



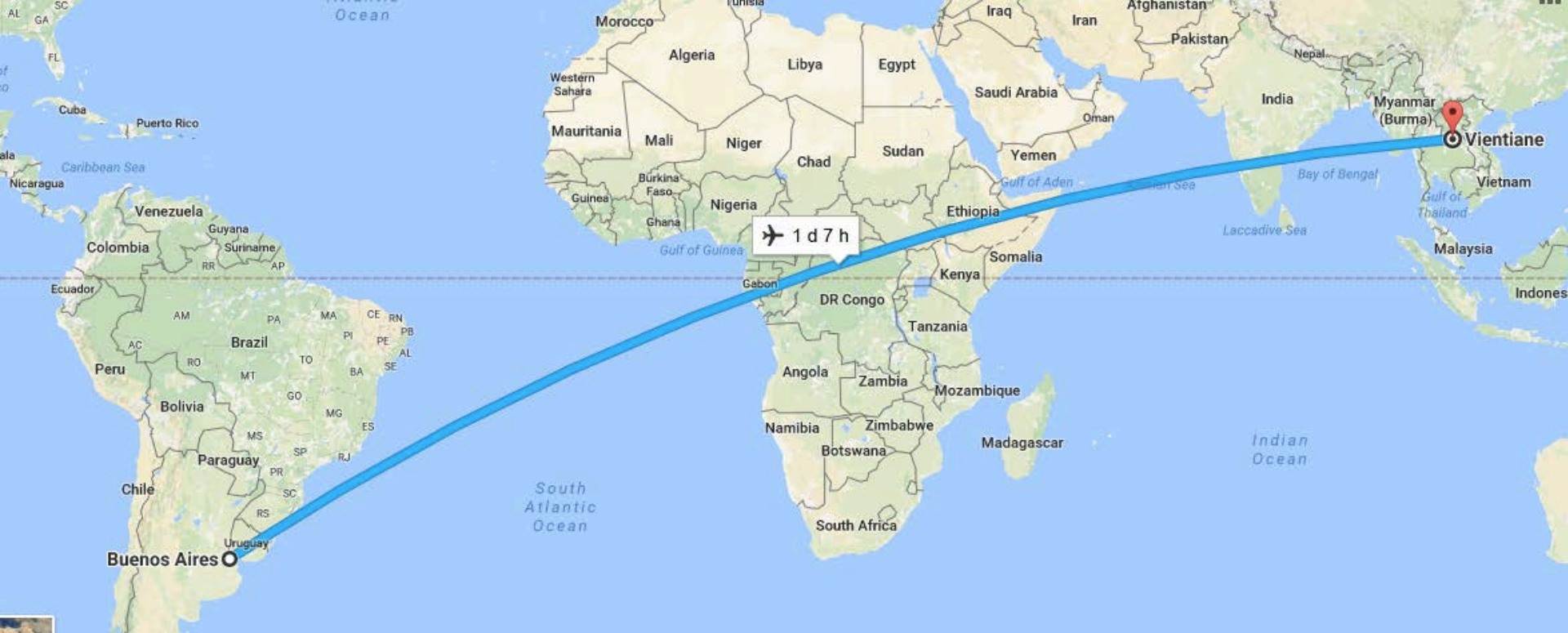
# Issues in enrolling Lao pregnant women in a clinical study

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# Where is Laos?

- Land-locked country in Southeast Asia
- 236,800 Km<sup>2</sup> with population of 6,857,505
- 17 provinces with 49 ethnic groups
- One of lowest per capita incomes in Asia (1,756 USD in 2014)
- ~80% of population live in rural areas





Luangprabang

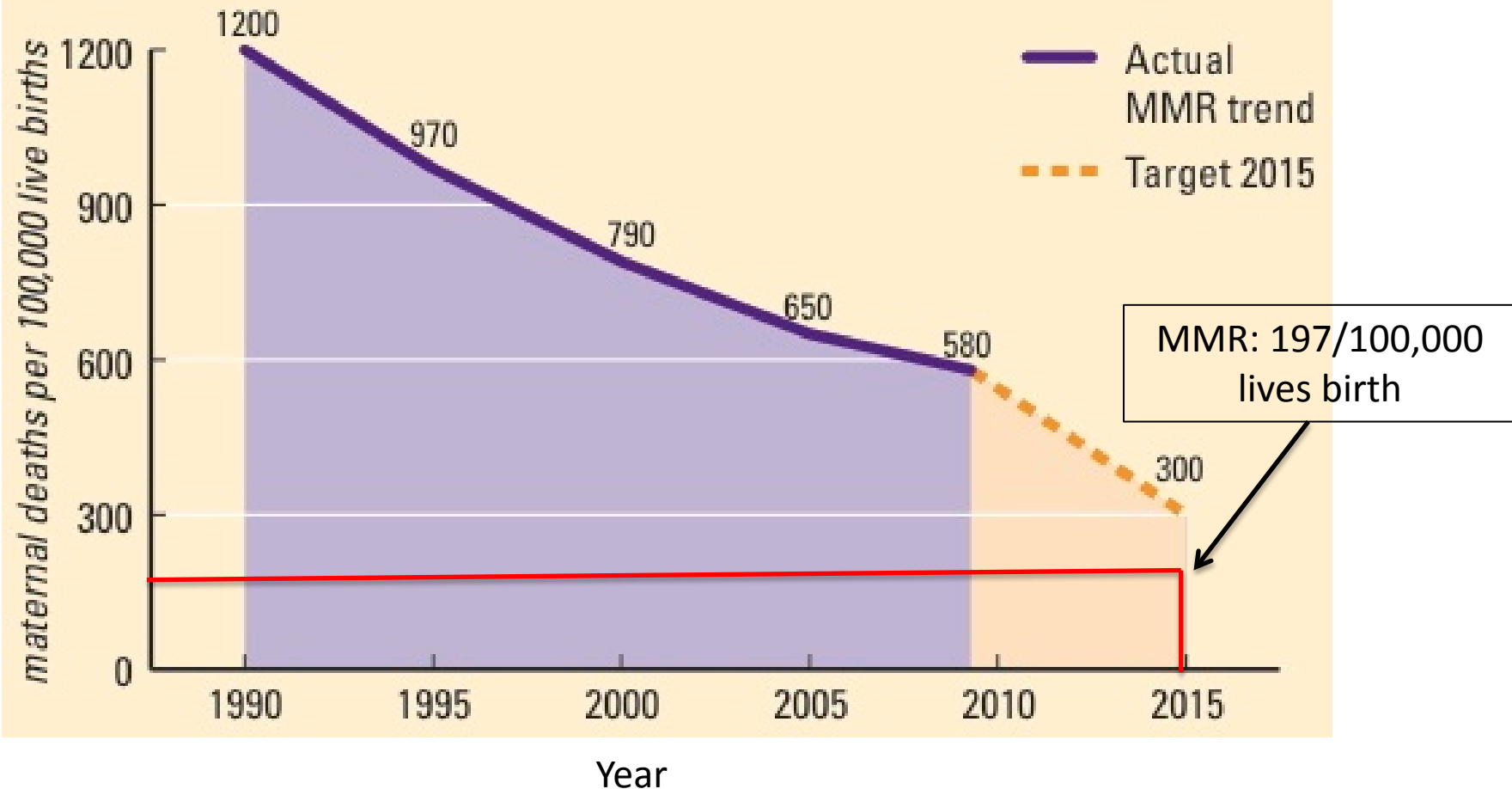


Vangvieng



# Maternal health issues in Laos

## Trends in maternal mortality: 1990–2015





# Maternal health issues in Laos

- 54% antenatal care coverage
- 59% delivered at home
- 40% post-natal health check for the mother
- 41% post-natal health check for the newborn
- 68/1,000 infant mortality rate
- 69% literacy rate among women age 15-24 years

# Pak Gnum Pregnancy Cohort study (PGPC)

- Study design: Prospective cohort study
- Study site: Pak Gnum District, Vientiane capital
- Sample size: 1000 pregnant women during 18 months



## Inclusion criteria

- Pregnant women of any age and at any gestational stage
- Resident in Pak Gnum District
- Willing to give consent
- Able to attend follow up until delivery and 6 weeks after delivery (for both mothers and Babies)



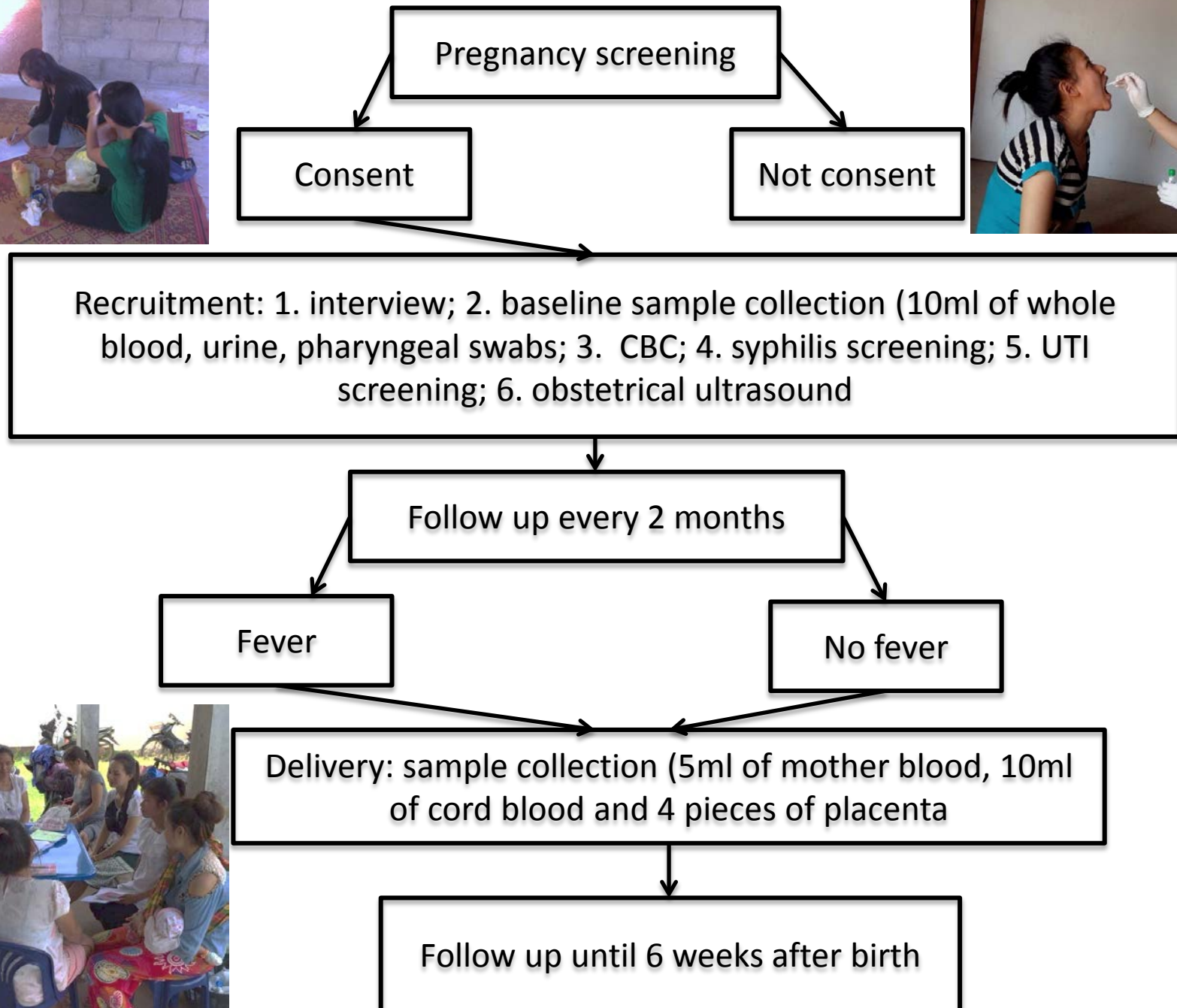


## Outcomes of interests

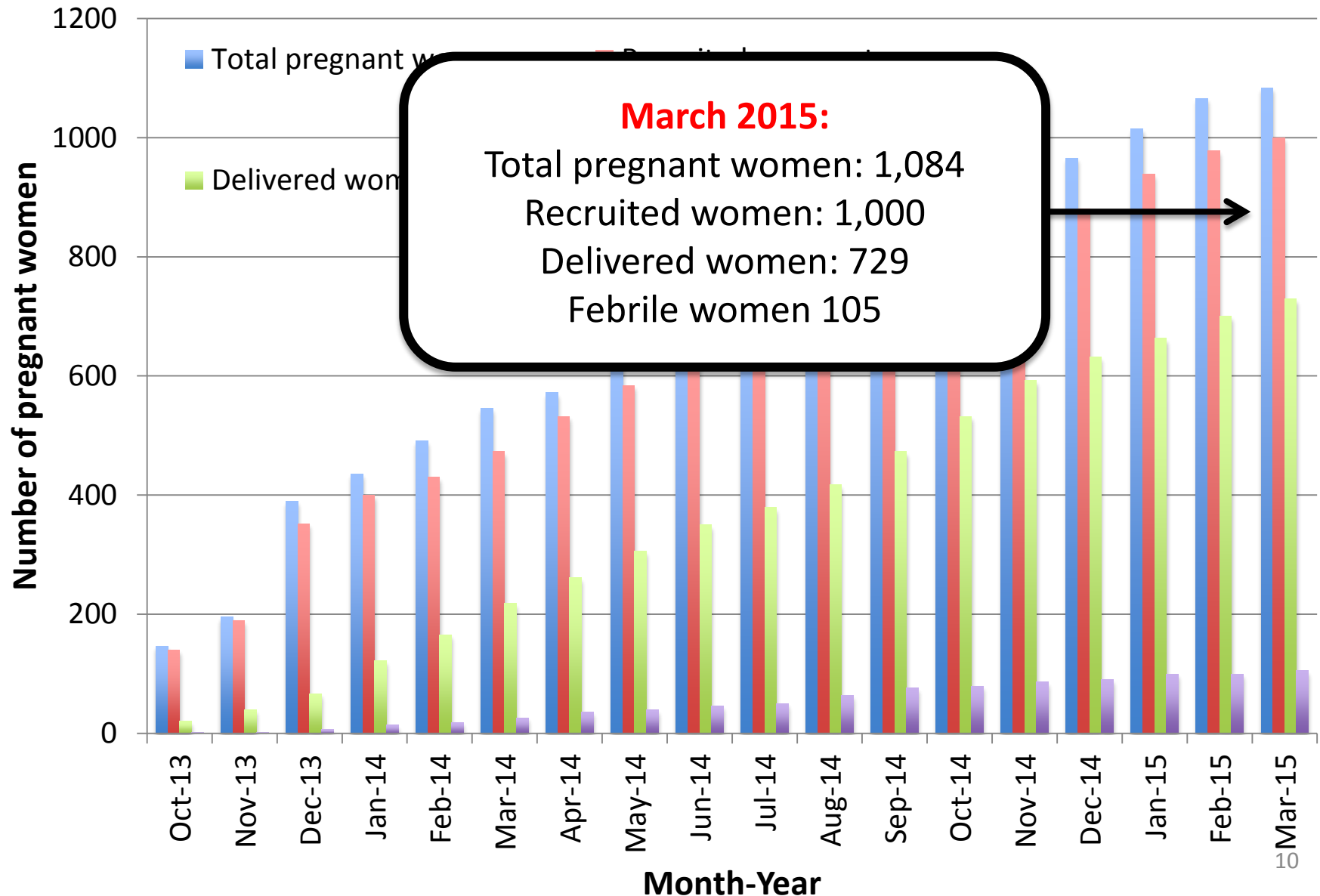
- Primary: causes of fever in pregnancy, low birth-weight, preterm delivery
- Secondary: foetal death, congenital abnormalities, vertical transmission, neonatal death, maternal death







# Recruitment status from 28/10/13 -30/3/15



## Challenging in conducting study

- Level of education
- Family decision-making
- Misconceptions
- Infrastructure
- Long period of follow-up



# Traditions of Lao women during pregnancy and postpartum

- Decision of women frequently depends on their husbands or other family members



- In 1996 it was estimated that 1% of deliveries took place in the forest but this is now thought to be a considerable under-estimation

Barennes H. *et al* 2007; Sychareun V. *et al.* 2012; Alvesson HM *et al.* 2013

# Traditions of Lao women during pregnancy and postpartum

- Hot-bed > 98% in urban Laos
- 95% drink only traditional herb tea during the first 2 weeks postpartum
- Nearly 100% postpartum women have food restriction (rice with dry meat or fish only)-during the first 2 weeks



## How can we improve?

- Good engagement between the research team and study participants
- Give more health information to the community
- Make sure that the research team gives the correct information to pregnant women, husbands, and other family members and respects their decisions
- More social studies combined with clinical studies

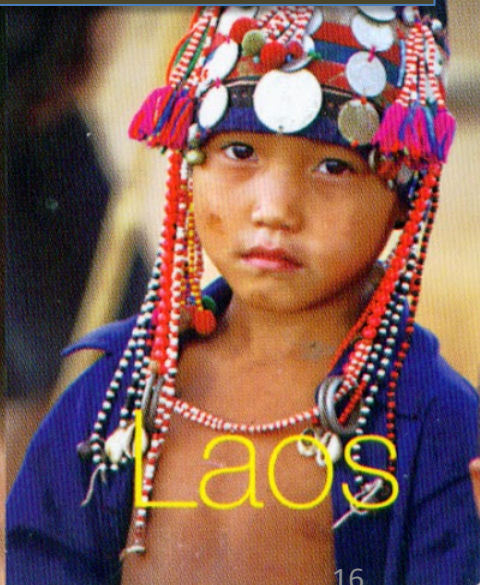


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Thank you for your attention



Laos