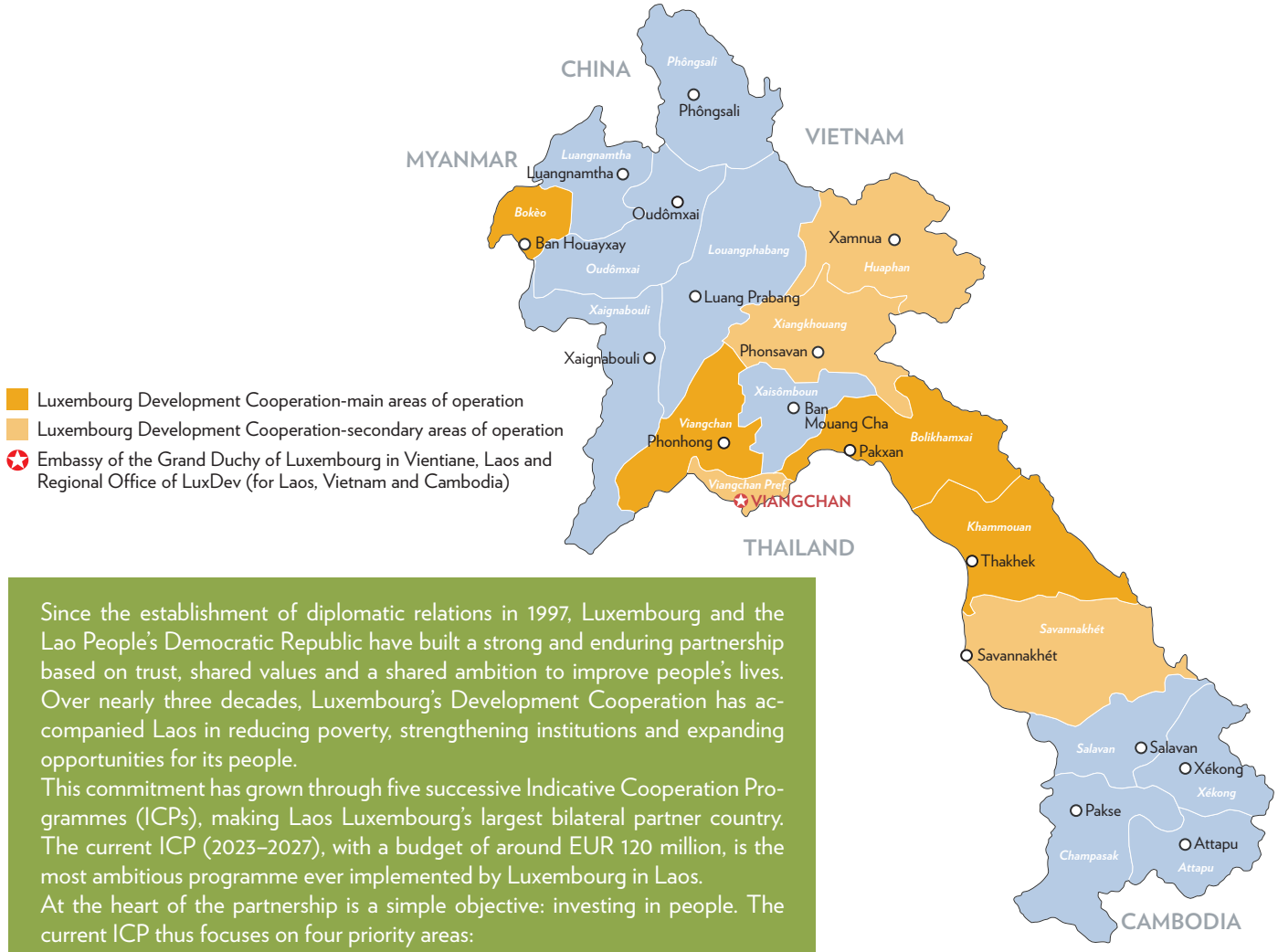


Lao People's Democratic Republic

LUXEMBOURG
AID & DEVELOPMENT

LUXEMBOURG DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION IN LAOS





Since the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1997, Luxembourg and the Lao People's Democratic Republic have built a strong and enduring partnership based on trust, shared values and a shared ambition to improve people's lives. Over nearly three decades, Luxembourg's Development Cooperation has accompanied Laos in reducing poverty, strengthening institutions and expanding opportunities for its people.

This commitment has grown through five successive Indicative Cooperation Programmes (ICPs), making Laos Luxembourg's largest bilateral partner country. The current ICP (2023–2027), with a budget of around EUR 120 million, is the most ambitious programme ever implemented by Luxembourg in Laos.

At the heart of the partnership is a simple objective: investing in people. The current ICP thus focuses on four priority areas:

- health and nutrition;
- local development;
- skills development and employability;
- good governance, the rule of law and access to justice.

These interventions are complemented by a strong focus on gender equality, human rights, climate resilience and environmental sustainability.

As Laos prepares to graduate from Least Developed Country status, the partnership enters a new chapter. Rooted in nearly three decades of cooperation, it continues to evolve in response to emerging priorities while remaining focused on sustainable development and improved opportunities for communities across the country. Together with LuxDev, UN agencies, civil society organisations, academic institutions and private sector actors, the partnership promotes resilience, supports locally driven solutions and is guided by a shared commitment to leave no one behind.

HISTORY

1997 — Establishment of diplomatic relations between the Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR) and the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg

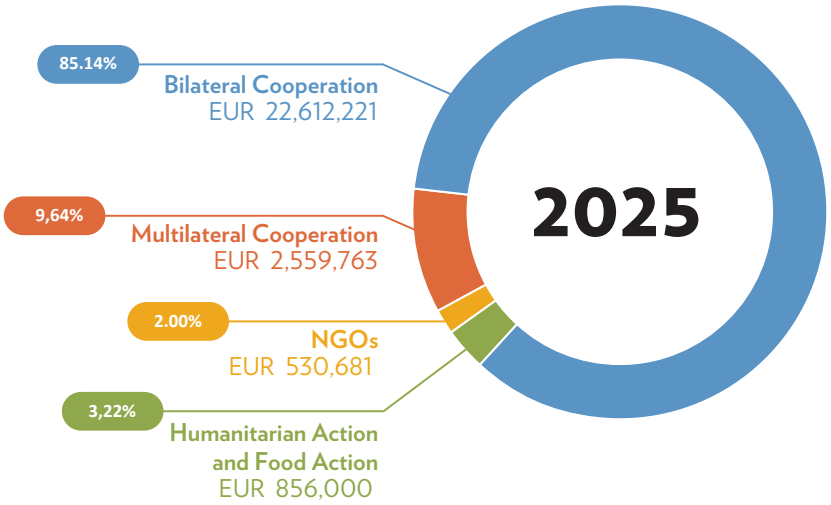
2000 — Signature of the 1st General Cooperation Agreement

2003 — Signature of the 1st ICP (2003- 2006) for EUR 18 million

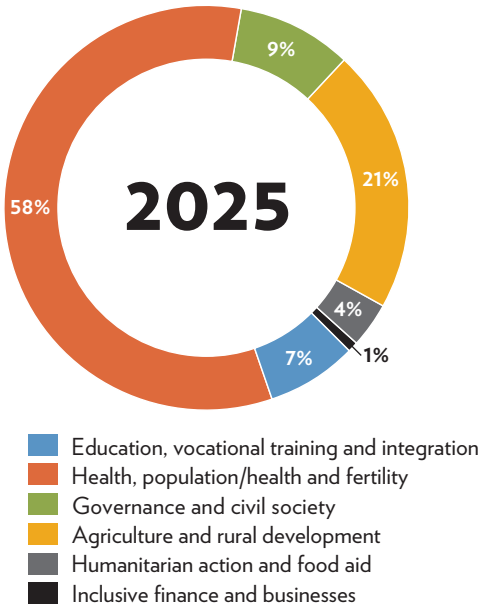
2007 — Signature of the 2nd ICP (2007- 2010) for EUR 35 million

DISTRIBUTION OF OFFICIAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE (ODA) IN 2025

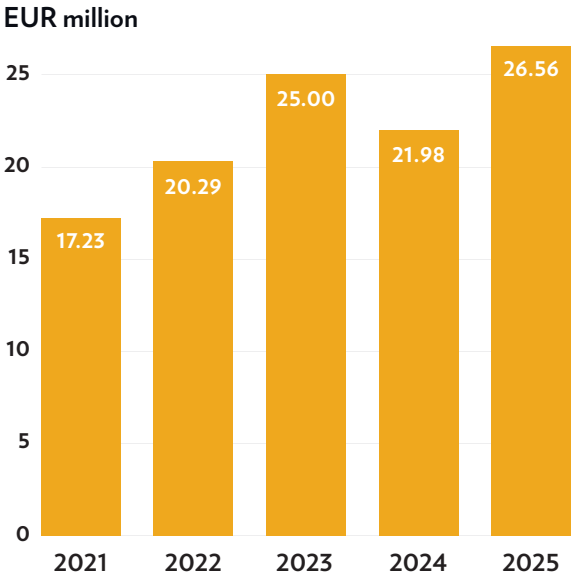
Laos 2025: EUR 26.56 million



SECTORAL DISTRIBUTION



EVOLUTION OF FUNDS DISBURSED



Signature of the 3rd ICP (2011- 2015) for EUR 50 million

Signature of the 4th ICP (2016- 2021) for an initial budget of EUR 60 million and subsequently increased to EUR 99 million. This ICP was extended until the end of 2022

Opening of the Embassy of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg in Vientiane

Signature of the 5th ICP (2023- 2027), initially budgeted at EUR 95 million and subsequently increased to over EUR 115 million in 2025

2011 — 2015 — 2016 — 2021

HEALTH AND NUTRITION



Since 1997, Luxembourg Development Cooperation has been a trusted partner of Lao PDR in strengthening the national health system and expanding access to quality healthcare. Working alongside government institutions, health professionals and local communities, the partnership seeks to ensure that essential health services reach those who need them most, particularly women, children, ethnic minorities and populations living in remote and rural areas.

Maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health remains at the heart of this cooperation. Under the ICP V, nutrition has been further integrated into health interventions to help address persistent malnutrition and improve health outcomes for women and children.

Over nearly three decades, the partnership has contributed to stronger health services, a more skilled health workforce, improved healthcare infrastructure and greater access to specialised care. These efforts are helping to build a more resilient and efficient health system capable of responding to the country's evolving needs.

Key areas of intervention include:

- strengthening reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health services;
- improving the quality of care and healthcare infrastructure in district and provincial hospitals;
- building the capacities of health professionals through scholarships, specialised training and continuous professional development;
- strengthening medical, nursing and health management capacities;
- expanding access to safe blood transfusion services and reliable vaccine cold-chain systems;
- providing specialised expertise in cardiology and other priority health fields; and
- supporting the digitalisation of health services through electronic medical records and strengthened health information systems.

Partners: LuxDev, UNFPA, WHO, UNICEF, ILO, Luxembourg Institute of Health, Institut Pasteur du Laos, Aide au Développement de la Santé (ADS), CARE, Humanity & Inclusion, Lao Red Cross

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS



Luxembourg Development Cooperation has been a longstanding partner of the Lao government in expanding access to quality Vocational Skills Development (VSD) opportunities, to young people, job seekers, and entrepreneurs, with a particular focus on women and youth from disadvantaged backgrounds. Recognising the strong potential of the tourism, hospitality, agriculture and forestry sectors to drive job creation and green growth, Lao-Luxembourg cooperation focuses on strengthening skills systems that respond to labour market needs while creating opportunities for those most at risk of being left behind.

Together with Switzerland and the European Union under the Team Europe framework, the partnership:

- strengthens the capacity of public and private VSD providers and policymakers;
- expands the availability and accessibility of VSD services, including through scholarships for disadvantaged students;
- aligns qualifications, curricula and training programmes with evolving labour market demands through stronger private sector engagement and increased quality and use of labour market data;
- facilitates the transition from training to employment, including entrepreneurship and self-employment;
- promotes the attractiveness of vocational education and training, particularly in the tourism, hospitality, agriculture and forestry sectors;
- advances digital innovation through investments in in digital and online VSD products and service delivery;

Partners: LuxDev, European Union, Swiss Development Cooperation

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT



Luxembourg's Local Development Programme supports the Lao Government in improving living conditions and expanding opportunities in rural areas. Co-financed by Switzerland and implemented with the Ministry of Finance's Department of Planning, the programme reaches 226 villages in 17 districts across four provinces.
The programme addresses key rural development challenges, including poverty, land tenure insecurity, deforestation, disaster risks, and low educational outcomes. Its priorities are to:

- promote participatory and inclusive local planning processes;
- strengthen community participation in development decisions and investments;
- build the capacities of central and local authorities to deliver responsive public services and infrastructure, while supporting policy dialogue on development challenges;
- create socio-economic opportunities and support sustainable rural livelihoods;
- improve the quality, accessibility, and resilience of public services and infrastructure at district and village levels;
- strengthen the resilience of vulnerable communities through disaster risk reduction measures, particularly in disaster-prone areas of Xieng Khouang and Houaphanh.

Partners: LuxDev, UNDP, UNODC, Caritas Luxembourg, CARE, ADA, GRET/Land Equity Int., Humanity & Inclusion

RULE OF LAW, ACCESS TO JUSTICE AND GOOD GOVERNANCE



Luxembourg partners with the Lao government to strengthen the rule of law, expand access to justice, and promote good governance to advance citizens' rights. Working with national institutions, Luxembourg supports the effective implementation of laws through stronger institutional capacities, legal and judicial reforms, greater public accountability, and improved legal education and awareness.
Cooperation focuses on five complementary areas:

- higher legal education: supporting curriculum reform, faculty development, research, digital learning, international cooperation, and Clinical Legal Education programmes;
- justice institutions: strengthening the capacities of prosecutors, judges, investigators, legal practitioners, and justice institutions in line with national laws and international standards;
- access to justice: supporting legal aid, legal awareness, mobile legal clinics, and Village Mediation Units, particularly for vulnerable groups;
- good governance and accountability: strengthening the National Assembly, Provincial People's Assemblies, and the State Audit Organisation;
- integrity and citizen participation: improving petition mechanisms and supporting anti-corruption efforts and institutional integrity.

Partners: LuxDev, UNI.lu, Institute for Legal Support and Technical Assistance (ILSTA)

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT



In addition to its bilateral, multilateral, academic and civil society initiatives, Luxembourg Development Cooperation supports regional programmes that address shared development challenges across South-East Asia and complement national efforts in Lao PDR. Key priorities include:

- promoting sustainable management of the Mekong basin while supporting inclusive economic development and environmental protection;
- securing equitable access to agricultural and forestry land for smallholder farmers, especially ethnic minorities;
- expanding social protection and healthcare coverage; and
- strengthening the social and environmental performance of microfinance institutions.

Partners: Mekong River Commission, GRET/Land Equity Int., ILO, WHO, Social Performance Task Force, LHoFT, ATTF/ House of Training

Projects Implemented under ICP V

1. BILATERAL COOPERATION

Title	Execution	Duration	Total Budget EUR
Support to the Triangular Cooperation in the Finance Sector between Vietnam, Laos and Luxembourg	LuxDev	2020-2023	500,000
Strengthening the Effectiveness of Official Development Assistance Management in Laos	LuxDev	2019-2024	1,300,000
Health and Nutrition Programme	LuxDev	2023-2028	50,462,343
Rule of Law, Access to Justice, and Good Governance, including inter-university cooperation and ILSTA	LuxDev	2023-2028	13,872,379
Local Development Programme	LuxDev	2023-2028	41,585,299
	LU	2023-2028	34,655,299
	CH	2023-2028	6,930,000
Skills for Tourism, Agriculture and Forestry Programme	LuxDev	2023-2027	26,180,000
	LU	2023-2028	10,000,000
	CH	2023-2028	8,180,000
	EU	2023-2028	8,000,000
Luxembourg — Laos Partnership for Research and Capacity Building in Infectious Disease Surveillance (PaReCIDS III)	LIH, Institut Pasteur du Laos (IPL), LaoLuxLab	2021-2026	3,129,394
Lao-Luxembourg Programme in Statistics – Phase II	STATEC, LSB	2021-2026	2,048,300
Financial sector trainings	ATTF/House of Training	2025-2027	108,289 (in 2025)

2. MULTILATERAL COOPERATION

Title	Execution	Duration	Total Budget EUR
UN Joint Programme on Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health (RMNCAH) in Lao PDR (Phase 3)	UNICEF, UNFPA, WHO	2022-2025	6,456,612
UN Joint Programme on Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health (RMNCAH) in Lao PDR (Phase 4)	UNICEF, UNFPA, WHO	2026-2030	8,300,000
Supporting Effectiveness and Efficiency in the UXO Sector to contribute to the achievement of SDG 18 and Safe Path Forward III (SPF III) and UXO Lao Operations in Khammouane Province	UNDP	2022-2027	2,500,000
Alternative Development in Huapanh (LAO/Z49)	UNODC	2022-2027	3,000,000 (MinFin)
Building Social Protection Floors for All: Support to the Extension of Social Health Protection in Asia	ILO	2022-2025	2,400,000
Inclusive, Resilient, and Integrated Social Health Protection across Asia - IRIS	ILO	2026-2030	3,500,000
EU-Luxembourg-Ireland-WHO Universal Health Coverage Partnership	WHO	2022-2024	8,800,000
Vaccine co-financing support to Lao PDR	UNICEF	2025-2026	757,569
UN Joint Programme on Green and Climate Finance	UNDP, UNEP, FAO, UN-HABITAT	2025-2028	2,000,000
Contribution to the 5th Population and Housing Census of Lao PDR	UNFPA	2024-2027	500,000
Accelerating Corporate Thematic Bond Issuance	Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI)	2024-2025	150,000 (MFEA, MECB, MinFin)
Mekong River Commission	Mekong River Commission (MCR)	2021-2025	1,000,000
Supporting policy dialogue on national health policies, strategies and plans in six countries (Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Mali, Lao PDR, Niger and Senegal) within the framework of the EU-Luxembourg-WHO Universal Health Coverage Partnership (UHC-P) - Phase IV	EU-LU-World Health Organisation	2025-2028	8,800,000

3. COOPERATION WITH NGOs

Title	Execution	Duration	Total Budget EUR
Primary education integration projects	Humanity & Inclusion Laos	2023-2027	MFEA Budget: EUR 640,000 Total budget: EUR 800,000
Health and nutrition projects	CARE Luxembourg	2024-2027	MFEA Budget: EUR 1,296,806 Total budget: EUR 1,621,007
Agro-Climate Information for the Adoption of Resilient Farming Practices by Women and Ethnic Minority Farmers in Southern Laos (ACIS III)	CARE Luxembourg	2019-2024	Budget MECB: EUR 400,000
Sangthong Green District Model project	CARE Luxembourg	2026-2029	Budget MECB: EUR 400,000

4. HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

Title	Execution	Duration	Total Budget EUR
Promoting multi-sectoral cooperation to improve implementation of the ten-year national strategy on disaster risk reduction	Fondation Caritas Luxembourg	2023-2024	807,500
Contributing to an ettective response to drought and flooding in the provinces of Xiengkhouang, Bolikhamxay and Khammouane	Fondation Caritas Luxembourg	15.09.2023-14.09.2023	300,000
Response to typhoon Yagi and related floods in Luang Namtha province	World Food Programme	2024	150,000
Response to typhoon Wipha	World Food Programme	2025	150,000
REACH – Promoting Resilience and Strengthening Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), Mine Action, and Health/Rehabilitation in Houaphanh Province	Humanity & Inclusion Luxembourg	2025	206,000
Mine Clearance, Land Release and Feasibility Study on Underwater UXO Contamination in Houaphanh Province	Humanity & Inclusion Luxembourg	2025	500,000

5. REGIONAL COOPERATION

Title	Execution	Duration	Total Budget EUR
Support to the Mekong River Commission (MRC)	Mekong River Commission (MRC)	2021-2025	1,000,000
Mekong Region Land Governance Project - Phase III	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), Land Equity International, GRET	2023-2025	1,500,000
Responsible Inclusive Finance Facility - South-East Asia (RIFF-SEA) (Laos, Mongolia, Cambodia and Vietnam)	Social Performance Task Force (SPTF)	2026-2027	141,000

IMPACT STORIES

FROM KNOWLEDGE TO HEALTHIER FUTURES

In remote communities in Sekong Province, mothers like Tik Savanh have seen first-hand how access to information and healthcare can change the course of a family's future. During her first pregnancy, she had limited access to maternal health services and little information on nutrition, safe pregnancy practices or childhood vaccination. Through Luxembourg-supported health awareness activities implemented by CARE Luxembourg and its partners, she gained knowledge about maternal and newborn health and received support to access essential services.

During her second pregnancy, she attended regular antenatal consultations, gave birth at a health facility and ensured that her child received recommended vaccinations. Inspired by this experience, she became a village health volunteer, helping other families access health services, improve nutrition and adopt healthier practices.

Today, she supports pregnant women across her community, promotes shared caregiving responsibilities and encourages families to seek timely care. Her experience illustrates how investing in local health awareness and community leadership can improve health outcomes, strengthen resilience and create lasting benefits for entire communities.


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FROM INCLUSION TO OPPORTUNITY

Across Houaphanh and Champasak provinces, children and young people with disabilities are gaining new opportunities to learn, participate and thrive through Luxembourg-supported inclusive education and rehabilitation initiatives implemented by Handicap International. For children like Phanit and Junior, specialised assessments, trained teachers and transitional classrooms have provided a pathway into education and a supportive environment tailored to their needs. Through these inclusive learning spaces, they are developing communication, social and daily living skills, building confidence and taking meaningful steps towards greater independence.

The impact extends beyond the classroom. For young people like Max, access to rehabilitation services, assistive devices and family support has improved mobility and participation in daily life. By strengthening local services, equipping families and creating more inclusive learning environments, these initiatives help ensure that children and young people with disabilities can realise their potential, while building more inclusive and resilient communities for all.


© Handicap international

FROM CLEARING LAND TO RESTORING FUTURES

Across northern Laos, unexploded ordnance (UXO) remains a barrier to safety, livelihoods and development decades after conflict. Through Luxembourg-supported initiatives implemented by Handicap International (HI), contaminated land is being cleared, communities are being made safer, and survivors are receiving the support they need to rebuild their lives. For people like Vannaly, a young deminer from Phongsaly Province, clearing hazardous land means returning safe farmland to communities and helping families recover productive livelihoods. For survivors like Chue Por, who lost an arm in a cluster munition accident as a teenager, access to rehabilitation and support has enabled him to regain mobility, rebuild his life and advocate for the rights of other survivors. Together, their experiences show how mine action and victim assistance can help communities recover, rebuild livelihoods and create safer futures.


© N. Lozano Juez-HI

RULE OF LAW, ACCESS TO JUSTICE AND GOOD GOVERNANCE

The Lao–Luxembourg partnership is delivering tangible results—stronger legal institutions, better legal education and justice closer to communities. Through the programme, our cooperation supports nationally led reforms marked by improved rule of law indicators and the National Assembly's adoption of significant laws. All curricula at the National University of Laos' Faculty of Law and Political Science have achieved AUN-QA accreditation, while new master's programmes at Champasak University's Faculty of Law and Administration have opened pathways to advanced study in southern Laos. Expanded legal aid services in targeted provinces are helping more people understand their rights and seek assistance. Village Mediation Units have also been strengthened as a frontline mechanism for resolving disputes and providing mediation services within communities.

Together, these achievements are building the foundations for lasting change: laws that work, institutions that serve and justice that people can access.



HEALTH AND NUTRITION PROGRAMME

Through the Health and Nutrition Programme, Luxembourg is supporting the Lao PDR Ministry of Health in strengthening provincial health systems and improving the availability, quality and affordability of essential health services. Working across four provinces, the programme combines investments in hospital infrastructure and medical equipment with health workforce development, quality improvement and strengthened maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health and nutrition services. By addressing both the conditions in which care is delivered and the capacities of health facilities and professionals to provide it, the programme contributes to a more responsive, equitable and resilient health system, with particular attention to the needs of women, children and underserved populations. This integrated approach aims to ensure that improved health services translate into better access to quality care and more sustainable health outcomes for the people of Laos.



LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

The programme puts rural communities at the centre of development, linking the priorities identified by villagers themselves with funding, technical support and stronger public services. Financed by Luxembourg and Switzerland, the Local Development Programme builds on a close and constructive cooperation with the Lao Ministry of Finance and provincial and district authorities to translate shared rural development goals into practical action. Across Bokeo, Vientiane, Bolikhamxay and Khammouan provinces, 15,000 community members from 226 villages have participated in local planning and budgeting, guiding investments in essential infrastructure, local services and livelihood activities. Since 2023, the programme has also widened access to financial services and supported local leaders and government staff to plan, manage and deliver development initiatives. Ongoing work in primary and pre-primary education, nutrition, disaster risk reduction and sustainable land and natural resources management is building on these achievements, strengthening community-led development and addressing the interconnected challenges facing rural families.







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