



## A Safe Return: Changing Attitudes and Traditions in Vietnam

Organizations: HealthBridge Foundation of Canada  
Partner Country: Vietnam



The goal of this project was **to reduce migrant vulnerability by strengthening institutional capacity to provide comprehensive support services.**

**Summary:** The “A Safe Return: Changing Attitudes and Traditions in Vietnam” project sought to build awareness and capacity among multiple sectors (both government and private institutions) that manage the exportation of female labour to reduce the vulnerability of women to HIV. The Project was implemented by HealthBridge in collaboration with the Thai Binh People’s Committee and with migrant associations and migrant women in Thai Binh province.

### **Objective 1: Strengthen the capacity of government & non-governmental institutions to design & deliver improved support services for overseas migrants**

- **Increased awareness of government and non-governmental organizations** about migrant vulnerability.
- **Enhanced teaching quality and capacity of the teachers** in labour exportation companies and vocational training centers through the train of the trainer (TOT) trainings.
- **Improved comprehensiveness of pre-departure services** through the incorporation of information about HIV/STI prevention into the orientation training agenda and manuals.

- Comprehensive training including a newly developed curriculum on HIV/STI prevention.
- 103 workshops for 2,459 (potential) migrant workers provided through 6 labour export companies and vocational training centers.
- Migrant workers’ access to information about HIV risk improved through the development and dissemination of a booklet on HIV/STIs prevention and a manual “Depart and Return Safe”.



### **Objective 2: Improve the capacity of government and NGOs to promote policy dialogue and programming responses to worker’s rights and well-being**

- **Increased awareness** of governmental and private institutions of need to protect workers’ well-being.
- **Partnerships built** among local government, private institutions, and international organizations.

- 163 staff members from local institutions participated in the project’s capacity building activities.
- Research results dissemination workshops held at the provincial and national levels attended by 141 participants.
- The results disseminated and fortified by the media attention given to issues of labour export impacts on families and communities (6 media attention given to issues of labour export impacts on families and communities).

### **Objective 3: Improve the capacity of government and NGOs to assess & report on “successes & failures” of overseas migrant programs and to provide recommendations for a safe mobility model**

- **Increased awareness and enhanced capacity** of key government officials to address the impacts of labour exportation programs on the family.
- **Improved assessment skills** of local staff members.

#### **Sustainability**

The impacts of this project were substantial and the prospects for sustainability are good for the following reasons: 1/ Migration and labour exportation are issues that increasingly receive attention from the government; 2/ The Project Management Board will continue working through the regular government structure with members’ capacity strengthened substantially through their involvement in the project. 2/ The participants in the ToT workshops are staff members of stable governmental or private organizations and the resource people who were trained on labour export consultation are members of mass unions which operate successfully at grass roots levels. Training and consulting capacity of these trained people would be used for their continuing work on migration. 3/ Training on HIV/STIs prevention was integrated into the regular training agenda in major training agencies in the province. The centres that participated in the HIV/STIs prevention program during the project have plans to continue.