

Laos | **DEVELOPMENT**
Luxembourg | **COOPERATION**

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Laos, overview



141/188

Human Development Index

176.2/1,000

Mortality rate, adult, female
(per 1,000 female adults)

4.5%

Urban population growth

67/1,000

Infant mortality rate

66

Life Expectancy
at birth

3

Children
born/woman

80%

Literacy rate

22

Median Age

236,800 km²

Area

4 667 USD

GDP/capita (PPP)

6,802,023

Population

1.7%

Population growth rate

24.8/1,000

Birth rate

- Luxembourg Development Cooperation-main areas of operation
- Luxembourg Development Cooperation-secondary areas of operation
- ★ Embassy of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg in Vientiane, Laos



Luxembourg Development Cooperation: Strategies & Principles

Luxembourg Development Cooperation is strongly committed to eradicating poverty, particularly in Least Developed Countries (LDC). While adopting a human-centered approach, actions are designed and implemented in the spirit of sustainable development, including its social, economic and environmental aspects.

Luxembourg Development Cooperation primarily aims at implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) by 2030. The main intervention sectors for development cooperation include: health, education, particularly vocational and technical training and access to labour markets, and integrated local development with a strong emphasis on water and sanitation. Relevant initiatives in the field of microfinance are encouraged and supported, both at the conceptual and operational levels.

From a geographic point of view, Luxembourg concentrates its interventions in a limited number of partner countries in order to optimise effectiveness and impact.

Since the year 2000, Luxembourg has been one of the few industrialised countries contributing more than 0.7% of their Gross National Income (GNI) to Official Development Assistance (ODA). In 2015, its ODA reached 325 Million EUR representing nearly 1% of GNI. This ODA is channelled through bilateral cooperation, multilateral cooperation, and cooperation through Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), as well as through programme support.

Additionally, whenever natural or man-made disasters occur, Luxembourg strongly supports rapid humanitarian assistance through crisis management and rescue operations. Disaster prevention and post-disaster transition work are part of Luxembourg's humanitarian assistance strategy.

In parallel, Luxembourg Development Cooperation is actively involved in discussions on new quality standards of international development assistance. Luxembourg held the Presidency of the Council of the European Union in 2015, which was a pivotal year for development cooperation. Major conferences shaping the EU development policy for the next fifteen years took place under the Luxembourg Presidency. At the occasion of the 3rd International Conference on Financing for Development in Addis Abeba, the Presidency could contribute to the adoption of a diversified package of means for development, while maintaining ODA. At the Summit in New York an ambitious universal agenda for sustainable development was adopted.

Its general strategy and principles are complemented by 12 sector strategies covering its main areas of intervention; namely, health, humanitarian action, agriculture and food security, local development, water and sanitation, education, training and employability, environment and climate change, gender, governance, capacity building, fragile states and microfinance.

Luxembourg Development Cooperation and humanitarian aid policy is characterised by a constant and progressive effort in quantitative and qualitative terms for the benefit of the poorest. This policy is an expression of true international solidarity and as such an important vector of the foreign policy of the government of Luxembourg.

Luxembourg Development Cooperation in Laos

The Lao People's Democratic Republic has been a partner country of Luxembourg Development Cooperation since the diplomatic relations between the two countries were established in the margins of the United Nations General Assembly in 1997. A first intervention in the health sector started the same year.

A general Cooperation Agreement was signed in Vientiane in February 2000, followed by the signature of the first Indicative Cooperation Programme (ICP) covering the period of 2003 to 2006 with a total allocation of 18 million EUR. The following two ICPs (2007-2010, 35 million EUR; 2011-2015, 50 million EUR) confirmed Luxembourg's commitment to support the Lao PDR in three core sectors; namely, rural development, health and vocational training while identifying good governance as a crosscutting issue.

Now, the cooperation is ongoing under the ICP IV (2016-2020), which was signed in Luxembourg on the 17th September 2015. The three core sectors remained rural development, health and vocational training and a stronger emphasis has been put on the cross-cutting issues good governance, climate change and gender equality. The geographic concentration of projects is further strengthened as well.

Since 2003, annual Partnership Commission meetings have provided the opportunity for exchanges at ministerial level between our two countries on strategic orientations of our cooperation. Luxembourg attends annual gatherings of development partners, Lao authorities and more recently also civil society and private sector representatives, the Round Table Process meetings, which does not only provide a platform to discuss issues relevant to all stakeholders but also contributes to a more effective use of development assistance in Laos a.o. through the Vientiane declaration on aid effectiveness.

The continued support establishes Luxembourg as a reliable and important partner in development cooperation for Laos. Under the overall objective of poverty reduction, Luxembourg Development Cooperation supports the efforts of the Lao government in the achievement of the SDGs as well as its target to graduate from least developed country status to middle income country by 2020. Interventions supported by Luxembourg are closely aligned with national strategies and policies, as are the ICPs, as general frameworks with the National Socio-Economic Development Plans (NSEDP). Luxembourg also participates in the joint programming effort of the EU in Laos, where a first joint programme, aligned to the 8th NSEDP, has been adopted in 2016.

Luxembourg Development Cooperation is implemented through a variety of modalities. In addition to bilateral interventions, around 20% of the total allocation of the ICP is implemented through multilateral organisations. Support to UNICEF, UNFPA, WHO, UNDP, MRC and WFP implementing a joint maternal and child health project complements bilateral activities in the health sector.

Funding is also provided to five Luxembourg NGOs which are active in the sectors of health, rural development and education amongst others. Small grants for local NGOs are directly managed by the Embassy in Vientiane.

From 2011 to 2015, Luxembourg provided humanitarian assistance through NGOs amounting to a total of 481,471 EUR to a number of natural disasters, mostly flooding in the central part of Laos.

Figures

1. Bilateral Cooperation

Duration	Code	Title	Execution	Total Budget EUR
2014-2021	LAO/024	Khammouane Local Development Project (KHALODEP)	LuxDev	5,000,000
2012-2017	LAO/026	Technical Assistance to the IFAD Soum Son Seun Jai Programme	LuxDev	1,850,000
2014-2021	LAO/027	Lao-Luxembourg Health Sector Support Programme-Phase II	LuxDev	25,400,000
2014-2017	LAO/028	Strengthening the Capacity of the Ministry of Planning and Investment's Department of International Development	LuxDev	800,000
2016-2021	LAO/029	Skills for Tourism-Human Resources Development in the Tourism and Hospitality Sector	LuxDev	*7,500,000
2016-2021	LAO/030	Rural Development Programme	LuxDev	20,968,400
2017-2020	LAO/031	Support Programme for Legal Teaching and Training and to the Promotion of the Rule of Law Concept in Laos	LuxDev	5,000,000
2016-2020	-	PARECIDS II	MAEE	2,773,273
2017-2021	-	Inter-University cooperation between the University of Luxembourg and the National University in Laos - Faculty of Law	University of Luxembourg and the National University in Laos	696,400

* Together with SDC - 15,000,000

2. Multilateral and Regional Cooperation

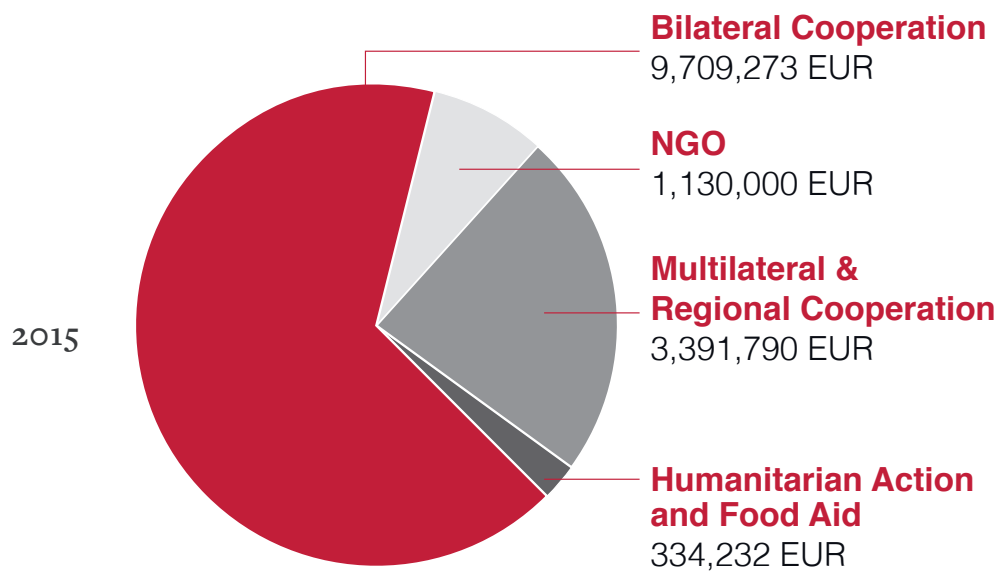
Duration	Title	Execution Agency	Total Budget EUR
2011-2020	UNICEF/WHO/UNFPA - Improving Reproductive, Maternal and Child Health in Lao PDR	UNICEF, WHO, UNFPA	16,103,710
2011-2016	Supporting the Establishment of the National Health Insurance Scheme and the Extension of Coverage in Lao PDR	ILO, WHO	1,525,000
2012-2020	Realising the MDGs in Lao PDR-Consolidated Programme of Support to MPI for the Achievement of the Valuable Goals of the 7th NSEDP 2011-2015-Support to the Roundtable Process	UNDP	1,000,000
2011-2020	Lao National Unexploded Ordnance Programme, Phase V-VI	UNDP	1,500,000
2012-2016	Strengthening Capacity and Service Delivery of Local Administrations (GPAR-Governance and Public Administration Reform-Project)	UNCDF	775,000
2016-2017	Lao Social Indicator Survey (LSIS II)	UNICEF	100,000
2011-2020	MRC - Mekong River Commission (Regional Cooperation)	MRC	3,145,000
2016-2018	Mekong River Land Governance Project in cooperation with the Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation (Regional Cooperation)	SDC	1,000,000
2016-2017	Global Fund - Fight against HIV, Tuberculosis and Malaria	CCM	77,000

3. Cooperation with NGOs

Duration	Title	NGO	Total Budget EUR
2016-2020	Reduction of economic vulnerability through improved rural livelihood	Fondation Caritas Luxembourg	1,200,000
2014-2017	Formalisation of a model for functional readjustment and development of a quality control system	Handicap International Luxembourg	291,200
2015-2018	Cardiology and cardiac surgery in Laos 2015-2018	Aide au développement de la Santé	1,200,000
2015-2018	Interventional catheterisation for congenital heart diseases in Laos	Aide au développement de la Santé	292,518
2013-2017	Partnership in the combat poverty and women's empowerment	CARE in Luxembourg	258,903
2015-2018	Sekong Food Security II	CARE in Luxembourg	490,124
2014-2016	Strengthening of the local health systems for an improved access and quality of maternal, neonatal and child health services for ethnic communities of Laos	CARE in Luxembourg	472,097
2015-2017	Development of infrastructures and communal mechanisms in Khammouane province	Aide internationale de la Croix-Rouge luxembourgeoise	278,738
2016-2017	Support to Lao Microfinance Association	Appui au développement autonome	232,000
2017	Training/coaching programme on agricultural finance in LAOS (ADA /FAO)	Appui au développement autonome	55,000
2015-2016	Support to legal education	ILSTA	800,000

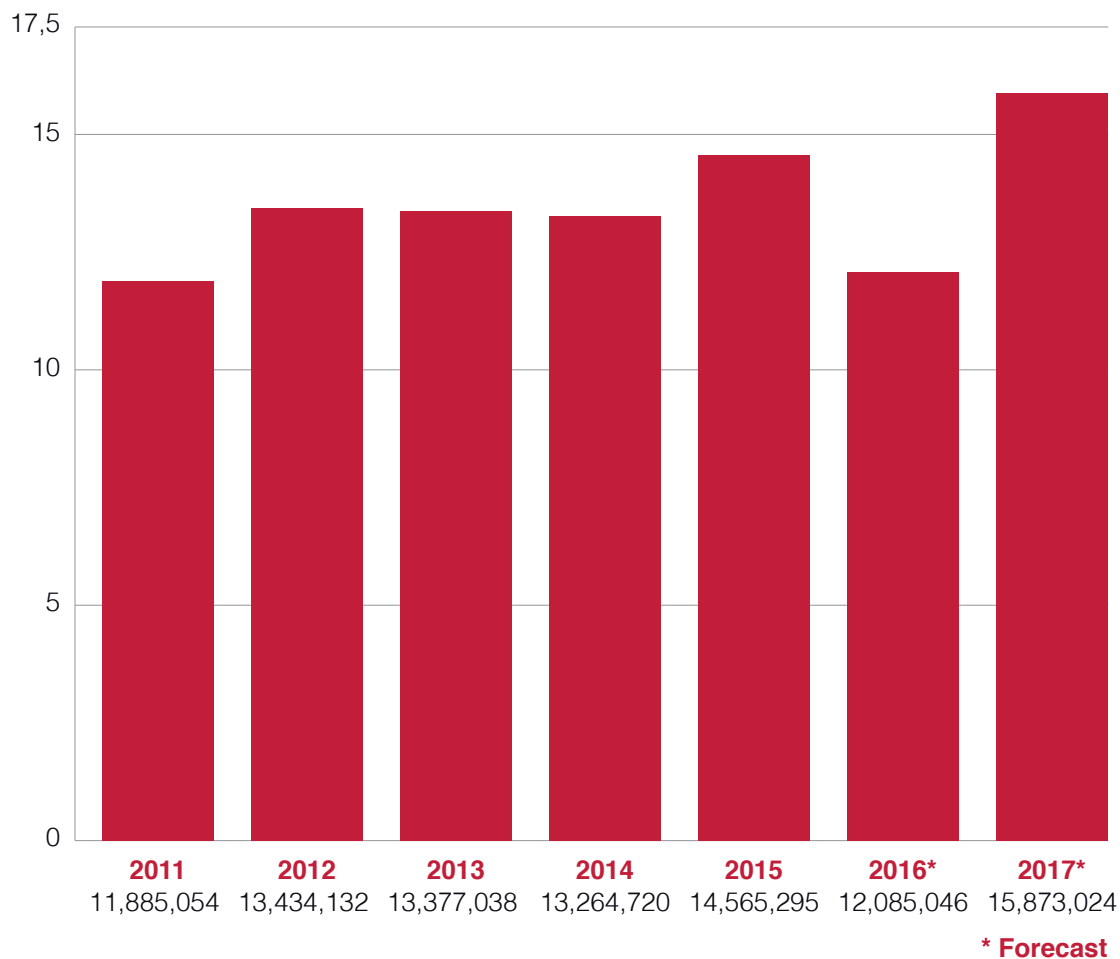
4. Humanitarian Assistance

Duration	Title	NGO	Total Budget EUR
Prevention			
2014-2017	Strengthening local capacity for a community-based approach to disaster risk reduction	Care in Luxembourg	127,523
2015-2017	Community Disaster Risk Management Phase II	Fondation Caritas Luxembourg	392,704
2013-2016	Community Disaster Risk Management	Fondation Caritas Luxembourg	50,760



Evolution of Funds disbursed

million EUR



Khammouane Local Development Project (KHALODEP)



2014-2021

LAO/024

Rural development and poverty alleviation are of strategic importance to the Lao Government and have been emphasised prominently in the previous and more recent national five-year plans – the aim being to lift the Lao PDR from its status among the Least Developed Countries by 2020.

Despite the improvements in recent years, poverty and serious social inequalities persist in remote rural areas.

The Khammouane Local Development Project (KHALODEP) will operate in phases at provincial level and to the benefit of 35 villages (consolidated from 45 old villages) across three target districts of Khammouane province: Nakai, Boualapha and Mahaxai. The Project will be aligned with the provincial five-year Socio-Economic Development Plan (SEDP) thus divided into two phases of respectively two and five (2+5) years:

- A first two-year Phase will assist the provincial and district authorities in strengthening the planning of the Socio-Economic Development

Plan, while ensuring the KHALODEP activities are aligned with government policies, plans and budgets, and harmonised with the development efforts of other donor agencies;

- A subsequent five-year Phase II (2016-2020) will be fully integrated within the Lao/030 rural development programme, and will focus on investments in selected target villages and areas, and support the province and districts in managing, monitoring, and evaluating the provincial SEDP. Budgets are earmarked for poverty reduction and environmental management in the selected target areas.

The 2+5 model will facilitate alignment and harmonisation, including the possibility of good cooperation with the on-going Lao-Luxembourg Health programme (LAO/027).

Luxembourg contribution: 5,000,000 EUR



◀ VDP process- Women's priority list, Phaeken village

Technical Assistance to the IFAD Soum Son Seun Jai Programme



2012-2017

LAO/026

The LAO/026 project is delivering technical assistance to the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) funded Community Based Food Security and Economic Opportunities Programme. The Community-based Food Security and Economic Opportunities Programme was launched in 2011 and operates in the provinces of Sayabouli and Oudomxay in the Northern part of Laos. The programme is carried out jointly by the Government of Lao PDR, the IFAD, the World Food Programme and LuxDev.

The SSSJ Programme will contribute to the reduction of extreme poverty and hunger in Xayabouly and Oudomxay Provinces by ensuring sustainable food security and income generation for 17,000 poor households living in 225 target villages.

LuxDev contributes to the programme by delivering technical assistance through two International and five national programme advisers. Besides building the capacity of the implementing agencies to efficiently manage and implement the programme, the advisers are also instrumental in introducing innovative approaches and technologies to the programme.

The programme's main activities are:

- The development of integrated farming systems, including upland conservation and production systems, livestock development and water management;
- Improved market linkage through village access roads.

Luxembourg contribution: 1,850,000 EUR



◀ Household Sanitation Facilities
Pak Beng district, Oudomxay
province

Lao-Luxembourg Health Sector Support Programme-Phase II



2014-2021

LAO/027

The Grand Duchy of Luxembourg has been providing support to the health sector since the Cooperation between Lao PDR and Luxembourg started in the late 1997.

The preceding phase's (LAO/017) specific objective was to "assist the Lao Ministry of Health (MOH) in implementing and operationalising its long-term Health Sector Strategy 2000-2020, Primary Health Care Strategy and Health Sector Development Plans, emphasising its eight Priority Programmes, with a view to implement quality health services for reaching a larger share of the population, especially the poorest, those at risk, and living in more remote areas. This includes ethnic minority peoples".

LAO/027 will have a similar general objective; the specific objective aims to support the implementation of the updated sector policy (Health Sector Reform Framework 2013-2025) with a specific focus on Mother and Child Health, by fostering district health systems and actors.

The Project will have a geographical focus on the three provinces of Vientiane, Bolikhamxay and Khammouane. It will concentrate on fostering the Provincial Health Department roles and responsibilities, towards facilitation of effective Primary

Health Care service delivery at district level and Mother and Child Health activities.

Special attention will be given to the development of a patient-centred health care approach, and to the priority target groups such as pregnant women and children under five-years.

In a nutshell, the project will support the MOH in implementing the Health Sector Reform framework 2013-2025, prioritising access to quality Mother and Child Health services through the strengthening of health districts in the three central provinces.

The LL-HSSP II is fully aligned with the Government of Laos' recent policy and strategy developments. It has been designed to support the further development and implementation of the health sector reform by the MOH as adopted by the National Assembly. As such, support will be provided:

- In accordance to the principles included in the three-builds decentralisation model (greater autonomy and responsibilities given to the provinces);
- In line with the sub-sector strategies and the Primary Health Care/district approach adopted by the MOH; and
- In complement to the other development initiatives supported by the MOH and its Development Partners.

Luxembourg contribution: 25,400,000 EUR



◀ Vaccination at Pakkading health centre

Strengthening the Capacity of the Ministry of Planning and Investment's Department of International Development



2014-2017

LAO/028

The project is set in the framework of the capacity strengthening and governance priorities defined in the 2011-2015 Indicative Cooperation Programme (ICP) between Laos and Luxembourg. It is an answer to a special request submitted by the Lao government to its Luxembourg counterpart.

The project is dedicated to the capacity strengthening of institutions in charge of Official Development Assistance (ODA) management. Currently, a very small part of the work carried out by the Department for International Cooperation (DIC) at the Ministry of Planning and Investment (MPI) is based on established (written) procedures, models and tools, be it in the administrative field, or in the technical field of ODA management and coordination. Moreover, substantive work such as the preparation of Round Table Meetings and the

production of reports is mostly carried out by or with the support of external consultants provided by external projects. This leads to a low appropriation and sustainability of results and is limited in terms of building in-house expertise, knowledge and skills. It leaves the organisation with insufficient capacities to actually lead ODA management and coordination processes.

The project's overall objective is to contribute to the improvement of development co-operation effectiveness in Lao PDR. Its specific objective is to strengthen the DIC's capacity to manage aid effectively, build partnerships and establish effective working practices with national and international stakeholders.

Luxembourg contribution: 800,000 EUR



Skills for Tourism-Human Resources Development in the Tourism and Hospitality Sector



2016-2021

LAO/029

The tourism sector in Lao PDR has expanded rapidly, with international arrivals increasing from 14,400 in 1990 (generating revenue of 2.25 million USD) to over 4.6 million in 2015 (with revenue of 725.4 million USD). Direct employment in tourism stands at approximately 130,000 people, with participation in the tourism labour force seen as the main potential to increase poor peoples' share of tourism-related income. According to research carried out in 2015, there are currently approximately 7,000 job vacancies in the tourism and hospitality sector in Lao PDR. Furthermore, it is estimated that about 10% of the tourism and hospitality labour force has to be replaced annually for a variety of reasons. Accordingly, Luxembourg and Switzerland, together with the Ministry of Education and Sports (MoES) of the Lao Peoples Democratic Republic (PDR), have joined hands for a vocational education and skills development project.

'Skills for Tourism' promotes sustainable and inclusive growth of the tourism and hospitality sector in Lao PDR, thereby contributing to poverty reduction. The project is helping to bridge the gap between the large number of job-seekers in Lao PDR, particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds, and the enormous employment potential of the tourism and hospitality sector. It is expected that graduates of improved and expanded tourism and hospitality skills development, in particular disadvantaged young people, will find gainful employment in the tourism and hospitality sector as a result of this initiative. The project builds on previous and ongoing support for vocational education and skills development in Lao PDR from both Luxembourg and Switzerland within the framework of the Lao PDR Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Development Plan 2016-2020 and the Lao PDR Tourism Strategy 2006-2020.

When fully operational, project LAO/029, will allow for as many as 1,000 to 2,000 beneficiaries per year to be trained and find employment in tourism and hospitality.

The inception phase of this five-year project began in September 2016. The project focuses on four key outcomes:

- The quality of skills development programmes in tourism and hospitality is improved;
- The scale and variety of good quality skills development programmes in tourism and hospitality is expanded;
- Disadvantaged groups are included in training programmes through transparent and effective support measures;
- An enabling governance, institutional and regulatory framework is in place.

Project LAO/029 operates at various governance levels. At the macro level, it supports policy dialogue, capacity development and coordination support to national institutions. At the meso level, the project is supporting alignment and enhancement of the quality and volume of skills development and vocational training. At micro level, affirmative action support is being provided to disadvantaged young people by improving awareness of tourism and hospitality education, training and employment opportunities, defining career paths and eliminating access barriers.

Luxembourg contribution: 7,500,000 EUR



Local Development Programme for Bokeo, Bolikhamxay, Khammouane and Vientiane Provinces

2014-2017

LAO/030

The “Local Development Programme for Bokeo, Bolikhamxay, Khammouane and Vientiane Provinces – LAO/030” was conceived to help reduce poverty in the more disadvantaged upland areas of the four target provinces. The programme will also assist in strengthening local governance, decentralisation and policy dialogue in support of upland development.

The overall objectives are based on three objectives from the National Socio-Economic Development Plan (NSED) 2016-2020, which are of particular relevance to the upland development challenge, namely

- Poverty levels in Lao PDR will be reduced;
- Hunger and malnutrition will be reduced; and
- Sustainable environmental management will be secured through better land governance.

These three objectives will serve as thematic focus areas to guide the LAO/030 practical investments, approaches, capacity strengthening, strategy formulation and policy dialogue.

To help the Lao Government achieve these aims, the LAO/030 specific objective is that the target villages in Bokeo, Bolikhamxay, Khammouane and Vientiane Provinces will have improved living standards and will be over the poverty line by the end of the programme. Results related to the objectives will be monitored according to the Lao Government’s NSED 2016-2020 Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) framework, and will be further evaluated as regards the Lao-Luxembourg Indicative Cooperation Programme (ICP) IV, and the European Union Joint Programme (EUJP) for 2016-2020.

The specific objective will be pursued through three main interventions: governance strengthening and capacity development; community-led

development work; and socio-economic infrastructure development. The direct village interventions will account for more than 70% of the budget to help attain the poverty reduction targets. To facilitate the village level work and help institutionalise changes, about 20% of the budget will be allocated to the governance component, while direct programme management, quality assurance and coordination will require about 10%.

The programme duration is five years, starting in December 2016, with a budget of 14,650,000 EUR plus approximately 3,100,000 EUR from an ongoing project in Khammouane Province. The Lao Government will give in-kind contribution to the participating agencies through national staff, facilities, and ongoing government interventions linked to the programme. Moreover, communities will contribute labour and local materials within agreed limits.

The primary beneficiaries will be approximately 140,000 people in about 200 target villages selected based on prevailing high poverty rates. Due to the demographic situation, most of the target population will be ethnic minority groups. Since the socio-economic status and opportunities of women are generally much below those of men, special efforts will be made for women of all ages to benefit from the programme - both through mainstreaming of gender within general interventions and through special activities for women. Other beneficiaries will be the general population in target districts and provinces, who will benefit from better governance and government services, as well as numerous government officials whose capacity and working conditions will be improved.

Luxembourg contribution: 20,968,400 EUR

Support Programme for Legal Teaching and Training and to the Promotion of the Rule of Law Concept in Laos



2017-2020

LAO/031

In 2009, Lao PDR adopted a Legal Sector Master Plan (LSMP) that establishes the framework to develop effective institutions in the entire legal sector as the foundation for the Rule of Law.

Furthermore, the Lao PDR's 8th National Socio-Economic Development Plan (NSED) 2016-2020 aims to facilitate the graduation from Least Developed Country status by 2020 and to consolidate regional and international integration in the context of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Economic Community. Among the cross-cutting issues addressed by the NSED is the enhancement of the effectiveness of the public governance and administration. These goals highlight the need to develop a law system that is complete, harmonised, clear, reliable and accessible to everybody.

Positive trends have been triggered through the previous Luxembourg-funded project LAO/023 in order to strengthen the higher education in the legal sector. However, complying with ASEAN standards and updating the curricula towards the evolution of the legal framework requires a constant effort for improving further the efficiency of the faculties.

Access to justice also needs to be further strengthened. As stated in the LSMP, there are "insufficient conditions to allow people access to justice by themselves or through lawyers or other guardians in all levels of the court proceedings and in all cases to secure the rights in obtaining legal assistance, especially for the poor and people having less opportunity".

Based on these challenges, the current project has two specific objectives:

- The reinforcement of the enabling environment for access to justice, which should lead to strengthened access to justice;
- The continuation of the strengthening of legal education and training, which should lead to improved legal higher education and strengthened institutional capacity.

The main beneficiaries of the project are legal practitioners and civil servants active in the legal sector, civil servants of the Ministry of Justice, and academic staff, notably of the Faculty of Law and Political Science of Vientiane and the Faculty of Law and Administration of Champasak.

Luxembourg contribution: 5,000,000 EUR

Inter-University Cooperation between the University of Luxembourg and the National University in Laos - Faculty of Law



2017-2021

The project supports the cooperation between the two universities within the Faculty of Law. This cooperation will be based on strengthening the legal higher education for students as well as for law practitioners in the field. The programme will be based, over the years, on several short

term exchanges between the universities, which include the teaching of lectures, summer/winter schools, research support visits in Luxembourg and Laos as well as capacity building for staff.

Luxembourg contribution: 696,400 EUR

PARECIDS II-Luxembourg-Laos Partnership for Research and Capacity Building in Infectious Disease Surveillance



2016-2020

In the framework of the PARECIDS programme, a laboratory specialised in infectious diseases has been set up at the Pasteur Institute in Vientiane. The programme is implemented by the “Institute of Health” of Luxembourg. Support is also provided to a team of Lao researchers to allow them to further develop their knowledge and to facilitate their integration in the international scientific

community. Part of the Lao-Luxembourg Lab’s research is focusing on infectious diseases and as such plays an important role in the identification of different stereotypes of the virus.

PARECIDS II succeeds a first research programme (2010-2015) within the framework of ICP IV.

Luxembourg contribution: 2,773,273 EUR



Global Fund - Fight against HIV, Tuberculosis and Malaria

2016-2017

Considering its important involvement in the Global Fund worldwide, Luxembourg acts as an active member of the Country Coordination Mechanism in Laos.

In addition to its global contribution, Luxembourg supports the Global Fund locally through the provision of technical assistance.

The general objective of the technical assistance is to support the coordination work of the CCM Secretariat and to increase country understanding and ownership of risk management, in order to effectively mitigate risks associated with implementation of HIV, Tuberculosis and malaria programmes funded by the Global Fund's New Funding Model grants in Lao PDR.

Luxembourg contribution: 77,000 EUR



ILO/WHO-Supporting the Establishment of the National Health Insurance Scheme and the Extension of Coverage in Lao PDR

2011-2016

The third phase of this project is building on achievements and recommendations of previous interventions in this sector trying to harmonise and further develop existing systems. The main objectives are the development of a pilot model which merges the four existing social security schemes and extends its coverage to the most vulnerable groups in one district of Vientiane province and support to the elaboration and the adaptation of the national legal framework on

social security as well as building capacity of relevant ministries and institutions. Finally a national social security model, including a support mechanism is being developed.

Luxembourg will continue to support the ILO in improving social security and health insurance in Laos during the ICP IV implementation period, adopting a regional approach for the provision of technical assistance to Laos, Vietnam and Myanmar.

Luxembourg contribution: 1,525,000 EUR

UNICEF/WHO/UNFPA - Improving Reproductive, Maternal and Child Health in Lao PDR



2011-2020

The United Nations Joint Programme (UNJP) for Reproductive Maternal Newborn and Child Health (RMNCH) will support implementation of the Government's new National Strategy and Action Plan for Integrated Services for RMNCH 2016-2025, and contributes to improving the health status of women, newborns, children and young people in Lao PDR. It supports RMNCH policy advice and knowledge transfer at the national level, and sub-national support will be used to put policies, guidelines, tools and approaches into practice and to generate results and lessons that can be used to inform national scale-up.

The UNJP will primarily work at the national level. At the same time, it will establish strong linkages between national and sub-national levels to ensure implementation of policies and strategies as well as uptake of results that can be reflected in the standardization of guidelines, approaches, curriculum, and tools and to inform national scale-up. While the UNJP aims to strengthen the health system to benefit the nation, programme support will focus geographically in three prov-

inces (Bokéo, Savannakhet and Bolikhamxay) to generate lessons learned for policy development, and better translate strategy into implementation.

This joint programme implemented by three different UN agencies (UNICEF, WHO, UNFPA) is formulated around three main objectives:

- Support to the Ministry of Health at the national as well as subnational level to improve its leadership, planning and management in the implementation of maternal, neonatal and child health (MNCH) services;
- Improvement of quality of MNCH services including nutritional education to address chronic malnutrition;
- Support to the Ministry of Health to improve community mobilisation and empowerment for MNCH services in selected zones and to increase demand as well as utilisation rates of these services.

Under ICP IV, Luxembourg continues its support to this programme.

Luxembourg contribution: 16,103,710 EUR

UNDP–Realising the MDGs in Lao PDR–Consolidated Programme of Support to MPI for the Achievement of the Valuable Goals of the 7th NSEDP 2011-2015–Support to the Roundtable Process



2012-2020

Since 2007, Luxembourg has been supporting UNDP in the implementation of the annual Round Table Meeting which gathers all development actors in Lao PDR with the aim of improving donor coordination and aid effectiveness in line with the principles of the Paris declaration and its local version, the Vientiane declaration on aid effectiveness. More specifically, the project aims to strengthen capacity of the Lao government to manage donor coordination and discussions at

sectorial as well as at national level. It is focusing in particular on the Department for International Cooperation of the Ministry of Planning and Investment (MPI), which is in charge of coordinating Sector Working Groups and the Roundtable process and , which culminates yearly in the Roundtable Meeting.

Luxembourg also supports this UNDP programme under ICP IV.

Luxembourg contribution: 1,000,000 EUR

UNCDF/UNDP–Strengthening Capacity and Service Delivery of Local Administrations (GPAP–Governance and Public Administration Reform-Project)



2012-2016

The national GPAP programme 2012-2016 marks the transition from a series of different projects at national and subnational level towards a national programme which is aligned with the National Socio-economic Development Plan (2011-2015) which identifies a responsible, efficient, transparent and responsive public administration as an important element in ensuring service delivery to citizens. The programme has been designed to assist the newly created Ministry of Home Affairs in carrying out different administrative reforms.

The general objective of the programme is to strengthen the capacity of local administrations in service delivery, especially in rural and remote

areas. The main expected result is the improvement of policies and capacities of administrations at local level for more efficient service delivery in line with local priorities and accelerates the progress towards the realisation of the MDGs. Through the implementation of district development funds, UNCDF supports the construction of small infrastructures in the field of education, health or agriculture which have been identified by communities through a participatory planning process. As such the programme provides a hands-on learning approach to local authorities in participatory planning.

Luxembourg contribution: 775,000 EUR

UNDP–Lao National Unexploded Ordnance Programme (UXO Lao)–Phase V-VI



2011-2020

Luxembourg has been financially supporting UXO clearance since 1999 with a total contribution of 2.732 million USD. The current phase continues previous clearance activities focusing on the nine provinces bordering Vietnam.

The UXO clearance programme has been identified by the Lao government in the 7th National Socio-economic Development Plan as a main building block in supporting development, especially in rural areas. In recognition of the constraints posed by UXO clearance to national development, the Lao government defined the

reduction of UXO contamination as an additional, ninth MDG.

The contribution by Luxembourg is used to support clearance operations, training and equipment of clearance teams, as well as communication campaigns on threats posed by UXO and the principles of the Oslo Convention on cluster munitions.

This project is supported by Luxembourg development cooperation under ICP IV.

Luxembourg contribution: 1,500,000 EUR

UNICEF–Lao Social Indicator Survey (LSIS II)



2016-2017

The LSIS II is the second national survey (LSIS I in 2011-2012) which will be conducted in 2016-2017 in order to provide wide range of statistics on the socioeconomic situation of children, women, men and households. It covers multiple indicators on health, nutrition, education, water and sanitation, marriage and sexual activity, fertility and mortality, contraception, HIV/AIDS, child

protection and use of mass media and information technology.

LSIS II will generate new data for establishing baseline for the National Monitoring and Evaluation Framework of the 8th National Socio-Economic Development Plan, supporting the monitoring of SDGs and the LDC graduation criteria.

Luxembourg contribution: 100,000 EUR

Programme Support



Within the framework of the Junior Professional Officer (JPO) Programme, two young graduates supported by the Luxembourg government currently work for UNFPA and UNICEF in Vientiane as Junior Professional Officers (JPOs).

In addition, two United Nations Youth Volunteers (UNV) are serving with the World Health Organization (WHO) in LAO PDR; one of them being seconded to the Country Coordination Mechanism Secretariat of the Global Fund.

EU-LU-WHO Partnership on Universal Health Coverage (UHC-P)



2016-2020

Besides the multi-bi projects funded within the framework of the ICP, Luxembourg Development Cooperation supports a global programme through the WHO and in collaboration with the EU, which covers its five African partner countries, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Mali, Niger and Senegal, as well as Lao PDR (since 2015). The partnership aims to strengthen the capacity of countries to develop and implement strong, sustainable and comprehensive health policies, strategies and plans towards the achievement of Universal Health Coverage. It is adapted to the contexts of each country and, through its partnership nature, supports the exchange of lessons learned and good practices and promotes South-South cooperation. The main partners for implementation on the ground are the ministries of Health, along with other national and international partners.

The coordination of the Luxembourg funded part of the partnership is covered by three senior experts, one in the WHO Inter-Country Support Team in Ouagadougou covering Burkina Faso and Niger, one in the WHO country office in Bamako covering Mali, Senegal and Cabo Verde and one in the WHO country office in Vientiane covering Lao PDR.

The two key priorities of the UHC-P in Lao are human resources for health and health financing. These are placed within the overarching goal that Lao has set itself, namely to achieve universal health coverage for its entire population by 2025. The activities of the UHC-P are complementary to the bilateral health programme LAO/27 and fit perfectly within the larger health sector reform that Lao is undertaking.

The UHC-P, amongst others, aims to strengthen capacities on health financing at provincial and district levels, as well as to review the guidelines for the existing social protection programmes. These are, the Health Equity Fund, the Community-based health insurance (CBHI) and the Free MNCH Initiative. With regards to human resources for health, a review of the Strategy for the development of health personnel 2010-2020 is being undertaken together with the development of a Plan of Action 2016-2020.

Luxembourg Contribution to the overall programme covering the six countries:
12,000,000 EUR

Mekong River Land Governance Project in cooperation with the Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation



2016-2018

Land governance is at the centre of development challenges in Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam. Governments are revising land policies and practices in order to face these challenges. The project aims to

- Assist the emergence of more favourable policies and practices for securing the rights and access of family farmers to land and natural resources; and

- To strengthen the effectiveness of concerned stakeholders through learning, alliance building and regional cooperation.

The Project Facility promotes dialogue between government, civil society, research institutions and the private sector. It is demand driven and flexible in order to be able to answer to opportunities and innovation.

Luxembourg contribution: 1,000,000 EUR

MRC–Mekong River Commission



2010-2020

Luxembourg has supported the first five-year phase of the Mekong River Commission's Climate Change Adaptation Initiative which has a long term framework running until 2025 and is divided into three phases. The target group of the intervention is the population of the Mekong basin in Laos, Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam. The CCAI aims to contribute to the attainment of MDG7, ensuring environmental sustainability. The programme has been implemented in cooperation with the national Mekong river commissions in the four target countries through strengthening their capacities in developing mitigation plans to the effects of climate change.

One of the expected results included the drafting of an adaptation strategy for the Mekong basin based on local mitigation plans and instru-

ments but with a trans-border and multisectoral approach.

The MRC Strategic Plan for 2016-2020 which Luxembourg now supports is part of the 2016-2020 Strategy for the development of the Mekong River Basin (SDB).

Expected results of the SDB are the strengthening of national plans, projects and resources based on a perspective encompassing the entire Mekong basin., the strengthening of the regional cooperation, improved monitoring and reporting of data on Mekong River basin conditions and a more effective and efficient organisation which will benefit Member States.

Luxembourg contribution: 3,145,000 EUR

NGO Projects

Two Luxembourg NGOs are currently implementing activities under a framework agreement with the Directorate for Development Cooperation; namely, Fondation Caritas Luxembourg and Handicap International Luxembourg. They support two interventions in the field of rural development and health service delivery.

With a co-financing rate of 80% the contribution from Luxembourg Development Cooperation amounts to 1,491,200 EUR.

In addition to the projects mentioned above, the Ministry also finances two projects implemented by the Luxembourg NGO Appui au développement autonome (ADA). The first project is called 'Support to Lao Microfinance Association' (2012-2017) and aims to strengthen the institutional capacity of the Lao Microfinance Association (MFA) and develop the services it provides to its member Microfinance Institutions (MFIs). The main activities developed in collaboration with the MFA for 2016 and 2017 include the promotion of social performance management through social audits, capacity building through trainings to micro-entrepreneurs, and SMART Campaign Client Protection Certifications (232,000 EUR).

Every year, the embassy of Luxembourg in Vientiane supports a number of micro-projects contributing up to 15,000 EUR for a maximum period of one year. These micro-projects are implemented by local civil society organisations.

Luxembourg contribution: 50,000 EUR per year

Care in Luxembourg, Aide au développement de la santé, Aide internationale de la Croix Rouge luxembourgeoise, Fondation Caritas Luxembourg receive funds to implement specific projects in the field of rural development, agriculture, the financing of an aquatic resource capture facility, disaster prevention and preparation as well as heart surgery.

With a co-financing rate of 75% the contribution from Luxembourg Development Cooperation amounts to 2,992,380 EUR.

The second project is a training/coaching program on agricultural finance developed by FAO and ADA and will be organised in March 2017 for financial institutions that want to promote the financing of the agricultural sector. The objective of the ADA-FAO collaboration is to support financial institutions by supporting them in the assessment and identification of investments in the agricultural markets, as well as in the creation, development, adjustment and/or reinforcement of the financial and non-financial services aimed at an agricultural client base. The estimated total budget of this project is 117,000 EUR of which 55,000 EUR will be financed by Luxembourg.

Luxembourg contribution: 287,000 EUR

The NGO ILSTA (Institute for Legal Support and Technical Assistance) supports legal education in Lao PDR, and responds directly, in partnership with national authorities, to the needs in terms of training and capacity building.

Luxembourg contribution: 800,000 EUR

Humanitarian Affairs



Between March 2011 and April 2015, the Fondation Caritas Luxembourg has been carrying out a risk-reduction project in Laos, a country vulnerable to natural catastrophes. This multiannual project, co-financed by the Ministry (389,772 EUR), is based on a local community approach, and aims to improve the resilience of the inhabitants of 10 villages comprised in the district of Thathom, through the promotion of more sustainable lifestyles and the prevention of catastrophes. The project entered its second phase in April 2015 and will continue until 2017 with a contribution of 392,704 EUR from the Ministry. At the end of the year 2013, the NGO obtained a co-financing from the Ministry totaling 50,760 EUR to launch a similar initiative in the Mork district, where for one year they worked towards the reinforcement of resilience in the face of catastrophes and the reduction of insecurity in terms of means of subsistence. In 2013, the Ministry also financed one of Fondation Caritas Luxembourg's emergency projects that aimed to restore the living standards of families affected by typhoon Jebi through the introduction of alternative agricultural methods.

Since 2012, Care in Luxembourg organised prevention campaigns and activities co-financed by the Ministry (127,406 EUR), whose objectives fo-

cused on improving the capacity of five villages and local authorities of the Dakcheung district to manage risks linked to natural hazards in the region. In 2013, the Ministry contributed another 78,925 EUR to an emergency project combating food insecurity following the destruction caused by typhoons Watip and Nari in the Sekong province.

Moreover, the Ministry is co-financing since July 2014 and until June 2017 a project of Care in Luxembourg in Laos (127,523 EUR) which focuses on strengthening local capacity in order to improve disaster risk reduction.

Because of the recurring floods in the Khammouane province, the Luxembourgish Red Cross benefited from a co-financing of 19,125 EUR from the Ministry in 2012, which allowed them to set up a three months project reducing the vulnerability to catastrophes. The project included the supply of generators, motor boats and life-vests to 11 villages. In 2012, the Ministry also granted 189,786 EUR to another project in the same province aimed at reinforcing the logistical capacities of the local branch of the Lao Red Cross in Khammouane, allowing them to improve their responses to the needs of the most vulnerable.

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