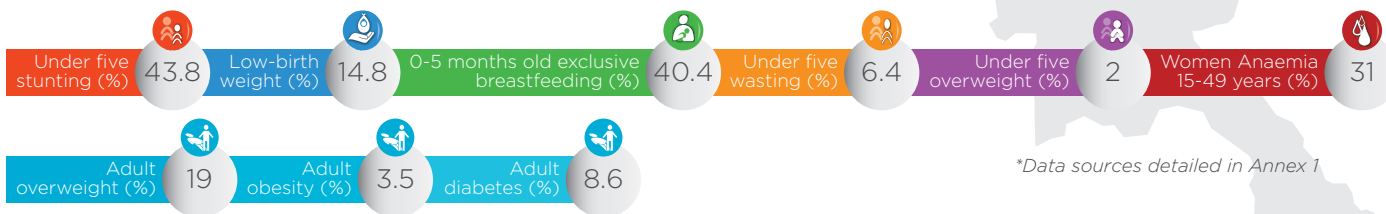




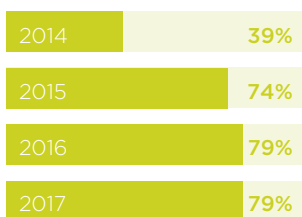
Joined: April 2011
Population: 6.66 million

Lao PDR



*Data sources detailed in Annex 1

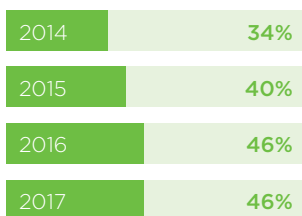
Institutional transformations in 2016-2017



Bringing people together into a shared space for action

The Government, through the National Nutrition Committee (NNC) and its Secretariat, continue to coordinate and engage nutrition stakeholders through periodic meetings and high level events. The Second National Nutrition Forum was held in November 2016 with nutrition on the agenda of the High-Level Round Table Meeting. Provincial Nutrition Committees (PNC) have been set up in 14 provinces and PNC Secretariats

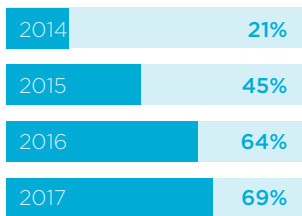
have been established in 13. The process to recruit PNC Secretariat facilitators has commenced. A task force comprising World Food Programme (WFP), European Union, Population Services International and Save the Children was set up, to support the launch of the Lao SUN Business Network, for which a pre-launch event was hosted by the EU Delegation to Lao PDR in October 2016.



Ensuring a coherent policy and legal framework

In 2016, the Ministry of Planning and Investment, with support from WFP, conducted a consultative review of food and nutrition security in Lao PDR investigating the strategic issues most important for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. A Government-led taskforce and a Decree drafting group has been set up to work on strengthening the Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes with

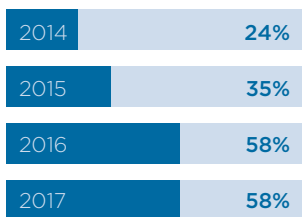
the support of UNICEF, Alive & Thrive and Save the Children. The NNC Secretariat, with the support of development partners is developing a multi-sectoral Social and Behavioural Change Communication Strategic Action Plan. The National Agricultural Forestry Research Institute (NAFRI) has led the finalisation of a policy brief on the role of the agriculture sector in promoting food security and nutrition in Lao PDR.



Aligning actions around a common results framework

In November 2016, a nutrition stakeholder and action mapping was carried out - an update of the 2015 mapping - to determine the current situation regarding implementation of the 22 priority interventions of the National Plan of Action for Nutrition (NPAN) 2016-2020. A new web-based salt iodisation monitoring system and interactive voice response

system for health outreach reporting are being implemented. The report formats are being developed for sectors and provinces to report on the progress towards the implementation of the NPAN. Progress reporting and review is now included on the agenda of NNC Secretariat meetings and the annual National Nutrition Forum.



Financing tracking and resource mobilisation

Several databases containing information on funding for nutrition-relevant programmes and their expenditure data are available within the Ministry of Planning and line ministries for domestic and external resources. The persisting challenge to track, compile, and analyse financial information related to nutrition

still needs to be overcome. Efforts are ongoing to strengthen the process of the annual nutrition finance mapping exercise and institutionalise it. Future mapping aims to build on the existing expenditure reviews and to be expanded to include the private sector contributions.



2017-2018 PRIORITIES

- Finalise the multi-sectoral Social and Behavioural Change Communication Strategic Action Plan;
- Revise and update the Code of Marketing of Breast-milk substitutes;
- Strengthening the nutrition information system.