

# The Facts Child Injury Prevention in Vietnam



## Magnitude of child injury in Vietnam

- ✓ Unintentional injury is a leading cause of death of Vietnamese children and teenagers.
- ✓ In 2006 alone, 7198 children and adolescents aged 0-19 died from injury<sup>1</sup> equivalent to nearly 20 children per day (Figure 1).
- ✓ The major causes of injury related deaths are:
  - Drowning,
  - Road traffic injuries,
  - Poisoning and
  - Falls.
- ✓ Estimates from WHO's Global Burden of Disease study (2002) suggest that injury is responsible for 36% of all deaths in children aged 5-14.
- ✓ Surveys by UNICEF and The Alliance for Safe Children, in Vietnam and the South East Asia Region showed that among children under 18 years, for each death, 12 children are admitted to hospital or

permanently disabled and 34 children needed medical care or missed school or work because of an injury.

- ✓ According to the above survey, leading causes on non fatal injury in Vietnam are:
  - Falls, animal bites, road traffic injuries and burns.



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Access to unprotected water hazards exposes children to a high risk of drowning

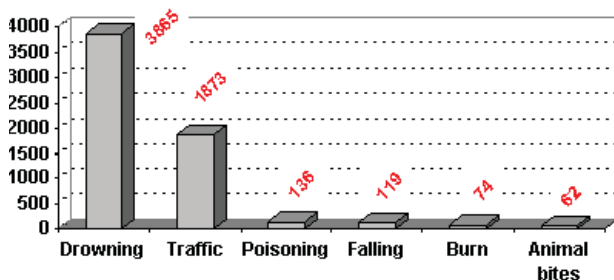


Figure 1: Proportion of child injury deaths by major causes

## Major causes of child injuries in Vietnam

- ✓ Age and developmental issues that make children more vulnerable to certain injury types compared to adults;
- ✓ Unsafe environments including lack of safe playground for children:(unsafe houses, bridges without handrails, unfenced ponds, etc);

<sup>1</sup> Record on mortality due to injuries 2005 – 2006 issued by Ministry of Health of Vietnam

- ✓ Insufficient appropriate safety regulations, laws and standards and lack of enforcement of these;
- ✓ Poverty-related factors including a lack of adequate supervision;
- ✓ Low awareness of injury risk factors and prevention measures; and
- ✓ Lack of access to appropriate medical care, especially on-scene first aid.



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Adult helmet wearing is high, however the mandatory wearing requirement in children is not currently enforced

## Information sources on good practice for preventing child injuries

- ✓ The World Report highlights a range of best practice examples for demonstrated child injury prevention interventions;

- ✓ These interventions are also summarized in the fact-sheets for each of the injury sub-types and in the fact sheet on “what works”;
- ✓ Many of these examples are highly applicable to supporting efforts to alleviate the burden of child injury in Vietnam.
- ✓ The World report, as well as all fact sheets on child injury prevention topics can be downloaded from [www.who.int/violence\\_injury\\_prevention/child](http://www.who.int/violence_injury_prevention/child).

## Key activities of WHO and UNICEF to prevent child injuries in Vietnam:

- ✓ Ongoing advocacy to decision makers for increased priority to child injury prevention;
- ✓ Environmental modification to make a safe living environments for children;
- ✓ Supporting the development and enforcement of related legislations (e.g. child helmets).
- ✓ Community-based projects (e.g. Safe Communities, Safe Schools, Safe Homes etc)
- ✓ Strengthening first aid and trauma care system to reduce severity of injuries;
- ✓ Public education for awareness raising of safety principles and unsafe behaviors; and
- ✓ Supporting the development of a cross-sectoral plan of action on child drowning prevention.



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