

A Multisectoral Food and Nutrition Security Action Plan (FNS-AP) - Progress and Update -

**Presentation to the Sector Working Group on
Agriculture and Rural Development
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Outline of the Presentation

- * Background - Milestones
- * Main principles and approach
- * Institutional arrangements
- * Current status and way forward
- * Challenges and discussion

Background - Milestones

- * **2013 MDG Report for Lao PDR** => nutrition related targets are seriously off-track
- * **June 2013: Luang Namtha Provincial Consultation** => Need for a Multi-Sectoral FNS-AP to accelerate progress toward MDG 1
- * **July 2013: The National Nutrition Committee (NNC)** is established to oversee the design, implementation and monitoring of the FNS-AP in July 2013 (PM Office/Ref.73).
 - **The NNC is chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister**, H.E. Asang Laoly and includes reps. of 7 ministries (agriculture, health, education, finance, industry, planning, culture and information), the National Commission for Women and Children and mass organizations
 - **The NNC secretariat** is chaired by the MoH and co-chaired by the MAF and the MPI
- * **Aug-Nov 2013:** The FNS-AP is developed
- * **Nov 2013 HL RTM:** the FNS-AP is presented and the Government approves the proposed principle of the convergence and announces its support to this plan
- * **Since Nov 2013:** Multi stakeholders' consultation and planning to prepare implementation

Main principles and approach

* **Prioritization of Interventions**

- Identifies a smaller, initial number of the most vulnerable districts for priority support
- Identifies fewer, more manageable number of priority interventions (reduced from 99 in National Nutrition Strategy)

- * Health: 11 Priority interventions

- * Education: 5 Priority Interventions

- * WASH: 3 Priority Interventions

- * Agriculture: 5 Priority Interventions

- =>home garden, small livestock, animal vaccination*

- post harvest, IGA & NTFP (focus on Women)*

- * **Convergence** means to implement the full range of high priority interventions from 3 sectors in all target areas, simultaneously

* **Implementation approach**

- * **Alignment / Consistency** with existing strategies and policies

- National Nutrition Policy, NSEDP, SUN Initiative, MAF Strategy to 2020, Sam Sang...

- * Multi Sectoral planning, capacity building, monitoring and evaluation / Sectoral implementation

Government Nutrition Policies and Strategic Frameworks



Multisectoral

7th National Socio-Economic Development Plan;
National Nutrition Policy 2008;
National Nutrition Strategy & Plan of Action 2010-2015

Sectoral

Health Sector Development Plan 2011-2015;
Health Reforms Strategy and Action Plan 2013-2020

Agriculture Development Strategy

Education Sector Development Framework 2011-2020 and Plan 2011-2015

Sub-sectoral (examples)

Strategy and Plan of Action for Integrated MNCH Services

Water and Sanitation Strategy

Food Security Strategy

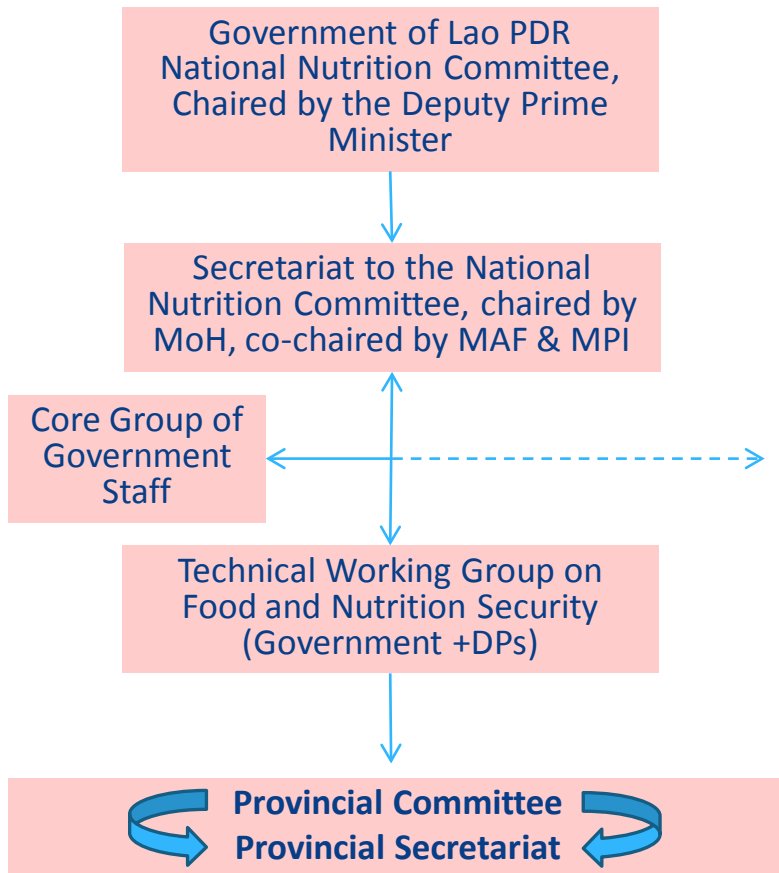
Education primary and secondary quality standards

WASH, deworming, iron folic acid through education

School meals, gardens

Institutional Arrangements

Proposed by the GoL on the 17th of January 2014



Remarks / Comments

- Need to link various forums, Improve Consistency, Coherence of Communication and Policy Dialogue.
- Incorporate the SUN Mechanism and Secretariat
- **DPs core group on Nutrition** should improve dialogue and coordination with the GoL Core group
- Need to better articulate the links to already existing sector coordination mechanism
- Sector Working Groups (ARD, Health, Education...)
- Sub Sector Working Groups

Current status and way forward

Highlights

- * **Geographic focus:** MoH/secretariat prioritized 26 priority districts in 7 provinces for convergent action, but the phasing/sequencing and the pace of implementation will depend on available resources
- * **For initial implementation,** the following zones have been pre-identified :
 - * **Oudomxay:** Pak beng and Hoon
 - * **Saravanh:** Ta-oy and Lao ngam
 - * **Luangnamtha:** Viengphoukha and Nalae
- * **The coverage and intervention modalities** need to be clarified in all sectors
- * **Note on ARD interventions (to be discussed by the ARD Sector):** all villages of the target zones are likely to be covered, however the % of coverage of HHs at village level will depend on activities
- * **Additional resource** needs to be (re)allocated in order to reach the target in terms of coverage

Target provinces and districts, 2014-2015

Province	District
Luangnamtha	Sing; Long; Nalae ; Viengphoukha
Oudomxay	Baeng; Nga; Pakbeng ; Hoon
Salavanh	Laognam ; Samoi; Ta-oi
Phongsaly	Nyot-ou; Samphanh; Mai
Huaphanh	Xam-Tai; Huamuang; Viengthong; Sopbao; Xiengkong
Xiengkhuang	Khoun; Phoukod; Nonghaed; Kham
Xekong	Dackcheung; Kaleum; Lamarm
7 Provinces	26 Districts

Current status and way forward

Next steps

- * **Mapping current interventions & resource, micro planning** (should involve the districts) and estimation of the financial gap
- * **Develop a common approach/tools/guidelines**
- * **Proceed in a phased/sequenced** manner because of limited resources and capacities and of the innovative approach of convergence, learn lessons, adapt the approach and replicate to other areas
- * **A central level support team** should be established
- * **Formal/written** communication by the NNC to the provinces and districts on the final content and geographic focus/scope of the FNS-AP and roles/responsibilities of local authorities
- * **DPs** will provide technical, logistic and financial support for the organization of micro planning meetings in the districts within available budgets

Challenges and discussion (1)

Multi Sectoral coordination challenges

Identified challenges	Proposed solutions for discussion
NNC Secretariat Leadership and Capacity	Clarify roles and responsibilities Have a decree signed by DPM and formally disseminated Better articulate linkages NNC secretariat / Health TWG Allocated human and financial resource for the work of secretariat Request and provide Technical Assistance for specific support required
Limited incentives & capacity of Ministries for multi sectoral coordination	Clarify the roles, performance indicators/targets and reporting obligations of line ministries to the NNC Initially prioritize engagement and promoting linkages b/w MoH, MAF and MPI; develop a strategy for MoES engagement
Limited linkages between coordination forums and networks relevant for FNS	Improve conceptual clarity and linkages; clearly communicate Ensure linkages through the same responsible Government officials Discuss Multi Sectoral issues in different forums
DPs' limited contribution to GoL decision making processes	Better organize Development Partners community Link together the donor network, the UN network and NGOs network

Challenges and discussion (2)

Multi Sectoral implementation challenges

Identified challenges	Proposed solutions for discussion
<p>Create more incentives for the Governors to take on and implement convergence plan</p>	<p>Develop a clear communication package for Provinces/Districts Clarify roles, performance indicators/targets and reporting duties to the NNC in reference to the convergent / FNS-AP</p>
<p>Clarify mechanism for multi-Sectoral coordination and M&E at subnational level</p>	<p>Prepare and organize a structured, participatory discussion at provincial and district level to discuss practical options for multisectoral coordination, monitoring and reviews in convergent districts</p>
<p>Limited operational experience in the area of convergent implementation</p>	<p>Develop a Road Map for implementation and regularly review it Start small, capture learning, adapt the method as convergent approach is being taken to other districts Regular Multi Sectoral monitoring and reviews, exchanges/communication between central / local level</p>
<p>Diverging views b/w Gov and DPs on how to operationalize</p>	<p>Continue the dialogue and get consensus of the best possible technical and political solution</p>
<p>Resources to implement the Plan</p>	<p>Clarify gaps at district level , mobilize GoL and DPs available resource Use multi Sectoral convergent approach to inform:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the Government planning and budgeting for the next fiscal year - the development of new programmes and projects supported by DPs

Challenges and discussion (3)

Multi Sectoral monitoring and evaluation challenges

Identified challenges	Proposed solutions for discussion
Limited capacity of the secretariat	Develop a multi sectoral monitoring framework and implementation plan Develop an evaluation plan for convergent action Engage with DPs for specific technical assistance
Overstretched capacity of Lao Bureau of Statistics	Involve Lao Bureau of Statistics only for critical functions (which cannot be provided by other actors) Consider alternative options for data collection, entry, etc.
Limited Financial Resource	Prioritize and mobilize additional resources to this area as needed

THANK YOU

Questions / Discussion