

## **Outcome Statement**

2016 Round Table Implementation meeting Panel Discussion

24<sup>th</sup> November 2016

On behalf of panel discussion on Food and Nutrition Security

**To be delivered at the 2016 Round Table Implementation Meeting**

**By Vice Minister of Health**

**25<sup>th</sup> November 2016, Vientiane Province**

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- Governor of Vientiane Province
- Ministers, Deputy Ministers
- Development Partners
- Distinguished guests and colleagues; Ladies and gentlemen:

It is an honor for me on behalf of Ministry Health as well as line ministries, provincial representatives, and various development partners to delivery key outcomes from panel discussion taken place on 24<sup>th</sup> November prior to today Round Table Implementation.

**Statement should highlight key points as follow:**

1. Acknowledgement of consultations throughout the year and pre-consultation taken place prior 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> November RTIM.  
There have been year round consultations preceding the RTIM. These include bi-annual National Nutrition Committee (NCC) Meetings, Quarterly NNC Secretariat meetings, the Agriculture and Rural Development, Education, and Health Sector Working group meetings, Quarterly Development Partner Meetings and the second National Nutrition Forum which was held on 17 November
2. These Year-round and Pre-consultation meetings identified discussion points/issues which needs to be addressed, which are highlighted in the National Nutrition Forum Outcome Statement which all stakeholders; government and development partners endorsed at the Second National Nutrition Forum.
3. To materialize the issues identified during the pre-consultation discussions, the RTIM panel discussion held on the 24<sup>th</sup> November proposes to follow up and implement the following immediate and longer term actions

### **Immediate actions**

1. Strengthen capacity for sub-national level coordination for intersectoral implementation of the priority actions from the National Nutrition Strategy and Plan of Action and integrate nutrition in provincial and district planning using all available resources (Government, Development Partners and Private Sector). There is a need for defining clear roles and responsibilities of all stakeholders from management down to task level. Provincial and district level authorities and stakeholders need support to build their capacity to undertake this planning and coordination themselves.
2. There is a need for sub-national level planning that is informed by data on key target groups and priority issues. Surveillance and routine data systems need to be strengthened in order to inform policy decisions, planning, programming and reporting on targets for nutrition. There is a need to use data that is already being collected and be better analysed in order to identify where to implement multisectoral nutrition actions, who to target and when. This could possibly be done through a National Information Platform for Nutrition using existing data.

3. The use of data however must not be limited to policy decision making, it must also be used to provide immediate feedback to individuals, families, communities to promote behaviour change and be followed up immediately by sector specific actions (health, agriculture, education).
4. It was unanimously agreed that we must prioritize the first 1000 days in order to prevent the long term consequences of stunting. It was also acknowledged that in order to break the intergenerational cycle of undernutrition, we must also focus on adolescent girls, reproductive health and maternal nutrition.
5. Strong partnerships between government, development partners and private sector are considered essential to achieving NSEDP goals. There must be continued support for these partnerships to improve effectiveness of ODA and technical assistance provided. Explore ethical private sector partnerships that are aligned with nutrition goals.
6. Limited funding was identified by all levels of government as a constraint to scaling up actions for nutrition and, given the current fiscal constraints, there was consensus during the panel discussion to use budget resources more efficiently; focus on delivering what is available in a timely and appropriate manner.

#### Longer term actions

1. Build evidence for how best to apply the convergent approach. Learn from existing experiences of civil society who have shown good results of convergent programming.
2. Continue to build our understanding of key behaviours and practices that influence stunting and other forms of malnutrition and develop social and behaviour change communication messages, campaigns and support interpersonal communication skills of front line workers.