

Highlights

- 19 COVID-19 cases confirmed (last reported 12 April); no deaths; as of 30 April, 8 patients have recovered (MoH).
- The UN Country Team (UNCT) continues to provide support to MoH and other key sectors throughout the COVID-19 preparedness and response, including the development of guidance notes, improving surveillance and point of entry (PoE) practices, strengthening laboratory capacity, and assisting in health services and logistics.
- To support subnational coordination mechanisms, the UN in partnership with MoH established the Health Partners Working Group. This Group consists of civil society, NGOs, Development Partners, the UN Agencies, Funds and Programmes (AFPs) and Government.
- Procurement of medical supplies and health products remains a high priority for the Government, particularly in preparing Provincial and District health care facilities for COVID-19 outbreaks.
- 134,404 Lao migrant workers returned from neighboring countries throughout March (Vientiane Times). Migrants were placed under Government-led quarantine across 1,647 centers. The UNCT increased WASH and protection services in Government-managed migrant COVID-19 Quarantine Centers and associated health facilities, technical guidance on minimizing infection and GBV reaching approximately, and WASH services to 1,500 facilities for servicing 45,000 people.
- The UNCT risk communications reached over 2 million Lao residents, sharing key messages across multiple platforms highlighting the importance of preventative measures and social connectedness. Target audiences include returning migrants, persons with disabilities, youth and adolescents, ethnic groups and other vulnerable groups.
- #PiMaiAtHome social media campaign promoted staying at home during Lao New Year and beyond, with UN collective messaging reaching over 390,000 people.
- With the expected increase in protection and GBV issues, 3 hotlines providing remote counseling and psycho-social support have been established engaging the Lao Women’s Union, Lao Youth Union, and Vientiane Youth Centre. The UN will support further training to counselors, ensuring relevant skills to manage the increasing case load.
- In response to school closures, MoES has improved home-learning materials, education webpages and learning programmes for TV and radio with the support of UN partners. A Back-to-school campaign was launched, and schools used as Quarantine Centers were disinfected.
- Support was provided to MoH (NNC) for the elaboration of a Nutrition Response Plan, mainstreaming nutrition across sectors and providing guidance on programme implementation. Essential commodities for the prevention and treatment of malnutrition were procured. Key nutrition messages and counselling materials on breastfeeding, healthy diets and infant / young child feeding for caregivers suspected or confirmed with COVID-19 were developed.
- A Perceptions Survey is ongoing to determine the current food security needs across the country. The survey targets agricultural activities, markets, food availability, physical access, employment/income, access and consumption of food, and health/nutrition.
- In anticipation for the increased socio-economic vulnerability across the country, the UNCT is improving vulnerability mapping based on population density and relevant indicators for use in prioritizing interventions.
- To support the Government in responding to the socio-economic impact of the COVID-19 emergency, the UN is undertaking a range of assessments in the economic and financial sectors, determining the implications on the low-income earning households and vulnerable groups. The assessments will also assist in determining the impact against the SDGs and what development of policy options and measures will be required in the recovery process.

Reporting Period: 1 – 30 April 2020

Situation in Numbers (as of 30 April)

	# of confirmed cases	19
	# of deaths	0
	# of return migrants into the country	134,404 <small>(Vientiane Times)</small>
	# of people tested	2005
	# of tests conducted awaiting results	14





Funding Overview and Partnerships

- Funding gaps are expected in all sectors. UN AFPs have reprogrammed funds to respond to COVID-19 needs. Continued mobilisation of financial, technical and human resources is ongoing with additional fundraising efforts with multilateral, bilateral and private sector partners and donors.
- To address urgent needs, increased fundraising for COVID-19 response includes global Humanitarian Action for Children and Humanitarian Aid Appeals. Two proposals for the first call of the UN Secretary General Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF) are aimed at assisting provincial health preparedness and essential sexual, reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health (SRMNCAH) services.

Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

- Lao PDR has contained the COVID-19 outbreak to 19 cases to date. All cases are either travel-related or linked to those.
- All cases are in isolation in the designated hospitals. 7 cases were discharged, and the others have mild symptoms.
- Since the announcement of the first cases, case investigation and contact tracing have been ongoing. In total 313 contacts were identified, and with their monitoring period completed at the time of reporting.
- 134,404 Lao migrant workers returned from neighboring countries.
- The first draft of the country's COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Plan is pending with the Ad-Hoc Committee on COVID-19 for final review and approval.
- The country's Master List of all required supplies and equipment has been finalized by the Ad-Hoc Committee on COVID-19 and shared with all development partners by the RCO.
- About 63% of all Lao health workers are female and will have a double burden of care and require specific support. 1,800 Midwives provide maternal health services in Lao and require PPE to maintain services.
- All Lao children have been affected by school closures since 19 March. Children enrolled in pre-primary to upper secondary education (ages 3-17) for the school year 2019-2020: 1,440,733 (52% girls). Expectation of reopening of transition grades from 18 May.
- Since 5 April, there have been 181 dengue cases and 1 death reported through the notifiable disease surveillance system in Lao DPR (Source: NCLE/MoH). A cluster of 25 fever and rash cases were reported in Nabak District, Luang Prabang at the end of March. In April, 5 of them were confirmed positive for measles and 8 were positive for rubella.

Summary Analysis of Programme Response



UN LEADERSHIP, COORDINATION AND STRATEGY

- The UN's support to the Lao PDR COVID-19 emergency preparedness and response has focused on cooperation with the key coordinating bodies of the Government. The country's COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Plan is pending approval. The UNCT is supporting the Government led response to COVID-19, highlighting the need for strong coordination and a multi-sectoral approach. To assist in the wider coordination efforts with national and international partners, the UNCT has been formulating a matrix-based One UN Conceptual Approach to COVID-19, outlining the immediate, medium and long-term needs. Key Strategic Priority Areas to date include (i) coordination; (ii) risk communication, and community engagement ; (iii) health surveillance mechanisms at borders and Quarantine Centers; (iv) support to essential health, nutrition and WASH services; (v) support to the education sector; (vi) enhancing social protection mechanisms through immediate impact measures; and (vii) sustaining socio-economic development, ensuring a "build back better" approach.
- On 14 April, the MoFA, on behalf of Government of Lao PDR, submitted a formal request to the UNCT for expanded support in the preparedness and response to the COVID-19 outbreak. The request outlines the Government's intention to work with the UN in accessing the MPTF and use it as an opportunity to broaden the UNCT collective response to





COVID-19. This is an important step in consolidating the many bilateral initiatives already underway and expanding socio-economic recovery opportunities. On 16 April, the UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund announced the first call for submissions to the MPTF Windows #1 (immediate health response and supporting the Government's Response Plan) and #2 (social protection and micro-level recovery measures), with the first two proposals submitted by the UNCT on 24 April.



HEALTH

- As of 6 April, the MoH has finalized the draft COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Plan which is pending for approval with the Ad-Hoc Committee on COVID-19. In the meantime, the UNCT has been formulating a matrix-based One UN Conceptual Approach to COVID-19, outlining the immediate, medium and long-term needs.
- To ensure that health facilities are equipped to meet the case management demands that a COVID-19 outbreak presents, the Government has been supported in finalizing the procurement list for medical equipment. This is a good step forward for the COVID-19 response, particularly in preparation of Provincial and District health facilities and protecting health workers.
- MoH developed guidance for COVID-19, including IPC, surveillance, laboratory, contact tracing, PoE screening, non-health sector cleaning, and disinfection. Moreover, case management guidelines were revised, and simulation exercises and trainings on the areas of appropriate PPE use, IPC, surveillance, provincial RRT deployment, screening and receiving COVID-19 patients, as well as triage, treatment and hospital preparation (including surge capacity) for COVID-19 have been completed in Vientiane and are ongoing across the Provinces. Hospital preparedness tools have been implemented during the intensive case management training, working with health facilities to assess their current capacity and conduct local planning for surge management.
- MoH developed guidance on the management of returning migrant workers to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in the community. Materials and training of the non-health sector how to disinfect spaces have been disseminating and conducted; now expanding to the Provinces, with planning for disinfection of Quarantine Centers, so they can be repurposed or returned to normal.
- Essential PPE and supplies were provided to the Government/MoH to help ensure the prevention and preparedness and response for COVID-19 in the frontline health workforce. PPE was also procured for midwives and MCH health workers who provide support to pregnant women, lactating, and adolescents. Moreover, the MoH will be supported with the procurement of oxygen concentrators and ventilators to hospitals at central and provincial levels.
- Midwives were supported in the provision of maternal health services in the community through outreach and home visits, COVID-19 Guidance Document for Maternity Services being translated into Lao languages. MoH was supported on data collection of pregnant women, children and adolescents at community level as well as in temporary Quarantine Centers, specific support for pregnant female migrants in quarantine and surveillance reports on maternal health services were strengthened.
- Support was provided to MoH on risk communication, development of IEC material, with special emphasis on maternal health and youth-friendly services, including COVID-19 info-video in the sign language. Engagement and information sharing with health partners, particularly to support the sub-national level using the COVID-19 Health Partners Working Group, led by WHO is being continued, with a call to health partners to volunteer as provincial focal points and the subsequent ToRs, scope and reporting structure being developed.
- MoLSW and NRA repurposed the ongoing UXO Lao PDR Project by providing Provincial-level medical support by the UXO Sector medics when requested by Provincial Authorities, as well as the UXO Sector equipment (offices, vehicles, medical equipment) to MoLSW when requested by the Provincial Authorities.



POPULATION AND PROTECTION

- The UN internal Population and Protection Sub-Group focuses on three levels of protection, at the border, in camps and for vulnerable groups. This includes comprehensive protection (PPE, supplies, mental health and psycho-social





support as well as protection of rights) for frontline workers, migrants and vulnerable groups including women and youth.

- Lao migrants returning from neighboring countries were provided IEC materials on basic hygiene practices, precautions, and national regulations (3,000 copies at border checkpoints), as well as water and food. Data collection tools were adapted to better understand the origin and destination of migrants, at the Friendship Bridge and in Vientiane Capital. The Skills Development and Employment Department under MoLSW is analyzing data on migrant returnees.
- Daily updates of the status repository of border locations during the lockdown are ongoing through the Network of the Border Liaison Offices and MoPS. The Border Liaison Offices are being supported to adapt the manual for border check-points officers to include WHO Guidelines on Pandemics at the Borders.
- Women and girls-centered response is being facilitated through Lao Women's Union for women migrants. Technical standards for GBV prevention and sanitary supplies as well as soaps for 3000 women were made available for the Quarantine Centers. Geo-spatial Population Vulnerability Mapping has identified sites with higher population density as well as high levels of returning migrants to focus immediate COVID-19 prevention and response.
- The Lao PDR's Micro- and SMEs were mobilized to produce required PPE, including technical support to MoIC and Lao National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LNCCI) for sustainability of essential protection supplies.
- Refresher training for psycho-social support with material were provided for counselors of Lao Women's Union, Lao Youth Union and Vientiane Youth Center, operating through 12 hotlines, focusing on GBV prevention and serving youth and women. Work in ongoing for eventual 24/7 hotline psycho-social service with support of the University of Lao PDR.
- Advocacy for the release of children in detention resulted in the Government's decision to not arrest child offenders with minor crimes during COVID-19 pandemic.
- Support was provided to MoLSW in conducting a costing exercise for payment of unemployment benefits to workers under the National Social Security Fund Office.



SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT

- To mitigate the socio-economic impact of the COVID-19 emergency, a number of surveys and rapid assessments have been supported and are at various stages of implementation which will lead to an understanding of: (1) impact of COVID-19 on the economic and financial sectors and on the SDGs (including agriculture and manufacturing industries); (2) studying the implications on the social sectors and on the SDGs, namely: poverty, education, health, social protection (including children, women, migrants, informal workers), protection against violence, exploitation, and abuse; and (3) developing policy options and measures (short, medium and long-term) needed to avoid a further deterioration in the economic and social sectors in the country and support a resilient recovery for Lao PDR).
- It has been agreed that a consolidated analysis of the various sectoral assessments and analyses to inform short-, medium- and longer-term recommendations, directed towards the Sector Working Groups under the Round Table Process, contributing to the development of measures in key sectors. Ongoing interventions include the following:
 - MPI through the Center for Development and Social Research (CDR) is leading a socio-economic and health impact assessment of COVID-19 on the lives and rights of children, adolescents, and women and their families. The Economic Policy Research Institute (EPRI) has been contracted to conduct these assessments, with a draft inception report shared and inception meeting with wide Government and partner participation held in April;
 - MoLSW is conducting a costing exercise for payment of unemployment benefits to workers under the National Social Security Fund Office;
 - CHAS and the Association of People Living with HIV (APL) are assessing the impact of the lockdown on the antiretroviral drugs (ARV) distribution to people living with HIV;
 - Lao Women's Union is assessing the impact of COVID-19 epidemic on GBV; and MoH is developing Prenatal and Antenatal Guidance Notes for health care providers at service delivery points for systematic mental wellbeing and GBV screening and surveillance for pregnant women;
 - Two MSMEs surveys are being conducted on the impact of COVID-19 on coffee and wood processing sectors. The results will be shared with LNCCI and MoIC, with the approval of MoIC pending.
 - A rapid online survey is being conducted on the COVID-19 Impact on MSMEs in Lao PDR;





- The Research Centre for Enterprise Development and Integration of National Institute of Economic Research is conducting an online survey on business operations in Lao PDR.
- MoF and District Authorities proposed to repurpose the funds allocated by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation for the District Development Fund (DDF) under the Governance for Inclusive Development Project to (1) provide direct financial flows into the local communities via the local Government institutions to address COVID-19 through the system of inter-government fiscal transfers (IGFT); (2) provide non-salary grants that aim at providing more financial autonomy to local Authorities in the deployment of funds to deliver services directly based on their own choice (e.g., for managing the Provincial Quarantine Centers) through the Operational Expenditure Block Grant (OEBG); (3) providing policy support for the implementation of the IGFTs to support the rebuilding of local economies in the long term.
- On 17 April, LNCCI submitted 8 Policy Recommendations to the Government to (1) support the private sector: (2) reconsider lifting the restrictions for manufacturing sector, including manufacturing firms in the special economic zones that meet safety standard to operate; urgently facilitate the transportation of goods within the country; (3) lift the restriction on Chinese trucks entering Lao PDR to enable agricultural products to be exported to China; (4) provide clear policy to support Lao workers who are affected by the COVID-19 in accordance with the labor law; (5) issue implementing instruction to commercial banks on postponement of loan payments to 3-6 months; (6) issue an instruction to microfinance institutions to provide emergency loans and deferral of loan payment for their existing clients; (7) extend tax break policy to cover rent for land, office building, and hotel for up to 6 months; and (8) issue supporting regulations to ensure consistent implementation across the country.¹



MACROECONOMICS

- The UNCT is assessing the implications of the COVID-19 pandemic on the economy, including on trade, inflation, taxes, value chains, and foreign investment as part of its regular monitoring of the macroeconomic situation. Efforts in response to COVID-19 include working with MoIC, MAF, and LNCCI to assess the impact on the private sector, including undertaking business impact surveys.
- Support is also planned to MoF to assess the longer-term impact on the potential to raise investment resources from regional markets. In turn, this is expected to help inform the design of context appropriate responses to the changing environment, and to recalibrate strategic plans. To facilitate access to immediate policy advice, globally, a dedicated website on 'Supporting Small Business through the COVID-19 crisis' has been launched by specialized parts of the UN, showcasing insights and guidance to small businesses searching for ways to cope with the operational stress generated by the current environment. Furthermore, the UN has developed partnerships with United Cities and Local Governments to develop the 4th edition of Guidance for Immediate Response to COVID-19 on Local Government finance.
- In April, the World Economic Outlook by IMF revised real GDP growth projections for Lao PDR down to 0.7% for 2020, with an inflation forecast at 6.3%.
- Following the virtual meeting of the G20, Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors issued a [joint communique](#), including setting out terms for the Debt Service Suspension Initiative for poorest countries. As an LDC, Lao PDR is a potentially eligible beneficiary.
- An impact assessment of COVID-19 on Lao PDR's economy (trade, inflation, taxes, chains, foreign investments, etc.) is ongoing by MoF, informing the regular Lao Economic Monitoring (World Bank and IMF). MoIC, MoF, and LNCCI are assessing the impact of COVID-19 on trade and the private sector for Lao PDR. These efforts are being supported via an ITC COVID-19 Business Impact Survey (soon available also in Lao language [here](#) and the Tracking of COVID-19 Temporary Trade Measures via [ITC's Market Access Map](#)).
- MoF, in partnership with the UN, is assessing the impact of the COVID-19 on the longer-term economic/fiscal space using a regional perspective, examining market evidence related to extending debt financing potentials in regional markets.

¹ www.laophattananews.com/archives/71708?fbclid=IwAR1DzWVQT9mcN3f3kF5TVP36YDhWabH19wD8JT8e5kvuFSblzYXEyM3v6Gg





WASH

- WASH advice and chlorine supplies were provided to Provincial Health Departments in 6 Provinces to disinfect over 1,500 migrant COVID-19 Quarantine Centers (housing over 45,000 people) and associated health facilities.
- Advice was provided to Provincial Health Departments on disinfection and water quality. Data is being sought on the Quarantine Centers WASH needs to facilitate disbursement of emergency supplies.
- Technical advice was provided to MoH and MoES for the development of WASH and risk communication materials for social and mass media broadcasts and printed materials, as well as the development of materials for targets audiences, including schools and long-term care facilities for children.



FOOD SECURITY, NUTRITION & LIVELIHOODS

- In response to emergency impact on nutrition, support was provided to MoH (NNC) in the development of an Emergency Response Plan for Nutrition to be integrated into the overall MoH Response Plan, to ensure mainstreaming of nutrition in sectoral response plans, and providing guidance on nutrition programme implementation, infant and young child feeding, nutrition awareness and behavior change messages, and essential commodities and prepositioning of nutrition supplies.
- The development of key nutrition messages including on healthy diets and importance of breastfeeding was undertaken including the development of counselling materials for the promotion of good infant and young child feeding practices for caregivers with suspected or confirmed COVID-19. In addition, procurement of key nutrition commodities for both the prevention and treatment of malnutrition was procured.
- Technical guidance to development partners working in nutrition was provided to adapt programmes in the light of COVID-19, risk mitigation on nutrition and considerations for service delivery in post COVID-19.
- Support was provided to MAF in integrating COVID-19 information into the M&E system to monitor and report on the impact of COVID-19 and other related diseases on the Agriculture Sector in Lao PDR.
- A Perceptions Survey on agricultural activities, food and nutrition, including questions on markets, food availability, physical access, employment/income, access and consumption of food, and health/nutrition, was developed. The Survey is scheduled to be conducted roughly every 2 weeks, initially through WFP's field monitors but with plans to expand to other Districts through partners.
- A MAF animal welfare surveillance team is supporting the assessment and testing of animals to monitor and prevent any potential animal to human, human to animal transmission. Support will also be provided to MAF on laboratory capacity strengthening, preparedness and response to COVID-19 in animals.
- Support was provided to MAF in conducting a food security assessment at the national and sub-national levels. As a part of the UNCT joint socio-economic assessment, it aims to understand the food security impact and vulnerable areas in the context of COVID-19. The questionnaire has been disseminated through a web-based platform.
- Support was provided to MAF in developing a COVID-19 Response Plan for Food and Nutrition Security in Lao PDR for immediate, short and medium terms.



EDUCATION

- All Lao children have been affected by school closures since 19 March, with only transition grades re-opening on 18 May. The MoES has been supported with a back to school campaign plan, following the global Framework for Re-opening of Schools that has just been released by UNESCO, UNICEF, WFP and the World Bank. A priority before the school re-opening is the disinfection of schools used as Quarantine Centers for returning Lao migrant workers. Support has been provided to MoH-Nam Saat and MoES to ensure the proper disinfection of these schools.



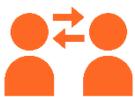


- Support has been given by development partners / NGOs to MoES in continuity of learning, including developing online learning resources such as the “My Village TV” show to promote early learning and development of young children. A webpage on education related COVID-19 resources has been developed in English and Lao, and risk communication materials tailored for education and approved by the MoH and MoES have been shared widely. The Global Safe School Operation Guidelines released by UNICEF, WHO, and IFRC have been adapted and translated to Lao. The Global Interim Guidance for mitigating the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on food and nutrition of schoolchildren released by FAO, UNICEF, and WFP has also been shared via the UN Communications Group Lao PDR platforms. An Education COVID-19 response and recovery plan was developed by the MoES and the Education Partners, which includes planning for re-opening of schools.
- MoES launched the distribution of food stock for school feeding in 925 supported schools across 8 Provinces as take-home rations.
- Psycho-social support helplines run by Government Agencies such as Lao Youth Union, Lao Women’s Union, and Vientiane Youth Center can also be accessed by teachers and students so that they can receive counseling on sexual and reproductive health, mental health, and GBV. MoES has developed video lessons on life skill-comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) based on the approved CSE guidebooks for secondary education.
- A series of 64 information cards providing teachers, parents and students with practical tips for living and studying in the time of COVID-19 is currently translated to Lao language. A regional Asia-Pacific COVID-19 Knowledge Hub will serve as part of the SDG4 regional knowledge portal, and the COVID-19 Educational Disruption and Response in Asia-Pacific (development in progress) will include resources on supporting continuity of learning and education sector responses to the pandemic.
- An Assessment of the Need for Skills Development, Employment Service and e-learning for skills development and TVET in Lao PDR will be crucial to sustain informal learning mechanisms.



LOGISTICS (Global Supply Chain, Health, National Supplies)

- As of 17 April, the country’s Master List of all required supplies and equipment has been finalized by the Ad-Hoc Committee on COVID-19 and shared with all development partners. The UN procurement channels are likely to be required in purchasing items on behalf of MoH. To date, the UN AFPs has supported the MoH in the initial procurement of PPE and medical equipment to assist hospitals in their preparation for a COVID-19 outbreak.
- The UN has also assisted the government in the shipment and delivery of vital drugs and malaria health products to ensure that Lao PDR has the necessary stocks to maintain essential health services throughout the COVID-19 outbreak.
- Flight suspension into Lao PDR, increased provincial checkpoints and border restrictions have caused disruption to Lao PDR’s usual supply chains. The UN has opened dialogue with the MoFA on the importance of maintaining supply chain channels (both domestically and internationally) for humanitarian equipment and supplies; this includes food, non-food items, and medical supplies with the aim of developing a protocol to coordinate fast-tracked procurement channels and approvals into the country. Global Supply Chains for medical equipment, medication, and PPE remain under pressure, with considerable lag time in shipping and receiving supplies. This is likely to continue with the ongoing cancellations and suspensions of commercial air routes.
- WFP at a regional level is undertaking a feasibility assessment and planning to determine whether a UNHAS could be established to temporarily service the region, whilst border restrictions and commercial flight suspensions are in place. This would rely on donor support and funding to be a possible option.



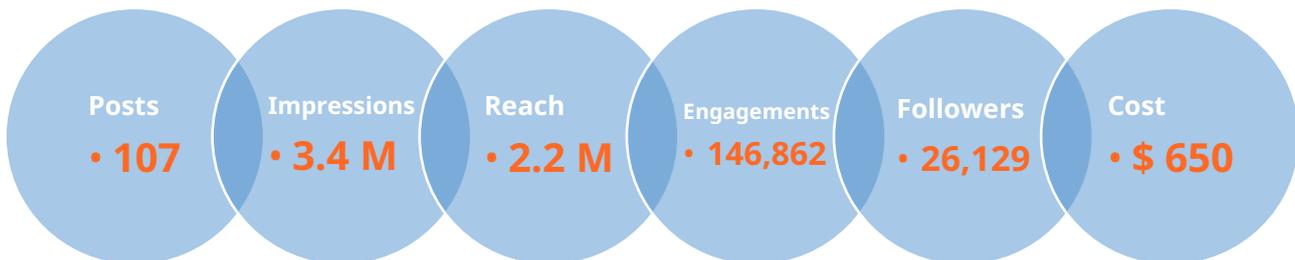
COMMUNICATIONS, TECHNOLOGY, COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & ACCOUNTABILITY

- Support was provided to the MoH (CCEH) risk communication and community engagement efforts coordinated within the Risk Communications Taskforce, UN Communication Group and UN Health Partners Group on Risk Communications, in particular on developing [information, education, communication \(IEC\) materials](#) for multiple target groups; developing bulk SMS messages on COVID-19 sent out through Lao Telecom; printing and delivering posters to the provincial health facilities; [outdoor, press](#) and digital placement of IEC materials.





- Social listening and monitoring public perception efforts were made through [surveys](#), advice on [avoiding misinformation](#) has been amplified through collective messaging.
- A wide spectrum of partners has been engaged to disseminate correct information on COVID-19 through multiple channels, including civil society (Lao Women’s Union, Lao Youth Union); media (two media sensitization workshops were organized together with MoH and MoICT); the [Buddhist community](#); social media influencers; networks of workers of education and health sectors (Lao Midwives’ Association); volunteer networks; private sector companies. Program outreach capacities of the UNCT, incl. community radio and community volunteers, have also been utilized.
- To ensure that no one is left behind by risk communication efforts, and the response is inclusive, communication activities have been targeting specific vulnerable groups, including ethnic groups ([audio and video materials](#) produced in 5 ethnic languages; work to add ethnic languages capacity to 165/166 Hotline is ongoing); [migrants](#) ([IEC materials](#) at the point of entry, video materials developed); children and adolescents ([advice provided to teachers and parents](#)); people with disabilities ([inclusive materials](#) shared together with partners); people living with HIV (information distributed through their network).
- Messaging has been adjusted progressively as the situation has been evolving, from awareness on the symptoms to physical distancing and staying at home during the lockdown, including participation in the #PiMaiAtHome and [#SafeHandsChallenge](#) social media campaigns, with the current priorities being handwashing, continuous physical distancing and workplace hygiene.
- Collective efforts were made to spread a [call to prevent stigma and discrimination](#), disseminate advice on psycho-social support, measures to reduce stress and ways to [seek help in case of domestic and gender-based violence](#), in addition to advice on healthy nutrition during the lockdown. Advocacy messages were promoted on [safeguarding food security](#), ensuring [human-rights based approach](#) and [social protection of those most affected](#) by the COVID-19 socio-economic impacts.
- During the reporting period, over 2 million people were reached, generating nearly 147,000 engagement actions (likes, comments, shares):



Next Situation Report: 31 May 2020

