

► Rural Employment Promotion Project

In Lao People's Democratic Republic

► At a glance

► Donors

Phase I: United States Agency for International Development (USAID)

► Key partners

Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare (MoLSW) Lao National Chamber of Commerce and Industries (LNCCI)
Lao Federation of Trade Unions (LFTU)

► Duration

Phase I: 2022-2027
Phase II: 2028-2031

► Geographical focus

Lao People's democratic Republic

Phase I: three target provinces, one from the North, one from Central and another from South

Phase II: two additional provinces

► Target beneficiaries

Macro level: MoLSW, Ministry of Planning and Investment (MPI), Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Lao National Chamber of Commerce and Industries, Lao Federation of Trade Union (LFTU).

Meso level: LNCCI, LFTU, Youth Union (YU), Women Union (WU), associations, private sector enterprises, cooperatives

Micro level: Women and men rural workers, persons with disabilities, youth, returned migrant workers and LGBTQI

Total target beneficiaries: Phase I: 7,500 people and Phase II: 17,500 people



► Background

Despite the high economic growth enjoyed by Lao People's Democratic Republic during the past decade (10-19), employment increased at a much lower rate. In the absence of job creation, rapid economic growth did not bring an equally high rate of poverty reduction and rather contributed to growing inequality. Underemployment and seasonality of jobs remains the most dominant features of rural labour markets. Development efforts are needed to accelerate inclusive growth—the type that creates better jobs and reduces poverty. The National Rural Employment Strategy (NRES) provides a comprehensive national framework to link sustainable, decent and productive rural job creation to Lao PDR's long-term national development vision and strategies.

The International Labour Organization (ILO) in partnership with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) aims to support the Government of Lao People's Democratic Republic as well as the employer's and worker's organizations in implementing the NRES through Rural Employment Promotion (REP) project.

► Project goal

Women and men, including persons with disabilities, youth, returned migrant workers and LGBTQI in rural areas have increased net income, productive employment through implementation of NRES.

To achieve this goal, the interventions are grouped under 3 components as follows:

Component 1: Upgrading TVET systems and employment services

Component 2: Strengthening market integration of primary producers, rural workers and enterprises

Component 3: Development of public-private sector capacities to facilitate rural employment, investment, and NRES implementation

► Project outcomes

Outcome 1: Rural women and men, including persons with disabilities, youth, returned migrant workers and LGBTQI enhance their employability and are effectively linked to decent employment opportunities especially in non-farm sectors.

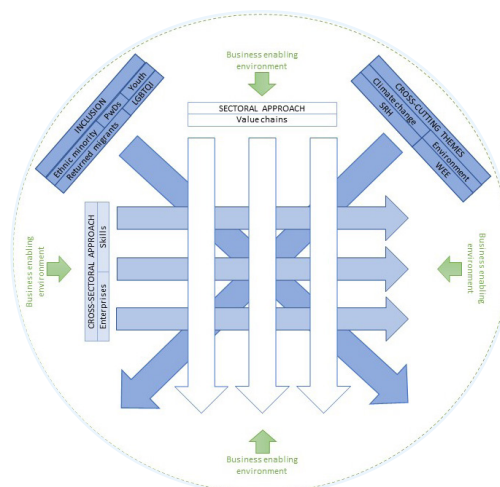
Outcome 2: Better employment opportunities are generated and increase in demand for labour of rural women and men, including persons with disabilities, youth, returned migrant workers and LGBTQI

Outcome 3: Government and relevant private business membership organizations including trade unions have the skills and competencies to facilitate rural employment, investment, and NRES implementation.

► Project approach

The REP project adopts a four-pronged strategy that are intertwined in nature and complement each other to support the implementation of NRES.

- A. Sectoral approach - value chain development.
- B. Cross sectoral approach – enterprise, life and vocational skills development
- C. Inclusion and cross-cutting themes
- D. Business enabling environment



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