

SUN Movement Report, 2017

Lao PDR

Joint-Assessment by National Multi-Stakeholder Platforms in line with the SUN Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning (MEAL) System

April 2016 to April 2017

Process and details of the 2017 Joint-Assessment Exercise

To help the SUN Movement Secretariat better understand how your inputs for the Joint-Assessment 2017 were compiled by stakeholders, and to what extent the process was useful to in-country stakeholders, please provide us with the following details:

Participation

1. Did the following stakeholder groups provide specific inputs, whether in writing or verbally, to the Joint-Assessment?

Group	Yes (provide number)/No (= 0)
Government	Yes (1)
Civil society	Yes (3)
Science and academia	No
Donors	Yes (1)
United Nations	Yes (3)
Business	No
Other (please specify)	N/A

2. How many people in total participated in the process at some point? How many were women and how many were men? 5 women, 3 men provided direct input. Please note that the report was shared within the SUN Country networks for review and comment.

Process

3. Was the Joint-Assessment data gathered and/or reviewed during a face-to-face meeting, or via email?

Step	Format			
Collection	Meeting <input type="checkbox"/>		Email <input type="checkbox"/>	X <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Review, validation	Meeting <input type="checkbox"/>		Email <input type="checkbox"/>	X <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

4. If a collection or validation meeting did take place, please attach a photo, if possible.

N/A

Utility

5. If a collection or validation meeting did take place, would you say that the meeting was useful to participants, beyond the usual work of the MSP?

N/A

Utilisation by the SUN Movement

Please note that the filled-in reporting template will be put on the SUN Movement website, unless notified otherwise. Analysed results of this Joint-Assessment Exercise will also be included in the 2017 SUN Movement Annual Progress Report.

N/A	0	1	2	3	4
Not applicable	Not started	Started	On-going	Nearly completed	Completed
Progress Marker not applicable to current context	Nothing in place	Planning begun	Planning completed and implementation initiated	Implementation complete with gradual steps to processes becoming operational	Fully operational/Targets are achieved/On-going with continued monitoring/Validated/Evidence provided

Process 1: Bringing people together in the same space for action

PROCESS 1: Bringing people together in the same space for action
 Strengthened coordinating mechanisms at national and sub-national level enable in-country stakeholders to better work for improved nutrition outcomes. Functioning multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral platforms enable the delivery of joint results, through facilitated interactions on nutrition related issues, among sector relevant stakeholders. Functioning multi-stakeholder platforms (MSP) enable the mobilisation and engagement of relevant stakeholders, assist relevant national bodies in their decision making, enable consensus around joint interests and recommendations and foster dialogue at the local level.

Progress marker 1.1: Select/develop coordinating mechanisms at country level

DEFINITION	POSSIBLE SIGNS	FINAL PLATFORM SCORE Please give one score per progress marker	PLEASE EXPLAIN YOUR FINAL SCORE Refer to specific signs or provide your own examples. Please share relevant documentation as evidence
This progress marker looks at the extent to which coordination mechanisms are established at government level and are regularly convened by high-level officials. It indicates if non-state constituencies such as the UN Agencies, donors, civil society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Formal multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder coordinating structures in place and functioning, such as a high-level convening body from the Government (political endorsement) ▪ Official nomination of a SUN Government Focal Point ▪ Appoint Focal Points/conveners for key stakeholder groups, i.e. a donor convenor, civil society coordinators, UN focal points, business liaison persons, academic representative ▪ Convene MSP members on a regular basis: please provide the number of meetings for each 	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The National Nutrition Committee (NNC), officially established in 2013, was updated in 2016 and continues to be chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister. Two NNC meetings took place in 2016: one in August; and the second in November as part of the annual National Nutrition Forum which had wide representation from key sectors, sub-national level and Development partners working in nutrition. - The NNC is supported by a Secretariat (chaired by the Deputy Minister of Health) which met three times during the reporting period. These meetings included representatives from key sectors (health, education, agriculture, planning)

<p>organisations and businesses have organised themselves in networks with convening and coordinating functions.</p>	<p>identified coordination structures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Institutional analysis conducted of the design and/or performance of the high-level MSP, or relevant structures, also in terms of ensuring gender equality, at all levels ▪ Establish or refine the terms of reference, workplans and other types of enabling arrangements <p>(Minimum Requirements for Scoring 4: Terms of Reference, work-plan or Supporting documents requested)</p>		<p>and SUN country network focal points (UN, Donor, Civil Society Alliance - CSA).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A SUN Government focal point is officially nominated. - SUN country networks are established for UN, CSA and Donor. The SUN Business Network is in its initial stages. Convenors/ focal points for the established networks are clearly appointed. The CSA was established in early 2014, and has an elected management committee, detailed TOR, and 5 year strategy. It is supported by a small secretariat.
<p>Progress marker 1.2: Coordinate internally and expand membership/engage with other actors for broader influence</p>			
<p>This progress marker looks at the extent to which coordinating mechanisms established by the government and by non-state constituencies are able to reach out to relevant members from various sectors, to broaden the collective influence on nutrition-relevant issues. It also analyses the extent to which local levels are involved in the multi-stakeholder-sector approach in nutrition (e.g. decentralisation of platforms).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Expand MSP to get key members on board, i.e. Development partners; diverse civil society groups; private sector partnerships; media; parliamentarians; scientists and academics ▪ Additional relevant line ministries, departments and agencies on board e.g. nutrition-sensitive sectors ▪ Actively engage executive-level political leadership ▪ Engage with actors or groups specialised on specific themes such as gender, equity and non-discrimination, WASH etc. ▪ Ensure that the MSP membership is expanded to – or better able to – support women’s leadership ▪ Establish decentralised structures and/or processes that support planning and action locally (please provide number of existing decentralised structures if applicable, and Terms of Reference if they exist) ▪ Involve representatives from local levels in the national mechanism or create feedback 	<p>3</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The MSP is inclusive of relevant sectors (e.g. Health, WASH, Agriculture, Education, Poverty Reduction, Planning). SUN country networks are established for UN, CSA and Donors with focal points participating at the NNC Secretariat meetings. - An informal Development Partners’ (DP) Group on food and nutrition security co-convened by EU and UNICEF meet quarterly with active participation from key UN agencies, donors and SUN CSA. - SUN CSA has expanded since its set-up in 2014, currently including 55 INGO and local Civil Society Organisation members. Members of the CSA meet annually (last meeting held on 29th-30th March 2017). The SUN CSA management committee meets monthly. - In 2016 a Task Force (WFP, EU, PSI, Save the Children) was set up to support the launching of the Lao SUN Business Network. A pre-launch event hosted by the EU Delegation to Lao PDR took place in October 2016. A ‘Scaling up Nutrition in Laos, Business Engagement Strategy’ is to be developed which will include an agreed roadmap of steps required to formally establish the Lao SUN Business Network.

	<p>mechanisms between the central and local levels, including the community and vulnerable groups. (Provide examples, if available)</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sub-national nutrition coordination mechanisms are in the process of being established. New Provincial Nutrition Committees and Secretariats were set up in 2016 (as of April 2017, 14 provinces have set up PNC and 13 Provinces have set up PNC Secretariats). Provincial Nutrition Committee Secretariat facilitators are being recruited in 10 focus provinces to support the functioning of the sub-national coordination structures.
Progress marker 1.3: Engage within/contribute to the multi-stakeholder platform (MSP)			
<p>This progress marker looks at the actual functioning of the MSP to facilitate regular interactions among relevant stakeholders. It indicates the capacity within the multi-stakeholder platforms to actively engage all stakeholders, set significant agendas, reach consensus to influence decision-making processes and take mutual ownership and accountability of the results.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ensure MSP delivers effective results against agreed workplans ▪ Ensure regular contribution of all relevant MSP stakeholders in discussions on: policy and legal documents, CRF, plans, costing, financial tracking and reporting, annual reviews. ▪ Regularly use platform for interaction on nutrition-related issues among sector-relevant stakeholders ▪ Get platform to agree on agenda/prioritisation of issues, such as deciding which nutrition problems to emphasise, choosing between possible nutrition actions, or prioritising target regions or groups for actions, among others ▪ Use results to advocate/influence other decision-making bodies ▪ Key stakeholder groups linking with global support system and contributing to MSP/nutrition actions e.g. financial, advocacy, active involvement 	<p>3</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The NNC Secretariat/ Office reports quarterly and annually. - Interactions among relevant stakeholders (key sector technical focal points, DP working in nutrition) to discuss nutrition priorities and nutrition related issues take place under the leadership of the NNC Secretariat during NNC Secretariat meetings, Core Team and technical working group meetings for nutrition; and during Development Partner meetings convened by EU/ UNICEF. Government led Task Forces have also been set-up in 2016 to discuss specific priority nutrition actions involving multiple stakeholders (e.g. Task Force on Social Behaviour Change Communication; Task Force on the Code of Marketing of Breast Milk substitutes). - NNC Secretariat and SUN Country Network focal points link with the global support system through quarterly SUN teleconferences and periodic global gatherings.
Progress marker 1.4: Track, report and critically reflect on own contributions and accomplishments			
<p>This progress marker looks at the capacity of the Multi-Stakeholder</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Monitor and report on proceedings and results of MSP (including on relevant websites, other communication materials) on a regular basis) 	<p>3</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - On November 17th 2016, the 2nd National Nutrition Forum took place which was chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister and co-chaired by EU and UNICEF. The Forum brought

<p>Platform, as a whole, to be accountable for collective results. It implies that constituencies within the MSP are capable to track and report on own contributions and achievements.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Existence of newsletters, activity and monitoring reports of the MSP or the nutrition coordination system (please share, if available) ▪ Key stakeholder groups tracking commitments and are able to report on an annual basis, at a minimum, such as financial commitments, Nutrition for Growth commitments, etc. 		<p>together representatives of key sectors, provinces, SUN Country networks and Development Partners working in nutrition. During this high level event, an overview of progress made in nutrition in 2016 was presented together with priorities for 2017. The Forum concluded with an agreed Outcome statement for improving nutrition programme implementation in Lao PDR.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Steps have been made to track financial commitments for nutrition through an annual Nutrition Stakeholder, Action and finance mapping which started in 2015. The process is being strengthened with aim for it to be institutionalised. - Minutes from NNC and NNC Secretariat meetings are prepared by the NNC Secretariat Office.
<p>Progress marker 1.5: Sustain the political impact of the multi-stakeholder platform</p>			
<p>This progress marker looks at how the multi-stakeholder approach to nutrition is institutionalised in national development planning mechanisms and in lasting political commitments, not only by the Government executive power but also by the leadership of agencies and organisations.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Integrate MSP mechanism on nutrition into national development planning mechanisms ▪ Continuous involvement of the executive level of political leadership irrespective of turnover ▪ Institutional commitment, also toward gender equality, from key stakeholder groups 	<p>3</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The NNC Secretariat is linked to existing sector coordination mechanisms (SWG/TWG, National Assembly sessions and the Round Table process). - Efforts to sustain the political impact of the MSP are made through high level events such as the annual Nutrition Forum and through inclusion of nutrition on the agenda of high level Round Table Meetings. Key stakeholder groups (UN, CSA, Donor) actively support the process.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS linked to the MEAL system. Please give us your views on partnerships in EMERGENCY SETTINGS		
<p>If the country or part of country face certain types of emergency (i.e. natural, humanitarian, conflict situations) in the recent past or currently, elaborate about the types of partnerships you have in place.</p>	<p>1) Please can you explain if you are engaging with the humanitarian partners? How? Do you face any challenges?</p>	<p>N/A</p>
ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS linked to the MEAL system. Please give us your views on ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEMS you have in place:		
<p>Compliance of partners with the SUN Movement Principles of Engagement</p>	<p>1) Do you assess or analyse how your MSP and/or its members abide by the SUN Principles of Engagement? If so, can you share the results of these assessments?</p> <p>2) Specifically, do you, within the MSP and with partners, act in accordance with a commitment to uphold the equity and rights of all women, men and children?</p> <p>3) Do you promote compliance of stakeholders – and sectors with which you engage – with the SUN Principles of Engagement?</p> <p>4) Are there cases of incompliance? How do you deal with them (please describe any specific feedback or complain mechanism that are in place or envisaged by the MSP?)</p>	

Stakeholders	Description/Key contribution of each stakeholder to Process One
Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - GoL, through the NNC and its Secretariat, continued to coordinate and engage nutrition stakeholders. Periodic NNC/ Secretariat meetings and high level events (2nd National Nutrition Forum) were chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister (NNC) or Deputy Minister of Health (NNC Secretariat). - Set-up additional Provincial Nutrition Committees (PNC)/ Secretariats and started the process to recruit PNC Secretariat facilitators. - Set-up Government led Task Forces in 2016 to work on specific nutrition priorities involving multiple stakeholders (e.g. Task Force on Social Behaviour Change Communication; Task Force on the Code of Marketing of Breast Milk substitutes).
UN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Country UN network is active and has a focal point appointed (UNICEF) - UNICEF (jointly with EU) convenes quarterly informal Development Partners meetings on Food and Nutrition Security. - UN Network provides direct technical and financial support for the nutrition coordination activities of the NNC, Secretariat and its office (UNICEF) and sub-national co-ordination mechanisms (UNICEF, FAO, WFP, IFAD). - UN (WFP) has provided support to set-up the Lao SUN Business Network. - A UNDAF sub-group ensures coordination with larger UN system - UN and WB act as focal agencies under the Chief Executive Board Initiative to coordinate UN system support on nutrition in Lao
Donor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Country Donor network has a convenor appointed (EU). - EU (jointly with UNICEF) convenes regular informal Development Partners meetings (quarterly) on Food and Nutrition Security - EU provided support to set-up the SUN Country Business Network - Donors provided support to nutrition coordination efforts at national and sub-national level (for example EU support to NNC/ PNC through UNICEF; USAID support to PNC/ DNC through Save the Children; SDC support to DNC and village committees through SNV).
Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A Lao SUN Business Network is in the process of being established.
CSO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The SUN CSA network is a long-standing and active member of Lao MSP and throughout the reporting period have provided regular and consistent support on coordination of activities at national as well as sub-national levels. The CSO network has a formal structure in place and its Management committee meets regularly. The Network includes 55 members (28 local NGO, 27 iNGO) who are formally registered with the Alliance.

OVERALL SUMMARY OF PROGRESS ACHIEVED OVER THE PAST YEAR (April 2016 to April 2017) FOR PROCESS 1: Bringing people together in the same space (i.e. Overall achievements/positive changes/ key challenges and suggestions for improvements/ other relevant activities in the context of scaling up nutrition efforts in country)
<p>Significant achievements include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conduct of the Second National Nutrition Forum in November 2016 and inclusion of nutrition on the agenda of the High Level Round Table Meeting. - Nutrition coordination structures are well established at national level, inclusive of key sectors and stakeholders; and are progressively being set-up and strengthened at sub-national level. - Progress has been made to set-up a Lao SUN Business Network. <p>Challenges to multi-sectoral nutrition coordination in Lao PDR include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Limited capacity at subnational levels. It should be noted that increased financial and technical support is available from 2017 to strengthen nutrition structures and coordination mechanisms at province and district levels.

Process 2: Ensuring a coherent policy and legal framework

N/A	0	1	2	3	4
Not applicable	Not started	Started	On-going	Nearly completed	Completed
Progress Marker not applicable to current context	Nothing in place	Planning begun	Planning completed and implementation initiated	Implementation complete with gradual steps to processes becoming operational	Fully operational/Targets are achieved/On-going with continued monitoring/Validated/Evidence provided

Process 2: Ensuring a coherent policy and legal framework

The existence of a coherent policy and legal framework should inform and guide how in-country stakeholders work together for improved nutrition outcomes. Updated policies, strategies and legislations are fundamental to prevent conflict of interest among the wide range of actors involved in a complex societal topic such as nutrition. This process focuses on the enabling policy and legal environment.

Progress marker 2.1: Continuously analyse existing nutrition-relevant policies and legislations

DEFINITION	POSSIBLE SIGNS	FINAL PLATFORM SCORE Please give one score per progress marker	PLEASE EXPLAIN YOUR FINAL SCORE Refer to specific signs or provide your own examples. Please share relevant documentation as evidence
This progress marker looks at the extent to which existing nutrition-relevant (specific and sensitive) policies and legislations are analysed using multi-sectoral consultative processes with representation from various stakeholders, especially civil society representatives. It indicates the availability of stock-taking documents and continuous context analysis that can inform and guide policy-making.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Regular multi-sectoral analysis and stock-take of existing policies and regulations ▪ Reflect on existing policies and legal framework ▪ Existence of review papers ▪ Indicate any nutrition-relevant (specific and sensitive) policies and legislations identified, analysed during the reporting period and specify the type of consultative process that was applied <p>Minimum Requirements for Scoring 4: Countries are required to provide evidence of the policies and legislation analysed</p>	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In 2016, the Ministry of Planning & Investment with support from WFP conducted a strategic review of food and nutrition security in Lao PDR which through a consultative process investigated the strategic issues most important for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. This process included a review and reflection on Government strategies related to food and nutrition security (i.e. National Nutrition Strategy and Plan of Action 2016-2020; Agriculture Development Strategy 2025 and vision to 2030; National Strategy for Gender Equality 2016-2025; Strategy on Climate Change 2010...). - NAFRI, with support from FAO, finalised a policy brief on the role of the agriculture sector in promoting food security and nutrition in Lao PDR. - The legal framework on the Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes requires upgrading and

			<p>strengthening (review done in March 2014 – UNICEF/WHO/ International Code Documentation Center/ International Baby Food Action Network (ICDC/IBFAN)/ Save the Children). During the reporting period, a Government led Task Force has been established and a Decree drafting group formed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Discussions have started on the necessity to develop a working framework on food fortification. GoL with support from WFP have conducted a rice fortification landscape analysis. - Maternity protections require strengthening, despite a recent extension of maternity leave for civil servants, as the policy does not reflect global standards.
Progress marker 2.2: Continuously engage in advocacy to influence the development, updating and dissemination of relevant policy and legal frameworks			
<p>This progress marker looks at the extent to which in-country stakeholders are able to contribute, influence and advocate for the development of updated or new policy and legal frameworks for improved nutrition and its dissemination (i.e. advocacy and communication strategies in place to support the dissemination of relevant policies).It focuses on how countries ascertain policy and legal coherence across different ministries and try to broaden political support by encouraging parliamentarian</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Existence of a national advocacy and communication strategy ▪ Existence of a national gender equality and women’s empowerment strategy ▪ Advocacy for reviewing or revising policies and legal frameworks with assistance from other MSP members to ascertain quality and whether they are fit-for-purpose to ensure gender-sensitive nutrition actions ▪ Develop a common narrative and joint statements to effectively influence policy-making that is pro-female ▪ Parliamentary attention and support (e.g. groups that deal specifically with nutrition; votes in support of MSP suggested changes) ▪ Influence of nutrition champions in advancing pro-nutrition policies ▪ Key stakeholder groups promote the gender- 	<p>3</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - NNC Secretariat with support from WHO have developed tools to support dissemination of the National Plan of Action for Nutrition. The briefs aim to inform on the nutrition situation in Lao PDR; and the role each sector and level can play, particularly with regard to implementing the NNSPA interventions to reduce undernutrition. - NNC Secretariat with support from Development partners (UNICEF, USAID Nurture - led by Save the Children, SUN CSA, EU, World Bank, WFP, WHO) are developing a multi-sectoral Social and Behavioral Change Communication Strategic Action Plan. This is to include a NPAN dissemination plan and advocacy materials. - Ongoing advocacy events have taken place in 2016 and 2017 on the importance of promoting, protecting and supporting breastfeeding; and strengthening the Code of Marketing of BMS.

<p>engagement. It also focuses on the efforts of in-country stakeholders to influence decision makers for legislations and evidence-based policies that empower women and girls through equity-based approaches.</p>	<p>responsive integration of nutrition in national policies and other related development actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Publications, policy briefs, press engagement examples, social media outreach, workshops ▪ Dissemination and communication of policy/legal framework by key stakeholders among relevant audiences <p>Minimum Requirements for Scoring 4: Countries are required to provide evidence of advocacy impact on policy and legal frameworks and supporting strategies</p>		
<p>Progress marker 2.3: Develop or update coherent policies and legal frameworks through coordinated and harmonised in-country stakeholder efforts</p>			
<p>This progress marker looks at the extent to which in-country stakeholders – the Government (i.e. line ministries) and non-state partners – coordinate their inputs to ensure the development of a coherent policy and legislation framework.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Coordinate nutrition policies and regulation between relevant line-ministries I.e. - Existence of national ministerial guidelines/ advice/support for mainstreaming nutrition into sectoral policies. ▪ Key stakeholder groups coordinate and harmonise inputs to national nutrition-related policies and legislation (specific and sensitive) ▪ Develop/update policies/legal frameworks, with assistance from other MSP members to ascertain quality, especially those that can be seen as harmful or in conflict with the rights of women and girls ▪ Existence of updated policies and strategies that are nutrition relevant (specific and sensitive) ▪ Existence of comprehensive legislation relevant to nutrition with focus on International Codes for Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes, food fortification and maternal leave and policies that 	<p>2</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The NNC Secretariat is linked to existing sector coordination mechanisms (SWG/TWG, National Assembly sessions and the Round Table process) which facilitates integration of nutrition priorities into national policy, plans and budgets - The legislation on the Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes requires upgrading and strengthening. A Government led Task Force has been established and a Decree drafting group formed. - Partial legislation exists on maternity protection. - Working framework and relevant legislation on food fortification are under review and discussion.

	<p>empower women</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ascertain nutrition policy coherence with other, development-related policies such as trade, agriculture, etc. <p>Minimum Requirements for Scoring 4: Countries are required to provide evidence of the policies and legislations developed through coordinated efforts</p>		
Progress marker 2.4: Operationalise/enforce the legal frameworks			
<p>This progress marker looks at the availability of mechanisms to operationalise and enforce legislations such as the International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes, maternity and parental leave laws, food fortification legislation, they right to food, among others.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Availability of national and sub-national guidelines to operationalise legislation ▪ Existence of national/sub-national mechanisms to operationalise and enforce legislation <p>Minimum Requirements for Scoring 4: Countries are required to provide evidence (relevant reports/documents) of law enforcement</p>	1	<p>Mechanisms to operationalise and enforce legislations (e.g. Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes, maternity protection) require review and strengthening.</p>
Progress marker 2.5: Track and report for learning and sustaining the policy and legislation impact			
<p>This progress marker looks at the extent to which existing policies and legislations have been reviewed and evaluated to document good practices and the extent to which available lessons are shared by different constituencies within the Multi-Stakeholder Platforms.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Existence and use of policy studies, research monitoring reports, impact evaluations, public disseminations etc. ▪ Individual stakeholder groups contribution to mutual learning <p>Minimum Requirements for Scoring 4: Countries are required to provide evidence of lessons learned from reviews and evaluations, such as case studies and reports</p>	1	<p>The extent to which existing policies and legislations have been evaluated to document and share best practices and lessons learned remains limited.</p>

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS linked to the MEAL system. Please give us your view on partnerships in EMERGENCY SETTINGS		
<p>If the country or part of the country faces certain types of emergency (i.e. natural, humanitarian, conflict situations) recently or at present, elaborate about the integration of mitigation measures into policies and legal frameworks</p>	<p>1) Are mitigation measures clearly integrated in nutrition relevant policies and legal frameworks?</p>	<p>With support from the UN system, Lao PDR is strengthening its emergency preparedness and contingency planning and working to ensure these are integrated into policies and legal frameworks.</p>
ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS linked to the MEAL system. Please give us your view on HOW WE CAN MEASURE ADVOCACY EFFORTS AND SUCCESSES		
<p>Mobilisation of high-level advocates (including champions, parliamentarians, media)</p>	<p>1) Have you tracked “success” moments with the engagement of high-level advocates? Please consider their public statements, attendance at high-level events, mentions in Parliament of nutrition, etc. and share sources demonstrating their advocacy impact.</p> <p>2) Have you organised a high-level event on nutrition? If yes, please provide details</p>	<p>On November 17th 2016, Lao PDR held its 2nd National Nutrition Forum which was chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister and co-chaired by EU and UNICEF. The Forum brought together representatives of key sectors, provinces, SUN Country networks and Development Partners working in nutrition. During this high level event, an overview of progress made in nutrition in 2016 was presented together with priorities for 2017. The Forum concluded with an agreed Outcome statement for improving nutrition programme implementation in Lao PDR.</p>
<p>SMART-ness of nutrition commitments by high-level representatives of Governments and networks/alliances (CSOs, business, the UN system, donors) made since the beginning of 2016</p>	<p>1) Do you have experience with tracking nutrition commitments made by high-level representatives of Governments and networks/alliances? If so, can you explain how you collect these commitments and how you report on them?</p> <p>2) Do you assess the <i>existing</i> commitments and analyse whether (a) they are still valid (e.g. aligned with an up-to-date action plan); (b)</p>	<p>Steps have been made to track financial commitments for nutrition through an annual Nutrition Stakeholder, Action and finance mapping which started in 2015. This mapping aims to look at funding spent on the National Nutrition Plan of Action priority interventions during the present year together with commitments planned for the coming year. Top level findings are reported at the National Nutrition Forum. The exercise is new to Lao PDR and efforts are ongoing to strengthen the process with the aim that it be institutionalised.</p>

	<p>they are Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Time-Bound (SMART).</p> <p>Please share any available evidence of commitments made since the beginning of 2016. Kindly note that the evidence could be looking at new commitments made or changes to existing commitments, to make them more SMART.</p>	
--	---	--

Stakeholders	Description/Key contribution of each stakeholder to Process Two
Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - NNC Secretariat set-up a Government led Task Force and a Decree drafting group to work on strengthening the Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes - NNC Secretariat is leading the process to develop a multi-sectoral Social and Behavioral Change Communication Strategic Action Plan. This is to include advocacy documents and communication plan to support dissemination of the NPAN. - Ministry of Planning & Investment led a strategic review of food and nutrition security in Lao PDR - NAFRI led the finalisation of a policy brief on the role of the agriculture sector in promoting food security and nutrition in Lao PDR - The National Nutrition Committee (NNC) Secretariat is linked to existing sector coordination mechanisms (SWG/TWG, National Assembly sessions and the Round Table process) which facilitates integration of nutrition priorities into national policy, plans and budgets
UN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - provides support (UNICEF) to MoH with strengthening the Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes - provided support (FAO) to NAFRI to develop a policy brief on the role of the agriculture sector in promoting food security and nutrition in Lao PDR. - provided support (WHO) to NNC Secretariat with the development of tools to support dissemination of the National Plan of Action for Nutrition - provided support (UNICEF, WFP, WHO, FAO) to NNC Secretariat to develop a multi-sectoral Social and Behavioral Change Communication Strategic Action Plan. - provided support (WFP) to Ministry of Planning & Investment with a strategic review of food and nutrition security in Lao PDR - provided support (WFP) to GoL with a rice fortification landscape analysis
Donor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provides financial assistance in support of the development of nutrition advocacy documents and SBCC SAP. - Ongoing advocacy meetings and dialogue in support of relevant policy and legislation update and/ or development.
Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Business Network had limited involvement.
CSO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provides support to the SBCC SAP process (e.g. USAID Nurture/ Save the Children, SNV, Plan..). - Continuous advocacy regarding the upgrade of the legal framework on the Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes, as well as on strengthened maternity protections.

OVERALL SUMMARY OF PROGRESS ACHIEVED OVER THE PAST YEAR (April 2016 to April 2017) FOR PROCESS 2: Coherent policy and legal framework (i.e. Overall achievements/positive changes/ key challenges and suggestions for improvements/ other relevant activities in the context of scaling up nutrition efforts in country)

Significant achievements include:

- Set-up a Government led Task Force and a Decree drafting group to work on strengthening the Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes
- set-up a Government led Task Force to develop a multi-sectoral Social and Behavioral Change Communication Strategic Action Plan. A literature review has been conducted as has formative research in certain provinces
- Conduct of a strategic review of food and nutrition security in Lao PDR
- Finalisation of a policy brief on the role of the agriculture sector in promoting food security and nutrition in Lao PDR

With regard to challenges, nutrition related legislations such as the National Code on Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes and maternity protection remain a weak area. However, as mentioned, the process has started on strengthening the Code of Marketing of Breastmilk, with main stakeholders engaged around this priority.

Process 3: Aligning actions around a Common Results Framework

N/A	0	1	2	3	4
Not applicable	Not started	Started	On-going	Nearly completed	Completed
Progress Marker not applicable to current context	Nothing in place	Planning begun	Planning completed and implementation initiated	Implementation complete with gradual steps to processes becoming operational	Fully operational/Targets are achieved/On-going with continued monitoring/Validated/Evidence provided

Process 3: Aligning actions around a Common Results Framework (CRF – please see ANNEX 4 for the definition)

The alignment of actions across sectors that significantly contribute to improvements in nutrition demonstrates the extent to which multiple sectors and stakeholders are effectively working together, and the extent to which the policies and legislations are operationalised to ensure that all people, women and children in particular, benefit from improved nutrition. This process delves into the operational side of policy and legal frameworks and how they translate into actions¹. The term ‘Common Results Framework’ is used to describe a set of expected results agreed across different sectors of Governments and among key stakeholders through a negotiated process. The existence of agreed common results would enable stakeholders to make their actions more nutrition driven through increased coordination or integration. In practice, a CRF may result in a **set of documents that are recognised as a reference point** for all sectors and stakeholders that work together for scaling up nutrition impact.

Progress marker 3.1: Align existing actions around national nutrition targets/policies

DEFINITION	POSSIBLE SIGNS	FINAL PLATFORM SCORE Please give one score per progress marker	PLEASE EXPLAIN YOUR FINAL SCORE Refer to specific signs or provide your own examples. Please share relevant documentation as evidence
This progress marker looks at the extent to which in-country stakeholder groups take stock of what exists and align their own plans and programming for nutrition to reflect the national	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multi-sectoral nutrition situation analyses/overviews Analysis of sectoral Government programmes and implementation mechanisms Stakeholder and nutrition action mapping 	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Nutrition Stakeholder & Action Mapping was carried out in November 2016 as an update to the 2015 ‘Mapping’ to determine the current situation regarding implementation of the 22 priority interventions of the National Plan of Action for Nutrition (2016-2020). Specifically it looked at the

¹ ‘Actions’ refer to interventions, programmes, services, campaigns and enacted legislation or specific policy. The 2013 Lancet Series on Maternal and Child Nutrition provides a set of evidence-based high-impact specific nutrition actions including the uptake of practices such as ‘exclusive breastfeeding for six months’.

<p>policies and priorities. It focuses on the alignment of actions across sectors and relevant stakeholders that significantly contribute towards improved nutrition. Note: while Progress Marker 2.1 looks at the review of policies and legislations, Progress Marker 3.1 focuses on the review of programmes and implementation capacities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Multi-stakeholder consultations to align their actions ▪ Map existing gaps and agree on gender-sensitive core nutrition actions aligned with the policy and legal frameworks <p>Minimum requirements for scoring 4: Countries are required to provide documentation supporting the alignment</p>		<p>following areas: What interventions are being implemented, where by whom.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ SUN CSA is conducting a mapping of the nutrition actions supported by its member organisations. ▪ Mapping process and tools are being reviewed with the aim that the process be institutionalised.
<p>Progress marker 3.2: Translate policy and legal frameworks into an actionable Common Results Framework (CRF) for scaling up nutrition</p>			
<p>This progress marker looks at the extent to which in-country stakeholders are able to agree on a Common Results Framework to effectively align interventions for improved nutrition. The CRF is recognised as the guidance for medium-long term implementation of actions with clearly identified nutrition targets. Ideally, the CRF should have identified the coordination mechanism (and related capacity) and defined the roles and responsibilities for each stakeholder for implementation. It should encompass an implementation matrix, an M&E Framework and costed interventions, including costs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Defining the medium/long term implementation objectives ▪ Defining the implementation process with clear roles for individual stakeholder groups² ▪ Agree on CRF for scaling up nutrition. Elements of a CRF would include: Title of the CRF; implementation plans with defined roles of stakeholders in key sectors (e.g. health, agriculture, social protection, education, WASH, gender), cost estimates of included interventions, cost estimates for advocacy, coordination and M&E, capacity strengthening needs and priorities ▪ Assessment of coordination capacity to 	<p>3</p>	<p>Lao PDR has a National Plan of Action on Nutrition (NPAN) 2016-2020 updated in 2015 under the leadership of the National Nutrition Committee Secretariat. It places emphasis on reducing high levels of undernutrition among children and women, particularly stunting and anemia and includes national targets to be reached by 2020. This NPAN includes priority interventions (22 first priority and 7 second priority) in health, agriculture and education sectors and multi-sectoral. The Plan includes, for each of the priority interventions: the main activities to be implemented and their estimated cost; the target groups; and the principal stakeholders responsible. The coordination mechanism is also outlined.</p> <p>A monitoring and evaluation framework has been drafted with support from MQSUN and input from country level nutrition stakeholders. This is currently</p>

² This assumes existence of multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder coordination and engagement under Process 1.

<p>estimates for advocacy, coordination and M&E.</p>	<p>support CRF</p> <p>Minimum requirements for scoring 4: Countries are required to provide evidence of a robust plan that has been technically and politically endorsed.</p> <p>Please let us know if you have used the checklist for quality national nutrition plans in a bid to review your plans</p>		<p>being reviewed by the different sectors and is due to be finalised in 2017.</p>
<p>Progress marker 3.3: Organise and implement annual priorities as per the Common Results Framework</p>			
<p>This progress marker looks specifically at the national and local capability to sequence and implement priority actions. This requires, on the one hand, a clear understanding of gaps in terms of delivery capacity and, on the other hand, a willingness from in-country and global stakeholders to mobilise technical expertise to timely respond to the identified needs in a coordinated way.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Assessments conducted of capacity for implementation, including workforce and other resources ▪ Sequencing of priorities to mobilise and develop capacity of implementing entities in line with assessments and agreed arrangements ▪ Existence of annual detailed workplans with measurable targets to guide implementation at national and sub-national levels ▪ Institutional reform implemented as needed to increase capacity of coordination mechanism <p>Minimum requirements for scoring 4: Countries are required to provide evidence of aligned actions around annual priorities such as an annual work-plans or implementation plan</p>	<p>3</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Nutrition priorities have been identified such as development of a SBCC SAP, strengthening sub-national nutrition coordination mechanisms, upgrading the Code of Marketing of Breastmilk substitutes and strengthening the nutrition information system. Stakeholders are coordinating their technical and financial support around these priorities. ▪ Workplans or roadmaps have been developed at central level for certain priority nutrition actions and capacity development to strengthen and scale-up implementation is ongoing (e.g. UNICEF support to MoH for the management of Severe Acute malnutrition).

Progress marker 3.4: Jointly monitor priority actions as per Common Results Framework			
<p>This progress marker looks specifically at how information systems are used to monitor the implementation of priority actions for improved nutrition. It looks specifically at the availability of joint progress reports that can meaningfully inform the adjustment of interventions and contribute towards harmonised targeting and coordinated service delivery among in-country stakeholders.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Information systems (e.g. multi-sectoral platforms and portals) in place to regularly collect, analyse and communicate agreed upon indicators focusing on measuring implementation coverage and performance ▪ Existence of regular progress reports ▪ Conducting of joint annual/regular reviews and monitoring visits ▪ Adjustments of annual plans, including budgets based on analysis of performance ▪ Existence of participatory monitoring by civil society <p>Minimum requirements for scoring 4: Countries are required to provide evidence of regular/annual joint review of implementation coverage and performance of prioritised actions</p>	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Efforts are also ongoing to strengthen the information systems which are used to monitor the implementation of priority actions for improved nutrition (e.g. HMIS/ DHIS2). ▪ New technology is being piloted to strengthen nutrition data collection and availability (e.g. web-based salt iodisation monitoring system; IVR system for health outreach reporting which will give information on the coverage of micronutrient supplementation in children 6-23 months and IYCF counselling of mothers of children aged <2 years). ▪ Report formats are being developed for sectors and provinces to report on NPAN implementation progress. Progress reporting and review is now included on the agenda of NNC/ Secretariat meetings and annual Nutrition Forum. ▪ In 2016, EU supported further scoping missions on the establishment of a National Information Platform for Nutrition (NIPN) in Lao PDR. The NIPN aims to bring together existing nutrition data from all sectors. Expected NIPN outputs include policy briefs and analytical reports for decision makers
Progress marker 3.5: Evaluate the implementation of actions to understand, achieve and sustain nutrition impact			
<p>This progress marker looks specifically at how results and success is being evaluated to inform implementation decision making and create evidence for public good.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reports and dissemination of findings of population-based surveys, implementation studies, impact evaluation and operational research ▪ Capture and share lessons learned, good practices, case studies, stories of change – especially those that empower women and girls – and implementation progress ▪ Social auditing of results and analysis of 	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ In 2015, Lao PDR conducted : i) a sub-national Food Nutrition Security Survey (FNSS) in five provinces with support from UNICEF, WFP, EU, SDC; and ii) a national Nutrition tag-on Survey to the National Immunization coverage survey (LCAAS) with support from UNICEF. <p>Findings from both surveys and the final reports were endorsed during a Steering Committee meeting, chaired by the NNC Secretariat Chair on May 30th 2016. The national launch of the surveys, which included</p>

	<p>impact by civil society</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Advocate for increased effective coverage of nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive programmes <p>Minimum requirements for scoring 4: Countries are required to provide evidence of evaluation of implementation at scale that demonstrates nutrition impact and are made available publicly</p>		<p>dissemination of knowledge products and the survey reports, took place in September 2016. Findings were also disseminated at the National Nutrition Forum held in November 2016 and at other national and subnational meetings.</p>
--	--	--	--

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS linked to the MEAL system. Give you view on partnership in EMERGENCY SETTINGS

<p>If the country or part of country face certain types of emergency (i.e. natural, humanitarian, conflict situations) in the recent past or at present, please elaborate on the alignment of mitigation/emergency measures</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Are mitigation/emergency measures implemented in a coordinated way? 2) Is there a minimum multi-sectoral package for emergency that is being implemented? If so, can you elaborate? 	<p>N/A</p>
---	---	------------

Stakeholders	Description/ Key contribution of each stakeholder to Process Three
<p>Government</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - NNC Secretariat led the dissemination of findings from 2015 FNSS and LCAAS surveys during national and sub-national nutrition events and meetings (e.g. Nutrition Forum) - NNC Secretariat is leading the review of the NPAN monitoring & evaluation framework, and development of reporting process, ensuring inputs from key stakeholders - MoH has started to implement a new web-based salt iodisation monitoring system and IVR system for health outreach reporting - NNC Secretariat coordinated the annual update to the Nutrition Stakeholder and Action mapping
<p>UN</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - UN agencies provided technical and financial support for the conduct, launch and dissemination of the 2015 FNSS (UNICEF, WFP) and LCASS surveys (UNICEF), final reports, knowledge products and availability of data to enhance evidence-based advocacy and programming on multi-sectoral approaches to nutrition. - UN agencies (UNICEF, FAO, WFP) are providing technical and financial support to review and finalise the NPAN M&E framework - UNICEF provided technical and financial support to MoH for the implementation of the web-based salt iodisation monitoring system and IVR system for health outreach reporting; and to NNC Secretariat for the annual update to Nutrition Stakeholder and Action Mapping - UN network provides continued financial and technical support to strengthen the information systems which are used to monitor the implementation of priority actions for improved nutrition (e.g. WHO support to HMIS/ DHIS2)

Donor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Donors (SDC, EU) provided support to the FNSS/ LCAAS surveys. - In 2016, EU supported a scoping mission on the establishment of a National Information Platform for Nutrition (NIPN) in Lao PDR
Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Business Network is less formalized and, therefore, less engaged in MSP, especially, in the area of CRF.
CSO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Network is most actively engaged through the SUN CSA. Its representatives participate in technical working groups/ consultation meetings regarding the review of the NPAN M&E framework, FNSS/ LCAAS survey findings and Nutrition Stakeholder Mapping - SUN CSA conducts a mapping of the nutrition actions supported by its member organisations. - CSA continues advocacy and provides support for the monitoring of nutrition actions across the different sectors and strengthening of information systems.

OVERALL SUMMARY OF PROGRESS ACHIEVED OVER THE PAST YEAR (April 2016 to April 2017) FOR PROCESS 3: Common Results Framework for National Nutrition Plan (aligned programming)
 (i.e. Overall achievements/positive changes/ key challenges and suggestions for improvements/ other relevant activities in the context of scaling up nutrition efforts in country)

Significant achievements include:

- launch and dissemination of findings from the 2015 FNSS (UNICEF, WFP) and LCASS surveys (UNICEF) to enhance evidence-based advocacy and programming on multi-sectoral approaches to nutrition
- implementation of new web-based salt iodisation monitoring system and IVR system for health outreach reporting
- identification and agreement of nutrition priorities such as: development of SBCC SAP, strengthening sub-national nutrition coordination mechanisms, upgrading the Code of Marketing of Breastmilk substitutes, strengthening the nutrition information system. Stakeholders are coordinating their technical and financial support around these priorities.

With regard to challenges, these include weaknesses in the information management, monitoring and reporting systems. Efforts are ongoing to strengthen these.

Process 4: Financial tracking and resource mobilisation

N/A	0	1	2	3	4
Not applicable	Not started	Started	On-going	Nearly completed	Completed
Progress Marker not applicable to current context	Nothing in place	Planning begun	Planning completed and implementation initiated	Implementation complete with gradual steps to processes becoming operational	Fully operational/Targets are achieved/On-going with continued monitoring/Validated/Evidence provided

Process 4: Financial tracking and resource mobilisation

Assessing the financial feasibility of national plans to implement actions for improved nutrition is essential to determine funding requirements. The latter is based on the capability to track planned and actual spending on nutrition across relevant government ministries and from external partners. The existence of plans with clearly costed actions helps government authorities and key stakeholders (e.g. UN, donors, business, civil society) to align and contribute resources to national priorities, estimate the required budget for implementation and identify financial gaps.

Progress marker 4.1: Cost and assess financial feasibility of the CRF

DEFINITION	POSSIBLE SIGNS	FINAL PLATFORM SCORE Please give one score per progress marker	PLEASE EXPLAIN YOUR FINAL SCORE Refer to specific signs or provide your own examples. Please share relevant documentation as evidence
This progress marker looks at the extent to which the Government and all other in-country stakeholders are able to provide inputs for costing of nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive actions across relevant sectors (costing exercises can be performed in various ways including conducting a review of current spending or an estimation of unit costs).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Existence of costed estimations of nutrition related actions (please provide relevant documentation) ▪ Existence of costed plans for CRF implementation ▪ Stakeholder groups have an overview of their own allocations to nutrition related programmes/actions (please provide relevant documentation) <p>Minimum requirements for scoring 4: Countries are required to provide documents outlining the costing method, and the costed programmes or plans</p>	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Lao PDR National Nutrition Strategy (NNS) 2016-2025 and the National Plan of Action on Nutrition (NPAN) 2016-2020 were updated in 2015. As part of the process, the NPAN priority interventions were costed. - The NPAN costing was coordinated by the National Nutrition Committee (NNC) Secretariat office. The process involved a series of technical consultations using two approaches (envelope costing and detailed costing). Key Government sectors gave inputs. Support was provided by MQSUN and key Development partners.

Progress marker 4.2: Track and report on financing for nutrition			
<p>This progress marker looks at the extent to which governments and all other in-country stakeholders are able to track their allocations and expenditures (if available) for nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive actions in relevant sectors. This progress marker also aims to determine whether the financial tracking for nutrition is reported and shared in a transparent manner with other partners of the MSP including the Government.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reporting of nutrition-sensitive and specific interventions, disaggregated by sector and sex, where relevant, and financial sources (domestic and external resources) including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Planned spending ○ Current allocations ○ Recent expenditures (within 1-2 years of the identified allocation period) ▪ Existence of reporting mechanisms including regular financial reports, independent audit reports, cost effectiveness studies, multi-sectoral consolidation of the sectoral nutrition spending (including off-budget), and others. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Existence of transparent and publicly available financial related information ▪ Social audits, sharing financial information among MSP members, making financial information public. <p>Minimum requirements for scoring 4: Countries are required to provide evidence of publicly available information on current allocations and recent actual spending.</p>	2	<p>A number of databases containing information on GoL/ donor nutrition funding and expenditure exist within Ministry of Planning and line Ministries. However, it remains a challenge to track, compile and analyse financial information related to nutrition. Steps have been made to track financial commitments and spending for nutrition through an annual Nutrition Stakeholder, Action and finance mapping which started in 2015. Efforts are ongoing to strengthen the process with the aim that it be institutionalised. Future mapping aims to build on existing expenditure reviews and to be expanded to include the private sector.</p>
Progress marker 4.3: Scale up and align resources including addressing financial shortfalls			
<p>This progress marker looks specifically at the capability by governments and other in-country stakeholder to identify financial gaps and mobilise additional funds through increased alignment and allocation of budgets, advocacy, setting-up of specific mechanisms.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Existence of a mechanism to identify current financial sources, coverage, and financial gaps ▪ Government and other in-country stakeholders assess additional funding needs; continuous investment in nutrition; continuous advocacy for resource allocation to nutrition related actions ▪ Strategically increasing government budget 	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Steps have been made via the Nutrition Finance mapping to identify shortfalls in the funding of the National Plan of Action for nutrition. However, mechanisms to identify and track gaps in resource allocation to key nutrition interventions require strengthening. - Efforts to mobilise resources for nutrition priorities are ongoing.

	<p>allocations, and mobilising additional domestic and external resources.</p> <p>Minimum requirements for scoring 4: Countries are required to provide evidence of a mechanism for addressing financial gaps</p>		
Progress marker 4.4: Turn pledges into disbursements			
<p>This progress marker looks at how governments and other in-country stakeholders are able to turn pledges into disbursements. It includes the ability of donors to look at how their disbursements are timely and in line with the fiscal year in which they were scheduled.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Turn pledges into proportional disbursements and pursue the realisation of external commitments ▪ Disbursements of pledges from domestic and external resources are realised through: Governmental budgetary allocations to nutrition related implementing entities ▪ Specific programmes performed by government and/or another in-country stakeholder <p>Minimum requirements for scoring 4: Countries are required to provide evidence of disbursements against pledges (domestic or external)</p>	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National budget allocation has increased for some priority nutrition actions: e.g. procurement of nutrition commodities, capacity building - Key donors have contributed to support the NPAN 2016-2020 and allocate funding to nutrition priorities (e.g. EU, USAID, SDC, Lux Dev, World Bank). Private sector is becoming increasingly engaged (e.g. MMG) - Budget allocated to nutrition sensitive agriculture has increased thanks to new projects such as GAFSP - Efforts to strengthen disbursement tracking are ongoing.
Progress marker 4.5: Ensure predictability of multi-year funding to sustain implementation results and nutrition impact			
<p>This progress marker looks specifically at how governments and in-country stakeholders collectively engage in long-term predictable funding to ensure results and impact. It looks at important changes such as the continuum between short-term humanitarian and long-term development funding, the establishment of flexible but predictable funding mechanisms and</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Existence of a long-term and flexible resource mobilisation strategy ▪ Coordinated reduction of financial gaps through domestic and external contributions ▪ Stable or increasing flexible domestic contributions ▪ Existence of long-term/multi-year financial resolutions/projections <p>Minimum requirements for scoring 4: Countries are required to provide evidence of multi-year funding mechanisms</p>	2	<p>Efforts are increasing by GoL and key donors to provide longer term funding for nutrition.</p>

the sustainable addressing of funding gaps.			
---	--	--	--

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS linked to the MEAL system. Please give us your views on partnerships in EMERGENCY SETTINGS

If the country or part of country face certain types of emergency (i.e. natural, humanitarian, conflict situations) in the recent past or ongoing, elaborate about the finance of mitigation measures	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Is there clearly identifiable funding for emergency situations? 2) Do emergency funds complement mainstream funding for nutrition? If so, how? 	With support from the UN system and donors, Lao PDR is strengthening its emergency preparedness, contingency planning and linkage to emergency funding mechanisms which complement mainstream funding for nutrition.
---	--	--

Stakeholders	Description/ Key contribution of each stakeholder to Process Four
Government	The GoL (under the coordination of the NNC Secretariat) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - led the update to the Nutrition Finance mapping - increased national budget allocation for some priority nutrition actions
UN	- provided support to NNC Secretariat with the annual Nutrition Finance mapping
Donor	- major donors such as EU, World Bank, Lux Dev, SDC, USAID have announced substantial financial support to the updated NNSPA 2016-2020.
Business	It remains difficult to estimate the actual contribution of businesses to NNSPA. However, some contributions were noted: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the Salt Association remains committed to financing the procurement of iodine agent for the Universal Salt Iodisation Programme. - MMG provided financial support for micronutrient supplementation and scaling up of IYCF community based package in selected provinces.
CSO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increasingly, NGOs are looking into options to integrate and expand nutrition-related projects and attract funds for nutrition. - Significant donor funds have been allocated to CSO nutrition work, with calls for proposals by EU, SDC, USAID amongst others in 2016/ 2017. This is leading to increases in CSO activity in the nutrition sector.

OVERALL SUMMARY OF PROGRESS ACHIEVED OVER THE PAST YEAR (April 2016 to April 2017) FOR PROCESS 4: Financial tracking and resource mobilisation (i.e. Overall achievements/positive changes/ key challenges and suggestions for improvement/ other relevant activities in the context of scaling up nutrition efforts in country)

Achievements include increased national budget allocation for nutrition and continued support from major Development partners to the updated National Nutrition Plan of Action 2016-2020.

A key challenge includes the tracking and analysis of financial information (e.g. resource allocations, disbursements, funding gaps) related to nutrition. Efforts are ongoing to strengthen this.

Annex 1: Common priorities for 2017-2018

2015-2016 priorities	Please reflect on the completion of the work vis-a-vis your priorities:
<p>Were you able to respond to and address the identified priorities for the year ahead, as per your 2016 Joint-Assessment? Which ones were realised and which ones were not? What went well? What went wrong?</p> <p>Could the Multi-Stakeholder Platform coordinate the response of the actors to the identified annual priority action areas? If not, were you able to access external technical assistance as required? What went well? What went wrong?</p>	<p>Progress has been made regarding certain nutrition priorities identified in 2016. For example, regarding the SBCC SAP, nutrition stakeholders have coordinated efforts to conduct a literature review, formative research in certain areas and start the development of the strategy. Regarding the strengthening of the Code of Marketing of Breastmilk substitutes, progress has not been as fast as planned. Capacity building is required in order to facilitate progress in this area. Steps have been made in 2017 to address this.</p> <p>The MSP has been able to coordinate stakeholders. The set-up of Task Forces to work on certain priority areas has enabled progress to be made. Technical existence has generally been made available when required.</p>
<p>Please list your key priorities for 2017-2018, providing details, as required</p>	
<p>Please list your key priorities for the coming year, providing specific details, including if support from the SUN Movement support system (SUN Movement Secretariat, Executive Committee, Lead Group, Coordinator, Global Networks, experts) is foreseen to achieve the latter</p> <p>Key priorities include: development of the SBCC SAP, strengthening sub-national nutrition coordination mechanisms, upgrading the Code of Marketing of Breastmilk substitutes and strengthening the nutrition information system. Support is provided by REACH Secretariat regarding the Nutrition Stakeholder, Action and Finance Mapping process and tools.</p> <p>Do you plan on organising a high-level event on nutrition in the upcoming period? If yes, provide details. Yes a National Nutrition Forum is expected in Quarter 4 2017.</p>	

Annex 2: Details of Joint-Assessment of National Multi-Stakeholder Platform participants

No.	Title	Name	Organisation	Specific SUN Role (if applicable)
1.	Dr	Chandavone Phoxay	Government (Department of Hygiene and Health Promotion, MoH)	SUN Focal Point for Lao PDR
2.	Mrs	Karan Courtney Haag	UNICEF	UN Country Network convenor
3.	Mr	Koen Everaert	EU	Donor Country Network convenor
4.	Mr	Eric Seastedt	PSI	CSA Country Network convenor
5.	Dr	Khizar Ashraf	WFP	Member of UN Country Network
6.	Ms	Mona Girgis	Plan	Member of SUN CSA Secretariat
7.	Dr	Amy Weissman	Save the Children	Member of SUN CSA Secretariat
8.	Ms	Diane Ashley	UNICEF/ Technical Advisor National Nutrition Committee Secretariat Office	N/A