



**1000
DAY
PROJECT**



**MMG and UNICEF
Partners on
zinc micronutrients
since 2012**

A FOUNDATION FOR LIFELONG HEALTH

MMG, UNICEF, and the Lao Government have partnered since 2012 to fight the challenge of child stunting and improve the health of children in Lao PDR with the 1000 Day Project.

The 1000 Day Project is a tailored program of nutritional support for families during the first 1000 days of life.

Working in targeted, remote areas of Lao PDR, the 1000 Day Project provides families with 'Superkid' -branded micronutrients to fortify the diets of young children and help ensure they grow up healthy and strong; in addition to health services which include vaccinations, screens for malnutrition, and hands-on education and information sessions like nutritional cooking classes and discussions on age-appropriate feeding practices.

Health workers, with support from the Lao Women's Union network, are trained to administer the activities and serve as master trainers and supervisors to support and expand the project activities at the community level.

The first 1000 days of life are critical for setting the foundations of lifelong health. Insufficient intake of zinc and other micronutrients during this timeframe can result in irreversible stunting, resulting

in impaired brain development, lower IQ, weakened immune systems and a greater risk of developing chronic diseases.

The 1000 Day Project commenced in 2012 with funding from MMG of US\$1.38 million. The first phase tested the delivery of Superkid within the private sector, and focused outreach activities in the public sector in three districts of Lao PDR.

A second phase of the project commenced in 2016 with additional funding from MMG of US\$1.39 million. The second phase will see the project expand into additional provinces of Lao PDR using the experience gained in phase one, while continuing to integrate the activities into national health services.

Lao PDR has made significant progress on its health outcomes and has met its Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) for under-five child mortality, through the contribution of the 1000 Day Project and other development programs. However, the country continues to be challenged by maternal and child nutrition particularly for children in remote areas.



PARTNERS IN PROGRESS

The 1000 Day Project supports Lao PDR to achieve its objectives of reducing the rates of anaemia and under-nutrition as set out in its National Nutrition Strategy and Action Plan for 2010–2015.

Reducing rates of anaemia and under-nutrition is a key action item in the country's National Nutrition Strategy and Action Plan and the 1000 Day project micronutrient interventions have been included in this strategy.

The provision of micronutrients is regarded globally as one of the most cost effective interventions for child nutrition. Using a tailored approach to training and local capacity building, along with research and development for expansion, the program is designed to produce lasting reductions of child mortality and a better future.

ABOUT MMG

MMG operates and develops copper, zinc and other base metals projects across Australia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Lao PDR and Peru. A long-term outlook, our pride in mining, our commitment to shared international standards and our respect for people, land and culture underpins our success.

By partnering with UNICEF and the Lao Ministry of Health, MMG is building wealth for its host communities, with programs that provide lasting benefits to national child and maternal health.

120k

120,000 children and their families reached with Superkid micronutrient powders and nutrition interventions.



1600+

Over 1600 health workers and Lao Women's Union volunteers trained in nutrition promotion and counselling on appropriate feeding practices and micronutrients.



2.5m+

Over 2.5 million sachets of Superkid procured and distributed through the private and public sector through quarterly integrated health outreach activities.



2x

Development and testing of two operational delivery models for nutrition interventions to address Lao PDR nutritional crises.



16

16 Ministry of Health and Lao Women's Union employees from the central level trained with knowledge and skills to serve as master trainers and supervisors for Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) and micronutrient activities.



155

155 Ministry of Health and Lao Women's Union managers in the provinces of Saravane and Attapeu and the district of Vilabouly, provided with skills in micro planning, monitoring and supervision.



57k / 31k

57,000 children provided with Vitamin A supplementation and 31,000 children received deworming tablets.



1000

1000 Day Project interventions adopted by Lao Government and included in national Nutrition Strategy 2016-2025.



Health outreach activities include immunisation, deworming, screening for malnutrition, counselling on infant feeding and cooking demonstrations for caregivers.