



**Executive Board of the
United Nations Development
Programme, the United Nations
Population Fund and the
United Nations Office for
Project Services**

Distr.: General
2 July 2021

Original: English

Second regular session 2021

30 August to 2 September 2021, New York

Item 5 of the provisional agenda

Country programmes and related matters

**Country programme document for the Lao People's Democratic
Republic (2022-2026)**

Contents

	<i>Page</i>
I. UNDP within the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework	2
II. Programme priorities and partnerships.....	3
III. Programme and risk management	7
IV. Monitoring and evaluation	7
Annex	
Results and resources framework for the Lao People's Democratic Republic (2022-2026).....	9



I. UNDP within the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework

1. The Lao People's Democratic Republic is a landlocked country with a population of 7.1 million and has been among the fastest growing economies in Southeast Asia with an average growth rate of 7.8 per cent between 2006-2016.¹ Poverty rates have fallen from 46 per cent (2007-2008) to 18.3 per cent (2018-2019).² However, income inequality has risen, with the Gini index increasing from 36.6 to 38.8 between 2012 and 2019.³ While the country's population is young, youth unemployment is high and increasing as the COVID-19 pandemic has affected the service sectors in which they are employed. The country remains vulnerable to climate change, environmental shocks and natural disasters. Frequent floods, landslides and droughts impact crop production and increase the risk of food insecurity and agriculture losses. Resilience in communities is low due to the prevalence of monoculture, lack of diversity in livelihoods, limited infrastructure and connectivity of human settlements. Moreover, the presence of unexploded ordnance from the Indochina conflict (1964-1973) continues to destroy lives and limit agricultural production. There is a strong correlation between unexploded ordnance contamination and the prevalence of poverty, with 42 of the 46 poorest districts affected by unexploded ordnance. Over the last 20 years, UNDP has been the main international organization in the country developing and supporting national capacity on mine action and it continues to play a key role in the unexploded ordnance sector.

2. The Lao People's Democratic Republic faces challenges in improving governance to ensure effective service delivery to its population, and inclusive and accountable processes, and to foster a stable, transparent, predictable environment for investment. The National Assembly and the Provincial People's Assemblies need increased support to fulfil their oversight function and improve engagement with citizens. Access to justice for ethnic groups, women and children at risk, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender/transsexual, intersex and questioning/queer (LGBTIQ), persons with disabilities, among others, remains a challenge. The capacity of key justice agencies remains low, creating challenges to fully translate legal policies, international commitments and reforms into concrete results. Gender inequality remains high, especially in rural areas and among ethnic groups. Many women lack equal access to economic opportunities, resources and decision-making institutions.

3. The Ninth National Socioeconomic Development Plan (NSED, 2021-2025) is central to the country's economic restructuring and places greater emphasis on economic diversification, innovation, skills and knowledge, the green economy and resilience. Current development finance situation is challenging. The country is experiencing a severe debt crisis that threatens to leave a vastly shrunken resource base to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Ninth NSED. High levels of external debt and low domestic revenues continue to limit investments in human capital. The lack of disaggregated data by province, ethnicity, age, gender and disability status hampers evidence-based policy-making and the ability of government policies and programmes to assess different groups. It also runs contrary to the principle of leaving no one behind. The COVID-19 pandemic caused economic growth to decline by 2.5 per cent in 2020⁴ and has exacerbated existing macroeconomic vulnerabilities. In February 2021, the United Nations Committee for Development Policy recommended that the Lao People's Democratic Republic be granted an extended five-year preparatory period, effectively setting least developed country (LDC) graduation for 2026 (assuming a positive and continued trajectory).

4. UNDP has a long history working in Lao People's Democratic Republic. The UNDP comparative advantage has been its ability to work closely with a very broad range of government and local-level institutions at all levels. UNDP was at the forefront of support to the Ministry of Planning and Investment (MPI) and Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) to integrate the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the SDGs and other international development aspirations (such as LDC graduation) into the national planning process. UNDP has acted as a critical integrator by assisting the Government in enhancing partnerships for

¹ Eighth NSED mid-term review 2018,

² World Bank, Lao People's Democratic Republic poverty profile and poverty assessment 2020.

³ Ibid.

⁴ World Bank economic monitoring report, 2020.

effective development cooperation through the round table process, including sector working groups, collaborating with development partners and other stakeholders in civil society, private sector and academia.

5. A critical lesson from the last country programme document (CPD) evaluation is the challenging development financing landscape for the country in general and UNDP specifically. Linkages between interventions were not as strong as they should have been, resulting in missed opportunities for synergies and greater overall impact. Focus was sometimes too much on developing new laws and policies at the central level, while insufficient attention was paid to implementation on the ground and impact on people's lives. In the new CPD, UNDP will focus on a limited number of critical and targeted interventions, based on a theory of change grounded in the need to ensure policies and legislation are supported with local financing and clear follow through and implementation. In a change from the previous cycle, the new CPD will be implemented through fewer but larger individual projects targeting the same groups and the same areas, where possible.

6. Moving forward, UNDP will support key areas of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) such as inclusive prosperity, governance and environment. UNDP will build on its comparative advantage, for instance, in governance where UNDP remains a key partner of the Government which relies on UNDP thematic expertise and convening power to engage with a broad range of stakeholders. The CPD will support United Nations system-wide efforts led by the Resident Coordinator. In line with its integrator role, UNDP will contribute to a consolidated United Nations response by promoting and contributing to joint analysis to complex development challenges which require coordinated interventions from several United Nations organizations, in areas such as youth, gender-based violence and disaster-risk response. UNDP will continue to leverage its innovation expertise through its accelerator lab and explore innovative solutions to local issues to introduce more experimentation, accelerate learning, adapt programming and adopt a portfolio approach to system change. UNDP will invest in developing its capabilities for this transition, including on foresight.

II. Programme priorities and partnerships

7. In line with the Ninth NSEDP and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the new UNDP CPD will focus on ensuring that by 2026 people living in the Lao People's Democratic Republic benefit from sustainable and inclusive growth and are increasingly resilient to the risks of climate change, natural disasters and unexploded ordnance while state institutions are more transparent, inclusive and accountable to the people. The programme is anchored in the long-term UNDP partnership with the Government spanning more than three decades. The new CPD builds on the achievements of the previous CPD that saw the incorporation of the SDGs into the national planning architecture. It will aim to support the country as it recovers from the economic and social impacts of COVID-19 and continues its transition from LDC status, with particular emphasis on supporting inclusive growth and reducing inequality. The CPD is aligned with the UNDP Strategic Plan, 2022-2025, and the new UNSDCF, and UNDP will contribute to three of the four outcome areas. The CPD was developed in consultation with national partners through a series of workshops on the UNSDCF and the CPD between January and May 2021.

8. In addition to local expertise, the new CPD is supported by a regional and international network of experience and expertise. UNDP will build on a wide range of partnerships with government, civil society, private sector, academia and development partners. Emphasis will be placed on policy coherence and subnational implementation, especially in the post-COVID era where financing will be uncertain, requiring careful management of the resource envelope. This will include supporting the Government to ensure effective use of development finance and new funding sources, especially for environment and climate change, and to reap the benefits from regional integration which remains a government priority. UNDP will partner with United Nations organizations and international financial institutions such as the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank. In particular, UNDP will work with UNFPA, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the World Food Programme (WFP) on social protection, justice and gender-based violence; with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations

Environment Programme (UNEP) and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) on environment, climate change and resilience; and with United Nations Volunteers (UNV) to tap into a global community and grassroots volunteer expertise. UNDP will continue to explore opportunities for South-South cooperation, including on digitalization and the COVID-19 response.

9. The programme will consist of three interrelated pillars brought together by focusing on the most vulnerable in society, including women, young people, ethnic groups and persons with disabilities, and through an area-based integrated approach focused on a select number of provinces/districts. Particular emphasis has been given to the adoption of human rights-based approach principles across all three pillars, with results focused on strengthening the enabling environment and developing the capacities of duty bearers and rights holders to promote greater synergies and economies of scale across the programme.

Inclusive prosperity

10. The focus of UNDP work under this pillar has evolved to better reflect the significant economic progress in the Lao People's Democratic Republic over the last twenty years. While poverty rates have fallen, there are still significant pockets of deprivation across population groups and geographies that speaks to the need to develop policies that increasingly promote inclusive growth. UNDP work is informed by the need to ensure a mutually reinforcing link between policies and programmes based on concrete evidence of what works at scale. If there is improved macro-fiscal management, evidence-based and territorial development planning and prioritization of public investments in social and green sectors, the country will shift to a more inclusive and more environmentally responsible, climate-resilient development pathway. Resilient and gender-responsive social protection systems will protect people from falling back into poverty and ensure development progress, even if disasters and shocks hit. This translates into the CPD outcome: By 2026, people, especially the most vulnerable and marginalized, will benefit from more inclusive, resilient, transformative, and sustainable socioeconomic and demographic opportunities to reduce poverty and inequalities.

11. UNDP will strengthen national capacities for the development, financing and implementation of pro-poor/green growth policies, including a comprehensive social protection system, thereby contributing to COVID-19 recovery. UNDP will build on capacity development of MOFA and MPI to incorporate the SDGs into the NSEDP. UNDP will leverage its signature solutions on keeping people out of poverty, environment and gender equality to ensure pro-poor and inclusive growth strategies, including in COVID-19 recovery plans. The focus of support will shift to critical technical policy advice on strengthening the links between planning and budgetary processes and developing an integrated national financing framework to achieve NSEDP goals and inclusive recovery, in cooperation with the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) and others. UNDP will continue to promote green growth policies that encourage shifts towards sustainable consumption and integrate circular economy principles. UNDP will continue support to the unexploded ordnance sector, especially the National Regulatory Agency (NRA), and help increase the sector's contribution to a broader inclusive growth strategy with a particular focus on the country's poorest districts.

12. UNDP will support select ministries and local authorities in targeted provinces to develop, implement and report on sectoral and local development plans that integrate the SDGs, including Goal 18 on mine action. UNDP will complement its support to national policy development and evidence-based planning by leveraging relationships with sectoral ministries and provincial authorities to address planning and implementation bottlenecks. UNDP will help select ministries establish regular and quality reporting on SDG implementation, including on SDG indicators. UNDP will explore innovative solutions, including digital, to rally different actors to improve synergies in sectoral and local plans. It gives particular attention to ensuring that Goal 18 targets are fully reflected and tracked in local plans and reports.

13. UNDP will support vulnerable groups – women, young people, persons with disabilities, ethnic groups and those impacted by unexploded ordnance – in the poorest districts to gain increased access to vocational training (TVET), jobs and entrepreneurship opportunities, with a particular focus on innovation and technology. UNDP will work with mass organizations,

including the Lao Front for National Development, the Lao Women's Union and the Lao Youth Union. This will be complemented by support to the Government to continue to clear unexploded ordnance from agricultural lands and other areas for productive use, following a more thorough prioritization exercise. UNDP will work closely with the private sector, including start-ups, employers in key sectors, including tourism, and civil society organizations to reflect on the future of work and identify which skills are needed.

Environment, climate change and resilience

14. The country's environment and climate change programme leverages UNDP signature solutions on building resilience and a sustainable planet and directly supports the complementary UNSDCF pillars on environment and prosperity. UNDP will support the Government to implement and conduct a successful, low-carbon, socially inclusive green growth strategy in urban and rural areas. It aims to place the Lao People's Democratic Republic on a trajectory that will reduce current and future environmental damage and losses and shift the growth path to more sustainable use and management of natural resources for future generations. Resilient communities and strengthened institutions are critical to cope with and recover from climate change and disaster impacts. Therefore, if there is improved sustainable use of ecosystems and biodiversity resources, greater community engagement in use of common property resources, and increased resilience to natural hazards-induced disasters and climate change and reduced damage and losses, then by 2026, people, especially the most vulnerable and marginalized, and institutions will be better able to sustainably access, manage, preserve and benefit from natural resources and promote green growth that is risk-informed, disaster and climate-resilient.

15. UNDP will focus on capacity development of State authorities at the central level to develop policies and guidelines that improve national resources management, disaster risk management and resilience to climate change. UNDP will leverage partnerships with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE), the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF), the Ministry of Mines and Energy, the Ministry of Finance, and the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare and MPI to strengthen the overall policy environment and the critical interlinkages between natural resource management, disaster risk reduction and sustainable development.

16. In line with the UNDP commitment to sustainable management and financing for natural resources, the CPD will work with the Government and international and regional experts on innovative approaches to financing interventions for natural resources management and climate change mitigation and adaptation. This will include payment for ecosystem services, debt swap, and use of carbon credits while continuing to engage with multilateral financing mechanisms such as the Green Climate Fund and the Global Environment Facility.

17. UNDP will leverage its work with a broad range of local authorities to enhance their capacities to implement integrated natural resources management systems, focused on forest and water resources, and establish early warning systems and climate change mitigation and anticipatory measures for emergencies. UNDP will seek to improve coordination and implementation of strategies with an emphasis on innovation and replication. The programme will promote enhanced risk informed information for decision-makers by institutionalizing a damage-and-loss database (LaoDi) to track disaster and climate risks and help improve flood and weather forecasting and early warning systems. UNDP will work with local partners to identify alternative livelihood and community-managed solutions (such as ecotourism) in the provinces, which are most vulnerable to flooding and drought, and support local governments to adopt, finance and implement sustainable natural resource and waste management strategies in line with national priorities.

18. UNDP will work with vulnerable rural communities to further create opportunities and incentives for their greater participation in protected area management and conservation of ecosystems and wildlife and increase their resilience to natural hazards-induced disasters and climate change. This will enable communities to benefit more from sustainable natural resource management practices and programmes, including integrated resource management, ecosystem-based adaptation, climate resilient food systems and local infrastructure.

Governance and rule of law

19. The Ninth NSEDP underscores the critical importance of governance reform to the achievement of the SDGs. State institutions struggle to deliver public services to the most vulnerable and mitigate the impact of climate change while economic growth is not inclusive. Government agencies have limited capacities, data and information for long-term planning and decision-making. Moreover, they are faced with overlapping mandates, inadequate resources, and lack of effective follow through at all levels. The programme is predicated on the belief that public institutions that are responsive and accountable to the public are a necessary precondition for progress. It argues that the best means to reinforce accountability is to strengthen local-level institutions by creating systems that capture the experiences of citizens and translate them into local government reform(s) and capacity building. Accountability will be advanced through strengthened rule of law, focusing on building the capacity of key judicial bodies and ensuring the justice system is inclusive by increasing access to justice for marginalized and vulnerable groups. This is captured in the CPD outcome: By 2026, people, especially the most vulnerable and marginalized, will be better served by public institutions at all levels in a transparent and inclusive manner, able to exercise their rights and obligations, and the institutions shall be strengthened and more accountable while the rule of law and international human rights commitments made by the Lao People's Democratic Republic are upheld.

20. UNDP will develop the capacity of State and non-state actors to put in place transparent and participatory evidence-based policy and decision-making processes to further strengthen human rights protection and accountability. The lack of data and information has been one of the country's major governance bottlenecks. UNDP will work with relevant ministries to support efforts to promote digital governance at national and local levels and enhance data collection and management and user-centred e-services. As civil society continues to develop, UNDP will support the development of platforms for engagement on governance and justice-related issues between government and non-profit associations/civil society organizations. Efforts will be made to support the Government to build trust and accountability, including strengthening anti-corruption efforts and increased policy coherence. Equally crucial will be creating a business environment that promotes responsible practices, transparency and sustainability, including support for direct private investment in the SDGs.

21. UNDP will support efforts to enhance the capacities, including digital, of ministries (in particular the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Supreme People's Court, the Office of the Supreme People's Prosecutor, the Lao Bar Association, legal aid providers and universities, National Assembly and Provincial People's Assemblies, courts and local government bodies) for more transparent and effective law and policy design, implementation and monitoring. UNDP will continue to work with authorities at all levels to clarify responsibilities, strengthen capacities to implement decentralization policies, and ensure better inter-sectoral coordination and policy coherence. Efforts to improve service delivery will focus on the operations of one-door service centres and by using data collected through citizens surveys, in partnership with MOHA. This will complement support to the Ministry of Technologies and Communications to increase the proportion of essential public services provided online. UNDP will help build the capacity of the National Assembly and Provincial People's Assemblies delegates to effectively represent constituents, engaging citizens (building on UNDP community radios) and using evidence to fulfil oversight responsibilities. Reform of the justice sector will focus on building the capacity of key institutions in advancing the rule of law and ensuring access to justice for marginalized and vulnerable groups.

22. UNDP will support people, including vulnerable groups, to have greater awareness and opportunities to exercise their rights, provide feedback and participate in decision-making processes that affect them, and secure remedies when their rights are violated. UNDP will continue to work with MOHA on strengthening and deploying the citizens' accountability framework as a vehicle for citizens' feedback on provision of basic services. Efforts will be made to make legal aid services more accessible to vulnerable groups through increased legal dissemination, digital platforms, and services more adapted to people's needs. UNDP will work with local organizations, including organizations for people with disabilities. UNDP will support elected female delegates to effectively represent the interests of their constituents and ensure increased women's participation in political processes. In partnership with UNFPA,

UNDP will implement a joint initiative that brings together the social, justice and police sectors in a systems approach to preventing and responding to gender-based violence.

III. Programme and risk management

23. This CPD outlines UNDP contributions to national results and serves as the primary unit of accountability to the Executive Board for results alignment and resources assigned to the country programme. Accountabilities of managers at the country, regional and headquarters levels with respect to the country programme is prescribed in the organization's programme and operations policies and procedures and internal control framework.

24. The programme will be nationally executed. Where necessary, national execution may be replaced by direct execution for part or all of the programme. The harmonized approach to cash transfers will be used in a coordinated fashion with other United Nations organizations to manage financial, operational and programmatic risks. Cost definitions and classifications for programme and development effectiveness will be charged to the concerned projects.

25. The CPD was developed based a theory of change process that identified several important risks to successful programme delivery. The most significant is an uncertain development financing landscape in Lao People's Democratic Republic that has both direct and indirect consequences for UNDP. The continued impact of COVID-19 on national finances will limit the Government's ability to fully meet its obligations under the Ninth NSEDP and in support of the SDGs, let alone take on new obligations. UNDP will attempt to mitigate these risks by supporting government planning and budgeting to better target the poor and vulnerable and explore a diverse range of partners.

26. Two trends – the increased use of bilateral cooperation by development partners and the emergence of the private sector and NGOs as service providers – will require close coordination based on clearly understood comparative advantages to ensure synergies in approaches and efforts with national counterparts. This suggests a need to improve UNDP positioning among development actors to become a partner of choice. UNDP will focus on high-level technical and policy advice that leverages its international network of expertise and regional specialists to develop innovative solutions to emerging challenges.

27. The challenge posed by capacity shortfalls among implementing partners remains a significant risk. This will be mitigated by an overall reduction in the number of projects in the new portfolio and an emphasis on depth over breadth. This will enable UNDP to provide timely and meaningful technical support and promote long-term training and implementation capacities. As recommended in the CPD evaluation, a robust mechanism for measuring changes in partner capacities will be set up with clear baselines and targets. Periodic portfolio 'sense making' will be undertaken to ensure alignment of projects and programmes with stated CPD objectives and priorities and to adapt to emerging development challenges.

28. UNDP will ensure that risks are identified for each project at the design stage and reviewed throughout the project life cycle in line with the UNDP social and environmental standards and accountability mechanism. On a regular basis, UNDP will undertake monitoring activities, including monitoring visits, project monthly meetings, project board meetings and grievance mechanisms, to identify any significant change in circumstances that may require intervention.

IV. Monitoring and evaluation

29. Together with UNICEF and other United Nations organizations, UNDP is supporting the Government to develop the results and resources framework for the Ninth NSEDP, including robust monitoring, financing and costing frameworks. CPD indicators at both outcome and output levels have been aligned with existing SDG and national indicators and data sources. UNDP will continue to advocate for the strengthening of the Lao Statistics Bureau (LSB) and other government institutions and their ability to track progress against the 238 national SDG indicators endorsed by the Government in June 2019. UNDP is supporting the Government to monitor, mainstream, coordinate and report on the SDGs, including the voluntary national review process. In particular, UNDP will work with specific government agencies responsible for specific SDGs, for instance the NRA for Goal 18 on mine action, to improve their system

to collect and analyse data through their information management system and field surveys.

30. The new programme builds on a robust theory of change and individual problem trees to allow for a clear line of accountability. Programmes will be tracked at both outcome and output levels in parallel to activity monitoring and spot checks for individual projects. As recommended by the CPD evaluation, UNDP will invest in monitoring capacities and systems to ensure adaptive evidence-based management of projects. The office will allocate 1 to 3 per cent of its budget for monitoring activities. The UNDP gender marker will be used to monitor programme expenditures and improve planning and decision-making to ensure gender equality is well integrated into programmes.

31. UNDP will synchronize its reporting to the UNSDCF cycle and aim to embed programme reviews within the overall monitoring architecture of the Government. UNDP will explore innovative monitoring methods, including use of digital tools and mobile applications, to allow for more regular and even real-time tracking of progress. UNDP will seek to engage with Government, vulnerable groups and other relevant stakeholders on a regular basis, including through consultations, to ensure the programme remains relevant to their needs.

32. UNDP will utilize recommendations and lessons learned from independent evaluations to strengthen the project design and make course corrections. UNDP will work closely with government partners to collect high-quality data disaggregated by province, ethnicity, age, gender and disability status. UNDP will ensure the CPD evaluation plan follows Independent Evaluation Office guidelines (in terms of project budget and duration) and ensure each evaluation is funded.

Annex. Results and resources framework for the Lao People's Democratic Republic (2022-2026)

NATIONAL PRIORITY OR GOAL: Ninth NSEDP outcomes 1 (economic growth), 3 (people's well-being) and 5 (regional and international integration)				
COOPERATION FRAMEWORK (OR EQUIVALENT) OUTCOME INVOLVING UNDP 1: By 2026, people, especially the most vulnerable and marginalized, will benefit from more inclusive, resilient, transformative and sustainable socioeconomic and demographic opportunities to reduce poverty and inequalities				
RELATED STRATEGIC PLAN OUTCOME: Outcome 1 – Advance poverty eradication in all its forms and dimensions				
COOPERATION FRAMEWORK OUTCOME INDICATOR(S), BASELINES, TARGET(S)	DATA SOURCE AND FREQUENCY OF DATA COLLECTION, AND RESPONSIBILITIES	INDICATIVE COUNTRY PROGRAMME OUTPUTS (including indicators, baselines targets)	MAJOR PARTNERS / PARTNERSHIPS FRAMEWORKS	ESTIMATED COST BY OUTCOME (United States dollars)
<p>Proportion of population living below national poverty line Baseline: 18.60% (2020) Target: 13.90% (2026)</p> <p>Share of population covered by the National Social Security System Baseline: 4.4% (2019) Target: 7% (2025)</p> <p>Youth unemployment Baseline: Female: 20.8% (2017) Male: 15.5% Target: 15% (2025)</p> <p>Number of reported unexploded ordnance casualties (link to 18.1.1) Baseline: 33 (2020) Target: less than 15 (2026)</p>	<p>Data source: Lao Consumption and Expenditure Survey Frequency: Lao Statistics Bureau (LSB) Frequency: Every five years</p> <p>Data source: MoLSW Frequency: Every five years Responsibility: MoLSW</p> <p>Data Source: NRA Frequency: Annual Responsibility: NRA</p>	<p>Output 1.1. Development, financing and implementation of pro-poor/green growth (COVID-19 recovery) policies, including a comprehensive social protection system, is strengthened</p> <p>1.1.1. Ninth and Tenth NSEDP with monitoring and evaluation framework and fully costed with financing strategy prepared <i>Baseline:</i> 0 (2020) <i>Target:</i> 2 (2026) <i>Source:</i> MPI/Project report <i>Frequency:</i> Annual</p> <p>1.1.2. Ten-year fully costed strategy plan and monitoring and evaluation framework developed for unexploded ordnance sector <i>Baseline:</i> 0 (2021) <i>Target:</i> 1 (2026) <i>Source:</i> NRA <i>Frequency:</i> Annual</p>	<p>Ministry of Planning and Investment (MPI), Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) MoLSW/National Regulatory Authority (NRA), ILO, UNICEF and Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism (MICT)</p> <p>Other partners: World Bank Asian Development Bank (ADB) United Nations organizations and the private sector</p>	<p>Regular: \$2,864,000</p> <p>Other: \$22,960,000</p>
		<p>Output 1.2. Select ministries and local authorities in targeted provinces develop, implement and report on sectoral and local development plans that integrate SDGs (including Goal 18)</p> <p>1.2.1. Number of provincial plans that integrate SDGs <i>Baseline:</i> 0 (2021) <i>Target:</i> 5 (2026) <i>Source:</i> MPI/Project report <i>Frequency:</i> Annual</p> <p>1.2.2. Number of annual SDG reports produced by sectoral ministries <i>Baseline:</i> 0 (2021) <i>Target:</i> 50 (2026) <i>Source:</i> MPI/ Project report <i>Frequency:</i> Annual</p> <p>1.2.3. Number of NRA central and provincial offices that integrate Goal 18 targets into local development plan <i>Baseline:</i> 0 (2021) <i>Target:</i> 6 (2026) <i>Source:</i> NRA/Project report</p>	<p>MPI, MOFA, Sectoral ministries, MLSW/NRA, Lao National Unexploded Ordnance Programme (UXO Lao)</p>	

		Frequency: Annual		
		<p>Output 1.3. Vulnerable groups, especially women, young people, persons with disabilities, ethnic groups and those impacted by unexploded ordnance, have increased access to vocational training (TVET), employment and entrepreneurship opportunities</p> <p>1.3.1. Percentage of trainees with increased income six months after training (disaggregated by sex, age and ethnicity) <i>Baseline: 0% (2021) Target: 30% (2026)</i> <i>Source: LWU and LYU/ Project reports</i> <i>Frequency: Annual</i></p> <p>1.3.2. Number of people living in areas cleared of unexploded ordnance with UNDP support (disaggregated by sex, age and ethnicity) <i>Baseline: 9,537 (2020) Target: 20,000 (2026)</i> <i>Source: NRA</i> <i>Frequency: Annual</i></p>	<p>NRA UXO Lao Lao Women’s Union (LWU) Lao Youth Union (LYU) MICT Private sector</p>	
NATIONAL PRIORITY OR GOAL: Ninth NSEDP outcome 4 (Environmental protection and natural disaster risk reduction)				
COOPERATION FRAMEWORK (OR EQUIVALENT) OUTCOME INVOLVING UNDP 2: By 2026, people, especially the most vulnerable and marginalized, and institutions will be better able to sustainably access, manage, preserve and benefit from natural resources and promote green growth that is risk-informed and disaster and climate-resilient				
RELATED STRATEGIC PLAN OUTCOME: Outcome 2 – Accelerate structural transformations for sustainable development				
<p>Number of local governments that adopt and implement local disaster risk reduction (DRR) strategies disaggregated by (a) province, (b) district and (c) village <i>Baseline: 2 provinces 0 district 0 village (2020)</i> <i>Target: 10 provinces, 15 districts 50 villages (2026) (link to 11.6.1.a)</i></p> <p>Number of weather stations <i>Baseline: 51 (TBC)</i> <i>Target: 101 (2026)</i></p> <p>PM2.5 air pollution, mean annual exposure (micrograms per cubic meter) <i>Baseline: 25.11 micrograms per cm (2017)</i></p>	<p>Data source: Ministry of Natural Resource and Environment (MONRE) Frequency: Annual Responsibility: MONRE</p> <p>Data Source: MONRE Frequency: Annual Responsibility: MONRE</p>	<p>Output 2.1. State authorities develop policies and guidelines that improve natural resources management, disaster risk management and resilience to climate change</p> <p>2.1.1. Number of financing solutions for conservation implemented Percentage increase in financing amount for conservation <i>Baseline: 0 (2020) Target: 3 (2026)</i> <i>Source: MONRE and MLSW/Project reports</i> <i>Frequency: Annual</i></p> <p>2.1.2. Number of functioning and linked early warning systems at national and provincial level in target provinces. <i>Baseline: 0 (2021) Target: 10 (2026)</i> <i>Source: MONRE and MLSW/Project reports</i> <i>Frequency: Annual</i></p>	<p>MONRE, MAF, MPI, Ministry of Finance (MOF) and MLSW (Department of Social Welfare – National Disaster Management Office)</p> <p>UNEP, FAO, UNDRR, UNCDF International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) ADB, World Bank</p>	<p>Regular: \$2,700,000 Other: \$37,765,000</p>

<p><i>Target: 10 micrograms per cm (2026)</i></p> <p>Environmental performance index (EPI) <i>Baseline: 34.8 (2020)</i> <i>Target: TBC (2026)</i></p> <p>Forest area as percentage of total land area <i>Baseline: 57.5% (2020)</i> <i>Target: 70% (2025)</i></p>	<p>Data Source: Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) Frequency: Annual Responsibility: MAF</p>			
		<p>Output 2.2. Local authorities have enhanced capacities to implement integrated natural resources management and DRR systems</p> <p>2.2.1. Disaster loss database established and operational <i>Baseline: 0 (2021) Target: 1 (2026)</i> <i>Source: MLSW</i> <i>Frequency: Annual</i></p> <p>2.2.2. Number of local governments that adopt and implement local natural resource management strategies, disaggregated by (a) province, (b) district, and (c) village <i>Baseline 2: (2021) Target: (2026) (a) province =5, (b) district 15 and (c) village 50</i> <i>Source: UNDP/MAF/ MONRE</i> <i>Frequency: Annual</i></p>	<p>MLSW MAF MONRE Local government UNDRR FAO UNEP</p>	
		<p>Output 2.3. Vulnerable rural communities participate in protected area management and conservation of ecosystems and wildlife and increase resilience to natural hazards-induced disasters and climate change</p> <p>2.3.1. Number of vulnerable communities in selected provinces participating in protected area management and conservation of ecosystem and wildlife <i>Baseline: 16 (2021) Target: 32 (2026)</i> <i>Source: UNDP, MAF and MONRE</i> <i>Frequency: Annual</i></p> <p>2.3.2. Percentage of women in vulnerable communities benefiting from assisted sustainable management of natural resources, forests, ecosystem services <i>Baseline: 15% (2021) Target: 33% women (2026)</i> <i>Source: UNDP, MAF and MONRE/Project report</i> <i>Frequency: Annual</i></p>	<p>MAF MONRE CSOs UNDRR UNEP FAO</p>	

		2.3.3. Percentage of women in vulnerable communities benefiting from disaster resilience initiatives <i>Baseline:</i> 15% (2021) <i>Target:</i> 33% women (2026) <i>Source:</i> UNDP, MAF and MONRE/Project report <i>Frequency:</i> Annual		
NATIONAL PRIORITY OR GOAL: Ninth NSEDP outcome 6 (Governance and the rule of law)				
COOPERATION FRAMEWORK (OR EQUIVALENT) OUTCOME INVOLVING UNDP 1: By 2026, people, especially the most vulnerable and marginalized, will be better served by public institutions at all levels in a transparent and inclusive manner, able to exercise their rights and obligations, and the institutions shall be strengthened and more accountable while the rule of law and international human rights commitments made by the Lao People’s Democratic Republic are upheld				
RELATED STRATEGIC PLAN OUTCOME: Outcome 2 – Accelerate structural transformations for sustainable development				
<p>Corruption perception index <i>Baseline:</i> Index 29 (2019) <i>Target:</i> more than 40 (2026)</p> <p>Number of people using legal aid services (link to 16.3.4) <i>Baseline:</i> 1059 (2019) <i>Target:</i> 35,000 (2026)</p> <p>Government effectiveness index <i>Baseline:</i> Index -0.78 (2019) <i>Target:</i> <-0.5 (2026)</p> <p>Voice and accountability index <i>Baseline:</i> Index -1.8 (2019) <i>Target:</i> <-0.9 (2026)</p> <p>E-government index <i>Baseline:</i> Index 0.3288 (2020) <i>Target:</i> >0.55 (2026)</p>	<p>Data source: Transparency International Frequency: Annual Responsibility: Transparency International</p> <p>Data source: Ministry of Justice (MOJ) Frequency: Annual Responsibility: MOJ</p> <p>Data Source: World Bank Frequency: Annual Responsibility: World Bank</p> <p>Data Source: United Nations Department for Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) Frequency: Annual Responsibility: UNDESA</p>	<p>Output 3.1. Transparent and participatory evidence-based policy and decision-making processes further strengthen human rights protection and accountability</p> <p>3.1.1. Proportion of public sector entities using digital data at central and subnational level <i>Baseline:</i> TBD (2022) <i>Target:</i> 80% (2026) <i>Source:</i> Ministry of Technologies and Communications (MTC) and NSEDP <i>Frequency:</i> Annual</p> <p>3.1.2. Multi-stakeholder engagement platform established (number of institutions using platform disaggregated by type) <i>Baseline:</i> 0 (2021) <i>Target:</i> 1 (2026) <i>Source:</i> Governance Sector Working Group (GSWG) <i>Frequency:</i> Annual</p> <p>3.1.3. Number of women running for National Assembly and Provincial People’s Assemblies seats. <i>Baseline:</i> 22% (2021) <i>Target:</i> 30% (2026) <i>Source:</i> United States Agency for International Development (USAID) STEPS project <i>Frequency:</i> Annually</p>	<p>GSWG, Ministry of Home Affairs (MOHA), MoJ MTC</p>	<p>Regular: \$2,700,000</p> <p>Other: \$18,570,000</p>
		<p>Output 3.2. Government bodies have enhanced capacities for more transparent and effective law design, implementation and monitoring</p> <p>3.2.1. Number of people accessing essential public services online (e-service). <i>Baseline:</i> TBD (2022) <i>Target:</i> 50% of all government services (2026) <i>Source:</i> MCT and NSEDP <i>Frequency:</i> Annual</p>	<p>MOPT, MOJ, MOHA, National Assembly and Provincial People’s Assemblies, Supreme People’s Court, Office of Supreme People’s Prosecutor, courts, local government</p>	

		<p>3.2.2. Number of citizen-engagement and outreach mechanisms conducted by delegates <i>Baseline: 0% (TBC) Target: 80% (2026)</i> <i>Source: USAID STEPS project</i> <i>Frequency: Annual</i></p> <p>3.2.3. Number and utilization rates of one-stop service centres by women and ethnic groups at: (a) district level, and (b) province level <i>Baseline: 44 (TBC) Target: 74 (50% of public services provided at ODSC)</i> <i>Source: MOHA and NSEDP</i> <i>Frequency: Annual</i></p> <p>3.2.4. Number of justice and police officials trained on gender-sensitive legal aid service provisions and policing <i>Baseline: 0 Target: 250 (2026) (50 legal aid service providers/200 police officers)</i> <i>Source: MOJ and Ministry of Public Security</i> <i>Frequency: Annual</i></p>		
		<p>Output 3.3. People, including vulnerable groups, have greater access to basic and accountable services</p> <p>3.3.1. Number of target districts that adopt accountability framework <i>Baseline: 4 (2020) Target: 40 Districts (2026)</i> <i>Source: MOHA and NSEDP</i> <i>Frequency: Annual</i></p> <p>3.3.2. Percentage of citizens who attended the survey satisfied with public services received <i>Baseline: 17 (2019) Target: 80% (2026)</i> <i>Source: MOHA/SUFS</i> <i>Frequency: Annual</i></p>	<p>MOHA, MOJ CSOs Academia</p>	
<p>Total</p>			<p>Regular: \$8,264,000 Other: \$79,295,000 Total: \$87,559,000</p>	