

Tuberculosis project in Thanh Hoa



Aims:

Improve health of the most vulnerable people in the community by reducing the prevalence of tuberculosis in the intervention area through applying community based approach and disseminating the experience to other areas.

Objectives:

To improve the health of the community in project areas by enhancing the effectiveness of the health system especially the village health workers (VHWs) and improvement of community understanding about tuberculosis

To improve the capacity of supportive health care staff to provide better tuberculosis control services

Background:

In recent years, Vietnam has achieved impressive results in tuberculosis (TB) control by the National TB Program (NTP). However, the NTP is implemented nation-wide and is not well suited to respond to specific needs in specific areas. One weak point is case detection and case-holding in remote areas where the health system is not strong and the

MCNV can apply lessons learned from other community development programmes to fill that gap. An intervention is planned in 11 mountainous districts in Thanh Hoa province. The plan started in 2007 with studies by Dutch Master students, followed in 2008 by a training course for TB managers on participatory planning and project management.

Activities:

The future activities for the TB project in Thanh Hoa mountainous districts are still being designed by the managers who received the training in planning.

The following activities will be included:

- Capacity building for the health staff at district level in planning, monitoring and management of the TB program
- Training for health staff in communes and for VHW on TB health communication as well as techniques for case holding and monitoring
- Providing effective communication materials appropriate to the communities where they will be used
- Supporting remote districts to implement effective communication on TB



community, often ethnic minorities with a low level of literacy, is not well informed about TB. Findings from a study in Thanh Hoa showed that key issues were the low capacity of health staff in remote districts and a low level of TB communication activities; most of the population had very low knowledge about TB.

Achievements:

Since the project is just getting started, the main achievements have been to identify the key issues to be addressed, that can improve the results of the TB programme in Thanh Hoa, especially in the mountainous areas, using a community-based approach.