

## **Final Progress Report**

Sustainability Science Program

September 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009

**Name:** Quy-Toan Do

**Date:** June 28 2009

**Fields:** Development Economics

**Faculty host:** Michael Kremer (Econ department)

**Description of SSP-related research activity, including a title:** Hand-washing behavioral changes and child health outcomes

**Abstract:** The intervention consists of implementing social marketing campaigns that aimed at changing mothers' attitude towards hand washing with soap. The primary outcome of interest is diarrheal rates for children below the age of two. The experimental design (randomized roll out of the campaigns) allows identifying the impact of the intervention of the outcomes of interest.

**Identification of the problem you address:** the persistence of poor hygiene practices is puzzling; providing information to mothers will allow answering the question of whether such persistence is related to the absence of learning, high transaction costs related to behavioral change.

**Key question asked by the problem:** the key question is the effect of better hand-washing behavior of mothers on health outcomes of their children.

**The methods by which you answered that question:** randomized roll out of a awareness raising campaign related to hand-washing behavior.

**Principle literature upon which the research drew:** epidemiological literature on hygiene and health outcomes, behavioral change.

**Empirical data acquisition description:** roughly 4000 households have been identified for a baseline survey prompting for health outcomes, knowledge and practice, and a large range of socio-economic indicators. After the intervention has taken place, continuous monitoring of health outcomes will be implemented, and a follow-up survey for post intervention outcomes will be undertaken.

**Geographical region:** Vietnam

**Description of major other intellectual or professional advancement activities over the past academic year:** NA

**Reports, articles:**

- Completed papers (under review):
  - o Agent Orange and the Prevalence of Cancer in the Vietnamese Population 30 year after the end of the war
    - This study correlates past herbicide spraying campaigns with contemporaneous cancer prevalence rates. A dose-response analysis is detected. Methodological issues are being addressed, and a causal interpretation of these correlations is discussed.

**Collaborators outside Harvard:** NA

**Awards or Grants:** NA

**New position:**

Senior Economist

Development Economics Research Group (DECRG)

MSN MC3-306

The World Bank

1818 H Street, NW

Washington DC 20433

email: [qdo@worldbank.org](mailto:qdo@worldbank.org)

phone: 202 473 9452