



TRAUMA CARE QUALITY IMPROVEMENT

Background

Research has shown that a significant number of people in Vietnam die from injuries that would not necessarily have been fatal in other countries. These “medically preventable” deaths could be decreased by improving the organization of and planning for trauma care services. These improvements include planning to ensure the availability of essential human resources (such as staffing and training), physical resources (equipment and supplies), and administrative functions.



Counterpart translated, published and disseminated the WHO's Essential Trauma Care Guidelines and Pre-hospital Care Guidelines in Vietnamese.

Under the current Injury Control Program, Counterpart International has supported initiatives to improve the planning and organization of trauma care services, in addition to other “traditional” interventions such as trauma care training and equipment support. Counterpart has also introduced internationally-recognized minimum standards for trauma care to Vietnam and advocated for the adoption of these standards nation-wide.

An essential element of Counterpart’s work in this area is raising the awareness of health managers and medical professionals about the importance of strong

organizational and administrative skills to the effective provision of trauma care services.

Counterpart has supported Vietnamese health managers from key trauma centers in Vietnam to attend a series of Trauma Care Quality Improvement (QI) Trainings and Workshops in the US and in Vietnam. These health managers will use this training to serve as the driving force for Counterpart-supported trauma care QI programs in their respective medical facilities. During the initial phase, these programs will focus support on raising the awareness of medical professionals about the importance of QI and introducing select QI techniques, such as morbidity and mortality conferences, preventable death panel reviews, risk adjusted mortality, and others.

Results to date

With support from The Atlantic Philanthropies, Counterpart has:

- Supported the translation, publication and dissemination of the World Health Organization’s “Essential Trauma Care Guidelines” and “Pre-hospital Care Guidelines” in Vietnam.
- Conducted trauma care capacity assessments in Ha Noi, Da Nang and Khanh Hoa, using criteria from these guidelines.
- Organized a trauma care QI workshop for health managers from six key provincial trauma centers.
- Facilitated the attendance of a group of Vietnamese health care managers at a Trauma Care QI Training Course in the US.
- Piloted a trauma care QI program for key trauma care centers in Ha Noi, Da Nang and Khanh Hoa.

