SUN Movement
23rd Series of Country Network Teleconferences-
Building and Sustaining Political Commitment for Nutrition Action – Lao PDR

SUN is a unique Movement founded on the principle that all people have a right to food & good nutrition.
Key factors in securing and sustaining political commitment for nutrition

- Commitment
- Advocacy
- Evidence
Strong Evidence based for nutrition

Strong Evidence for nutrition has been informed the Government of Laos which has strong recognition that undernutrition is a national issue:

- High CU5 stunting with slow decline: 44% or 385,000 CU5 (LSIS, 2011)
- Wasting: 6%
- High anaemia in CU5 as well as women 15-49 years of age
- MDG1 was out track
- Annual losses of US$197 million or 2.4% of GDP (NERI, 2013)
Advocacy

• Using evidences advocate policy makers and stakeholders at all level:
  • Central government
  • National Assembly
  • Sectors relevance or line Ministries
  • Local governments
  • Stakeholders and Development partners as well

• Variety Methods of advocacy at formal and informal:
  • Regular Government meetings
  • Round Table meetings
  • National Assembly meetings and monitoring on MDG implementation
  • Multi-sectoral Platform of National Nutrition Committee and National Nutrition Forum
  • National, regional, international conferences, meetings and gatherings.

• Frequency- regularly continuously
Commitment—Political circumstances and key steps taken

- High level political commitment:
  - Prime Minister Decree in establishment of the National Nutrition Committee chaired by Vice-Prime Minister and its Secretariat (July 2013)
  - National Assembly endorsed to increase budget to health sector – nearly 9% of the total government expenditure since 2012
  - The Government of Laos has increased budget allocation to health sector for procurement of nutrition commodities, food supplements for Cu5, nutrition promotion, capacity building, maternal and child health services and monitoring evaluation
Commitment—Political circumstances and key steps taken

• National planning cycles enabled the National Nutrition Strategy to 2025, National Plan of Action for Nutrition 2016-2020 (NNSPA) in the 8th National Social Economic Development Plan and relevant sectoral plans such as health, agriculture, education with inclusion of nutrition objectives and indicators

• Strong commitment from Governors and heads of key sectors at provincial level to implement the NNSPA
Commitment - Political circumstances and key steps taken

• Education sector included nutrition in the school curriculum

• Improved availability of data for:
  • monitoring of nutrition status: LCAAS, LSIS2;
  • nutrition actions: Programme coverage: nutrition indicators in Health Management Information System
  • resources for nutrition: Nutrition mapping and budget tracking

• Use data in High Level Round Table Meeting, National Nutrition Committee meeting, National Nutrition Forum, nutrition advocacy documents
The Government of Laos committed to and engaged in:

- SUN Movement since 2011
- World Health Assembly (WHA) targets included in NNSPA 2016-2020
- The Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) agenda
- The Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2)
- Zero Hunger challenge since 2015
Sustaining of strong political commitment

• The Government of Laos put nutrition is one among several national priorities in the 8\textsuperscript{th} five NSEDP

• Strong call from H.E Vice Prime Minister for immediate action from national stakeholders and international partners to give priority to, align support and be accountable for the effective implementation of NNSPA nutrition actions
Challenges and guidance based on our experiences

Challenges:
1. Active engagement of multiple sectors
2. Increasing funding for nutrition

Guidance:
The continuing conduct of a high level national event involving all key stakeholders helps to maintain momentum and commitment for nutrition.
### Annex: CHRONOLOGY OF ACTIONS CONFIRMING COMMITMENT TO NUTRITION IN LAO PDR

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<td><strong>Lao PDR</strong>&lt;br&gt;nutrition policy, strategy, action plans</td>
<td><strong>National Nutrition Policy (2008)</strong></td>
<td><strong>National Nutrition Strategy to 2020 and National Plan of Action 2010-2015 (NNS/NPAN): recommends the establishment of multi-sectoral coordination mechanism for nutrition</strong></td>
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