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EpiC
Meeting Targets and
Maintaining Epidemic Control

Meeting Targets and Maintaining Epidemic Control (EpiC) Vietnam: Combating Trafficking in Persons



July 2021 - September 2025



Implementer: **FHI 360**



Planned Budget: **\$1,773,000**

Photo: Nguyễn Minh Đức

Meeting Targets and Maintaining Epidemic Control (EpiC) is a five-year, global project funded by the United States President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), implemented by FHI 360. EpiC Vietnam’s goal is to deliver efficient, affordable, results-based technical assistance and direct services to improve the lives of vulnerable populations. As part of an effort to address the Government of Vietnam (GVN) and US State Department priorities in combating trafficking in persons, EpiC is partnering with the GVN’s Ministry of Labor, Invalids, and Social Affairs (MOLISA) and non-government stakeholders. The project’s trafficking-in-persons activities are helping to strengthen the legal framework to protect and support victims of trafficking, enhance knowledge and skills for frontline workers and officials at the national and local levels, and expand the application of a screening toolkit to improve detection, referral, and support for victims of trafficking.

OBJECTIVE 1: STRENGTHEN INTER-SECTORIAL COORDINATION TO SUPPORT SURVIVORS

In May 2022, EpiC supported the GVN to complete a legal framework review and develop an impact assessment of victim support policies with recommendations for revision to the Law on Human Trafficking. EpiC also collaborated with the government to develop a national framework on human trafficking that clarifies how ministries and respective provincial departments can optimize victim support including recovery, referral, and reintegration. The framework was signed by four relevant ministries in July 2022. Just over one year after its signature, 41 provinces had established their own provincial coordination regulations (November 2023). However, to date, little is known of how effectively the provincial frameworks have improved the coordination of victim support. In 2024, EpiC will support the GVN to assess the framework application at the national and provincial levels, identify gaps, and develop joint action plans to optimize victim support. The project will collaborate with MOLISA to co-host a national workshop to share the results and lessons learned.



Vice Ministers signed the Inter-ministerial Coordination Framework on Victim Support in Hanoi on July 18th, 2022.



James Gilman, USAID Vietnam General Development Coordinator and Private Sector Lead, speaks at the provincial inter-sectorial coordination framework signing ceremony in Dien Bien.

OBJECTIVE 2: IMPROVE QUALITY OF, AND ACCESS TO SURVIVOR SUPPORT SERVICES

To improve support services for victims of trafficking, EpiC has collaborated with the GVN to incorporate existing training resources in the development of a comprehensive training package. The training course engages frontline victim support staff from provincial Departments of Labor, Invalids and Social Affairs (DOLISA), the Women's Union, police, border guards, and social protection centers at both provincial and district levels. Through a peer-to-peer mentoring approach, EpiC will continue to expand capacity-strengthening to additional provinces in 2024 - 2025. A knowledge, attitudes, and practices survey will inform training impact on frontline worker support service provision. EpiC will also support the formalization of a training-of-trainer (TOT) package in collaboration with the government and the University of Labor and Social Affairs (ULSA) to institutionalize the training curriculum for future social workers.

US Consul General, Susan Burns gives remarks at an EpiC-supported training. (top)

Participants engaged in the survivor support training activities. (bottom)



OBJECTIVE 3: EXPAND THE APPLICATION OF A SCREENING TOOLKIT FOR DETECTION, REFERRAL, AND SUPPORT

Vietnamese authorities have faced several challenges in identifying victims of trafficking both internally, and among those who are repatriated. To help address gaps, EpiC collaborated with the GVN to develop a screening toolkit to be used in venues and locations where individuals may have been trafficked to identify potential victims, assess their needs, offer protection, and make appropriate referrals. The toolkit is intended for use by practitioners from labor, police, border guards, inspection, and multi-disciplinary teams. EpiC is supporting the field testing of the toolkit in several provinces and collecting feedback for adjustments. EpiC will then collaborate with the GVN to assess its effectiveness, with results validated at a national workshop, to build consensus for its broad application.

RESULTS



Recommendations for revision to **the Law on Human Trafficking**



Inter-ministerial coordination framework



Assessment of the coordination framework at national and provincial levels



75% of provinces establishing their inter-sectorial coordination framework



Knowledge, attitudes, and practices assessment on training impacts



Up to **320 local officials and frontline workers** newly trained in victim support



Comprehensive TOT training package for pre- and in-service social workers



Up to **110 provincial officials** trained on the newly developed screening toolkit



Implementation assessment of the screening toolkit



Roll out and institutionalize the **victim screening tool**

