VIETNAM
Fight against gender violence in schools in Hanoi

DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT

October 2013 – October 2016

CONTEXT

• Gender violence in schools includes any form of violence inflicted on girls and boys: physical, psychological and sexual abuse within schools, as well as on the way to and from schools.

• A 2010 study in Vietnam highlighted the fact that 58% of women have already been victims of violence and 3% have been sexually abused before the age of 15.

• Another study led in Vietnamese high schools showed that 10% of the teenagers questioned had been victims of sexual harassment. Amongst them, 81% were girls.

• Teachers do not sufficiently recognize the importance of the phenomenon and often lack the capabilities and tools to act against gender violence in schools.

OBJECTIVES

General objective
Eradicate gender violence against girls and boys attending schools in Hanoi.

Specific objective
Develop a specific pilot model in order to promote girl/boy equality, to prevent and to act against gender violence in schools.
Encourage the Education and training Department of Hanoi to recognize this pilot model and to subscribe to it within its scholar system.

Budget: circa. € 970,000
Project action area
Hanoi

Beneficiaries
• 30,000 girls and boys from 11 to 18 years old attending the 20 schools of the project
• 700 teachers and non-teaching staff of these schools
• 6 government departments
• 24 local and national media
• 8,000,000 inhabitants aware of gender violence in schools

Main partners
• Center for Studies and Applied Sciences on Gender, family, women and Teenagers (CSAGA)
• Education and Training Department of Hanoi (DoET)
• The International Center for Research on Women (CRW)

PLANNED ACTIVITIES
• Teacher training on problems of gender violence in schools and positive disciplinary methods.
• Working with school advisors in each and every school able to support and advise pupils concerned with violence issues.
• Adoption of tools and a code of conduct in schools, which define standards for interaction between pupils and between pupils and teachers. It will also determine a response mechanism to gender violence allowing victims to report incidents.
• Creation of pupil clubs in order to promote education by peers and changes in individual behavior in terms of gender violence amongst pupils.
• Raising of parents and parents’ associations awareness on gender and violence at school, as well as regular assessments, along with associations, of progress of schools in the project with regards to the matter.
• Brainstorming with pupils in order for them to recognize the consequences of gender violence in schools on the personal development of victims.
• Raising awareness of journalists on gender violence in schools and on the project school model: support to written publications, articles and TV programs in order to touch a wider audience.
• Advocacy with the Education and training Department of Hanoi on the benefits of the pilot model in order to encourage its use in other schools.

APPROACH
• The pilot model the project intends implementing in schools is based on a holistic approach, which has already proven successful in other places than Hanoi. The model relies on raising awareness and requesting the participation of teenagers, as well as that of teachers, of headmasters, parents, media and the community at large, in order to promote non-discriminatory practices. This is meant to bring along a positive societal change towards gender violence in schools. The project is therefore aimed at changing attitudes and behavior of all players involved and at implementing a secure environment for children within their schools and society.
• The project will contribute to the Vietnamese National Action Plan for the elimination of gender inequalities and violence against women. The active participation of our partner research centers will allow for a scientific basis and promotion of the pilot model for schools without gender violence created by the project to the Education and training Department of Hanoi. The model could thereafter be extended to other Vietnamese towns.