



# **MATERNITY PROTECTION IN VIETNAM**

*Dr QUAN LE NGA, MD, PhD*

*Director, Institute for Development and  
Community Health – LIGHT,*

*Hanoi, Vietnam*

**“LIGHT for BETTER LIFE”**

# VIETNAM MAP

## SOME INFORMATION ABOUT VIETNAM



1. **Population: Around 90 million**
2. **Distribution:**
  - 30% in urban areas
  - 70% in rural, mountainous areas
  - Agriculture country

## **SOME INFORMATION ABOUT VIETNAM (*cont.*)**

**3. Malnutrition of children under-five:  
30%**



**4. Maternity mortality rate:  
90 - 300 per 100,000 live births**

**Different between urban & rural areas  
Highest in mountainous ones**

## **SOME INFORMATION ABOUT VIETNAM (*cont.*)**

**5. Surgical delivery rate: Increasing considerably  
Increasing rapidly in Hanoi,  
Ho Chi Minh City (= > 40%).**

**6. Breastfeeding initiation during  
1 hour after delivery: 96%**



**7. Exclusive breastfeeding for 6 months: <20%**



## **SOME INFORMATION ABOUT VIETNAM (*cont.*)**

### **8. One hour for Breastfeeding/day/12 months**

- **No day care in mother's working place**
- **Created Breast milk bank in factories**

**(supported by WABA and LIGHT carried out  
together with VWU, Vietnam Labour Union**

# EVOLUTION OF MATERNITY LEAVE IN VIETNAM

- **From 1950s to 2000: Increasing**  
**Because Vietnamese Government**  
**Leaders recognize the importance**  
**of long paid maternity leave on:**
  - **Mother health**
  - **Infant health**
- **Especially strong recommendations of National**  
**Institute of Nutrition (NIN) based on the research**  
***“Effect of Exclusive Breastfeeding for 6 Months on***  
***Infant Health”*** (carried out between 1980 and 1990s).





# **EVOLUTION OF MATERNITY LEAVE IN VIETNAM (*cont.*)**

- **2000 – 2012: Reduce from 6 months to 4 months after requirements made by factories, hospitals (where almost workers, nurses are female).**
- **2013: 6 months. Due to strong recommendations from Ministry of Health (MOH), Ministry of Labor, Invalids and Social Affairs (MOLISA), Vietnam Women Union.**



**WHY  
THE PAID MATERNITY LEAVE HIGH  
BUT EXCLUSIVE BREASTFEEDING  
FOR 6 MONTHS STILL LOW?**

- 1) Paid Maternity Leave cover for 30% of population only**



# WHY

## THE PAID MATERNITY LEAVE HIGH BUT EXCLUSIVE BREASTFEEDING FOR 6 MONTHS STILL LOW? (*cont.*)

### 2) Negative effects from milk, infant products advertising:

- In hospitals
- In free markets
- In workshops, conferences organized by Pediatrics Association, Nutrition Association, Vietnam Midwife Association
- On mass media
- Every where



# WHY THE PAID MATERNITY LEAVE HIGH BUT EXCLUSIVE BREASTFEEDING FOR 6 MONTHS STILL LOW? *(cont.)*

- 3) Negative effects by miss understanding of modern life of urban women, i.e. Using infant formulae
- Is modern life
  - Helps women to keep their breasts nicer
  - Helps women to have time to work





***Thank you.***