Background
The HIV epidemic has been ended among people who inject drugs (PWID) in most high-resource setting thanks to combined interventions including harm reduction activities and access to HIV care, but not in low-middle income countries where the HIV prevalence remains high.

Objective
To assess whether the HIV epidemic could be ended using combined interventions

Methods
We conducted 3 annual (from 2016 to 2018) community-based Respondent-Driven Sampling (RDS) surveys among PWID which fueled an open prospective cohort of HIV negative PWID. For each RDS and each bi-annual follow up visits, we realised: multi drug test, HIV and HCV testing, HIV viral load testing when infected, and collected care history, drug use patterns, addiction treatment history and sexual behaviours.

Inclusion criteria were: having more than 18 years, currently injecting drug, having positive urine for heroin (HER) or methamphetamine (MET) and having recent skin marks of injection.

OUTCOMES
- We calculated HIV incidence using follow-up time accumulated in number of person-years in the cohort and in HIV-negative PWID recaptured in a subsequent RDS survey.
- At each survey, we estimated the viroemia prevalence (proportion of all participants with plasma viral load > 1000 copies/ml) and the HIV cascade of care.

Results
The vast majority of participants were eligible.

Among the 896 PWID recruited for the HIV-negative cohort, 130 (14.5%) did not attend any follow-up visit and were not included in the incidence estimation. The cohort participants accumulated 1120 years of follow up and only one seroconversion was observed. The HIV incidence rate was 0.9/1000 PY (95%CI: 0.2;5.0).

Overall 281 HIV-negative participants have been recaptured and cumulated 377 years of follow up with no seroconversion. The incidence rate was 0/1000 PY (97.5%CI: 0.9;8).

Cumulating 1497 years of follow-up from the 1177 distinct HIV-negative PWID, the HIV incidence was 0.7/1000 PY (Poison 95%CI: 0.0;3.7).

The HIV viroemia decreased from 7.2% at RDS1 to 5.4% at RDS2 and 3.1% at RDS3.

Conclusion
Despite a high prevalence, the HIV epidemic has now been ended in the large PWID population of Haiphong. This remarkable success has been achieved through a combination of successful intervention from the national program (study with implications for interventions. AIDS Care 28, 1312–1315. https:// doi.org/10.1080/09540121.2016.1178698).

References