Strategies to Prevent (STOP) Spillover
Impact Brief
Cambodia

Strengthening capacity of OH-DReaM Working Groups – Third-round of bat guano sampling

Activity 1.2.6.1: Research on bat guano farms and prevalence of pathogens carried by these species.

INTRODUCTION

This study of bat urine and guano under Activity 1.2.6.1 is a multi-seasonal effort timed to coincide with important life history stages of bats. The aim of this work is to analyze and monitor viral shedding and assess potential virus transmission risks to human populations (bat-guano farming and non-bat-guano farming households).

Following successful summer (April-May 2023) and spring (August 2023) sample collections, STOP Spillover Cambodia’s team recently completed a winter sampling round in December 2023. This phase coincided with the juvenile development stage of bat colonies and provided valuable re-training and additional field practices in safe and effective sampling techniques for Cambodian government partners and community members who are the OH-DReaM WG members. The bat guano and urine samples were collected from bat guano farms in Kang Meas district of Kampong Cham province.

Outcomes and Results

Bat guano sampling’s outcomes

Six OH-DReaM WG members participated during the December sampling round. The six team members showcased their improved skills and adherence to strict safety protocols during the fieldwork. This work exemplifies the One Health approach, fostering collaboration and knowledge exchange among researchers/scientists, government agencies, and local communities. This collaborative effort strengthens local capacity for monitoring potential disease threats at the bat-human interface.

Bat guano sampling’s results

The dedicated team meticulously collected and labeled 250 samples (87 urine samples and 163 guano samples) from 14 bat guano farms. These samples were safely transported to the GDAHP/NAHPRI laboratory in Phnom Penh for coronavirus testing. Additionally, remotely operated camera systems were installed at four farms, providing valuable data on bat populations and their behavior. This information will contribute to a more comprehensive understanding of potential viral transmission risks and inform future prevention strategies.
STOP Spillover Cambodia support to Cambodia’s GHSA and JEE scores

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This brief is made possible by the generous support of the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The contents are the responsibility of STOP Spillover implementing partners and do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or the United States Government.