



TRAUMA CARE TRAINING

Background

Injury is one of the leading causes of death and disability in Vietnam. Each day over 11,000 injuries occur that require medical attention, and 4,500 of those injured are children.¹

To address this problem and its consequences requires a comprehensive set of interventions at all stages - from injury prevention to injury treatment and care to injury surveillance and rehabilitation. While it takes time for prevention programs to demonstrate impacts in reducing the number of injuries, immediate action is required to improve treatment and care for the injured. Trauma care training for care givers is a low-cost intervention that generates extensive and long-term impacts.



Counterpart's trauma care training program focuses on skill development with more than 50% of the time spent in practice sessions with mannequins, in ambulances and in emergency rooms.

With Counterpart's support, a group of Vietnamese doctors attended a trauma care training of trainers course in the US and participated in follow-up training in Vietnam. EMS training centers were set up in four strategic locations throughout Vietnam, serving as bases for roll-out training for other medical professionals. One of the core activities of Counterpart's trauma care training program is to develop an appropriate training curriculum for use

¹ Vietnam Multi-Centre Injury Survey 2001, Ha Noi School of Public Health.

throughout Vietnam. A full set of trauma care training materials has been designed to meet the needs of different audiences (doctors, nurses, EMTs, non-medical responders) and was developed in collaboration with the University of Washington (Counterpart's US program partner) and the local team of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) instructors. Counterpart and its partners are also working to receive official endorsement from the Ministry of Health for the training curriculum, in order to institutionalize quality trauma care training in Vietnam.

Results to date

With support from the United States Agency for International Development, the United States Department of Agriculture, and The Atlantic Philanthropies, Counterpart has:

- Compiled a full set of trauma care training curriculum materials (trainee's textbook, skill guides and instructor's guides).
- Set up and equipped EMS training centers in four strategic locations in Vietnam - Ha Noi, Hai Phong, Da Nang and Khanh Hoa.
- Trained 21 doctors as EMS instructors through US and Vietnam-based training.
- Rolled-out training for 1200 medical professionals in trauma and emergency care through four Counterpart-supported training centers.
- Empowered partners to conduct their own trauma care training activities.
- Piloted trauma care training for 1,000 medical students.

Those institutions whose staff has participated in Counterpart-sponsored trainings have demonstrated improved EMS capacity and are delivering higher quality trauma care to the people of Vietnam. Counterpart is proud to make this contribution to the wellbeing of the Vietnamese people, and will strive to continue this important work in the years to come.

