



# VVAF Update

January - June 2014

## RECENT EVENTS

- June 17-18, 2014: CIMH- IC/VVAF supported the preparation and facilitation of the first consultation workshop for MoH to plan and promote the new approach for the strategy development, the roadmap, and working mechanism.
- June 7, 2014: VVAF attended the "Joining Hands to Share the Pain of Agent Orange/Dioxin Victims" event, which we also helped to sponsor. The event benefitted Agent Orange victims in Vietnam.
- May 2014: The first internal training of VNMAC was conducted in Nghe An province for all engineering commands units and demining companies.
- March 31-April 11, 2014: VVAF collaborated with NPA to send the Vietnamese delegation to the "17<sup>th</sup> International Meeting of National Program Director and UN Advisors" and the Intercessional Meeting of the CCM in Geneva.
- March 14, 2014: At the Development Partnership Meeting the Vietnam Mine Action Center was launched and will be tasked with coordinating the program, organizing mine action associations and mobilizing resources.
- February 2014: CIMH and IC/VVAF were invited to the HIS-TWG meeting in February to present on mental health.
- January 1, 2014: VVAF, using a Boeing grant, built a new 6 classroom school and equipped a computer lab.

## UPCOMING

- July 28-August 1, 2014. The first 5-day training course on mental health leadership and mental health system development for managers at provincial levels will be held in Hanoi

## Development Partnership Conference on Mine Action

IC-VVAF actively coordinated with BOMICEN to organize the Development Partnership Conference on Mine Action in Vietnam, which was conducted on March 14, 2014. The key objectives of the Conference were to:

1: Create opportunities for international donors to better understand (i) the guidelines, policies, and efforts of the Vietnamese government in settling the consequences of mines/ UXOs to ensure people's safety, economic development, and victim assistance; (ii) the content of Program 504 with a long term vision and action plans of each stage, as well as the priority of the Government in settling the consequences of mines and explosive remnants of war; and (iii) the Government's policy in international development cooperation in mine action work.

2: Highlight a strong message from the Vietnamese government in prioritizing international funding in supporting the implementation of Program 504.

3: Achieve the donors' consensus in establishing the Mine Action Partnership Group (MAPG) as a primary forum for policy dialogue, international funding cooperation, information, and experience sharing of mine action in Vietnam, as well as in regional and international scope.

The Conference was attended by 200 representatives including development partners and representatives from social organizations, international non-governmental organizations active in mine action, the Ministry of Defense, Ministry of Labor, Invalids and Social Affairs, the Ministry of Planning and Investment, the Office of the Government, and other relevant government agencies from the provincial level. Also in attendance was the National Mine Action Authority from Laos, Cambodia, and Myanmar.

Also announced was the launch of the Vietnam Mine Action Center, which will coordinate the programs and mobilize resources.

## VVAF Continues Mental Health Work

With the continued effort to integrate the mental health information system into the overall health information system, and to ensure some basic and key mental health care indicators be included in the list of basic health indicators for the health sector, a representative of CIMH and IC/VVAF attended the Health Information System Technical Working Group meeting in February 2014.

The overview of the mental health information system and the proposed list of indicators were presented in that meeting. The participants, who came from different departments of MoH, and others involved in health information system, gave their attention to the mental health related issues, and appreciated the initiatives to include mental health into the general health system.

IC/VVAF also had the opportunity to join the network of psychologists and then to advocate for applying psychotherapy for people with mental health through taking part in training on Introduction of Cognitive Behavioral Therapy in Treatment for Common Mental Disorders held by the Institute of Psychology, a training workshop on Applied Psychology of Schema Therapy, organised by NIMH, and a workshop on the Introduction of Psychosocial Support for Traumatic Persons During and After Disasters which was supported by the Norwegian Embassy.