



Goal 2

The social security system is further developed and strengthened.

Strengthen social security schemes to be more systematic and effective. Upgrade the capacity of the National Social Security Fund to collect contributions and provide social protection services for insured government officials, workers in formal employment and self-employed individuals, including eligible family members, while increasing the available reserves and ensuring the sustainability of the National Social Security Fund.



Objective 2.1

All the workers and self-employed workers in the formal sector are covered by social security.

Activity 01	Expansion of social security coverage for all formal economy workers.
Activity 02	Enforce regular inspections at enterprises registered with the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
Activity 03	Promote enrolment in social security.
Activity 04	Ensure robust actuarial design and sufficient fund reserves.
Activity 05	Improve collection of social security contributions and benefits.
Activity 06	Adapt the current scheme design to the characteristics of workers in non-standard forms of employment.

**Main Responsible Institutions:** Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Information and Culture, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Ministry of Home Affairs, Bank of Lao PDR, Lao Federation of Trade Unions, Lao National Chamber of Commerce and Industry.



Goal 3

The social welfare system is further developed and strengthened.

Expand and strengthen social welfare schemes to be more systematic and effective. Develop and scale up benefits and services to children from poor families or in vulnerable situations, persons with disabilities, older adults and low-income and informal sector workers, and provide emergency assistance to people who are affected by natural or man-made disasters. Provision of block grants to schools, scholarships to poor students and school meals to promote poverty reduction and human resource, social and economic development.



Objective 3.1

Social welfare has expanded its coverage and services to meet the needs of target groups.

Activity 01	Provide services and benefits to pregnant women and to children.
Activity 02	Provide services and benefits to persons with disabilities and UXO-survivors.
Activity 03	Provide services and benefits to older adults.
Activity 04	Provide services and benefits to victims of natural and man-made disasters.
Activity 05	Expand the National School Meal Programme to all state kindergarten, pre-primary, primary and secondary schools in the villages of poor districts throughout the country.
Activity 06	Increase allowance to students at the lower secondary level, prioritizing students from poor families and vulnerable groups.
Activity 07	Allocate national budget to education on time and expand coverage.
Activity 08	Provide allowances for vocational training, skills development and technical training to the poor and working-age people in vulnerable situations to enable them to access decent employment opportunities.
Activity 09	Develop production organizations and public services and facilitate access to decent work.

**Main Responsible Institutions:** Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, Ministry of Education and Sports, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Ministry of Information and Culture, Ministry of Finance, Bank of Lao PDR.



# Lao PDR's National Social Protection Strategy

Vision 2030  
Goal 2025



## What is Social Protection?

Social protection is a set of policies and programmes designed to reduce and prevent poverty, vulnerability and social exclusion throughout the life cycle. Social protection systems address all these policy areas by a mix of contributory schemes and non-contributory tax-financed benefits.



## Why Social Protection?

The Government of Lao PDR recognizes the role of social protection in reducing poverty and inequality and in promoting socioeconomic development and social cohesion. Working to improve the conditions of the poor is as essential for this strategy, as is ensuring that those who have already achieved adequate income security will not fall back into poverty.

## NSPS Vision

By 2030, Lao people have access to basic social protection services, consisting of health insurance, social security and social welfare, in an equitable, adequate, effective and sustainable way.

## NSPS Principles

The National Social Protection Strategy is guided by the principles of equity, adequacy, effectiveness, universality, progressivity and sustainability. Under the condition of universality, all Lao people will have access to social protection services in the same conditions regardless of age, sex, geographic location, socioeconomic group or any other consideration.



## Challenges in the Social Protection System in Lao PDR

- 01 Insufficient public budget
- 02 Insufficient staff, facilities and medical equipment
- 03 Lack of human resource capacity
- 04 Benefit amounts and nutrition support are not adequate
- 05 Gaps between urban and rural areas
- 06 People are not aware of their rights and obligations
- 07 Employer compliance with compulsory registration is low
- 08 Financial sustainability of the National Health Insurance Fund is a concern
- 09 Low coverage among workers in the informal economy
- 10 No systematic social welfare benefits and services for several vulnerable groups
- 11 Mostly donor-funded programmes
- 12 Management, planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation are not effective due to lack of capacity

## Who is Responsible?

The National Social Protection Commission is responsible for the general implementation of the Strategy; the coordination of the various implementing bodies; the coordination with development partners; the monitoring and evaluation of the Strategy's implementation; and the assessment of the overall situation of social protection in the country.

The National Social Protection Commission's Secretariat is located at the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare.

Local committees chaired by the Vice Governor, and vice-chaired by the Department of Labour and Social Welfare, will be constituted from members of relevant local departments.

## Social Protection Helps to Achieve Many SDGs

- 01 No Poverty
- 08 Decent Work and Economic Growth
- 10 Reduced Inequalities
- 18 Lives Safe from UXO

## NSPS Goals, Objectives and Activities

By 2025, the social protection system will be developed gradually and aim to provide higher protection to those more in need. Social protection services will have a reasonable standard of quality everywhere in a manner that will permit them to fulfil their mission successfully.



Goal 1

The health insurance system is further developed and strengthened.

Strengthen the health insurance schemes to ensure effective access to quality healthcare (including promotion, prevention, treatment, rehabilitation and palliative care) without financial hardship to all Lao people and in a cost-effective manner through tax-based funding, and reach universal health coverage by 2025.



Objective 1.1

Strengthen health insurance schemes to be more systematic and effective in ensuring that everyone has access to health services.

Activity 01	Develop and implement a legal framework for universal health coverage.
Activity 02	Develop systems and build capacities of the National Health Insurance authority.
Activity 03	Develop and comply with minimum standards for healthcare facilities.
Activity 04	Increase access to healthcare services in rural areas.
Activity 05	Ensure sufficient and timely government budget allocation to health.

**Main Responsible Institutions:** Ministry of Health, Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Planning and Investment, Ministry of Home Affairs, local organizations.