

# 2024 LAO PDR ANNUAL RESULTS REPORT

MARCH 2025



United  
Nations



Lao People's Democratic Republic



The cover depicts the Lamvong Lao dance, a cultural tradition of community togetherness that became the country's newest inscription on UNESCO's Intangible Heritage List in 2024.



# CONTENTS

<b>UN Country Team</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Foreword by the Resident Coordinator</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Key partners</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Chapter 1: Key developments in the country</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Chapter 2: UN development system support to national development priorities</b>	<b>8</b>
2.1. Overview of Cooperation Framework Results	9
2.2. Cooperation Framework priorities, outcomes and outputs	12
<b>Chapter 3: UN Working Together</b>	<b>39</b>
3.1. Support to Partnerships and Financing the 2030 Agenda	40
3.2. Results of the UN working more and better together	43
3.3. Evaluations and Lessons Learned	45
3.4. Financial Overview and Resource Mobilization	46
3.5. Key Focus for the UNCT in 2025	48
<b>Acronyms</b>	<b>49</b>







Photo: UN



# UN COUNTRY TEAM

The United Nations Country Team (UNCT) in Lao PDR consists of 25 UN Agencies, Funds and Programs working together to support localization of 18 Sustainable Development Goals, including the nationally-adopted SDG 18 on “Lives Safe from UXO” and national development priorities through sustainable and equitable socio-economic growth.

Together, the UNCT helps the Government and people of Lao PDR address development challenges by promoting good governance and a rights-based approach. The UN focuses its assistance on the most poor and vulnerable, ensuring that no one is left behind.

## LAO PDR UNCT ORGANIZATIONS



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



International  
Labour  
Organization



IOM  
UN MIGRATION



International  
Trade  
Centre



UNITED NATIONS  
HUMAN RIGHTS  
OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER



UNAIDS



UN  
CDF  
Microfinance • Capital Development



United Nations  
UNCITRAL



UNITED NATIONS  
UNCTAD



DESA



UN  
DP



UNDRR  
UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction



UN  
environment  
programme



unesco



UNFPA



UN-HABITAT



UNHCR  
The UN Refugee Agency



unicef  
ເພື່ອເດັກທຸກໆຄົນ



UNIDO



UNODC  
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime



UNOPS



UN  
VOLUNTEERS



WFP



World Health  
Organization



# FOREWORD BY THE UN RESIDENT COORDINATOR



The 2024 Annual Results Report covers progress made by the UN Country Team in Lao PDR and our partners during the third year of the 2022-2026 Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF, or Cooperation Framework).

2024 was a fast-paced year with many developments for the country, and the UN System and our partners. The Government of Lao PDR held the role of ASEAN Chair throughout the year, and welcomed a high number of visitors to the country during the Visit Laos Year 2024. The country attracted many high-level visits and delegations for ASEAN events, including the visit of the UN Secretary-General António Guterres who attended the 14th ASEAN-UN Summit in October. The visit was of significance as the Secretary-General met with the country's senior leadership and committed UN's support to the Government's aspirations to graduate from Least Developed Country status.

At the policy level, the Government initiated the formulation of the 10th National Socio-Economic Development Plan, endorsed the Smooth Transition Strategy for LDC Graduation, and presented its 3rd Voluntary National Review on the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Two Round Table Meetings were held in 2024 bringing together national decision-makers and development partners with a sharper focus on policy dialogue and effective coordination on the most pressing issues facing the country – the macroeconomic situation and impact on environment, and human capital development during fiscal challenges.

Heavy rainfall and Typhoon Yagi brought floods to most parts of the country in September, with provinces such as Luang Namtha experiencing the worst flooding in 60 years. The Government requested UN's support, leading to a joint Government and UN rapid needs and early recovery assessment in Luang Namtha. At COP29, Lao PDR presented the Early Warnings for All roadmap under the Secretary-General's EW4ALL initiative.

The UN agencies also engaged in a policy dialogue with members of the National Assembly ahead of the regular session of the current legislature, with topics ranging from macroeconomic stabilization and LDC graduation, to human capital development and climate change adaptation.

In New York, Member States adopted the Pact for the Future, the Global Digital Compact and the Declaration on Future Generations. The UN Country Team in Lao PDR held several rounds of briefings with the Government, development partners and other stakeholders to contextualize the Pact for Lao PDR, setting the stage for localizing the implementation in 2025.

The UN Country Team has made great strides in working together to address development challenges facing the country. High-impact activities and service delivery continued with UN agencies operating in 20 districts across all 18 provinces, while policy support across Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) covered most sectors of the national economy. A growing number of these activities are coordinated and joined up, embracing the spirit of SDG transitions for acceleration. Collectively, the UN System delivered US\$86.7 million in 2024 through ongoing programs in all four areas of the Cooperation Framework.

In 2024, we reached another milestone in our work by producing our very first Partnership Strategy looking at how we work together and with a broad array of partners to achieve development results. Partnerships remain essential to the UN's mission in Lao PDR, and the results is what makes our collaborations meaningful. On behalf of the UN Country Team, I renew my gratitude to all our national, international and local partners for joining us in improving the lives of people and communities around the country.

**Bakhodir Burkhanov**  
UN Resident Coordinator



# KEY PARTNERS

The UN Country Team in Lao PDR wishes to express heartfelt thanks to our donor development partners. Without their crucial support, our work across the four strategic priorities of the UNSDCF would not be possible.

		 Strategic Priority 1: People's well-being	 Strategic Priority 2: Inclusive prosperity	 Strategic Priority 3: Governance and Rule of Law	 Strategic Priority 4: Environment, Climate Change, and Resilience
 Australia	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
 Canada	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
 China	✓	✓			
 Finland	✓			✓	
 France	✓			✓	✓
 AFD	✓				
 Germany	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
 Ireland	✓	✓			✓
 Italy				✓	
 Japan	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
 Korea	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
 KOICA	✓	✓	✓		
 KOFIH	✓				
 Luxembourg	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
 LuxDev	✓	✓			
 New Zealand		✓			
 Norway			✓	✓	✓
 NORAD					✓
 Russia	✓	✓			
 Sweden				✓	
 Switzerland	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
 Thailand			✓	✓	
 UK	✓				
 USA	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
 European Union	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
 Adaptation Fund	✓	✓			✓
 ADB	✓				
 CREWS					✓
 Gavi	✓				
 GAFSP	✓				
 GEF	✓	✓			✓
 GFATM	✓				
 GCF	✓	✓			✓
 MLF					✓
 NDC				✓	
 SOFF				✓	✓
 World Bank Group	✓	✓			✓





Photo: FAO

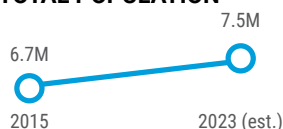
## CHAPTER 1

# Key developments in the country



## POPULATION

### TOTAL POPULATION



**7.5M**

(Lao Statistics Bureau, 2024)

### PEOPLE LIVING BELOW THE POVERTY LINE

**18.3%**

(Lao Statistics Bureau and World Bank, 2020)

### LAO NATIONALS RESIDING ABROAD

**1.3M**

(Lao PDR Migration Profile, 2023)

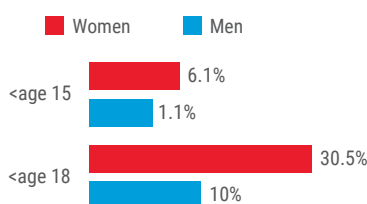
### POPULATION BELOW THE AGE OF 18

**36%**

(Lao Statistics Bureau and UNDESA Population Division, 2024)



### CHILD MARRIAGE



(LSIS III)

### HOUSEHOLDS WITH INTERNET (Per Cent Of Households)

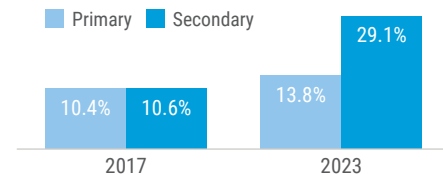
**68.9%**

(LSIS III)

## SOCIAL

### OUT-OF-SCHOOL RATES

Primary Secondary



(LSIS II & LSIS III)

### FOOD INSECURITY (Per Cent Of Households)



(WFP Remote Food Security Survey)

### PUBLIC EDUCATION AND CURRENT HEALTH EXPENDITURE (Per cent of GDP)



(World Bank and Health Financing Technical Working Group)

Despite steady economic growth in 2024, the outlook for economic and social development in Lao PDR remained challenging. Government projections suggest the economy is likely to have grown by 4.6 per cent in 2024, with the World Bank citing a recovery in tourism, transport and logistics, and investments in the power sector as key drivers of economic activity.<sup>1</sup> Inflationary pressure eased in the second half of the year, though remained high at 16.9 per cent over the year to December 2024 as an unsustainable public debt burden continued to apply downward pressure on the Lao Kip. Public and publicly guaranteed debt is estimated to have reached 108 per cent of GDP at the end of 2024 – the servicing of which limits government's capacity to invest in essential services like health and education. On the same note, the IMF highlighted that the elevated public debt

and increased government financing needs would continue to pose challenges to the medium-term economic outlook. In addition, the global economic landscape remains unpredictable, with continued fluctuating commodity prices and potentially slower growth among key trading partners.<sup>2</sup>

Macroeconomic pressures have weighed on the domestic labour market, where real wage compression and limited job opportunities are likely contributing factors to increased out-migration. Despite a national minimum wage increase in October 2023, the number of Lao migrants in Thailand increased by 17 per cent between October 2023 and February 2024 to 252,000. Migration has affected key sectors like education, where teacher shortages are affecting the capacity of the public education system. Economic pressures have also negatively impacted

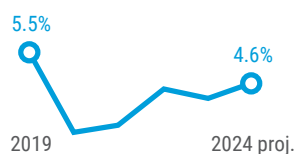
1. World Bank. Lao People's Democratic Republic Economic Monitor: October 2024. Washington, DC: World Bank. 2024.

2. International Monetary Fund. Asia and Pacific Dept "Lao People's Democratic Republic: 2024 Article IV Consultation- Press Release; Staff Report; and Statement by the Executive Director for Lao People's Democratic Republic", IMF Staff Country Reports 2024, 319 (2024)



## ECONOMIC

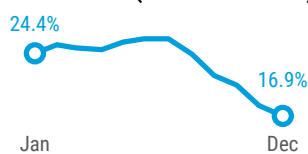
### ECONOMIC GROWTH



**4.6%**

(Lao Statistics Bureau & Ministry of Planning and Investment, 2024)

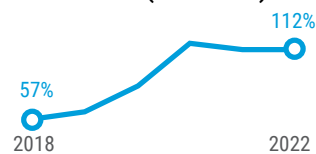
### INFLATION (2023 AVERAGE)



**16.9%**

(Bank of Lao PDR, 2024)

### PUBLIC DEBT\* (% OF GDP)



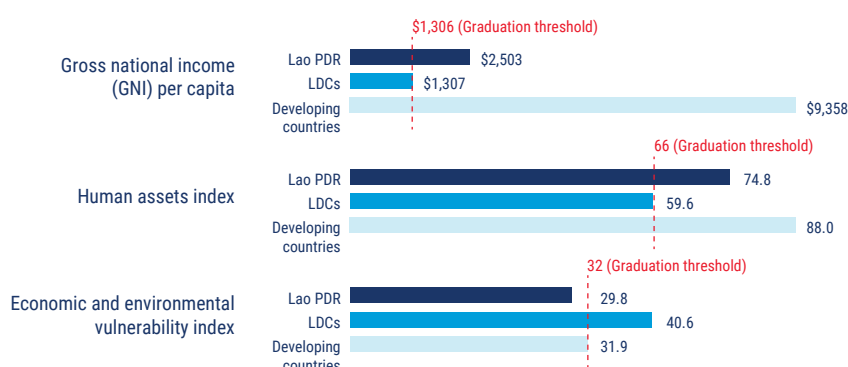
**108.3%**

(Ministry of Finance & IMF Article IV, 2024)

\*denotes public and publicly-guaranteed debt

## LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRY (LDC) GRADUATION

### GRADUATION CRITERIA



(UN Committee for Development Policy, 2024)

## SDG

Lao PDR classified as among the top countries in Asia and the Pacific making progress since 2015 on:



(ESCAP, 2024)

household food insecurity and infant feeding and care practices. Eleven per cent of households in December 2024 experienced food insecurity, compared to 9 per cent in December 2023, while the prevalence of wasting in children under five has increased from 9 per cent in 2017 to 10.7 per cent in 2023. Progress in reducing stunting remains limited, with the proportion of children under five affected remaining high at 32.8 per cent in 2023 compared to 33.0 per cent in 2017.

In 2024, the Government of Lao PDR conducted a Mid-term review of the 9th National Socio-Economic Development plan (NSED), emphasizing the need for economic diversification and improved governance to address these structural challenges. The Review highlighted the importance of investing in human capital and improving the business climate to foster private sector development. These findings align with the recommendations by the Committee for Development Policy (CDP) made at the 2024 Triennial Review for LDCs, highlighting the top priorities for a smooth transition from LDC for Lao PDR, including

debt relief and improved macroeconomic stability, sustainable and inclusive structure transformation, economic diversification and regional integration, reduction of inequalities while building disaster resilience and reversing environmental degradation.

2024 also saw the endorsement of the Government of Lao PDR's Smooth Transition Strategy as preparation for the country's graduation from Least Developed Country (LDC) status in 2026 – a transition confirmed by the UN Committee for Development Policy in 2024. Developed with UN support, the Smooth Transition Strategy charts a path for Lao PDR to prepare for LDC graduation and its implications in key policy areas including macro-economic and financial sustainability, trade and investment, economic transformation, climate change and disaster management. Implementation of the Strategy will continue in 2025, with coordinated efforts across sectors, ministries and institutions taking place under the leadership of the Prime Minister's Office.





Photo: WFP

## CHAPTER 2

# UN development system support to national development priorities

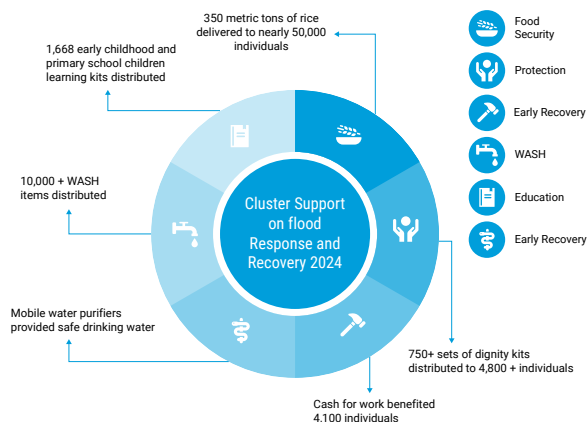


## 2.1 OVERVIEW OF COOPERATION FRAMEWORK RESULTS

The UN Country Team came together to collaborate on several initiatives across result groups.

### 3RD VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEW

In July 2024, Lao PDR presented its 3rd Voluntary National Review (VNR) at the High-Level Political Forum in New York. The VNR focuses on Trend and Track Analysis, examining progress and status of 17 SDGs and National SDG18 "Lives Safe from UXO". Developed in the context of the mid-term review of the 9th national socio-economic development plan, the macro-economic challenges and the implementation of the Smooth Transition Strategy for Graduation from Least Developed Country (LDC) status, the VNR recognizes the need for the Government to take ownership, partner with the international community, invest in development, put communities in the centre and localize the SDGs.



*UN joint support on disaster response and recovery, 2024*

### UN IN ACTION: FLOOD RESPONSE

Heavy rainfall caused by Typhoon Yagi, Prapirook and Soulik in August-September brought severe floods to several provinces. Over 255,000 people in 133 districts across 16 provinces were affected. Luang Namtha faced the worst floods in 60 years. For the first time, the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare sent an official request to the UN Resident Coordinator to support a joint flood needs and early recovery assessment.

The UN activated the clusters under the Inter-Agency Standing Committee. A joint assessment with Government at provincial level was conducted in Luang Namtha province and preliminary findings shared with government and development partners. UN agencies provided technical expertise, mobilized resources, and provided emergency response including under health, shelter, food security, WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene), education, protection, and early recovery. The humanitarian response and early recovery efforts reached 66,352 people, including 30,568 women, across five provinces and Vientiane Capital.

### NATIONAL ASSEMBLY POLICY DIALOGUE

UN agencies and International Financial Institutions (IFIs) were requested to present at the Policy Dialogue preparation for the 8th Ordinary Session of the 9th Legislature of the National Assembly in November. The presentations and panel discussions at the pre-intersession covered wide-ranging topics including the macro-economic situation, planning and budgeting, LDC graduation, climate change adaptation, social protection, youth empowerment, education and child development, employment and migration, housing laws, agricultural land development and health risks including tobacco control.

### LOOKING AHEAD: STRATEGIC POLICY SUPPORT TO DEVELOPMENT PLANNING

To coordinate UN support to the development of the 10th national socio-economic development plan, an inter-agency Task Force on the NSED Plan was established. Key tasks include coordination of inputs to drafts of the 10th plan, support to the development of the M&E framework and Financing Strategy for the 10th plan. The Task Force will play a key role in consolidating the UN's support to the plan which may also involve engagement, as relevant through the Sector Working Groups under the Round Table Implementation Mechanism.



## UN ENTITY PRESENCE ACROSS LAO PDR BY STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

This map highlights the presence of UN entities working at the policy/ national level and across 18 provinces of Lao PDR, under the four strategic priorities. The visuals highlight the geographical reach of the UN in Lao PDR.



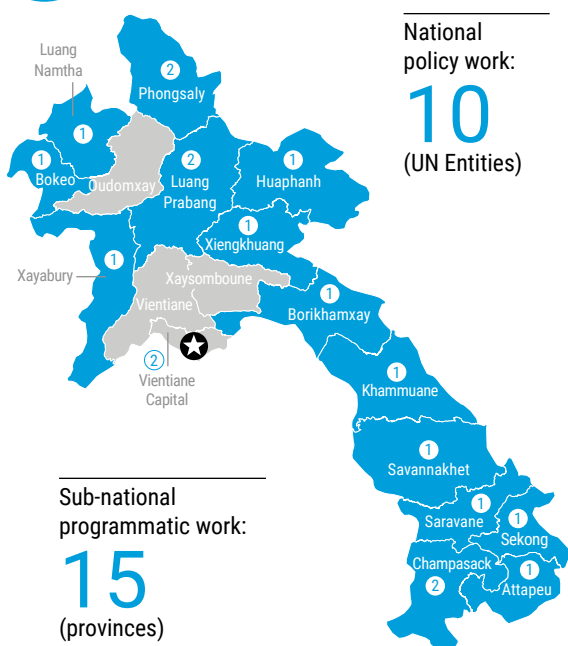
### Strategic priority 1: People's wellbeing



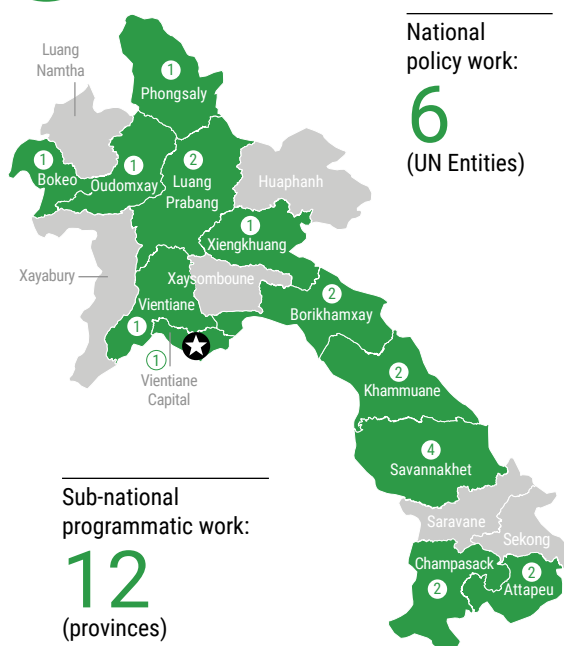
### Strategic priority 2: Inclusive prosperity



### Strategic priority 3: Governance and rule of law

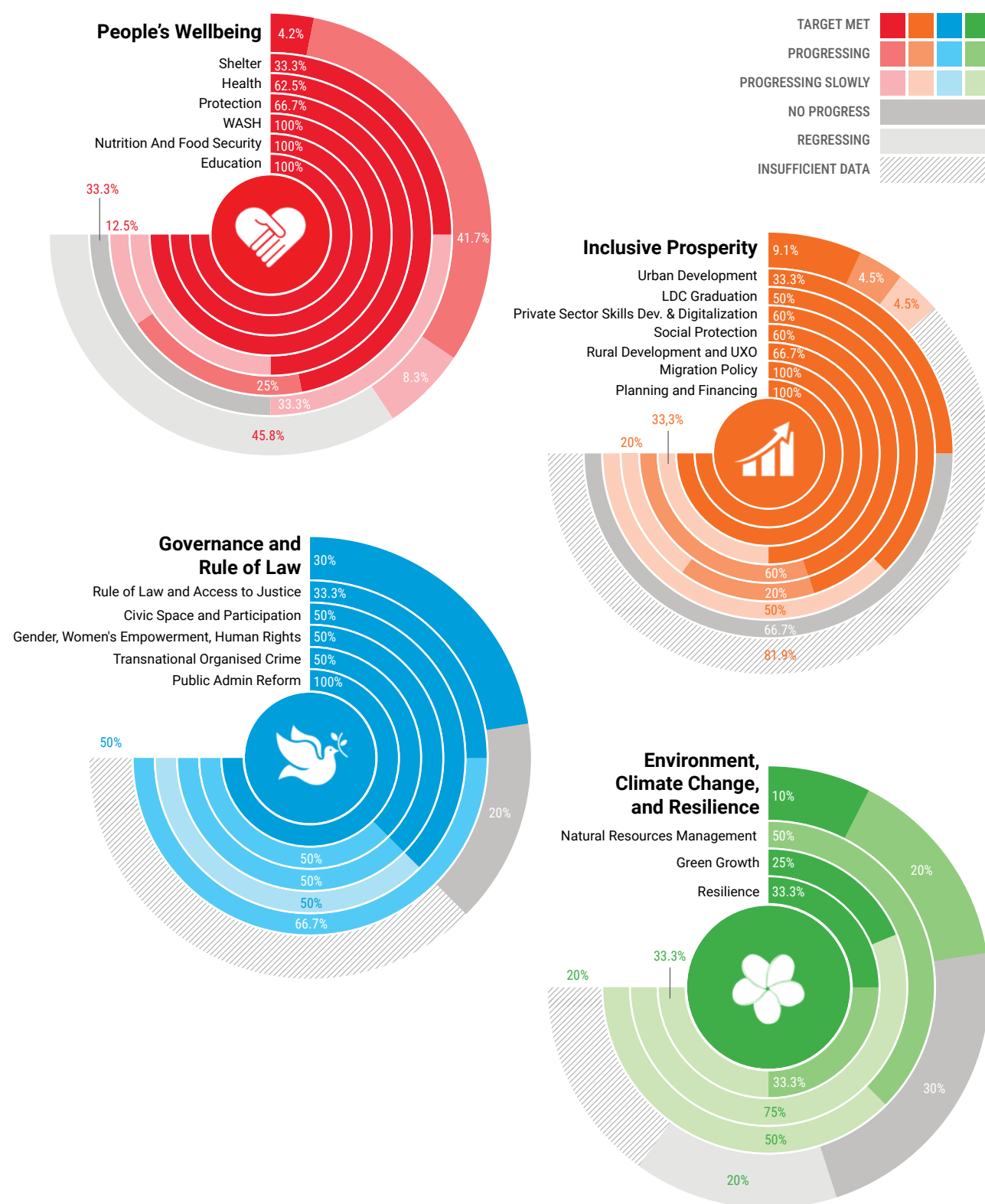


### Strategic priority 4: Environment, climate change, and resilience





## PROGRESS OF THE COOPERATION FRAMEWORK INDICATORS BY STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



Strategic priority (Outcome) indicators measure the extent to which Lao PDR is progressing towards the target outcomes. Output indicators measure progress in delivering programmatic commitments by the UN with partners. The outcome indicator progress is not the compilation of progress against individual outputs.



## Strategic priority 1

# PEOPLE'S WELLBEING

## CONTRIBUTING AGENCIES

**Leads:** UNICEF, WHO

<b>FAO</b>	Food security and nutrition; Animal health; Sustainable agriculture; Promoting gender equality in agriculture
<b>IFAD</b>	Agriculture for nutrition
<b>IOM</b>	Migration governance and policy
<b>UNAIDS</b>	HIV/AIDS response; Stigma and discrimination; Community-led responses; Community empowerment; Strategic information; ASEAN; Governance, and strategy development
<b>UNESCO</b>	Quality Education; Education statistics; Teacher policy; ICT and digitalization in education; National science policy and higher education; Cultural heritage preservation and promotion
<b>UNFPA</b>	Sexual and reproductive health and rights, including humanitarian; Gender equality; Reproductive maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health, including health system strengthening; Comprehensive sexuality education; Gender-based violence
<b>UN-Habitat</b>	Gender-based violence; Shelter; Community-based water supply systems
<b>UNICEF</b>	Health system strengthening; Immunization; Maternal, Newborn and child health; community health; Nutrition sector coordination and information; Infant and young child feeding; Integrated management of acute malnutrition; Education sector policy, coordination, and information; Early childhood and basic education; WASH sector coordination; Systems capacity for WASH; Child protection systems capacity, knowledge skills and practices
<b>UNOPS</b>	Malaria elimination; Mittaphab hospital renovation
<b>WFP</b>	Nutrition; Food security; WASH; Emergency response
<b>WHO</b>	Health systems and universal health coverage; Primary health care; Health financing, Maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health; Protection from health emergencies and diseases; Vaccine preventable diseases and immunizations; Protecting health from climate change and environmental threats; WASH in health care facilities and waste management; Clean green hospitals

## SUPPORTING SDGS



**“Despite significant challenges, Lao PDR continued to see improvements in health, education, protection and other areas, demonstrating progress is very much possible. Notably, Lao PDR exceeded measles/rubella and HPV vaccine targets in 2024 and expanded health programs, protecting more children, more families and more communities - even in the most remote areas. In 2025 we will go further, ensuring everyone, no matter where they live, are vaccinated, protected, and given the best opportunities.”**

– by co-chairs Bilal Aurang Zeb Durrani, UNICEF Representative and Timothy Armstrong, WHO Representative





**D**espite the challenging circumstances, through support to policy formulation, capacity building program and advocacy by UN agencies with Government partners, some progress was made in 2024 to improve outcomes on child protection; education; healthcare; and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH).

Most notable were the endorsement of the Law on Primary Health Care reinforcing the government's commitment to Universal Health Coverage and introducing an electronic immunization registry. The Early Childhood Education Decree on improving educational outcomes was passed, including a Digital Education Strategy. The National Teacher Policy was also endorsed, representing a key step to address quality of teaching and learning. Further progress was made towards achieving Open Defecation Free (ODF) status by 2025, with 17 out of 18 provinces declaring ODF.

Through efforts made under the UN Joint Program on reproductive, maternal, newborn, child, and adolescent health (RMNCAH), under-five mortality reduced from 46 to 28 per 1,000 live births and neonatal mortality reduced from 22 to 12 between 2017 and 2023. Malaria cases in 2024 were below 350, showing significant progress in eliminating malaria. A measles and rubella vaccination campaign reached 95 per cent coverage.

While there was enhanced regional collaboration and community engagement on HIV prevention, there has been a 23 per cent increase since 2010 of HIV infections. Progress in addressing non-communicable disease, excluding tobacco control, remains limited.

Child marriage, school drop-out rates and low levels of nutrition remained grave concerns. Child marriage rates are the highest among ASEAN countries, in spite of a slight decrease from 32.7 per cent in 2017 to 30.3 per cent in 2023 among women aged 20-24 married before 18. Marriage among girls aged 15-19 increased from 23.5 per cent to 26.6 per cent during the same period. The UN's Joint Child Marriage Program held its first national consultation to address this issue bringing together a wide range of stakeholders.

### SUPPORTING 9<sup>TH</sup> NSED

**Pillar 2:** Improved quality of human resources to meet development, research capacity, science and technology needs, and create value-added production and services

**Pillar 3:** Enhanced well-being of the people

### 2024 EXPENDITURE (US\$)

**\$51.7M**



Low learning outcomes and rising dropout rates prompted the government to prioritize equity-focused reforms. With UN support, initiatives like the National Teacher Policy and school meals helped improve access to quality education and retention rates. Building on the enactment of law banning corporal punishment, the UN supported its implementation to reduce the prevalent violent discipline affecting 63 per cent children.

Strengthened data systems, including District Health Information Software Version 2 (DHIS2) based platforms and the National Information Platform for Nutrition, enhanced evidence-based planning in nutrition. Community-driven initiatives promoted improved nutrition practices, while targeted livelihood support empowered households to enhance food security and resilience. However, surveillance surveys showed a continuous upward trend on stunting and wasting in children under five, urging more intensified efforts.

Access to basic drinking water and sanitation increased to 86 per cent and 84 per cent respectively, including improved WASH facilities in 200 schools and 51 healthcare facilities. The government also enhanced its capacity to provide shelter and services to vulnerable populations, improving living conditions for 5,542 households in flood-prone areas.



Coverage of skilled birth attendance

79.8% 

Nutritionally vulnerable people  
receiving UN support

477,157 



### The chicken and the egg: A recipe for success for farmers and school children

Four households in Numheang Neua village of Oudomxay province have just received a special delivery: 200 layer hens and 60 packs of chicken feed.

Layer hens are bred specifically for a reliable source of eggs and raising them requires extra care: calcium-enriched feed for strong eggshells, regular cycle monitoring, clean nesting boxes and optimal lighting. It is a big commitment, which is why many farmers hesitate to take on the risk. But Xaysamone Lasachan, a young farmer, embraced the challenge. "I have experience raising free-range chickens. Now that I have completed the training on raising this new species, I believe that with the right care, these hens will produce plenty of eggs. I will give one third of the eggs to schools to cook lunches with them and sell the rest. If this first batch succeeds, I plan to expand my poultry business and share the knowledge with other farmers," he says confidently.

The linkage between farmers and schools not only benefits schoolchildren, but also empowers farmers like Xaysamone, who are eager to learn, uplift their communities, and turn their dreams into reality.

Photo: WFP



## 1.1. PROTECTION

In 2024, Lao PDR became the 66th state and the first ASEAN state to enact the Law on the Protection of the Rights and Interests of Children 2006 fully prohibiting corporal punishment of children. The UN supported the Government in disseminating the legal ban at high-visibility events.

The UN's Joint Child Marriage Program held its first national consultation on eliminating child, early, and forced marriage to strengthen coordinated interventions. The awareness-raising film on child marriage, "The Story of Three Girls" reached 2,881 individuals and was broadcasted, dubbed in Hmong, Khmu, and Akha, garnering 1,019,000 views.

UN support strengthened the operational capacity of protection services for survivors of gender-based violence in six provinces. The Lao Women's Union updated its counseling manual to improve the quality of services for children and women who experience violence and exploitation. A total of 621 service providers were trained to improve their capacity to prevent and respond to violence against children and women.

Following the floods in September, the Lao Women's Union Consulting and Protection Women-Child Center in Luang Namtha supported reintegration programs for vulnerable groups, combining safe returns with vocational training and psychological support to promote long-term stability. Four Child-Friendly Spaces and three Women Friendly Spaces were established reaching 841 children and 4,095 women.



People with access to safe drinking water services

84,859 



## 1.2. HEALTH

The Law on Primary Health Care, supported by the UN, provides a strong legal framework to strengthen primary healthcare to advance Universal Health Coverage. Under the joint program on reproductive, maternal, newborn, child, and adolescent health (RMNCAH), the UN supported the Ministry of Health (MoH) in the final evaluation of the RMNCAH Strategy 2021–2025. Clinical capacity building and coordination at central and subnational levels were also enhanced.

Lao PDR conducted a successful measles and rubella vaccination campaign, reaching 95.2 per cent of the targeted population i.e. over 603,000 people across 148 districts. Approximately 127,000 girls aged 10-13 years were vaccinated against Human Papillomavirus (100 per cent of its target population), which will reduce the burden of cervical cancer. The country also reported fewer than 350 malaria cases and expanded HIV and TB testing, utilizing community-led approaches and data-informed planning. Efforts were made to address key risk factors of non-communicable diseases, particularly through tobacco control including tobacco tax.



## 1.3. EDUCATION

The UN and development partners collaborated with the Ministry of Education and Sports (MoES) in the development of the new Education, Science, and Sports



### Providing safe access to primary healthcare

Kua lives in remote Sa Kuan Village, Luang Prabang Province with her husband Sivong and their four children. The family's village sits in a beautiful but remote and mountainous part of Lao PDR, several hours from a major road and a more than one-and-a-half-hour drive across rugged terrain to the closest medical facility, Huay Khing Health Centre.

Giving birth at home placed Kua at an increased risk of pregnancy complications with no access to medical support. A WHO-supported intervention enabled her to travel to give birth in safety – but – many others are not as lucky, and struggle to access primary healthcare due to geographical, logistical, financial, trust, or quality of care issues.

“Giving birth at the health center has been a positive experience for us,” said Sivong. “The centre provided a comfortable environment, excellent service, and great care from the health providers. We are very happy with the support we received. In the future, if we have more children, we plan for them to be born there.”

To address these gaps and ensure people like Kua get what they need, WHO is supporting a range of interventions: efforts to strengthen community engagement, trust and ownership of health; mapping of health facilities and human resources to enable better placement and utilization of services; strengthening compliance with services under the National Health Insurance scheme and revising associate laws; and efforts to reduce communicable disease spread – such as malaria or HIV.

Photo: WHO



People living with HIV receiving  
antiretroviral therapy

13,074 

Education service providers supported  
by UN agencies

7,595 

Sector Development Plan 2026-2030, addressing teacher shortages and learning disparities. Key initiatives include the endorsement of a costed National Teacher Policy and Digital Education Strategy, alongside Lao PDR's first national Early Childhood Education (ECE) Decree, which together aim to enhance teaching quality and governance through improved data systems.

Over 1,000 village facilitators and parental group members received training to strengthen equitable ECE, while 18,343 students benefited from digital learning resources. Fundamental Quality Standards (FQS) identified learning gaps, and digital literacy training positively impacted approximately 130,000 students. Over 100 teacher educators were equipped with skills in gender-responsive pedagogy and the delivery of new ICT courses across 16 teacher education institutions. However, challenges persist, particularly concerning gender equality and digital literacy in education. Joint initiatives, such as the national school lunch program, have also contributed to better retention and learning outcomes for vulnerable children, ensuring effective resource utilization in education.



#### 1.4. NUTRITION AND FOOD SECURITY

Joint UN efforts supported the Government of Lao PDR in enhancing the implementation of the National Social and Behavior Change (SBC) strategy to improve nutrition practices. Capacity-building initiatives trained 15 SBC task force members and over 8,100 community members in innovative SBC methodologies. Village Plans, developed for 75 communities with the participation of 9,872 individuals (55 per cent women), were approved



#### Bridging Laos' Education Gap, One Teacher at a Time

At just 23, Phouvanh has become a lifeline for young learners in rural Laos. She volunteered to spend her final year as a trainee at the UNESCO-supported Dongkhamxang Teacher Training College's Early Childhood Teacher Education Program, teaching at a kindergarten in Borikhamxay Province, where schools are struggling with an acute teacher shortage.

"The villagers bring me food, and I can pick herbs along the roadside," says Phouvanh, who left her home in Vientiane for the remote assignment. "It took time to adjust to living in a rural community, but giving young learners a good start in life is priceless."

UNESCO's longstanding support for teacher training colleges—and technical guidance towards the Ministry of Education and Sport's recently endorsed national teacher policy—helps equip educators like Phouvanh with digital tools, innovative methods, and a renewed sense of purpose. Her presence at the Boung Kuang School has led to classrooms re-opening, ensuring children don't miss crucial early education milestones.

While the ministry reports a teacher shortfall of over 5,700, stories like Phouvanh's demonstrate how targeted training and community support can pave the way for a brighter future.

*Photo: UNESCO*





## Hope on the Horizon: Tackling Child Malnutrition in Laos

With over one in ten children suffering from wasting and one-third from stunting, 1.5-year-old Souksamay's journey is a reminder of the challenges many families in Laos face. Just 10 months ago, she was diagnosed with Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM), struggling to eat and grow. With however the steady support of UNICEF-supported local health workers, Souksamay's mother received guidance on Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) and was provided with Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Food (RUTF).

"When I saw her eat well, I felt so happy." Today, Souksamay's health has improved significantly. While she is not yet fully recovered, she continues to show positive progress and through ongoing support from UNICEF and local health workers, she is receiving the care she needs to thrive and survive.

*Photo: UNICEF*

by 15 District Nutrition Committees and will be implemented in partnership with communities.

To boost nutrition and food security, 2,700 small grants were provided to women for home gardening and poultry farming, while 1,811 households benefited from drought-resistant rice seeds. A livestock evacuation simulation empowered target villages to mitigate flood impacts, and a training-of-trainers enhanced government capacity for drought preparedness.

Additionally, a new DHIS2-based data quality assurance app and individual-level nutrition tracker were introduced to strengthen nutrition information systems in the health sector, enabling improved data-informed planning and decision-making.

In June 2024, the Second Lao PDR Human Capital Summit titled Accelerated Nutrition Actions for Human Capital Development and chaired by the Prime Minister, brought together leaders and experts to discuss strategies for improving nutrition and investing in the nation's future. The Government committed to prioritize nutrition in the 10th plan and pledged to develop an accelerated action plan led by the Deputy Prime Minister in charge of

Cultural and Social Affairs, establish a coordinating unit to oversee implementation, and implement a nutrition budget tagging system to ensure effective investment and resource use.



## 1.5. WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE

Collective UN efforts bolstered government's capacity to plan, coordinate and allocate resources for WASH services in remote communities and emerging towns and improve climate-resilient water supply, sanitation and hygiene facilities reaching 84,000 people and over 6,000 students across 189 settlements, 12 villages, 200 schools, and 51 healthcare facilities, enhancing vulnerable communities' adaptive capacity to climate-related challenges.

Through nationwide support for community approaches to total sanitation, low-income and vulnerable households, 200,000 people improved





### Immunization for safer communities

"I love what I do, and the communities I work with. Our goal is to reduce infections and outbreaks, and keep people safe – effective health promotion is a key tool to achieve this," said Dr. Sayaxang, Head of Health Promotion for Longsan District in Xaysomboun Province, an area that has historically struggled with low coverage.

Measles cases have been on the rise globally, including in the Western Pacific Region. To address this, Lao PDR's Ministry of Health, with support from WHO, Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, the Australian Government, and UNICEF, launched a Measles and Rubella Supplementary Immunization Activity in May 2024.

This effort saw thousands of staff and volunteers participate – like Dr. Sayaxang, a father of four, avid sportsman and life-long resident of Xaysomboun Province – to ensure high levels of coverage. A particular focus was expanded outreach and engagement, ensuring everyone, everywhere was reached.

"We can always improve our work to support the community to remain safe and healthy. Health providers should not just prepare a vaccine box and wait for children to come... proactive measures are necessary."

The result was significant – successfully reaching more than 603,000 children, 95.2 per cent of the target group.

*Photo: WHO/UNICEF*

their sanitation, with 17 provinces achieving open defecation free (ODF) status.

In preparation for the Government-led Joint Sector Review in 2025, WASH climate risk assessments, life cycle cost- and affordability analysis of community-managed water supplies, climate resilient water safety planning, sector financing, and gender/ menstrual hygiene studies are being done to provide analysis to determine actions to achieve WASH SDG targets by 2030. Improvements on WASH in schools and healthcare facilities are being supported with links to health and nutrition outcomes and measures to address bottlenecks in service delivery.



### 1.6. SHELTER

Significant progress was made in improving housing access and resilience in Lao PDR through UN-supported initiatives. The adoption of the new Housing Law marked a notable milestone, emphasizing rights of the citizens through inclusive, sustainable, and affordable housing. The law addressed the establishment of financial mechanisms to enhance affordability and highlighted the preservation of cultural and historical properties.

The floods in September 2024 destroyed 271 houses and partially damaged 2,235 houses in Luang Namtha. UN support to emergency assistance in Luang Namtha included the provision of temporary shelters and essential items for displaced populations.



## Strategic priority 2

# INCLUSIVE PROSPERITY

### CONTRIBUTING AGENCIES

Leads: IOM, WFP

<b>FAO</b>	Agricultural and rural development; Food systems; Strengthening value chains and market access
<b>IFAD</b>	Irrigation and commercialisation of smallholder agriculture
<b>ILO</b>	Social protection policy and capacity; Skills development; Labour standards and working conditions
<b>IOM</b>	Cross-border mobility; Combating human trafficking; Immigration and border management
<b>ITC</b>	MSME support; Value chain integration ; Trade policy analysis
<b>UNCDF</b>	Municipal investment
<b>UNCTAD</b>	E-commerce; LDC graduation
<b>UNDESA</b>	LDC Graduation; MSME resilience
<b>UNDP</b>	National planning and financing; UXO; Youth participation and employment
<b>UNESCO</b>	Cultural heritage and sustainable tourism; Youth entrepreneurship and cultural creative industries.
<b>UN-Habitat</b>	Urban development
<b>UNICEF</b>	Mother and early childhood grants; Social inclusion; Disability inclusive social protection
<b>WFP</b>	School meals; Social protection; Disability inclusion; Livelihoods; Gender
<b>WHO</b>	Sustainable health financing; National health insurance

“We are proud of the UN’s collective efforts towards inclusive prosperity in 2024, including through measures like nutrition-sensitive and disability-inclusive social protection schemes, disability support and sustainable health financing. Our capacity building efforts extended from supporting the country’s National Socioeconomic Development Plan, to macro-fiscal management and upskilling men, women, youth and vulnerable people. In 2025, we will continue to support the Government in their efforts towards transforming social protection systems, ensuring inclusive participation and planning for the LDC graduation process, promoting migrant worker rights, and enhancing skills mobility across the region.”

– by co-chairs Shareen Tuladhar, IOM Chief and Marc-Andre Prost, WFP Representative and Country Director

### SUPPORTING SDGS





**E**conomic and financial challenges persisted for Lao PDR in 2024. Inflation remained high at 23 per cent year-on-year, despite the value of the Lao kip stabilizing in the second half of the year. Significant fiscal measures were adopted in 2024 to increase state revenue as public and publicly guaranteed debt is estimated to have reached 108 per cent of GDP by the end of the year.

Macroeconomic pressure hampered efforts by the private sector to recover post COVID-19 pandemic. A weak labour market limited job opportunities increasing economic migration and school dropouts. In response, a new Skills Development law was drafted, and the minimum wage increased by 20 per cent.

With the UN's support, the government published its Smooth Transition Strategy (STS), which charts a path for Lao PDR to prepare for LDC graduation and its implications in key policy areas including macro-economic and financial sustainability, trade and investment, economic transformation, climate change and disaster management. Implementation of the STS for LDC graduation will continue in 2025, with coordinated efforts across sectors, ministries and institutions taking place under the leadership of the Prime Minister's Office.

Nutrition-sensitive Conditional Cash Transfers (CCT) expanded to 25 districts in 2024 to considerably improve the coverage and resourcing of cash-based social assistance in Lao PDR, with further expansion planned for 2025. A pilot disability-inclusion CCT was also initiated as a first step towards strengthening inclusive social protection, while the inaugural National Symposium on Social Protection in July hosted by the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare in collaboration with the UN focused on social protection for the rural population and informal workforce. These initiatives complement the National School Lunch Program, which remains the largest social safety net program covering 37 per cent of primary school children. The National School Lunch Program received a five-fold increase in funding by approval of the National Assembly in 2024 as Lao PDR joined the School Meals Coalition as its 101st member.

## SUPPORTING 9<sup>TH</sup> NSEDP

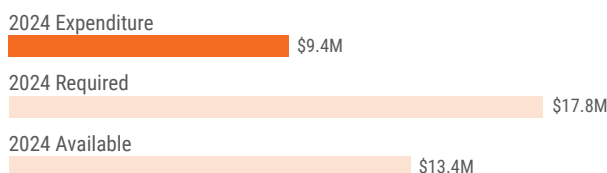
**Pillar 1:** Continuous quality, stable and sustainable economic growth achieved

**Pillar 3:** Enhanced well-being of the people

**Pillar 5:** Engagement in regional and international cooperation and integration is enhanced with robust infrastructure and effective utilisation of national potential and geographic advantages

## 2024 EXPENDITURE (US\$)

**\$9.4M**



Taking forward Lao PDR's commitment to the Global Compact on Migration (GCM) implementation, during the 2021 Asia-Pacific Regional Review and GCM voluntary review the same year, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) commenced institutional and capacity strengthening engagements. National consultations and coordination meetings and workshops, organized by the MoFA and IOM were held in 2024, which resulted in the government's identification of two priorities under the GCM – objective 10 (preventing, combating, and eradicating trafficking in persons in the context of international migration) and objective 23 (international cooperation and global partnerships to achieve safe, orderly, and regular migration). Within the UN system, the United Nations Network on Migration (UNNM) was established, to further strengthen the national GCM adoption and institutionalization efforts.

2024 saw the continued development of government's first National Smart City Strategy (2025-2050) while the first Green City Action Plan was launched aiming to transform cities into low carbon, climate resilient centres. The country hosted its 3rd National Urban Forum to foster better planning and management in a fast urbanizing





### From Carpentry to Cultivation: Garden of Hope for the Future

Thaokher Herkhamsouk, a 78-year-old farmer from Phongsaly Province, had always dreamed of becoming a farmer. After years of working as a carpenter, he finally made the transition to farming 20 years ago, a decision that brought him immense joy and fulfillment. With his extensive experience in growing vegetables, Thaokher transformed his garden into a thriving source of income for his family.

But Thaokher's garden was more than just a means of livelihood. It became a way for him to give back to his community. Thanks to the small grants he received from the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Affairs (MAFRA), Thaokher was able to supply fresh produce to the local school kitchen. This ensured that the children in his community had nutritious lunches to eat every day.

Photo: WFP

country. UN technical support also helped develop a governance framework for the establishment of a carbon credit market to enhance climate financing in Lao PDR.

Unexploded ordinance (UXO) continues to be a major threat to lives and livelihoods in Lao PDR. UXO sector supervision was transferred to MOFA in 2023 with the intention of strengthening cross-sectoral approaches. Fifty victims of UXOs were recorded in 2024, of which 60 per cent were children.



## 2.1. SMOOTH TRANSITION BEYOND LDC GRADUATION

The UN Committee for Development Policy completed Lao PDR's triennial review in February 2024, confirming that the country continues to meet the criteria for LDC graduation by 2026. Technical support from the UN strengthened the Government's annual reporting to the CDP for the 2024 reporting period, which will also improve transparency

and accountability of reporting for other national development planning processes.

The Government published its *Smooth Transition Strategy* (STS) with technical assistance from the UN, which addresses the UN General Assembly's call for graduating LDCs to prepare thoroughly for LDC graduation in a changing international context. The UN supported consultations on the STS with development partners through a National Round Table Process, as well as consultations with government ministries, the private sector and NGOs. These dynamic engagements highlighted the necessity for enhanced research, information-sharing, and capacity-building to foster comprehensive understanding and inclusive participation in the transition process.



### Azerbaijan and Lao PDR: 'Twins' in pursuit of the SDGs

Amongst the many efforts to analyze sustainable development progress, bottlenecks, and their solutions, perhaps the most extensive at the country level are the Voluntary National Reviews that countries can opt to develop and present to the High-Level Political Forum annually.

In 2024, Azerbaijan and Lao PDR were both undertaking such reviews. Perhaps most prominently, both have developed a bespoke SDG18. For Lao PDR, SDG18 aspires to 'Lives safe from unexploded ordnance'. For Azerbaijan, SDG18 covers 'Actions to combat mine threats'. In both cases, removing the threats from landmines and explosive remnants of war is considered essential for progress across the SDGs, despite this not being a clear element of the global 2030 Agenda.

It is precisely the combination of these similarities and differences that set the context for a successful 'twinning' exchange between the two countries organized under a flagship ESCAP initiative to support Voluntary National Review processes.

Arranged by ESCAP with support from UN Resident Coordinator's Offices, UNDP, and UNICEF, the series of virtual and in-person exchanges between the two countries shared concrete ideas and experiences on how the SDGs can be pursued in a broad range of areas.

*Photo: UN*



## 2.2. PLANNING AND FINANCING FOR THE SDGs

UN capacity building activities supported improved capacities for results-based management, data coordination and ODA monitoring at both national and subnational levels. This additional capacity has enabled planning and financing institutions to drive the successful implementation of the 9th NSEDP.

UN assistance ensured more inclusive nationwide consultations that united line ministries, provincial entities, and development partners, ensuring strategic coherence with the Vientiane Declaration Country Action Plan, the Financing Strategy of the 9th NSEDP, and Agenda 2030.

UN technical assistance in macro-fiscal management and evidence-based decision-making supported greater domestic revenue mobilization and ministerial capacity in sectoral and local-level planning. Technical assistance on tax expenditure tracking has strengthened strategic health financing and increased domestic resources, while mainstreaming evidence-based decision-making into planning processes has enabled ministries to design inclusive, equitable, and resilient sectoral and local plans.

UN capacity building and advocacy has also been a basis for coordinated engagement from the international community with the highest levels of government. A joint letter to the Prime Minister from the UN and World Bank advocating for sustainable health financing through health taxes garnered national media coverage, and highlighted UN capacity building activities for 90 planning and budgeting officials across four provinces.



## 2.3. SOCIAL PROTECTION

The first-ever National Symposium on Social Protection in Lao PDR, supported by UN agencies, fostered a shared commitment to expanding social



People benefiting from skills development with UN support

2,158 

Households receiving cash and in-kind transfers

22.6% 



### Enhanced lives with coffee

As a child, Somchan Sayavong grew up playing and working among the coffee trees on her family farm. Those early experiences shaped her dreams and inspired her career. Today, Somchan is the Coordinator of the Bolaven Plateau Coffee Producers Cooperative (CPC), a farmer-owned organization representing nearly 2,000 coffee-growing households across 55 villages. Founded in 2007, the CPC is dedicated to promoting health, safety, and social protection for coffee-farming families, with significant support from the SOLAR Project, an EU-funded initiative implemented by the ILO and Oxfam.

Walking through the CPC's processing factory, Somchan smiles with pride. "I was lucky to be born into a family of agricultural workers". Her role allows her to honour her roots while empowering farming communities—following in her parents' footsteps with purpose and passion.

*Photo: ILO*

protection for all Lao people. This landmark event brought together over 200 participants, highlighting current challenges and amplifying beneficiary

voices. Some progress was made through policy dialogues on social security and health insurance reforms, as well as with the expansion of school meals and cash transfers for children. The pilot Mobile Social Security Service in rural villages expanded social security coverage, benefiting underserved populations.

With UN's support, national efforts in strengthening financial protection and advocating for sustainable health financing have bolstered universal health coverage. The Disability Grant Plus program has empowered 496 children with disabilities through cash transfers and assistive devices, enhancing their access to healthcare and education. The National School Meals Program has provided nutritious lunches to over 250,000 children, ensuring their health and development. These collective efforts are transforming social protection systems, fostering inclusivity, and driving sustainable development in Lao PDR.



## 2.4. MIGRATION POLICY

Under the Global Compact on Migration, the UN Network on Migration was established. Eight UN agencies are members, with the UN Resident Coordinator's Office as the Chair and IOM as the Coordinator and the Secretariat. A joint video was launched on International Migrants Day highlighting the commitment to support better migration governance by the UNNM.

IOM in coordination with the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare (MOLSW) conducted needs assessment on employer needs and job matching

Hectares cleared from UXOs contamination  
with UN support

879 

Returnee migrant workers, benefiting from  
entrepreneurship and financial literacy training

124 



### New Chapter: Disability-Inclusive

### Social Protection Initiatives

Mr. Tu Va's world was turned upside down when his youngest son, Ye Va, was diagnosed with a physical disability at the age of eight. Before the Disability Grant Plus project, every kip had to be meticulously allocated. Ye's needs – from clothing and medication to even basic toys – were often unmet, and his dependence on his parents for mobility added to the strain. However, with support of the Disability Grant Plus project, things began to change for the Va family. Through financial assistance and guidance from the Provincial Rehabilitation Center, Ye was able to walk independently for the first time.

"Seeing his progress fills me with immense joy. I never dreamt he'd be able to stand, walk, and care for himself like this."

Launched in 2020, the Disability Grant Plus initiative provides monthly cash grants to cover essential needs like nutrition, medical care and schooling. In partnership with the Australian Government, UNICEF supports the Government of Laos to build local capacity and raise awareness about disability issues, ensuring that all families are supported, and every child is protected.

Photo: UNICEF

in the Special Economic Zone in Savannakhet, Champasak and Vientiane Capital. This assessment will contribute to the Ministry's strategy on job placement and skills development in Lao PDR.

The Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare disseminated new regulations on sending Lao workers abroad, enhancing understanding and compliance across multiple provinces. The launch of the Lao Employment Business Association (LEBA) marked a significant step in formalizing employment services.

OHCHR's study on socio-economic inequalities driving precarious migration provided actionable recommendations to protect vulnerable communities. These initiatives collectively highlight Lao PDR's commitment to improving migrant labour conditions, fostering regional cooperation, and ensuring the protection of migrant workers' rights. The collaborative spirit and strategic focus on impactful outcomes are paving the way for a more inclusive and equitable future for migrant workers in the region.



## 2.5. URBAN DEVELOPMENT

The 3rd Lao National Urban Forum (LNUF 2024) served as a platform to foster dialogue among urban sector stakeholders, enhancing collaborative efforts for urban growth planning and management. This five-day event raised awareness for sustainable urbanization challenges and underscored the critical link between human and environmental well-being, engaging over 1,400 participants from 53 organizations including the Ministries, development





### **Skills Training Provides Renewed Hope for Migrant Returnees in Lao People's Democratic Republic**

Noi, a 29-year-old from a remote village in Sekong, Laos, left school due to financial constraints and migrated to Thailand to work in a garment factory. After a year, she returned home to care for her ailing parents but struggled to find stable employment.

Facing unemployment and financial difficulties, she discovered a free agriculture skills training program offered by IOM and the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare. The training not only provided her with certification and farming techniques but also educated her on safe migration and labor rights.

"Skills training and certification have given me the confidence to plan for my and my family's future," Noi shared. "One day, I hope to start my own farm business using the skills gained and pass this knowledge on to my family members, so that we all can work together towards achieving this dream."

With IOM's support, Noi secured a job in agriculture and now dreams of starting her own farm business. She is one of 50 migrant returnees in Laos who have benefited from IOM's PROMISE program, which promotes safe migration, skills development, and job placement.

*Photo: IOM*

partners, UN agencies, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), academia, and private sector in constructive discussions and knowledge exchange.

The sensitization workshop of Voluntary Local Review (VLR) in Kaysone Phomvihane City provided a unique opportunity to the sub-national authorities to share the concept of the integration of SDGs into their local contexts, particularly within the 9th NSEDP. The VLR process could encourage the discussion at the local level to identify local priorities, challenges, and opportunities.



## **2.6. RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND UXOs**

2024 witnessed significant progress in the areas of UXO and rural development. The National UXO/ Mine Action Standards was updated and a UXO land clearance prioritization policy drafted. More than 8 million square meters of contaminated land (equivalent to 1,642 football fields) were cleared across eight provinces, resulting in the destruction of more than 19,000 UXO. Yet 50 victims of UXO were recorded in 2024 of which 60 per cent were children.

In support of MAF's rural development agenda, significant agriculture and rural infrastructure programs were implemented in partnership with UN agencies. Key strategies focused on enhancing agricultural productivity, crop diversification, green energy production for agricultural purposes, enhancing water management systems, and improving access to markets for small holder farmers through Agriculture Production Groups (AGP).

Efforts also focused on household nutrition through farmer nutrition schools, household grants, cooking demonstrations, and nutrition education. Women were empowered to improve family diets, especially during the first 1,000 days of an infant's life, enhancing the nutritional status of women and children, and building capacities to empower women and girls.



## 2.7. PRIVATE SECTOR AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AND DIGITALIZATION

Significant progress was made in aligning skills development with digitalization and advanced technologies to meet labor market needs. The Skills Development Law, endorsed in December 2024, will be promoted in early 2025. Five National Skills Standards were developed and disseminated to providers in Lao PDR.

Capacity building for teachers and upskilling for men, women, youth, and vulnerable people were enhanced through exchange programs and quality apprenticeships between 24 Skills Development Centers and Technical Vocational Colleges in Lao PDR and China. Training in various technical fields was provided with fostered public-private partnership for training equipment, benefiting 2,158 people, including 876 women. In Savannakhet and Oudomxay provinces, 1,648 workers received job counseling, accessing 5,024 job vacancies.

Skills development training programs for aspiring and returnee migrant workers were successfully implemented, with 223 individuals trained in various sectors. Over 50 secured employment, and many pursued entrepreneurial opportunities. Entrepreneurship skills training increased access to business skills and start-up capital for 124 individuals, promoting safe migration and reintegration.



### Youth engagement for future development

Ms. Saiyfonh Virachit, supported organizing the Third Lao National Urban Forum (LNUF) with 30 fellow university volunteers, witnessed the passion to the urbanization. Under the formulation of SDGs framework, the discussions were not only addressed problems but also fostered existing/possible collaborations. Ms. Saiyfonh was inspired and felt empowered by the expertise and their passion towards sustainable urban development and being involved in realizing it proactively. She came to believe in the value of youth participation in dialogue. The youth, including herself, can share passion and bring innovative ideas from fresh perspectives for sustainable urban development.

“Having everyone aligned toward the same goals makes urban development more effective and impactful, benefiting not just cities but also society as a whole.”

The LNUF is the dialogue platform led by MPWT to share the challenges and opportunities of urban issues with policy makers, development partners, UN agencies, academia, private sector, and civil society.

*Photo: UN-Habitat*





### Enabling safe cultivation

In Xiengkhouang Province, Mrs. Thoumma Syshomphan's (farmer) story underscores the lasting socio-economic challenges posed by unexploded ordnance (UXO) on vulnerable communities. During the Indochina War (1964-1973), relentless bombing claimed eleven lives in her village. Years later, her husband and brother-in-law were tragically killed in a UXO explosion, leaving her as the sole provider for her two children, relying on a small vegetable patch to survive.

A UNDP-supported project, funded by the Government of New Zealand, is driving transformative change in Xiengkhouang, which comprises 60 per cent of Lao PDR's Confirmed Hazardous Areas (CHA)<sup>1</sup>. In 2024, 644 hectares of land were cleared (size of 902 soccer fields) by the UXO Lao team under the UNDP supported project, directly benefiting over 30,000 people. This intervention has enabled safer access to farmland, enhanced livelihoods, and significantly reduced UXO-related risks.

Today, Thoumma safely cultivates her land, exemplifying the project's impact on restoring security, opportunity, and hope while contributing to Lao PDR's progress toward achieving SDG 18: Lives Safe from UXO.

*Photo: UNDP*



### Local Roots to Global Markets

Somsai Vilaysouk, 44, is founder and director of the Vilaysouk Import Export company, which exports agricultural produce to China and imports seeds from Vietnam. Before his association with the AFN project, trading activity was limited and the company was quite small.

With a loan from the project, Somsai constructed a new warehouse and set up drying facilities, which allowed him to expand his business. Today, he employs 10 people.

Somsai was also able to enter into contracts with local farmers to buy their cardamom, redroot (a local weed variety used mostly for medicinal purposes) and other crops, which he sells mainly to Chinese buyers. He also provides maize seeds to farmers, from whom he buys back the cultivated maize for an agreed upon price, and helps farmers to connect with the market network, enabling business environment.

"In future, I plan to continue to encourage our villagers to plant a variety of crops," he says. "The company will continue to promote and encourage our villagers."

*Photo: IFAD*



## Strategic priority 3

# GOVERNANCE AND RULE OF LAW

## CONTRIBUTING AGENCIES

Leads: UNDP, UNFPA

<b>IOM</b>	Cross-border mobility; Counter trafficking
<b>OHCHR</b>	Civic space and participation; Capacity building for duty-bearers and rights-holders on engagement with UN human rights mechanisms (treaty bodies, special procedures, and universal periodic review); Capacity development for rights holders to participate in decision-making (including in human rights mechanisms); Technical advice on human rights
<b>UNDESA</b>	Digital governance and connectivity; Female leadership promotion
<b>UNCITRAL</b>	Technical assistance and capacity building in trade and commercial law
<b>UNDP</b>	Civic space and participation & Human Rights; Rule of law and access to justice; National Assembly and Provincial People's Assemblies; Disability inclusion; Digital governance
<b>UNESCO</b>	Media development and access to information ; Ethics of AI Readiness Assessment
<b>UNFPA</b>	Population and housing census; Lao social indicator survey; Civil registration and vital statistics; Sexual and reproductive health and rights; Youth engagement
<b>UNHCR</b>	Population and housing census (technical support on identifying stateless populations and those of undetermined nationality)
<b>UNICEF</b>	Lao social indicator survey; Legislative advocacy on child-friendly budgets (national assembly and provincial people's assemblies)
<b>UNODC</b>	Anti-corruption; Anti-money laundering/counter-financing of terrorism; Border management; Criminal justice; Crimes that affect the environment (including waste trafficking); Cybercrime; Drugs and health; Global rapid interdiction of dangerous substances; Pre-cursor chemicals and illicit drugs; Sustainable alternative development; Trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants
<b>UNOPS</b>	Border control management
<b>UNV</b>	Advocating for volunteer participation
<b>WHO</b>	Health governance; Data governance

**“UN support drove key milestones in governance, justice, and digital transformation. The Lao Bar Association launched its first strategy, and legal aid reached more vulnerable people. Progress made towards the first-ever digital Population and Housing Census is set to advance data-driven policymaking, while UN-backed governance reforms strengthened legal frameworks and public administration. Civic engagement through civil society’s contributions to human rights reporting increased. Efforts to combat transnational crime were bolstered through cross-border initiatives. These achievements lay the foundation for stronger support towards inclusive development, ensuring equal opportunities for women, youth, and marginalized communities.”**

– by co-chairs Martine Therer, UNDP Resident Representative and Bakhtiyor Kadyrov, UNFPA Representative

## SUPPORTING SDGS





**20**24 saw UN support continue to advance progress in governance and the rule of law. The first-ever visit by a UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and the country visit by the Special Rapporteur in the Field of Cultural Rights set the tone for continued human rights dialogue with all stakeholders. They also underscored the need for tangible actions to address human rights challenges and ensure the protection and promotion of rights for all people in Lao PDR. Simultaneously, civil society increased its engagement in human rights, as reflected in the first-ever submission of alternative reports on the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) and the 4th Universal Periodic Review (UPR), a milestone in human rights accountability in the country. As a convener of diverse stakeholders, the UN in Lao PDR ensured the engagement of civil society stakeholders in drafting the 10th National Socio-Economic Development Plan (NSEDP). This collaborative effort reflected a more inclusive approach to national development planning. Yet, despite increased advocacy by CSOs for persons with disabilities and women and engagement in some policy reform dialogues, CSOs' engagement in decision-making remains limited overall, especially in areas considered sensitive such as land and ethnic issues.

In the justice sector, the UN supported strengthened rule of law and improved access to legal aid, especially for women, marginalized groups and children in conflict with the law, reaching more than 11,051, including 504 women and 9,851 children. Capacity building initiatives for key justice actors, such as lawyers, police and prosecutors, resulted in the enhanced ability of the justice sector to protect women, girls and survivors of gender-based violence (GBV) in a victim- and survivor-centered way.

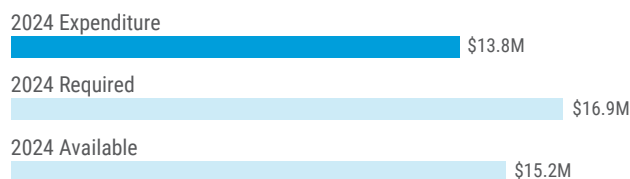
From a gender equality perspective, UN support resulted in key national institutions, such as the Lao Bar Association, the Ministry of Home Affairs and the National Assembly establishing national action plans for promoting gender equality in their workforces, setting the stage for further structural change towards more gender-inclusive governance, rule of law and service delivery. Under the UNITE! 16

## SUPPORTING 9<sup>TH</sup> NSEDP

**Pillar 6:** Public governance and administration is improved, and society is equal, fair, and protected by the rule of law

## 2024 EXPENDITURE (US\$)

**\$13.8M**



Days of Activism to End Violence Against Women and Girls campaign, UN agencies partnered with 50 stakeholders to raise awareness, drive policy dialogue, and amplify survivor voices. Notably, the Prime Minister of Lao PDR reaffirmed the government's commitment to eliminating violence against women and girls, calling for stronger law enforcement, enhanced survivor protection, and greater investments in prevention programs.

UN support also advanced national governance and human rights priorities through strengthened data systems, legal reforms, and international commitments. UN-supported legal and policy advancements reinforcing child rights, especially following the promulgation of the Amended Law on the Protection of the Rights and Interests of the Child in December 2023. The ban made Lao PDR the 66th state worldwide and the first in ASEAN to fully protect children from all forms of corporal punishment, creating a much stronger enabling environment for the protection of children from violence, abuse and exploitation.

Lastly, experts from a range of UN agencies and the World Bank engaged 257 members of the National and Provincial Assemblies in a substantive dialogue on key social, environmental and economic priorities equipping them with knowledge and data to strengthen their oversight and legislative functions prior to the 8th Ordinary session.

People supported on topics relevant to counter Transnational Organized Crime

4,890 



### 3.1. CIVIC SPACE AND PARTICIPATION

As a result of UN technical capacity building and advocacy, CSOs played a more active role in UN Human Rights Mechanisms (HRMs) and were better represented in national policy making. With UN support, local CSOs submitted the first alternative reports to CESCER and the UPR.

The UN, co-chairing the Governance Sector Working Group (GSWG), increased participation of CSOs in GSWG, including representatives of marginalized communities, enriching the discussions on key governance and rule of law challenges, including priorities for the 10th NSEDP. In total, 120 Governance and Rule of Law stakeholders including 15 CSOs contributed.

In the area of gender, UN supported a local LGBTI rights CSO to report on the situation affecting LGBTI people in the country, and assessed barriers to justice for GBV survivors, identifying gaps in legal knowledge and the impact of customary law on protection.



### 3.2. GENDER EQUALITY, WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT, AND HUMAN RIGHTS

The UN advanced human rights and gender equality in Lao PDR by strengthening engagement with UN HRMs, including UPR, CESCER and CRC submissions, as well as participation in the CEDAW dialogue and the Beijing+30 Ministerial Conference which



#### Visit of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights

On 7 June 2024, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Mr. Volker Türk, gave a public lecture to around 100 Lao students at the Faculty of Law and Political Science of the National University of Laos during his official visit to Lao PDR. It was the first-ever country visit to Lao PDR by a UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.

"The aspirations & voices of all young people must be heard & influence policies at every level," the High Commissioner said in his tweet following the lecture.

During the visit, Mr. Türk also met with government authorities, UNCT, development partners, and other stakeholders, to which he highlighted the growing collaboration with the Lao Government on human rights and UN human rights mechanisms. Discussions focused on the country's progress on human rights, including the recent ban on corporal punishment of children, as well as ongoing challenges such as public debt, poverty and inequalities, child marriage, climate change, and the need to further integrate human rights into sustainable development.

*Photo: OHCHR*

enhanced national commitments to advancing the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. UN capacity building and advocacy enabled greater participation of civil society in policy making, particularly from persons with disabilities and women. The Lao Social Indicator Survey III provided

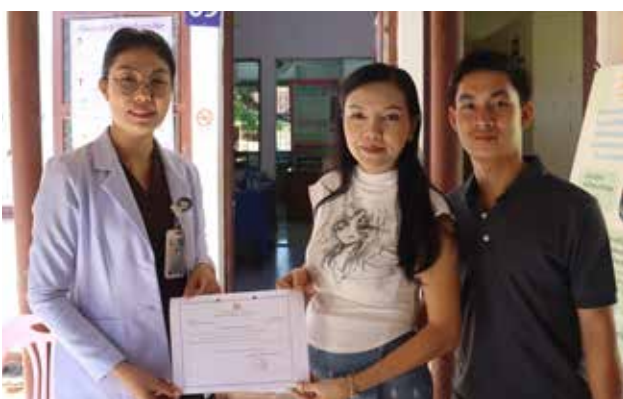


## Data initiatives supported by UN to measure SDG progress

6 

## People using legal aid services across the country

9,851 



### A love story with rights and choices

In Vientiane Province, Lao PDR, 35-year-old Viengsamai and her 24-year-old husband, Nouker, have found both love and empowerment through UNFPA innovative approach entitled: couple's counseling supported in Keo-Oudom Hospital and at the community level. The soon-to-be-married couples receive comprehensive counseling on sexual and reproductive health, family planning, and prevention of violence enabling them to make informed decisions about their future. They are also accompanied to ensure the registration of their marriage.

This initiative, funded by the Government of Luxembourg, under the United Nations Joint Program between UNFPA, UNICEF and WHO and developed in collaboration with the Lao Ministries of Home Affairs and Health, has provided non-discriminatory, confidential counseling to over 500 couples since early 2023. Initially piloted in Vientiane province, the program is expanding to 14 additional provinces with support from other partners. During a visit to the district hospital, Luxembourg's Minister of Foreign Affairs, H.E. Mr. Xavier Bettel, emphasized that investing in the well-being, health, and empowerment of women and girls is fundamental to achieving gender equality and sustainable development.

*Photo: UNFPA*

disaggregated gender data to inform evidence-based policymaking.

Gender equality was promoted through key initiatives in political representation, GBV prevention, and community engagement. A parliamentary gender analysis engaged 255 MPs and 51 staff to strengthen efforts toward achieving 30 per cent women's representation in the 2026 elections. GBV response efforts expanded with six shelters, a one-stop service center, and multi-sectoral SOPs, while joint advocacy, including the 16 Days of Activism campaign, reinforced commitments to ending GBV.

To reinforce GBV safeguards, the UN laid the groundwork for joint initiatives on Prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) through capacity-building for government partners. The UN also supported the Lao Bar Association to produce its first Gender Action Plan. Community-level dialogues in Savannakhet empowered women and youth to influence water supply system decisions, promoting equitable access to public services.



### 3.3. RULE OF LAW AND ACCESS TO JUSTICE

UN rule of law and access to justice efforts included legal aid expansion, capacity building, and system reforms, enabling greater protection for vulnerable groups and inclusive growth.

UN-supported Village Offices for Coordination and Legal Assistance in four Xiengkhoang province villages began to pilot community-based legal aid for child victims and offenders. Enhanced Lao Bar Association capacity has equipped 74 lawyers to

Rights-holders reached through IEC activities to increase knowledge on human rights

10M

Interventions to strengthen capacity for active decision-making participation

15 

contribute 1,798 pro bono hours, assisting 1,247 individuals (504 women) since 2022.

To enable a gender and human rights-responsive legal sector, 95 officials from four justice institutions were trained on gender-sensitive justice protocols to protect women, girls, and survivors of GBV. Furthermore, 352 lawyers (123 women, two with disabilities) received specialized training on human rights and criminal justice issues, including GBV and human trafficking.

UN efforts also contributed to a legal ecosystem enabling trade and investment, fundamental to inclusive growth and rule of law, through capacity building initiatives on international commercial arbitration, mediation and Investor-State Dispute Settlement reform.



### 3.4. COMBATING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME

The UN strengthened regional and national efforts to combat transnational organized crime in Lao PDR. Under the Mekong MoU on Drug Control, support was provided for the launch of Safe Mekong Joint Operations 2024, enhancing cross-border cooperation among six Mekong countries to streamline law enforcement communication and coordinate resources against drug trafficking. Lao PDR also participated in Operation Mekong Borders, resulting in the seizure of two tons of Amphetamine type stimulants (ATS) and 960 kg of crystal methamphetamine.

Capacity-building efforts continued for Lao Customs and the Anti-Money Laundering Intelligence Office



#### The first blind accredited lawyer in Lao PDR

For Khamlar Yodchanthala, the first blind accredited lawyer in Lao PDR, the UNDP-supported 'Lawyer Project' represents a transformative step toward an inclusive and accessible justice system. In 2024, Khamlar joined 352 lawyers in training sessions on legal aid, pro bono services, and gender equality, equipping them to better serve communities and promote justice.

"As a blind individual, accessibility has been one of my biggest challenges," Khamlar explains. "Overcoming it has required a great deal of persistence and patience. This project has enhanced our skills and confidence to advocate for others as lawyers. It proves that disability is not a limitation in achieving justice."

With improved skills, Khamlar can better support clients to navigate legal challenges, embodying the project's impact in fostering an inclusive and capable legal community in Lao PDR. Khamlar's story stands as a beacon of inspiration for young persons with disabilities and the next generation of legal professionals.

Photo: UNDP





### Building futures, one cup of coffee at a time (UNODC)

This year, Phuerp, a coffee farmer from Houaphanh Province in northern Lao PDR had the opportunity to share her story of transformation with UN Secretary-General António Guterres during his visit to the country. The UNODC's Alternative Development program in Lao PDR supports communities vulnerable to opium production as they transition to sustainable, licit livelihoods through coffee cultivation. Working with farmers like Phuerp to establish the Vanmai Coffee Cooperative, the cooperative aims to ensure sustainability, secure market access and promote inclusive governance.

Over a cup of coffee, Phuerp shared with the Secretary-General how the income from coffee production has impacted her family's life. In the first year, they used their coffee earnings to pay off debts; in the second year, they purchased essential farm equipment; and by the third year, they were able to invest in their children's education and save for the future.

Phuerp's story illustrates how UNODC is fostering sustainable livelihoods, strengthening community resilience to drugs and crime and creating lasting cycles of positive change.

*Photo: UNODC*

(AMLIO) to strengthen investigations into illicit financial flows, corruption, and trafficking. To address drug-related health challenges, community-based treatment and care services were expanded across 34 sites in seven provinces, with ongoing training on prevention and treatment, particularly targeting young drug users. These efforts contribute to a more effective, coordinated response to transnational crime and illicit drug trafficking.



### 3.5. PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION REFORM AND DATA-DRIVEN GOVERNANCE

The UN supported advancements in public administration reform and data-driven governance in Lao PDR by strengthening digital systems and institutional capacity.

Support for the 2025 Population and Housing Census included a pilot census and improvements to electronic civil registration and vital statistics. The UN contributed to the national digital strategy, building on the 2022 National Digital Masterplan, and assessed ICT infrastructure and digital literacy for 120 government staff in One Door Service Centers (ODSCs). A new data collection system for juvenile justice was also established to enhance case management for children in contact with the law.

The UN supported the drafting of the Decree on Good Public Services to improve service quality and coordination. Additionally, over 7,000 National Assembly (NA) and Provincial People's Assemblies (PPA) members and staff received capacity building in legislative and oversight functions, engaging 9,100 citizens and government stakeholders in governance processes.

## Strategic priority 4

# ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE, AND RESILIENCE

## CONTRIBUTING AGENCIES

Leads: FAO, UN-Habitat

<b>FAO</b>	Disaster risk management; Forest and ecosystem protection; Food systems strengthening; Livelihood resilience; Climate-smart agriculture; Policy and capacity development; Natural resource management; Sustainable agriculture
<b>IFAD</b>	Sustainable agriculture development Climate-smart agriculture and capacity development; Sustainable food systems strengthening Forest and ecosystem protection
<b>UNCDF</b>	Financing for local climate change adaptation
<b>UNDP</b>	Disaster risk management; Low-carbon agriculture; Climate-sensitive health risks; Plastic pollution; Water resource management
<b>UNDRR</b>	Disaster Governance, Disaster Risk Reduction, Loss and Damage, Early Warning System
<b>UNEP</b>	National adaptation planning; Financing for climate change adaptation
<b>UN-Habitat</b>	Disaster risk management; Urban resilience
<b>UNICEF</b>	National Disaster and Climate Risk Mitigation, Disaster Preparedness and Response; Climate change resilience
<b>UNIDO</b>	Reducing Persistent Organic Pollutants and Greenhouse Gas emissions
<b>UNOPS</b>	Infrastructure asset management
<b>WFP</b>	Climate Resilience, Disaster Risk Management, Emergency Preparedness and Response
<b>WHO</b>	Environmental Health; WASH in health care facilities

## SUPPORTING SDGS



**“In 2024, we strengthened climate resilience through updated national policies, early warning systems, and disaster response frameworks while advancing green finance and inclusive disaster risk reduction. Next year, we aim to deepen sustainable financing, enhance early warning capabilities, and drive global climate advocacy, ensuring Laos is equipped to tackle future environmental and climate challenges.”**

– by co-chairs, Kyung-mee Kim, FAO Representative and Avi Sarkar, UNHABITAT Regional Advisor





**P**rogress on environmental sustainability, green growth and climate resilience continued to be challenging. High public debt and reliance on commodity-driven growth limited investments in resilient development, while climate induced disasters, mining activities, biodiversity conservation, waste management, and air pollution posed serious environmental and health risks. Green finance opportunities exist but require stronger mobilization, including through the Lao Environment Protection Fund and adoption of national green taxonomy.

Some progress was made in formulating policies that promoted environmental sustainability and climate resilience. The National Plastics Action Plan (2024–2030) was formulated to tackle plastic waste. The National Adaptation Plan (NAP) and Early Warnings for All (EW4All) roadmap were drafted to enhance climate resilience. The National Action Plan on Sustainable Food Systems Transformation was finalized, providing a strategic framework for agriculture and food security. The National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) was updated, integrating biodiversity finance and the One Health approach. The National Health Adaptation Action Plan was developed outlining 160 adaptation measures and providing a strategic framework to strengthen health sector resilience to climate change. Work began on developing the next generation of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to strengthen climate commitments under the Paris agreement. The National Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Action Plan is also being developed to improve disaster resilience. These efforts, undertaken in collaboration with the UN, reflect a comprehensive approach to fostering sustainability, resilience, and environmental protection in Lao PDR.

The Lao Disaster Information (LaoDi) system was upgraded, improving the ability to track historical loss and damage data with integrating emergency assessment tools.

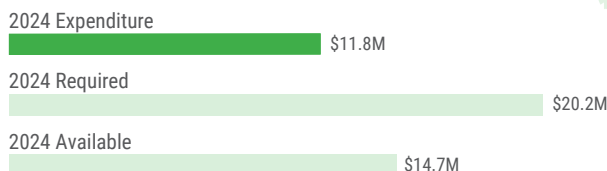
Anticipatory Action (AA) was integrated into national disaster management efforts through a feasibility study and through the AA action and response protocols for drought and flooding, enabling proactive risk reduction initiatives.

## SUPPORTING 9<sup>TH</sup> NSEDP

**Pillar 4:** Environmental protection enhanced and disaster risks reduced

### 2024 EXPENDITURE (US\$)

**\$11.8M**



To enhance sub-national government capacity in responding to droughts in Luang Prabang, Savannakhet, and Oudomxay, as well as floods in Savannakhet, provincial and district-level disaster risk reduction strategies were adopted, integrating a rainfall-based flood forecast tool, an Artificial Intelligence (AI) driven monitoring system, and a livestock management protocol for emergencies. These collective efforts reflect the Government of Lao PDR's commitment to sustainability, resilience, and inclusive development, supported by UN partnerships.



## 4.1. GREEN GROWTH

Collaborating with the Ministry of Planning and Investment and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, UN agencies developed a joint program on Green and Climate Finance, aimed at supporting the implementation of the 9th National Socio-Economic Development Plan's Financing Strategy over the next two years. The initiative is expected to enhance governance, improve policy coherence, increase public-private investment in climate initiatives, and strengthen technical capacities.

The revision process of Lao PDR's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) 3.0 is progressing, as UN in Lao PDR is providing support to MoNRE

to develop NDC 3.0, which will be submitted to the UNFCCC before COP30 in November 2025.

The capacity of approximately 250 individuals was enhanced on carbon accounting and forest solutions through trainings, workshops, and regional cross learning visits to strengthen national capacity for Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) data generation. Additionally, technical assistance, including policy advisory support and structured workshops, was provided to support the Department of Forestry in navigating the various private Voluntary Carbon Market initiatives.

Efforts to address agrochemical use in the country were initiated. The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) was supported to conduct a series of training sessions on agrochemical management. The objective was to enhance the capacity of national and sub-national authorities and to improve agrochemical management practices that boost agricultural productivity while ensuring human health, environmental sustainability, and regulatory compliance. The training series contributed to the development of the Law on Crop Protection and the Decree on Fertilizer Management, which are currently under development and are expected to be endorsed in 2025.

In addition, climate-smart agriculture (CSA) and good agriculture practices (GAP) are trained to smallholder farmers and applied to transform agri-food systems towards green and climate resilient practices, sustainably increasing agricultural productivity and incomes; adapting and building resilience to climate change.



## 4.2. NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

The Government of Lao PDR has developed the Law on Agriculture and the Decree on Fertilizer as key references for agricultural production. Since the current Law on Agriculture was formulated in 1997, the updated law and decree will guide all relevant

stakeholders in aligning with the government's new direction for the agricultural sector.

In partnership with UN agencies, the MoNRE has updated the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) 2025–2035 to protect biodiversity resources and ensure their sustainable



### Reviving LaoDi to Strengthen Disaster Loss and Damage Tracking in Lao PDR

For years, the Lao Disaster Information (LaoDi) system served as a vital platform for tracking historic disaster data in Lao PDR. However, as disaster risks increased and the demand for timely data grew, LaoDi's functionality fell short of meeting the needs of its users. Thus, the system required significant improvements to support effective disaster response and planning.

Determined to rebuild, the Department of Social Welfare (DSW) partnered with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) and the Climate Risk and EWS (CREWS) initiative. Through a structured four-phase approach—Revival, Recovery, Upgrade, and Rollout—LaoDi underwent a remarkable improvement. Key efforts included restoring lost data of 25 years, upgrading functionalities, and integrating new tools for disaster needs assessments.

It became increasingly instrumental to the government in mapping disasters, preparing situation reports, and providing actionable insights for stakeholders. With ongoing upgrades, the department of social welfare plans to make LaoDi more interactive with the capability to record the estimated losses and damages for key economic assets in the future.

*Photo: UNDRR*



People trained in climate adaptation and disaster preparedness with UN support

3,182 

Communities supported to sustainably manage natural resources

Disaster Risk Reduction strategies for 2 provinces, action plans for 9 districts, and 42 villages developed



### From Hope to Reality: Sayphouthong's Journey to Clean Water and Resilience

At 77, Kai Phomsopha, a grandmother from Thadan village in Sayphouthong Town, never imagined she would see the day her community would have clean water flowing uninterrupted. For generations, Sayphouthong has endured the harsh impacts of floods and storms, with homes and infrastructure repeatedly destroyed, leaving families like Kai's to rely on unpredictable, unsafe sources for survival.

Life is especially dire during the dry season, when water becomes a precious, often unattainable, resource. "I never thought my village would have a water supply system in my lifetime," Kai reflects, her voice filled with wonder.

Thanks to UN-Habitat's intervention, climate-resilient water supply systems now deliver clean water 24/7 to all 16 villages in the district - a lifeline for communities grappling with the pressures of climate change.

This initiative goes beyond providing infrastructure. It integrates resilience into town-level planning, prioritizing the needs of the most vulnerable, especially women who have borne the brunt of water scarcity. For Kai and her neighbors, this is a promise of a safer, resilient future - one where clean water is no longer a luxury but a fundamental right.

*Photo: UN-Habitat*

use. The updated NBSAP was presented at the 2024 UN Biodiversity Conference (COP16), showcasing the Government of Lao PDR's commitment to biodiversity conservation. Similarly, an ecosystem economic valuation assessment was conducted in Luang Prabang, enabling authorities to better protect economically valuable ecosystems, enhance climate resilience, and improve local livelihoods. Furthermore, efforts have been undertaken under the Biodiversity Financing Initiative to explore sustainable financing mechanisms for biodiversity conservation. The national guidelines on water protection zones is adopted by the government. . The institutionalization of a national Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES) mechanism is being supported under the United Nations Program on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (UN-REDD) program, with the potential to generate sustained income for the forestry sector, alongside capacity-building efforts and updates to the National Safeguards Information System.

With UN support, land use planning was supported across six districts in two provinces, benefiting over 3,000 people through collaboration with the agriculture and forestry sectors. Additionally, resource mobilization efforts have successfully secured the protection of more than 500,000 hectares of intact forest landscape along the Annamite Range, aiming to strengthen the management of four national protected areas in the South. In Savannakhet province, over 1,500 hectares of degraded land has been restored, and more than 500 hectares has been reforested. In collaboration with MAF, five new master plans for the agricultural orange sector were developed to enhance production, address challenges, and strengthen marketing and cooperation among stakeholders.

Policies supported by UN for efficient agricultural land

3 

Strategies developed with UN support for agriculture and environmental management

2 



### 4.3. RESILIENCE

Under the leadership of the MoNRE, MoLSW, MAF, and MPWT, the UN supported advancing the Early Warnings for All (EW4All) initiative, capacity building, localizing DRR actions, conducting risk assessments, enhancing disaster loss and damage tracking system, and delivering humanitarian response and recovery efforts. The EW4All roadmap 2024–2027 was endorsed, with \$5.77 million of its \$27.7 million budget already mobilized through ongoing initiatives.

Capacity building reached 3,182 individuals while institutional capacities in climate and disaster risk reduction strengthened through training and knowledge sharing. Community-based DRR initiatives implemented in 40 communities in Phongsaly and Oudomxay included constructing and rehabilitating over 60 community assets.

DRR strategies for two provinces, action plans for nine districts and 42 villages developed, and anticipatory action integration initiatives laid the foundation for proactive disaster management.

An assessment of disaster risks under climate change scenarios for floods and droughts conducted, alongside climate risk assessments focusing on children. Youth were empowered to advocate for climate action through national and regional platforms.

Air quality monitoring capacity has been expanded across 17 provinces, and real-time health alerts have been launched to protect vulnerable populations. Additionally, UN agencies have been providing technical support to the government in addressing air quality issues.



#### Delivering Safe Water Amidst

#### Rising Floodwaters in Vientiane Capital

Vientiane Capital's Hadxayfong, Sisattanak, Sikhottabong, and Pak-Ngeum districts have been hit hard by severe flooding, disrupting lives and access to essential services. In Pak-Ngeum district, where rising waters have left communities struggling for clean water, swift action was taken to address urgent needs.

On 13 September, a joint team from the Ministry of Health (MoH) and the World Health Organization (WHO) visited the flood-affected areas. The team assessed ongoing response efforts and engaged local responders to identify critical gaps. Among the most pressing concerns was the urgent need to scale up the delivery of safe drinking water to the most affected villages.

Recognizing the immediate need, the Nam Saat Center swiftly deployed a water purification truck to Pak-Ngeum district on 14 September with support from WHO and UNICEF alongside the provision of water containers and hygiene kits. These interventions helped to ensure that families, including children and the elderly, have access to clean and safe water, reducing the risk of waterborne diseases amid the crisis. The commitment to delivering lifesaving support underscores the collective effort to protect communities in the face of climate-induced emergencies.

*Photo: WHO/UNICEF*





Photo: UNESCO

## CHAPTER 3

# UN Working Together





## 3.1. SUPPORT TO PARTNERSHIPS AND FINANCING THE 2030 AGENDA

---

### ROUND TABLE IMPLEMENTATION MEETINGS

The Round Table Implementation Meeting (RTIM) is an inclusive forum for policy dialogue on the progress and implementation of the partnerships between the Government and development partners. In 2024 there were two Round Table meetings – the 2023 RTIM in February and the 2024 RTIM in November. In a departure from the past, the meetings were restructured to be more inclusive and participatory, with the opportunity to do a deeper dive into the main issues facing the country through two parallel panel discussions – one on the financing of development, and the other on human capital. The Resident Coordinator steered a coordinated approach among the UN agencies and development partners, by collaborating on joint statements to convey key messages in a coherent manner. Following both RTIMs, the Resident Coordinator supported by development partners de-briefed the Prime Minister on the main outcomes of the meetings.

---

### JOINT MISSIONS WITH GOVERNMENT

With a view to learn more about the country context as well as UN supported projects in the country, the UN Resident Coordinator led two joint missions with the Government counterparts.

The first mission in March 2024 was to Huapahn province with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Visiting the Viengxay caves, known as the cradle of the revolution, strengthened understanding of the political context of Lao PDR. The team visited the Alternative Development Project of UNODC, transforming opium farmers to coffee growers, and a community-development project increasing market access with support from IFAD.

The second mission was co-led by the UN Resident Coordinator and the Vice-Minister of the Ministry

of Planning and Investment to Bokeo province. The team comprised of representatives from FAO, IOM, UNDP, UN-Habitat and the Resident Coordinator's Office as well as MPI and MoFA. The team met with the Governor of Bokeo, visited the UNFPA supported Lao Women's Union shelter and a UNDP small grants project transforming the lives of a farming community. The team visited the Special Economic Zone, met with authorities and visited key sights including the triangle port of entry and the museum and island.

---

### SUPPORT TO ASEAN EVENTS AND PROCESSES

In 2024, the Lao PDR assumed ASEAN Chairmanship for the third time under the theme "ASEAN: Enhancing Connectivity and Resilience". ASEAN cooperation intensified on promoting infrastructure connectivity, narrowing development gap, promoting greater economic integration and people-to-people exchanges, and further strengthening ASEAN's relations with external partners, while maintaining ASEAN's relevance and ASEAN Centrality in the evolving regional architecture. During the year, several UN agencies supported ASEAN Events and Processes.

#### ASEAN Children's Forum

##### UNICEF

The 8th ASEAN Children's Forum, held in August 2024, centered on the theme "Children-led Climate Change Actions Towards a Resilient ASEAN Community." It emphasized children's rights to participate in addressing the climate crisis and the importance of amplifying their voices. The forum, which brought together 30 children from ASEAN Member States, was supported by Canada, UNICEF, Childfund, Village Focus International, and other partners. The children discussed the impacts of climate change on their well-being, shared



eco-friendly practices, and called for collaboration between children, schools, and governments for a resilient ASEAN future.

### **ASEAN Declaration on Skills Mobility, Recognition, and Development for Migrant Workers**

*ILO and IOM*

The Declaration aims to enhance the skills mobility, recognition, and development for migrant workers at all skills level by adopting and strengthening admission and labour migration policies. The UN provided technical assistance and funding support to the formulation of the Declaration, its background paper and checklist, as well as capacity building to Lao PDR to improve its readiness for mutual recognition of skills with Thailand. This is expected to contribute to increased skills mobility, and accessible, rights-based and gender-responsive skills development and recognition for migrant workers.

### **ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA)**

*UNDP, UN Women, and FAO*

The UN provided comprehensive support to the National Assembly of Lao PDR to host the 45th AIPA General Assembly, and specific support to the development and implementation of the ASEAN Guidelines on Promoting Responsible Investment in Food, Agriculture and Forestry. This included training and mentoring of MPs on the functions and procedures of AIPA covering economic, social, gender and youth issues. This will both strengthen the National Assembly's capacity for parliamentary diplomacy and help MPs provide informed engagement on key development issues affecting the region.

### **ASEAN Women Leaders' Summit**

*UN Women and IOM*

The UN provided comprehensive support on technical assistance and funding support to the Lao Women's Union in preparing and organizing the 3rd ASEAN Women Leaders' Summit: "Strengthening

Care Economy and Resilience Towards ASEAN Community Post-2025" in August, 2024. This contributed to reaffirming ASEAN's commitment to supporting women and girls in the paid and unpaid care economies as a critical regional agenda; to recognizing the specific challenges and opportunities to support women and girls in resilience building; and to the endorsement of a final Declaration which identifies recommendations in response to these.

### **ASEAN Youth Dialogue**

*UNFPA and UNICEF*

The ASEAN Youth Dialogue, held from 6-8 October 2024 in Luang Prabang, focused on 'Enhancing Comprehensive and Resilient Support for Sustainable ASEAN Youth Development.' Youth, making up one-third of ASEAN's population, face challenges in health, education, employment, and empowerment. As future leaders and change-makers, their inclusion and empowerment today are critical. Key outcomes included youth policy recommendations for ASEAN leaders and validation of the ASEAN Youth Statement on 7 October, which was presented during the ASEAN Leaders' Interface on 9 October in Vientiane.

### **ASEAN Policy Forum on Higher Education**

*UNESCO*

Through a joint partnership, the MOES, UNESCO and the EU launched the first in a four-year series of ASEAN policy dialogues to advance the Common Space in Southeast Asian Higher Education, engaging over 130 senior leaders, youth, chambers of commerce, and higher education experts from all Southeast Asian countries. This dialogue, co-organized in November 2024, urged faster ratification of UNESCO's recognition conventions (Global and Tokyo Conventions) and activation of National Information Centres, reinforcing the region's commitment to an inclusive higher education transformation under Lao PDR's ASEAN Chairmanship.

---

## PARTNERSHIP STRATEGY

Following an extensive collaborative process over five months, the 25 UN agencies represented through the Partnerships focal points, the Program Oversight Group and the UN Country Team, came together to develop the first Partnership Strategy, complementing the Lao PDR-UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (2022-2026). The strategy, which will be implemented in the last two years of the Cooperation Framework, is an important step forward in how UN agencies work to better support the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, providing a roadmap of specific, practical actions to strengthen engagement with key groups of partners and coordinate better for efficient and effective use of development resources. Crucially, the strategy includes setting out how the UN will implement key elements of the global Management and Accountability Framework of the UN Development and Resident Coordinator System, and the Funding Compact between the UN and Member States agreed in 2024.

---

## BRIEFING WITH MEMBER STATES

The 2024 Funding Compact calls for strengthened accountability and engagement with Member States. For the first time, the UN Resident Coordinator briefed Member States on UN Reform and the Pact for the Future; and the Country Team briefed on the 2023 Results and 2024 priorities under the Lao PDR-UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (2022-2026). Member States were given copies of the 2023 Annual Results Report, which was awarded the best report in Asia and the Pacific. Member States appreciated the briefing and welcomed a regular interaction with the UN Country Team.

---

## UN-INGO NETWORK MEETING

As part of the regular UN-INGO network meeting, one meeting was held in June 2024. The Resident Coordinator and the UNCT briefed the INN network

on the 2023 Annual Results Report, the Partnership Strategy and LDC Graduation. The INN network shared their INGO mapping exercise. The UN-INGO network are expected to meet twice a year, and advance on mutual goals as outlined in the Partnerships Strategy.

## Advancing Disability Inclusion in Lao PDR

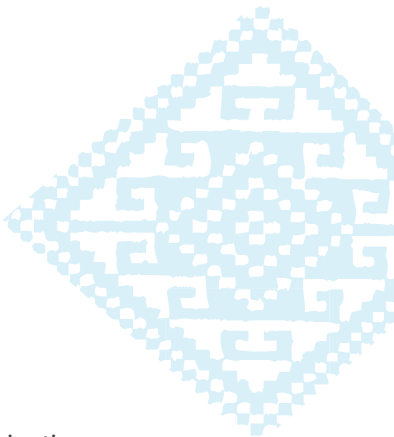
The UN and development partners in Lao PDR strengthened their commitment to disability inclusion through policy advocacy, community engagement, and direct support for persons with disabilities. Working alongside Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs), key initiatives focused on raising awareness, addressing challenges, and recognizing the contributions of persons with disabilities to society. Around 78 UNVs from 14 nationalities were also mobilized to support 12 UN entities, contributing to 14 SDGs. Among them, 60 per cent were female, and 3 out of the total UNVs were persons with disabilities.

The Embassy of Japan, in collaboration with the Asian Development with Disabled Persons (ADDP) and OPDs, reaffirmed its commitment to disability inclusion by advocating for sign language recognition and supporting community-driven initiatives. This was highlighted during the first ever commemoration of International Day of Sign Languages at Minna no Café—an event attended by representatives from Germany, the EU, and other key development partners.

The International Day of Sign Languages and the International Day of Persons with Disabilities provided critical platforms for dialogue, showcasing both progress and the challenges that remain. These collective efforts reflect a sustained commitment from development partners and the UN to advancing disability rights and ensuring persons with disabilities are empowered as active participants in shaping a more inclusive society—fully embracing the principle of “Nothing About Us Without Us.”



# 3.2. RESULTS OF THE UN WORKING MORE AND BETTER TOGETHER



In September 2024, the UN Resident Coordinator led a UNCT retreat with the following objectives – reaching a better shared understanding of the development context of the country, the trends and impacts on UN programs and the future role of the UN; agreeing on ways to accelerate on the SDGs including through transitions and enablers; and building a stronger UN Country Team.

“Engaging through the Program Oversight Group (POG) enhances coordination by fostering a clearer understanding of each agency’s work in Lao PDR and providing a platform for collaboration. This joint UN programming approach helps minimize duplication, align efforts, and ensure a more strategic and coherent engagement with the government. By mainstreaming human rights-based approaches (HRBA), gender equality and women’s empowerment (GEWE), and the Leave No One Behind (LNOB) principle, the POG contributes to strengthening the impact, efficiency and effectiveness of UN collective actions”

- Co-chairs Laura Macini, OHCHR Human Rights Officer and Yu Lee Park, WHO, Health System Coordinator.

UN AGENCIES

10

GOVERNMENT COUNTERPARTS

14

DATA INITIATIVES

43

Strategic priority 1



19

Strategic priority 2



6

Strategic priority 3



11

Strategic priority 4



6

“The launch of the Learning, Evaluation and Data Group (LEAD) in 2024 marks a significant step in enhancing the UN’s data and M&E capabilities in Lao PDR. Evolving from the Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Group (MELG), LEAD will drive data-informed decisions and foster a culture of learning, contributing to sustainable development. We are much looking forward to 2025, where we will see LEAD play a key role in supporting the evaluation of the Cooperation Framework, with its co-chairs appointed as CF Evaluation Managers, and stay actively engaged with the annual reporting process, Common Country Analysis, and the formulation of the new CF.”

- Co-chairs Kambiz Kabiri, UNFPA Census Coordinator and Simone Buosi, UNICEF Planning and Monitoring Specialist



“ The Operation Management (OMT) has made notable progress in enhancing operational efficiency, strengthening coordination with partners, and advancing common services, particularly within the framework of the Business Operations Strategy. In 2024, UN operational collaboration generated cost benefits of \$336,927, with a target to further increase this in 2025. Key priorities include reinforcing the Government-UN Task Force on Operations to fast-track solutions to key operational issues such as tax exemptions and harmonized per diem rates, while also improving cost-effective business operations and optimizing shared services.”

- Co-chairs Bakhtior Kadirov, UNFPA Representative and Naoki Maegawa, WFP Deputy Representative.

“ In 2024, we took steps in strengthening PSEA accountability, initiating the mapping of reporting mechanisms, and raising awareness. However, there are still gaps in awareness and encouraging a speak-up culture. In 2025, we will focus on the effective implementation of the UN PSEA joint action plan through enhanced coordination, specialized training, institutionalized reporting mechanisms, and strengthened advocacy efforts to create a safer and more responsive environment for all.”

- Co-chairs Shareen Tuladhar, IOM, Chief of Mission and Bakhodir Burkhanov, UN Resident Coordinator

“ The UN Communications Group (UNCG) had three key priorities: communicating as one to advance crucial development issues; highlighting the UN’s significant impact in Lao PDR; and building UNCG capacity to better deliver on our respective mandates. Significant progress was made, with extensive opportunities in 2024 to ensure everyone, everywhere, feels engaged and connected with Lao PDR’s journey towards achieving the SDGs. In 2025 we are focused on stronger joint communications-partnerships efforts, to bring our work closer together.”

- Co-chairs Shairi Mathur, RCO Head of Office and William Robert Everett Seal, WHO Communication Specialist.

“ In 2024, ILO and UNDP continued engagement of the National Committee for Persons with Disabilities (NCPD) in the efforts to protect the rights of Persons with Disabilities by supporting their 1st attendance to the 17th session of the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) in New York to exchange and share progress in translating the CRPD concluding observations and recommendations into action with stakeholders across the globe. In 2025, we will continue to support the NCPD to ensure the CRPD National Action Plan is adopted and its monitoring and evaluation framework developed to track the national implementation.”

- Co-chairs Xiaoyan Qian, ILO Director and Martine Therer, UNDP Resident Representative



## 3.3. EVALUATIONS AND LESSONS LEARNED

In 2024, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF and WFP conducted mid-term reviews of their country programs. The MTRs reveal shared priorities around inclusivity, data integration, partnerships, gender equality, and sustainability. These overlapping areas suggest opportunities for inter-agency collaboration, particularly in reaching marginalized groups, improving data systems, and enhancing the sustainability of programs.

Along with findings and recommendations from project evaluations, the shared priorities are highlighted below:

First, programs should be responsive to the needs of the targeted communities and approaches tailored to address specific challenges of the vulnerable and marginalized to better serve the communities and leave no-one behind. This should be done through more targeted consultations and capacity building, and data-informed decisions for policy making and program design.

Second, decision-making should be evidence-based, and data should be integrated into knowledge management products. This includes strengthening data collection and analysis, monitoring and evaluation systems, and knowledge sharing.

Third, for program sustainability and scaling at impact, capacity building for government counterparts and local communities should include strengthening

technical skills, institutional capacity, and leadership development.

Fourth, engage stakeholders from the outset so that the spirit of collaboration and partnership is there to avoid any duplication and gaps. Finding innovative approaches to tackling complex challenges by drawing on a diverse range of partners is strategic.

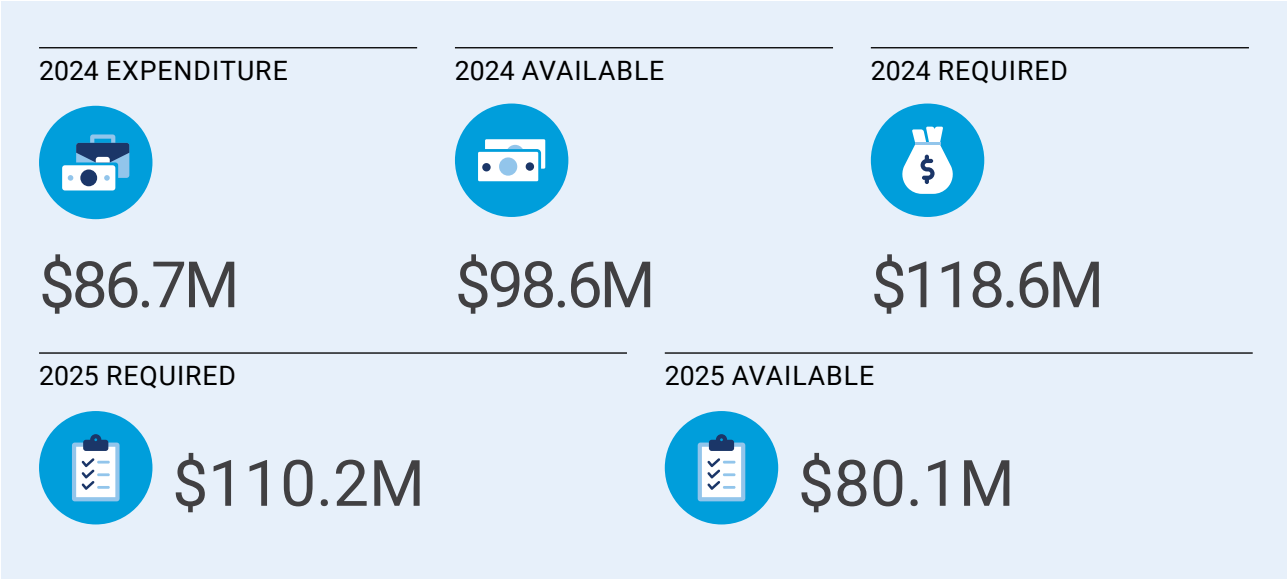
Fifth, conduct regular and frequent monitoring missions to ensure that the programs are being effectively implemented, allow for course correction or corrective actions and ensure alignment with the programs' goals and objectives. This includes efficient financial management with partners, strengthening practical implementation of policies and adapting planning assumptions for improved delivery.

Common thematic areas that emerged for cross-agency collaboration in the MTRs were on gender equality and women's empowerment, climate change and resilience, digital transformation, and youth engagement.

2025 is the penultimate year of the Lao PDR – UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (2022-2026) during which an independent evaluation of the CF will take place. The evaluation will assess the UN's contributions to national development and SDG progress; identify good practices and areas for improvement, and inform future initiatives and strategic planning for the next CF cycle (2027-2031).

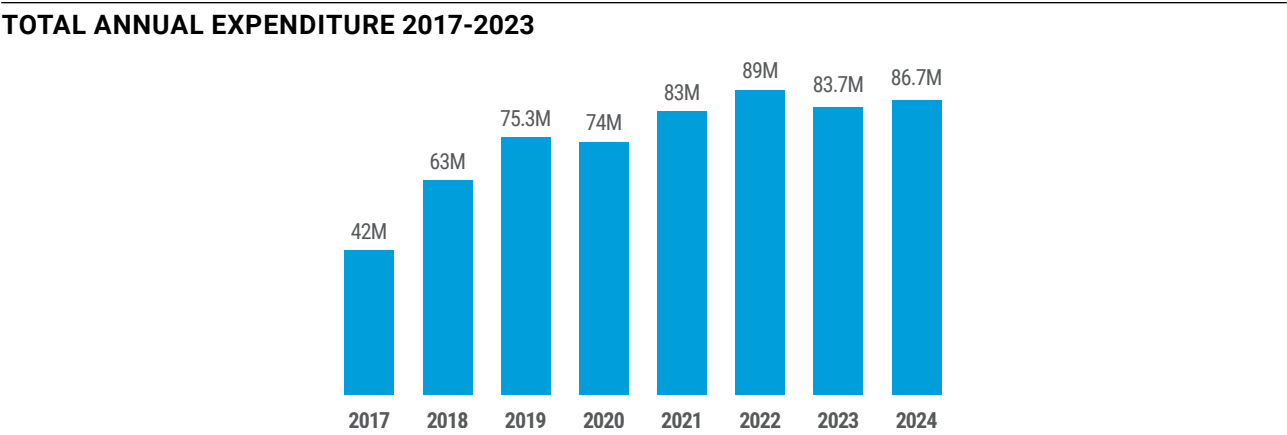


# 3.4. FINANCIAL OVERVIEW AND RESOURCE MOBILIZATION



BY OUTCOME

	2024 Required	2024 Available	2024 Expenditure	2025 Required	2025 Available
Outcome 1	\$63.8M <div><div></div></div>	\$55.3M <div><div></div></div>	\$51.7M <div><div></div></div>	\$70.6M <div><div></div></div>	\$51.5M <div><div></div></div>
Outcome 2	\$17.8M <div><div></div></div>	\$13.4M <div><div></div></div>	\$9.4M <div><div></div></div>	\$14.5M <div><div></div></div>	\$8.4M <div><div></div></div>
Outcome 3	\$16.9M <div><div></div></div>	\$15.2M <div><div></div></div>	\$13.8M <div><div></div></div>	\$12.3M <div><div></div></div>	\$8.6M <div><div></div></div>
Outcome 4	\$20.2M <div><div></div></div>	\$14.7M <div><div></div></div>	\$11.8M <div><div></div></div>	\$12.8M <div><div></div></div>	\$11.5M <div><div></div></div>





## BY ORGANIZATION

	2024 Required	2024 Available	2024 Expenditure	2025 Required *	2025 Available*
FAO	\$6,545k	\$5,186k	\$2,024k	\$3,045k	\$3,045k
IFAD	\$9,010k	\$9,010k	\$7,604k	\$9,667k	\$9,667k
ILO	\$6,628k	\$1,528k	\$1,493k	\$6,508k	\$888k
IOM	\$2,000k	\$940k	\$737k	\$3,200k	\$577k
OHCHR	\$45k	\$160k	\$129k	\$95k	\$95k
UNDESA	\$392k	\$392k	\$392k	\$35k	\$25k
UNAIDS	\$200k	\$306k	\$143k	\$200k	\$147k
UNCDF	\$527k	\$527k	\$153k	\$576k	\$576k
UNCITRAL	\$5k	\$5k	\$3k	\$7k	\$7k
UNDP	\$16,297k	\$16,297k	\$14,603k	\$9,736k	\$9,736k
UNDRR	\$350k	\$247k	\$217k	\$170k	\$25k
UNEP	\$3,779k	\$3,779k	\$2,214k	\$3,220k	\$2,972k
UNESCO	\$778k	\$478k	\$509k	\$778k	\$500k
UNFPA	\$3,492k	\$2,581k	\$2,418k	\$3,542k	\$1,037k
UN-Habitat	\$416k	\$416k	\$416k	\$6,226k	\$4,084k
UNICEF	\$25,255k	\$15,029k	\$13,987k	\$16,456k	\$8,332k
UNODC **	\$3,800k	\$3,719k	\$3,719k	\$5,000k	\$4,263k
UNOPS	\$8,137k	\$8,137k	\$7,665k	\$10,342k	\$10,342k
WFP	\$17,049k	\$17,049k	\$16,926k	\$27,829k	\$26,049k
WHO ***	\$14,002k	\$12,937k	\$11,326k	\$13,224k	\$7,387k

\* : The 2025 required and available budget for UN Agencies in Lao PDR is an indicative figure and may be subject to change due to ongoing adjustments in the funding landscape.

\*\* : Expenditure and available budgets are consolidated figure from UNODC global, regional and country specific programs targeted to (and implemented in) Lao PDR, over ten different thematic areas relating to drugs and crime.

\*\*\*: WHO operates on a biennial financial cycle, with 2024 marking the first year of the current biennium. At this time, the figures provided are best estimates. Furthermore, considering the current donor aid policy landscape at the global, regional, and country levels, we anticipate further adjustments and updates for the 2025 report

## 3.5. UNCT KEY FOCUS FOR NEXT YEAR

2025 will be a crucial year in Lao PDR's development journey, marking the final implementation year of the 9th NSEDP and the critical transition to the 10th Plan. In support of the national development plan, the UN will support the drafting of the Monitoring and Evaluation framework and the Financing Strategy for the 10th NSEDP, which will take the country through to the deadline of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. A High-level Round Table Meeting, held once in five years, will take place in November 2025 to deepen engagement with national and international partners towards generating all forms of sustainable financing for Lao PDR's sustainable development.

Following a request by the Prime Minister to the UN Secretary-General on the sidelines of the 14th ASEAN-UN Summit, the UN will support the Government in assessing the country's readiness for LDC graduation. Much of UN's policy support across outcomes and sectors converges on helping Lao PDR graduate from LDC status, and support will also be provided for the implementation of the Smooth Transition Strategy for LDC graduation.

Accelerating UN's support for SDGs for impact and scale is a key priority for 2025. The work of the Country Team will bring to bear ideas and solutions so far on the SDG transitions and investment pathways, outcomes of the Pact for the Future, and existing and emerging partnerships. Areas of collaborative action and joint programming include youth empowerment, social protection, food systems, and NDC 3.0, among others. Partnerships will be strengthened in the areas of reproductive maternal, newborn, child, adolescent health; prevention of gender-based violence; and early warning systems.

New ideas and solutions to be prototyped in 2025 include digital transformation, air pollution, and multidisciplinary support for prevention of non-communicable diseases.

Adopted in late 2024, the first-ever UN Partnerships Strategy will kick into a higher gear to guide the UN's stakeholder engagements in Lao PDR – both with formalizing ongoing exchanges with Member States and international NGOs, as well as expanding partnerships with the private sector, academia, civil society organizations and the youth. The Partnership Strategy is fully aligned with the goals and objectives of the Funding Compact between Member States and UN Development System, including a higher-quality funding for UN development activities including through pooled and thematic funds; the emphasis on efficiencies, transparency and accountability; and the enhanced collaboration among agencies and the leadership of Resident Coordinators. To that end, a Funding Compact Country Dialogue will be organized jointly with the Government of Lao PDR for the Member States and development partners.

The first UN pooled/thematic fund will be operationalized in 2025 for the recently endorsed Joint Program on Green and Climate Finance, laying the ground for a country-level pooled fund for the next program cycle.

As the Lao PDR – UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (2022-2026) enters its penultimate year, an external evaluation of UN support will be conducted. In 2025, the UN will also design the roadmap for the new Cooperation Framework cycle and conduct a full-fledged Country Analysis process.

Photo: ILO



# ACRONYMS

<b>AA</b>	Anticipatory Action
<b>ADB</b>	Asian Development Bank
<b>ADDP</b>	Asian Development with the Disabled Persons
<b>AFD</b>	French Development Agency
<b>AFN</b>	Agriculture for Nutrition
<b>AGP</b>	Agriculture Production Groups
<b>AI</b>	Artificial Intelligence
<b>AIPA</b>	ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly
<b>AMLIO</b>	Anti-Money Laundering Intelligence Office
<b>ASEAN</b>	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
<b>ATS</b>	Amphetamine-Type Stimulants
<b>CCT</b>	Conditional Cash Transfers
<b>CDP</b>	UN Committee for Development Policy
<b>CESCR</b>	Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
<b>CEDAW</b>	Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women
<b>CF</b>	Cooperation Framework
<b>CHA</b>	Confirmed Hazardous Areas
<b>COP16</b>	UN Biodiversity Conference
<b>COP29</b>	29th Conference of the Parties (Biodiversity Conference)
<b>COVID-19</b>	Coronavirus Disease 2019
<b>CPC</b>	Coffee Producers Cooperative
<b>CRPD</b>	The Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
<b>CREWS</b>	Climate Risk and Early Warning Systems
<b>CRC</b>	Convention on the Rights of the Child
<b>CSA</b>	Climate-Smart Agriculture
<b>CSOs</b>	Civil Society Organizations

<b>DFAT</b>	Department of Foreign Affairs
<b>DHIS2</b>	District Health Information Software 2
<b>DRR</b>	Disaster Risk Reduction
<b>DSW</b>	Department of Social Welfare
<b>ECE</b>	Early Childhood Education
<b>ESCAP</b>	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
<b>EW4ALL</b>	Early Warnings for All
<b>FAO</b>	Food and Agriculture Organisation
<b>FQS</b>	Fundamental Quality Standards
<b>GAFFSP</b>	Global Agriculture and Food Security Program Fund
<b>GAVI</b>	Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization
<b>GAP</b>	Good Agriculture Practices
<b>GBV</b>	Gender-based Violence
<b>GCF</b>	The Green Climate Fund
<b>GCM</b>	Global Compact on Migration
<b>GDP</b>	Gross Domestic Product
<b>GEF</b>	Global Environment Facility
<b>GEWE</b>	Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment
<b>GFATM</b>	The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria
<b>GNI</b>	Gross National Income
<b>GSWG</b>	Governance Sector Working Group
<b>HIV/AIDS</b>	Human Immunodeficiency Virus/ Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
<b>HRBA</b>	Human Rights-Based Approach
<b>HRMs</b>	Human Rights Mechanisms
<b>HPV</b>	Human Papillomavirus
<b>ICT</b>	Information and Communication Technology

<b>ICESCR</b>	International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
<b>IEC</b>	Information, Education, and Communication
<b>IFAD</b>	International Fund for Agricultural Development
<b>IFIs</b>	International Financial Institutions
<b>ILO</b>	International Labour Organisation
<b>IMF</b>	International Monetary Fund
<b>INGOs</b>	International non-governmental organizations
<b>INN</b>	INGO Network
<b>IOM</b>	International Organisation for Migration
<b>ICT</b>	Information and Communication Technology
<b>ITC</b>	International Trade Center
<b>IYCF</b>	Infant and Young Child Feeding
<b>KOFIH</b>	Korean Foundation for International Healthcare
<b>KOICA</b>	Korea International Cooperation Agency
<b>Lao PDR</b>	Lao People's Democratic Republic
<b>LaoDi</b>	Lao Disaster Information
<b>LDC</b>	Least Developed Country
<b>LEAD</b>	Learning, Evaluation and Data Group
<b>LEBA</b>	Lao Employment Business Association
<b>LGBTI</b>	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Intersex
<b>LNOB</b>	Leave No One Behind
<b>LNUF</b>	Lao National Urban Forum
<b>LSIS</b>	Lao Social Indicator Survey
<b>LUXDEV</b>	Luxemburg Development Agency
<b>M&amp;E</b>	Monitoring and Evaluation
<b>MAF</b>	Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
<b>MELG</b>	Monitoring Evaluation and Learning Group
<b>MoES</b>	Ministry of Education and Sports

<b>MoF</b>	Ministry of Finance
<b>MoFA</b>	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
<b>MoH</b>	Ministry of Health
<b>MoHA</b>	Ministry of Home Affairs
<b>MoLSW</b>	Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare
<b>MoNRE</b>	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment
<b>MoU</b>	Memorandum of Understanding
<b>MPs</b>	Members of Parliament
<b>MPI</b>	Ministry of Planning and Investment
<b>MPWT</b>	Ministry of Public Works and Transportation
<b>MRV</b>	Measurement, Reporting and Verification
<b>MTR</b>	Mid-Term Review
<b>NA</b>	National Assembly
<b>NAP</b>	National Adaptation Plan
<b>NBSAP</b>	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
<b>NCPD</b>	National Committee for Persons with Disabilities
<b>NDC</b>	Nationally Determined Contributions
<b>NGOs</b>	Non-governmental organizations
<b>NORAD</b>	Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation
<b>NSEDP</b>	National Socio-Economic Development Plan
<b>OCHA</b>	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
<b>ODA</b>	Official Development Assistance
<b>ODF</b>	Open Defecation Free
<b>ODSCs</b>	One Door Service Centers
<b>OHCHR</b>	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
<b>OMT</b>	Operations Management Team
<b>OPDs</b>	Organisation of person with disability
<b>PES</b>	Payments for Ecosystem Services
<b>POG</b>	Programme Oversight Group



<b>PPA</b>	Provincial People's Assembly
<b>PSEA</b>	Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse
<b>RMNCAH</b>	Reproductive, maternal, newborn, child, and adolescent health
<b>RTIM</b>	Round Table Implementation Meeting
<b>RUTF</b>	Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Food
<b>SAM</b>	Severe Acute Malnutrition
<b>SBC</b>	National Social and Behavior Change
<b>SDGs</b>	Sustainable Development Goals
<b>SOFF</b>	Systematic Observations Financing Facility
<b>SOLAR</b>	Reducing Vulnerability in Lao PDR: Advancing Social Protection and Labour Rights and Entitlements in the Coffee and Tea Sectors
<b>SOPs</b>	Standard Operating Procedures
<b>STS</b>	Smooth Transition Strategy
<b>UK</b>	United Kingdom
<b>UN</b>	United Nations
<b>UNAIDS</b>	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome)
<b>UNCDF</b>	United Nations Capital Development Fund
<b>UNCG</b>	United Nations Communications Group
<b>UNCITRAL</b>	United Nations Commission on International Trade Law
<b>UNCT</b>	United Nations Country Team
<b>UNCTAD</b>	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
<b>UN-DESA</b>	United Nations Department of Social and Economic Affairs
<b>UNDP</b>	UN Development Programme
<b>UNDRR</b>	United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
<b>UNEP</b>	United Nations Environment Programme

<b>UNESCO</b>	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
<b>UNFPA</b>	United Nations Population Fund
<b>UNFCCC</b>	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
<b>UN-Habitat</b>	United Nations Human Settlements Programme
<b>UNHCR</b>	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
<b>UNICEF</b>	United Nations Children's Fund
<b>UNIDO</b>	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
<b>UNNM</b>	United Nations Network on Migration
<b>UNODC</b>	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
<b>UNOPS</b>	United Nations Office for Project Services
<b>UNRCO</b>	United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office
<b>UN-REDD</b>	United Nations Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation
<b>UNSDCF</b>	Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework
<b>UNV</b>	United Nations Volunteers
<b>USA</b>	United States of America
<b>UPR</b>	Universal Periodic Review
<b>UXO</b>	Unexploded Ordnance
<b>VLR</b>	Voluntary Local Review
<b>VNR</b>	Voluntary National Review
<b>VPR</b>	Voluntary Peer Review
<b>WASH</b>	Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene
<b>WFP</b>	World Food Programme
<b>WHO</b>	World Health Organisation



## **FOLLOW US:**

 [laopdr.un.org](https://laopdr.un.org)

 UNLaos

 @UNinLaoPDR

 United Nations Lao PDR

 UN Lao PDR

---

UN House  
Lane Xang Avenue  
P.O. Box 345  
Vientiane, Lao PDR

March 2025