

2013-2014 Progress Report for Lao PDR multistakeholder coordination platform

Process 1: *Bringing people in the same space*

Score each step: 0 (not applicable); 1 (started); 2 (on-going); 3 (nearly completed); 4 (completed)

STEP	FINAL PLATFORM SCORE (Morning Session)	Score for Government	Score for UN network	Score for Donor network	Score for CSO network	Score for Business network
1. Select/develop coordinating mechanisms at country level	2	2	3	2	1	0
<i>Explanations: What activities/interventions underly this scoring? (Copy post-its written during workshop)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Government SUN focal point appointed - Government issued a formal decision to establish national nutrition committee chaired by the deputy prime minister Secretariat to the national nutrition committee is being formed, focal points from various Government ministries appointed - Periodic meetings of 4 platforms organized by the government (technical working group meeting and 6-weekly meetings for SUN conference calls) – until now meetings are ad-hoc and attendance is not always from all the platforms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National Nutrition Committee and its Secretariat is formed and has developed a normative and operational framework - A series of initial meetings organized with key stakeholders – UN, donors, civil society – during the development of multisectoral action plan for nutrition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Nutrition issues discussed at UN Country Team (heads of agencies) - UN Task Team (IFAD, UNICEF, WFP, WHO, FAO, UNDP) established and meets regularly to review progress and joint support to the Government - UN network is one component of the broader DPs coordination mechanism which started meeting quarterly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - EU is operating as donor convenor and is co-convening with UNICEF a larger Development Partners group interested in nutrition (including donors); meeting on quarterly basis are being organized since November 2013 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Interim committee established 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Not established
<i>Suggestions made for improvements?</i>	Share with all the networks the proposal for agreed coordination meetings and set up the dates until the end of 2014 to allow for advanced planning	Establish coordination at subnational level			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SUN CSA launch scheduled for September - 1st pre-launch of SUN CIVIL SOCIETY actors in 	

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					June 2014	
2. Coordinate internally and broaden membership/ engage with other actors for broader influence	2	1	2	2	1	
<i>Explanations: What activities/interventions underly this scoring? (Copy post-its written during workshop)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Four networks formed: government, UN, civil society, donors - New members brought on board at the central level government (central Government representatives from agriculture, education, planning, and Government office; UN; donors; civil society) - 6-weekly conference calls involve other sectors and development partners representatives 	<p>MOH as the chair of the secretariat collaborated with vice chairs in Agriculture and Planning and Investment; as well as Ministry of Education and Government Office to expand representation of various sectors. The secretariat to the national nutrition committee also initiated systematic engagement with UN, donors and civil society in planning, implementing and monitoring of multisectoral action</p>	<p>UN Nutrition Task Team engages on regular basis with the government, donors and civil society:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Quarterly meetings of expanded DP groups - 6-weekly SUN conference calls 	<p>An expanded group of Development Partners (DPS) is co-convened by EU and UNICEF quarterly; A core group of DPs joins 6-weekly SUN conference calls with the Government</p>	<p>Currently focused on engaging and expanding to Lao non-profit associations (NPA), and to provincial/district-level civil society</p>	
<i>Suggestions made for improvements?</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strengthen engagement with subnational level (provinces, districts) and with communities - Identify the opportunities for partnering with businesses, private sector, starting with existing initiatives supported by the private 		<p>Representatives of UN task team to join the preparatory/ working meetings with the Government core group before SUN conference calls and the secretariat</p>	<p>A core group of DPs to participate in the preparatory/ working meetings with the Government core group before SUN conference calls</p>		

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	sector (for example salt producers for universal salt iodization and MMG for Micronutrient Home Fortification)		meetings			
3. Engage within / contribute to MSP	1	2	2	2	1	
<i>Explanations: What activities/interventions underly this scoring? (Copy post-its written during workshop)</i>	Information on nutrition issues/trends and main causes of undernutrition in Lao PDR was shared during the 2013 MDG report development, during the round table process and during the development of multisectoral food and nutrition security action plan with various sectors. This led to improved understanding of nutrition issues, prioritizing of interventions and the agreement to proceed with convergent action plan	Government, with support from DPs, developed and shared multiple analysis on nutrition trends and causes. Government led the development of multisectoral action plan which prioritizes interventions in selected setors and promotes convergent action on the ground.	Supported a number of analysis and research that led to an improved understanding of nutrition issues and informed the priority-setting of nutrition interventions; - Developed a joint technical assistance plan to the Government in support of convergent action plan; - Ensured representation/ participation in MSP when convened by the Government	Regular meetings and exchanges	Key priorities and focus identifiedbutwork plan have yet to bedeveloped, includingboraderrecom mendations; resultsstilllacking	
<i>Suggestions made for improvements?</i>	Need to ensure continuity of communication (ensure the same people from the ministries and DPs joint the meeting) within MSP and individual networks.					
4. Track and report on own contribution to MSP	1	1	2	1	1	

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<i>Explanations: What activities/interventions underly this scoring? (Copy post-its written during workshop)</i>	6-weekly updates during SUN conferences Round Table process and the meetings Initial exchanges of experiences with other countries (study tour to Indonesia?)	Mainly done through 6-monthly conference calls with the global SUN secretariat, the round table process and the MDG progress report preparation	UN provided regular updates on its support during planning and review exercises UN supported sharing of other countries' experiences through technical support/ assistance, participation in regional/global forums and study tours			
<i>Suggestions made for improvements?</i>		Need further discussion (Round table meeting)		Need for assessment and discussion		
5. Sustain Impact of the MSP	1	2	1	1	1	
<i>Explanations: What activities/interventions underly this scoring? (Copy post-its written during workshop)</i>	The functioning of the Government coordination is institutionalized through the Prime Minister Decree and Deputy Prime Minister decisions on the functioning of the secretariat.	Institutionalized the functioning of the coordination mechanism in the Government decrees and policies				
<i>Suggestions made for improvements?</i>	Develop a framework with roles and responsibilities for the secretariat, line ministries and provincial/district governors. Institutionalize the framework through the Government decree/ decision					

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Process 2: Coherent policy and legal framework

Score each step: 0 (not applicable); 1 (started); 2 (on-going); 3 (nearly completed); 4 (completed)

STEP	FINAL PLATFORM SCORE (Morning Session)	Score for Government	Score for UN network	Score for Donor network	Score for CSO network	Score for Business network
1. Analyse existing nutrition-relevant policies and programmes	3	2	3	2	2	
<i>Explanations: What activities/interventions underly this scoring? (Copy post-its written during workshop)</i>	Many analysis conducted to review policies and plans of actions (primary and secondary data analysis from national and subnational surveys, nutrition capacity assessment, implementation constraints analysis)	Government is working on the development of Nutrition Law which will be focused on establishing legal framework on Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes	UN supported a number of studies and research to generate evidence for policy development/review, programming and reporting. Among others, UNICEF-WHO (in partnership with Save the Children) supported the review of nutrition related legislation; FAO-WFP supported risk and vulnerability assessment; UNICEF supported assessment of economic impact of undernutrition in Lao PDR	Direct nutrition interventions are funded by donors and delivered by Government and NGOs		
<i>Suggestions made for improvements?</i>	Improve dissemination of the results and recommendation and strengthen the use of data for planning and policy development/review					

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2. Mainstream nutrition in own policies and strategies	2	3	3	3	2	
<i>Explanations: What activities/interventions underly this scoring?</i> (Copy post-its written during workshop)	National nutrition strategy and plan of action lists/refers to most nutrition specific interventions and identifies the need for nutrition sensitive agriculture, etc.	Government of Lao PDR has specific nutrition goals in its 7 th National Socio-economic Development Plan; the country adopted a National Nutrition Policy (2008) and developed a National Nutrition Strategy and Plan of Action 2010-2015 which cover most nutrition specific interventions and mentions the need for nutrition sensitive development	Support to nutrition specific and nutrition sensitive interventions represents a core mandate for UN agencies and is integrated into UNDAF, UN agencies programmes and plans of action in Lao PDR	For the EU, nutrition is one of the priority areas and other donors are considering investing in it as well (i.e. Ireland, WB, AusAid)	Nutrition represents a programme focus for many NGOs	
<i>Suggestions made for improvements?</i>					Need to expand to non-profit association	
3. Coordinate / harmonise member inputs in policy / legal framework development	1	2	1	2	1	
<i>Explanations: What activities/interventions underly this scoring?</i> (Copy post-its written during workshop)	Multisectoral food and nutrition security action plan Practical guidelines Is being developed	Only policies but no guideline.	UNDAF is a coordinating framework for UN with food and nutrition security included as one of the outcomes; Multisectoral food and	Joint interventions when possible		

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			nutrition security action plan has been jointly developed and serves as a framework for coordinating UN agencies support			
<i>Suggestions made for improvements?</i>	Develop a guideline on how to mainstream nutrition in sector policies and plans of action	Develop a guideline on how to mainstream nutrition in sector policies and plans of action				
4. Influence policy/legal framework development through advocacy/contribution	2	2	3	2	1	
<i>Explanations: What activities/interventions underly this scoring? (Copy post-its written during workshop)</i>	Some progress in the areas of maternity leave and fortification Nutrition legal and policy review Limited progress on BMS Government policy on women in leadership positions	Ongoing effort to strengthen policies on gender equity; Development of Nutrition law underway	Technical support for review/ development and strengthening of the policy and legal framework on nutrition (fortification, maternity protection, code of marketing, nutrition policy/legal coherence review)	Yes, during meetings with the Nutrition Secretariat and during sector working groups + mission on the nutrition legal framework	The CSA's focus is on developing a gender tool kit, documenting lessons learned from the FNSAP 28 core interventions, and to conduct a mapping among civil society of the 28 core interventions	
<i>Suggestions made for improvements?</i>						
5. Disseminate policy and operationalize / Enforce legal framework	1	1	2	1	2	
<i>Explanations: What</i>			Improved joint			

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<i>activities/interventions underly this scoring?</i> (Copy post-its written during workshop)			dissemination of information, studies and analysis within UN			
<i>Suggestions made for improvements?</i>	Improve the dissemination of information on revised/ new legal documents	Improve the dissemination of information on revised/ new legal documents	Jointly support the dissemination with the Government			
6. Track and report results for steering and learning / Sustain policy impact	1	1	1	1	1	
<i>Explanations: What activities/interventions underly this scoring?</i> (Copy post-its written during workshop)	Systems for monitoring policy outcomes and impact need strengthening; Few publications and increasing participation in the international fora	Inadequate systems for monitoring policy outcomes and impact; Few publications and increasing participation in the international fora (eg submission to 2014 MNP forum, joint MOH-MAF analysis for ICN2)	WHO provided support for assessing the implementation status of the Code of marketing of BMS; UNICEF supported the Government to review the impact of Universal Salt Iodization Decree			
<i>Suggestions made for improvements?</i>	Identify areas/policies for review, including impact evaluation; Documentation of the process and outcomes of the multisectoral (convergent) action plan	Identify areas/policies for review, including impact evaluation	More systematic planning of policy evaluation both multisectorally and sectorally; documentation of good practices and lessons learned for the multisectoral food and nutrition security action plan		Documenting lessons learned from the FNSAP 28 core interventions	

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Process 3: Common Results Framework for National Nutrition Plan (aligned programming)

Score each step: 0 (not applicable); 1 (started); 2 (on-going); 3 (nearly completed); 4 (completed)

STEP	FINAL PLATFORM SCORE (Morning Session)	Score for Government	Score for UN network	Score for Donor network	Score for CSO network	Score for Business network
1. Align own programmes to national nutrition-relevant policies	2	2	3	2	3	
<i>Explanations: What activities/interventions underly this scoring? (Copy post-its written during workshop)</i>	National Nutrition Policy and sector and sub-sector strategies and plans of action; Multisectoral Food and Nutrition Security Action Plan	National Nutrition Policy and sector and sub-sector strategies and plans of action; Multisectoral Food and Nutrition Security Action Plan	UN agencies programme support the implementation of the National Nutrition Strategy and Plan of Action in a number of sectors/ministries: health, agriculture, education, planning and investment UN agencies are guided by the most recent food and nutrition security action plan to focus their technical and financial to the Government	The Food and Nutrition Security Multisectoral Action plan of the government has been discussed and is taking into account when drafting donors' support. Funds are planned to be allocated for nutrition relevant activities in targeted districts.	All NGO members' programs are aligned to national policies and strategies	
<i>Suggestions made for improvements?</i>						
2. Translate policy / legal framework in Common Results Framework (CRF) for SUN	2	2	1	0	1	
<i>Explanations: What</i>	Nutrition is a national	Nutrition is a national	7th NSEDP and the		NGO members have	

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<i>activities/interventions underly this scoring?</i> (Copy post-its written during workshop)	development priority and there are indicators for monitoring nutrition specific interventions; There is no tool or guideline for monitoring nutrition sensitive interventions and common results framework is not in place	development priority and there are indicators for monitoring nutrition specific interventions; There is no tool or guideline for monitoring nutrition sensitive interventions and common results framework is not in place	National Nutrition Strategy include nutrition targets, as well as targets for nutrition specific interventions; UN agencies are guided by the UNDAF, including food and nutrition security indicators, in monitoring collective actions		individual CRF, costing plan, etc.;	
<i>Suggestions made for improvements?</i>	Complete the development of the common results framework and the implementation framework for the multisectoral food and nutrition security action plan; assess the costs of its implementation	Complete the development of the common results framework and the implementation framework for the multisectoral food and nutrition security action plan	Finalize Common Results Framework and clarify roles and responsibilities of the secretariat, involved ministries and subnational authorities in implementing convergent nutrition action plan		A common CRF has to be developed	
3. Organise implementation of CRF	1	1	0	0	1	
<i>Explanations: What activities/interventions underly this scoring?</i> (Copy post-its written during workshop)		Few monitoring tools in each sector are available, but no comprehensive multisectoral tool developed	UN agencies provide support to line ministries to strengthen their data collection, analysis and reporting systems.		This is a core priority of SUN CSA	
<i>Suggestions made for improvements?</i>	Develop a clear monitoring framework fo multisectoral food		Develop a common monitoring framework in the Government on food and nutrition security;			

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	and nutrition security action plan; cost the framework; assign responsibilities and resource key functions		Clarify responsibilities for monitoring and reporting within the Government			
4. Manage implementation of CRF	0	1	0	0	1	
<i>Explanations: What activities/interventions underly this scoring? (Copy post-its written during workshop)</i>		Monitoring and supervision is weak				
<i>Suggestions made for improvements?</i>						
5. Track and report implementation results for steering and learning/ evaluate to sustain impact	0	1	0	0	2	
<i>Explanations: What activities/interventions underly this scoring? (Copy post-its written during workshop)</i>		Only limited data on the coverage of nutrition specific programmes (Vitamin A, deworming) from the health management information system; household based surveys are done every 5-6 years only			The CSA is actively engaged in the health and nutrition working group, which also inputs into the national health sector working group of the MOH; the latter groups have existing platforms for impact evaluation of the nutrition program	
<i>Suggestions made for</i>		Clarify the objectives	Document the			

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<i>improvements?</i>		and measurements for nutrition sensitive interventions; Document and share lessons learned and good practices on evaluating the impact of convergent approach	implementation experience, including through the evaluation of impact from convergent approach to implementing food and nutrition security interventions			
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Process 4: **Financial tracking and resource mobilisation**

Score each step: 0 (not applicable); 1 (started); 2 (on-going); 3 (nearly completed); 4 (completed)

STEP	FINAL PLATFORM SCORE (Morning Session)	Score for Government	Score for UN network	Score for Donor network	Score for CSO network	Score for Business network
1. Assess financial feasibility	1	1	1	2		
<i>Explanations: What activities/interventions underly this scoring? (Copy post-its written during workshop)</i>	Costing of the National Nutrition Strategy and Plan of Action 2010-2015 and costing of the Multisectoral Food and Nutrition Security Action Plan 2014-2015	Costing of the National Nutrition Strategy and Plan of Action 2010-2015 and costing of the Multisectoral Food and Nutrition Security Action Plan 2014-2015	UN supported the costing on the multisectoral food and nutrition security action plan; UNICEF has supported the Government to cost commodities necessary for nutrition specific interventions to support scaling up process and to ensure more sustainable financing	At each institution's level	NOT APPLICABLE	
<i>Suggestions made for improvements?</i>	Analysis of fiscal space to assess the feasibility of scaling up is necessary; cost	Analysis of fiscal space to assess the feasibility of scaling up is necessary; cost benefit				

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	benefit analysis could be done to inform prioritization of Government funds to various nutrition programmes/ interventions; develop strategy to protect essential costs in the times of crisis and emergency	analysis could be done to inform prioritization of Government funds to various nutrition programmes/ interventions				
2. Track and (transparently) accounting of spending	2	2	2	2		
<i>Explanations: What activities/interventions underly this scoring? (Copy post-its written during workshop)</i>		Ongoing efforts to improve the tracking of resources as there is no separate budget line for nutrition	UN contribution is included in the UNDAF framework and reviewed on annual basis with the line ministries being assisted, especially for nutrition specific interventions; Budget information on UN support is included in the ODA database maintained by the Ministry of Planning and Investment; UN agencies working in various sectors update the information on disbursements through the sector working group reporting, however the disbursements are not	At each institution's level	NOT APPLICABLE	

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			detailed or disaggregated by nutrition specific/sensitive interventions			
<i>Suggestions made for improvements?</i>	Need to develop a system to be able to track nutrition related expenditures in various sectors and from the development partners; ODA database does not provide enough details to assess the funding flows to nutrition from donors	Need to develop a system to be able to track nutrition related expenditures in various sectors				
3. Scale up and align resources (incl. filling the gaps)	0	3	2	2	0	
<i>Explanations: What activities/interventions underly this scoring? (Copy post-its written during workshop)</i>		Increasing allocation of earmarked funding for nutrition in health sector; Government progressively increases allocation of domestic resources to nutrition	Nutrition interventions represent an important proportion of UN agencies portfolios; WB is planning a new nutrition programme from 2015	New activities in Food and Nutrition security are planned for 2015	Planned for 2014	
<i>Suggestions made for improvements?</i>						
4. Honour commitments (turn pledges into disbursements)	1	2	2	2	3	
<i>Explanations: What</i>		Going on	UN disbursements are in	Work in progress		

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<i>activities/interventions underly this scoring? (Copy post-its written during workshop)</i>			line with the UNDAF and workplans agreed with the Government			
<i>Suggestions made for improvements?</i>						
5. Ensure predictability / sustain impact / multi-year funding	1	2	1	2	2	
<i>Explanations: What activities/interventions underly this scoring? (Copy post-its written during workshop)</i>	Work in progress	National funding policies and going on	Work in progress – UN supports the government to cost and project budget requirements for implementing nutrition action	Work in progress. There will be more visibility in 2015.		
<i>Suggestions made for improvements?</i>						