From 1961 through 1971 (during the Vietnam War), American forces sprayed more than 80 million liters of toxic chemicals, mostly known as “Agent Orange,” on the southern part of Vietnam. Agent Orange contained a highly toxic substance of Dioxin that causes long-term hazardous effects on genes and chromosomes, as well as acute health and environmental effects.

Around 35 years after the end of this war, the scars of war in Vietnam still remain serious. It is estimated that among 4.8 million people exposed to Agent Orange/Dioxin countrywide, 3 million of them developed serious health problems. Consequently, thousands have died of the long term health effects of Agent Orange/Dioxin, while millions of their descendants suffer from several forms of deformities and disabilities and live in illness and poverty.

Hundreds of thousands of women who were exposed to Agent Orange have experienced reproductive complications and have either lost their chance of being a mother or have babies with serious congenital malformations.

The legacy of Agent Orange Memories of the Vietnam War are dimming, but veterans and Vietnamese nationals who were exposed to Agent Orange and other dioxin-laced defoliants are still experiencing devastating health effects, and birth defects have brought the impact into a second generation. Yet the U.S. government has yet to make full amends, either in the U.S. or overseas.