

## Table of contents

Preface .....	2
Acknowledgment .....	3
Abbreviation .....	4
1. Background and rationale .....	5
2. Achievements from the previous strategic plan.....	6
3. Systematic review to strengthen national health research systems .....	8
4. Vision, mission, goals and objectives statement.....	12
4.1 Vision .....	12
4.2 Mission statement.....	12
4.3 Goals statement.....	13
4.4. Objectives of the strategic plan (4 <sup>th</sup> five year national health research master plan).....	13
4.4.1 General .....	13
4.4.2 Specific.....	13
5. Strategies towards strengthening of NHRS in Lao PDR .....	13
5.1 Values of health research systems strengthening .....	13
5.2 The strategies in strengthening the 4 functions of the NHRS in Lao PDR in the 4 <sup>th</sup> 5 Years	
National Health Research Master Plan will be as follows:.....	14
5.2.1 Stewardship .....	14
5.2.2 Capacity development.....	15
5.2.3 Resources management/financing.....	16
5.2.4 Knowledge Production and utilization: .....	16
6. Operational plan (for the 4 <sup>th</sup> five year national health research master plan) 2007-2011 .....	17
6.1 The first prioritized research areas/programmes: Research to improve health of mother and children .....	17
6.2 Other prioritized research areas/programs.....	18
7. Some additional research projects and activities to support national health research system .....	19
7.1. Additional Research projects .....	19
7.2 Additional research training activities .....	20
7.3 Annual forum on health research to support national health research systems strengthening. ..	21
8. Governance, monitoring, supervision and evaluation.....	21
8.1. Governance.....	21
8.2 Monitoring.....	21
8.3 Supervision .....	22
8.4 Evaluation.....	22
9. National ethics committee for health research.....	22
10. Summary:.....	22
11. References.....	25
12. Annexes.....	28
Annex 1 Researches related to MCH conducted during the past five years (2002-2006) .....	28
Annex 2: List of national and international participants involved in the development of the 4 <sup>th</sup> 5YHRMP.....	31
1. List of national and international participants attending the first national workshop to develop long term strategic plan for strengthening national health research systems in Lao PDR, August 2005 .....	31
2. List of national and international participants attending the second national workshop in August 2006 .....	35
3. List of national and international participants attending the communicative meeting June, 2007 .....	38
4. Contributors to the 4 <sup>th</sup> 5YHRMP development .....	39

## **Preface**

As we are well aware that, the progress of science and technology is an important and decisive factor for socio-economic development around the world, and science had led to dramatic improvement in health. Unfortunately the disparities and inequities in health remain a major development challenges in the new millennium, and the malfunctioning of health systems are at the heart of the problems.

Under the influence of the Mexico declaration from the ministerial summit held in November 2004 on knowledge for better health: strengthening health systems and that national government should promote activities to strengthen national health systems, and strong national health systems are needed to deliver health care interventions to achieve the health related the millennium development goals (MDG's).

Therefore, during the implementation of the 6<sup>th</sup> 5 years national socio-economic development plan 2006 - 2010, the Ministry of the health is paying a lot of attention for reaching an ultimate goal of health system as well as research system toward better health, and equity in health. As health research is a powerful tool to provide information for decision making in health development. It is of crucial importance that the research focus on issues of priority concern, and that, the results of such research should be used in a way that leads to policy and actions. Thus assigning to the National Institute of Public Health (NIOPH) in close collaboration with the council of medical sciences to hosted two national workshops in 2005 and 2006 for developing long terms strategic plan on health research to promote the national health systems strengthening in Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR) under the strong support of the National Research Council, the Ministry of Health, Council on Health Research for Development (COHRED) and Concern World Wide (CWW).

So far, the 4<sup>th</sup> five year national health research master plan (5YNHRMP) developed according to the previous recommendations from two national workshops with a focus of addressing mother and child health issues , contributing to reach 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Millennium Development Goals, as well as to strengthen national health research systems in Lao PDR.

I do hope that all stakeholders both internal and international will have a strong commitment to make this 4<sup>th</sup> five year national health research master plan come true, in terms of health development, in particular of mothers and child's health benefits in Lao PDR.

With a very best wishes  
Minister of Health

Dr. PonMek DALALOY

## Acknowledgment

On behalf of the National Institute of Public Health and research team, we would like to express our deepest gratitude to the Ministry of Health for their continuous trust and support in developing each five year national health research master plan in the past, in particular this time the 4<sup>th</sup> five year national health research master plan focusing to national health research system strengthening in Lao PDR thus to respond more effectively to mother and child's health challenges especially the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> MDGs.

Our sincere appreciation and thanks goes to the Council on Health Research for Development (COHRED), Concern World Wide (CWW), Japanese Consortium for Lao Health Development Study (LHDS) and Institute for Research and Development (IRD) for their financial support for conducting two national workshops to review Lao health research situation and gaps in order to prioritize the most pressing needs for conducting research for the next five year plan, including the organizing of national forum on health research to support national health research system (NHRS) strengthening , as well as to develop this 4<sup>th</sup> five year health research master plan.

This 4<sup>th</sup> five year national health research master plan would not be possible without valuable supports from different health institutions/departments at all levels, in particular the Mother and Child Health Center and the Council of Medical Sciences of the Ministry of Health - Lao PDR.

Vientiane, September 30<sup>th</sup> 2007

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## Abbreviation

AusAID	Australian Agency for International Development
ADB	Asian Development Bank
BTC	Belgium Technical Cooperation
CWW	Concern World Wide
CBHI	Community Based Health Insurance
CMS	Council of Medical Sciences
COHRED	Council on Health Research for Development
EC	European Commission
FACE	Foundation for Advanced Clinical Epidemiology
FAO	Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations
FDD	Food and Drug Department
GAVI	Global Alliance Vaccine and Immunization
GF	Global fund
HSPH	Hanoi School of Public Health
IRD	Institute for Research & Development
IDRC	International Development Research Center
IMR	Infant Mortality Rate
IFMT	Francophony Institute for Tropical Medicine
JICA	Japanese International Cooperation Agency
JC	Japanese Consortium
KAP	Knowledge, Attitude & Practice
LDC	Least Developing Country
Lao PDR	Lao People's Democratic Republic
LHS	Lao Health Survey
MOH	Ministry of Health
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MCH	Maternal and Child Health
MICS	Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey
MMR	Maternal Mortality Rate
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
NIOPH	National Institute of Public Health
NHRS	National health research system
NHS	National Health Survey
NSC	National Statistical Center
NUOL	National University of Laos
NGPES	National Growth & Poverty Eradication Strategy
TBA	Traditional Birth Attendant
RMCP	Regional Malaria Control Program
RH/MCH	Reproductive Health/ Maternal and Child Health
RHS	Reproductive Health Survey
SIDA	Swedish International Development Agency
STEA	Sciences, Technology & Environment Agency
STD/HIV/AIDS	Sexual Transmitted Diseases/Human Immuno-Deficiency Virus/Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Funds
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
UNFPA	United Nations Population Funds
UHS	University of Health Sciences
WHO	World Health Organization
WB	World Bank
WFP	World Food Program
5 YNHRMP	Five year national health research master plan

## 1. Background and rationale

The Council of Medical Sciences (CMS) in the past, actually the National Institute of Public Health experienced to develop and implement three five years national health research master plans namely: The first five year national health research master plan (1992-1996)<sup>1</sup> with technical and financial supports by IDRC-CANADA, of those 64 projects planned, 11 small research projects were successfully implemented, The second five year national health research master plan (1997-2001)<sup>2</sup> again with technical and financial supports from IDRC-CANADA, 27 research projects out of 65 were implemented, in addition with 90 research projects implemented outside the health research master plan (HRMP).

The third five year national health research master plan (2002-2006)<sup>3</sup> with financial and technical support from EC regional malaria control programs in Laos, Vietnam, and Cambodia, and Lao-EU malaria control program, 35 out of 41 research projects were implemented, in addition with 111 emergent projects done. It is noted that during the implementation of the 3<sup>rd</sup> five year national health research master plan<sup>3</sup>, some relevant health research projects have been implementing successfully namely Lao health survey as part of world health survey, knowledge transfer and exchange 2003 supported by Headquarter World Health Organization (WHO) in Geneva and Western Pacific Region Office (WPRO) in Manila, in addition with 39 projects related to mother and child health<sup>4</sup>. The evaluation research conducted before developing each five year plan<sup>5,6</sup>, along with the health research system analysis in LAO PDR supported by WHO-Geneva<sup>7</sup>, and the analysis of health research situation in LAO PDR (1992-2005)<sup>8</sup>.

Through the mentioned research activities, some main gaps has been identified as research projects developed in the past mainly by institutions or the interest of donors agencies, limitation of researchers both in quantity and in quality, limited research environment and research facilities, No alignment and harmonization in health research, many research results are not adequately utilized<sup>8</sup>, limited investment for health research from both internal and external sources, very high MMR and IMR in the region, low quality of MCH services, and not cover the remote rural people, and the health research systems is not well enough functioning<sup>6</sup>. So far, the objectives of health research systems are to produce the information and knowledge for identifying the challenges to the health system and for its solutions, and to monitor health system performance whether policies been translated into practices.

Health systems and health research systems should ideally be mutually dependent. On the one hand, a well functioning health system is critical to the development and delivery of interventions that affect public health and health outcomes. On the other health, a strong health research system is important for an effective and efficient health system<sup>9</sup>

The main goal of health system is to produce health, and the goals of health research system is to produce scientifically validated research and the promotion of the use of research results, ultimately to improve health and health equity.

Starting from these points of views, along with lessons learnt from the implementation of three five year HRMP, health research situation analysis, and the results obtained from the health research systems analysis, in addition with the Mexico statement on health research, knowledge for better health “strengthening health research systems”,<sup>10</sup> and the recommendations from Ministerial round table “translation of research into policy and health care practice”<sup>11</sup>.

Thus, the two National workshops to develop long terms strategic plan (4<sup>th</sup> five year national health research master plan) towards the NHRS strengthening held in August 2005 and 2006<sup>12</sup>, financially and technically supported by National Sciences Council, Ministry of Health (MOH), COHRED, and CWW with the aims for prioritizing of health research needs using health research situation<sup>7</sup> and health research systems analysis<sup>6</sup> as evidence based.

Therefore, the development of the 4<sup>th</sup> five year national health research master plan for health research systems strengthening is rationale not only to bridging the above mentioned gaps, but and to address MCH’s issues contributing to reach the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> MDGs in LAO PDR .

## **2. Achievements from the previous strategic plan**

Through the midterm review of the third five year health research master plan implementation (2002 - 2006)<sup>6</sup> and health research situation analysis (1992 - 2005)<sup>8</sup> has identified the following gains:

- Health research process dramatically evolved so 35 research projects out of 41 mentioned in the plan nicely implemented, 111 emergent research projects successfully done.
- Policy makers and senior managers at all levels are more aware about the usefulness of health research, thus expressed more interests and actively supported research projects.
- Donor’s agencies were willingly support researches according to institutions interests, contributing to health policy development, as well as curative law development<sup>13</sup>.
- Through the implementation of EC regional malaria control program, the National Ethics Committee for health research developed in 2002 and executed regularly their role and functions, thus 90 research projects were examined through this committee.

- Lao health research become part of health research country profiles among South East Asia supported by COHRED

- National health survey<sup>14</sup> as part of world health survey 2003 successfully implemented among 72 countries in the world, firstly supported by WHO head quarter Geneva and WPRO in Manila, the report produced and distributed to local health institutions, and international organizations inside and outside the country.

Because Lao health survey was a very comprehensive community - based in terms of providing health status information assessing the risk factors to which Lao population exposed, assessing health system responsiveness which was the basic requirement for strengthening of health services in hospital based, moreover the Lao health survey was satisfactorily providing information to assess the status of MDGs implementation for 15 indicators related to the goals 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> in the context of Lao PDR.

- Some research and health management training courses provided by NIOPH , Malaria center , Food & Drug Department and the Faculty of Medical Sciences , supported by EC- RMCP, SIDA, Hopkins Fogarty AIDS, and JICA, to support the building and strengthening of knowledge, research and managerial skills for improving research and health care services activities.
- The National Institute of Public Health has regularly access to internet, issued half yearly bulletin of health sciences in both Lao and English language, and which could be published research results done within and between countries, In addition since last year, NIOPH could established its website which allowed the world knows what is the status of health research in Lao PDR.

The National census 2005<sup>15</sup>, revealed the success of health and research programs implementation, thus promoting the improvement of health status of Lao population, in particular maternal mortality rate (MMR) in 2005 was 405 compared to Lao Health Survey (LHS) 2003 - 433, and National Health Survey/Reproductive Health Survey (NHS/RHS) 2000<sup>16</sup>-530 per 100.000 live birth; infant mortality rate (IMR) – 70, LHS 2003- 75.5 , and NHS/RHS 2000-82 per 1000 live births; total fertility rate (TFR) 4.9 (2000) & 4.5 (2005), and life expectancy at birth 2005 was 61 year, 63 years for females , and 59 years for males, compared to NHS 2000 was 59 years, 61 for females and 57 for males.

- Established internal research and training networks along with the building a strong research and training partnership with international institutions namely National Institute of Public Health of Cambodia, Hanoi School of Public Health of Vietnam, signing research cooperation agreement with .IRD-France, inter national development center school of Medicine Tokai university Japan, Karolinska Institute of Sweden, and with three research Institutes of Japan namely international medical research center of Tokyo, research institute for human and nature Kyoto, and Institute of Tropical Medicine Nagasaki University Japan, Swiss Tropical Institute, IHPP Thailand, JICA, and CWW to Lao PDR.

### **3. Systematic review to strengthen national health research systems**

A health research system can be defined as the people, institutions, and activities whose primary purpose is to generate and apply high quality knowledge that can be used to promote, restore and/or maintain the health status of populations, it also include mechanisms to encourage the utilization of research.<sup>9</sup>

In another formulation, health research system is a system for planning, coordinating monitoring and managing health research resources and activities, and for promoting research for effective and equitable national health development. A concept that integrates and coordinates the objectives, structures, stakeholders, processes, cultures and outcomes of health research towards the development of equity in health.<sup>17</sup>

Referring to these definition and terminology of health research systems, and due to the commitments of the National Institute of Public Health towards the 5<sup>th</sup> main work plan "On Health Research Management" which is one of health strategies of the Ministry of Health, contributing to each 5 years socio-economic development plan's implementation in the country, in particular the 6<sup>th</sup> 5 years national socio-economic development plan. The latter was clearly stated about the promotion of the use of research for socio-economic development and the importance of researcher's development both quantitatively and qualitatively to be emphasized on.<sup>18</sup>

The strategies for Laos NHRS strengthening have been systematically carried out through the following steps:

#### **Step 1: Reviewing results of HRSA in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO)**

Lao PDR was one of ten pilot countries to commit health research systems analysis HRSA (2003 – 2004) supported by WHO Geneva, aiming to know where is the status of national health research systems in respective country, thus to plan for its strengthening accordingly.

#### **Step 2: Stakeholders involvement**

Two national workshops were organized in August 2005 and August 2006 for presenting the results of HRSA, health research situation analysis, and feasibility health study's results for developing a health program followed by the priority setting of research areas for the next five year plan<sup>19</sup>.

The priority setting process using seven criteria as: (1) size/extent of problem, (2) government policies, (3) feasibility/availability for action, (4) Public concerns, (5) urgency, (6) feasibility of research and (7) promoting equity.

All 3 groups of participants identified mother and child health issues as priorities with slightly different emphasis:

- Reducing IMR ( MDG 4 ), and MMR (MDGs5)
- Improving access to services of rural people.
- Improving the quality of health services both preventive and curative.

Other identified priorities were:

- Avian influenza (AI)
- Food safety and nutritional status
- Health care financing

Key findings from the three studies were:

- Lao NHRS has evolved gradually over time since 1992.
- Capacity building has been the key features and has created a number of researchers in health.
- Research studies have been done, but utilization still need to be improved.
- More financial support for research projects needed from government, funds from government, and funds from donors need to be better match with priorities.
- There is a need for planners, policy- makers, and professionals to make better use of relevant research studies done internationally and locally. Research plans need to be better supported by various sectors.

Three main emphases have been identified for the 4<sup>th</sup> five year national health research master plan.

1. Proposed outcomes/benefits from health research investment in the next 5 year plan.
2. Priority issues in LAOS NHRS that need to be strengthened.
3. Lines of actions/strategies to strengthen the NHRS, so that it can lead to the proposed outcomes.

### Step 3: Mapping key institution in the Lao NHRS

A conceptual map for Lao health research systems has been identified as bellows;

The actors, institutions and organizations are those, who either has directly involved in health research activities, or supported health research or research used

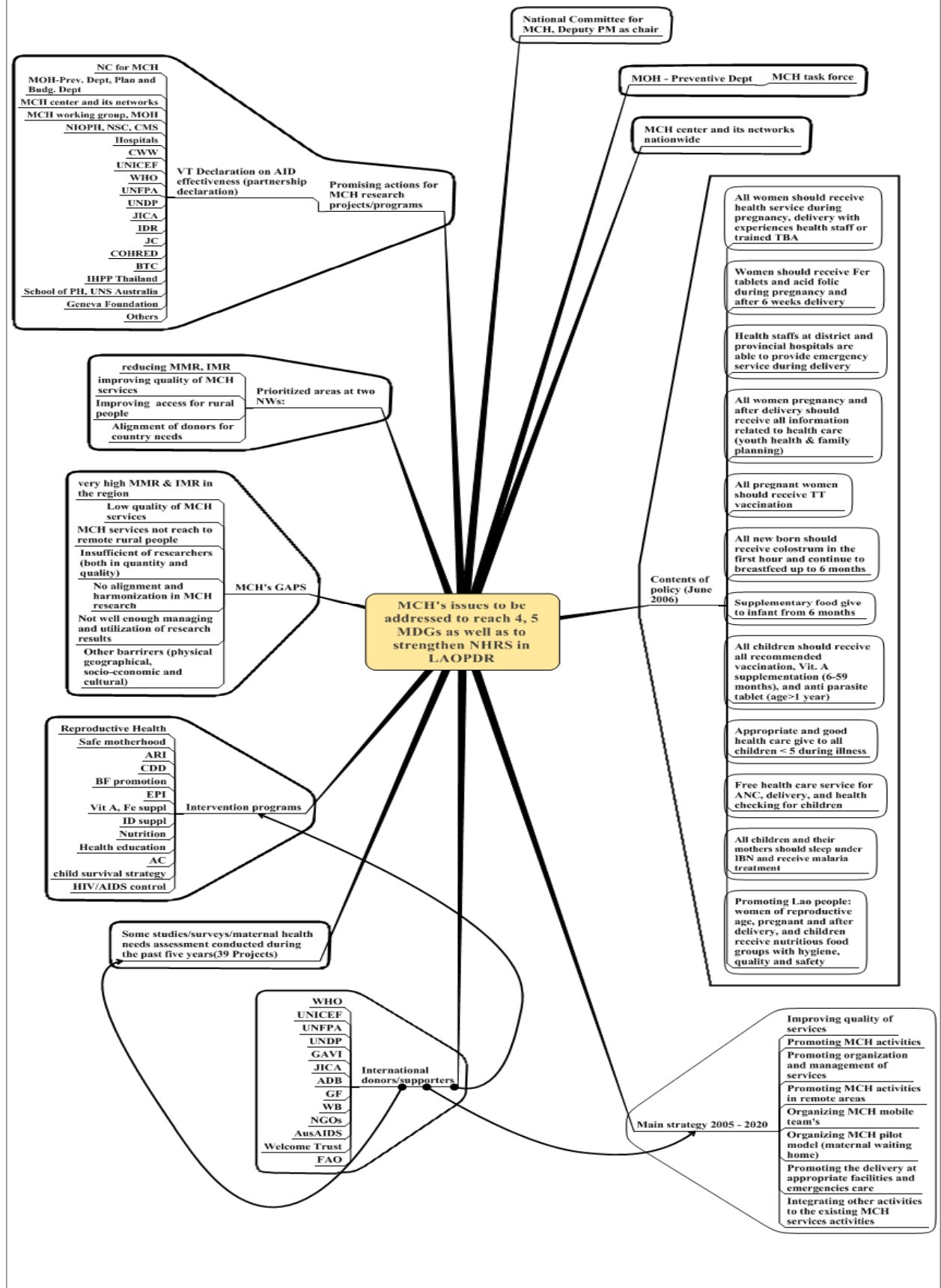
#### A conceptual map for Lao health research systems

Researchers	Research Users	Research Funders
National Sciences Council STEA NSC CMS NIOPH NUOL UHS MCH Center MCH Hospital Mahosot Hospital Mittaphap Hospital Sethathirat Hospital IFMT Provincial Health Departments and Provincial Hospitals National Economic Research Institute National Education Research Institute National Culture Research Institute National Agriculture Research Institute	Health Institutions and research Institutes of Ministries of Health and Ministry Education , with senior managers and policy makers of all levels ( central, provincial and district ) Public and private pharmaceutical factories companies State and private International Health and research organizations (WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNDP, CWW, JICA, FAO, ADB ) Project management Unit WB NGOs General public Mass media	Lao government UNICEF UNFPA UNDP WHO ADB WB GF CWW IRD BTC ADB AUS - AIDs FAO EC COHRED WFP SIDA AHF JICA JC

### Step 4: Mapping of MCH's issues

To do so, along with the reviewing researches done related to MCH issues and funders in the past 5 years, plus some in-depth interview conducted with two main national stakeholders (MCH center and NSC). In addition with 4 main international stakeholders (WHO, UNFPA, UNICEF and JICA), all interviewees did agree with MCH as prioritized areas to be deal with research for NHRS strengthening to reach 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> MDGs.

## Mapping of MCH's issues, and ways for its addressing to reach 4 & 5 MDGs And to strengthen NHRS in Lao PDR



### **Step 5: Convening a communicative/consultative meeting**

A communicative meeting was done with national and international stakeholders to present MCH's mapping and to discuss MCH's issues as the first priority to be addressed to reach 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> MDGs as well as to strengthen NHRS in Lao PDR for the fourth five year national health research master plan.

All participants were agreed with the MCH's issues that need to be addressed during the fourth five year plan implementation, and came up with the consensus of supporting spiritually, as for financial support international participants wished to see the research proposal before deciding of funding commitments.

### **Step 6: The development of research proposal**

The development of a research proposal has been taken up by NIOPH, MCHC, MCH's Hospitals and NSC, after the completion of research proposal, thus will submit to international donor agencies, for funding contribution (several negotiation talks will be engaged between national and international stakeholders led by Directors general of NIOPH and MCHC), and with the Budgeting and Planning Department of MOH.

### **Step 7: Formulating strategies for NHRS strengthening**

It is firmly decided that the four essential functions of Lao NHRS should be strengthened (see detail in section 5)

## **4. Vision, mission, goal and objectives statement**

### ***4.1 Vision***

Health research be a powerful tool for reaching equity in health for all, equal opportunity, community centeredness, modernized industries in civilized society.

### ***4.2 Mission statement***

To improve Lao population's health through mobilizing spiritual, intellectual commitment and financial supports from both national and international stakeholders to be aligned with the most pressing needs for mother and child's health research, thus to strengthen NHRS and contributing to reach 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> MDGs by the year 2015.

### ***4.3 Goal statement***

Lao population of all ethnic groups enjoy standard of health, harmonization of health research in various public and private sectors, social justice, equity in health, quality of life and sustainable development.

### ***4.4. Objectives of the strategic plan (4<sup>th</sup> five year national health research master plan)***

#### ***4.4.1 General***

To strengthen the national health research systems with a focus on MCH issues, that need to be addressed in the 4<sup>th</sup> five year national health research master plan, contributing to reach 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> MDGs.

#### ***4.4.2 Specific***

- 4.4.2.1 To conduct a review of research projects related to MCH issues done in the past five year, thus to promote / recommend its utilization in terms of MCH benefits.
- 4.4.2.2 To conduct KAP study on CBHI, thus to strengthen MCH insurance scheme, in particular to strengthen an essential package related to quality and improve access of rural people to MCH services.
- 4.4.2.3 To strengthen, analytical research monitoring, supervision and evaluation skills of MCH care providers at different level (central, provincial, district, and village levels).
- 4.4.2.4 To strengthen each function of NHRS (stewardship, research capacity resources management, knowledge utilization and management )

## **5. Strategies towards strengthening of NHRS in Lao PDR**

### ***5.1 Values of health research systems strengthening***

The strengthening of NHRS in Lao PDR will be formed on the following values and principles.

- Knowledge gains from health research should be relevant, accessible and can be used to promote, restore and maintain health status of Lao population at large.
- Health research should be equity driven, and ethic's development.

- Investment in health research is an investment for socio-economic and cultural development toward the rich society.
- Health research should be driven by population's health need and their expectations in particular in terms of mother and child health benefits, because mothers are to produce human life, and Children are the future of the nation.

***5.2 The strategies in strengthening the 4 functions of the NHRS in Lao PDR in the 4<sup>th</sup> 5 Years National Health Research Master Plan will be as follows:***

***5.2.1 Stewardship***

A defined by WHO, stewardship is the quality leadership to promote and develop strategic visions for the development of a health research system in response to the knowledge needs of a health system, and a health research system functions as the brain of a health system, to enable it to respond effectively to the health challenges<sup>20</sup>.

**Strategies:**

- Strengthening and reforming roles and functions of National Sciences Council to be a top focal point for monitoring, and coordinating all research activities as well as to get better support from top policy makers as well as from Lao government and be an immense influence for the alignment of donors to the priority of country needs.
- Strengthening of MCH task force of the Ministry of Health, thus to serve as secretariat for being exercised as better stewardship at Ministerial level.
- Reforming the monitoring and coordination functions of CMS in close collaboration with the NIOPH, hence to strengthen the alignment and harmonization in MCH research in particular.
- Enhancing the leadership role of MCH center in conducting research activities to support the research capacity management, in particular the research's results utilization
- Enhancing research performances at MCH Hospitals at central level to strengthen the providing of quality MCH care and services.

### ***5.2.2 Capacity development***

Research capacity both the demand and supply sides need to be strengthened.

#### **Strategies:**

##### **Supply side:**

- To ensure MCH's leaders at all levels of health system the ability to engage in MCH's activities and programs management on evidence - based
- To ensure the ability of MCH's staff on monitoring, supervision, evaluation skills in order to undertake their performances
- To develop analytical research skills through the training and retraining among technical staff to performs their MCH research tasks
- To ensure research collaborations with different parties concerned, including with indigenous peoples in MCH research activities implementation
- To ensure the quality of services in terms of mothers and child's health at different levels of health systems (EPI, MCH referral system, clinical services antenatal and postnatal care, STD / HIV, midwives etc...)
- To ensure that MCH technical staffs have the ability to emerge in the debate on the development and implementation of new health technologies in practices in terms of MCH's benefits
- To develop motivation/incentives scheme for MCH staff to working in the rural/ remote areas.
- To enhance the all collaboration with national front and all mass organizations, in particular Lao Women's Union at all levels and the community leaders in implementing of MCH policy and strategies.

##### **Demand side:**

- Produced leaflets on health education and diseases prevention should be developed and distributed to women in general, to mothers in particular
- Informing research results related to MCH and disseminated to the public at large and through different means
- Provision the quality of MCH services should meet the needs and expectations of mothers - clients/communities as well
- Establishing/improving MCH's mobile team to perform health education or primary mother's health care services to the disadvantages women / mothers or to the poor's people.

### **5.2.3 Resources management/financing**

The management of human and financial resources is crucial for strengthening of National health research systems in general, in particular financing system.

#### **Strategies:**

- Budgeting and Financing Department of MOH should annually allocate certain percentage of national budget for health research.
- Strengthening MCH leaders' capability of all levels to mobilize funding from both internal and external sources to be aligned with MCH research priority, thus a strong and quality of MCH research projects should be developed.
- Monitoring and managing human and financial resources efficiently and with accountability.
- Transparency in disbursement of research funds.
- Strengthening mechanism for allocating fund from national budget
- Retaining certain percentage financial assistance from external sources for health research in general, in particular for MCH research.

### **5.2.4 Knowledge Production and utilization:**

As knowledge is the output of national and local health research systems includes new research findings information, education and solutions, to promote health<sup>21</sup>.

#### **Strategies:**

- Reviewing research projects related to MCH done in the past five year, thus to promote its utilization in terms of MCH's benefits, some researches should be conducted in-depth in order to see How to recommend in the future for its utilization accordingly.
- Strengthening the coalition of three main constituencies : researchers, users, and funders in terms of knowledge production and utilization of research results by making them involved in research process since the beginning (developing of research proposals , implementing of project, disseminating and utilizing of research results)
- Developing concrete messages of research findings for reporting to main target audiences/users of research accordingly including mass media :
- Making official agreement with mass media so they would keep special Colum for promoting research utilization.
- Developing and strengthening research databases.
- Building and strengthening public trust/confidence (users) in science, thus to promote easily knowledge utilization.

## 6. Operational plan (for the 4<sup>th</sup> five year national health research master plan) 2007-2011

Some of the plans to operationalize the strategies in NHRS strengthening are addressing priority health research programmes are outlined as below:

### ***6.1 The first prioritized research areas/programmes: Research to improve health of mothers and children***

This is the highest priority policy that has been identified (see section 3) and will serve as the main programme where crucial knowledge will be generated through a “comprehensive and concreted” research programme that will bring in various groups of stakeholders to work closely together (national as well as international partners). Based on this approach the following step and actions will be taken.

- a) Formulating a comprehensive and concreted “Research programme on MCH that will address the various key issues and targets as have been identified in the “mind map”. At the same time efforts will be made to “Synthesise” policy recommendations and identify further research gaps based on existing research (some examples have been given in Annex I). This stage is expected to be finished by the beginning of 2008.
- b) Matching existing resources and supports (national and international) to the various areas of the “research programme”. Some examples of existing supports for MCH research for the next 5-year are listed below.

No.	Research topics	Researchers	Funders				Duration
			Internal sources USD		External Sources USD		2008-2010
	Strengthening the quality of MCH services and access for rural people	MOH NIOPH MCHC MCHH NSC JC		4,000		60,000	

- c) The MCH task force of the Ministry of Health and the MCH center to support, manage and monitor the various research components in the research plan and NIOPH will work closely with them to ensure that the research findings will be properly used and synthesized to link to national policy development for MCH.
- d) Some other actions/activities as outlined under section 5 (5.2.1, 5.2.2) will also constitute part of the plan to ensure that research will contribute to MCH improvement.

## 6.2 Other prioritized research areas/programs

Apart from MCH, Other priority policies that will be actively supported by health research in the 4<sup>th</sup> 5-year national health research master plan are summarized in the following table. Potential funding at the beginning of the plan are also highlighted. This is a need to work closely with various key stakeholders, especially those departments and units in the Ministry of Health to identify specific targets that are expected to be reached (as has been done for MCH programme) then carried out a participatory process to formulate the research programme for their priority areas as that they can serve as a starting point to mobilize resources and identify appropriate responsible units in supporting and managing various research projects. NIOPH will work closely with those unites to ensure proper research planning, monitoring and utilization of research for policy development.

No.	Research areas	Researchers	Funders	Amount			
				Duration			
				2008	2009	2010	2011
<b>1</b>	Avian flu prevention in the new period of National socio-economic development	NIOPH	IRD				
<b>2</b>	Food safety and Nutritional status among mothers and children	NIOPH FDD FDQCC	JC	<b>2,000</b> (for planning phase)	X	X	X
<b>3</b>	Health care financing for rural health system and poor population	NIOPH B&PD, MOH					

## 7. Some additional research projects and activities to support national health research system

### 7.1. Additional Research projects

No.	Research areas	Researchers	Funders	Amount	Duration
1	Research on poverty and illness	NIOPH	EC	217,799 Euro	2005-2009
2	Evidence informed policy network (Evipnet)	NIOPH Cabinet, MOH	WHO	4,000 USD For planning Phase	2005-2008
3	Health development study (MCH, Liver fluke, Malaria, and capacity development)	NIOPH Japanese researchers	JC	30,000 USD Per year	2007-2010
4	Operational studies on communicable disease control in the greater Mekong sub region between three countries (Lao-Cambodia-Vietnam)	NIOPH	RCH-B-CDC prg	100,000 USD	2008-2011
5	Food-borne trematodiasis: the role in hepatobiliar and intestinal morbidity and risk pattern for infection in ecological and socio-distinct setting of South East Asia	NIOPH Swiss Tropical Institute Basel	Swiss National Sciences foundation	447,890 Francs	2005-2008
6	Evaluation research on the implementation of the 4 <sup>th</sup> 5y HRMP	NIOPH	CWW	4,000 USD	2011

## 7.2 Additional research training activities

No.	Research training	Implementer	Fundere		Duration
			Amounts		
1	Health research methodology and design for Technical staff involved in MCH and other health programs	NIOPH	MOH (Lao government)	4000 x 5	2007-2011
2	HSR training to promote the implementation of National Drug policy in Lao PDR ( for provincial and district levels)	NIOPH FDD	SIDA	78.125 USD	2006-2009
3	District health management training in Lao PDR	NIOPH	HSPH VN	26.126 USD	2007-2008
4	Reproductive health training	NIOPH MCH	Geneva foundation		2007-2009
5	Comprehensive health system research training workshop to promote reproductive health policy	NIOPH MCH	RHP WHO, Geneva	40,000 USD	2008-2011

### ***7.3 Annual forum on health research to support national health research systems strengthening.***

Hosting annual forum on health research to disseminate research results nationally and in cooperation with foreign partners aims to share and to learn experiences with each others, as well as to discuss on the policy recommendations including the return from health research investment.

No	Activity	Implementers	Funders	Year				
1	Annual Forum on health research to support NHRS			2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
		NIOPH	JC	10,420 USD	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
		MCH	COHRED	3,900 USD				
		CMS	CWW	4,590 USD				
			IRD	4,496 USD				

## **8. Governance, monitoring, supervision and evaluation.**

### ***8.1. Governance***

Governance is a meant by which a different responsible body/organization in general, in particular MCH task force, and MCH organization at all levels including CMS, NIOPH, and others research partners both internal and international steers its staff towards agreed vision, mission and goals, so that health research system will respond appropriately to the knowledge need of the health system within a country.

### ***8.2 Monitoring***

NIOPH in close collaboration in particular with MCH center, MCH Hospital with the support from other health Institutions at different levels have the duties in general, in particular for the closely monitoring of MCH research projects, and its implementation, whether it proceeds as planned or faces to some technical or financial problems which would require timely remedial actions.

### **8.3 Supervision**

MCH task force of the Ministry of Health in close cooperation with the National Ethics Committee for Health Research and the Council of Medical Sciences of the Ministry of Health have the duties for supervising the 4<sup>th</sup> 5y HRMP implementation in general, in particular for the supervision of MCH research projects to ensure the nice success.

### **8.4 Evaluation**

Evaluation is a process of systematic analysis of input, process and outcome of the performance of national health research system strengthening, therefore, in the middle of the last year implementation (2011), NIOPH in close partnership with MCH center and NSC will conduct an evaluation research on the 4<sup>th</sup> 5 y HRMP implementation, using the indicators developed before, by comparing to criteria of value. The findings of the evaluation process will be written a scientific report and disseminated at the last annual Forum held at the end of 2011 and through different means.

On the other hand, the evaluation results will serve as important information for the development of the next five year master plan on health research to consolidate the strengthening of NHRS.

## **9. National Ethics Committee for Health Research**

The national ethics committee for health research established since July 2002 to protect the human right of the subjects, as well as to protect their health and well being, thus, during the 4<sup>th</sup> 5y NHRMP, the National ethics committee will conduct an evaluation of their organization and works in order to strengthen the quality of their performances accordingly. In addition, the principles of development of standards of the action plan of the said committee will be reviewed and performed accordingly.

## **10. Summary**

Lao Government vision and strategy is as follows: 1) Eradicate poverty by half, stop opium cultivation by 2005; 2) Fundamentally eradicate poverty, stop slash and burn cultivation by 2010; 3) Achievement of MDGs by 2015; 4) Out of LDC status by 2020.<sup>22</sup>

Indeed mother and child health's issues is the first priority of attention of the government of Lao PDR, its clearly stated in each five year socio- economic development plan, a major policy document is the national growth and poverty eradication strategy (NGPES)<sup>23</sup> which focuses on poverty and the poorest districts,

among 12 health priorities in the NGPES, four devoted in particular for MCH benefits.<sup>24</sup> Since 1992 the National Committee for MCH was established, and the deputy prime minister was assigned as chair and the deputy minister of health as deputy chair.

Since then the said committee has been guiding and supervising all MCH activities nationwide, at the Ministry of Health level, the Preventive Department assigned to be a supervisor for MCH Center, the latter has its networks nationwide. It is noted that, under the direction of the Hygiene and Prevention Department, the Mother and Child Health Institute established in 1992, the Mother and Child Health Center at present time, have been implementing: MCH programs and interventions supported by UNICEF, UNFPA, WHO, UNDP, GAVI, JICA, WB, etc.... (see the MCH's mapping)

Some policies related to MCH developed namely policies on mother and child health particularly safe motherhood. National birth spacing policies, National school health policy and National reproductive health commodity security strategy and 2004-2006 action plan, in addition with other laws related to health<sup>25</sup>. Recently the main strategy developed from 2005-2020 by MCH center in collaboration with preventive department of the ministry of health<sup>26</sup>. In addition with five years integrated monitoring, evaluation and study/survey plan UNICEF-LAO PDR 2007-2011 in terms of MCH promotion, UNICEF has planned to conduct MICS 4 by 2011<sup>27</sup>.

Health development project in Houaphanh province 2007-2011, financially support by CWW and Technically supported by NIOPH for research and management aspects, of which among different activities to enhancing management capacity at provincial, district and villages levels, there are some training for well supervised community assistant TBAs in remote villages, and implementing RH/MCH services<sup>28</sup>

Moreover, there is the maternity waiting home, WHO pilot project implemented since 2002 in two Northern provinces and in three southern provinces<sup>29</sup>. Lastly UNFPA to fund family development in LAO PDR for duration of 5 years (2007-2011) in the amount of 10.5 million USD.<sup>30</sup>

Furthermore, at the 9<sup>th</sup> government round table meeting held in November 2006, has endorsed Vientiane Declaration on AID effectiveness which stated about partnership declaration, ownership, alignment, harmonization and simplification, managing for results, and mutual accountability.<sup>31</sup>

In addition, the 6<sup>th</sup> national health congress held recently in Vientiane Capital City, where gathered top health policy makers, senior health managers and health personnel at all levels of health systems in order to discuss and to adopt a resolution focusing on the mobilization of health personnel to working at the grass root levels to helping the community in health promotion and diseases prevention, of which the establishment of health villages model as part of villages or villages groups development, should be the primary target of action. Thus would promoted effectively the implementation of 8 components of primary health care, stressing in particular to the immunization for children and women to reach 95%, to safe motherhood, birth spacing, ante and post

natal care and other MCH activities towards the strengthening of the quality of primary health care for mother and child health<sup>32</sup>.

All of the above mentioned health and social interventions programs committed by Lao government with support from the international donor agencies, plus the 4<sup>th</sup> 5y HRMP implementation towards the strengthening of national health system with a focus to mothers and child health issues, Lao PDR would surely gained in general social and health benefits, in particular mothers and Child's health benefits, contributing to reach MDGs as expected.

In conclusion “let's join together to make a scientific revolution come true in Lao PDR's land in terms of mothers and children health's benefit.

\* \* \*

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## 12. Annexes

### *Annex 1 Researches related to MCH conducted during the past five years (2002-2006)*

No.	Title	Responsible organization	Funding agencies	Date	Cost
1.	Knowledge practice of mothers caretaker related to the nutrition and child feeding, and parasite infection among children under three years olds in 3 provinces (Vientiane Capital, Attapeu and Houaphan)	MCHC HPD	UNICEF	2002	
2.	Baseline survey on reproductive health in Attapeu province	MCHC PHD Health unlimited	ICOMP	2002	
3.	Women, Weaving and Well-being, How Health is Socially Reproduced in Lao P.D.R	Christina, PhD's student	WHO	2003	
4.	Baseline survey on reproductive health in three pilot provinces Saravan, Attapeu and Sekong	SPC, NSC MCHC LWU	UNFPA	2003	
5.	Child Health and Nutrition Research Assessment of Research Priorities and Research Institutions in Lao PDR	NIOPH	FACE, inc.	2003	5,000
6.	Nutrition status of Minority Children aged 0-59 months in Luangprabang Province, Lao PDR	Master's student in Japan		2004	
7.	Proposal for Qualitative assessment of Clinical IMCI in Lao P.D.R	JICA	JICA	2004	
8.	The survey of the human resource utilization of TBA in Laos	MCH	MOH	2004	350\$
9.	Reproductive health promotion for young migrants in factory workers in selected districts in Laos	MCH	MOH	2004	
10.	School health baseline survey	MOH	UNESCO WHO	2004	7000\$
11.	Management of reproductive tract infections among health providers and in the community in Vientiane Capital	VCHD	HIV/AIDS Trust fund	2005	5757\$
12.	Introduction and effect of the health notebook for maternal and children health promotion in a village Laos	MCH	MOH Labour and Welfare, Japan	2005	
13.	Reproductive Health Survey	MCH NSC	UNFPA	2005	
14.	Conducting exit survey for collecting baseline data for a project purpose indicator	Kidsmile project	JICA	2005	

15.	Conducting survey on mothers perception and behavior on breastfeeding	Kidsmile project	JICA	2005	
16.	Second hand smoke of women and children	H&P Department MOH		2005	2000\$
17.	MICS 3 National Nutrition Survey	MCH NSC	UNICEF	2005	300,000 USD
18.	Conducting interview survey on maternal perception EPI in Vientiane province	H&P Department MOH		2005	
19.	Evaluation of IMCI training & referral system in Laos	Master's student		2006	
20.	Thalassemia & hemoglobinopathies among pregnant woman at mother & child health hospital	Master's student		2006	
21.	Determinants of current breast feeding difference in growth patterns among infant and children below 2 years of age in urban and rural areas of Laos	MCH		2005	
22.	Evaluation of comprehensive school health activity in Laos	VTE & Oudomxay provinces	Kidsmile JICA	2005	15000\$
23.	Analysis of variations of the human genome of haemoglobinopathies/thalassemies	FMS, NUOL	Japan University	2005	12000\$
24.	Creating a school health education programs for parasite control	DHP, MOH	WHO	2005	
25.	Current state of opisthorchiasis viverrini infection in school children, Lahanam zone, Savannakhet province, Lao PDR	NIOPH	Japanese Consortium	2005	
26.	Nutrition status of mothers and their children in five villages of Lahanam zone, Savannakhet province, Lao PDR	NIOPH	Japanese Consortium	2005-2006	
27.	Demographic health survey: growth monitoring of children in five villages of Lahanam zone, Savannakhet province: role of village health volunteers	NIOPH	Japanese Consortium	2004-2006	
28.	The adventure in revitalizing community demand for immunization continues	DHP, MOH	UNICEF	2006	
29.	Baseline survey for the community action for early childhood development project in three districts of Savannakhet province	NIOPH	UNICEF	2006	43000\$
30.	Distribution of Iron tablet once per week in women 12 to 49 years old in Sekong province, Lao PDR	H&P Department MOH	WHO	2006	

31.	Development of systematic nursing education program in nosocomial infection	MCH	Japan University	2006	
32.	Research in current nursing operations & relevant factor in Laos	MCH	Japan University	2006	
33.	Determination of immunization (EPI) coverage among children & pregnant women in Santhong district, Laos	VCHD		2006	
34.	Effect of the new curriculum on the occupational awareness of the nursing students in Laos	MCH	Japan University	2006	
35.	Initiation & promotion the emergency contraception (EC) in the public sector of the Laos	Faculty of Medicine, NUOL	WHO	2006	20000\$
36.	Factor which influence breast feeding practices among mothers in Laos	Mahosot hospital	Japan University	2006	
37.	A study of factor related to the postpartum traditional practice of yufai & kalamkin in Laos	Mahosot hospital	Japan University	2006	
38.	Emergency Triade Assessment and treatment Pediatric Section of Mahosot Hospital	Mahosot hospital	Japan University	2006	
39.	Study on cause of high infant mortality rate in Sibounheun sub district, Khammouane province	Khammouane provincial health department	NGO (ISAP)	2006	

***Annex 2: List of national and international participants involved in the development of the 4<sup>th</sup> 5YHRMP***

***1. List of national and international participants attending the first national workshop to develop long term strategic plan for strengthening national health research systems in Lao PDR, August 2005***

	<b>Honorable guests</b>	
1.	H.E. Dr. Pon Mek Dalaloy	
2.	H.E. Prof. Dr. Bountiem Phissamay	
3.	H.E. Mr. Khamhoung Heuangvongsy	
4.	Mrs. Chanthanom Manotham	
	<b>Internal participants from outside MOH</b>	
5.	Dr. Samaychanh Boupna	Director General, National statistical center, CPI
6.	Mr. Thipsavanh Intharack	Head of survey division, National statistical center, CPI
7.	Mr. Somphone Phanousit	Permanent secretariat, National Sciences Council
8.	Dr. Soulioudong Soundara	Director General of the ISTE
9.	Mrs. Pheuangkham Somsanith	Deputy Director General Educational Research Institute
10.	Mr. Khamkeo Payasiri	Project manager, Agricultural research institute
11.	Mr. Khammanh Siphanyay	Cultural research institute
12.	Assoc. Prof. Dr. Sing Menorath	Deputy Dean, FMS, NUOL
13.	Ms. Bounmaly Sengmeuang	Journalist, "VTE May" newspaper
14.	Mr. Saysana Lukai	Journalist, "VTE Time" newspaper
15.	Mr. Panyasith Thammavongsa	Agriculture Research Institute
16.	Miss Bounsalong Boualivong	Journalist, "Khaosan Pathetlao" newspaper
17.	Mr. Aphisack	Journalist, "Pathetlao" newspaper
18.	Mr. Samnan	Journalist, Siengpasasol newspaper
	<b>Internal participants from MOH</b>	
19.	Dr. Nao Butta	Deputy Director of the Cabinet, MOH
20.	Dr. Pasongsith Boupna	Deputy Director of the P&BD, MOH
21.	Assoc. Prof. Dr. Chanphomma Vongsamphanh	Deputy Director General, Curative department, MOH, Lao PDR
22.	Mr. Khamphone Phouthavong	Planning and budgeting department, MOH, Lao PDR
23.	Dr. Phouthone Vangkonevilay	Human resources for health, MOH, Lao PDR
24.	Dr. Savengvong Duangsavanh	Food and drug Department, MOH, Lao PDR
25.	Dr. Latsamy Vongsack	Director General of FDQCC
26.	Dr. Chanpheng Thammavong	Director General, Mahosot hospital, MOH, Lao PDR
27.	Assoc. Prof. Dr. Duangdao Soukaloun	CMS member, Head of Pediatric ICU, Mahosot hospital, MOH, Lao PDR
28.	Assoc. Prof. Dr. Khampe Phongsavath	Deputy Director General of the Sethathirath hospital, MOH, Lao PDR

29.	Dr. Phoukhieng Duangchak	Deputy Director General of the Mittaphab hospital, MOH, Lao PDR
30.	Assoc. Prof. Dr. Buavanh Sengsathith	Director General of MCH hospital
31.	Dr. Khampieu Sihakhang	Deputy Director of MCH center
32.	Dr. Khamphithoune	CHIE, MOH
33.	Dr. Phengta Vongphachanh	Deputy Director General of the Center of Laboratory and Epidemiology, MOH, Lao PDR
34.	Dr. Khanthong Bounlu	Deputy Director of NCLE
35.	Dr. Chanthone Khamsibounheung	Deputy Director General of the Center for Control of AIDS, MOH, Lao PDR
36.	Prof. Dr. Vithoune Visonouvong	Director General, Ophtalmology Center
37.	Dr. Souphalinh Inthalath	Deputy Director General of CHT
38.	Prof. Dr. Sithath Insisiengmay	Deputy Director General of the Hygiene & Vice President of CMS
39.	Prof. Dr. Bounhong Southavong	Director General of the Traditional Medicine Research Center, Vice President of CMS
40.	Assoc. Prof. Dr. Somboun Phomtavong	Dean of school of Public Health, NIOPH, MOH, Lao PDR
41.	Prof. Dr. Bounnong Boupha	Director General of NIOPH
42.	Dr. Souraxay Phrommala	Deputy Director of NIOPH
43.	Dr. Phetsana Choumanivong	CMS secretariat
44.	Dr. Sengchanh Kounnavong	Deputy Head of Health Research Division NIOPH
45.	Dr. Latsamy Siengsounthone	Deputy Head of Research Ethics Development Division, NIOPH
46.	Dr. Khampheng Phonglusa	Acting Head of Health Information Development Division, NIOPH
47.	Dr. Sounthone Ouipulikoune	Head of Administration Division, NIOPH
48.	Dr. Monly Vanmany	Health Research Division, NIOPH
49.	Dr. Vilavanh Xayaseng	Health Research Division, NIOPH
50.	Dr. Aliya Mingboupaha	Health Information Development Division, NIOPH
51.	Dr. Sayadeth Chanthavong	Research Ethics Development Division, NIOPH
52.	Dr. Dalaphone Sithideth	Health Research Division, NIOPH
53.	Dr. Khouanchay Soundavong	Health Research Division, NIOPH
54.	Dr. Phonpadith Xangsayarath	Health Information Development Division, NIOPH
55.	Dr. Sommack Manivanh	School of Public Health, NIOPH
56.	Mr. Monty Phothinanh	CMS Secretariat Office, NIOPH
57.	Dr. Daovieng Duangchit	Health Information Development Division, NIOPH
58.	Ms. Thiphaphone Chitranonh	Administrative Division, NIOPH
59.	Dr. Somsanouk Khamsida	School of Public Health, NIOPH
60.	Dr. Kongkeo Chounlamonty	School of Public Health, NIOPH
61.	Mr. Khonesavanh Keoduangsy	Administrative Division, NIOPH
62.	Mr. Virak Khieu	Researcher
63.	Dr. Valy Luangkhot	Researcher

64.	Dr. Vathanaphone Lattaphasavanh	Master student
65.	Dr. Phetsavanh Chanthavaly	Master student
66.	Dr. Viengvilay Phommanivong	Master student
67.	Dr. Phonepasong Soukhathammavong	Master student
68.	Dr. Bounam Xomvimane	Master student
69.	Dr. Vanpheng Phuangsavady	Master student
70.	Dr. Phonesavanh Manivongsy	Master student
71.	Dr. Sivilay Thammasack	Master student
72.	Dr. Thoummany Taybouavone	Master student

No.	Name	Organization
	<b>International organizations/NGOs</b>	
1	Dr. Dean Shuey	WHO Representative to Lao PDR
3	Dr. Hilman Ingrid	UNICEF
4	Mr. Abduli Kaikai	PO, UNICEF
6	Ms. Mairiolern Caren	Deputy Representative, UNFPA
7	Miss Setsuko Yamasaki	PO, UNDP
8	Miss Padaphet Boudara	PO, UNFPA
9	Ms. Kristine Nilsen	Officer in Charge, UNFPA
10	Dr. Saiaki Miyoshi	Health expert, JICA
11	Ms Thomini Ibee	PM assistant, JICA
12	Mr. Douangsai Vongxay	Program Officer, SIDA
13	Miss Julie Valey	Researcher, IRD
14	Miss Andrew Musaton	Researcher, IRD
15	Miss Virginia Mobilon	Researcher, IRD
16	Miss Carin Pirone	Researcher, IRD
17	Dr. Danglam Mahayor	Lao National Coordinator, BTC, MOH, Lao PDR
18	Dr. Frank Haegeman	International Project Coordinator, BTC, MOH, Lao PDR
19	Dr. Viroj Tangcharroensathien	Director General, IHPP, MOH Thailand
20	Assoc Prof Dr. Somchai Durongdej	Faculty of Public Health, Mahidol University, Thailand
21	Assoc Prof. Dr. Rolf Wahlstrom	IHCAR Karoliska Institute, Sweden
22	Dr. Philaisack Naphaivong	Deputy Director IFMT
23	Prof. Dr. Michel Strobel	Director IFMT
24	Dr. Bertrand Martinez Aussel	Researcher, IFMT
25	Professor Carel Jisselmuiden	COHRED Director
26	Dr. Somsack Chunharas	COHRED Board member
27	Dr. Lada Damrikarirt	COHRED
28	Dr. Wiput Phoonchaleun	COHRED
29	Professor Antony Zwi	Dean, School of Public Health, NSW University
30	Mr. Philip Miller	Director General, CWW
31	Mr. Palash Bagghi	Deputy Director General, CWW
32	Ms Yvonne Taylor	Health Consultant, CWW

**2. List of national and international participants attending the second national workshop in August 2006**

No.	Name	Organization
	<b>Honorable guests</b>	
1.	H.E. Dr. Pon Mek Dalaloy	Minister of Health
2.	H.E. Prof. Dr. Bountiem Phissamay	Minister to PM Office, President of NCS
	<b>Internal participants</b>	
3.	Dr. Yavang Latsuamua	Deputy Director General, National statistical center, CPI
4.	Mr. Somphone Phanousit	Permanent secretariat, National Sciences Council
5.	Mr. Viengkhang Siharath	Deputy Director General of the ISTE
6.	Mrs Pheuangkham Somsanith	Deputy Director General Educational Research Institute
7.	Mr. Vayaphat Thatamanivong	Agricultural research institute
8.	Dr. Liber Libuapao	Deputy Director General , Economical research institute
9.	Mr Khammanh Siphaxay	Cultural research institute
10.	Dr. Vanphanom Sychareun	Director of Postgraduate training & Research Department, FMS, NUOL
11.	Ms Bounmaly Sengmeuang	Journalist, “VTE Mai” newspaper
12.	Mr. Panyasith Thamavongsa	Agriculture Research Intitute
13.	Mr. Ketmany	Media (VTE Mai)
14.	Dr. Thongsavay Boupha	Director of Research Department, NUOL
15.	Dr. Nao Butta	Deputy Director General of the Cabinet, MOH
16.	Dr. Buakhan Phakounthong	Curative department, MOH, Lao PDR
17.	Dr. Bounfeng Phoumalaysith	Deputy Director General of The Cabinet, MOH, Lao PDR
18.	Dr. Phouthone Vangkonevilay	Deputy Director General of Human resources for health, MOH, Lao PDR
19.	Dr. Savengvong Duangsavanh	Deputy Director General of the Food and drug Department, MOH, Lao PDR
20.	Assoc. Prof. Dr. Bounkong Sihavong	Deputy Director General, Mahosot hospital, MOH, Lao PDR
21.	Assoc. Prof. Dr. Duangdao Soukaloun	Head of Pediatric ICU of Mahosot hospital, MOH, Lao PDR, CMS member
22.	Assoc. Prof Dr. Khampe Phongsavath	Deputy Director General of the Sethathirath hospital, MOH, Lao PDR, CMS member
23.	Dr. Phengta Vongphachanh	Director General of the Center for Laboratory and Epidemiology, MOH, Lao PDR
24.	Dr. Khanthong Bounlu	Deputy Director General of NCLE
25.	Dr. Vannasinh Silavanh	Director General of the Tuberculosis Center
26.	Assoc. Prof. Dr.Somthana Duangmalar	MCH’s coordinating person to MoH
27.	Dr. Sengthong Bilakoun	Deputy Director General, Health Department of VTE capital city

28.	Dr. Chanthone Khamsibounheung	Deputy Director General, Center for Control of AIDS, MOH, Lao PDR
29.	Prof. Dr. Sithath Insisiengmay	Deputy Director General of the Hygiene & Prevention Department, MOH, Vice President of CMS
30.	Prof. Bounhong Southavong	Director General of the Traditional Medicine Research Center, Vice President of CMS
31.	Assoc. Prof. Dr. Somboun Phomtavong	Dean school of Public Health, NIOPH, MOH, Lao PDR
32.	Prof. Dr. Bounnong Boupha	Director General of NIOPH
33.	Dr. Souraxay Phommala	Deputy Director General of NIOPH
34.	Dr. Phetsana Choumanivong	Head of CMS Secretariat Office
35.	Dr. Sengchanh Kounnavong	Deputy Head of Health Research Division, NIOPH
36.	Dr. Latsamy Siengsounthone	Deputy Head of Research Ethics Development Division, NIOPH
37.	Dr. Khampheng Phonglusa	Acting Head of Health Information System Development Division, NIOPH
38.	Dr. Sounthone Ouipulikoune	Head of Administrative Division, NIOPH
39.	Dr. Monly Vanmany	Health Research Division, NIOPH
40.	Dr. Vilavanh Xayaseng	Health Research Division, NIOPH
41.	Dr. Aliya Mingboupha	Health Information Development Division, NIOPH
42.	Dr. Sayadeth Chanthavong	Research Ethics Development Division, NIOPH
43.	Dr. Dalaphone Sithideth	Health Research Division, NIOPH
44.	Dr. Khouanchay Soundavong	Health Research Division, NIOPH
45.	Dr. Phonpadith Xangsayarath	Health Information Development Division, NIOPH
46.	Dr. Sommack Manivanh	School of Public Health, NIOPH
47.	Mr. Monty Phothinanh	CMS Secretariat Office, NIOPH
48.	Dr. Daovieng Duangchit	Health Information Development Division, NIOPH
49.	Ms. Thiphaphone Chitranonh	Administrative Division, NIOPH
50.	Mr. Khonesavanh Keoduangsy	Administrative Division, NIOPH
	<b>International organizations/NGOs</b>	
1.	Dr. Bou lonh Ketsouvannasan	WHO
2.	Dr. Hilman Ingrid	UNICEF
3.	Dr. Chanmy Sramany	Global funds, MOH, Lao PDR
4.	Miss Padaphet Boudara	PO, UNFPA
5.	Mr. Douangsai Vongxay	Program Officer, SIDA
6.	Dr. Kotsaithoun Phimmasone	World Bank, MOH, Lao PDR
7.	Dr. Frank Haegeman	International Project Coordinator, BTC, MOH, Lao PDR
8.	Dr. Viroj Tangcharroensathien	Director General, IHPP, MOH Thailand
9.	Assoc Prof Dr. Somchai Durongdej	Faculty of Public Health, Mahidol University, Thailand
10.	Assoc Prof. Dr. Rolf Wahlstrom	IHCAR Karoliska Institute, Sweden
11.	Dr. Philaisack Naphaivong	Deputy Director IFMT

12.	Professor Carel Jisselmuiden	COHRED Director
13.	Dr. Somsack Chunharas	COHRED Board member
14.	Dr. Lada Damrikarirt	COHRED
15.	Dr. Wiput Phoonchaleun	COHRED
16.	Professor Antony Zwi	Dean, School of Public Health, NSW University
17.	Ms. Vanessa Traynor	International and Global Coordinator, School of Public Health & Community Medicine, NSW University
18.	Mr. Palash Bagghi	Deputy Director General, CWW
19.	Dr. Somphao Bounnaphonh	PO, CWW
20.	Ms Yvonne Taylor	Health Consultant, CWW

**3. List of national and international participants attending the communicative meeting June, 2007**

No.	Name	Organization
	<b>Internal participants</b>	
1.	Prof. Dr. Boungnong Boupba	Director General of NIOPH
2.	Prof. Dr. Bounhong Southivong	President of CMS, Director General of the Traditional Medicine Research Center
3.	Dr. Nao Butta	Deputy Director General of the Cabinet, MOH
4.	Dr. Latsada Phamuang	Technical staff, MCH division, Hygiene and Prevention Department, MOH
5.	Dr. Khampieu Sihakhang	Deputy Director General of the MCH Center
6.	Assoc. Prof Dr. Bounleua Oudavong	Deputy Director General of the MCH hospital
7.	Assoc. Prof. Dr. Duangdao Soukaloun	Head of Pediatric ICU, Mahosot hospital, MOH, Lao PDR, Vice President of CMS
8.	Dr. Phimmasone	MCH ward, Mahosot hospital
9.	Assoc. Prof Dr. Khampe Phongsavath	Deputy Director General of the Sethathirath hospital, MOH, Lao PDR
10.	Dr. Bounthieng	Gynecology Ward, Sethathirath hospital
11.	Assoc. Prof Dr. Sing Menorath	Deputy Dean of the FMS, NUHS
12.	Assoc. Prof Dr. Phouthone Sithideth	Deputy Dean of the FMS, NUHS
13.	Mr. Thipsavanh Intharack	Head of survey division, National Statistical Center, CPI
14.	Dr. Sengthong Bilakoune	Deputy Director General of the Health Department, VTE capital city
15.	Assoc. Prof. Dr. Kongsap Akkhavong	Deputy Director of NIOPH
16.	Dr. Sengchanh Kounnavong	Deputy head of Health Research Division, NIOPH
17.	Dr. Boupba Thongmalayvong	Head of Research Ethic Development Division, NIOPH
18.	Dr. Latsamy Siengsounthone	Deputy Head of Research Ethic Development Division, NIOPH
	<b>International organizations/NGO's</b>	
19.	Dr. Rattanaphone Phetsouvanh	Head of Bacteriology & serology Division, Mahosot hospital, Welcome Trust
20.	Dr. Horikoshi Yoichi	Health expert, SWC JICA
21.	Mr. Palash Bagghi	Deputy Director General, CWW
22.	Mr. Khamhoung Keovilay	UNICEF
23.	Mrs Khamdene Phenghong	UNDP
24.	Dr. Daniel Bernoit	IRD
25.	Dr. Lui Bing	MCH Technical Officer, WHO
26.	Dr. Buahom Phommalth	Assistant project analysis, ADB
27.	Dr. Philaysack Naphayvong	Deputy Director of IFMT

#### ***4. Contributors to the 4<sup>th</sup> 5YHRMP development***

<b><i>4.1 Writing &amp; editing in English</i></b>	Prof. Dr. Boungnong Boupha
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<b><i>4.3 Final editing in both English and Lao</i></b>	Prof. Dr. Boungnong Boupha
<b><i>4.4 Typing and rearranging pages</i></b>	Dr. Saynakhone Senjonghak Dr. Aliya Mingboupha
<b><i>4.5 Designing of cover page</i></b>	Dr. Aliya Mingboupha
<b><i>4.6 Interviewing national and international stakeholders</i></b>	Dr. Sengchanh Kounnavong
<b><i>4.7 Compiling researches related to MCH done during the past five years</i></b>	Dr. Sengchanh Kounnavong Dr. Latsamy Siengsounthone
<b><i>4.8 National Commentators</i></b>	1. H.E. Dr. Ponmek Dalaloy, Minister of Health 2. H.E. Dr. Bounkouang Phichith, Vice-Minister of Health 3. H.E. Mr. Khamhoung Heuangvongsy, Vice-Minister of Health 4. Dr. Bounfeng Phoummalaysith, Deputy Director General of the Cabinet, MOH 5. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Kongsap Akkhavong, Deputy Director General of the NIOPH 6. Mr. Khampheth Manivong, Deputy Director of Planning and Budgeting Department, MOH
<b><i>4.9 International Commentators</i></b>	1. Prof. Kazuhiko Moji, Head of Research Center for Tropical Infectious Diseases, Nagasaki University of Tropical Medicine, and Visiting Professor of RIHN (Research Institute for Humanity and Nature), Japanese-side Project Leader of Health Development Study in Lao PDR 2. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Somchai Durongdej, Former CMS's consultant supported by IDRC Canada 3. Dr. Somsack Chunharas, COHRED Board Member