

# Developing a National Health Research Agenda for Lao PDR: Prioritising the Research Needs of Stakeholders

Essink et al. (2020)

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## For which topic were research priorities identified?

health research

## In which location was the research priority setting conducted?

Asia - Laos

## Why was it conducted at all?

Currently the health research system in Lao PDR is fragmented and largely donor led. Capacity among national public health institutes is limited to select priority research questions for funding.

## What was the objective?

to establish the first national health research agenda for Lao PDR

## What was the outcome?

a ranking list of 11 research areas

## How long did the research prioritization take?

April 2017 - July 2018

## Which methods were used to identify research priorities?

Delphi; interview; meeting; survey; workshop

## How were the priorities for research identified exactly?

Step 1: 27 key informant interviews with health researchers, policymakers, practitioners and program managers to identify research needs. Step 2: workshop: relevant domains and avenues were confirmed, merged and re-labelled, 22 research topics were reduced to 11 research areas. Step 3: prioritization of research domains: via survey. Step 4: to specify the avenues and questions the agenda needed further elaboration: 15 interviews, participants had expertise in at least one of the 11 research domains and were asked questions about the research questions specific to their health expertise, research avenues and questions were listed and analyzed using an inductive approach. Step 5: prioritization of research avenues: two-round Delphi: Delphi round 1: participants asked to add and rank the avenues in each of the 11 health domains. Step 6: Delphi round 2: participants asked to rate research avenues. Step 7: meeting: to finalize the agenda, including a live prioritization exercise using Mentimeter, participants worked in groups to discuss the research questions and their reasons for prioritization, final plenary discussion

## Which stakeholders took part?

Experts in health policy and research, district, provincial and national health staff, policymakers, researchers, international organizations and civil society. Interviews: 42 participants, workshop: 6 participants, survey: 135 participants, Delphi: 33 Delphi round 1: and 22 Delphi round 2: participants. Meeting: 45 participants.

## How were stakeholders recruited?

No information provided.

## Were stakeholders actively involved or did they just participate?

Stakeholders were mere participants of the research prioritization process; they were not actively involved in the process.