

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

March 2018







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Laos, overview



138/188

Human Development Index

173.6/1,000

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

4.1%

Urban population growth

49/1,000
Infant mortality rate

66

Life Expectancy
at birth

2.8

Children born/woman

80%

Literacy rate

23
Median Age

236,800 km²

Area

6,758,353

Population

GDP/capita (PPP)
2 150 USD

1.4%

Population growth rate

24.3/1,000

Birth rate

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



Luxembourg Development Cooperation: Strategies & Principles



GOALS

Luxembourg Development Cooperation is strongly committed to eradicating poverty.



ACTIONS

While adopting a human-centered approach, actions are designed and carried out in the spirit of sustainable development, including its social, economic and environmental aspects. They aim at implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)

SECTORS

Main intervention sectors:

- Water and sanitation
- Education, particularly vocational and technical training and access to labour markets
- Health
- Local Development

CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

- Gender equality
- Good governance
- Environment and climate change

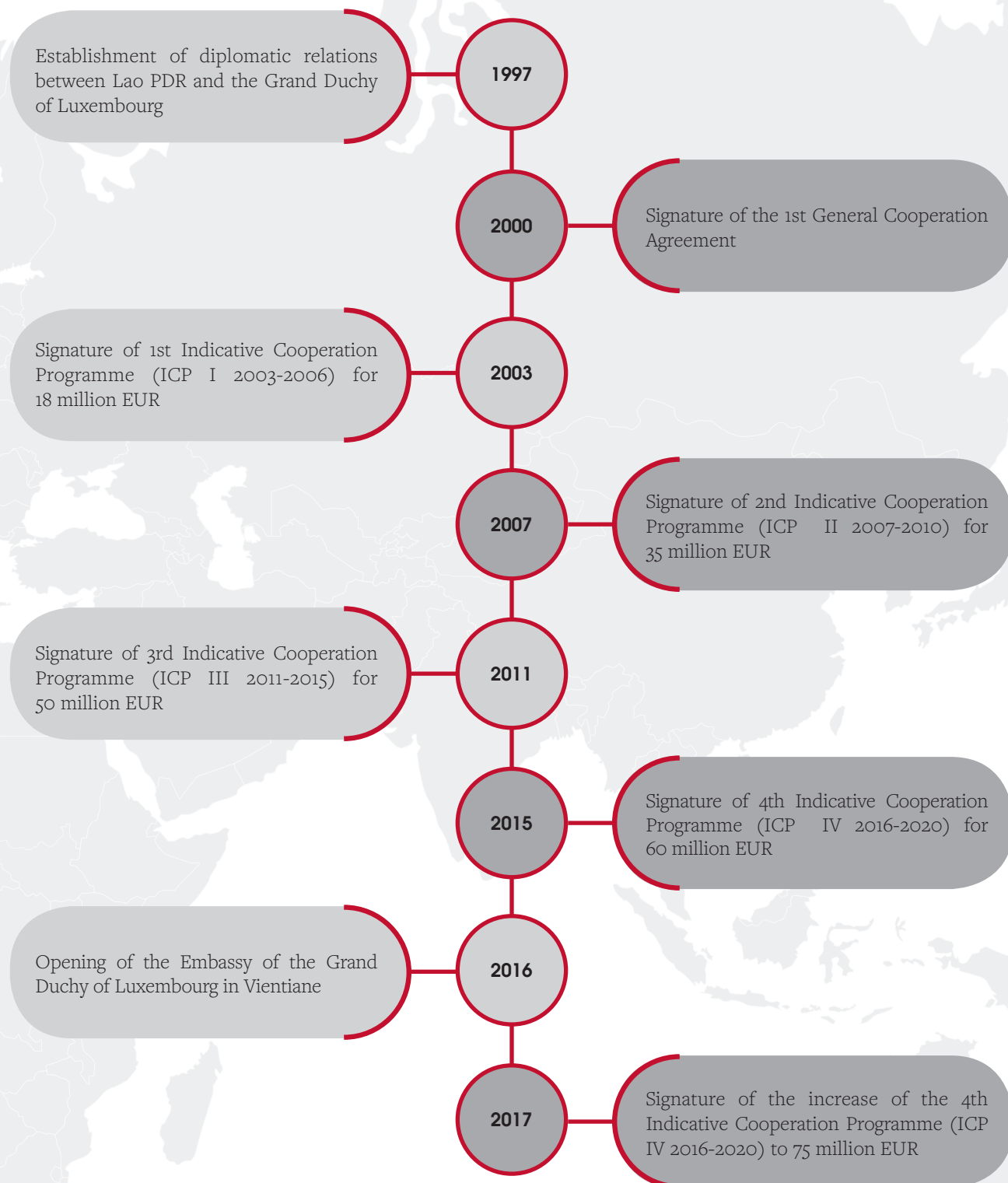
CONCENTRATION OF DEVELOPMENT AID IN VIEW OF MAXIMISING ITS IMPACT

- limited number of partner countries;
- sectoral concentration;
- spirit of partnership when defining the Indicative Cooperation Programme (ICP).
→ all of this in the spirit of development effectiveness.

OFFICIAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE (ODA)

- since 2000, more than 0.7% of their Gross National Income (GNI) have been contributed
- entirely based on donations, 100 % untied aid
- implemented through bilateral cooperation, multilateral cooperation, and cooperation through Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), as well as through programme support
- includes humanitarian assistance which can be divided in : emergency aid in response to humanitarian/natural disasters and violent conflicts, post-disaster aid, transition aid, prevention aid and resilience aid.

Luxembourg Development Cooperation in Laos



Priority Sectors



Health



Local Development



Governance



Vocational Training

Figures

1. Bilateral Cooperation

Duration	Code	Title	Execution	Total Budget EUR
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
2014-2018	LAO/028	Strengthening the Capacity of the Ministry of Planning and Investment's Department of International Development	LuxDev	860,000
2016-2021	LAO/029	Skills for Tourism-Human Resources Development in the Tourism and Hospitality Sector	LuxDev	*7,500,000
2016-2022	LAO/030	Local Development Programme for Bokeo, Bolikhamxay, Khammouane and Vientiane Provinces	LuxDev	23,003,561
2017-2022	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
2016-2019	-	Scholarships for students from Laos, Cabo Verde, Nicaragua and Vietnam	BBI	1,240,000
2017-2020	-	Capacity building for the Laos statistical bureau	STATEC	800,000
2018-2020	-	Support to Lao Microfinance Association and Training/coaching programme on agricultural finance in Laos	ADA	646,401

* Together with SDC - 15,000,000

2. Multilateral 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
2016-2020	EU-LU WHO Partnership on Universal Health Coverage	EU-LU-OMS	12,000,000
2012-2020	Realising the MDGs in Lao PDR-Consolidated Programme of Support to MPI for the Achievement of the Valuable Goals of the 8th 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
2016-2017	Lao Social Indicator Survey (LSIS II)	UNICEF	100,000
2016-2017	Global Fund - Fight against HIV, Tuberculosis and Malaria	CCM	77,000

3. Regional Cooperation

Duration	Title	Execution Agency	Total Budget EUR
2011-2020	MRC - Mekong River Commission	MRC	3,145,000
2017-2020	Support to the extension of Social Health Protection in South-East Asia	ILO	2,602,000
2016-2018	Mekong River Land Governance Project in cooperation with the Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation	SDC	1,000,000
2018-2021	Responsible Inclusive Finance Facility	Social Performance Task Force	787,120

4. Cooperation with NGOs

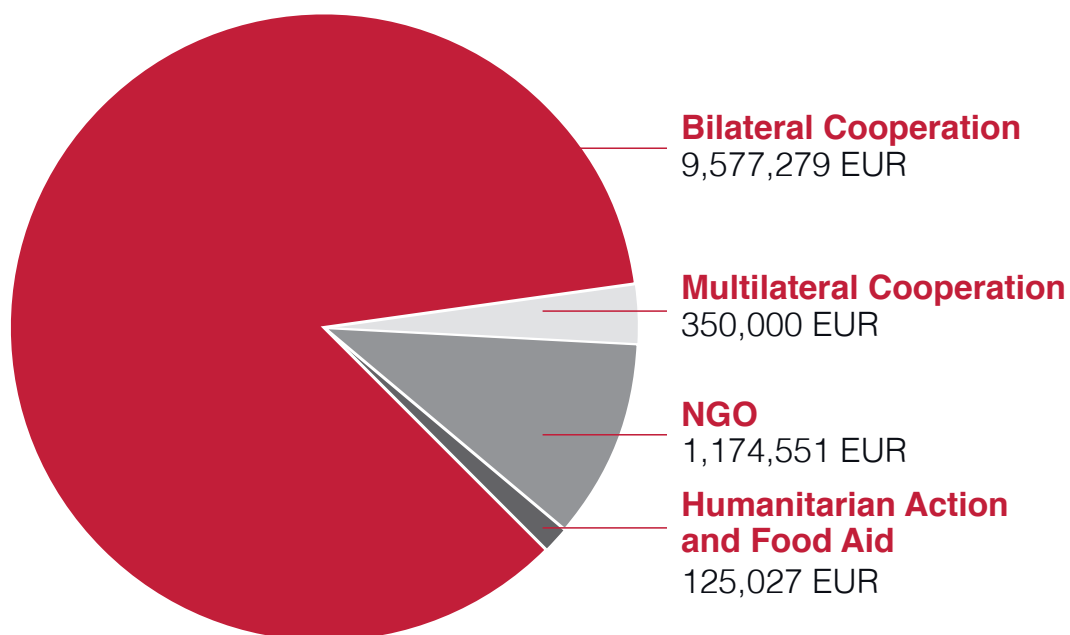
Duration	Title	NGO	Total Budget EUR
2016-2020	Reduction of economic vulnerability through improved rural livelihood (Mok)	Caritas	1,200,000
2017-2019	Reduction of poverty and hunger, achievement of food security and improving the nutrition and health by targeting poor and vulnerable communities in remote areas	Care in Luxembourg	721,600
2018-2022	Improving the living conditions of persons with disabilities	Handicap International Luxembourg	696,000
2015-2018	Cardiology and cardiac surgery	Aide au développement de la Santé	1,200,000

5. Humanitarian Assistance

Duration	Title	NGO	Total Budget EUR
2017-2018	Risk-reduction project in the Mork district	Fondation Caritas Luxembourg	442,000

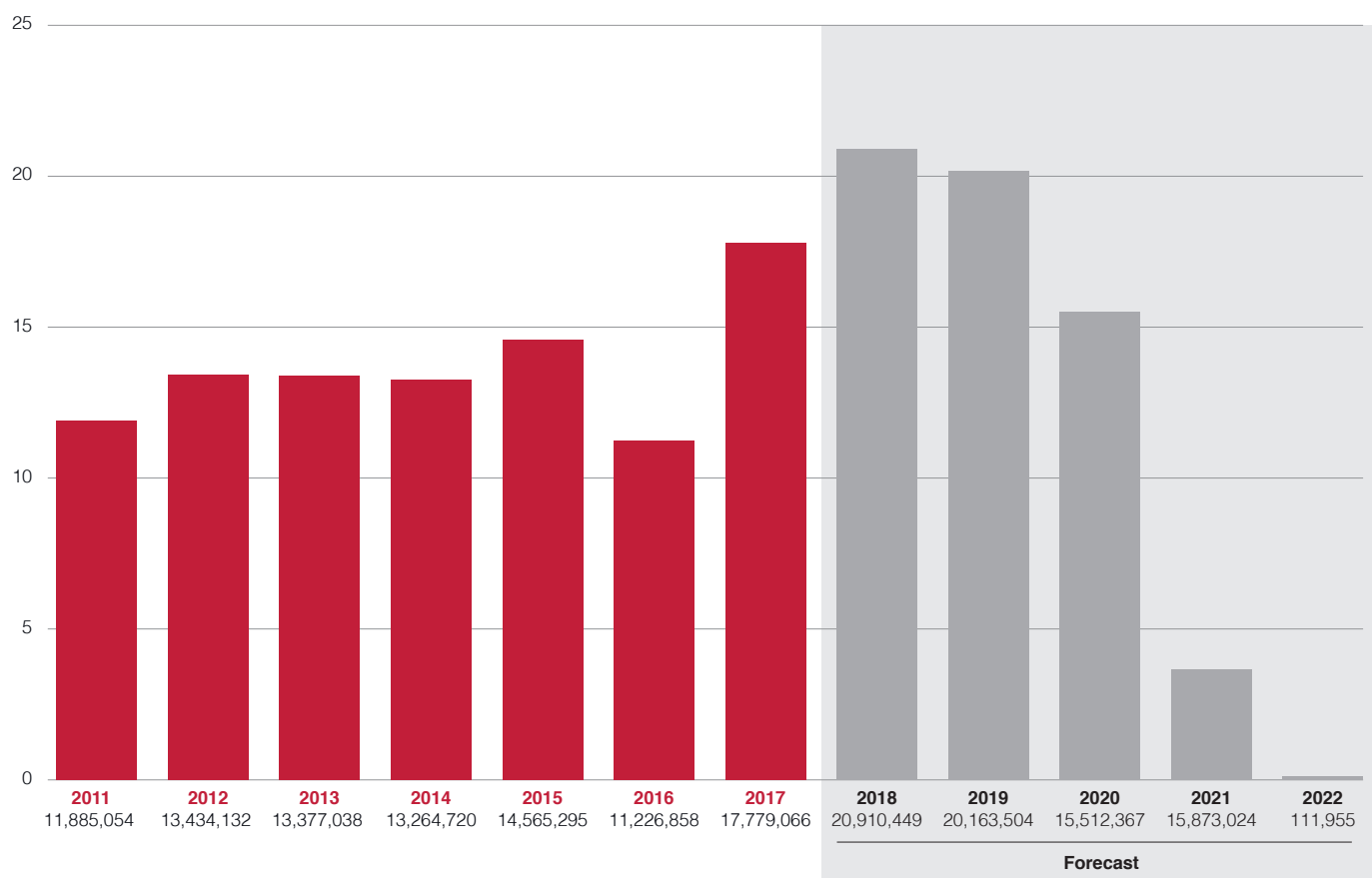
Distribution of Aid

2016



Evolution of Funds disbursed

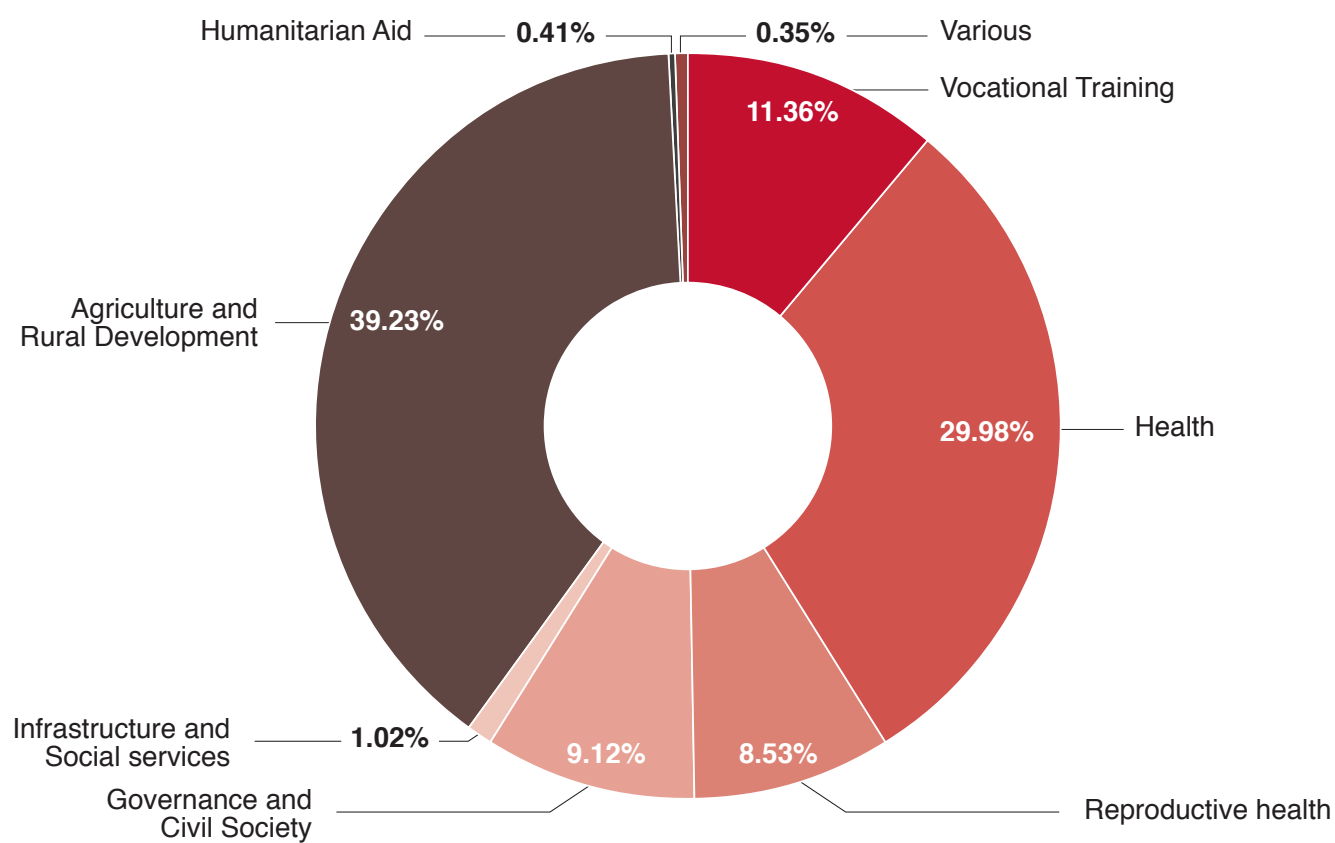
million EUR



Aid per sector

Development Cooperation

Laos 2017-2022: 78 million EUR



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 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 stay in that continuity, with a similar general objective, and a specific objective that 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 is operational in the three provinces of Vientiane, Bolikhamxay and Khammouane. Efforts are being made to strengthen the Provincial Health Department roles and responsibilities,

towards the facilitation of effective Primary Health Care service delivery at district level and Mother and Child Health activities.

LAO/027 pays a special focus on 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 is to support the MOH in implementing the Health Sector Reform framework 2013-2025, prioritizing 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 being 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



2014-2018

LAO/028

The LAO/028 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 strengthen the capacity of institutions in charge of Official Development Assistance (ODA) management. Currently, a very small share 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: 860,000 EUR



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



2016-2021

LAO/029

The tourism sector in the Lao Peoples Democratic Republic (PDR) has expanded rapidly, with international arrivals increasing from 14,400 in 1990 (generating revenue of USD 2.25 million) to over 4.6 million in 2015 (with revenue of USD 725.4 million). According to a study carried out in 2015, direct employment in tourism stands at approximately 42,000 people, with participation in the tourism labour force seen as the main potential to increase disadvantaged populations 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 the Lao PDR. Furthermore, it is estimated that about 10% of the tourism and hospitality labour force has to be replaced annually. Accordingly, Luxembourg and Switzerland, together with the Ministry of Education and Sports (MoES) of the Lao 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 (T/H) sector in the Lao PDR, thereby contributing to poverty reduction. The project is helping to bridge the gap between the large number of job-seekers in the 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 the 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.

Project LAO/029 will directly support as many as 5,000 beneficiaries in training and finding employment in the T/H sector, including a specific focus on young people between 15 and 35 (75% of target), women (60% of target) and disadvantaged people (50%).

The project focuses on four key results:

- the quality of TVET education and training and skills development programmes in T/H is improved The scale and variety of TVET education and training and skills development programmes in T/H is expanded and enhanced;
- people from disadvantaged backgrounds are included in T/H TVET education and training and skills development programmes;
- an enabling governance, institutional and regulatory framework for TVET education and training and skills development, particularly in T/H 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



2016-2022

LAO/030

In 2009, the Lao People's Democratic Republic (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 further improving 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 project LAO/031 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 Capital and the Faculty of Law and Administration of Champasak.

Luxembourg contribution: 23,003,561 EUR

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



2017-2022

LAO/031

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- 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 project in cooperation with ILSTA, works with the main beneficiaries of the project who 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 Capital and the Faculty of Law and Administration of Champasak.

Luxembourg contribution: 5,000,000 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

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 University of Luxembourg and the National University in Laos 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

Scholarships for students from Laos, Cabo Verde, Nicaragua and Vietnam



2016-2019

In addition to its bilateral vocational training projects in tourism and hospitality, Luxembourg provides every year scholarships to students and teachers for Bachelor/Master degrees at the BBI, a School for Hospitality and Tourism Business in Wiltz. Teachers and students are selected in the target countries (Laos, Cabo Verde, Nicaragua,

Vietnam) where Luxembourg is financing vocational training projects in the concerned fields.

Fourteen students are selected every year for the training at BBI.

Luxembourg contribution: 1,240,000 EUR

Cooperation between National Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies of Luxembourg (STATEC) and Lao Statistic Bureau (LSB)



2017-2020

The project puts into place a cooperation between the two national statistics offices LSB and STATEC. The cooperation is based on supporting the development of the statistical activities lead by LSB. The project will work on developing the domain

of environmental statistics, supporting the household survey and exchange on the good practices of management of a national statistical system.

Luxembourg contribution: 800,000 EUR

ADA - Support to Lao Microfinance Association and Training/coaching programme on agricultural finance in Laos



2018-2020

ADA, a Luxembourg NGO specialised in micro-finance, has worked in partnership with the Lao Microfinance Association (MFA) since 2010. The main objectives of the partnership are to professionalise the association and improve both the services to its members and sector-wide communication and transparency. ADA is extending its support to the financial inclusion sector in Laos for the period 2018-2020, with the MFA as the key partner on the ground, the goal being to promote financial inclusion for the people of Laos, especially low income populations.

Considering that formal financial institutions only offer limited services to agricultural households, even though the potential of the agricultural finan-

cial market is recognised, ADA, together with with FAO, have developed a technical support offer. Training is provided to more than 20 Microfinance institutions (MFIs), while three of them have been selected to receive closer guidance. The aim is to ensure that farmers and other agricultural value chain actors have access to financial services adapted to their needs, enabling them to improve their living conditions.

Luxembourg contribution: 646,401 EUR

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/027 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

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

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–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.

Luxembourg's contribution 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.

Luxembourg contribution: 1,500,000 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 contribution: 1,000,000 EUR



ILO - Support to the extension of Social Health Protection in South-East Asia

2017-2020

Today nearly 73% of the world's population lacks access to adequate social protection coverage. The importance and potential of social protection in reducing poverty and inequalities and contributing to a more inclusive and sustainable economic development is recognised in the Sustainable Development Agenda. Luxembourg is a longstanding development partner to the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and founder of its flagship programme on social protection and is collaborating with the ILO's flagship programme in several key countries focused on the installation of social health protection schemes.

The project "Supporting the establishment of the National Health Insurance scheme and the extension of coverage in Lao PDR" funded by Luxembourg was implemented jointly by the ILO and

the World Health Organisation (WHO) from 2012 to 2016 and provided crucial support to ongoing reforms on social health protection in Lao PDR.

In 2017, the Luxembourg development cooperation signed a new Partnership Agreement with the ILO for the achievement of social protection targets under the SDGs. The subsequent phase of the project, with a budget of 2,602,000 EUR aims to extend social security and implement social protection to an entire region, including South-East Asia, starting with Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam. This innovative project aims at establishing a regional service operating as a cornerstone for the extension of the benefits of the project throughout the whole region.

Luxembourg contribution: 2,602,000 EUR

Responsible Inclusive Finance Facility



2018-2021

The Social Performance Task Force (SPTF) launches a facility for responsible inclusive finance in South East Asia, which will allow the roll-out of its universal standards for social performance management (USSPM) among finan-

cial service providers in the region. The Responsible Inclusive Finance Facility (RIFF-SEA) will offer trainings and co-financing, and will develop new resources for service providers in Lao PDR.

Luxembourg contribution: 787,120 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



2011-2020

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

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

With a co-financing rate of 80% the contribution from Luxembourg Development Cooperation amounts to 2,617,600 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

The NGO Aide au développement de la santé receives funds to implement specific projects in the field of cardiology and cardiac 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

Humanitarian Affairs



2017-2018

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 focused 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. Since July 2017, the Ministry is also co-financing a UNDP project which aims to build resilience of countries in the face of disasters by strengthening the capacities of national governments to plan and manage sustainable recovery processes.

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.

In 2017, the Fondation Caritas Luxembourg started implementing the third phase of a risk-reduction project in the Mork district, Laos. This project, co-financed by the Ministry (229,500 EUR for 2017 and 212,500 EUR for 2018) is meant to reduce the socio-economical vulnerability and face environmental dangers in order to improve the resilience of the local population.

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LET'S MAKE IT HAPPEN

Luxembourg Development Cooperation



THE GOVERNMENT
OF THE GRAND DUCHY OF LUXEMBOURG
Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs

Directorate for Development Cooperation
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