

REVIEW

RESPONDING TO PANDEMIC INFLUENZA IN CAMBODIA AND LAO PDR: CHALLENGES IN MOVING FROM STRATEGY TO OPERATION

Joia de Sa¹, Sandra Mounier-Jack¹, Chau Darapheak², Ly Khunbun Narann³, Rattanaxy Phetsouvanh⁴, Nyphonh Chanthakoummane⁴, Sok Touch³, Bounlay Phommasack⁴ and Richard Coker¹

¹London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, London, UK; ²National Institute of Public Health, Phnom Penh, Cambodia; ³Ministry of Health, Phnom Penh, Cambodia; ⁴Ministry of Health, Vientiane, Lao PDR

Abstract. Low income countries in Southeast Asia are in a region at risk of emerging infectious diseases, notably SARS, H5N1 influenza and H1N1 influenza. Efforts have focused largely upon early outbreak response, though with the emergence of pandemic influenza, countries in the region are having to prepare to implement mitigation measures. We review the challenges for strategy and operation faced by two low income countries, Cambodia and Lao People's Democratic Republic (PDR), and highlight successes in planing and implementation to date as well as identifying needs and challenge that may hinder the future effectiveness of control measures.

Key words: avian influenza, challenges, strategy, operation, Cambodia, Lao PDR

Correspondence: Joia de Sa, Department of Global Health and Development Faculty of Public Health and Policy, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, 15-17 Tavistock Place, WC1H 9SH, UK.
Tel: +44 207 927 2431
E-mail: joia.desa@lshtm.ac.uk