

## Use and perception of mosquito nets in a rural area of Laos

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One of the key components for malaria control is to promote the use of effective mosquito nets. Direct observation of net use and the interview survey was conducted in November 2011 at a village in rural area of Laos. Surrounded by forest, the village has small population of seventy in 15 households, and showed high prevalence rate of malaria infection among the school-aged children by using RDT last June (6 positives out of 17 participants; 35.3%). Also, the MCNV entomology team caught indoor twenty samples of *Anopheles dirus* at the village one week before the net use survey. These results motivated to examine the actual use of net among the villagers. Main findings are as follows: (1) Out of 54 persons confirmed to stay in the village at the moment of the one-evening observation (7-8pm, Nov. 23, 2011), there were 24 persons already under the net (44%), 12 persons preparing the net and bed (22%), 15 persons absent at home but likely to be soon under the net (28%), and 3 persons who used no net at all (6%); (2) The above observation supported the villagers telling that currently there were only a few people who dared to sleep without net. When they went overnight to forest for cash resource gathering, however, they seldom used the net because it is difficult to hang it in the forest; (3) Although most villagers slept under the net while at home, there were few nets effective to prevent mosquito contact with human. In spite of the recent distribution of olysnet, most households used the 4-5 year-old net which seemed to have little effects on mosquito prevention. Further survey is needed to identify the specific route of transmission in the local settings. Health education should be put on the effective use of net.