

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

Construction Workers: What they know about dengue

Vientiane Capital, Lao PDR
December 2010

Background

- ❑ From January to July 2010, Lao PDR had 8,500 reported cases of dengue. More than half of these cases were from Vientiane Capital.
- ❑ In terms of demographics, the highest number of cases were noted among student age, young adult population, aged 15-24 years.
- ❑ The city is presently undergoing structural improvements. Construction of public offices and high rise buildings for business is underway.
- ❑ Among reported dengue cases by the Provincial Health Department, some came from the labor / construction sector.
- ❑ This PPT highlights some info gathered from interviews among 12 construction workers in Vientiane Capital.

Faces of the Lao construction worker

- Some workers are migrants like the Vietnamese. They stay in bunkhouses near the construction site.



Faces of the Lao construction worker

- They are provided temporary living quarters where they stay for weeks or months before they can visit their homes.



Faces of the Lao construction worker

- Others come from neighboring villages in Vientiane. They come to the construction site everyday and also go home after work.



Purposive and convenient sampling

- ❑ The Country Coordinator and the Training Specialist visited the six-storey building constructed in front of the morning market at Lanexang avenue in Vientiane.
- ❑ They requested permission of 12 workers to be interviewed while having their lunch. These workers belong to the day shift group of workers.



Respondents

- 12 construction workers in Vientiane Capital
- Age : 20 -45 years old
- All males
- Income per day: Ranged from LAK 30,000 (US\$ 4) to LAK 50,000 (US\$ 6)



Have you heard of “*Neunglay*”?

- ❑ *Neuglay* is the local term for dengue mosquito.
- ❑ All claimed that they have heard about *neunglay*.
- ❑ One of them experienced to have contracted dengue fever.
- ❑ One of them had one family member who contracted dengue fever.



Is “Neunglay” transmissible?

- ❑ All respondents believed that dengue is transmissible.
- ❑ All respondents claimed that it is contracted and spread through mosquito bite.



What are the common breeding sites of “*neunglay*”?

- ❑ Half of the respondents said that mosquitoes breed in standing clean water.
- ❑ Half of them also noted that mosquitoes may live among plants and vegetation that collect water.
- ❑ Half of them said that mosquitoes can live in garbage and trash like plastics that may store water.



When do mosquitoes frequently bite?

□ Most of the workers said that dengue mosquitoes bite at daytime.



□ Four of them (including those who had experienced dengue in the family) perfectly said that dengue mosquitoes bite between 6 am and 6 pm.

What are the common symptoms of dengue fever?

- Most of the respondents mentioned having prolonged high fever.
- Two of the workers who had experienced dengue in the family said, in addition to high fever, they felt headache, muscle pain and skin itchiness caused by rashes.

What are the medicines for dengue?

- ❑ Most of the respondents may rely on what the doctor will prescribe them.
- ❑ Two of the respondents however emphasized that there is no medicine for dengue. To lower high fever, they only take Paracetamol.
- ❑ When probed, no one mentioned about anti-biotics.

How can you protect yourself from mosquito bites?

- All respondents agreed using the mosquito net.
- Others mentioned to use mosquito coil, if this is available.



How do you eradicate mosquito breeding sites?

- To get rid of mosquito breeding grounds, all respondents said to prevent water stagnation and always keep containers with water for domestic use covered.
- Some respondents said – put the special sand provided by the government into the water container.



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