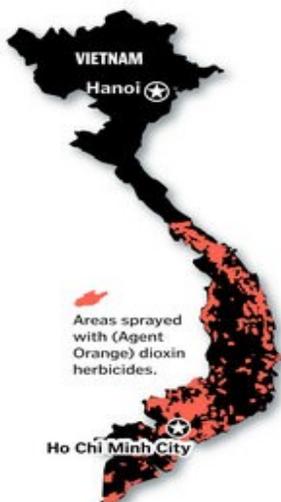


ADDRESSING THE LEGACY OF AGENT ORANGE



- ◇ *Agent Orange was sprayed over 12 percent of Vietnam's land mass.*
- ◇ *Today, 28 "hot spots" of concentrated dioxin remain.*
- ◇ *Thousands of U.S. veterans and more than 2 million Vietnamese citizens live with the effects of chemical exposure.*
- ◇ *The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs recognizes 14 diseases related to Agent Orange exposure.*
- ◇ *The dioxin can cause birth defects, congenital diseases and susceptibility to cancers in the children of those directly exposed.*



Mennonite Central Committee and Vietnam

Mennonite Central Committee (MCC), a worldwide ministry of Anabaptist churches, shares God's love and compassion for all by responding to basic human needs and working for peace and justice.

Throughout the Vietnam War, MCC provided relief to people displaced by the conflict and spoke out against the suffering of innocent people. An MCC delegation visiting the White House expressed **"opposition to the escalation of military efforts which increase the dimension of human suffering,"** articulating MCC's conviction that peace cannot merely be the absence of conflict but must also restore right relationships between all people and creation.

How is MCC working with those affected by Agent Orange?

Today, MCC continues to work with vulnerable populations in Vietnam to repair the damage inflicted upon Vietnamese civilians as a result of war, especially those affected by exposure to Agent Orange. MCC partners with local agencies, primarily the Vietnam Association for Victims of Agent Orange (VAVA), to **provide medical services and livelihood assistance to victims of the dioxin.** VAVA operates in almost every province of Vietnam with more than 360,000 members. MCC works with VAVA to:

- ◆ Provide educational support and appropriate occupational therapy to 2nd generation-affected persons.
- ◆ Assist families affected by Agent Orange by training volunteers in home-based therapy activities.
- ◆ Collaborate with veterans' peace groups to encourage international awareness and support for the victims of Agent Orange.
- ◆ Advocate for U.S. recognition of the damages caused by Agent Orange in Vietnam.

The Victims of Agent Orange Relief Act (H.R. 334)

The Victims of Agent Orange Relief Act (H.R. 334), introduced by Rep. Barbara Lee of California, addresses the following issues:

1

Agent Orange “hot spots” continue to affect Vietnamese people living near the sprayed areas.

H.R. 334

Mandates the remediation of geographic regions and surrounding ecosystems that contain high levels of Agent Orange

2

People affected by the dioxin in Vietnam have limited access to proper health care and many live in substandard homes.

H.R. 334

- ◇ Provides training and resources to Vietnamese institutions for treatment of Agent Orange/dioxin-related illnesses
- ◇ Improves the availability of health care programs to those in affected areas
- ◇ Provides resources for housing and reconstruction to affected families

3

Vietnamese-Americans have limited access to health services related to Agent Orange treatment.

H.R. 334

Establishes centers that offer counseling, assessment, and treatment services to Vietnamese-Americans for conditions related to Agent Orange

4

Previous legislation did not extend medical benefits to children of male veterans exposed to Agent Orange.

H.R. 334

- ◇ Provides medical assistance and disability benefits to affected children of U.S. veterans of the Vietnam War
- ◇ Equalizes benefits to the children of male and female U.S. veterans

5

Research has yet to be conducted on the long-term effects of Agent Orange and the health outcomes of those treated for diseases related to exposure.

H.R. 334

- ◇ Appropriates funds through grants for public health and Vietnamese-American organizations to conduct health assessment studies on exposed individuals and their children
- ◇ Directs health outcomes research to be conducted for those affected by Agent Orange in the U.S. and Vietnam