

Vietnam Women's Union (VWU)

The Center for Women and Development (CWD)



PEACE HOUSE PROJECT

Shelter for survivors of
domestic violence and human trafficking



Introduction/ CWD



- **Headed by the Vietnamese Women's Union (mass organization)**
- **Founded in 2002, opened in 8th of March, 2007**
- **Address:**
20 Thuy Khue Street
Tay Ho, Ha Noi, Vietnam

www.women-bds.com

Activities and functions

Implementation of **socio-political activities** in the field of gender equality, vocational training and business development services



Offering **profit oriented services** to cover CWD's operational costs and socio-political activities (hotel, restaurant, swimming pool, etc.)



Situation of DV in Vietnam

- No official data collection/ analysis on the situation of DV in Vietnam
- Domestic violence occurs all over Vietnam: in urban as well as rural areas, in families of all income levels
- For many Vietnamese, the occasional conflict is a normal part of family life
- Until recently, domestic violence was considered a sensitive and private issue in Vietnam

Situation of DV in Vietnam (cont.)

- Deep-rooted attitudes regarding socially and culturally prescribed roles, responsibilities and traits of men and women in Vietnam
 - Women:** responsible for maintaining peace and harmony in the family, subordinated to men
 - Men:** hot-tempered with less emotional control, has the right to “teach” his wife and children even by using violence
- Since July 1st, 2008: Law on Domestic Violence Prevention and Control effective

Situation of HT in North Vietnam

- Vietnam is primarily a source country for trafficking
- Northern Vietnam: the majority of all reported cases are women or children with either involving sexual exploitation or forced marriages trafficked to other countries
- Women are often young without any degree
- Existence of a strong national framework to support women

The Project

- CWD runs two shelters for victims of DV and HT named Peace House
- First two shelters in the North of Vietnam (Trafficking and Domestic Violence), pilot project
- Opened in March 2007
- Emergency situations, temporary safe environment
- With the financial support of SDC, AECID, Ford Foundation and others
- International Advisors from MCNV (social work and project management)
- Pre-Counseling Service through telephone and face to face



PEACE HOUSE SHELTER PROJECT

SUPPORTING ACTIVITIES FOR VICTIMS

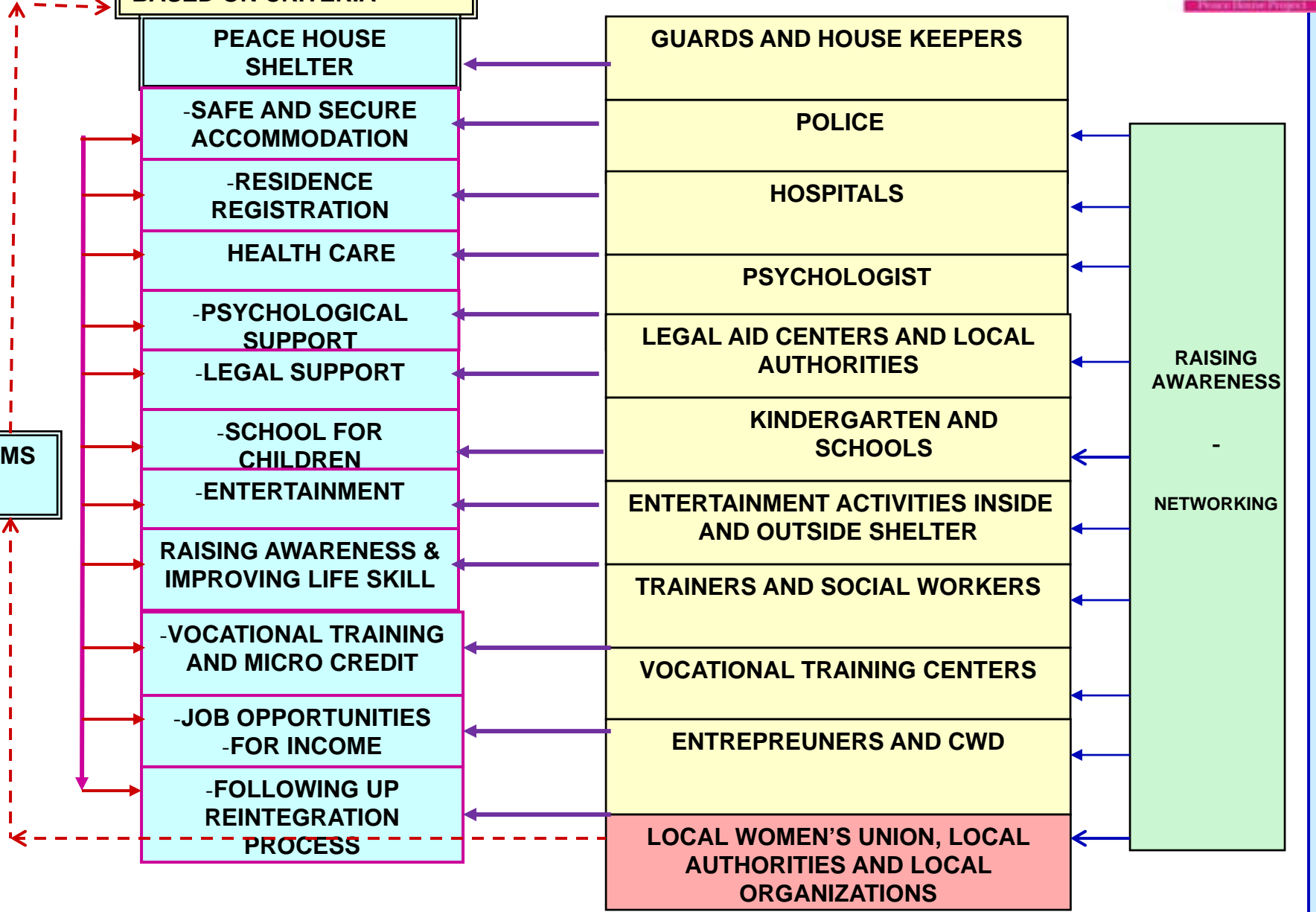
**COUNSELLING OFFICE
NEED ASSESSMENT
SCREENING VICTIMS
BASED ON CRITERIA**

- PEACE HOUSE SHELTER
- SAFE AND SECURE ACCOMMODATION
- RESIDENCE REGISTRATION
- HEALTH CARE
- PSYCHOLOGICAL SUPPORT
- LEGAL SUPPORT
- SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RAISING AWARENESS & IMPROVING LIFE SKILL
- VOCATIONAL TRAINING AND MICRO CREDIT
- JOB OPPORTUNITIES -FOR INCOME
- FOLLOWING UP REINTEGRATION PROCESS

- GUARDS AND HOUSE KEEPERS
- POLICE
- HOSPITALS
- PSYCHOLOGIST
- LEGAL AID CENTERS AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES
- KINDERGARTEN AND SCHOOLS
- ENTERTAINMENT ACTIVITIES INSIDE AND OUTSIDE SHELTER
- TRAINERS AND SOCIAL WORKERS
- VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTERS
- ENTREPREUNERS AND CWD
- LOCAL WOMEN'S UNION, LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS

RAISING AWARENESS
-
NETWORKING

VICTIMS





Some pictures of the Peace House Shelter Counselor and Victim



Some pictures of the Peace House Shelter Kindergarten



Some pictures of the Peace House Shelter Cooking Contest



Some pictures of the Peace House Shelter Making handcraft



Experiences

- Low capacity of social workers, social work as a subject at university only since 2004
- High staff turn-over
- Limited number of women in both shelters in 2007
- Lack of monitoring and evaluation
- Women stay in the shelter between one week and 4 months (DV), 6 months to 18 months (HT)

Lessons Learned

DV shelter:

strong **prejudices** against the shelter (“the shelter encourages the wife to let the family down”): developing a convincing communication strategy

step for women from rural areas seems to be too big: Awareness raising mainly in Hanoi and neighboring provinces

Lessons Learned

Human Trafficking shelter

Women mainly come back to Vietnam through one of the five Northern border gates: building up a referral system with the border police

Women find it hard to reintegrate because of the social prejudices and stereotypes

(Eg: they were trafficked and be sex workers and becoming bad and corrupted people, no dignity, etc.)

Mid – Autumn Festival



Thank you for your listening!