

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

Communicating the Risk of Dengue: Vientiane PHO Experience

Lessons Learned Forum

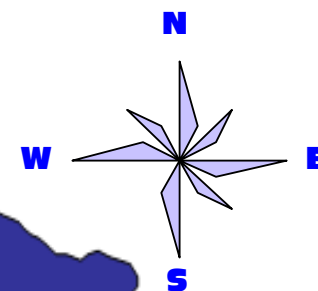
**Sept 5-6, 2012
Mercure Hotel**

By Dr Phoupasong Somephou, VTE DPH



Geographic info

Vientiane Capital



- ✧ Land Area: 3,920 km²
- ✧ # of District: 09 Districts
- ✧ # of village: 487 Villages
- ✧ Total Pop: 788,165 Person
- ✧ Pop. Density: 201/ km²
- ✧ Pop. using safe water: 94,6 %
- ✧ Pop. using latrine: 88,2 %

Background

- From 1985 dengue fever had been a public threat in Lao PDR.
- Outbreaks of the disease were often found in 2-3 year interval in populated cities where hygiene levels were low, water containers were left uncovered or carelessly discarded.
- From 2005 to 2010 dengue cases had been reported in the entire country.
- Among provinces, Vientiane Capital reported the highest number of cases particularly affecting the student population, aged 15-24.

25th SEA Games 2009 (Vientiane Games 2009)

Welcome To...

09-18/12/2009



Vientiane's 450th Anniversary as National Capital



Objectives

To contribute to an –

- Improved case management of DHF/DSS (at provincial and district level, including public and private sectors)
- Improved community-based vector control (at district and village level, involving local authorities and VHW (Village Health Workers))
- Improved surveillance, outbreak preparedness, investigation and response (central, provincial and district level, including a reference laboratory and a surveillance system for communicable diseases)

Developed communication materials



7

4

Trained health care workers



Trained Village Volunteers



Trained hospital staff on clinical management



In five main hospitals in Vientiane Capital



In main hospitals of Champasack, Savannakhet, Saravan and Attapue provinces

Trained media practitioners for improved reporting



Health education in the workplace



Health education in the temple



Health campaigns during That Luang festival



Cleanliness drive with the youth



Public bean

Metal for recycling

Garden pots



Construction area

Discarded tires

Plastic bottle for recycling



Result – Improved Media Reporting

- Accuracy in data reporting
- Addressed fears and misconceptions
- Ensured reliability of information and source of information



Result - Enhanced media support

How can we protect ourselves against dengue fever?

The approach of the rainy season serves as a reminder to remain vigilant against the spread of which one of the more dangerous is dengue fever. Each year, countless numbers of people fall dengue. In the lead-up to the wet season, people must be on their guard against the dengue

Bounfaeng Phaymanivong

A medical student, Ms Souphalack Intaphatha: Well, it's recommended that we clear out any areas where mosquitoes can lay eggs and breed. People also



need to exercise regularly to keep the body in balance. If we're healthy the virus may not affect us as badly. Importantly, we have to eat and relax properly to ensure good health. Putting up a mosquito net to sleep under is essential, especially an insecticide treated net. If you fall sick you must go to see a

doctor for a correct diagnosis. I've had dengue fever before but luckily my parents took good care of me. Anyway, cleaning your house and around it regularly will help to control mosquitoes.

A businessman, Mr Vatsana Volakits: An effective way to protect ourselves from dengue fever is for people to cooperate with each other to clean places in their



village that are favoured by mosquitoes for breeding. In the rainy season water easily collects and can become

breeding sites for infectious mosquitoes. The authorities should spread the message of dengue fever prevention by distributing posters, leaflets and handouts to highlight the dangers. In neighbouring countries local authorities work with villagers to get rid of mosquitoes. I think it'd be good for us to cooperate with each other to prevent dengue fever. I suggest that people who become ill go to see a doctor rather than treating themselves at home.

A company employee, Mr Vankham: It's crucial for us to take good care of our health at this time of year because there are many kinds of diseases that can occur, especially in crowded communities. Vientiane is a crowded city where the mosquito population can rapidly increase. Therefore, we have to take action to prevent dengue fever. Avoiding mosquito bites is important as mosquitoes



can spread diseases. Both working areas and homes need to be cleared of places where mosquitoes can hide and breed. Climate change leads to increasing numbers of mosquitoes, so it's important for us to remain up to date on prevention and protection measures.

An office employee, Ms Panisa Syranthong: Dengue fever has long been a global

issue, not just in Laos. The authorities have been working hard to address the problem but members of the public should also help in the fight against dengue fever. In the rainy season people easily get sick because of the change in the weather. I think the hazards posed by dengue fever are definitely severe; people can die from the virus if they don't get proper treatment. Many

Head Tips
Get rid of stagnant water to prevent dengue fever



The Aedes aegypti mosquito carries dengue fever.

...ation of all people in a ... the most effective ...-feeding

Monday, May 2, 2011

Vientiane T



Officials pose together at the training course in Vientiane.

Vientiane officials take dengue prevention course

Bounfaeng Phaymanivong

Over 50 representatives from health, education, the Vientiane Youth Union and other relevant sectors met in Vientiane on Friday to discuss dengue fever prevention.

The course aimed at promoting participation in campaigning activities, specifically spreading the message of dengue fever in various communities

throughout the capital.

Participants learned about protecting, tackling and controlling dengue fever and will spread information about its dangers.

The public will have to cooperate with local health officials to prevent and control the spread of the disease.

Posters and pamphlets for prevention were distributed to the participants to help them

expand public knowledge on dengue prevention.

Vientiane Party Committee and Vientiane Youth Union Secretary Mr Bountham Phouthavongsa attended the launch ceremony. Behaviour Change Communication regional specialist from the Academy for Educational Development in Bangkok, Thailand, Mr Anton Schneider, and other officials were also in attendance.

10 | Tuesday May 17, 2011

Opinion

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Vientiane Times
Streetwise

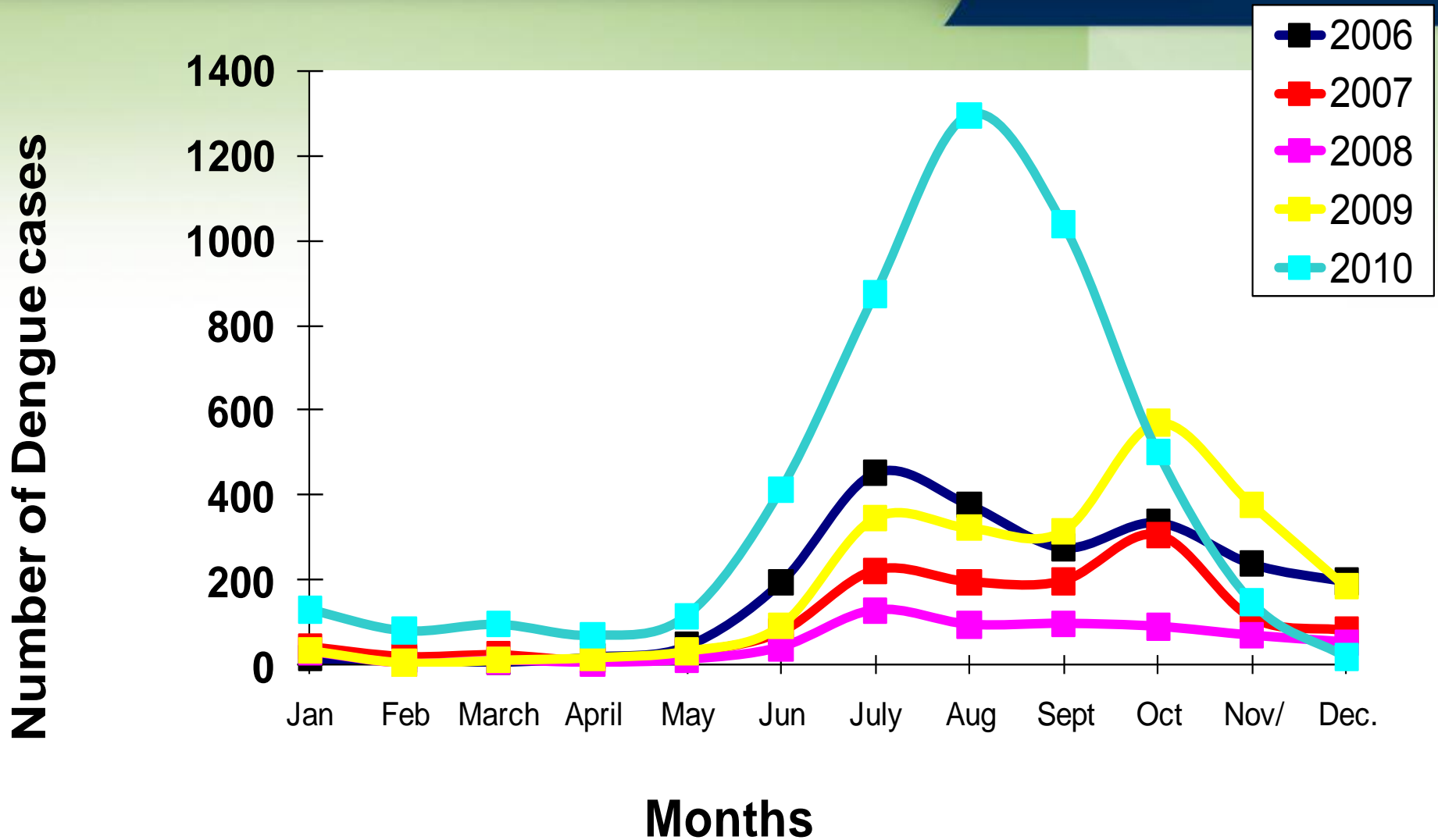


USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

Result- Knowledge and confidence gained by health staff to handle dengue fever cases



Dengue cases in Vientiane Capital from 2006 to 2010



Result – Lower incidence of mortalities

Dengue Surveillance 2006-2011

Year	DF	DHF	DSS	Total	Death
2006	1,638	387	14	2,039	2
2007	1,121	220	2	1,343	1
2008	505	54	0	559	0
2009	1,919	360	4	2,283	0
2010	3,742	753	22	4517	9
2011	1,615	234	13	1,863	0

Lessons Learned

- Dengue control requires a high level of sustained government and public commitment, strengthening of the public health infrastructure, collaboration and community mobilization
- Continuing training and upgrading the knowledge of health staff must be given priority; they should be encouraged to read journals and keep abreast with new developments in clinical management.
- Community mobilization should be sustained and engaged households and other community networks.
- Communication materials should always be ready before any campaign.

Pha That Luang

Dokchampa



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