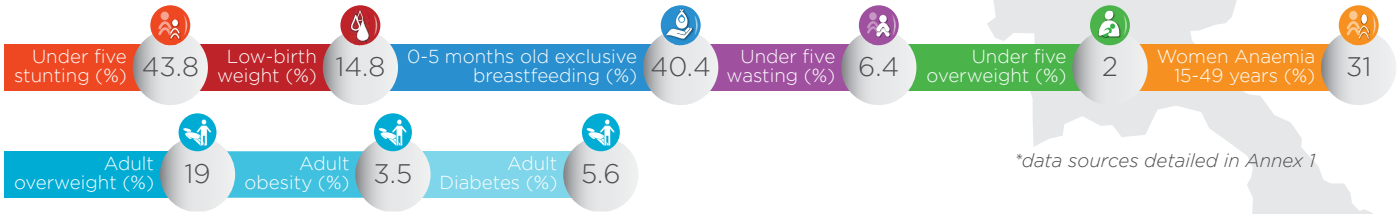


Joined: April 2011
Population: 6.80 million

Lao PDR



*data sources detailed in Annex 1

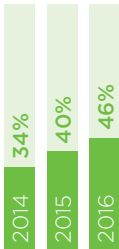
Institutional Transformations in 2015 - 16



Bringing people together into a shared space for action

The 2015 National Nutrition Forum, the first ever, facilitated an important political space for scaling up action against undernutrition by mobilising key parts of the Government, provincial leaders and development partners. Nutrition coordination structures established at the national level are

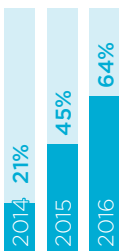
now being formalised at the sub-national level. Planning and communication mechanisms with the multi-sectoral core team and technical working groups have been strengthened with annual and quarterly workplans and reporting.



Ensuring a coherent policy and legal framework

The National Nutrition Strategy to 2025 and Plan of Action 2016-2020 (NNSPA) were launched in December 2015, following a nine-month long series of consultations between key sectors and stakeholders. The Government - with inputs from partners - is, at present, developing a

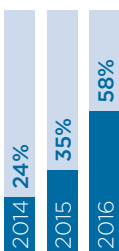
multi-sectoral Social and Behavioural Change Communication Strategic Framework and Action Plan to put into practice the advocacy and behavioural components of the NNSPA.



Aligning actions around a common results framework

In 2015-2016, a nutrition stakeholder and action mapping exercise was conducted, which looked at the 22 priority interventions of the National Nutrition Strategy and Plan of Action. The convergent, multi-sectoral approach to nutrition was tested as a pilot in three target provinces

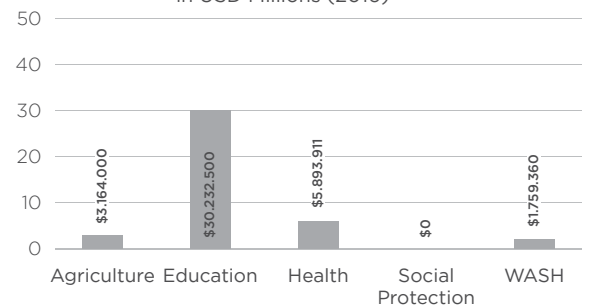
(six target districts) with multi-sectoral plans developed at the sub-national level. The European Union is supporting the establishment of a national information platform for nutrition aiming to bring together existing data from nutrition-relevant sectors.



Financing tracking and resource mobilisation

The priority interventions of the National Plan of Action on Nutrition (NPAN) 2016-2020 are costed. The annual nutrition finance mapping exercise enables better understanding of resources allocated to priority nutrition interventions and estimates current funding gaps. This is used for advocacy purposes, to ensure greater targeted funding for nutrition. Databases containing information on domestic and external funding and expenditure exist within ministries. The national budget allocation has increased for some of the key priority nutrition actions.

Nutrition-Relevant Allocations Across Government Sectors in USD Millions (2016)



2016-17 PRIORITIES

- Develop, update and implement multi-sectoral advocacy and communication strategies
- Support the improved management of data and financial tracking (nationally and/or at the sub-national level)
- Support capacity-building of individuals or organisations to better engage with sectors (such as business), or groups (such as scientists and academia).