



**Semi Annual Report
October 1, 2014 to March 31, 2015**

End Neglected Tropical Diseases in Asia

Submitted:

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

ADB	Asian Development Bank
APRO	Asia Pacific Regional Office
ARMM	Autonomous Regional of Muslim Mindanao
CMPE	Center for Malariology, Parasitology and Entomology, Laos
CNM	National Center for Parasitology, Entomology and Malaria Control, Cambodia
DCDC	Department of Communicable Disease Control, Laos
DOH	Department of Health
EMMP	Environmental Monitoring and Mitigation Plan
FHI 360	Family Health International
FOG	Fixed Obligation Grant
GSP	Global Positioning System
ICT	Immunochromatographic Test
IEC	Information, Education and Communication
LF	Lymphatic Filariasis
MDA	Mass Drug Administration
Mf	Micro Filaria
MOE	Ministry of Education
MOH	Ministry of Health
NDOH	National Department of Health, Papua New Guinea
NIMPE	National Institute for Malariology, Parasitology and Entomology, Vietnam
NEHP	National Education Health Program
NIO	National Institute of Ophthalmology, Vietnam
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
NTD	Neglected Tropical Diseases
PNG	Papua New Guinea
RTI	Research Triangle Institute International
SIEE	Supplemental Initial Environmental Examination
SCH	Schistosomiasis
STH	Soil Transmitted Helminthes
TAS	Transmission Assessment Survey
TOT	Training of Trainers
SHD	School Health Program
TV	Television
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WHO	World Health Organization

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Executive Summary

This Semi-Annual Report documents the accomplishments of Family Health International's (FHI 360's) "End Neglected Tropical Diseases in Asia project" (END in Asia) during the reporting period, October 1, 2014 to March 31, 2015, under USAID Cooperative Agreement No. AID-OAA-A-10-00051. During this period, six focus countries - **Bangladesh, Cambodia, Laos, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, and Vietnam** - continued to successfully implement activities outlined within their individual Country Workplans which have been specifically designed to fill in crucial gaps and assist each national Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTD) Program to strengthen their efforts to control and eliminate specific NTDs in their respective countries.

FHI 360 has continued to maintain effective management systems in each focus country with high quality support provided by the local FHI 360 country office. A representative sample of field activities continue to be monitored in each country to assess the quality of implementation and the environmental impact. To date all activities have been found to be in full compliance. Implementation has generally proceeded on schedule in most focus countries, with no major delays. Excellent working relationships have been maintained with each national NTD program, as well as with the relevant USAID mission and other critical local stakeholders, including the World Health Organization (WHO) in each country.

Each of these national NTD programs has used the opportunities provided by END in Asia to improve the quality of program management, strengthen coordination among implementers at all levels, increase local community mobilization and participation, expand the scope of activities, and maximize the impact of their responses to the NTD endemics in their country.

I. Project Management

During this reporting period, October 1, 2014 to March 31, 2015, the National NTD Programs in the six priority countries - Bangladesh, Cambodia, Laos, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, and Vietnam – have continued to make excellent use of the support provided under the End Neglected Tropical Diseases in Asia (END in Asia) program managed by Family Health International (FHI 360).

- Implementation in all six focus countries commenced on October 1, 2014 based on the approved END in Asia Workplan Year Five and the individual Country Workplan for each country following careful review by USAID.
- A Fixed Obligation Grant (FOG) was issued to the National NTD Program, Ministry of Health in Bangladesh on October 1, 2015 and another FOG was issued to the National Institute for Malariology, Parasitology and Entomology, Ministry of Health in Vietnam on November 1, 2014 to fund those specific activities to be implemented directly by the respective ministry. Another FOG had been previously executed with the National Institute of Ophthalmology in Vietnam in May 2014 to fund the implementation of a National Trachoma Assessment with some activities to be carried over into 2015. The FOG funding mechanism is working extremely well, with its streamlined, simple, and efficient administrative requirements.
- Also in Bangladesh and Vietnam, FHI 360 staff from the respective country offices continued to provide financial administration and procurement services for those specific support activities that would be difficult to administer under a FOG, such as the printing of materials, mass media placement, and other local contracting/procurement.
- In Cambodia, Laos, the Philippines and Papua New Guinea, as requested by the local USAID missions, the FHI 360 country office continues to act as the fiscal agent and provides direct funding and financial administration for all END in Asia support in each country, while the respective National NTD Program remains responsible for organization and actual implementation of program activities. FHI 360 has hired an appropriate number of either part-time or full-time staff in each country to manage program funds and work in close collaboration with the National NTD Program staff. All activities continue to be effectively implemented in each country as outlined in their respective Country Workplans.
- FHI 360 has already put in place all required management systems and experienced staff to administer project support in each of the six focus countries, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Laos, the Philippines, Papua New Guinea, and Vietnam, with oversight and coordination provided by the Project Director and senior staff at the FHI 360 Asia Pacific Regional Office (APRO) in Bangkok. Monitoring of implementation in the field, environmental compliance, and financial administration of the FOGs has been organized as required in each country, and results have been consistently excellent.
- The coverage and treatment results of END in Asia, as well as other relevant data from the National NTD Program in each focus country have been officially reported to USAID/ENVISION in March 2015 using the standard END in Asia Workbook reporting format.
- The project director participated in the USAID NTD Partners Meeting in Washington DC on December 4 and 5, 2014 to facilitate collaboration among the various components of the NTD portfolio and ensure that all projects are working towards greater synergy and sharing

best practices. Representatives from WHO and CDC were also included for the first time. While in DC, several special meetings were also arranged to discuss the close out of END in Asia as well as other administrative and management issues.

Achievements during this reporting period based on the Performance Indicators as identified in the END in Asia Workplan Year Five may be found in Attachment 1. Mass Drug Administration (MDA) coverage and treatment data for all focus countries during the current year may be found in Attachment 2.

II. Implementation

Bangladesh:

The National Filariasis Elimination and STH Control Program, Ministry of Health has supported MDAs for lymphatic filariasis (LF) since 2004 throughout the 19 endemic districts in the country. All but one have now been able to stop mass treatment and are in the process of documenting elimination. In November 2014, over 2,790,000 people were treated for LF. The National Program has also organized MDAs for Soil Transmitted Helminthes (STH) for children of school age since 2005. (Assistance to the STH control program from END in Asia has been discontinued during Year Five.) END in Asia has supported these massive efforts during this reporting period through the following activities:

Lymphatic Filariasis:

- The National NTD Program successfully completed the implementation of a MDA for Lymphatic Filariasis in Rangpur District during November 2014. This is the last remaining district in the country that still requires mass treatment, and the National Program was determined to pull out the stops to ensure that the preparation and local management of the MDA were of the highest quality possible. To support the MDA, END in Asia financed a series of local **Management Meetings** in the district during October 2014 to better prepare for, promote and organize the MDAs. END in Asia also helped procure a variety of **promotional materials** including posters, leaflets and banners that were distributed throughout the district prior to the MDA, as well as organizing local **“miking” activities**, where mobile loud speakers were used to announce the MDAs in communities across the district, and evening **video shows** using the NTD videos previously developed by the project. Over 2,790,000 people received treatment, which represents an 82% coverage rate, and reflects the extraordinary efforts to promote, monitor and supervise the MDA by the National Program.
- The Project Director visited Dhaka from February 1 to 6, 2015 to meet with the new leadership at the National NTD Program, MOH and discuss schedules for the implementation of the balance of activities to be funded by END in Asia during the last year of the project. We also used this opportunity to finalize a **Protocol for the Remapping** of several districts originally classified as non-endemic for LF, utilizing a new methodology developed by the Global Task Force and CDC in Atlantic in collaboration with WHO. The National Program is on track to finishing all planned activities, including the remapping, on time, if the political/security situation allows.

- In preparation for the Transmission Assessment Surveys that are planned during 2015, END in Asia procured 13,000 **ICT Tests** which were delivered to Dhaka in November 2014.
- The National Program implemented two units of the **LF Transmission Assessment Survey** in Sirajgonj District during March 2015, and no positive cases were found. An additional TAS survey was organized in Pabna District during the month, but final results are not yet available. The National Program plans to complete the remaining four TAS surveys planned for 2015 as required by WHO for confirmation of the termination of transmission in the country in April and May 2015.

Cambodia:

The National Center for Malaria Control, Parasitology and Entomology (CNM), Ministry of Health, has been implementing strong MDAs for STH since 2002 and with the help of END in Asia has expanded their program to include all children of school age between 5 and 14 years old. (During Year Five of the END in Asia program, assistance to the STH control program has been discontinued.) CNM has also organized MDAs for Schistosomiasis (SCH) throughout the two endemic provinces since 1997. In addition, CNM has been extremely successful in treating LF. They were able to stop the MDAs within the four endemic provinces in 2011 and are currently in the process of documenting the elimination of the disease. Finally, END in Asia is now working closely with the **National Program for Eye Health** at the Ministry of Health to implement a national assessment of Trachoma in order to provide clear evidence concerning the prevalence of the disease in the country and determine if it is a public health issue that needs to be addressed. During this reporting period, END in Asia has supported these massive efforts through the following activities:

Schistosomiasis:

- Routine **SCH Sentinel Site Surveys** were organized in selected communities within the two endemic provinces, Kratie between October 16 and November 1, 2014, and in Steung Treng from December 15 to 28, 2014, using the standard WHO protocol, in order to monitor the status of the disease and track the impact of the continuing MDAs. Results are currently being compiled and analysed.

Lymphatic Filariasis:

- A shipment of 8,000 **ICT Tests** has arrived in country to support the implementation of the final round of LF Transmission Assessment Surveys for Cambodia, which are scheduled to be implemented between January and March 2015.
- **Transmission Assessment Survey (TAS) for LF** was organized in Ratanakiri province from December 14 to 31, 2014; in Siem Reap province from January 12 to 29, 2015; in Stung Treng province from February 13 to 28, 2015; and in Preah Vihear province from March 15 to 30, 2015, to confirm that transmission of the disease continues to be interrupted. If the results of all four surveys prove negative as expected, Cambodia will have completed all of the requirements established by WHO to declare elimination of the disease as a public health issue.
- END in Asia in collaboration with the ENVISION project has provided the services of **Dr. Ramaiah Kapa, an international expert on NTDs**, to assist CNM to compile documentation

and draft a dossier for submission to WHO to verify the elimination of LF as a public health issue in Cambodia. Dr. Ramaiah, together with Marci Van Dyke from USAID/W, worked on the dossier at CNM from February 23 to March 6, 2015. Cambodia will be one of the first countries in Asia to have fulfilled the WHO criteria for verification of elimination of LF, after more than two decades of intensive and dedicated efforts by CNM.

Trachoma:

- Intensive activity continued during October around the **National Trachoma Assessment** in collaboration with the National Eye Health Program at the MOH. Eight survey teams each consisting of a certified Trachoma eye grader and a data recorder completed surveys in Kratie province from October 1 to 13; in Svey Rieng province from October 28 to November 5; in Prey Veng province during December 2014; in Preah Vihear province during mid January 2015; in Ratanakiri province beginning on February 18 and in Mondulkiri province on February 24, 2015. A total of 30 households were surveyed in each of 39 randomly selected villages in each province. Each provincial survey began with an Orientation Workshop to introduce the protocol and organize local support and logistics. To date, surveys in all of the twelve provinces included in Phase One of the National Trachoma Assessment have been completed. Following WHO recommendations two additional provinces have been added to Phase One (for a total of 14 Evaluation Units) in order to better represent all possible areas where Trachoma may be hiding. Results for these last surveys are currently being cleaned and will then be analysed. If these final results from Phase One remain consistent, there should be sufficient reliable data to prove that Trachoma is not a public health problem in Cambodia, and implementation of Phase Two would not be needed. The Global Trachoma Mapping Project funded by Dfid which is providing data management services for the assessment continues to praise Cambodia on the quality and timeliness of the data that is being received.

General:

- Work has also continued on the development of a variety of **IEC Materials** to support the national NTD program, including a children's comic book, posters, stickers, calendars and other resource materials. Following pre-testing and printing, these materials will be distributed to schools and community health centers around the country.
- Refresher **Training for NTD Program Managers** has been organized in Preah Sihanoukville, Kratie, Pursat, and Kampong Chhnang during December 2014; in Siem Reap province on January 13 and 14, and January 15 and 16; in Kampong Thom province on January 20 and 21 and in Ratanakiri province on January 28 and 29, 2015; in Kampung Speu province on February 5 and 6, 2015; in Takeo province on 3 and 4 March as well as 5 and 6 March; in Svay Rieng province on 11 and 12 March; and in Prey Veng province on 17 and 18 March as well as March 19 and 20, 2015, as part of the critical effort to upgrade the program management capacity of provincial and district level officials across the country. These two-day courses focused on introducing the newly revised NTD strategies and guidelines and facilitating more active local support and involvement in managing NTD activities in the field. Additional provinces will be covered in the coming months. Approximately 100 to 120 local health officials have attended each course.
- The Ministry of Health has organized a **National NTD Conference** from February 23 to 24, 2015 in Siem Reap for 306 participants including representatives from the Ministries of Health, Interior, Defence, and Education; provincial and district level health officials from

across the country, as well as international NGO partners. The Conference focused on three major topics – the national responses to Malaria, NTDs and Dengue. Achievements during the previous year were presented, and workplans for 2015 were discussed and finalized. END in Asia shared the cost of this conference with the MOH, which enabled the organization of several side sessions specifically focused on the NTD control and elimination efforts.

Laos:

The **Center for Malariology, Parasitology and Entomology (CMPE)**, Ministry of Health has a long history of responding to NTDs. Together with the **Ministry of Education and Sport (MOES)**, CMPE has organized MDAs for STH for children of school age since 2005 and was able to expand the program with the assistance of END in Asia to reach children up to the age of 14 years through the junior secondary school system as well. In addition, CMPE has organized mass treatment for SCH since 1990 within the one endemic province, with over 64,000 treatments provided during this reporting period. Annual MDAs for LF have also been organized within the one endemic province since 2007, and treatment provided to the 137,000 people at risk during this reporting period. END in Asia has been working closely with the **Center of Ophthalmology**, as well, to implement a national assessment of trachoma with the assistance of international trachoma experts. The **Directorate for Communicable Diseases Control (DCDC)**, Ministry of Health continues to provide technical and administrative oversight and coordination for all of these activities. The specific activities supported by END in Asia during the year include:

Trachoma:

- During the **National Trachoma Assessment** which was completed in August 2014, three potential Trachoma “hotspots” were identified. Following extensive discussions with a host of international Trachoma experts, an innovative methodology was determined, an official protocol was developed and approved, and three survey teams were trained in the implementation of the required clinical eye examinations, and the collection of conjunctival swabs and dry blood spots from the entire population of children one to nine years old in the three hotspots. The teams completed the investigations in the field in Attapua, Pongsali and Houaphanh provinces between October 13 and 24, 2014. All biological samples were stored in deep freeze in Vientiane before shipping to the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine in mid March 2015 where they will be analyzed to determine if there is any active Trachoma present in these three areas, and if any intervention may be required.

Lymphatic Filariasis:

- **LF Sentinel Site and Spot Check Surveys** were organized in Attapua province from October 20 to 31, 2014. Blood samples from 300 students in each of the two established sentinel sites and in two randomly selected spot check sites were tested using ICT rapid tests. Four ICT positive cases were reported in each of two sites, and were confirmed by Mf testing. This shows that LF is still being transmitted in the area and that further MDAs are still required.
- A **LF MDA Preparation Meeting** followed by a **Refresher Training on LF MDA Management** have been organized in Attapua province from January 7 to 9, 2015 to ensure the successful organization of the LF MDA to be implemented in February, as well as to stimulate local

ownership and commitment to increasing coverage across this very isolated and geographically challenging province. Approximately 70 local officials attended each activity.

- Following an LF MDA Preparation Meeting and Refresher Training on LF MDA Management, the **annual LF MDA** in Attapua province began on February 16, 2015 and continued until early March. In addition, the community based LF MDAs in 6 villages in Sekong province which were found to have a small number of active LF cases during surveys last year, received the second round of treatment beginning on February 19, 2015. To ensure the successful implementation of these LF MDA a special effort to provide strong field supervision was organized by both DCDC and CMPE.

Soil Transmitted Helminthes:

- **STH MDA Supervision** visits were organized by a team from the Ministry of Education and CMPE, MOH to the three provinces of Pongsali, Luang Prabang and Sekong from October 20 to 24, 2014. During these visits two schools in each of two districts in each of the three provinces were assessed including a thorough review of the data from the previous STH MDAs; interviews with principals, teachers and students; and a check on any reactions or adverse effects with the staff of the local health centers. These supervision visits are a regular part of the overall management system of the STH MDAs, and continue to ensure the high quality and extensive coverage of the program.
- **STH Refresher Training** has been organized in three provinces, beginning with a two-day training for officials from the provincial and district level health and education services, followed by a district level trainings for school administrator and teachers. These trainings were organized in Khammouan Province in November 2014 with 40 officials attending the provincial training and a total of 310 participants at the district level trainings. Similar trainings were organized in Borkeo province in December 2014, with 27 participants at the provincial level training and a total of 160 participants from all five districts in the province at the district level training. Additional training was held in Oudomxay province from February 16 to 27, 2015 with 35 officials attending the provincial training and a total of 210 participants at the district level trainings. Since the only previous training on STH was organized over a decade ago, these trainings are proving extremely effective in stimulating local ownership and improvements in the management of the MDAs in schools across there provinces.

Schistosomiasis:

- A **Schistosomiasis MDA Organization Meeting** was held in Champasak province on November 14, 2014 to discuss preparations for the upcoming MDA in the two endemic districts in the province, with the goal of increasing coverage to a maximum level. Included in the 49 participants were provincial and district officials as well as representative from DCDC, CMPE, WHO and the Minister of Health, himself, which highlights the very high level commitment Laos is now providing to all NTD activities.
- The official **Launch of the SCH MDA** was organized in Khong district on December 18, and in Moon district on December 19, 2014 which included an array of provincial and district level officials and over 900 community leaders and school children, each of which were given the appropriate drug treatment during the ceremony. Teams from the district health services then spanned out throughout their respective districts during the next month to provide

mass treatment to each and every community in their catchment areas. Rapid response teams were also set up to provide immediate care for any adverse reactions that may occur.

- The **MDA for Schistosomiasis** continued across Khong and Moon districts in Champasek throughout January 2015. Teams from the district health services have organized the distribution of appropriate drugs to the population in each and every community in their catchment areas. Preliminary reported coverage is over 90% and is a result of the increased commitment by senior health officials and a much stronger involvement by local communities.

General:

- END in Asia provided funding to support the participation of one additional senior official from DCDC in the **WPRO Regional Training on Integrated NTD Program Management** that was organized by the WHO regional office in Manila from January 19 to 23, 2015.
- A **National NTD Stakeholder Meeting** was organized by DCDC with participation from CMPE, the Center for Ophthalmology, the Ministry of Education and all other stakeholders from February 2 to 4, 2015 in Thalad. Presentations on the current status of each of the various NTD programs were given and a comprehensive annual workplan for 2015 was jointly developed. Representatives from USAID and WHO participated together with 162 other officials. A major focus of discussions centered on the close of the END in Asia project and the difficulties of finding sufficient resources to carry on critical components of their NTD strategies.
- The first two meetings in a series of three to revise the **National NTD Strategy** were organized in Vientiane by DCDC on March 12 and 26, 2015 with participation from CMPE, the Center for Ophthalmology, MOES, WHO, END in Asia and all other stakeholders. The previous NTD Strategy was finalized in 2008 and was in drastic need of an update to reflect changes in WHO guidelines and developments within the various NTD programs in country. A final meeting is scheduled for April 2015 during which the final draft of the new strategy will be reviewed together with provincial health officials from around the country and submitted to the MOH for official approval.

Papua New Guinea:

The **National Department of Health (NDOH)** in Papua New Guinea previously requested assistance from USAID through END in Asia to help them address their serious problem with very high NTD infection rates. Efforts have focused on developing a pilot MDA for LF in one province, New Ireland, including the establishment of all required management and other support systems needed to ensure a successful program. A pilot LF MDA was organized in New Ireland province in May 2014, with over 121,000 people treated (79% of the targeted population). During the current reporting period, END in Asia provided the following support to these efforts:

Lymphatic Filariasis:

- The National Department of Health organized an **MDA Review and Data Management Workshop** from November 24 to 25, 2014 to review the implementation of the first round of MDA for LF in New Ireland province which was held in May 2014 with a special focus on the

data collection system that was used. The workshop was held outside Port Moresby with over 30 participants from the NDOH, WHO, the provincial health authority of New Ireland, James Cook University and Case Western University as well as END in Asia. Following a very thorough review of the various interpretations of the official data collection tools used during the first round, as well as the numerous ways they were utilized (or not), the groups decided to simplify the system and use the standard reporting forms and data collection mechanism recommended by WHO. This should help greatly to improve both the quality and efficiency of data collection during the next round, planned for May 2015.

- End in Asia has collaborated closely with The National Department of Health to provide **technical assistance** to Gulf province during a visit from January 26 to 31, 2015 and to Sundaun province during a visit from February 8 to 13, 2015. During these visits a series of discussions with the provincial health authorities and other senior provincial officials were held concerning the possibility of expanding the LF MDA program into these provinces in the near future. Results were very promising, though the critical funding for these provincial programs from within the provincial health budgets may not be available until early in 2016. The provincial health authority in Sundaun has already appointment an LF program coordinator and established a small working group to help plan the first MDA once their local funding is available.

The Philippines:

The **NTD Elimination and Control Program**, Department of Health (DOH) has been responding to various NTDs for many years and has made considerable progress in controlling these diseases, though much work remains to be done. LF is endemic in 44 provinces across the country, with nine already reaching elimination. Schistosomiasis is also endemic in a total of 28 provinces, but despite years of effort, prevalence in many areas remains high. STH is endemic in all of the 81 provinces in the country, and mass treatment is provided regularly through the school system and community health centers. During this reporting period, END in Asia provided support to the program through the various activities below:

Soil Transmitted Helminthes:

- An **Inter-Departmental Consultative Meeting for Region 1** was organized in Laoag City on January 14 and 15, 2015 to share results from the recent STH MDAs across the region, identify and address any policy issues or operational concerns that are impacting on successful implementation, and determine detailed plans for increasing the coverage of the STH MDA and improving implementation. Approximately 38 participants attended from the DOH and DOED in Manila, their regional representatives and Department of Education Medical Officers from the provincial level.
- The Department of Health organized a **National Integrated Helminthes Control Program DOH-DEPED Joint Consultative Meeting** from February 10 to 13, 2015 in Iliolo City for 62 participants from the central level DOH and well as DOH Regional Offices and regional STH and CP Coordinators from around the country. The objectives included introduction and discussion of the draft Joint Administrative Order and new Implementation Guidelines; presentation of the results to date of the National STH Survey being conducted by RITM; sharing of regional accomplishments reports and discussion of persistent problems; and the finalization of regional implementation plans. Prior to this Consultative Meeting, the DOH

organized a preparation workshop in Manila from February 3 to 5, 2015 to finalize the draft Joint Administrative Order as well as other preparations for the meeting.

Schistosomiasis:

- The Department of Health organized a **Schistosomiasis Post MDA Reporting and Planning Workshop** in Davao City from November 3 to 8, 2014 in order to discuss results from the 2014 MDAs and focal surveys from all endemic areas in the country, update participants on the current policies and proposed budgets from the central level, share information from WHO on global SCH elimination efforts, and plan major SCH support activities for 2015. Over 60 officials attended from the Central DOH, Regional SCH Coordinators, Local Government Units from each endemic area, and DOH ARMM office. Costs for this activity were shared with the DOH.
- The Department of Health organized a **Malacological Forum for Local Government Units (Sanitary Inspectors) on the Control and Prevention of Schistosomiasis and Soil Transmitted Helminthiasis** in Cagayan de Oro City from October 27 to 31, 2014. Over 160 participants attended from around the country. Objectives of the forum included the provision of updates on program policies, guidelines and protocols; orientation on the use of the GPA as a malacological tool; and the development of plans of actions for SCH control in each LLG. This forum was funded by the DOH with a substantial cost share from END in Asia.
- A **SCH Mapping Workshop** was organized in Davao City for 45 sanitary inspectors from the municipal and provincial level in the four endemic provinces and one city in the Davao Region from December 1 to 6, 2014, including two days of field work, as recommended during the SCH Post MDA Planning Workshop. This effort should help to significantly increase the competency of the sanitary inspectors in detecting and mapping SCH, since this is a new responsibility only recently added to their job description.
- The Department of Health organized a **Schistosomiasis Program Consultative Meeting** in Davao City from January 13 and 14, 2015 to finalize plans and determine schedules for the SCH MDA and related support activities in Maguindanao province to be implemented during the first half of 2015. The opportunity was also used to meet with the DOH-ARMM regional coordinator and staff to discuss arrangements for other NTD activities in the ARMM region including the LF night blood surveys in Sulu and Basilan as well as an Integrated NTD Program Implementation Review Workshop scheduled for late February 2015.
- Following the Schistosomiasis Program Consultative Meeting in Davao City in January 2015, a **Training on Clinical Practice Guidelines for Para-Medics in Endemic Barangays in Maguindanao** was organized from February 24 to 26, 2015. Thirty four local health care providers were provided with a comprehensive introduction to SCH, training in how to identify SCH infections and how to provide appropriate treatment and referral, as well as how to manage the next round of SCH MDA in the area.
- In preparation for the upcoming SCH MDA, the Department of Health has organized a series of four **Schistosomiasis Orientation and Organization Workshops for Community Health Teams in Endemic Barangays in Maguindanao** during March 2015. Each of the four two-day workshops focused on discussing the basics of SCH control; the registration process; roles and responsibilities prior, during and after the MDA; and the detailed scheduling of

implementation. Ten resources persons from the DOH in Manila facilitated the workshops, and a total of over 240 community health workers attended.

Lymphatic Filariasis:

- The DOH also organized a **Consultative Meeting** in Zamboanga City from November 17 to 19 to prepare and finalize plans for an **LF Mid-Term Assessment Survey** using night blood examination in the ARMM provinces of Basilan and Sulu. Ten representatives from the DOH, ARMM DOH, and the provincial health offices in Basilan and Sulu attended. The surveys will be conducted in January and February 2015 following standard WHO protocols and using newly revised reporting forms. Provincial medtech officers will read the blood slides and a sample will be validated by the University of the Philippines Center for Public Health.
- The DOH also organized a series of **Trainings** to prepare program coordinators and field survey teams to implement the **LF Mid-Term Assessment Survey** using night blood examination in the ARMM provinces of Basilan and Sulu. Approximately 30 participants attended the two-day training in each province. The surveys were conducted from January 20 to February 14, 2015 following standard WHO protocols and using newly revised reporting forms. Provincial medtech officers have read all of the blood slides and a sample (approximate 10% of the 1,500 samples) are being validated by the University of the Philippines Center for Public Health.
- A special **LF Dossier Preparation Workshop** was organized in Cebu City from March 10 to 13, 2015 for 18 participants from Region 8 to begin the process of collecting appropriate data and compiling comprehensive dossiers detailing the process of LF elimination in each of these endemic provinces, beginning from mapping, through MDAs and final surveillance. The DOH has had to foresight to begin this lengthy process now while the data and institutional memory in each of these provinces are still intake, instead of waiting several more years until such time as the DOH will need to submit a dossier covering the entire country in order to receive verification from WHO of the elimination of the disease throughout the Philippines. Technical assistance was provided by Dr. Ramaiah, our international LF expert, through the ENVISION Technical Assistance Facility.

General:

- The **Consultant for Advocacy** continues to actively support the National NTD Program in organizing a wide variety of strategic advocacy activities with relevant government units (at all levels), civil society, and the private sector; and continues to expand her role in providing crucial management and administrative support to all END in Asia and other NTD program activities.
- END in Asia also assisted the DOH to **supervise and monitor** a variety of NTD activities across the country including an Annual Conference on the National Filariasis Elimination Program for Region 8 in Cebu City from October 2 to 4; a Meeting on Integrated Helminth Control in Sorsogon on October 30 and 31, 2014; as well as a Ceremony to celebrate Davao Del Norte's achievement of eliminating LF as a public health problem on October 21, 2014. In November 2014, END in Asia also assisted the DOH to supervise and monitor an Orientation on Helminth Control for Local Governments in Cam Norte on November 13; monitoring of an LF antibody survey in Legaspi city from November 18 to 21; monitoring a TAS survey in Albay

province from November 25 to 28; and participating in a SCH and STH Best Practices Meeting in Zamboanga City on December 8 and 9, 2014.

- While in the Davao region, the DOH has arranged to **Pre-test the new NTD Videos and seven short Spots** developed by the Knowledge Channel to complete the comprehensive set of audio/visuals addressing NTD work in the Philippines. The videos were tested among elementary and high school students in Digos, Davao del Norte from February 19 to 21, 2015. Results from the pre-testing will be analyzed and incorporated as appropriate within the final versions.
- END in Asia has procured the printing of the five **Provincial NTD Maps** (wall maps) that will be distributed to decision makers within the five provinces to ensure a basic understanding of the NTD control and elimination efforts in their respective areas and hopefully serve as a striking advocacy tool for continuing local support and funding.

Vietnam:

The **National Institute of Malaria, Parasitology and Entomology (NIMPE)**, Ministry of Health has organized a very strong and successful program to eliminate LF throughout the four endemic provinces, and was able to stop mass treatment in 2011. They are now well into the process to document elimination of the disease. STH, on the other hand, remains a concern. A total of 53 out of the 63 provinces in the country are endemic for STH, but NIMPE has only been able to support MDAs in 36 of these endemic provinces. During this reporting period, END in Asia did not provide any support for the STH control program. END in Asia is also working closely with the **National Institute of Ophthalmology**, Ministry of Health to implement a national assessment of trachoma to provide evidence of the status of the disease in the country as the basis to determine an appropriate response. END in Asia has provided the following assistance during this reporting period:

Trachoma:

- Work has continued throughout the past several months on the analysis of the data from the **National Assessment of Trachoma** which was completed at the end of August 2014. A team on international Trachoma experts including WHO has reviewed the data and has identified several issues that need further clarification, including a more intensive investigation of one potential Trachoma hotspot in Ha Giang province where several TF cases were found, as well as further analysis of the TT results compared with local census data to determine the estimated number of TT surgeries that would be required to meet WHO criteria for the elimination of Trachoma as a public health issue.
- Following a visit by the Project Director from January 12 to 16, 2015 during which the protocol was finalized and the survey teams trained, the National Institute of Ophthalmology implemented an “**Intensive Investigation of a Potential Trachoma Hotspot**” in Ha Giang province from January 26 to 30, 2015. This investigation involved the clinical examination of approximately 350 children between the ages of 1 and 9 years old from seven villages in the potential hotspot, with conjunctival swabs taken from all suspected positive cases for laboratory analysis. A total of 32 children, out of the 392 examined, presented with clinical signs of infection that may be caused by *chlamydia trachoma*. Laboratory assessment of the conjunctival samples taken from each of these children is now required to determine if these infections are indeed trachoma. Arrangements are being made with the Microbiology

Laboratory at the National Lung Hospital to organize the PCR testing of these samples using the appropriate commercially available assays. Analysis of the TT results from the National Trachoma Assessment have also been completed and compared with local census data to determine the estimated number of TT surgeries that are now required to meet WHO criteria for the elimination of Trachoma as a public health issue in Vietnam.

Lymphatic Filariasis:

- The shipment of **ICT Test Kits** provided by END in Asia to support the final round of Transmission Assessment Surveys in Vietnam planned for March and April 2015 arrived in country in January 2015, and were successfully processed through customs.
- NIMPE has organized a **TAS Survey** in Khanh Hoa province during March 2015. This is the first of four TAS Surveys which will be organized to determine if LF is still being actively transmitted in the four endemic provinces. These surveys represent the last round of surveillance which is required by WHO to enable Vietnam to declare that LF has been eliminated as a public health problem in the country. The other three TAS surveys will be completed in April and May 2015.

III. Environment Compliance Status

During this reporting period, FHI 360 monitored the implementation of all END in Asia supported activities in the field that were identified as having the possibility of a negative impact on the environment within the Supplemental Initial Environmental Examination (SIEE) for each country, and found them in full compliance with all environmental policies and standard operating procedures from the respective Ministries of Health, National Governments, WHO, and USAID.

For all six focus countries, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Laos, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines and Vietnam, FHI 360 has obtained a copy of the relevant official government guidelines for the management of medical waste, and has found them to be in complete accord with WHO international standards.

For all six countries, FHI 360 monitored the field implementation of each of the various surveys that involved generation of medical waste and found that all implementation was in compliance with the relevant government guidelines.

IV. Procurement of Pharmaceuticals

Based on the approved Country Workplans for each focus country, END in Asia calculated the amount of pharmaceuticals that were needed to support the various activities of each National NTD Program. During Year Five, these included ICT Rapid Test Kits for the LF surveys in Bangladesh, Cambodia and Vietnam, as well as Brugia Test Kits for Vietnam. Procurement of 520 BinaxNOW ICT Test Kits (13,000 tests) from Alere North America for Bangladesh was completed with delivery in November 2014. Delivery of 310 ICT Test Kits (8,000 tests) were delivered to Cambodia in early December 2014, and 100 ICT Test kits (2,500 tests) were delivered to Vietnam in January 2015.

V. Major Activities Planned for Next Six Months

- For Bangladesh and Vietnam, FHI 360 will continue to execute individual Fixed Obligation Grants (FOGs) at the request of the respective National NTD Programs based on approved Country Workplans for these countries, and ensure that advances and reimbursements are administered with the utmost dispatch. The implementation of all activities funded under the FOGs will be carefully monitored and supervised to ensure compliance with the goals and approaches of the project, as well as all USAID regulations and procedures.
- A special effort will be made to assist the National NTD Program in PNG to ensure the successful implementation of the second round of their pilot LF MDA in New Ireland in June 2015 based on the approved Country Workplan.
- END in Asia will also continue to directly fund all of the supporting activities outlined in the Country Workplans for Bangladesh, Cambodia, Laos, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines and Vietnam, including the financial administration of trainings, workshops, surveys and other support activities; the printing and placement of IEC and other promotional materials; and the procurement of the required pharmaceuticals. FHI 360's local staff will continue to work closely with these National NTD Programs and provide financial administrative services during the implementation of all activities as planned within the approved Country Workplans. All implementation is scheduled to be completed before the end of June 2015 to ensure full close out by September 2015.
- The results of the END in Asia-supported activities will be compiled in collaboration with the relevant National NTD Programs, and entered into the appropriate RTI/ENVISION END in Asia Workbooks, before submission to ENVISION before the end of the project in September 2015.
- The required environmental monitoring based on the approved Environmental Monitoring and Mitigation Plans will be organized in each of the six focus countries by the relevant local FHI 360 staff, and reported using the standard reporting format, before the end of the project in September 2015.
- All data and experience compiled during implementation will be included in the Final Report covering the entire project as well as detailed reporting on activities implemented from April to September 2015.
- END in Asia will facilitate the completion of the surveys, as well as the analysis and reporting of final results from the National Trachoma Assessments in Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam with the assistance of appropriate international technical assistance.
- END in Asia will facilitate the technical assistance to be provided by ENVISION for the development of pre-dossier for LF elimination in the Cambodia and Vietnam.
- END in Asia will work closely with each National NTD Program in all six focus countries to develop an exit strategy to ensure a positive transition away from USAID assistance at the conclusion of the END in Asia project in September 2015.

Attachment 1

Key Performance Indicators

Performance indicators as identified in the END in Asia Workplan Year Five to be used by FHI 360 to monitor the implementation process and program outcomes as listed below.

Table 1: Proposed Monitoring Indicators to be used by FHI 360

Indicator	Disaggregation	Source	Target	Achievement to Date	Responsible Party
Component I: Grant Issuance and Management - Grant Monitoring					
Number of FOGs signed	By organization	program records	1 – NIMPE 1 – NIO 1- Bangladesh	1 – NIMPE 1 – NIO 1- Bangladesh	FHI 360
Number of grantees submitting timely implementation reports	By organization	program records	3	3	
Number of National Programs submitting data for END in Asia Workbooks	By country	program records	6	6	
Number of people trained	By country	Implementation Reports	TBD	Cambodia – 1,540 trained Laos – 852 trained Philippines – 94 trained	
Number of FHI organized and led monitoring visits to activities	By country	program records	1 per major activity in each country	1 per major activity in each country	
Proportion of National Programs that implement according to the timelines in their workplans	By country	country reports	100%	100%	
Number of National Programs completing 100% of planned activities	By country	Implementation Reports	6	NA	

Indicator	Disaggregation	Source	Target	Achievement to Date	Responsible Party
Component II: Coordination of FHI Support, Technical Assistance and Capacity Building - Monitoring Collaboration with National NTD Programs					
Percentage of FHI support activities implemented	By country	Semi Annual Reports	100%	Bangladesh – 64% Cambodia – 60% Laos – 95% PNG – 30% Philippines – 60% Vietnam – 29%	FHI 360
Proportion of TA requests addressed	By country and technical area	program records	100%	100%	
Number of NTD specific TA requests referred to USAID	By country and TA type	program records	TBD	4	
Component III: Data Management, Documentation and Dissemination – USAID/RTI Standard Coverage and Treatment Indicators					
Number of countries with complete, semi-annual END in Asia Workbooks	By country	country reports	6	6	FHI 360
Number of countries in compliance with their EMMP	By country	EMM Reports	6	6	

Attachment 2

MDAs supported by END in Asia (October 1, 2014 to March 31, 2015)

	# of Provinces	# of Persons at Risk	# of Persons Targeted	# of Persons Treated	# of Treatments	Epidemiological Coverage	Program Coverage
Lymphatic Filariasis							
• Bangladesh	1	3,415,912	3,090,134	2,796,478	2,796,478	81.9%	90.5%
• PNG	1	5,200,000	156,012	NA	NA		
• Philippines	22	20,278,097	16,938,973	NA	NA		
Total		28,894,009	20,185,119	2,796,478	2,796,478		
Soil Transmitted Helminthes							
• Laos	17	2,089,147	2,089,147	1,803,527	1,803,527	86.3%	86.3%
• Philippines	80	100,617,630	48,870,522	NA	NA		
Total		102,706,777	50,959,669	1,803,527	1,803,527		
Schistosomiasis							
• Cambodia	2	82,000	80,000	NA	NA		
• Philippines	28	2,480,360	2,027,776	NA	NA		
Total		2,562,360	2,107,776				
Grand Total		134,163,146	73,252,564	4,600,005	4,600,005		

MDAs funded by END in Asia (October 1, 2014 to March 31, 2015)

	# of Provinces	# of Persons at Risk	# of Persons Targeted	# of Persons Treated	# of Treatments	Epidemiological Coverage	Program Coverage
Schistosomiasis							
• Laos	1	129,410	76,676	64,398	64,398	49.8%	83.9%
Lymphatic Filariasis							
• Laos	1	137,089	121,531	NA	NA		
Grand Total		266,499	198,207	64,398	64,398		

