



Project Vietnam is a non-profit humanitarian program which provides healthcare assistance to children at-risk, and to poor rural communities in Vietnam since 1996.

To Save Newborn Lives...

Started in 2000 with Steven Ringer MD, PhD, leading the Newborn Care Team, Project Vietnam Newborn Care Initiative received approval for its program in 2004, after the Vietnam Ministry of Health adopted the goal of expanding Newborn Services nationally by 2010.

The Newborn Care Initiative has 3 components:

1. Phase 1: development of 2 model programs at the provinces of Khanh Hoa and Vinh Phuc, established March 2005. Ongoing training and monitoring has yielded crucial information regarding the needs, most appropriate training format to change current practices, and requirements in equipment as well as system improvements. By December 2005, the model sites recorded a 5% decrease in infant mortality mainly because of Newborn Resuscitation, and excellent utilization of CPAP at the 2 provincial hospitals. District hospitals have varying degrees of success with advanced respiratory care, and the healthcare personnel there requires a targeted training covering interventions for post-resuscitation problems in mild-moderately sick infants as well as transport issues. A followup assessment will be carried out during summer 2006 with the assistance of students & physician-in-training volunteers.
2. Phase 2: development of appropriate standards and national training for key personnel of rural provinces. This component was initiated 6 months earlier than anticipated, thanks to the dynamic dialogue and participation of the Vietnam lead pediatric institutions. In November 2005, 2 national training courses on Neonatal Skills were conducted at Ho Chi Minh School of Medicine and Hai Duong City, and a 3rd training in March 2006 with the Department of Pediatrics, HCM:
 - a. Representatives of 28 provinces (44% of the nation) were trained and gave enthusiastic feedback
 - b. The format of small groups and skills practice stations appeared most useful
 - c. Urgent need for creation of a Neonatal Resuscitation Instructor cadre at each province.
3. Phase 3: lead institution strengthening and development of Regional Centers for Neonatal care at the 8 Children's Hospitals and selected Provincial Hospitals. Children's Hospitals in Hai Phong (north), Nghe An (central) and Can Tho (south) have received first training, besides our ongoing work with the top 3 Children's hospitals in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh city.

In 2005 Phase 1 was launched as well as Phase 2 first training in November, with overall great success. A collaboration with East Meets West and International Children Assistance Network-2 NGOs active in Vietnam- allowed the NCI to deliver to 11 Vietnam hospitals 50 CPAP devices-basic respiratory equipment manufactured in Vietnam by former Project Vietnam volunteer-engineer Kirk Evans. The utilization of CPAP is being tracked along with research into Infection, Jaundice and Hypoglycemia in infants at key institutions.

In 2006 Project Vietnam will seek to build on the gains through:

- ◆ Instructors course on Neonatal Resuscitation
- ◆ Support to the lead Vietnam institutions in providing training for Neonatal Skills
- ◆ Assistance to local Neonatologists at referral hospitals through an active ongoing exchange
- ◆ Creation of a network of support for the Physicians previously trained
- ◆ Development of support services for the provinces including ongoing consultation, training tools and basic equipment, access to updated medical information
- ◆ Development of web-accessible training materials and information

Project Vietnam is actively recruiting Neonatal Care Specialists-physicians, nurses, respiratory therapists- to contribute to our efforts in improving medical services for newborn in Vietnam. The dates of the medical trips are February 28-March 12, and October 27-November 12, 2006, and the participants pay their own travel costs of about \$2000 all-inclusive, which are tax-deductible.

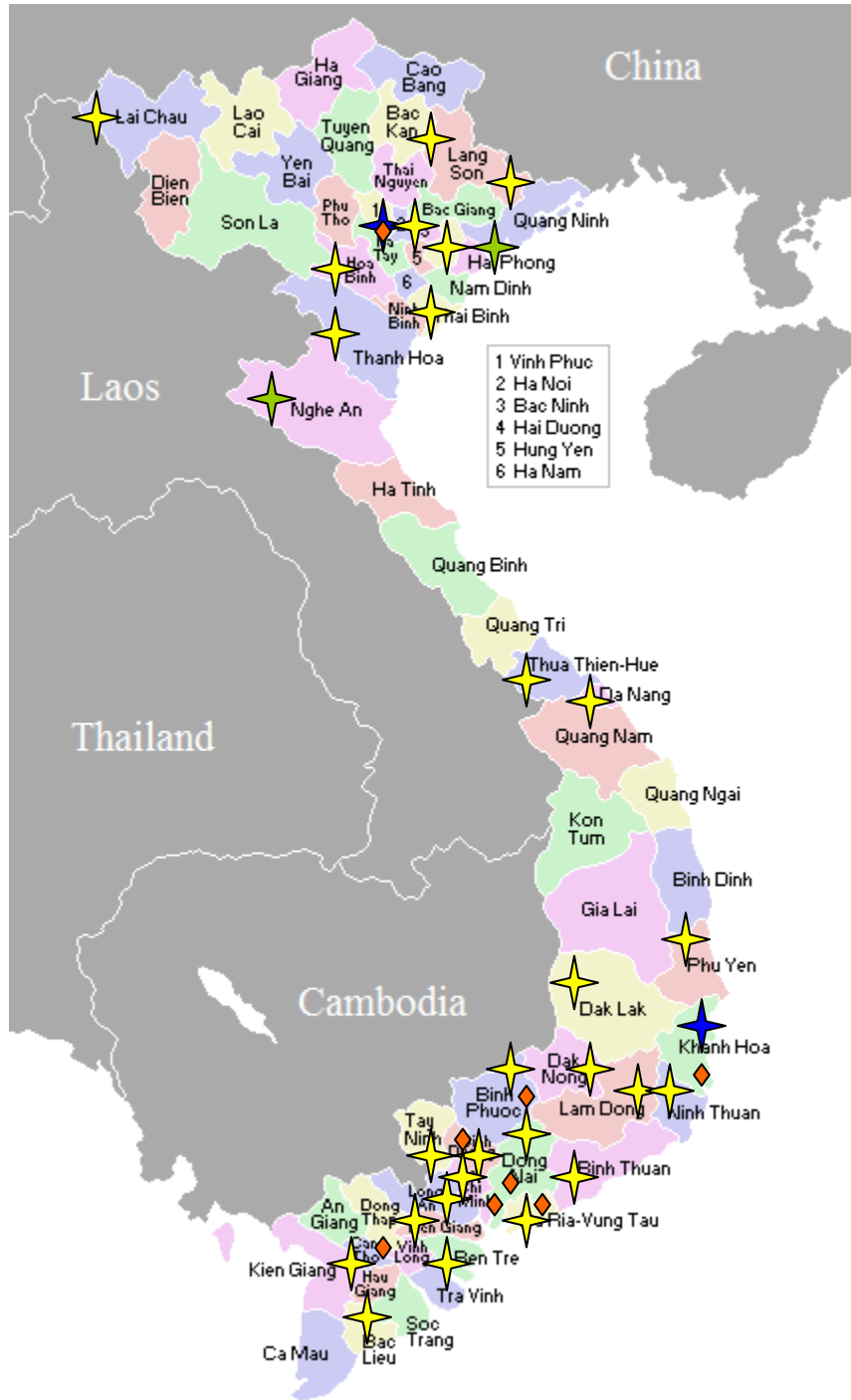
Following a most successful 3-year effort to introduce Vitamin K after birth to prevent brain hemorrhage affecting up to 12,500 newborn annually, the vision of good care for all Vietnam babies is within reach...





For inquiry on Project Vietnam work, please contact Quynh Kieu, MD at 714- 641-0850

11100 Warner #116, Fountain Valley, CA 92708 email: projectvietnam@yahoo.com website :www.projectvietnam.net

NEWBORN CARE INITIATIVE PROVINCE MAP

PROJECT VIETNAM, AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS



-  Province-pilot sites
-  Provinces trained through NCI Neonatal Skills Course
-  Provinces using donated CPAP through partnership with EMW-ICAN
-  Provinces trained through NCI on-site program for Regional Centers

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