

## ***Intimate Partner Violence and Reproductive Health in Tanzania and Vietnam (PAVE)***

### **Project description:**

**Background:** The project begins from the assumption that to advance sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), intimate partner violence (IPV) must be addressed. Research shows that violence against women is associated with significant SRH problems, and that the most common form of violence is that performed by a male partner. This project takes a two-country comparative approach, aiming to highlight how social factors, cultural norms and gender relations structure experiences of and responses to violence. While the overall relationships between violence and SRH are by now well established, there is a lack of knowledge regarding the more specific associations. First, it is not clear HOW IPV affects SRH: there is a lack of prospective studies of the underlying local-level processes through which associations between IPV and SRH are generated. Second, it is not clear how the primary health care sector can best address this problem, as lack of knowledge about the pathways by which violence impacts SRH hampers health sector capacities to care for women exposed to violence. Viewing violence against women as a human rights abuse, this project aims to produce new interdisciplinary knowledge about the linkages between IPV and SRH with particular emphasis on health sector responses. The research will be conducted in Tanzania and Vietnam, two countries with socialist histories where national surveys show high IPV prevalence and governments express commitment to combat gender inequalities. It will be carried out in antenatal care clinics and maternal health care clinics in Tanzania and Vietnam, using similar research methods in the two countries

**Objectives:** 1) To generate new knowledge about the pathways by which intimate partner violence impacts sexual and reproductive health through interdisciplinary research carried out in reproductive health facilities and local communities in Tanzania and Vietnam, with a view to more general connections between violence, gender, and health; 2) To identify key elements of a systematic approach to improve sexual/reproductive health care services for women experiencing violence from an intimate partner; 3) To enhance research capacity among sexual and reproductive health researchers in Tanzania and Vietnam with particular emphasis on the strengthening of interdisciplinary research skills; 4) To improve research collaboration among the involved countries, with a particular view to stronger South-South collaboration in sexual/reproductive health research.

**Outputs:** 1) New knowledge of the impact of intimate partner violence on women's sexual and reproductive health. The project will produce 4 PhD theses; 2. New approaches to reproductive health service delivery; 3) Improved capacities among researchers in the two countries to conduct interdisciplinary and internationally informed research on gender and sexual/reproductive health; 4. Improved collaboration between researchers, research institutions, and non-governmental organizations in the involved countries.