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.

Goal 2
The social security system is further developed and strengthened.

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.


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.

Goal 3
The social welfare system is further developed and strengthened.

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 kindergartens, 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.

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.

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.

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.

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

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

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 fulfill their mission successfully.

Objective 1.1

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.