

ACCELERATING HEALTHY AGRICULTURE AND NUTRITION (AHAN) PROJECT - SARAVANE

END OF PROJECT FACTSHEET



NEEDS FOR IMPROVED NUTRITION

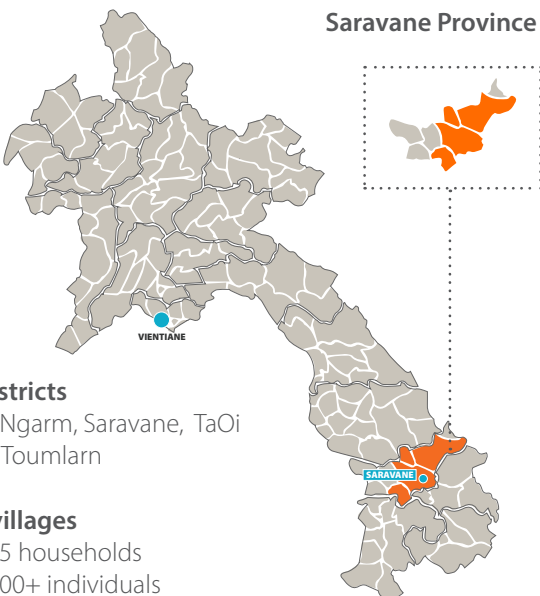
In 2017, 21% of Lao children under five were underweight, 9% wasted and 33% stunted (LSIS II), leaving Lao PDR with one of the highest undernutrition rates in Southeast Asia. Undernutrition impact can be far-reaching and multi-generational, causing huge socioeconomic burdens for countries by perpetuating 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 Health Agriculture and Nutrition (AHAN) – Saravane in Lao PDR project, supported by the Australian Government, aimed to create supportive conditions for enhanced household nutrition. The project will improve nutrition outcomes, particularly for women and children under five, by addressing key determinants of malnutrition such as, availability of diverse foods, improving dietary intake, infant and child feeding and care practices, and changed hygiene practices and gender relations at household level. The project will have a strong focus on the first 1,000 days of life which are critical in addressing childhood malnutrition and ensures the inclusion of gender and people with disability (PWD) in project activities. Activities were informed by global best practice in integrated nutrition programming, in addition to local gender and disability assessments conducted in Saravan Province.

PROJECT LOCATION

Saravane Province



4 districts
Lao Ngarm, Saravane, TaOi and Toumlarn

65 villages
2,745 households
20,000+ individuals

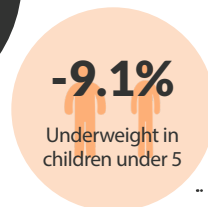
IMPACT & RESULTS

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

Prevalence of **stunting** in children under five years old **decreased from 51.4% to 34% in Saravane**



Food security has increased for households during the project, **from 5.8% in 2018 to 74.7%** during the end-line evaluation

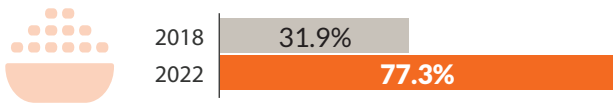


Prevalence of **underweight** in children under five years old **decreased from 37.7% to 28.6% in Saravane**

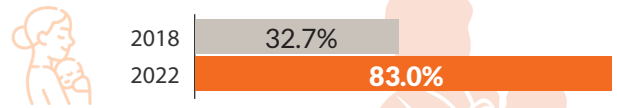
PROJECT OUTCOMES (SARAVANE)

Health & Nutrition

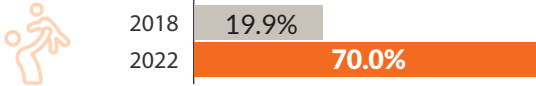
Households with year-round access to sufficient food



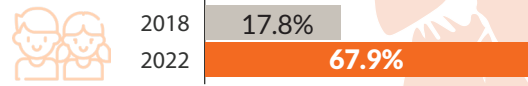
Women of reproductive age meeting minimum dietary diversity requirements



Caregivers that report doing a range of age-appropriate stimulating activities with their child under 5

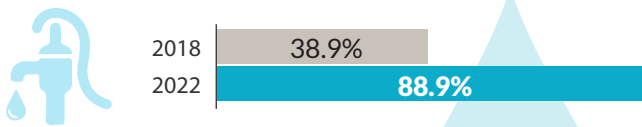


Children under two years old meeting minimum dietary diversity requirements

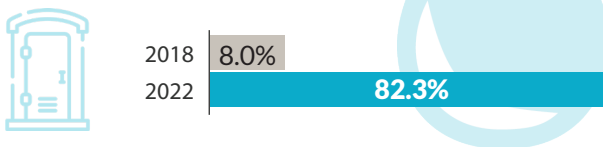


Water, Sanitation & Hygiene

Households with access to basic water sources

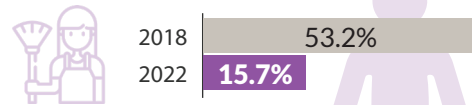


Households with access to basic sanitation facilities

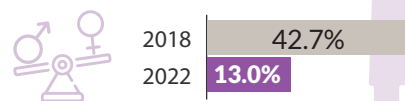


Gender Equality

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



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.



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. MICAH OLAD
AHAN Programme Director (then)
World Vision International - Lao PDR

I remember when I went on monitoring where I had to cross the river with my team members. I started reflecting that this is what they do every day and that, if you are not passionate about your work, if you do not have the most vulnerable children at heart, you will not be sacrificing yourself to providing implementation for these people, so that really made me very proud to be part of this project.

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