



## Recommendations from Innovative Youth engaged in Family Planning Project

Government continues investing to make contraceptive methods are more available, convenient, confidential and affordable to access for youth.

- ◆ Enrich the market and public service with new methods that meet the need of youth.
- ◆ Integrating gender and promoting gender equality in reproductive health, sexuality and family planning programs
- ◆ Improving the communication methods by using social and digital technology about contraceptives, family planning
- ◆ Eliminating the misunderstandings and myths about contraceptives and apply electronic technology and social networks. Government and the departments must ensure that the media needs to reach out to young people with disabilities, ethnic minority youth.
- ◆ Empowering and engaging youth initiatives to promote contraceptives use.
- ◆ Supporting the advocacy to promote CSE at school following the guidelines of UNFPA and UNESCO



## Upcoming events

Happy birthday to CCIHP

CCIHP wins major new contract with USAID



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## Strengthening multi-sectoral partnerships to prevent and respond to gender-based violence

CCIHP is pleased to be partnering with UNFPA in a project that aims to strengthen the role of social organisations to prevent and respond to gender-based violence. The five-year project aims to develop effective models for the prevention of gender-based violence particularly in vulnerable populations such as female sex workers. Through innovative public awareness campaigns with a wide range of different organisations the project

and stereotypes related to gender inequity and violence against women and girls. The project aims to ensure that a multi-sectoral approach is used to engage different organisations from both the private and public sectors to tackle the issue of gender-based violence.

This project has now been formally approved by both the Government of Vietnam and UNFPA.



# Soap for Hope™ and Linens for Life™

## Improving the environment and enhancing health

CCIHP is involved in a unique partnership with the global company Diversey, which specialises in cleaning and hygiene technologies, to reduce waste from the hospitality sector and improve the lives and health of some of the poorest people in Vietnam. CCIHP is the local partner in two of Diversey's corporate social responsibility programmes Soap for Hope and Linens for Life. Over 7 million children die each year from diseases that can be prevented with simple hand washing. Handwashing with soap is among the most effective and inexpensive ways to prevent diarrhoea and respiratory diseases in the developing countries, where millions of children per



*I am very proud of the CCIHP volunteers, and I thank them all sincerely."*

**Mr Stefan Phang, Sustainability and CSR Director, Diversey**

year suffer from diseases that could have been prevented with proper handwashing. Every year a typical 400 room hotel generates 3.5 tons of solid soap waste, this waste either goes to a landfill, or is shipped to a recycling facility which is costly for the hotels. But there is a simpler more effective solution. By using a simple soap press, the waste soap can be converted into soap bars, these soap bars are then distributed to poor villages. The soap bars form part of a broader education programme that teaches young children basic



hygiene practices, such as how to wash their hands correctly. Similarly, Linens for Life is a programme that recycles linens discarded from hotels into new clean and useful products. This programme can help teach skills in laundry and sewing for unemployed people and the resulting products can then be resold and/or distributed, to places where they are needed, for example to remote health clinics where they can be used in childbirth and maternity post-partum care, to reduce the incidences of infection and sepsis. These programmes operate within several major hotel chains and include several well known hotels groups through Vietnam, such as the Hilton, Accor, IHG, Silk Path, Melia and Lotte groups including more than 30 hotels in Vietnam. The programme therefore saves money for the hotel chains, reduces their environmental impacts, provides employment for disadvantaged people and improves the health of children. So successful are these projects, that a new initiative was launched in July by Mr Stefan Phang, Sustainability and CSR director of Diversey and also director of all program.

This initiative is the Coffee Briques programme, in which used coffee grounds are pressed together with an easily available organic binder, to produce a briquette which can be used as a useful household fuel.



In July, with representative of Mr Stefan Phang, Soap for Hope™ and Linens for Life™ had a journey from Sapa, Hanoi, Hoi An, Da Nang, Nha Trang and Hochiminh to launch the program and deliver soap bars with new hotel partners such as Silk Path Grand and Resort Sapa, Sunway Hanoi, Meliá Hanoi, Meliá Da Nang Resort, Ibis Styles Nha Trang and Intercontinental Sai Gon. These programmes save money for the hotel chains, reduces their environmental impacts, provides employment for disadvantaged people and improves the health and well-being of people in poorer communities particularly children and women. They illustrate the perfect combination of

private enterprise, social enterprises and local communities working together to produce sustainable local solutions to environmental responsibility and health.

*"Partnering with CCIHP in both the Soap For Hope™ and Linens For Life™ programs is a great milestone for us as they have a strong presence in Vietnam, where the need for healthcare, sanitation and livelihood enhancement is crucial, especially in the rural and ethnic communities.*

*The volunteers from CCIHP have taken pride and ownership in both the programs, travelling deep into villages and communities to conduct the demonstrations, as well as helping hotels run their charity events and bazaars, where Soap For Hope and Linens For Life products are made and sold to raise funds for the disadvantaged.*

## Consultations on CCIHP's new strategic plan

CCIHP is currently finalising its new 5-year strategic plan which will cover the period from 2018-2022. This plan builds upon CCIHP's extensive experience in creative public health initiatives and seeks to contribute to the health and well-being of all people in Vietnam. It has a particular focus upon the health and well-being of poor and marginalised communities in Vietnam.

The strategic plan focuses on 5 key areas these are

1. Gender equality and the prevention of gender-based violence.
2. Disability and mental health
3. Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
4. Health Equity and Universal Health Coverage
5. Non-communicable diseases and emerging health issues.

The plan describes how CCIHP can deliver research and interventions in these areas, by developing the skills of its people, reaching out to new partners, diversifying its funding base, and exploring new areas of work. In the coming months CCIHP will be seeking views of stakeholders on this plan and people's views will be sought on it. CCIHP will be publishing the plan later this year.



## Closing the Gap: Realising the Sexual and Reproductive Rights of Marginalised Populations

CCIHP, together with its partner organisation the Asia-Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women (ARROW), is conducting a monitoring on progress towards Vietnam fulfilling its commitments to the International Conference on Population and Development, Programme of Action (ICPD POA) which is celebrating its 25th year. During this time Vietnam has made great strides in fulfilling its objectives, for example in reducing maternal mortality, but gaps in services still remain particularly for underserved populations. These populations include the elderly, LGBTIQ people, people living HIV, sex workers and ethnic minority youth amongst others. Services to these populations can only be improved if these people's needs are understood better.

For this reason, throughout June and July, CCIHP conducted a series of focus group discussions (FGDs) with people from these groups.

Each group consisted of about 10-15 people who discussed topics such as forming relationships, sexual problems, accessing services and information and

gender-based violence.

All of the groups issues around stigma and discrimination, consensual sexual behaviour and lack of tailored services to address their needs, but they also encountered a variety of different problems centred on their particular needs.

For example, people who were deaf could not



access information, sex workers felt unable to report violence, older people felt ignored and people living with HIV were often advised they could not have children. The results of this FGDs are being incorporated into a report that will make recommendations on how these issues can be addressed. In addition to this work the ARROW publication SRHR in the era of SDGs has now been translated into Vietnamese and is available **at CCIHP's library.**

## Input into UPR process by GBV-Network

After a variety of consultations, CCIHP led the UPR report of the Vietnam Network for the Prevention of Gender-Based Violence (GBVNet) which was submitted in July 12th. The report made a number of recommendations to Vietnam's Universal Periodic Review process.

These include to continue to introduce legislation to protect the rights of LGBT people and in particular to honour the commitment to allow transgender people to seek gender confirmation within Vietnam, that sex work should be legalised to help ensure sex workers are (Cont. page 5)

protected from violence and are able to report violence, to ensure that there is a standard service package to support survivors of gender-based violence and establish more shelters to protect women who have suffered violence and to review existing laws that tackle gender-based violence to assess their effectiveness and recommend improvements.

Significantly the report recommended that comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) should be incorporated into the curricula of schools and that prevention of sexual violence education should be undertaken at University campuses, to help ensure that younger generations know the importance of consent in relationships and understand how best to tackle gender-based violence.

## "Family Planning is Human Rights" message emphasized from the perspectives of youth in the World Population Day 2018

CCIHP's youth program coordinator, Mr. Son Le was took part in the plenary discussion with UNFPA and other stakeholders to celebrate World Population Day in Hanoi, Vietnam. This plenary session discussed the needs of young people and emphasized their needs.

Currently just under half of unmarried cannot access modern contraceptive methods, and many young people feel embarrassed about purchasing condoms. Partly this is due to the negative attitudes of older people, including service providers to young unmarried people purchasing contraceptives.

During the panel discussion, Son highlighted the association between gender inequality and access to family planning services amongst ethnic minority communities. Within these communities culture, poverty, and other socio-economic factors intersect to create

barriers to accessing family planning and maternal health services. To explore this issues CCIHP run the a project called "Innovative Youth engaged in Family Planning" which explored issues such as child, early and forced marriage. This is important because if a girl gets married at a young age she is more likely to get pregnant.

The results of this project were displayed in an exhibition entitled "Expectant Fragments - Eclectic stories of anticipation and dreams around love, marriage and pregnancy". In this exhibition the linkages between marriage and pregnancy were portrayed art, the illustrated stories by the young people themselves. These stories were from young people of 12 to 14 years old but they were already having to deal with unwanted pregnancies and experienced pressures to get married early often resulting in dropping out of school.

Communication on contraceptive methods and the responsibility of adolescent boys and girls