I. About CHD:

Centre for Health Consultation and Community Development is an NGO, non-profit organization (established by Decision no. 626/QD-LHH on 15 November 2010 of the Vietnam Union of Science and Technology Associations (VUSTA) and operating license no. A-951 issued by the Ministry of Science and Technology on 31 December 2010). CHD’s mission is to improve health and quality of life for people living in difficult and poor provinces in Viet Nam through creative and community-based interventions and approaches targeting sustainable impact.

Main area of work:

CHD’s programs focus on healthcare, public health and community development, in particular these main areas:

1. Health, population and nutrition
2. Infectious diseases including HIV, malaria and bird flu
3. Clean water, sanitation and environment
4. Injuries in accidents
5. Protection and participation of children
6. Gender equality and human rights including preventing gender-based violence, safe immigration and prevention of human trafficking
7. Poverty alleviation and community development
8. Disaster relieve management and community-based climate change mitigation and adaptation
9. Communication for change of behaviors and society
II. Participation of CHD in the promotion and protection of human rights in Viet Nam

1. As an NGO and a member of VUSTA, CHD has contributed to the protection of human rights in Viet Nam through designing program, setting up budget and implementing as well as observing and supervising the quality and goals of programs. CHD want to make sure that these programs support vulnerable groups in society such as ethnic minorities, person with disabilities, people with HIV, which CHD represents and guarantees the exercising of human rights.

2. Since June 2014, CHD has implemented these programs/projects: (1) Project on enhancing supervising and researching to contribute to the elimination of malaria in Viet Nam; 2) Project on preventing malaria for movements in the border of Viet Nam and Cambodia; 3) Project on healthcare for workers in factories; 4) Communication Project on HIV and AIDS for construction workers on the pilot urban railway in Hanoi and 5) Project on contribution to the amendment of the Law on Viet Nam Fatherland Front…

3. In all these projects, the target groups have the right to participate and show their representation in all activities. One of the prominent features that CHD target is to give the rights to the community so that they can speak for themselves all the difficulties they face in reality. They must come up solutions with the support from sponsors to ensure resolving these difficulties, on the basis of respecting cultural and tradition of the target community. All decisions of the target groups are based on receiving adequate and precise information about the area CHD is implementing.

4. For example: On the project 5 mentioned above, people and organizations contributed to the amendment of the Law on Viet Nam Fatherland Front and receive information on this Law, especially the role of supervising and giving critics to the society. On the project of preventing malaria for 4 provinces in the Central Highlands, CHD and partners invite the target groups of the project to receive information, consult with and design activities for the project. The target groups have the rights to access to orthodox information and apply to guarantee health for people in the community.

5. In addition, CHD has programs for preventing sexually transmitted disease including HIV and AIDS, contributing to reduce discrimination against people with HIV. Besides, CHD is building programs to prevent violence against person with disabilities, human trafficking victims, victims of domestic violence. All these actions guarantee the civil rights of people: rights
not to be discriminated against, rights to be equal on dignity and interests; rights to live freely and safely.

6. Through our programs aiming to support vulnerable groups in society, CHD has contributed in raising awareness of people on their rights and obligations through suitable communication channels and activities. Moreover, vulnerable groups have the opportunity to raise their voice and show their value, position and role in the society, equal before the laws and not be discriminated against.

7. There are many favorable conditions for CHD in implementing its projects and programs related to human rights: (i) CHD has participated in the network of governmental organizations/agencies to support and cooperate with governmental agencies and international organizations to present suitable programs for people; (ii) All individuals take part voluntarily and spontaneously in CHD projects; (iii) The role of social organizations in Viet Nam is recognized and contributed to the implementation of human rights.

8. In the implementation of programs in Viet Nam to protect human rights, there are several challenges: (i) Viet Nam has become a lower middle-income country which lead to reducing foreign aids; (ii) Intellectual level of vulnerable groups is unequal and not high affecting the receival of information and exercising of human rights at grassroots level; (iii) Infrastructure at project areas lead to difficulties in reaching target groups; (iv) Projects related to human rights need more financial support and support from governmental agencies; (v) Many governmental agencies still lack knowledge on human rights; (vi) Legal implementation monitoring system, including laws related to human rights, is still not functioning effectively.