



**SCDI**  
Develop Together

# **A YEAR OF RESILIENCE**

CENTRE FOR SUPPORTING COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES

**SCDI 2024 IMPACT REPORT**

Revised May, 2025

Photo © Farrinni/Unsplash

# Abbreviations

CBO	Community-based Organization
UHC	Universal Health Coverage
GF	The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria
CCM	Vietnam Country Coordinating Mechanism for Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria
SOGIESC	Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity & Expression and Sexual Characteristic
MMT	Methadone Maintenance Treatment
PWID	People Who Inject Drugs
PUD	People Who Use Drugs
TG	Transgender People
MSM	Men Who Have Sex with Men
SW	Sex Workers
PLHIV	People Living with HIV
ACE	Adverse Childhood Experience
CSET	Community System to End TB
CMAT	Community Malaria Action Team
MCAHRN+	Maternal, child, adolescent health & rights and nutrition
CRG	Community, Rights and Gender
CLM	Community-led monitoring

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SCDI is a Vietnamese  
not-for-profit organization  
that works to improve  
social inclusion.

Photo © SCDI  
Children participating in SCDI's "Breaking the Cycle"  
project engage in a focused chess match with their  
peers. Every weekend, our Ho Chi Minh City office  
transforms into a vibrant space for these children to  
learn life skills, connect, and play.



# ROOTED IN VIETNAM, GROWING GOOD.

## The world we imagine

An inclusive society that supports the well-being of everyone, on a planet where humans live in harmony with nature.

## Hands on, Hearts open

We work to improve the quality of life and social inclusion of vulnerable and marginalized populations and to reduce their practices that may be harmful to the environment.



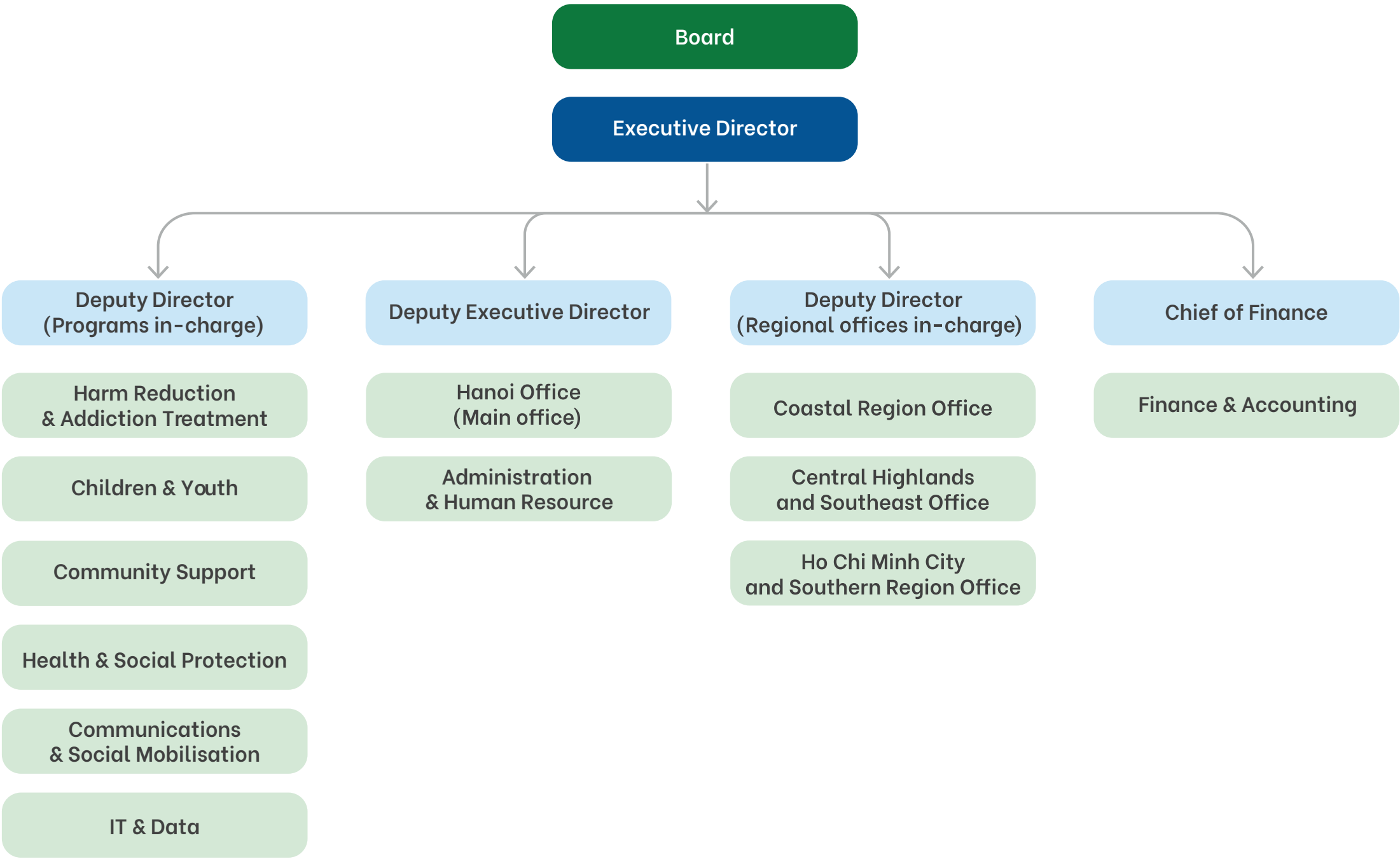
**2010 · 2024**  
15 years of resilience

## The heartbeat of our work

- Equity
- Egalitarianism & Fairness
- Dignity
- Generosity
- Integrity
- Transparency
- Concern for Quality
- Effectiveness
- Partnership & Collaboration



# Organizational Structure



## Programs

- Develop program concepts, logical frameworks, intervention models, and monitoring & evaluation frameworks
- Design interventions and guidelines for implementation
- Provide training and technical supervision before and throughout the project implementation
- Conduct programmatic monitoring, tracking, and evaluating intervention results contributing to SCDI's Strategic Goals.

## Regional Offices

- Located in Hanoi (Main Office), Hai Phong (5 northern coastal provinces), Gia Lai (Central Highlands) and Ho Chi Minh City (Southern region).
- Represent SCDI in the located areas
- Implement projects
- Develop partnerships with local government and stakeholders



# Our programs

## HEALTH & SOCIAL PROTECTION

The Health and Social protection program strives to improve the well-being of target populations by addressing their diverse health needs, especially in epidemic and new-emerging diseases. The program aims to tackle these challenges head-on through proactive community screenings, treatment support, and improved access to public healthcare. The program also advocates for inclusive health policies and promotes social security benefits – all to create a strong foundation for a healthy community.

AREAS OF EXPERTISE:

- HIV, Tuberculosis and Malaria
- Universal Healthcare Coverage
- Sexual and Reproductive Health & Rights Policy

## COMMUNITY SUPPORT

The Community Support Program aims to support community-based groups, organisations, and networks of target communities in building and strengthening links within and between networks and enhancing member capacity to promote their meaningful participation in programmes, projects, and policies.

AREAS OF EXPERTISE:

- Community System Building & Strengthening
- Community Engagement
- Advocacy
- SOGIESC (Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity & Expression and Sexual Characteristic)
- Environment

## CHILDREN & YOUTH

The Children and Youth Program aims to develop and implement interventions to enhance health care and education access and strengthen the resilience of vulnerable children and youth. The program focused on developing intervention packages for children and youth, including education and health support, mental health and adverse childhood experiences reduction for vulnerable children, drug use prevention for young people.

AREAS OF EXPERTISE:

- HIV & STIs (Young People)
- Drug Use & Abuse Prevention (Young People)
- Working with Vulnerable Children and their Family
- Maternal, Child, Adolescent Health & Rights and Nutrition (MCAHRN+)
- Adverse Childhood Experiences

## HARM REDUCTION & ADDICTION TREATMENT

The Harm Reduction and Addiction Treatment Program aims to improve quality of life of people who use drug. The program applies a comprehensive strategy, including strengthening capacity of SCDI’s team, community outreach workers and partners, developing pilot community-based addiction treatment and harm reduction models in Vietnam and enhancing partnerships to promote evidence-based interventions that reduce stigma and discrimination and increase access to health services and addiction treatment for the community of people who use drugs.

AREAS OF EXPERTISE:

- Addiction Treatment
- Harm Reduction (Opioid, Stimulants)
- Mental Health for People Who Use Drugs
- Chemsex harm reduction
- Sexual and Reproductive Health & Rights



# Areas of Work & Key Populations

## Marginalized Populations

Populations that are social stigma, less likely to benefit from health, social, educational and legal public policies and programs

## Vulnerable Populations

Populations that are disproportionately affected by diseases, poverty, injustice and lack of development opportunities

Among many populations that are at disadvantage for development, the following populations are identified by SCDI as both vulnerable and marginalized.

## Strategic Approaches

Enabling environment

Social mobilization

Community-based interventions

Focusing interventions on our selected provinces to create impacts

Growing our team and networks





# Strategic Goals 2021-2030

End HIV, TB and Malaria	contributes to VNSP <b>c-d-e-g-h-i-k</b>
	related UN SDGs <b>1 3 10</b>
Achieve Universal Healthcare Coverage - UHC	contributes to VNSP <b>all except (o)</b>
	related UN SDGs <b>1 3 4 10</b>
Achieve Universal Lower Secondary Education	contributes to VNSP <b>a-b-c-d</b>
	related UN SDGs <b>1 3 4 10</b>
Eliminate Extreme and Multi-dimensional Porvety	contributes to VNSP <b>a-b-c-l-m-n</b>
	related UN SDGs <b>1 2 4 8 10</b>
Protect Rights of everyone	contributes to VNSP <b>d-e</b>
	related UN SDGs <b>3 5 8 10 16</b>
Reduce Practices Harmful to the Environment	contributes to VNSP <b>c-o</b>
	related UN SDGs <b>12 13</b>

## Vietnam National Strategies and Programs (VNSP)

(a) National Target Program For Sustainable Poverty Reduction 2021 - 2025	(i) National Strategy For Malaria Prevention And Elimination In Vietnam For The 2011 - 2020 Period With The Direction To 2030
(b) National Target Program For New Rural Area Development 2021- 2025	(k) National Plan For Prevention And Control Of Non-Communicable Diseases And Mental Health Disorders 2022 - 2025
(c) National Target Program For Socio-Economic Development In Ethnic Minority-Inhabited And Mountainous Areas 2021 - 2025	(l) National Action Plan On Reproductive Health Care, Focusing On Material, Infant And Children's Health Care 2021-2025
(d) The National Strategy For Protection, Care And Improvement Of The People's Health By 2030 With A Vision Towards 2045	(m) National Project "Reproductive Health Care, Sexual Health Care For Adolescents And Youth" In The Period Of 2021-2025
(e) Decision Of The Prime Minister Assigning Targets On Health Insurance Coverage For The Period 2021 - 2025	(n) Action Plan To Prevent Malnutrition And Stitting In Children Under 5 Years Old In Ethnic Minority And Mountainous Regions 2021-2025
(g) National Strategy To End Aids Epidemic By 2030	(o) National Environmental Protection Strategy To 2030 With A Vision To 2050"
(h) National Strategy On Tuberculosis Control To 2020, With A Vision To 2030	

## United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs)

1. No poverty	10. Reduced inequalities
2. Zero hunger	11. Sustainable cities and communities
3. Good health and well-being	12. Responsible consumption and production
4. Quality Education	13. Climate action
5. Gender equality	14. Life below water
6. Clean water and sanitation	15. Life on land
7. Affordable and clean energy	16. Peace, justice and strong institutions
8. Decent work and economic growth	17. Partnership for the goals
9. Industry, innovation and infrastructure	





Photo © SCDI  
A community-led communication activity in Nghe An raises awareness about tuberculosis. The strategy strengthens communities' ability to address health issues, fosters ownership of solutions, and mobilizes local resources – a key way SCDI builds our resilience.

# RESILIENCE? YES, WE'RE SERIOUS ABOUT IT!

SCDI Team



in the year of 2024

12,071 persons\*  
received at least one of  
SCDI's services

35,392 times services provided\*

*\*A client could be provided with more than one service*

10 implementing projects  
9 implementing sites

Photo © SCDI  
Children from the “Breaking the Cycle” project take on a tour to  
Ho Chi Minh’s House in Hanoi. The weekend activities tend to  
increase their knowledge and social interaction with their peers.

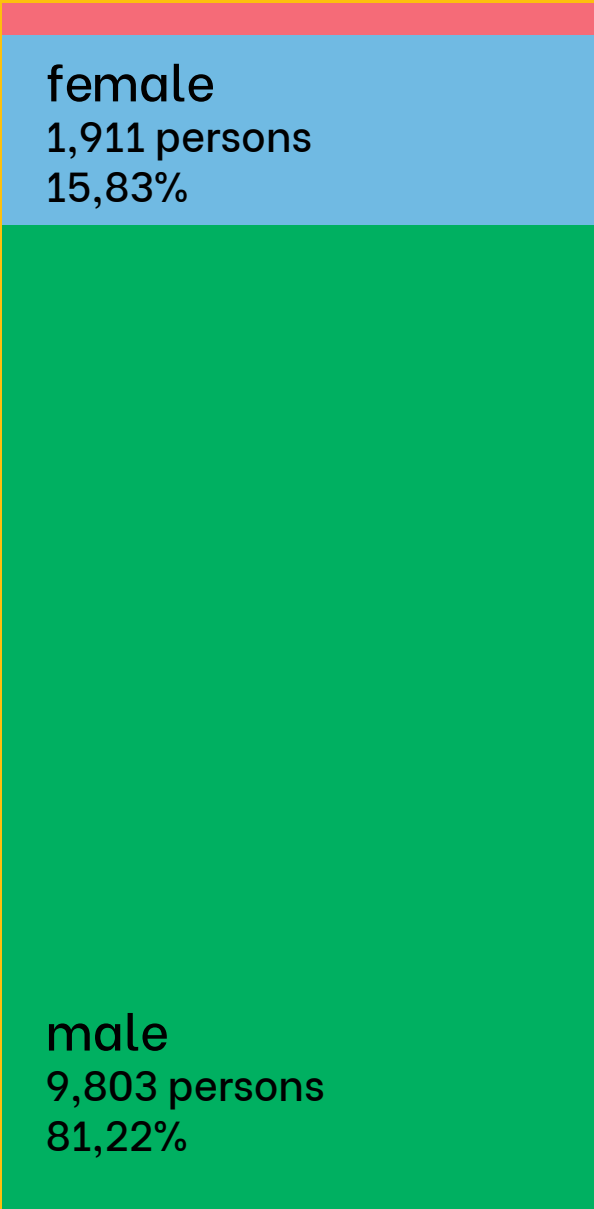




develop  
together

# people-centered

## Diversity and Inclusion for All



transgender  
357 persons  
2,95%

SCDI's vision is an inclusive society on a sustainable planet, where the well-being of every single person, regardless of their ethnicity, political stand, legal status, sexual orientation or gender identity, is respected and promoted. As such, gender is an important aspect of SCDI's policy and program. SCDI Policy on Gender Equity, adopted in early 2021, aims to build SCDI to be a gender-responsive organization.

In 2024, we achieved 100% client consent for sharing information in projects collecting gender data. This full participation underscores our unwavering commitment to transparency and reflects the high level of trust our clients place in our information protection policy.

In the last year, SCDI served 1,911 people who identify as female, 9,803 who identify as male, and 357 transgender people, ensuring no one is left behind.



# Focused Sites



- Focused city/province
- ▲ Regional Office

Photo © SCDI  
Nghe An, the shadow of tuberculosis once loomed large for Hoi and his son. Thanks to the dedicated Community System to End TB, they've found their path to diagnosis and early treatment, offering a chance for a healthier future, together.





# A year of Resilience

The year 2024 marked a profound transformation in the operational landscape for social organizations in Vietnam. The protracted administrative procedures stemming from the new policies governing aid fund management have led to delays in the execution of project activities.

Furthermore, increasing economic hardships have exacerbated the wealth gap, disproportionately affecting the most vulnerable population groups. Adding to this intricate context, the nation resolutely confronted and overcame the devastating impact of Typhoon Yagi in the third quarter – the most powerful storm to hit the mainland in seventy years.

Globally, the shifting political landscape has significantly impacted civil society worldwide. Reductions in funding from developed countries lead to cuts in multilateral funding mechanisms and essential programs that provide life-saving treatment and prevention services, negatively impacting for critical global health initiatives, particularly in low- and middle-income countries

These converging pressures – evolving regulations, a shifting social environment, and the unprecedented force of nature – have presented significant obstacles and demanded SCDI's resilience in its ongoing mission to empower Vietnam's vulnerable and marginalized communities.

In this context, closer collaboration with target communities to enhance their issue-solving capabilities, increase ownership, and mobilize local resources has become more critical than ever to sustain the gains made in controlling deadly infectious diseases, improve quality of lives, and safeguard the foundations for sustainable development. 2024 was a year of multifaceted adaptation, as SCDI improved the efficiency of our human resources system, adjusted strategic priorities in our engagement with communities, and actively mobilized diverse resources, with the primary goal of maintaining the impact achieved.

SCDI proudly acknowledges our community network's adeptness at identifying and prioritizing needs, informed by a comprehensive grasp of individual and collective issues. In a year of transition, we jointly strengthened capacities, empowered individuals, and facilitated community-owned primary care services for clients. Moreover, together we broadened the scope of our community-based interventions, extending beyond the initial focus areas of particular populations.

Unyieldingly committed to our six strategic goals for a sustainable and inclusive society where no one is left behind, and fortified by the positive outcomes of 2024, SCDI is resolutely implementing strategies to empower ownership and build robust resilience within every population group and community. We are determined to provide the necessary resources to amplify the inherent strengths of our targeted key populations.



Photo © SCDI  
A tuberculosis communication session facilitated by CSET members within a densely populated living area of low-income and mobile populations in Ho Chi Minh City.



2024 highlights

Strategic Goal 1

# End HIV, TB and Malaria

**32,369**  
times of HIV prevention and treatment service provided

**74**  
individuals were diagnosed with HIV and referred for ARV treatment

**1,564**  
people who inject drugs were screened for tuberculosis (TB)

**135**  
people with TB were supported to complete their treatment

**182**  
individuals with latent TB were supported to access treatment



Photo © SCDI  
A CSET member and a local healthcare staff guiding the tuberculosis patient on taking medication and adhering to treatment.

The year 2024 presented numerous challenges in sustaining achievements and community systems across all areas, requiring SCDI to adjust our strategy and respond flexibly to ensure the success of our strategic goals for 2021-2030.

In the context of changes in aid fund management policies, HIV/AIDS control intervention projects, which benefit the largest number of individuals, faced difficulties due to prolonged approval processes. This created significant challenges in maintaining core interventions that are crucial for controlling HIV transmission risks within the communities SCDI supports.

In response, SCDI adapted our strategy by prioritizing capacity-building activities, empowering communities, and fostering proactive roles within these groups to assist clients. Additionally, SCDI mobilized resources to maintain essential interventions at the best possible level, ensuring continuity of ongoing efforts. At the same time, SCDI developed contingency plans to address the risk of long-term resource shortages in the future. These efforts have yielded encouraging results, with critical HIV interventions achieving 80% of the annual target within just 4 months. The community network has progressively developed in capacity and autonomy in implementing project activities, while building mutual support-based activities within the community.

SCDI continued to expand the HIV/AIDS interventions towards a more comprehensive approach - moving beyond harm reduction and HIV prevention to encompass both physical and mental health care. HPV screening and cervical cancer prevention interventions for women living with HIV as part of the Global Fund to Fight HIV/AIDS project were one of the

efforts aiming to enhance overall well-being and quality of life for vulnerable populations.

The “two-engine plane” strategy – simultaneously identifying undiagnosed TB cases in the community and supporting treatment adherence – was initiated in 2023 and laid a strong foundation for expanding SCDI’s interventions to people affected by TB and their families. In 2024, SCDI implemented treatment adherence support across several provinces, with a focus on populations most affected by TB who also lack adequate access to TB treatment services.

In the coastal regions, SCDI focused on case finding among people who use and inject drugs—a community we have worked with for over 15 years. We recognize the challenges of managing and treating co-infections, especially given that TB prevalence in this group is 6-7 times higher than in the general population and is further complicated by drug interactions between treatment regimens. In the Central Highlands, community-based screening and support efforts in remote areas uncovered hidden TB cases not yet connected to treatment. With local health services still lacking the capacity to provide comprehensive coverage, SCDI collaborated with the Community System to End TB (CSET) to deliver multi-dimensional patient support. A key focus was facilitating access to public health services through social health insurance, identified as essential for achieving sustainable health outcomes and reducing the catastrophic financial burden of illness on vulnerable communities.

*As of 2023, SCDI has achieved the goal of malaria elimination in prioritized project implementing regions.*



2024 highlights

Strategic Goal 2

# Achieve Universal Healthcare Coverage

**11,148**  
clients received at least one essential healthcare service from SCDI that was not covered by public health insurance.

**345**  
clients were supported to purchase Social Health Insurance cards

SCDI strives to bridge gaps in public health programs through our approach to achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC).

While the public health system continues to focus primarily on traditional injecting drugs such as heroin, significant gaps remain in addressing emerging patterns of drug use—particularly the use of non-injecting stimulants and other synthetic substances. In response, SCDI has expanded its harm reduction efforts to meet these evolving needs. Our approach emphasizes inclusivity and ensures that services are tailored to individuals from diverse backgrounds and contexts. While many chemsex programs predominantly target men who have sex with men, we also prioritize reaching other underserved groups, including heterosexual individuals, sex workers, transgender people, and anyone engaging in chemsex involving multiple substances. Our goal is to provide comprehensive, client-centered support to all communities at high risk, regardless of identity or orientation.

Furthermore, SCDI emphasizes the integration of sexual and mental health services at the community level to enhance early identification of health issues and facilitate client referrals to appropriate care.

As an innovator in research, piloting, and implementing comprehensive interventions, SCDI is committed to sharing our expertise and resources with partners and organizations, thereby contributing to and sustainable thorough community support systems.



Photo © SCDI  
SCDI facilitating a training on Chemsex intervention in Sri Lanka.

2024 highlights

Strategic Goal 3

# Achieve Universal Lower-Secondary Education

**294**  
children living in poverty received support to pursue their education

**47**  
children supported to finish lower-secondary education

Recognizing that education at all levels is a powerful pathway to breaking the cycle of poverty, SCDI implements multidimensional and comprehensive support to ensure that children remain engaged in the school environment.

Barriers to education access can arise from diverse factors and must be identified and assessed individually to tailor appropriate support for each child. Moving beyond fragmented interventions that often fail to produce lasting change, SCDI is committed to building a “comprehensive learning support environment.” This includes direct assistance to children—such as access to healthcare, legal identity documents, nutrition, school retention, tutoring, and social integration—as well as support for parents and caregivers.

For caregivers, SCDI provides resources on suitable employment opportunities and organizes parenting sessions focused on child care and development.

Understanding that learning extends beyond the classroom, SCDI also organizes weekend enrichment activities, such as film screenings, museum visits, life skills workshops, and more. These experiences not only broaden the perspectives of children from underprivileged backgrounds but also enhance their communication skills and social connection, helping them develop in ways that are more aligned with their peers.



Photo © SCDI  
Children of the Breaking the Cyle project in Ho Chi Minh City during a reading activity.



2024 highlights

Strategic Goal 4

End Extreme Poverty & Reduce Multidimensional Poverty

- 1,049 impoverished families received at least one of SCDI's six basic social services
- 27 households received multi-dimensional support to increase their income
- 25 households received emergency/recovery support following Typhoon Yagi

SCDI has designed and prioritized six intervention packages based on the most common needs of the communities we serve, including: food security, safe housing, livelihoods, education, healthcare, and access to information.

We take pride in the fact that our efforts to reduce multidimensional and extreme poverty—especially through education—have led to transformative outcomes for children in marginalized and vulnerable communities.

By working closely with civil society organizations and social enterprises, we develop appropriate intervention pathways and mobilize resources that align with the specific conditions and needs of our clients. In 2024, a milestone was achieved through the “Breaking the Cycle” project, when one of the individuals we supported in 2024 officially entered a public university—an inspiring testament to how persistent efforts can lead to life-changing breakthroughs.

One of SCDI's key strategies to enhance self-reliance and promote health care practices among target groups is the provision and maintenance of social health insurance. While communities often lack information about the practical value of public health insurance and face challenges in using it, SCDI continues to provide education, financial support for insurance purchases, and guidance to help families maintain their coverage - minimizing health-related financial risks in the long run.



Photo © SCDI  
CSET member delivering nutrition package to a family facing difficulties.

2024 highlights

Strategic Goal 5

Protect Rights of Everyone

- 9 individuals were supported in obtaining personal identification documents
- 71 individuals receiving integration support after repatriation

SCDI operates on the core belief that the recognition and equal access to public services are fundamental rights of every individual. Through the journey of supporting vulnerable and marginalized communities, SCDI has identified systemic barriers that prevent them from enjoying essential rights such as education, healthcare, and employment. Among these, the lack of identification documents has emerged as a key issue, rendering individuals “invisible” before the law and society.

SCDI emphasizes the importance of legal recognition through documents like birth certificates and ID cards, which are not only administrative procedures but crucial for ensuring a person's identity, legal protection, and social participation.

At the same time, SCDI focuses on raising community awareness about rights and gender equality, encouraging active participation in identifying and addressing ongoing challenges. We promote equitable approaches and collective action toward building an inclusive society—where every person, regardless of

circumstance, is recognized, protected, and empowered to thrive.



Photo © SCDI  
CSET member assisting local people in getting social health insurance.



2024 highlights

Strategic Goal 6

Reduce Practices Harmful to The Environment

44

weekly environmental newsletters were shared to raise awareness about environmental protection and promote sustainable practices.

5

extracurricular activities under the “Breaking the Cycle” project incorporated environmental themes

Through working with vulnerable communities, especially those whose livelihoods depend on nature, SCDI has observed that certain current practices and habits are directly contributing to environmental environmental degradation, while also diminishing opportunities for long-term improvement in their quality of life.

In response, SCDI integrates awareness-raising and behavior change efforts into its community-based programs, while also embracing its responsibility to build a green organization—starting with practical, everyday actions. With a strong commitment to environmental protection, SCDI believes strategic goals can be achieved without compromising sustainability values.



Photo © SCDI  
Breaking the Cycle project’s activity on protecting marine environment for the children in Hai Phong.



Photo © SCDI  
SCDI staff during 2024 retreat.

Restructuring for Resilience

In an increasingly volatile operating environment and with shrinking resources, SCDI faced the challenge of maintaining a workforce that is not only efficient but also aligned with our long-term development strategy. Personnel restructuring was not merely a managerial decision, but a strategic adaptation – one aimed at strengthening the organization’s agility and internal resilience.

We undertook a comprehensive review of our organizational structure, streamlining operations by removing overlapping functions and promoting cross-sector collaboration between programs and departments. This new operational model not only reduces the burden on our workforce but also creates greater opportunities for internal synergy,



















allowing us to address complex issues more comprehensively and effectively.

After 15 years of operation, we are proud of our dedicated team who have consistently shown resilience in the face of adversity. Their commitment – especially during this period of transition – reflects the deep sense of purpose we share: *to improve the lives of the most vulnerable.*

Looking ahead, SCDI is committed to sustainable growth and lasting impact. We continue to invest in the next generation of young professionals, recognizing that nurturing high-quality human resources is a foundational step for any organization that works with people and for people, as SCDI does.



# Our donors

MAKING A  
DIFFERENCE,  
TOGETHER



# 2024 highlights

## Financial Statistics

đ 36,350B  
~ \$ 1,514,602

Total

đ 35,922B  
~ \$ 1,496,762

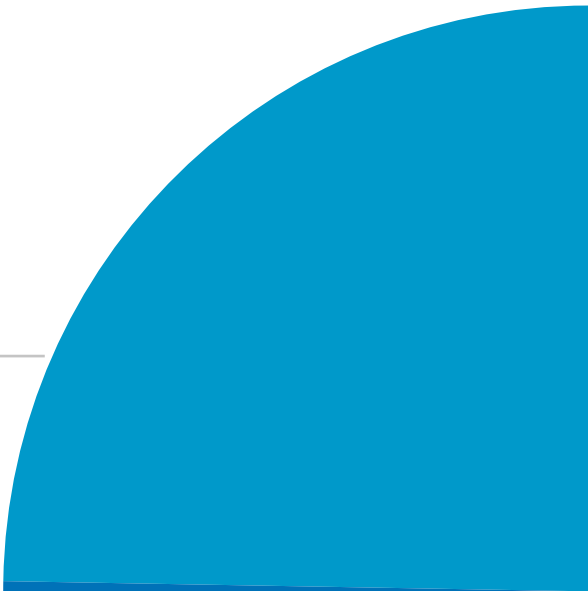
International Funding

đ 428M  
~ \$ 17,841

Domestic Funding

SCDI made significant progress in mobilizing domestic resources, with total local contributions reaching over VND 428 million – more than three times higher than 2023 (VND 140 million). This achievement stems from strengthened partnerships with businesses through corporate social responsibility (CSR). It also highlights SCDI’s credibility and extensive experience in community engagement and robust local networks.

Most of the domestic funding was allocated to the Breaking the Cycle project, which support children from disadvantaged families in pursuing education. The flexible and context-sensitive approach to utilizing domestic and local funding resources offer timely responses to urgent needs, while reinforcing community accountability and encourage sustainable engagement from the private sector.



## Funding Resources

SCDI is grateful for the generous support of our donors, both domestic and international. Their contributions enable us to deliver our vital programs and services to vulnerable communities. We are committed to using all funds responsibly and transparently, ensuring that they have the greatest possible impact on those we serve.

The Global Fund	Open Society Foundation	International Returns and Reintegration Assistance
Expertise France	Population Action International	
ANRS MIE	Treatment Action Group	The George Institute for Global Health
Stop TB partnership	Pierre Nicole Centre	Embassy of Switzerland in Vietnam
Viiv Healthcare	New York University	Asia Pacific Council of AIDS Service Organizations
University Montpellier	tesa Site Hai Phong Co. Ltd	
World Bank	SeaABank	



Photo © SCDI  
SCDI’s booth at the BIS Hanoi International Festival.



# THIS IS WHAT WE'RE DOING.

## Community-based interventions •

Tuberculosis treatment adherence •

Tuberculosis elimination among people  
who inject drugs • Leadership for

Tuberculosis response • Generate demand  
& accountability for Drug-resistant

Tuberculosis Treatment • Comprehensive HIV  
prevention and harm reduction • Emerging

drugs and stimulants response • Chemsex  
intervention • Mental health care for

people who use drugs • Adverse childhood  
experiences • Social participation • Universal

health coverage • Gender health justice and  
social rights • Break the cycle of poverty •

Eco-system support children to go to school  
• Education and career opportunities •

Maternal, newborn and child health • Return  
and reintegration support



our projects

# Community Field-lab for Stimulant Harm Reduction, with focus on Chemsex Intervention

Period: 2024 - 2026

Donor(s): ViiVhealth Positive Action

Implementing sites: Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh City, Hai Phong city

2024 key results

- 574 clients who practice Chemsex received comprehensive support.
- 03 Community-based organizations (CBOs) received technical support and implemented Chemsex intervention.

contribute to our strategic goals

- 1

• End AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria
- 2

• Achieve Universal Health Coverage

Chemsex – the practice of combining sexual activities with stimulant drug use – is becoming increasingly prevalent in Vietnam and many countries in the region, accompanied by the rise of synthetic drugs and other stimulants. However, current intervention programs mainly focus on people who inject drugs, leading to a gap in interventions for those engaged in Chemsex practices.

The Community Field Lab for Stimulant Harm Reduction in Southeast Asia (C-FLASH), implemented by SCDI during the 2022-2023 period, developed a specialized intervention package addressing Chemsex and mental health for stimulant drug users. This initiative helped to better reveal critical gaps in supporting individuals engaged in Chemsex behaviors – including challenges such as clients’ hesitation to discuss sexual practices openly and the technical difficulties faced by CBO members, even those with experience in delivering comprehensive support and mental health services.

The Community Field-lab for Stimulant Harm Reduction, with focus on Chemsex Interventions aims to fill the gap, expand Chemsex interventions for stimulant users in Vietnam, and enhance expertise in Chemsex intervention across Southeast Asia. While this is not the first initiative in Vietnam to implement interventions for individuals practicing Chemsex, a key highlight of the project is the expansion of comprehensive services to diverse community groups, particularly high-risk populations: drug users, sex workers, men who have sex with men (MSM), and transgender individuals practicing Chemsex using multiple substances.

The project emphasized building technical capacity for community groups implementing interventions, strengthening the community-based harm reduction model to establish

community-based organizations as “field laboratories” to test and refine models based on local needs and best practices. The CBOs provide comprehensive interventions and deliver high-quality and effective Chemsex interventions, aiming to promote safe practices and improve the quality of life for clients.

In 2024, 03 community groups screened and provided comprehensive support to 574 clients who practice Chemsex. This support included testing and referrals for HIV, sexually transmitted infections (STIs), and hepatitis C; support for PrEP access; and mental health counseling. In addition, harm reduction supplies such as condoms, lubricants, and informational materials on safer Chemsex practices were distributed. 05 clients were diagnosed with HIV and were supported to access treatment. 29 clients received mental health consultations and treatment, helping them better manage issues related to anxiety, depression, and stimulant use disorders.

The project prioritizes creating a friendly, non-judgmental, and respectful environment for clients when delivering interventions. This

approach helped clients—who often felt guilt, self-stigma, and hesitancy in seeking support due to their Chemsex practices—become more open, and willingly receive support. According to a survey conducted by the project based on 566 services provided, clients rated their satisfaction with the experience at an average of 4.8/5; their sense of being respected and listened to by CBO members at 4.9/5; their willingness to refer friends or family to the group at 4.5/5; and their sense of safety within the group at 4.8/5.

Beyond focusing on harm reduction and promoting safe practices, the intervention package is designed to address deeper underlying issues, strengthen connections so that clients can live happily with their partners without relying on substances.

SCDI committed to develop and refine intervention package for communities engaged in Chemsex, and share our resources with partners and organizations both within Vietnam and across the region, contributing to comprehensive and sustainable community support.



Photo © APCS  
SCDI attends the 6th Asia-Pacific Chemsex Symposium in Bangkok, Thailand.



our projects

# New Challenge – New Solution

Period: 8/2024 – 8/2027

Donor(s): ViiVhealth Positive Action

Implementing sites: Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh City, Hai Phong city, Nghe An province

contribute to our strategic goals

- 1

• End AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria
- 2

• Achieve Universal Health Coverage

New Challenge – New Solution is an initiative developed and implemented in response to the increasing diversity, complexity, and difficulty in controlling emerging drugs and stimulants. Substances such as ketamine, GHB, and poppers are becoming increasingly common within communities, posing serious risks to both physical and mental health, as well as increasing the likelihood of HIV transmission and other sexually transmitted infections.

In light of these challenges, and building upon its solid foundation of experience in implementing community-based comprehensive HIV prevention and harm reduction interventions, SCDI continues to develop innovative solutions that address real-world needs and gaps—ensuring that no one is left behind in accessing healthcare.

The project aims to develop a field-based training program on interventions for people who use stimulants in four provinces/cities in Vietnam, through capacity building and service delivery. The focus is not only on enhancing technical capacity but also on ensuring that effective, context-sensitive interventions are delivered that align with local characteristics and the specific needs of target groups.

- The key interventions of the project include:
- Develop new community-based interventions tailored to emerging substances, with special attention to women, transgender individuals, and online interventions for better outreach to high-risk groups.
  - Provide training and technical support for community-based groups in project areas to empower them with the skills and capacity to deliver effective services.
  - Support community groups in delivering comprehensive harm reduction services

- to an estimated 1,000 clients who use stimulants.
- Transform these community-based outreach teams into field-based training sites to share and scale up this comprehensive intervention model with local and international organizations.

In 2024, the project successfully researched and developed intervention packages tailored to the specific contexts of people using emerging stimulants. Specialized approaches for women and transgender individuals, alongside online-based approaches, were designed and implemented to better meet community needs and enhance accessibility through digital platforms.

In 2025, these intervention packages will be implemented at the community level with the

participation of community-based groups that have been trained, technically supported, and have extensive experience working with people who use substances. These groups not only deliver comprehensive and effective services, but also serve as field-based models to be shared with other organizations, both nationally and internationally, working toward similar goals.

Additionally, New Challenge – New Solution project places strong emphasis on documenting the entire intervention process to evaluate impact and improve service packages for specific target groups. With a strong commitment to supporting the community of people who use substances—particularly those using new synthetic drugs—SCDI is ready to share our resources, knowledge, and experience with all partners in Vietnam and across the region.



Photo © SCDI  
Harm reduction organizations from Southeast Asia participated in an SCDI-facilitated learning session focused on stimulant harm reduction.



our projects

# Building up

**Full name:** Implement community-based comprehensive HIV and mental health interventions for people who use stimulant drugs in Vietnam

**Period:** 1/2024 - 6/2025

**Donor(s):** Pierre Nicole Centre - France

**Implementing sites:** Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh City, Hai Phong city, Ninh Binh province, Thai Binh province, Quang Ninh province, Nghe An province

2024 key results

- 1,198 clients were reached and provided with HIV prevention services.
- 814 clients received individual counseling sessions and basic mental health information.

contribute to our strategic goals

- 1

• End AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria
- 2

• Achieve Universal Health Coverage
- 4

• End Extreme poverty & Reduce Multi-dimensional Poverty

The Building Up project builds upon the foundation of the Saving the Future 2.0 initiative – a community-based intervention to control HIV infection among young people who use drugs in Vietnam. Beyond HIV prevention and harm reduction related to substance use, Saving the Future 2.0 also identified and began addressing core issues such as mental health and adverse childhood experiences.

Building Up continues to deliver comprehensive interventions for young people previously supported under Saving the Future, while expanding and deepening community-based mental health care, to effectively and sustainably prevent and control HIV.

In 2024, the project reached and provided basic HIV prevention services to 1,198 clients. Among them, 322 individuals were tested for HIV, with 8 positive cases identified and supported for ARV enrollment. Additionally, 1,051 clients received harm reduction counseling, 92 were referred for STIs testing and treatment, PrEP, and 100 participated in interventions addressing adverse childhood experiences through Mindfulness Healing Circles and Art&Play interventions.

Notably, mental health interventions became a strategic focus in 2024. With the Quick Mental Health Screening Tool\*, the CBOs members were trained and technically supported to screen and identify early mental health concerns in the community. Clients with mental health issues were referred to healthcare facilities for diagnosis and treatment. A total of 814 clients received individual counseling and basic mental health information. Among them, 169 were referred to specialized healthcare facilities, and 105 received appropriate mental health treatment.

In the Building Up project, CBOs members with prior experience working with young people who use drugs continued to strengthen their technical capacities. The project developed assessment tools to evaluate the capacity of each community group. This helped ensure that they are not only capable of delivering effective interventions within the scope of the current project but also well-prepared to contribute to other initiatives related to HIV, substance use, and mental health.

In addition to community-based activities, the project also focused on building a collaboration network with psychiatric hospitals and healthcare facilities to enhance the quality of interventions.

SCDI partnered with the Department of Psychiatry at Hanoi Medical University and the Health Professional Education Centre to organize a training course for psychiatrists from hospitals and clinics in 07 project provinces, covering key topics included trauma-informed care, stigma reduction, the relationship between mental health and substance use, knowledge on Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity & Expression and Sexual Characteristic (SOGIESC). These sessions aimed to sensitize psychiatrists on the specific needs of vulnerable

communities, enhanced their understanding and clinical skills in working these populations.

In 2024, the project established partnerships with psychiatric hospitals in Ninh Binh, Thai Binh, and Hai Phong city to support client referrals and provide specialized treatment.

By integrating mental health services with HIV prevention and harm reduction efforts, the Building Up project contributed to developing a comprehensive intervention model that helps people who use substances overcome psychological and social barriers, improving their quality of life.

**\*Quick Mental Health Screening Tool** is a rapid mental health assessment instrument developed by SCDI to support initial screening efforts in community settings. The tool has been validated by mental health experts in Vietnam and France, ensuring its sensitivity, specificity, and accuracy in identifying common mental health issues.

International Publication: Development and assessment of a community-based screening tool for mental health disorders among people who inject drugs →

Photo © SCDI  
Project staff provide technical guidance to community group members implementing project activities in Hai Phong.





our projects

# Global Fund project to fight HIV/AIDS

Period: 20/8/2024 - 31/12/2024

Donor(s): The Global Fund

Implementing sites: Hai Phong, Ninh Binh, Thai Binh, Quang Ninh, Nghe An

2024 key results

- 10,639 clients were reached with at least one HIV prevention service.
- 8,652 individuals received HIV testing in community settings.
- 933 women living with HIV participated in awareness-raising communication activities on HPV, of whom 86 were supported with HPV and cervical cancer screening tests.

contribute to our strategic goals

- 1 • End AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria
- 2 • Achieve Universal Health Coverage
- 4 • End Extreme poverty & Reduce Multi-dimensional Poverty

To contribute to Vietnam’s National Strategy to End AIDS by 2030 and address evolving challenges in HIV/AIDS prevention post COVID-19, the Global Fund to Fight HIV/AIDS project continues its vital role. The project aims to strengthen the meaningful participation of civil society organizations and community-based organizations (CBOs) in reducing new HIV infections and delivering comprehensive healthcare services to high-risk populations, including people who inject drugs (PWID), sex workers, men who have sex with men (MSM), and transgender women.

Entering the 2024–2026 phase, the project continues to implement both traditional models and CHEER (Community HIV Epidemiological Evaluation and Response) model, ensuring effective client engagement and allows for a realistic assessment of the HIV epidemic within target populations, facilitating timely identification and linkage to appropriate healthcare services.



Photo © SCDI  
A training on HPV in Nghe An province.

A key highlight in 2024 was the **HPV and cervical cancer prevention activities** aimed at improving the overall health of women living with HIV. The project collaborates with local health authorities to raise awareness among women living with HIV, also the medical staff and CBO members about HPV transmission, cervical cancer risks, and the importance of early screening and treatment. The project reached 933 women living with HIV with communication efforts, and 86 of them received financial support for HPV and cervical cancer screening. All positive cases were provided with medical counseling and enrolled in routine monitoring to ensure timely treatment.

During the four-month implementation period from August to December 2024, the project achieved several notable outcomes: 10,639 clients accessed at least one HIV prevention service (73.9% of the annual target), with 10,607 people receiving the full package of HIV prevention services and 8,652 undergoing



Photo © SCDI  
An active mobile HIV/AIDS screening session in Thai Binh.



our projects

DRIVE-TB

**Full name:** Towards tuberculosis elimination among people who inject drugs: evaluation of a community-based intervention in Vietnam

**Period:** 09/2023 - 11/2026

Donor(s):

- National Agency for AIDS Research - Emergent Infectious Diseases (ANRS-MIE)
- University Montpellier, France
- New York University, USA

**Implementing sites:** Hai Phong city

2024 key results

- 1,564 people who inject drugs were received free tuberculosis and latent TB screening and HIV testing
- 158 clients received adherence support for TB treatment, and 87 successfully completed the treatment

contribute to our strategic goals

- 1

  - End AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria
- 2

  - Achieve Universal Health Coverage
- 4

  - End Extreme poverty & Reduce Multi-dimensional Poverty

Tuberculosis (TB) remains a significant public health concern among people who inject drugs (PWID). In Vietnam, TB-related communication is often designed for the general public, leading to limited awareness of TB risks among PWID. TB screening is mostly conducted during drug addiction or HIV treatment, or in detention settings, but these efforts often lack systematic and sustainable approaches.

Otherwise, due to the financial hardship, many PWID live in overcrowded, poorly ventilated spaces - ideal conditions for TB transmission. Their general health is further compromised by multi-drug use and co-morbidities, making them more vulnerable to developing active TB.

A major challenge in TB adherence treatment for PWID is the complex interaction between TB medications (including the 3HP regimen for latent TB) and methadone or other drugs. Side effects, withdrawal symptoms, and general discomfort often lead to treatment discontinuation. Methadone dosage adjustments, bound by strict medical regulations, are often not timely enough to manage acute symptoms, further complicating adherence.



Photo © SCDI  
A CBO member delivering nutritional packages to a client of the project.

Implemented by SCDI since 2023, the DRIVE-TB project aims to evaluate the effectiveness of community-based interventions to prevent and control tuberculosis (TB) among people who inject drugs (PWID) in Hai Phong. This initiative represents a community-led effort to bridge the existing gap in TB prevention for this population. The project continues to engage core members from community-based organizations (CBOs) who were pioneers in the DRIVE project (2014-2020), a large-scale community intervention to end HIV among PWID. These CBOs, with extensive experience in outreach and support, not only conducted screenings and counseling but also played a crucial role in treatment adherence support and facilitating referrals to health facilities.

In 2024, the project achieved notable outcomes by continuing using Respondent Driven Sampling (RDS) to approach PWID and screen for active TB, along with QFT tests for latent TB. A total of 1,564 clients were screened and received counselling on TB-related information. Among them, 34 additional active TB cases were detected. Additionally, 194 more individuals were invited for latent TB screening by QFT test, resulting in the identification of 39 further latent TB cases.



Photo © SCDI  
A counselling session on TB-related information.

Beyond screening, the project placed a strong emphasis on adherence support - a significant challenge for PWID. 70 clients were supported undergoing active TB treatment, of whom 29 completed the full treatment course while the majority of the remaining clients continued to adhere to the treatment. For latent TB, 88 clients received adherence support, with 58 completing treatment and attending final follow-up visits.

The project also provided various social support services: 27 nutrition and supplement packages, 7 methadone treatment supports, 21 instances of medical cost assistance, 15 social health insurance cards. Additionally, DRIVE-TB facilitated psychiatric referrals and treatment for 7 clients, demonstrating a comprehensive approach to both physical and mental health care.

From the implementation of DRIVE since 2014 to the current success of DRIVE-TB, the project has shown the vast potential of community-led research and interventions. This model holds promise for scaling up as a strategy to bridge the gap between the healthcare system and vulnerable, marginalized populations in Vietnam's fight against TB.



our projects

# Promoting Leadership for TB Response in Vietnam

Period: 8/12/2023 - 30/05/2025

Donor(s): Stop TB Partnership

Implementing sites: Hai Phong city, Nghe An, Dak Lak, Gia Lai, Ho Chi Minh City

2024 key results

- 312 tuberculosis patients received adherence support during their treatment process
- 101 group communication sessions were conducted by the Community System to End TB
- Strengthened and continued strategic partnerships with TB response stakeholders in project provinces.

contribute to our strategic goals

- 1

• End AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria
- 2

• Achieve Universal Health Coverage
- 5

• Protect Rights of Everyone

SCDI’s recent efforts to fight against tuberculosis (TB) go beyond supporting TB screening among high-risk communities. SCDI also focuses on strengthening community systems and closely collaborating with Provincial TB Control Committees to mobilize the stakeholder engagement, thereby enhancing the effectiveness of TB response strategies.

The Promoting Leadership for Tuberculosis Response in Vietnam project centers the community in the fight to end TB, targets provinces with a high TB burden, where economic, social, and informational barriers are significant. Using a comprehensive approach, the project promotes the establishment and capacity-building of Provincial TB Ending Committees to coordinate and align multi-stakeholder efforts. This ensures that TB control goals are achieved with meaningful community involvement, while also upholding human rights and gender equality.

To support the Provincial Committees for Ending TB, the project has facilitated coordination mechanisms by organizing review meetings and planning sessions with the participation of representatives from local departments, provincial and district health authorities, and CSET members. These dialogues not only assess progress but also create space to incorporate the community’s voice into policy and planning.

CSET’s role has been continuously strengthened through close collaboration with health facilities. In Krông Pa district (Gia Lai province), the project developed a specialized TB coordination mechanism at the district level with direct CSET participation. These regular meetings provided a two-way communication platform, allowed timely responses to

treatment interruptions and helped patients overcome social and personal barriers during treatment.

The project prioritized strengthening the capacity for CSET members. A total of 11 intensive training courses were held, engaging over 140 CSET members. The training covered a wide range of topics including behavior change communication, data collection and feedback skills, stakeholder engagement, community-led monitoring (CLM). Building on the experience working with HIV, TB, and malaria communities, the CSET network continued to grow in capacity, strengthen the connection, and foster mutual learning among local groups. These connections enhanced the network’s ability to identify issues, propose solutions, and support one another in resolving emerging challenges.

In 2024, 58 CSET members were directly involved in the comprehensive support model, working closely with district and commune-level health staff and clinics to support TB patients throughout their treatment journey. A total of 312 patients received treatment support. CSET organized 101 group communication sessions with 768 participants, including TB patients, their families, and at-risk groups.

CSET also took the initiative to provide social support, including social health insurance and nutrition for 100 TB patients in difficult circumstances, with a total cost of approximately 200 million VND. These support services not only offered reassurance to patients during treatment but also helped alleviate their financial burden.

The comprehensive CSET treatment support model has proven effective not only for patients

but also as a foundation for piloting CLM. Through this model, CSET members had the opportunity to document and provide feedback on barriers and challenges in accessing TB-related healthcare services—valuable input for implementing a systematic and effective CLM process.

In 2024, the project actively engaged the media in tuberculosis prevention and control efforts by working with both central and local press agencies. This collaboration helped spotlight the barriers faced by communities affected by TB. Additionally, interviews and storytelling initiatives featuring TB patients and CSET members were conducted to amplify community voices and bring the stories of those impacted closer to the broader public.

With the support of Communication Programs, the project also launched and maintained a Zalo group with nearly 100 CSET members across provinces to facilitate rapid information sharing and foster connection in patient support efforts. Furthermore, an online TB library website was developed with the aim of becoming a reliable reference source for both communities and stakeholders in gaining knowledge, and accompanying TB patients on their treatment journey.



Photo © SCDI  
The Dak Lak Lung Hospital and SCDI organized a meeting for World TB Day 2024 to review prevention efforts and plan for 2024.



our projects

# Generating community demand & accountability for people-centred Drug-resistant TB Treatment and Care

Period: 2/10/2024 - 31/7/2025

Donor(s): Treatment Action Group (TAG)

Implementing sites: Across regions where SCDI is implementing projects on tuberculosis, HIV, and malaria.

2024 key results

- 104 members from the Community System to End TB (CSET) and community-based organizations (CBOs) working to support tuberculosis patients participated in an online training course on the new drug-resistant TB treatment regimens (BPaL/M).

contribute to our strategic goals

- 1
- End AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria

According to the 2022 Global Tuberculosis Report by the World Health Organization (WHO), Vietnam is among the countries with a high burden of TB and drug-resistant TB, with an estimated 8,900 new cases of multidrug-resistant or rifampicin-resistant TB (MDR/RR-TB) annually. For years, patients with MDR-TB and pre/extensively drug-resistant TB had to undergo treatment regimens lasting up to 20 months and involving up to 7 drugs, yet the treatment success rate remained around only 70%.

Starting from January 2024, Vietnam’s Ministry of Health officially adopted the new WHO-recommended BPaL/M regimen in its national TB diagnosis, treatment, and prevention guidelines, implemented in 21 provinces and cities. This new regimen uses only 4 oral medications and shortens treatment duration to 6–9 months, with a success rate of up to 90%. Compared to traditional regimens, BPaL/M significantly reduces side effects and treatment burden, enabling patients to recover and reintegrate into daily life more quickly.

With the goal of developing a community-led strategy to address barriers to successful treatment and share with donors and partners for the expansion of drug-resistant TB services, especially the rollout of the new regimen in Vietnam, the project focuses on three key areas:

- Enhancing knowledge and skills of members from the Community System to End TB (CSET) and community-based organizations (CBOs) on the new drug-resistant TB treatment regimen;
- Facilitating community and stakeholder consultations to identify barriers in accessing TB services, particularly for drug-resistant TB;

- Sharing updates with partners and seeking collaborative solutions to strengthen service access and delivery.

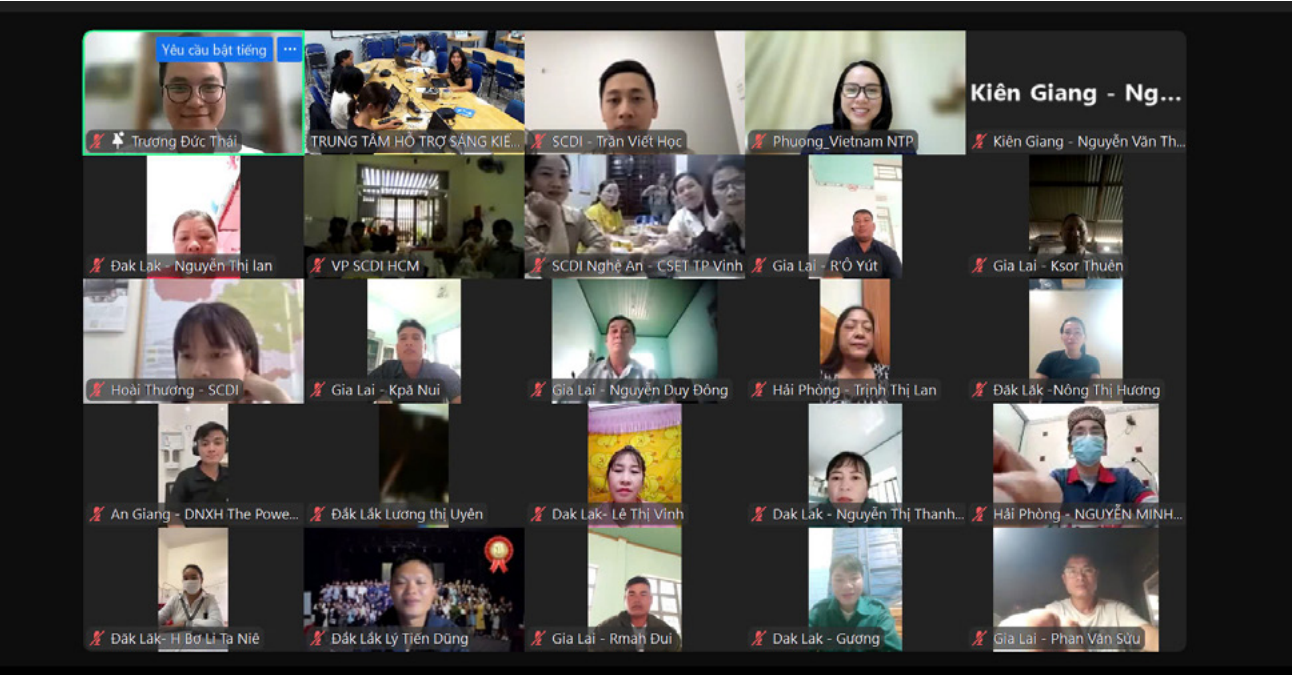
In 2024, the project organized an online training session on the short-course BPaL/M regimen, featuring medical experts from the National Tuberculosis Program. A total of 104 CSET and CBO members supporting TB patients participated. This not only served as an opportunity to update knowledge but also created an open dialogue space between healthcare providers and community actors, helping resolve practical challenges in patient support and treatment adherence.

The project also engaged with partners at Hai Phong and Nghe An Lung Hospitals to discuss the current implementation of the BPaL/M regimen. It highlighted the importance

of Community-Led Monitoring (CLM) in ensuring service quality, addressing barriers in a timely manner, promoting accountability, and improving the healthcare system’s responsiveness in scaling up the new regimen.

Initial efforts have successfully promoted access to and dissemination of information about the new regimen, strengthened community involvement in improving implementation, and accelerated the path toward universal access and better treatment adherence through community-based support.

Photo © SCDI  
An online training course on the new drug-resistant TB treatment regimens (BPaL/M) with the participation of CSET and CBOs.





our projects

# Social participation in promoting achievement of Universal Health Coverage (UHC) in Vietnam

Period: 1/3/2024 – 31/12/2025

Donor(s): The George Institute for Global Health (TGI)

Implementing sites: Nghe An, Hai Phong city, Gia Lai

2024 key results

- 90 community members participated in training sessions focused on identifying local issues and enhancing participation skills.
- 70 community members attended training sessions providing knowledge and information about Universal Health Coverage (UHC).

contribute to our strategic goals

- 1 • End AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria
- 2 • Achieve Universal Health Coverage

Universal Health Coverage (UHC) is not only a goal but also a foundation to ensure that everyone has equitable, safe, and financially accessible access to essential health services.

Tuberculosis remains a public health issue with significant gaps in UHC access. Many TB patients—especially vulnerable populations—face challenges in diagnosis, treatment, and adherence. Achieving UHC in TB response is an effective pathway toward ending the disease.

Building on years of community network development through HIV and malaria programs, and close collaboration with the health system, the project “Social Participation in Promoting Achievement of UHC in Vietnam” aims to expand community-centered approaches in TB care, helping accelerate Vietnam’s progress in ending TB.

The initial key activity of the project was conducting a baseline assessment to understand the current situation and identify appropriate intervention points. In 2024, the project surveyed 301 community members and stakeholders across three intervention provinces, leading to tailored recommendations for each locality. These findings laid the groundwork for designing and implementing activities to strengthen community capacity and address barriers to quality healthcare access.

The project then organized community capacity-building trainings in three provinces, engaging 90 community members. Trainings focused on identifying existing issues, surveying and listening skills, patient accompaniment, and timely feedback to healthcare providers, enabling communities to propose appropriate solutions and ensure equitable access to quality health services.

The project also prioritized raising community awareness of UHC. An informational session involving 70 members of the CSET network and TB patient supporters was conducted, equipping participants with foundational knowledge about UHC and its connection to the rights of TB patients. Creative communication efforts were also rolled out to amplify impact. Through website articles and social media platforms, the project shared stories highlighting financial burdens, patient barriers, and the role of social health insurance and community networks in supporting TB patients.

Crucially, the project established dialogue and coordination mechanisms between communities, SCDI, and local partners to improve access to health services, especially TB-related services. This facilitated more effective information sharing and problem-solving.

CSET has demonstrated a pivotal role in achieving UHC for TB prevention and treatment. Beyond patient support, CSET has implemented communication initiatives to raise TB awareness and promote treatment adherence. These initiatives are integrated into practical activities, such as using vivid visuals to improve recognition and recall, or guiding patients to remember their medication by placing pills in cigarette packs and identifying the correct type and dosage through color-coding. In areas with large ethnic minority populations, CSET plays a key role in delivering information in culturally appropriate, accessible ways. These grassroots initiatives not only enhance the effectiveness of TB and UHC communication but also reflect the growth and development potential of the CSET.

Photo © SCDI  
A capacity-building training session focusing on local issues and enhancing participation skills for community members in Dak Lak.





our projects

# Vietnam’s country rollout of the SMART4TB CABLab online training

Period: 16/8/2024 – 31/12/2024

Donor(s): APCASO

Implementing sites: Online

## 2024 key results

- 22 participants joined the online training program, including staff from SCDI, members of the Community Support to End TB (CSET), and health-care workers involved in TB control

contribute to our strategic goals

1

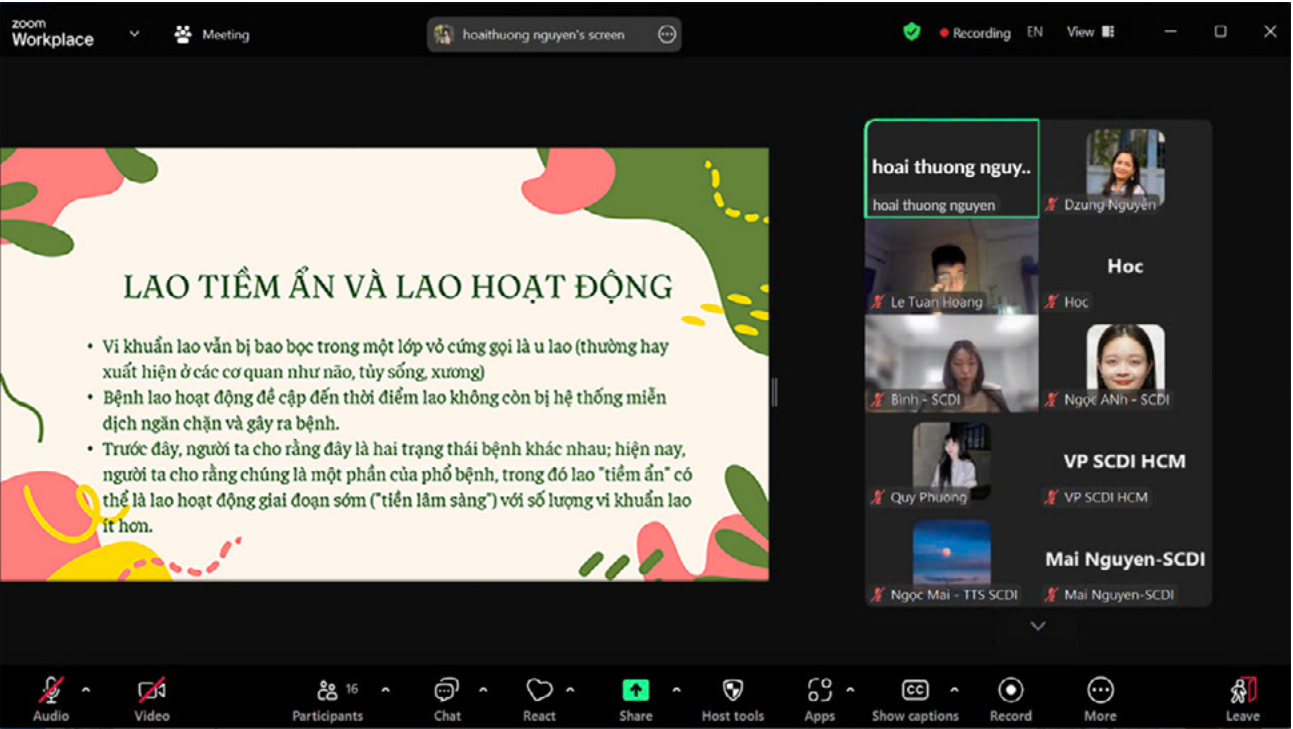
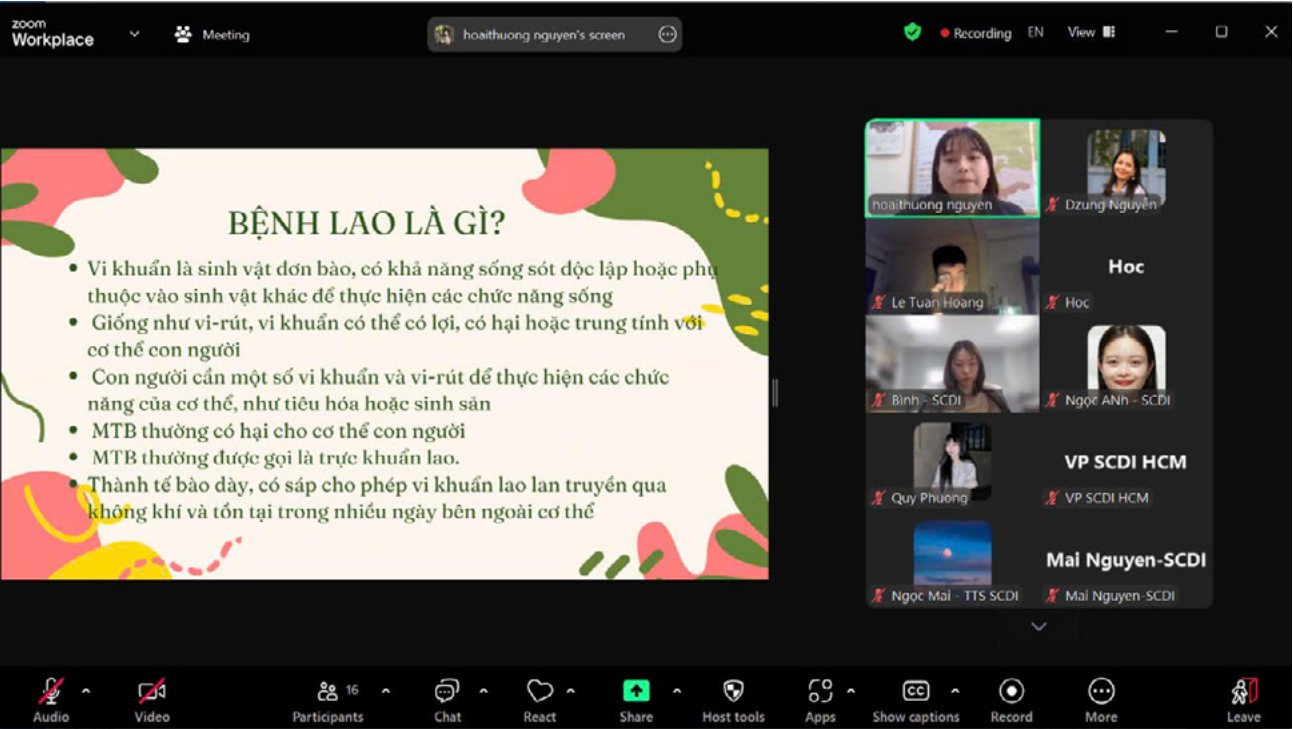
• End AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria

To strengthen community awareness and technical knowledge of TB, and to build a network of informed champions working to end TB, SCDI implemented an online training course as part of the SMART4TB project, coordinated by APCASO. The course provided in-depth content on vaccines, new diagnostics and treatments, medical research, and highlighted the role of communities in TB response.

Participants, including SCDI staff, CSET members, and local healthcare workers, completed pre-tests and modular lessons with assessments to ensure learning quality. In 2024, 22 individuals joined the training, culminating in a review session for knowledge exchange.

The program’s impact went beyond technical updates—it fostered a learning space that connected community groups and healthcare providers. The participants of the course became key leaders in spreading knowledge, helping to raise awareness and reduce TB stigma in pursuit of Vietnam’s goal to end TB by 2035.

Photo © SCDI  
Participants joins in a CABLab online training session to review and share knowledge about TB-related issues.





our projects

# The Gender Justice and Sexual Rights in Health Initiative

**Period:** 9/2024 - 5/2027

**Donor(s):** APCASO, Expertise France

**Implementing sites:** Across regions where SCDI is implementing projects on tuberculosis, HIV, and malaria.

2024 key results

- A Gender Equality and Sexual Health platform was established, consisting of 12 members with extensive experience in areas related to HIV, TB, malaria, and healthcare

contribute to our strategic goals

- 1

  - End AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria
- 2

  - Achieve Universal Health Coverage
- 5

  - Protect Rights of Everyone

In Vietnam, the women, girls, and people of diverse sexuality are among the most vulnerable groups in HIV, tuberculosis (TB), and malaria intervention programs. Barriers to accessing information, healthcare services, and support resources stem from social stigma, gender norms, and policy gaps. As the country aims to eliminate these three diseases by 2030, ensuring equity in access and the involvement of vulnerable groups is critical. Sustainable and multi-dimensional strategies are needed to narrow existing gaps and promote active participation of vulnerable groups in health policy and planning.

Starting in September 2024, the Gender Justice and Sexual Rights in Health Initiative project has been implemented to promote the engagement of civil society organizations and community groups, particularly key affected women and girls (KAWG) and people of diverse sexuality (POD), in advancing gender equality and sexual health rights in Viet Nam. The project established the Gender Equality and Sexual Health platform, composed of experienced individuals representing the KAWG and POD communities. This group advocates for equitable access to services, information, and education related to HIV, TB, malaria, and general health. It also creates space for communities to engage in shaping, implementing, and monitoring programs—affirming their role in the health response and in promoting gender equity.

In 2024, the platform was officially formed with 12 core members, began developing a national analysis report on gender equality and sexual health rights within the context of HIV, TB, and malaria programs. This foundational document will inform future interventions and provide evidence-based for the group’s engagement in national strategies. Members have also received training on gender equality, sexual health, community leadership, and SOGIESC-related knowledge.

In addition, the project engaged other stakeholders—such as healthcare providers, policymakers, development and technical partners—in trainings to increase awareness and sensitivity to the barriers faced by KAWG

and POD, especially those affected by HIV, TB, and malaria. These efforts aim to integrate gender equality and sexual health rights into public health programs and services.

The project has laid a strong foundation for future efforts to promote gender equality and protect sexual health rights in the fight to end HIV, TB, and malaria in Viet Nam. In the long term, it seeks to create lasting influence among government agencies, technical partners, and development organizations through systematic, evidence-based advocacy that ensures the meaningful participation of the communities. This approach addresses current challenges and helps build a more equitable and inclusive health system for all.

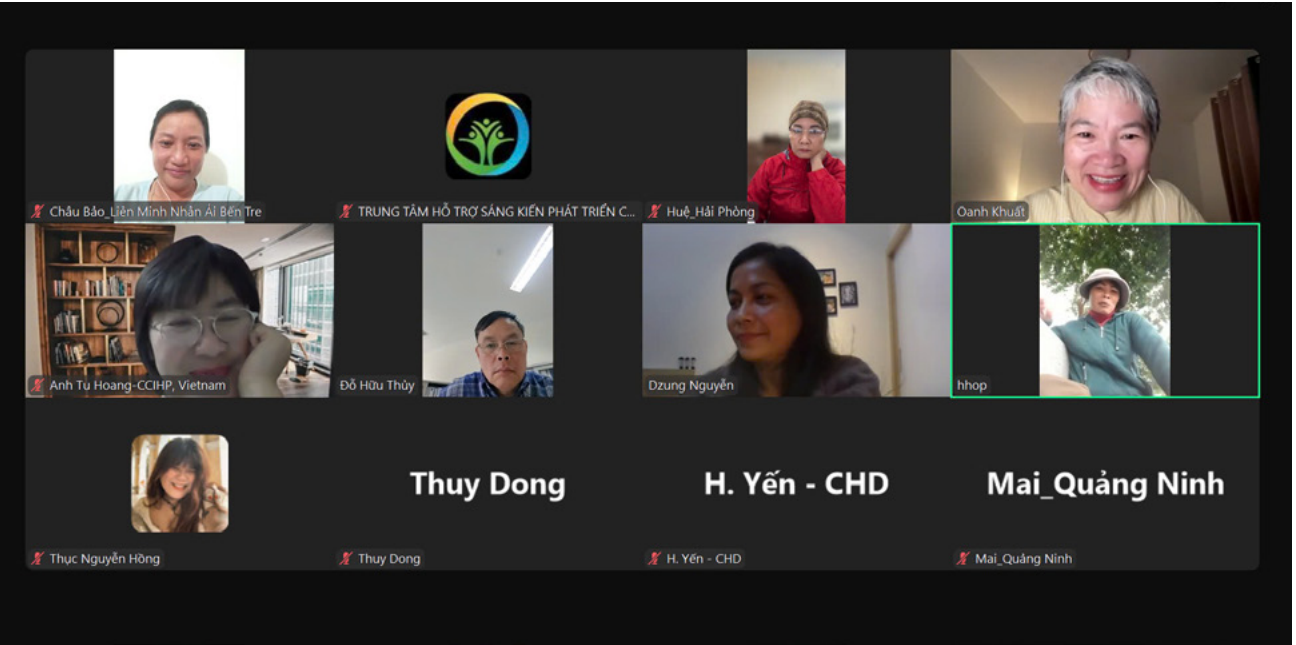


Photo © SCDI  
An online meeting with the participation of community members, healthcare providers, policymakers, and development partners to discuss equitable healthcare access in Vietnam.



our projects

# Breaking the Cycle

Period: 2021 – Ongoing

Donor(s): tesa Site Hai Phong Co., Ltd, World Bank, Embassy of Switzerland in Vietnam, and One Egg A Day’s donors

Implementing sites: Hanoi, Hai Phong city, Ho Chi Minh City

2024 key results

- 332 children received multidimensional support
- 287 children received educational grants

contribute to our strategic goals

2 • Achieve Universal Health Coverage

3 • Achieve Universal Lower-secondary Education

4 • End Extreme poverty & Reduce Multi-dimensional Poverty

5 • Protect Rights of Everyone

Believing that education is a key pathway out of poverty, SCDI launched the “Breaking the Cycle” project in 2021 to help children from disadvantaged families access and pursue their education. The project was initiated during the COVID-19 pandemic, when various challenges deepened the cycle of poverty for vulnerable families, leading to unstable incomes and unmet needs in children’s health, nutrition, and education.

From that reality, the “Breaking the Cycle” project aims to break the cycle of poverty in Vietnam by supporting children’s education, building a scalable intervention model, and empowering youth to shape better futures through learning and improved employability.

The project’s key interventions include:

1. Improve children’s access to education through:

- Supporting in obtaining birth certificates and personal documents for enrollment in public schools
- Providing financial and in-kind educational support
- Providing nutrition and healthcare to ensure children’s development
- Organizing tutoring sessions with volunteer tutors
- Conducting extracurricular activities and themed sessions to improve children’s soft skills and social inclusivity

2. Supporting families to ensure safe care and boost commitment by through:

- Reducing financial burdens through housing and livelihood support
- Providing nutrition support packages
- Supporting in getting social health insurance and access to healthcare
- Organizing group sessions to build and improve parental skills

3. Building a sustainable support ecosystem by:

- Engaging schools, vocational centers, and communities
- Mobilizing local resources and initiatives

Over three years, the project has received strong support from partners and donors in Hanoi, Hai Phong, and Ho Chi Minh City, enabling ongoing assistance with documents, tuition, nutrition, and healthcare for children and their families, alongside volunteer-led extracurricular activities.

In 2024, the project builds on this success, strengthening trust with partners and communities to expand collaborations and provide timely support to children in target areas:

- In Hanoi, newly established partnerships with Hyundai Jump School provide diverse extracurricular and tutoring activities, while collaboration with VietHarvest addresses nutritional needs for children and families. Besides, VinUni’s Residency Program continues to offer support to build comprehensive health profiles of children in the project, enabling early identification of health issues and timely medical intervention.
- In Hai Phong, the project maintains its partnership with tesa Site Hai Phong to provide tuition and nutrition packages, as well as organizing extracurricular activities to help children improve life skills.
- In Ho Chi Minh City, the team strengthens connections with local donors, organizations, and businesses to expand support, focusing on nutrition, healthcare, and education.

With the support of partners and donors, the project has provided comprehensive support to 332 children over the past year, including tuition for 287 children for the 2024-2025 school year, 161 nutrition and living expense

packages, 332 sets of study supplies, and tutoring for 41 children. Additionally, 240 children received medical support, including social health insurance, medical expenses, and referrals for specialized treatment; 04 children were supported with personnel document.

By maintaining effective and core interventions, the project has ensured uninterrupted education for children and promoted life skills development through extracurricular activities while promptly addressing health issues. In 2024, the project supported medical screening, treatment, and nutritional costs for one child diagnosed with tuberculosis; installed a water pump for a family in Hanoi without clean water; and provided 15 food packages and home repairs for 02 families severely impacted by Typhoon Yagi.

The project has also fostered a supportive environment with families, schools, and communities, helping children develop holistically. Practical support like nutrition, housing, and employment assistance has eased financial pressures, giving parents the stability needed to support their children’s education and growth.



Photo © SCDI  
The children visiting tesa Site Hai Phong.



## Breaking the Cycle

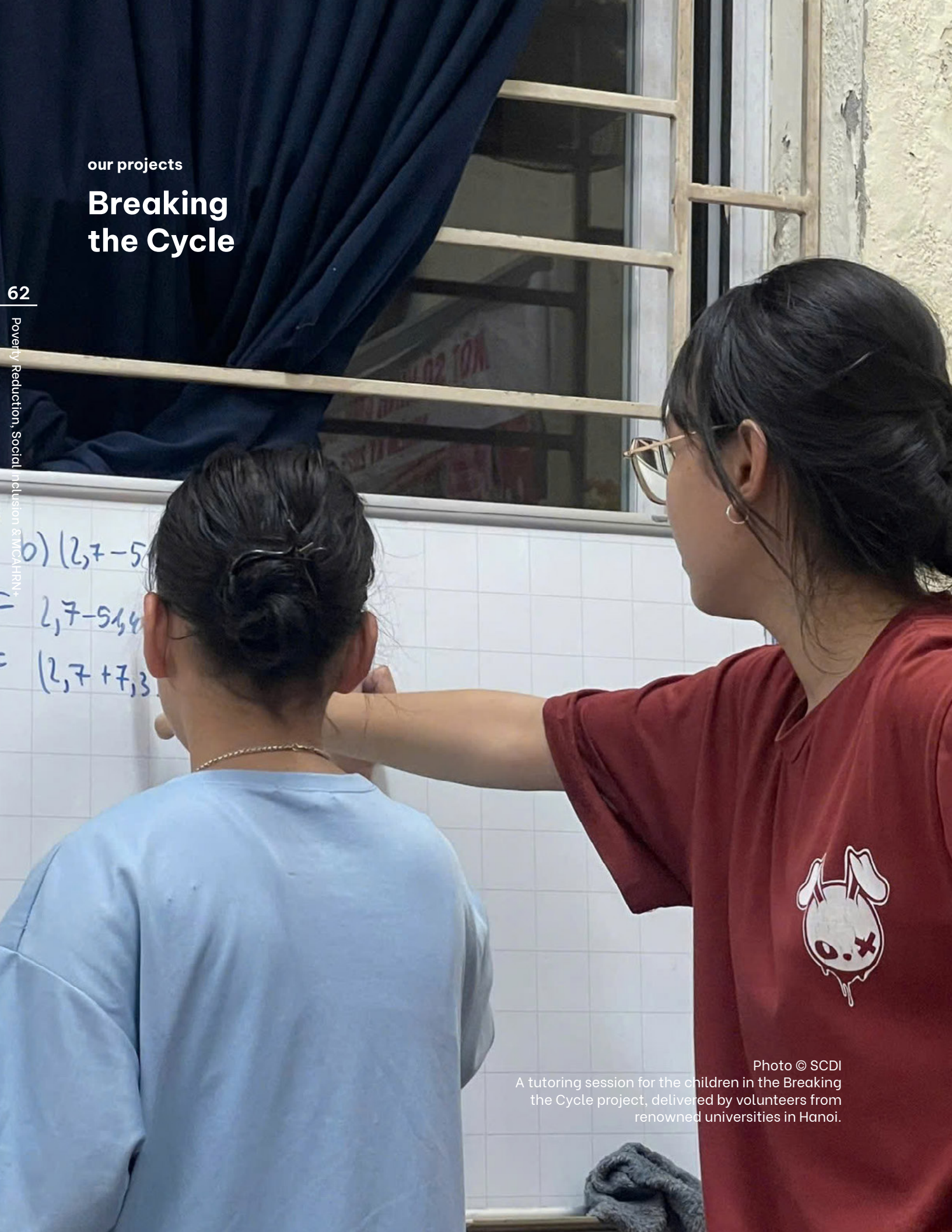


Photo © SCDI  
A tutoring session for the children in the Breaking the Cycle project, delivered by volunteers from renowned universities in Hanoi.

## Continuing Dreams - Open the door to the Future

**“I never thought I could go to university” - T. shared - “I used to think that after finishing 12th grade, I would just learn a trade or get a job to help my family.”**

T.’s family circumstances presented significant challenges. She lives with her father, grandmother, and four siblings in a home missing the presence of her mother, who is serving a long prison sentence. The grandmother, in her seventies and facing the frailty of age, served as the family’s steadfast anchor, diligently caring for the children while managing a small roadside drink stall to supplement the family’s income. T.’s father worked as a construction helper, his earnings often inconsistent and insufficient to meet their needs. The recurring costs of education posed a particularly heavy financial burden each academic year.

The Breaking the Cycle project supported T. from 2021 through scholarship provision to continue her education, alleviated the financial pressures on her family. Over time, T. demonstrated significant academic progress, particularly in Mathematics and English, subjects she had previously found daunting. Complementary tutoring support facilitated by the project further contributed to her development, resulting in an improvement in her grades from the 5-6 range to 7-8 out

of 10. This progress nurtured a once-distant aspiration: the pursuit of higher education. Her future academic path and choice of major gained increasing clarity.

In 2024, T.’s dedication culminated in her successful admission to the Vietnam National University of Agriculture, where she will pursue studies in Business Administration. This achievement marks a significant milestone, as T. is the first student supported by the Breaking the Cycle project to gain entry to a public university. This well-deserved outcome is a testament to her perseverance, a source of immense pride for her family and the project, and a powerful testament to the impact of long-term intervention. It represents a critical step forward in T.’s journey towards a more promising and empowered future.

**“I want to thank the project and the volunteer mentors so much for standing by me and helping me reach this dream of going to university—something that once felt so out of reach for a child in a difficult situation like mine.”**



our projects

# Community participation in improving access to maternal, newborn and child health for vulnerable populations

Period: 1/7/2023 – 30/06/2024

Donor(s): Population Action International (PAI) – Through the Global Financing Facility

Implementing sites: Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh City, Hai Phong, Thai Binh, Quang Ninh, Nghe An, Dak Lak, Gia Lai

2024 key results

- 50 community communication sessions were conducted by 28 trained and technically supported community leaders under the project
- 794 individuals—including adolescents, pregnant women, women of reproductive age, caregivers, and mothers—participated in these sessions

contribute to our strategic goals

- 2

Achieve Universal Health Coverage
- 3

Achieve Universal Lower-secondary Education
- 4

End Extreme poverty & Reduce Multi-dimensional Poverty

Mothers, newborns, and adolescents are among the most vulnerable groups in need of accessible healthcare. Proper healthcare not only reduces maternal and child mortality rates but also plays a critical role in ensuring children’s long-term physical and mental development.

Launched in 2023, the project “Community Participation in Improving Access to Maternal, Newborn, and Child Health for Vulnerable Populations” focuses on building capacity through Training of Trainers (TOT) programs on maternal and adolescent health. Participants included representatives from community-based organizations (CBOs), the Community Malaria Action Team (CMAT), and volunteers experienced in working with vulnerable mothers and children.

In 2024, trained community trainers organized 50 communication sessions across six provinces and cities. These sessions focused on maternal, newborn, and adolescent health, reaching a total of 794 participants including adolescents, pregnant women, women of reproductive age, and caregivers.

In parallel, community consultation sessions were held to identify key barriers and urgent needs in accessing healthcare services. Some of the urgent needs identified included:

- Reproductive health and newborn care education for high-risk groups such as people living with HIV, drug users, ethnic minorities, the poor, and those with limited literacy;
- Prenatal and antenatal screenings, nutrition counselling, and vaccination;
- Social health insurance support for mothers and children over 6 years old; assistance in obtaining birth certificates for children whose mothers lack identity documents;
- Psychological and legal support for

undocumented and illiterate mothers; provision of essential supplies for mothers in difficult circumstances;

- Milk supply for children of HIV-positive mothers (0–18 months);
- Shelter support for homeless mothers and children; delivery of essentials for disadvantaged pregnant women;
- Education and communication skills training for those working with adolescents.

These identified needs formed the foundation for community-based interventions implemented by SCDI, aiming to enhance access to maternal, newborn, and child healthcare services for vulnerable and marginalized populations.

In 2024, the most significant impact of the project was capacity-building within communities that had previously had limited exposure to these topics. The training content was entirely new to groups such as people living with HIV, drug users, sex workers, the

urban poor, and ethnic minorities. It not only increased their understanding but also enabled them to apply the knowledge to their daily lives. Many participants shared that learning about child care transformed how they raised their children, and inspired a deeper, long-term commitment to maternal and child health within their communities.

The project went beyond knowledge-sharing—it empowered communities to become agents of change, spreading information and supporting women and children within their own environments.

Photo © SCDI  
Adolescent health training by SCDI, featuring Dr. Do Minh Loan – Head of Adolescent Health at the National Children’s Hospital, fosters collaboration among experts and CBOs to support vulnerable women and children.





our projects

# Return & Reintegration

**Full name:** Return & Reintegration Assistances to Returnees from European countries/United Kingdom

**Period:** 1/4/2024 - 1/4/2025

**Donor(s):** International Returns and Reintegration Assistance (IRARA)

**Implementing sites:** Vietnam

2024 key results

- 126 new returnees were received
- 123 returnees successfully completed reintegration support

contribute to our strategic goals

4 • End Extreme poverty & Reduce Multi-dimensional Poverty

5 • Protect Rights of Everyone

Amid the COVID-19 pandemic that began in 2020, many European countries and the United Kingdom faced severe socio-economic impacts, leading to increased unemployment and instability for immigrants. The Vietnamese community there became vulnerable, struggling to maintain livelihoods, integrate into society, and access essential psychological and social support services. Since 2018, the European Return and Reintegration Network (ERRIN), with 16 EU member countries, has been established to ensure safe and sustainable returns for migrants. However, the program has limitations in addressing local needs, resulting in gaps in post-return reintegration.

Leveraging its widespread network and experience working with vulnerable communities, SCDI became the local partner of IRARA to implement the Reintegration Assistance Project from 2022. This project’s mission is to support and accompany Vietnamese returnees or trafficking victims back to their homeland. The project established a two-phase intervention system: immediate support upon return and long-term support during reintegration.

“Immediate Support upon Return” Activities – Addressing essential needs within 14 days of returning to the country, including:

- Cash assistance;
- Airport pickup and distribution of a “welcome kit” with essential items;
- Support with transportation to hometown/residence;
- Initial medical support and temporary accommodation.

“Post-Return Support” Activities – As part of the reintegration plan, within 12 months of returning:

- Cash assistance;
- Support for housing rental or repairs;

- Provision of essential items and appropriate medical support;
- Support for education and learning expenses;
- Assistance in building livelihoods to create a stable income.

In 2024, the project welcomed 126 new returnees, bringing the total number of people supported for reintegration to 210. The project successfully completed the comprehensive support for 123 individuals, including both immediate post-return and long-term support activities within 12 months.

Each returnee’s situation is unique, so SCDI centers its interventions around the individuals, listening to their needs and personal

circumstances. This approach ensures tailored solutions that address immediate challenges while rebuilding confidence, self-esteem, and hope.

The project’s impact goes beyond short-term support, creating a comprehensive environment that helps returnees stabilize their lives, find work, reconnect with families, and reduce the risk of illegal migration. It has also raised awareness of rights and sustainable repatriation paths, contributing positively to local security, employment, and the economy.

Photo © SCDI  
A project assistant engage with returnees during a reintegration planning session, ensuring tailored support for sustainable livelihoods and stability.





Spreading Values  
Connecting Communities  
Enhancing Understanding

# Communications Report

## contribute to our strategic goals

- 1 • End AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria
- 2 • Achieve Universal Health Coverage
- 3 • Achieve Universal Lower-secondary Education
- 4 • End Extreme poverty & Reduce Multi-dimensional Poverty
- 5 • Protect Rights of Everyone
- 6 • Reduce Practices Harmful to the Environment

Strategic communication remains central to SCDI’s mission, serving as a vital bridge connecting the organization with partners, donors, and staff, while consistently disseminating our core values. This concerted effort significantly amplifies the positive impact we create within vulnerable communities.

In 2024, the Communications Program strategically implemented a multi-platform approach focused on key objectives: enhancing SCDI’s visibility, fostering public awareness and engagement with the critical issues we address, developing communication-driven interventions aligned with organizational goals, and strengthening the communication capacities of target communities.

### Multi-platform Engagement

The Communications Program continued to develop SCDI’s bilingual website, which features well-curated content and images, regularly updating official information. Serving as an official channel, it offered exclusive insights, highlighted key achievements, and shared impactful community stories reflecting SCDI’s ethos. In 2024, SCDI’s website attracted over 51,000 views and 149,000 interactions, establishing itself as a reliable source for SCDI’s information. Social media platforms (Facebook, X (Twitter), and YouTube) expanded our reach and fostered dialogue, generating approximately 172,000 views and over 72,000 engagements.

### Communications-based Interventions

The Communications Program collaborated closely with technical teams to amplify the effectiveness of interventions and bolster the communication skills within community networks. Targeted training sessions empowered network members to become

proactive and confident communicators, enabling them to share their own narratives and the experiences of the communities they support.

Furthermore, the program championed community-led communication initiatives, providing support for community members to independently design and execute communication activities tailored to their specific needs. This approach fosters ownership, enhances the relevance and sustainability of communication efforts, and encourages local creativity and engagement. Flexible communication materials, both digital and print, were developed and adapted for diverse target groups, ensuring user-friendliness for communicators and accessibility for beneficiaries.

In 2024, the Communications Program strategically strengthened collaborations with media agencies at both national and local levels, successfully bringing the issues faced by vulnerable and marginalized communities to greater public attention. This resulted in the publication of 19 articles featuring SCDI in reputable outlets such as Dan Tri, Van Hoa,

Vietnam News, and Voice of Vietnam (VOV2), among others.

### Social Mobilization and Partnerships

Communication played a vital role in social mobilization efforts. In 2024, the program partnered with the Children and Youth Program to organize fundraising activities in support of children within the Breaking the Cycle project.

Moreover, the Communications Program actively cultivated relationships with partner organizations, expanding our collaborative network and sharing key initiatives at international forums. Participation in the World Conference on Lung Health provided a platform to share SCDI’s experience in promoting short-term multidrug-resistant tuberculosis treatment in Vietnam. Additionally, our engagement in the TB People Network’s capacity-building conference and meeting in Turkey led to the recognition and dissemination of SCDI’s contributions to ending TB.

Photo © SCDI  
The Communications Program sharing about SCDI’s TB-related communications initiatives at the World Conference on Lung Health and the TB People Network’s capacity-building conference.





Off-project activities

# Support for Recovery after Typhoon Yagi

contribute to our strategic goals

- 1

• End AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria
- 4

• End Extreme poverty & Reduce Multi-dimensional Poverty

In September 2024, Typhoon Yagi—the strongest storm to hit Northern Vietnam in 70 years—caused significant destruction across multiple provinces, including SCDI’s project areas. In response, SCDI promptly deployed emergency relief and recovery efforts to support for those most affected, particularly members of community groups and individuals within our support network.

Through internal fundraising, SCDI mobilized VND 28 million to deliver timely assistance, specifically:

- VND 7 million was used to provide emergency food packages to 14 individuals from outreach workers’ families in Quang Ninh;
- VND 16 million supported five outreach worker households in Hai Phong and Hai Duong with home repairs, livelihood recovery, and food assistance;
- VND 6 million was allocated to cover two months of Methadone treatment for 10 clients in Ninh Binh;
- VND 14.9 million supported Methadone treatment for 24 clients in Hai Phong, including full induction and two-month treatment costs for one person, and a total of VND 7.96 million in treatment support for 18 others.

In Hanoi, SCDI staff and volunteers directly delivered 14 emergency food packages to affected families. 02 children’s families in the Breaking the Cycle project also received support to repair typhoon-damaged homes. Additionally, SCDI assisted 05 outreach workers’ families who suffered serious damage in Quang Ninh.

These efforts aimed to ensure the safety of affected individuals, maintain continuity in healthcare services, stabilize livelihoods, and prevent vulnerable families from falling deeper into poverty.



Photo © SCDI  
SCDI staff in Hanoi preparing the emergency food packages to deliver to affected families.



Photo © SCDI  
Food packages containing ready-to-eat meals for families isolated due to the flooding situation in Hanoi.



Photo © SCDI  
Financial support for house repair and livelihood recovery is also a part of SCDI’s effort to provide immediate aid to families affected by the typhoon.



# Together for Tet

contribute to our strategic goals

- 4 • End Extreme poverty & Reduce Multi-dimensional Poverty

Together for Tet is an annual event organized by One Egg a Day\* in collaboration with SCDI, aimed at delivering warm Tet gifts to the most disadvantaged families. The gift packages are distributed to individuals and families facing hardships, including those involved in SCDI projects or supported by One Egg a Day, such as families of children in the “Breaking the Cycle” program, impoverished tuberculosis patients, people living with HIV, and drug users. Gifts were distributed by SCDI staff, community network members, and One Egg a Day volunteers, bringing warmth and joy during the Tet holiday.

*\*One Egg a Day is a charity program initiated in 2017, aims to mobilize contributions to support the most vulnerable in society, enabling them to overcome difficulties and foster long-term sustainable development.*



Photo © SCDI  
Community members and donors delivering Tet gift packages to families facing difficulties.



Photo © SCDI



Off-project activities

# Expanding the Future - Collaboration with KOTO

contribute to our strategic goals

- 4 • End Extreme poverty & Reduce Multi-dimensional Poverty
- 5 • Protect Rights of Everyone

Recognizing the importance of supporting vulnerable adolescents in accessing education and career opportunities, SCDI partnered with KOTO (Know One, Teach One)—a social enterprise established in 1999 that supports underprivileged youth through life skills training, vocational education, empowerment, and job placement. KOTO offers professional training in holistic hospitality and commercial restaurant, providing a stimulating & practical educational setting for trainees to be fully empowered.

Acting as a bridge, SCDI connected disadvantaged youth from project areas to KOTO’s vocational training programs. By 2024, 18 young people, many at risk of dropping out of school or entering the labor force prematurely, had been referred and supported by SCDI to join KOTO’s programs.

In addition to technical training, students receive soft skills development, English lessons, computer literacy, psychological support, and healthcare. Upon completion, students are awarded certificates and receive job placement guidance. This opportunity not only allows them to continue their education but also equips them with the tools to build confidence, pursue suitable careers, and transform their lives—marking the beginning of a brighter, more hopeful future.

Photo © SCDI  
At KOTO, young people from disadvantaged families not only get vocational training to increase their employability, but also take classes to learn life skills and new languages.





Off-project activities

# Actions for the Environment – For a Sustainable Future

contribute to our strategic goals

- 6 • Reduce Practices Harmful to the Environment

Through our strong commitment and practical actions to protect the environment, SCDI staff and offices actively embraced the responsibility of building a green organization—starting with everyday practices. In 2024, SCDI promoted sustainable behaviors in the workplace, including waste segregation, public transportation use, battery collection, and minimizing plastic consumption. Additionally, 44 environmental bulletins were circulated to raise awareness, share useful environmental knowledge, and encourage low-impact practices within the organization and the broader community.



Photo © SCDI  
A used battery collection box at SCDI office to encourage staff to dispose of batteries properly.



Photo © SCDI  
SCDI staff brings personal water bottle to avoid using single-use plastic bottles.

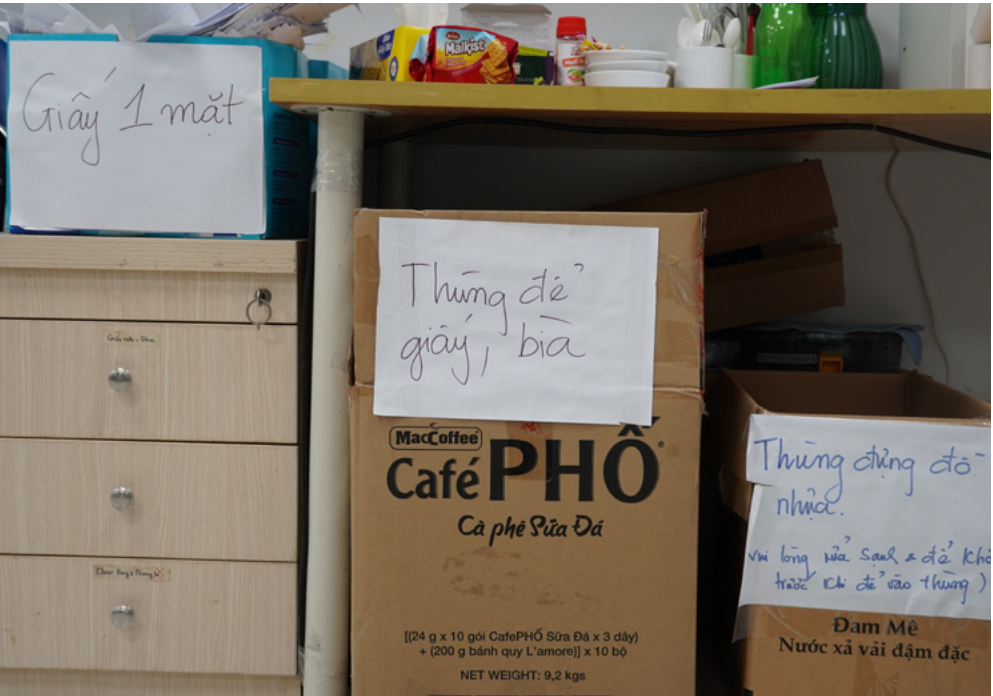


Photo © SCDI  
The paper sorting boxes at SCDI Hanoi office.





# DEVELOP TOGETHER





Photo © SCDI

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