



# **Implementation of 9<sup>th</sup> Health Sector Development Plan for the 9 months of 2024 and key directions for the year 2025**

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**Summary of the implementation of  
the 9<sup>th</sup> Health Sector Development Plan  
for the 9 months of 2024**

# Hygiene and Health Promotion

Focus on the promotion of health education to inform the public through various channels, to change behaviors and healthy lifestyles based on health principles, ensuring access to clean water and households with toilet facilities, establishing model health villages, implementing integrated initiatives in remote areas, and advancing maternal and child health services as well as nutrition.

## Outstanding achievement

- Completion of the National Immunization Day (MMI) for Measles & Rubella throughout the country: coverage rate reached 95.2%;
- Mother and Child Services::
- Prenatal examination 1 = 62.2%
- Prenatal examination 4 = 37.9%
- Postpartum examination(<2 Day) = 40.6%
- Family planning = 29.44%
- Children receive vaccines BCG= 45.5%

- Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) enables communities to become open defecation free (ODF).
- 10 Provinces (VTC, VTP, BKX, HP, CPS, SLV, SEK, BOK, ATP, XYL)
- 135 Districts
  - 8,276 Villages

### Nutrition:

- 23.8% of newborns were breastfed within the first hour after birth (estimated 55%)
- 68% of pregnant women receiving at least 90 iron-folic acid (IFA) tablets (estimated 69%)

# Prevent and control infectious diseases work

Focus on preparedness to deal with seasonal outbreaks and public health emergencies

## Outstanding achievement

- There is a surveillance system covering all provinces and districts nationwide; a surveillance system for 19 diseases/symptoms under the weekly surveillance system from the DHIS2 system;
  - There is a coordination mechanism between the center and the province to monitor information and report through the implementation of EOC, PHOEC regularly
- Continued to build the 15th field epidemiologists; currently there are 105 epidemiologists;
  - Investigated and collected samples of unusual events occurring in communities nationwide.
  - Monitored
    - Outbreaks of suspected cases of Anthrax at SLV & CPS;
    - Outbreak of suspected cases of Diphtheria at VTE & LPB;
    - Outbreak of suspected cases of Pertussis at LPB, ODX, XYL, SVK;
    - Outbreak of suspected cases of Japanese Encephalitis at LPB.
- Implemented malaria control measures:
    - Distributed anti-parasitic medication to provinces with a high incidence of malaria;
    - Established a process to eliminate mosquito breeding sites with active community involvement.
  - Continued to follow 3 measures and 2 elements in malaria control;
  - Focused on HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis control through comprehensive detection, diagnosis, and treatment.

# Healthcare and Rehabilitation

## Health facilities networks and services

### Personnel

Total: 19,316 patients (Female 12,693 patients)

### Networks

### Services

**Vientiane Capital:**  
5 Center hospitals, 4 Specialized treatment centers (Completion of the construction of the new Mahosot hospital)

3,487 patients (18 %)

Featuring state-of-the-art facilities and treatments, including heart and brain surgery, orthopedics, kidney disease management, MRI technology, a cancer treatment center, and specialized eye care

**Provincial:**  
17 provincial hospitals (Completion of the construction of HP, XKH, XSB hospital)

4,785 patients (24.76 %)

Treatment of 5 medicine areas (internal, general surgery, pediatrics, gynecology, anesthesia) including major surgery capacity

**District:**  
135 district hospitals; type A (with surgery capacity) 35 hospitals

7,128 patients (36.9 %)

Disease examination, diagnosis, treatment according to technical standards at the district level, ensuring referrals for obstetrics and general surgery

**Health Center:**  
1,080 centers

3,916 patients (19.9 %)

Disease prevention, health promotion, health services with diagnosis, treatment according to technical standards

# Consumer protection for food, medicine and medical products

Focus on ensuring the safety and quality of food, medicine and medical products that are produced, imported, and distributed in the market, ensuring the supply of medicine and medical equipment to various health facilities

## Outstanding achievement

- 7 factories have been certified by Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP);
  - 45 Food factories were certified GMP/HACCP & ISO 22000 International Standards;
  - Accredited with ISO/IEC 17025 International Standard for Microbial Food Research in drinking water and 6 types of Disease species;
  - Prepared for WHO PQ certification: 70% (80% expected).
- Completed the update of the National Essential Medicine List and traditional medicine categories;
  - Presented the (draft) Law on Natural Medicinal Resources to the 7th Ordinary Session of the National Assembly Series IX;
  - Endorsed the National Strategy on Traditional Medicine in 2024-2030.
- Monitored drugs, addictive substances, psychoactive substances and chemistry;
  - Promoted domestic production to produce food, medicine & medical products to meet domestic demand and export a certain amount.

# Human Resources Management and Development and Health Sciences Research

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- Completed the dissemination of the HRH Development Strategy by 2030 nationwide.
- Conducted training on the use of database system for civil servants, imported from the PIMSv2 into the DHIS2 in 12 provinces
- Recruited new civil servants nationwide in 2024, with a total of 221 people (135 women):
  - Central level: 20 people, 16 women (9.05%);
  - Provincial level: 46 people, 26 women (20.8%);
  - District level: 62 people, 39 women (42.08%);
  - Health center level: 93 people, 80 women (86.02%);
- Total number of attrition in various types: 459 people (including 261 retired people, 100 resigned people);
- Successfully accepted 226 students including employees who continue their studies to enter health education institutions in the country;
- Civil servants who completed their bridging studies & returned to their related departments:
  - Graduated domestically: 25 specialists Level 1, 126 Bachelors degree, 36 high diploma (bridging program);
  - Graduated abroad: 1 specialist Level 2, 4 people with PhD.
- Upgraded two public health education facilities to become public health schools (Attapeu and Saravanh)
- Completed 19 scientific research projects and 1 research proposal on the concept ideology of former leader Kaisone Phomvihane.

# Planning and finance

Focus on the planning and financial management of the public health sector to ensure the successful implementation of public health development at each phase.

- Summarized public health plans and created budgets for each phase to report to the government.
- Revised the budget for the last 6 months of 2024 to align with implementation plans.
- Summarized the budget implementation at the closure of the State Budget.
- Summarized the budget expenditures for the 9 months of 2024
- Monitored financial implementation and management across all budgetary units at both the central and local levels.

- Improved and developed legislation and tools for health financial management, including the completion of the Health Sector Public Financial Management (PFM) guidelines and training on the guidelines' content in 18 provinces nationwide.
- Completed the development of guidelines for ODA;
- Focused on managing the implementation of projects/activities using the state budget and ODA.
- Completed the draft National Health Accounts Report for 2022.
- Assessed the financial situation of 3 autonomous hospitals to derive lessons and plan to expand to central and provincial hospitals.

# Planning and Finance

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## ***Management of the National Health Insurance system:***

- Transferred the health insurance budget approved by the government for 2024 to provinces nationwide, with 96% of the total approved budget implemented.
- [Piloted the use of the E-Claim system, completing 3 modules \(member registration, service use, and personal information verification\) in select provinces.](#)
- Monitored and inspected the use of the health insurance budget transferred to provinces nationwide in the past year, with inspections and evaluations completed in 7 provinces so far.
- [Completed the 2024 \(4th\) Strengthening and Lessons Learned Meeting with Provincial Health Insurance Offices and Service Facilities nationwide.](#)
- Coordinated with the National Social Security Fund to review contracts with health facilities and revise Recommendation 0476.
- [Completed the development of the National Health Insurance Bureau website to provide information and verify the eligibility of fund members.](#)
- Held a consultation meeting on collecting data on medical supplies and equipment from social security members who used services at the central hospitals, and implemented Agreement No. 0230/HHS, dated 29/03/2017.
- [Organized a meeting of the Central Health Insurance Fund Management Committee and relevant parties to improve the co-payment policy for eligible individuals when using services, and completed a meeting on improving reimbursement rates and co-payment policies.](#)

# Governance, Management and Inspection

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- Summarized the health cooperation between Lao PDR and neighboring countries.
- Promoted disease prevention, treatment services, communicable disease control, and the development of health services at both the central and local levels through various media channels. This included producing 72 television programs, 150 radio programs, and publishing 900 news and information bulletins, resulting in a total of 112 news items.
- Held a consultation meeting on the implementation of support for victims of violence.
- Approved a draft guideline on integrating gender equality and community engagement into the health sector, in collaboration with relevant sectors at central level.
- Completed the creation and revision of laws as planned; the health sector now has 12 active laws.

# The progress of National Assembly 11 indicators for 9 months of 2024

No	Indicators	2024			Sources
		Goal	2024 9 months	Estimate	
1	Rate of children under 5 years old with low birth weight (%)	16	24.3	There is a trend of not meeting expectations	LSIS III
2	Rate of children under 5 years old with substandard height (%)	28	32.8	There is a trend of not meeting expectations	LSIS III
3	Mortality rate of children under 1 year (/1,000 live births)	22	6.77	Expectations have been met	DHIS2 System
4	Mortality rate of children under- 5 years old (/1,000 live births)	32	7.81	Expectations have been met	
5	Maternal mortality rate (/100,000 live births)	120	36.24	Expectations have been met	
6	Proportion of deliveries attended by skilled birth attendants (%)	84	60.33	There is a trend of not meeting expectations	
7	Penta3 vaccine usage rate (%)	95	64.87	There is a trend of not meeting expectations	Relevant departments
8	Clean water consumption rate (%)	94	94.41	Expectations have been met	
9	Household toilet usage rate (%)	84	97.13	Expectations have been met	
10	National Health Insurance coverage rate (%)	94.5	94.5	Expectations have been met	
11	Rate of approval for a model health village (%)	84	92.03	Expectations have been met	

# Implementation of the state budget plan in the first nine months of 2024

The revised budget plan for the health sector by the end of 2024 (including central + local, state + ODA) = 3,402.38 billion kip. The details are:

- Regular budget = 1,396.31 billion kip
- Budget from service fees = 793.31 billion kip
- ODA = 1,136.98 billion kip

Progress in budget implementation, especially at the central level, from 1/1/2024 to 30/9/2024

No	Content	Improvement plan at the end of the year	Approval	Implemented	% the Improvement plan at the end of the year	% approval
I	<b>Regular budget and service charges</b>	<b>1,171.99</b>	<b>989.05</b>	<b>560.09</b>	<b>47.79%</b>	<b>56.63%</b>
1.1	Regular budget	592.48	489.08	318,96	53.84%	65.22%
1.2	Service budget	579.50	499.97	241.12	41.61%	48.23%
II	<b>ODA</b>	<b>1,136.98</b>		<b>643.82</b>	<b>47%</b>	

# Key challenges

1. There have been outbreaks of dengue and other diseases in the provinces, and natural disasters such as floods, which affected infrastructure, medicine supply, and medical devices in many areas, creating significant difficulties and challenges for the health sector.
2. Despite efforts to resolve debts related to the procurement of medicines and medical devices, these issues remain unresolved.
3. The number and quality of human resources for health remain limited, particularly in district hospitals and health centers. Moreover, several civil servants have resigned, further reducing the workforce at both central and local levels.
4. The implementation of the '5 Good 1 Satisfactory' policy to enhance service quality at health facilities is still insufficient and has not yet been formalized.
5. Integrated planning between the government and development partners, including the implementation of priority tasks to achieve various goals at both central and local levels, has not yet reached its full effectiveness.

# **Key directions for the year 2025**

## **(Key Priorities and Budget Requirements)**

# Targets for 2025

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- 1) Reduce the prevalence of underweight in children under five years old to **15%** of the target population.
- 2) Reduce the prevalence of stunting among children under five years old to **27%** of the target population.
- 3) Decrease the infant mortality rate to **20** per 1,000 live births.
- 4) Reduce the mortality rate of children under five years old to **30** per 1,000 live births.
- 5) Decrease the maternal mortality rate to **110** per 100,000 live births.
- 6) Achieve **85%** in the proportion of deliveries by skilled birth attendants.
- 7) Achieve **95%** in the proportion of pentavalent 3 vaccination in children under one-year-old.
- 8) Ensure **95%** of the total population has access to clean water.
- 9) Achieve **85%** household coverage for proper sanitation facilities.
- 10) Achieve **94.5%** for the National Health insurance coverage.
- 11) Certify **85%** of villages as a model health village that meet health standards.

# Hygiene and Health Promotion

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Continue to implement the national strategy and action plan for integrated services in reproductive, maternal, newborn, and child health and nutrition, with a focus on provinces, districts, and health centers where technical, budgetary, and logistical challenges persist. Efforts will also include mobilizing the active participation of local authorities and communities to address these challenges and ensure more effective service delivery;

Mobilize communities to actively participate in health initiatives by strengthening the role of village health volunteers and village health committees. These efforts will support the establishment of model health villages as a genuine community-led effort;

Further expand the integration of the CONNECT approach into routine health activities to enhance the coverage rates of vaccinations and deliveries by skilled birth attendants.

# Prevention and Control of Communicable Diseases

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Continue to prioritize the enhancement of capacity for monitoring, surveillance, risk assessment and response to health emergencies efficiently and effectively;

Strengthen activities at cross-border areas, and improve analytical and epidemiological work at all levels;

Continue the development of field epidemiologists in line with established objectives. Maintain preparations for eradicating diseases identified as public health concerns, such as *Schistosomiasis* by 2025. Ensure the continued control and accessibility of treatment services for tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS, STDs, and malaria.

# Healthcare and Rehabilitation

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Continue to improve the quality of services in health facilities at various levels according to the policies and standards set by the Ministry of Health by upgrading the infrastructure to meet the required standards, including medicines and necessary medical equipment. Improve services in line with the 5G1S policy to achieve practical outcomes and success;

Continue the evaluation of the pilot program aimed at converting three hospitals into autonomous hospitals and expand this initiative to other hospitals that demonstrate readiness to enhance financial management and reduce reliance on government funding;

Strengthen the referral system for patients and reduce the burden of non-communicable diseases by improving the management of hospitals and clinics following established regulations.

# Consumer Protection for Food, Medicine, and Medical Products

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Continue to develop the Law on Natural Medicinal Resources. Enhance quality monitoring and safety oversight of food, medicine, and medical products, from importation, production, and distribution;

Uphold ISO 17025 standards within the National Food and Drug Testing Center. Continue to develop the center to achieve quality standards certified by the World Health Organization (WHO-PQ). Enhance and advance the provincial testing units to perform basic quality testing of food and medicine;

Improve the medicine supply system at each level to align with legal standards, ensuring consistency and transparency. Develop and implement a modern IT system for licensing tasks.

# Human Resources Management and Development and Health Sciences Research

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Continue to manage and implement policies for health personnel, improving the organizational structure for greater efficiency;

Focus on monitoring and promoting the use of systems for accurate information/data collection for civil servants, contract employees, and volunteers;

Develop an annual recruitment plan for new civil servants, and create annual staffing reports disaggregated by gender, ethnicity, and remote areas, emphasizing increasing the proportion of qualified doctors, nurses, and midwives in health facilities;

Establish a detailed staffing needs assessment for specialists in hospitals at each level and prioritize training programs, both short-term and long-term, locally and internationally.

# Planning and Finance

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Enhance tools, guidelines, and training to build capacity in developing health plans, monitoring, promoting, and evaluating work plans and financial activities for improving accountability at all levels;

Increase leadership in collaboration and coordination with all sectors at the national and sub-national levels, as well as with development partners and private sector stakeholders, to create integrated health development plans with high quality at both national and sub-national levels;

Focus on improving and managing the implementation of the National Health Insurance to enhance efficiency and achieve better outcomes;

Establish conditions and autonomous mechanisms for specific national and provincial hospitals. Focus on efficient management of projects and activities funded by the government budget and Official Development Assistance (ODA) to maximize efficiency, effectiveness, and benefits.

# Governance, Management, and Inspection

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Continue to strengthen the implementation of the National Health Sector Reform Strategy with resilience. Improve management mechanisms through one-stop system and strategic work planning, and reduce multiple levels of complexity by incorporating IT in administration and management;

Review cooperation agreements with neighboring countries and development partners, and enhance the effective management of international organizations and non-governmental organizations (NGOs, INGOs) to ensure increasing efficiency;

Promote gender equality by implementing the “Gender and Maternal-Child Health Equality Strategy (2019-2025)” within the health sector.

# Budgetary Requirement (Government+ODA)

Program	Total		Government		ODA	
	Budgets (Kip)	Activities	Budgets (Kip)	Activities	Budgets (Kip)	Activities
Hygiene and Health Promotion	122,770,500,000	141	114,923,000,000	133	7,847,500,000	8
Prevention and Control of Communicable Diseases	275,366,634,209	305	126,705,648,536	203	148,660,985,673	102
Healthcare and Rehabilitation	2,854,435,763,613	202	1,006,667,890,000	188	467,767,873,613	14
Consumer Protection for Food, Medicine and Medical Products	43,079,153,768	166	31,909,153,768	121	11,170,000,000	45
Human Resources Management and Development and Health Sciences Research	922,309,241,261	491	896,477,020,261	448	25,832,221,000	43
Planning and Finance	441,754,880,501	115	416,082,767,800	35	25,672,112,701	80
Governance, Management and Inspection	17,291,783,839	103	16,891,783,839	102	400,000,000	1
<b>Overall</b>	<b>3,297,007,957,191</b>	<b>1,523</b>	<b>2,609,657,264,204</b>	<b>1,230</b>	<b>687,350,692,987</b>	<b>293</b>

**Thank you**