

Northern Economic Corridor: Experience and Next Steps

Lisa Studdert, Health Specialist, ADB
Charmaine Cu-Unjieng, Consultant, ADB

2nd Workshop for HIV Prevention in the Infrastructure Sector
24 November 2008

The views expressed in this presentation are the views of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the Asian Development Bank (ADB), or its Board of Governors, or the governments they represent. ADB does not guarantee the accuracy of the data included in this paper and accepts no responsibility for any consequence of their use. Terminology used may not necessarily be consistent with ADB official terms.



Case Study: Northern Economic Corridor



- 2003–2007 (ongoing)
- \$95.8 million loan

HIV Activity:

- \$340,000 (0.36% of loan)
- Local NGO (Lao Red Cross) contracted for implementation



Case Study: Northern Economic Corridor Highlights



- Also addressed drug and human trafficking
- Took a comprehensive approach—provided services to affected villages, sex workers, and construction workforce
- Strengthened the capacity of local health providers

ADB

Case Study: Northern Economic Corridor Recommendations

- Clarify coordination and reporting mechanism
- Harness and build capacity of local resources
- Use appropriate IEC materials
- Ensure sustained condom availability
- Partner for human and drug trafficking prevention
- Design gender-specific interventions
- Need post-construction interventions

ADB

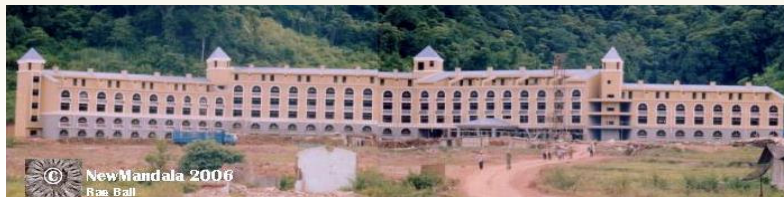
HIV Situation

- Low national HIV-prevalence in Lao PDR, but economic corridors connect to high HIV-prevalent areas
- Heterosexual transmission
- Increasing HIV infections among MMPs (e.g. migrant workers or farmers, mobile electrical workers)
- UNAIDS: possibility of concentrated epidemic among MMPs, including in cross-border areas and construction sites

ADB

HIV Response: Gaps

- **Boten:** casinos, nightclubs, brothel-based SWs, informal SWs, Chinese migrants
- **Viengphoukha:** sex workers and clients (construction, transport, logging and mining workers)
- **Pak Tha and Ton Pheung:** along Mekong river, high out-migration to Thailand



RETA 6467/Subproject 1

Expanded HIV Prevention Programs on Lao NEC (Route 3)

- Along Route 3 and border areas with Yunnan and Chiang Rai
- Luang Namtha and Bokeo provinces
- \$600,000 for 2 years (2008-2010)
- Consultant will develop and implement workplans in partnership with each provincial AIDS authority

ADB

Component 1

**Advocacy and
Capacity
Building**

Component 2

**Information,
Education and
Behavior
Change**

Component 3

**Strengthening
of Health
Services**

Component 4

**Monitoring and
Evaluation**

Component 1: Advocacy and Capacity Building

- Cross-border collaboration with Yunnan and Chiang Rai to address safe migration and sexual health issues of migrant workers (e.g. Chinese migrants in Boten)
- Private sector in border areas (e.g. casinos, logging, tobacco, mining, rubber)
- Community-resilience among ethnic minority communities

ADB

Component 2: Information, Education and Behavior Change Communication

- Ethnic minority communities and MMPs
- Sex workers and clients (e.g. casino towns)
- Integrate HIV prevention into the occupational health and safety programs of private companies
- Condom availability
- Partnering with or supporting other organizations (e.g. human trafficking)

ADB

Component 3: Strengthening Health Services

- Prepare or update protocols on VCCT, treatment, care and support for migrant and mobile clients
- Train district health workers and pharmacies

ADB



Component 4: Monitoring and Evaluation

- Project Performance Monitoring System (PPMS) – M&E specialist part of project team
- 2 Provincial Steering Committees
- Mid- and end-of-project workshops between 2 provinces

ADB



Thank you.

Istuddert@adb.org
ccuunjieng@adb.org

ADB

