



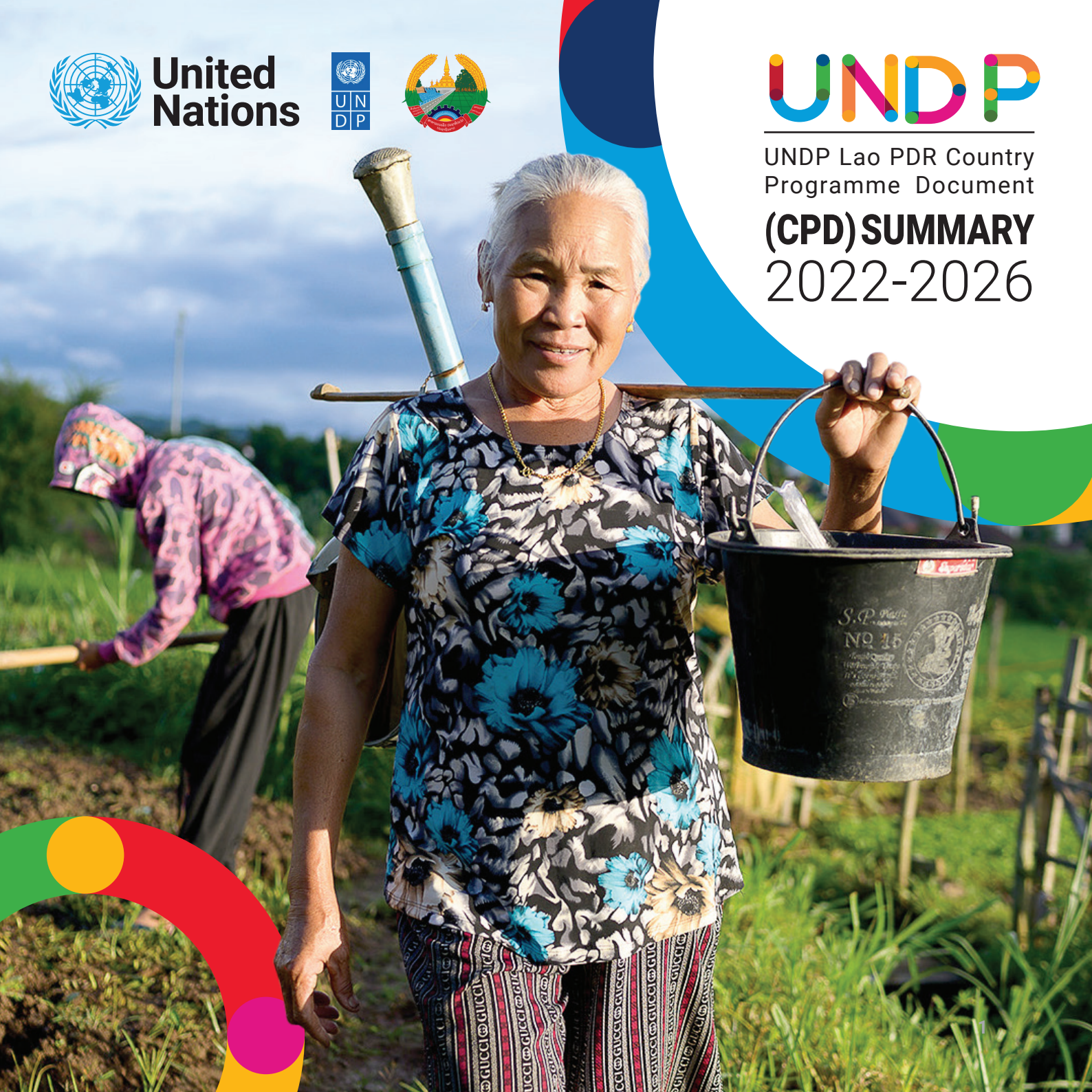
United Nations



UNDP

UNDP Lao PDR Country Programme Document

**(CPD) SUMMARY**  
2022-2026





# UNDP WITHIN THE UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION FRAMEWORK (UNSDCF)

UNDP has a long-term partnership with the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic of over four decades. The Country Programme Document (CPD) supports the country as it recovers from the economic and social impacts of COVID-19 and continues its transition from Least Developed Country (LDC) status, with particular emphasis on supporting inclusive growth and reducing inequalities.



# CONTEXT

Entering the Decade of Action to deliver the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and initiating the rollout of its five-year National Socio-Economic Development Plan 2021-2025, Lao PDR is at an important stage of its national development planning. By 2026, Lao PDR hopes to graduate from the Least Developed Country category.

During the coming years, Lao PDR will contend with the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic, the triple planetary crisis of climate change, loss of biodiversity and environmental degradation, and financing constraints hampering the investments needed in human capital, infrastructure development, and the planning for a successful transition.

## Timeline

### Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)



### Lao PDR-UN Partnership Framework (UNPF)



### Ninth National Socio-Economic Development Plan (9th NSEDP)



### United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) and CPD





# THE UNDP COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGE

is its ability to work closely with a very broad range of government and local-level institutions.

UNDP has acted as a critical integrator by assisting the Government in enhancing partnerships for effective development cooperation through the round table process. This includes co-ordinating the isector working groups, collaborating with development partners and other stakeholders in civil society, private sector and academia.

# ROLE OF UNDP:

Moving forward, UNDP will support three of the key strategic priorities of UNSDCF:

- ❖ Priority 2: Inclusive prosperity
- ❖ Priority 3: Governance and rule of law
- ❖ Priority 4: Environment, climate change and resilience

In line with its integrator role, UNDP will continue to leverage its global expertise through its accelerator lab and explore innovative solutions to local issues to introduce more experimentation, accelerate learning, adapt programming and adopt a portfolio approach to system change.

## UNSDCF



## 2 INCLUSIVE PROSPERITY



### OUTCOMES

By 2026, people, especially the most vulnerable and marginalised, will benefit from more inclusive, and resilient, transformative, and sustainable socio-economic opportunities to reduce poverty and inequalities.

### SUPPORTING SDGS



### SUPPORTING 9<sup>TH</sup> NSEDP

- Pillar 1:** Continuous quality, stable and sustainable economic growth achieved
- Pillar 3:** Enhanced well-being of the people
- Pillar 5:** Engagement in regional and international cooperation and integration is enhanced with robust infrastructure and effective utilisation of national potential and geographic advantages

### 3 GOVERNANCE AND RULE OF LAW



#### OUTCOMES

By 2026, people, especially the most vulnerable and marginalised, are better served by public institutions at all levels in a transparent and inclusive manner, able to exercise their rights and obligations and the institutions shall be strengthened and more accountable while the rule of law and international human rights commitments made by Lao PDR are upheld.

#### SUPPORTING SDGS



**Pillar 6:** Public governance and administration is improved, and society is equal, fair, and protected by the rule of law.

#### SUPPORTING 9<sup>TH</sup> NSEDP

### 4 ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE AND RESILIENCE



By 2026, people, especially the most vulnerable and marginalised, and institutions will be better able to sustainably access, manage, preserve, and benefit from natural resources and promote green growth that is risk-informed, disaster and climate-resilient.



**Pillar 4:** Environmental protection enhanced and disaster risks reduced.

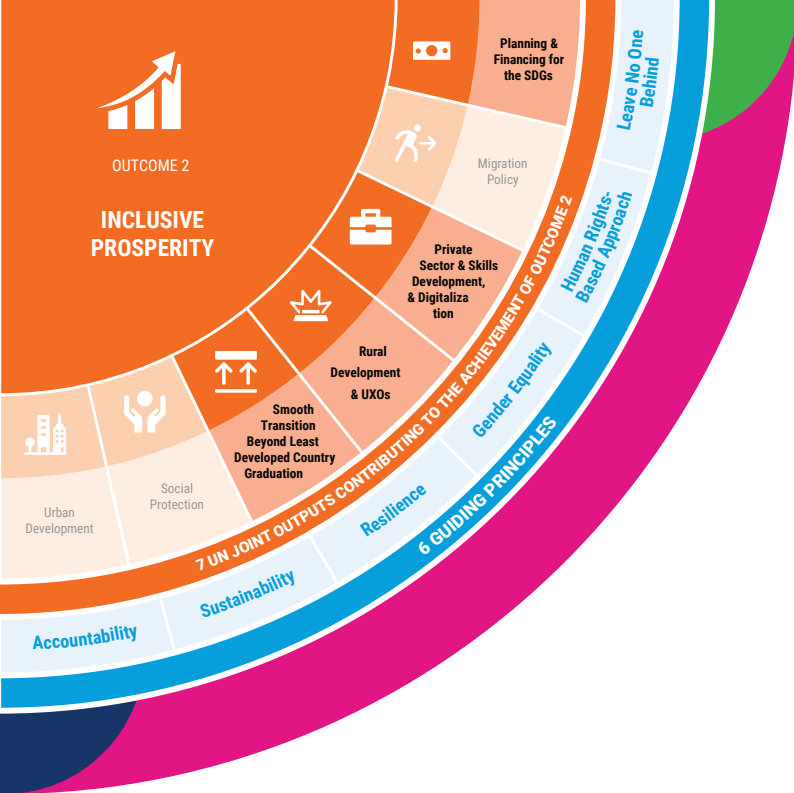




# PROGRAMME PRIORITIES

In line with the 9th NSEDP and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the UNDP CPD focuses on ensuring that by 2026, people living in the Lao People's Democratic Republic benefit from sustainable and inclusive growth and are increasingly resilient to the risks of climate change, natural disasters, and unexploded-ordnance while state institutions are more transparent, inclusive and accountable to the people.





⌘ **National Planning and Financing for Inclusive Development:** UNDP supports the Government of Lao PDR in strengthening its planning and financing cycles through improved evidence-based policies and through supporting the implementation of selected reforms outlined in the financing strategy. This will build upon the lessons from past projects that supported the national development planning and financing system.

⌘ **National Human Development Report (NHDR) The flagship National Human Development Report on youth** was launched in late 2022. The report argued for leveraging investments and promoting progress on employment, education and health in order for the country to tap the opportunity of a demographic dividend which has a limited time-window.

⌘ **Support to livelihoods expansion:** UNDP will build on support extended on operationalising Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) centres, access to job services, cash for work and through supporting the recovery of the tourism sector from the impacts of the pandemic. To further promote job and entrepreneurship opportunities, UNDP supported the Ministry of Culture, Information and Tourism (MICT) on content development, staff capacity building to manage social media pages and produce extensive information dissemination.

⌘ **Government Digitalization:** UNDP supports the Government of Lao PDR in harnessing Digital Technology, and Innovation for inclusive socio-economic development growth, and narrowing the digital divide among gender and marginalized groups. UNDP conducted a Digital Maturity Assessment nationally to understand the digital readiness of the country and where it stands.

A Digital Government Strategy Masterplan will guide the Government on its journey to digital transformation.

⌘ **UXO:** UNDP is a long-term partner of the Government of Lao PDR to address one of the major obstacles to development; Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) and to achieve SDG 18, Lives Safe From UXO. UNDP supports the Lao government in the management of different UXO activities (Victim Assistance, Explosive Ordnance Risk Reduction and advocacy), and implementing a ten-year national strategic plan for UXO/Mine Action sector (2021-2030).

The project focuses on the realisation of the rights of communities to live and develop their communities free from the threat of injury of UXO. Accordingly, the project has supported Lao National Unexploded Ordnance Programme (UXO Lao) in UXO clearance and risk education and worked in partnership with the National Regulatory Authority for the UXO/Mine Action Sector in Lao PDR (NRA) to help it better coordinate, prioritise and monitor UXO/mine activities for a more efficient and effective sector, driving SDG 18, and compliance with the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM).



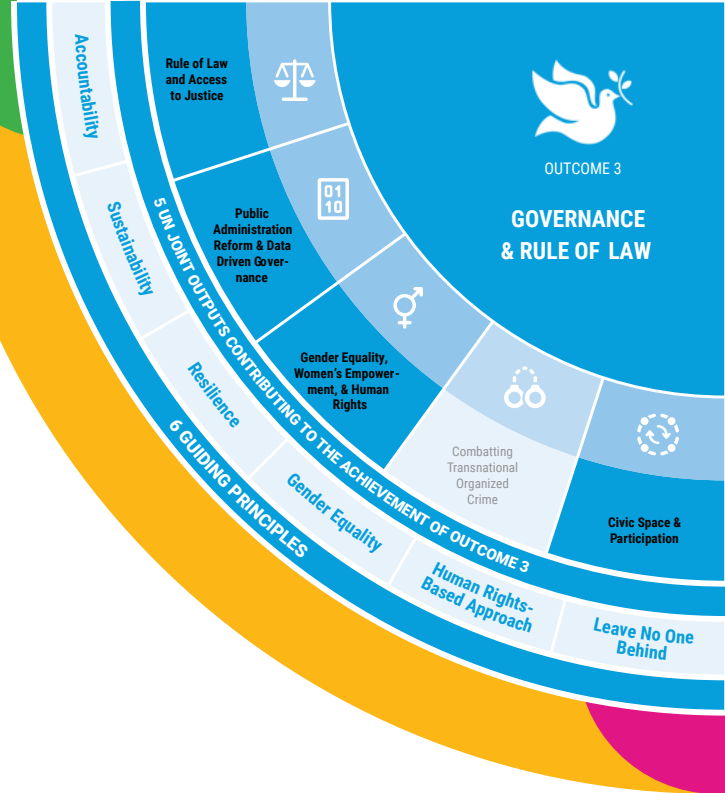
⌘ **Rule of Law and Access to Justice:**

UNDP aims to advance the rule of law through strengthening the capacity of lawyers and increasing access to justice for marginalized and vulnerable groups to seek legal aid and secure legal representation.

⌘ **Gender Equality:** UNDP aims to address a critical barrier to advancing gender equality in Lao PDR, namely preventing and responding to violence against women, focusing on supporting the justice sector to fulfill its responsibilities under the National Action Plan on the Elimination of Violence against Women, including the standard operating procedure (SOPs) for judges, police, prosecutors and legal aid providers.

⌘ **Participation:** UNDP aims to strengthen people's participation in decision making by enhancing the capacity of People's Assemblies to execute their key mandates, namely to conduct oversight of the executive, develop legislation, and represent the interests of constituents in national development.

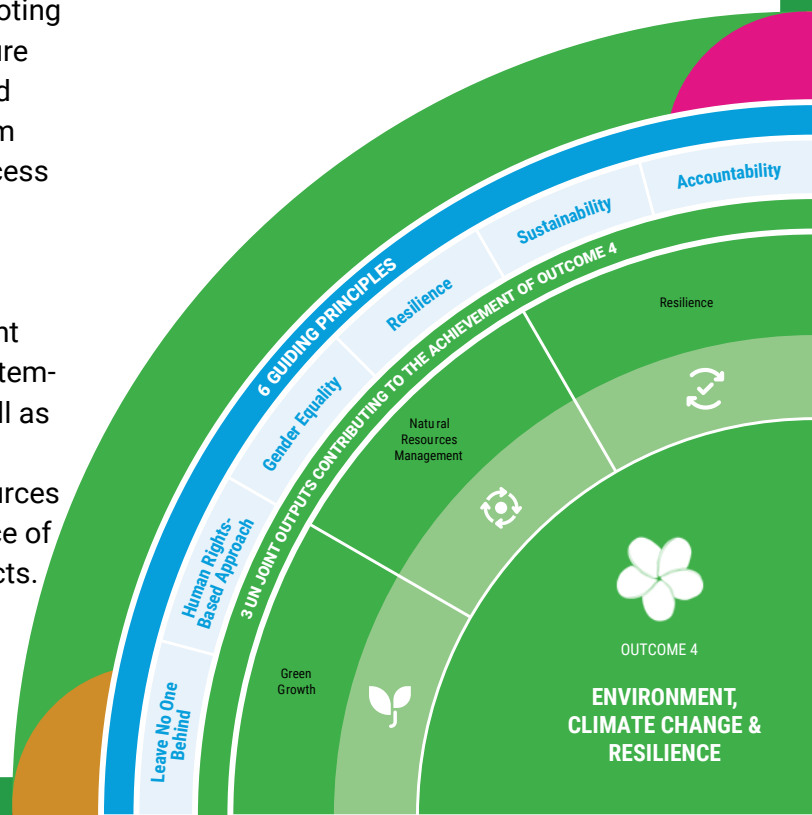
⌘ **Civic Space:** UNDP is working to increase civic space by supporting Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) to participate in international human rights reporting mechanisms, including by providing technical and financial assistance for developing CSOs parallel reports, including the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), and International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR).



⌘ **Green growth:** UNDP is supporting the development of policies and strategies that promote low-carbon, climate-resilience and renewable energy such as solar, in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and promote sustainable energy sources. UNDP is also working on promoting circular economy policies and improving waste management, particularly plastic waste. In parallel, UNDP is assisting the Government of Lao PDR to reach its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) by strengthening the mitigation measures in the forestry and energy sectors and applying gender equality perspectives.

⌘ **Resilience:** UNDP is supporting the Government of Lao PDR in strengthening resilience against climate-induced disasters, pandemics and crises. UNDP is providing capacity building, training, and search and rescue equipment to face these challenges. UNDP also is helping marginalized and vulnerable communities to enhance their adaptive capacities towards climate change by promoting disaster risk information awareness, preparedness and management, and by diversifying their livelihoods.

⌘ **Natural Resources Management:** UNDP is promoting sustainable land and forest management to secure critical wildlife habitats, conserve biodiversity and maintain a continuous flow of multiple ecosystem services. UNDP is also supporting farmers to access finance, and innovative sustainable production practices to avoid and reduce the use of harmful agrochemicals. Moreover, UNDP is enhancing government’s capacities for Integrated Catchment Management (ICM) and integrated urban Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) and interventions, as well as improving risk and vulnerability assessments by advancing an integrated approach to water resources management, thereby strengthening the resilience of vulnerable communities to climate change impacts.





Outcome	UN Joint Outputs Contribution	Financing Partners	Duration
<b>Outcome 2: Inclusive Prosperity</b>	Planning and Financing for SDGs	USAID	2022 – 2026
	Private Sector & Skills Development, & Green Growth (Outcome 4)	Poverty-Environment Action (PEA)/ European Union (EU)	2018 – 2022
	Rural Development & UXOs	Government of the Republic of Korea (through KOICA)	2022 – 2026
		Government of New Zealand	2022 – 2024
		Government of Luxembourg	2023 – 2024
		Government of Ireland	2022 – 2023
		Government of Canada	2023 – 2025
<b>Outcome 3: Governance &amp; Rule of Law</b>	Civic Space & Participation	USAID	2022 – 2026
	Public Administration Reform & Data Driven Governance	UNDP	2022 – 2023
	Gender Equality, Women's Empowerment & Human Rights	Government of the Republic of Korea (through KOICA)	2021 - 2024
	Rule of Law & Access to Justice	Bureau on International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL), US Department of State	2022 - 2025
<b>Outcome 4: Environment, Climate Change and Resilience</b>	Natural Resources Management	Global Environment Facility (GEF)	2022 – 2026
	Natural Resources Management & Resilience	Government of the Republic of Korea (through UNDP Bangkok Regional Hub)	2022 - 2025
<b>COVID Response (Calculated as part of Outcome 4)</b>	Resilience	Government of China	2022 – 2023



## For more information:

United Nations Development Programme  
Lane Xang Avenue  
P.O Box 345 Vientiane, Lao PDR  
Email: [Info.la@undp.org](mailto:Info.la@undp.org)  
Tel: +856 (0) 21 267 777  
Fax: +856 (0) 21 267 799

Scan below to visit our website:

