



LAO, PDR

Action Plan: Organization of multi-sectoral spaces for the coordination and implementation of initiatives to reduce chronic child malnutrition.

Objective of the Action Plan

The Plan seeks the organization of multi-sectoral spaces for the coordination and implementation of initiatives to reduce chronic child malnutrition. It seeks to get a practical and efficient application of the Multi-sectorial Action Plan for Food security and Nutrition.

Plan implementation context

Ever since the establishment of the Millennium Development Goals, the Government of Lao PDR has incorporated nutrition in the public agenda. Since 2011, the government has emphasized nutrition and approved a 9% budget increase in the health sector in order to fight child malnutrition. In the same year, Lao PDR joined the SUN movement. Currently, 43.8% of children under 5 suffer from malnutrition. Lao PDR is one of the countries in East Asia with the highest overweight index at 27%, behind East Timor and Cambodia.

In 2012, the PDR established a multi-sectoral platform for nutrition as well as a National Nutrition Committee. The latter is chaired by the Prime Minister and made up of 4 Ministries - namely, Health, Education, Agriculture, and Planning and investment - and other institutions involved in nutrition and food security. The secretariat to the committee, headed by the Deputy Minister of Health includes members from the above-mentioned Ministries, and is part of the multi-sectoral platform for nutrition, in charge of coordinating with development partners, donors, technical and research communities and the civil society involved in nutrition and food security in the country.

Participant:

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In 2013, the government drafted a Food and Nutrition Security Multi-sectoral Action Plan, including the Secretariat to the National Nutrition Committee. This plan has been implemented since 2014, prioritizing different provinces and districts. Currently, three pilot provinces are in the development process of multi-sectoral micro-planning, which includes the main sectors from the Ministries of Health, Education, Agriculture, Rural development, and Planning and investment.

Plan Actions, specific objectives and expected outcomes

Specific objectives: Create a forum among the Government, organizations of the civil society, the private sector, and international organizations in order to share and develop common objectives.

Main actions: to be carried out:

1. Identify the stakeholders involved in nutrition.
2. Map the zones where different stakeholders have implemented interventions.
3. Articulate the multi-sectoral approach at local level.
4. Share experiences gained from the participation in the Learning Route with other sectors of the government, organizations of the civil society, international organizations and the private sector.
5. Ensure to include organizations of the civil society, international organizations, and the private sector in the National technical Task Team on nutrition, meeting on a quarterly basis.
6. Ensure the participation of organizations of the civil society and the private sector in meetings of the Task Team. (9 representatives were expected at the beginning.)

Thus, the **expected outcome** would be to strengthen the collaboration among the government, organizations of the civil society, international organizations and the private sector in order to deal with malnutrition with the aim of linking it to the government approach by using a convergent strategy.