## The Survey on Biological Specimen Transportation System in Human and Animal Health Sector

12<sup>th</sup> July, 2022



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#### Introduction

- The COVID pandemic revealed weaknesses of specimen shipping to reference laboratories. SEALAB conducted a survey on national sample transportation to assess current situation of sample packaging and transportation, the flow of samples, and laboratory mapping.
- Gaps or opportunity for improvement learned from the survey will be used as baseline information to design a pilot transportation system in 3 provinces for 3 months.



Slide 3	
SY1	Sokchea YANN, 5/30/2022
SY2	changed 6 to 3 Sokchea YANN, 5/30/2022

#### Objective

This survey aims at gathering some information to improve the biological sample transportation components (sample flow, transportation mapping, Packaging and transportation control system) within the national medical laboratory network in Cambodia by first conducting a pilot phase study on 3 provinces, Battambang, Kampong Cham, and Takeo province.



#### Methodology

- Survey method: Descriptive Cross- Sectional Study.
- Survey sample: There are 37 laboratories which participated in the survey, 30 laboratories are from provincial hospitals, national hospitals, national programs, NGO laboratories, and research/specialized laboratories and 7 laboratories from animal health sector.
- Survey timeline: This survey was conducted in May 2021.
- Data collection technique: Self-administered questionnaire.



#### Of the 30 participating labs from HH, >50% were CPA-3 laboratories

Laboratory Level	Name	
	1. Komar Angkor Hospital Laboratory	
NGO Labs 2	2. Medical Laboratory of Sonjakill Memorial Hospital	
	3. Sihanouk Hospital Center of Hope Laboratory	
	1. Cheychumneas Referral Hospital Laboratory	
	2. Kampong Chhnang Provincial Hospital Laboratory	
	3. Steung Treng Provincial Hospital	
	4. Battambang Provincial Referral Hospital	
	5. Svay Rieng Provincial Referral Hospital Laboratory	
	6. Kampong Cham Provincial Hospital Laboratory	
004 0	7. Takeo Provincial Hospital Laboratory	
CPA-3	8. Mongkulborey Provincial Hospital Laboratory	
	9. 16MAKARA RHP-Preah Vihear/Laboratory	
	10. Ratanakiri Provincial Hospital Laboratory	
	11. Prey Veng Referral Hospital Laboratory	
	12. Siem Reap Provincial Referral Hospital	
	13. Kompong Thom Provincial Hospital Laboratory	
	14. Pursat Provincial Hospital laboratory	
	15. Kampong Speu Referral Hospital Laboratory	
	16. Kampot referral hospital laboratory	

# National and specialised laboratories were included to understand quality of samples arriving at facilities

Laboratory Level	Name
	1 Khmer Soviet Friendshin Hospital Laboratory
National hospital	2. Preah Angduong Hospital laboratory
	3. Cambodia-China Friendship Preah Kossamak Hospital Laboratory
	4. Calmette Hospital Laboratory
	5. National Pediatric Hospital Laboratory
	1. NCHADS Laboratory (HIV and STI Laboratory)
Specialized/Research Laboratory	2. CNM Lab (National Center for Malaria Control) Lab)
	3. Rodolphe Mérieux Laboratory of UHS
	4. National Institute of Public Health Laboratory
	5. National Center for Tuberculosis and Leprosy Control
	6. Institut Pasteur du Cambodge

# Of the 7 participating labs from AH, 4 are national and university institutes and 3 are provincial labs.

No.	Laboratory Level	Name
1.	National Level	- National Animal Health and Production Research Institute
2.	Agricultural University and Institutes	<ul> <li>Royal University of Agriculture (RUA)</li> <li>Kampong Cham National Institute of Agriculture</li> <li>Prek Leap National Institute of Agriculture</li> </ul>
3.	Vet Provincial Laboratories	<ul> <li>Prey Veng Production and Veterinary office</li> <li>Kampong Cham Production and Veterinary office</li> <li>Kratie Production and Veterinary office</li> </ul>
	TOTAL	7





#### Limitations

- Limited number of labs interviewed
- No representation from CPA-2 laboratories
- Self-administered data collection
- No data on flows of individual samples and turn around time



#### **Results help answer three questions**

- **1.** Why do we need a sample transportation system?
- 2. What do we know about the flow of lab samples in Cambodia?
- 3. Are samples arriving in good quality?



#### **Tests available on-site: CPA-3 Hospitals**

5 test types can be performed by all surveyed CPA-3 labs – all other test types require transportation to another lab

#### Test types performed by 16 surveyed CPA-3 Labs



#### **Tests available on-site: National Hospitals**

#### National hospitals have to refer samples to specialized labs for at least 6 test types



#### **Tests performed by Surveyed Specialised Labs for HH**

#### IPC and NIPH perform the most diverse tests, which NCHADS, CNM and CENAT specialising in their disease areas

Test	IPC	NIPH	NCHARDS	CENAT	CNM	
Complete Blood Count	Х	Х		Х		
Basic Metabolic Panel	Х	Х		Х		
Complete Metabolic Panel	Х	Х				
ipid Panel	Х	Х				
hyroid Panel	Х	Х				
Enzyme Markers	Х	Х			Malavia	
Coagulation Panel	Х	Х			Iviaiaria	
Jrinalysis	Х	Х		Х	microscopic	
Serology	Х	Х	Х	Х		
Aicrobiology	Х	Х			FUN, GOFD	
Iormone Profiles	Х	Х				
umor Markers	Х	Х				
B PCR	Х	Х		Х		
IIV PCR	Х		Х			ONDATION
COVID-19 PCR	Х	Х				

#### **Tests performed by Surveyed Veterinary Labs**

Test	NAPHRI	Prek Leap institute	KNIA (Kg. Cham)	RUA (university)	Kampong Cham	Kratie 🕻	Prey Ven
Direct Parasite Examination	٧	٧		٧	V	V	
Parasitology	٧	٧	٧	٧			
Hematology	٧		٧	٧			
Sedimentation	٧	٧		٧	V		
Flotation	٧	٧					
Animal Feed	٧						
Biochemistry	٧			٧			
Pathology	٧			٧			
Bacteriology	٧			V			
Outopsy	٧			٧			
Vicroscopic Examination	٧	٧					
Smear Examination	٧						
Serology ELISA	٧			٧			
Agglutination	٧			٧			
Bacteriology Culture	٧			٧			
Other animal test	٧						
Bird Flu	٧						
Animal Genetic	٧			٧			
Toxicology	٧						
Vet drug and Drug Residue	٧						
Virology	V					40NDAT	22
Fungi Culture							4)

## Number of samples sent by surveyed labs from HH

Total number of samples received by 30 surveyed labs in May 2021

**60,039** samples were received in just May 2021 by the 30 surveyed labs. These are mostly high-risk samples such as sputum, swabs and blood (= 1,937 samples per day on average)

	-
High Risk sample	Number
Sputum	9243
Swab	14012
Blood	35627
Total	58,882
Low Risk sample	Number
Stool	146
Urine	955
Biopsy	56
Total	1,157



#### Number of samples sent by surveyed labs from AH

**3,200** samples were received in just 1 month by the 7 surveyed labs. More than half are high-risk such as swabs, blood, and carcasses.

Total number of samples rect	Total number of samples received by 7 surveyed labs in May 2021	
High Risk sample	Number	
Blood	947	
Swab	694	
Carcasses	48	
Total	1,689	
Low Risk sample	Number	
Feces	1096	
Other Specimen	440	
Total	1,536	



#### **Questions for discussions**

- What is your initial reaction to the data presented?
- What steps and actions did you take to strengthen sample transportation?
- As specialised and also reference lab (IPC and NIPH) what are your recommendations for the labs to improve the sample transportation?



#### **Results help answer three questions**

**1.** Why do we need a sample transportation system?

2. What do we know about the flow of lab samples in Cambodia?

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#### Number of samples received by each lab categories in HH

## Of the samples reported in May 2021, 59% were received by the 5 specialised labs and 40% by the 16 surveyed CPA-3 laboratories



Note: data does not specify what tests are done on each sample

#### Number of samples received by each lab type in AH

Of the samples reported in May 2021, 42% were received by NAPHRI lab alone, and 58% by the National and University Institutes.



Note: data does not specify what tests are done on each sample

# Samples sent to and sent by CPA3 labs for each public, private and NGO sector.

#### **CPA-3** labs reported mostly receiving and sending samples to other public sector labs.



#### **Transportation times to/from CPA-3 labs**

Samples received by CPA-3 labs have longer transportation times from public sector compared with the private sector. Samples sent from CPA-3 have longest transportation times, as they often go to Phnom Penh.

Average travel time for specimens sent from and received by 16 surveyed CPA-3 Labs

	Samples received	Samples sent
Public Sector	02h 52mn	05h 23mn
Private Sector	00h 20mn	02h 07mn
NGO Sector	00h 10mn	N/A



Note: data does not specify which samples types are transported, sample result turn around time, or frequency of transportation

#### **Transportation method**

Provincial labs more often use car taxis, even though the cost of a transport company may be lower



## **Transport planning considerations for HH**

Overall coordination between sending and receiving labs is good, and could be improved by sending more information about the shipment to the receiver and working more on the logbook records data.

% of received samples reported by surveyed labs to meet the requirements

Transport planning considerations	73%
Agreement made with receiving lab	75%
Arrangements made with transporter	77%
Information sent to receiving lab about shipment	60%
The parcel arrives directly to the lab	74%
Lab arranges collection upon arrival outside working hours	81%
Someone responsible 24/7 to receive samples	75%
A logbook records data on transportation/reception	69%

## **Transport planning considerations for AH**

Overall coordination between sending and receiving labs is very good.

% of received samples reported by surveyed labs to meet the requirements

Arrangements made with receiving lab100%Arrangements made with transporter100%Information sent to receiving lab about shipment100%	
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Information sent to receiving lab about shipment 100%	
	Do thes
The parcel arrives directly to the lab 100% ar	are see
Lab arranges collection upon arrival outside working hours 100%	your lab
Someone responsible 24/7 to receive samples 82%	
A logbook records data on transportation/reception 100%	,

#### **Questions for discussions**

- How does the laboratory decide how often, and using which transport, a sample is sent?
- Is there anything presented above that surprises you, compared with the experience in your lab?
- What practical solutions would help to improve transportation of referred samples?

#### Suggestions from surveyed labs:

- 1. Provide training on sample transportation to the sender
- 2. Develop a standardized logbook for sample sender and sample receiver
- 3. There should be a private/public transportation system
- 4. Transfer form should be more comprehensive for the transporter (and in Khmer)



#### **Results help answer three questions**

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## Sample packaging & labelling for transportation in HH

The 4 main issues faced by labs when they refer specimen to other labs are missing leak-proof receptacle, absorbent material, biological material label and ice pack melt



## Sample packaging & labelling for transportation in AH

The 5 main issues faced by labs when they refer specimen to other labs are missing leak-proof receptacle, absorbent material, 2<sup>nd</sup> receptacle, sample information attached, and biological material label.



#### Sample Quality: Sample rejection in HH

Most of surveyed labs rejected sample rarely and there were only two labs that rejected sample commonly: Battambang PH lab and Calmette NH Lab.



#### **Sample Quality: Feedback on rejection in HH**

There four common feedbacks identified during the labs received samples: broken tube, hot temperature, delayed delivery, and missing form.



## Sample Quality: Sample rejection in AH

#### Some labs including NAHPRI never rejected samples

Frequency of sample rejection reported by surveyed labs to meet the acceptable criteria



#### Sample Quality: Feedback on rejection in AH

There three common feedbacks identified during the labs received samples: broken tube, hot temperature, and delayed delivery.



#### **Questions for discussions**

- What are the issues you face to ensure correct packaging and labelling of biological specimens when referred to other labs? Which have the biggest impact on quality?
- What feedback is provided to sender in case of rejection?
- What practical solutions would help improve the quality of samples?

#### Suggestions from surveyed labs:

- 1. Provide poster on sample handling to the carrier of delivery company
- 2. Organize a workshop to explain the guideline on packaging and transportation
- 3. There should be complete materials for transportation (icebox, form, packaging materials, label...)



# **THANK YOU!**

