



## Supporting resilience of MSMEs in response to COVID-19

### At a glance

#### Donor Contribution:

Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)

#### Duration:

December 2020 - May 2022

#### Partner:

- ▶ Department of SME Promotion (DOSMEP) of the Ministry of Industry and Commerce (MOIC)
- ▶ Lao National Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the SME Service Center
- ▶ Network of BDS providers and financial institutions

#### Target beneficiaries:

MSME owners and aspiring entrepreneurs, including workers and their families affected by the economic downturn post-Covid

#### Geographic focus:

Vientiane and Luang Prabang Provinces (with scope for expansion to one more province)

The Lao economy, and the MSME sector in particular has been negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Lao MSME sector can play a vital role in responding to the economic impact of the pandemic and in driving a sustainable and resilient recovery.

The ILO project will support Lao MSMEs to survive this period, sustain themselves and look towards growth opportunities as outlined in the Lao PDR SME Strategy.

### Expected Outcome

MSMEs in Laos are more sustainable, resilient and generate economic and decent employment opportunities, contributing to Lao PDR's recovery from COVID-19

### Project Objectives

Women- and men-owned MSMEs and aspiring entrepreneurs have

- ▶ Increased access to financial services
- ▶ Increased access to COVID-19 related information
- ▶ Increased access to Business Development Services

### This will be done through

- ▶ Policy advice and recommendations on how to provide financial support to MSMEs during and after the COVID-19 crisis
- ▶ Support to financial institutions to enable increased access to finance for MSMEs
- ▶ A COVID-19 Business Resilience Helpdesk for MSMEs or support to existing platforms
- ▶ Dissemination of information on business resilience support available for MSMEs from various programmes
- ▶ Provision of needs based Business Development Services for business continuity and growth
- ▶ Lao Entrepreneurship Day to promote entrepreneurship to women and men in Lao PDR



The micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSME) sector in Laos constitutes the backbone for job creation and employment, accounting for more than 80 percent of employment in the country.

### Contact Information

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