

Lao PDR Country Office

COVID-19 Situation Report

SitRep No:
Date: 22 July 2020

1. Situation in Numbers

Total Confirmed Cases in Country	Total Confirmed new cases in Country (since last SitRep)	Total deaths in Country
19	0	0

Please refer to WHO Sit Reps to populate this table. Available [here](#).

2. Key Issues

Include a brief statement on each of the following:

- Key government updates, including mitigation and response measures.
- Brief contextual analysis of the situation, including impact on health, education and other essential services.
- Impact on children and families in ChildFund operational areas.
- Impact and effects on ChildFund team.
- The work of other agencies and ChildFund’s relationship with them.

No new cases in last 3 months; in June the Prime Minister declared Laos COVID-19 free. However health authorities in Lao PDR are working to strengthen the surveillance systems for early warning and detection of outbreaks. Staff are now in place to undertake health screening at all international Points of Entry and are putting in place community-level surveillance to rapidly detect clusters of people with COVID-like symptoms such as cough and fever. The World Bank has provided USD\$200,000 towards Pandemic Emergency Financing Facility which will fund technical support to 50 district hospitals across Lao PDR to help them upgrade hygiene and infection control. A further USD\$800,000 – overseen by UNICEF – will fund procurement and delivery of essential vaccines.

Currently there is no impact on children and families, except for Lao migrant workers who have lost their jobs in Thailand. Livelihood security is a challenge and they are resorting to finding jobs at construction sites or other. Currently schools are closed for summer break and will resume for new academic year on 1 September.

3. Operations Update

3.1 People and Organisational Development

Include a brief statement on each of the following:

- Number of staff affected by COVID-19, including the number of staff in self-isolation.
- International arrivals and departures of staff since COVID crisis.
- WFH arrangements, including any related challenges.

No staff affected. All incoming foreigners must be tested and obtain a certificate indicating they have tested negative. This must be issued in the country from which they have departed and presented to authorities at the Lao border. The certificate must have been issued no less than 72

hours before the start of their journey. Upon arrival at the Lao border, all visitors need to have their temperature checked and fill in a health declaration form.

Anyone with COVID-19-like symptoms will be taken to a hospital where they will be isolated and tested. People with no symptoms are required to undergo a 14-day quarantine period at a special centre or hotel and provide samples for testing. Anyone spending the quarantine period at a pre-arranged hotel shall be responsible for all expenses.

Diplomats and family members can undergo quarantine at their residence and need to provide samples for testing. After the 14-day quarantine period and testing negative for COVID-19, new arrivals will receive a certificate from health authorities, enabling them to proceed to a place of residence and start work.

The ministry has warned that anyone found to be violating the guidelines and instructions will be subject to legal action.

Lao nationals wishing to travel to another country for essential purposes need to seek permission. Foreigners wishing to depart Laos must submit an application to their embassy in Laos. The embassy will then submit the application along with details of the departure plan and the applicant's passport to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

3.2 Finance, IT and Administration

Include a brief statement on each of the following:

- Challenges that relate to registration, MoU's, contracts, cash transfers and general banking.
- IT situation.

No challenges. 2 MoUs are signed off with UNFPA & MoES.

3.3 Security

Include a brief statement on each of the following:

- Update on general security level in ChildFund operational areas and security incidents impacting ChildFund since the last situation report. Please include *analysis* where necessary/possible.
- Any changes/updates to the security guidelines/evacuation plans.

No update

3.4 Office Status

OFFICE	OFFICE STATUS			
	Open, Fully Operational	Majority of staff working from home	100% Working from Home	Shutdown, non-operational
Vientiane	Yes			
Xiengkhouang	Yes			
Houaphanh	Yes			

4. Programs Update

4.1 Programs Activity Level (indicator of current programming level)

OFFICE	PROGRAM OPERATIONS
--------	--------------------

	75 - 100%	50 - 74%	25 - 49%	< 25%	0%
Vientiane	X				
Xk Province	X				
Hp province	X				

4.2 Overview of ChildFund Activities (with a focus on COVID work)

Summary:	ChildFund is working with a consortium of 4 organisations – SCI, CARE, PLAN. ChildFund will target 15 schools where vulnerable girls and boys will be supported to return to safe and sanitary primary schools with increased access to relevant learning materials.
Education:	Teachers from 15 schools will be trained on infection control measures and supported to develop school-level infection control plans. Teachers will implement infection control measures, including student hygiene promotion, through daily handwashing. Infection control measures are monitored by DESB and project staff. Learnings on the effectiveness of WASH activities and infection control plans documented and shared with government partners at the provincial and national levels.
Child Protection:	
DRR/ ER:	
Health:	The focal activities will be WASH-related with Fit for School hand-washing facilities purchased/installed in target schools and, where necessary, village water supply extended to reach school buildings. Hygiene and infection control kits purchased and distributed to target schools. Teachers are trained in hand-washing activities and the use of hygiene kits. Infection control training designed in line with UNICEF COVID-19 guidelines.
SEL:	

4.3 Partnerships

Include a brief statement on each of the following:

- The status of partner organisations and to what extent they have been able to continue operations during the reporting period.
- What, if any, support, monitoring, information sharing and/or collaboration has taken place with local partners during the reporting period?

4.4 Safeguarding

CHILD SAFEGUARDING

Number of child safeguarding incidences reported since the last SitRep:

0

Number of cases open and in progress:

0

Number of cases closed:

0

PSEAH

Number of PSEAH incidences reported since the last SitRep:	0
Number of cases open and in progress:	0
Number of cases closed:	0

Include a brief statement on each of the following:

- What new child safeguarding or PSEAH risks have been identified since the last sitrep?
- What new mitigation actions have been implemented to respond to child safeguarding or PSEAH risks since the last sitrep?

N/A

4.5 Child Sponsorship

Number of children (sponsored and/enrolled) affected by COVID-19:	n/a
---	-----

Include a brief statement on each of the following:

- Challenges related to correspondence, communication and support to sponsored and/or enrolled children.

N/A

5. Communications

Include a brief statement on each of the following:

- Local media, particularly news regarding ChildFund/partner activities or relevant child wellbeing issues.

N/A

6. Urgent Issues

Include a brief statement on each of the following:

- Urgent or significant issues.
- Support required from the Sydney Office.

7. Any Other Business (AOB)

Provide any additional information here.