

Lao PDR



Joined Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement: April 2011

National Multi-Stakeholder Platform for Nutrition: National Nutrition Committee

Sun Government Focal Point/Country Coordinator: Dr Phonesavanh Keonakhone, Director of National Nutrition Centre, Ministry of Health

COUNTRY NUTRITION STATUS

→ Annual country nutrition indicators from the Global Nutrition Report:
<https://globalnutritionreport.org/resources/nutrition-profiles/asia/south-eastern-asia/lao-peoples-democratic-republic/>

● National multi-stakeholder platform (MSP)

Date established: July 2013

● MSP annual action plan exists

● Subnational nutrition coordination mechanism

● Subnational MSPs exist

● Subnational MSPs have annual action plans

● ● ● National nutrition plan

<https://scalingupnutrition.org/resource-library/national-plans/national-nutrition-plan-lao-pdr-2022>

● Advocacy and communications framework/plan

SUN networks in-country presence

● SUN Civil Society Network

● SUN Business Network

● UN-Nutrition

● SUN Academia Network

● SUN Donor Network

● Others: e.g. youth, parliamentarian, media

Finance for nutrition

● Resource mobilization strategy exists

● Budget tracking exercise done this year

● Funding gaps identified this year

● Domestic expenditures on nutrition tracked

● Yes ● In process ● No ● Costed ● M&E framework

COUNTRY PRIORITIES 2023

Mobilize funds through external financing; Monitor and evaluate; Improve coordination at all levels and among all actors and sectors; Promote village nutrition models; Improve databases and research for nutrition monitoring and tracking

2022 SHARED COUNTRY GOOD PRACTICE

Topic: National Nutrition Forum meeting

About: There has been enormous commitment to nutrition among provinces, sectors and actors in the Lao People's Democratic Republic. Commitments from the meeting included the strengthening of leadership and nutrition coordination between and among sectors.

PROGRESS TOWARDS SUN 3.0 STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES (SO)

→ SO.1 Strengthen and sustain strong policy and advocacy environments

The Government has endorsed the Ninth National Socio-Economic Development Plan 2021–2025, which lists nutrition as a top priority. The third annual dissemination meeting for the National Information Platforms for Nutrition included multisectoral coordination and nutrition expenditure analysis and the linkage of WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene) and nutrition outcomes. The multisectoral nutrition platform, which includes the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, the Ministry of Education and Sports, the Ministry of Planning and Investment and the media, has engaged with development partners through meetings, forums, work agreements and partnerships to ensure that nutrition resources are aligned with the National Socio-Economic Development Plan.

→ SO.2 Develop and align shared country priorities for action

The Department of Hygiene and Health Promotion in the Ministry of Health plays a coordinator role to ensure that interventions and activities in the national development plan are integrated into the sector development plans of key stakeholders. Workshops and meetings on integration have been conducted, and consensus has been achieved on a planning and reporting format for the development plan and for prioritizing the high levels of undernutrition in the country. Food security and poverty reduction are key focuses of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, while the Ministry of Education is focused on WASH in schools and on nutrition awareness. The Ministry of Health is focused on addressing the direct causes of malnutrition.

→ SO.3 Build and strengthen country capacity

The Lao People's Democratic Republic is facing a large challenge related to nutrition capacity, which (along with good governance and technical knowledge) has been a focus of the Government in the past decade. In 2022, the National Socio-Economic Development Plan was disseminated nationwide. Nutrition-related training has been provided for local health volunteers and government units, including on infant and young child food product control and the integrated management of acute malnutrition. A training was held at Mahidol University in Thailand related to planning, reporting, budgeting and budget tracking for nutrition, with the idea that trainees will then conduct additional trainings for subnational stakeholders.

→ SO.4 Ensure governance of SUN that promotes country leadership and responsibilities of government, aligns the resources of all SUN Movement stakeholders behind country priorities and strengthens 360 mutual accountability

Kikeo Khaykhamphouthone, the Deputy Prime Minister and Chair of the National Committee for Nutrition, has provided guidance on: Improving leadership capacities at all levels; Ensuring that each sector integrates interventions and activities from the National Socio-Economic Development Plan into its own plans; Pushing forward the process of establishing a village nutrition model; Improving and increasing coordination among all sectors at all levels; Strengthening nutrition coordination mechanisms to successfully implement the activities necessary to achieve the nutrition indicators in the National Socio-Economic Development Plan; Increasing publicity about the necessity and importance of nutrition work in resource mobilization and development.