

Results obtained from Implementation of Project:
“A comprehensive intervention based on peer
education for injecting drug users”
in Lang Son

- Dr. Đoàn Ngũ, MPS; Consultant to Abt Associates Inc.,
- Dr. Nguyễn Duy Tùng, MSc; FHI
- Dr. Nguyễn Trường Sơn; PSI
- Dr. Kiều Thanh Bình; FHI
- Dr. Theodore M. Hammett. PhD, Vice President of Abt Associates Inc., MA; USA
- Dr. Don C. Des Jarlais; Beth Israel Medical Center, New York, USA

1. Some information

- Project name: “A comprehensive intervention based on peer education for injecting drug users”
- Project sites: 10 communes/wards in 4 districts and Lang Son city
- Duration: October 2002 – October 2005
- Funding agency: Ford Foundation Vietnam (Personnel and intervention)
- Co-sponsor: NIDA USA, via Abt Associates Inc., MA, USA (M&E)

2. Project objectives

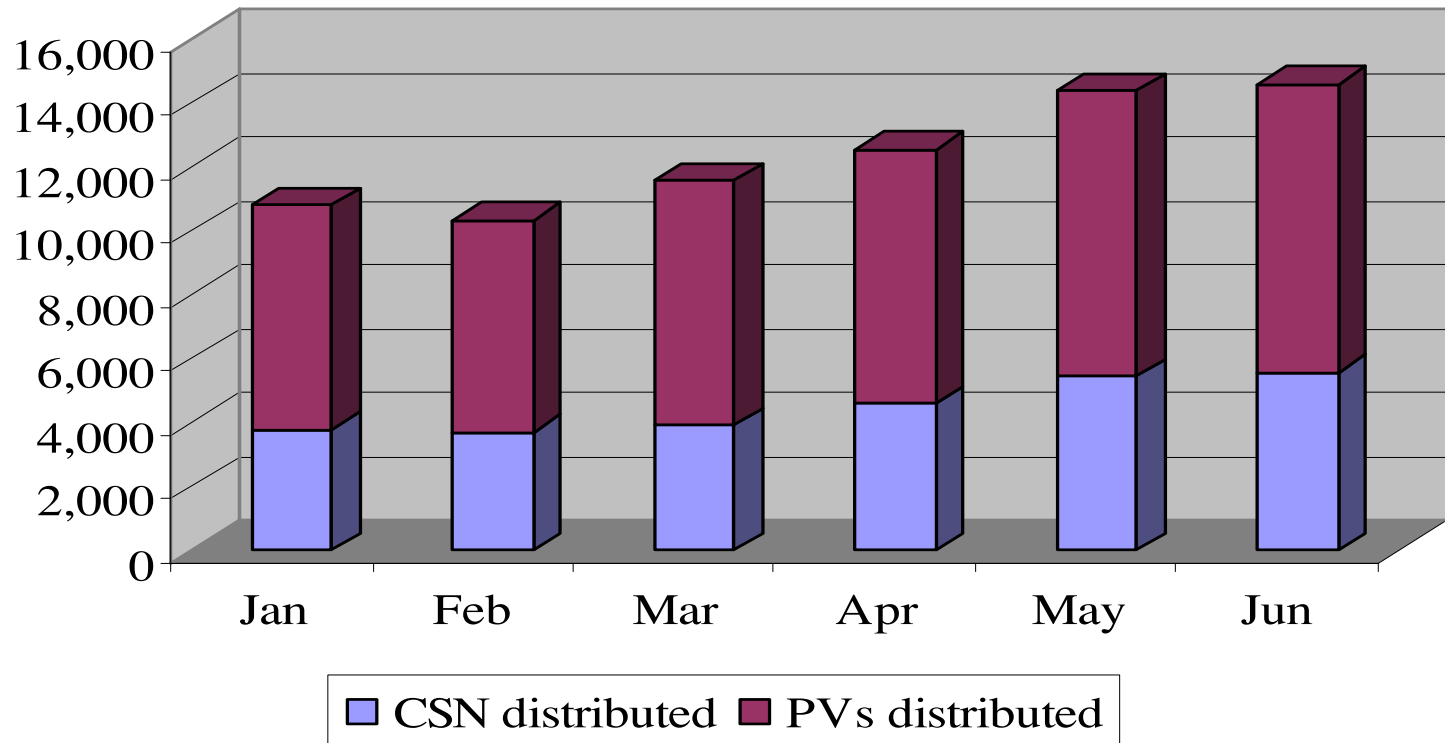
- **2.1. General objective**
- To restrain HIV/AIDS epidemic within IDU and from this group in to community in Lamg Son
- **2.2. Specific objectives**
- 2.2.1. Reduce risk of used-syringe related HIV infection from 60% of the present number of IDU (who inject drug with syringe used by other) down to 30% stably;
- 2.2.2. Reduce risk of HIV infection via used syringe distribution from 60% of IDU (who give used syringe to other) down to 30% stably;
- 2.2.3. Reduce unsafe sex practice among IDU significantly;
- 2.2.4. Collect and proper dispose used syringe with the goals of 75.000 used syringe/year;
- 2.2.5. Support 100 IDU post drug treatment and rehabilitation based on group activities with the peer support to help at least 30% of IDU not to use drug or shifting from injection to inhale or smocking within 01 year;
- 2.2.6. Vocational training and occupational support for 40 peers and IDU;
- 2.2.7. Supply social and medical support service to IDU who HIV (+) in all project sites.

3. Study results

- 3.1. Coverage of intervention

Project sites	6 month	12 month	18 month	24 month
Lang Son province	n= 331	N= 303	n=299	
Received PV				
All sites	55%	71%	65%	68%
Lang Son city	59%	63%	70%	73%
Cao Loc	39%	55%	42%	47%
Dong Dang	44%	83%	28%	30%
Loc Binh	55%	100%	100%	100%
Tan Thanh	100%	100%	93%	100%

Number of CSN & PV distributed for first 6 month of 2005



3.2. Risk behavior of HIV infection related to drug use

	Baseline	18 months	24 month	
	n=342	n=335	n=333	P
Receptive sharing of needles/ syringes in past 6 months	5%	3%	2%	0,008
Distributive sharing of needles/ syringes in past 6 months	6%	4%	1%	<0,001
Shared drug solution in past 6 months	32%	32%	10%	<0,001
Shared other injection equipment in past 6 months	31%	35%	22%	0,025
Sharing any injection equipment in past 6 months	47%	51%	30%	<0,001

3.3. HIV prevalence

Project sites	n	Baseline	18 months	24 months	P
		(n=342)	(n= 335)	(n=333)	
Cao lộc	36	41%	36%	52%	
Đồng đăng	40	40%	38%	31%	
Lạng Sơn	188	57%	41%	34%	
Lộc bình	34	39%	31%	14%	
Tân thanh	37	5%	23%	25%	
All sites	335	46%	37%	32%	<0,001

3.4. HIV incidence

	<i>Baseline</i>	<i>6 months</i>	<i>12 months</i>	<i>18 months</i>	<i>24 months</i>
	(n=342)	(n=340)	(n= 327)	(n=335)	(n=333)
Seroconverters	-	3	3	5	8
Susceptibles	-	20	39	66	94
Incidence Rate	18	32	13	10	10
90% Confidence Interval	-	(7,93)	(2,41)	(2,27)	(3,22)

3.3.5. Knowledge and attitude at the community:

<i>Correct Answers</i>			
Knowledge of HIV	Baseline (n=250)	24 months (n= 250)	Khoảng tin cậy (P)
Transmitted through needle sharing	99,6%	100%	0,3119
Not transmitted by touching/hugging an HIV+ person	89,8%	94,3%	0,0607
Not transmitted through eating with HIV+ person	79,3%	88,8%	0,0042
<i>Attitudes Toward the Intervention</i>			
Will reduce discarded needles/syringes	96,8%	100%	0,0186
Will reduce spread of HIV	96,8%	99,4%	0,1152
Will not increase drug use	71,4%	83,8%	0,0336

Scaling-up possibility

- In 4/2005: Policy Advocacy Seminar has been held in Langson, with the participation of Prof Pham Manh Hung, Vice-chair of CCSE; Dr. Le Van Dieu, Vice chair of Committee for Social problems, National Assembly and representative from 8 provinces.
- In 2005, Lang Son has received delegations from Khanh Hoa, Thua tien – Hue; Ba ria – Vung tau and Soc Trang for exchange experiences and to learn from Lang Son project.