



COUNTRY REPORT 2023

# LAO PDR



UN-HABITAT

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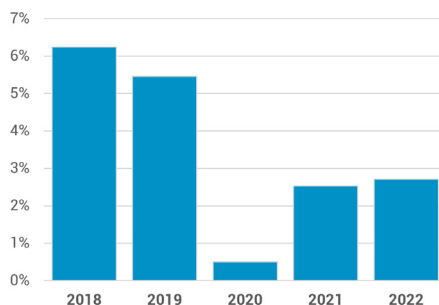
Patuxay, Vientiane [UN-HABITAT]

# 01

## COUNTRY ANALYSIS

Lao PDR is classified by the United Nations as a Least Developed Country (LDC) with a medium human development status (ranked 140 out of 191 countries) based on the 2021 Human Development Index.<sup>1</sup> Rapid economic growth, driven by foreign and domestic investments in mining, hydropower, land concessions and timber extraction, led to a significant reduction in the poverty rate and increased income, access to education, infrastructure, and basic services during the same period. As a result, Lao PDR has been recommended by the United Nations Committee for Development Policy (UNCDP) to graduate from the LDC status by 2026, after an exceptionally extended preparatory period of five years was granted in November 2021 due to the lingering impact of the COVID 19 pandemic. However, many development challenges remain to be addressed as the country is experiencing an unprecedented level of rapid urbanization and population growth, which will place increasing pressure on infrastructure and basic services, the environment and the social fabric of cities.

### ANNUAL GDP GROWTH



**FIGURE 1** ANNUAL GDP GROWTH, 2018-2022  
[World Bank, 2022](#)

<sup>1</sup> Human Development Report 2020: The next frontier Human development and the Anthropocene. UNDP. [hdr2020.pdf \(undp.org\)](#)





# FACTSHEET



**7.5M**  
POPULATION<sup>1</sup>



**38%**  
URBAN POPULATION<sup>1</sup>



**3.1%**  
URBAN POPULATION GROWTH<sup>1</sup>



**2026**  
EXPECTED YEAR TO GRADUATE  
FROM LDC STATUS<sup>2</sup>



**2,054 USD**  
GDP PER CAPITA<sup>1</sup>



**2.7%**  
ANNUAL GDP GROWTH<sup>1</sup>



**0.607**  
HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX<sup>3</sup>



**68.1**  
LIFE EXPECTANCY<sup>1</sup>



**65 %**  
PERCENT OF 15-64 YEARS OLD  
IN POPULATION<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> World Bank, 2022

<sup>2</sup> UNCTAD, 2021

<sup>3</sup> UNDP, 2021



## 02

## URBANIZATION

Lao PDR is experiencing the fastest rate of urbanization in Southeast Asia.<sup>1</sup> The 2015 Population and Housing Census indicates that 33% of its 6.5 million people lived in the five cities with the bulk of them concentrated in Vientiane Capital.<sup>2</sup> It is estimated that the urbanization level in Lao PDR will reach 47.7% by 2025.<sup>3</sup> The key drivers of urbanization which led to the transformation of large villages into small towns:

- Economic policy, notably the New Economic Mechanism policy of the late 1980s that promoted the market-based economy
- Increased rural-urban migration; and Sam Sang (Three Builds) policy to a lesser extent

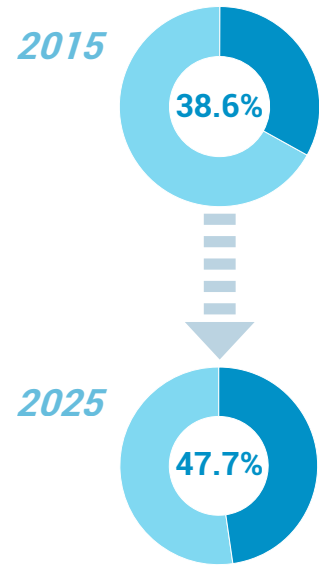
1 World Cities Report 2020: The Value of Sustainable Urbanization. UN-Habitat. wcr\_2020\_report (unhabitat.org), p. 307

2 Results of Population and Housing Census 2015, Lao Statistics Bureau, p.8

3 Urbanization: A Rapidly Emerging Development Issue for Lao PDR. Position Paper. UN-Habitat 2020, p.4



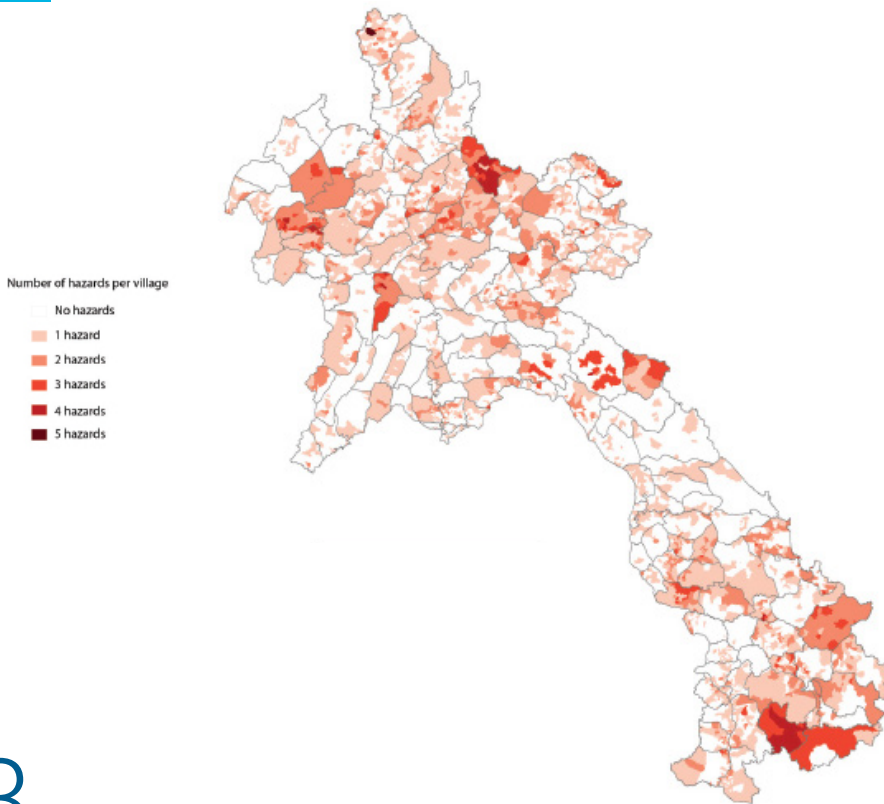
URBANIZATION RATE

**TABLE 1** Urban Population Rate of Change

	Rate of change of the urban pop.(%)			Level of urbanization (%)			
	1995-2005	2005-2015	1995-2015	1995	2005	2015	2025
<b>South-Eastern Asia</b>	3.21	2.63	2.92	34.6	41.3	47.6	53.3
Brunei Darussalam	2.89	2.02	2.45	68.6	73.5	77.2	79.7
Cambodia	3.18	2.38	2.78	17.3	19.2	20.7	23.6
Indonesia	3.87	2.87	3.37	36.1	45.9	53.7	60.3
<b>Lao People's Democratic Republic</b>	<b>6.28</b>	<b>5.36</b>	<b>5.82</b>	<b>17.4</b>	<b>27.4</b>	<b>38.6</b>	<b>47.7</b>
Malaysia	4.00	2.86	3.43	55.7	66.6	74.7	80.1
Myanmar	2.27	2.41	2.34	25.5	28.9	34.1	39.8
Philippines	1.74	1.22	1.48	48.3	46.6	44.4	44.9
Singapore	2.55	2.23	2.39	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Thailand	3.20	3.22	3.21	30.3	37.5	50.4	60.4
Timor-Leste	2.94	3.83	3.38	22.5	26.3	32.8	38.6
Viet Nam	2.18	3.03	3.10	22.2	27.3	33.6	39.9

UN-Habitat, World Cities Report 2016: Urbanization and Development. Emerging Futures, Annex I.



**FIGURE 2** Multi-hazard risk map

# 03

## CLIMATE CHANGE

Lao PDR is highly vulnerable to climate change impacts, particularly floods, landslides, and droughts. A study conducted by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MoNRE) and UN-Habitat indicates that **46% of the settlements** in Lao PDR, representing around **three million people**, have been impacted by at least one climate change-related hazard.<sup>1</sup> In 2018, the country suffered its most costly floods in a decade following heavy rains from two tropical cyclones. Overall, more than 600,000 people across all 18 provinces were affected by the impact of the two tropical cyclones. In addition, climate change and changing rainfall patterns can increase the incidence of landslides and droughts. However, there is limited evidence that disaster risk and climate change considerations are routinely incorporated into urban or spatial planning in Lao PDR.



**46%** of settlements  
or around **3M** people  
impacted by one or more  
climate change related  
hazard



**600K** people  
affected by two tropical  
cyclones in 2018, causing  
the country its most costly  
floods in a decade

<sup>1</sup> Lao PDR National Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment. Preliminary Results. 3\_Lao\_PDR\_National\_Climate\_Change\_Vulnerability\_Assessment.pdf (unhabitat.org), p.3.







## 04

## HOUSING AND ACCESS TO BASIC SERVICES

Rapid and unplanned urbanization, population growth, and intensified climatic events have led to an expansion of unregulated and vulnerable settlements, as well as an increased demand for adequate, safe, serviced, and affordable housing for all, particularly the most vulnerable such as women and girls, migrants, those who are internally displaced, or those who are disabled. According to the national census, the estimated requirement for housing units in urban areas was 219,000 between 2003 and 2020, including 133,000 new and upgraded housing units to accommodate the urban poor<sup>1</sup> and this is expected to increase alongside the current pace of urbanization.



## 219,000

housing units are required to meet the current pace of urbanization between 2003 and 2020

<sup>1</sup> Urban Development Sector Assessment, Strategy, and Road Map, Asian Development Bank 2012. Lao People's Democratic Republic: Urban Development Sector Assessment, Strategy, and Road Map (adb.org),p.12



**12%** of the rural population had access to safely managed drinking water in 2020

**26%** of the urban population had access to safely managed drinking water in 2020

A national housing policy that is based on a comprehensive assessment of the housing sector and analysis of rapid urbanization, population growth and number of poor urban households is urgently needed as the demand for affordable housing is expected to rise particularly among vulnerable and disadvantaged groups, and female-headed households.

Similarly, the provision of basic infrastructure and services such as Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) in the larger urban areas is already stretched and struggles to keep up with the rapid pace of urbanization, while access to basic WASH facilities and practice remains a major challenge in rural areas. World Bank data for 2020 indicates that only 12% of the rural population in Lao PDR had access to a safely managed drinking water service, while 26% of the urban population had access.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>2</sup> "People using safely managed drinking water services" World Bank 2019. People using safely managed drinking water services (% of population) | Data (worldbank.org)





Shaping Inclusive Vientiane, LNUF. [UN-HABITAT]

# 05

## CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

### Human rights considerations in development planning and programming

Human rights are critical drivers of change to achieve sustainable development. Recognising that all dimensions of human rights need to be respected for urbanization to realize itself as the transformative force that it is, UN-Habitat works through a human rights-based approach (HRBA) which mainstreams human rights into all parts of its work programme, in addition to ensuring that the rights to adequate housing and safe water and sanitation are upheld. Understanding and identifying who is being left behind and why, as well as effective measures to address root causes are essential to ensure accountability for Leave No One Behind (LNOB), the central and transformative premise of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs.



**LEAVE NO ONE  
BEHIND**

2019 SDG Summit Logo.







# 0.459

**Gender Inequality Index, 2019**

On scale of 0 (lowest) to 1 (highest)

# 65.4

**babies per 1,000  
born to girls aged 15 to 19  
years**

# 185

**maternal deaths per  
100,000 live births in 2017**

## Gender-Sensitive Approaches to Development

Lao PDR ranked 113 out of 162 countries in the 2019 Gender Inequality Index (GII) with a value of 0.459.<sup>1</sup> The value has been trending down since it was recorded in 2000 at 0.580, showing increasing gender equality. The GII highlighted that Lao PDR has the highest proportion of teen pregnancies among the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), with 65.4 babies per 1,000 being born to girls aged 15-19 years.<sup>2</sup> The maternal mortality rate is trending downwards, with 185 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births in 2017, down from 544 in the year 2000. Gender statistics are trending towards increasing equality, but there is still more work to do.

<sup>1</sup> Gender Inequality Index, UNDP Human Development Reports. <https://hdr.undp.org/en/indicators/68606>

<sup>2</sup> All gender statistics are from the UNDP Human Development Reports, see <https://hdr.undp.org/en/countries/profiles/LAO>

## Youth Participation in Development Decision-Making

Lao PDR has one of the youngest populations in ASEAN, with over half (50.8%) of the population being between the age of 10 and 35 years.<sup>3</sup> The 2015 census showed that 80% of people aged 6-16 years were attending school, although 7% of the same age group had never attended school. Full and active participation and inclusion of and youth in all – political, economic, social, cultural and environmental – dimensions of society will not only place Lao PDR in an advantageous direction beyond the achievement of the SDGs, but will also contribute to building human capital and harnessing the demographic dividend in the years to come.

**50.8%** of the  
population between the age of  
10 to 35 years

<sup>3</sup> Lao PDR Statistics Bureau 2015.

# 06

## RECENT AND ON-GOING INTERVENTIONS

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### Overview of recent and on-going development projects and interventions

#### BUILDING CLIMATE AND DISASTER RESILIENCE CAPACITIES OF VULNERABLE SMALL TOWNS IN LAO PDR

2019 - 2024



#### ENHANCING THE CLIMATE AND DISASTER RESILIENCE OF THE MOST VULNERABLE RURAL AND EMERGING URBAN HUMAN SETTLEMENTS IN LAO PDR

2016 - 2023



#### BUILDING CLIMATE RESILIENCE OF URBAN SYSTEMS THROUGH ECOSYSTEM-BASED ADAPTATION (EBA) IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION

2019 - 2023



#### SAFER CITIES: INTERVENTIONS AGAINST THE RECENT COMMUNITY OUTBREAK OF COVID-19 IN LAO PDR: FOCUSING ON QUARANTINE, ISOLATION, PROTECTION SHELTER, HEALTH CENTRES AND COMMUNITIES AT RISK

Joint Programme with UNFPA

2022 - 2023



#### TECHNICAL AND INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING INTERVENTIONS FOR THE REDUCTION OF CLIMATE CHANGE-INDUCED FLOODING

Under "Building Resilience of Urban Populations with Ecosystem-based Solutions in Lao PDR"

2021 - 2024



## Key Successes

### ■ Urban development

- The second Lao National Urban Forum (LNUF) was organized in 2023 in partnership with MPWT and several other line Ministries. Over 7 days, 19 thematic sessions led by Ministries, development partners, academia, and I/NGOs. The theme of the second LNUF was "Resilient urban economies: cities as drivers of growth and recovery".
- A paradigm shift in urban planning occurred as PTRI developed capacity, enabling the formulation of two city master plans in Savannakhet province that integrated climate risks and vulnerabilities.
- The enhancement of the awareness on smart city and the proposal of effective implementation mechanisms of the National Smart City Strategy were achieved through the National Smart City Strategy Workshop. This initiative aligns with localizing SDGs and the New Urban Agenda, and towards a technologically advanced and sustainable future in Lao PDR.

### ■ Climate change

- Strengthened the climate adaptation capacity at the national and sub-national levels by trainings combined with the field trips to deepen understandings of Ecosystem-based Solutions in urban planning.
- Updated the study on national climate vulnerability and risk assessment.

### ■ Basic services

- Contributed to the resilience building of 189 settlements, benefitting approximately 115,000 people, through improved access to water supply.
- 11,750 people gained access to the adequate WASH facilities through the rehabilitation of 10 health centres and shelters.
- The capability of healthcare infrastructure to respond to natural disasters and health emergencies has been strengthened through the development of the Lao PDR Hospital Safety Index (HSI) and related capacity building.





## 07

## PROGRAMMATIC ASPIRATION

The successful implementation of the Lao PDR country programme 2022-2026 is contingent on the availability of adequate resources. The estimated budget for the Lao PDR country programme 2022-2026 is around 30 million USD of which approximately 10 million USD is either secured or in the pipeline. UN-Habitat will continue to collaborate with donors, UN agencies and relevant development agencies for resource mobilization to raise the remaining 20 million USD to reach the 30 million USD target. In addition, enhanced cooperation and innovative approaches will be needed to encourage the involvement of wider development actors, particularly the private sector. Joint



## 30M USD

The estimated budget for the Lao PDR country programme 2022-2026

efforts are required from the Government of Lao PDR and the private sector to strengthen the Public-Private Partnership toward solving development challenges in the areas of mutual interest, as the NUA advocates for maximizing access to additional sources and improving the financial conditions for urban development.

Additional resource mobilization in support of the implementation of the country programme will be driven by specific requests from the Government of Lao PDR, including follow up phases of ongoing initiatives. Possible new projects on local planning support, housing, land management, smart cities, climate change mitigation and air quality will be explored with development partners including United Nations sister agencies. Policy advisory support has been requested for SDG localization, NUA implementation and monitoring including National Urban Fora and urban policy formulation and is currently only partially funded.



Vangvieng, 2023. [UN-HABITAT]



## Policy and Strategic Frameworks

### International Frameworks for the Country Programme 2022 - 2026

**TABLE 2** International Frameworks for the Country Programme 2022 - 2026

Policy Framework	Description	Relevance to Lao PDR Country Programme 2022-2026
UN-Habitat Strategic Plan 2020-2023	Focuses on commitments to advance sustainable urbanization as a driver of development and peace, to improve living conditions for all, in line with the SDG principle of "leave no one behind", SDG 11, and the NUA through four mutually reinforcing and integrated DOCs.	Domain of Change (DOC) 1 (Reduced spatial inequality and poverty in communities across the urban-rural continuum); DOC 2 (Enhanced shared prosperity of cities and regions); DOC 3 (Strengthened climate action and improved urban environment); and DOC 4 (Effective urban crisis prevention and response).
Our Common Agenda (adopted in 2020)	The Secretary-General's report that looks ahead to the next 25 years. It presents 12 areas of actions identified by the Member States to be achieved through reinvigorated multilateralism. <sup>1</sup>	Areas of actions 1 (Leave No One Behind); 2 (Protect Our Planet); 5 (Place Women & Girls at the Center); and 9 (Ensure Sustainable Financing).
The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development	A collection of 17 interlinked SDGs <sup>2</sup> to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all, established in 2015 by the UN General Assembly Resolution.	SDGs 5 (Gender Equality); 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation); 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities); and 13 (Climate Action)
New Urban Agenda	Mobilizes Member States and key stakeholders to drive sustainable urban development at local level, particularly in line with SDG 11. Adopted at the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) in 2016.	Sustainable urban development; basic services; climate change adaptation, mitigation, and resilience.
Paris Agreement on climate change	A legally binding international treaty on climate change that entered into force in 2016. With the goal to limit global warming, it works on a five-year cycle of increasingly ambitious climate action to be implemented by countries and their plan of actions set out in Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).	Green growth, natural resources management and resilience.
UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2022-2026	The most important instrument for planning and implementation of UN activities at country level that is evidence-based and developed upon the Common Country Analysis and the evaluation of the 2017-2021 Lao PDR-UN Partnership Framework. Defined by four strategic priorities <sup>3</sup> while ensuring alignment with the 9th NSEDP.	Strategic priorities 1 (People's Wellbeing); 2 (Inclusive Prosperity); 3 (Governance and Rule of Law); and 4 (Environment, Climate Change, and Resilience).

1 12 areas of actions of Our Common Agenda are as follows: 1) Leave No One Behind; 2) Protect Our Planet; 3) Promote Peace & Prevent Conflict; 4) Abide by International Law & Ensure Justice; 5) Place Women & Girls at the Center; 6) Build Trust; 7) Improve Digital Cooperation; 8) Upgrade the United Nations; 9) Ensure Sustainable Financing; 10) Boost Partnerships; 11) Listen to & Work with Youth; 12) Be Prepared

2 17 SDGs are as follows: 1 (No Poverty); 2 (Zero hunger); 3 (Good health and well-being); 4 (Quality Education); 5 (Gender Equality); 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation); 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy); 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth); 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure); 10 (Reduced Inequalities); 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities); 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production); 13 (Climate Action); 14 (Life Below Water); 15 (Life on Land); 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions); and 17 (Partnerships for the Goals). Lao PDR has also adopted the SDG 18: Lives Safe from UXO, as the country remains one of the most heavily bombed countries in the world and the presence of UXO continues to kill and injure many people and negatively affects the socio-economic development of the country.

3 Four strategic priorities of the UNSCDF 2022-2026 are as follows: Strategic priority 1 (People's Wellbeing); 2 (Inclusive Prosperity); 3 (Governance and Rule of Law); and 4 (Environment, Climate Change, and Resilience).

## National Frameworks for the Country Programme 2022 - 2026

TABLE 3 National Frameworks for the Country Programme 2022 - 2026

Policy Framework	Description	Relevance to Lao PDR Country Programme 2022-2026
9th National Socio-Economic Development Plan 2021-2025	The guiding document for national development priorities and strategies for 2021-2025, structured around six outcomes, <sup>1</sup> developed with support from the UN through consultations with provinces, civil society, and development partners.	Outcomes 3 (Enhanced well-being of the people); 4 (Environmental protection enhanced and disaster risks reduced); 5 (Engagement in regional integration is enhanced with robust infrastructure and effective utilization of national potential and geographic advantages); and 6 (Public governance and administration is improved, and society is equal, fair, and protected by the rule of law).
National Urban Development Strategy 2021-2030	MPWT's vision for the next ten years, outlining the foundations and priority activities to make cities and urban settlements smart, beautiful, green, clean, peaceful, safe, and livable.	Basic services; WASH; sustainable urbanization; and climate change.
National Green Growth Strategy of the Lao PDR until 2030	Outlines key strategies to strengthen the "balance between economic expansion, environmental protection and social development to ensure the maintenance of high, stable, sustained and durable economic growth" <sup>2</sup> through 7 priority sectors and 4 cross-cutting areas to integrate green growth into sectoral/local policies.	Green growth; natural resources management and resilience; climate change; and disaster reduction.
9-year Sectoral Development Strategy on Water Supply and Sanitation (2022-2030)	Aims to ensure constant growth, stability, greenness and sustainability in the water supply and sanitation sector, to also ensure effective implementation towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in 2030, and to implement the 11th Lao People's Revolutionary Party Congress Meeting's resolutions and the 9th NSEDP (2021-2025)	Access for all to safe water and improved sanitation
The Fourth-Five Year National Plan of Action on Gender Equality (2021-2025)	Integrates numerous national and international commitments, laws, strategies and plans to promote women's advancement and gender equality and the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women	Gender is one of UN-Habitat's four social inclusion dimensions and, as such, gender equality and the elimination of gender-based discrimination are priorities in UN-Habitat's programming.
National Strategy on Disaster Risk Reduction 2021-2030	Consists of a vision and goals for 2030, seven key strategies and twelve objectives to achieve DRR, of which Objective 5 relates to the enforcement of building and construction codes. Each of these objectives also sets out the priority focus areas for implementation from 2021-2030.	Resilience, climate change and disaster reduction

<sup>1</sup> Six outcomes of the 9th NSEDP are as follows: Outcome 1: Continuous quality, stable and sustainable economic growth achieved; 2: Improved quality of human resources to meet development, research capacity, science and technology needs, and create value-added production and services; 3: Enhanced well-being of the people; 4: Environmental protection enhanced and disaster risks reduced; 5: Engagement in regional integration is enhanced with robust infrastructure and effective utilization of national potential and geographic advantages; and 6: Public governance and administration is improved, and society is equal, fair, and protected by the rule of law.

<sup>2</sup> The Government of Lao PDR, p.1.





*“Urbanization has a prominent place in the UNSDCF of Lao PDR, and UN-Habitat, as the urban development output lead, is tasked to effectively support coordinated action towards sustainable urban development”.*

*Maimunah Mohd Sharif  
Executive Director, UN-Habitat*

*“There is a need to build capacity through the relevant sectors at both national and sub-national levels and I appreciate the comprehensive nature of UN-Habitat's programmes which involve policy support, capacity building at all levels, and pilot projects to showcase best practices which are adapted to the Lao context”.*

*H.E. Mr. Khamjane Vongphosy  
Planning and Investment Minister, Lao PDR*



*“I sincerely thank UN-Habitat for having this housing project for the affected people in Attapeu province and I wish all people involved success in their lives”.*

*Mr. Xon, a villager in Sanamxay, Attapeu  
Beneficiary from the Rehabilitation and Reconstruction of Housing  
Project in Flood Affected Areas of Lao PDR*



# PLANNED INTERVENTIONS





## 08

## PLANNED INTERVENTIONS

**ENHANCING ADAPTIVE CAPACITY IN LAO PDR PROVINCES,  
AND BUILDING RESILIENT HOUSING IN VULNERABLE  
COMMUNITIES**

Build climate resilience in vulnerable, poor communities in 6 provinces in Lao PDR through improving provincial adaptation coordination and capacity, and through building resilience in housing

**CRISIS RESPONSE AND RECOVERY IN NATURAL DISASTER-  
AFFECTED PROVINCES IN LAO PDR**

Strengthen climate change adaptation planning by developing a tool to help improve disaster risk management and climate resilience within Lao human settlementsing resilience in housing

**BUILDING SAFER, RESILIENT AND GENDER-FRIENDLY  
URBAN AREAS ALONG ECONOMIC CORRIDORS IN LAO PDR**

Accelerate the development of safer and resilient urban areas along economic corridors with adequate and sustainable WASH facilities, gender-responsive support, and women-friendly public spaces

**FIGURE 3** Planned intervention map, provinces of Lao PDR



# PROPOSAL 01 ENHANCING ADAPTIVE CAPACITY IN LAO PDR PROVINCES, AND BUILDING RESILIENT HOUSING IN VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES

Build climate resilience in vulnerable, poor communities in 6 provinces in Lao PDR through improving provincial adaptation coordination and capacity, and through building resilience in housing

### Outcomes and impact

- Developed climate resilient urban planning and capacity to conduct and update vulnerability assessments in government institutions.
- Established the access of targeted beneficiaries to shelters, climatic information and early warning of impending hazards
- Enhanced knowledge and awareness of climate change and adaptation in different levels; the officials at national and subnational levels; and town populations.

### SDGs Alignment

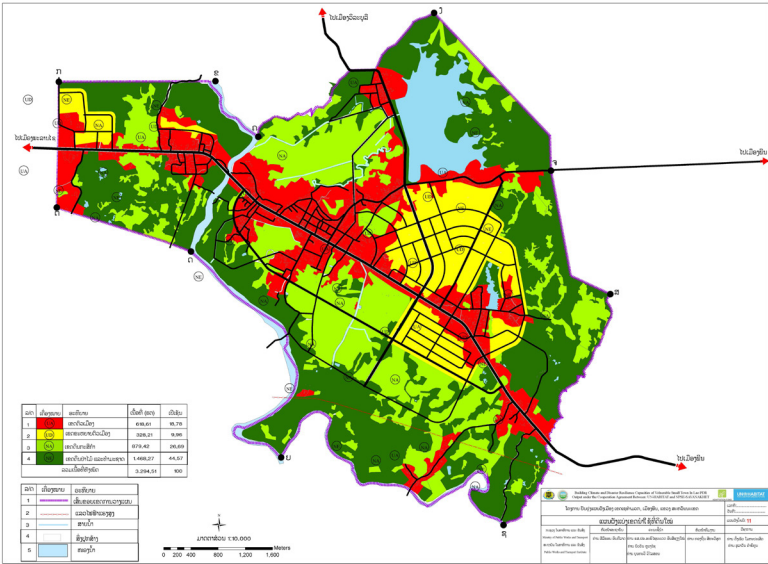


### Estimated budget

USD 7.5 million

### Duration

4 years



Town-Level Climate Resilient Master Plan. [UN-HABITAT]

## PROPOSAL 02 CRISIS RESPONSE AND RECOVERY IN NATURAL DISASTER-AFFECTED PROVINCES IN LAO PDR

The project aims to improve climate risk resilience by investing in infrastructure and services that can withstand natural disasters and minimize their impact on communities.

### Outcomes and impact

- Enhanced Disaster Preparedness
- Improved Emergency Response
- Sustainable Recovery and Reconstruction
- Strengthened Community Resilience
- Enhanced Coordination and Collaboration



### SDGs Alignment



### Estimated budget

USD 2.5 million

### Duration

12 months



## PROPOSAL 03 BUILDING SAFER, RESILIENT AND GENDER-FRIENDLY URBAN AREAS ALONG ECONOMIC CORRIDORS IN LAO PDR

This project aims to accelerate the development of safer and resilient urban areas along economic corridors with adequate and sustainable WASH facilities, Gender-responsive support, and women-friendly public spaces.

### Outcomes and impact

- Strengthened community resilience with adequate WASH equipment, protection, safety measures and essential health services.
- Enhanced multi-stakeholder inclusion and coordination to develop a comprehensive policy and legal framework for safer and more inclusive urban areas.
- Improved availability and use of population-centred disaggregated data for urban planning and design decisions that captures the needs of women and other vulnerable groups in the urban trends and projections within the reality of climate change.
- Strengthened multi-stakeholder understanding and cooperation for co-creating cities that are women-friendly and provision of gender-sensitive services.
- Developed pilot urban basic services projects at the local scale considering gender, environment, and climate.

### SDGs Alignment



### Estimated budget

USD 6 million

### Duration

3 years





## Other Planned Interventions

01

### URBAN DEVELOPMENT

- **ADVANCING SMART CITIES IN LAO PDR**  
[ B: 3 Million USD; D: 3 Years ]
- **LAO NATIONAL URBAN FORUM**  
[ B: 20,000 USD; D: Annually ]
- **RESPONSE TO THE GOVERNMENT OF LAO PDR REQUEST IN SUPPORT OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NSEDP**  
[ B: To be determined; D: 5 Years ]

02

### CLIMATE CHANGE

- **ADVANCING LAO PDR'S NATIONAL ADAPTATION PLAN**  
[ B: 2 Million USD; D: 3 Years ]
- **MULTI-HAZARD RISK AND HOSPITAL SAFETY INDEX IN LAO PDR**  
[ B: 0.21 Million USD; D: 7 Months ]
- **URBAN LOW EMISSION DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES**  
[ B: 2 Million USD; D: 3 Years ]
- **RESPONSE TO GOVERNMENT OF LAO PDR REQUESTS IN SUPPORT OF IMPLEMENTING THE NDC AND OTHER CLIMATE CHANGE FRAMEWORKS**  
[ B: To be determined; D: 4 years ]
- **VIENTIANE FLOOD MANAGEMENT**  
[ B: 1.1 Million USD; D: 2 Years ]

03

### SDG LOCALIZATION

- **VOLUNTARY LOCAL REVIEW (VLR)**  
[ B: 0.6 Million USD; D: 2 Years ]

04

### BASIC SERVICES

- **COMMUNITY-BASED WATER SUPPLY AND WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT**  
[ B: 6 Million USD; D: 5 Years ]

05

### RESEARCH

- **STATE OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS IN LAO PDR**  
[ B: 1.1 Million USD; D: 2 Years ]



## 01 URBAN DEVELOPMENT

### ADVANCING SMART CITIES IN LAO PDR:

The project promotes sustainable urban development and enhances life quality for citizens in Lao PDR. By leveraging advanced technologies and data-driven solutions, the project will foster innovation, improve urban infrastructure, and enable efficient service delivery to create smart, inclusive, and resilient cities.

**LAO NATIONAL URBAN FORUM:** The LNUF aims to provide a platform for dialogue and collaboration among urban stakeholders, allowing for discussion and sharing of experiences on urbanization challenges and opportunities.

## 02 CLIMATE CHANGE

**ADVANCING LAO PDR'S NATIONAL ADAPTATION PLAN (NAP) THROUGH CLIMATE CHANGE VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENTS FOR DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT IN HUMAN SETTLEMENTS:** Strengthen climate change adaptation planning by developing a tool to help improve disaster risk management and climate resilience within Lao human settlements

**NATIONAL ASSESSMENT OF MULTI-HAZARD RISK AND CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE UNDER CLIMATE CHANGE AND DEVELOPMENT AND PILOT-TESTING OF LAO PDR HOSPITAL SAFETY INDEX:** Hospitals and health centres in Lao PDR are resilient to the impacts of natural disasters and cascading risks.

**IMPLEMENTING URBAN LOW EMISSION DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES (URBAN-LEDS) FOR GREEN AND HEALTHY CITIES:** The project aims to expand the model cities with Urban-LEDS to additional big cities such as Vientiane Capital and Luang Prabang City where the significant development and activities are happening in the field.

## 03 SDG LOCALIZATION

**THE LOCALIZATION OF SDGS AND VOLUNTARY LOCAL REVIEW (VLR):** This project is to assess their progress toward the SDGs and identify areas where more work is needed by using an effective tool of VLR.

## 04 BASIC SERVICES

**COMMUNITY-BASED WATER SUPPLY AND WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT PROJECTS IN RURAL SETTLEMENTS AND EMERGING TOWNS IN LAO PDR: ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE HAZARDS AND VULNERABILITY:** This project is to improve the quality and quantity of water supply and wastewater management in vulnerable areas. This will enhance water resources and wastewater management governance, as well as build community resilience to climate change and natural disasters

## 05 RESEARCH

**STATE OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS IN LAO PDR:** The project is to carry out a national research study to identify different typologies of Laos settlements and explore their characteristics. The analysis will also look into areas of planning, economy, housing, connectivity, governance, etc. besides resilience (climate change, etc.).

## Other Planned Interventions

### Alignment with key International and National Frameworks

Outputs	Alignment with UNSCDF	Alignment with 9th NSEDP	Alignment with UN-Habitat Strategic Plan	Alignment with SDGs
Urban Development	Strategic Priority 2	Outcomes 1, 3 and 5	DOCs 1 and 2	SDGs 5, 11 and 17
Climate Change	Strategic Priority 4	Outcome 4	DOCs 1, 3, 4	SDGs 5, 6, 11, 13, 14 and 15
Basic Services	Strategic Priority 1	Outcome 3	DOC 1	SDGs 5, 6, and 11
SDGs Localization & Research	Strategic Priority 1, 2, 3 and 4	Outcome 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6	DOC 1, 2, 3 and 4	SDG 1 - 18

#### UNSCDF Strategic Priorities

1. People's Wellbeing
2. Inclusive Prosperity
3. Governance and Rule of Law
4. Environment, Climate Change, and Resilience

#### UN-Habitat Strategic Plan

- DOC 1: Reduced spatial inequality and poverty in communities across the urban–rural continuum
- DOC 2: Enhanced shared prosperity of cities and regions
- DOC 3: Strengthened climate action and improved urban environment
- DOC 4: Effective urban crisis prevention and response

#### Sustainable Development Goals in Lao PDR



#### 9th NSEDP Outcomes

1. Continuous quality, stable and sustainable economic growth achieved
2. Improved quality of human resources to meet development, research capacity, science and technology needs, and create value-added production and services
3. Enhanced well-being of the People
4. Environmental protection enhanced and disaster risks reduced
5. Engagement in regional and international cooperation and integration is enhanced with robust infrastructure and effective utilisation of national potential and geographic advantages
6. Public governance and administration is improved, and society is equal, fair, and protected by the rule of law





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