



CDC in Lao PDR

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) established an office in Lao PDR in 2006. In 2010, the National Center for Laboratory and Epidemiology (NCLE) was designated as a National Influenza Center (NIC) by the World Health Organization (WHO). During the past 10 years, Lao PDR has improved their capacity in support of the International Health Regulations, provided significant technical assistance in HIV/AIDS prevention and control, and expanded maternal and child health immunization coverage.



CDC STAFF

- 0 U.S. Assignees
- 2 Locally Employed



AT A GLANCE

Population: 6,858,160
 Per capita income: \$5,920
 Life expectancy at birth: W 68/M 65
 Infant mortality rate: 43/1000 live births



TOP 10 CAUSES OF DEATH

1. Diarrhea Diseases
2. Neonatal Disorders
3. Cardiovascular Diseases
4. Non-Communicable Disease
5. Unintentional Injuries
6. Diabetes
7. Neoplasms
8. Mental Disorders
9. Transport Injuries
10. Musculoskeletal Disorders

Source: World Bank Lao PDR
 Source: Population Reference Bureau (2017) Lao PDR
 Source: GBD Compare (2016) Lao PDR



Influenza

CDC in Lao PDR supports influenza surveillance to monitor seasonal and novel influenza viruses, and to support the evidence base needed for an effective vaccination policy. Activities include implementing influenza surveillance at sentinel sites and along the animal-human interface, and building capacity for influenza preparedness by strengthening laboratories, surveillance, outbreak response, clinical case management, infection control guidelines, and pandemic planning. In 2012, Lao PDR introduced seasonal influenza vaccine through an innovative private-public partnership. In 2017, 267,333 doses were given to priority high-risk groups (i.e., pregnant women, elderly, chronically ill and health care workers), and CDC assisted the Lao Ministry of Health in evaluating the effect of vaccination on birth outcomes.

Immunization

CDC provides technical and programmatic expertise to eradicate or control vaccine-preventable diseases through immunizations. CDC's contribution to the Expanded Program for Immunization is channeled through WHO in Lao PDR. CDC's efforts in Lao PDR have focused on operational research to increase the number of newborns receiving the birth dose of hepatitis B vaccine, a crucial intervention to prevent mother-to-child transmission.

Field Epidemiology Training (FET)

CDC supports the Field Epidemiology Training (FET), which trains a global workforce of field epidemiologists or "disease detectives" to keep people safe. Disease detectives help track, contain, and eliminate outbreaks before they



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

become epidemics. CDC capacity building investments include standing up and providing operational support for the Lao FET. A yearlong training initiative intended to decentralize outbreak response and surveillance capabilities, Lao FET is organized into three modules, with each consisting of one month of practical classroom instruction and three months of field work. The Lao FET started in 2009 and has resulted in a national network of 81 alumni. The program received global recognition for its contributions to a success response to a vaccine-derived polio outbreak in 2014-2015.

HIV/AIDS

Since 2009, the CDC Global HIV/AIDS Asia Regional Office based in Thailand has worked in Lao PDR to strengthen the country's HIV response, with a focus on both clinical quality services and building health systems capacity, including: HIV prevention in men who have sex with men, counseling and testing, care and treatment, laboratory capacity, HIV surveillance, health information systems, and prevention of mother-to-child transmission. Activities include development of innovative intervention models, training curricula, guidelines, and standard operating procedures; field supervision; and data-driven program planning and decision-making for maximum disease and health impact. CDC leveraged many lessons learned from Thailand's expertise and experience to establish a high quality, robust national HIV/AIDS program tailored to the Lao setting. The national Lao HIV/AIDS program, supported by CDC, has also benefited through collaboration with WHO and partnering with the National Center of HIV/AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Infections, National Centers for Laboratory and Epidemiology (NCLE) and Maternal and Child Health Center.

To maximize limited funding, CDC complements the investments of the Global Fund and other donors to optimize impact by strengthening national human resource capacity and the systems that underpin national HIV responses such as laboratory services, testing and counseling, care and treatment, and strategic information.

Biosafety and Biosecurity Capacity Building

Since 2015, CDC has supported NCLE to improve laboratory biosafety through a Biological Safety Cabinet (BSC) certification program. Experts from CDC's Southeast Asia Regional Office including an NSF accredited BSC certifier work with the Lao laboratory technicians to ensure their BSC meet required safety standards. Over 30 BSCs in 11 provinces including Vientiane have been certified compliant to international standard (NSF 49). To sustain this program and increase their certification skills, two BSC trainees will be mentored and supported to complete the international accreditation program in order to be qualified BSC certifiers in Laos.

Animal-Human Interface Program

CDC promotes One Health activities to prevent, detect and respond to important zoonotic diseases. In 2015, CDC's Animal-Human Interface Program supported rabies prevention and control by promoting public awareness and conducting a dog vaccination campaign, which was first piloted in Vientiane. 1,350 doses of animal and human rabies vaccines and human rabies immunoglobulin were distributed. In 2018, CDC initiated integrating efforts between Division of Global Health Protection and Influenza Division to monitor avian influenza viruses in the country and along the border. Almost 1,000 samples have been collected from poultry in bordering provinces with China and Thailand in 2018. In addition to surveillance activities, CDC collaborates closely with the Government of Lao PDR and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and other partners to conduct tabletop exercises and rapid response training using standardized training materials.



IMPACT IN LAO PDR



Investments in influenza laboratory detection, surveillance, and outbreak response capabilities have led to Lao PDR being designated a WHO National Influenza Center.



Lao PDR's one-year FET program is a model for other countries where ministries of health have limited staff available to participate in a typical two-year FET program.



CDC is working with Lao PDR on rabies prevention and control activities, including a dog registration and vaccination campaign.

For more country information
www.cdc.gov/globalhealth/countries/Laos

For more information please contact

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention CDC - Atlanta
1600 Clifton Road NE, Atlanta, GA 30333

www.cdc.gov/global
Email: cdcglobal@cdc.gov

Publication Date August 2018

CS290566-G PO