



Vietnam

Even before Vietnam's largest waves of COVID-19, country leaders knew they could face unprecedented demand for medical oxygen.

As of 2020, the Vietnam Ministry of Health, with support from PATH and other partners, carried out multiple initiatives to improve reliable supply of oxygen, including:

ASSESSMENT

- + Conducted an **analysis of gaps in respiratory care equipment and oxygen supplies** across 993 health facilities:
 - » Results showed hospitals were well-equipped to handle moderate COVID-19 outbreaks, but additional hospitals would need to be mobilized for more serious outbreaks.
 - » The analysis gave Ministry officials insight into the realistic needs of hospitals, as well as practical actions that could be taken to rapidly expand oxygen access.
- + Carried out a **qualitative study on health facilities' medical equipment management systems**:
 - » The results showed a need for a real-time online platform for medical equipment management and for tracking equipment use in emergencies.
- + Carried out a **study on the policy and practice of medical equipment procurement** in Vietnam, which was provided to the Ministry of Health, with recommendations for a more efficient procurement process for both routine and emergency care.



COORDINATION

- + Shared the interim results of the equipment analysis with **partners and donors** to leverage global funding opportunities for oxygen and to support the oxygen work of other organizations in Vietnam to coordinate and enhance response activities.
- + Held **workshops** to coordinate and exchange technical information on ensuring oxygen supplies.



CAPACITY-BUILDING

- + Developed an **online platform** to track equipment usage in real time, which enabled patient prioritization based on severity of their symptoms and allocation to oxygen-equipped facilities.
- + Identified **ten key training resources on the use of medical oxygen** and distributed them to health care workers across all 63 provinces in Vietnam.



In addition to catalyzing a US\$4.4 million investment in liquid oxygen systems, these efforts highlighted the critical need of medical oxygen to the Ministry of Health so it was better prepared to act when COVID-19 outbreaks occurred.

Developing, piloting, and deploying a real-time medical equipment management system—which will enable responsive action in the event of future pandemics or health emergencies—will be a critical priority to sustain this progress.