



Keynote:  
**Accelerating Efforts for  
Nutrition in the Context of the  
Global Polycrisis: Investing in  
Nutrition**

**Phet PHOMPITHAK,**  
Minister of Planning and  
Investment, Lao PDR

Vientiane | 2nd Human Capital  
Summit | June 2024

ສປປ ລາວ  
ກອງປະຊຸມສູດຍອດ  
ຊັບສິນດ້ານມະນຸດ ຄັ້ງທີ II  
ໂພຊະນາການທີ່ດີແມ່ນສັບສິນດ້ານມະນຸດ



LAO PDR  
2ND HUMAN CAPITAL  
SUMMIT

NUTRITION - THE FOUNDATION OF HUMAN CAPITAL

# The Government of Lao PDR recognizes the urgency of investing in nutrition

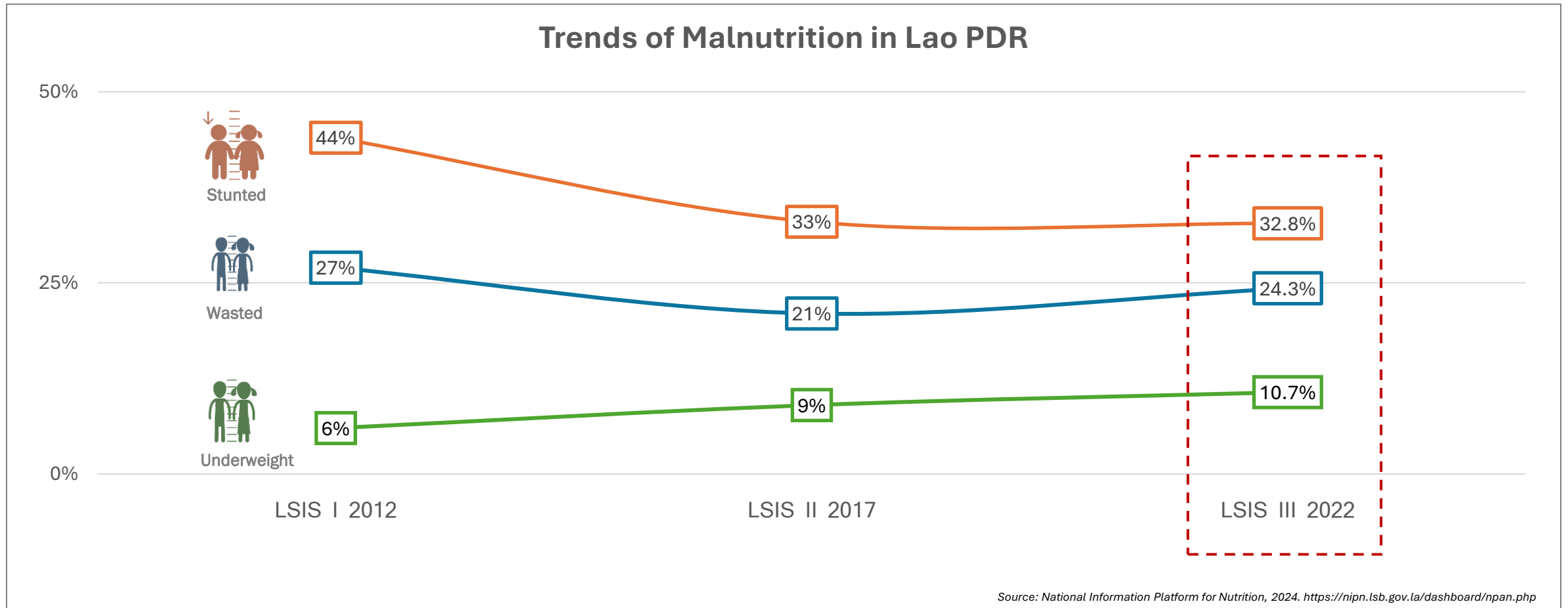
**1.8 Million**  
2020, effected by  
malnutrition

**33%**  
2020, children under  
5 years old stunted

Malnutrition has a **negative impact** on **economic growth** and **national prosperity**

Malnutrition **during the first 1,000 days of a child's life** can cause stunted growth and negative impacts on cognition, education, earning potential, and overall health.

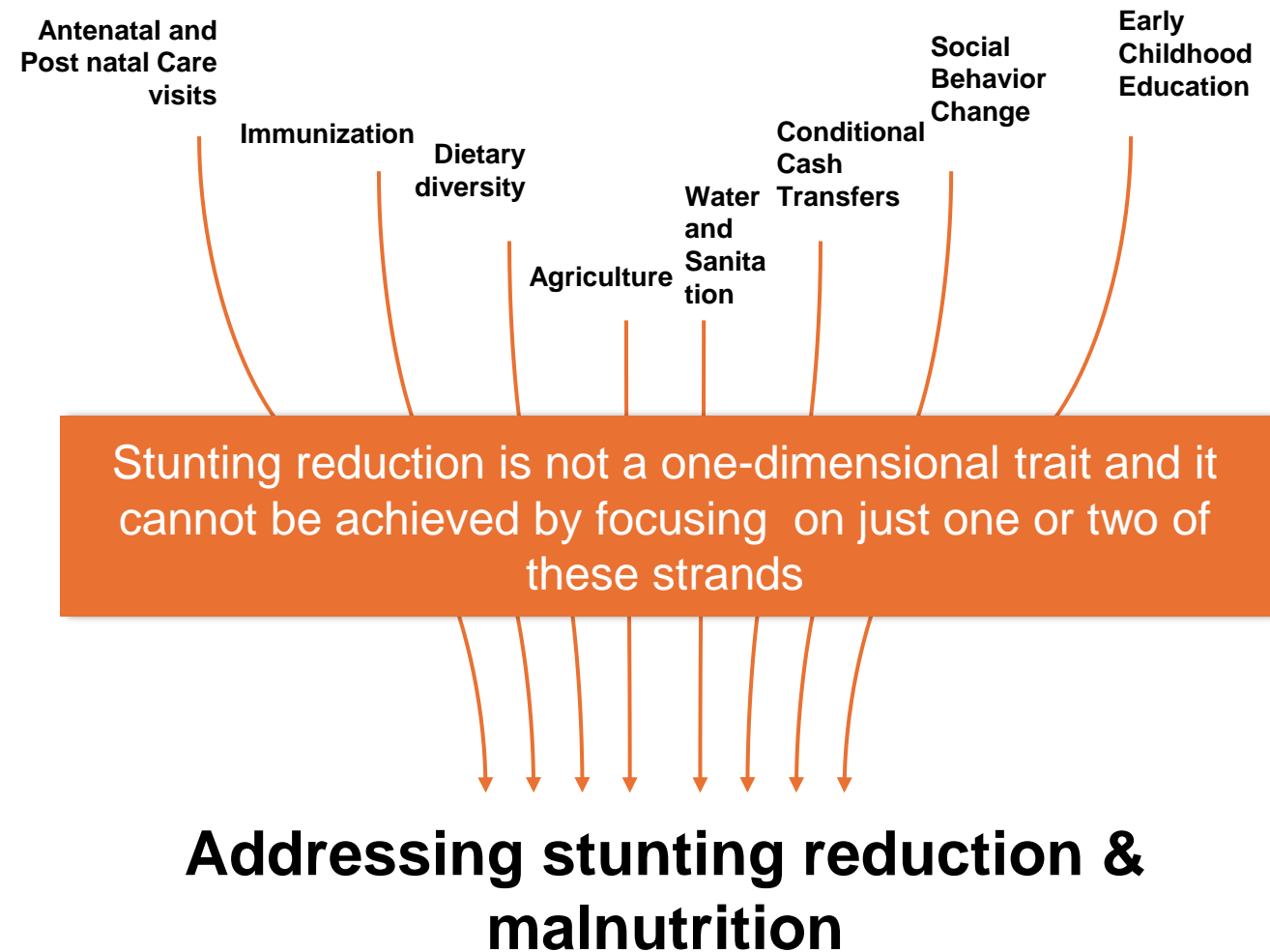
# Lao PDR's rates of undernutrition persist at a critical level, demanding immediate action



**Prioritizing nutrition interventions in our development agenda is crucial for breaking the cycle of malnutrition and unlocking the fullest potential of our human capital.**

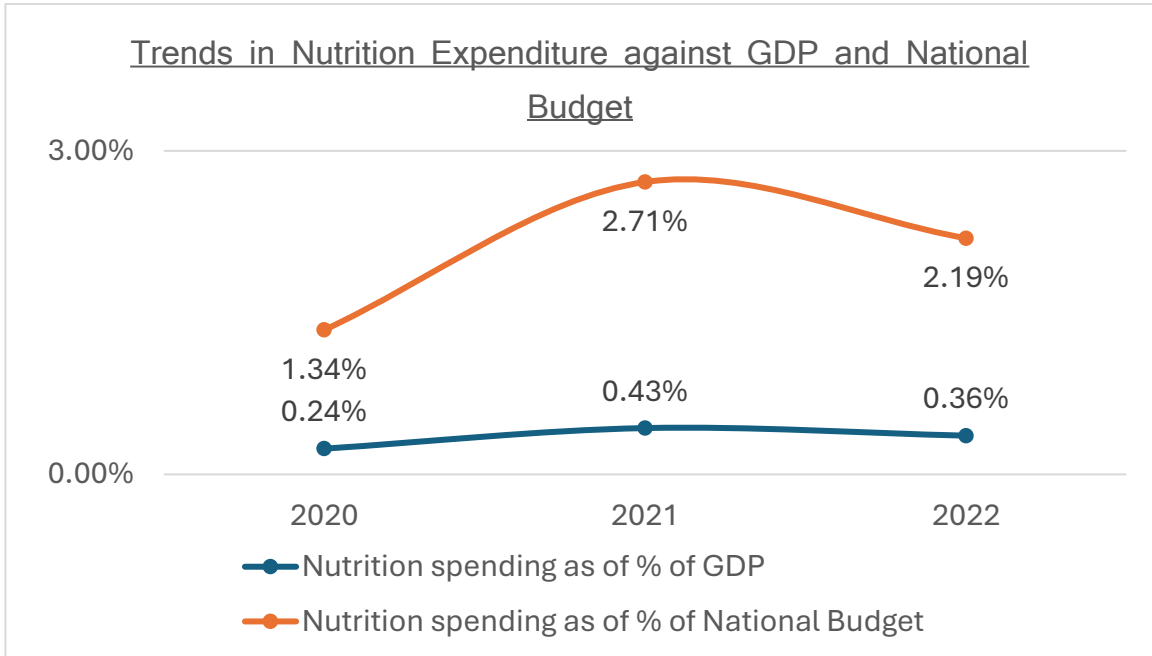
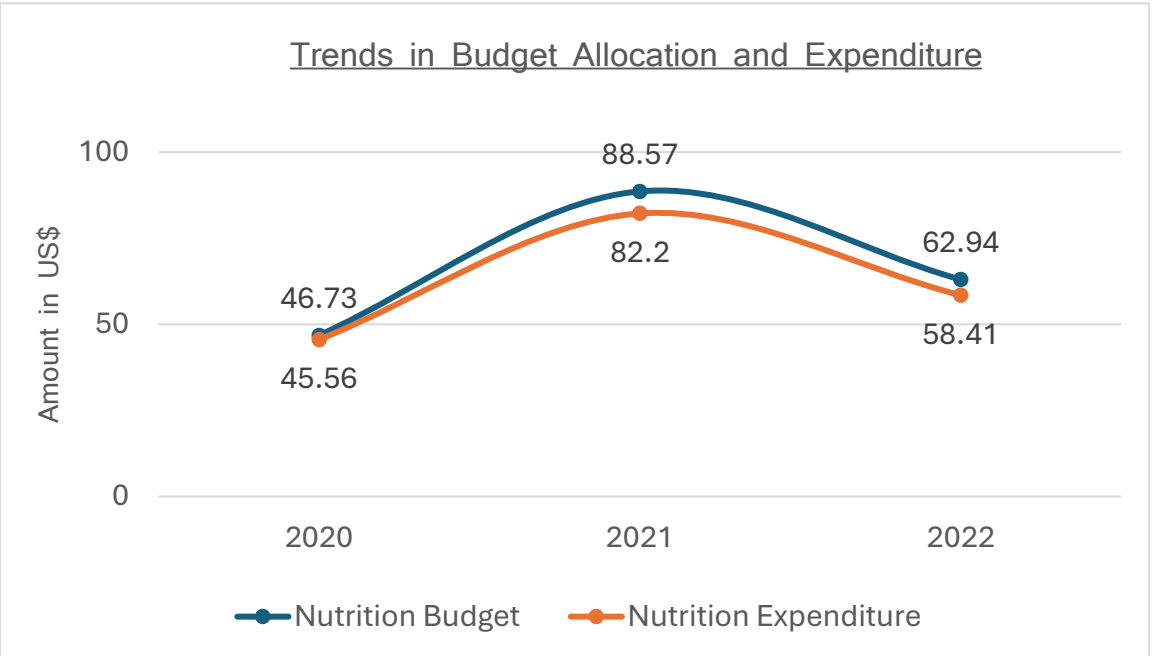
**Nutrition is a multisectoral issue that necessitates investment from various sectors to achieve lasting results.**

**Multisectoral nutrition coordination:** A prioritized package of evidence-based and cost-effective interventions need to be implemented simultaneously; as well as investments in coordination, service delivery, monitoring, and financing.



The global nutrition evidence demonstrates that investing US\$ 1 in nutrition yields a return of US\$ 16 for the country.

- **US\$ 186.7 million** invested in nutrition from 2020 to 2022 in Lao PDR
- **90%** of spending from external development partners
- Imperative for GoL to enhance the quality of nutrition expenditure and generate more domestic resources.



# How Other Countries Have Increased Budget Allocations and Domestic Financing for Nutrition-related Interventions

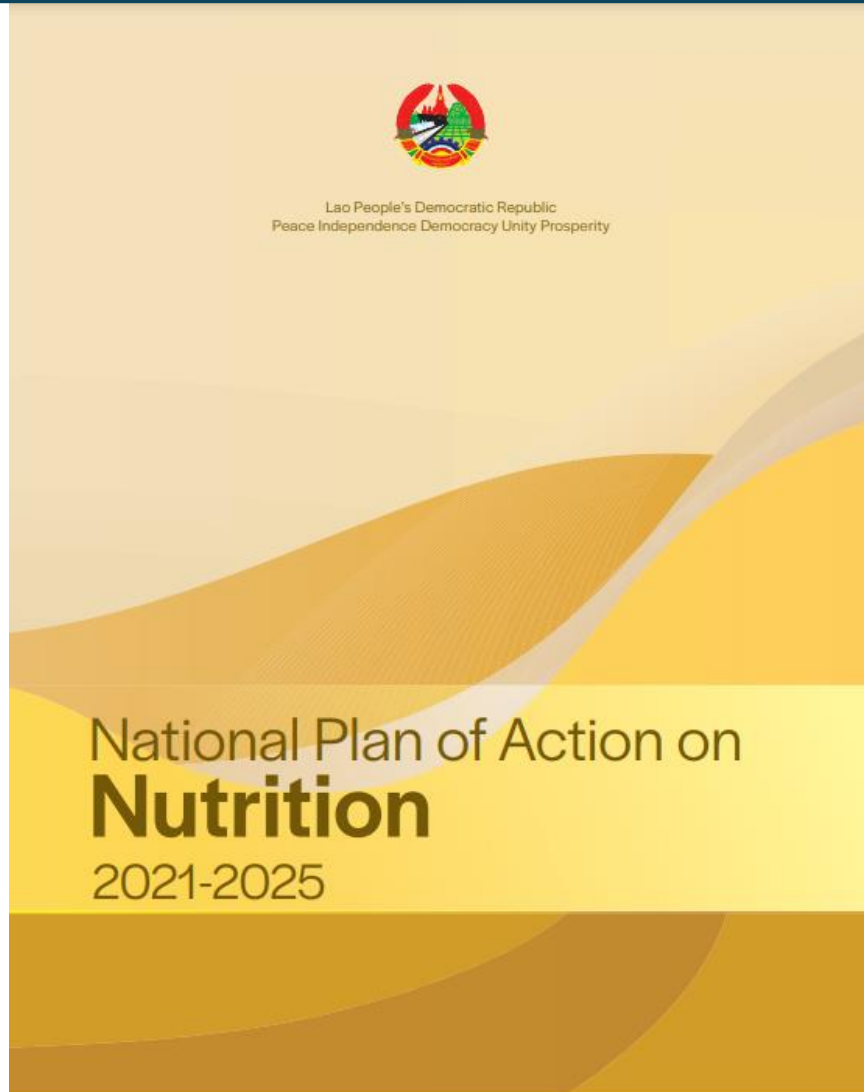
## Rwanda:

- Increase in budget allocations for nutrition-related interventions between 2017/18 and 2020/21
- Government of Rwanda also implemented a system that facilitated the tagging, tracking, and evaluation of nutrition budget usage

## Indonesia:

- Implemented a tracking system and performance evaluation to monitor national spending on priority nutrition interventions
- Led by the Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Planning, with the aim of improving spending efficiency and accountability for nutrition outcomes

# More work is needed to achieve the goals of NPAN



- Nutrition is a key strategy for our government to improve human capital and economic growth.
- To achieve the goal to significantly reduce stunting, we all need to work together collaboratively and consistently.
- This will lay the groundwork for a more prosperous and healthy Lao PDR.

