

# VIETNAM

## COUNTRY PROFILE



*Vietnam has a tumultuous history, including a complete economic collapse following the Vietnam War as communist leaders took over farms and factories. In the 1980s and '90s, Vietnam experienced rapid growth after the government introduced aspects of a free market economy. Despite this continued growth, nearly half of the population of Vietnam lives below the poverty line today. Numerous ethnic minorities living in the rural hill country, and many of those living with physical disabilities throughout Vietnam, have been left out of the country's development.*



*This woman and her children are HIV positive. World Concern has helped her receive a cow for income, and helped her children get in school. We've also educated her and her community to reduce the stigma of AIDS.*

### WHO WE SERVE

Our programs assist minorities and people with disabilities, which have the highest incidence of poverty and are some of the most disadvantaged people in Vietnam. Among those are the deaf and hearing impaired, and people living with HIV and AIDS. We also serve migrant workers living in urban boarding villages in Hanoi. All of these groups tend to have little or no education and few opportunities for employment.

### HOW WE HELP

World Concern provides services for migrant workers, including basic health education and health care services, information on HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases, life skills and vocational consultation.

**Serving the deaf and people with disabilities /** We help reduce the stigma and social isolation related to deafness by providing education and opportunities for meaningful employment to the hearing impaired. Preschool programs, taught by World Concern trained teachers who are deaf, enable children to learn sign language and transition successfully into primary school.

### Empowering those with HIV and AIDS

Women living with HIV and AIDS and their families are highly vulnerable and marginalized in Vietnamese society. We help these families overcome the barriers of exclusion and discrimination, providing them support groups, assistance with medication, and hope for the future.



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## MEET KIEU

Kieu Tran Van lives in Hanoi in a tiny boarding house with four other people. His wife and two children live about 30 miles away. Kieu was unable to find work to support his family in their home village, so he came to the city in search of work. His shift as a cart puller in the market lasts from 11 p.m. to 5 a.m. every night. But lack of sleep doesn't keep him from volunteering with World Concern at the drop-in center for migrant workers. These workers are at risk for contracting HIV or other sexually transmitted diseases because of their circumstances and behavior. Receiving this information and counseling was so life-changing for him, Kieu wants others in his situation to know about HIV and AIDS, and to learn how to protect themselves.



*Kieu Tran Van is so thankful to receive help from World Concern, he now volunteers at a drop-in center for migrant workers like himself.*

## ABOUT WORLD CONCERN

World Concern is a Christian global relief and development organization. With our supporters, our faith compels us to extend life-saving help and opportunity to people facing the most profound human challenges of extreme poverty. At World Concern, the solutions we offer, the work we do—with your help—creates lasting, sustainable change. Lasting change that provides lasting hope.

Our areas of expertise include disaster response, clean water, education, food security, child protection, microfinance and health. For more information about our work, please visit [worldconcern.org](http://worldconcern.org).

## ABOUT VIETNAM

**Population** / 87,263,000

**Life expectancy** / 74 years

**Infant mortality rate** / 20 deaths per 1,000 live births

**People living with HIV/AIDS** / 290,000

**Religions** / Buddhism approx. 80%, Catholicism 8%-10%, other 10%

**Literacy rate** / 90.3%

**Population below poverty line** / 10.6%

**Average income** / \$1,160 per year

*Sources: US State Department, CIA World Factbook, Worldbank*