

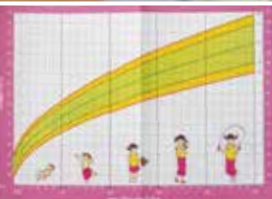


WORKING  
BETTER TOGETHER

## SUMMARY

European Joint Programming for Lao People's Democratic Republic 2016-2020

# Health



### OVERALL OBJECTIVE

Both the Government of Lao PDR and European partners emphasise access to high quality health care and preventive medicine. European partners support achieving universal health coverage in Lao PDR through strengthened health systems and improved quality and equitable access to services for all persons and populations.



As health service development is a key element for equitable and sustainable growth, including poverty reduction, European partners and the Government of Lao PDR aim to increase access to and quality of health services for the poor in remote areas.

## SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

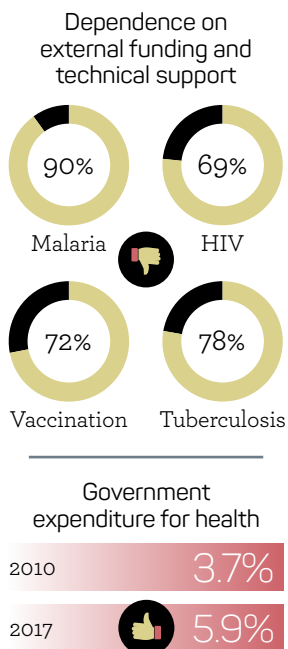
### SO 1 – Strengthening Public Health Systems in Lao PDR

To ensure access to quality health care, especially at local level and in remote areas through strengthening cooperation between formal and informal/community health systems, support is provided to:

- Strategy development and implementation
- Development of a health and social insurance system
- Training of middle management health personnel to maintain and improve service delivery
- Improvements in the quality of education and training of health workers and the capacity of teachers and researchers.

Furthermore, Lao PDR's seriously underfunded health budget directly impacts services.

While there have been significant increases in the Government's funding of health, public spending per capita remains the lowest in the region and a number of Health Sector Reform Strategy targets have not been met. Additionally, dependence on external funding and technical support remains very high for many programmes.



### SO 2 – Improving Access to and Quality of Maternal and Child Health

In order to improve the general health status of the Lao PDR population, European partners support:

- Government's free Maternal, Neonatal and Child Health (MNCH) policy, which includes incentives for citizens' use of health services, which has resulted in the increasing availability of good quality health services
- Midwife training, including more practical and on-the-job, to improve the quality of services provided
- Increased access to and usage of services, including outreach to remote areas, with sensitivity to the language and cultural needs of ethnic groups
- Increased accountability of health providers in order to strengthen users' trust in the health system
- Addressing under-nutrition, since it is a major factor that affects the health of mothers and children

## UPDATE

The Government has taken the important step of prioritising Reproductive, Maternal, Nutrition and Child Health (RMNCH).

Mortality of Children <1 year (per 1,000 live births)

2012 68

2017 40

Mortality of Children <5 year (per 1,000 live births)

2012 79

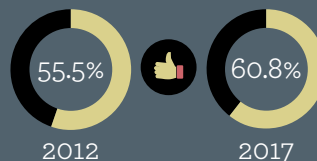
2017 46

Outpatient visit ratio (per 1,000 inhabitants)

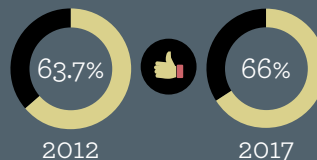
2011 438

2017 705

Vaccination rates: DPT3



Vaccination rates: Measles



## JOINT PROGRAMMING CONTRIBUTION IN THIS SECTOR FROM 2016 TO 2020



The Joint Programming partners have accompanied and supported major improvements in the sector and their interventions are aligned with the Government's priorities.



The **EU** and **Luxembourg** integrate components on capacity building in their comprehensive projects in health system governance at central, provincial and district level. **France** supports the country coordination mechanism of the Global Fund.

**Luxembourg**, the **EU** and **Ireland** have jointly set up the Universal Health coverage partnership with WHO.

**EU, France** and **Luxembourg** support research and

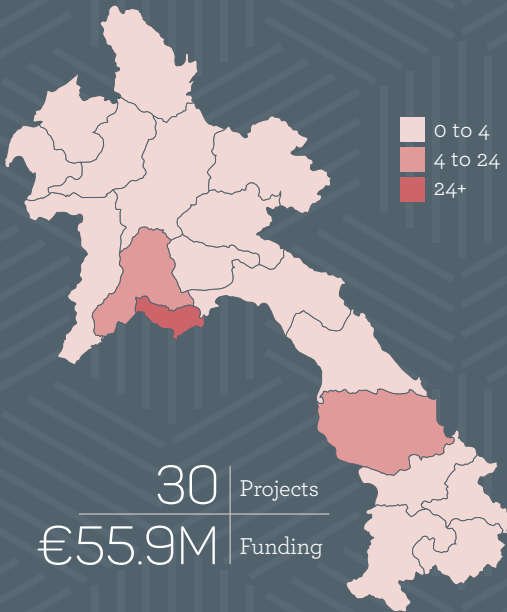
development through funding studies, capacity building and human resource capital development.

**Luxembourg** funds UNICEF, UNFPA, and WHO in joint maternal and child health programmes.

**EU, France** and **Luxembourg** are tackling maternal and child health issues in remote areas through support to civil society organisations. The Lao-Luxembourg Health Support Programme (LAO027) tackles the health sector in a comprehensive manner, from human resources development, to innovative health financing mechanisms, infrastructure, information systems, and capacity development at central and provincial level of the Government of Lao PDR.

The **UK** supports capacity building for antimicrobial resistance (AMR) surveillance through The Fleming Fund, implemented by Mott MacDonald.

While this map shows that the majority of European Joint Programming support is reported in Vientiane Capital, most projects actually have national coverage and decentralised level implementation.



30 Projects  
 €55.9M Funding



“Activities under the project which focused on social health protection coverage and improving financial management at facility level provided a valuable contribution to the Ministry of Health’s efforts in the implementation of the Health Sector Reform.” – *Dr. Kotsaythoune Phimmasonne, Deputy Director, Department of Finance, Ministry of Health Lao PDR*

## IN FOCUS

### Expanding health insurance coverage for the population of Lao PDR

In support of universal health coverage goals, this €900,000 project strengthens capacity for health insurance implementation and financial management at subnational level.

#### OBJECTIVES

- Increased access to quality basic health care, including increased coverage of population by merging social health protection schemes.
- Improved financial reporting and management of health budgets and technical revenues at national, provincial, district and health facility level.

#### IMPACT

- National Health Insurance Strategy 2017 – 2020 has been developed.
- 6 health insurance offices have been refurbished and provided with equipment such as computers and internet access
- 24 quarterly health insurance management meetings supported in the target area
- Over 70 persons received repeated training on financial reporting



PICTURES FRONT PAGE CLOCKWISE FROM TOP RIGHT: Nurses in provincial hospital expanded with Luxembourg funding © LuxDev. Child growth monitoring in Phongsaly © EU/Koen Everaert Midwife baby assessment station © UNICEF. Development monitoring chart © UNICEF.