

Enhancing motivational counselling training for HIV service providers in Vietnam ahead of national rollout: Insights into perceived applicability and barriers among trainees

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BACKGROUND

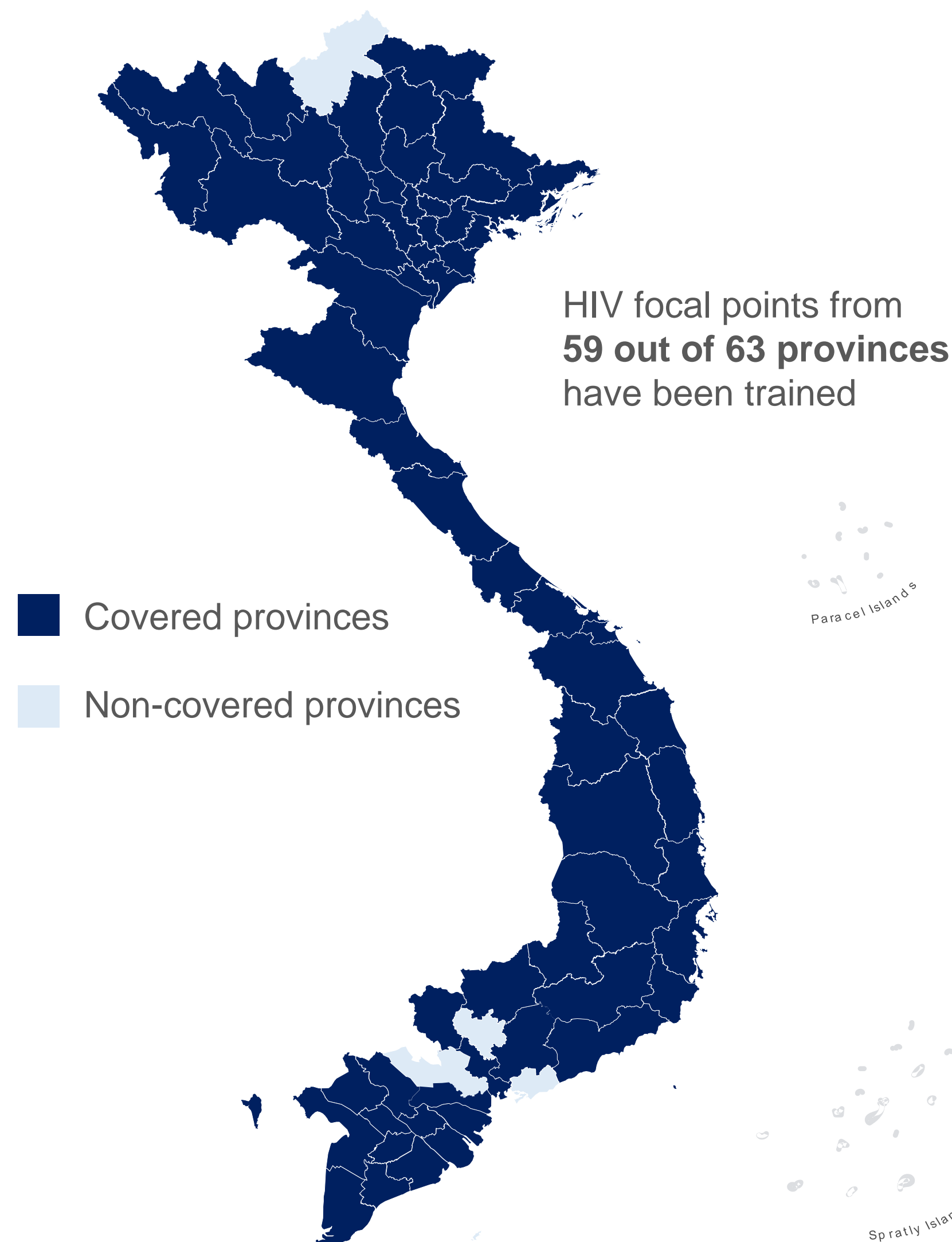
Vietnam's national strategy to end AIDS by 2030 includes enhancing service provider capacity.

Motivational counseling in behavioral communication strategies has shown to increase program effectiveness across the HIV service cascade¹.

Recognizing its evidence base, the USAID/PEPFAR-funded Meeting Targets and Maintaining Epidemic Control (EpiC) project collaborated with the Vietnam Administration for HIV/AIDS Control (VAAC) to provide motivational counseling trainings for HIV service providers from provincial centers for disease control, regional and national institutes, and community partners.

EpiC administered in-training and post-training surveys to gain insights into participants' perceived applicability of motivational counseling and used these data to inform the development of a national training curriculum.

FIGURE 1. Geographical coverage of motivational counseling trainings



DESCRIPTION

EpiC and the VAAC partnered to deliver motivational counseling training for several cohorts.

September 2022 to August 2023

Selected facility and community-based healthcare providers from 59 of 63 provinces

Two surveys were conducted.

275 participants took a survey during the training wrap-up to:

- Measure self-perceived confidence and commitment to applying motivational counseling
- Evaluate training objectives, applicability, content, design, and facilitation

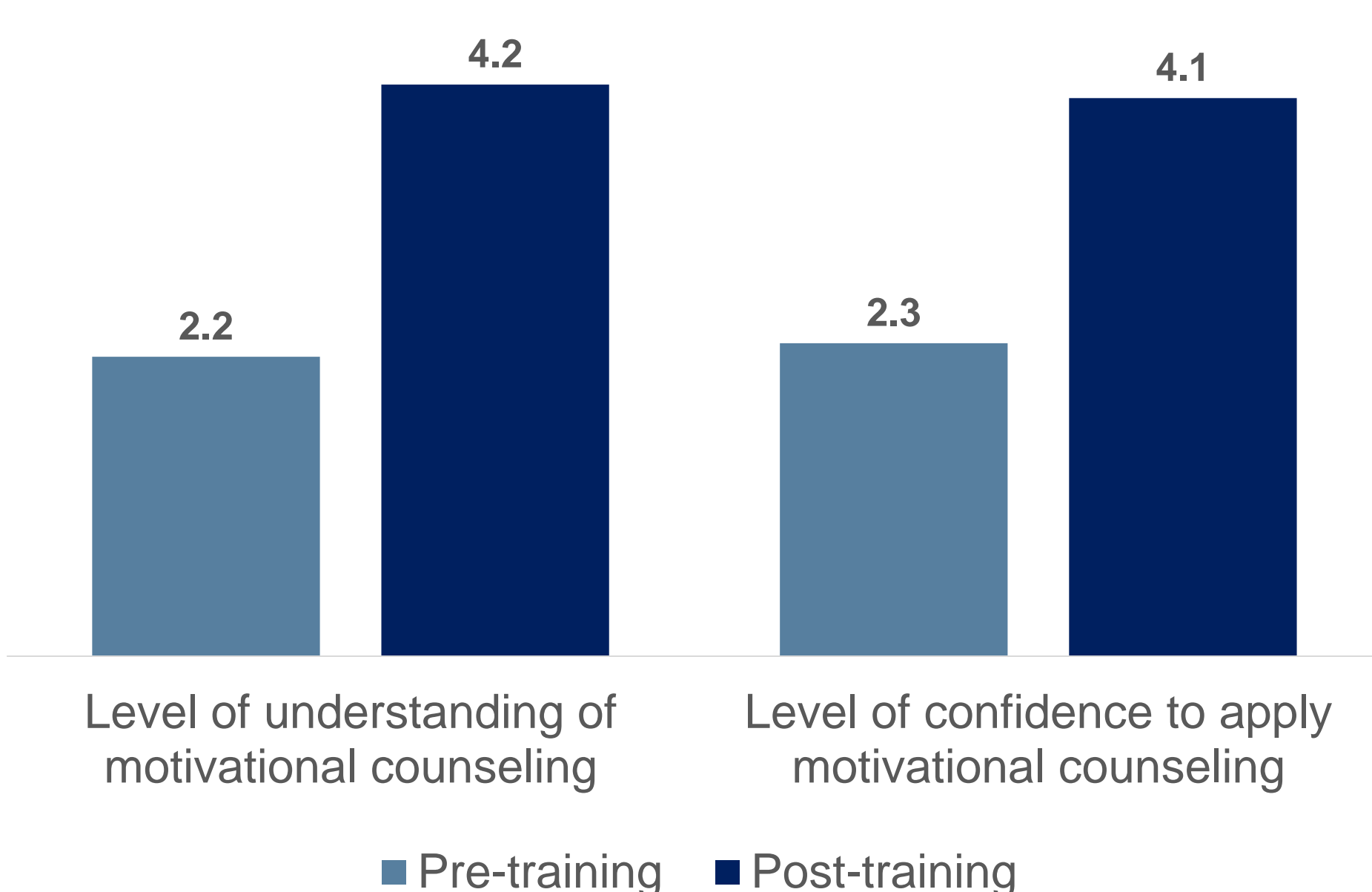
158 participants completed a second survey three to six months later to:

- Assess their use of motivational counseling
- Describe barriers to effective application

LESSONS LEARNED

In-training survey responses showed increased confidence in use and commitment to applying motivational counseling after the training.

FIGURE 2. Level of understanding of, and confidence in using motivational counseling skills (5-point scale)



Feedback on training objectives, applicability, content, facilitation, and course design was positive.

10-point scale



8.8

Achieved learning objectives



8.9

Helpful and applicable to work

Agenda and contents were clear and organized

★★★★★ 4.6/5.0

Facilitators were effective and helpful

★★★★★ 4.7/5.0

The online course employs diverse learning modalities and is easy to learn

★★★★★ 4.5/5.0

POST-TRAINING SURVEY FINDINGS

N=158



Most common reason for successful application in work:

Participation in training (106)

Other common reasons for successful application in work include:



Personal motivation to apply what is learned (73)



Training tools and materials (70)



Recognition for applying what is learned (49)

Topics most recommended to explore more deeply



Dealing with resistance (73)



Eliciting talk about change (69)



Recognizing talk about change (51)

CONCLUSIONS

Understanding participant perceptions of the utility of motivational counseling training is crucial to strengthen its applicability.

The use of in- and post-training surveys can provide valuable feedback to inform the development of more practical exercises, such as more relevant roleplay scenarios, and appropriate time for each module.

Ongoing efforts by EpiC and the VAAC:

Joint development of a national motivational counseling training curriculum

• **Target audience:** public and non-government HIV providers

• **Target populations:** Key populations at risk of HIV acquisition and transmission

• **Launch:** 2024



Draft version of motivational counseling learner's textbook and trainer's guide

REFERENCES

¹ Miller, W. R., & Rollnick, S. (2023). Motivational interviewing: helping people change and grow. Fourth edition. New York, NY, The Guilford Press, a division of Guilford Publications, Inc.

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