



USAID
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LABORATORY STRENGTHENING

Vietnamese laboratories improve technical skills and equipment with support from USAID/Vietnam.

GLOBAL HEALTH SECURITY

Since most emerging infectious disease threats arise at the interface of animals and humans, USAID works in both public health and animal laboratories to increase technical skills and diagnostic capacities, improve laboratory biosafety and biosecurity, and strengthen quality assurance. Contributions to expand the range of testing available, help detect novel viruses in wildlife, sample in high-risk settings such as live bird markets and wildlife farms, and harmonize procedures across animal and public health laboratories are just some of the actions that will help Vietnam prevent, detect and respond more effectively to pandemic threats. Activities are part of the Global Health Security Agenda (GHTSA) and include close collaboration with other key GHTSA partners such as the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the U.S. Defense Threat Reduction Agency, and other bilateral and multilateral partners.



USAID provides new equipment for rapid tuberculosis detection.



Lab workers learn to use new equipment for rapid tuberculosis detection.

To help ensure that undergraduates and practicing health workers are prepared to respond to emerging pandemic threats, USAID's IMPACT MED Alliance improves the capacity and quality of university hospital clinical laboratories in collaboration with private sector partners. Roche Vietnam works with partner universities to improve the quality and reliability of laboratory testing. Roche supports university development and implementation of systems to improve clinical laboratory workflow for improved productivity and efficiency and helps laboratories at partner universities achieve medical laboratory certification.

DIOXIN ANALYSIS



Lab assistants receive training in human forensic identification.

Through the Environmental Remediation of Dioxin Contamination at the Danang Airport Project, USAID partnered with Vietnam's two, ISO-certified dioxin labs—the Vietnam Dioxin Laboratory housed within the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, and the dioxin laboratory housed within the Ministry of National Defense's Vietnam-Russia Tropical Centre—to improve monitoring of remediation activities as well as to build the quality assurance and quality control (QA/QC) capacity and service orientation of the local dioxin labs. This was primarily conducted through the employment of split sampling, where one of two equivalent portions of the same sample was analyzed in different laboratories to spot-check the accuracy of data and on-the-job QA/QC documentation training. Under the new Dioxin Remediation at the Bien Hoa Airbase Area Project, USAID plans to expand its lab strengthening activities to build technical and institutional capacity in these government labs as well as spur development of private sector capacity in dioxin analysis.

DNA ANALYSIS

Through its Unidentified Remains program, USAID partners Vietnamese labs with experts from the United States to train and provide technical assistance on forensic human identification, quality assurance processes, and assistance with laboratory setup and equipment. The program assists with laboratory design, instrument selection and information management. Lab assistants and lab managers of DNA laboratories are trained to determine the best scientific human identification methods. As a result, the Vietnam Academy of Science and Technology and other Vietnamese forensic laboratories can better identify war-era remains through DNA analysis and kinship matching. The program also helps laboratories prepare for future accreditation under the applicable standards issued by the International Organization for Standardization.