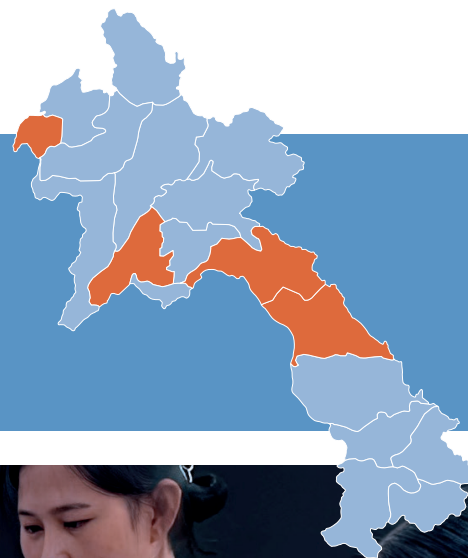




# HEALTH AND NUTRITION PROGRAMME

LAO/035



**SECTOR** | Health

**AGENCY** | LuxDev

**DURATION** | 01.01.2023 - 31.12.2027 (60 months)

## TARGET GROUPS

National coverage with emphasis on the entire population of the four partner provinces Bolikhamsay, Khammouane, Vientiane and Bokeo, estimated at over 1,400,000 people.

## INSTITUTIONAL ANCHORAGE

Ministry of Health

## SECTORIAL POLICIES AND REFERENCE STRATEGIES

9th National Socio-Economic Development Plan and Health Sector development plans

**BUDGET** | EUR 35,802,420



Despite remarkable achievements in improving health outcomes, including life expectancy, key indicators such as infant, under-five and maternal mortality from preventable causes are still high and nutrition indicators at the village level are slow to progress. This can be attributed in large parts to health system challenges.

The Health and Nutrition (H&N) programme is the continuation of two previous healthcare support initiatives. The preceding programme's (LAO/027) specific objective aimed at supporting the implementation of the updated Health Sector Reform Framework 2013-2025, with a specific focus on mother and child health, by fostering and supporting district health systems and actors.

The H&N programme aims to build on the strengths of the previous programme and will predominantly contribute to the long-term change objective that Lao people demand and have access to an essential health service package – including Reproductive Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health (RMNCAH) and nutrition services – of adequate quality and affordable to all, leaving no one behind.

The programme will maintain a steady geographic focus in the three central provinces of Bolikhamsay, Khammouane and Vientiane with a full range of health systems strengthening actions, while increasing overall effectiveness and efficiency by deepening interventions. In addition, Bokeo, as one of Luxembourg's priority partner provinces, is being covered with actions related to Human Resource Capital Development and integrated RMNCAH, including nutrition outreach activities.

The primary/final beneficiaries of the programme are the entire population of the four current partner provinces estimated at over 1,400,000 people across all districts. Considering the focus on RMNCAH, women of reproductive age and children under the age of five will be the main beneficiaries.

Moreover, the H&N programme integrates the activities of Luxembourg based medical specialised NGO *Aide au Développement de la Santé* (ADS) in support of the Lao-Luxembourg Heart Institute in Mahosot Hospital in Vientiane capital to provide humanitarian medical assistance using high level medical techniques for cardiovascular pathology through regular in-country visits and training of local specialists.



## VISION OF CHANGE

To meet the expected outcome above, the H&N programme is underpinned by a Theory of Change pathway that can be described as follows.

### Lao people have access to essential health services

The H&N programme is supporting a sustainable and resilient healthcare ecosystem in Laos, ensuring everyone can access vital medical care. This ecosystem will include appropriate healthcare facilities (with adequate equipment, appropriate information technology and infrastructures that are effectively operated and maintained), including nurturing a skilled healthcare workforce through comprehensive training programmes, in the four beneficiary provinces.

This will ensure everyone has access to a tiered system of care, including RMNCAH and nutrition services through outpatient services and outreach activities, then progressing to more specialised emergency, inpatient and advanced care at provincial and national hospitals, including cardiology interventions supported by ADS.

### Essential health services are affordable to all

The programme bridges the financial gap for all Lao people to access essential health services, thanks to sufficient funding for health facilities through an operational Joint Participatory Mechanism (which is an innovative financing mechanism, by which the H&N programme multiplies provincial government budgets annually, for the timely provision of mother and child health services in three central provinces of Laos) and an effectively managed National Health Insurance at the provincial level. A functional Joint Participatory Mechanism will contribute to healthcare facilities receiving adequate funding in a timely manner. An effectively managed National Health Insurance will contribute to people being able to request free or low-cost healthcare and low out-of-pocket contributions.

### Good quality health services are provided to Lao people

A particular focus of the programme lies on improving quality of care. Recognising the capacity gaps at all levels of the health sector, the programme is taking a holistic approach to quality of care improvement. This involves creating a comprehensive “ecosystem” that bridges the gap between theoretical knowledge and practical application. By combining classroom instruction with simulation and real-world experiences, this ecosystem will equip health workers with the necessary skills and confidence to deliver high-quality care to the Lao people.

In addition, the programme empowers healthcare professionals with the tools and insights needed to make evidence-based decisions that improve quality care. This includes the introduction and scaling up of the Electronic Medical Record and strengthening the link between the DHIS2 data system and the planning cycle, ensuring data informs resource allocation and service delivery at all levels, from national to district.

Overall, the ICP V H&N sectoral programme aims at creating favourable conditions for institutional and technical sustainability with the accent put on quality of care improvement, training and capacity development activities, an emphasis on embedding supported activities into the national management structures and the institutionalisation and expansion of the Joint Participatory Mechanism.

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