
Ha Noi (12/2007)

**Develop the first National report on EH**

# Project on assessing adverse health impacts of environment pollution

**Duration: 2006-2008**

**Objective:**

- 1. Develop the technical guidelines on impact assessment implementation for provincial level.**
- 2. Develop and Pilot the methodology (2 hot spots)**
- 3. Develop National target program on Environmental Health to 2015**



## Project on assessing adverse health impacts of environment pollution (cont.)

- **Major outcomes:**
  1. National Report on evaluating current status of environmental health in Vietnam;
  2. The set of “Guidelines and methodology for implementation of investigating and assessing environmental pollution impact on community health at provincial level in Vietnam” ;
  3. Pilot programs to assess health impacts of environmental pollution at two environmental hot spots;
  4. Drafting National Target Program on Environmental Health;

# Project on assessing adverse health impacts of environment pollution (cont.)

## *1. National Report on evaluating current status of environmental health in Vietnam:*

- This report is the first to assess the current state of environmental health issues;
- To recommend some guidelines to help resolve hot spots and pressing environmental health issues in Vietnam;
- To result a recommendation on policy, institution and resources were made in order to overcome the situation.

# Project on assessing adverse health impacts of environment pollution (cont.)

## 2. *EHIA guideline:*

- Methodology
- EHIA principles
- EHIA procedures
- How to do EHIA for individual industries.

## Project on assessing adverse health impacts of environment pollution (cont.)

### *3. Pilot programs to assess health impacts of environmental pollution at two environmental hot spots:*

- Objective: To test EHIA methodology and the feasibility of doing EHIA at environmental hot spots in Vietnam;
- These overall pilot programs were conducted by survey designing and planning, building assessment methodology as well as applying intervention measures;
- The results proved that the guideline can be used to evaluate environmental health in a polluted area;
- With changes made to make it suitable to specific situation, local Department of Natural Resources and Environment, Department of Health and related agencies can use it as a tool to assess health impacts within polluted areas.

# Project on assessing adverse health impacts of environment pollution (cont.)

## 4. *Drafting National Target Program (NTP) on Environmental Health:*

- The NTP focuses on identifying, assessing and implementing intervention measures to reduce and prevent adverse Impacts of environmental pollution on community health;

## Project on assessing adverse health impacts of environment pollution (cont.)

4. *Drafting National Target Program (NTP) on Environmental Health*: A necessary package of activities to be carried out can be:

- Setting up criteria on environmental health.
- Assessment on economic aspect of environmental impacts to health, immediately focusing on problems related to air quality, water quality, heavy metals and urban transportation.
- Developing and releasing guidance on environmental health impacts assessment and health impact assessment.
- Setting up a monitoring system to monitor Impacts of environmental factors to community health status.

# Future activities

- In collaboration with MOH to develop the legal framework for HIA as well as the HIA guideline
- Continuation in developing NTP
- Developing Country EH Profile
- Development of a EHIA program for “hot spots”
- Capacity building on EH risk management
- Strengthening the legal framework for EH activities
- Awareness raising
- Develop an EH Information system
- Investigation on potential Impacts on Climate changes

**Thank you for your attention**