LAO STUDY SITE

SOMPHOU SAYASONE

GENERAL INFORMATION

- A land locked country situated in SEA
- 18 provinces with total pop. 6.5 millions
  - Pop. Growth rate: 1.2% per year
- GDP/capita: $1,725
  - GDP growth rate: 7.56%
ECOSYSTEMS AND HELMINTH INFECTIONS

- Country has divided in 3 geographical settings:
  - Northern part: mountainous & high lands → high prevalence of STH → **selected as study site** (Luangprabang prov.?)
  - Central and southern parts: lowland along the Mekong River → foodborne trematodiases
  - Most south: islands in the Mekong River basin → endemic site for *S. mekongi*

CONTROL

- **Current STH control program:**
  - School deworming program → school age children 6-12 years (piloted 2005 and expanded to reach all schools in 2007)
    - In 2012 has been expanded up to 14 years
  - Preschool children → EPI program
    - High endemic area → MDA twice/years (northern provinces and most southern provinces (Sekong & Attapeu))
TECHNICAL ISSUES

- **Ethical approval:**
  - Submission is in process
  - Submission is online and gets approval every month

- **School semester:**
  - Second round MDA in March and April
  - School closed in mid of May
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC HEALTH (NIOPH)-LAOS

NIOPH

• Established in 1999 by Prime Minister Decree 20 dated 19th March 1999

• By merging the Research Activities of the Council of Medical Sciences (CMS) with Training of the School of Public Health (SPH)
VISION

• The National Institute of Public Health in Lao PDR develops into a viable and sustainable Centre of Excellence in Public Health in the Western Pacific Region

GOAL

• The Health System in Lao PDR is Responsive to the Needs of the Population in the Field of Policy, Research, Information System, and Training
NIOPH

Consisted of 4 departments:

1. Ethics for Health research
2. Health Information System
3. Health Research
4. Administration & Personnel

At First: 06 Divisions which are including:
School of Public Health and National Co-ordination
office for Health Research

STAFF: IN TOTAL 35

• 1 Director,
• 2 Deputy Director,
• 4 Heads of divisions and
• 4 Vice heads (HR, Ethics, HIS, Administration & personnel)
• 24 staff (technical and administrative)
RESEARCH PROJECTS 2016-17

On NTDS:

- Impact of Helminth Infections on Zinc and Micronutrient Supplementation among children 6-23 months: an add on study (funded by BMG foundation)
- Assessment of the true prevalence of Schistosoma mekongi infection in its endemic areas in the Mekong River Basin (at the Cambodia/Lao PDR border) → collaboration with Swiss TPH
- Efficacy of moxidectin vs. ivermectin against Strongyloides stercoralis infections: a randomised controlled trial → collaboration with Swiss TPH
- Systems thinking drives control and elimination of helminth zoonoses in the Greater Mekong Sub-region (Eco-Health phase II) → IDRC Canada

Mother and Child Health:

- Lao Zinc Study → Randomized, masked, community-based trial (a three year study supported by MI and Mathile Institute)
- Assessment of Immunization Coverage in Laos, funded by GAVI, WHO & UNICEF
- National Nutritional Assessment among under-five children (UNICEF)
RESEARCH PROJECTS 2016-17

- **Health System and Policy:**
  - Lao Equity through Policy Analysis and Research Network (LEARN), a five year project supported by EU

- **Others:**
  - Tobacco consumption survey in Lao PDR
  - Alcohol Consumption survey in Lao PDR