



## **SAFE COMMUNITY**

**Truong Lac commune**

**O Mon district**

**Can Tho province**



**Name of the Community:** Truong Lac, O mon district, Can Tho province

Country: Viet Nam

Number of inhabitants: 18.388

Programme started year: 2004

International Safe Communities Network Membership: Designation year: 2010

Info address on www for the Programme: <http://www.moh.gov.vn/tainanthuongtich/en>

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## **The programme covers the following safety promotion activities:**

### **For the age group**

#### *Children 0-14 years:*

- Risk factor: Traffic accidents, falls, poison, social conflicts, drowning and animals' bites and hits.
- The Ward Steering Board worked with the Principal Board of elementary schools, the hamlet heads and local collaborators to consult the parents of under 5 years old children, especially parents usually working outside their homes or shiftworking in factories to take their children to the nearest kindergartens.

#### *Youth 15-24 years:*

- Risk factor: traffic accidents, falls, poison, social conflicts, drowning and animals' bites and hits.
- Organized short term training courses of swimming skill for the pupils, held talks specialized on solutions to prevent accidents and injuries.



- The activity of education on accident prevention was implemented together with the activities in the ceremony of singing national anthem at the beginning of the week, during the period of chief teacher's work.
- Painting and writing wall papers on accidents and injury prevention.
- Called up the young people to take part in the movement of saying NO to drugs, social evils and crimes, join the activities of preventing traffic accidents and strictly obeying traffic rules.

#### *Adults 25-64 years:*

- Risk factor: Traffic accidents, occupational accidents, family and social conflicts.
- In cooperation with police, the Ward Steering Board for Accident and Injury Prevention launched the movement named the ward of saying NO to drugs, social evils and crimes.
- The Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union also implemented activities of education on accident prevention in community, mobilized teenagers to obey strictly traffic rules.
- The Ward Women's United Association organized action teams to help one another in working and living as well as building a happy family.
- The Fatherland's Front organized the movement of building cultural life at root.
- The Farmers' Association organized activities of education on safe use of chemicals and fertilizers and putting on safety clothes at work.

#### *Elderly 65+ years:*

- The type of accidents and injuries in this group was falls so the Ward Steering Board

much concerned about the activities of education to prevent accidents and injuries caused by falling, mobilized people to add handrails to stairs, improved safer floors and built proper steps in front of the house to prevent accidents by slipping.

### **At the following environments:**

#### *Home:*

Organizing activities of education to raise knowledge on accident prevention for people, building a safe family without any fatal accidents by electric shocks, falls, drowning and burns.

#### *Traffic:*

- The District Administrative Office upgraded and paved the Provincial Road No 923. Meanwhile, the Xa No Project also implemented concrete paving the Road named O Mon - Truong Lac of 5,000 metres long by 4 metres wide. In addition, there were 4 bridges with drainage pipes and dams built. The finance for these bridges reached more than 4 billion VN dong.
- The Ward Steering Board expanded the erection of 20 warning boards of dangerous curved roads with the support of 20 million VN dong from the project. Besides, there were 30 propaganda panels on accident and injury prevention, building Healthy and Cultural Villages and culture standardized families.
- Adding handrails to Ba-se bridge, Nga Ba Ong Xi bridge.
- Building the landing stage at the Ward Health Station.
- The Communist Youth Union implemented propaganda activities for Resolution No 32/CP and the Decree No 146/CP on building Cultural and Healthy Commune, defending social evils and conflicts, protecting society ward in safe and orderly.
- The Communist Youth Union participated in activities of covering the stagnant water road sections with macadam; repairing some bridges that got slightly damaged, clearing the weeds for good view at the bending road sections. Since 2006, besides finance from the project, local authority and people in the ward worked together for upgrading 23 concrete bridges, 3 plank bridges and 40,309 metres of rural roads. The total finance was 105 million VN dong in which the ward budget supported nearly 45 million VN dong, the remaining 60 million VN dong was from local people.

#### *Occupational:*

- Organizing activities of education for people to use agricultural tools, insecticides and chemicals in safe, especially for labours in rice mills, mobile rice threshing vehicles.
- Training collaborators for raising knowledge on accident prevention.

#### *School:*

- Truong Lac has got 4 schools (1 kindergarten school, 2 elementary schools and 1 junior secondary school), 2,500 pupils. Nowadays, the Truong Lac No 1 Elementary School started to build a new premise of national standard at the finance of one billion dong. To continue activities of learning and teaching, the kindergarten school asked other elementary schools for support.

- School Boards have particularly concerned safety for pupils and this has been planned as one of competition items in schools.
- With the implementation of Decision No 170 by the Department of Health, dated Jan 1<sup>st</sup> 2006 on the issue of guidance of building safe community, preventing accidents and injuries, the Decision No 4458 by the Training and Education Department, dated Aug 22nd, 2009 22/8/2007 on the issue of regulations of building a safe school and preventing accidents and injuries in general schools. As a result, after 100% of schools had been monitored and evaluated, there were 2 among 4 schools that achieved five Vietnamese criteria of a safe school at the end of 2008. They are Truong Lac No 2 Elementary School and Truong Lac Junior High School.
- Combining with the District Office for Training and Education, CSB implemented tasks as following:
  - + Providing 100% of schools with first aid boxes.
  - + Organizing training courses of first aid for teachers in all schools.
  - + Holding periodical monitoring and checking activities of risks of accidents
  - + Holding a contest of knowledge on traffic practice for pupils at junior high schools in school year 2006-2007.
  - + Holding a contest of paintings and wall paper writing on the accident and injury prevention for pupils at elementary schools. This event attracted over 200 pupils to take part in it and the result was 70 paintings and 20 wallpapers that were done by pupils and introduced in schools.
  - + Establishing Health Information Corners on accident and injury prevention at schools.
  - + Planning targets of building safe school and preventing accidents and injuries as an competition item of teachers and pupils in school.
  - + Upgrading and repairing nearly 9.000 square metres of school ground.
  - + Building 9 new sanitary toilets at schools.

**Violence prevention** (intentional injuries):

- Organize more 36 times of conciliation on land and family conflicts; build healthy and cultural villages and relationship of mutual help in the neighborhood. – Cases of accident by social conflicts in 2009 decreases by nearly 64% compared with the number in 2005.

**Suicide prevention** (self-inflicted injuries):

- Organize 12 broadcasting programs on suicide prevention  
 - Cases of drowning accidents in 2009 decreases by 93% compared with the number of 2005.

**Programs aiming at "High risk-groups":**

Children: Preventing fall, downing, electricity shock, poisoning

Youth: Preventing traffic injury

Elderly: Preventing falls due to daily life activities, perception of safety

**Surveillance of injuries:**

The injury data reporting and surveillance system has been officially operated since 2002. All of injuries occurred at the commune were reported by collaborators and village health workers. The injured cases visited to the communal health station was recorded in the outpatient records. Deaths due to injury were also reported in the death registered records. All of the morbidity and mortality injury cases were collected and analyzed at the communal health station and then sent to the district health centre in the 5<sup>th</sup> day of months. The injury recording form, outpatient records and death registered records were collected and kept at the communal health station

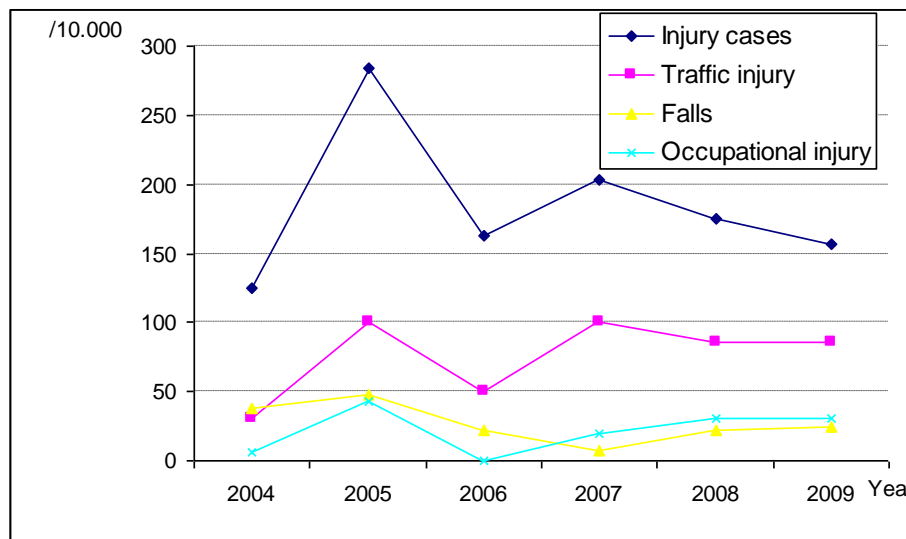
Reporting injured cases using the recording form are conducted by the village health workers and collaborators. This form consists of the following content: full name of victims, permanent address, place of accident (commune, district, province), occupations, places (on the road, at home, at school or others) injury mechanism (traffic accident, fall, labour accident, drowning, animal bite, poisoning, suicide, violence and other), treatment after getting injured, place of treatment...Reporting all necessary and accurate information is important.

Population base: 18.388

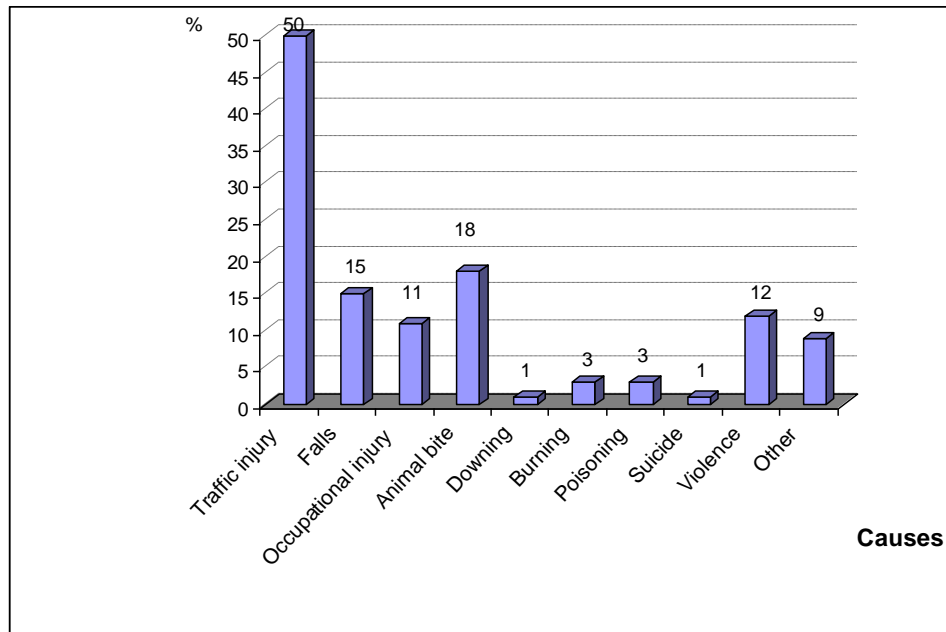
Started year: 2002

*Numbers per year:* According to statistic report in the commune, during 2004 - 2009 there were 1663 injury cases and with 34 deaths due to injury. Of which, 753 cases were of children under 19 years old (accounting for 45.3% of the total cases at the commune). The figure reflects a reality of which the childhood injury is still an emerging problem although number of cases has decreased annually. Luckily, the number of deaths were relatively low and tent to go down by years.

**Trend of injury morbidity from 2004 to 2009**



**Average injury mortality rate by causes per year during 2004-2009**



**Produced information material, pamphlets:**



*Books of health information and education on accident prevention*



*Posters and pictures conveying messages on accident prevention in the corner of health information and education in the Ward Health Station.*

## **Staff**

*Number:* 12

*Professions:* part-time

*Permanent:*

*Temporary:*

*Organization:* Communal Health Station, Culture - Sports and Tourism Broad, Police Office, Primary School, Kindergarden, Women Union, Cultural – Information Committee and Population, Children, Family and Population committee...

*Specific intersectoral leadership group:*

There is a Steering Committee of 12 members representing for different sector and organizations. They are from People's Committee, Communal Health Station, Culture - Sports and Tourism Broad, Police Office, Primary School, Kindergarden, Women Union, Cultural – Information Committee and Population, Children, Family and Population committee...

## **International commitments:**

*Study visits:* Visit to share experience on safe community development and injury prevention in Loc Son commune (international safe community) in Thua Thien Hue province

*Participation in Safe Community conferences:*

- The 3rd Asian community safety Regional Conference in Taipei, Taiwan (10/2005)
- The 5<sup>th</sup> Conference on Community Safety in Thailand.
- International Scientific on Injury Prevention and Safe Community Development. Ha Noi, October 26-27, 2006
- The First National Scientific Conference on Injury Prevention Ha Noi – November 14 -15, 2005

*Hosting Safe Community Conferences:* N/A

*Hosting "Travelling Seminars":* Site visit on safe community model at Truong Lac award