

Evidence-based Drug Prevention Policy Among Youth and Students in Vietnam

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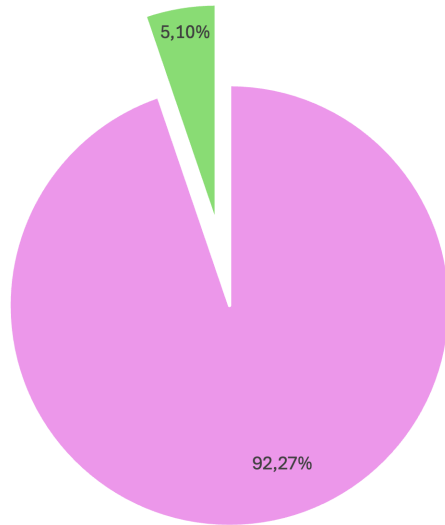
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Outline

- Drug use among youth in Vietnam
- Vietnam Drug Prevention among Youth project
 - Description of the project development
 - Implementation plan

Background

People Use Drugs & People with SUD



■ Male ■ Female

12 – 18 years old
~ 3,000 people (1,4%)

18 – 30 years old
~ 73,100 people
(35,5%)

1st drug of choice: Synthetic Drug (60%)

Background

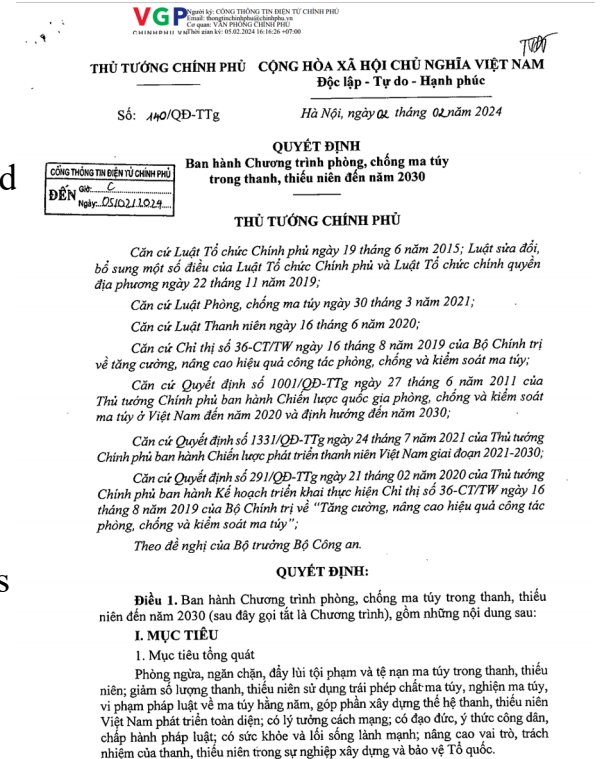
- According to the Ministry of Education and Training of Vietnam (in 2023), there are more than 23 million students and over one million educators in Vietnam, covers $\frac{1}{4}$ of the country's population
 - An important force for the future of Vietnam.
 - Propaganda and drug prevention education in schools must be carried out in a drastic, strong, and methodical manner.



(Source: UNICEF Vietnam)

Background

- **December 2023:** The Government of Vietnam issued a policy guiding drug prevention among youth and students for the period 2024-2030.
- **Goal:** to prevent and fight against drug-related crimes and drug issues among youth, to reduce the number of youth using narcotic drugs and having drug use disorders
- **Objectives:**
 - By 2025, over 80% and by 2030, over 90% youth who use drugs receive counseling, screening, education and drug treatment.
 - By 2025, over 80% and by 2030, 100% teachers and educators are trained on drug prevention skills and who are capable to organize drug prevention educational activities for students.



Drug Prevention Among Youth Project

Aim



- Prevent and combat drug-related crimes and issues among youth; reduce the number of young people illegally using drugs, becoming addicted, or violating drug laws annually, contributing to the development of a well-rounded generation of Vietnamese youth.

Specific Objectives



- Implement measures to enhance the dissemination of information and education on drug prevention and control among adolescents, including middle school students and high school students
- 100% of middle and high school staff and teachers are equipped with the knowledge and skills for drug prevention and control.
- 100% of middle and high schools conduct awareness campaigns, education, and dissemination of legal knowledge and skills related to drug prevention and control

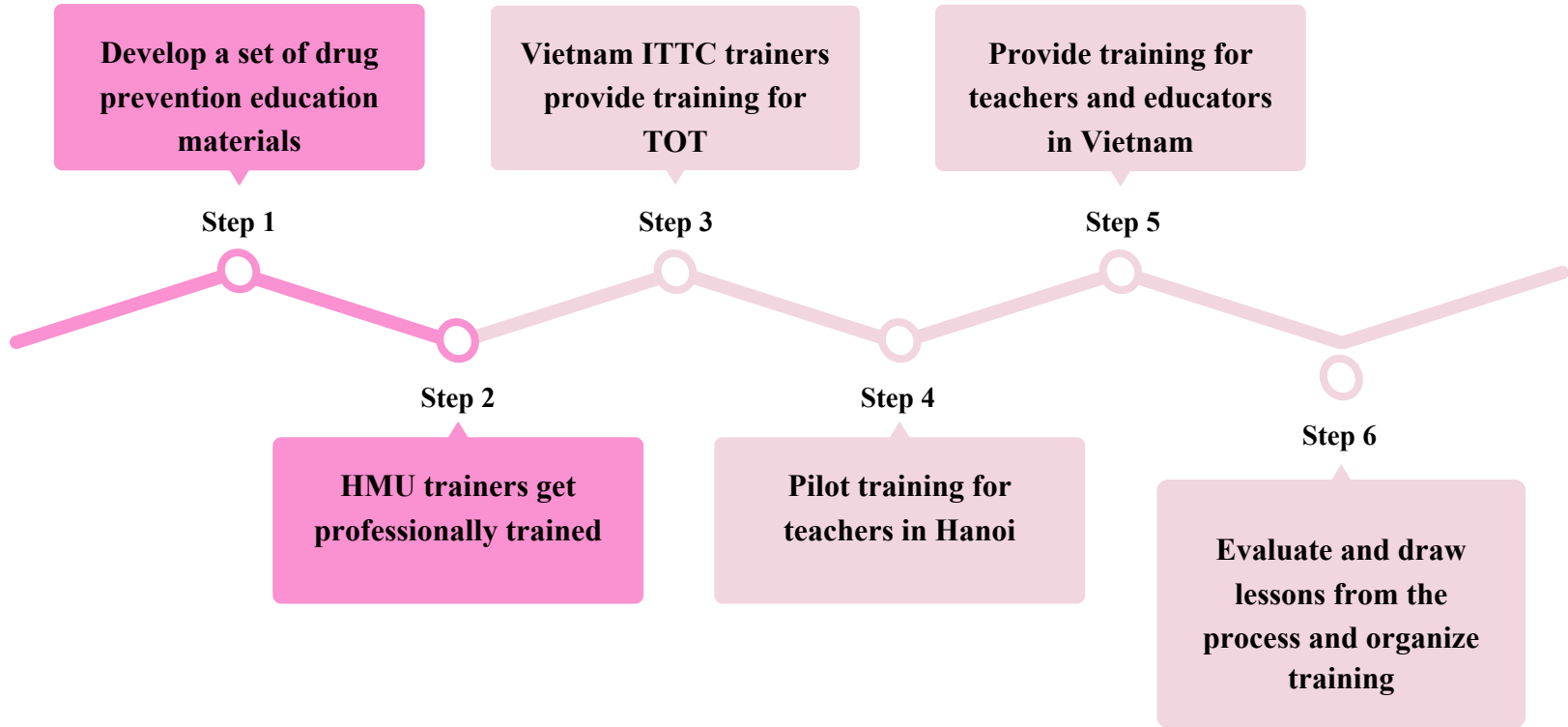
Drug Prevention Among Youth Project

<p>Target Population</p>	<p>Middle school students (6th-9th grade) High school students (10th-12th grade)</p>		
		<p>Activities</p>	
<p>Organization in charge</p>	<p>Ministry of Education and Training of Vietnam</p>	<p>Develop a set of drug prevention and control educational materials for middle and high school students based on research on the Universal Prevention Curriculum (UPC)</p>	
	<p>Ministry of Health of Vietnam</p>	<p>Hanoi Medical University</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop training materials and provide TOT training for teachers - Train the trainers at MoET and Youth Union
		<p>Vietnam Administration HIV/AIDS Control</p>	
<p>Youth Union</p>	<p>Organize communication, awareness, and educational activities</p>		

Methods & Materials

The HMU team and experts from the education sector will implement and specify aspects of drug prevention contents in schools as part of the Youth Drug Prevention Program through 2030.

Implementation Plan



Implementation Plan

Step 1: Develop a set of drug prevention education materials

- Develop a set of drug prevention education materials tailored to the psychological and physiological characteristics of middle and high school students, based on the international standard curriculum on prevention (UPC).

→ Translated and developed by HMU in collaboration with experts from the Ministry of Education and Training & the Colombo Plan, will be implemented in the second half of 2024.



Implementation Plan

Step 2

- International educators from Colombo Plan will provide professional training for Hanoi Medical University trainers
- Q1/2025

Step 3

- Vietnam ITTC trainers provide training for TOT at pedagogical schools and the Education Department in 63 provinces and cities
- Organize 3 training courses in 3 regions; each course accommodating 50 participants.

Implementation Plan

Pilot training for teachers in Hanoi;
Conduct in 2025

Involve 910 schools in Hanoi (673 middle schools, 237 high schools); each school 2 teachers → 1,820 teachers

Step 4

Organize 30 courses (one/ district), each class accommodating between 50 and 70 participants, depending on the district.

By the end of 2025, 100% of middle and high schools in Hanoi will be conducting drug prevention and education programs.

Implementation Plan

Step 5: Provide training for teachers and educators in Vietnam

Evaluate and draw lessons from the pilot program; Organize training and professional development for teachers at 11,356 middle schools and 2,970 high schools nationwide

HMU trainers, education colleges, and the Departments of Education and Training conduct training sessions for teachers in each province and city, following a similar structure to the program implemented in Hanoi.

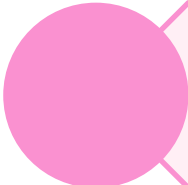
By the end of 2030, 100% of middle and high schools nationwide will be conducting drug prevention and education programs.

Implementation Plan

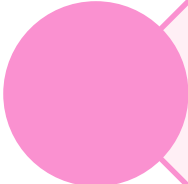
Step 6: Evaluate and draw lessons from the process and organize training



Evaluate and draw lessons from the process and organize training for university and college students, as well as youth and adolescents in the community.



Continuously collect information (e.g., evaluate every three years; assess whether teachers are using the provided materials correctly; identify any necessary adjustments).



Conduct end-of-term evaluations; 2025-2026: evaluate the pilot program; mid-2030: reassess the overall project outcomes.

Conclusion

- One of the few drug prevention projects that are based on evidence and developed through a thorough consultation with researchers and stakeholders
- The project is expected to raise awareness among youth regarding drug use and lead to further prevention efforts.
- We expect to share updates on this project in upcoming ISSUP conferences.