

Summary Report

Implementation of the 9th Health Sector Development Plan for the nine months of 2024 and the key direction for the year 2025

I. Summary of the implementation of the 9th Health Sector Development Plan for the nine months of 2024

The implementation of the 9th Health Sector Development Plan in 2024 focuses on achieving the sector's goals by ensuring the provision of comprehensive, high-quality, and equitable healthcare services, which contribute to the health and well-being of the entire population. During the nine months of 2024, the progress of its implementation, according to the Ministry of Health's seven programs, can be summarized as follows:

1. The key achievements during the first nine months of 2024

1) Hygiene and Health Promotion

This program focused on providing health education and raising awareness among populations through various channels to change behaviors and promote healthy lifestyles based on health principles. The program also covers providing clean water, promoting the use of household toilets, creating model health villages, outreach activities in remote areas, and enhancing maternal and child health services and nutrition efforts. The following key results were achieved in the first nine months of 2024:

- Maternal and child health services: 62.2% of pregnant women received the first antenatal check-up, 37.9% completed four antenatal check-ups, 40.6% received postnatal care within two days after birth, 29.4% accessed family planning services, and 45.5% of children were vaccinated with the BCG vaccine;
- Organized a technical meeting with the Gavi team and other development partners to discuss the draft strategy for improving vaccination rates in urban areas with low coverage. Additionally, the draft strategy for vaccination efforts in urban areas was completed, and updates were made to the strategies for both fixed sites and mobile vaccination services;
- Organized a multisectoral coordination meeting to prepare for the cervical cancer vaccination campaign targeting 10-years-olds in schools and communities.
- Organized a meeting to clarify the legislation under the Law on Compensation for Disability or Death Due to Adverse Effects Following Vaccinations for the Minister of Health at Don Chanh Palace hotel;
- As of September 2024, the community-led sanitation work announced ending open defecation in 10 provinces (VTC, VTP, BKK, HP, CPS, SLV, SEK, BOK, ATP, XYL), covering 135 districts and 8,276 villages;
- Implementing nutrition activities: As of September 2024, 23.8% of newborns were breastfed within the first hour of birth (target: 55%), and 68% of pregnant women received at least 90 iron-folic acid (IFA) at least 90 tablets (target: 69%). Moreover, the Second Human Capital Summit 2024 for Lao PDR and the National Nutrition Committee Meeting in June 2024 were successfully completed.

2) Prevention and Control of Communicable Disease

- Focused on the preparation for and response to seasonal disease outbreaks and health emergencies by establishing a surveillance network covering all provinces and districts nationwide. This includes a surveillance system for 19 diseases/symptoms under the weekly surveillance system through the DHIS2 system, as well as a coordination mechanism between the central and provincial levels to oversee information and reporting via the regular operation of the Emergency Operation Center (EOC, PHOEC);
- Focused on strengthening the surveillance system by further developing the 15th Field Epidemiology unit, which currently has 105 epidemiologists. And also the program organized a consultation meeting to draft guidelines for community rabies surveillance and a meeting to develop guidelines for the implementation of public health emergency management in Lao PDR;
- Monitored and conducted surveillance of disease outbreak statuses by conducting surveys and collecting samples of any abnormal cases occurring in communities and nationwide. This includes outbreaks of suspected anthrax fever in Salavanh and Champasack provinces, suspected diphtheria cases in Vientiane Capital and Luang Prabang province, suspected diphtheria cases in Luang Prabang, Oudomxay, Xayaburi, and Savannakhet provinces, and suspected Japanese encephalitis cases in Luang Prabang province;
- Continued implementing three measures and two components to control malaria by enhancing access to early diagnosis and effective treatment in villages within Zones 3-4 and the private sector (PPM); distributed long-lasting insecticide-treated mosquito nets to groups at-risk and actively engaged with the communities through campaigns with a focus on malaria prevention measures. Data from the DHIS2 system for January to August 2023 and 2024 shows an overall decrease in malaria cases by 62%, including a 26% reduction in P.f cases and a 52% reduction in P. v cases;
- Focused on HIV/AIDS prevention efforts, which currently include 196 voluntary HIV blood test counseling sites, 11 ARV treatment centers, and 13 HIV drug service points to improve access to treatment. From January to May 2024, a total of 4,674 cases were diagnosed with sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), with 226 tested for HIV, resulting in 6 positive HIV cases;
- Research was conducted for TB patients in the following provinces: Oudomxay province with 1,346 participants, 339 cases registered for treatment; Xayaboury province with 1,014 participants, 59 cases registered for treatment; Vientiane province with 1,949 participants, 126 cases registered for treatment; and Khammouane province with 372 participants, 29 cases registered for treatment;
- Completed training on tuberculosis control for tuberculosis focal points at provincial, district levels in Xiengkhouang province.

3) Healthcare and Rehabilitation

This program focused on improving and enhancing the quality of healthcare service provision to the people of various ethnic groups by improving the infrastructure of hospitals at various levels to meet the quality standard set by the Ministry of Health, contributing essential medicine and medical products, improving services according to the policy of 5 Good 1 Satisfaction during the first 9 months of 2024. The key achievements are as follows:

- Continued improving the infrastructure both at the national and subnational levels by continuing the construction of the Mahosot Hospital in Phase II (100% completed), following up on the construction of provincial and district hospitals and health centers as planned;

- For the healthcare service system from the central to the local levels, currently there are 5 central hospitals, 4 specialized centers, 17 provincial hospitals, 135 district hospitals, of which 35 type A district hospitals (including 3 provinces for emergency surgery service: Longxan, Taoi and Dakcheunng district hospitals), 30 blood banks at the district hospital levels, 1,080 health centers;
- Developed the quality and standards of healthcare services by completing the annual meeting in 2024 of the 5 Goods 1 Satisfaction nationwide; completed the data analysis in the assessment tool for the quality of healthcare services on 5 Goods 1 Satisfaction at the district hospital level;
- Completed trainings to transform the hospitals into independent hospitals in 8 provinces (Udomxay, Luang Prabang, Savannakhet, Champasak, Xiengkhouang, Vientiane, Khammouan and Borikhamxay provincial hospitals);
- Focused on private sector services management by completing the drafting of legislation on the agreement with private hospitals and private clinics, guidelines on the implementation of the decree on private hospitals 1333/MOH, and regulation on the operation of private clinics no. 576/MOH; reviewed the 560 application forms for running the private clinics (there were 415 application forms in the provinces, 145 in Vientiane Capital) and 65 for private clinic licenses (32 in the provinces, 33 in Vientiane Capital);
- Focused on supply of medical products and ambulance for transporting patients to the hospitals by providing the two surgery tables to the hospital in Samtay district hospital, Hua Phan Province; the Gene Expert machine to Borikhamxay Provincial Hospital; 250 folding hospital beds to the military hospital in Xayabuli district, Pak Lai district hospital and Hongsa District Hospital, Xayabuli Province; the one ECG to Huaphan provincial hospital; distributed 50 pulse oximeters to target hospitals;
- Completed document preparation for the handover ceremony of medical equipment to in the Newborns ICU department (NICU) of Mahosot hospital, Savannakhet and Khammouan provincial hospitals supported by UNICEF;
- The multisectoral Policy on Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases was disseminated to increase awareness of the harmful effects of medicine use in communities and schools in 9 districts in Vientiane Capital, 5 districts hospitals in Vientiane Province and 3 district hospitals in Khammouan Province, with total of 3,400 participants; completed a consultation meeting on treatment and rehabilitation of the drug addicts through community engagement and a meeting to recommend the prevention of substance abuse guideline in Vientiane Capital;
- Revised the SOP of the healthcare facilities, such as the standards for provincial, district hospitals and health centers;
- Completed updating the health insurance indicator in the quality assessment card in the HANSA II Quality Performance Score (QPS).

4) Consumer Protection for Food, Medicine and Medical Products

This program focused 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 products to health facilities by implementing the following works:

- Focused on monitoring, surveillance and resolving the violations of online advertisements of false claims through fake names or other means that are misleading to consumers;
- Strengthened and promoted domestic production of food, medicine and medical products production by complying with the Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) which can be distributed to meet domestic demand and exported to other countries. Currently, seven factories have been certified based on the principles of GMP; 45 food factories received GMP/HACCP certificate and ISO 22000;
- Completed the revision of the National Essential Medicine List, Chapters 25, 26, 27 and traditional medicine;
- Focused on promoting the use of traditional medicine with the modern drugs in treatment, including traditional medicine in the National Essential Medicine List;
- Focused on the development of food and medicine research by obtaining the certification of the ISO/IEC 17025 on testing of the microorganisms in drinking water and food with 6 types of pathogens; preparedness to comply with the WHO PQ certification: 70% (expected 80%); received samples (pharmaceuticals, traditional medicines, cosmetics and medical products) in total 469 samples, completed research on 279 samples; medicine samples, a total of 2,481 samples received with 100% completed testing;
- Monitored narcotics control, addictive substances, psychoactive substances and chemical agents according to the Regulation on Narcotic, Control Chemise, Precursor regulation, No. 456/KSC, dated on April 19, 2006;
- Developed the supply chain for medicine and medical products by distributing the general items by 283 times with 10,910 boxes;
- Conducted monitoring and inspection for 19 food and beverage factories and five mini markets in Vientiane Capital; inspected 23 pharmacies in Vientiane Capital; statistics for inspection of food and medicine imported in three international border checkpoints (Wattay international airport, Tha Bok, Thanaleng border checkpoints) by 256 times, with 4,909 items, weight 42,828,944 (Kg), value 28,223,879 (US\$).
- Presented the draft of the Law on Natural Medicinal Resources in the 7th Ordinary Session of the IX National Assembly on 20 June 2024; developed, revised and completed nine Regulations of the Law;
- Endorsed the National Strategy on Traditional Medicine in 2024-2030;
- Supported and monitored the food safety for the ASEAN+3 Task Force and ATF 2024 Secretariat in Vientiane Capital and Luang Prabang Province and other meetings hosted by the Government of Lao PDR.

5) Human Resources for Health Management and Development and Health Sciences Research

- Completed review and analyzed the role and responsibilities of the MOH's departments; currently, 26 sections have been completed, accounting for 60% of MOH; completed development of job descriptions in 22 sections, equal to 51% of all departments in the MOH (43 sections/departments);
- Have completed dissemination of the Human Resources for Health Development Strategy by 2030 in Lao PDR in 18 provinces across the country; completed training on the use of the health-civil servant database from the PIMSv2 into the DHIS2 system in 12 provinces;

- Currently, total health workforce in the Ministry of Health is 19,316 civil servants (12,693 women), including 366 teacher civil servants (217 women). At central level, there are 3,487 staff (2,344 women). At provincial health department's sectors, there are 1,537 civil servants (839 women). At provincial hospitals, there are 2,895 civil servants (2,151 women). At district level, there are 7,128 civil servants (4,480 women). At health centers level, there are 3,860 civil servants (2,614 women). At village level, there are 56 civil servants (28 women);
- Total recruitment of new civil servants nationwide in 2024 was 221 people (135 women), deployed at central level 20 people (16 women, 9.05%), provincial level 46 people (26 women, 20.8%), district level 62 people (39 women, 42.08%) and health center level 93 people (80 women, 86.02%);
- The total number of attritions in various types so far was 459 people including 261 retired people (at central level: 35 people; at sub-national level: 212 people) and 100 resigned people;
- Successfully accepted 226 students including employees and students to enter health education institutions in the country. The number of civil servants who have completed their continuing education and returned to their own department includes 25 specialist level 1, and 126 bachelors degree, 36 high diploma (bridging program) and graduated abroad, 1 specialist level 2, and 4 people with PhD.
- Health education reform: conducted meetings and accredited curriculums of high diploma nurse and medicine, provided short-course training program (nurse delivering instruments, anesthesia and surgeon); implemented teaching/learning of the master's course/program in tropical medicine and international public health for students of the 23rd batch (2nd year) and 24th batch (1st year); completed the agreement on continuing professional development (CPD) system No. 355/MOH, dated 25 April 2023; Upgraded 2 public health education facilities to public health schools (Attapeu and Saravan);
- Successfully assessed the quality accreditation of public health education at Vientiane Public Health School;
- Completed 19 scientific research projects and 1 proposal research on the concept ideology of former leader Kaisone Phommvihana.

6) Planning and Finance

- Focused and supported the planning and finance work of health sector with high responsibility to ensure the implementation of the health sector development plan to be completed and achieve the goals as planned in each period; completed the draft of the 10th Five-Year Health Sector Development Plan (2026-2030) by setting the target indicators, prioritized activities and draft sub-programs and projects according to the MOH's plan; completed the mid-term budget plan 2025-2027 and submitted to the Ministry of Finance for the budget needs to implement the activities in that period; completed the budget adjustment/revision for the last 6 months of 2024; completed the report of revenue-expenditure, cash balance at the end of fiscal year and summary budget implementation at the closure of the State Budget for 2023; monitored and supervised the implementation of financial management among central and sub-national budget units, summarized the expenditure for Q1, Q2, and Q3 of 2024; conducted data collection of family folder for 2024 in 4 target provinces (Udomxay, Vientiane province, Sayabuly and Champasack province);
- Improved and developed legislations and modern tools for health financing management; completed the Health Sector Public Financial Management guideline (PFM) and completed/provided trainings on this guideline to 18 provinces nationwide;

- Supported and managed the implementation of projects/activities that use the government budget and ODA by completing the 6 months of ODA implementation report 2024 for both central and sub-national level; completed the ODA Management guideline, expected to be printed and disseminated soon; completed the closure of HANSA I project and officially launched the HANSA II project and the Service Quality Improvement project by ADB loans and grants;
- Completed the draft National Health Accounts Annual Report for 2022; conducted the assessment on financial status in 3 hospitals autonomy for lesson learned, feedback and plan to expand it to central and provincial hospitals;
- Supported and managed the National Health Insurance (NHI) scheme, and completed key tasks as below:
 - o Completed transferring the NHI budget approved by the government for 2024 to all provinces at 96% of the total approved budget; piloted the NHI E-Claim system through 3 modules (member registration, service utilization, data check) in some provinces;
 - o Monitored and supervised the use of NHI budget that was transferred to all provinces in the past year, currently, the team has already completed the monitoring and evaluation in 7 provinces;
 - o Completed organizing meetings on Strengthening and Lessons Learned with Provincial Health Insurance Offices and health facilities in 2024 (the 4th meeting);
 - o Cooperated with the National Social Security Fund (NSSF) to review contracts with health facilities and the NHI guideline No. 0476 (revised version);
 - o Completed the development of the National Health Insurance Bureau (NHIB) website to provide information and check the eligibility of members;
 - o Completed consultation meeting on fees/services charge on medicines and medical equipment of NSSF's members who used services at central hospitals and the implementation of contract No. 0230/NHIB, dated 29/03/2017;
 - o Conducted the central National Health Insurance Management Committee meeting and concerned stakeholders on the revision of co-payment policy for those who can afford to pay when using services, and completed the meeting on the adjustment of reimbursement rate and co-payment policy;

7) Governance, Management and Inspection

- Completed annual national health congress year 2023 in Huaphan province;
- Emphasized coordination among central-sub national levels and DPs, and friendship countries which completed the report on health cooperation between Lao PDR and friendship countries;
- Succeeded in dissemination of the document on strengthening administrative official documents of the Ministry of Health for southern provinces;
- Dissemination of advertisements for disease prevention, treatment services, infectious disease control and development of the health sector from central and sub-national through various media channels that produced 72 TV programs, 150 radio programs, 900 press releases and announcements, 112 news collections in total;
- Strengthened the empowerment of women, mothers and children by completing a meeting to discuss the implementation of work to help victims of violence; approved the draft of the manual gender mainstreaming in the health sector and community engagement in the health sector in collaboration with the related sectors at central level.

2. Progress of National Assembly 11 indicators of the health sector in the first 9 months of 2024

a. 4 indicators were achieved

1. Clean water consumption rate in the 9 months of 2024 is 94.41% of the total population (target: 94%);
2. The households use rate of latrine in the 9 months of 2024 is 97.13% (target: 84%);
3. The Nealth Health Insurance coverage as of September 2024 is 94.5% of the total population (target: 94.5%).
4. Certification of the model health village as of September 2024 is 92.03% of the total number of villages (target: 84%).

b. 3 indicators that potentially will achieve the targets

1. Under 1 mortality rate in the 9 months of 2024 is 6.77/1,000 live births (target: 22/1,000) ;
2. Under 5 mortality rate in the 9 months of 2024 is 7.81/1,000 live births (target: 32/1,000);
3. Maternal mortality rate in the 9 months of 2024 is 36.24/100,000 live births (target: 120/100,000).

c . 4 Indicators that potentially will not achieve the targets

1. Rate of underweight among children under 5 years of age is 24.3% (according to the results of LSIS III), compared to the targeted year 2024 of 16% of the target population;
2. Stunting (high for age) among children under 5 years of age is 32.8% (according to the results of LSIS III), compared to the 2024 target of 28% of the target population;
3. Delivery attended by skilled birth attendants in the 9 months of 2024 reaching 60.33% of the target population (target: 84%);
4. PENTA 3 coverage in the 9 months of 2024 reaching 64.87% of the target population (target: 95%).

II. Implementation of the state budget plan in the first 9 months of 2024

According to the budget adjustment/revision for the end of 2024 from Ministry of Finance and budget approval of government investment plan from Ministry of Planning and Investment, in 2024, the health sector (including central and sub-national levels and government budget and ODA) will receive a total budget of 3,402.38 billion kip, of which the regular budget was 1,396.31 billion kip, budget from technical revenue 793.31 billion kip and from ODA 1,136.98 billion kip.

1. The budget implementation of the health sector in the 9 months of 2024, including central and sub-national levels

- ❖ The implementation of the regular budget expenditure and total technical revenue is at 1,324.33 billion kip; compared to the adjusted/ revised plan for the whole year, this is equal to 58.46%; compared to the approved plan, it is 75.15%.

2. The budget implementation of the health sector in the 9 months of 2024 at central level

- ❖ The implementation of the overall budget of the central level (Ministry of Health) can be summarized: the implementation of regular budget expenditure and total technical revenue (service fees) at 560.09 billion kip; compared to the whole year adjusted/revision plan, it is equivalent to 47.79%; compared to the approved plan, it is 56.63%;
- ❖ The implementation of regular budget expenditure could be implemented at 318.69 billion kip; compared to the adjusted/revision plan for the whole year, it is equivalent to 53.84%; compared to the approved plan, it is 65.22%;
- ❖ The implementation of technical revenue (services fees) expenditure could be implemented at 241.12 billion kip; compared to the adjusted/revision plan for the whole year, it is 41.61%; compared to the approved plan, it is 48.23%;
- ❖ The implementation of ODA budget in the first 9 months of 2024 could be implemented at 643.82 billion kip; compared to the annual plan, it is 57%, of which the loan budget was implemented at 247.45 billion kip, equivalent to 74%; grants budget could be implementation at 396.37 billion kip, equivalent to 49.38% of the annual plan.

III. Key challenges

The implementation of health initiatives over the first 9 months of 2024 has encountered several difficulties and challenges, as outlined below:

- 1) Outbreaks of dengue and other diseases have emerged in various provinces, compounded by natural disasters such as flooding. These events have significantly affected infrastructure, medical supplies, and medical equipment in many provinces, leading to substantial challenges for the health sector.
- 2) Despite efforts to address outstanding debts related to the procurement of medicines and medical equipment, the issue remains unresolved.
- 3) Human resources for health continue to face limitations in both quantity and quality, particularly in district hospitals and health centers. Additionally, many employees have resigned from government service, reducing the number of health personnel at both central and local levels.
- 4) The implementation of the 5 Goods and 1 Satisfaction (5G1S) policy aimed at improving the quality of health services remains suboptimal and lacks practical effectiveness.
- 5) Integrated planning between the government and development partners, including the development of priority tasks to achieve key goals at national and sub-national levels, has not yet been fully effective.

IV. Key Directions of the Health Sector Development Plan for the year 2025

1. Targets

- 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 attended 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% in the National Health Insurance coverage.
- 11) Certify 85% of villages as a model health village that meet health standards.

2. Key Priorities

To ensure improved quality of health services and meet the key objectives set by the health sector for 2025, the Ministry of Health will focus on implementing priority activities aligned with the strategic plan, including the following:

1) Hygiene and Health Promotion

- 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 barriers 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 public 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 medically assisted childbirth.

2) Prevention and Control of Communicable Diseases

- 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.

3) Healthcare and Rehabilitation

- 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 problems of non-communicable diseases by improving the management of hospitals and clinics following established regulations.

4) Consumer Protection for Food, Medicine, and Medical Products

- Continue to develop the Law on Natural Medicinal Resources, and refine the associated regulations, manuals, and procedural guidelines for licensing, making them concise, comprehensive, and aligned with current standards;
- Enhance quality monitoring and safety oversight of food, drug, and medical products, from importation, production, and distribution, to restrict the import of non-compliant or substandard food, medicine, and medical products. 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 drugs;
- Improve the drug supply system at each level to align with legal standards, ensuring consistency and transparency. Develop and implement a modern IT system for licensing tasks, including registration, import-export, transit of food, drugs, medical products, as well as cosmetics, chemicals controlled, and psychoactive substances to be a modern IT system.

5) Human Resources for Health Management and Development and Health Sciences Research

- 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.

6) Planning and Finance

- Enhance tools, guidelines, and training to build capacity in developing health plans, monitoring, encouraging, and evaluating work plans and financial activities for 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;
- Establish conditions and autonomous mechanisms for selected 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 benefit;
- Pay attention to the effective and responsible management of government assets;
- Focus on improving and managing the implementation of the National Health Insurance to enhance efficiency and achieve better outcomes.

7) Governance, Management, and Inspection:

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

V. Estimated Budget Requirements for 2025

The 9th Health Sector Development Plan for 2025 estimates a total budget requirement to be at 3,297 billion kip. Of this amount, the government budget requirement will be 2,609 billion kip, while the estimated Official Development Assistance (ODA) funding will be 687 billion kip. These figures represent the projected budget needs according to the Ministry of Health planning framework (Sections 62-67).

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
Overall	3,297,007,957,191	1,523	2,609,657,264,204	1,230	687,350,692,987	293

VI. Recommendation

Recommend that development partners continue to support the health sector in a coordinating manner through the TWG by setting key priorities and allocating their budget to address gaps in the health sector to achieve the targets, particularly in health service delivery in remote and rural areas.