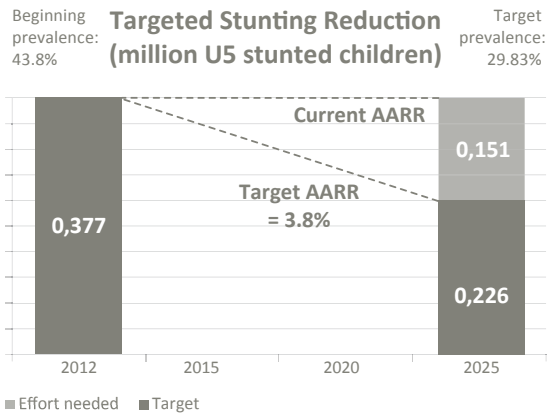


LAO PDR

Joined: April 2011

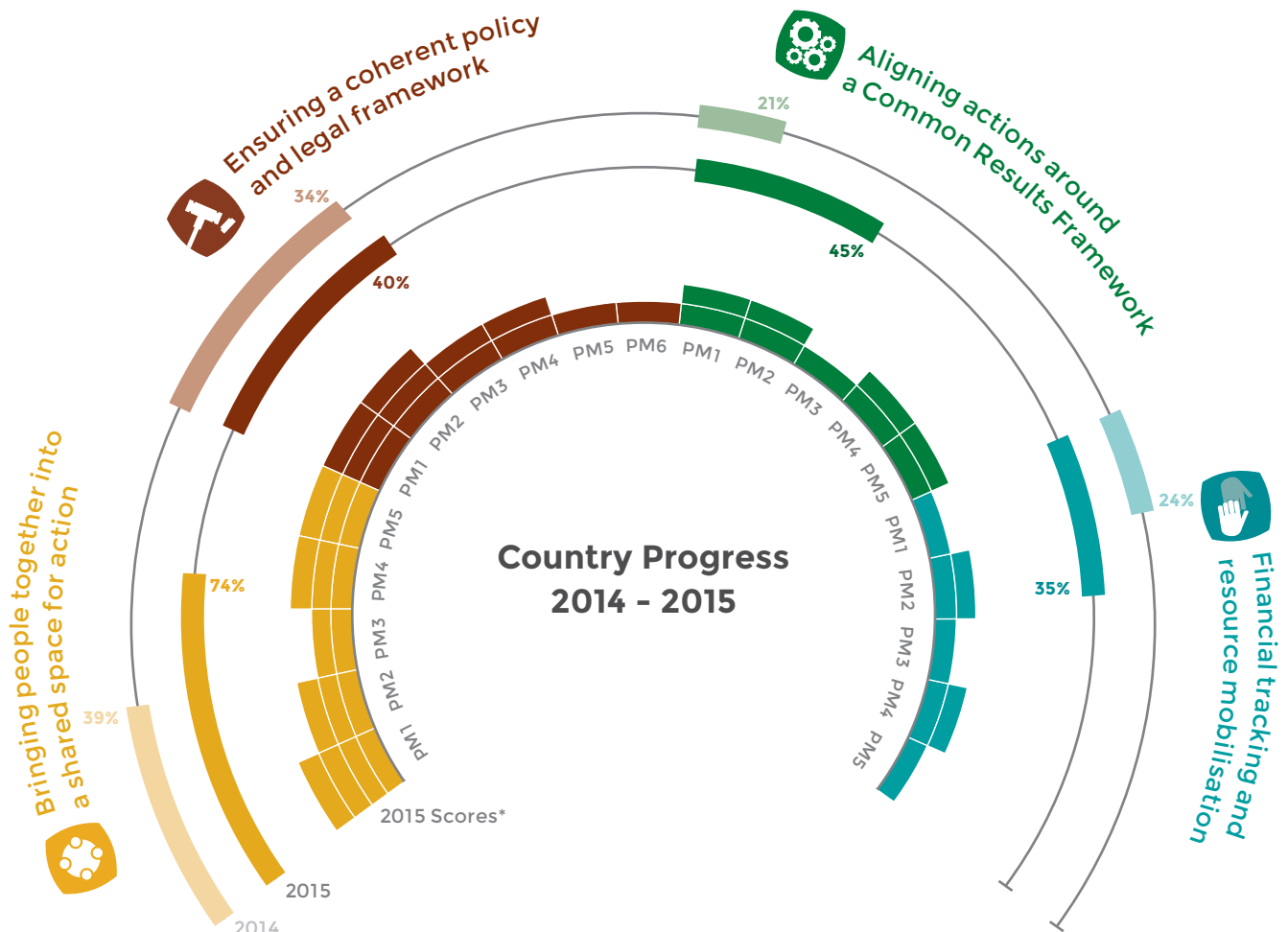
Highlights

- The National Nutrition Strategy 2025 and the Plan of Action 2016-2020 is being reviewed and updated with the view of prioritising nutrition using a convergent programming approach.
- The Common Results Frameworks will be finalised by end of 2015 with a plan of action, logical framework and a monitoring and evaluation plan.
- The National Nutrition Committee (NNC) is the multi-sectoral platform (MSP) supported by a functional secretariat that aims to ensure continuity of increasing investment in nutrition, establishing all the institutional arrangements and modalities needed to address the problems on food and nutrition security.



Under five stunting:	43.8%
Low-birth weight:	14.8%
0-5 months old exclusive breastfeeding:	40.4%
Under five wasting:	6.4%
Under five overweight:	2.0%
Women Anaemia 15-49 years:	31.0%

**data sources detailed in Annex 1*



*See page 29 for more information about 2015 scoring against each progress marker

Bold text denotes progress reported in the last year



Established in July 2013, the National Nutrition Committee (NNC) is the multi-sectoral platform (MSP) for Lao PDR. The NNC is led by the Vice-Prime Minister, which is a testament to the high level commitment towards improving nutrition for the Lao people. It brings together representatives from four ministries, sectors, departments and agencies. The NNC is supported by a functional Secretariat housed in the Department of Hygiene Health Promotion in the Ministry of Health.

The NNC meets quarterly under the umbrella of the Government led team and the National Food & Nutrition Security Technical Working Group. The meetings help to ensure effective coordination and collaboration for food and nutrition at the national level.

At the decentralised level: three Provincial Nutrition Committees and six District Nutrition Committees have been established. Lao PDR aims to expand the MSP mechanism to other provinces and districts to improve coordination of nutrition programming at all levels to reach the most vulnerable populations.

The Development Partners (DP) Nutrition Group encompasses nearly 28 representatives from United Nations (UN) agencies, donors and civil society organisations. UNICEF and the European Union are the co-convenors of the DP Nutrition Group. The SUN Civil Society Alliance in Lao PDR is a long-standing and active member of the MSP.

Bringing people together into a shared space for action



Nutrition programming is governed by two policy documents: the National Nutrition Strategy & Plan of Action 2010-2015 (NNS-PA 2015) and the National Nutrition Policy 2020.

As the current strategy expires in 2015, stakeholders are in the process developing the National Nutrition Strategy 2025 & Plan of Action 2020 (NNS-PA 2025). The strategy component is being developed with the view of prioritising nutrition using a convergent programming approach and is based on learnings from a pilot in three target provinces and six districts. The plan of action component of the NNS-PA 2025 ends in 2020 as it will be developed in line with the Five Year National Socio-Economic Development Plan VIII which ends in 2020.

Other nutrition-relevant policies and strategies in place include:

- **Agriculture & Rural development Strategy 2015-2025**
- **Maternal, Newborn and Child health Strategy 2016-2025, and**
- **Water and Sanitation Strategy.**

Efforts have been made on a range of sub-level policies and legal instruments, such as the monitoring of the Code of Marketing of Breast Milk Substitutes, maternal protection legislation, IYCF Guidelines, integrated outreach and multi-micronutrient supplementation guidelines. Legal and policy requirements for large-scale industry-based food fortification is being considered.

Ensuring a coherent policy and legal framework



The new NNS-PA 2025 will be the key guiding document on nutrition policy and programming and is the Common Results Framework (CRF). All stakeholder groups involved with the NNC have confirmed their commitment to contributing to its development. The NNS-PA 2025 will be finalised by the end of 2015 with a logical matrix, plan of action built around the matrix and a monitoring and evaluation plan. Dedicated task forces have been created to support the development of three main sectors: health and water, sanitation and hygiene;

education; and agriculture. The taskforces will also support the integration of the CRF into relevant sector plans with nutrition-sensitive objectives and targets.

Nutrition has been streamlined into sectoral planning for health, education and agriculture. These sectors are currently preparing their sectoral five year plans for 2016-2020 and due to the multi-sectoral nature of the convergent approach, partners have agreed on a joint monitoring package developed with tools used by the Millennium Development Goal Fund and UN joint monitoring program units.

Aligning actions around a Common Results Framework



Preliminary costing and cost-benefit analysis and modelling for the NNS-PA 2015 was conducted in 2013 by the UN and included in the recommendations on the development of NNS-PA 2025.

Costing of the health interventions as part of the development of the NNS-PA 2025 is currently being supported by MQSUN. Detailed costing of the health interventions of operational action plan (NNS-PA 2025) and capacity building of local staff for the ingredient costing exercises will be supported by the World Health Organization (WHO).

Tracking and accounting of finances for nutrition is of high priority for Lao PDR, their partners are committed to providing support to find solutions that are best suited for the country context.

The Ministry of Health has committed an allocation of \$USD 340,000 for the procurement of nutrition supplies in 2015. All major donors have announced financial commitments on nutrition and the resources will be made available following the finalisation of NNS-PA 2025.

Financial tracking and resource mobilisation