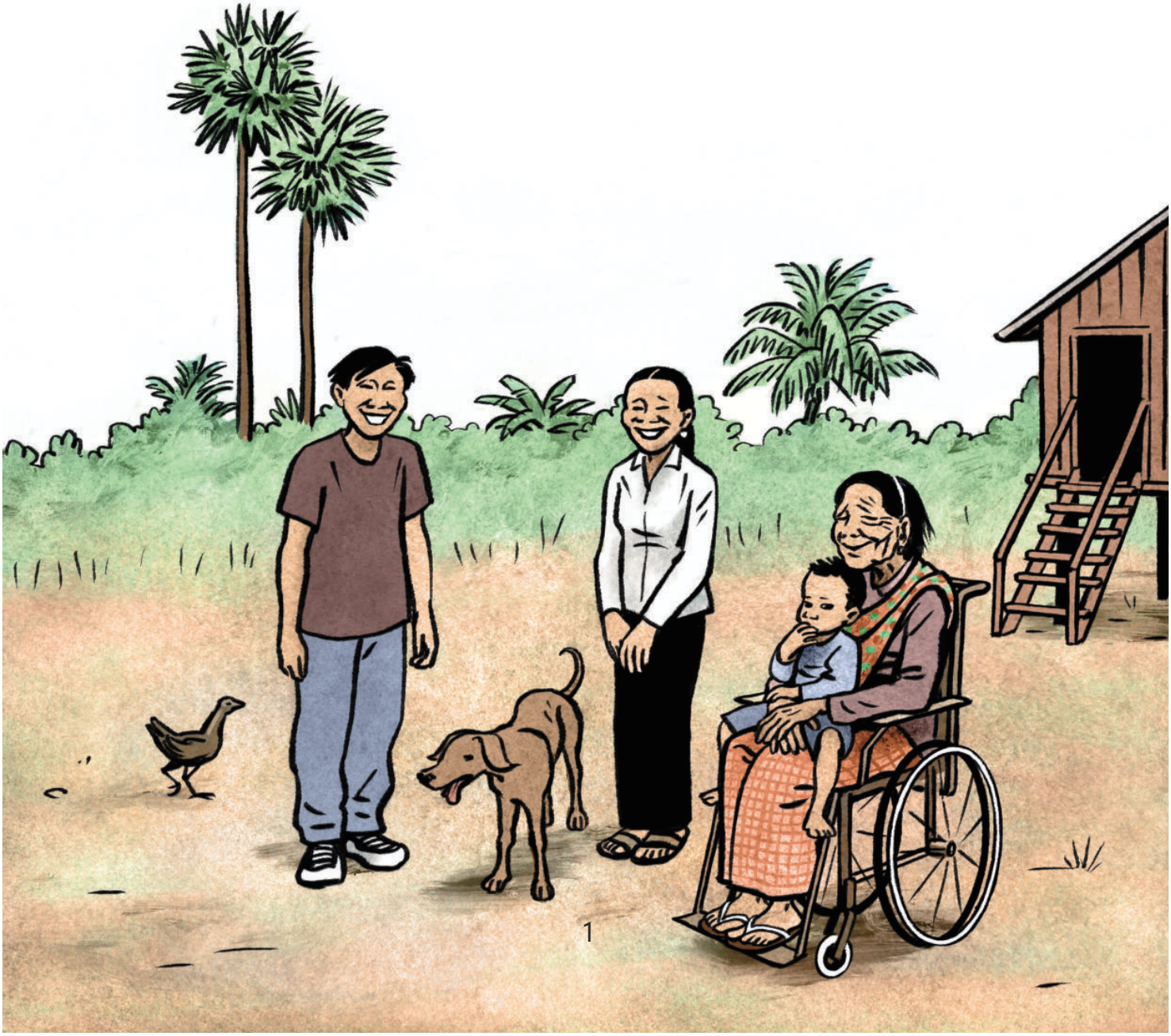
Institut Pasteur du Cambodge

PASTEUR NETWORK

wellcome

RACSMEI

A major study to protect the health of families, animals, and the environnement



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Ethical Approvals

The RACSMEI study has received ethical approval from the National Ethics Committee for Health Research (NECHR), Cambodia
– Approval N°: 2025-199 (02 May 2025)
– Approval N°: 2025-359 (22 July 2025)

Institutional Review Board (IRB) of Institut Pasteur, Paris
– Approval N°Protocol 2024-145 (08 October 2025)

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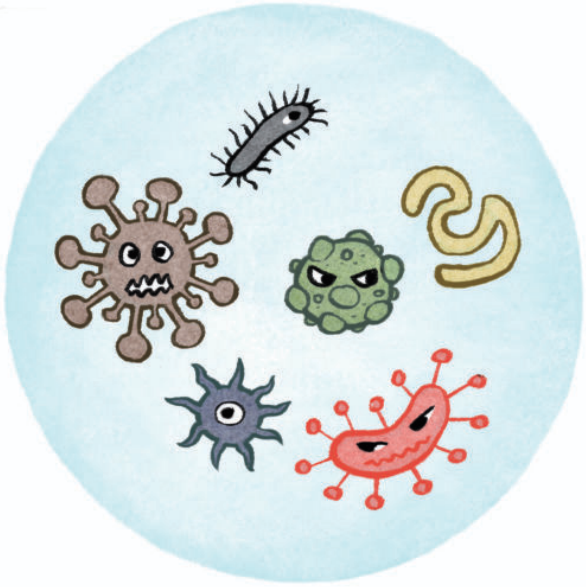
For more information about the RACSMEI study, please scan the QR code:

The goal of the RACSMEI study is to better protect families, animals, and the environment from infectious diseases.

What is a microbe?

Microbes are everywhere in the environment.

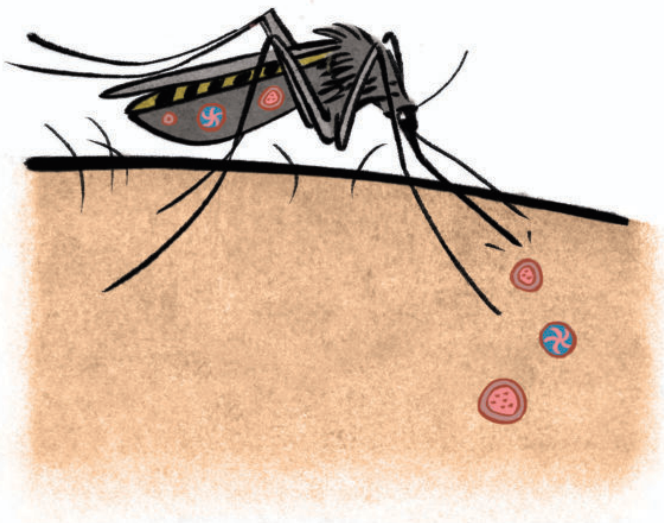
They are very small things that we cannot see with our eyes – look!



Some microbes are very useful. For example, they help make milk into delicious yogurt or help us make beer...

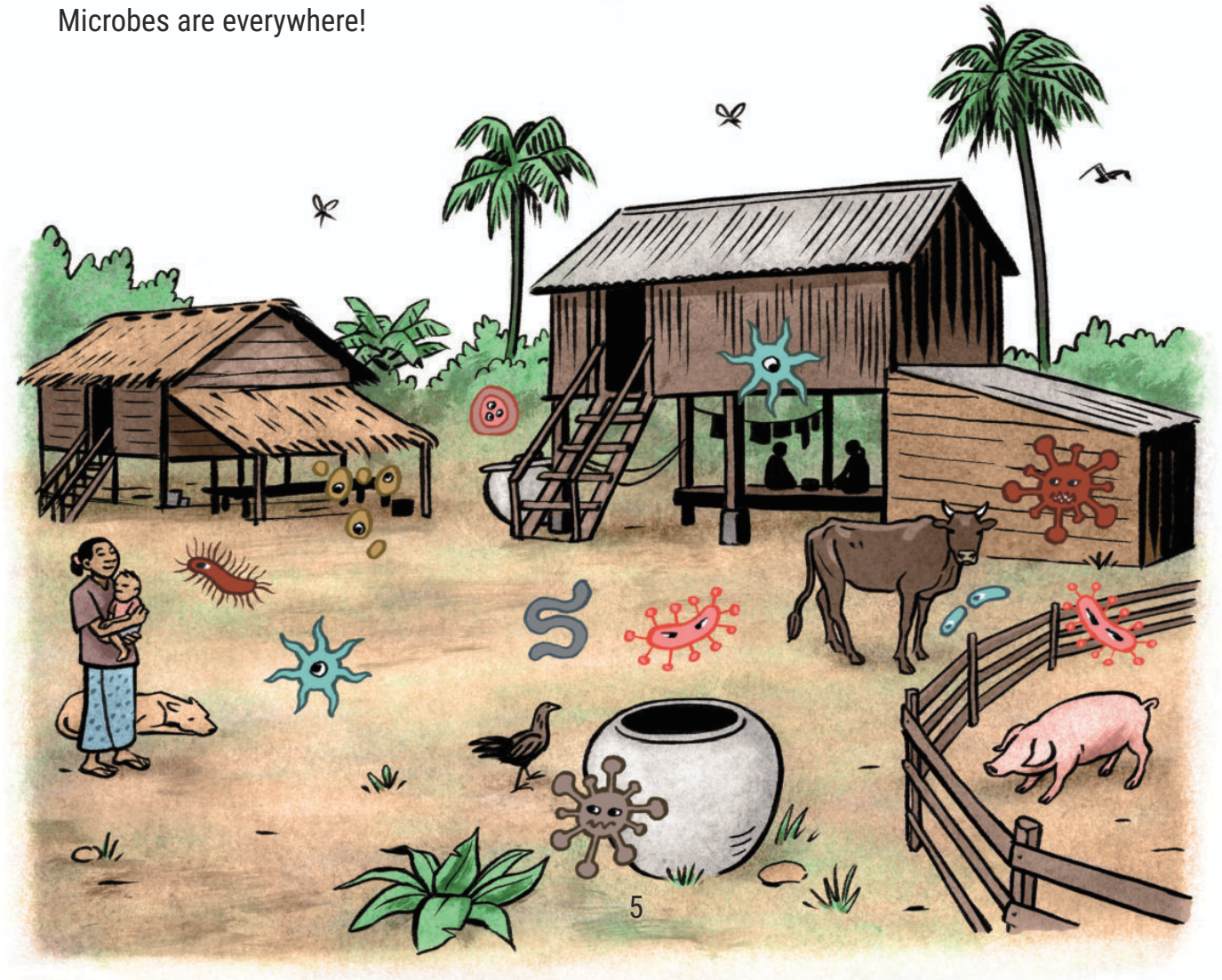
But other microbes can make us sick. These are the ones that cause infectious diseases.

For example, microbes like the ones that cause malaria or dengue are carried by mosquitoes.



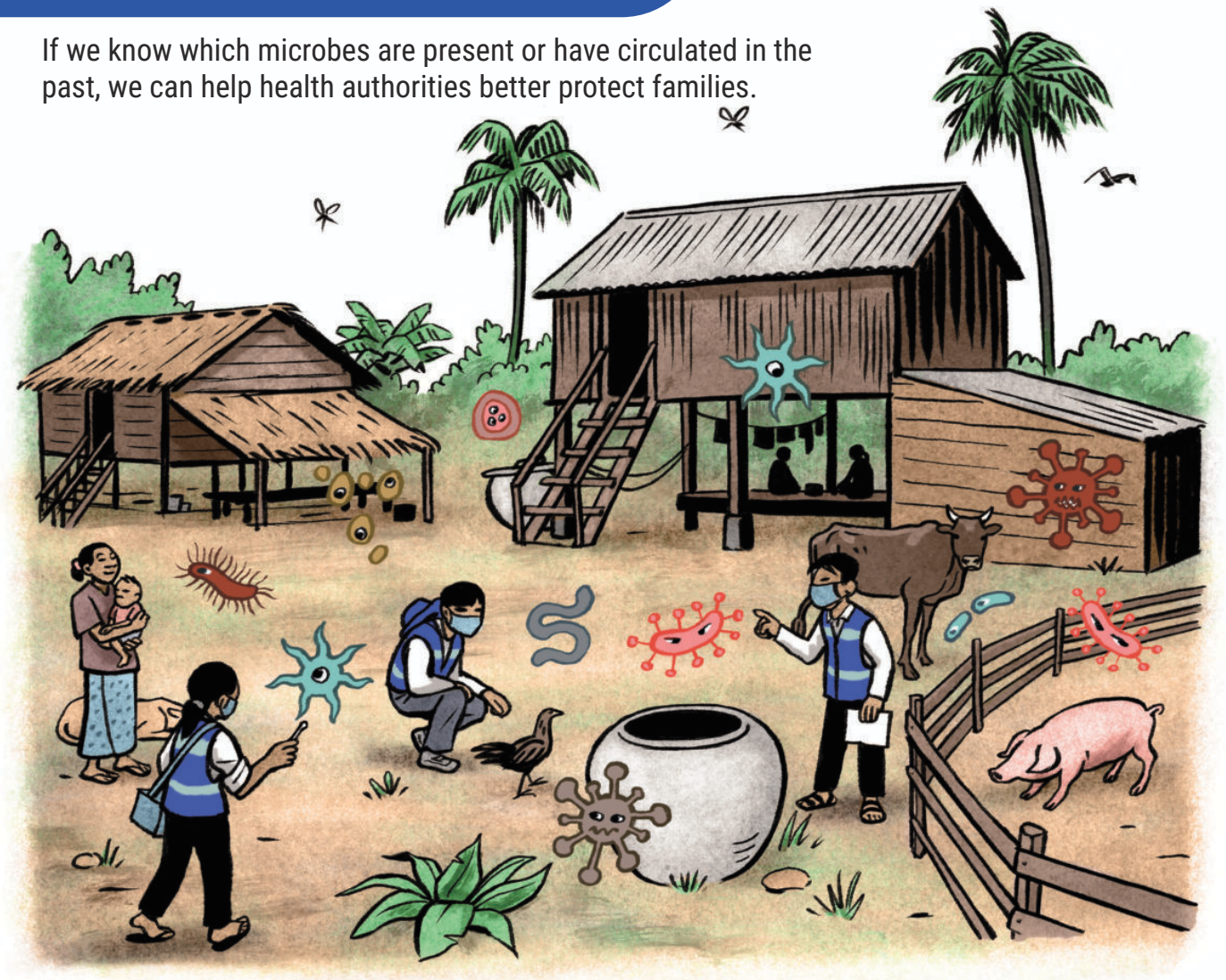
The flu microbe travels through the air when someone coughs or sneezes.

Each infectious disease is caused by a different microbe, and microbes can spread in many ways: through the air, through water, through hands, through food, or through insect bites. Microbes are everywhere!

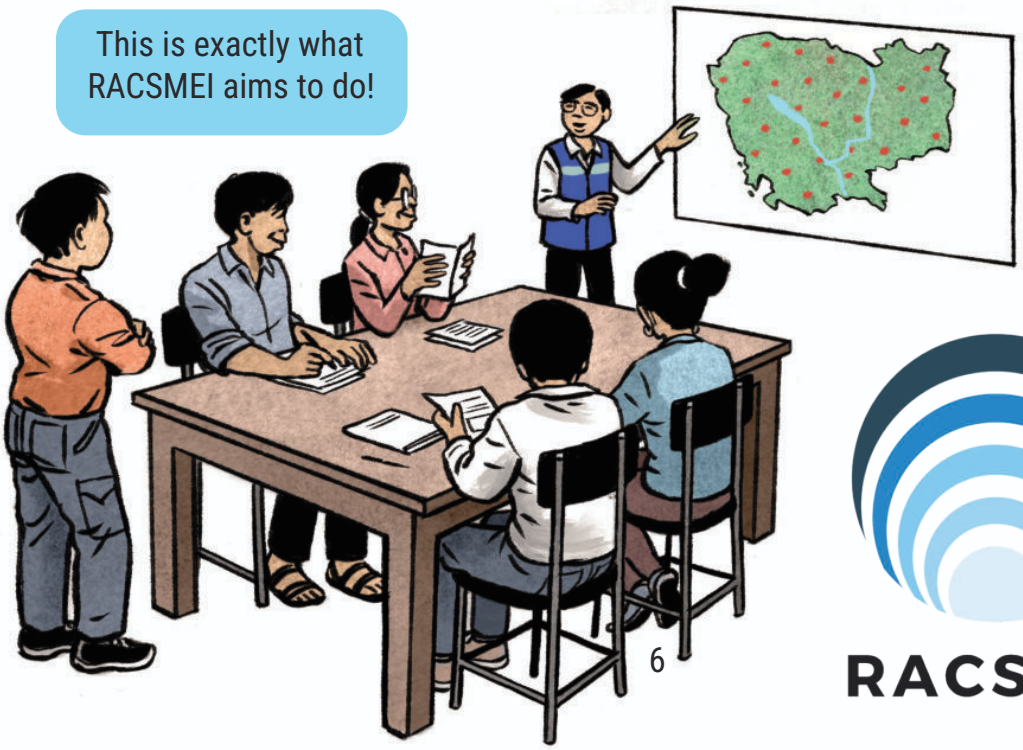


What is the RACSMEI study?

If we know which microbes are present or have circulated in the past, we can help health authorities better protect families.

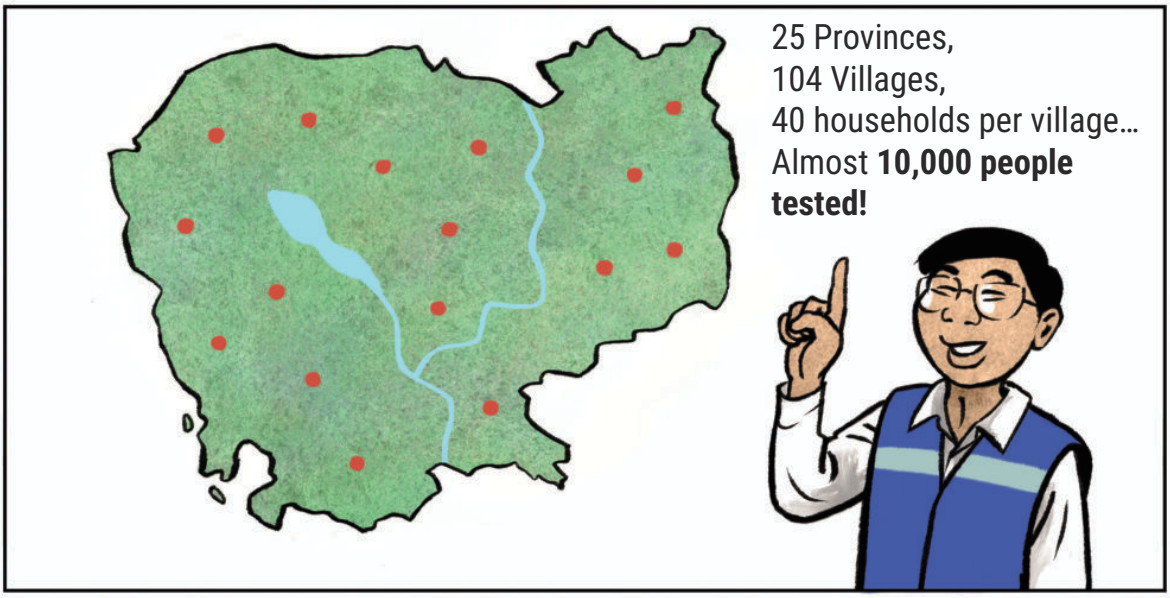


This is exactly what RACSMEI aims to do!

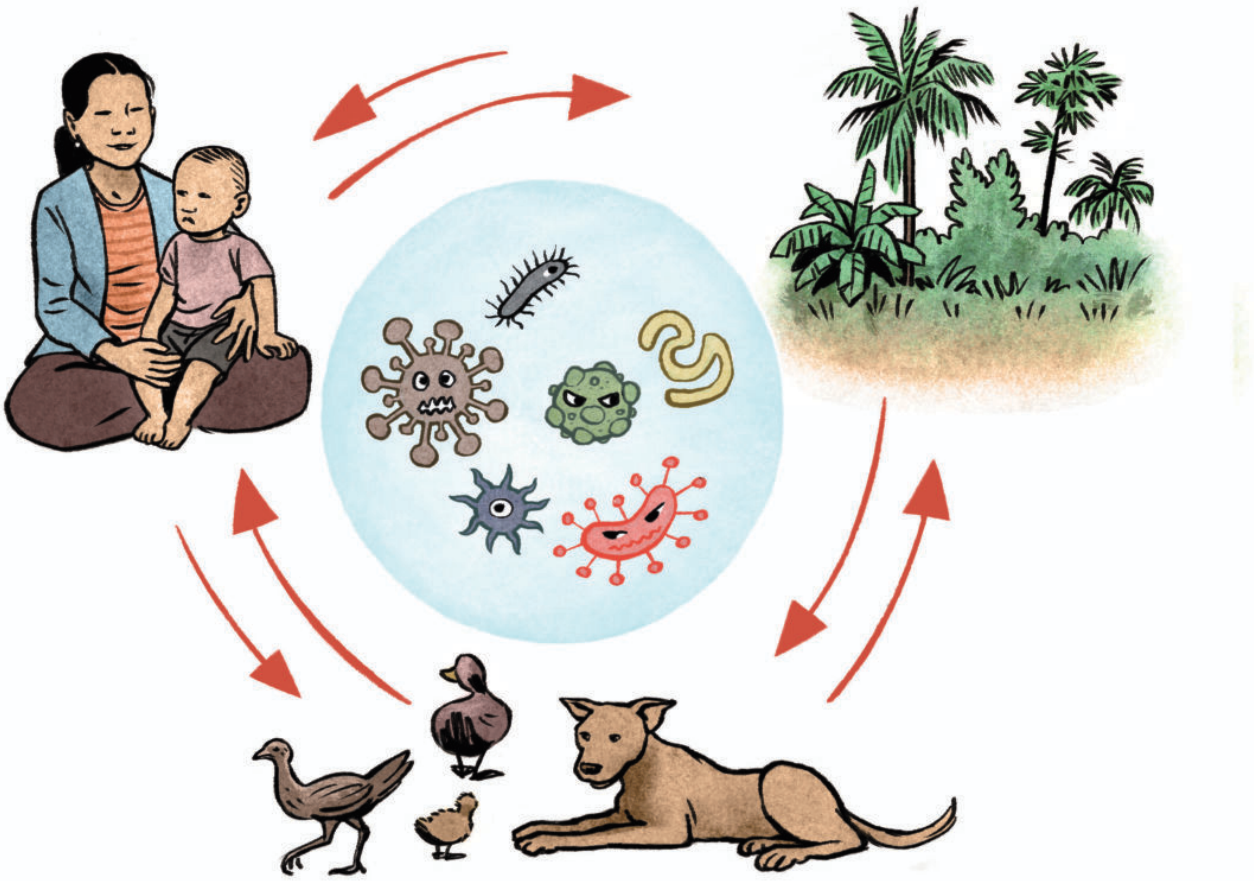


RACSMEI

RACSMEI is a large national survey designed to understand which microbes are circulating in Cambodia and where they are found.

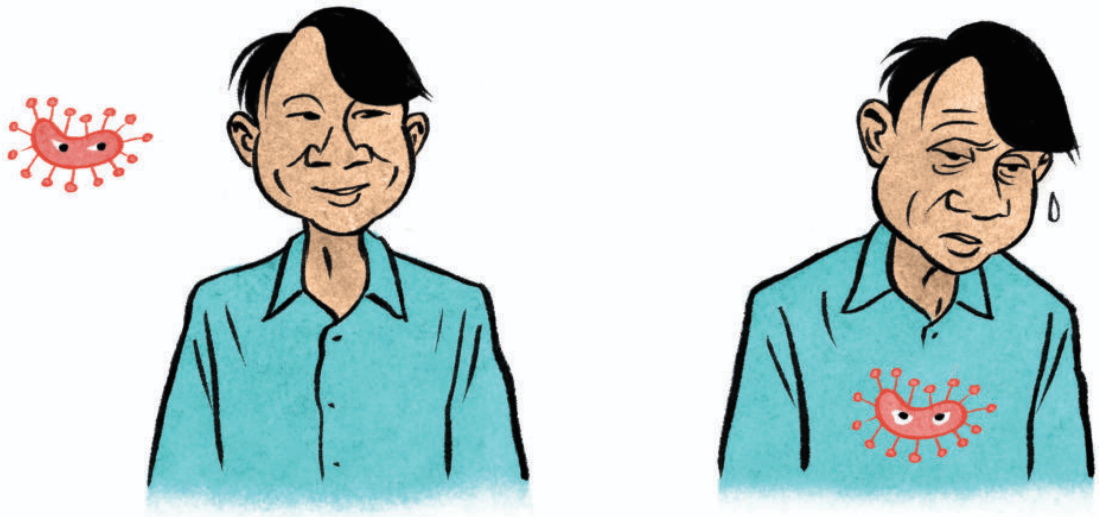


But that's not all: because microbes move and spread between humans, animals, and the environment, researchers will also collect mosquitoes and ticks, and test animals, water, soil, and even air to understand how microbes spread.



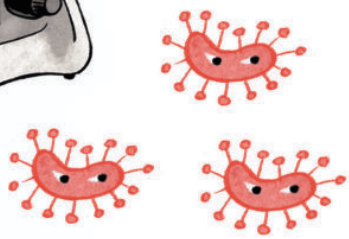
The study brings together many partners:
the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, the Ministry of Environment,and several research institutions working together to prevent disease.

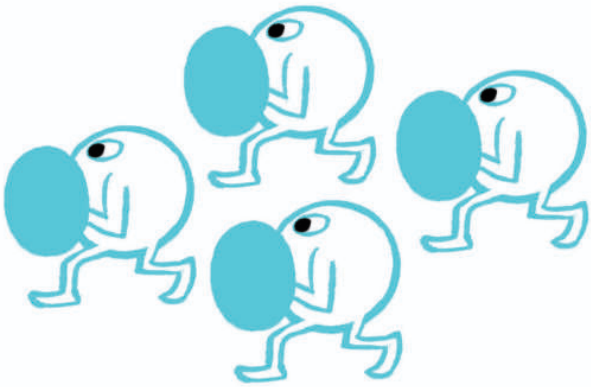
Why do we take blood samples?

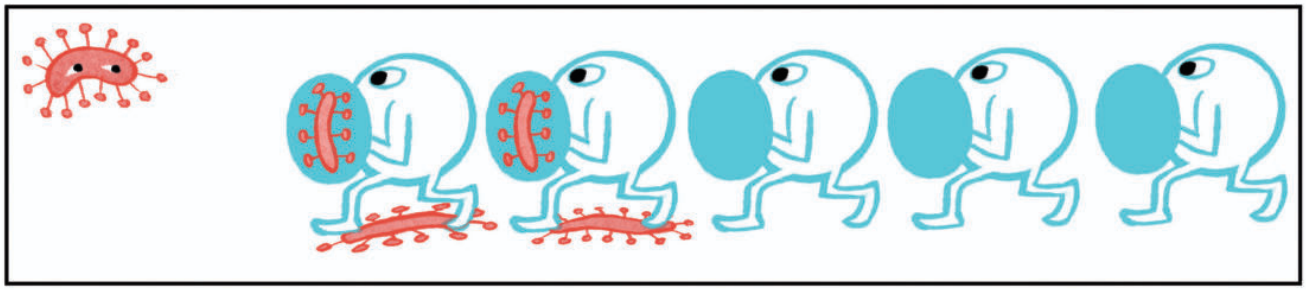


When a microbe enters the body, our body needs to get rid of it.

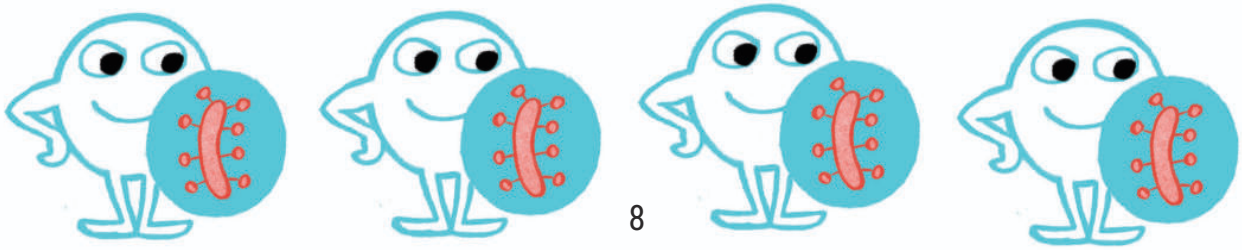
We have **an immune system** inside us – like an army of invisible soldiers that recognize and fight microbes.



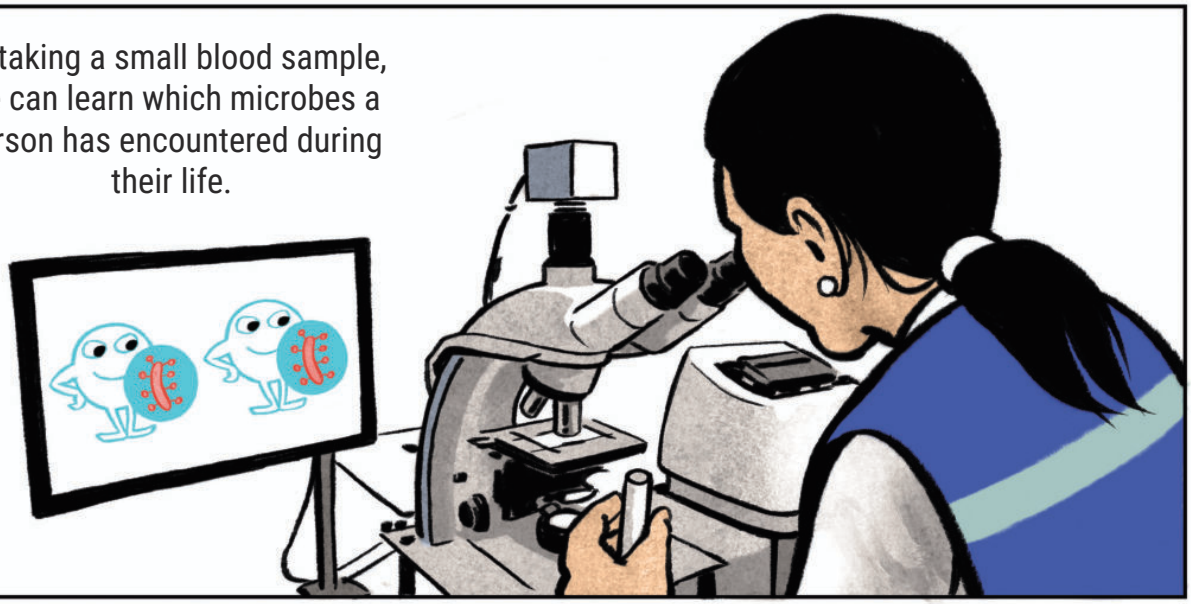




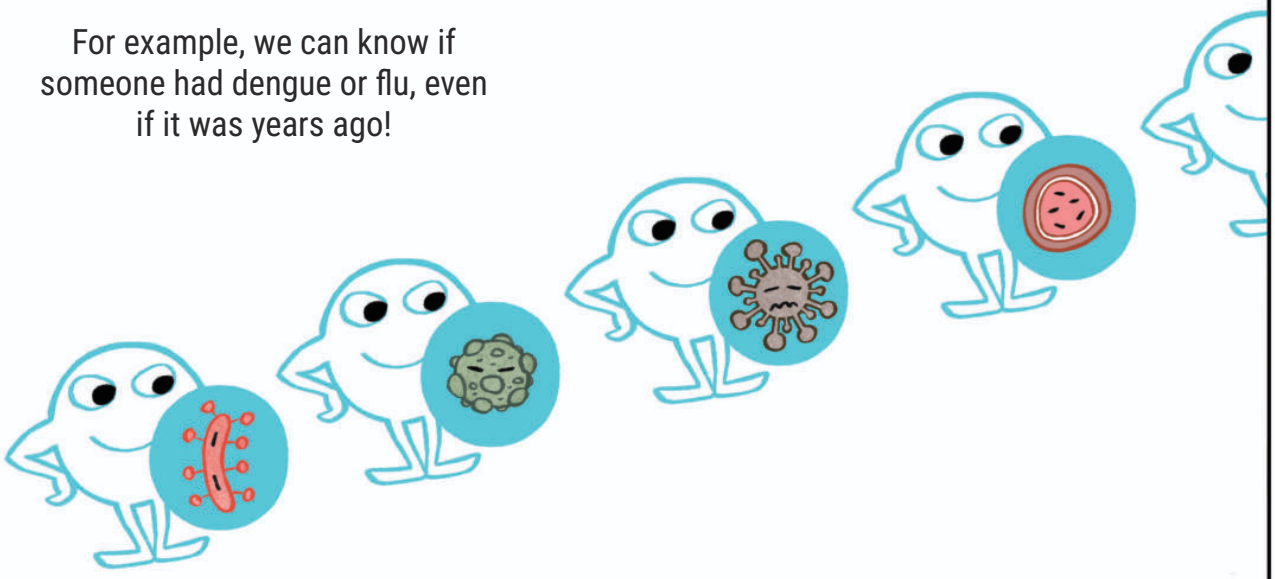
And the amazing part is: once one of these soldiers has fought a microbe, **it can remember it forever.**

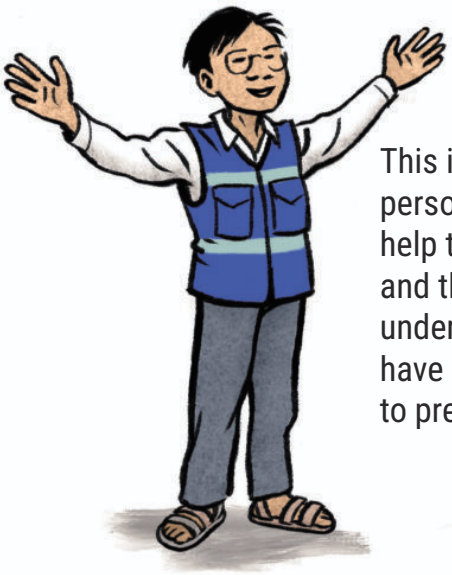


By taking a small blood sample, we can learn which microbes a person has encountered during their life.

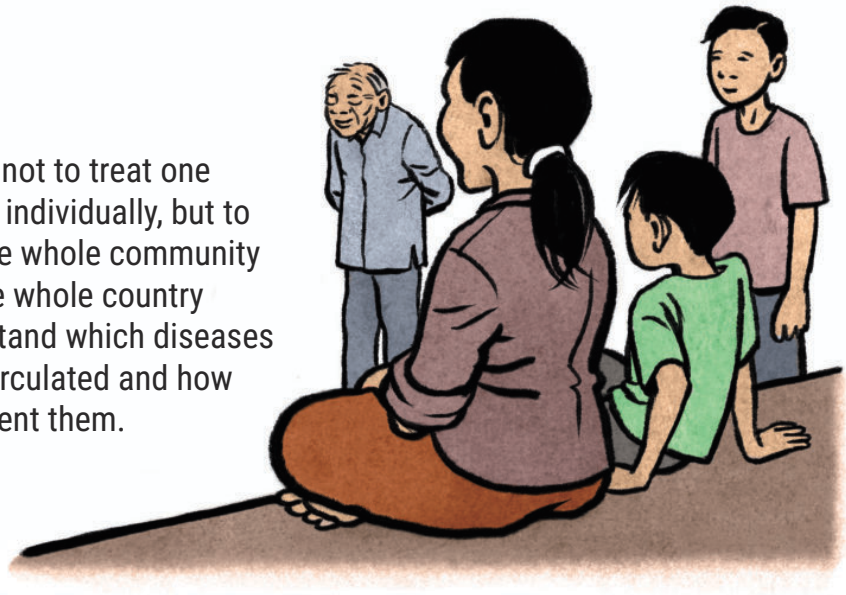


For example, we can know if someone had dengue or flu, even if it was years ago!





This is not to treat one person individually, but to help the whole community and the whole country understand which diseases have circulated and how to prevent them.

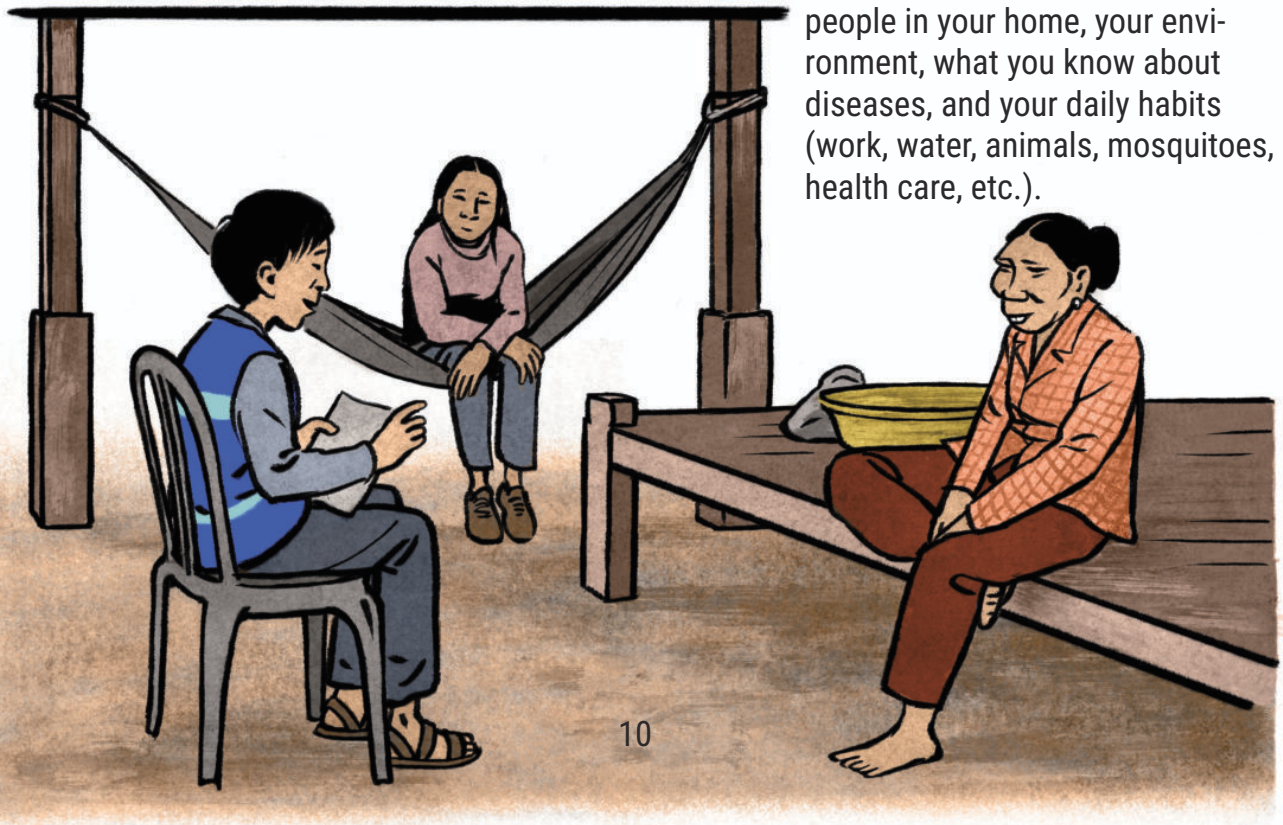


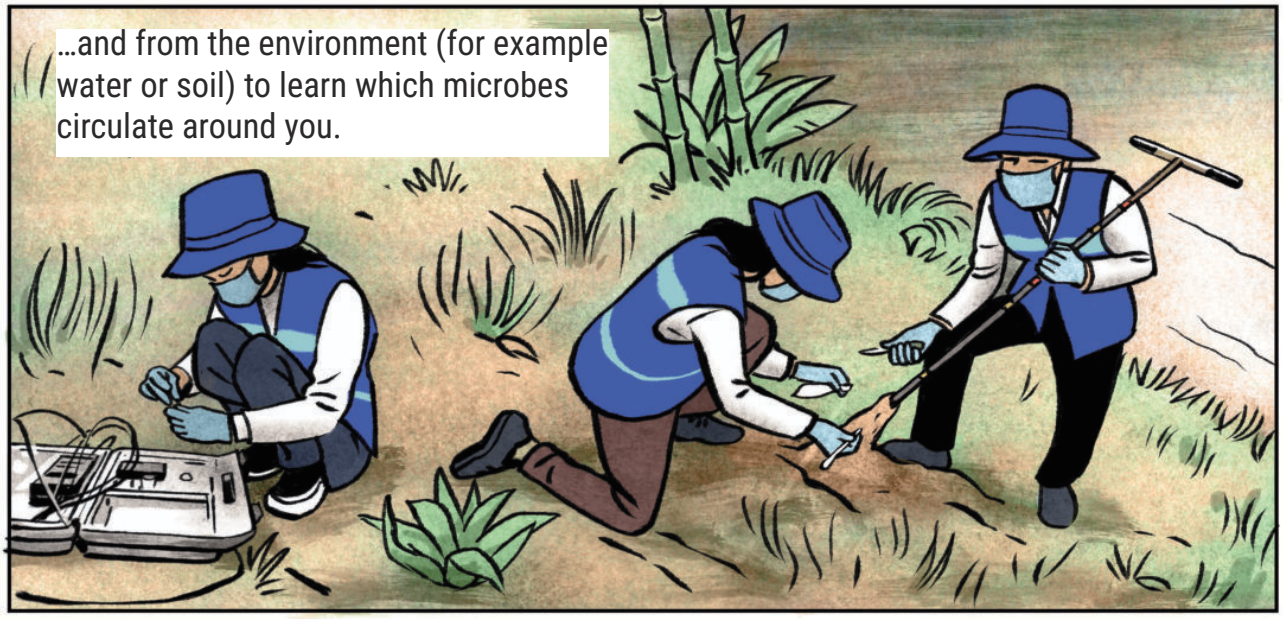
What does it mean to participate?

Taking part in this study takes about one hour of your time, but it is a big help for your village, your province, and all of Cambodia.
Thanks to you, researchers will better understand, prevent, and control diseases.

You will have a small blood sample taken – it is not very painful.

You will be asked simple questions: your age, the number of people in your home, your environment, what you know about diseases, and your daily habits (work, water, animals, mosquitoes, health care, etc.).





At the end of the study, we will return to the villages to share overall results:
you will know which diseases were found, which microbes are most common, and how to protect yourselves.

Why won't you receive an individual result?
This type of study is not for diagnosing or treating one person, but for understanding which diseases are circulating in the population.
All samples are anonymous and your name is never linked to your results. The analyses show which microbes are present in the region, not whether one specific person is infected.

The goal is to help the whole community stay healthy.

Your rights

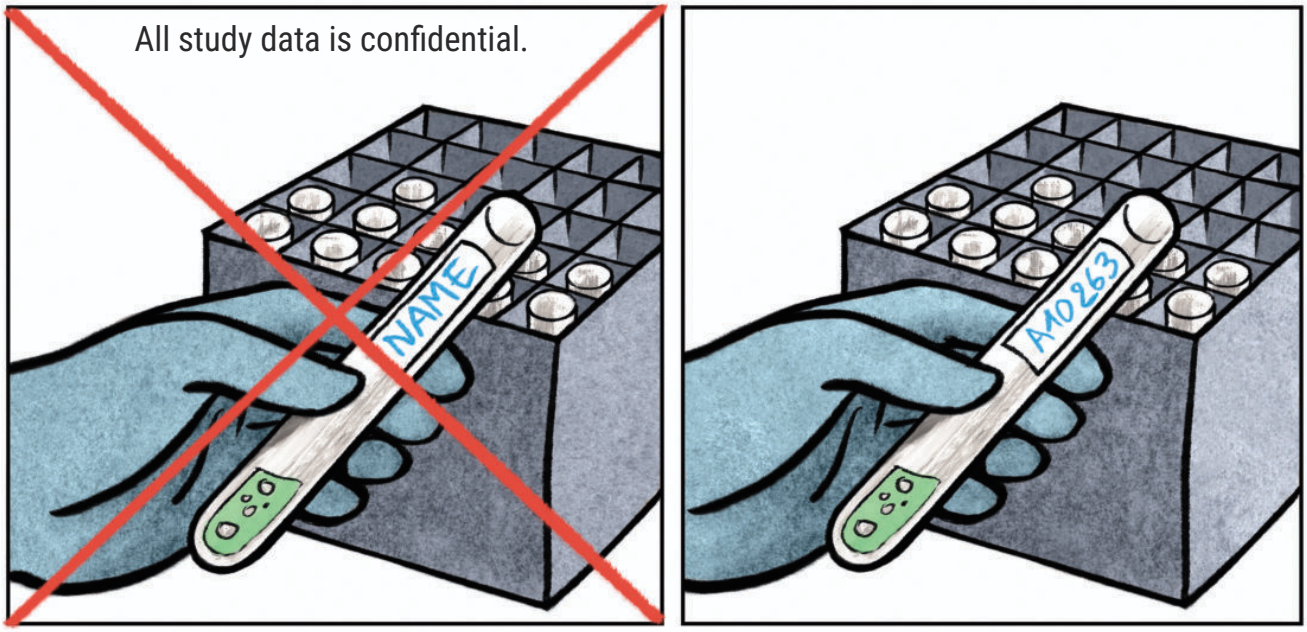
Your participation in this study is voluntary.

If you choose not to take part, this will not affect your health care or your relationship with local authorities.

You may ask any questions at any time.

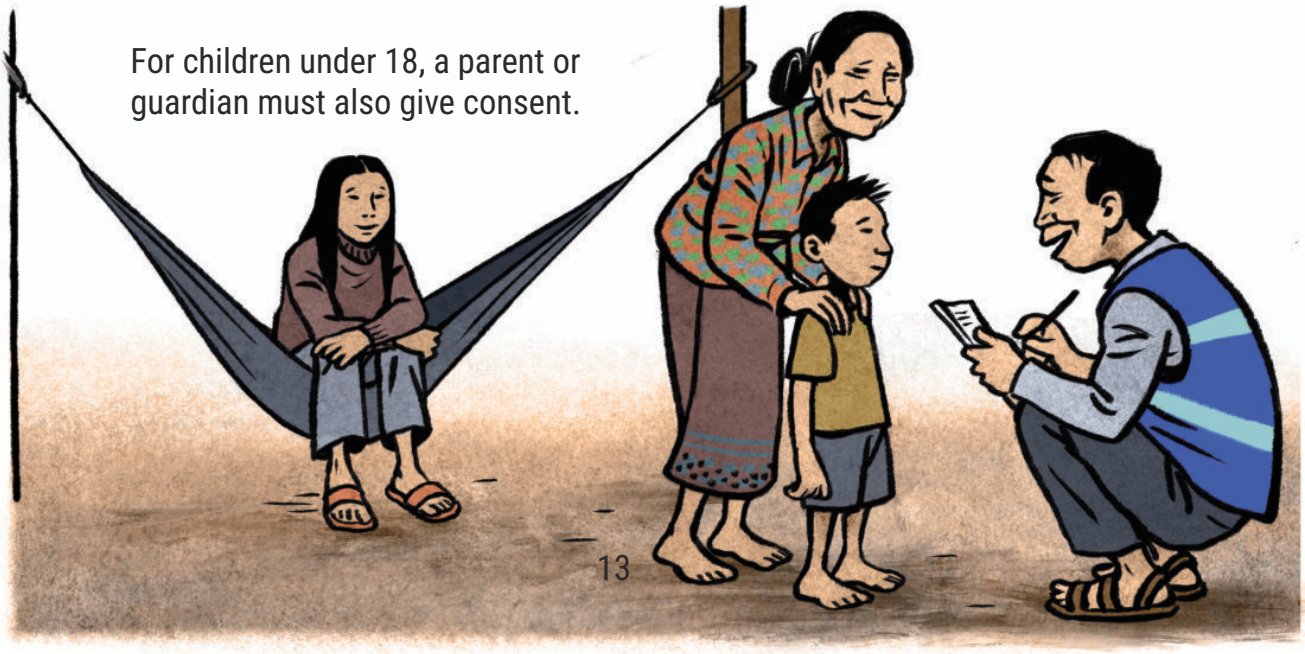
You are free to stop participating whenever you wish, without any consequence for you or your family.

All study data is confidential.



This means no one will know the data comes from you – it is only used to understand diseases in the population.

For children under 18, a parent or guardian must also give consent.



Safety, ethics and benefits

All research in Cambodia is reviewed by the National Ethics Committee for Health Research of the Ministry of Health.
This committee has approved RACSMEI to ensure that it is conducted safely and respectfully for everyone.

RACSMEI

RACSMEI, a study for everyone

RACSMEI is a study done with and for communities, to protect families, animals, and the environment.
Every participation matters: together, we can better understand diseases and help prevent epidemics.

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RACSMEI

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AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH FOR DEVELOPMENT

malaria consortium

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