



Summary

Title	Governance of equitable access to vaccination and food security for internal migrants in Vietnam and Laos
Lead	Institute of Development Studies – Pauline Oosterhoff and Ayako Ebata
Partner(s)	Center for Creative Initiatives in Health and Population; Vietnamese National University of Agriculture (VNUA), Faculty of Public Health, University of Health Sciences, Lao PDR
Rationale	This proposal and three components supports and builds upon our relationships and expertise in a region where the UK Govt has signalled prioritisation going forward. They directly contribute to FCDO’s Covid-19 and global health priority area.
Summary	<p>Due to Covid, large numbers of Vietnamese and Laotian migrants from rural areas working within and outside the country have lost their job and suffered social and economic consequences. While migrants are vital to both the Vietnamese and the Laotian economies Covid-19 has uncovered and re-enforced pre-Covid inequalities of access to available health services and nutritious food. Reducing these inequalities is important for governments in both countries for health, human rights and economic reasons. Internal migrant workers living outside their village do not have long-term household book registration which is the key to access many public services, including health care and prevention in both countries. Returning migrants face unemployment and poverty. Laos and Vietnam have similar governance systems but there are some important differences in the response allowing for relevant sharing and learning between them. Regarding nutrition, higher expenses for essential basic public services affect nutritional status reducing the available income for migrants for food. Migrant workers access to nutritious food is also time constrained. Precarious work contracts with unpredictable and long hours reduce their time to eat and prepare meals, while markets and shops in peri-urban areas and industrial zones tend to offer more expensive food items. While all internal migrants face household registration related exclusion, there are additional inequalities between internal migrants, including those related to ethnicity. Through this work the project aims to understand the governance of access to vaccination and food for internal migrants in urban and peri-urban areas to make concrete recommendations to improve policies to ensure both effectiveness and the equity of the state’s vaccination and food policies. These are two areas that are critical to Vietnam and Laos’s national development and international sustainable development goals and are as such supported by the government.</p> <p>The programme consists of three integrated research projects:</p> <p>Component 1: Equitable access and public attitudes to vaccination for internal migrants in Vietnam</p> <p>Component 2: How has Covid-19 pandemic affected food and nutrition security of migrant workers in Vietnam?</p> <p>Component 3: Accessibility to COVID-19 vaccines of returnee migrant workers in Lao PDR during the Covid-19 pandemic</p>

Objectives	<p>To understand rationales that people use to explain concrete unequal practices for current exclusion of migrants or vulnerable people from access to health care and services in Vietnam and Laos</p> <p>To identify a fair, transparent and inclusive response to Covid-19 which includes rural migrants the peri-urban and urban areas</p> <p>To understand how Covid-19 lockdown measures have affected migrants' access to healthy and nutritious food such as fresh vegetables, fruits and animal-sourced protein.</p> <p>To identify formal or informal mechanisms that might have helped migrant workers maintain access to nutritious food</p>
Key Activities / Deliverables	<p>Component 1: Equitable access and public attitudes to vaccination for internal migrants in Vietnam</p> <p><u>Mixed methods research:</u></p> <p>Secondary data analysis</p> <p>Qualitative study – in depth interviews with policymakers, key informants, marginalised groups, different socio economic backgrounds</p> <p>Case study – invite people (via social media) to share experiences of covid-19 and vaccination, follow up interviews</p> <p>Online surveys</p> <p><u>Integrated research uptake:</u></p> <p>Consultation workshops</p> <p>Dissemination workshops (including 1 in Vietnam, 1 joint with other Covid Collective partners in Vietnam and Laos)</p> <p><u>Outputs:</u></p> <p>Working paper in English (published open access)</p> <p>PowerPoint in English and Vietnamese</p> <p>Summary paper orientated towards Vietnamese authorities (in Vietnamese)</p> <p>Press releases for Vietnamese media coverage</p> <p>Component 2: How has Covid-19 pandemic affected food and nutrition security of migrant workers in Vietnam?</p> <p><u>Activities:</u></p> <p>July-Sept 2021: appointing research assistants, desk based review, designing research instruments</p> <p>Oct-Dec 2021: data collection (key informant interviews x 24 including local authorities; focus group discussions x 12 in Ha Noi and Bac Ninh province of Red River Delta regions; online/phone survey 180 migrant workers)</p> <p>Jan-Mar 2022: data analysis</p> <p>Mar 2022: dissemination of outputs</p> <p><u>Outputs:</u></p> <p>Summary timeline of covid-19 related measures</p> <p>Designed fieldwork instruments</p> <p>Qualitative and quantitative data</p> <p>Thematic analysis of qualitative data</p> <p>Summary statistics of quantitative data</p> <p>Working paper</p> <p>Summary document</p> <p>Component 3: Accessibility to COVID-19 vaccines of returnee migrant workers in Lao PDR during the Covid-19 pandemic</p> <p>The study will be conducted in the Khammouane, Savannakhet and Champassack province of the Lao PDR where there are many returnee migrant workers from rural to the urban areas.</p>

Activities:

In-depth semi-structured and pre-tested interviews with 5-7 health policy makers, health care providers at the Ministry and province level; 8-10 key informants: experts of epidemiology, experts of MCH, social welfare; In-depth interviews with 50 returnee migrant workers, stratified by sex, age, ethnic background

Case study – inviting migrant workers to share their experience with vaccination and other preventative measures in Laos after returning home

Online survey – similar to the Vietnamese partners (above), but note this is a new strategy as Laos has relatively low connectivity (but migrants do use Facebook and other social media)

Integrated research uptake:

Consultation workshops

Dissemination workshops

Outputs:

Working paper in English published open access

PowerPoint in English and Laotian

Summary paper oriented towards Laotian authorities in Laotian