



Matching Vietnamese Challenges and Demand with Danish Competences

Vietnam is facing a significant increase in the prevalence of non-communicable diseases (NCDs). The burden of NCDs accounts for over two thirds of the total burden of morbidity and mortality. The health system in Vietnam is highly fragmented and health services are lacking especially at primary level. Overcrowding is ever present, as central hospitals are the main providers of detection, diagnosis, treatment and management of common NCDs. Health personnel shortages and inconsistency in worker skills across all levels is a challenge and has led to bottlenecks and an inability to ensure equity in access to healthcare and lack of capacity to follow-up.

The Danish public sector can offer knowledge on establishing and supporting a more coherent and effective health system at primary level. This would support the existing Vietnamese work on prevention, detection and management of NCD's as close to the patient as possible, and with the pro-active involvement of the patients themselves. In addition, the Danish private sector can offer knowledge on prevention and treatment of NCD's and on technological support to the challenges faced by the Vietnamese health authorities.

The following areas are jointly identified for cooperation: 1) Strengthen the development of guidelines on prevention, detection and management of NCDs for use at primary level, 2) Support a pilot testing of a new approach to NCD prevention and management at the primary level in a selected

province including training of health workers, and 3) Explore policy and practice implications of results, jointly with other international stakeholders.

Key Activities

The Growth Counsellor was recruited and posted to the embassy on 1 September 2015. The embassy's relations to the Vietnamese Ministry of Health (VMOH) have been intensified, and a close working relationship has been established to the international cooperation department and relevant line departments. Solid working relations are also developed with provincial and district health authorities and institutions.

The preparatory SSC (Strategic Sector Cooperation) was approved in September 2015 and the fact-finding mission was successfully completed in October. Visits to hospitals, clinics and relevant centres in VMOH and a fieldtrip to a province gave the delegation insights in challenges and potential solutions. The VMOH revisit in Copenhagen in December 2015 confirmed the areas of intervention. Close cooperation with private, UN stakeholders and civil society is to be further explored and will be applied within the project with main modalities of cooperation still to be drawn up.

Milestones and Early Results by Mid-2016

The project writing mission in June 2016 was very successful, with working relations at central, provincial, district and local level being deepened and strengthened. A draft SSC application has been handed over to the VMOH. Meetings between Danish and Vietnamese authorities have been very productive and areas of intervention have been jointly agreed upon. The Thai Binh province has been chosen for the pilot project, and provincial authorities are fully on board. The project has experienced a great willingness from all parties to contribute and be part of the project. The SSC project proposal will be handed in for final comments by the Partnering with Denmark Secretariat in the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) early August and for appropriation by the MFA.

HEALTH SECTOR COOPERATION IN VIETNAM

by Growth Counsellor Morten Pristed (morpri@um.dk), the Danish Embassy in Hanoi and by Marie Elsner Søndergaard (maes@sum.dk), the Danish Ministry of Health, Denmark

SSC Status: The SSC Preparation Project is under implementation and expected to be complete by August 2016. The full SSC Project is expected to be approved August 2016. The Danish and Vietnamese partners will jointly implement the Pre SSC as well as the full SSC. Expected project period for full SSC is until December 2018

SSC Partners:

Vietnam: Ministry of Health (VMOH); Thai Binh Province Health Authority

Denmark: Ministry of Health

See [website](#) & [guidelines](#) for more information on the Partnering with Denmark Initiative and the 2015-16 Annual Report.