

Terminal Evaluation

Asia

I. Outline of the Project

- Country: Thailand
- Project title: EPI Management and Surveillance Activities of EPI Target Diseases for Lao Health Personnel
- Issues/Sector: EPI and MCH in Lao PDR
- Cooperation scheme: Third Country Training Program
- Division in charge:
- Total cost: 5,451,116 Baht
- Cost per participant: 85,174 Baht
- Share of Japan' contribution: 88.22%
- Period of Cooperation (R/D): 14 September, 2000.
From: JFY 2000
To: JFY 2004
- Course Organizer: Department of Technical and Economic Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs -Thailand.
Faculty of Nursing, Khon Kaen University (KKU) - Thailand
- Implementing Organization: Faculty of Nursing, Khon Kaen University (KKU) - Thailand

1. Background of the Project

The initial project of Primary Health Care was implemented in Lao PDR as JICA's project on technical cooperation type during 1992 - 1998. Afterwards, several training projects in health sector were carried out with the collaboration of JICA, Lao PDR and Khon Kaen University (KKU). The training course on EPI management and surveillance activities is conducted in order to strengthen the Lao health personnel's skills under the collaboration between The Japanese Government and the Royal Thai Government. Thailand is a one of successful country in EPI management and surveillance activities of EPI target diseases. In addition, the Faculty of Nursing, Khon Kaen University has experienced of conducting international training courses on EPI management and surveillance activities of EPI target diseases during 1993-1999. The benefit of the course was appraised by JICA, Lao government and KKU. Thus, this course is conducted under the regional co-operation as the Third Country training Program (TCTP).

2. Project Overview

This training course provided to strengthen the Lao health personnel's technical skills related to EPI management and surveillance activities of EPI target diseases The 5 week program was conducted at the Faculty of Nursing in Khon Kaen University by using Thai language. The course consists of with lectures in various aspects, field trips and practical period in Rural Health Center in Thailand. The total of participants was 63 persons during four years, from JFY 2000 to 2003.

(1) Outputs of the Training Program

- 1) Output 1: The participants obtain EPI management in terms of planning, operating and evaluation
- 2) Output 2: The participants obtain knowledge and skills in information, education and communication (ICE) related to EPI.
- 3) Output 3: The participants enable to active surveillance of EPI target diseases.
- 4) Output 4: The participants are trained to be able to maintain and monitor cold chains.
- 5) Output 5: The participants able to formulate social mobilization relating to EPI and surveillance.
- 6) Output 6: The participants enable to formulate a project related to EPI and Surveillance activities.

(4) Inputs

Japanese side:

4,809,124 Baht (88.22%)

Thai side:

641,992 Baht (11.78%)

II. Evaluation team

Members of Evaluation Team

Mr. Atsushi. SAITO, Mr. Prasit PATANAKIJPAIBUL, Ms. Chatsopa. KLINPUN,
Ms. Junko OKAMOTO, Ms. Mihoko OGASAWARA

Period of Evaluation

21/01/2004 ~ 31/03/2004 (JFY2003)

Type of Evaluation: Terminal

III. Results of Evaluation

1. Achievement of the Training Program

According to the information on the evaluation result, the participants got much benefit from the training courses and almost all participants have been utilizing the knowledge and skills acquired in the training courses in their works including EPI management, mother and child health service delivery, epidemic and surveillance activities, Information Education and communication (IEC), and project formulation. It means the outputs on the whole were greatly achieved.

2. Evaluation Results

(1) Analysis on the Achievement in terms of Outputs

As overall evaluation on the achievement of outputs, it can be summarized from the interviews and questionnaires respondents that the outputs for the course on EPI Management and Surveillance Activities of EPI Target Diseases for Lao Health Personnel are mostly achieved. The ex-participants gained, increased and improved their knowledge to be applied in their works. The knowledge received is directly benefits to the ex-participants and most of ex-participants are fully utilizing the acquired knowledge and skills on their current work. Furthermore, some ex-participants are not only applying the knowledge on their works but also acting as trainers after they came back from the training courses and providing training to the health personnel.

(2) Analysis on Relevance

The Third Country Training Program on EPI Management and Surveillance Activities of EPI Target Diseases for Lao Health Personnel is very much correspondent to the needs and policies of Lao health sector to strengthen the EPI activities. EPI program is the one of the highest prioritized program in the Ministry of Health of Lao PDR. In addition, in recent years, the integration of EPI delivery and other health services is the target of the Lao health sector. The program provides very good practical knowledge for health personnel in the field of EPI, surveillance and MCH in the view point of EPI planning and management, logistics and cold chain, surveillance activities, social mobilization, health education and IEC and project formulation. The participants can be used the knowledge in Lao PDR to improve their activities from the central level to district level.

3. Factors Promoting Effects of the Training Program

Substantial features can be identified as the factors leading to the success of this training program which are:

- Well prepared in curriculum and course design.
- Focused on one target country
- Long time and various experiences of the organizer and their knowledge on actual situation of Lao PDR.
- Flexibility on course scheduling based on the needs of the participants.
- Similarity in geographic environment, culture and language between Thai and Lao PDR.
- Close cooperation and collaboration among the proving side and receiving side.
- Highly devoted from the organizer's staffs.
- Well selected of the participants by the Ministry of Health of Lao PDR
- Willingness of participants during the course period.

4. Factors Inhibiting Effects of the Training Program

The two factors inhibiting effects to the training program can be recognized. First, information distribution took long time due to the difference background knowledge among the participants. Secondary, it is difficult to recruit participants from provincial and district level because of geographic constraint and inadequate time for applying procedure.

5. Conclusion

All ex-participants, their supervisors as well as the implementing agency mentioned that the training program on EPI management and surveillance activities of EPI target diseases is very useful and benefit to Lao health sector in improvement of the EPI management and related fields, such as logistics and cold chain, surveillance activities, IEC material development, health education, social mobilization and project formulation, budgeting and implementation. All the success is from the good cooperation of the stakeholders involved which also resulting in further communication and contact within the ex-participants as well as the organizers. The basic concept and structure of the training program still meets with the needs of Lao PDR in following years and demands for taking the training program is high. Therefore this training program is found to be successful and should be continued after the finishing of this year program.

6. Recommendations

Lao government officials recognized that demand for this training course is very high and important for the Lao health personnel. In this sense, this program should be continuously provided.

The following recommendations are for Thailand:

- Identification of the program outputs in collaboration with Ministry of Health of Lao PDR and review the curriculum according to the outputs
- Review of the training period
- Survey for needs and current situation in Lao PDR
- Redesign of final evaluation by participants
- Monitoring and follow-up ex-participants after training.

The following recommendations are for JICA:

Extension of course duration for more practical lectures
To prolong time duration for nomination and application process

7. Lessons Learned

The following items are found as key important elements for training course:

- Cooperation and capacity buildings to the organizer institution
- Similarity of health sector between current situation in Lao PDR and past experience in Thailand
- Advantage of Thailand in similarity of culture, geographical environment and language with Lao PDR
- Needs findings, program formulation and curriculum design
- Communication among the stakeholders is important for the training course management
- Monitoring and feed-back after the training