



Strategies to Prevent (STOP) Spillover

Fieldwork Brief

Cambodia

Community Assessment



OH consultant and OH DReaM-WG conducting a FGD with non-bat-guano producing households in Kang Meas district, Kampong Cham. Photo Credit: USAID STOP Spillover



OH consultant and OH DReaM-WG conducting a semi-structured interview with health center staff in Kang Meas district, Kampong Cham. Photo Credit: USAID STOP Spillover

Creating sentinel surveillance sites in bat guano communities at risk for zoonotic spillover

Cambodia's One Health Platform is in the process of being developed. At the national level, a Zoonosis Technical Working Group (Z-TWG) has been formed and is recognized among relevant line ministries, but it has yet to be officially institutionalized. Effective coordination and communication among interface-level stakeholders at the sub-national level is critical to ensure rapid response to zoonotic spillover events and to mitigate amplification and spread in the event of a spillover. Creating a sentinel surveillance system to pilot sub-national zoonosis surveillance at the community level in Kampong Cham province will enable rapid detection of and response to spillover at the bat-human interface and improve preparedness.

Overall Goal: To improve local level preparedness and strengthen local capacity to respond to bat-human zoonotic viral spillover events through establishment of a sub-national sentinel surveillance team and increasing coordination and communication with all pertinent stakeholders under the Z-TWG.

In early August 2023, STOP Spillover worked with sentinel sites in bat-guano-producing communities in Kampong Cham province to assess patient prevalence of severe acute respiratory illness (SARI), influenza-like illness (ILI), health-seeking behaviors, and to catalog the types of animal people keep around their homes to plan future sample collection. STOP Spillover One Health Design, Research and Mentoring (OH-DReaM) working group members conducted semi-structured interviews with 14 representatives from the human and animal health sectors. A focus group discussion (FGD) with 17 representatives of bat-guano-producing households (BGPHs) and non-bat-guano-producing households (NBGPHs) and a transect walk were conducted.

According to three local public health establishments in the target sentinel sites, there are 2-3 cases of SARI and 1-2 cases of ILI per month. Generally, BGPHs and NBGPHs seek more treatments with private clinics (60%) than with public health centers (40%) once they fall ill with SARI and ILI. Livestock (cattle, chickens, and ducks) and pets (dogs and cats) are kept by most BGPHs and NBGPHs. Each BGPH and NBGPH own approximately 15 – 16 animals, including both livestock and pets. Information generated through this exercise will help OH-DReaM members to monitor and analyze emerging virus spillover risks at the target interface and inform the design of the local syndromic and active surveillance system that STOP Spillover will support.