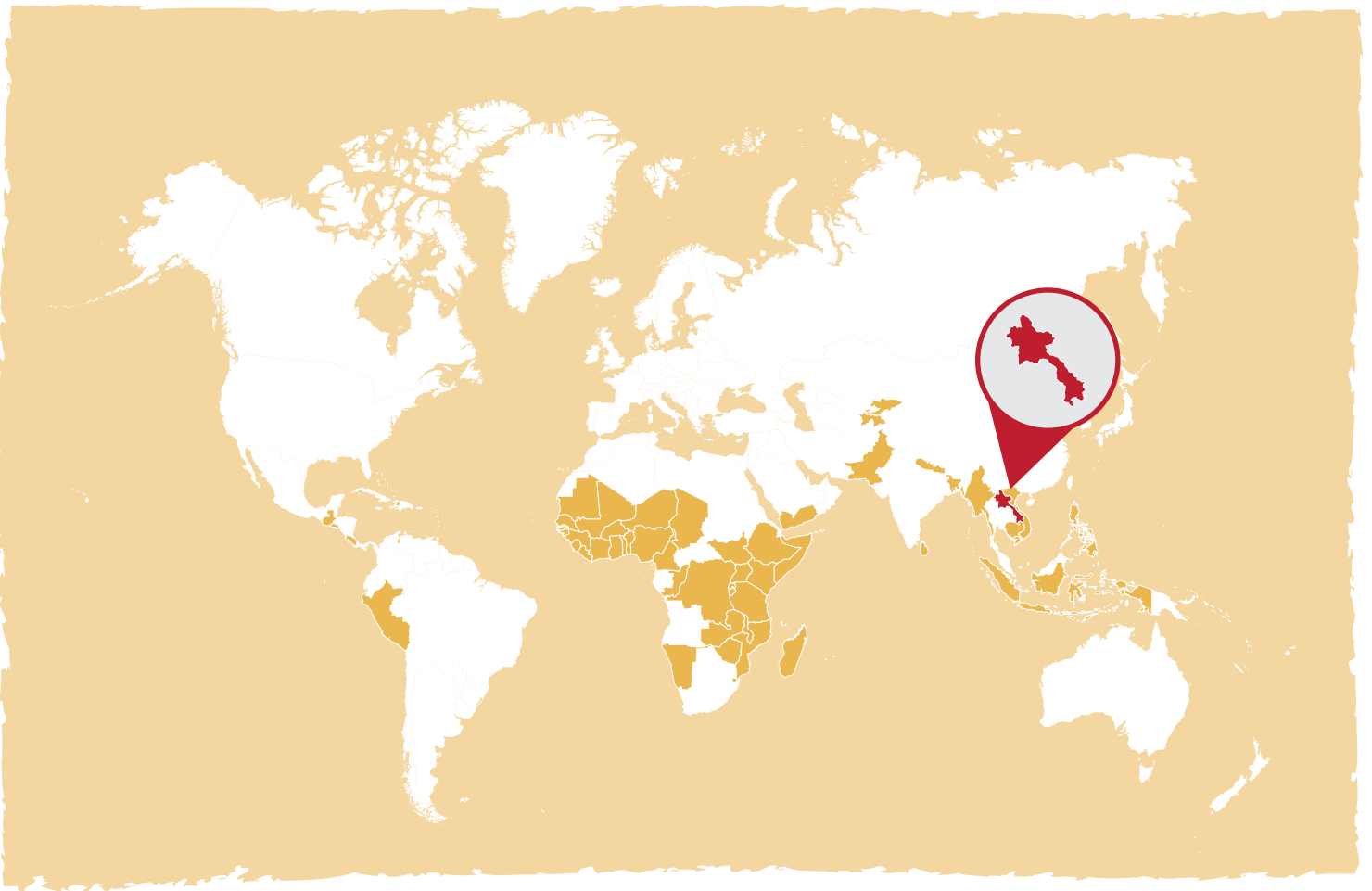


Lao, PDR

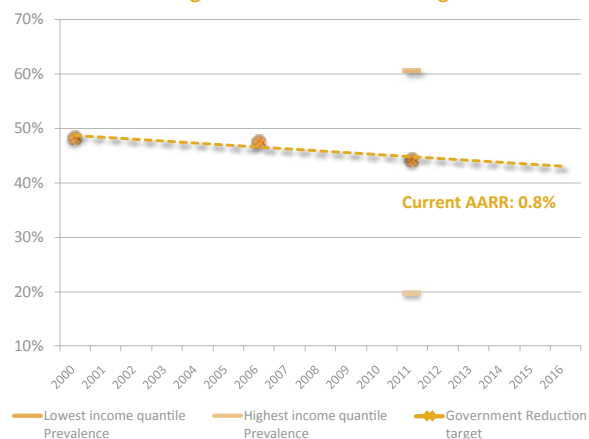


Joined: April 2011

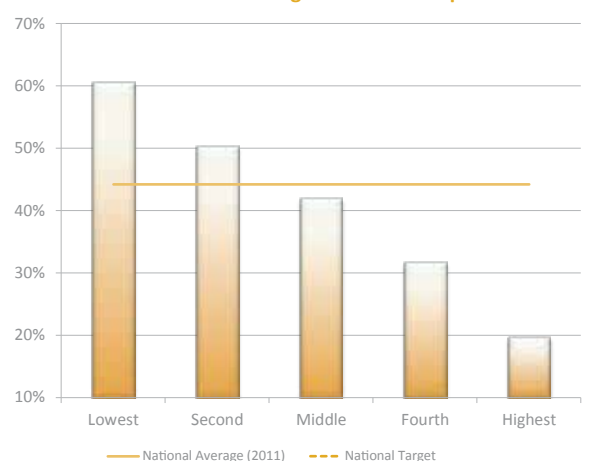


Demographic data	
National Population (million, 2010)	6.4
Children under 5 (million, 2010)	0.8
Adolescent Girls (15-19) (million, 2010)	0.40
Average Number of Births (million, 2010)	0.20
Population growth rate (2010)	1.99%
WHA nutrition target indicators (LSIS 2011)	
Low birth weight	14.8%
0-5 months Exclusive Breastfeeding	40.4%
Under five stunting	43.8%
Under five wasting	6.4%
Under five overweight	2.0%
Coverage of Nutrition-relevant Factors	
Infant and young child feeding practice	
6-23 months with Minimum Acceptable Diet	-
6-23 months with Minimum Diet Diversity	-
Programs for vitamin and mineral deficiencies	
Zinc Supplementation for Diarrhea	1.0%
Pregnant Women Attending 4 or more Antenatal Care Visits	36.9%
Vitamin A supplementation (6-59 months)	47.0%
Households Consuming Adequately Iodized Salt	37.0%
Women's Empowerment	
Female literacy	68.7%
Female employment rate	75.6%
Median age at first marriage	19.2
Access to skilled birth attendant	41.5%
Women who have first birth before age 18	14.0%
Fertility rate	3.2
Other Nutrition-relevant indicators	
Rate of urbanization	32.11%
Income share held by lowest 20%	7.64%
Calories per capita per day (kcal/capita/day)	2,238.5
Energy from non-staples in supply	20.49%
Iron availability from animal products (mg/capita/day)	-
Access to Improved Sanitation Facilities	59.2%
Open defecation	37.9%
Access to Improved Drinking Water Sources	69.9%
Access to Piped Water on Premises	4.9%
Surface Water as Drinking Water Source	9.7%
GDP per capita (current USD, 2013)	1,646.00
Exports-Agr Products per capita (current USD, 2012)	-
Imports-Agr Products per capita (current USD, 2012)	-

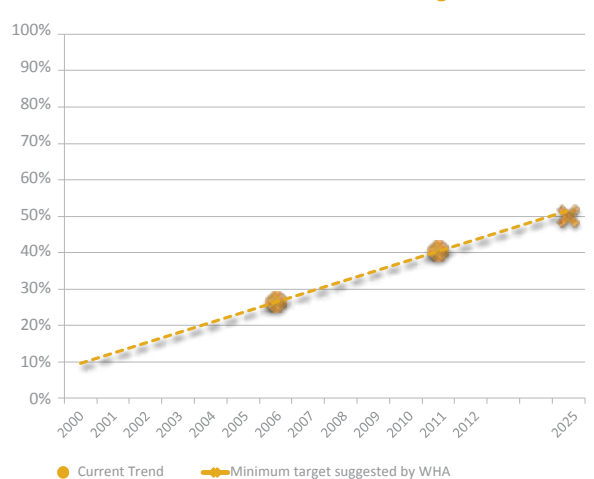
Stunting Reduction Trend and Target



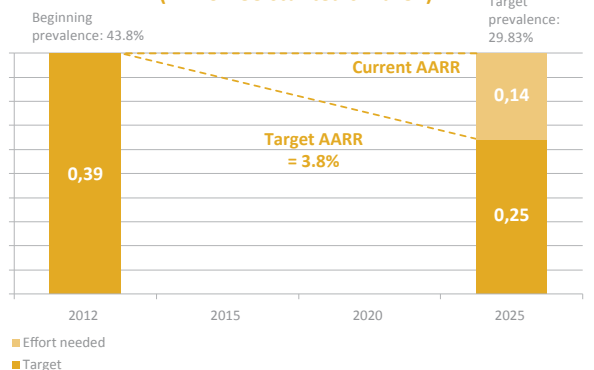
Distribution of stunting across wealth quintiles



Trend of Exclusive Breastfeeding Rate



Targeted Stunting Reduction (million US stunted children)



Bringing people together into a shared space for action

Since joining the SUN Movement in 2011, the government issued a formal decision to establish a National Nutrition Committee chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister. The Secretariat to the NNC has been formed with the inclusion of appointed focal points from the various Government ministries. The NNC has developed a normative and operational framework to help development partners, including donors, to better work with the Government.

A UN Task Team (IFAD, UNICEF, WFP, WHO, FAO, UNDP) is established and meets regularly to review progress and joint support to the Government. The EU is operating as donor convenor and is co-convening with UNICEF on a broader Development Partners group interested in nutrition (including donors); meetings have been organized on quarterly basis since November 2013. SUN CSA was established in early 2014. CSA and development partners are deepening their partnership with the government.

Periodic meetings are organized by the Government through technical working group meetings and 6-weekly meetings for SUN conference calls. Attendance to these meetings is ad-hoc thus requiring a more advanced planning for these meetings.

Aligning actions around a Common Results Framework

Lao PDR is developing and agreeing a common results framework (CRF), which it plans to roll out at local level by testing it in three provinces first before scaling up to other provinces. These 3 provinces having a high rate of malnourished children and existing programs on specific and sensitive nutrition intervention. Meetings with stakeholders have been organized by the Government to rationalize and operationalize national nutrition and food security plans. The National Nutrition Policy and (sub) sector strategies and plans of action are being used as guiding frameworks for implementation in a number of sectors/ministries: health, agriculture, education, planning and investment.

While few monitoring tools are available in each sector there is no comprehensive multi-sectoral tool. Tools or guidelines for monitoring nutrition sensitive interventions are not yet available and will need to be developed.

Ensuring a coherent policy and legal framework

Government of Lao PDR has specific nutrition goals in its 7th National Socio-economic Development Plan; the country adopted a National Nutrition Policy (2008) and developed a National Nutrition Strategy and Plan of Action 2010-2015 that cover most nutrition specific interventions and mention the need for nutrition sensitive development. The policy, strategy and plan are going to be reviewed in the near future.

Support to nutrition specific and nutrition sensitive interventions represents a core mandate for UN agencies and it is integrated into UNDAF, UN agencies programmes and plans of action. Nutrition is one of the priority areas for the EU, and other donors (i.e. Ireland, WB, AusAid) are also considering investing in nutrition. Nutrition represents a programme focus for many NGOs.

The National Assembly has approved a health sector reform strategy that includes nutrition as a priority. The MoH has submitted budget plan for 2013-2014 for scaling up nutrition interventions. Systems for monitoring policy outcomes and impact need strengthening.

Impact assessment of malnutrition on social and economic development in Lao PDR has been carried out with UNICEF support and findings are being disseminated. With assistance from the UN, a national convergence Food and Nutrition Security Multi-Sectoral Action Plan is being drafted to mobilize donors' support.

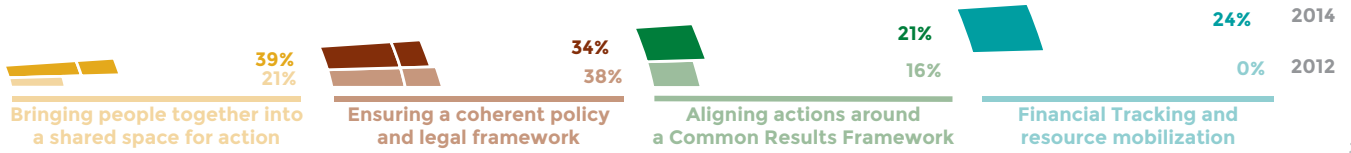
Financial Tracking and resource mobilization

Lao PDR is mapping existing projects and activities in order to estimate full budget and funding gap. The Government is developing an investment plan for nutrition and modifying the legal context to support this work. There has been already a 9% government increase in investments for the entire health sector and nutrition-specific interventions are covered through the health sector reform budget. There is no mechanism yet to identify nutrition-sensitive spending in other sectoral budgets.

An upcoming priority is the analysis of fiscal space to assess the feasibility of scaling up. Cost benefit analysis will be done to inform prioritization of Government funds to various nutrition programmes/ interventions. A strategy will be developed to protect essential costs in the times of crisis and emergency.

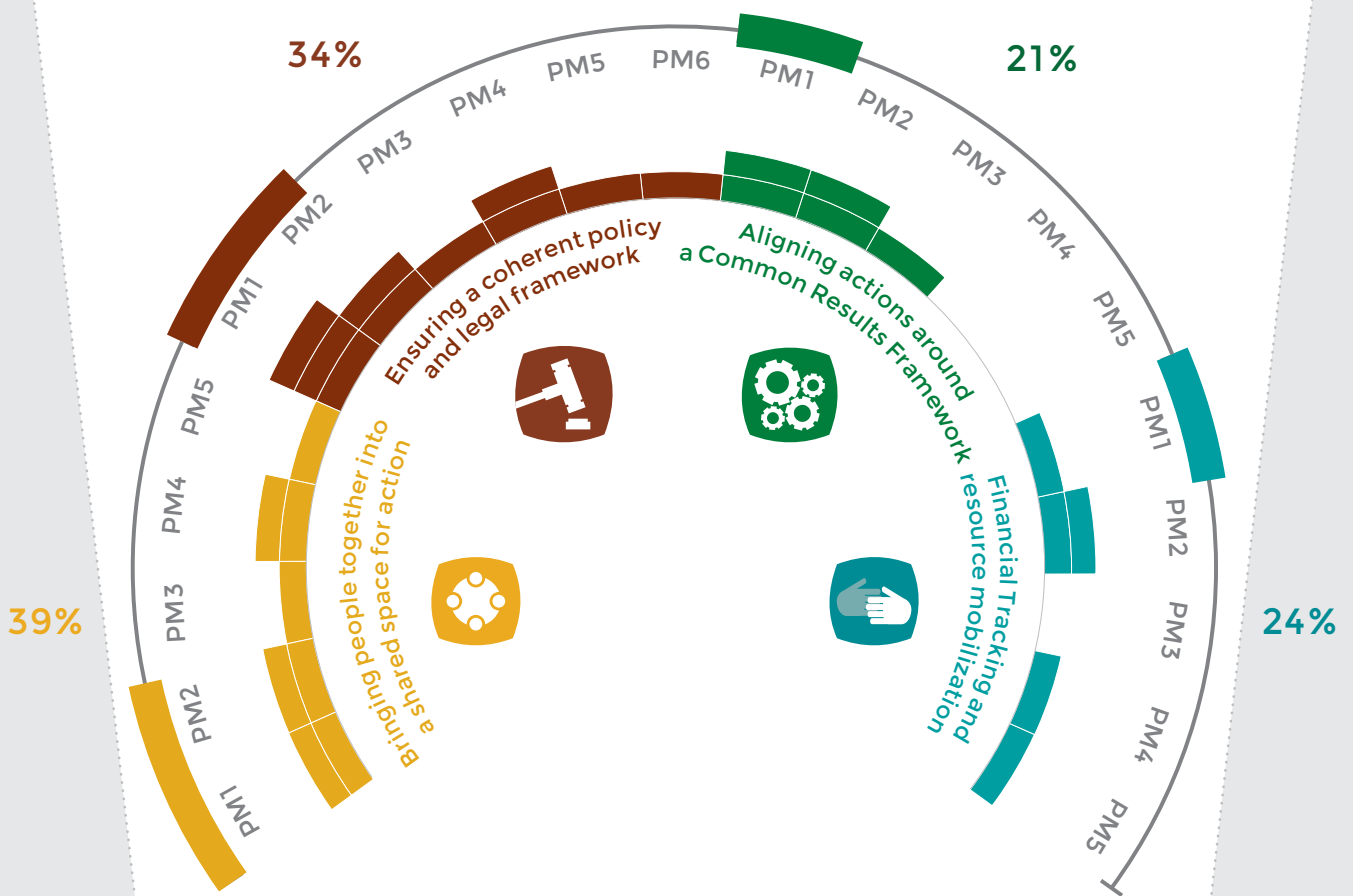
Progress Across Four SUN Processes Lao, PDR

2012¹ and 2014² Scoring of Progress Markers



2014 Dashboard for Progress Markers

Stage of Preparedness



¹Externally assessed by the SUN Movement Secretariat
²Internally assessed by in-country self-assessment exercise