The 1st National TB Prevalence Survey from Lao PDR: Lessons Learnt (so far)

Irwin Law

TB Prevalence Survey Seminar

27th October 2011, Lille, France
Lao PDR

Population: 6 million
Commenced August 2010
NTP Staff: 30 field + 13 lab + 3 TA
Clusters: 50 PPS (46)
Sample: 40,000
Benefits: Improved NTP capacity
Benefits: Improved Lab capacity
Benefits: Community awareness


**Lao PDR: Lessons Learnt**

**ORGANISATION:**
- A lead **TB coordinator** is important
- Challenges of working to the Global Fund **deadlines**
- Good **communication** is required
- Be **flexible** and **adaptable** to change

**IN THE FIELD:**
- **Difficult** terrain and logistics
  - Repeatedly check equipment – extra on standby
- Good participation led from **good relationships** with provincial and district-level staff
- **Participation rate low** in urban areas: over-recruitment
- Low participation of **young people esp. men**: after-hours recruitment
- Questionnaire – asking the correct questions: **train and re-train**.
- **Data errors** (handwritten forms): develop check lists/ID tags
- Variable levels of **CXR over-reading** (false negative rate - slow QC 2nd reading)
Lao PDR: Lessons Learnt

LABORATORY:

- Laboratory procurement delays
- **Maintaining cold chain** in the field under hot and humid conditions
- Regular reporting and processing of large number of specimens
- Low recovery rate of smear-positive cultures
  - Harsh-decontamination?
  - Ogawa method (no centrifugation)
- MOTT/NTM:
  - Morning > Spot specimens - rinsing mouth with water
  - 15% of Smear + cases are MOTT/NTM (change National policy)
- Following-up all smear & culture positive cases & contacts inc. children
- Staff training of new techniques especially in new provincial facilities

DATA MANAGEMENT:

- Single data entry with triple checking
- Using cloud servers – DROPBOX
COMMUNICATE
PRACTISE
ASSUME NOTHING