



LAO PDR

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

European Joint Programming is actively contributing to Lao PDR's progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals, complementing the Government of Lao PDR's early incorporation of the SDGs in national development planning with coherent action from European Partners.



WHAT IS JOINT PROGRAMMING?

Joint Programming brings development partners together to analyse and plan activities that are cohesive and complimentary. In Lao PDR, Joint Planning has helped European Partners to synchronise their activities with the Government of Lao PDR's policies and objectives, maximising results for the country and its people.



PROJECTS PER PROVINCE 2016-2020

GOVERNANCE

Coordinating Partner: European Union
 Participating European Partners: European Union, France, Germany, Ireland, Hungary, Luxembourg, Switzerland, United Kingdom



Example: Citizen Engagement for Good Governance Accountability and the Rule of Law (CEGGA)

The CEGGA Programme works to increase citizens' engagement in national development, through the promotion of good governance, human rights and the rule of law in Lao PDR, as laid out in the Government's policies and strategies.



AGRICULTURE & RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Coordinating Partner: France
 Participating European Partners: France, Germany, Hungary, Luxembourg, Switzerland



Example: Supporting the Tea Value Chain in Lao PDR

This project, funded by France, supports Lao PDR's emerging tea value chain in a sustainable and inclusive manner, starting with pilot initiatives to strengthen the organisation of producers. Tea production and processing will also be improved, and new market outlets will be developed via certification systems such as fair trade. The activity is supported by France's Institute of Research for Development.



HEALTH

Coordinating Partner: Luxembourg
 Sector Participating European Partners: Luxembourg, France, United Kingdom



Example: Lao Luxembourg Health sector support phase II

Building on the first phase of support to the Lao Health Sector, this project funded by Luxembourg, continues to assist the government in achieving the objectives laid out in their Health Sector Strategy 2000 - 2020. Phase II has the additional focus of improving mother and child health.



EDUCATION

Coordinating Partner: European Union
 Sector Participating European Partners: European Union, France, Hungary, Ireland, United Kingdom



Example: Basic Education Quality and Access (BEQUAL)

BEQUAL directly supports the education priorities of the Government of Lao PDR, working to ensure that Lao children receive quality education with a special focus on groups that traditionally experience poorer education outcomes, such as girls, disabled groups or children in remote communities. This ten-year programme receives funding and support from the European Union and Australian Government.



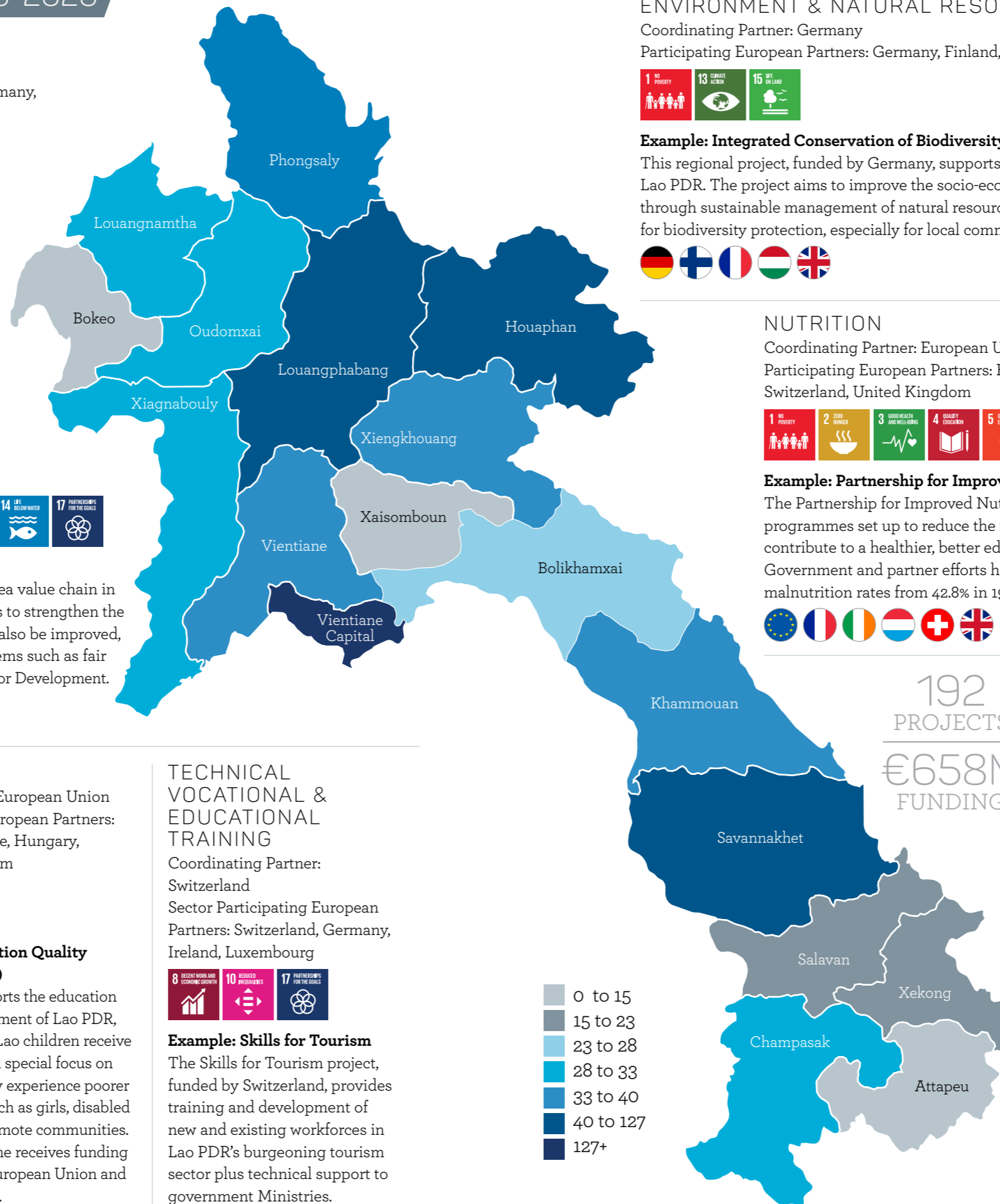
TECHNICAL VOCATIONAL & EDUCATIONAL TRAINING

Coordinating Partner: Switzerland
 Sector Participating European Partners: Switzerland, Germany, Ireland, Luxembourg



Example: Skills for Tourism

The Skills for Tourism project, funded by Switzerland, provides training and development of new and existing workforces in Lao PDR's burgeoning tourism sector plus technical support to government Ministries.



- 0 to 15
- 15 to 23
- 23 to 28
- 28 to 33
- 33 to 40
- 40 to 127
- 127+

Note: Projects with national coverage are reported in Vientiane Capital.

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

Coordinating Partner: Germany
 Participating European Partners: Germany, Finland, France, Hungary, United Kingdom



Example: Integrated Conservation of Biodiversity and Forests (ICBF)

This regional project, funded by Germany, supports heritage parks across the ASEAN region, including Lao PDR. The project aims to improve the socio-economic living conditions of poor rural households through sustainable management of natural resources and mainstream biodiversity by creating incentives for biodiversity protection, especially for local communities in the buffer zones of protected areas.



NUTRITION

Coordinating Partner: European Union
 Participating European Partners: European Union, France, Ireland, Luxembourg, Switzerland, United Kingdom



Example: Partnership for Improved Nutrition

The Partnership for Improved Nutrition (2016-2021) is one of a series of nutrition-focused programmes set up to reduce the nationally high malnutrition rates in Lao PDR and contribute to a healthier, better educated, more equitable and more productive population. Government and partner efforts have resulted in significant progress in reducing malnutrition rates from 42.8% in 1990 to 18.5% in 2015, according to government figures.



192
PROJECTS
€658M
FUNDING

PRIVATE SECTOR DEVELOPMENT

Coordinating Partner: Germany
 Participating European Partners: Germany, France



Example: Microfinance in Rural Areas - Access to Finance for the Poor (AFP) V

Men and women in rural areas have greater opportunities with access to stable financing. This project, financed by Germany, provides skills development to Network Support Organisations whose employees in turn are then able to offer high quality technical and financial services to the community managed village banks. The project has notched up notable success and the long-term viability of the model is sound with some 97% of village banks already self-funded. The village banks also contribute to gender quality, not just via lending but through their management structure too - some 40% of committee members in village banks are women.



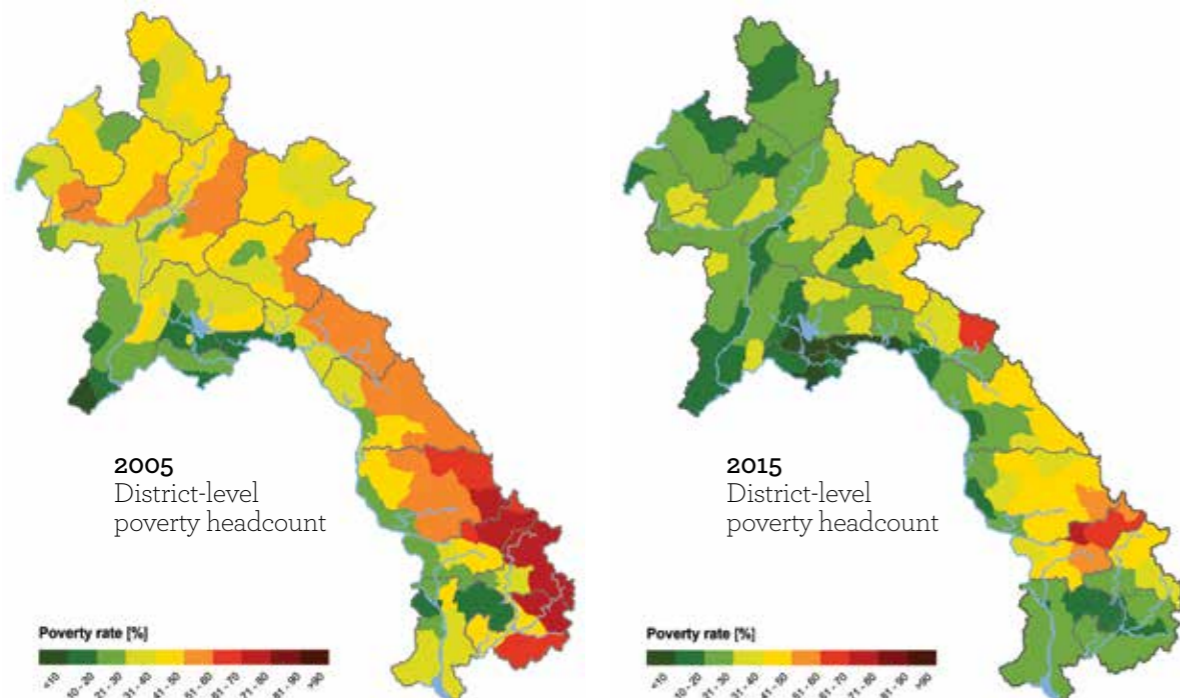


Agriculture & Rural Development



The Government of Lao PDR, with support from European Partners, has made significant headway in reducing poverty in rural areas, home to 63% of the Lao population (SDG 1). Support and regional dissemination of the Government's promotion of agro-ecology and agro-biodiversity technologies (SDG 17) offer scalable solutions for improved nutrition and diet (SDG 3), tackling stunting and other nutrition-related challenges (SDG 2). A five-year agriculture and forestry Development Plan seeks to modernise commodity production in a sustainable way that meets international standards (SDG 13) (SDG 14) without damaging the environment (SDG 12). Provision and use of clean drinking water and sanitation services have increased (SDG 6), contributing to improved health and well-being of rural families (SDG 3). With technical support from European Partners, the economic potential of rural communities is being developed (SDG 8) and infrastructure improved (SDG 9).

THEN AND NOW: Rural Poverty has dropped significantly between 2005 and 2015



Education



European Partners are supporting the Government of Lao PDR in boosting primary and secondary school enrolment, and completion (SDG 4). The quality of education being delivered in schools, colleges and universities is being strengthened through Jointly Programmed assessment, monitoring and curriculum development and revision, as well as enhancing the capacity of education managers and administrators in policy planning and budgeting; and pedagogical training and development for teachers (SDG 4). European Partners are working to reduce inequalities by supporting the equitable access to education, whether by gender, ethnic group or rural/urban location (SDG 5, SDG 10).

E+ Promoting education and research opportunities in Europe with ERASMUS+: ongoing Capacity Building for Higher Education Institutes (CBHE), fostering exchanges between Lao and EU students.



Environment & Natural Resources



European Partners are working with the Government to promote sustainable use of Lao ecosystems, participation in management of forests, village forestry (SDG 12), combatting of desertification, and halt and reverse of land degradation and biodiversity loss (SDG 13). Better systems for land management and administration are being developed, with improved land tenure security central to sustainability (SDG 1 and SDG 2) and greater consideration of the needs of forest-dependent communities in rural livelihood development (SDG 1 and SDG 2). Lao PDR has made good progress in building institutional structures that address the impact of climate change, with more provinces producing emissions reduction strategies (SDG 13). Access to climate financing, land governance, meeting international regulations (such as CITES), forest law enforcement and revisions of forestry law (SDG 12 and SDG 15) are also supported.



Governance



Modernisation and re-organisation of governance systems is underway at the national and local level, with support from European Partners. The CEGGA Programme (see map page 4 and 5) is jointly funded by the EU, Germany and Switzerland and works to encourage Lao citizens' engagement in governance issues through the promotion of good governance, human rights and the rule of law in line with government priorities. Luxembourg is also funding activities to strengthen the rule of law and France is coordinating support to the justice sector (SDG 16). European Partners are supporting the government in improving citizens' access to public services, such as health and education, prioritising equitable access regardless of gender, ethnic group or location (SDG 10).

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Health



Government activities to strengthen national health systems and improve reproductive, maternal and child health services, including vaccinations, have the full support of European Partners (SDG 3 and SDG 5). Joint efforts to extend maternal and child health services to remote areas and level inequalities in service provision contribute to giving all Lao children a healthier start in life (SDG 10).

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Nutrition



European Partners are committed to supporting the Government of Lao PDR's work to ensure all Lao citizens have enough to eat (SDG 1), and are eating well (SDG 2). Nutrition, and the urgent tackling of Lao PDR's high malnutrition rates, is a priority action point with European Partners united in strengthening government progress to reduce child-stunting rates (SDG 3). Education and behaviour change activities raise awareness of the importance of a nutritious and diversified diet throughout life, but especially in childhood (SDG 4 and SDG 5). Activities to promote the production of more nutritious crops and small livestock among smallholders have a strong focus on women's empowerment (SDG 5 and SDG 10).

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Technical Vocational & Educational Training

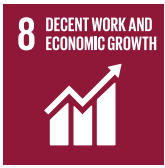


European Partners are supporting government efforts to improve technical, vocational and educational training most notably in the tourism sector (SDG 8). Private sector involvement in boosting skills of the tourism workforce is being encouraged, with greater involvement of small and medium sized enterprises (SDG 17). Promotional tours and scholarship programmes funded by European Partners have increased access to TVET for disadvantaged groups (SDG 10).

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Private Sector Development



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European Partners are working with the Government of Lao PDR to increase potential benefits from integration into the ASEAN economic group (SDG 1, SDG 8 and increase access to finance for micro, small and medium sized enterprises for male, female and minority group applicants alike (SDG 1, SDG 9, SDG 10).



SDG 18: LIVES SAFE FROM UXO

While globally there are 17 SDGs, the Government of Lao PDR has identified this additional goal vital to their country's sustainable development path and European Partners are providing support. Unexploded Ordnances (UXO) litter rural areas of Lao PDR, following warfare in the region from 1964 - 1973. Planes dropped over 2 million tonnes of ordnance on the country - nearly one million of tonnes for every man, woman and child alive in the country at that time. While UXO deaths have fallen in recent years, bombs continue to kill and maim scores of people every year. Risk of UXO prevents land from being farmed and increases the cost of development projects, from the building of schools and hospitals to the construction of roads and power grids. European Partners are providing support to reduce the impact of UXO contamination, through UXO clearance efforts, as well as supporting UXO survivors and raising awareness of UXO risks among the Lao population.



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Find out more about European Joint Programming

» European Joint Programming for Lao People's Democratic Republic 2016 -2020

https://eeas.europa.eu/sites/eeas/files/laos_jp.report.web_31.03_017_0.pdf

» European Joint Programming for Lao People's Democratic Republic 2016 - 2020 Mid-Term Review

https://eeas.europa.eu/sites/eeas/files/book_mid-term_report.pdf