

The First 1000 Days of Life



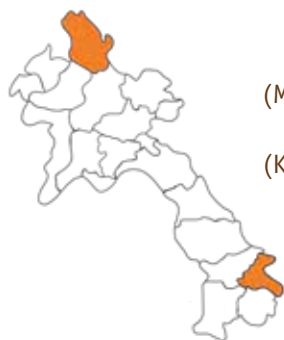
Local women feel comfortable to go to the health center.

BACKGROUND

The first 1000 days of life - between a woman's pregnancy and her child's second birthday (from conception to 24 months old) - is a unique period of opportunity when the foundations for optimum health and development across the lifespan are established. The right nutrition and care during the 1000-day window influences not only whether the child will survive, but also their ability to grow, learn and rise out of poverty. As such, it contributes to society's long-term health, stability and prosperity.

The project focuses on capacity strengthening of health volunteers, midwives and health center staff as well as facilitating access to and improved quality health and nutrition services for mothers (15-49 years of age) and children. Local governance structures are included in the planning, implementation and evaluation of the interventions. To guarantee sustainability, building and strengthening capacities among political counterparts are essential building blocks for any CARE program. In Laos, health staff at District and Village levels work to support on specific topics related to RMNCH through training and engagement in village level activities.

AT A GLIMPSE



Location

Phongsaly Province
(Mai, Khua, Samphan Districts)
Sekong Province
(Kaleum, Dak Cheung Districts)

TimeFrame

January 2020 - December 2023

Beneficiaries

Direct 35,676 people, women 17,838
Indirect 140,815 people, women 70,407

Partners

Ministry of Health,
Provincial and District Health Offices



OBJECTIVES

Contribute to an improvement of RMNCH services in Phongsaly and Sekong Provinces.

FUNDED BY

The Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, Luxembourg

LUXEMBOURG
AID & DEVELOPMENT



OUTCOMES

■ Improve access and quality of RMNCH services

- Training and capacity development of health care staff
- Adapt and Update a Healthy Mother App
- Promote and Uptake of Decree on Lao Code of Marketing Breast Milk Substitutes (BMS)
- Support equipment to local health centers
- Improve Water and Sanitation Facilities in the Health Centers
- Encourage Positive Maternal and Newborn health Behaviors in Communities
- Provide counselling to young men and women who are planning to get married, newly married, planning for pregnancy or caring for young children

■ Improve women's economic empowerment and socio-economic development

- Life Skills training to support women's decision-making, reduced workload, and control over resources and health
- Community reflection on gender and social equality to overcome barriers to accessing health services

■ Improve/Strengthen Nutrition and Health Governance at all levels

- Support provincial and district and village committees to improve functioning and include RMNCH in their development plans.
- Advocate for draft MOH decree on International Code of Marketing Breast Milk Substitutes (BMS)
- Increase engagement between local authorities (Provincial Nutrition Committees (PNC) and District Nutrition Committees (DNC) and the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Alliance, in particular the SUN CSA

IMPACTS

- Improve access and quality of RMNCH services
- Improve women's economic empowerment and socio-economic development
- Improve/Strengthen Nutrition and Health Governance at all levels



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