

National CSO consultation, Hanoi, Vietnam, 22-23 October 2019

The RAI RSC CSO representative Louis Da Gama, Dr. Faisal Mansoor, Head of Program Unit, UNOPS, Min Min Zin, M&E officer, and regional malaria CSO platform secretariat met and discussed separately with Government, RAI CSO partners and non-RAI CSO partners including National Institute of Malariology, Parasitology and Entomology (NIMPE), Health Poverty Action (HPA), Population Service International (PSI), Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI), Helen Keller International (HKI), and Supporting Community Development Initiatives (SCDI) on 22-23 October, 2019 in Hanoi, Vietnam.

The main objectives of the meetings were

- (i) To consult the priority areas that need to focus in Vietnam
- (ii) To identify the potential CSO partners for the next RAI grant
- (iii) To improve the overall coordination and collaboration among CSO partners and government

With the inputs from the respective CSO partners, the Vietnam CSO team had a chance to prepare for the final country priority asks in the regional consultation in Yangon on 27-28 October. In addition, the regional malaria CSO platform secretariat will have an opportunity to discuss government and SCDI on CSO engagement during the National Strategic Plan development process in VCSPA annual meeting organized by SCDI in Da Nang, Vietnam, in November.

Participants – Louis Da Gama, Dr. Faisal Moonsor, Min Min Zin, Dr. Sai Nay Min Shein, Dr. Nguyen Quang Thieu, Dr. Nguyen Dinh Nam, Mrs. Lai Hong Loan, Dr. Nguyen XuanXa, Andrew Martin, Dr. Tuy, Mrs. Nguyen Thi Minh Nguyet, Nguyen Thi Le Hoa, Nguyen Minh Tuan, Nguyen Thanh Trung, Pham Kim Ngoc, Charlene Barina, Dr. Thuy Cao, Dr. Khut Thi Hai Oanh, Thanh Huong Nguyen, Nguyen Hoang Yen, Mr. Le Cong Khang

1. National Institute of Malariology, Parasitology, and Entomology (NIMPE)

Louis explained the importance of RAI2E involvement in GMS for malaria elimination and discussed how to improve the collaboration of CSOs and NIMPE in the next funding grant. Dr. Faisal also explained how PR, CSO, and NIMPE could work together for the next funding grant by improving coordination and collaboration with NIMPE and CSO not only at the provincial level but also at the central level. He also shared the achievement of CSO contribution in collaboration with the National malaria program in the other four GMS countries.

Min Min explained the experience of field visits together with PSI, HPA, and SCDI in October 2019. NIMPE suggested PSI share the case-based investigation from commune to the central level. Louis suggested that there should be consistent criteria for hiring Community Malaria Action Team (CMAT) for quality assurance. He also mentioned the importance of having a visual implementing mapping of CSOs and health centers for malaria service to have better decisions in investing money and implementing activities.

Dr. Thieu acknowledged the importance of collaboration with CSOs and NIMPE and explained there is a monthly coordination meeting with CSOs lead by NIMPE. NIMPE is not happy with the way of PSI implementing, and PSI does not report positive cases in all provinces. NIMPE has no problem working with HPA. Dr. Thieu explained there is no overlapping of malaria services from CSOs. NIMPE invited UNOPS to

join the government when they go to the field for assessment, and UNOPS agreed to join. Louis suggested that NIMPE to ask CSOs to join the M&E visit. Dr. Faisal suggested NIMPE provide clear guidance on how CSO should coordinate with NIMPE and IMPE. He requested the central NIMPE to guide to the provincial level to work closely with CSOs. He also suggested working more closely with WHO as a technical partner for NIMPE. Dr. Faisal also suggested having proper meeting minute for the record during the coordination meeting

And the team discussed the priority areas for the national program in the next RAI grant. Dr. Faisal suggested the government to include all areas in next RAI. Dr. Thieu explained the NSP is still in draft stage, and he will welcome CSOs to the areas where the government cannot cover.

2. Health Poverty Action (HPA)

Andrew explained about the HPA overview and summary of RAI2E implementation in Vietnam and the importance of having a regional grant for cross-country activity. He explained local level cross border meetings would be conducted in November and December. He explained that WHO collaboration in Vietnam is not very good. He also explained the case-control study and formative assessment targeting high-risk populations together with the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF), as a part of the intercountry component package. The research is done in Vietnam, and only one step left for Cambodia.

RAI2E challenges – the delay of approval from the government, the rise of positive cases in some provinces. HPA is working in only four communes from forty communes that were contributed more than 36% of cases in 2019.

Dr. Faisal suggested producing IEC-BCC materials targeting the mobile migrant population.

3. Population Services International (PSI)

Louis explained the importance of coordination with NIMPE and CSOs and discussed the case reporting issue to the NIMPE by PSI. Louis also asked about the PSI service mapping for better decision making for implementation of malaria activities. Dr. Faisal explained the country preparation for the next funding grant and discussed the PSI plan for the next round. He also shared that he urged NIMPE to lead the coordination meeting with country CSOs to improve the coordination with NIMPE with CSO partnership. Dr. Faisal suggested HPA, PSI, and SCDI provide malaria service, as NIMPE suggested.

Nguyen Thi Le Hoa explained there is room to improve for coordination with NIMPE, HPA, and SCDI. She shared that the last coordination meeting with the government and CSOs in May. PSI has already shared all cases in Dak Lak province with the national program since January 2019, and the process was also starting in Bin Hoc province in October 2019. But still, do not share all testing data with the government yet. The program director explained that the government does not share the national level surveillance data. And he suggests the government should share those data to improve collaboration with NIMPE. Dr. Faisal suggested there is a WHO sharing site for all national data. Min Min suggested PSI share case-based surveillance data to share more with NIMPE.

4. Helen Keller International (HKI)

Louis explained the purpose of the visit was to explore the collaborative action with other sectors, including nutrition, and asked how HKI is building a relationship with the government at the central and provincial levels and their activities in Vietnam. Ms. Ngoc explained the activities of the HKI project in

Vietnam, emphasizing nutrition, and eye health. She also explained the Enhanced Homestead Food Production (EHFP) model, which targets to improve nutrition, food security, and livelihoods of poor households, particularly for women and children. And the team continued to discuss how they can collaborate, working together in RAI 3. Louis suggested HKI be involved in community preparation meeting for country dialogue in January 2020.

5. Supporting Community Development Initiatives (SCDI)

Louis explained the purpose of the visit to Vietnam and shared the experience of meeting with NIMPE. Dr. Faisal also explained the importance of having a coordination meeting regularly with NIMPE and CSO partners for collaborative works. Dr. Oanh suggested UNOPS lead the provincial coordination meeting, which will be more important than the central coordination level. Louis shared about the national program's M&E site visit together with UNOPS focal person and CSO partners. And the team discussed the current RAI implementing gap in Vietnam, border issues, and strategy of resource mobilization for the recent high malaria burden provinces. And Dr. Oanh suggested that future approaches should focus not only on malaria but also on UHC with community approach and border activity. She also invited the UNOPS and regional malaria CSO platform to join the Vietnam Civil Society Partnership Platform on AIDS (VCSPA) annual meeting in Da Nang, Vietnam.

6. Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI)

Louis explained that the platform came to CHAI to explore the activity of the CHAI malaria project in Vietnam and the relationship with NIMPE. Charlene explained that CHAI is working on developing a surveillance database platform for national programs. At first, the database will try to integrate all the public sector data, including the commune level, and to include CSO data, will be the next priority. At the end of the year, CHAI is expecting to roll out the database. And the team discussed more how the surveillance activity and data integration could improve in RAI 3.