



Lao People's Democratic Republic

Peace Independence Democracy Unity Prosperity

Outcome Statement for improving nutrition programme implementation in Lao PDR - 2017

Vientiane, 17 November 2016

We, the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and the Partners in Development including Donors, UN agencies, Civil Society, Businesses and Academia will enhance efforts in implementing the National Nutrition Strategy 2025 and Plan of Action 2016-2020 and as specified in the 8th Five-Year National Socio Economic Development Plan (NSED) for Lao PDR to become ***"A prosperous country, with a healthy population, free from food insecurity, malnutrition and poverty"***.

At this National Nutrition Forum, we all acknowledge:

1. Malnutrition is a social and development issue. Investing in nutrition will play a key role in achieving targets of the 8th National Social Economic Development Plan and is critical for meeting the stunting reduction criteria for graduating from least developed country status.
2. Multisectoral coordination is required for an effective convergent approach and for scaling up nutrition interventions, for joint implementation of actions, for funds allocation, monitoring, evaluation and reporting.

Conclusions of the meeting for improving nutrition programme implementation in Lao PDR – 2017:

1. The Government including all relevant sectors, is leading the implementation of the National Nutrition Strategy through a convergent approach. It shall continue to strengthen the capacity of national and subnational levels for mainstreaming the NNSPA into planning, budgeting, management, coordination, targeting/prioritization, monitoring, evaluation and reporting of the programmes.
2. The Development Partners will continue financial and technical support to strengthen the capacity of the Government to exercise its leadership in implementation, coordination, monitoring and evaluation of programmes.

3. The Government and the Development Partners will:
 - I. Jointly support and finance the NNSPA to prevent all forms of malnutrition in Laos, in particular stunting in children under five years of age, anaemia in women, adolescents and children and other micronutrient deficiencies;
 - II. Strengthen sector wise implementation to scale-up front-line quality services and delivery capacities across the whole spectrum of the sub-national public sector, including key sectors of health, WASH, education and agriculture;
 - III. Promote sector wise coordination from national to subnational level; collaborations nationally and internationally, including ASEAN, South-South and triangular cooperation;
 - IV. Engage private sector for scaling up implementation to improve nutrition situation;
 - V. Scale up community-based initiatives for household food security through improving availability of healthy foods; by increasing plant and animal based food production and improving food processing and ensuring sustainable agricultural practices; along with promoting awareness of food safety and nutritious food choices through social behaviour change communication focussed on all stages of life, including before and during pregnancy, in particular during the first 1,000 days of life, and at school during childhood and adulthood;
 - VI. Continue promoting, protecting and supporting exclusive breastfeeding during the first six months and continued breastfeeding until two years of age and beyond with appropriate complementary feeding; and strengthen the relevant regulatory frameworks;
 - VII. Strengthen public sector at national and subnational levels for effective monitoring and evaluation; improved surveillance and data analysis capacity, for better evaluation of programme outcomes.