



THE VIETNAM ASSOCIATION FOR VICTIMS OF AGENT ORANGE/DIOXIN (VAVA)

I. General information

The Vietnam Association for Victims of Agent Orange/Dioxin (VAVA) is a non-profit organization, established on January 10th 2004, composing of victims of agent orange/dioxin (VA) and volunteers to support and assist those victims. In the Vietnam war from 1961 to 1971, the U.S Army carpeted ¼ of the areas in the Southern part of Viet Nam with almost 80 million liter of toxic chemical, 61% of which was agent orange contained 366 kg of dioxin, having devastated 3 million hectare of forests, destroyed the ecosystem and intoxicated water and farming lands of millions of people. More than 3 million people had life-threatening disease, of which hundreds of thousand people lost their life. Hundreds of thousand children died at birth or had deformities. The chemical war by the US has violated human rights (environment, health, living condition) for people in Viet Nam (victims of toxic chemical, their families and people living in intoxicated environment).

The 2 main goals of VAVA are (i) Call for aid to take care and support VA and (ii) fight for the rights of and call for justice for VA. VAVA works throughout the country, all 63 provinces of Viet Nam have branches of VAVA with 370.000 members.

Since 2014, VAVA has raised 928 billion VND to support VAs, of which 58 billion VND come from foreign individuals and organizations. VAVA has spent 966 billion VND (including some balance from previous years) to support building and maintaining 4 nurture and rehabilitation centers for VAs in 4 provinces and one central center of VAVA; built 1.550 houses for VAs and grant scholarships for children of VAs, support 175 cases to find jobs, support production, healthcare and natural disasters relief, gifts in holidays. VAVA has built 26 centers for nurturing and rehabilitation and vocational training for VAs in VAVA and provinces and cities, 11 centers for detoxication sauna and a vocational training school. In addition, VAVA took part in drafting, providing recommendation many laws of the State.

II. Rights for people who are victims of agent orange/dioxin (VA) since 2014:

1. Remedy Program of toxic chemical in Viet Nam aims to (i) Restore the living environment for the people; (ii) Provide healthcare for the victims and (iii) Prioritize improving living condition for the victims and their families.

2. The main targets of the program are thorough treatment of toxic chemical in heavily polluted areas; guarantee 100% of people who went to the war and their family who are victims of toxic chemical receive subsidy; families of the victims with difficult living condition receive subsidy and insurance healthcare, 100% of which are families with 2 heavily disabled people; pregnancy management for 95% women in heavily polluted area and victims of toxic chemical; plant 300.000 hectares of jungle in treeless hill caused by toxic chemical.

3. The program has provided subsidy for victims of chemical war. 232.000 people took part in the war and 80.000 children of them who were intoxicated receive subsidy every month,

special treatment for education, are provided housing, healthcare, supporting and orthopedic equipment. The government of Viet Nam is consider providing similar policy and treatment to the third generation of victims of dioxin.

4. The program also restored environment in some heavily affected areas: completed detoxicating of the environment in Da Nang airport at the end of 2017; buried and quarantined all dioxin intoxicated land in Phu Cat airport (43.000 m³); buried and quarantined partly dioxin intoxicated land in Bien Hoa airport and start detoxicating the environment in this airport; restoration, renovation and afforestation is basically on schedule; all cultivated land intoxicated in the war has been renovated, guarantee safety standard for cultivation.

5. The related Ministries has issued several circular and decision for VAs. The Ministry of Health and Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs issued joint circular no. 20/2016/TTLT-BYT-BLDTBXH on 30th June 2016 on instruction for examination to define disease, deformity related to toxic chemical exposure for people took part in the war and their children. The circular also regulated the list of disease and deformity related to toxic chemical exposure. The Ministry of Health issued Decision no. 3201/QD-BYT on 29th June 2016 on Approval of specialized document on “Instruction to diagnose disease and deformity related to toxic chemical and dioxin exposure”. The Ministry of Health issued Decision no. 3549/QD-BYT on 31th July 2017 on Approval of Instructive document for medical assessing of diseases and deformity related to toxic chemical and dioxin exposure based on the document attached to Decision no 3201.

6. Healthcare through community is the most popular model for VA in Viet Nam. The government takes the main role in organizing community healthcare for VA by funding for large project on healthcare through community for VA; providing 100% health insurance for VA; maintaining the system for nurture and healthcare for VA from the central government to provinces (combine with other people); supporting mean of communication to inform on healthcare for VA; calling for participation and cooperation from NGOs.

7. The main activities of the model are discover the need of healthcare in communities through survey and inquiry; look after and rehabilitate for VA in community by building and training for volunteers, family members; rehabilitate at home with focus healthcare through different course or half board at centers (rehabilitation, detoxicated sauna); suggest cases that need to move to provincial hospital or central hospital (require surgery or special treatment); inform and educate way to prevent disease, to rehabilitate, reproductive, pre-reproductive... for the community, especially VAs and their families.

8. Healthcare service are provided through the system of social assistance centers (operated by the Ministry and Department of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs of cities and provinces); nurture, rehabilitation and detoxicate sauna center operated by people’s organizations; nurture center VA of charitable organizations. In total, there are over 100 centers provide healthcare service for VAs. VAVA has 26 centers providing this service.

9. Project “Rehabilitation at community for VAs” of the University of Community Health is implemented through 2 phases: 2008-2013 and 2014-2016 with the target to improve quality of life and help VAs’ community integration through surgery and rehabilitation in central or provincial hospital or at home, provide supporting equipment and knowledge on rehabilitation

for VAs. The project was implemented in 9 provinces, discover almost 65.000 people that need rehabilitation and more than 8.900 people were operated at home or hospitals. Majority of them showed progress in rehabilitation, social integration and their health massively improved.

10. Project “Support VAs in Tay Nguyen area and Tay Ninh province” targeted surgery and rehabilitation, physical and mental support for VAs and their families in Gia Lai, Kon Tum, Dak Lak, Dak Nong, Lam Dong and Tay Ninh. The project was implemented through 2 phases: 2006-2010 and 2011-2015. 2311 people received orthopedic operation and rehabilitation and 1801 people receive home healthcare and improve their health and community integration. 3000 families with VAs received vocational training and developed poultry and cattle breeding to improve life. Community also received training and information on prevention of diseases and deformities related to agent orange/dioxin./.