

Southeast Asia Work Plan Viet Nam

FY 2022

Program Year 4

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ACT | EAST PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) Act to End Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) | East Program (Act | East) supports national NTD programs in reaching World Health Organization (WHO) goals for NTD control and elimination through proven, cost-effective public health interventions. The 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 The Fred Hollows Foundation.

COVID-19 PANDEMIC IMPACT ON ACT | EAST ACTIVITIES AND WORK PLANS

The coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic continues to impact neglected tropical disease (NTD) programs. On April 1, 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) issued guidance to 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.

On July 27, 2020, WHO issued further guidance on assessing whether NTD activities could restart safely. Act | East, in collaboration with Act | West and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), developed activity restart guidance and resource documents to support each country to adapt activities appropriately.

Decisions on all supported activities continue to be made in close coordination with ministries of health and are context-specific, varying by country, region, and activity type, and are subject to changes in COVID-19 dynamics. Act | East continues to provide regular updates to USAID on the plans for specific activities through the submission of monthly updates.

Unless noted, work plans for fiscal year 2022 assume a full year of activities and are written with the best information available at the time of submission. Nevertheless, the situation may change in some countries and will result in adjustments to work plans. Act | East will continue to communicate with USAID to discuss these changes as the situation evolves.

ACRONYMS LIST

Act East	Act to End Neglected Tropical Diseases East
COVID-19	Coronavirus Disease 2019
FHF	Fred Hollows Foundation
FY	Fiscal Year
GDPM	General Department of Preventive Medicine
MDA	Mass Drug Administration
MOH	Ministry of Health
NIMPE	National Institute for Malariaology, Parasitology and Entomology
NTD	Neglected Tropical Disease
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

Viet Nam has an estimated population of 95.9 million. 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 NTD program. The National Institute for Malariology, Parasitology and Entomology (NIMPE) is responsible for the Lymphatic Filariasis elimination program and Soil-Transmitted Helminths control activities. The Viet Nam National Eye Hospital (VNEH) 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, responsible for rolling out the trachoma elimination program and achieving trachoma elimination on behalf of the MOH. The VNEH 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.

Ha Giang Province

Baseline surveys completed in suspected endemic districts of Ha Giang province in April 2017 found active trachoma to be a public health concern in Meo Vac and Dong Van districts, with TF prevalence of 5.1%. TT was not found to be a public health concern in either district. The two districts have a combined population of approximately 144,457, according to VNEH reports in 2020. One round of mass drug administration (MDA) was planned in December 2018 with support from the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) for procurement and distribution of azithromycin and TEO for Meo Vac and Dong Van districts. The MDA took place in September and October 2019 with MDA coverage of 91% and 86% in the two districts, respectively.

In December 2020 (Fiscal Year [FY]21), VNEH conducted an impact survey of Meo Vac and Dong Van districts. The trachoma impact survey (TIS) results showed that the prevalence of active trachoma was below the elimination threshold in both districts (0.7% TF in children aged 1–9 years). In accordance with WHO guidelines, these districts are eligible for trachoma surveillance survey (TSS) in December 2022.

Lung Ho Commune, Yen Minh District

In Lung Ho commune (Yen Minh district, Ha Giang province) in the far north of Viet Nam, surveys between 2014 and 2016 identified seven “hot spot” villages with TF > 5%. TT was not found to be a public health concern in any village. In July 2017, VNEH conducted one round of MDA with support

from ENVISION partner The Fred Hollows Foundation (FHF) in these seven villages. 1,875 people out of 2,350 (79.8%) received treatment during that MDA. In February 2018, the VNEH conducted a trachoma impact survey (TIS) in the same areas. After one round of MDA, the TIS results showed that TF prevalence among children aged 1–9 years old had dropped to 2.2%.

Aligned with WHO protocol, a TSS was planned in Lung Ho commune two years after the TIS, in February 2020. Because of delays caused by the global COVID-19 pandemic and the onset of rainy season, this TSS was not conducted until late November 2020. The TSS was planned as a household survey, covering all households in all seven villages of Lung Ho commune, but was not completed due to inaccessible roads during an extended rainy season. VNEH agreed to return to Lung Ho commune to complete the survey in the two villages that were mostly inaccessible during the previous survey period.

Suspected Endemic Districts

New baseline surveys were completed in three districts in March 2019: Khoai Chau (Hung Yen province); Lac Son (Hoa Binh province), and Na Ri (Bac Kan province). TT and TF prevalence in all districts were below the WHO threshold for trachoma intervention. These three districts were selected for surveying as they were considered most likely to have active trachoma based on previous prevalence data with no definitive treatment or follow up surveys conducted. Based on guidance from the May 2018 Trachoma Elimination Planning meeting, as surveys in these districts have shown trachoma to not be a public health concern, further baseline measurements in other un-surveyed districts will not be required and the remainder of Viet Nam is now classified as non-endemic or no longer suspected endemic.

2. ACT | EAST FY22 ACTIVITIES

National Workshops for Dossier Finalization

Act | East will support two national workshops to update and finalize Viet Nam’s trachoma elimination dossier. The first workshop, the **National Workshop for Data Review and Dossier Development**, participants will review new data and incorporate the results of the FY18–FY20 trachoma activities (including TIS and TSS results) and collection of economic improvement and WASH indicators into the pre-dossier. The second workshop, the **National Workshop for MOH Review of Dossier**, will be held to review the updated draft dossier translated in Vietnamese and along with the data incorporated at the first workshop. This workshop will produce a finalized draft dossier in Vietnamese that will be submitted to the MOH alongside the English version, for a rigorous final review. MOH approval of this final draft dossier will be the last step before the English version is submitted to WHO.