

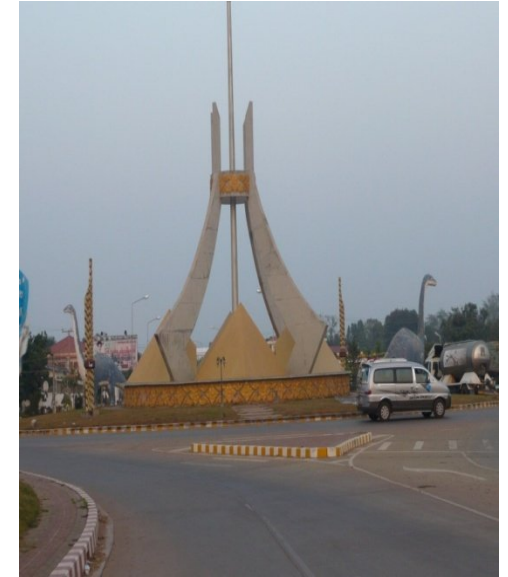


**Bird Flu and Pandemic Preparedness  
Training for Community Leaders in  
Savannakhet Province**

**Songkhone and Xaypathong Districts  
27-28 April 2010**

# Background

- Savannakhet is a priority province to receive technical assistance under the Mekong Infectious Disease –BCC Project. The province is a critical border area identified by USAID that needs strengthening local capacity for cross-border collaboration on surveillance and response for significant communicable diseases to include bird flu, H1N1 and malaria in community setting.
- This training is second of three series being implemented in four Lao-Thai cross-border districts and two Lao-Viet cross-border districts of Savannakhet.

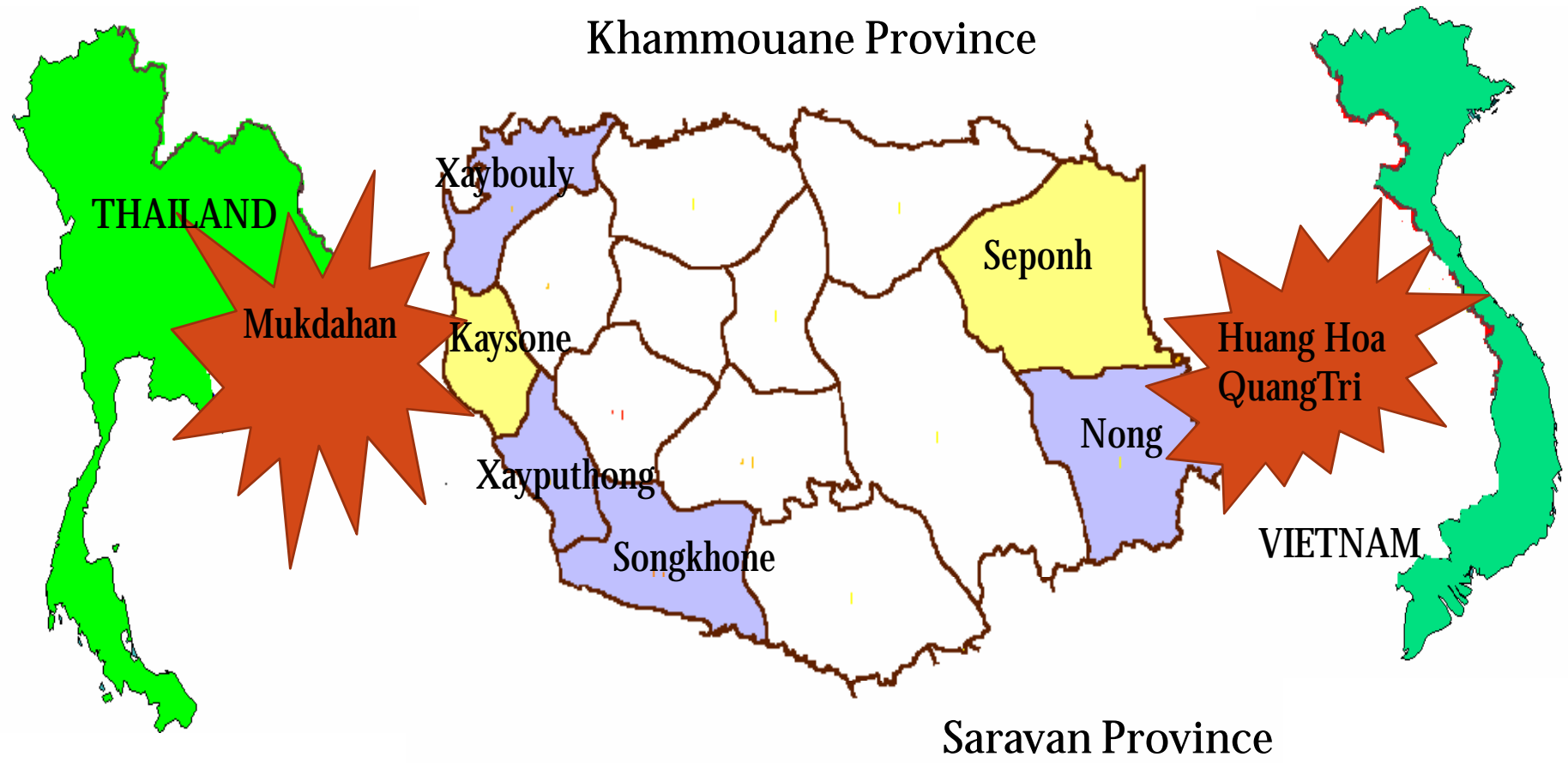


# Objectives

- The training was designed to:
  - ❑ strengthen the capacity of community responders, volunteers, commune and district leaders to plan and respond effectively for possible bird flu and H1N1 outbreaks
  - ❑ orient key community stakeholders and village-level influentials on the issues of bird flu and pandemic influenza 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.

# Cross-border Districts

- Batch 1: Xaybouly & Kaysone
- Batch 2 : Xayputhong & Songkhone
- Batch 3: Seponh & Nong



## Districts covered

- Songkhone district – is 50 kms away from Mukdahan border. It has a population of 89,437. It has 95 villages with no reported cases of bird flu and H1N1. However, it has yearly reported cases of dengue. On this month of April, it registered 7 cases of dengue infection.
- Xaypathong district – is 37 kms away from Mukdahan border. It has a population of 17,853. It is composed of 40 villages. It has no reported cases of bird flu and H1N1.

# Villages covered

## Songkhone

1. Nongdeuane
2. Nakho
3. Nayung
4. Thadeua
5. Nafongtha
6. Xabuxay
7. Nafongtiu
8. Donevay
9. Napho

## Xayputhong

1. Huenhiue
2. Thadaeng
3. Donethanguhe
4. Somesa-at
5. Donesano
6. Kanthachan
7. Donevay
8. Naphane
9. Huahat
10. Donmakiuane



# Training venue



Songkhone district is 70 kms away from Kaysone, the capital of Savannakhet. The training was conducted at the meeting room of Songkhone District Party Committee, a building adjacent to the main offices of the Party Committee Governor.

# Training team



**Standing:** Dr Kinnaly Simisay, Savannakhet EPI; Siamphone,,AED; Dr Phonethavy Khodsimeuang, EPI-Vietniane Capital

**Sitting:** Ms Yordsanita Sengmoonthong, CIEH; Cecile from AED, and Ms Olayvanh Saysouklivong, Savannakhet EPI



# Training materials

The training materials like the AI package and some H1N1 booklets were withdrawn from the warehouse of CIEH.





# Training materials



In absence of a flipchart board, the tables, walls and windows had served the purpose...

# Participants

## Songkhone

- 30 community leaders who are mostly village chiefs, village veterinarians and village health educators/volunteers. Of these participants, 5 village chiefs attended the AI package training in 2007 which was conducted by Savannakhet Health Department and LWU.

## Xayputhong

- 36 community leaders who are also village chiefs, village vets and village health volunteers. Of these participants, one village chief had been trained and received the AI package in 2007.





# Opening ceremony

**Right: Sili Buaphanh, Songkhone District Deputy Governor** *keynoted the opening.*  
*“I enjoined everyone to actively take part in this training. The district is not safe from bird flu and 2009 H1N1 as long as people keep moving from one village to another and from one district to another district. Songkhone is at the cross-border area of the province and it is always at risk of infectious diseases. Right now we are confronted with dengue. We have the 7<sup>th</sup> case. I would like to ask for your cooperation to listen attentively to our experts from Vientiane Capital and AED and share your learning to others when you are back to your communities.”*



# Group photos



Participants from Songkhone district



Participants from Xaypathong district

# Meet our group and village



- Led by the village chiefs, the participants introduced themselves and their colleagues. “ I am the village chief of Thadeua. My team is composed of me, our village veterinarian and health volunteer.”



# Knowledge of Bird Flu

- Majority of the participants claimed that they have heard about bird flu (khay vat sat peek) but they have not seen nor experienced it.
- Except the 6 village chiefs who attended the training in 2007, participants have not attended any orientation/training about bird flu.



- All participants claimed that they never saw on TV the AI updates shown in Lao Star Channel from November 2009 to March 2010.

# Review of the AI package

“The AI package has been designed for you – community leaders. We are here to guide you how to use the materials inside the packet and to deliver the messages to other people in your community so that they will be aware of the risks and practice preventive behaviors.”





# Review of the AI package



During workshop session, participants were given time to read the information materials.

# How and when to use

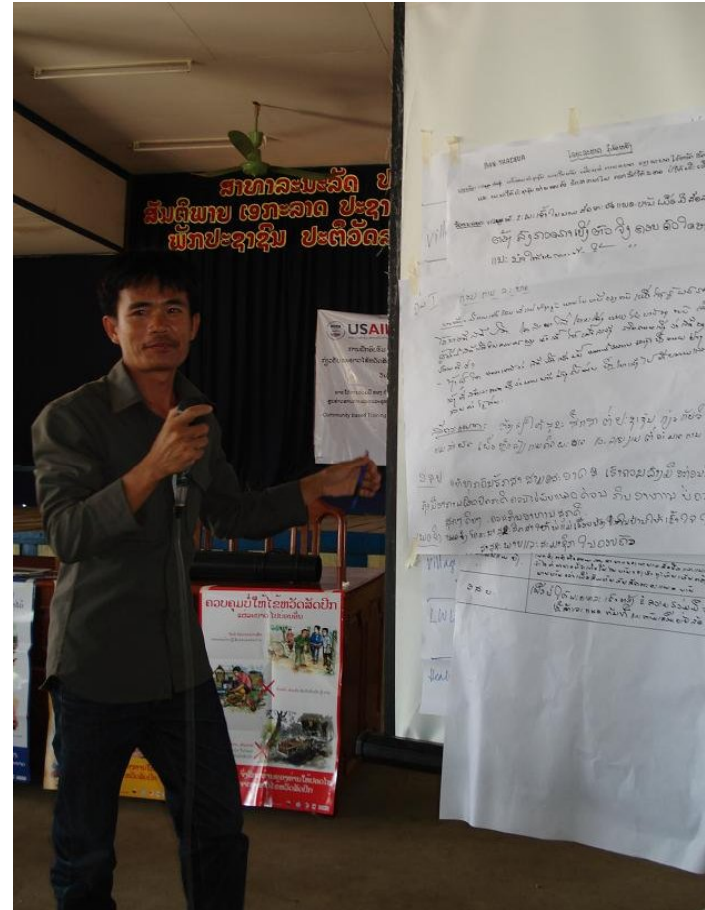


Using a matrix, participants were guided how to use the information in three events --- before outbreak, during outbreak, and after outbreak.



# Sharing

“I am a village veterinarian. Before an outbreak, I will share information during informal village meetings about bio-security practices like separation of new poultry from old ones for 14 days and cleaning regularly poultry cages. During outbreak, I will tell poultry farmers not to move the dead birds, but should report these to village chief who will report poultry deaths to district authorities or call 166. After outbreak, I will continue providing my village poultry safety raising like separation and caging.”



# Sharing



“I am an housewife and a village health volunteer. In three events --- before outbreak, during outbreak, and after outbreak, I will share with other mothers the messages of - hand washing with soap and clean water after touching poultry; do not allow our children to touch poultry; ones. During outbreak in the village, I will tell mothers not to cook and eat dead birds.”



# Knowledge about H1N1

- All participants expressed that they have heard about the 2009 H1N1 from Thai TV. They have no in-depth information about the virus, its transmission and the extent of risk.
- They are not aware of any case in their district. People in their villages do not talk about it.
- They are aware of seasonal flu; they find seasonal flu as a common illness. They are not worried about it.

# Things to know about A/H1N1

- What is A/H1N1?
- How does it differ from seasonal flu?
- How does it differ from swine flu?
- Symptoms?
- How it spreads?



Dr Phonetavy, epidemiologist from health department of Vientiane Capital discussed about H1N1.

# Educate families about 4 flu fighters

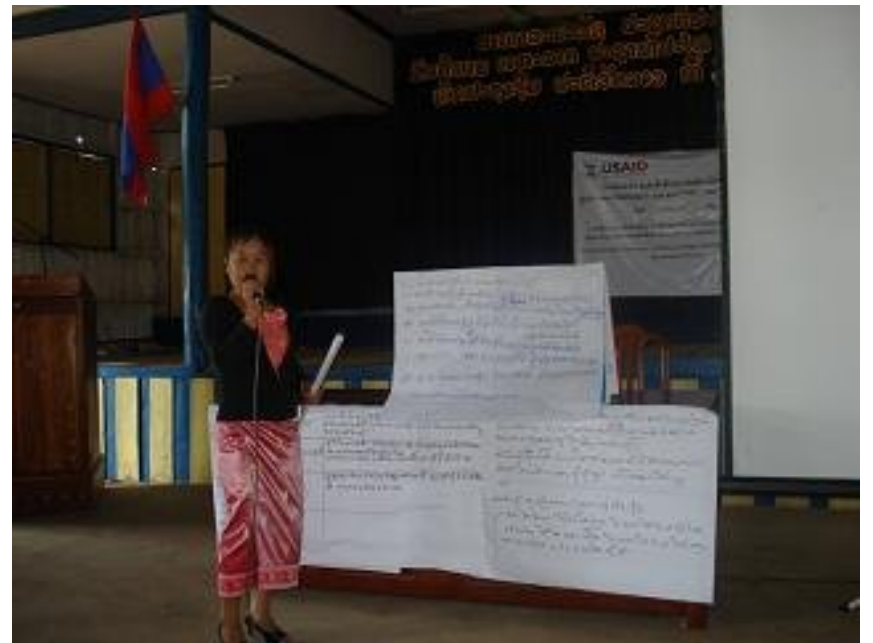
- Provide communities the basic information and actions – or things families can do to lessen the spread of influenza that do not involve medicines.....
  1. **Cover your coughs and sneezes**
  2. **Wash your hands**
  3. **Keep your distance**
  4. **Separate sick people**
- Provide the best sources of information and guidance



What actions....  
What messages....

As members of LWU will promote messages like:

- Clean hands thoroughly with soap and water.
- Avoid close contact with people who might be ill.
- Avoid going to crowded places if possible.
- Practice good health habits including adequate sleep, eating nutritious food, and keeping physically active.





# Basic health practices



“ Hand washing is a universal practice, but we are not conscious doing it every time.”

Coughing manners - “ Do it with our sleeves.”



# H1N1 vaccine

What is the H1N1 vaccine?  
Who are eligible to receive the vaccine?  
Why not everyone gets it?  
How safe it is?





How can I help send the message to target groups?



**“As village chiefs, we can share the information among members of the council and their families. Among people with chronic diseases, we will encourage them to avail of the vaccine because this will protect them from the virus.”**

# Arrival of vaccine in Songkhone

**“ I am Sohliyeth Sengpanya, Deputy Director of the District health Office. The vaccine is now in the cold chain in our office. We will start vaccination of health care workers as soon as possible. By May 3, we will vaccinate pregnant women. The campaign will last until May 10. This part of the training is very important since we rely to community leaders to help us recruit the eligible recipients of the vaccine. We need to disseminate the information found in the printed materials prepared by AED and why the four identified target groups should avail of the vaccine. ”**



# Closing



**Dr Kinnaly Simisay, Provincial EPI, Savannakhet closes the training session and expresses his thanks to the resource persons and participants.**

# Acknowledgment

AED would like to thank the Provincial Health Department of Savannakhet , particularly the EPI staff for the support and coordination, Songkhone district staff, and to the resource persons/partners from Vientiane Capital and CIEH for making this training a success.