

MID-BCC – Communications for Change in Infectious Diseases in Greater Mekong Subregion

**Community Leaders' Training
to Reduce the Risk of Avian Influenza**



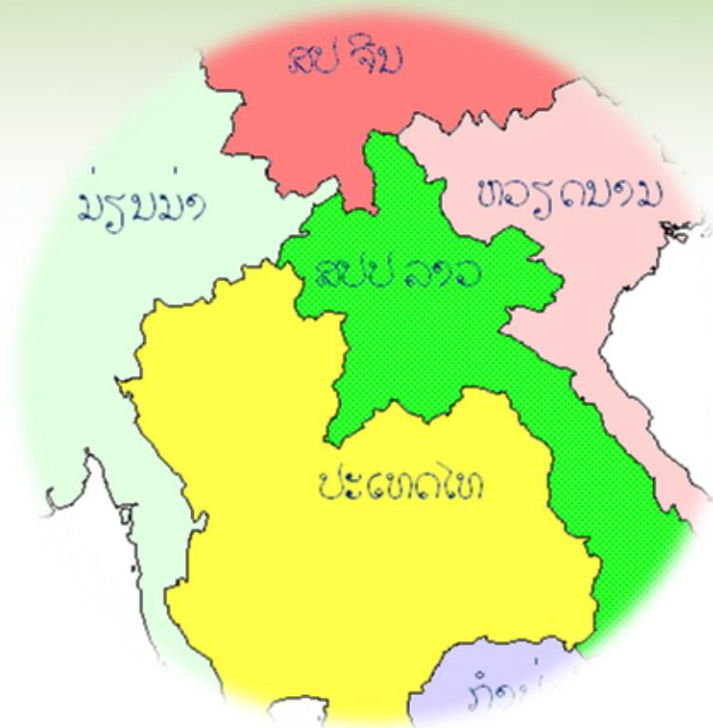
Lessons Learned Forum

September 5-6, 2012 , Mercure Hotel, Vientiane Capital

Capital city view of Louang Nam Tha



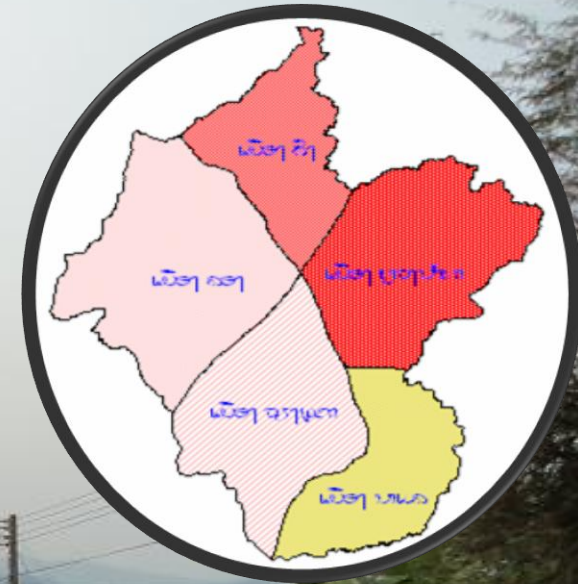
Geographic info



- The province is bordered by other Lao provinces Bokeo in the south-west, Oudomxay province in the south-east, by Myanmar in the northwest and China's Yunnan province in the north-east with the border crossing at Boten a special economic zone that serves as depot of goods from China.
- Luang Namtha shares a 140 kilometer land border with China
- Its northwest frontier with Myanmar follows a 130 kilometer stretch of the Mekong River.

General information

- 5 districts (or *muang*) - Namtha, Nale, Vieng Phoukha, Long and Sing
- Geographic area: 9,325 Km
- NPA= 222,400 H
- Usable forest= 44,799 H
- Pop: 162,747, females 82,432
- 355 villages / 490 focus zones
- 253 poor villages



Dirt and winding roads connect one district to another

General information

48 development zones

- 17 ethnic groups
- Total of households are 28,195
- Poor households = 15,144
- 53 sanitation villages
- Pop growth 2,3%

The Lao Custom Duty Office serves as landmark of border entry to China, 58 kms from central Namtha district

Luang namtha



Roads leading to the border with China are better constructed since China government improved access roads to trade and market.

Background

- ❑ Outbreaks of the diseases happened every year
- ❑ Affected population including economic and health

Experience in **H5N1 outbreak 2008**

- ❑ The AI outbreak in 2008 affected 4 districts
- ❑ Infection in poultry (no human case)
- ❑ Outbreak period lasted 1 month



Long Dist:
B. Namma

Sing Dist:
B. Thongmai

Namtha Dist:
B: Pung, Thongjai tai
and Namlu

Viengphouka Dist:
B: Viengmai

13/02/2008

16/02/2008

16/03/2008

18/02 – 04/03/2008



H5N1 ອຳເພາະ ທີ່ຍ



Objectives of the training

- Strengthen the capacity of community responders, volunteers, commune and district leaders to plan and respond effectively for possible bird flu outbreaks
- Orient key community stakeholders and village-level influential on the issues of bird flu and deliver key prevention messages thru the use of IEC materials
- Increase involvement of communities and villages in planning and implementing surveillance and reporting, bio-security and communication activities

Participants



18 Community leaders and health workers from 3 villages of Long district

Participants



20 Community leaders, health workers and agriculture officers in 3 villages in of Sing district. District Health Officer, Dr Khamchanh Kattiyavong graced the opening.

Participants



29 Community leaders, agriculture and health workers from 6 villages of Namtha district

Training materials: AI package and AI flipchat



The main training material is the avian influenza training package which contains posters, flyers and videos which were produced by the AI partnership spearheaded by NEIDCO.

Training methodology



Demonstration – to practice the proper hand washing steps



Role plays – to illustrate community leaders' role in mobilizing community members to protect village from bird flu

Training methodology



Case studies, participatory and interactive adult learning to engage participants in action planning

Addressing language barrier



Engaging the participation of community leaders who speak Akha language

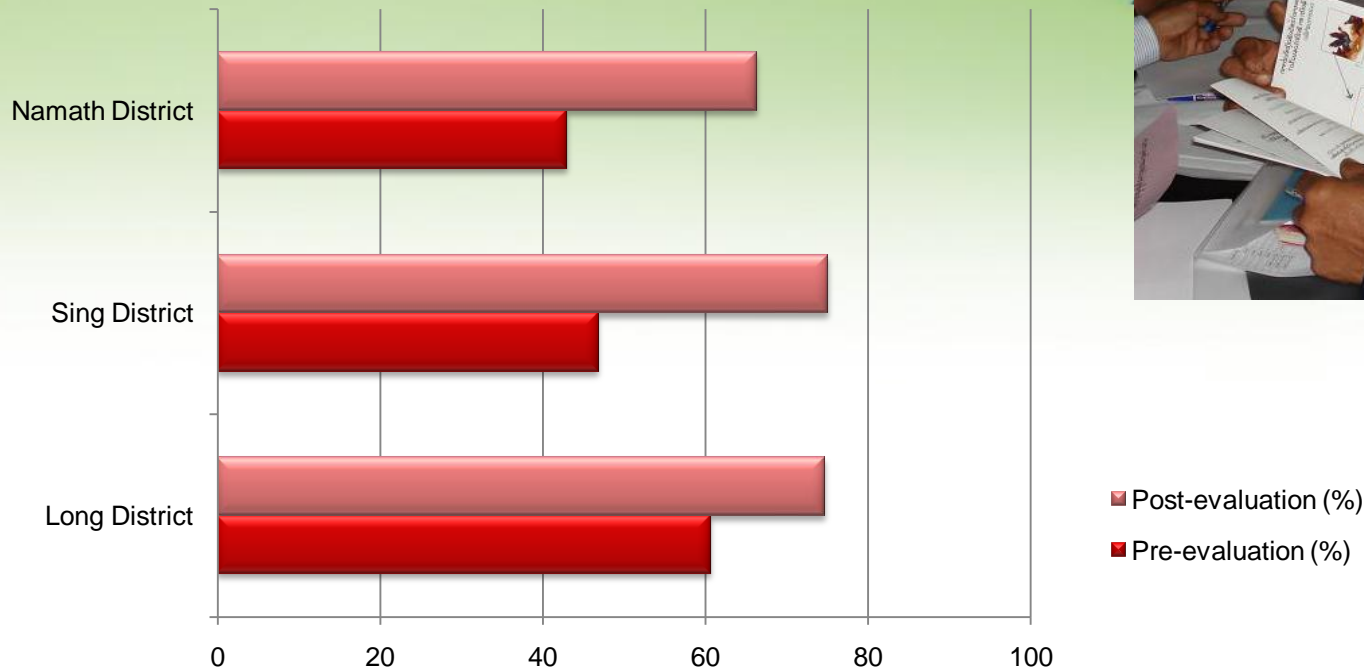
Sharing and distribution of materials



All districts received copies of the AI materials



Result - Knowledge about AI



Results of pre- and post-evaluations showed that the participants' knowledge about bird flu improved after the training. Participants from Namtha who experienced the 2008 outbreak claimed that they have heard information about AI from the district health promotion team.

Results

- Training of community leaders made them “feel” more confident to speak about bird flu and be prepared for any outbreak
- Trained community leaders understood well their roles to help inform people before and during an outbreak.
- To date, trained community leaders actively participate in the district health promotion campaigns, not only on bird flu issues.

Lessons Learned

- ❑ Community leaders , if given the opportunity to be trained would express their support to community-led activities
- ❑ Community leaders are important in community engagement to reach the people and influence behaviors and practices at household levels. The training made them more credible source of information in the community.
- ❑ Local resources is not always available for trained community leaders continue or initiate community mobilization, thus such kind of training must be integrated to local disaster preparedness in the community or district.