

# Progress towards Universal Access Vietnam

**Universal access implies that all people should be able to have access to information and services that are:**

*Equitable – accessible – affordable – comprehensive – sustainable*

In 2006, countries worldwide committed to setting ambitious national targets for scaling up towards Universal Access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support by 2010. The targets focus on what could be achieved if the following obstacles can be addressed:

- **Predictable and sustainable financing**
- **Strengthening human resources and health systems**
- **Access to affordable commodities**
- **Stigma, discrimination, gender and human rights**

Review of National reports in 2008 demonstrated that Universal Access has catalyzed an accelerated and strengthened national HIV response with more results-based planning and a general overall increase in access to services. National political leadership and coordination were found to be critical to scale up. However more emphasis was needed on addressing the obstacles to scale up which would not support reaching universal access but also the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. Specifically, there is a need to accelerate progress on HIV-prevention efforts, and to better utilise the resources available within civil society and people living with HIV.

Universal access has generated a continuing engagement with national partners to monitor and review progress towards universal access. This has resulted in a number of countries revising their national targets to ensure a sharper focus on areas in need of additional support.

## Progress in Vietnam

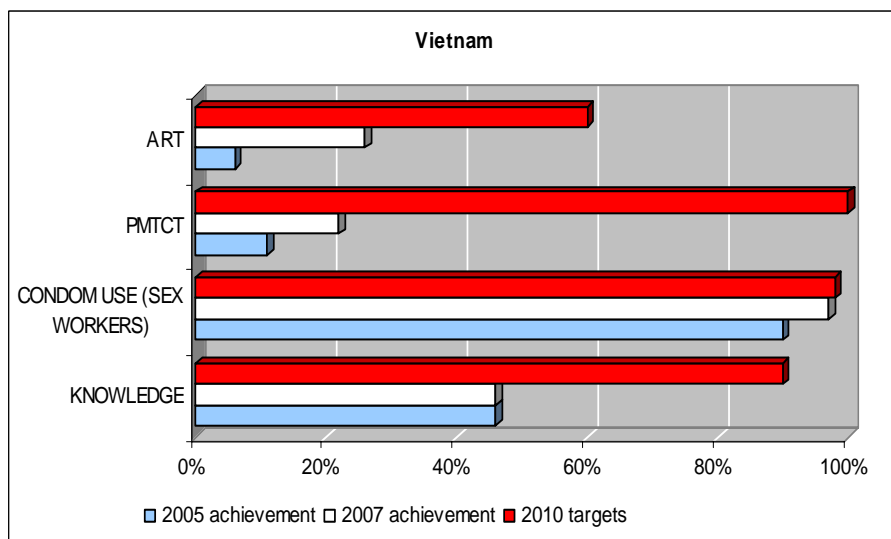
Viet Nam is on track to meet its Universal Access targets, provided some challenges are overcome. Expansion of coverage and access to quality HIV care and support and AIDS treatment, including quality referral services, has been considerably improved in those areas with high HIV prevalence. There has been a 50% increase in the number of eligible pregnant women receiving antiretroviral treatment, and a six-fold increase in access to antiretroviral treatment.

To address some of the major barriers such as stigma and discrimination, the lack of a true multisectoral response, limited access for key populations at higher risk, and lack of human resource capacity, Viet Nam will need to focus on prevention, the engagement of non-health sectors, and the harmonization of laws and policies with the Law on HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control. Additional efforts must be made to promote Civil Society organizations as equal partners in the national response and to encourage their involvement in

all steps of design and implementation of HIV activities. Finally, the National HIV/STI surveillance system must be strengthened. Data must be collected on key populations at higher risk, and then effectively used both to evaluate the response and to develop national and provincial policy.

**Figure 1.** The graph presents a snapshot of progress towards universal access based on 2005 and 2007 reported UNGASS achievements and 2010 reported targets, as per data available.

Please note that ARV and PMTCT targets may be subject to change based on revised



numbers in need of ART.

*"(We) commit ourselves to pursuing all necessary efforts to scale up nationally driven, sustainable and comprehensive responses... towards the goal of universal access to comprehensive prevention programmes, treatment, care and support by 2010."*

2006 Political Declaration, (UN General Assembly, 15 June 2006)