

Viet Nam Work Plan

FY 2021

Program Year 3

October 2020–September 2021



**The Fred Hollows
Foundation**



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ACT | EAST PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The U.S. Agency for International Development Act to End Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) | East Program supports national NTD programs in reaching World Health Organization goals for NTD control and elimination through proven, cost-effective public health interventions. The Act to End NTDs | East (Act | East) Program also provides critical support to countries on their journey to self-reliance, helping them create sustainable programming for NTD control within robust and resilient health systems. The Act | East Program is being implemented by a consortium of partners, led by RTI International and including The Carter Center; Fred Hollows Foundation; IMA World Health; Light for the World; Results for Development (R4D); Save the Children; Sightsavers; and Women Influencing Health, Education, and Rule of Law (WI-HER).

In Viet Nam, Act | East program activities are implemented by Fred Hollows Foundation.

COVID-19 PANDEMIC IMPACT ON ACT TO END NTDs | EAST (ACT | EAST) ACTIVITIES AND WORK PLANS

Act | East recognizes the impact that the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic has had on all programs. On April 1, 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) issued interim guidance to neglected tropical disease (NTD) programs recommending that almost all in-person activities be postponed until further notice. With the support of USAID, Act | East stopped all activities that matched the criteria outlined in WHO's interim guidance.

On July 27, 2020, WHO issued further interim guidance on assessing whether NTD activities could restart safely. Alongside this, Act | East, in collaboration with Act | West and USAID, developed activity restart guidance and resource documents to support each country in safely implementing activities while adapting to the COVID-19 challenge and adhering to global guidance.

The timeline to restart activities will be context-specific, varying by country, region, and activity, and is subject to changes in COVID-19 dynamics. For the sake of brevity, all amendments to activity design to account for COVID-19 have not been listed in each country's work plans.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Acronyms List.....	iii
Viet Nam	1
1. National NTD Program Overview and Support	1
Administrative Structure.....	1
2. IR1 Planned Activities: Trachoma	1
Program Context.....	1
Host Government and Partner Supported Activities	2
Dossier Status for LF.....	3
Dossier Status for Trachoma.....	3
Appendix 1. Maps	3

ACRONYMS LIST

Act East	Act to End Neglected Tropical Diseases East
COVID-19	Coronavirus Disease 2019
FHF	Fred Hollows Foundation
GDMP	General Department of Preventative Medicine
LF	Lymphatic Filariasis
MOH	Ministry of Health
NIMPE	National Institute for Malariaology, Parasitology and Entomology
NTD	Neglected Tropical Disease
TEP	Trachoma Elimination Plan
TF	Trachomatous Inflammation—Follicular
TIS	Trachoma Impact Survey
TSS	Trachoma Surveillance Survey
TT	Trachomatous Trichiasis
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VNEH	Viet Nam National Eye Hospital
WHO	World Health Organization

VIET NAM

1. NATIONAL NTD PROGRAM OVERVIEW AND SUPPORT

Administrative Structure

Viet Nam has an estimated population of 94.9 million (50.2% female).¹ The country is divided into 63 provinces, 595 districts, and 9,050 communes. Within the Ministry of Health (MOH), the General Department of Preventive Medicine (GDPM) is responsible for coordinating and managing the national neglected tropical disease (NTD) program. The National Institute for Malariology, Parasitology and Entomology (NIMPE) is responsible for the lymphatic filariasis (LF) elimination program and STH control activities. The Viet Nam National Eye Hospital (VNEH)² is responsible for the provision of eye health care, including programming to eliminate trachoma. GDPM is accountable to the MOH on disease prevention and health education, while NIMPE and VNEH are accountable for clinical treatment agencies.

The VNEH is currently the highest technical support center for eye care in the country and is also the primary technical consultation agency for the MOH for eye care related policies. The VNEH is the technical lead for trachoma elimination in the country and is also responsible for establishing and managing the trachoma surveillance system to ensure ongoing management of new incidence of trachomatous trichiasis (TT) and trachomatous inflammation–follicular (TF) and ensuring long-term sustainability of trachoma elimination.

2. IR1 PLANNED ACTIVITIES: TRACHOMA

Program Context

Trachoma surveys completed between 2014 and 2016 identified seven “hot spot” villages with TF > 5% in Ha Giang Province in the far north of the country, in the Lung Ho Commune of Yen Minh District. TT was not found to be a public health problem in any village. One round of MDA was conducted by VNEH and Fred Hollows Foundation (FHF) under the ENVISION project, in these hot spot areas in July 2017; 1,875 people out of 2,350 (79.8%) received treatment. In February 2018, the VNEH conducted a trachoma impact survey (TIS), which found that TF prevalence among children aged 1–9 years old had dropped to 2.2%. Aligned with WHO protocol, a trachoma surveillance survey (TSS) was planned in focal areas (hot spot villages) of Lung Ho Commune in February 2020, two years after the TIS in these villages. The survey protocol was replicated from the 2018 TIS and was approved by Tropical Data³ in February 2020.

Other trachoma surveys in Ha Giang Province in April 2017 found active trachoma still to be a public health problem in Meo Vac and Dong Van Districts, with TF prevalence of 5.1%. However, TT was not found to be a public health problem in either district. MDA took place in September and October 2019, with MDA coverage rates of 91% and 86%, respectively. A TIS will be conducted in these two districts in late 2020, followed by a TSS in 2022.

Baseline surveys were also undertaken in three districts in March 2019: Khoai Chau (Hung Yen Province), Lac Son (Hoa Binh Province), and Na Ri (Bac Kan Province). Both TT and TF prevalence in all districts

¹ General Statistic Office Viet Nam (www.gso.vn), 2019

² VNEH has been previously known to USAID as the Viet Nam National Institute of Ophthalmology, or VNIO, and as the National Trachoma Institute prior to that. The name was changed to the Viet Nam National Eye Hospital in 2019.

³ Tropical Data is a WHO-led initiative that assists national NTD programs with epidemiological survey support.

were below the World Health Organization (WHO) threshold for trachoma intervention. Further surveys in other districts (except Dong Van and Meo Vac Districts and Lung Ho Commune) will not be required, and the remainder of Viet Nam is now classified as non-endemic or no longer suspected endemic.

FY21 Activity: TSS in focal areas of Lung Ho Commune

In accordance with WHO guidance, a TSS will be undertaken in focal areas (“hot spot” villages) of Lung Ho Commune (Yen Minh District, Ha Giang Province) two years after the impact survey in these villages. The survey protocol will replicate that used for the TIS in 2018. VNEH staff will coordinate with Ha Giang Eye Hospital to supervise the survey. The survey will be led by the VNEH, which also will provide ongoing support to supervisors throughout the survey. All TT or TF cases identified will be provided with a referral and followed up in future outreach campaigns that will be conducted by Ha Giang Eye Hospital. Data will be collected using Android devices, then submitted and stored on a secured cloud-based server maintained by Tropical Data. Prevalence estimates for TT in adults aged 15 and older and TF in children aged 1–9 years by evaluation unit will be reported. Technical support and supervision will also be provided by FHF.

FY21 Activity: TIS in Meo Vac and Dong Van Districts

A TIS will be undertaken in Meo Vac and Dong Van Districts to determine TF and TT prevalence. The surveys will follow Tropical Data guidelines, and technical support will be sought from Tropical Data for planning sample size, cluster selection, data collection, and analysis. All TT or TF cases will be provided with a referral and followed up in future outreach campaigns conducted by Ha Giang Eye Hospital. Training, supervision, and data collection will follow the same protocols as the TSS activity above.

FY21 Activity: National Workshop for Data Review and Dossier Development

In FY21, Act | East will work with the VNEH and other stakeholders at national and provincial levels to continue preparation of the draft trachoma dossier by convening this workshop. The workshop will be held in December 2020 to review new data and to incorporate the results of the FY18, FY19, and FY20 trachoma activities (including TIS and TSS results) and to collect economic improvement and water, sanitation, and hygiene indicators into the draft dossier. Participants will include Hanoi-based participants from VNEH, MOH, GDPM, NIMPE, and FHF; regionally based participants from provincial departments of health; and international invitees from WHO Viet Nam, WHO Geneva, International Trachoma Initiative, USAID, FHF, and RTI. At this workshop, a dossier development team will be nominated and tasked with translating the dossier documents into Vietnamese.

FY21 Activity: National Workshop for MOH Review of Dossier

The first national workshop described above will bring stakeholders together to review all data and resources to create the final draft dossier in Vietnamese. A second national workshop will be held in March 2021 to review the draft dossier, in Vietnamese and with all incorporated data, as assigned at the previous workshop. This second workshop will produce a finalized draft dossier that will be submitted to the MOH for a rigorous final review. MOH approval of this final draft dossier will be the last step before it is submitted to WHO in 2022. The results from the final two TSSs in July 2022 will be inserted easily into the final draft dossier once surveys are completed.

Host Government and Partner Supported Activities

All NTD activities in Viet Nam are implemented directly by the government. Trachoma activities in this work plan will be implemented in partnership with the VNEH, which will also coordinate and lead the

two dossier development workshops. FHF staff will work closely with the VNEH to prepare for trachoma surveys, including site coordination visits to finalize logistics for and supervise the TIS and TSS. The MOH and GDPM will lead the final drafting of the trachoma dossier.

Dossier Status for LF

Viet Nam finalized and submitted its LF dossier to WHO for validation in August 2018 and declared LF elimination in January 2019.

Dossier Status for Trachoma

Viet Nam's trachoma dossier development began in FY18, under ENVISION project support. In May 2018, VNEH hosted a Trachoma Elimination Plan (TEP) workshop with ENVISION technical and financial support, where it was decided that the draft dossier should be reviewed and modified with updated information/data by an in-country technical specialist before submitting it to the MOH for review in late 2021. Act | East and FHF will continue to provide technical and coordination support to the VNEH in conducting TIS and TSS (FY20 and FY22) and dossier development and review (FY21 and FY22) until the dossier is submitted in 2022 and trachoma elimination in Viet Nam is validated.

APPENDIX 1. MAPS

Vietnam

Progress Towards Elimination in FY21

- Not endemic
- Endemic, in MDA phase
- Pending DSA results
- TIS in FY21
- TSS in FY21
- TIS and TSS in FY21
- In post-MDA surveillance phase
- Requires mapping
- Data not available

Data as of: 7/31/2020

Data Source: USAID's NTD Database

Maps prepared by USAID's Act to End NTDs | End Program implemented by RTI International through the generous support of the American People through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) under cooperative agreement No. 7700AA11KCA00048.

Disclaimer: Data may have not yet been approved by at least one level in the USAID NTD data review process.

