



PRESS RELEASE

A new approach to improve primary health care at the grass roots level

Hanoi, 18/5/2017 – The main objective of Component 3 of the Health Professionals Education and Training for Health System Reforms (HPET) Project is to strengthen primary health care in keeping with family medicine principles through training primary healthcare teams at the grass root level and providing medical equipment. The project is being implemented by the Ministry of Health with financial and technical support from the World Bank and the European Union.

The launch workshop of activities in 2017 was held by the Ministry of Health on 18/5/2017. Participants will discuss and develop a detailed plan and agenda for the implementation of short-term and long-term training activities.

It is expected that the project will directly benefit about 800 trainers and more than 10,000 physicians, assistant physicians, nurses and assistant pharmacists working in commune health stations in 15 provinces mostly located in remote areas

“As a result of the project, the healthcare network at the grass roots level will be improved to better meet the ever growing needs of residents, to save medical costs and reduce overcrowding at higher level hospitals,” said **Mr. Nguyen Ngo Quang, Director of the HPET Project Management Unit** “The family medicine principles are to provide comprehensive and continuing care to individuals and families.”

Component 3 of the project has a budget of USD 41 million and will provide medical and training equipment for training facilities, clinical training sites and commune health stations in the 15 provinces against national benchmarks. The primary health care teams will develop improved skills and also receive essential equipment to provide better primary healthcare services.

Mr. Alejandro Montalban, Head of Cooperation and Development of the EU Delegation to Vietnam said: “As the biggest grant based health donor in Vietnam, the European Union has contributed EUR 8.3 million to the implementation of Component 3.1 to improve the competencies of Primary Health Care Teams at the Grass Roots Level. This grant will be used to provide training for more than 5,400 primary health care professionals, including family doctors, assistant physicians, and midwives in the 10 poorest provinces of Vietnam (Lai Chau, Dien Bien, Son La, Cao Bang, Lao Cai, Yen Bai, Ha Giang, Gia Lai, Kon Tum and Dak Nong). We hope that in 2 years at least 80% of communes in these provinces will have improved health care services and skilled health care staff to provide effective primary healthcare services”.

“The primary healthcare teams at the grass-roots level should be competent to provide integrated, comprehensive and continuing care for each individual and family and maintain a trusting and long-lasting relationship with them” said **Mr. Achim Fock, Acting Country Director of the World Bank in Vietnam**. “We are honored to support the Ministry of Health in the *Health Professionals Education and Training for health system reforms* project to further improve effective universal health coverage in Vietnam”.

The HPET project aims to improve the quality of health professional education and training, to improve management capacity in the health sector and improve the competence of primary health care teams at the grass roots level. It contributes to the goals established in the national health strategy for the period 2011-2020.

Contact:

Chu Minh Nguyệt

HPET Project coordinator

Email: cmnguyet@gmail.com

Further information: www.hpet.vn