



**PROJECT AT A GLANCE**

**Title**

Enhancing Nutrition of Upland Farming Families

**Budget**

Current Phase:  
(01/04/2016-31/03/2019)  
CHF 7,000,000

**Partners**

Department of Hygiene and Health Promotion, Ministry of Health with technical support from SNV Development Organization in cooperation with Agrisud International



**SDC contributes to Government of Lao PDR's efforts to improve nutritional status of upland farming communities through better access to nutritious and diversified food, proper knowledge about nutrition, health and sanitation practices, and more conducive frame conditions.**

**PROJECT LOCATIONS**

Houaphanh and Oudomxay



**BACKGROUND**

Lao PDR has seen strong economic growth over the past few years, but social indicators have lagged behind, especially the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) on nutrition, which remains "off track".

The Government of Lao PDR (GoL) has made considerable efforts to address this situation, but has only been able to achieve only limited results. Chronic malnutrition is only declining at a very slow pace.

33% of all children in the country under 5 years of age is stunted, which is amongst the highest in the world. The percentage of children from upland ethnic communities suffering from stunting exceeds 60%.

Under-nutrition leads to enormous economic costs in Lao PDR with annual losses estimated at approximately USD 197 million or 2.4% of the GDP.

In recognition of the persistently high rates of malnutrition in the country, the GoL has shown strong commitment to address the root causes by implementing the National Nutrition Strategy to 2025 and the Plan of Action 2016-2025, which provides the framework and strategic direction to combat malnutrition.

Tackling Malnutrition as a multi-sectoral issue and by linking nutrition sensitive agriculture practices, natural resources management and nutrition, significant and meaningful impact can be achieved for targeted communities.

Switzerland, through the ENUFF project will contribute to the implementation of the national Multi-sectoral Food and Nutrition Security Action Plan (MSFNSAP), where various aspects like nutrition-sensitive farming, health, hygiene and care practices will be addressed through a convergent approach, leading to behavior changes and an improved nutritional status in particular of women and children.

## OVERALL GOAL

**The nutritional status of family and children in remote and ethnically diverse upland farming communities in Oudomxay and Houaphanh provinces will improve through nutrition sensitive agriculture production, sustainable management of natural resources and enhancement of good practices in health and hygiene, including a more conducive and efficient policy and institutional framework.**

## OBJECTIVES

The ENUFF project applies an integrated agriculture, nutrition and WASH approach to achieve the following four key objectives:

1. Increase capacity of farming communities in nutrition-sensitive food production and diversity at household level through practical trainings at the village level and provision of inputs and veterinary services.
2. Women, in particular mothers' and caregivers' knowledge and skills about nutrition, health, child feeding practices improved and access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene increased through behavioral change and communication at intra-household level.
3. Physical and economic access to nutritious and diversified food improved through promotion of appropriate processing technologies, post-harvest management and market development.
4. Policy, strategic and institutional framework is more conducive to address and prevent food and nutritional insecurity through evidence based policy briefs and capacity building of nutrition center and similar structure at the local level.

## STRATEGY

The ENUFF project is in line with the MSFNSAP 2016-2020, the National Nutrition Strategy 2016-2025 and the Upland Development Strategy, whose first pillar is Food and Nutrition Security, which is also part of the 8th National Socio-Economic Development Plan (NSED) under the human resource development section.

ENUFF will support SDG2 "End hunger, achieve food security and improve nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture", and is as well linked to SDGs 3, 5, 6 and 12.



## APPROACH

The ENUFF project contributes to combatting malnutrition, of upland farming families, in particular chronic child malnutrition, with two approaches:

1. Sustainable Nutrition for All (SN4A) and Linking Agriculture, Natural Resources Management and Nutrition (LANN) approaches.

These two approaches are the main tools to build capacity and raise awareness among communities on the importance of linking food production, access to food and food utilization and consumption. Communities and service providers gain knowledge from nutrition sensitive interventions, and then share them to other members of their communities, thus promoting ownership through monitoring, communicating and sharing lessons learned and good practices.

2. Support to the National and sub-national level convergent offices.

The Nutrition Center, is a secretariat office of the National Nutrition Committee (NNC, chaired by the Ministry of Health, co-chaired by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and the Ministry of Planning and Investment).

The Nutrition Center will receive support to fulfil its mandate for capacity building of national staff that operates in the field. The support will focus on increasing their capacity for effective management and operation of the center.

Additional training and support will be provided to the main provincial and district offices related to the multi-sectoral approach (health, agriculture, education and Lao Women's Union).

At the ground level, implementation is conducted mainly through District Nutrition Teams (DNTs) with the technical support from SNV and Agrisud. DNTs are teams of GoL staff from District Offices of Agriculture, Health and Lao Women's Union that are trained and guided to work alongside communities in removing obstacles and adopting new behaviors to achieve their nutrition goals.

Village Nutrition Teams (VNTs) are teams of volunteers from each village that support in implementation of activities and in follow-up, ensuring the sustainability of changed behaviors.