



# 2021-2025

## Summary of the Strategic plan

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Since its establishment in 1968, MCNV's mission has been to provide solidarity, health and development support to the people in Vietnam. Mid-2000s, we have extended our mission to support the people in Laos, especially those who live in the bordering area with Vietnam. Based on recent analysis, MCNV is committed to continue our programme support in Vietnam and Laos in the coming five years, with focal programmes identified as below and to promote more active collaboration and specific cross-border programme initiatives between Vietnam and Laos.

# Continuing our work in Laos and Vietnam

**The needs:** although the development in Vietnam has been substantial, there still remain large disparities among vulnerable groups, particularly in the quality care for people with disabilities and elderly, livelihood and nutrition improvement for ethnic minority people and those who are affected by climate change. In Laos, there is a high rate of poverty. Health care including primary health care outcomes are very low, health personnel is poorly trained. Child mortality and child malnutrition remain the highest in the region. In addition, climate changes and related environmental problems are urgent issues for both countries.

**MCNV's technical capacity:** this strategic plan is evolved around the, successful, existing and historical technical capacity of MCNV as organisation, including that in the area of health, nutrition, livelihood, and support to people with disability as well as promoting health research.

**MCNV's capacity to mobilise financial resources:** the focus and scale of the strategy is made in relation to funding opportunities and the analysis of MCNV's ability to mobilise the financial resources to support addressing the identified needs. In addition to our long-term, highly committed individual donors in the Netherlands, we will include foundations and institutional donors in our fund-raising plans.

## Focal programming areas in the next five years

CORE PROGRAMME AREAS	INTERGRATED PROGRAMME AREA	CROSS-CUTTING THEMES
Health and Nutrition	Support to improve livelihoods	Gender equity and Research
Quality care service for people with disabilities and elderly		
Interventions in context of climate change adaptation		

In Laos, we will promote involvement of village health workers, community models and multisectoral coordination for addressing maternal and child health and nutrition. In Vietnam, we will especially focus more on advocating for a wider application and scaling up of the proven models on nutrition sensitive agriculture. This programme is deeply based on the core value of MCNV and our technical experience in this area, especially in the field of community-based health care and nutrition, in Vietnam and more recent in both Vietnam and Laos

## *Continuing to improve the quality care service for people with disability and elderly*

This programme aims to ensure that people with disabilities including children and elderly people have access to professional and quality services including medical rehabilitation and social inclusion. This is based on our long-term successful support to people with disability in Vietnam. In the coming years, we will focus in particular on the following issues:

- Support to Universities in training of Occupational Therapy, Speech and Language Therapy;
- Development of training code and job code for Occupational Therapist, Speech Therapist, Physical Therapist;
- Establishment and capacity building for profession organizations of PT, OT, and ST;
- Strengthening Continuous Profession Development (CPD) for PT, OT, and ST;
- Build up capacity of OT service providers including general hospitals and rehabilitation specialized institutes, accompanied by demonstration of multidisciplinary rehabilitation models;
- Continue inclusive education initiatives for children with disabilities;
- Pilot a model of community-based care for the elderly focused on primary health care in which family members are main resource. Project area would be the provinces where MCNV has or had projects such as Dien Bien, Quang Tri, Phu Yen and Ben Tre.

For this programme, MCNV's added values include our long-term experience and reputation in Vietnam in pre-service as well as in-service training for professionals working on rehabilitation for people with disability. Our experience in the past in setting up community based organisations and support elderly as well as experience in mental health care, are among the essential learnings for ensuring quality service for the elderly.

## *Contributing to health and nutrition improvements*

While Vietnam has been improving much in this area, Laos continues to face a lot of problems and issues related to primary health care and nutrition, including a high rate of new-born morbidity and mortality. Malnutrition is extremely high among ethnic minority groups, including those in Vietnam. In the coming five years, MCNV would like to support our local partners to:

- Reduce maternal, new-born and child mortality in Laos
- Reduce malnutrition rate among children under five years old in Laos and Vietnam through promotion of a multisectoral approach
- Strengthen health information systems for maternal and new-born care and child nutrition
- Strengthen health system, especially primary health care at district and sub-district levels

## *Work with community groups on their initiatives for interventions in the context of climate change adaptation*

Many of the households in Vietnam and Laos are living in vulnerable zones or in forest areas where they could play important and active roles in the fight against climate change.



MCNV is committed to promote collective working together among farmers and other stakeholders so that (1) forestry farmers use more sustainable ways of managing their forest and at the same time have a more stable income from forestry; and (2) groups of poor farmers in the Mekong delta are supported with alternative farming practices as climate conditions change (higher degree of drought and salt intrusion). Our programme in the coming years focuses on the following priorities in each country as well as in cross border collaboration:

- Support smallholders and community forest owners in achieving certification for sustainable forest management and agro-forestry sustainable production;
- Support smallholders, communities and the stakeholders in promoting the approach of sustainable landscape management in order to address poverty reduction and sustainable management;
- Support Farmer groups to develop agro-forestry production and plantation;
- Support Mekong delta farmers with alternative farming techniques to adapt to the climate change;
- Support households in areas with heavy salt intrusion to improve water retention for household use and agriculture production.

This is a new area of work for MCNV but in Vietnam we have built strong experience in supporting farmer groups in production linked to forest management such as bamboo and Tung oil production. In addition, MCNV has rich experience in supporting small groups of farmers to develop their own small business and we have good understanding on the situation of drought and salty intrusion in Mekong River Delta area.

Poverty is the underlying cause to overcome in many areas in Vietnam and Laos. MCNV seeks to introduce household economic strategies with an aim to improve food security, health, and nutritional status of marginalised groups of populations and to contribute to building up more resilient livelihoods in the context of climate change.

*Continuing to support vulnerable households to improve their **livelihoods**, as integrated element in core programme areas*

In the coming years, we seek to implement our livelihood programme in integration with our health and nutrition projects, as well as in the implementation of interventions in the context of climate change adaptation.

This programme is a continuation of MCNV's experience in improving food and economic security that affect poor and vulnerable groups of the population in both Vietnam and Laos. MCNV's experience includes improving household economic and food security through sustainable access to agricultural services, financial services, and small business development services.

### **Gender equity and research**

**Gender equity:** especially in Laos where gender norms are directly affecting the achievements of the relevant development outcomes such as health and nutrition, we will strengthen our awareness on this topic and take it into consideration when designing and implementing our projects and programmes.

**Research:** MCNV will continue to build its experience in supporting health related research and to strengthen our connections with universities and research organisations in the Netherlands and in the countries where we work. Research will be either part of the core programmes or a separate project, subject to our ability to fund raise for this work during the implementation of the strategy. In the coming years, MCNV will make sure that learnings from our research work (if we do) will be applied and integrated widely across programmes. ◀