

## END in Asia

### *(End Neglected Tropical Diseases in Asia Project in Vietnam)*

The END (End Neglected Tropical Diseases) in Asia project is sponsored by United States Agency for International Development (USAID), and directed from FHI 360's Asia and Pacific Regional office in Bangkok, Thailand. FHI 360 staff work with Vietnamese government partners from the National Institute of Malariology, Parasitology and Entomology (NIMPE) and the National Institute of Ophthalmology (NIO) to fill crucial gaps and strengthen efforts to control and eliminate neglected tropical diseases (NTD), particularly soil transmitted helminthes (STH) and trachoma.



*A pupil in a Primary School in Ha Nam province in the Mass Drug Administration Day.*

#### **Activities of the project in Vietnam in FY2014:**

**Component 1: The National Institute of Malariology, Parasitology and Entomology (NIMPE)** will implement the following activities focusing on the control of Soil Transmitted Helminthes (STH):

**A. Mass Drug Administration (MDA) for School Aged Children in Selected Provinces.** MDAs for children of school age in 11 priority provinces will occur in two rounds, the first round in October/November 2013 and the second in April/May 2014. During each of these rounds, END in Asia provided funding for per diems and travel expenses for national, provincial and district staff to implement the MDAs in their respective areas, and conduct simple information, education, and communication (IEC) activities in each target village. All drugs were donated by World Vision Australia.

**B. National Workshop on the Implementation of MDAs for Priority Provinces.** In October 2013, before the first round of MDAs, a workshop was held for relevant staff from all 12 priority provinces involved in MDA for STH funded by END in Asia. The goal of the workshop was to improve coverage rates and strengthen compliance within each of these priority provinces. Approximately 60 participants attended this one-day meeting in Hanoi.

**C. National NTD Stakeholder Meeting.** NIMPE will organize a one-day meeting for all stakeholders involved in NTD control in Vietnam in 2015, including the MOH and other related Ministries, water and sanitation units, WHO, USAID, other international donors, and NGOs in order to share results to date and improve the coordination of all control and elimination efforts implemented by the various organizations. Approximately 60 representatives from each of the various partner organizations will be invited to attend.



**D. Workshop to Update National STH Guidelines.** As a result of recent revisions of the WHO guidelines for STH control, NIMPE will organize a two-day national workshop to revise and update the National STH Guidelines. This workshop will be held outside of Hanoi in March 2014 and involve approximately 35 to 40 participants from the MOH, NIMPE, WHO, academia, and other relevant stakeholders.

**Component 2: The National Institute of Ophthalmology (NIO)** will implement a **National Assessment of Trachoma** to evaluate the current status of active Trachoma in the country as a basis to either develop appropriate interventions to provide treatment or to begin the process of documenting the elimination of the disease in Vietnam, in accordance with WHO guidelines.

**Component 3:** FHI 360 will provide the following direct support to NIMPE Promotional Campaign for STH and Associated IEC Materials. Based on a comprehensive communication strategy developed by the communications team at FHI 360 Vietnam in collaboration with NIMPE during Year Two, FHI 360 will produce and disseminate a package of IEC materials. The package will promote both the STH MDAs as well as critical associated behaviors such as hand washing, wearing of shoes and proper defecation practices through the school system. The package will include comic books, calendars, stickers, rulers, badges, and an STH game, as well as a handbook for teachers that explains how to organize the MDAs and utilize the materials. In March 2013, the package was piloted in schools throughout one province in March 2013, assessed, and then expanded to four additional provinces before August 2013. During 2013, efforts were made to target the distribution of the IEC materials to those schools within the priority provinces most in need of increasing either coverage and/or compliance.



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