



## 9 VIET NAM

An Innovative e-Learning Approach for Health



### PARTNERS

Ministry of Health  
Haiphong Medical University  
World Health Organization,  
Viet Nam



### APPROVED BUDGET

US\$990,000

Duration: June 2015 to  
June 2017

### OVERVIEW

This project is developing electronic training modules to enhance the capacities of medical students and in-service health professionals to provide health-care services in the northern coastal region of Viet Nam. These digital curricula and platform are aimed at improving the coverage and quality of services in this particularly underserved region. The e-modules prioritize learning on non-communicable diseases, such as cardiovascular diseases and cancer, and marine medicine.

Besides linking health professionals with the specifically designed digital content, the project established five sites in the northern coastal region for greater outreach and connectivity. These sites facilitate the access of medical students and other medical and paramedical staff in the region to health information through a digital learning resources centre, which the project is building within Haiphong University of Medicine and Pharmacy.

### RESULTS (INTENDED OUTCOMES)

- Improved coverage, greater access, and quality of health-care services for the poorest and most vulnerable population groups in the northern coastal region of Viet Nam in the areas of non-communicable diseases and marine medicine.
- Improved knowledge of pre- and in-service health professionals regarding current developments in the field of medicine through the use of the digital resources centre and e-learning modules.
- A replicable model of e-learning for health for other regions in Viet Nam.

### SUMMARY OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

#### Institutional Mechanisms

- Following extensive consultations among project partners at Haiphong University of Medicine and Pharmacy, the Ministry of Health, the World Health Organization and partnering medical students and professionals in the northern coastal region, a blueprint of the information and telecommunication platform was designed and the initial draft developed. Following this blueprint, a variety of tools in Vietnamese and English will be rolled out through various e-learning formats.
- A central audiovisual lab is being set up at Haiphong University for professors to develop and record e-lectures and students to participate in them.
- 5 project sites were established in the target region. The learning needs of medical students and professionals in those areas were assessed through participatory approaches, and local partners engaged in the design and activities of the project.
- Information and telecommunication equipment is being purchased for installation at remote health facilities to enable health workers to take part in the online learning.



### CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED

- Important delays were experienced in the design and approval of this project as well as in the initiation of project activities.
- Difficulties reaching intended beneficiaries in remote areas, and improving the capacities of health workers in those regions are inherent challenges purposely addressed by the design of this project.
- Another challenge addressed by the project is the need to provide or upgrade information and telecommunication equipment to enable effective access to the e-learning activities of the project.

### LINK TO NATIONAL STRATEGIES AND PRIORITIES

This project contributes directly to the health outputs and outcomes that have been agreed by the Government of Viet Nam and the United Nations under the United Nations One Plan for 2012-2016. In particular, it helps to improve access to quality and equitable health services at the grass-roots level, especially by the poor, the ethnic minorities and those living in hard-to-reach areas. Hence, it makes a significant contribution to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals in Viet Nam.

