

Livable Cities Project Vietnam

Final Report

1/7/2014 – 31/7/2015



ASRTS in Ha Dinh

Photo credits:

Hong Thai, TPG,
Marco Sarli.



Playgrounds in Ngoc Khanh



Chau Long market

Final Narrative Report:

Project: Livable Cities Project Vietnam

By HealthBridge in Vietnam

Reporting period: 1/7/2014-31/7/2015

Executive Summary

This final report and process evaluation for the Vietnam Livable Cities (LC) Project is for the period from July 2014 to July 2015. This report was prepared by the Vietnamese LC project team with data and information collected from the reports of local partners as well as the field visit records.

With the funding support from HealthBride Canada, the LC project team of HealthBridge Vietnam implemented the project aimed at making urban neighborhoods more livable and conducive to healthy lifestyles. We worked with four key local partners on four main components. They were (1) Hoi An City Team for “Hoi An Park Master Plan”, (2) Action Centre for City Development for “Park Building with Community Engagement”, (3) Hanoi Urban Architecture Company for “Active & Safe Routes to Schools” and (4) Think Playgrounds for the development of “Low-cost playgrounds”. In addition, as part of the policy development component, the Vietnamese LC project team also participated in the development of the National Strategy on Non-communicable Diseases Prevention and Control, led an advocacy campaign for neighborhood parks in Hanoi, and commented to the draft decree on Renovation of Old Apartment Buildings and the Law on Children. Some remarkable achievements of the project included:

- The Hoi An Park Master Plan was approved by Decision 1282/QĐ-UBND of Hoi An government in July 2015. This is the first Park Master Plan which gave priorities to neighborhood public spaces and aimed to reach the average 1.5m² of neighborhood public space and 6m² of city-level public space per capita. The project helped in increased local and international awareness on the Master Plan through workshops with community, leaders, professionals, media, and abstract to international conference.
- The project resulted in increased Hanoi local Government awareness of importance of neighborhood public spaces (PS) and the need to improve their management and development. It also strengthened the Government commitment to improve the management and development of neighborhood PS, continued reclaiming abandoned land into a park, developed more low-cost playgrounds in ancient streets, involved role of women’s unions in development and management of PS.
- The pilot project titled “Active and safe walking routes to schools (ASRTS) in Ha Dinh”, Hanoi resulted in increased number of children walking to school on the start of the new school year, improved awareness of parents and local people about the need to have children walking to schools, improved support and commitment from the school, media, and local government to the ASRTS pilot.
- Experiences of the saving market campaign were disseminated through a paper published in Oxfam journal “Gender and Development” and a presentation at the Public Market Conference in Barcelona in March 2015. These activities help to increase understanding on importance of traditional market for women’s livelihoods, the local economy, health, and the environment as well as best practices on development and management of local fresh markets all over the world.
- The LC team contributed to the National non-communicable disease strategy to 2025 and other national policies including the decree on Renovation of Old Apartment Buildings and the Children Law.
- Funding from the Asia Foundation was well resulted in advocating for neighborhood parks and playgrounds in Hanoi that created positive changes at communities and approached city government for policy changes.

It is recommended that the Project team should further the results of the Vietnam LC 2014-15 project by continuing future efforts on development of neighborhood parks and playgrounds, creation of safe walking routes and preservation of fresh markets in Vietnamese cities in order to attain the overall objectives of making the cities more livable and healthy. In addition, more efforts will be needed to expand the partner network as well as raise fund for better resources of our program.

1. Introduction

2.1 Rationale

Urbanization is considered by the World Health Organization as one of the greatest health challenges in the 21st century¹. City living and its increased pressures of mass marketing, availability of unhealthy food choices and accessibility to automation and motorized transport all have an effect on lifestyle that directly affect health². These require a lot of remedial actions or efforts to develop a favorable environment for healthy practices of the residents.

Being one of the fastest urbanizing countries in East Asia, Vietnam has undergone a remarkable process of economic reform in recent decades that has spurred economic growth and driven an urbanization rate of around 3 per cent per year³. However, this fast growth also means more attention should be paid to create more livable environments that will lead to fewer health problems and a stronger, more vibrant, healthier local economy and society.

The Livable Cities project in 2014-15 conducted by HealthBridge in Vietnam is aimed at making urban neighborhoods more livable and conducive to healthy lifestyles. The projects included: the development of a Park Master Plan in Hoi An; support to initiatives to build low-cost playgrounds in Hanoi's neighborhoods; a pilot of active safe routes to school in Hanoi; and policy advocacy to create a favorable urban environment for prevention of non-communicable diseases.

2.2 Project goal and objectives

With the livable cities program in Vietnam we have a vision and outcomes as follow:

Vision:

We envision healthy, happy people living in cities with lots of fun and safe public spaces where people feel attached to their neighborhoods and neighbors; we envision cities where people can walk and cycle easily with accessible public transit; we envision cities where people have healthy and nutritious food; and we envision neighborhoods that are designed to honor our traditional culture of daily life.

Ultimate outcome (goal)

Decreased NCD-related mortality and morbidity amongst urban residents in Vietnam and increased social interaction and community cohesion.

To that end, from the period 7/2014-7/2015, we focused our efforts in four areas and expect to achieve 11 immediate outcomes as follow:

Immediate outcomes (objectives)

Improving urban neighborhood open public spaces

- #1. Increased number of policies to develop accessible quality parks and playgrounds in Hoi An
- #2. Increased number of pilot projects in newly developing area/poor neighbourhoods that create a healthy, safe, fun park/ playground.
- #3. Increased number of policies and community mobilization activities that protect and manage parks, playgrounds and plazas in Vietnamese cities

Creating safe walking routes to schools for children

- #4. Increased number of primary school children walking safely to schools in Ha Dinh ward, Hanoi
- #5. Increased understanding of the possibility to implement the active and safe route to school (ASRTS) program in Hanoi
- #6. Increased our understanding of current traffic situation and opportunities to develop active transportation in Hoi An.
- #7. Increased commitment from Hoi An Government to improve active transportation in Hoi An

¹<http://www.un.org.vn/vi/feature-articles-press-centre-submenu-252/1232-world-health-day-2010-1000-cities-1000-lives.html>

²<http://www.who.int/bulletin/volumes/88/4/10-010410/en/>

³<http://www.citiesalliance.org/sites/citiesalliance.org/files/YGS%20Vietnam%20CP%20Flyer.pdf>

Preserving urban fresh markets

- #8. Increased understanding and recommendations of policies to preserve traditional fresh markets in Hanoi.
- #9. Increased understanding of best practice from other countries

Advocacy for policies to create favourable urban environment for prevention of non-communicable diseases

- #10. Increased multi-sectoral strategies on enabling environment for physical activities and access to healthy food in the National Strategy on NCDs
- #11. Increased partnership between the members of VUF, NGOs, cities, communities and other organizations that interested in livable cities issue.

2. Evaluation

3.1 Outcome evaluation

Component #1: Open public spaces (PS)

In this first component, we supported the City team of the Hoi An Government to develop its Strategic Plan to Develop Public Spaces in Hoi An (the Park Master Plan). This Master Plan was completed and approved by the Hoi an city Government in July 2015. We also supported ACCD to develop a neighbourhood park, Son Pho park in Cam Chau ward, Hoi An, with community engagement. This activity was started in the previous LC 2013-14 Project and continued then finished in November 2014 of this reporting period. In addition to supporting Hoi An city, we also supported a volunteer group, Think Playgrounds, to create creative low-cost neighborhood playgrounds in the inner city of Hanoi. This initiative also successfully mobilized the community to actively participate in the development and management of playgrounds in Hanoi and other cities in Vietnam as well.

Table 1: Evaluation for component #1 - Open Public Spaces

#	Expected outcomes	Activities	Reach/ Results	Evaluations/ Outcomes
Development of Hoi An's Park Master Plan:				
Hoian Government signed the Park Master Plan 2015-2020, decision 1282/QĐ-UBND. This policy is a commitment of the City government to develop Hoian's public spaces system in the next five years which meets international standard of 9.0m ² /person with neighbourhood parks are within reasonable walking distance of 300 - 500m.				
1	Increased number of policies to develop accessible quality parks and playgrounds in Hoi An(Hoi An Park Master Plan)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conducted field assessment and propose new PS sites 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100% of unoccupied lands (46 sites) were surveyed for potentials to develop public spaces A field assessment report that included opinions of about 100 representatives of the communities and local authorities on needs and potentials of public spaces was developed. A list of new public spaces that need to be developed from now to 2020 was made. 	<p>This activity was implemented with good quality and timeframe.</p> <p>Better understanding of the city team and local authorities about potential to develop public spaces in the city.</p> <p>The field assessment report was an input for the development of the master plan.</p>

#	Expected outcomes	Activities	Reach/ Results	Evaluations/ Outcomes
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developed scenarios for PS development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 scenarios were developed by the team for discussions by the communes/ wards. They included: 1) the scenario of business as usual, 2) the scenario of corridor development, 3) the scenario of eco-city development and 4) the scenario of livable city development. • A meeting with more than 100 representatives of 13 wards, communes and the city team to discuss about the scenario was organized on 12/11/2014. • 13 separate meetings were organized in 13 wards, communes from Sept to Nov 2014 to discuss about the scenarios as well as potential and budget to develop unoccupied sites in local areas into public spaces. • One meeting of the city team was conducted to review opinions collected and select a scenario for development of PS in Hoi An. • One scenario was selected from the four proposals. It was the scenario of livable city development. 	<p>This activity was implemented with good quality and timeframe.</p> <p>The selected scenario (livable city development) meets the goal of developing PS in neighborhoods, fits with the Hoi An Construction Master Plan and meet with the city's targets to develop Hoi An an eco-city and its socio-economic development targets.</p> <p>Better awareness of local authorities and residents about development of healthy communities and city</p>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developed a map of PS for 5 years 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A map of PS for 2016-2020 was developed in consideration of current development policies of Hoi An, the National Technical 	<p>This activity was implemented with good quality and timeframe.</p> <p>Increased visual materials for the Park Master Plan</p>

#	Expected outcomes	Activities	Reach/ Results	Evaluations/ Outcomes
			Codes and Standards relating to PS development, the selected scenario of PS development	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organized a meeting with leaders of the city People's Committee and communes/ wards' People's Committee to develop the budget for the Park Master Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Plan for investment priorities for PS in 2016-2020 was developed including the total fund for development and maintenance of PS in Hoi An and a yearly budget for PS development in the city. 	<p>This activity was implemented with good quality and timeframe.</p> <p>The Plan identified the financial resources for PS will come mainly from the city. In addition, they will mobilize businesses, organizations and local community. The proportion between these two financial sources will be 80/20 for PS maintenance and 70/30 for PS development.</p>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collected comments on the draft Park Master Plan (sent the draft to all 77 neighborhoods in 13 communes, wards, in June 2015, organized a community workshop and a meeting with professionals in July 2015) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 13 communes/ wards collected comments on the Park Master Plan from their neighborhoods in a document and sent to the city team The community workshop with more than 130 participants, chaired by the Vice Chairman of Hoi An People's Committee. 12 valuable comments to the draft Master Plan were recorded after the meeting. A meeting with leaders of 13 communes/ wards and professionals to agree on the revised content of the Master Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was planned that 13 community meetings will be organized at the local level. However, due to the time constraint, the city team had to organize 1 community workshop with representatives of 77 neighborhoods and of 13 communes and wards. The draft was improved with the collected comments.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed the Park Master Plan and submitted to the city Government for approval 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decision 1282/QĐ-UBND was signed on 22/7/2015 to approve the Park Master Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hoi An had its first Park Master Plan which gave priorities to neighborhood public spaces and aimed to reach the average 1.5m² of

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				neighborhood public space and 6m ² of city-level public space per capita. The city will develop 79 new public spaces in 2015-2020 to the increase to the total areas of public spaces to 647,877 m ² by 2020. It will also work to ensure that city residents will be able to reach public spaces at a distance of 300-500m and all public spaces in the city will have qualified facilities and services.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disseminated the Park Master Plan: - organized a workshop to announce the Park Master Plan and plan for its implementation on 27/7/2015; sent the information relating to the Park Master Plan development to the media; submitted an abstract to Walk 21 conference 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The workshop with 50 participants. A presentation of the Park Master Plan development was presented at the workshop. 4 online media articles about the plan approval and 11 articles about the public spaces development in Hoi An (attached list) The Park Master Plan won “Walking Visionary Awards” of the Walk 21 Conference. http://walk21vietna.com/visionaries/awards-winners/ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased local and international awareness on the Master Plan
<p>A pilot of reclaiming abandoned land into a park (continued from last year)</p> <p>ACCD created a community park, Son Pho park, in Hoian. This park was developed with community participation. 3,000m² open space of Son Pho park serves 2,000 local people and become the first neighbourhood park developed with community engagement in Hoian.</p>				
2	Increased number of pilot projects in newly developing areas/ poor	Constructed a park with community participation	Son Pho Park was completed and opened in Nov 2014. The Park serves a neighborhood of around	This activity was continued from the last year’s project. It resulted in increased access to parks by local

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	neighborhoods that create a healthy, safe, fun park/ playgrounds		2,000 residents. A report sharing experience of reclaiming abandoned land into park was developed	residents and improved awareness of the city leaders that the unused area in city is a good source of land for park development. The process of the park construction contributed lessons learnt in mobilizing financial sources and community participation to the public space development in Hoi An.
<p>Pilots on building low-cost playgrounds</p> <p>Think Playgrounds developed two low cost and one mobile playgrounds in Hanoi. These low cost playgrounds developed and operated with community engagement. Two low cost playgrounds serves hundred children of two apartment building while the mobile playground attracted five hundreds children come to play every Saturday night.</p>				
2	Increased number of pilot projects in newly developing areas/ poor neighborhoods that create a healthy, safe, fun park/ playgrounds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supported a community to reclaim an unused land and a land occupied for private use to create playgrounds (built by Think Playgrounds (TPG) volunteer group) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two small low-cost playgrounds were built on the ground floor of two apartment buildings of 500 residents in Hanoi (#20 Nguyen Cong Hoan Street). Each day, around 100 children in the neighborhood came to play at the playgrounds. 5 million dong (240usd) were raised among the local communities and the volunteers contributed 320 hours of labor to the construction of the playgrounds 	<p>Increased number of low-cost playgrounds</p> <p>Increased access to playgrounds by local children.</p> <p>Increased community participation in building playgrounds.</p> <p>Improved awareness by local residents and local authorities that they can reclaimed unused/ occupied land to create playgrounds for children</p> <p>Improved awareness by local authorities that playgrounds can be built with small funds and contributions mobilized from local residents, business.</p>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supported the Women's Union of Giap Bat ward to reclaim an unused land and a land 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two small low-cost playgrounds were built in the ward. About 150-170 children and hundreds of elderly 	<p>Increased number of low cost playgrounds.</p> <p>Improved the environment in the</p>

#	Expected outcomes	Activities	Reach/ Results	Evaluations/ Outcomes
		<p>occupied for private use to create playgrounds</p>	<p>people, women and youth use these two public spaces each day</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A fund of 17 million dong (800usd) was raised from members of the Women's Union and the ward authorities, 3 million dong (140usd) from local business enterprises. Volunteers contributed 504 working hours in 21 days to build the playgrounds. • 3 articles about the Women's Union participation in creating public spaces. 	<p>local area.</p> <p>Increased participation of the local women's Union in development and management of public spaces.</p>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supported the Management of Hanoi Old Quarter and TPG to pilot a mobile playground in a pedestrian street – the Play Street on Saturday's evening from 17/4/2015 to 11/7/2015 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11 evenings of Play Street were organized with attendance of about 400 children and their parents each evening. • Each evening, there were 12 volunteers participating in organizing Play Street. In a total, 831 voluntary working hours were raised for organizing and producing playing equipment for Play Street • A guideline of organizing Play Street was developed. • 9 TV reportages and at least 14 online articles about Play Street • Play Street was handed over to the ward People's Committee after the pilot 	<p>Increased number of playgrounds in the Old Quarter, which lacks playing spaces for children.</p> <p>Increased access to playgrounds by local children.</p> <p>Increased understanding of and participation of local community and authorities in organizing Play Street.</p> <p>Increased understanding of the city government and professionals of initiatives to create playgrounds in inner city where there is a lack of public spaces (speaking at workshops or in interviews, many professionals mentioned Play Street as an example)</p>

#	Expected outcomes	Activities	Reach/ Results	Evaluations/ Outcomes
3	Increased number of policies and community mobilization activities that protect and manage parks, playgrounds and plazas in Vietnamese cities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supported TPG in the organization of Play Day event on Nov 1-2, 2014. 	<p>An associated workshop on creating low-cost creative playgrounds was organized on Nov 1st with 25 participants including representatives of neighborhoods, volunteers who were interested in building playgrounds. Findings from HB situational analysis on neighborhood parks were presented at the workshop.</p> <p>The PlayDay event was organized on Nov 2nd with participation of 998 children and their parents.</p> <p>18 journalists attended the event with 14 media articles and TV reportage about the event.</p>	<p>Increased understanding about concept of low-cost creative playgrounds and current situation of the neighborhood playgrounds in Hanoi.</p> <p>Increased awareness of parents and local authorities about the right to play of children and creative playgrounds that encourage children's physical activities and social interaction.</p> <p>Increased local support to create neighborhood playgrounds: 10 neighborhoods registered for support to build low-cost playgrounds.</p>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advocated the Hanoi Government to improve the management and development of neighborhood public spaces (PS) (This activity was carried out with additional funding resources mobilized from the Asia Foundation): - developed advocacy materials; organized advocacy workshops; conducted one-on-one meetings; run a media campaign 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An advocacy toolkit comprised of four documents concisely highlighting the importance of neighbourhood PS, their current situation in Hanoi, the gaps in relevant policies and recommendations to improve them; and the experiences of development and management of neighbourhood parks and playgrounds in Vietnam. 300 copies were printed and disseminated at advocacy workshops and 1:1 meetings. Two advocacy workshops on neighborhood PS in Hanoi were organized. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The first was in early May 2015 in collaboration with the Vietnam Urban Planning and Development Association 	<p>Increased local Government awareness of importance of neighborhood PS and the need to improve their management and development</p> <p>Strengthened the Government commitment to improve the management and development of neighborhood PS.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In Nov 2014, Mr. Nguyen TheThao, the Chairman of the People's Committee, said in a meeting on the issue of Hanoi's old condominiums redevelopment that he agreed with our recommendations that the redevelopment should ensure each neighbourhood has a neighbourhood park.

#	Expected outcomes	Activities	Reach/ Results	Evaluations/ Outcomes
			<p>(VUPDA). 80 participants including 37 journalists. The workshop announcement and recommendations sent to the People's council and People's Committee of Hanoi, the Ministry of Construction and the media.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The second workshop was organized in late June in collaboration with the Fatherland Front of Hanoi. There were 79 participants mainly representatives of the Fatherland Front at the local level (wards and districts) and journalists. Workshop announcement and recommendations were sent to the People's council and People's Committee of Hanoi, the Hanoi Central Committee of the Communist Party. • About 20 one-to-one meetings with members of the National Assembly, members of Hanoi People's Council, leaders of Hanoi Fatherland Front, former policy makers, local authorities, and leaders of professional associations. • In the period from 9/2014 – 6/2015, there were nearly 110 online articles, 50 print articles, and 26 TV reportages/ talk-shows about the topic of management and development of neighborhood PS. • Six organizations were engaged in the campaign. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In Dec 2012, Mr. Nguyen Hoai Nam, an elected representative of the People's Council, questioned the Director of the Construction Department about the lack of playgrounds in many apartment buildings at the Q-A of the XI session of the People Council. - In May 2015, speaking at the advocacy workshop on neighborhood parks in Hanoi, Mdm Hoang Thi Hoa, member of the National Assembly's Committee on Culture, Youth and Children Affairs highlighted the importance of neighborhood playgrounds to child development. - The following policy makers talked about the need to improve neighborhood PS in Hanoi in the media: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Mdm Ngo Thi Minh, vice chairwoman of the National Assembly's Committee on Culture, Youth and Children Affairs (VTV1 talkshow early May 2015) ○ Mdm Le Thi Kim Oanh, Vice Chairwomen of Hanoi FatherlandFront spoke about the need to improve neighborhood PS in Hanoi in a HTV talkshow early Jul 2017. ○ Mr Vuong Duy Bao, deputy Head of the Grassroots Culture Department of the Ministry of Culture and Mrs Nguyen Thi Nga, deputy Head of the

#	Expected outcomes	Activities	Reach/ Results	Evaluations/ Outcomes
			<p>They were: Vietnam Federation of Civil Engineering Associations, Vietnam Urban Planning and Development Association, Vietnam Children Protection Association, The Fatherland Front of Hanoi, Research and Training Centre for Community Development - (local NGO), Evidence-based Health Policy Development (local alliance), and Think Playgrounds (a volunteer group).</p>	<p>Department of Child Protection and Care under the Ministry of Labor, Invalids and Social Affairs(Hanoi TV talkshow mid Jul 2015)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Mdm Nguyen Thanh Hai and Mdm Bui Thi An, Hanoi member of the National Assembly (interviews by VnMedia 27/5/2015). - Responding to the May advocacy workshop recommendations, the Hanoi People's Committee sent an official document to request the Department of Planning and Architect, the Department of Construction and Hanoi Institute of Urban Planning to consider the recommendations and propose necessary policy revisions to the People's Committee. - Hanoi FatherlandFront included recommendations to improve neighborhood PS in their report to the Hanoi People Council's at their XIII session. - 4/29 questions of the city People's Council sent to the People's Committee at the XIII session were about issues relating to management and development of neighborhood public spaces in Hanoi. The People's Committee had to send official answers to these questions. - The People's Council spent

#	Expected outcomes	Activities	Reach/ Results	Evaluations/ Outcomes
				<p>one morning session of its XIII session for its members to raise questions regarding the management and development of PS in Hanoi. At this session, the Head of Hanoi Department of Architecture and Planning had to present their progress in managing neighborhood parks.</p> <p>- After the session, the People's Council officially sent their recommendations to the People's Committee to request they improve the development of neighborhood parks and playgrounds by doing parks audits and public land survey, considering to remove park fees, reclaiming occupied public spaces, giving a priority to using unused land for creating more public spaces and increasing community participation.⁴</p>

Component #2: Active and safe walking routes to schools (ASRTS)

In this second component, we planned to organize active and safe routes to school for students at Ha Dinh primary school in Hanoi in two years 2013 – 2015 with an expectation that this pilot would provide the evidence needed for advocating for policies to encourage active transport among students in Hanoi. We worked with a group of volunteer architects including lecturers from the Universities of Architecture, Construction, and Phuong Dong to pilot the program. The manager of the pilot and team leader was Mr. Tran Huy Anh, a well-known architect who is very active in advocating for urban development policies and experienced in working with local communities. In Jul 2014 – Jun 2014, the team continued the pilot with activities to organize students to walk to schools on the route which was identified convenient for walking in the last phase, improve some sites that were considered less safe for walking in the route, educate the students about the benefits of walking and traffic safety, mobilize parents, schools and community to participate in the pilot, advocate the local government to support the pilot and evaluate the pilot.

⁴<http://dbndhanoi.gov.vn/Default.aspx?tabid=309&catid=100&itemid=10580>

Table 2: Evaluation for component #2 - Active and safe walking routes to schools (ASRTS)

#	Expected Outcomes	Activities	Reach	Evaluations/ results
<p>Active and safe walking routes to schools (ASRTS) in Ha Dinh</p> <p>HUAC, Ha Dinh ward’s government and Ha Dinh primary school organized a ASRTS in Ha Dinh ward. Among of 800 students of Ha Dinh schools, 60 children walk to school and 130 children walk back home every day.</p>				
4	Increased number of primary school children walking safely to schools in Ha Dinh ward, Hanoi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organized students to walk to schools on the Start of the new school year 	Over one hundred students or 13% of the students of Ha Dinh Primary School walked to school on the start of the new school year	<p>Increased number of children walking to school on the start of the new school year.</p> <p>Improved awareness of parents and local people about the need to have children walking to schools.</p>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developed a plan to organize children to walk to school on the identified safe walking route 	7 meetings with the ward People’s Committee, schools, and the Green Living Club to develop a plan to organize and maintain the identified safe walking route	<p>Better organization of the safe walking route to school</p> <p>Improved understanding of the project team about necessary tasks to implement the safe walking route to school.</p>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organized the launch of the safe walking route to school on Oct 8, 2014. 	<p>Approximately 100 students walked on the identified routes to school while all school students attended the launch (at the school yard)</p> <p>Four speeches by representatives of the project, school, and local government supported the pilot and benefits of walking to school. A member of the National Assembly (in charge of Youth and Children Affairs) also attended and had a speech at the event.</p>	<p>Increased number of children walking to school</p> <p>Improved awareness by the students and local residents about the benefits of walking to schools.</p> <p>Improved support from the school, and local government to the pilot.</p>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain the identified walking 	The identified walking route to	

#	Expected Outcomes	Activities	Reach	Evaluations/ results
		route to school.	<p>school was maintained with a diary and by a working group.</p> <p>60 among 800 students of Ha Dinh primary school have been walking to school every day in comparison to only 8 students who walked to school last year (according to the baseline survey). The number of children walking from school back to home was double to 130 students.</p> <p>15/800 parents have been taking children to school regularly (an increase by 150% compared to the beginning of the pilot)</p>	Increased number of children walking to school
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Physical intervention to improve the walking route to school 	<p>Identified 10 sites unsafe on the pilot walking route to schools.</p> <p>Two sites were upgraded to be safer: building fences and barriers to prevent motorbikes from driving on the walking route.</p> <p>Built a small playground next to the school gate where children gathered to walk home together.</p>	Improved walking condition of the pilot route, safer and friendlier to children.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organized a workshop to educate children about traffic safety and improve daily physical activities among the primary students. 	01 workshop was organized in Nov, 2014 with 55 participants including teachers and parents	Improved understanding of parents and teachers about educating children on traffic safety and importance of daily physical activities among children.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organized games educating primary students in Ha Dinh ward about traffic safety and physical activities 	The games were organized twice in Dec 2014 with participation of 65 students	Better understanding of the students about traffic safety and physical activities.

#	Expected Outcomes	Activities	Reach	Evaluations/ results
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organized a competition on painting healthy community among primary students in Ha Dinh ward 	<p>One painting competition about the topic of safe walking routes to school was organized with participation of 55 students.</p> <p>An exhibition of 30 paintings was organized in the school to improve the awareness of parents and children.</p>	<p>Better awareness of the students and parents about healthy communities where children can walk safely with a lot of fun</p>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Met with parents whose children walked to school everyday to mobilize them to participate in leading the students walking to school. 	<p>Met with 35 parents of whom 15 volunteered to lead the students walking to schools on the pilot walking route.</p>	<p>Increased their commitment and support to the ASRTS pilot.</p> <p>The activity also increased the attention of parents and children who went to school daily (either by walking or on motorbikes), then improved their awareness of ASRTS.</p>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conducted meetings to mobilize support from the local authorities and community groups to the pilot and extend the pilot. 	<p>10 meetings with (1) the Green Living Club (2) the ward's Fatherland Front (3) the ward's communist party and people's committee (4) volunteer youths of the neighborhood # 3, 5,6,7,8,9; and heads of the working committees of the Fatherland Fronts of neighborhoods No. 1,4,5,6,7; and (10) the enterprise which sold construction materials at the local area.</p> <p>A meeting with the Unit of Management of the Project to Upgrade Ha Dinh Lake, presenting a proposal to create pedestrian friendly environment around the lake.</p>	<p>Increased support from the ward and community groups to the pilot.</p> <p>Residents in Neighborhood #5 (surrounding Ha Dinh Lake) agreed to pilot the second walking route to school.</p>

#	Expected Outcomes	Activities	Reach	Evaluations/ results
			A meeting to share the experience of organizing the pilot walking route to school to 8 other neighborhoods in the ward.	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mobilized support from the media to communicate the process of the pilot 	7 reporters were invited to the events. 15 articles about the project were produced and published. An article on the pilot won a media prize about traffic safety of the National Committee on Traffic Safety 2014.	<p>Increased support from the media.</p> <p>Increased understanding of the public about the project process.</p> <p>Increased awareness of the public about importance of creating safe walking route to schools for children.</p>
5	Increased our understanding of possibility to implement the program in other wards in Hanoi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conducted evaluation of the pilot process 	25 interviews with local residents about the implementation of the pilot	Better understanding of good and bad points of the implementation of the pilot.

Component #3: Saving fresh markets

During the reporting period, this component sought to increase understanding about the policy gaps to develop fresh markets in Hanoi. A paper to review our saving market campaign was developed and will be published in the Oxfam Journal “Gender and Development.”

Table 3: Evaluation for component #3 - Saving fresh markets

#	Expected outcomes	Activities	Results/ Reached	Evaluations/ outcome
Saving market campaign				
LC team wrote a paper on importance of the markets in Hanoi, published in Oxfam journal. LC project’s manager also participated in the Public Market Conference in Barcelona. These activities help to increase understanding on importance of traditional market for women’s livelihoods, the local economy, health, and the environment as well as best practices on development and management of local fresh markets all over the world.				
8	Increased our understanding and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developed a paper reviewing the saving market campaign and 	A paper was developed and published in the Oxfam Journal	This activity was completed with good quality and acceptable

	recommendations of policies to preserve traditional fresh markets in Hanoi.	government policies relating to market and supermarket development in Hanoi	“Gender and Development.”	timeframe. Increased our understanding about lessons learnt from the campaign and Government policies. Increased awareness among an international community about the importance of local markets and HBV’s program.
9		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advocated Chau Long market to become a most endangered market⁵ as designated by PPS. 	In the months leading up to the Public Market Conference in Barcelona, Project for Public Spaces ⁶ (PPS) put out a call for public market advocates to bring recognition to those markets needing immediate attention and support. Chau Long market in Hanoi became one in the 10 most endangered market list.	PPS cannot make the final list for some reasons. However the example of Chau Long endangered market was shared with media and professionals. We hope that by this activity, the government will consider the appropriated proposal to improve the management of this market as well as other traditional market in Hanoi.
10	Increased our understanding of best practices on development and management of local fresh markets from other countries.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attended the Public Market Conference in Barcelona. Presented the “Saving Market Campaign in Hanoi” at the conference 	<p>Learned about experiences on management of markets and policies to support local markets from the US (SNAP Program), Barcelona, Italia, HongKong... Field visits to learn about design and management of local markets in Barcelona.</p> <p>30 delegates from many countries listened to our presentation.</p>	<p>This activity was completed with good quality and acceptable timeframe.</p> <p>Increased our understanding of best practices on development and management of local fresh markets from other countries.</p>

Component #4: Policy Development

Table 4: Evaluation for component #4–Policy Development

⁵<http://www.pps.org/blog/bringing-attention-to-the-worlds-endangered-markets/>

⁶<http://www.pps.org/>

#	Expected outcomes	Activities	Results/ Reached	Evaluations/ outcome
Policy Development				
Physical activities improvement is included in National NCD strategy to 2025. Five multi-sectoral projects will be implement in the period of the strategy, in which, a physical activity project for all will be implemented by the Ministry of Sport, Culture and Tourism, Ministry of Construction, Ministry of Transportation. Another physical activity project for children will be implemented by the Ministry of Education. Some other national policies developed included LC issues (compact cities, 3D, parks, playgrounds, walking and cycling), such as decree on Renovation of Old Apartment Buildingsand Children Law.				
10	Increased multi-sectoral strategies on enabling environment for physical activities and access to healthy food in the National Strategy on NCD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attended all meetings and workshops to develop the draft strategy. Provided technical comments to the draft. Connected the MoH with our contacts in the Ministries of Transportation and Construction for the development of the strategy. 	<p>The Country Director and PM attended and contributed opinions at three workshops and seven technical meetings, provided comments to 5 drafts of the strategy</p> <p>The final draft strategy mentioned policies and a project to improve physical activities with multi-sectoral collaboration and was submitted to the Government for approval by Dec 2014.</p>	<p>This activity was completed with good quality and timeframe.</p> <p>Better content of the national strategy relating to enabling environment for physical activities and access to healthy food.</p> <p>Increased multi-sectoral strategies on enabling environment for physical activities and access to healthy food in the National Strategy on NCDs.</p> <p>The Ministries of Construction and Transportation were involved in developing the Strategy.</p>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supported the Ministry of Sport, Culture and Tourism to develop a project to promote physical activities. This is a part of the five projects to implement the National Strategy on NCDs 	<p>A draft project proposal was developed with the participation of the Ministries of Construction, Transportation, and Health. This project will engage all the four ministries to create a favourable environment for residents to practice physical activities in Vietnamese cities. HealthBridge's senior Project Officer was invited as the technical advisor to the development process.</p>	<p>Increased multi-sectoral collaboration on enabling environment for physical activities and access to healthy food in the National Strategy on NCDs.</p>
11	Increased partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collaborated with the Vietnam 	A workshop on renovating wards	Increased participation of the

	between the members of VUF, NGOs, cities, communities and other organizations that interested in livable cities issue	Federation of Civil Engineering Associations to organize two workshops aiming to improve livability of neighborhoods.	and villages was organized in Oct 2014 where our preliminary findings on neighborhood parks were presented to nearly 100 participants including the media. A workshop on redevelopment of old apartment buildings into livable urban spaces was organized in Oct where our 3D concept was presented to over 100 participants including the media. Two papers (place making and 3D concept) were developed and published at the workshop.	Federation in developing livable cities. Increased understanding of local organizations and the media about the LC concept.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commented on the Government's Draft Decree on Renovation of Old Apartment Buildings 	Comments to include 3D concept in re-planning Old Apartment Building areas and to ensure neighborhood public spaces in these areas (sent to the Ministry of Construction and the media)	Improved awareness of the Drafting Committee about the issues Our comments were noted in the press clippings to the Ministry of Justices ⁷ .
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commented on the Draft Children Law 	Comments to include ensuring free playgrounds, safe walking routes and healthy foods for children were sent to members of the National Assembly's Committee on Culture, Youth, and Children Affairs, Vietnam Association of Child Protection and Care and the Evidence-Based Health Policy Development Alliance.	Improved the draft Children Law. The content of ensuring children to play without paying fees was included in the July Draft.

3.2 Fundraising and Program/ Partnerships Development

#	Activities	Indicators	Evaluation/ Outcomes
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⁷<http://moj.gov.vn/ct/tintuc/Pages/diem-tin-bao-chi.aspx?ItemId=1918>

	Developed two proposals on development of neighborhood parks in Hanoi and submitted to the Asia Foundation (TAF)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two proposals were developed (Phase I: situational analysis, Phase II advocacy) and accepted 	Increased funding for the LC project. Improved relations with TAF as our donor.
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3.3 Significant changes to the project

The most significant change to the project was the move of location of the activity to develop a model of building low-cost playgrounds from Hoi An city to Hanoi and the delay of creation of a nationwide volunteer network on parks and playgrounds to the next phase. Both of these two activities were intended to be carried out in collaboration with Action Centre for City Development. However, while implementing the LC 14-15 project, we were also successful in obtaining an additional fund from the TAF to advocate for neighborhood parks and playgrounds in Hanoi. We found that there was a link between the TAF-funded project and the Component of Parks, Plaza and Playground of the LC 2014-15 project: both of them have a similar outcome of increased policies to support park and playground development. With the advocacy activities in Hanoi under the TAF project, if we conducted the development of a model on low-cost playgrounds in Hanoi instead of in Hoi An as originally planned, the impact of the activity would be bigger: It was expected to create positive changes at communities (the lower level) in Hanoi which requires policy changes at the city level (the upper level) to support and vice versa. The model of Think Playgrounds volunteer group which members include architects and young volunteers of different backgrounds was very successful in working with communities to build low-cost natural playgrounds for children. However, the group was newly established (in early 2014), we suggested the capacity of the group should be strengthened in the second half of the project year and the model should be scaled up later.

While there were such changes with those activities, the outcomes of the Parks and Playground Component will be unchanged. Both of the activity changes were approved by the Program Director. The project budget and timeline were changed accordingly and were also approved.

3.4 Sustainability of results:

- The project team's advocacy efforts in the past year were successful in bringing the issue of improving management and development of neighborhood public spaces into the working agenda of the People's Council and the Government of Hanoi city. The Vietnam Urban Planning and Development Association has been involved actively in our advocacy campaign and will continue with the efforts by proposing the Government to fund a survey of neighborhood public spaces in Hanoi. HealthBridge team has been invited to join them in terms of technical support. This survey is expected to investigate the current situation of all neighborhood parks and playgrounds in Hanoi, explore the possibility to creating new ones and propose to the Government practical solutions to improve the management and development of neighborhood PS in the city.
- After two months of pilot by HealthBridge and TPG, the Play Street was handed over to the local government (the ward authorities and the Management of the Old Quarter). They would take the role of the organizer while HB and TPG would only guide them how to install the play equipment and support to the maintenance of the play equipment.
- The Park Master Plan of Hoi An was completed on time and will be a good example for us to advocate other cities in Vietnam about developing a park master plan with a clear vision, multi-sectoral collaboration and community participation.

- With the newly-approved National Strategy on NCD Prevention and Control, the Government has recognized the importance of NCD prevention, the need to create a favorable environment for people to practice healthy behavior to prevent NCD risk factors including a lack of physical activities and healthy nutritious food supply. In the next phase, different ministries will have to work together to implement the strategy and this will be a favorable condition for the LC project to work in Vietnam.
- With our technical support to the local partners, their capacity, awareness and commitment to LC issues have been improved very much:
 - The local partners in Hoi An and Mr Anh have learnt about developing and working following a clear workplan and timetable. Therefore, their project work has been completed on time as committed. Their report writing and financial management skills have also been improved. These improvements will be helpful for them in running future projects.
 - Through the creation of low-cost playgrounds and Play Street with our support, the new young volunteer Think Playgrounds group has strengthened their skills in working with the community and learnt about advocating the local government. This will help them to expand the work in other communities.
 - The Vietnam Urban Planning and Development Association (VUPDA) and Hanoi Fatherland Front have increased their commitment to the management and development of neighborhood public spaces in Hanoi. At the June advocacy workshop and in their report to the People’s Council, Hanoi Fatherland Front recognized the link between improvement of neighborhood public spaces and their movement of “All people united for development of a cultural life” and commit they will be more active in developing neighborhood parks and playgrounds. VUPDA was willing to take lead in the next steps of advocacy for neighborhood parks (by doing a survey and proposing recommendations to the Government)

3.5 Lessons learned

- The activities to develop the Park Master plan in Hoi An city and pilot Active Safe Route to School in Ha Dinh ward (Hanoi) were carried out with good timeframe. This was an improvement in comparison with last year. It was because the project team had worked with the local partners (Hoi An city team and MrAnh) very closely since the beginning of the project to develop workplans with specific timeframe, and there were follow up meetings regularly. The improvement also shown improved capacity of our local partners in implementing and managing projects.
- The development of the Park Master Plan using the participatory and multi-sectoral approach is new in Hoi An city in particular and in Vietnam in general. Therefore, the project team should learn carefully about the methodology as well as experience from other cities in the world to provide good technical advices to the process.
- The project team had an ability and was allowed to implement the project in a flexible manner in accordance with the changing situation, arising opportunities to reach the goals of the project.
- The success of the campaign for neighborhood parks in Hanoi once again proved that the strategy of evidence-based advocacy using media and networking skills has been effective.

4. Recommendations:

We recommend the results of the previous year should be followed up and intensified in the next period, specifically:

- To promote and provide support to Hoi An to implement their Park Master Plan and disseminate their results to other cities (Hue city) to encourage them to follow Hoi An's example.
- To provide technical support to VUPDA to conduct the neighborhood park survey of Hanoi.
- To support and scale up the model of building low cost playgrounds with community participation by Think Playgrounds
- To maintain and improve the implementation of ASRTS in Ha Dinh
- To support multi-sectoral collaboration in the implementation of the National Strategy on NCD Prevention and Control.
- To closely follow up with the development process of some legal documents including the Children Law, the Decree on Old Apartment Building Renovation, and the new Building Code and Standard and provide comments on the contents related to LC concept when necessary.

In addition, more efforts will be needed to expand the partner network as well as raise fund for the LC Project in the upcoming time.

5. Presentations, Publications and submissions:

- **“Redevelopment of old condominium in Hanoi: What can be done for better quality of life?”**.

This article is on 3Ds approach which prepared for seminar “Redevelopment of old apartments to livable urban spaces”. It is printed in seminar proceedings and on Vietnam Architectural Journal and some others online news.

<http://kientrucvietnam.org.vn/xay-dung-khu-do-thi-dang-song-trong-quy-hoach-cai-tao-chung-cu-cu/>

- **“Is placemaking a good way to revitalize existing urban?”**.

This paper on placemaking was prepared for seminar “Development of policies to renovate the existing urbans”, a seminar organized by Vietnam Federation of Civil Engineering Association. It is printed in seminar proceedings. It also be printed and used for seminar “Situation and proposals for development of urban social services in Vietnam”, a seminar organized by Urban Development Agency - MOC.

- **“Campaigning to save market women's livelihoods in Hanoi: experience from HealthBridge”**

This article discusses on the engagement of HealthBridge in Vietnam in a multi-faceted advocacy campaign to show the importance of the markets in the country's capital, Hanoi, for women's livelihoods, the local economy, health, and the environment. The aim was to change attitudes among decision-makers and ensure the survival of markets as a relevant and positive aspect of life in the city.

<http://policy-practice.oxfam.org.uk/publications/campaigning-to-save-market-womens-livelihoods-in-hanoi-experience-from-healthbr-347235>

- **“Playgrounds in Hanoi's old quarter: turning the impossible into the possible”**

This article discusses on a “lighter, quicker and cheaper” (LQC) approach to transform streets into public spaces for people in Hanoi Old Quarter. The Dao Duy Tu Playstreet is used as a success example to advocate for development of public spaces for children in the existing urban area where limited of land fund for open spaces. The final version is submitted to the Vietnam Architecture Magazine for its September publication.

- **“Chau Long market – The 10 Most Endangered Markets”.**

This is a submission of LC team to Public Market Conference in Barcelona, 2015. Chau Long market selected and became one of the most endangered markets. However, for reasons PPS cannot issue the final list of markets after the conference.

<http://www.pps.org/blog/bringing-attention-to-the-worlds-endangered-markets/>

- **“Walking Visionaries Awards - Hoian Public Spaces Master Plan”.**

This is a submission of LC team to Walk 21 Vienna, 2015. Hoian Public Master Plan selected and won Jury Prize. This award and the final plan of Hoian City are good example to advocate other Vietnamese cities to develop the strategy for their public spaces to build supportive environment for physical activities and social interaction which encourage walking and cycling.

http://walk21vienna.com/?dg_voting_submission=hoian-public-spaces-master-plan

- **“Dao Duy Tu Playstreet – Great Streets”.**

This is a submission of LC team to “Great Street” of PPS. At the moment, PPS is considering the submission of Playstreet. If this project is selected, it will become good example for playground making at existing urban area in Vietnam where is limited of land for open public spaces.

<http://www.pps.org/places/streets/>

- **“Saving Markets Campaign in Hanoi, Vietnam”**

A presentation about the campaign to advocate Hanoi Government to change their policy of renovating local fresh markets with commercial centre and supermarkets. It was presented at the PPS Conference on Public Markets in Barcelona March 2015.

<http://www.slideshare.net/PPSPublicMarkets/ha-tranppt>