

Summary of Final Evaluation

I. Outline of the Project		
Country: Republic of Ghana	Project title: Project for the West African Centre for International Parasite Control (WACIPAC)	
Issue/Sector: Health	Cooperation scheme: JICA Technical Cooperation	
Division in charge: Infectious Disease Control Division, Human Development Department, JICA	Total cost: 550 million Yen	
Period of Cooperation	(R/D): From 1 January 2004 to 31 December 2008	Partner Country's Implementing Organization: Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research, University of Ghana, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education
		Supporting Organization in Japan Keio University, Nagasaki University, Tokyo Medical and Dental University, Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare International Medical Centre of Japan, Japan Association of Parasite Control
Related Cooperation	Grant Aid for NMIMR (P3 Laboratory, Conference Hall, etc) Third Country Training (International Parasite Control) (JFY2001-2003)	
1-1 Background of the Project		
<p>The Global Parasite Control Initiative (GPCI) had its inception at the 1997 Denver Summit of the G7 countries when Japan advocated the importance of international co-operation in parasitic diseases control. At the subsequent G8 meeting in Birmingham in 1998, Japan declared her intention to help developing countries to strengthen their human and information network for parasitic diseases control through establishing three regional centres in Thailand, Kenya and Ghana.</p> <p>Following this decision, Asia Centre of International Parasite Control (ACIPAC) was established at Mahidol University in Thailand in 2000. Then the Eastern and Southern Africa Centre for International Parasite Control (ESACIPAC) was established at Kenya Medical Research Institute, Kenya in 2001. In Ghana, Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research (NMIMR), University of Ghana was selected as the Centre for promoting Global Parasite Control Initiative in West Africa.</p> <p>As NMIMR carried out Infectious Disease Control Project supported by JICA from 1999 to 2003, third country training programme was introduced to initiate GPCI and some related activities to parasite control were also incorporated into the Infectious Disease Control Project. With aid of previous experiences and preparatory work, the Project for the West African Centre for International Parasite Control (WACIPAC) was launched to build capacity of various level of target group such as policy makers and programme managers for parasite control and to promote network among relevant persons and Centres for International Parasite Control (CIPACs) in January 2004.</p>		
1-2 Project Overview		
(1) Overall Goal		
Parasitic diseases control programmes of the member countries in the West African sub-region are implemented by the capacity built by/at WACIPAC.		
(2) Project Purpose		
WACIPAC performs the role of building capacity for integrated parasite control activities of the member countries in the West African sub-region.		
(3) Outputs		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Institutional capacity of WACIPAC is strengthened 2. A model for school health based intervention for parasite control is developed through field research 		

activities in Ghana.

3. Policy makers and programme managers of the member countries acquire knowledge and skills concerning school health based intervention for parasite control through the international training courses and follow-up.
4. WACIPAC functions as a hub for information network within the member countries, and promotes networking among three GPCI International Centres.
5. Supporting countries start activities on school health based intervention for parasite control.

* Member countries: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal and Togo

* Supporting countries: Benin, Ghana and Niger

(4) Inputs

Japanese side:

1. 7 long and 18 short-term experts
2. 9 experts from ACIPAC and ESACIPAC as trainers or resource persons
3. Provision of equipment (141 items)
4. 12 persons of counterpart training in Japan
5. Local cost (136 million Yen)

Ghanaian side:

1. 16 appointed counterparts for WACIPAC
2. Salaries of counterparts, insurance for vehicles, electricity, and water, etc
3. Provision of land and training facility

II. Evaluation Team

Members of the Evaluation Team	Team Leader	Ms. Yoshie YAMASHITA	Group Director, Health Human Resources and Infectious Disease Control Group, Human Development Department, JICA
	International Parasite Control	Dr. Tsutomu TAKEUCHI	Professor, Department of Tropical Medicine and Parasitology, School of Medicine, Keio University
	School Health	Dr. Jun KOBAYASHI	Head of Infectious Disease Control Group, Experts Service Division, Bureau of International Cooperation, International Medical Centre of Japan
	Evaluation Planning	Mr. Ryotaro ODA	Staff, Infectious Disease Control Division, Health Human Resources and Infectious Disease Control Group, Human Development Department, JICA
	Evaluation Analysis	Mr. Eimitsu USUDA	Senior Consultant, Cranberry Company
Period of Evaluation	14 June 2008-13 July 2008		Type of Evaluation: Final Evaluation

III. Results of Evaluation

3-1 Achievements

(1) Achievement of the Project Purpose

The Project Purpose is likely to be achieved by the end of the Project while a few expectations remain uncompleted. The proportion of actual to planned participants who have received training for school health programme and parasite control in the member countries totaled 137, which clearly exceeded the indicator of the Project Purpose. All member countries of participants assessed the international training satisfactory and highly recommended the training programme.

According to the questionnaire responses by the participants of member countries, they rated for WACIPAC's role for capacity building very positive. They also recognized WACIPAC's role as a hub for global

communication and operational research. The participants of member countries rated WACIPAC as the hub of global information network for parasite control +1.0 with the range from (-2) to (+2). Four (4) of the participants answered "very much", six (6) answered "some extent", and two (2) answered "not much" out of twelve (12). They rated WACIPAC as operational research institute for integrated school-based parasite control + 0.8 with the range from (-2) to (+2) to the question of how much they recognized. Five (5) of the participants put "very much", four (4) put "some extent", two (2) put "not much", and 1 put "not at all" out of twelve (12). Therefore the recognition level of WACIPAC in member countries was judged high.

WACIPAC also stimulated communication among personnel working on parasite control. About 40 % of contact person communicate at least once a month with telephone, e-mail, and meetings. As a hub of communication, WACIPAC continuously contact 30 persons at least every two month, and 34 persons quarterly by means of e-mail, telephone, and personal contact. However, database for parasite control was not developed and had difficulties in the remaining period.

The start-up project and the follow-up visits created a supportive environment for programme managers and partners through stakeholder workshops. The joint evaluation meetings in Niger and Benin demonstrated the experiences and acquired skills for the school health and parasite control although they need more support to achieve the goals in the remaining period.

(2) Achievement of Outputs

- 1. Output 1:** WACIPAC gradually strengthened its organizational capacity through improvement of ability to manage international training courses and field research. The response to the questionnaire showed that member countries recognized the role of WACIPAC in capacity building and the hub of information on school-based parasite control. They also mentioned the appreciation of skills and knowledge of WACIPAC during the direct interview to the programme managers in the training workshop. WACIPAC's institutional capacity improved despite the following challenges: 1) the staffs of NMIMR served concurrently WACIPAC, the conventional way of human resource allocation in the institute, and 2) the framework of the current WACIPAC Project seemed novel to NMIMR. Some additional staffs were employed by the Project. In order to sustain the function and operation of WACIPAC, a sustainable plan is being proposed to member countries.
- 2. Output 2:** The Project completed a model site for demonstration and is presenting the outcomes of field research for school-based parasite control strategies in the model site through academic conferences and meetings. In addition, WACIPAC improved data and cost management in model site activities.
- 3. Output 3:** The Project held two (2) policy maker workshops and five (5) international training courses for 137 participants comprising 40 policy makers and 97 programme managers, thus exceeded the indicator. The Project satisfactorily conducted international workshops and training courses for policy makers and programme managers of member countries in terms of quantity and quality. The Project conducted 16 follow-up visits to all member countries in addition to the visits to the start-up projects. According to the responses to questionnaire, participants from all member countries endorsed the validity of follow-up visits to their countries.
- 4. Output 4:** The Project promoted information exchange among participants in the international training, development partners and CIPACs by various means. Dissemination of public information from WACIPAC was improved through the newsletters, web site, and local and international conferences. Especially, website seemed successful as the average number of access to the website is 140 per day from January 2007, increased from the previous average 17.5. However, the database on parasitic disease among member counties was not developed as planned. Virtually all countries need information clearance from their authorities before the release of data.
- 5. Output 5:** The Output is likely to be achieved as Supporting countries are implementing the relevant activities on school-based intervention for parasite control. Benin developed a school-based de-worming model for nation-wide implementation and is making efforts to apply self-assessment criteria. Niger developed self evaluation criteria and tools with development partners. Ghana implemented National De-worming programme with WACIPAC support.

3-2 Summary of Evaluation Results

(1) Relevance

Relevance is very high. The Project is valid and meaningful to attain the objectives at the time of evaluation. The importance of WACIPAC's role is growing on the health policy front. The Project is coherent to the assistance policy of Japan as well as the expectations of the member countries. The objectives also meet the needs of the member countries in terms of integrated approach for school health and parasite control. WACIPAC's achievements including the outcomes of CIPACs brought out the importance of neglected tropical diseases and integrated approach of school health into the West African health policy front.

(2) Effectiveness

Effectiveness is relatively high. The Project has produced positive effects through useful information and accumulated know-how from model sites, capacity building through international training courses, communications among stakeholders, and experiences accumulated from start-up projects in Supporting countries. However, the database for parasite diseases might be remained uncompleted.

(3) Efficiency

There are some rooms for improvement for efficiency of the Project. In the early phase of the Project implementation, efficiency was not assessed high due to the difficulties of management rooted in the former logical framework. However, in the later phase the Project management significantly improved as JICA experts and counterparts closely communicated and coordinated to attain the common objectives. The former logical framework consequently brought the delay of mutual understanding of the Project. The building, equipment and materials are input timely with satisfactory level of quantity and quality. The absence of JICA chief advisor caused overload against some JICA experts and counterparts.

(4) Impact

Positive impacts can be observed in member countries of the Project. Supporting countries actively implemented school-based parasite control programmes. In Ghana, with the help of WACIPAC, the National De-worming Programme was conducted at 14,000 primary schools covering 5.5 million pupils. In Benin, the nation-wide school based de-worming programme is expected to be implemented. In Niger, it is expected that the developed self-assessment tool be incorporated into development partner's programme and be delivered through local education system. Some member countries initiated their own approach and activities in terms of development of policy paper and guideline, support of de-worming programme, and creation of inter-ministry committee. As for overall goal, expected impact "Parasitic diseases control programmes of the member countries in the West African sub-region are implemented by the capacity built by/at WACIPAC" will be seen in 3-5 years if WACIPAC continuously plays current role. In fact, the number of participants in the international training courses reached 137, which exceeds the indicator of the overall goal.

(5) Sustainability

Sustainability can be expected as WACIPAC developed its own sustainable plan to be incorporated into West African Health Organization (WAHO) of Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). When WACIPAC successfully passes through the plan, it will gain the authorized recognition from the member countries and the University of Ghana.

3-3 Promoting Factors

(1) Factors concerning Planning

Scheme of inter-cooperation (south to south) among CIPACs was beneficial to promote the utilization of ACIPAC's experience in international training of WACIPAC.

(2) Factors Concerning the Implementation Process

The cooperative manner between counterparts and JICA experts and ownership of the Project by counterparts drive forward the Project schedule, in particularly in the later phase.

3-4 Inhibiting Factors

(1) Factors Concerning Planning

The Project faced difficulties in the early phases due to a lack of focus and priority on approaches over the establishment of WACIPC. There was not common understanding about the whole concept of a model site. Those disharmonies lead the delay of the Project schedule.

(2) Factors Concerning the Implementation Process

Political instability of the neighboring countries and inefficient and unstable transportation system in the region brought about delay of event, detour, and adjournment to follow-up visits, start-up activities and international training courses.

3-5 Conclusions

The Project is likely to achieve its objectives by the end of the period although it had faced difficulties of project management in early phase. The Project is valid and meaningful to attain the goals, and all outputs were effective to achieve the Project purpose. Particularly, the international trainings contributed the capacity building of participants in member countries. Efficiency of the Project was hardly assessed as high due to the difficulties of implementation in the early phase. However, in the later phase, the Project management significantly improved through enhanced communication among implementers. Expected impact: "Parasitic diseases control programmes of the member countries in the West African sub-region are implemented by the capacity built by/at WACIPAC" will be seen in 3-5 years if WACIPAC continuously plays current role. Most of the member countries presented WACIPAC's impact in terms of collaboration between Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education, use of its skills such as planning and evaluation of school health and parasite control programme. When WACIPAC successfully passes through the plan that WACIPAC is to be incorporated into WAHO and gains the authorized recognition from the member countries and the University of Ghana, the outcomes from the Project will be continuously utilized and expanded in the region.

3-6 Recommendations

1. WACIPAC requests concerted efforts by member countries to ensure its sustainability as a regional centre.
2. WACIPAC makes up and submits the solid proposal to WAHO for earlier authorization.
3. WACIPAC continues playing a leading role in operational research, and publish scientific articles in peer-reviewed journals.
4. WACIPAC monitors and supports the planned activities of start-up projects leading to success.