



Accessible link: <https://www.cdc.gov/global-health/countries/laos.html>

CDC has worked with partners in Laos for over 18 years. CDC works with the Lao Ministry of Health (MOH) to build and strengthen the country's core public health capabilities. These include data and surveillance; laboratory capacity; workforce and institutions; prevention and response to health threats; innovation and research; and policy, communications, and diplomacy. CDC also collaborates with the MOH to respond to disease outbreaks and address HIV, tuberculosis (TB), influenza, and other emerging health threats.

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS



Data & Surveillance

- Established the national recent HIV infection surveillance system with real-time reporting



Laboratory

- Established four international certified biosafety cabinet certifiers and active emergency response plans for malaria and pandemic influenza



Workforce & Institutions

- Supported training of over 100 public health workers who have graduated from the Field Epidemiology Training Program (FETP) since 2009



Prevention & Response

- Expanded index testing service and monitoring systems to 11 antiretroviral therapy sites



Innovation & Research

- Implemented a One Health Program that conducts monthly avian influenza surveillance in poultry in six high-risk provinces. This program has detected infection in poultry and wild birds due to avian influenza subtypes H5N1, H5N6, and H9N2



Policy, Communications & Diplomacy

- Increased the use of evidence-based data to inform policy decisions for influenza vaccination programs and other prevention and control programs

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

GLOBAL HEALTH SECURITY

CDC works with local, regional, and global organizations to support emergency response, surveillance, laboratory systems, and workforce development. These efforts help bolster Laos' ability to prevent, detect, and respond to infectious disease outbreaks before they become global epidemics.

Workforce Development

CDC provides technical support to strengthen epidemiological capacity through the Field Epidemiology Training Program (FETP). The Lao FETP was established in 2009 with support from CDC and the World Health Organization (WHO). The one-year program trains disease detectives to prevent, detect, and respond to public health threats.

Emergency Response

CDC's partnership with the MOH was key to building a successful COVID-19 response. CDC collaborates with multilateral and non-governmental partners in the following efforts:

- Provided laboratory technical expertise for genomic sequencing of SARS-CoV-2
- Supported COVID-19 testing
- Helped integrate COVID-19 into the influenza sentinel surveillance system
- Collaborated on border health strengthening measures
- Developed tools, materials, and guidance on how to safely continue HIV testing and treatment during the pandemic

Border Health

CDC and the MOH help prevent the spread of infectious diseases among travelers and mobile populations who cross international borders. CDC is supporting the development of a quarantine health program at key international points of entry. These include airports and land crossings on the border.



HIV AND TB

Since 2009, CDC has collaborated with multilateral, governmental, non-governmental, and civil society organizations in Laos. This collaboration has driven work to implement and evaluate tools, programs, and policies to combat HIV, sexually transmitted infections, and TB. Through the U.S. Presidents Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), CDC supports life-saving activities to:

- Increase identification of undiagnosed HIV patients
- Increase adherence and retention to antiretroviral treatment (ART)
- Expand access to treatment and viral load testing by decentralizing services to point-of-care sites
- Strengthen clinical management for patients living with both HIV/TB or other infections
- Improve national laboratory quality, coverage, and monitoring of HIV tests
- Reduce HIV stigma and discrimination in healthcare settings
- Strengthen strategic information systems
- Support a phased transition to a sustainable government-led response

INFLUENZA

CDC's influenza work includes support for:

- Monitoring and tracking the spread of influenza in humans and animals, with a focus on highly dangerous avian influenza
- Priority seasonal influenza vaccination programs by enhancing surveillance and response for seasonal, avian, and pandemic influenza
- Influenza laboratory and epidemiologic surveillance, early warning systems, and outbreak response
- Increasing the use of evidence-based data to inform policy decisions for influenza vaccination programs and other prevention and control programs

With CDC's support, Laos is the first lower-middle income country to have built the evidence and policy base to move from administering donated influenza vaccines to national procurement and delivery of the vaccine. The country is set up to regularly report and rapidly respond to outbreaks of avian influenza using both human and animal health sectors.

