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EpiC
Meeting Targets and
Maintaining Epidemic Control



MEETING TARGETS AND MAINTAINING EPIDEMIC CONTROL (EpiC) Global Health Security



2023 - 2024



Implementer: FHI 360



Planned Budget: \$200,000

Photo: Nguyen Minh Duc for FHI 360

Meeting Targets and Maintaining Epidemic Control (EpiC) is a global project funded by the U.S. President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). EpiC Vietnam’s goal is to deliver efficient, affordable, results-based technical assistance and direct services while closing remaining gaps in Vietnam’s efforts to meet HIV epidemic control targets, ensure global health security, combat trafficking in persons, and address oxygen and mental health needs. EpiC’s global health security work is funded directly via USAID.

PRIORITIZING THE ONE HEALTH APPROACH

COVID-19 outbreaks in Ho Chi Minh City (HCMC) highlighted limitations in Vietnam’s capacity to ensure timely and effective prevention, detection, and response to emerging infectious diseases. EpiC is working with HCMC and regional institutes in charge of human, animal, and environmental health to assess human resource and laboratory capacity and health information systems, and develop concrete actions to address gaps. The project is concomitantly enhancing awareness and understanding of the One Health approach through the convening of One Health Consensus and Recommendation workshops, and subsequent technical supporting for program planning.

INTEGRATING HEALTH INFORMATION SYSTEMS

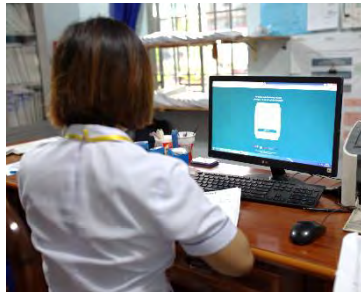
EpiC is working with relevant stakeholders to analyze and assess existing human and animal health infectious disease policies and surveillance information systems. Results will inform the development of more integrated surveillance and real-time early warning systems for infectious diseases and public health events in the province.

OPTIMIZING HUMAN RESOURCES

To determine human resource capacity gaps and needs, EpiC is supporting HCMC to conduct a comprehensive assessment at the commune, district, and provincial levels. The assessment will quantify the appropriate number of health workers and support staff in the public and private sectors, gauge capacity needs, determine key roles and responsibilities, and recommend actions to address gaps.

ENHANCING LABORATORY CAPACITY

In response to the HCMC Department of Health’s request, EpiC is also assessing core functions of both public and private laboratories in HCMC. The assessment will define capacity gaps in infectious disease detection and identification, and inform recommendations on laboratory system strengthening.



EXPECTED OUTCOMES

Results from the comprehensive assessments and the Consensus and Recommendations workshops will be used to develop an action plan to inform **HCMC’s 2025 strategic planning and budgeting efforts on health surveillance** to prevent, detect, and respond to emerging infectious diseases.