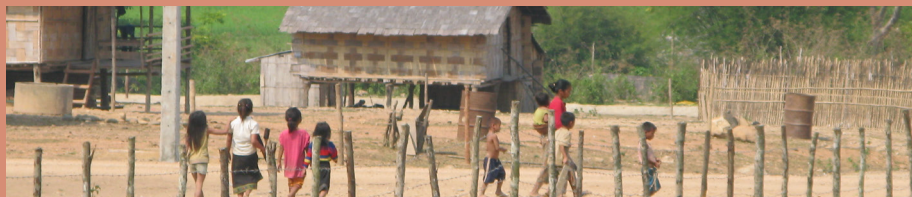


Rural Employment for Poverty Reduction in Lao People's Democratic Republic



AT A GLANCE

→ Partners

Government of Lao PDR: Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare (MoLSW), Ministry of Planning and Investment (MPI), Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF), Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoIC), Lao National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LNCCI), Lao Federation of Trade Unions (LFTU), Lao Women's Union (LWU), Provincial authorities of Savannakhet and Sekong provinces

→ Donor

Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and Arab Gulf Programme for Development (AGFUND)

→ Duration

Phase 1: 2014-2016

Phase 2: 2017-2020

→ Target beneficiaries

Savannakhet and Sekong Provincial and District authorities and cluster villages, National Agencies (MoLSW, MPI, MAF, MoIC, LFTU, LNCCI, LWU), TVET institutions and enterprises

→ Geographical focus

Savannakhet: 15 villages of 2 districts

Sekong: 16 villages of 2 districts



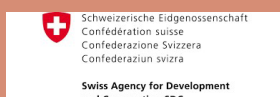
PROJECT OBJECTIVES

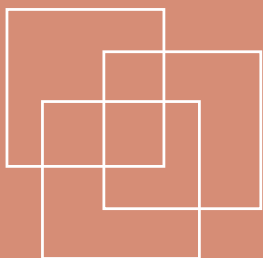
The current ILO Decent Work Country Programme (DWCP) for Laos has among its objectives the following: "Participatory local development strategies for employment creation and livelihood improvement for rural men and women improved and implemented." Towards this end, the ILO collaborates with the Lao PDR government to develop a national rural employment strategy while implementing an integrated approach to rural employment and livelihood creation.

With funding support from ILO and Swiss Agency for Cooperation and Development (SDC), the ILO is implementing a three-year rural employment project entitled, "National rural employment strategy in Lao PDR towards increasing opportunities for decent and productive employment in rural areas." The project, which runs from 2017 to 2020, focuses on the target provinces of Sekong and Savannakhet.

At provincial and district levels, the project builds capacities of district/provincial officials and counterparts to mainstream rural employment promotion as a tool for poverty reduction and to improve governance of rural employment programmes. The project strengthens institutional capacity and governance of local authorities to support rural employment by involving them in all aspects of the project and through local partnerships and collaboration.

At national level the project promotes the development of a national rural employment policy – informed/guided by the project's outcomes at the provincial level – while integrating policies related to the labour law, working conditions, the national OSH programme, social protection systems and national skills standards.





Rural Employment for Poverty Reduction in Lao People's Democratic Republic



MAIN ACTIVITIES

1. Participatory Value Chain Assessment and Interventions; e.g.
 - a. Coffee development and livestock in Sekong Province using zero-waste technologies
 - b. Livestock and vegetable cultivation in Savannakhet Province
2. Skill development for employment and self-employment; e.g.
 - a. Basic and advanced motorcycle training in Sekong Province
 - b. Basic machine operation in Savannakhet Province
 - c. Core skills integrated in skills training
3. Community Infrastructure using labour-based technologies in Sekong Province, e.g.
 - a. Small-scale irrigation
 - b. Road maintenance and fish pond construction
4. Occupational Health and Safety training through ILO's participatory work improvement programmes for farmers and home-based workers
5. Gender mainstreaming programmes, such as GET Ahead (Gender and Entrepreneurship Together) training programme for women and men
6. Formulation of National Rural Employment Strategy for Lao PDR through a participatory drafting and consultation process

PROJECT OUTCOMES

At the village level:

- **Supporting selected value chains** involving products with potential for food security and income generation; support to market links, community and farmer groups, business development support and technical vocational education and training.
- **Improving community access and productive assets** in selected villages through community contracting using local resource-based approaches and employment-intensive methods.
- **Organizing rural skills training and entrepreneurship development** based on local economic opportunities and training need assessment.
- **Improving work conditions** conditions in the job supported and created through the value chain development, skills development, labour participation in community infrastructure works and occupational safety and health.

At the provincial/district level:

- **Strengthening institutional capacities and governance of local authorities** towards support to rural employment and poverty reduction by involving local authorities in all aspects of work through local partnership and joint work.

At the national level:

- **Enhancing capacity of national partners on employment creation strategies** in rural areas by involving them in economic and social interventions conducive to rural employment creation.
- **Supporting policy planning and programme development** for rural employment at the national level through a review of implementation experiences in the pilot provinces, with a view of identifying lessons learned as well as tools and approaches that contribute to a national rural employment strategy.

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