



ສະຫະພາບ ເອີຣົບ
European Union



ACCELERATING HEALTHY AGRICULTURE AND NUTRITION (AHAN) PROJECT

END OF PROJECT FACTSHEET



NEEDS FOR IMPROVED NUTRITION

In 2017, 21% of Lao children under five were underweight, 9% wasted and 33% stunted (LSIS II), leaving Lao PDR with one of the highest undernutrition rates in Southeast Asia. Undernutrition impact can be far-reaching and multi-generational, causing huge socioeconomic burdens for countries by perpetuating the cycle of poverty and undernutrition within families and communities. Malnutrition impacts women of reproductive age (15-49) and those who are pregnant and lactating, which affects infant and child nutrition.

AHAN PROJECT'S APPROACH

The Accelerating Healthy Agriculture and Nutrition (AHAN) project aimed at enhancing household nutrition, focusing on women of reproductive age and children under five years old, from 2018 to 2022, with funding from the European Union (EU) and matching funds from the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT). Led by World Vision with the Ministry of Health, in partnership with the Agronomes et Vétérinaires Sans Frontières (AVSF), Green Community Development Association (GCDA) and the Burnet Institute (BI), the project drew on each partner's technical and organisational strengths to implement **integrated, multisectoral interventions** in line with the convergence approach outlined by the National Nutrition Strategy and Plan of Action 2021-2026 and the EU Joint Indicative Program for Lao PDR 2016-2020.

PROJECT LOCATION

3 Provinces

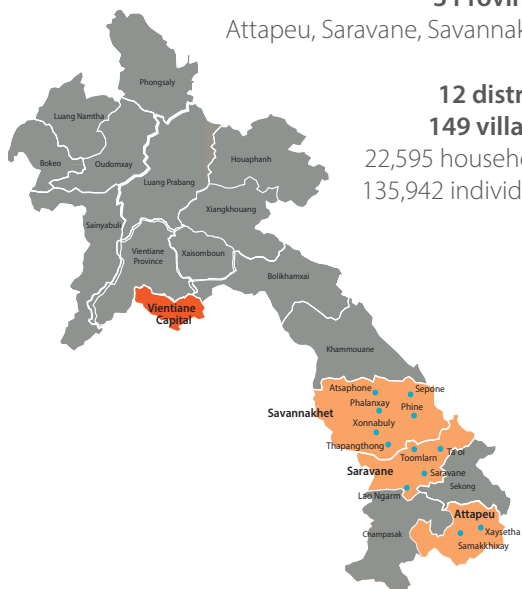
Attapeu, Saravane, Savannakhet

12 districts

149 villages

22,595 households

135,942 individuals



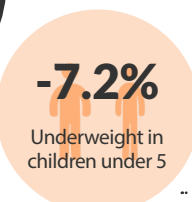
PROJECT GOALS

Percentages of change between project's baseline (2018) and end-line evaluations (2022)

Prevalence of **stunting** in children under five years old **decreased from 46.7% to 29.3%**



Food Security has increased during the project, **from 11.7% in 2018 to 70.2%** during the end-line evaluation

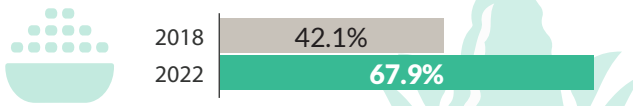


Prevalence of **underweight** in children under five years old **decreased from 34% to 26.8%**

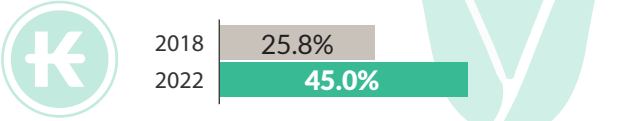
PROJECT OUTCOMES

Agriculture & Livelihood

Households with year-round access to sufficient food

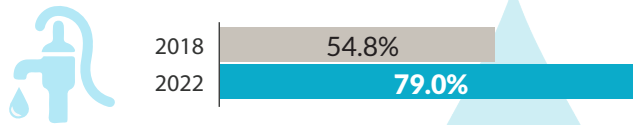


Households reporting increase in income over past 3 years

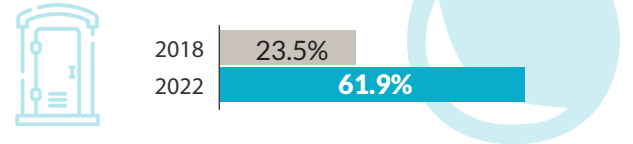


Water, Sanitation & Hygiene

Households with access to basic water sources

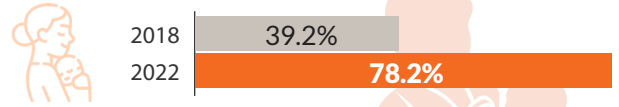


Households with access to basic sanitation facilities

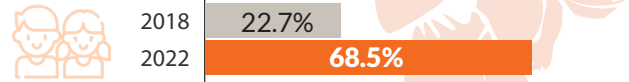


Health & Nutrition

Women of reproductive age meeting minimum dietary diversity requirements

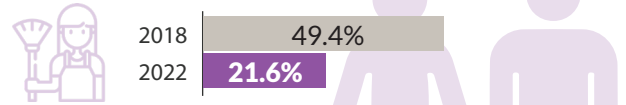


Children under five years old meeting minimum dietary diversity requirements

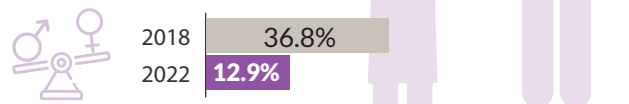


Gender Equality

Households in agreement that looking after the house and children is a woman's responsibility



Households in agreement that it is natural that men have more power in the family



TESTIMONIALS: THE IMPORTANCE OF STRENGTHENED MULTI-SECTOR COORDINATION



H.E. INA MARCIULIONYTE
Ambassador
European Union in Lao PDR

Food security was improved by 60%, and this is really a major breakthrough even during COVID time; stunting rate was reduced by 17.5%. I would call it a successful project, and we could be proud of this project. The success was partly because of different experts that were involved, but what is very important is we managed to gain the trust of local communities and local authorities.



DR. PHONEPASEUTH OUNAPHOM
Director General - Department of
Hygiene and Health Promotion

AHAN positively impacts our department by decreasing malnutrition rate at the village, creating a management system at the grassroots level, and supports better coordination between local village health volunteers and health centres. Even after the project ends, health staff and village volunteers will carry on the work because the project has involved and engaged them from the beginning: this contributes to sustainability.



MR. DAN HELDON
Deputy Ambassador
Australian Embassy in Lao PDR

Malnutrition is a very complex problem, It is critical to address the multiple contributing factors to malnutrition, so I think the AHAN Programme has done that very well. It's not just an NGO working in the community doing their thing and then finishing and going away; it's working with the Government and communities' systems that will be there forever and building their capacity.

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