

Dak Nong

A newly-established province in the Central Highlands of Viet Nam with emerging socio-economic issues.

Alive & Thrive (A&T) is an initiative to improve infant and young child feeding (IYCF) practices by increasing rates of exclusive breastfeeding and improving complementary feeding practices. A&T aims to reach more than 16 million children under two years old in Bangladesh, Ethiopia and Viet Nam, and to create program models that can be replicated worldwide. In Viet Nam, A&T worked with the Ministry of Health, the National Institute of Nutrition (NIN), the Women's Union, the Viet Nam General Confederation of Labor (VGCL) and provincial authorities to double the rate of exclusive breastfeeding, improve the quality and quantity of complementary foods, and reduce stunting by two percentage points each year. These objectives were attained through different strategies including policy engagement, interpersonal counseling delivered through two distinct service delivery platforms, use of mass media, and the strategic use of data

Dak Nong is one of 15 A&T project sites in Viet Nam. Officially separated from Dak Lak Province in 2004, Dak Nong is one of the newest provinces in Viet Nam. The province has a large area of productive red basaltic soil which could enable the growth of agricultural crops at an industrial scale. Despite this potential, the poverty rate of Dak Nong remains high at 26.5% (compared to the national poverty rate of 12.9% in 2011)¹. Dak Nong has a population of approximately 525,700 people. About 54,800 children are under five years of age and 22,500 children under two years of age.

The Dak Nong Department of Health has partnered with A&T to achieve the following objectives:

- Double the rate of exclusive breastfeeding of infants under six months
- Improve the quality and quantity of complementary foods
- Reduce stunting by 2 percentage points each year

A&T's activities are implemented in two districts.

Mặt Trời Bé Thơ franchise model. This model is implemented in two of Dak Nong's eight districts in collaboration with health agencies at all levels. The first franchise was launched in May 2012 at the provincial Reproductive Health Center, and by 2014 there were a total of 15 Mặt Trời Bé Thơ franchises across the province. As of September 2014, a total of 67,000 counseling contacts have been delivered in Dak Nong, with a coverage rate of 95% in commune franchises. In September 2014, there were an average of 201 contacts in the network of franchises, of which 84% were repeat clients. The Dak Nong Department of Health is committed to supporting the operation of the franchises after the culmination of the project in 2015.

IYCF support group model. This model is implemented in nine communes in the Dak R'láp and Cu Jut districts of the province. There are 27 villages with IYCF support groups. These groups are comprised of pregnant mothers and caregivers with children 0–24 months old living in remote areas. As of September 2014, 22,000 counseling contacts have been delivered through the IYCF support groups.

DAK NONG AT A GLANCE

Nutritional status	A&T baseline survey (%) 2011	A&T endline survey (%) 2014		
		Non- A&T area	A&T area	
			No MTBT area	MTBT area
Stunting (< 2 years)	28.1	-	19.1	22
Underweight (< 2 years)	9.8	-	10	11.4
Wasting (< 2 years)	1.7	-	2.2	3
IYCF practices				
Early initiation of breastfeeding (BF)	52	51	58	65
Exclusive BF under six months	29	33	38	58
Predominant BF under six months	59	57	64	65
No bottle feeding under 24 months	63	-	63	68
Continued BF until two years	12	-	32	32
Consumption of iron-rich foods	81	-	77	87
Minimum dietary diversity	77	-	74	86
Minimum meal frequency	95	-	95	96
Minimum acceptable diet	65	-	64	77
No. of franchises	Provincial	District	Commune	
15	3	2	10	
No. of IYCF SG communes	No. of IYCF SG villages			
9	27			
IYCF Training (as of 2014)	No. of courses		No. of trainees	
Trainers	-		16	
Franchise managers	1		19	
Franchise counselors	1		37	
Community-based workers (franchise model)	2		48	
Community-based workers (IYCF SG model)	4		90	

Results. A&T survey data indicate that from 2011 to 2014, the percentage of children who are breastfed early within the first hour increased from 52% to 65%. There was a significant rise in the percentage of children under six months who were exclusively breastfed and who continued to be breastfed until two years, from 29% to 58% and 12% to 32% respectively. There was also an increase in the minimum acceptable diet from 65% to 77%, and in the minimum dietary diversity 77% to 86%. However, in the same period, the percentage of stunted children under the age of two also decreased from 28.1% to 22%.



Dinh dưỡng hôm nay, sức khỏe cho ngày mai

www.matroibetho.vn



In the Mặt Trời Bé Thơ franchise, mothers and caregivers receive good nutrition counseling services. Photo: A&T

Dak Nong contact list

A&T Provincial Management Board

Dak Nong Department of Health

Bloc 1, Nghia Tan Ward, Gia Nghia Town, Dak Nong Province.

Tel: 0503 544 017

Fax: 0503 544 313

Franchises | Province-level

- Dak Nong Reproductive Health Center, Nghia Tan Ward, Gia Nghia Town: 05013 543 545
- Dak Nong General Hospital (Obstetrics Department), Nghia Trung Ward, Gia Nghia Town: 0905 511 288
- Dak Nong General Hospital (Pediatrics Department), Nghia Trung Ward, Gia Nghia Town: 05013 545 310

Franchises & IYCF support groups | Dak R'lap District

- | | | | | |
|--|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| • Dak R'lap District General Hospital (Obstetrics Department), Kien Duc township: 0935 710 353 | • Kien Thanh CHC: 0977 223 453 | • Nghia Thang CHC: 0985 291 900 | IYCF support groups: | • Dao Nghia CHC |
| | • Dak Wer CHC: 0919 373 369 | • Dak Sin CHC: 01224 508 755 | • Kien Duc township | • Hung Binh CHC |
| | • Nhan Dao CHC: 01688 596 745 | • Quang Tin CHC: 0985 554 233 | • Nhan Co CHC | • Dak Ru CHC |

Franchises & IYCF support groups | Cu Jut District

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|---|------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| • Cu Jut District Health Center, Ea T'ling township: 0905 924 043 | • Nam Dong CHC: 0905 191 013 | • Dak Wil CHC: 01673 328 949 | IYCF support groups: | • Cu Nia CHC |
| | • Ea Po CHC: 0978 716 691 | • Dak Rong CHC: 0168 909 610 | • Ea T'ling township | • Tam Thang CHC |
| | | | • Truc Son CHC | |