

# Institutionalizing NIPN in Lao PDR. The Progress so far....

22/5/2019



# Background on NIPN in Lao PDR



- EU –UNICEF partnership for NIPN started from April 2018.
- Seeks to strengthen institutional capacities in Lao PDR to monitor progress towards reduction in undernutrition through implementation of cost effective and evidence based policies
- Specifically, NIPN seeks to;
  - i. Create capacity within national institutions to operate and maintain a functional NIPN
  - ii. Strengthen capacity to track progress in meeting national objectives to prevent under-nutrition and monitor nutrition investments.
  - iii. Build the capacity of stakeholders to make better use of evidence and data to design and implement nutrition-related policies and programmes



NIPN process started in April, 2018

- NIPN initiative successfully launched in October, 2018
- Vice Ministerial decree on NIPN Structure prepared
- Used existing institutions and multi-sectoral coordination mechanism for nutrition
- Key sectors represented
  - Health, Nutrition, WASH, Education etc
- Clear roles and responsibilities of each committee
- Follows system strengthening approach
  - Hand holding

DIAGRAM OF NIPN Structure (LAO PDR)

**National Nutrition Committee (NCC)**  
 Representative of project partners, advisors, ministries & development partners



**Policy Advisory Committee (NCC Secretariat)**  
**Members**

- Rep. of ministries
- Rep. of international org.
- Rep. of SUN networks
- Rep. of donors
- Others

**Project Management Unit (UNICEF County office)**

- Overall guidance by UNICEF Representative and Deputy Rep.
- Chief of Policy, Monitoring and Evaluation
- Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist
- Social Policy Officer
- NIPN Manager (NIPN)
- NIPN Programme Officer (NIPN)
- Project Assistant (NIPN)

**Policy Analysis Unit**  
 National Institute for Economic Research (NIER)

**Head of Policy Analysis Unit (Senior Government Staff)**

<b>Government's delegated staff</b>	<b>UNICEF contracted staff</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Analysts</li> <li>- Nutritionists</li> <li>- SUN network Rep.</li> <li>- International Org.</li> <li>- UN agencies</li> <li>- Bilateral agencies</li> <li>- Others</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Policy Advisor</li> <li>- Policy Analyst</li> </ul>

**Data Analysis Unit**  
 Ministry of Planning and Investment (MPI)

**Head of Data Analysis Unit (Senior Government Staff)**

<b>Government's delegated staff</b>	<b>UNICEF's contracted staff</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Statisticians</li> <li>- Data managers</li> <li>- Nutritionists</li> <li>- Others</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Data Analysis Advisor</li> <li>- Data Manager</li> <li>- Statistician</li> </ul>



# Key strengths of NIPN Structure in Lao PDR

Used existing multi-sectoral nutrition coordination mechanism (National Nutrition Committee)

National Policy Advisory Committee is chaired by the Vice Minister of Ministry of Planning and Investment. Has convening power over other ministries and departments

NIPN Sub committees (Data and Policy Analysis Units) are multi-sectoral with technical representatives from various line ministries and departments

Data and Policy Analysis Units are hosted by relevant government institutions with mandates on same as part of institutional capacity building

# Challenges encountered

1. Considerable amount of time required in getting buy-in from partners/stakeholders to use existing mechanisms
  - ✓ Involved different levels of engagement and negotiation
2. Frequent changes in staff from ministries and departments who attended the inception meetings
3. Limited expertise on data analysis and use of data for evidence based programming, policy formulation.
4. Weak nutrition knowledge among stakeholders: Seen as issue of inadequate intake

# Future priorities

- Data repository for nutrition established and data sharing SOP developed
- NIPN Web based dashboard developed and SOP for routine update developed
- Disseminate new evidence on nutrition situation in Lao PDR at national & sub national level
- Capacity building of national & subnational staff on data management and analysis

# Take Home Messages

- NIPN anchored on existing policy framework:
  - Ensures buy in and contribution of stakeholders
- Use of existing institutions and coordinating mechanisms
  - Ensures continuity and sustainability of NIPN
- Multi-sectoral coordination and convening ministry
  - Use of ministry with cross-sectoral function and convening power ensured participation of other line ministries and departments



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NIPN Team, Lao PDR