



Voluntary National Survey for Monitoring of Progress in Asia and the Pacific towards the Implementation of the 2013 Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development and the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development

Background

This voluntary national survey provides information on progress regarding the implementation of the 2013 Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development¹ and the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in Asia and the Pacific.² Results from the survey will be reported and discussed at the Seventh Asian and Pacific Population Conference, in 2023.

The ICPD Programme of Action provides an invaluable framework to guide Member States in enhancing the quality of life and well-being of every individual and promoting human development by underscoring the interrelationship between development policies and programmes, human rights, and economic and social development. At the 20-year Asia-Pacific regional review of the Programme of Action, in 2013, ESCAP member States adopted the Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development. This Declaration serves as region-specific guidance on population and development in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

During the 2018 intergovernmental meeting for the Midterm Review of the Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration, a monitoring framework was presented to ESCAP members and associated members to monitor progress in implementing the recommendations of both documents in the region. This framework was based on existing SDG indicators and targets to reduce the reporting burden on member States. The ESCAP Committee on Social Development, during its sixth session in 2020, endorsed the monitoring framework, noting that it would serve as an essential tool for voluntary, regular assessment and reporting of progress of implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action and the 2013 Ministerial Declaration.³

Process in completion of the Voluntary National Survey (VNS) Lao PDR

In Lao PDR, the VNS is led by the Department of Planning, Ministry of Planning and Investment (MPI) with financial and technical assistance from UNFPA Country Office in Laos. The survey involves 2 main consultation meetings and separate bilateral meetings with key informants of concerned ministries and departments responsible for implementing the priority action areas of ICPD PoA, and reporting the associated SDG indicators, and with the involvement of non-governmental stakeholders and representatives of the National Assembly.

¹ <https://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/Report%20of%20APPC%202013.pdf>.

² Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

³ ESCAP/CSD/2020/3.

The first consultation meeting to initiate the ICPD30 review process (responsibilities and work plan of each concerned sector for answering the questions related to 11 priority areas of VNR), was carried out in the first week of March 2023 with participation of technical officers from Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Ministry of Education and Sport, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare, Ministry of Public Health, Lao Statistics Bureau, Lao Women Union, Lao Youth Union, Secretariat of National Commission for the Advancement of Women with the presence of UNFPA technical team and Consultant.

The second consultation meeting was organized on 25 April to present the main findings of VNR to the participating ministries, mass organizations and civil society organizations as well as to the representatives from National Assembly and civil society organizations prior to submission to UNESCAP.

I. Contact information

Please identify the office responsible for coordinating the responses to this survey and completing it and include its contact information.

Country Lao PDR	
Ministry/Office/Agency Ministry of Planning and Investment, Department of Planning	
Name contact persons (First and Last) ■ [REDACTED] ■ [REDACTED]	Title/Position ■ [REDACTED] ■ [REDACTED] ■ [REDACTED] ■ [REDACTED]
Email ■ [REDACTED] ■ [REDACTED]	Telephone ■ [REDACTED] ■ [REDACTED]
Mailing address Department of Planning, MPI, Ban Sithan Neua, Sikhottabong District, Vientiane Capital	
Please indicate whether the completed survey may be posted on the ESCAP public website of the Seventh Asian and Pacific Population Conference.	
Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
No: <input type="checkbox"/>	

II. National coordination mechanism for implementation of the 2013 Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development, and the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development

1.1	Is there a national coordination mechanism to support implementation of the 2013 Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development, and the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development? If “yes”, please provide information for the question below. If “no”, please skip section III below.		Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
1.2	Name of the coordination mechanism and website link if available: <i>Please elaborate:</i> In 1999 the government adopted the first National Population and Development Policy of Lao PDR, revised and updated in 2006. The 2019-2030 NPDP ⁴ is the latest update of the policy which is a multi-sectoral policy in its nature. This policy is primarily implemented by specific ministries using existing arrangements and does not require the establishment of a new institution other than a “Population Policy Coordination Committee” where Department of Planning, Ministry of Planning and Investment acts as coordinating body for the Committee.			
1.3	Year of establishment: <i>Please elaborate:</i>			
1.4	What level does the coordination mechanism operate at:	<input type="checkbox"/> Prime minister or highest level of government <input type="checkbox"/> Minister <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Director <input type="checkbox"/> Other: <i>Please elaborate:</i>		
1.5	Are civil society organizations included as members of the coordination mechanism?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
1.6	Does the coordination mechanism have formalized Terms of Agreement or other formal operating agreements? If “yes”, please elaborate on the functions of the coordination mechanism:	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
1.7	How often does the coordination mechanism meet?	<input type="checkbox"/> Monthly <input type="checkbox"/> Quarterly <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yearly <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ad-hoc, as needed <input type="checkbox"/> The committee has not yet met <input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please elaborate</i>):		
1.8	Contact information, including mailing address, telephone/fax, email and website link for members of the coordination mechanism: <i>please elaborate:</i> Coordinator for the ICPD Conference is [REDACTED] Ministry of Planning and Investment. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Website link: https://mpi.gov.la/en/			

⁴ <https://lao.unfpa.org/en/publications/national-population-and-development-policy-2019-2030>

III. Challenges and successes in achieving progress concerning priority action areas outlined in the 2013 Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development

The following sections cover the 11 priority action areas outlined in the 2013 Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development. Please answer the questions in regard to the specific priority area mentioned in the text. This is to help measure which priority areas are characterized by **challenges** and by **progress**, as well as identify any **achievements**, **good practices** and **lessons learned** that can be shared with other countries regarding specific areas.

A. Poverty eradication and employment

Overall policy environment		
1.A.	<p>Are any priority actions for poverty eradication and employment included in your National Development Strategy or other development plans? <i>please elaborate</i></p> <p>If “yes”, please provide:</p> <p>the strategy name/link</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> IXth 5 Year Socio Economic Development Plan. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Link: https://data.opendevdevelopmentmekong.net/library_record/9th-five-year-national-socio-economic-development-plan-2021-2025. Agriculture Development Strategy to 2025 and Vision towards 2030 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Link: https://www.maf.gov.la/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/MDS-2025-and-Vision-to-2030-Eng.pdf IXth 5 Year Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Development Plan (2021-2025) Vth 5year (2021-2025) Labor and Social Welfare Development plan National Rural Employment Strategy (Vision 2030, Goal 2025). Endorsed in December 2021 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> http://www.laogov.gov.la/legaldoc/pages/document.aspx?ItemID=716 <p>(b) date or time frame of the strategy/ 2021-2025</p> <p>(c)page number that references this action area</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> IXth 5 Year Socio Economic Development Plan. Page: 36-39 Agriculture Development Strategy to 2025 and Vision towards 2030 Page: 78-80 and IXth 5 Year Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Development Plan (2021-2025). Page 36-39 (Lao version) Vth 5year (2021-2025) Labor and Social Welfare Development plan. Page: 19-42 and National Rural Employment Strategy (Vision 2030, Goal 2025). Page 33-39 <p>(d) main elements of the action area</p> <p>IXth 5 Year Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Development Plan (2021-2025):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of rural infrastructure (health facilities, feeder road to production areas) Land allocation for agricultural production and income generating employment Development of developed villages, creation of small towns from large villages based on the criteria in Decree 348/GoL 	<p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>No <input type="checkbox"/></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Establishment of production groups and cooperatives. <p>Vth 5year (2021-2025) Labor and Social Welfare Development plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Skills and vocational development based on demand from economic sectors, in order to ensure rural Labor have the capacity for work, stable employment and relevant skills for the Labor market. ● Promote stable employment for rural Labor, improve Labor productivity and generate decent incomes. This is to be achieved by creating an environment to facilitate production groups, cooperatives and services to improve the livelihoods of rural Labor and development in rural areas ● Increased proportion of the female and male rural Labor force in formal employment in line with the Vientiane Declaration on Transition from Informal Employment to Formal Employment towards Decent Work Promotion in ASEAN ● Promote investment by government, the private sector and development partners to maintain and expand infrastructure, public utilities and an environment that facilitates investment in rural areas. This is to ensure that rural Labor have stable employment, increased income and reduced poverty. ● Harmonize government services at the national and local levels through improved coordination with and linkages to regional and international initiatives. <p>National Rural Employment Strategy (Vision 2030, Goal 2025)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Increase decent employment opportunities in rural areas of Lao PDR by provision of support to market links, community and farmers' groups, providers of business development and agricultural extension services ● Rural skills training and entrepreneurship development based on local economic opportunities mainstreaming gender, green jobs and occupational safety and health. ● 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 the establishment of local partnerships and joint work <p>(d) its impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Since 2013, agricultural households have moved from subsistence rice cultivation toward the commercial production of cash crops. ● Poverty has fallen faster in rural areas than in towns, as a result of an improvement in farm incomes and remittances among rural households. The rural poverty rate dropped by 7.6 percentage points to 23.8 percent between 2013 and 2019.⁵ ● The pilot Rural Employment Project in Sekong Province between 2012 and 2016 and between 2017 and 2020 was implemented with financial and technical support from the ILO. The ILO and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) continue to support the project's implementation in Sekong and Savannakhet. The project implementation demonstrates a range of interventions and approaches corresponding to specific socio-economic contexts 	
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⁵ Lao PDR Poverty Profile and Poverty Assessment 2020. <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/lao/publication/lao-pdr-poverty-profile-and-poverty-assessment-2020>

2.A.	<p>Have there been any amendments or improvements to legislation, or new policies or action plans relating to the 2013 Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development priority area “poverty eradication and employment” since 2013? <i>Please elaborate</i></p> <p>If “yes”, please provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the name of the legislation, policy and/or action plan and website link Law on Resettlement and Vocation. (2018) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> https://data.laos.opendevlopmmentmekong.net/laws_record/law-on-resettlement-and-vocation/resource/6c7f113d-b5aa-4ee8-a804-07c8f7475deb Decree No 348/GoL on Criteria for Poverty Graduation and Development (2017) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> http://www.laogov.gov.la/legaldoc/pages/document.aspx?ItemID=532 Lao Labor Law updated in 2013 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> http://www.ilo.org/dyn/natlex/natlex4.detail?p_lang=en&p_isn=96369 Decree on Labor Dispute Resolution <ul style="list-style-type: none"> http://www.laogov.gov.la/legaldoc/pages/document.aspx?ItemID=522 date of implementation and time frame Law on Resettlement and Vocation: Promulgated on 16/08/2018 Decree No 348/Go: Endorsed on 16/11/2017 Lao Labor Law updated on 24/12/2013 Decree No. 76/GoL on Labor Dispute Resolution: February 2018 : its main elements: <p>Law on Resettlement and Vocation. (2018)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Principles, rules and measures regarding the supervision, inspection and monitoring of resettlement and vocation in order to enhance its efficient, effectiveness, compliance, and to be consistent with locality condition and employment to ensure Lao multi ethnic persons who live in the resettlement and vocational area have place to stay, place to earn a living and sustainable vocation which aim to solve illegal relocation problem, reduce poverty, improve livelihood of Lao multi ethnic persons physically and mentally, develop social discipline, become development village and cluster big villages into small town in rural areas. <p>Decree No 348/GoL on Criteria for Poverty Graduation and Development (2017)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Definition of the criteria for poverty graduation and development. Provision of the basis for defining goals for poverty reduction. Focus on families, developing villages, making large villages into towns in rural areas and strengthening districts according to the Party Congress and National Socio-Economic Development Plan for each period. <p>Lao Labor Law updated in 2013</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Defines the principles, regulations and measures on administration, monitoring, Labor skills development, recruitment, and Labor protection in order to enhance the quality and productivity of work in society, so as to ensure the transformation to modernization and industrialization aimed at safeguarding the rights of employees and employers, as well as the 	<p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>No <input type="checkbox"/></p>
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	<p>legitimate interests and the continual improvement of their livelihoods, while contributing to the promotion of investment, national socio-economic development, and regional and international links.</p> <p>Decree on Occupational Safety and Health, February 2019</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Define principles, regulations and measures for occupational safety and health in order to prevent occupational accident and occupational diseases that may occur, to develop good working environment free of health risk, promote decent work, justice <p>Decree No. 76/GoL on Labor Dispute Resolution: February 2018</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Decree sets a clear regulatory framework for two types of labor disputes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disputes related to the implementation of the Laos Labor Law, work rules of the labor unit in each company, provisions in the company's employment contract or collective labor agreement, or infringement of other regulations related to labor. Disputes related to benefits, such as salary, working hours, or social welfare, among other issues. <p>(d) its impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Small towns have been developed in the rural areas with better road access and access to basic utilities such as, water supply, electricity, telephone and internet and service facilities such as health care centers, schools and financial and government services institutions. Poverty Reduction Fund is considered an outstanding project that received an ASEAN Award in 2015. Unemployment rate has declined from 9.4% to 7.4% from 2017 to 2022⁶ 	
Achievements and good practices		
3.A.	<p>Aside from what is listed above, what are some key achievements in the area of poverty eradication and employment in the country since 2013?</p> <p><i>please elaborate on achievements, by providing specific examples and their impact:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> According to World Bank, since 2002, the Poverty Reduction Fund has helped improving the lives of more than 1.2 million people living in nearly 3,000 of the poorest villages in the country with improved village roads, sanitation, irrigation, schools and health facilities by applying the community driven approach, the multi ethnic people in 55 poor districts of 11 provinces in Lao PDR have been empowered to decide on how resources are allocated, prioritized their needs, plan, manage, implement, operate and maintain their own sub-projects such as school building, health center, village meeting hall, feeder roads and bridges building, water supply and irrigation system installation and etc., 	
4.A.	<p>Are there any good practices the country has developed in operationalizing poverty eradication and employment programmes that other countries may find useful?</p> <p><i>please elaborate and provide specific examples:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Setting up of Village Self Help groups to strengthen social mobilization and financial management capacities in districts and provinces covered by Poverty Reduction Fund and recruitment of young graduates to work in those villages. So these people can be agents for mobilizing changes in the communities. For example: the village volunteers and leaders have been recruited to facilitate different activities for poverty reduction such as road, water supply system, irrigation schemes, community assets maintenance in 285 villages in 23 districts of 6 provinces supported by Poverty Reduction Fund III. 	

⁶ Lao Statistic Bureau: Labor Force Survey 2017 and 2022.

Challenges					
In implementing priority actions for poverty eradication and employment, has the Government encountered any of the following challenges? [1 = never, 2 = sometimes, 3 = always]					
Challenges		1	2	3	If answer 2 or 3, have you addressed the challenge? please elaborate:
5.A.	Lack of human resources dedicated to poverty eradication and employment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Promote setting up of village development committees, production groups, self-help groups as well as recruitment of young graduates to assist in poverty eradication at the grass root level
6.A.	Lack of financial resources dedicated to poverty eradication and employment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Setting up poverty reduction fund as one of the main vehicles to address rural poverty
7.A.	Lack of capacity development for implementation of programmes on poverty eradication and employment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PRF applies a Community Driven Development (CDD) approach, whereby communities themselves decide on how resources are allocated, manage sub-project funds, and implement sub-projects. Extensive facilitation and training is provided through the project to ensure that all community members, including women and different ethnic groups, participate in the decision-making process and benefit from the project
8.A.	Lack of data on poverty eradication and employment, particularly disaggregated data	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
9.A.	Lack of overall political support related to poverty eradication and employment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Setting up National Committee for Rural Development and Poverty Eradication currently chaired by Minister of Agriculture and Forestry
10.A.	Lack of cross-ministerial coordination related to poverty eradication and employment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	National Committee members of Rural Development and Poverty Eradication are Vice Ministers from different concerned sectors and Vic Provincial Governors that meet every year
11.A.	Lack of international support related to poverty eradication and employment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mobilize fund from private sector, civil society organization, faith based organization and other development partners
12.A.	Lack of development partner coordination related to poverty eradication and employment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Organize Round Table Meeting as a platform for coordination and sharing experience in poverty

					reduction within the country between the government and development partners
13.A.	Lack of public awareness and understanding of poverty eradication and employment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Development of website on Poverty Reduction Fund. https://www.prflaos.org
14.A.	A bottom-up approach to poverty eradication and employment not followed (e.g., involvement of persons in the lowest wealth quintiles, the unemployed, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Manual for Gender Equality and Social Inclusion for Cluster Village Coordinators in Development and Poverty Reduction developed. Participatory village planning approach has been introduced and applied.
15.A.	COVID-19 and other disasters, emergencies and crises prevented implementation of programmes on poverty eradication and employment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	If “2” or “3”, please also name the disaster (s), emergency, etc. COVID-19 Drought Forest fire Flash Flood Soil erosion, Outbreak of animal communicable diseases (Swine flu, bird flu...), pests.
16.A.	<p>Has the country experienced any other major challenges in implementation of poverty eradication and employment programmes? <i>please elaborate and provide specific examples:</i></p> <p>Even though poverty has significantly declined in the country over the previous decade, the disparity between regions and among socio-economic and ethnic groups are still high. Poverty remains high among ethnic groups and fell less quickly among poorly educated households. In 2019, a poverty rate of 34.6 percent was observed among people living in households headed by someone with no formal education. This is ten times higher than among households headed by those who have completed secondary education</p> <p>The disappearance of off-farm jobs has slowed poverty reduction. Since 2013, the industry sector has created few jobs, while the service sector has grown slowly.</p> <p>The Lao labor market is characterized by agricultural workers facing seasonal fluctuations in labor demand, high informality, and a growing number of public sector jobs.</p> <p>The COVID-19 outbreak has brought an unprecedented employment shock, adding pressure to the weak job market. A sharp drop in tourism has led to job losses in retail trade, transport, and hospitality, which together account for 11% of total employment. The fall in travel and tourism lasted well into 2021, leading to income loss or even permanent job losses if the crisis is prolonged.⁷ In addition, climate change and natural disasters including the outbreak of animal communicable diseases, pests, forest fire, severe agricultural soil degradation have severely affected the livelihoods and assets of the people.</p>				
Lessons learned					
17.A.	Are there any lessons learned in the area of poverty eradication and employment not already mentioned that other countries could benefit from? <i>please elaborate and provide specific examples:</i>				

⁷ Lao PDR Poverty Profile and Poverty Assessment 2020. <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/lao/publication/lao-pdr-poverty-profile-and-poverty-assessment-2020>

Future needs: means of implementation and monitoring		
18.A.	Please select any needs the country may have in order to implement the priority actions for poverty eradication and employment. Please check as many as apply.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capacity-building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Advocacy and awareness raising <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resource mobilization <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engagement with high-level politicians <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engagement with non-governmental stakeholders, civil society organizations, etc. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> South-South cooperation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public-private partnerships <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Data for monitoring and planning <input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please elaborate</i>):
19.A.	Please select any needs the country may have in order to report on progress regarding the priority actions for poverty eradication and employment. Please check as many as apply to your country.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capacity-building – data collection <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capacity-building – data analysis <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lack of monitoring frameworks <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resource mobilization <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engagement with high-level politicians <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engagement with non-governmental stakeholders, civil society organizations, etc. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Advocacy/engagement with data collection entities <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> South-South cooperation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public-private partnerships <input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please elaborate</i>):

B. Health

Overall policy environment		
1.B.	<p>Are any priority actions for health included in your National Development Strategy or other development plans? <i>please elaborate</i></p> <p>If “yes”, please provide:</p> <p>(a) the strategy name/link</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5 Year Health Sector Development Plan 2021-2025, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Link: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1bm9qFo2a61BgM9PSGomkMcuzYCMdphnL/view?usp=share_link 3rd Health Sector Reform Strategy and Framework 2013-2025 (Published 2016) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Link: https://data.opendevelopmentmekong.net/dataset/3dce18e0-2d3c-40c1-9584-a31161629a06/resource/4abc9ed7-a060-4f4b-b0a9-241ae5a43843/download/lao_hsr_strategy_and_framework_2025_english_final_201702.pdf Updated National Health Insurance Strategy 2016-2020 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health financing Strategy (2021-2025) Reproductive Maternal Newborn Child Adolescent Health Strategy, 2016-2025 Strategy on Health Care Professional Licensing and Registration System in Lao PDR, 2016-2025 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <p>(b) date or time frame of the strategy/plan 2021-2025</p>	<p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>No <input type="checkbox"/></p>

	<p>(c) page number that references this action area: Start from pg. 80 for HSDP</p> <p>(d) main elements of the action area:</p> <p>For Health Sector Reform:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service delivery: improving the quality of healthcare services • Human resources for health: strengthening capacity of human resources for health through implementation of licensing, registration, medical education reform and improvement of recruitment, distribution and incentives, • Health financing: ensuring financial protection through adequate and sustainable domestic government financing, accountability for the funds and strategic purchasing of efficient and high-quality services, • Governance and management: Strengthening governance and coordination across pillars and sectors to achieve health sector reform and management capacity at the district level; and private sector regulation and hospital autonomy, • Monitoring and evaluation: improving health information governance and e-health enterprise architecture to use modern technologies efficiently and effectively, scope and quality of health information system, District Health Information System 2, and use of information for decision making at all levels <p>For HSD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Align hygiene and prevention by promoting vaccine and health promotion and treatment-rehabilitation, applying modern health practices and traditional health practices for healthcare work, aiming at upgrading quality of services, and focusing on the priority indicators related to the realization of graduation from LDC status, achieving UHC and SDG goals. • Prepare for the focus areas of Phase III Reform Strategy (2021-2025); integrating the mechanisms to realize UHC through upgrading quality and modernizing services; ensure access to healthcare for all without financial constraint, whilst enabling conditions for hospital self-sufficiency step by step in accordance with sustainable directions and leaving no one behind. • National Health Insurance Strategy 2016-2020 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Provision of health services with a small co-payment at the point of care depending on the level of facilities, 5,000-20,000 LAK for outpatient and 5,000-30,000 LAK for inpatient care, and no-cost services for pregnant women, children and the poor. • Health financing Strategy (2021-2025), with a focus on financial sustainability, accountability, efficiency and equity • <p>(e) its impact to achieve target for Universal Health Coverage:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	
2.B.	Have there been any amendments or improvements to legislation, or new policies or action plans relating to the 2013 Asian and Pacific	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

	<p>Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development priority area “health” since 2013? <i>please elaborate</i></p> <p>If “yes”, please provide:</p> <p>(f) the name of the legislation, policy and/or action plan and website link</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Law on Health Insurance No 149/P, 25/01/2019. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ https://na.gov.la/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/law_pakunsukhapharp-new25_1_2019.pdf ● Decree No 273/GoL, 22/08/2014 on Childbirth and treatment of children under 5. ● National Health Insurance Strategy ● Digital Health Strategy ● National COVID-19 Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan for Health <p>(g) date of implementation and time frame</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● National Health Insurance Strategy: 2021-2025 ● Digital Health Strategy: 2023-2027 ● National COVID-19 Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan for Health: 2020 <p>(h) its main elements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Decree No 273/GoL, 22/08/2014 on Childbirth and treatment of children under 5. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Principles, regulations and measures for management, implementation of the policy to support childbirth and treatment of children under 5 in order to mobilize the pregnant women to give birth at the public health centers and to provide access to treatment at the health centers for the children under 5 when they are sick, especially for those in the remote rural areas aiming at reduction of maternal mortality rates as well under 5 mortality rates. ● National Health Insurance Strategy 2021-2025 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Improve the legal and policy framework of NHI and strengthen NHIB governance mechanism ○ Strengthen financial independence, accountability, and sustainability of the NHI fund ○ Strengthen NHIB’s institutional capacity and operational effectiveness and efficiency at the central, provincial and district levels ○ Ensure responsiveness of health facilities and improve quality of health care services ○ Raise awareness among the general population about NHI benefit entitlements. ● Digital Health Strategy (2023-2027): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Governance, Digital Workforce development, One Standard development, Application of tools and regulations, Infrastructure development ● National COVID-19 Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan for Health (2020) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Command, coordination and planning 	No <input type="checkbox"/>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Infection prevention and control ○ Case management ○ Surveillance and laboratory ○ Risk communication ○ Public health and social measures ○ Essential health services ○ Point of entry ○ Availability of an accessibility to good-quality medicines and medical products ○ Monitoring and evaluation <p>(i) its impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Since the introduction of National Health Insurance in 2016, the NHI has drastically increased the number of people protected from 45% in 2016 to 94% in 2021, and use of public health services by 10-30%⁸. ● Out of pocket health payment⁹ (OOP) decreased from 5.0% to 3.3% from LECS5 (2012/2013) and LECS6 (2018/2019) ● The launch of digital health strategy has improved disease surveillance, information sharing to policy makers, health care workers and other key stakeholders including the public, and better care for those in need with enhanced electronic medical records. ● During the COVID-19 pandemic, with support from various development partners, MOH has strengthened the health system's capacity for surveillance, laboratory testing, and clinical management of COVID-19 patients at the central and subnational levels and worked with relevant sectors to improve management of point of entry and border control. "The strong, fast of whole-of-country response to COVID-19 ensured one of Asia's lowest losses of life"¹⁰. 	
Achievements and good practices		
3.B.	<p>Aside from what is listed above, what are some key achievements in the area of health in the country since 2013?</p> <p><i>please elaborate on achievements, by providing specific examples and their impact:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● In 2022, the health sector has achieved good result in the indicators related to maternal and child mortality rates: In 2019, Infant mortality rate was 40/1,000 per live birth compared to the target set at 30/1,000; for 2020 Under 5 mortality rate was 46/1,000 per live birth compared to the target set at 40/1,000¹¹; maternal mortality rate declined from 206 per 100,000 live birth to 126 per 100,000 live birth from 2017¹² to 2022¹³ ● Recently in January 2023, 3 colleges of public health sciences have been accredited as centers of excellence for midwifery education in Lao PDR 	

⁸ WHO: <https://www.who.int/laos/news/detail/06-10-2022-updated-national-health-insurance-strategy-aims-to-better-protect-people--ensure-financial-sustainability>

⁹ Direct payment for services from household primary income or savings at the point of care and can be in the form of co-payments and informal payments or under-the-table payments

¹⁰ WHO: Representative to Lao PDR, Dr Ying-Ru Jackeline Lo.

¹¹ VNR2, 2021.

¹² Population and Housing Census 2015

¹³ Estimate by WHO et Al. 2020

	<p>by the International Confederation of Midwife. Laos is the first country in ASEAN to receive it.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased public investment in family planning through the use of key findings from the Health Investment Case that showed investment in Family Planning of 1\$ can yield a return of 6\$ in terms of the avoidance of unplanned pregnancies and childbirth, as well as abortion
4.B.	<p>Are there any good practices the country has developed in operationalizing health programmes that other countries may find useful? <i>please elaborate and provide specific examples:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthening of local health networks for instance: deployment of government officers to community hospital, small hospitals, especially midwives to the small hospitals; Improvement of data quality in the health information management system (DHIS2) to aggregate routinely collected country wide data across public health facilities to support health sector development and reform in Lao PDR. The launch of “National Health Insurance” (NHI) with low co-payment for non-insured Lao citizens, while the poor, mothers and children under five are exempted from this co-payment, transportation and food allowances are provided for the poor across the country. Under NHI system, to access health services, a user has to provide the family book, ID card or a certified letter from the village chief to health providers to confirm the Lao citizenship of the user.

Challenges

In implementing priority actions for health, has the Government encountered any of the following challenges?

[1 = never, 2 = sometimes, 3 = always]

Challenges	1	2	3	If answer 2 or 3, have you addressed the challenge? please elaborate:
5.B.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
6.B.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
7.B.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
8.B.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Rolling out hospital information systems, including electronic patient records, which are interoperable with national health information system (DHIS2)
9.B.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
10.B.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
11.B.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

12.B.	Lack of development partner coordination related to health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
13.B.	Lack of public awareness and understanding of health	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Organized health outreach to the rural communities by the health workers at the small hospitals to provide information on reproductive health, mother and child health care and nutrition. MoH also set up the center of communication and education on health (CCEH) to boost public awareness on health through social media and outreach activities
14.B.	A bottom-up approach to health not followed (e.g., involvement of persons with lowest access to health care, etc.)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
15.B.	COVID-19 and other disasters, emergencies and crises prevented implementation of programmes on health	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	If “2” or “3”, please also name the disaster (s), emergency, etc. COVID-19, Dengue fever seasonal flooding
16.B.	<p>Has the country experienced any other major challenges in implementation of health programmes? <i>please elaborate and provide specific examples</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The execution of policies and plans still face many challenges due to limited capacity of human resources, difficult terrain, dispersed population in remote areas, and lack of demand for services. The disparities in health status and service coverage are, as in education, are determined by (i) geography and access, (ii) by the level of education of the mother (in the case of maternal and child health) or the household head (in the case of water and sanitation facilities), (iii) ethno linguistic group (some groups are more remote than others or may have different cultural practices that affect health), (iv) wealth of the household. An additional factor in child, infant and neonatal mortality is the age of the mother: children born of mothers who are too young (below age 20) or older (above age 35) have a higher probability of dying before the age of five.• The high inflation rate has affected the procurement-of technical promotion for instance it was difficult to purchase vaccines, medicines, contraceptives, chemicals;• Lack of phasing out plan to respond to the declined donors’ support in health sector;• Natural disasters in some northern provinces for instance the flood in Oudomxay Province has impacted and damaged health infrastructures networks.				
Lessons learned					
17.B.	Are there any lessons learned in the area of health not already mentioned that other countries could benefit from? <i>please elaborate and provide specific examples:</i>				

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Vaccination for prevention of COVID-19 has been systematically implemented and reached the target.● During the early days of COVID-19, telehealth as a methodology to reach women and girls and provide follow up and care was tested. The method was assessed in 2022 and MOH found that it has been very useful for women and plans to develop this to provide another option for women to access care (alongside facility based and outreach)● Unprecedented attention to health of the community due to COVID-19 has also provided an opportunity to engage with local authorities and communities in implementing COVID-19 response (e.g. contact tracing and quarantine) effectively and strengthening primary health care. Ministry of Health started interventions together with Ministry of Home Affairs to strengthen Primary Health Care through engaging local authorities and communities in responding to COVID-19 pandemic and other health issues beyond COVID-19.	
<i>Future needs: means of implementation and monitoring</i>		
18.B.	Please select any needs the country may have in order to implement the priority actions for health. Please check as many as apply.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capacity-building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Advocacy and awareness raising <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resource mobilization <input type="checkbox"/> Engagement with high-level politicians <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engagement with non-governmental stakeholders, civil society organizations, etc. <input type="checkbox"/> South-South cooperation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public-private partnerships <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Data for monitoring and planning <input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please elaborate</i>):
19.B.	Please select any needs the country may have in order to report on progress regarding the priority actions for health. Please check as many as apply to your country.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capacity-building – data collection <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capacity-building – data analysis <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of monitoring frameworks <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resource mobilization <input type="checkbox"/> Engagement with high-level politicians <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engagement with non-governmental stakeholders, civil society organizations, etc. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Advocacy/engagement with data collection entities <input type="checkbox"/> South-South cooperation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public-private partnerships <input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please elaborate</i>):

C. Sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights

Overall policy environment		
1.C.	<p>Are any priority actions for sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights included in your National Development Strategy or other development plans? <i>please elaborate</i></p> <p>If “yes”, please provide:</p> <p>(a) the strategy name/link</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth and Adolescent Development Strategy. 	<p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>No <input type="checkbox"/></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ https://lao.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/lao_youth_and_adolescent_development_strategy_2021-2030_lao_8nov21_0.pdf ● National Strategy and Action Plan for integrated service on Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health 2016-2025 (3rd Revision in 2021) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ http://www.laoshealth.org/assets/national-rmnch-strategy-2016-2025.pdf <p>(b) date or time frame of the strategy/plan 2021-2030</p> <p>(c) page number that references this action area 21-25</p> <p>(d) main elements of the action area: Addressing early marriage, adolescent pregnancies, poor nutrition, improving access to Sexual Reproductive Health (SRH) services, including contraception, and promoting healthy lifestyles</p> <p>(a) its impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Youth and Adolescent Development Strategy is the new strategy and it has not been assessed yet. ● For RMNCAH strategy: reduction of Maternal Mortality Ratio, Neonatal Mortality Ratio, Total Fertility Rate, Adolescent Fertility/Birth Rate, Infant Mortality Rate, Under Five Mortality Rate, Prevalence of Stunting in children < 5 years of age, Prevalence of Severe Acute Malnutrition. 	
2.C.	<p>Have there been any amendments or improvements to legislation, or new policies or action plans relating to the 2013 Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development priority area “sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights” since 2013? <i>please elaborate</i></p> <p>If “yes”, please provide:</p> <p>(b) the name of the legislation, policy and/or action plan and website link</p> <p>(c) Reproductive, Maternal, New Born Child and Adolescent Health (RMNCAH) Strategy and Action Plan 2016-2025.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● http://www.laoshealth.org/assets/national-rmnch-strategy-2016-2025.pdf <p>(d) Health Gender Equality Standard 5 Year Plan 2021-2025</p> <p>(b) date of implementation and time frame 2016-2025</p> <p>(d) its main elements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Reproductive and adolescent: Family Planning, adolescent and youth- friendly SRH services, Couples Counseling (being tested in two provinces) cervical cancer (Development of strategy, supporting screening and prevention of CV) ● Maternal Health: antenatal, intrapartum and postpartum care, Emergency Obstetric Care as well as preventing unsafe abortion through the midwifery cadre ● Newborn care ● Well child care: immunization, nutrition and early childhood development 	<p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>No <input type="checkbox"/></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sick child care: IMNCI – diarrhea, pneumonia, malnutrition <p>(e) its impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased mCPR amongst married women (15-49) from 42.1% to 49% from 2012 to 2018 (LISIS) Declined unmet need for family planning from 19.9% to 14.3% from 2012 to 2018 (LSIS) 																													
Achievements and good practices																														
3.C.	<p>Aside from what is listed above, what are some key achievements in the area of sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights in the country since 2013? <i>please elaborate on achievements, by providing specific examples and their impact:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased antenatal Care 1 and 4 coverage leading to early detection of high-risk pregnancy, thereby reducing maternal morbidity and mortality Improved access to contraceptive methods of women at reproductive age. 																													
4.C.	<p>Are there any good practices the country has developed in operationalizing sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights programmes that other countries may find useful? <i>please elaborate and provide specific examples:</i></p>																													
Challenges																														
<p>In implementing priority actions for sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights, has the Government encountered any of the following challenges? [1 = never, 2 = sometimes, 3 = always]</p>																														
Challenges		<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>1</th><th>2</th><th>3</th><th>If answer 2 or 3, have you addressed the challenge? please elaborate:</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>Use of village health volunteers. To increase the quota of health personnels, refresher training for the existing personnels</td></tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>Fundraising from development partners and involvement of civil society organizations.</td></tr> <tr> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>Planning for cooperation between UNFPA and Planning and Cooperation Department to address this issue</td></tr> <tr> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table>	1	2	3	If answer 2 or 3, have you addressed the challenge? please elaborate:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Use of village health volunteers. To increase the quota of health personnels, refresher training for the existing personnels	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Fundraising from development partners and involvement of civil society organizations.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Planning for cooperation between UNFPA and Planning and Cooperation Department to address this issue	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
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5.C.	Lack of human resources dedicated to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights																													
6.C.	Lack of financial resources dedicated to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights																													
7.C.	Lack of capacity development for implementation of programmes on sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights																													
8.C.	Lack of data on sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights, particularly disaggregated data																													
9.C.	Lack of overall political support related to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights																													
10.C.	Lack of cross-ministerial coordination related to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights																													

11.C.	Lack of international support related to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
12.C.	Lack of development partner coordination related to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
13.C.	Lack of public awareness and understanding of sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Use of local ethnic translators and facilitators for public awareness raising in the ethnic communities,
14.C.	A bottom-up approach to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights not followed (e.g., involvement of persons with lowest access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights, etc.)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
15.C.	COVID-19 and other disasters, emergencies and crises prevented implementation of programmes on sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	If "2" or "3", please also name the disaster (s), emergency, etc. COVID-19 Periodic outbreak of dengue fever Seasonal flooding limited access to health facilities and hindered the delivery of reproductive health commodities on time
16.C.	<p>Has the country experienced any other major challenges in implementation of sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights programmes? <i>please elaborate and provide specific examples:</i></p> <p>The amount of support has been reduced compared to the past with lack of phasing out plan;</p> <p>The high inflation rate has affected the procurement-of technical promotion for instance it was difficult to purchase vaccines, medicines, RH commodities, chemicals;</p> <p>The long period of lock down during the outbreak of COVID-19 has affected the distribution of medicines to the health service facilities. In addition, some medicines have expired and the lack of 48 essential drugs in the local areas.</p>				
Lessons learned					
17.C.	<p>Are there any lessons learned in the area of sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights not already mentioned that other countries could benefit from? <i>please elaborate and provide specific examples:</i></p> <p>Provision of sexual and reproductive health care and services through Adolescents and Youth Friendly Services (AYFS) package (capacity building for health providers and service delivery - mobile outreach</p>				
Future needs: means of implementation and monitoring					
18.C.	Please select any needs the country may have in order to implement the priority actions for sexual and	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capacity-building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Advocacy and awareness raising <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resource mobilization			

	reproductive health and reproductive rights. Please check as many as apply.	<input type="checkbox"/> Engagement with high-level politicians <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engagement with non-governmental stakeholders, civil society organizations, etc. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> South-South cooperation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public-private partnerships <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Data for monitoring and planning <input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please elaborate</i>):
19.C.	Please select any needs the country may have in order to report on progress regarding the priority actions for sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights. Please check as many as apply to your country.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capacity-building – data collection <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capacity-building – data analysis <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lack of monitoring frameworks <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resource mobilization <input type="checkbox"/> Engagement with high-level politicians <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engagement with non-governmental stakeholders, civil society organizations, etc. <input type="checkbox"/> Advocacy/engagement with data collection entities <input type="checkbox"/> South-South cooperation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public-private partnerships <input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please elaborate</i>):

D. Education

Overall policy environment

1.D.	<p>Are any priority actions for education included in your National Development Strategy or other development plans? <i>please elaborate</i></p> <p>If “yes”, please provide:</p> <p>(a) the strategy name/link:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7th Education and Sport Sector Development Plan 2011-2015 (ESDP7). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> https://planipolis.iiep.unesco.org/sites/default/files/ressources/lao_pdr_esdp_2011_2015_eng.pdf 8th Education and Sport Sector Development Plan 2016-2020 (ESDP8) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> https://www.dvv-international.la/fileadmin/files/south-and-southeast-asia/documents/ESDP_2016-2020-EN.pdf <p>(b) date or time frame of the strategy/plan 2011-2015, 2021-2025</p> <p>(c) page number that references this action area ESDP7: ESDP8: pages 36-77</p> <p>(d) main elements of the action area</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Early childhood development Primary education Lower secondary education Upper secondary education Non-formal education Teacher education 	<p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>No <input type="checkbox"/></p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Vocational education and training ○ Higher education ○ Education administration and management ○ Sports <p>(d) its impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Financing plan of ESDP takes into account the need to reduce disparities related to gender, ethnicity, poverty and location. ● Net intake rate, first grade of primary (%) improved from 97.2% in 2016 to 97.8% in 2018¹⁴. In 2018, the girls' net intake rate was 97.6% while the boys' was 97.9%. ● Repetition rate of primary students from 4% in 2018 to 3.1% in 2019. Girls repetition rate was from 3.3 to 2.4 while boy's repetition was from 4.8% to 3.8% ● Dropout rate of at primary level declined from 5.2% in 2016 to 4.3% in 2019. Between 2018 and 2019, girls' dropout rate improved from 3.3% to 2.4% ,while boys' dropout rate slightly deteriorated from 4.4% to 4.9%¹⁵. ● Net enrollment rate of primary level increased from 98.7% in 2016 to 99% in 2019¹⁶. ● Survival rate improved from 79.6% in 2016 to 93.7% in 2019¹⁷ 	
2.D.	<p>Have there been any amendments or improvements to legislation, or new policies or action plans relating to the 2013 Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development priority area “education” since 2013? <i>please elaborate</i></p> <p>If “yes”, please provide:</p> <p>(a) the name of the legislation, policy and/or action plan and website link</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Education Law 133/P, amended in 2015. Lao version: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ https://www.ilo.org/dyn/natlex/docs/ELECTRONIC/100539/120639/F2010420423/LAO100539.pdf ● Law on Vocational Training 25/P, amended in 2019. Lao version <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ http://www.laogov.gov.la/legaldoc/pages/document.aspx?ItemID=598 ● Sport Sector Development Plan 2021-2025 (ESDP9) . <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ https://planipolis.iiep.unesco.org/en/2020/education-and-sports-sector-development-plan-2021-2025-7023. 	<p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>No <input type="checkbox"/></p>

¹⁴ VNR 2, 2021.

¹⁵ [VNR 2](#), 2021

¹⁶ VNR 2, 2021.

¹⁷ VNR 2, 2021.

	<p>(b) date of implementation and time frame : 2021-2025</p> <p>(c) its main elements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refocus the sectoral priority on primary education to improve content knowledge and pedagogical skills of primary teachers. • Expand lower secondary in more affordably, effectively and realistically, but benefits of access to lower secondary will not occur until primary graduates have much improved literacy and numeracy skills • Realign the skills and competencies of MoES staff in order to more effectively meet the current and foreseen needs of the system. • Provide institutional strengthening to the PESS, DESB, clusters and schools to enhance their efficiency, effectiveness and accountability through realigning their mandates, roles and responsibilities; clarifying Job Descriptions and Specifications; establishing systems to allocate human and financial resources according to needs <p>(d) its impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased adult literacy rates and gender parity for adult literacy. According to the population census, adult literacy has increased from 73% in 2005 to 84.7% in 2015. • In 2019, the share of children (less than 5 years old) attending early childhood education was 49.7%¹⁸ • Gender parity at primary level has also been achieved. Gender parity indices in 2018 calculated for net enrollment rate was 1.00, gross enrollment ratio was 0.98 and completion rate was 1.00. • The 2015 amendment of the Education Law has made lower secondary education compulsory. Access rates are on the rise for lower secondary education and the gross enrolment ratio has nearly achieved the 2020 target for lower secondary. The current transition rate from primary to lower secondary is already quite high (86% in 2018) but has decreased slightly over the past three years (91.7% in 2015, 90.4% in 2016, and 89.7% in 2017). • • 	
Achievements and good practices		
3.D.	<p>Aside from what is listed above, what are some key achievements in the area of education in the country since 2013?</p> <p><i>please elaborate on achievements, by providing specific examples and their impact:</i></p>	

¹⁸ VNR 2, 2021.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In the past few years, the National Assembly has consecutively 17% of the national budget to the education sector which is highest compared to other sectors.• Comprehensive sexuality education is reflected in 9th Education Sector Development Plan (2021-2025)• Integration of comprehensive sexuality education in national primary curriculum along with social environment and moral education and with biology and population studies for lower and upper secondary, non-formal equivalent education, teacher training curriculum, TVET and higher education level.																				
4.D.	<p>Are there any good practices the country has developed in operationalizing education programmes that other countries may find useful? <i>please elaborate and provide specific examples:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provision of scholarships for primary and secondary ethnic students in 40 poor districts (specially the girls)• Provision of scholarship for vocational training for the students who graduated from lower and higher secondary schools• Introduction of school lunch programme• Construction of school building and dormitories with separate toilets for boys and girls in 30 districts• Adult education to complete primary level education across the country in 2015.• Girls' empowerment programme through Nang Noi girl groups established.																				
Challenges																					
<p>In implementing priority actions for education, has the Government encountered any of the following challenges? [1 = never, 2 = sometimes, 3 = always]</p>																					
	<table><tr><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>If answer 2 or 3, have you addressed the challenge? please elaborate:</td></tr><tr><td>Challenges</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>5.D. Lack of human resources dedicated to education</td><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>Training of teachers in the application multigrade teaching. Assigning responsibilities to school principals in carrying out internal pedagogical support Consolidation of small schools. Provision of pedagogical support by district pedagogical teachers to the teachers in their respective districts. Issuance of Decree 117 on human resources management</td></tr><tr><td>6.D. Lack of financial resources dedicated to education</td><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>Work with development partners, private sector and civil society organizations. Mobilize fund from private sector and individuals for school building Mobilize funds from friendship cities in neighboring countries for provision of in kind support such as training, learning</td></tr></table>		1	2	3	If answer 2 or 3, have you addressed the challenge? please elaborate:	Challenges					5.D. Lack of human resources dedicated to education	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Training of teachers in the application multigrade teaching. Assigning responsibilities to school principals in carrying out internal pedagogical support Consolidation of small schools. Provision of pedagogical support by district pedagogical teachers to the teachers in their respective districts. Issuance of Decree 117 on human resources management	6.D. Lack of financial resources dedicated to education	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Work with development partners, private sector and civil society organizations. Mobilize fund from private sector and individuals for school building Mobilize funds from friendship cities in neighboring countries for provision of in kind support such as training, learning
	1	2	3	If answer 2 or 3, have you addressed the challenge? please elaborate:																	
Challenges																					
5.D. Lack of human resources dedicated to education	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Training of teachers in the application multigrade teaching. Assigning responsibilities to school principals in carrying out internal pedagogical support Consolidation of small schools. Provision of pedagogical support by district pedagogical teachers to the teachers in their respective districts. Issuance of Decree 117 on human resources management																	
6.D. Lack of financial resources dedicated to education	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Work with development partners, private sector and civil society organizations. Mobilize fund from private sector and individuals for school building Mobilize funds from friendship cities in neighboring countries for provision of in kind support such as training, learning																	

					and teaching materials or school building.
7.D.	Lack of capacity development for implementation of programmes on education	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Encourage education officers for further education or training Provide teacher upgrading training at the sub national level during summer break
8.D.	Lack of data on education, particularly disaggregated data	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
9.D.	Lack of overall political support related to education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
10.D.	Lack of cross-ministerial coordination related to education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
11.D.	Lack of international support related to education	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Education Working Group composed of representatives from international agencies, NGOs working in Lao PDR and technical staff of MoES, for mobilization of international support and exchange of lessons learned ● Loan from international financial institutions to develop education and sport sector ● Participation in different regional and international conferences, seminars, meetings and trainings at the regional and international levels. For instance: Transforming Education summit (TES), Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization (SEAMoE)
12.D.	Lack of development partner coordination related to education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
13.D.	Lack of public awareness and understanding of education	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Use of VEDC and school principals to create awareness on the importance of the education and sport</p> <p>Monitoring support from the officers at the provincial and district level education and sport department and office to mobilize school attendance</p> <p>Support development of teaching and learning materials: Khang</p>

					Panya, Nang Noi wants to know (Noi Yakhoo Application) Use of social media: websites of Lao Youth Union, Facebook
14.D	A bottom-up approach to education not followed (e.g., involvement of persons with lowest access to education, etc.)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
15.D	COVID-19 and other disasters, emergencies and crises prevented implementation of programmes on education	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	If “2” or “3”, please also name the disaster (s), emergency, etc COVID-19 Flood
16.D	<p>Has the country experienced any other major challenges in implementation of education programmes? <i>please elaborate and provide specific examples:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Despite gender parity at the primary level, it has not been achieved at the secondary level as indicated in gender parity indices in 2018, the net enrollment rate in lower secondary education was 1.04, the gross enrollment rate was 0.95 and the completion rate was 0.939. • The percentage of children out of school at primary and upper secondary level was 10% and 38%, respectively. The figure was higher among girls (15-17 years) was around 41.8%. There is, however, evidence for disparities in terms of school drop-outs looking at gender and, in particular, rural populations (44.5% with road access, and 56.5% without road access) with higher rates than urban areas (19.1%). • The vast majority of children are not well prepared for school and are not adequately learning which have led to the lack of knowledge and skills for continued education and a better future. For instance, children in rural, remote areas; from the poorest families; and ethnic groups have significantly lower learning outcomes. The same group of children are more likely to be out of school, or when in school are more likely to repeat a grade or dropout. The 2019 South-East Asia Primary Learning Metrics (SEA-PLM) learning outcomes assessment¹⁹ showed that Lao Grade 5 students show very low proficiency in reading, writing and mathematics. Only 2.5% of children at Grade 5 achieved at least a minimum proficiency level in reading. About half the children (49.6%) were found unable to perform basic reading tasks and engage with the meaning of texts at the Grade 5 level (Band 2 and below). About half of Grade 5 students (51.9%) have limited ability to present ideas in writing (Band 1 and below). In mathematics, 8% of Grade 5 students have at least a minimum proficiency level (SDG indicator 4.1.1b) although 0% of students are in the highest two bands. A third of Grade 5 students (33%) are in the lowest proficiency band (Band 2 or below) indicating very basic skills and may only be able to add single digit numbers or count a small number of objects. • Lack of life skills educators, lack of guardians to train the skills for the children to live together in some boarding schools and thus cannot accommodate the children • Comprehensive sexuality education should become mandatory and expanded 				
Lessons learned					
17.D	<p>Are there any lessons learned in the area of education not already mentioned that other countries could benefit from? <i>please elaborate and provide specific examples:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The application of the IT system for the online learning and teaching process in the remote areas due to lack of access to telephone and internet networks • The application of Nang Noi girl activities to build life skills for the girls can hardly reach the ethnic girls in the remote areas 				
Future needs: means of implementation and monitoring					

¹⁹ [SEA-PLM \(seaplmm.org\)](https://seaplmm.org/)

18.D	Please select any needs the country may have in order to implement the priority actions for education. Please check as many as apply.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capacity-building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Advocacy and awareness raising <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resource mobilization <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engagement with high-level politicians <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engagement with non-governmental stakeholders, civil society organizations, etc. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> South-South cooperation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public-private partnerships <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Data for monitoring and planning <input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please elaborate</i>):
19.D	Please select any needs the country may have in order to report on progress regarding the priority actions for education. Please check as many as apply to your country.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capacity-building – data collection <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capacity-building – data analysis <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lack of monitoring frameworks <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resource mobilization <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engagement with high-level politicians <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engagement with non-governmental stakeholders, civil society organizations, etc. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Advocacy/engagement with data collection entities <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> South-South cooperation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public-private partnerships <input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please elaborate</i>):

E. Gender equality and women's empowerment

Overall policy environment

1.E.	<p>Are any priority actions for gender equality and women's empowerment included in your National Development Strategy or other development plans? <i>please elaborate</i></p> <p>If "yes", please provide:</p> <p>(a) the strategy name/link National 5 Year Plan of Action for Gender Equality click here</p> <p>(b) date or time frame of the strategy/plan 2021-2025</p> <p>(c) page number that references this action area 18-37</p> <p>(d) main elements of the action area</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enhance knowledge on gender equality - Access to education and training for the women and children - Access to information and health service for women and children - Access to decent employment for women - Economic empowerment of women - Empowerment of women in leadership position - Access to justice for women and girls - Improvement of legal frameworks, laws and policies for promotion of gender equality <p>(d) its impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gradual reduction of gender equality gap between men and women - Women gain more confidence to speak out and receive more opportunities for their own development. 	<p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>No <input type="checkbox"/></p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improved data system and statistics on gender equality and elimination of all forms of discrimination against women at national, sectoral and local levels. - Enabling conditions are provided to promote access to information on gender equality and elimination of all forms of discrimination against women for all organizations of the government, State enterprises, private enterprises, development partners, international organizations and the general public. - Strengthened organizational structures and personnel responsible for gender equality. - Increased use of IT to expand management, coordination and monitoring of the respective sectors and at provincial and district levels to enhance gender equality affairs systematically and nationwide. - Increased rate of women in decision-making and management positions in government and mass organizations by an average of 25-30 per cent \Proportion of women members of the National Assembly and People's Provincial Assemblies to reach at least 30 per cent. - Improved livelihoods of women and girls to graduate from poverty and live securely through economic empowerment. - Increased access to quality services in terms of education, public health and social welfare, equal access to justice, prevent and eliminate violence against women and girls, disaster and climate change risk reductions. - Implementation of at least 50 per cent of the CEDAW Committee's concluding observations towards the 10th periodic National Report of Lao PDR under CEDAW. - Dissemination of at least 60 per cent of the Lao PDR, Regional and International Progress Reports of implementation under the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action+25. - CAWMCs implement the Five-year National Plan of Action for Gender Equality IV (2021-2025) and achieve at least 80 per cent of all CAWMCs. - Expanded cooperation with countries and development partners in the area of gender equality 	
2.E.	<p>Amendment of legal frameworks, policy or plan since 2013 Asia Pacific Ministerial Forum on population and development related to the priority on "Gender equality and women empowerment"? Please elaborate</p> <p>If yes, provide:</p> <p>(a) Name of policy strategy and link:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - - Law on the Development and Protection of Women (2004) - Law on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Children (2014) - Law on Gender Equality (2019) - <u>Law on Lao Women's Union (2013)</u> - <u>8th (2015-2020) and 9th (2021-2025) National Socio-Economic Development Plan and (2021-2025)</u> - 7th National Women Development Plan (2016-2020) - 8th National Women Development Plan (2021-2025) 	<p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>No <input type="checkbox"/></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Vision towards 2030, National Strategy for Gender Equality (2016-2025) and 3rd (2016-2020) and 4th (2021-2025) National Plan of Action for Gender Equality - <p>(b) Date and time frame for implementation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - (2016-2020) and (2021-2025) <p>(c) Main element</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Protection of women's and girls' rights and benefits - Development of women and girls in education and socio-economic sector - Empowerment of women in leadership position - Empowerment of women to have access to employment with dignity - Promotion of access to health care and nutrition for women and children - Improvement of data base on gender and violence against women. - Promotion of access to justice for women and children - Promotion of access to funding sources for the disadvantage ethnic women, to permanent and stable employment for contribution to the development of the family, community and society <p>(d) Impacts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gender parity has steadily improved in education in Lao PDR. The country is well on track to achieve parity between boys and girls in primary education. Progress is also seen at higher levels of education, although there is a significant gender gap in literacy that is generally associated with poverty. - Increased women's representation in leadership positions. In 2020 there are 176,151 civil servants (83,102 or 47,1% are women) country-wide²⁰. The number of women in ministerial positions increased, reflecting in the fact that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 43 women (23.26%) occupied the position of ministers or equivalent, - 105 women (20.95%) occupied the position of vice-ministers or equivalent, - 105 women (18.09%) occupied the position of deputy provincial governors or equivalent, - 430 women (20.23%) occupied the position of director generals, - 1,232 women (25.16%) occupied the position of deputy director generals, - 144 women (1.39%) occupied the position of district/city governors, and - 99 women governors out of 765 governors (12.94%) occupied the position of deputy district/city governors. - 36 female parliamentarians out of 164 parliamentarians (21.95%). - With regard to economic empowerment, there are more than 1,959 saving groups of women with the total members of 218, 289, and 	
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²⁰ CEDAW 10th Periodic Report, 2022

	665 self-help groups with the total members of 111,878; Women's access to banking system and saving books at the banks is 38%.	
<i>Achievements and good practices</i>		
3.E.	<p>Aside from what is listed above, what are some key achievements in the area of gender equality and women's empowerment in the country since 2013? <i>please elaborate on achievements, by providing specific examples and their impact:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review of Beijing Declaration in 12 areas of gender equality - Active implementation of the Government commitments at the 2019 World Population Summit in Nairobi on eradication of gender based violence and abuses especially with the focus on early marriage of the adolescents and youth through the implementation of the National Plan of Action for Prevention and eradication of Violence against Women and Children through the implementation of the necessary services packages for women and girls who are victims of gender based violence - Wide dissemination of laws and legal frameworks related to the protection of the legitimate rights of the women and children covering 82.04% of the girls and women at the age of 15 to 59 years of age. - Expansion setting up consultation services and protection of women and children in all provinces across the country. - The National Survey on Violence Against Women 2014 	
4.E.	<p>Are there any good practices the country has developed in operationalizing gender equality and women's empowerment programmes that other countries may find useful? <i>please elaborate and provide specific examples:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Standard Operating Procedures for Coordination, Governance of Coordination and Referral Pathways for Women and Girls Subject to Violence (2022) - Standard Operating Procedure for the Social Sector: Protection and Support for Women and Girls Subject to Violence in Lao PDR (2022) - Standard Operating Procedure for the Health Sector to Respond to Women and Girls Subject to Violence in Lao PDR (2022) - 24/7 hours hotline services that are available nationwide - The 'Women's 3 Goods handbook' was implemented in 173 villages from 39 districts in 6 provinces, with a total of 15,200 households received information and knowledge on gender equality, violence against women and girls and early marriage. - Expansion of consultation and women and children protection centers to the northern, central and southern provinces - Existing of the networks of members of LWU from the central to the grassroots levels that represent the multi ethnic women across the country in advocating for gender equality and empowerment of women and girls - Involvement of men to participate in the promotion of gender equality, prevention of violence against the women and promotion of sexual health and reproductive health at the village level and this practice is being scaling up to the southern, central and northern provinces of Lao PDR, with male village chiefs and elders as change agents. 	

Challenges

In implementing priority actions for gender equality and women's empowerment, has the Government encountered any of the following challenges?

[1 = never, 2 = sometimes, 3 = always]

Challenges		1	2	3	If answer 2 or 3, have you addressed the challenge? please elaborate:
5.E.	Lack of human resources dedicated to gender equality and women's empowerment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	LWU and sub-CAW is a huge mechanism that exist in all ministries and government agencies at the national, provincial, district and village level. However, the challenge is with the capacity of the human resources for promotion of gender equality and empowerment and thus the government has provided training to its technical officers at the sub-CAWMC level in promotion of gender equality and women empowerment according to the budget availability.
6.E.	Lack of financial resources dedicated to gender equality and women's empowerment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Active cooperation and fund raising with development partners and other international organizations for the promotion of gender equality and women empowerment
7.E.	Lack of capacity development for implementation of programmes on gender equality and women's empowerment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Organized trainings, participation in the trainings, workshops and exchange of lessons within the country and abroad
8.E.	Lack of data on gender equality and women's empowerment, particularly disaggregated data	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	In the process of developing a monitoring and evaluation system/framework for the implementation of the 5 Year National Plan of Action for gender equality and women empowerment
9.E.	Lack of overall political support related to gender equality and women's empowerment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
10.E.	Lack of cross-ministerial coordination related to gender equality and women's empowerment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Line ministries regularly confer and coordinate with LWU to ensure gender equality and women's empowerment, as well as sub-CAW focal points in every line ministry to ensure gender equality is mainstreamed.
11.E.	Lack of international support related to gender equality and women's empowerment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cooperation with UN agencies' and other development partners, particularly with those that have representation offices in Lao PDR
12.E.	Lack of development partner coordination related to gender equality and women's empowerment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	There is a Development Partner Gender Working Group, led by UNFPA, EU and ADB, as well as Joint Programmes between UN agencies and civil society.
13.E.	Lack of public awareness and understanding of gender equality and women's empowerment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Organize dissemination workshops, campaigns and using of social media for promotion gender equality and women empowerment and very publicized visible events discussing women's empowerment and EAW in public spaces with iconic national monuments (Patouxay, That Luang), but still experience challenges

					reaching the public in the remote areas all over the country.
14.E	A bottom-up approach to gender equality and women's empowerment not followed (e.g., involvement of women, particularly those most marginalized, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application of bottom up approach in the development of some legal frameworks for instance in the update of the laws mostly grass root consultations have been carried out (to hear the voices of people). while the development of plan of action for gender equality and women empowerment has mostly followed top down approach for instance the application of ICPD, Beijing Declaration and SDG • The government has made effort to mobilize participation of the local women and disadvantage groups in the development of policies, programmes and programmes implementation
15.E	COVID-19 and other disasters, emergencies and crises prevented implementation of programmes on gender equality and women's empowerment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>If “2” or “3”, please also name the disaster (s), emergency, etc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - COVID- 19 meant some interventions could not take place, were delayed or had to happen remotely - Floods affect access to certain communities to implement programme activities, but adaptations developed - Provision of 24 hours counseling services, provision of sanitary materials for the women affected by COVID-19 and flood disaster
16.E	<p>Has the country experienced any other major challenges in implementation of gender equality and women's empowerment programmes? <i>please elaborate and provide specific examples:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Insufficient of government budget for the implementation of the Plan of Action for the Gender Equality and Women Empowerment - Insufficient of competent human resources for promotion of gender equality and women empowerment - Insufficient of gender disaggregated data for the development and monitoring the implementation of the Plan of Action for Gender Equality and Women Empowerment - Insufficient of monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the Plan of Action for Gender Equality and Women Empowerment - Sectors characterized by vulnerable employment have the greatest proportion of women, either self-employed or engaged in unpaid work for the family. The vulnerability of women workers is due to poor education, and limited access to resources and employment. The most prevalent form of gender discrimination in labour markets is the wage gap between male and female workers - Some customary practices and beliefs are the obstacles in the implementation of the Plan of Action for Gender Equality and Women Empowerment, particularly the early marriage, the school drop out of the girls and violence against women and girls (domestic violence, sexual abuses, labor exploitation, human trafficking and others) - Support services for women and girls who have been victims and survivors of violence, especially social, health and justice support, are still inadequate and of poor quality. 				

Lessons learned

17.E.	<p>Are there any lessons learned in the area of gender equality and women's empowerment not already mentioned that other countries could benefit from? <i>please elaborate and provide specific examples:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Development of legal frameworks and policies for gender equality and women empowerment have been in accordance with the international frameworks.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Existence of the networks of LWU at the village, district, provincial, ministerial levels as well as business unit that work for gender equality and women empowerment are very valuable and ensure most communities are reached- The Lao Government has given priority and attention to gender equality and women empowerment in recent years, which has increased advocacy and sensitization on issues.	
<i>Future needs: means of implementation and monitoring</i>		
18.E.	Please select any needs the country may have in order to implement the priority actions for gender equality and women's empowerment. Please check as many as apply.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capacity-building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Advocacy and awareness raising <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resource mobilization <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engagement with high-level politicians <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engagement with non-governmental stakeholders, civil society organizations, etc. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> South-South cooperation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public-private partnerships <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Data for monitoring and planning <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please elaborate</i>): Funding support
19.E.	Please select any needs the country may have in order to report on progress regarding the priority actions for gender equality and women's empowerment. Please check as many as apply to your country.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capacity-building – data collection <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capacity-building – data analysis <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of monitoring frameworks <input type="checkbox"/> Resource mobilization <input type="checkbox"/> Engagement with high-level politicians <input type="checkbox"/> Engagement with non-governmental stakeholders, civil society organizations, etc. <input type="checkbox"/> Advocacy/engagement with data collection entities <input type="checkbox"/> South-South cooperation <input type="checkbox"/> Public-private partnerships <input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please elaborate</i>):

F. Adolescents and young people

Overall policy environment		
1.F.	<p>Are any priority actions for adolescents and young people included in your National Development Strategy or other development plans? <i>please elaborate</i></p> <p>If “yes”, please provide:</p> <p>(a) the strategy name/link</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lao Youth and Adolescent Development Strategy 2021-2030. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ https://lao.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/lao_youth_and_adolescent_development_strategy_2021-2030_lao_8nov21_0.pdf <p>(b) date or time frame of the strategy/plan 2021-2030</p> <p>(c) page number that references this action area</p> <p>(d) main elements of the action area 5 action areas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health and social welfare • Education and sport and training • Employment and business operation • Social protection • Citizen's obligation and participation 	<p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>No <input type="checkbox"/></p>

	<p>(e) its impact</p> <p>Improved multi sector cooperation especially between the education and labor and social welfare sectors in planning of vocational training and employment</p> <p>Awareness of the situation of the youth and adolescent all over the country</p> <p>More opportunities for the youth and adolescents to participate in problem solving and decision making</p> <p>Decline of children age 5 to 17 year of age who are involved in child Labor from 42.8% in 2017 (LSIS) to 25.9% in 2022 (LFSIII)</p> <p>Decline of youth (15-24) unemployment rate from 18.2% in 2017 (LFS) to 5.2% in 2022 (LFS III)</p>	
2.F.	<p>Have there been any amendments or improvements to legislation, or new policies or action plans relating to the 2013 Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development priority area “Adolescents and young people” since 2013? <i>please elaborate</i></p> <p>If “yes”, please provide:</p> <p>(a) the name of the legislation, policy and/or action plan and website link</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Law on Lao Youth Union (2017) • Lao Young Pioneer Law is being drafted and expected to be endorsed by the National Assembly in June 2023. <p>(b) date of implementation and time frame</p> <p>(c) its main elements</p> <p>(d) its impact</p>	<p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>

Achievements and good practices

3.F.	<p>Aside from what is listed above, what are some key achievements in the area of adolescents and young people in the country since 2013?</p> <p><i>please elaborate on achievements, by providing specific examples and their impact:</i></p> <p>2,720 awareness raising of 248,851 youth and adolescents of whom 95,334 are the females across the country have been reached in order to build them to be patriotic, love to work, have moral qualities, be ready to serve the nation and serve the society in various ways.</p>
4.F.	<p>Are there any good practices the country has developed in operationalizing adolescent and young people programmes that other countries may find useful?</p> <p><i>please elaborate and provide specific examples:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Training and promote knowledge about reproductive health and prevention of sexual transmitted diseases 2) Campaigns and events organization to advocate to the young people and their guardians to recognize and understand the importance of the education 3) Provide out of school comprehensive sexuality education for out of school youth 4) Youth platforms for dialogue through national events (international youth day, girl child day, population day, etc.)

Challenges

In implementing priority actions for adolescents and young people, has the Government encountered any of the following challenges? [1 = never, 2 = sometimes, 3 = always]					
Challenges		1	2	3	If answer 2 or 3, have you addressed the challenge? please elaborate:
5.F.	Lack of human resources dedicated to adolescents and young people	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Recruitment of volunteers
6.F.	Lack of financial resources dedicated to adolescents and young people	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Raise fund from international organizations, CSOs, private and other sectors
7.F.	Lack of capacity development for implementation of programmes on adolescents and young people	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Organize training and exchange visits within the country and abroad
8.F.	Lack of data on adolescents and young people, particularly disaggregated data	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Assign sub provincial level youth organization to help with disaggregated data collection
9.F.	Lack of overall political support related to adolescents and young people	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Create common understanding with each party in the importance of the development of the youth and adolescent
10.F.	Lack of cross-ministerial coordination related to adolescents and young people	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
11.F.	Lack of international support related to adolescents and young people	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Continue raising fund as the existing support still insufficient
12.F.	Lack of development partner coordination related to adolescents and young people	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
13.F.	Lack of public awareness and understanding of adolescents and young people	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Raise the awareness of people and the society to understand the importance of the development of their children
14.F.	A bottom-up approach to adolescents and young people not followed (e.g., involvement of adolescents and young people, particularly those most marginalized, etc.)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
15.F.	COVID-19 and other disasters, emergencies and crises prevented implementation of programmes on adolescents and young people	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	If "2" or "3", please also name the disaster (s), emergency, etc. COVID-19
16.F.	Has the country experienced any other major challenges in implementation of adolescent and young people programmes? <i>please elaborate and provide specific examples:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are still the needs to continuously raise awareness on the strategy and enhance the capacity to understand and interpret the strategy into practice. Very limited budget for the implementation of the plan The capacity of human resources to lead the application of the strategy for the development of the youth and adolescent. Limited number of vehicles, budget and other facilities to support the works related to the youth and adolescents. 				
Lessons learned					

17.F.	Are there any lessons learned in the area of adolescents and young people not already mentioned that other countries could benefit from? <i>please elaborate and provide specific examples:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multi sectoral cooperation • Involvement of multi generation youth volunteers: junior, mid-senior and senior generations as agents of change with back up support from the Lao Youth Union • Public sector involvement • Setting up youth volunteers in different ministries, agencies at the central provincial and district levels to provide 24 hours volunteer works and to rescue the victims when needed 	
Future needs: means of implementation and monitoring		
18.F.	Please select any needs the country may have in order to implement the priority actions for adolescents and young people. Please check as many as apply.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capacity-building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Advocacy and awareness raising <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resource mobilization <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engagement with high-level politicians <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engagement with non-governmental stakeholders, civil society organizations, etc. <input type="checkbox"/> South-South cooperation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public-private partnerships <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Data for monitoring and planning <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please elaborate</i>): vehicle and budget
19.F.	Please select any needs the country may have in order to report on progress regarding the priority actions for adolescents and young people. Please check as many as apply to your country.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capacity-building – data collection <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capacity-building – data analysis <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of monitoring frameworks <input type="checkbox"/> Resource mobilization <input type="checkbox"/> Engagement with high-level politicians <input type="checkbox"/> Engagement with non-governmental stakeholders, civil society organizations, etc. <input type="checkbox"/> Advocacy/engagement with data collection entities <input type="checkbox"/> South-South cooperation <input type="checkbox"/> Public-private partnerships <input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please elaborate</i>):

G. Ageing

Overall policy environment		
1.G.	Are any priority actions for ageing included in your National Development Strategy or other development plans? <i>please elaborate</i> If “yes”, please provide: (a) the strategy name/link <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Policy on the Elderly. No 2821/MoLSW. 8/10/2004 and endorsed by the Prime Minister’s Decree No. 156/PM on 14/10/2004. • Decree on the Organization and Functioning of the National Committee for the Elderly No 57/PM, 26/02/2009 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ https://data.laos.opendevlopmentmekong.net/en/library_record/57-26-02-2009 (b) date or time frame of the strategy/plan ²¹	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

	<p>(c) page number that references this action area</p> <p>(d) main elements of the action area</p> <p>National Policy on the Elderly, 2004:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medical treatment • Rehabilitation • Welfare • Prevention • Education, data information, income • Facilities • Knowledge and experience transfer of the older people to young generation. <p>Decree on the Organization and Functioning of the National Committee for the Elderly:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Defines the roles and responsibilities of the National Committee for the Elderly and organizational structure of the Committee at the central and provincial levels <p>(f) its impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The development and endorsement of decree 473/GoL in 2021 and followed by the current development of the strategy on the elderly • The establishment of the elderly associations in some urban areas such as Vientiane Capital 	
2.G.	<p>Have there been any amendments or improvements to legislation, or new policies or action plans relating to the 2013 Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development priority area “Ageing” since 2013? <i>please elaborate</i></p> <p>If “yes”, please provide:</p> <p>(a) the name of the legislation, policy and/or action plan and website link</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Constitution (updated 2015) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ https://data.laos.opendevlopmentmekong.net/en/laws_record/constitution-of-lao-pdr-2015 • Decree No 473 on the Elderly (12/07/2021) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ • Decree 208/GoL 23/03/2020 on Long Life Learning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ https://uil.unesco.org/system/files/lao_pdr_decree_on_lll_english.pdf <p>(b) date of implementation and time frame See above</p> <p>(c) its main elements</p> <p>Decree No 473 on the Elderly (12/07/2021)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Principles, regulations and measures for management and monitoring the works related to the elderly in order to effectively and efficiently protect the legitimate rights and benefits of the elderly to have access to care, good livelihood for contribution in the social economic development of the country <p>Decree 208/GoL 23/03/2020 on Long Life Learning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lifelong learning incorporates different forms of learning including formal, non-formal and informal learning with the aim to provide all people including the elderly, both male and female, with access to 	<p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>No <input type="checkbox"/></p>

	learning opportunities throughout life, to create knowledge societies to fulfill the needs for the country's development.				
	d) its impact				
	•				
Achievements and good practices					
3.G.	Aside from what is listed above, what are some key achievements in the area of ageing in the country since 2013? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>please elaborate on achievements, by providing specific examples and their impact:</i> Elderly Strategy being drafted with participation of local CSO and concerned ministries • Establishment of elderly association to support each other • Initiation of pilot project on protection and respect of the elderly 				
4.G.	Are there any good practices the country has developed in operationalizing programmes on ageing that other countries may find useful? <i>please elaborate and provide specific examples:</i> The Government has included the ageing in the constitution and relevant laws, especially the decree on ageing 2021, that would benefit and protect the rights and benefits of the ageing population in both direct and indirect ways for ageing. The decree on ageing has covered all social aspects and areas and is very comprehensive for the implementation and promotion of the rights and benefits of older people in Laos. For example, after the development of the Decree 473 in 2021 on the Ageing, a local CSO has initiated a project on youth participation for care and support and the respect of the senior in Nakai District, Khamouane Province in collaboration with the district labor and social welfare office				
Challenges					
In implementing priority actions for ageing, has the Government encountered any of the following challenges? [1 = never, 2 = sometimes, 3 = always]					
Challenges		1	2	3	If answer 2 or 3, have you addressed the challenge? <i>please elaborate:</i>
5.G.	Lack of human resources dedicated to ageing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mobilize technical assistance from development partners and involvement of civil society organizations working on the elderly issues
6.G.	Lack of financial resources dedicated to ageing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mobilize fund from development partners and civil society organizations
7.G.	Lack of capacity development for implementation of programmes on ageing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mobilize technical assistance from development partners and involvement of civil society organizations working on the elderly issues to provide training
8.G.	Lack of data on ageing, particularly disaggregated data	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Carry out assessment of ageing situation in Lao PDR
9.G.	Lack of overall political support related to ageing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Development of Decree 473 on the elderly
10.G.	Lack of cross-ministerial coordination related to ageing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Involvement of different concerned ministries at the central, provincial and district levels in the development of

					Decree 473, the first national strategy and plan of action
11.G.	Lack of international support related to ageing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mobilized technical assistance support from UNESCAP in the development of the new Decree 473 on the elderly and continue with strategy and plan of action
12.G.	Lack of development partner coordination related to ageing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	After the development of strategy and plan of action supported by UNESCAP, other development partners including civil society organizations will be approach to support the implementation
13.G.	Lack of public awareness and understanding of ageing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Initiated a project with civil society organization, Namjai Community Association in dissemination of Decree 473 in Khamouane province
14.G.	A bottom-up approach to ageing not followed (e.g., involvement of older persons, particularly those most marginalized, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Involvement of representatives from civil society organizations working on the elderly issues: Vientiane Capital Elderly Association and Namjai Community Association in the development of Decree 473, the national strategy and plan of action currently being developed Consultation with local authorities at the provincial and district levels as well as the elderly in the villages of the pilot project areas in the development of the current strategy and plan of action.
15.G.	COVID-19 and other disasters, emergencies and crises prevented implementation of programmes on ageing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	If “2” or “3”, please also name the disaster (s), emergency, etc. COVID-19
16.G.	Has the country experienced any other major challenges in implementation of programmes on ageing? <i>please elaborate and provide specific examples:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lack of comprehensive legislation on ageing and older persons• Limited data on ageing: health conditions, diseases, poverty and vulnerabilities etc.• Mechanism to promote older persons at the sub-national level has not yet established• Community based health insurance system has just been established• Limited facilities to promote older people to do exercise, especially in remote areas,• Social workers as well as volunteers are insufficient to provide services to older persons in case of assistance need				
Lessons learned					
17.G.	Are there any lessons learned in the area of ageing not already mentioned that other countries could benefit from? <i>please elaborate and provide specific examples:</i> the Government has included				

ageing in relevant strategies, policy and plan and laws in social sectors; education, health, employment and among others.

Future needs: means of implementation and monitoring		
18.G.	Please select any needs the country may have in order to implement the priority actions for ageing. Please check as many as apply.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capacity-building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Advocacy and awareness raising <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resource mobilization <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engagement with high-level politicians <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engagement with non-governmental stakeholders, civil society organizations, etc. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> South-South cooperation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public-private partnerships <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Data for monitoring and planning <input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please elaborate</i>):
19.G.	Please select any needs the country may have in order to report on progress regarding the priority actions for ageing. Please check as many as apply to your country.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capacity-building – data collection <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capacity-building – data analysis <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lack of monitoring frameworks <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resource mobilization <input type="checkbox"/> Engagement with high-level politicians <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engagement with non-governmental stakeholders, civil society organizations, etc. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Advocacy/engagement with data collection entities <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> South-South cooperation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public-private partnerships <input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please elaborate</i>):

H. International migration

Overall policy environment		
1.H.	Are any priority actions for international migration included in your National Development Strategy or other development plans? <i>please elaborate</i> If “yes”, please provide: (a) the strategy name/link (b) date or time frame of the strategy/plan (c) page number that references this action area (d) main elements of the action area (d) its impact	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2.H.	Have there been any amendments or improvements to legislation, or new policies or action plans relating to the 2013 Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development priority area “International migration” since 2013? <i>please elaborate</i> If “yes”, please provide: (a) the name of the legislation, policy and/or action plan and website link (b) date of implementation and time frame (c) its main elements (d) its impact	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Achievements and lessons learned	
3.H.	Aside from what is listed above, what are some key achievements in the area of international migration in the country since 2013? <i>please elaborate on achievements, by providing specific examples and their impact:</i>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Department of Employment, MoLSW in cooperation with Consular Department of MFA and Immigration Department of Public Security Ministry is the main focal point for coordination between the officers within the country and the embassy, Consulate General or Consular Offices abroad for protection, assistance of migrant workers abroad to return home safely especially, in Thailand, there is the Labor attached. In addition, assistance has also been given to foreign workers in Lao PDR to return to their countries. - The Consular Department has paid attention to checking the applications and supporting documents of the Lao citizens, especially the girls and boys under 18 years of age. At the time of their interview, there must be a guardian, father or mother who is present in the family book with the child to guarantee so the child can pass the interview and receive a new passport according to the regulations. In addition, entry-exit visas are also issued to foreigners and stateless persons. - The Consular Department has also cooperated with relevant authorities in inspecting, monitoring and providing various information on labor migration. - The Consular Department has made efforts to cooperate with relevant embassies and consulates to prevent Lao citizens traveling abroad illegally, especially illegal entry and exit, for illegal work or marriage in the destination countries, etc. - The Department of Employment, MoLSW has cooperated with other countries on the cooperation of Labor. Specifically, there are 3 countries that Lao PDR had the MOU on dispatching Labor namely: Thailand, S. Korea and Japan 										
4.H.	<p>Are there any good practices the country has developed in operationalizing international migration programmes that other countries may find useful? <i>please elaborate and provide specific examples:</i> MoLSW has Lao labor law No.43/NA that applies to all national and international migrants working in Laos to ensure their rights and benefits are protected based on the law. The Labor law consists of 3 main works namely: Skills Development, Employment, and Labor management MoLSW coordinates and works closely with the receiving countries and the recruitment agencies to raise awareness to the recruited workers who plan to work abroad so they are well trained before departure to work in other countries.</p>										
Challenges											
In implementing priority actions for international migration, has the Government encountered any of the following challenges? [1 = never, 2 = sometimes, 3 = always]											
<i>Challenges</i>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th><th>1</th><th>2</th><th>3</th><th><i>If answer 2 or 3, have you addressed the challenge? please elaborate:</i></th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>5.H. Lack of human resources dedicated to international migration</td><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>MoLSW has limited human resources to address the international migrations This means the officials to monitor and manage Lao workers who work abroad. Especially those who illegally migrate and work. lack of staff who can communicate languages of migrants. The Human resource development plan of</td></tr> </tbody> </table>		1	2	3	<i>If answer 2 or 3, have you addressed the challenge? please elaborate:</i>	5.H. Lack of human resources dedicated to international migration	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	MoLSW has limited human resources to address the international migrations This means the officials to monitor and manage Lao workers who work abroad. Especially those who illegally migrate and work. lack of staff who can communicate languages of migrants. The Human resource development plan of
	1	2	3	<i>If answer 2 or 3, have you addressed the challenge? please elaborate:</i>							
5.H. Lack of human resources dedicated to international migration	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	MoLSW has limited human resources to address the international migrations This means the officials to monitor and manage Lao workers who work abroad. Especially those who illegally migrate and work. lack of staff who can communicate languages of migrants. The Human resource development plan of							

					MoLSW has set a clear plan to build the capacity of the staff in different areas.
6.H.	Lack of financial resources dedicated to international migration	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	It is a key challenge to plan and allocate the sufficient budget for the work as the issues are difficult to plan in advance. MoLSW has expanded its network and partnership with CSOs and INGOs and Development partners to provide financial and technical support for the implementation of plan and programme and central and communities level. At the same time, the Government has made effort to increase public investment to implement the MoLSW plan.
7.H.	Lack of capacity development for implementation of programmes on international migration	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
8.H.	Lack of data on international migration, particularly disaggregated data	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Many international migrations are related to illegal migrations, so it is a key challenge to get accurate data for planning and implementation. MoLSW can have only data of the international migrations through legal sending process. The Government has developed Human Resource Management System for Enterprise and a national Labor management and information system and set a national agenda for Labor registration nationwide to register all workers in and out of the system. MoLSW has initiated the development of the Lao workers sending overseas management systems in order to have a better data reporting system .

9.H.	Lack of overall political support related to international migration	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Currently the Government has MOU with 4 countries as reference for sending Lao workers to work. Currently only 3 countries namely: Thailand, Japan, South Korea have received Lao workers while to Malaysia is under preparation.</i>
10.H.	Lack of cross-ministerial coordination related to international migration	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Manual for the management and protection of migrant workers for the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Public Security</i>
11.H.	Lack of international support related to international migration	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Financial and technical support on international migration from International Labor Organization (ILO) and International Organization for Migrations (IOM)</i>
12.H.	Lack of development partner coordination related to international migration	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Few organizations working on migration, especially International Labor Organization (ILO), International Organization for Migrations (IOM), as Laos has long borders with neighboring countries and only few organizations working on these areas only in the main city, not cover entitled areas especially in the rural areas where migrations are high. MoLSW at central, provincial and district levels have expanded, coordinated and collaborated with local CSOs, INGOs, private sectors and DPs working in the communities to address the issues.</i>
13.H.	Lack of public awareness and understanding of international migration	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Lack of knowledge and information on migration of people is a key issue. Many people do not</i>

					understand the related law and regulations; so there are many undocumented workers who have worked overseas; labor law so they do not follow rules and regulations. Lack of human and financial resources to conduct awareness raising activities and law disseminations.
14.H.	A bottom-up approach to international migration not followed (e.g., involvement of international migrants, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	People in the community lack awareness of migrations and relevant laws Therefore there are a high number of workers who migrate to work overseas illegally. MoLSW has implemented the plan to involve communities by conducting a community based training, meeting and annual meeting to listen to the community to represent issues they faced and also set a clear plan to address the issues.
15.H.	COVID-19 and other disasters, emergencies and crises prevented implementation of programmes on international migration	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	If “2” or “3”, please also name the disaster (s), emergency, etc. COVID-19 Natural disasters
16.H.	<p>Has the country experienced any other major challenges in implementation of international migration programmes? <i>please elaborate and provide specific examples:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MoLSW has limited human resources to address the international migrations. Lack of staff who can communicate languages of foreign migrants Planning and allocation of sufficient budget for the work as the issues are difficult to plan in advance. Lack of accurate data on international migration for action planning as recruiting agencies only have data on legal migrant workers but not on illegal migrant workers People in the community lack awareness of migrations and relevant laws especially those who are seasonal migrations. Law enforcement is weak and needs improvement <p>Challenges with COVID-19 and natural disasters (flood and drought)</p>				
17.H.	<p>Are there any lessons learned in the area of international migration not already mentioned that other countries could benefit from? A strong collaboration and coordination with receiving countries, relevant internal stakeholders, recruiting agencies can reduce the risk of Lao migrants who plan to work abroad to get more knowledge and awareness before departure to work in other countries. It is mandatory for the private recruitment agencies to conduct the training for any recruited worker to work abroad.</p>				
Future needs: means of implementation and monitoring					

18.H.	Please select any needs the country may have in order to implement the priority actions for international migration. Please check as many as apply.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capacity-building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Advocacy and awareness raising <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resource mobilization <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engagement with high-level politicians <input type="checkbox"/> Engagement with non-governmental stakeholders, civil society organizations, etc. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> South-South cooperation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public-private partnerships <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Data for monitoring and planning <input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please elaborate</i>):
19.H.	Please select any needs the country may have in order to report on progress regarding the priority actions for international migration. Please check as many as apply to your country.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capacity-building – data collection <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capacity-building – data analysis <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lack of monitoring frameworks <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resource mobilization <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engagement with high-level politicians <input type="checkbox"/> Engagement with non-governmental stakeholders, civil society organizations, etc. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Advocacy/engagement with data collection entities <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> South-South cooperation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public-private partnerships <input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please elaborate</i>):

I. Urbanization and internal migration

Overall policy environment		
1.I.	<p>Are any priority actions for urbanization and internal migration included in your National Development Strategy or other development plans? <i>please elaborate</i></p> <p>If “yes”, please provide:</p> <p>(a) the strategy name/link:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IIIVth 5 Year National Socio Economic Plan 2016-2020 (page110-112) https://planning.mpi.gov.la/wp-content/uploads/formidable/3/nsedp8-eng.pdf • IXth 5 Year National Socio Economic Plan 2021-2025 (pages 85-87 and 110-112) https://data.laos.opendevlopmentmekong.net/lo/dataset/594f94b8-1b77-4225-b779-8c16512bf073/resource/34208f7e-ba9e-4a50-90e3-3632581658be/download/_eng_9th_nsedp_final_print_12.1.22.pdf • 2016-2020 5year Development Plan of Public Works and Transport Sector (page 35) https://drive.google.com/file/d/1AH2R-85DonPjsOc4yTYJGIC_QivG05eO/view?usp=sharing • 2021-2025 5year Development Plan of Public Works and Transport Sector (page 60-62) https://drive.google.com/file/d/14O97HWQ9wkMB5ICRoppesifWqHxtWCqy/view?usp=sharing <p>(b) date or time frame of the strategy/plan <i>See above</i></p> <p>(c) page number that references this action area <i>See above</i></p>	<p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>No <input type="checkbox"/></p>

	<p>(d) main elements of the action area</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allocation of permanent settlement and livelihood for people, especially in the villages that do not have production area. • Development of large village into a small town in country side (meaning building a large village with the same characteristics of development similar to the urban area. • Development of urban master plan and urban management to be relevant to growing population in the urban areas. <p>(d) its impact:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Permanent agricultural production area with 2 season crops with climate change adaptation and mitigation as well as to reduce the damage from natural disasters that may occur with the goal to support food production as well as cash crops production linked to irrigated agriculture. • Gradual reduction of urban and rural gaps • Sustainable urban development and management for gathering population with innovative ideas leading to higher productivity. 	
2.I.	<p>Have there been any amendments or improvements to legislation, or new policies or action plans relating to the 2013 Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development priority area “Urbanization and internal migration” since 2013? <i>please elaborate</i></p> <p>If “yes”, please provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the name of the legislation, policy and/or action plan and website link <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Urban Planning Law No 40/NA dated 16/11/2017 o Ministerial Decision No 2241/MPWT, dated 31/01/2019 o Manual for village, large village and small town development plan <p>(b) date of implementation and time frame See above</p> <p>(c) its main elements: Guidance in procedures and steps in big village and small town planning that composes of basic knowledge on the design</p> <p>(d) its impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The updated Urban Planning Law 2017 is for ensuring the systematic, effective development of urban planning to be balanced and meet the requirements of urban and rural development. - Ministerial Decision No 2241/MPWT, dated 31/01/2019 is to manage the construction in accordance with technical standards and legal regulations. - Manual for village, large village and small town development plan is a reference document for all concerned parties involved in town planning to follow the basic principles, technical standards, according to the procedures appropriate to the actual conditions of each locality. - 	<p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>No <input type="checkbox"/></p>
Achievements and good practices		
3.I.	<p>Aside from what is listed above, what are some key achievements in the area of urbanization and internal migration in the country since 2013?</p> <p><i>please elaborate on achievements, by providing specific examples and their impact:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The upgrade of 3 municipalities to 3 cities: Luangprabang, Kaysone and Pakse cities. - Development of 25 large villages into small towns - Completed the development and improvement of the urban environment of 5 big urban areas: Vientiane Capital, Kayson City, Parkse City, Borkeo and Luang Namtha. - Completed the survey design and modification of the master plans for 148 districts across the country (including the master plan for Vientiane Capital version 3.) 	

4.I.	Are there any good practices the country has developed in operationalizing urbanization and internal migration programmes that other countries may find useful? <i>please elaborate and provide specific examples:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To respond to the growing population in the big cities of Lao PDR MPWT sector has evaluated the master plans periodically in order to update the city plan in accordance with the population growth to ensure convenient, peaceful and safety of people's living conditions. 		
Challenges			
In implementing priority actions for urbanization and internal migration, has the Government encountered any of the following challenges? [1 = never, 2 = sometimes, 3 = always]			
Challenges	1 2 3 <i>If answer 2 or 3, have you addressed the challenge? please elaborate:</i>		
5.I.	Lack of human resources dedicated to urbanization and internal migration	<input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Periodic monitoring, support, promotion and strengthen knowledge and understanding on urban planning of the technical staff of district office of public works and transport.
6.I.	Lack of financial resources dedicated to urbanization and internal migration	<input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Creation of enabling conditions for mobilization of domestic and foreign investment in addition to public investment and support from development partners,
7.I.	Lack of capacity development for implementation of programmes on urbanization and internal migration	<input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Implementation Capacity development programme in promotion and management of urban development funded by JICA
8.I.	Lack of data on urbanization and internal migration, particularly disaggregated data	<input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Promotion and raising fund for field data collection
9.I.	Lack of overall political support related to urbanization and internal migration	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	
10.I.	Lack of cross-ministerial coordination related to urbanization and internal migration	<input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Development of coordination mechanism between the central provincial departments In issuance of the decision for nomination local coordinator
11.I.	Lack of international support related to urbanization and internal migration	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	
12.I.	Lack of development partner coordination related to urbanization and internal migration	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	
13.I.	Lack of public awareness and understanding of urbanization and internal migration	<input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Dissemination and printing of leaflet on modern and

					environmental friendly town
14.I.	A bottom-up approach to urbanization and internal migration not followed (e.g., involvement of urban migrants, etc.)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
15.I.	COVID-19 and other disasters, emergencies and crises prevented implementation of programmes on urbanization and internal migration	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	If “2” or “3”, please also name the disaster (s), emergency, etc. - COVID 19 - Natural disaster: flood, land slide, dam collapse
16.I.	Has the country experienced any other major challenges in implementation of urbanization and internal migration programmes? <i>please elaborate and provide specific examples:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- 3 builds policy implementation: The implementation of the updated ministerial decision No 2241/MPWT, dated 01/01/2019 on management of construction activities. In some provinces there are lack of clear responsibilities between as there are multiple parties responsible for the urban development such as provincial department of PWT, department of World Heritage, Urban Development Authority and City department of public works and transport- Lack of management of the construction especially construction of the structures in the city to ensure good order and the delay in the approval of the construction permit;- Urban planning and management: Completed the master plans for 148 towns development all over the country but these plans have not been further used for the development of detailed plans for each period resulting in the town development that is not relevant to the real situation, so far there has not been a model town with a town development plan; the process of survey design and approval of the integrated urban plan takes quite a lot of time and budget; Limited information dissemination on the urban plan;- Amendment and development of legal frameworks: Lack of legislation to be the important tools for the management of housing and urban planning sector, particularly legal framework for the management of controlled building, large scale building that use advance technology; with regard to some existing legislations, there are still no recommendations for implementation and thus the implementation has not yet follow the same direction; in addition, the appointment of town planning officials with specific uniforms and symbols when performing their duties as provided in the Articles 86, 87, 88, Part II of the Law on Town Planning does not have any legislation under this law to guide the implementation.				
Lessons learned					
17.I.	Are there any lessons learned in the area of urbanization and internal migration not already mentioned that other countries could benefit from? <i>please elaborate and provide specific examples:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Dissemination of 5year development plan of 2021-2025 of ministry of public works and transport, manual for the development plan of big village to small town in the rural areas to the government officers to understand it for fulfilling their duties;- The division and manager of the projects under the department of housing and urban planning must set priorities of their works, develop detailed monthly, quarterly and annual plan as well as budget and human resources plans that are relevant to the actual situation and approved budget frame.;				

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pay attention in monitoring, supervision at the early stage and encourage the implementation of the work of all parties in each period as well as monitoring, reporting and carrying out regular evaluation; - Capacity building in plan development, management, urban management and others; - Creation of factors for a sustainable and modern town with environmental friendly in order to improve the quality of life of the people; use energy efficiently, manage and reduce solid waste; ensure that everyone in the society, especially the poor and marginalized groups have access to the services they need in order to reduce the gap in development of urban and rural areas.
Future needs: means of implementation and monitoring	
18.I.	<p>Please select any needs the country may have in order to implement the priority actions for urbanization and internal migration. Please check as many as apply.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capacity-building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Advocacy and awareness raising <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resource mobilization <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engagement with high-level politicians <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engagement with non-governmental stakeholders, civil society organizations, etc. <input type="checkbox"/> South-South cooperation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public-private partnerships <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Data for monitoring and planning <input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please elaborate</i>):
19.I.	<p>Please select any needs the country may have in order to report on progress regarding the priority actions for urbanization and internal migration. Please check as many as apply to your country.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capacity-building – data collection <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capacity-building – data analysis <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of monitoring frameworks <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resource mobilization <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engagement with high-level politicians <input type="checkbox"/> Engagement with non-governmental stakeholders, civil society organizations, etc. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Advocacy/engagement with data collection entities <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> South-South cooperation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public-private partnerships <input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please elaborate</i>):

J. Population and sustainable development

Overall policy environment		
1.J.	<p>Are any priority actions for population and sustainable development included in your National Development Strategy or other development plans? <i>please elaborate</i></p> <p>If “yes”, please provide: the strategy name/link</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Socio-Economic Plan 2021-2025 /https://data.opendevelopmentmekong.net/library_record/9th-five-year-national-socio-economic-development-plan-2021-2025 	<p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>No <input type="checkbox"/></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● National Roadmap for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the Lao PDR (Available in Paper Lao and English) <p>(b) date or time frame of the strategy/plan 2021-2025; 2018-2030</p> <p>(c) page number that references this action area 73-96</p> <p>(d) main elements of the action area</p> <p>Improved human resources to meet development, research capacity, sciences and technology needs, and create value-added production and services and enhance the well-being of the people.</p> <p>(d) its impact Provides tools or the development of plan and monitoring system of each concerned government sector at the central, provincial and district levels in the achievement towards SDG</p> <p>2030 Agenda and National Socio-Economic Development Plan (NSEDPP)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Vertical and horizontal integration - Data and statistics (monitoring, reporting and responsibility) - Funding contribution (creation of funding source for future development) - Greater cooperation (consultation and multi sectoral cooperation) - Dissemination and awareness raising <p>(d) Impact: This development plan supports the vision and mandate of the National Secretary for the implementation of the SDG as defined in the objectives of the strategy, including roles, responsibilities and target groups, explaining the roles of the National Secretariat to implement the policy related to communication, advertising and dissemination.</p>	
2.J.	<p>Have there been any amendments or improvements to legislation, or new policies or action plans relating to the 2013 Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development priority area “Population and sustainable development” since 2013? <i>please elaborate</i></p> <p>If “yes”, please provide:</p> <p>(a) the name of the legislation, policy and/or action plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● National Population and Development Policy (2019-2030) and <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ website link https://lao.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/book_decem_2020_npd_naw_eoaaohnii.pdf <p>(b) date of implementation and time frame 2019-2030</p> <p>(c) its main elements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Improvement of reproductive health; ● Enhancement of the opportunities of the demographic bonus to maximize socio-economic benefits for equitable; ● Maximize the benefits of rural-urban migration and international migration, minimize the negative effects; preparation to address the challenges of ageing to support an older population; ● Improvement the availability and quality of population data to meet international standards; ● Increase integration of population data into national, sub-national and sector development plans and strategies; gender equity for women and men in social, economic and political dimensions and elimination of violence against women 	<p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>No <input type="checkbox"/></p>

	(d) its impact Government sectors at the central and sub-central levels use it as a tool for population development planning and monitoring																					
Achievements and good practices																						
3.J.	<p>Aside from what is listed above, what are some key achievements in the area of population and sustainable development in the country since 2013?</p> <p><i>please elaborate on achievements, by providing specific examples and their impact:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strategy for the Development of the Lao Youth and Adolescent 2021-2030 - Establishment of National Steering Committee for SDG implementation in Lao PDR chaired by the Prime Minister; - Assign clear roles and responsibilities to reach ministry and concerned sector for reaching each target. Establishment of focal points at each ministry for coordination; - Clear term of reference for of the National Steering Committee Secretariat, focal point for coordination at each concerned ministry, ministry equivalent agency and mass organization for the implementation of SDG; - Support from development partners - Technical assistance from UN agencies. 																					
4.J.	<p>Are there any good practices the country has developed in operationalizing population and sustainable development programmes that other countries may find useful?</p> <p><i>please elaborate and provide specific examples:</i></p> <p>Lao PDR sees the importance in the implementation of SDG in the country, so it has established the National Steering Committee for the implementation of the SDG, especially under the chairmanship of the high level leadership, which is the Prime Minister of Lao PDR. In addition, the roles and tasks have been clearly defined for each sector in the programme implementation</p>																					
Challenges																						
<p>In implementing priority actions for population and sustainable development, has the Government encountered any of the following challenges?</p> <p>[1 = never, 2 = sometimes, 3 = always]</p>																						
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5.J.	Lack of human resources dedicated to population and sustainable development																					
6.J.	Lack of financial resources dedicated to population and sustainable development																					
7.J.	Lack of capacity development for implementation of programmes on population and sustainable development																					
8.J.	Lack of data on population and sustainable development, particularly disaggregated data																					

					National Statistical System 2016-2025 and Vision towards 2030
9.J.	Lack of overall political support related to population and sustainable development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
10.J.	Lack of cross-ministerial coordination related to population and sustainable development	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Promote multisectoral coordination in the implementation of population development programmes for example nutrition interventions
11.J.	Lack of international support related to population and sustainable development	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Organize annual Round Table meeting with development partners.
12.J.	Lack of development partner coordination related to population and sustainable development	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Setting up thematic sectoral working groups between government and development partners to meet quarterly and annually
13.J.	Lack of public awareness and understanding of population and sustainable development	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Support CSOs to work with development partners to work with in reaching out to the grass root level for creation of awareness in population and sustainable development
14.J.	A bottom-up approach to population and sustainable development not followed (e.g., involvement of those most affected, or most marginalized populations, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Development of manuals and tools for participatory village planning to be applied for planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of projects. Assign government staff at the central level to be based at the provincial level and staff at the provincial level to be based at the district level and staff at the district level to be based at the cluster village level to help applying bottom up approach
15.J.	COVID-19 and other disasters, emergencies and crises prevented implementation of programmes on population and sustainable development	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	If “2” or “3”, please also name the disaster (s), emergency, etc. COVID-19, flash flood, land slide, soil erosion, draught and forest fire

16.J.	<p>Has the country experienced any other major challenges in implementation of population and sustainable development programmes? <i>please elaborate and provide specific examples:</i> The lack of human as well as monetary resources in the application of government strategies and policies for the implementation of population and sustainable development programmes</p> <p>With regard to the challenges in the implementation of the SDG agenda in Lao PDR is the change or potential change of the secretariat of the National Steering Committee for SDG agenda implementation who will help expanding the implementation of the plan, due to the appointment of the new unit or staff turnover. Therefore handover of tasks to the new team may create challenges and delay in the implementation of SDG from time to time.</p>
Lessons learned	
17.J.	<p>Are there any lessons learned in the area of population and sustainable development not already mentioned that other countries could benefit from? <i>please elaborate and provide specific examples:</i></p> <p>The use of fund and resources for sustainable development still has limitations, which may be the challenge for the implementation of the programme; at the same time, awareness raising and dissemination to reach people is still challenging, especially those who live in the high land and remote areas; including access to different ethnic groups may need to use local or ethnic languages in communication and dissemination to reach all groups.</p>
Future needs: means of implementation and monitoring	
18.J.	<p>Please select any needs the country may have in order to implement the priority actions for population and sustainable development. Please check as many as apply.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capacity-building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Advocacy and awareness raising <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resource mobilization <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engagement with high-level politicians <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engagement with non-governmental stakeholders, civil society organizations, etc. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> South-South cooperation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public-private partnerships <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Data for monitoring and planning <input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please elaborate</i>):
19.J.	<p>Please select any needs the country may have in order to report on progress regarding the priority actions for population and sustainable development. Please check as many as apply to your country.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capacity-building – data collection <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capacity-building – data analysis <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lack of monitoring frameworks <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resource mobilization <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engagement with high-level politicians <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engagement with non-governmental stakeholders, civil society organizations, etc. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Advocacy/engagement with data collection entities <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> South-South cooperation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public-private partnerships <input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please elaborate</i>):

K. Data and statistics

Overall policy environment		
1.K.	<p>Are any priority actions for data and statistics included in your National Development Strategy or other development plans? <i>please elaborate</i></p> <p>If “yes”, please provide:</p> <p>(a) the strategy name/link</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategy for the Development of the National Statistics System 2010-2020. https://www.lsb.gov.la/en/guidelines <p>(b) date or time frame of the strategy/plan 2010-2020</p> <p>(c) page number that references this action area 10-37</p> <p>(d) main elements of the action area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Legal framework development; Organizational system improvement; Human resources development; Statistical infrastructure development; Management and development of official statistics data. <p>(d) its impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lao Statistics Bureau has been upgraded to ministry equivalent organization with first level government budget 	<p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>No <input type="checkbox"/></p>
2.K.	<p>Have there been any amendments or improvements to legislation, or new policies or action plans relating to the 2013 Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development priority area “Data and statistics” since 2013? <i>please elaborate</i></p> <p>If “yes”, please provide:</p> <p>(a) the name of the legislation, policy and/or action plan and website link</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategy for sustainable Development of the National Statistical System 2016-2025 and Vision towards 2030; Statistic Law amended in 2017. <p>(b) date of implementation and time frame 2016-2025</p> <p>(c) its main elements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving and implementing legislation; Developing statistical infrastructure; Control, management and development of data; Ensuring statistical coordination system and networks integration <p>(a) its impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improvement of coordination between Lao Statistic Bureau and concerned government sectors in the production of official statistics uploaded in the website of LSB for public uses in planning, monitoring and evaluation process such as LSIS, LECS, Agriculture Census, Population and Housing Census, Labor Force Survey... 	<p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>No <input type="checkbox"/></p>
Achievements and good practices		
3.K.	<p>Aside from what is listed above, what are some key achievements in the area of data and statistics in the country since 2013?</p> <p><i>please elaborate on achievements, by providing specific examples and their impact:</i> 4th Population and Housing Census 2015, LSIS2 2016-2017, LECS 2018/2019, Agriculture Census, Economic Census, Labor Force Survey and others.</p>	
4.K.	<p>Are there any good practices the country has developed in operationalizing data and statistics programmes that other countries may find useful?</p> <p><i>please elaborate and provide specific examples:</i></p>	

	<p>Setting up steering and technical committees for census and other national surveys is an effective approach to increase participation of sectors at central and provincial and district level as well as people in the communities in the process of census and national surveys planning and implementation. This approach is also part of mobilizations both financial and participation and cooperation in the processes.</p> <p>The Population and Housing Census provides baseline data for monitoring the achievement in the implementation of the 5year periodic socio-economic plan, SDG and National Policy on Population and Development, as well as the data for deprived and less developed areas.</p>																														
Challenges																															
<p>In implementing priority actions for data and statistics, has the Government encountered any of the following challenges?</p> <p>[1 = never, 2 = sometimes, 3 = always]</p>																															
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10.K.	Lack of cross-ministerial coordination related to data and statistics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
11.K.	Lack of international support related to data and statistics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
12.K.	Lack of development partner coordination related to data and statistics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
13.K.	Lack of public awareness and understanding of data and statistics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
14.K.	A bottom-up approach to data and statistics not followed (e.g., involvement of those collecting, disseminating and analysing data and statistics.)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
15.K.	COVID-19 and other disasters, emergencies and crises prevented implementation of programmes on data and statistics	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	If “2” or “3”, please also name the disaster (s), emergency etc. COVID-19
16.K.	Has the country experienced any other major challenges in implementation of data and statistics programmes? <i>please elaborate and provide specific examples:</i> The application of new technology in the statistics work is still limited due to insufficient capacity and funds, particularly at the district and village levels.				
Lessons learned					
17.K.	Are there any lessons learned in the area of data and statistics not already mentioned that other countries could benefit from? <i>please elaborate and provide specific examples:</i> Improvement and dissemination of Statistics Law has increased ownership of each sector to improve administrative statistics for routine monitoring and reporting achievement towards their respective development targets based on SDGs adopted by the Lao Government.				
Future needs: means of implementation and monitoring					
18.K.	Please select any needs the country may have in order to implement the priority actions for data and statistics. Please check as many as apply.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capacity-building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Advocacy and awareness raising <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resource mobilization <input type="checkbox"/> Engagement with high-level politicians <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engagement with non-governmental stakeholders, civil society organizations, etc. <input type="checkbox"/> South-South cooperation <input type="checkbox"/> Public-private partnerships <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Data for monitoring and planning <input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please elaborate</i>):			
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IV. Summary questions

<i>Extraneous influences</i>			
<i>Has the COVID-19 pandemic, or other national emergencies, disasters, or crises, resulted in:</i>			
2.1	Building in more resilience when developing population programmes?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Somewhat <input type="checkbox"/> No	<i>If “yes” or “somewhat”, please elaborate:</i> Receive support from UN agencies in the development of resilient framework in the area of economy, labor, tourism such as Disaster Law, Strategy on disaster management, Strategy on finance for management of disaster risk
2.2	Increased prioritization (or mainstreaming) of population issues in policy making?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Somewhat <input type="checkbox"/> No	<i>If “yes” or “somewhat”, please elaborate:</i> Guidance of the government in the development of the annual public investment plan of each sector for addressing disaster. At the central level priority has been given to the concerned sectors to monitor and address the impacts of the natural disasters. For instance the outbreak of COVID 19 MoH has been assigned to lead the preventive and treatment process.
2.3	Diversion of funds or resources from population programmes to support other programmes?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Somewhat <input type="checkbox"/> No	<i>If “yes” or “somewhat”, please elaborate:</i> Allocation of budget in public investment for disaster preparedness and response in the past 5 years but before that the government

			used contingency fund to respond to disaster
Priority areas for further action			
2.4	Please rank the priority action areas outlined in the 2013 Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development from highest to lowest priority in the country at the current point in time. Please use '1' as the highest priority and '11' the lowest priority.	<input type="checkbox"/> 1. Poverty eradication and employment <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Education <input type="checkbox"/> 3. Health <input type="checkbox"/> 4. Sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights <input type="checkbox"/> 5. Gender equality and women's empowerment <input type="checkbox"/> 6. Adolescents and young people <input type="checkbox"/> 7. Data and statistics <input type="checkbox"/> 8. Population and sustainable development <input type="checkbox"/> 9. Urbanization and internal migration <input type="checkbox"/> 10. International migration <input type="checkbox"/> 11. Ageing	
Additional comments			
2.5	Are there any topics that are not covered in the 2013 Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development that have become critically significant in the country since 2013? For example: food security, climate change or digital transformation? <i>please elaborate:</i> Food security and nutrition: It is one priority in the 9 th Five Year Socio-Economic development plan of the Lao Government Climate change and disaster: It is in the Target 4 of the 9 th Five Year Socio-Economic development plan of the Lao Government Digital transformation: In 2021 the Government has developed Vision towards National Digital Economic Development 2020-2040, National Strategy for National Digital Economic Development 2020-2030 and 5 Year National Digital Economic Development Plan 2021-2025.		
2.6	Are there any other lessons learned , achievements, challenges or needs that can be shared in regard to priority action areas outlined in the 2013 Asia and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development that have not already been addressed in this survey? <i>please elaborate:</i> Despite Lao PDR has made good progress to reach sustainable development goals in poverty eradication, reproductive health, education and gender equality. However, there are still disparities in poverty between the urban and rural areas, adolescent birth rate as well as school dropout rate are still high, women at the high level decision making of the government as well as at the village level is still under represented and girls and women's access to higher education after higher secondary level education is still limited		

V. Overall achievements/challenges in population and development

The Seventh Asian and Pacific Population Conference will be held from 16 to 18 November 2023. The intergovernmental meeting will coincide with the 60-year commemoration of the first Asian Population Conference, which was held from 10 to 20 December 1963 in New Delhi, India, the 30-year regional review of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development in Asia and the Pacific, and the 10-year anniversary of the adoption of the 2013 Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development. It will also mark the half-way point in achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific.

With the above in mind, please share the country's biggest achievement and challenge in the area of population and development:

3.1	<p>Over the last 60 years (since the first Population Conference)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Achievement <i>please elaborate</i>: Lao PDR was founded in December 1975 less than 60 years ago. Our first Population and Housing Census was carried out in 1995 thus MPI has no reliable data to report on achievement in the past 60 years ago. The first National Population and Development Policy was approved in 1999. Challenge <i>please elaborate</i>:
3.2	<p>Over the last 30 years (since the adoption of the ICPD Programme of Action)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Achievement <i>please elaborate</i>: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Declining proportion of population living below national poverty line from 33.5% in 2003 to 23.2% in 2013. Human development index (HDI) has improved significantly since 1990 from 0.405 to 0.586 in 2015, positioning it at 138 out of 188 countries and territories. Its international ranking has moved up by 5 places between 2010-2015 (UNDP 2016) Maternal mortality ratio has declined by 78% between 1990 and 2015. 1,100 per 100,000 live births in 1990 to around 220 in 2013 and 206 in 2015²². Life expectancy has improved from 53.71 years in 1990 to 66.67 years in 2015. Net enrollment rate to grade 1 of primary school increased from 66.4% to 97.9% , Girl's net enrollment rate was 65.6% to 97.8% while boys was 67.10% to 98.7%²³ between 2006 and 2016. Challenge <i>please elaborate</i>: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The poverty rate in rural areas is 2.9 times that of the urban areas (2012/2013). One third of the population in the upland areas is still below the poverty line while in low land area, only about one fifth of the population is poor. Low level of education, especially among women and girls. As of 2015 at the national level, 9.2% of males and 17.6% of females over six years have received no education at all. Amongst those who have attended school, the primary and secondary completion rates remain low. Only 73% completed primary and 35% of the relevant age groups completed lower secondary. In upper secondary, only 29% of males and 25% of females completed this level. In 2015 Lao PDR Gender Development Index (GDI) was 0.924 indicating that the HDI for women is lower than for men, indicating that gender inequality has a negative effect on overall development. Lao PDR's gender imbalance is also evident in the Gender Inequality Index (GII), which was 0.468 in 2015. Although the share of National Assembly members who are women is reasonably high at 27.5 percent, the proportion of women in leadership and management-level positions is low at around 5 percent and in rural areas only 1.7 percent of village chiefs were female in 2015 (Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, 2018). Despite progress maternal mortality rate remains high by comparison with other South East Asian countries. The number of maternal mortality deaths estimated from 2015 Population and Housing Census was 206. High adolescent fertility rate in 2015, 11% of births are to women ages 15-19, the second highest after Thailand among South East Asia countries.
3.3	Over the last 7 years since adopting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

²² VNR 2, 2021.

²³ VNR2, 2021.

a. Achievement *please elaborate:*

- Declining proportion of population living below national poverty line from 23.2% in 2013 to 18.60% in 2019²⁴ Poverty has fallen faster in rural areas than in towns, due to an improvement in farm incomes and remittances among rural households. The rural poverty rate dropped by 7.6 percentage points to 23.8 percent between 2013 and 2019.
- The proportion of population in multidimensional poverty has declined over the years reducing from 40.4% in 2012 to 23.1% in 2017. The percentage of children who are multi-dimensionally deprived also decreased from 33.1% in 2013 to 22% in 2018.
- Under 5 mortality rate from 79 per 1,000 live births in 2012 to 46 in 2017 (LSIS 2017)
- Maternal mortality ratio has further declined from 206 per 100,000 live births in 2015 to 126 in 2020 (MMR UNICEF, LSN: PHC)
- Enrolment rates of children at relevant ages enrolled in primary and lower secondary was 84.9% in 2012 to 89.6% in 2017 (LSIS)

b. Challenge *please elaborate:*

- Poverty reduction and growth. Even though the poverty reduction has steady been reduced over time, the pace of reduction has not been that quick compared to those of the GDP growth. Between 2013 and 2019, one percentage growth in GDP led to 0.67% reduction in poverty (this situation was only 0.4 between 2008 and 2013).
- . Inequality risen due to widening consumption gaps. In recent years, consumption grew at a faster pace among the better off. Between 2013 and 2019, the average consumption per capita of the bottom 40% grew by 2.1% per year, compared with the national average of 3.3%, while for the richest quintile, the average consumption grew by 4.1% per year. Thus, welfare gains were substantially lower for the poor, and poverty remained less elastic than it would have been had consumption growth been more equal. The inequality has also been witnessed by the increase of Gini Index going up from 36.0 (2013) to 38.8 in 2019.
- Different poverty levels across provinces and regions. While most provinces experienced a decline in poverty rates, poverty in Vientiane capital doubled from 2.5% in 2013 to 5% in 2019. Four other provinces also saw an increase in poverty during the same period (Xayabouly, Bolikhamxay, Khammuan, and Attapeu). The geography of poverty has shifted toward urban areas and the central region, although rural areas are still home to the overwhelming share of the poor. Five provinces account for more than half of the poor in Lao PDR: Savannakhet (20.6%), Oudomxay (8.7%), Khammuane (8.3%), Saravane (8.0%) and Luangprabang (7.7%).
- Rural poverty reduction. Rural poverty is more than three times higher than in urban areas. Despite accounting for 67% of the population, rural areas are home to nearly 90% of the poor population. Small towns created by the agglomeration of large villages according to the rural development policy increased from 11 towns in 2015 to 30 in early 2018, meaning an increase of 19 new towns. In the agriculture sector, activities such as the creation of the Department of Rural Development and Cooperatives, participatory land-use planning in villages, and support provided to farmers' organizations contributed to poverty alleviation.
- While progress has been made, access to social protection is still inadequate. Only workers employed in the formal Lao economy have social security coverage, while workers in the informal economy have inadequate access to basic coverage. In term of the National Health Insurance scheme, it covers 17 provinces, but except Vientiane capital, which is 94% out of total population as of 2020. The coverage is at high level, but the quality of health care services and access to health care services remain to be improved. In term of social state enterprise protection scheme, the percentage of

²⁴ VNR2, 2021

population covered by the scheme has been on a downward trend decreasing from 12.7% in 2015 to 10.8% in 2019.

- Food and nutrition security have improved over the years. However, it is still an issue of concern. Proportion of hungry people has declined from 33% (2010) to 23% (2018). The country ranked 87/117 in the 2020 World Hunger Index. With a score of 25.7, Lao PDR suffers from a level of hunger that is serious. Food and nutrition insecurity has been an issue even prior to COVID-19. Percentage of prevalence of undernourishment in the population remains almost unchanged (16.8% in 2015) and (16.5% in 2018).
- Significant threats to food security. The threats to food security include soil degradation and decreasing yields, linked to land pressure from population and large-scale investment projects, limited access to irrigation, rainfall-dependent agricultural practices, disease outbreaks among livestock, the difficulties for farmers to find economically viable alternatives to opium growing, low resilience to natural disasters and climate change, and UXOs, which make farmland unsafe. Around 11% of rural households have poor and borderline food consumption. Insufficient food supply is still a concern in some key provinces among others such as Phongsaly, Bokeo, Houaphanh, Sekong & Attapeu. These have been exacerbated during the time of COVID-19 and the threats to food security will remain. As such, the Government is working with national and international to come up with proper measures to sustain food security recovery in coming years.
- Child nutrition outcomes. Recent Government survey (LSIS) and administrative data show that moderate or severe stunting among children under age five had decreased to 33% (2018) from the previous 2012 level of 44%. However, wasting among children in the same age group has not improved; rather, moderate or severe wasting has increased to 9% in 2018, from 5.9% in 2012. Underweight has been reduced from 26.6% in 2012 to 21.1% in 2018. At the same time, overweight has been a concern as its prevalence increased from 2.5% in 2015 to 3.5% in 2018.
- Slow progress and disparities. Undernutrition in Lao PDR is still high, showing strong inequalities, associated with poverty patterns. While all provinces have seen reductions in stunting rates in 2018 compared to 2012 levels, stunting in rural areas without road access (43.3%) is twice that in urban areas (21.5%). Children from the poorest households have stunting rates 3.4 times higher than children from the richest households. Even in households of the richest and fourth quintiles, some 14% and 23% of children respectively suffer from stunting.
- The COVID-19 pandemic posed significant challenges to the health system in Lao PDR. Data from health facilities compared to past years clearly shows a drop in use of essential health and nutrition services, specifically for vulnerable population including mothers, newborns, children and adolescents. The global social and economic crisis triggered by COVID-19 poses grave risks to the nutritional status and survival of young children, with long term impact on human capital.
- Maternity mortality rates and adolescent fertility rates still remain high
- Low level of education, particularly among women and girls especially in higher education levels beyond primary.
- Gender inequality still remains a constraint.

THANK YOU!