SUPPORT PROGRAMME FOR THE 8th NSEDP’s IMPLEMENTATION TOWARDS LDC GRADUATION, MIC TRANSITION AND SDGs ACHIEVEMENT

Project Description
Building on the success of the previous phase, this programme focuses on developing and strengthening individual and institutional capacities, to enable the Government to implement the 8th National Socio-Economic Development Plan (NSEDP) to address the challenges related to achieving graduation from status of Least Developed Country (LDC) by 2020’s, strengthen its position as a middle-income country (MIC) and progress towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.

Project Summary:
• **Duration:** April 2017 – December 2021
• **Geographic coverage:** National level
• **Focus areas:** Poverty reduction, development effectiveness, policy dialogue
• **Implementing partners:** Ministry of Planning and Investment in close collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
• **Partners:** The Government of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg (since 2017)

Firstly, there is a strong demand, at central and local levels of Government, for clearer linkages between planning and budgeting to enable authorities to ensure higher quality service delivery.

Secondly, the traditional relationship between Government and development partners has been changing in nature and is expected to keep evolving into an even stronger partnership.

Thirdly, the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030 calls for focused planning and implementation by the

![Stakeholder Engagement Workshop on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Photo: UNDP Lao PDR/Somlith Khounpaseuth](image)

![Lao PDR presenting the SDGs achievement at the 2018 High Level Political Forum. Photo: UNDP Lao PDR/Mayu Sakaguchi](image)

The programme aims to address three key challenges in Lao PDR:
Government and all development partners including civil society and private sector.

The focus on capacity development will thus result in an enhanced ability of the Government to formulate and implement plans, strategies and policies to achieve LDC graduation and cope with the associated impacts of the transition. The programme also ought to support the fulfilment of the vision of the Sustainable Development Goals, which advocates for policy coherence across sectors and across policy domains to ensure that sustainable development is advanced in an integrated manner in its social, economic and environmental dimensions. The programme thus contributes to improving coordination and breaking down silos between different national institutions involved in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, with local authorities, south-south partners, civil society and the private sector becoming increasingly important actors.

The overarching goals of the new programme are:

- Improved national capacity to plan, manage and monitor development results at regional, national and all sub-national levels;
- Increased efficiency and effectiveness of development cooperation and financing for development;
- Substantially improved planning and implementing of, and reporting on development cooperation;
- Improved quality of national statistics and research, allowing for increased evidence-based policy making and the overall better public accessibility of quality information;
- Enhanced gender mainstreaming in the national and provincial planning and women’s empowerment through poverty reduction and better livelihood related activities.

The programme has four thematic outputs and one cross-cutting theme:

**Output 1:** The Government, at central and provincial levels, has fully adopted results-based five-year/annual planning towards green growth and sustainable development and has taken steps to link planning with budgeting.

**Output 2:** The Government has stronger and diversified platforms for effective development partnerships in line with the Vientiane Declaration on Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (2016-2025).

**Output 3:** The Government has accelerated progress towards SDGs achievement.

**Output 4:** The Government has improved quality of national statistics and research, allowing for increased evidence-based policy making and the overall better public accessibility of quality information.

The programme has been designed based on the recommendations of the “Review and Assessment of the Support Programme to the Ministry of Planning and Investment” (June 2016), the “Country Analysis Report” (November 2015) and other analyses; is aligned with the UNDP Country Programme Document (2017-2021) and the Lao PDR-United Nations Partnership Framework (2017-2021).

**Main Objectives and Outcomes**

The key outcome expected from this programme is an improved capacity of the Government to implement and monitor the 8th NSEDP and formulate the 9th NSEDP, contributing to smooth LDC graduation, MIC transition and achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

**Funding:**

- **Total project budget:** USD 10,000,000

Through the Vientiane Declaration (2016-2025), the Government of Lao PDR aims at diversifying strong partnerships for enhanced development effectiveness aligned with the U.N.’s moto “leaving no one behind”.

**2018 Round Table Meeting in Vientiane. Photo: UNDP Lao PDR/Olga Nilova**

- SDGs booth at the 2018 Round Table Meeting. Photo: UNDP Lao PDR/Olga Nilova
**Cross-cutting theme:** Gender equality and women’s empowerment.

**Partnerships**

The Ministry of Planning and Investment will be the main implementing partner in close collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. For all activities, the ten Sector Working Groups (SWG), reporting to through the Round Table Process, play a crucial role. These for a allow renewed partnerships, new ones forged and grounded – partnerships that are essential to address the complex and cross-cutting challenges Lao PDR is facing looking towards 2030 and beyond and also considering climate change and recurrent natural shocks that also need to be addressed in terms of planning/budgeting for recovery.

National development will also require strong partnerships with the private sector and civil society, in order for these sectors to be increasingly engaged in identifying priority actions and investments as well as in implementation.

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