



VIETNAM: A quick systematic review of existing MCH home-based records

Overwhelmingly so many home-based records

Home-based records (HBRs) are globally implemented as the effective tools that encourage pregnant women and mothers to timely and adequately utilize maternal and child health (MCH) services. While availability and utilization of nationally representative HBRs have been assessed in several earlier studies, the reality of a number of HBRs subnationally implemented in a less coordinated manner has been neither reported nor analysed. To estimate the prevalence of MCH home-based records in Vietnam, MCH home-based records being currently implemented in 28 of all the 63

provinces were collected. A total of 23 HBRs were collected (Table 1).

Recording items overlapped between 23 home-based records

Of 2,435 recording items identified in 23 home-based records, 1,264 (51.9%) are overlapped between two or more HBRs, while 1,171 (48.1%) are found only in a HBR. This implies that health workers, pregnant women, mothers, or family members theoretically need to fill out the same data for those 1,264 recording items, in two or more HBRs. As the most extremely cases, of those 2,435 recording items, 21 are overlapped in 15 HBRs. Those 21 most frequently overlapped recording are shown in Table 2.



Maternal and Child Health Handbook, Vietnam, 2014

Table 1. Comparison of 23 home-based records being implemented in 28 provinces

#	Title of HBR	Implementation location	No of pages	No of recording items	Target group			Type of HRB	
					Pregnant woman	Child	General pop.	Recording	Guidance
1	MCH Handbook #1	Dlen Bien, Hoa Binh, Thanh Hoa, An Giang provinces (4 provinces)	100	853	X	X		X	X
2	Antenatal Care Card	An Giang province	4	124	X			X	X
3	Antenatal Care Monitoring Handbook	Binh Phuoc province	17	303	X			X	X
4	Pregnancy Monitoring Card	Hoa Binh province	4	89	X			X	
5	Immunization Handbook for Child	Hanoi city	16	295		X		X	X
6	Immunization Card	Nationwide (63 provinces/cities)	1	17		X		X	
7	Immunization Handbook #1	Nationwide (63 provinces/cities)	16	54		X		X	X
8	Immunization Handbook #2	An Giang province	12	69		X		X	X
9	Child Health Monitoring Handbook	Binh Phuoc province	20	438		X		X	X
10	MCH Handbook #2	Nationwide (63 provinces/cities)	54	530	X	X		X	X
11	MCH Monitoring Card at Home #1	An Giang province	12	398	X	X		X	
12	MCH Handbook #3	An Giang province	52	738	X	X		X	X
13	MCH Handbook #4	Ben Tre province	40	546	X	X		X	X
14	MNH Monitoring Card at Home #1	Phu Tan district, An Giang province	8	324	X	X		X	
15	MNH Monitoring Card at Home #2	Thanh Hoa province	8	324	X	X		X	
16	MCH Monitoring Card at Home #2	Binh Thuan province	8	362	X	X		X	
17	MCH Monitoring Card at Home #3	Thanh Hoa province	8	381	X	X		X	
18	MNH Monitoring Card at Home #3	Quang Nam province	12	357	X	X		X	X
19	MNH Monitoring Card at Home #4	Hoa Binh province	8	381	X	X		X	
20	MNH Monitoring Card at Home #5	Vung Tau province	8	406	X	X		X	
21	Nutrition & Health Care Handbook	Nationwide (63 provinces/cities)	48	33	X	X		X	X
22	Health Checkup Handbook	Nationwide (63 provinces/cities)	16	75	X	X	X	X	
23	Growth Monitoring Chart	Nationwide (63 provinces/cities)	2	4		X		X	
Total				2,394 *					

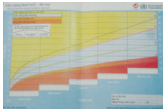
MCH: maternal and child health

MNH: maternal and newborn health

* Of 2394 recording items, 1,264 are commonly found in two home-based records or more as overlapped recording items.



Immunization Handbook



Growth Monitoring Chart

Comprehensiveness of MCH Handbook

A further analysis was conducted on the degree of overlapping of the recording items, by focusing only on three major HBRs being either nationally implemented or piloted for nationwide scaling-up in four provinces: (i) 1. MCH Handbook; (ii) 7. Immunization Handbook; and (iii) 23. Growth Monitoring Chart (see Table 1).

As shown in Figure 1, all the recording items in Growth Monitoring Chart are included in the MCH Handbook. Fourteen recording items identified not in the MCH Handbook but only in Immunization Handbook are related to two preventive measures which are not required in the national immunization guidelines of the MOH: (i) oral Vitamin A drop; and (ii) fourth immunization against Japanese encephalitis. Thus, the MCH Handbook is comprehensive enough to cover all the necessary recording items adopted in the major HBRs.

Conclusion

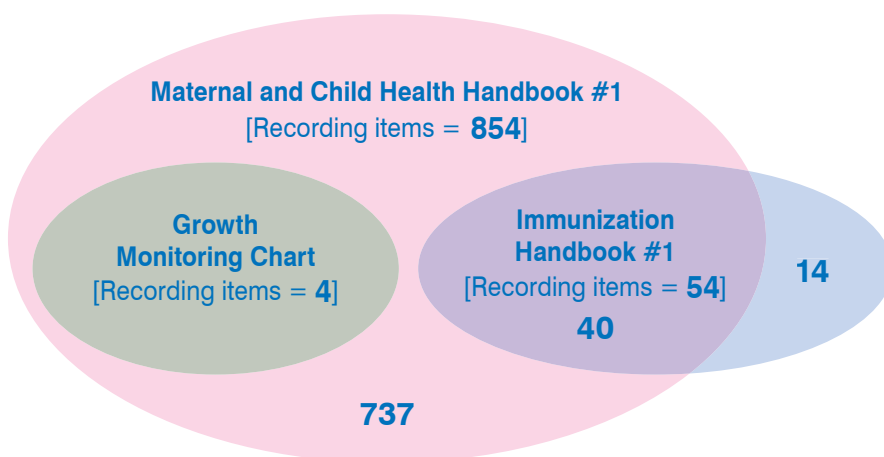
To enable both health workers, pregnant women to focus only on one type of HBRs, a number of currently co-existing HBRs for maternal and/or child health need to be nationally standardized. Moreover, to ensure a continuum of maternal, newborn and child health care, the HBRs currently fragmented into different MCH stages (pregnancy, delivery, child immunization, growth monitoring, and child development) should be integrated.

Hirotsugu Aiga

Japan International Cooperation Agency, Tokyo

▼ Table 2. Twenty-one recording items overlapped in 15 home-based records

#	Recording items commonly found in 15 home-based records
1	Mother's-Other disease 1 (Yes/No)
2	1 st Antenatal Care: Date of ANC visit
3	1 st Antenatal Care: Weight of pregnant woman (kg)
4	1 st Antenatal Care: Uterine fundal height (cm)
5	1 st Antenatal Care: Presence of oedema (Yes/No)
6	1 st Antenatal Care: Fetal heart beating (time/min)
7	1 st Antenatal Care: Fetal head position
8	1 st Antenatal Care: First day of the last menstrual period
9	1 st Antenatal Care: Estimated date of delivery
10	1 nd Antenatal Care: Date of ANC visit
11	2 nd Antenatal Care: Weight of pregnant woman (kg)
12	2 nd Antenatal Care: Uterine fundal height (cm)
13	2 nd Antenatal Care: Presence of oedema (Yes/No)
14	2 nd Antenatal Care: Fetal heart beating (time/min)
15	2 nd Antenatal Care: Fetal head position
16	3 rd Antenatal Care: Date of ANC visit
17	3 rd Antenatal Care: Weight of pregnant woman (kg)
18	3 rd Antenatal Care: Uterine fundal height (cm)
19	3 rd Antenatal Care: Presence of oedema (Yes/No)
20	3 rd Antenatal Care: Fetal heart beating (time/min)
21	3 rd Antenatal Care: Fetal head position



▲ Figure 1. Overlapped recording items in two major home-based records nationally implemented and MCH Handbook

Further readings

1. Aiga H, et al. Fragmented implementations of maternal and child health home-based records in Vietnam: Need for an integration. *Glob Health Action* 2016; **9**:29924
2. VietHealth *End-line survey for assessing the intervetnin of Project for Implementing Maternal and Child Health Handbook for Scaling-Up Nationwide*. Hanoi: JICA, 2013.