

ASIA-PACIFIC SOCIAL PROTECTION WEEK 2026

Empowered Lives, Resilient Futures

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Viet Nam: Community-Based Approaches — Lessons and a Pathway to Sustainable Long-Term Care

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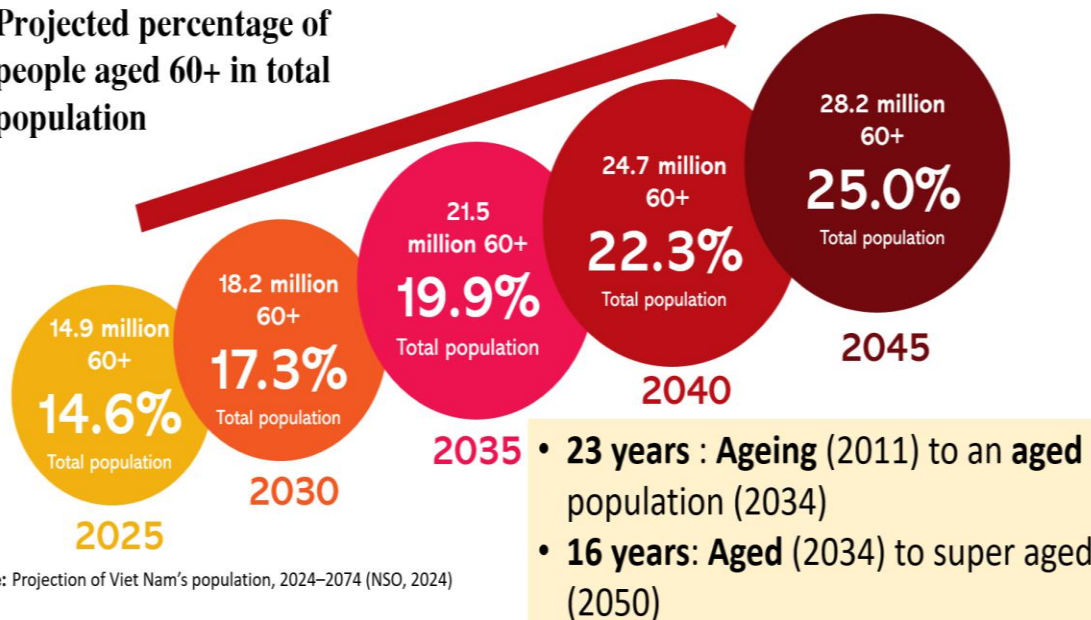
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Why community-based LTC matters in Viet Nam?

Rapid ageing and changing family structure are putting pressure on family care

Rapid ageing in Vietnam

Projected percentage of people aged 60+ in total population



1

Family remains **the backbone of LTC**

2

Traditional family care is **under pressure**

3

Home and community-based care is **generally preferred**

4

Viet Nam has **strong community assets**

- National wide network of **mass organizations**
- Government promoted Intergenerational Self-Help Clubs (ISHCs) – target **21,000 by 2035**
- A large network of community volunteers

Community-based LTC should complement family care — within a coordinated system led and enabled by government.



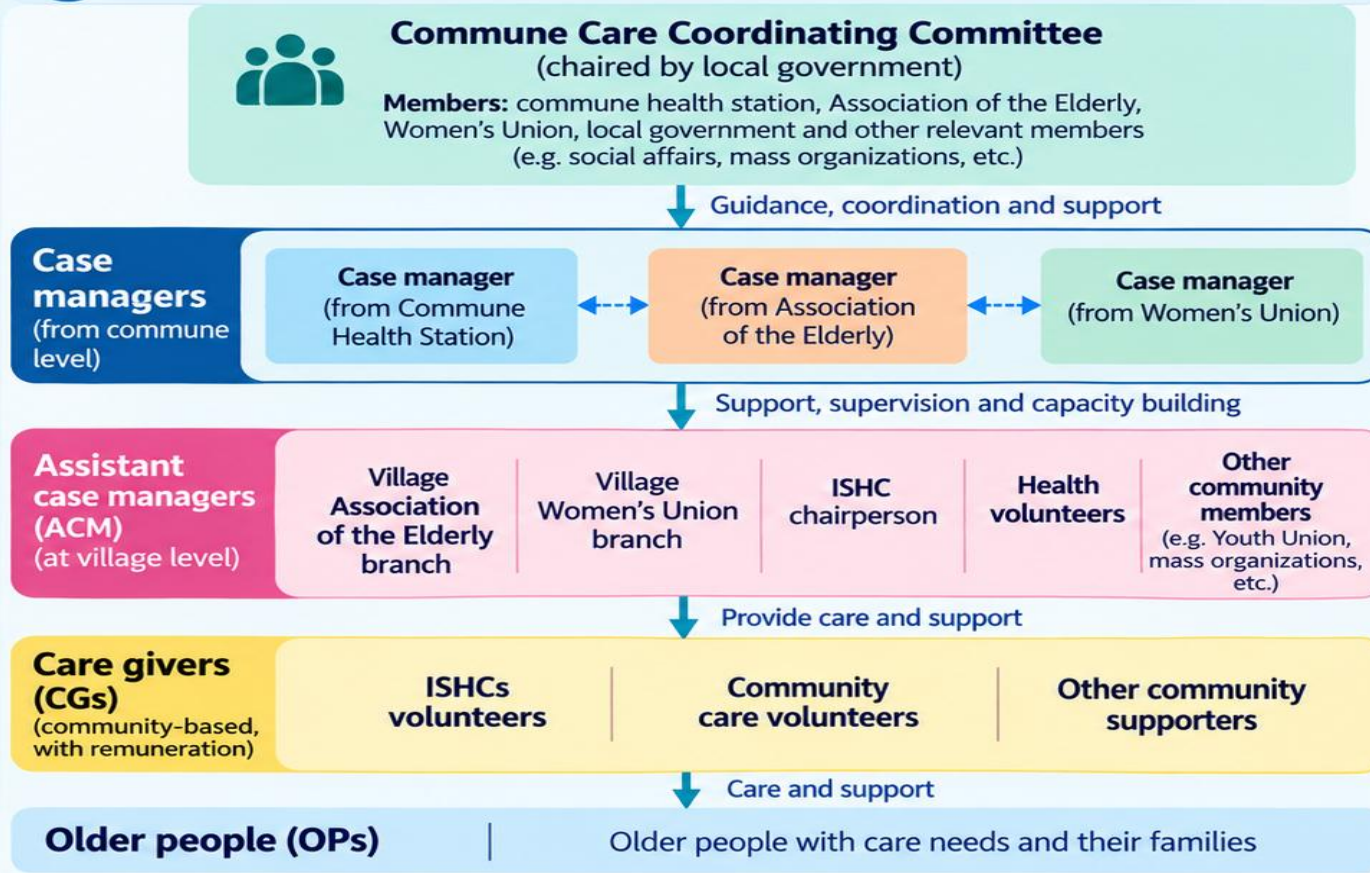
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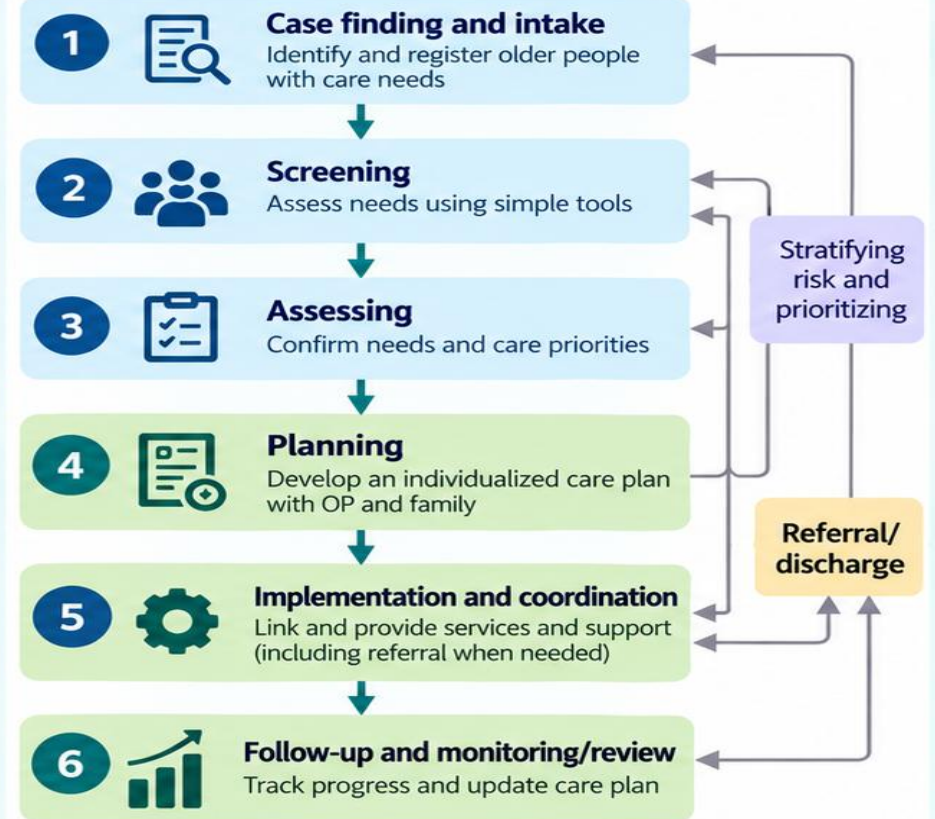
What did we test? A community-based model for coordinated care

Pilot in 12 villages (4 communes), Thanh Hoa and Hoa Binh (2023–2024)

1 Pilot structure: Multi-stakeholder coordination from commune to village



2 Case management process



The pilot showed that community care works best when local government connects community resources with formal health and social care.



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What makes the model effective?

1 Builds on existing community structures

Uses trusted local organizations and networks that are already in place, creating a familiar and sustainable platform for care.

2 Brings multiple stakeholders together

Local government provides **leadership and coordination**, bringing together communities, civil society, and health and social services, with clear and complementary roles.

3 Provides coordinated, person-centred care

Early identification, assessment, care planning, referrals and follow-up, ensuring older people receive the right support at the right time.

4 Supports families and community caregivers — beyond unpaid care

Provides training, supervision, coordination and appropriate support to community caregivers and family caregivers, recognizing and valuing their contribution.



Community-based care works best when community action is connected to the formal health and social care system, with strong local government leadership and coordination.





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What is needed to move towards a sustainable and scalable long-term care system?

1 Enabling policy and strong local leadership

- Clear **national policy and legal framework** for LTC
- Empowered **local governments** to lead and coordinate
- Integration into **plans, standards and budgets**

2 A recognised and supported workforce

- Trained and supported **community and family caregivers**
- Link with **professional health and social care staff**

3 Sustainable and diversified financing

- Expand **health insurance coverage** for home-based care and nursing services
- Mobilize **public and social resources**
- Explore **innovative financing mechanisms**

4 Integrated and quality-assured system

- **Standard tools** and referral pathways
- **Integrated** health and social care services
- **Quality assurance** and data systems

A continuum of care to meet different needs

Self-care
and healthy ageing

Family care
(with support)

Home and
community-based care

Day care
and respite care

Residential and
specialized care



Community-based care should be the foundation of the system, but not the only option. A sustainable LTC system needs a continuum of care, including home, community, day and residential services according to levels of need.



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Key take away

Build on what communities already have. Connect it through local government leadership. Support caregivers. Integrate health and social care. And ultimately, embed community care in a sustainable LTC system.

