



## LAO PDR COVID-19 RESPONSE PROJECT

### BACKGROUND:

Lao PDR Covid-19 Response Project (Covid-19 Project-WB) is the project under the management of the Ministry of Health (MOH), received financing loan from the World Bank Group. The Project Coordination Office (PCO) is located at Department of Planning and Cooperation of MoH. The project Development Objective (PDO) is to respond to the COVID-19 outbreak and strengthen national systems for public health emergency preparedness in Lao PDR, nationwide coverage area. It received initial financing amount US\$ 18 million to rapid response to the outbreak, would receive an additional financing of US\$10 million for Covid-19 vaccine deployment and another US\$2 million for to Strengthen Health Facility and Lifeline Infrastructure for HEPR. The life span of the project is between 10 April 2020 to 31 December 2023.

### PROJECT AT GLANCE:

**Implementor:** Ministry of Health  
**Objectives:** To respond to the COVID-19 outbreak and strengthen national systems for public health emergency preparedness in Lao PDR  
**Coverage area:** Nationwide  
**Initial Budget (Loan):** US\$ 18 million  
**Timeframe:** 10/4/2020 –30/12/2022  
**Additional Budget:** US\$ 10 million (loan)  
**Financial Grant:** US\$ 2 million (grant)  
**Timeframe:** 6/2021 –12/2023  
**Specific Objectives:**

1. Timely detection response, and containment of COVID-19 cases: Number of suspected cases of COVID-19 tested for COVID-19 based on the national guidelines
2. Increased capacity of healthcare institutions for COVID-19 and other emergency responses: Number of acute healthcare facilities with isolation capacity
3. Prevent and respond to the threat of COVID-19 epidemic and strengthen national systems for public health emergency preparedness in Lao PDR

### PROJECT COMPONENTS:

- (i) Emergency COVID-19 Response: This component supports preparedness and emergency response activities to address immediate gaps for the COVID-19 response in Lao PDR, focusing on the following areas: (i) response coordination; (ii) infection prevention and control; (iii) case detection, confirmation, and contact tracing; (iv) environmental cleaning and disinfection activities; (v) case management and isolation; (vi) quarantine; (vii) risk communication; (viii) essential health service delivery; (ix) contingencies; (x) Vaccine procurement; (xi) Vaccine delivery and (xii) Management and organization of Covid Vaccine
- (ii) Strengthening System for Emergency Response: This component supports and strengthens the capacity of health personnel (clinical, nurse and laboratory staff) and supportive staff for therapeutic, diagnostic and patient care. Key activities include (i) developing guidelines, providing training of health personnel on treatment guidelines, hospital infection control interventions of this emergency response for COVID-19 in Lao PDR, (ii) improving laboratory capacity, (iii) strengthening information system for surveillance, (iv) supporting logistic management, warehouse management, and distribution, and (v) improving and/or constructing new small treatment centers in Champasak, Attapeu, and Sekong.
- (iii) Project Management and Monitoring and Evaluation: This component finances activities related to project management, monitoring, evaluation, and reporting including support the project implementation unit (PIU) of the project implementation entity (PIE) to prepare and implement the E&S activities in line with the ESCP, SEP, and ESMF. In collaboration with other development partners and academic institutions, the project also supports adaptive learning, evidence generation, and knowledge sharing from the project implementation to support effective implementation of emergency response and collection of good practices within the country.
- (iv) Strengthening Preparedness for Health Emergency (HEPR): this component aims to Strengthen Health Facility and Lifeline Infrastructure for HEPR. Proposed activities include (i) enhancing health system and facilities for future emergencies; (2) preparing health emergencies by developing and implementing preparedness assessments and plan, conducting simulation exercises and (iii) estimating resource needs in case of a health emergency.

## ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL RISK RELATED

- The project will drive the positive environmental and social impact on improvement of the surveillance, reporting system of Covid-19 including the provisional support to household that highly at risk of infection;
- The project might bring about risks and impacts on environment, society, health and security
- Significant risks and impacts related to the project includes:
  - ✓ Medical waste management and infectious waste;
  - ✓ Contamination of the virus from laboratory and quarantine facilities;
  - ✓ Health and security impact to the health workers;
  - ✓ Miscommunication and fake news circulation that threaten the society;
  - ✓ Discrimination among the infected patients in the society and inequality of services accessing

## ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL MANAGEMENT

- Project applies the law and the environmental and social frame work of the World Bank group (ESF)
- Based on the abovementioned policy, the following documents have been drafted for disseminating and applying as a risk mitigation measures for environmental and social impacts. Documents includes:
  1. Stakeholders Engagement Plan (SEP): a material for implementing activities and a tool for measuring the accessing of the targeted beneficiaries such as women and children, elder group, ethnic minority, high risk infection health worker and others;
  2. Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP) sets out material measures and action, specific documents and plan as well as timing for implementation;
  3. Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) and related management plans such as an Environmental and Social Management plan (ESMP), Labor Management Procedures (LMP), Infection Control and Waste Management plan (ICWMP), Infection Prevention and Control (IPC), Healthcare Waste Management Plan (HCWMP), and/or Environment and Social Practices (ESCP). These plans aim to guide the project implementing entity (PIE) of MOH identify possible environment and social (E&S) risks through undertaking E&S screening and develop and implement mitigation measures during project implementation, including the relevant subproject-specific plans that would be

developed in compliance with the WB's environment and social standards (ESS)

4. The ESCP, SEP, and ESMF of the LCRP documents are being updated taking into account the National Deployment and Vaccination Plan (NDVP) and the proposed activities to be implemented under the LCRP additional financing. The first drafts of these documents have been disclosed for public access.
5. Documents can be accessed at: [www.fdd.gov.la](http://www.fdd.gov.la)

## CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

- Do you think there are any other environment and social risks from project activities that have not been identified by the project?
- Are the set measures and documents applying appropriate and sufficient to address the risks and impacts of the project? Do you have any recommendations?
- Do you have any suggestions as to the best way to reach priority groups for vaccination, in particular people living in remote communities?
- Provide comments and/or suggestions on the updated ESCP, SEP, and ESMF (If possible). These documents will be applied and implemented by the project implementing entities (PIE) during project implementation.

## FEEDBACK AND COMMENTS:

Feedback and comments related to this project can be done through the following platform before 12 March 2021:

- Messaging via What's App Number: + 85620 55227775; +8562055989225
- Email to [Khaikham.xyp@gmail.com](mailto:Khaikham.xyp@gmail.com)
- Submit comments to What's App group chat: "COVID-19 Response in VTE" or direct message on Facebook page: "ສູນຂ່າວສານການແພດແລະສຸຂະສິກສາ Center for Information and Education for Health"
- Complains and feedback mechanism of the project

For More Information Please Visit: [www.fdd.gov.la](http://www.fdd.gov.la)

**Ministry of Health**  
**Lao PDR Covid-19 Response Project**

