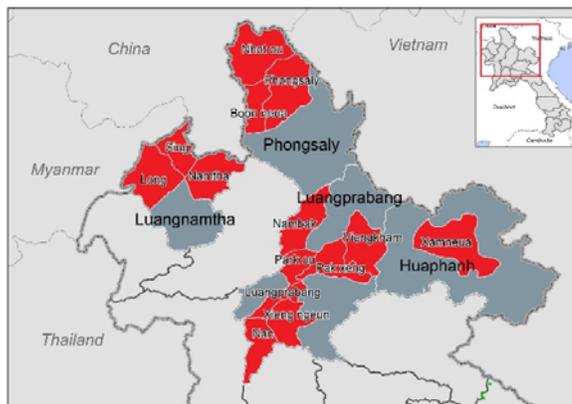


Partnership for Improved Nutrition in Lao PDR Pillar 3: Sustainable Change Achieved through Linking Improved Nutrition and Governance

Welcome!

Welcome to our first issue! This 6-monthly publication aims to bring you updates on the Sustainable Change Achieved through Linking Improved Nutrition and Governance (SCALING) project, implemented by Save the Children, CARE, Comité de Coopération avec le Laos (CCL) and ChildFund, and funded by the European Union (EU) through the umbrella initiative Partnership for Improved Nutrition in Lao PDR (PIN).

Our overall objective is to improve the nutritional status of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women, and children under 5 in 14 districts in the provinces of Luang Prabang (LPB), Luang Namtha (LNT), Phongsaly (PSL) and Huaphanh (HUA). The action operationalizes at scale the Lao Government's (GoL) National Nutrition Strategy Action Plan (NNSAP) and convergent approach. It runs from December 2017 to December 2021.



In this first issue, we would like to provide an overview of the project's design and technical and operational framework.

Providing support at scale to GoL's NNSAP

420

intervention villages, including village committees and leaders, in 14 districts in the 4 provinces

40,700

first-1,000-days households will be visited by Community Facilitators on a monthly basis

28,500

caregivers of young children (grandmothers, fathers) will be co-opted to support behavior changes

108

health centres gain clinical and counselling skills and resources to provide quality care

84

lower secondary schools (LSS) with adolescent peer support groups on nutrition, health and gender

5%

decline in the prevalence of low birth weight and of stunted children under five in the target districts

Note: Target figures will be reviewed following completion of the baseline survey and village mapping.

Addressing main drivers of stunting in Lao PDR

SCALING's Theory of Change is based on a **socio-ecological approach**, working at and strengthening linkages among the individual/household level, up through villages, systems, and policy, as explained in the table below.

<p>Main drivers of stunting in Lao PDR</p>	<p>predominance of suboptimal practices related to adolescent and maternal health and nutrition</p>	<p>lack of local environment support for improved nutrition</p>	<p>limited governance capacity, particularly at provincial, district and community levels</p>
	<p>Expected SCALING outputs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> uptake of improved practices among families, first-1000-days households, peers, villages and LSS enhanced facility based nutrition services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> improved gender norms and power dynamics renovation and rehabilitation of water supplies and systems established value chains for WASH products including latrines and water filter improved access to and use of nutritious foods 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> strengthened implementation of national policy at sub-national levels stronger local governance and multi-sector coordination improved data quality and use



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Scaling up proven approaches and leveraging local partnerships

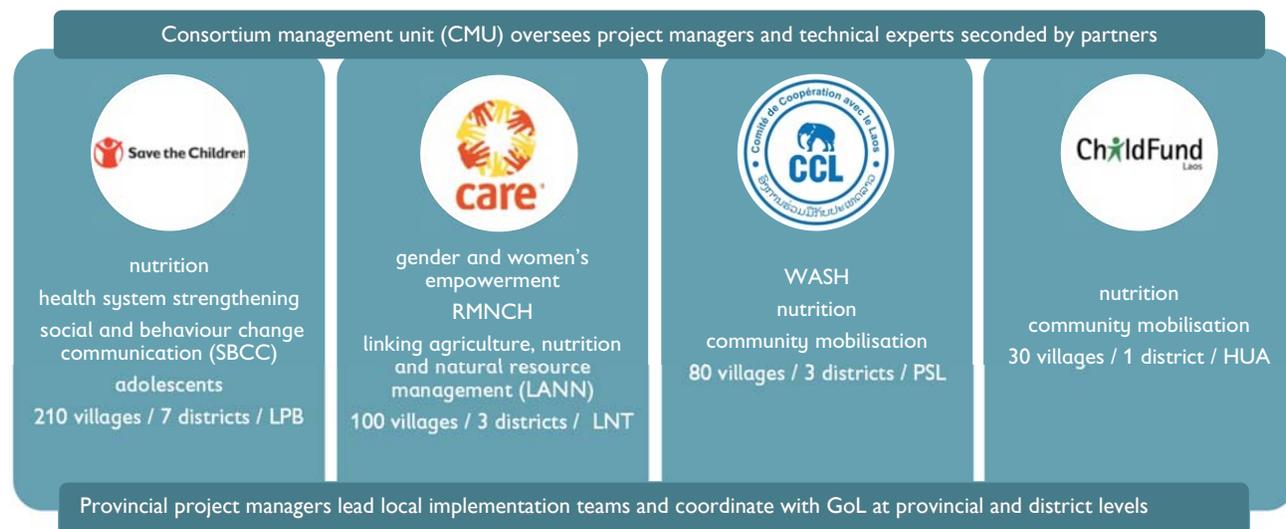


Figure: Partners' technical expertise and operational platform in SCALING

The project builds on partners' on-going work in Lao PDR and will be implemented through a phased approach, starting with villages where the partners are already operational and adding new cohorts of villages over 2019 and 2020. By 2021, GoL will be fully responsible for sustaining the project activities with the SCALING team providing continued mentoring and technical support, while also documenting and sharing project experiences, outcomes achieved, and lessons learned.

An integral part of EU's Partnership for Improved Nutrition

SCALING is funded through EU PIN's Pillar 3 - scaling up nutrition sensitive support by seeking longer-term and sustainable impacts through the promotion of diversified food production and sustainable value chains, rural infrastructure (mainly water and sanitation), and education/behavioural change communication with a strong focus on women's empowerment.

We coordinate closely with NUSAP, the Nutrition Sensitive Agriculture Project implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) in the same intervention areas as SCALING, and a fellow beneficiary of funds from EU PIN Pillar 3. Broader coordination is also set-up with other EU PIN grant beneficiaries, including the Provincial Nutrition Committees, funded by UNICEF and EU PIN, and other development partners working on nutrition in Lao PDR.

Communicating for stronger project impact

SCALING recognizes the importance of consistent and coherent communication for achieving the action's objectives.

To follow regular project updates, follow and like our partners' and EU pages on Facebook: [@SavetheChildreninLaos](#), [@CAREinLaos](#), [@CCLinLaos](#), and [@Childfund](#), [@europeaid](#) and [@EUinLaos](#).

To subscribe to our 6-monthly newsletter, send comments or suggestions, please contact Thongvanh at thongvanh.lorsavanh@savethechildren.org.

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