

Improving sexual and reproductive health rights for the Deaf in Vietnam

Alumni grantees:

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Issue

In Vietnam, people with disability, including deaf people, are particularly vulnerable to sexual assault and abuse. Limited access of the deaf to education on reproductive health, sexual harassment and abuse prevention, and to social services leaves deaf people even more vulnerable to such abuse.

Action

This group of Australian alumni trained a core group of trainers to conduct further training on sexual assault and reproductive health for the deaf community.

The project also provided a platform for deaf advocates to promote sexual reproductive health rights through a dialogue with Ministry of Health policy makers.

Achievements

1. A core group of 25 trainers from Hanoi, Nghe An, Hue, Dak Lak, Lam Dong and Ho Chi Minh City were trained by Australian Deaf trainers in safe sex, sexual harassment and reproductive health rights.
2. The trainers have gone on to train 210 a further Deaf people across six provinces.
3. A training video on reproductive health issues was produced and distributed to deaf clubs and organisations that work with the Deaf in many provinces and cities.
4. Inclusion of sign language in health services for the Deaf, especially for Deaf pregnant women, was recommended to Vietnam's health authorities through a dialogue with the Ministry of Health.
5. The Liliane Foundation has provided funding of over EUR 250,000 to scale up this initiative. Experts from the Asia South Pacific Association for Basic and Adult Education (ASPBAE) are involved in this project.

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I wish that I could be trained on related subjects once a month. Now I can teach my friends near my home.”

A male participant from Nghe An province