Lao PDR’s Experience
Managing COVID-19

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Overview

- Brief description of COVID-19 epidemiological situation and key interventions

- Systems for using data to manage the response
  - Case tracking and contact tracing using DHIS2
  - Hospital capacity management using DHIS2
  - Facility readiness using ArcGIS and mSupply

- Lessons Learned and Next Steps
COVID-19 Situation and Lao PDR’s Response

- As of the 26th of Nov 2020;
  - 39 confirmed cases
  - Last case reported on 23rd Nov
  - 2,032 suspected cases
  - 77,216 samples collected and tested
Since the 31st of December following the IHR report from China, PHEOC has been activated to support MoH’s response
  – Meeting 3 times weekly at this stage

Key interventions include:
  – Closing national borders including air travel by end of March
  – National Lockdown from 30 March through April, with gradual easing of restrictions each month
  – Mandatory quarantine of returnees
  – Intensified contact tracing when cases identified

Regular review of situation using data tools in the EOC
DHIS2 is used to track suspected and confirmed cases, and contact tracing information

- All data captured in COVID-19 Tracker module in DHIS2, the country’s national HMIS system, set up for COVID within 3 weeks of declaring the emergency response
- Suspect cases, positive, contacts, and migrants/returnees data is all captured
- Dashboards facilitate easy visualization and are used by EOC and technical staff
Tablet based data collection system helps monitor hospital capacity at COVID-treatment hospitals

- Tablet-based live collection of information from hospitals including:
  - ICU and COVID beds available and used
  - Ventilators available and used in each ward
  - Nurses available and in service in each ward
  - Number of patients receiving Oxygen therapy in each ward

- Data can be used to allocate resources, and plan for patient referral to facilities with available capacity
Automated information from electronic logistics management system shows facility readiness

- National eLMIS (mSupply) is used to track all medicines and commodities at warehouse and hospitals
- Used system to forecast the need for each site and compare with stock on hand
- COVID-specific data is pushed to an ArcGIS dashboard showing facility stock levels and readiness, colors show how many items are out of stock or below minimum levels
- Data captured includes all PPE items, is expanding to include more case management
- Oxygen availability, including O2 and consumables, tracked at 2 central hospitals and rolling out to all facilities
Lessons learned and next steps

Lessons Learned
- High-level advocacy and ownership through the Emergency Operations Center & COVID-19 committee supports a strong, coordinated response
- Data systems that provide real-time information for decisions ensure leadership and technical staff work from the same understanding

Next Steps
- Continue to expand the work that makes information easy to access and use, and decentralize tools to provinces and districts
- Continue to focus on preparedness and ensuring facilities are ready to deal with a surge, while beginning to prepare for a vaccine roll out
- Continue to revise interventions based on current situation
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