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PHU-BON PROJECT

**A JOINT VENTURE
OF HEALTH PROGRAMMING
FOR RESETTLED TRIBAL PEOPLE**

Vietnam-February, 1963

VIETNAMESE DEPARTMENT
OF PUBLIC HEALTH
VIETNAMESE MILITARY FORCES
USOM PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION
U.S. MILITARY FORCES
USOM RURAL AFFAIRS

INTRODUCTION

Phu Bon Project - I

This project was designed to bring emergency preventive and clinical medical service quickly and efficiently to 12,000 recently relocated Jarai tribal people. This joint Vietnamese, US, civilian military operation was a pilot run by which we gained experience for carrying out short term impact public health programs to forestall epidemics and bring medical care to resettlement areas.

Over 60 personnel, including physicians, entomologists, epidemiologists, sanitarians, health educators and malaria spraymen were airlifted to three village centers to carry out the intensive two-week program, February 1963. Six USOM technicians participated.

Activities included DDT spraying of all dwellings, chloroquine distribution, blood smears from all fever cases, small pox vaccination, emergency medical care and health education programs.

During the 10 day period the 30,000 medical consultations were given:

Smallpox vaccination	12,000
Chloroquine treatment	12,000
Miscellaneous consultation	6,000

Over 3,500 dwellings were sprayed with D.D.T. Blood smears were taken from all infants and 50% of children ages 1-9 years. Health films and talks were presented to 12,000 persons.

The follow-up of this crash program was an integral part of the over-all long term medical program for the province. Following the two-week program these activities were carried out:

1. Arrangements for construction of 3 wells
2. Repairing district health center
3. Assignment of U.S. medical civil affairs team until Vietnamese personnel could be recruited trained or assigned
4. Assignment of Vietnamese physician to Phu Bon.
5. Arrangement for recruiting and for training of village aid workers at neighboring Banmethuot provincial hospital.

The experience of this joint venture will arm all parties involved in Phu Bon Project-I with new knowledge, skills and techniques which will improve subsequent operations.



January 1961, 12,000 Jarai tribesmen who had been under Viet Gong domination were resettled in the new province of Phu Bon, south of Pleiku.

These people came with their simple belongings that could be carried by one person.





A young tribal mother and child expressed the confused feelings of a people disrupted and resettled.

The people made an effort to establish a new home in a unfamiliar setting.





USOM Public Health and Rural Affairs technicians in conjunction with US and Vietnamese military airlifted supplies and personnel to carry out an emergency medical program for these refugees.

Medical supplies arrived for use in tribal resettlement area of Phu Bon Province.





An aerial view of a resettlement area in Phu Bon with fencing and moat of the strategic hamlet evident.

Helicopters were utilized to carry the teams to the remote inaccessible refugee collection point.

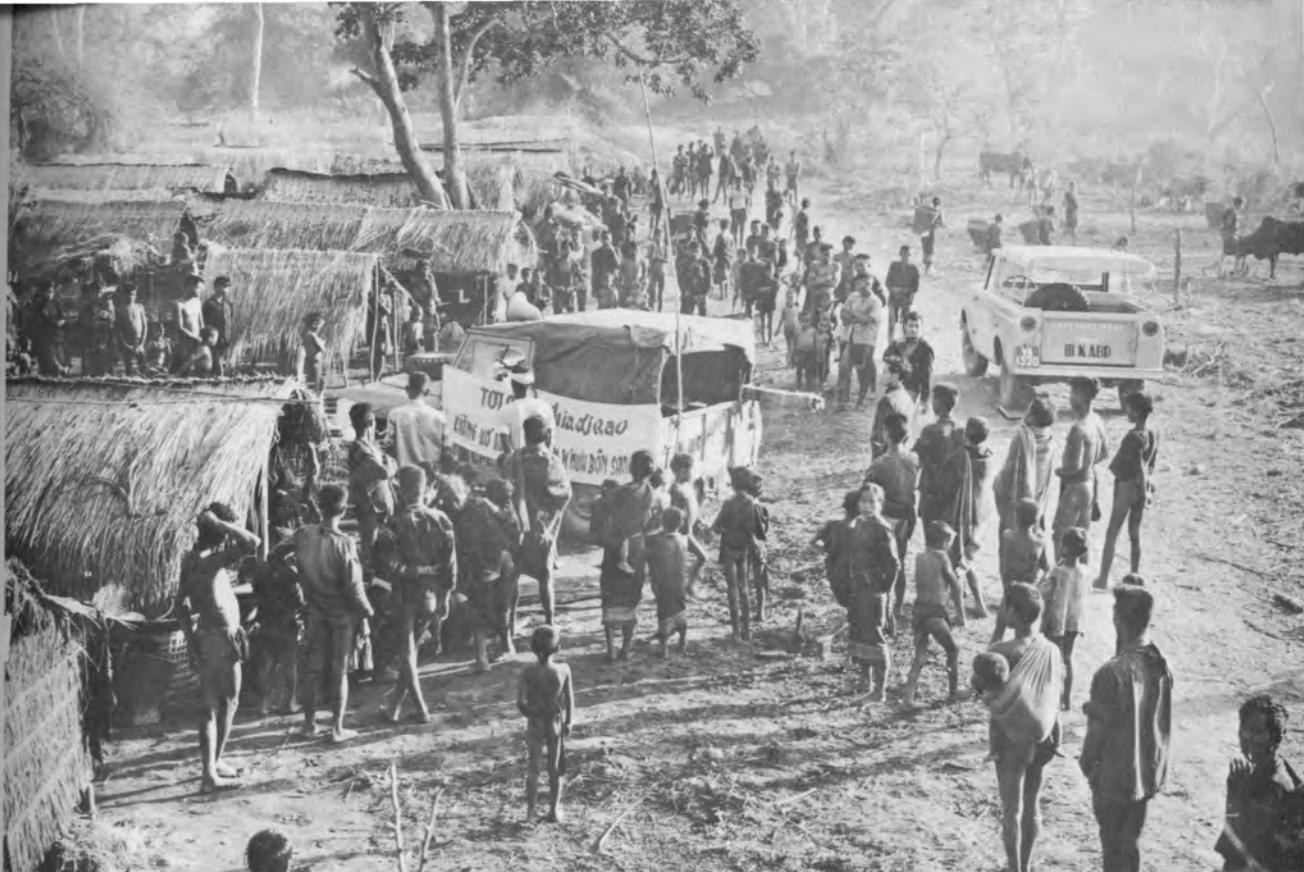




The tribal people watched intently as USOM and Department of Health officials arrive for opening ceremonies.

The traditional rice wine drinking ceremony launched Phu Bon Project I.





Health educators arrived and set up for evening educational program .

Health films were presented to 12,000 tribal people during the 10-day period .





Rapt attention was reflected in the audience faces during the program.

Few tribal people had ever seen a film showing (note the old woman on the right with trachoma scarring).





Earl Young, USOM area representative for Phu Bon was a popular figure during the operation, which he promoted .

Smallpox vaccination does not seem to frighten this Jarai beauty .

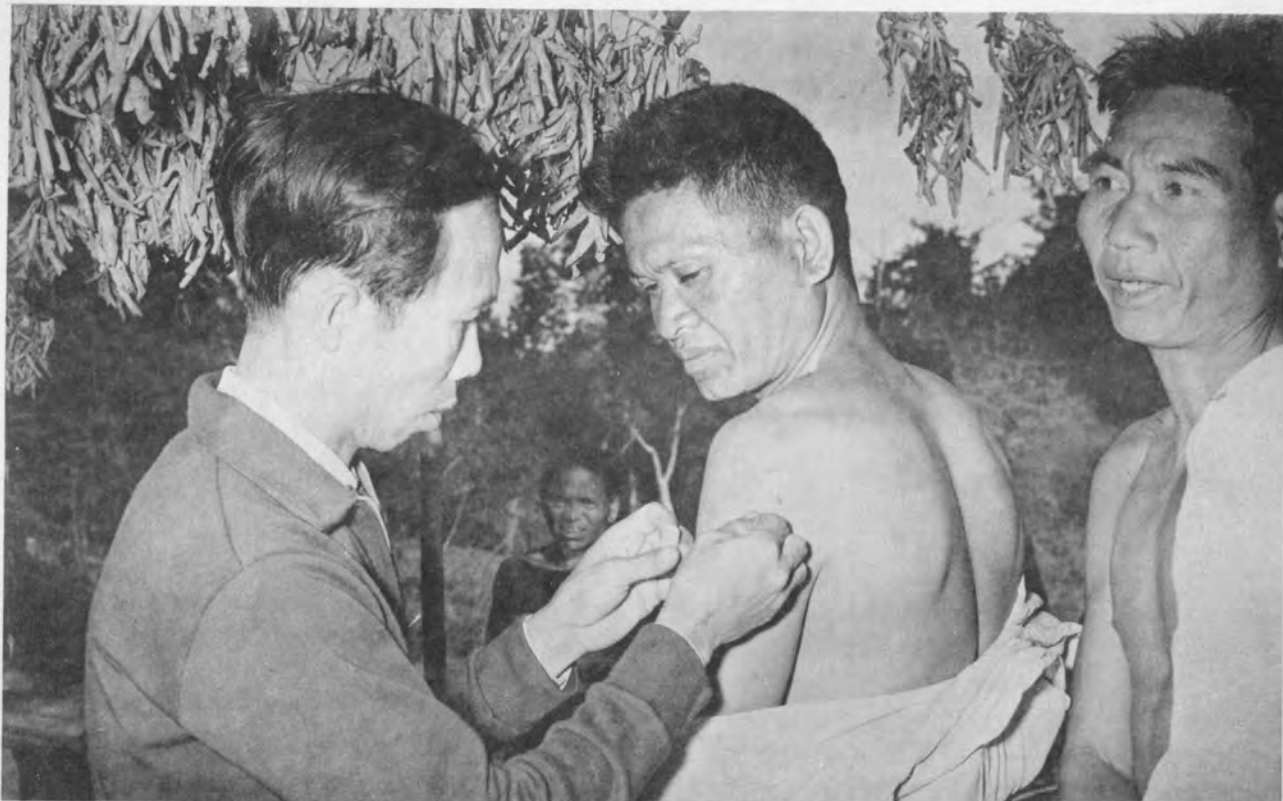




Little evidence of smallpox scarring was observed indicating lack of exposure to the disease and therefore no immunity .

Bringing such groups in contact with Vietnamese (who have had smallpox) necessitated such vaccination to prevent serious epidemic .





*Nearly 12,000 persons of all ages were immunized against smallpox.
The people cooperated eagerly .*

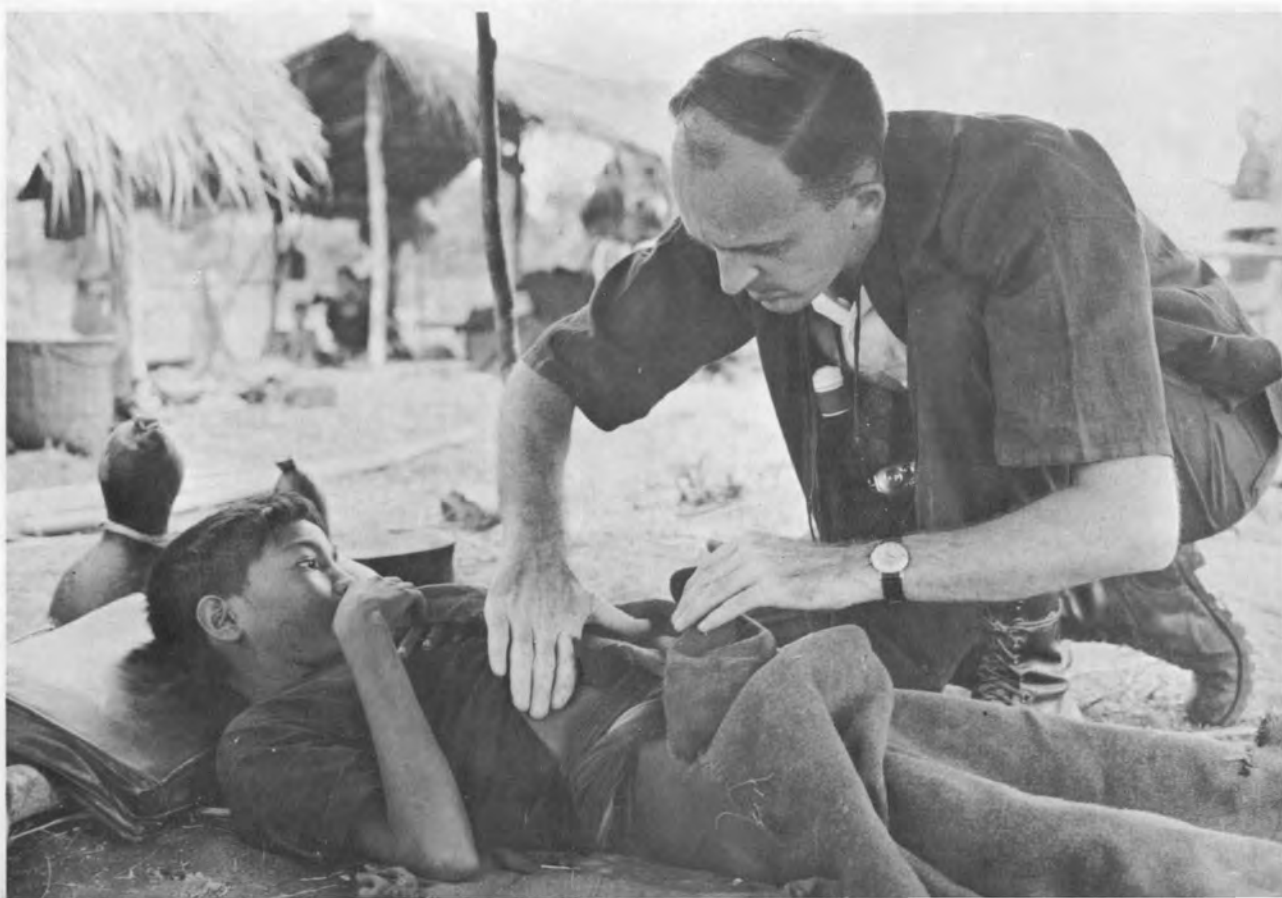
Dr. Voulgaropoulos, USOM Public Health physician assisted in diagnosis of trachoma .





Trachoma, one of Viet Nam's leading health problems, often leads to blindness.

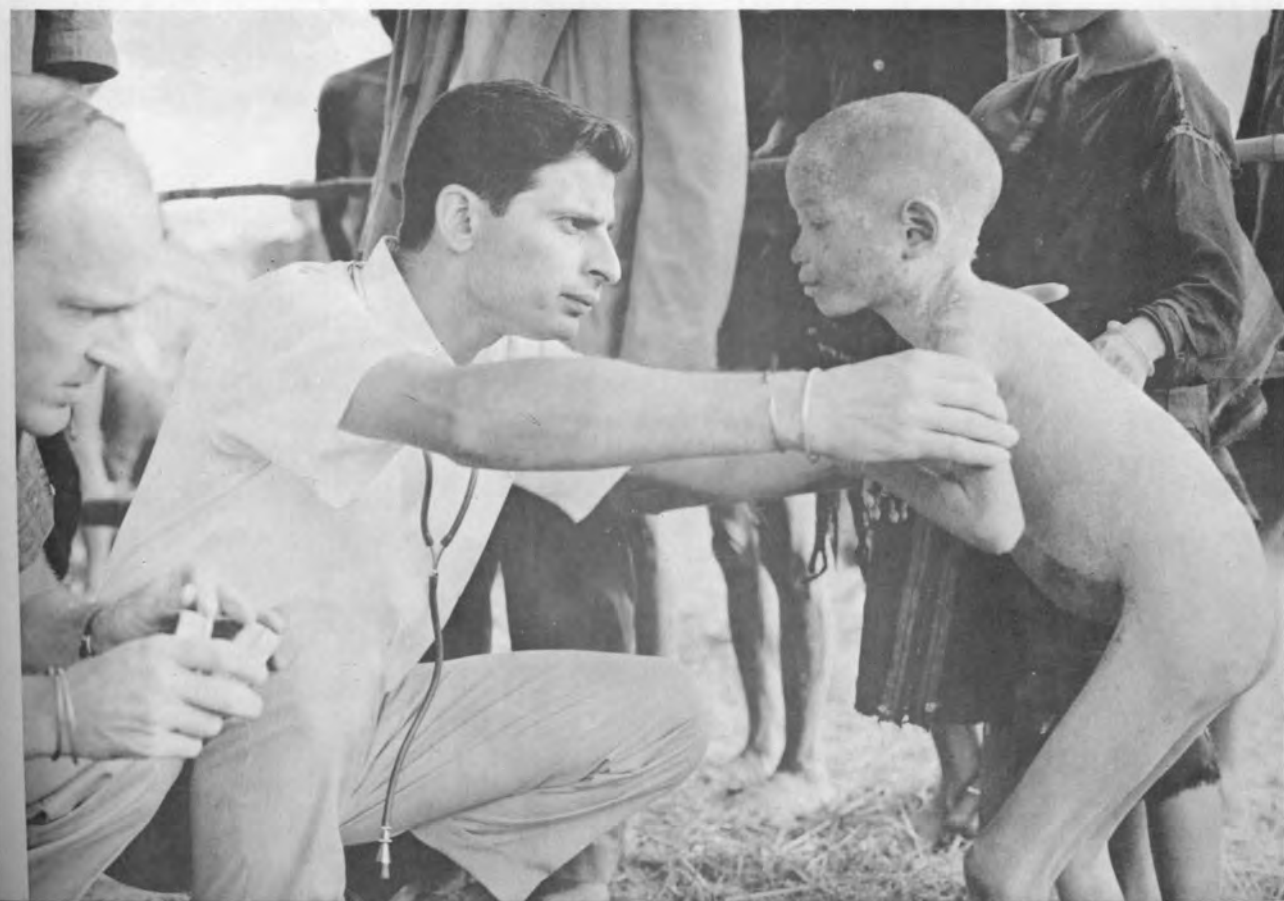
A young patient is examined.





Over 5,000 persons were treated or given medication for simple diseases and illnesses.

This child was found to be suffering from malnutrition, malaria and worms.





The malaria supervisor started the census, an important aspect of malaria programming .

Malaria health educators distributed material printed in the Jarai dialect .





Spraymen prepared for mixing of DDT powder .

Jarai women eagerly assist spraymen mix DDT with water .





Family group observed spraymen pump the pressure DDT sprayer .

*Over 2,000 dwellings were given the spray application to destroy
the deadly anopheles that rest in the house after biting .*





The spray application is effective for killing the anopheles for 6 months, after which the job must be done again. Most areas in Vietnam have been sprayed .

Dr. E. Voulgaropoulos examined infant for an enlarged spleen which often indicates malaria infection .





*Blood slides were taken for laboratory examination to give data on infection rates.
Over 50% were found to be infected with malaria parasites.*

All persons were given single dose mass chloroquine treatment for malaria.





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