



SEALAB

SOUTH-EAST ASIA LAB NETWORK

SEALAB a Regional project

23 June 2023

des racines pour la vie



roots for life





Project at a glance

SEALAB aimed at reinforcing national health laboratory systems in veterinary and human health sectors to enable **Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar** to better respond to emerging infectious diseases, which are potentially pandemic, and/or zoonotic threats.

The project was funded by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) of Australia



Presentation of SEALAB Action-Plan In Cambodia



Australian Government





Consortium Partners



has been mandated to be the lead implementing partner; the Foundation has established strong links and relationships with Health Authorities from 2001 in Cambodia, 2005 in Lao PDR and 2010 in Myanmar to provide pragmatic expertise to fight infectious diseases in the field especially by strengthening the clinical laboratory sector in national health systems.

Main tasks of FMx in SEALAB implementation :

Key activities: Coordination & Organization

- Ensure the operational management of the project
- Coordinate activities and assist the partners to fulfill their work-plan
- Design training curriculum and materials needed for strengthening lab capacities
- Organize trainings delivery to reinforce the laboratory workforce in the three countries
- Organize updating/drafting National Strategies
- Design and implement a communication action-plan to promote SEALAB project





IQLS® Integrated Quality Laboratory Services is a French consulting agency created in 2010; IQLS technical assistance covers several fields on strengthening laboratories and Laboratory Systems.



Role of IQLS in SEALAB implementation:

Key activities: assessments and veterinary sector

- Initial and a post-intervention assessment of Human Health and Veterinary Laboratory Systems, using S-LAT, for scoring performance and identifying gaps.
- Assessment of Data Management in both sectors.
- One Health workshop on Laboratory Systems
- Academic and bench trainings for Veterinary lab staff in the field of EIDs testing techniques and training on the basics of QMS.
- Installation of LIMS (in one hospital and NAHL in Laos)
- Support for drafting policies and National Strategic Plan for veterinary sector



Institutional Partners



The Institutional Partners, Human and Animal Health Authorities are the beneficiaries of the SEALAB project.

They ensure that expected outputs and outcomes are in line with the Government strategy and priorities to be translated in reinforcing Laboratory Systems

- **In Cambodia:** the Bureau of Medical Laboratory Services (BMLS) of the MoH for the Human Health component and the General Directorate of Animal Health and Production (GDAHP) of the MAAF for the Animal Health component
- **In Laos:** the National Centre of Laboratory and Epidemiology (NCLE) of the MoH for the Human Health component and the National Animal Health Laboratory (NAHL) of the MAF for the Animal Health component
- **In Myanmar:** the National Health Laboratory (NHL) of the MoHS for the Human Health component. *Political situation has significantly impaired the program that changed to supporting private laboratories*





A global methodology



- Initial assessment of Laboratory System , Quality Management System (QMS) and Data Management System to identify gaps and weaknesses
- Development of a SEALAB action-plan addressing countries' priorities, validated jointly by human health and veterinary authorities
- Design, review, validation and delivery of trainings and mentoring, customized to labs background
- Reinforcing networking between labs and stakeholders
- One Health approach initiated
- Supporting governance by drafting/updating National Strategic Plan for laboratories



SEALAB, a Regional Project



Since microorganisms do not respect geographical borders, a regional approach is essential for surveillance and control of infectious diseases, enabling synergies, shared expertise...and pave the way for sharing data. In a troubled context of restrictions SEALAB program could, however, develop the regional networking:

- Regional technical collaborations, i.e. ISO accreditation process in Laos, calibration/preventive maintenance TOT in Cambodia
- Synergy with other regional project (QWArS), including common trainings
- Dedicated SEALAB website to inform all stakeholders on program progress
- Sharing of experience, Lab mapping (Myanmar), National Transportation System of specimens (Cambodia), Process for updating National Strategy in Laos.

