Author's response to reviews

Title: A hidden HIV epidemic among women in Vietnam

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Dr J. A. Le Good

Thank you very much for your interest in publishing our paper A hidden HIV epidemic among women in Vietnam. Please see the revised manuscript for the changes made according to the suggestions of the reviewers and the instruction to the manuscript formatting.

We hope that these changes will be satisfactory to the reviewers and editor.

With kind regards

Nguyen Thu Anh

Responses to comments by reviewers:

Reviewer Sudha Sivaram

We thank the reviewer for a careful review of the manuscript. We have included titles of three figures.

Reviewer Allyn K Nakashima

We thank the reviewer for your suggestion on the validity and consistency of HIV estimates and projection methods.

Comment: Page 512 of the UNAIDS report at following url shows estimates of HIV prevalence among women in Vietnam aged 15+ yrs in 2005 of 84,000 (range: 43,000-150,000). Are the methods used to calculate the 98,500 number for 2005 the same as these? It probably advisable to address any inconsistencies with previously published estimates.

Response: The number that we reported in the manuscript was taken from the most recent available estimates (estimates for the period 2005 – 2010). The HIV estimates and projection 2005 – 2010 was done by the Ministry of Health in collaboration with UNAIDS Vietnam and WHO Vietnam using the same method presented in the url http://data.unaids.org/pub/GlobalReport/2006/2006_GR_ANN2_en.pdf provided by the reviewer. The number (84,000) reported in the UNAIDS global report could be the number in the previous estimates and projection round.
Comment: Also, the most recently reported UNAIDS data (url below) suggest that their methods may overestimate cases—will the methods you used yield estimates consistent with the country-specific estimates that will soon be coming out?

Response: The next country-specific estimates uses the same method that was used in the HIV estimates and projection (2005 – 2010). However, this next report will be ready by the end of this year. Thus, we are not able to compare the result of the 2005-2010 estimates round and that of the next round.