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Reducing Vulnerability in Lao People's Democratic Republic: Advancing Social Protection and Labour Rights and Entitlements in the Coffee, Tea and Forestry Sectors (SOLAR) - Phase II

SOLAR II is part of the Team Europe Partnership for Increasing Investment, Connectivity and Trade in Agriculture and Forestry (TICAF)

May 2026

A farmer picks coffee cherries in southern Lao PDR © Phoonsab Thevongsas/ILO

At a glance



Duration

24 February 2026 – 23 April 2030



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Target beneficiaries

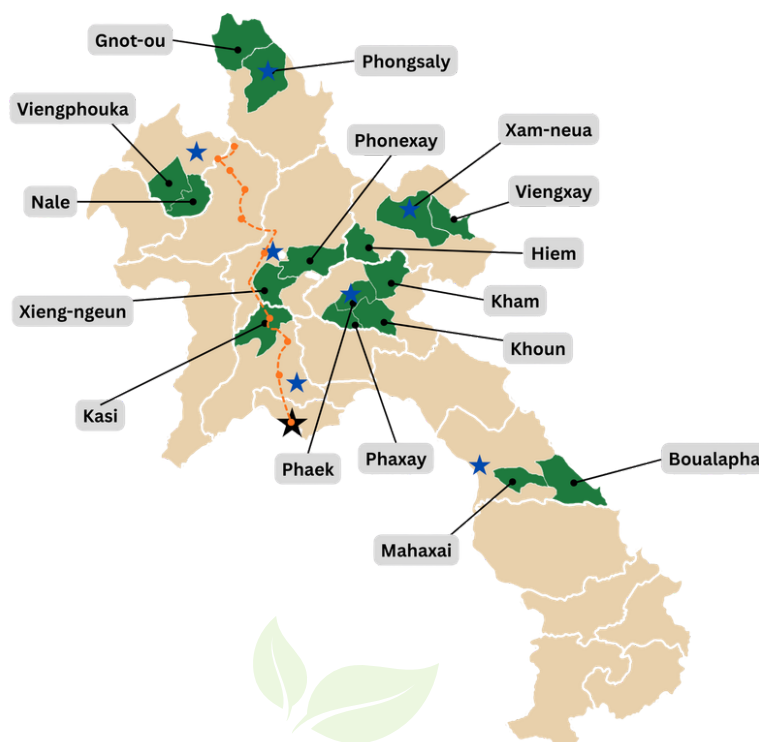
32,000 coffee, tea and forestry sector workers in 16 districts across 7 provinces of Lao PDR (with at least 50% women, 25% ethnic persons)



Partners

- ▶ Government: Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, Lao Social Security Organization, local authorities
- ▶ Workers: Lao Federation of Trade Unions, cooperatives, producer groups
- ▶ Private sector: Lao National Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Lao Coffee Association, tea and forestry associations, SMEs, buyers
- ▶ Oxfam
- ▶ Civil society organizations
- ▶ Village and community leaders

Geographical focus



► Project Objectives

Overall Objective: To contribute to green, sustainable and inclusive growth through increased domestic production, processing, exports, national revenue, and decent job creation in the coffee, tea, and wood value chains, while supporting Lao PDR to deliver on its Nationally Determined Contribution.

Specific Objective: Improved district-level social protection and occupational safety and health services in the coffee, tea and forestry sectors, with focus on informal workers and women, including worker organization and empowerment to uphold labour rights.

► Main Activities

The activities are rooted in the SOLAR multi-stakeholder partnership model and community-based action, organised into the following clusters:

- Adaptation and expansion of successful pilots from SOLAR I
- Direct training and sensitization of farmers and villagers on labour rights and social security
- Capacity building and technical support for improved management and administration within farmers' groups
- Training of trainers for local authorities, village leaders, civil society, local media
- Learning from other provinces and countries
- Evidence-based policy and technical advice at national platforms

► Expected Outputs

- **Output 1.1.** Pilot measures implemented and promoted to improve the enforcement of the Social Security Law and Labour Law by provincial and district labour and social security offices.
- **Output 1.2.** Recommendations developed and advocated to strengthen policy and institutional frameworks for social protection and labour rights, with focus on informal workers.
- **Output 1.3.** Increased awareness of the benefits of social security registration and labour rights and entitlements among men and women working in the coffee, tea and forestry sectors.
- **Output 1.4.** Enhanced capacities of mass organizations, local authorities, sectoral associations, civil society, producer groups, and local media to advocate for informal workers in the coffee, tea and forestry sectors to access their rights to social protection, occupational safety and health, and other labour related entitlements.
- **Output 1.5.** Improved organization and preparedness of informal women workers in the coffee, tea, and forestry sectors, through strengthened leadership and management skills.



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