

CDC in Lao PDR



The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) began working 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. There has been significant technical assistance in HIV/AIDS prevention and control and expanded maternal and child health immunization coverage.

Staff

CDC office (physical presence)

- U.S. Assignee
- Locally Employed

At a Glance

Population: 6,492,400¹
Per capita income: \$1,947¹
Life expectancy at birth women/men: 70/66 yrs¹
Under 5 mortality: 79/1000 live births²
HIV Prevalence in general population aged 15-49 years old 0.3%³
Estimated HIV new infections: 800-1000 per year³

Source:

¹ <http://www.lsb.gov.la/en/index.php>

² Lao Social Indicator Survey (LSIS) 2011-2012

³ http://www.unaids.org/sites/default/files/country/documents/LAO_narrative_report_2016.pdf

Top 10 Causes of Death

1. Influenza and Pneumonia 13%
2. Coronary Heart Disease 11%
3. Stroke 10%
4. Dengue 9%

Influenza

In Lao PDR, CDC builds capacity for avian, pandemic, and seasonal influenza preparedness by strengthening laboratories, surveillance, outbreak response, clinical case management, infection control guidelines, and pandemic planning. CDC technical investments have led to recognition of seasonal influenza as a public health problem, reliable laboratory capacity to detect influenza viruses, and data sharing with the WHO Global Influenza Surveillance and Response System to inform vaccine strain selection. In August 2010, WHO recognized the NCLE by designating it a NIC. In 2012, Lao PDR introduced seasonal influenza vaccine through an innovative private-public partnership. In 2014, 763,000 doses were given to priority high-risk groups (i.e., pregnant women, elderly, chronically ill and health care workers), and CDC assisted Lao PDR Ministry of Health in evaluating the effect of vaccination on birth outcomes.

Immunization

CDC's contribution to the Expanded Program for Immunization is channeled through WHO in Lao PDR. CDC provides operational and technical support for vaccine initiatives to reduce death and disability. CDC experts also assist in monitoring vaccination campaigns, including pre-campaign planning and post campaign review, as well as evaluating the introduction of new vaccines. Recently, CDC's efforts in Laos have focused on operational research to increase the number of newborns receiving the birth dose of hepatitis B vaccine, a crucial intervention to prevent transmission from mother to baby.

Field Epidemiology Training (FET)

CDC capacity building investments include standing up and providing operational support for the Lao FET. A year-long 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 has resulted in a national network of 55 alumni and uniquely brings human and animal health FET candidates together to investigate outbreaks. These have allowed Lao FET to investigate 25 outbreaks in three years.





HIV/AIDS

The CDC Global HIV/AIDS Asia Regional Office based in Thailand has worked in Lao PDR since 2009, 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 having 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 the World Health Organization and partnering with the National Center of HIV/AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Infections, NCLE and Maternal and Child Health Center.

CDC Support of Response to the 2015-2016 Polio Outbreak

As a member of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI*) CDC has closely coordinated with WHO to support the response of the Lao Ministry of Health to the outbreak of polio that was detected in September, 2015. While Lao PDR was declared free of wild polio disease in 2000, the outbreak in 2015 was caused by circulation of a vaccine-derived polio virus, type 1 (cVDPV1). A polio outbreak caused by a VDPV occurs when the virus of a Sabin polio vaccine (a live attenuated polio virus) regains its ability to cause disease. The Sabin vaccine virus can revert to polio virus capable of causing paralysis when it circulates for a prolonged period of time among a population of non-vaccinated persons. In Laos, all the persons found to have polio from cVDPV1 were members of the Hmong community. From September, 2015 through January, 2016 there were 11 persons ill with VDPV1; four of them were from 15 to 44 years of age and seven were below 15 years of age. CDC supported the response to the cVDPV1 outbreak through WHO-led outbreak response assessments, placement of Stop Transmission of Polio consultants, funding WHO staff, technical consultations, and training of Ministry of Health and Lao Field Epidemiology Training Program Alumni.

*GPEI is a partnership of several agencies (WHO, UNICEF, CDC, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and Rotary) that closely coordinates international efforts to eradicate polio.

Impact in Laos

- Investments in influenza laboratory detection, surveillance, and outbreak response capabilities have led to Lao PDR being designated a WHO National Influenza Center and to vaccine introduction.
- 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. Activities include a dog registration and vaccination campaign.
- 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.

For more information please contact Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:

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