



2022 Meeting with Chairs and Co-chairs of Sector Working Groups

November 16, 2022
Muong Thanh Hotel, Vientiane, Lao PDR

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE SECTOR WORKING GROUPS REVIEW

16 November 2022

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Presentation Outline



**SECTOR WORKING GROUPS -
BACKGROUND**



**SWGS REVIEW OBJECTIVES AND
SCOPE**

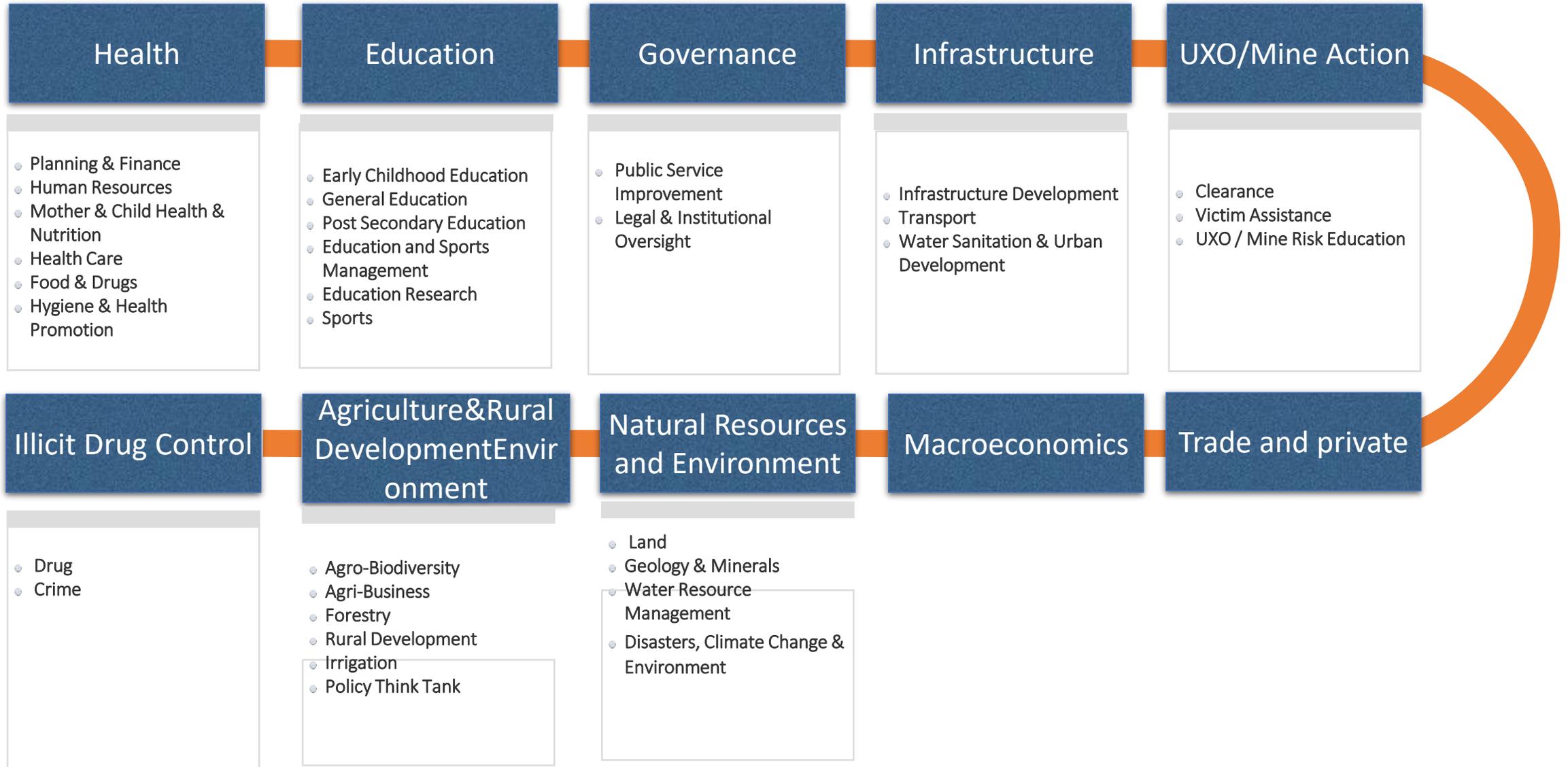


**ACTIONABLE RECOMMENDATIONS
PUT FORWARD IN THE REVIEW
REPORT**

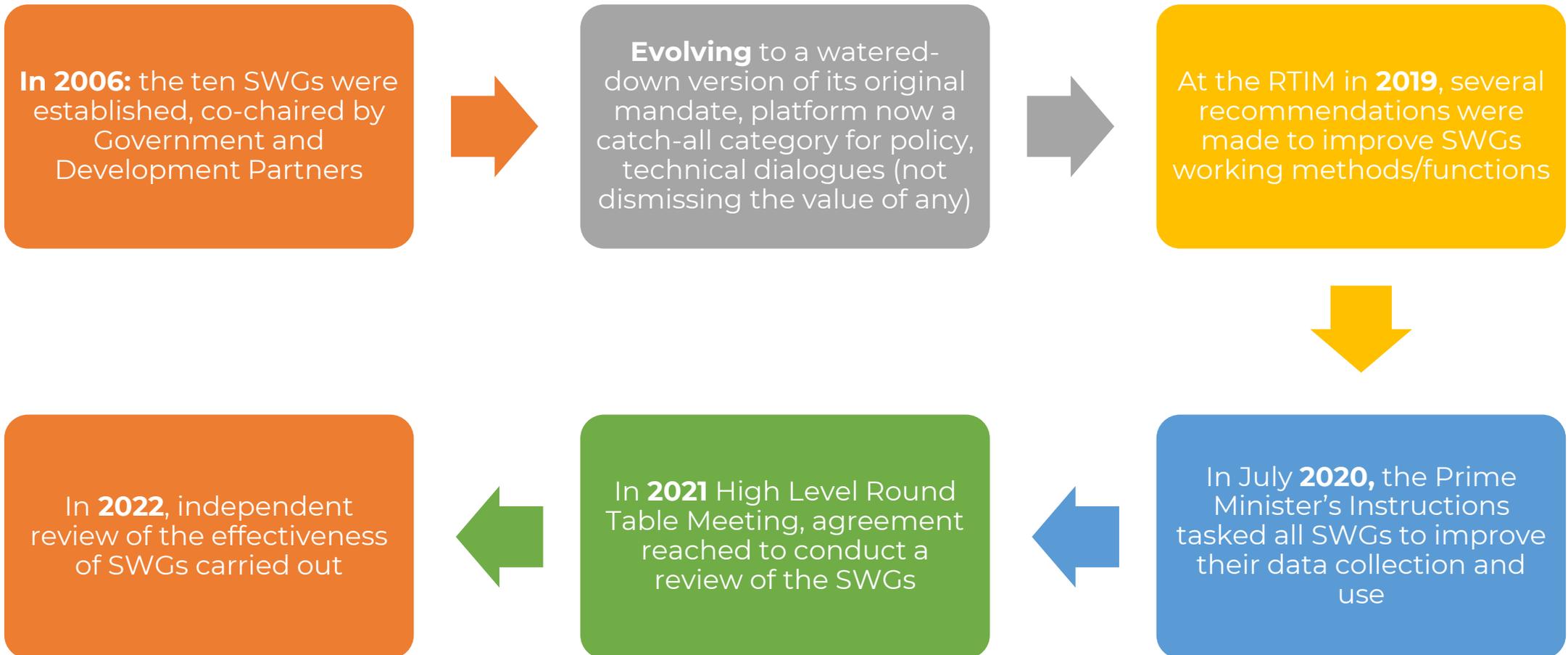
Sector Working Groups (SWGs)

- National aid architecture: RTP at the national level and SWGs at the sector level
- SWGs, serve as discussion forums, to build consensus on development priorities, and make development cooperation more effective, as set out in the Vientiane Declaration of 2015 (<https://rtm.org.la/>)
- Chaired by relevant ministry while development partners, based on their expertise, serve as Co-Chairs
- Overall coordinating agency (Secretariat): DIC, Ministry of Planning and Investment





Sector Working Groups (SWGs) - A timeline



SWG Review – Objectives and Scope

Aim

- Take stock of what has been achieved so far [with the SWGs]
- Develop recommendations on how to strengthen the benefits from SWGs for government and DPs and their contribution the NSEPD

- *What works, what does not and why?*
- *How and whether the SWGs contribute to the six pillars of the 9th National Socio-Economic Development Plan (NSEDP)*
- *Which SWGs and sub-SWGs to retain, discontinue or create and what capacities the SWGs need for them to become functionally effective?*

Actionable recommendations

- 1. Pre-condition: SWG ‘organizing work’ should be in the groups’ own interests – capacity for group to deliver value to its own members, designate roles, build the group, etc.
- 2. RTM discussion on requests for increased participation and involvement of local decision makers in SWG work: how to deliver on this expectation? One option is to ensure shadow consultations in preparation for the RTMs?
- 3. Local consultations “Provide capacity building in technical knowledge and English” so as to be able to develop/contribute to project development and accountability for results
- 4. Transparency on donor conditionalities, better communication as to who will control project resources and why

(Source: Report on Review and Assessment of Sector Working Groups, 2022)

Actionable recommendations

- 5. MPI planning priorities (consolidated planning functions with SWG secretariates) should be on the agenda in SWG meetings – but as an ask for help not an instruction.
- 6. Bring informal organizing work into the light – e.g., DPs that meet to prepare for SWGs should be encouraged to continue to do so but share good practices for replication.
- 7. Identify all project managers, M&E officers and TA in all sectors and task them with part time activities to help the sector as a whole (e.g., establishing standard reporting, following up on new ideas, advocating for participation in the SWGs).

(Source: Report on Review and Assessment of Sector Working Groups, 2022)

Actionable recommendations

- 8. Identify and keep only SWGs deemed useful and functioning (not dormant) to save everyone's time and efforts, and to make the most out of limited resources
- 9. SWGs for Governance as a platform to include discussions on issues related to vulnerable groups of the population

Source: Report on Review and Assessment of Sector Working Groups, 2022)

Potential next steps

1. Develop a roadmap for a consultative process to potentially update the SWG objectives and structure.
2. Debriefing/Retreat in Q2 2023 to discuss concrete options on a way forward
3. Meeting of the National Steering Committee on the Round Table Process – review and approve the revitalized SWG mechanism



Questions