Annex 2. Handbook on the Monitoring and Evaluation Framework for the Eighth National Socio-Economic Development Plan

Lao People's Democratic Republic

Ministry of Planning and Investment
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Performance indicators	Unit	Definition and issues
OVERALL OBJECTIVE - Reduced poverty, graduation from Least Developed Country status with sustained and inclusive growth through promotion of national potential and comparative advantages, effective management and utilization of natural resources and strong international integration		
OUTCOME 1. Continued, firm and inclusive growth achieved, strong economic foundations consolidated and economic vulnerability reduced		
1. Real GDP growth rate	%	**Definition and measurement:** This is the annual percentage growth rate of GDP at market prices based on constant local currency. The World Bank uses aggregates that are based on constant 2010 US dollars. GDP is the sum of gross value added by all resident producers in the economy plus any product taxes and minus any subsidies not included in the value of the products. It is calculated without making deductions for depreciation of fabricated assets or for depletion and degradation of natural resources. The year used as baseline year should be specified for Lao PDR. The real GDP growth rate is obtained by using real GDP in the following formula: [(GDP in year 2 / GDP in year 1) – 1] multiplied by 100 to obtain percentage. **Development context:** The growth rate in the volume of GDP summarizes the growth rate of the economy. An economy's growth is measured by the change in the volume of its output or in the real incomes of its residents. The 2008 United Nations System of National Accounts (2008 SNA) offers three plausible indicators for calculating growth: the volume of gross domestic product (GDP), real gross domestic income, and real gross national income. The volume of GDP is the sum of value added, measured at constant prices, by households, government, and industries operating in the economy. GDP accounts for all domestic production, regardless of whether the income accrues to domestic or foreign institutions. **Reference:** • World Development Indicators.
2. Inflation rate	%	**Definition and measurement:** The annual percentage change in the cost to the average consumer of acquiring a representative basket of goods and services. The composition and relative weights of the basket may be fixed or changed at specified intervals, such as yearly. **Development context:** The indicator measures the change in prices of consumer goods and services acquired, used or paid for by households. The rate of inflation is one of the indicators monitored by the authorities to set monetary policy. High inflation is a sign of macroeconomic imbalances. It often reduces economic growth and future growth prospects, thereby reducing the means of implementation available for achieving sustainable development goals. However, no agreement exists on costs (or benefits) resulting from low or moderate inflation. The indicator measures changes over time in the general level of prices of goods and services that a reference population acquires, uses or pays for consumption. A consumer price index is estimated as a series of summary measures of the period-to-period proportional change in the prices of a fixed set of consumer goods and services of constant quantity and

Performance indicators	Unit	Definition and issues
		characteristics, acquired, used or paid for by the reference population. Each summary measure is constructed as a weighted average of a large number of elementary aggregate indices. Each of the elementary aggregate indices is estimated using a sample of prices for a defined set of goods and services obtained in, or by residents of, a specific region from a given set of outlets or other sources of consumption goods and services. **Reference:** • http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/natlinfo/indicators/methodology_sheets.pdf
3. Proportion of investment projects deemed to require EIA/IEE/ESIA/SIA by MoNRE/DESIA that have been evaluated against social and environmental criteria: • public infrastructure investment projects • concessions • Special Economic Zone (SEZ) projects	%	**Definition and measurement:** The denominator for this indicator is the total number of investment projects in the period 2016-2020 where the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MoNRE) deems that an environmental impact assessment (EIA), an initial environmental examination (IEE), an environmental and social impact assessment (ESIA) or a social impact assessment (SIA) is required. The numerator is the total number of projects where such assessments have been conducted by MoNRE/DESIA in the period 2016-2020 in line with the official guidelines. Since the process may take place over a certain period, this indicator should be measured annually on a cumulative basis over the NSEDP cycle, disaggregated by the year of MoNRE decision on EIA/IEE/SIA, as in the example shown for Indicator 25. In addition, monitoring and reporting should be by type of project (public infrastructure investment projects /concessions/Special Economic Zone projects). **Development context:** This indicator aims to reduce the negative impacts of investment projects on communities and ecosystems. Indicator 145 provides the number of investment projects having conducted EIA/IEE before MPI signs to approve project implementation. **Reference:** • Ministry of Planning and Investment, Vientiane.
4. Unemployment rate	%	**Definition and measurement:** Unemployment refers to the share of the labour force that is without work but available for and seeking employment. Unemployed: The strict international standard definition of unemployment is based on three criteria to be satisfied simultaneously. According to these criteria, people who are unemployed are “without work”, “currently available for work”, and “seeking work”. However, the “seeking work” criterion is usually considered too restrictive and is often relaxed for countries in which the labour market is not well developed. The Lao PDR Labour Force Survey defines the “currently unemployed” as those persons who did not have a job or business, or were not employed, and who either looked for work in the last seven days preceding the survey, or were available for work, even though they did not look for work in those seven days. The reason the last group did not look for work was that they thought no work was available, or they were waiting for the results of previous enquiries, or they were waiting to start work, or they considered that it was the off-season for fishing or agriculture. The indicator is then calculated as follows: Denominator: the total number of employed and unemployed (the labour force) derived from the survey.

Performance indicators	Unit	Definition and issues
		Numerator: the estimated number of persons unemployed in the same survey. Note: The employed and unemployed together are referred to as the labour force or the currently active population. **Development context:** Unemployment and total employment are the broadest indicators of economic activity as reflected by the labour market. Some unemployment is unavoidable. At any time, some workers are temporarily unemployed, i.e., between jobs as employers look for the right workers and workers search for better jobs. Such unemployment, often called frictional unemployment, results from the normal operation of labour markets. Changes in unemployment over time may reflect changes in the demand for and supply of labour; they may also reflect changes in reporting practices. Paradoxically, low unemployment rates can disguise substantial poverty in a country, while high unemployment rates can occur in countries with a high level of economic development and low rates of poverty. In countries without unemployment or welfare benefits people eke out a living in vulnerable employment. In countries with well-developed safety nets workers can afford to wait for suitable or desirable jobs. But high and sustained unemployment indicates serious inefficiencies in resource allocation. In many developing countries, women work on farms or in other family enterprises without pay and others work in or near their homes, mixing work and family activities during the day. Labour force statistics disaggregated by sex are important to monitor gender disparities in unemployment patterns. **References:** • ILO statistics: http://laborsta.ilo.org/applv8/data/c3e.html • ILO, 2013: Statistics of work and of the labour force: Report for discussion at the Meeting of Experts in Labour Statistics on the Advancement of Employment and Unemployment Statistics (Geneva, 28 January–1 February 2013). http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---stat/documents/event/wcms_175150.pdf • World Bank data.
Outcome 1, Output 1 – Sustained and inclusive economic growth		
5. GDP in constant or real terms	billion kip	**Definition and measurement:** Gross domestic product (GDP) in "constant" or "real" terms means the GDP data for a given year in the value of a particular base year. GDP is the sum of gross value added by all resident producers in the economy plus any product taxes and minus any subsidies not included in the value of the products. It is calculated without making deductions for depreciation of fabricated assets or for depletion and degradation of natural resources. The current price estimates of GDP are adjusted to GDP at constant prices using appropriate price deflators. Real GDP can also be derived by extrapolating total value added in the base year with production indicators in physical terms. GDP represents the sum of value added by all its producers. Value added is the value of the gross output of producers less the value of intermediate goods and services consumed in production, before accounting for consumption of fixed capital in production. The United Nations System of National Accounts calls for value added to be valued at either basic prices (excluding net taxes on products) or producer prices (including net taxes on products paid by producers but excluding sales or

Performance indicators	Unit	Definition and issues
		value added taxes). Both valuations exclude transport charges that are invoiced separately by producers. Total GDP is measured at purchaser prices. Value added by industry is normally measured at basic prices. **Development context:** GDP, though widely tracked, may not always be the most relevant summary of aggregated economic performance for all economies, especially when production occurs at the expense of consuming capital stock. While GDP estimates based on the production approach are generally more reliable than estimates compiled from the income or expenditure side, different countries use different definitions, methods, and reporting standards. Many statistical offices, especially those in developing countries, face severe limitations in the resources, time, training, and budgets required to produce reliable and comprehensive series of national accounts statistics. Among the difficulties faced by compilers of national accounts is the extent of unreported economic activity in the informal or secondary economy. In developing countries, a large share of agricultural output is either not exchanged (because it is consumed within the household) or not exchanged for money. **References:** • United Nations National Accounts Main Aggregates Database definition http://unstats.un.org/unsd/snaama/glossresults.asp?gID=5 • OECD (2016), Gross domestic product (GDP) (indicator). doi: 10.1787/dc2f7aec-en http://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/economics/gross-domestic-product-gdp/indicator/english_dc2f7aec-en • World Bank national accounts data.
6. GDP in nominal terms	billion kip	**Definition and measurement:** GDP in nominal terms means the GDP data for a given year calculated using that year's price data. Data reported in current (or "nominal") prices for each year are in the value of the currency for that particular year. For example, current price data shown for 1990 are based on 1990 prices, for 2000 are based on 2000 prices, and so on. See Indicator 5 for GDP definition, measurement issues and development context.
7. Nominal GDP per capita	kip US$	**Definition and measurement:** GDP per capita is gross domestic product divided by mid-year population. GDP is the sum of gross value added by all resident producers in the economy plus any product taxes and minus any subsidies not included in the value of the products. It is calculated without making deductions for depreciation of fabricated assets or for depletion and degradation of natural resources. Data are calculated in current prices. This will be measured first in current Lao kip. If the same indicator in US dollars is required for comparison purposes, then the kip is converted to dollars. The conversion rates used by the UN Statistics Division are normally the market or blended rates of exchange obtained from the International Monetary Fund (IMF). In some cases, use is made of UN operational rates that are established primarily for the settlement of administrative transactions between host countries and the UN. **Development context:** The indicator is a basic economic indicator and measures the level of total economic output relative to the population of a country. It reflects changes in total well-being of the population. **Reference:** • See http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/natlinfo/indicators/methodology_sheets/econ_development/gdp_percapita.pdf

Performance indicators	Unit	Definition and issues
8. Percentage of GDP attributable to natural resources	%	**Definition and measurement:** Natural resource sectors for Lao PDR should include energy (hydropower), mining and forestry. The World Bank definition of "natural resource rents as percentage of GDP" mentions *oil rents, natural gas rents, coal rents (hard and soft), mineral rents, and forest rents*. For Lao PDR, however, hydropower should be included and the World Bank methodology may be adapted. The intention of this indicator is to monitor the diversification of the economy away from the natural resources sector. This indicator may be calculated in various ways depending on the availability of data, as long as the same method is used each year. The World Bank calculation for "natural resources rents" is as follows: The estimates of "natural resources rents" are calculated as the difference between the price of a commodity and the average cost of producing it. This is done by estimating the world price of units of specific commodities and subtracting estimates of average unit costs of extraction or harvesting costs (including a normal return on capital). These unit rents are then multiplied by the physical quantities countries extract or harvest to determine the rents for each commodity as a share of gross domestic product (GDP). **Development context:** This indicator monitors the economy's dependence on natural resources and attempts to diversify. **Reference:** • See http://wdi.worldbank.org/table/3.15 Estimates based on sources and methods are described in "The Changing Wealth of Nations: Measuring Sustainable Development in the New Millennium" (World Bank, 2011).
9. Total number of procedures required to start a business	number	**Definition and measurement:** The total number of procedures required to start a business in Lao PDR for different types of businesses is as defined by the Ministry of Industry and Commerce (MoIC). The average number required to start a business for different types of businesses is used. MoIC definitions and standards will be used to classify the different types of businesses. Within the same NSEDP period, the definition and number of different businesses and the calculation method should remain the same. **Development context:** The intention of this indicator is to reduce the number of procedures required to start a business in Lao PDR and make Lao PDR more business friendly. **Reference:** • Ministry of Industry and Commerce, Lao PDR.
10. Total number of days required to start a business	number	**Definition and measurement:** The total number of days required to start a business in Lao PDR is estimated by MoIC for different types of businesses and averaged. MoIC definitions and standards will be used to classify the different types of businesses. Within the same NSEDP period, the definition and number of different businesses and the calculation method should remain the same.

Performance indicators	Unit	Definition and issues
		Development context: The intention of this indicator is to reduce the number of days required to start a business in Lao PDR and make Lao PDR more business friendly.
Outcome 1, Output 2 – Macroeconomic stability		
11. Budget deficit as percentage of GDP	%	**Definition and measurement:** Budget deficit is the shortfall between current receipts (all types of taxes, net of transfer payments) and government spending on goods and services. Budget deficit is usually expressed as a percentage of GDP. **Development context:** Large and persistent deficits push up interest rates, reduce investment, and create a burden of indebtedness. Furthermore, deficits interfere with the effective functioning of markets at home and abroad. Most importantly, they compromise the living standards of current and future generations.
12. Total budget revenue as percentage of GDP	%	**Definition:** Budget revenue consists of the total receipts of the government from domestic and external/international sources (tax revenues, external assistance and borrowing, such as loans, grants, etc.). The indicator is calculated by dividing the revenue for a given year by the nominal GDP for that year. **Development context:** Monitoring this indicator together with the domestic budget revenue (Indicator 13) will provide one indication of the extent to which the budget is dependent on external sources.
13. Domestic budget revenue as percentage of GDP	%	**Definition and measurement:** Domestic budget revenue consists of the revenue receipts of the government from domestic sources (tax revenues and other revenues, such as fines, fees, rent, and income from property or sales). Tax revenues comprise proceeds of taxes and other duties levied by the government. Other revenues are as defined by the Ministry of Finance. The indicator is calculated by dividing the revenue for a given year by the nominal GDP for that year. **Development context:** Strengthening resource mobilization for domestic revenue will involve developing a tax system that promotes inclusiveness, encourages good governance, improves accountability of the government to its citizens, and promotes social justice. See Indicator 14.
14. Tax revenue	million kip	**Definition and measurement:** Tax revenue is defined as the revenues collected from taxes on income and profits, social security contributions, taxes levied on goods and services, payroll taxes, taxes on the ownership and transfer of property, and other taxes. **Development context:** A related indicator is *Total tax revenue as a percentage of GDP,* which indicates the share of a country's output that is collected by the government through taxes. It can be regarded as one measure of the degree to which the government

Performance indicators	Unit	Definition and issues
		controls the economy's resources. The tax burden is measured by taking the total tax revenues received as a percentage of GDP. Tax system design and delivery are closely linked to domestic and international investment decisions, including in terms of transparency, anti-corruption measures and fairness, as it may serve to improve the framework for attracting increased private investment. Challenges to increase tax revenue may include the smallness of the tax base, a large informal sector, misuse of transfer pricing, low levels of per capita income, domestic savings and investment, and weak governance and capacity. **Reference:** • OECD (2016), Tax revenue (indicator). doe: 10.1787/d98b8cf5-en https://data.oecd.org/tax/tax-revenue.htm
15. Total budget expenditure as percentage of GDP	%	**Definition and measurement:** Total budget expenditure includes the various types of expenditure (both revenue expenditure and capital expenditure) of various government ministries/departments. This indicator is calculated by dividing total budget expenditure by GDP. **Development context:** Government policy objectives include quantitative goals, such as raising the secondary enrolment ratio, and qualitative goals, such as improving market competitiveness. The goals may be achieved through a variety of instruments: direct government spending, indirect spending (subsidies, loans, etc.), tax policy, regulations, and direct commands. Direct government spending is the most important instrument, and the government budget is the most potent instrument of the government in carrying out its policies. Government expenditure is aimed at a variety of objectives, including economic development, and social goals, or redistribution objectives. **Reference:** • World Bank: http://www1.worldbank.org/publicsector/LearningProgram/PEAM/peam.htm
16. Total budget expenditure, amount	billion kip	**Definition and measurement:** Total budget expenditure includes the various types of expenditure (both revenue expenditure and capital expenditure) of various government ministries/departments. This indicator is calculated and reported in Lao kip. **Development context:** Government policy objectives include quantitative goals, such as raising the secondary enrolment ratio, and qualitative goals, such as improving market competitiveness. The goals may be achieved through a variety of instruments: direct government spending, indirect spending (subsidies, loans, etc.), tax policy, regulations, and direct commands. Direct government spending is the most important instrument, and the government budget is the most potent instrument of the government in carrying out its policies. Government expenditure is aimed at a variety of objectives, including economic development, and social goals, or redistribution objectives. **Reference:** • World Bank: http://www1.worldbank.org/publicsector/LearningProgram/PEAM/peam.htm

Performance indicators	Unit	Definition and issues
17. Public sector wages as percentage of domestic revenue	%	**Definition and measurement:** Public sector wages mean the wages and salaries of those who are employed by the public sector, i.e., public sector employees. The public sector comprises the general government sector plus all public corporations including the central bank. Wages and salaries are defined as the total remuneration, in cash or in kind, payable to all persons counted on the payroll (including homeworkers), in return for work done during the accounting period, regardless of whether it is paid on the basis of working time, output or piecework and whether it is paid regularly or not. **Development context:** Government compensation of employees as a share of domestic revenues points to the sustainability of wage outlays in the absence of donor assistance. On occasion, donors may provide assistance for expanding government employment, especially in priority sectors. But these inflows can be volatile and domestic resources may be needed to sustain higher spending on wages in the future. **References:** • OECD: https://stats.oecd.org/glossary/detail.asp?ID=2199 and https://stats.oecd.org/glossary/detail.asp?ID=2890 • World Bank: Size of the Public Sector: Government Wage Bill and Employment.
18. Lao kip exchange rate: • kip equivalent to US$ 1 • percent difference from FY 2014-2015	 kip %	**Definition and measurement:** The official exchange rate for the Lao kip is determined by Lao PDR's national authorities or determined in the legally sanctioned exchange market. The exchange rate in Lao kip is calculated as an annual average based on monthly averages (local currency units relative to the US dollar). This provides the first component of this indicator. The second component uses FY 2014-2015 as the base year for the whole NSEDP period and calculates the exchange rate in terms of percent difference. **Development context:** In a market-based economy, household, producer, and government choices about resource allocation are influenced by relative prices, including the real exchange rate, real wages, real interest rates, and other prices in the economy. Relative prices also largely reflect these agents' choices. Thus, relative prices convey vital information about the interaction of economic agents in an economy and with the rest of the world. Official or market exchange rates are often used to convert economic statistics in local currencies to a common currency in order to make comparisons across countries. Since market rates reflect at best the relative prices of tradable goods, the volume of goods and services that a US dollar buys in the United States may not correspond to what a US dollar converted to another country's currency at the official exchange rate would buy in that country, particularly when non-tradable goods and services account for a significant share of a country's output. An alternative exchange rate—the purchasing power parity (PPP) conversion factor—is preferred because it reflects differences in price levels for both tradable and non-tradable goods and services and therefore provides a more meaningful comparison of real output.

Performance indicators	Unit	Definition and issues
		Reference: • World Bank http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/PA.NUS.FCRF
19. Foreign exchange reserves in months of import coverage of goods and services	month	**Definition and measurement:** This indicator shows foreign exchange reserves expressed in terms of the number of months of imports of goods and services which these reserves could pay for [Reserves/(Imports/12)]. Total reserves comprise holdings of monetary gold, special drawing rights, reserves of IMF members held by the IMF, and holdings of foreign exchange under the control of monetary authorities. **Development context:** The traditional indicator of reserve adequacy is reserves in months of imports, and this ratio is likely to remain relevant as a simple way of scaling the level of reserves by the size and openness of the economy. Reserves in months of imports of goods and services has a straightforward interpretation: the number of months a country can continue to support its current level of imports if all other inflows and outflows cease. This measure—focused on the current account—is of use especially in judging reserve needs for countries that have limited access and vulnerabilities to capital markets. In addition, import data generally suffer from relatively few measurement problems. **References:** • World Bank: http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/FI.RES.TOTL.MO • IMF: Debt- and Reserve-Related Indicators of External Vulnerability https://www.imf.org/external/np/pdr/debtres/#III_B
20. Present value of debt as percentage of GDP	%	**Definition and measurement:** This indicator is the ratio between the country's government debt and its gross domestic product (GDP). Debt is the entire stock of direct government fixed-term contractual obligations to others outstanding on a particular date. It includes domestic and foreign liabilities such as currency and money deposits, securities other than shares, and loans. It is the gross amount of government liabilities reduced by the amount of equity and financial derivatives held by the government. Present value of debt is the sum of short-term debt plus the discounted sum of total debt service payments due on public, publicly guaranteed, and private non-guaranteed long-term debt over the life of existing loans. **Development context:** Debt-to-GDP measures the financial leverage of an economy. A low debt-to-GDP ratio indicates an economy that produces and sells goods and services sufficient to pay back debts without incurring further debt. Geopolitical and economic considerations—including interest rates, recessions, and other variables—influence the borrowing practices of a nation and the choice to incur further debt. External debt and reserves affect a country's external vulnerability through their impact on the country's ability to discharge external obligations. Debt ratios are used to assess the sustainability of a country's debt service obligations, but no absolute rules determine what values are too high. What constitutes a sustainable debt burden varies by country. Countries with fast-growing economies and exports are likely to be able to sustain higher debt levels. **Reference:**

Performance indicators	Unit	Definition and issues
		• World Bank: http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/DT.DOD.PVLX.GN.ZS and http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/GC.DOD.TOTL.GD.ZS
21. Foreign direct investment, annual	million US$	**Definition and measurement:** OECD definition: Foreign direct investment (FDI) is a category of investment that reflects the objective of establishing a lasting interest by a resident enterprise in one economy (direct investor) in an enterprise (direct investment enterprise) that is resident in an economy other than that of the direct investor. The lasting interest implies the existence of a long-term relationship between the direct investor and the direct investment enterprise and a significant degree of influence on the management of the enterprise. Foreign direct investments differ substantially from indirect investments such as portfolio flows, wherein overseas institutions invest in equities listed on a nation's stock exchange. Entities making direct investments typically have a significant degree of influence and control over the company into which the investment is made. The accepted threshold for a foreign direct investment relationship, as defined by the OECD, is 10 percent (see below). That is, the foreign investor must own at least 10 percent or more of the voting stock or ordinary shares of the investee company. Some compilers may argue that, in some cases, an ownership of as little as 10 percent of the voting power may not lead to the exercise of any significant influence while, on the other hand, an investor may own less than 10 percent but have an effective voice in the management. Nevertheless, the recommended methodology does not allow any qualification of the 10 percent threshold and recommends its strict application to ensure statistical consistency across countries. **Development context:** This indicator monitors the degree to which the country's economy is open, and has a skilled workforce, since open economies with skilled workforces and good growth prospects tend to attract larger amounts of foreign direct investment than closed, highly regulated economies. **Reference:** • OECD, 2008. OECD Benchmark definition of Foreign Direct Investment. https://www.oecd.org/daf/inv/investmentstatisticsandanalysis/40193734.pdf
22. Foreign direct investment, annual growth	%	**Definition and measurement:** See Indicator 21. This indicator is calculated by using the following formula: [(FDI in year 2 / FDI in year 1) – 1], multiplied by 100 to obtain percentage. **Development context**: This indicator monitors the degree to which the country's economy is open, and has a skilled workforce, since open economies with skilled workforces and good growth prospects tend to attract larger amounts of foreign direct investment than closed, highly regulated economies. **Reference:**

Performance indicators	Unit	Definition and issues
		• OECD, 2008. OECD Benchmark definition of Foreign Direct Investment. https://www.oecd.org/daf/inv/investmentstatisticsandanalysis/40193734.pdf
23. Production value of processing industries	billion kip	**Definition and measurement:** "Processing industries" will be defined according to Ministry of Industry and Commerce (MoIC) definition. "Processing industries" should be disaggregated by sector according to the MoIC classification, which, if needed, can select and adapt the UN recommended lists to Lao PDR (see below). The sectors should include food processing, textile manufacture, etc. The MoIC defines the production value of processing industries as: the value of processed products, merchandises or goods that are the result of the processing of raw materials and semi-final products, in a process that adds value, requiring the use of machinery, the application of technology or of human labour. For sectors, the ILO International Standard for Industrial Classification (ISIC), notably agro- and food processing, textile manufacture, manufacture of handicraft products, etc., should be taken into account. Paragraphs 148 and 149 deal with the classification of enterprises, while pages 47-51 provide an indicative list of manufacturing sectors at the division level. However, since the activities of an enterprise sometimes cover a large variety of ISIC groups or classes, it may be appropriate for the MoIC to classify them at the division level only. When such a unit is to be classified at a lower level of the classification, the UN recommends using the "top-down approach" (paragraphs 123-131). **Development context:** The intent of this indicator is to monitor and encourage efforts to promote value-added products from sectors such as agriculture, mining and forests, and shift away from the largely extractive nature of the country's resource-based economy. The data for this indicator is currently restricted to manufacturing/processing firms that are currently registered. For better data, MoIC will need to conduct stocktaking of small and medium-sized enterprises in the informal sector. **References:** • United Nations, 2008. International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities: Revision 4. http://unstats.un.org/unsd/publication/seriesM/seriesm_4rev4e.pdf • A summary at http://unstats.un.org/unsd/cr/registry/regcst.asp?Cl=27 provides the standard list of manufacturing sectors.
24. Total domestic investment annual growth rate (gross capital formation)	%	**Definition and measurement:** The World Bank provides the following definition for "gross domestic investment" (now called gross capital formation): Gross capital formation (formerly gross domestic investment) consists of outlays on additions to the fixed assets of the economy plus net changes in the level of inventories. Fixed assets include land improvements (fences, ditches, drains, and so on); plant, machinery, and equipment purchases; and the construction of roads, railways, and the like, including schools, offices, hospitals, private residential dwellings, and commercial and industrial buildings. Inventories are stocks of goods held by firms to meet temporary or unexpected fluctuations in production or sales, and "work in progress". According to the 1993 System of National Accounts (SNA), net acquisitions of valuables are also considered capital formation.

Performance indicators	Unit	Definition and issues
		This indicator is calculated by using the following formula: [(Total domestic investment in year 2 / Total domestic investment in year 1) – 1], multiplied by 100 to obtain percentage. Data on capital formation may be estimated from direct surveys of enterprises and administrative records or based on the commodity flow method using data from production, trade, and construction activities. The quality of data on government fixed capital formation depends on the quality of government accounting systems, which tend to be weak in developing countries. Measures of fixed capital formation by households and corporations—particularly capital outlays by small, unincorporated enterprises—are usually unreliable. Estimates of changes in inventories are rarely complete but usually include the most important activities or commodities. **Development context:** The indicator monitors the Government's efforts to promote domestic investment. **Reference:** • World Bank: http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NE.GDI.TOTL.KD.ZG
Outcome 1, Output 3 – Integrated development planning and budgeting		
25. Percentage of public investment projects approved by National Assembly that were subsequently implemented	%	**Definition and measurement:** Public investment projects mean all investment projects made from the government budget. "Approved" by the National Assembly means the projects are registered in National Assembly records as approved. "Implemented" means implementation has started and that progress is recorded every year for National Assembly records. "Investment" is defined by the 2009 Law on Investment Promotion as "tangible and intangible capital brought in by investors for their business operations in Lao PDR". This indicator should be measured annually on a cumulative basis over the five-year NSEDP cycle, and monitored by the project approval year. For a given year, the denominator is the number of all public investment projects approved by the National Assembly in that particular year (year n). The numerator is measured each year in a cumulative manner, i.e., the total number of year n projects implemented, up to the year being measured. **Development context:** This indicator aims at accelerating the implementation of public investment projects, and reducing the gap between approval and implementation of public investment projects.
26. Percentage of investment projects that have undergone a financial assessment: • public infrastructure investment projects • concessions • Special Economic Zone (SEZ) projects	%	**Definition and measurement:** "Investment" is defined by the 2009 Law on Investment Promotion as "tangible and intangible capital brought in by investors for their business operations in Lao PDR". "Investment projects" may be funded from any source: the government budget, loans and grants from international sources, and the private sector (domestic and international), which includes commercial bank loans. For a given year, the denominator is the number of all investment projects approved in that particular year (year n). The numerator is the number of year n projects where financial assessments have been conducted by the officially designated ministry or body according to official guidelines on financial assessment.

Performance indicators	Unit	Definition and issues
		As with Indicator 25, this indicator should be measured annually on a cumulative basis over the five-year NSEDP cycle, disaggregated by year of project approval. Monitoring and reporting should be by type of project (public infrastructure investment projects/concessions/Special Economic Zone projects). **Development context:** The indicator is meant to track one aspect of the quality of investment projects. **Reference:** • Ministry of Planning and Investment, Lao PDR.
27. Percentage of investment projects that have undergone an economic assessment: • public infrastructure investment projects • concessions • Special Economic Zone (SEZ) projects	%	**Definition and measurement:** "Investment" is defined by the 2009 Law on Investment Promotion as "tangible and intangible capital brought in by investors for their business operations in Lao PDR". "Investment projects" may be funded from any source: the government budget, loans and grants from international sources, and the private sector (domestic and international), which includes commercial bank loans. For a given year, the denominator is the number of all investment projects approved in that particular year (year n). The numerator is the number of year n projects where economic assessments have been conducted by the officially designated ministry or body in the period 2016-2020 according to official guidelines on economic assessment. There are currently no official guidelines for conducting economic assessments. MPI should develop such guidelines in 2016 and 2017, in order to adopt this indicator at the 2018 Mid-Term Review of the NSEDP. Following this, monitoring of this indicator can be on a cumulative basis, as with Indicators 25 and 26. In addition, monitoring and reporting should be by type of project (public infrastructure investment projects/concessions/Special Economic Zone projects). **Development context:** The indicator is meant to track the soundness and quality of investment projects. **Reference:** • Ministry of Planning and Investment, Lao PDR.
28. Total value of all investment (public and private) made in the 8th NSEDP of which:	trillion kip	**Definition and measurement:** "Investment" is defined by the 2009 Law on Investment Promotion as "tangible and intangible capital brought in by investors for their business operations in Lao PDR". "Investment projects" may be funded from any source: the government budget, loans and grants from international sources, and the private sector (domestic and international), which includes commercial bank loans. In each of the indicators, the denominator is the total value of public and private investment made in the 8th NSEDP. The numerators for Indicators 29, 30 and 31 are, respectively: • investment financed by the government budget • investment financed by foreign loans and grants • investment financed by the private sector (domestic and foreign).
29. Percentage of total investment financed by the government budget	%	
30. Percentage of total investment	%	

Performance indicators	Unit	Definition and issues
financed by foreign grants and loans		**Development context:** The aim of this indicator is to track the sources of investment financing and efforts to reduce dependence on foreign loans and grants for key social sectors. **Reference:** • Ministry of Planning and Investment, Lao PDR.
31. Percentage of total investment financed by the private sector (domestic and foreign)	%	
32. Percentage of total investment in financial sector and financial sector development	billion kip	**Definition and measurement:** "Investment" is defined by the 2009 Law on Investment Promotion as "tangible and intangible capital brought in by investors for their business operations in Lao PDR". Investment in the financial sector and financial sector development is defined and will be monitored according to the Ministry of Finance and the Bank of Lao PDR, who suggested this indicator. **Reference:** • Ministry of Finance, Lao PDR.
33. Net official development assistance (ODA) and official aid received from all sources: • as a percentage of nominal GDP • in current US$	% current US$	**Definition and measurement:** This indicator measures total official development assistance (ODA) and official aid from all sources provided to Lao PDR measured in current US dollars and measured as a percentage of nominal GDP. ODA and official aid to Lao PDR comprises grants and loans (i.e. flows or transfers of resources, either in cash or in the form of commodities or services) provided to Lao PDR from governments of OECD countries and non-OECD countries and their official agencies, such as state and local governments and bilateral development agencies. ODA also includes resources (normally grants) from donor countries intended for Lao PDR provided through multilateral development institutions such as the UN and the World Bank. The main objective of the flows must be the promotion of the economic development and the welfare of the recipient country. ODA transactions are made at concessional terms and convey a grant element of at least 25 percent (calculated at a rate of discount of 10 percent). Technical cooperation is included as part of ODA. Grants, loans and credits for military purposes are excluded. Net ODA is disbursement flows (net of repayment of principal, or the amount remaining after subtraction of repayment for the principal) that meet the DAC definition of ODA and are made to countries and territories on the DAC list of ODA recipients. The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development/Development Assistance Committee (OECD/DAC) is a committee that consists of major bilateral donor countries and the European Commission, which coordinate their aid programmes around common objectives. **Development context:** The Government and international development partners review ODA through the annual Round Table process, using the Aid Management Platform (AMP). Measuring this indicator will require adding official aid flows from non-OECD countries (such as the emerging economies) to Lao PDR. Past experience shows that the AMP may need to incorporate: (i) the non-OECD

Performance indicators	Unit	Definition and issues
		official aid that fits ODA criteria above; and (ii) contributions from the international non-profit organizations without double counting, since these bodies also receive their funds from OECD donor countries.
34. Net ODA received from OECD/DAC donors by Lao PDR as a percentage of nominal GDP	%	**Definition and measurement:** This indicator is the same as Indicator 33, but includes only the OECD/DAC donors. DAC Members are Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, the Czech Republic, Denmark, the European Union, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, the Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States. OECD members as of 15 July 2016 are: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Chile, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Latvia, Luxembourg, Mexico, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, the Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the United States. **Reference:** • OECD: http://www.oecd.org/about/membersandpartners/ and http://www.oecd.org/dac/dacmembers.htm
35. Proportion of bilateral ODA of OECD/DAC donors that is untied	%	**Definition and measurement:** Untied aid is assistance that is fully and freely available to finance procurement of the associated goods and services from all countries. This indicator measures the percentage of bilateral official development assistance (ODA) provided by OECD/DAC countries directly to Lao PDR that is untied. For this indicator, UN guidelines specify that technical cooperation and administrative costs will be excluded from the computations. This indicator is expressed as a percentage. Bilateral assistance covers flows that are provided directly by a donor country to an aid recipient country. Official development assistance (ODA) comprises grants and loans (i.e. flows or transfers of resources, either in cash or in the form of commodities or services) provided by donor countries (and their official representative agencies) to developing countries and territories, and to multilateral development institutions. The flows must have the promotion of the economic development and the welfare of the recipient countries as their main objective. ODA transactions are made at concessional terms and convey a grant element of at least 25 percent (calculated at a rate of discount of 10 percent). Grants, loans and credits for military purposes are excluded. The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development/Development Assistance Committee (OECD/DAC) is a committee that consists of major bilateral donor countries and the European Commission, which coordinate their aid programmes around common objectives. **Reference:** • Millennium Development Goal Indicators: The official United Nations site for the MDG indicators. Metadata: http://mdgs.un.org/unsd/mdg/Metadata.aspx
Outcome 1, Output 4 – Balanced regional and local development		

Performance indicators	Unit	Definition and issues
36. Regional GDP (constant) annual growth rate • North • Central • South	%	**Definition and measurement:** This indicator is the annual percentage growth rate of GDP at market prices based on constant local currency, disaggregated by region and province. GDP is the sum of gross value added by all resident producers in the economy plus any product taxes and minus any subsidies not included in the value of the products. It is calculated without making deductions for depreciation of fabricated assets or for depletion and degradation of natural resources. The year used as baseline year should be specified for Lao PDR. **Development context:** The differences in GDP growth rate between regions and provinces indicates the extent to which regional and local development is balanced. Currently, the National Accounts System needs strengthening to be able to measure GDP accurately for each region/province. It would be more useful to measure GDP growth by province instead of region alone, since each province is a discrete administrative unit.
37. Regional GDP per capita (nominal) • North • Central • South	billion kip	**Definition and measurement:** The regional GDP per capita is obtained by dividing the GDP at current market prices by the mid-year population of each region or province, depending on the level of data disaggregation. Data are in current Lao kip. GDP is the sum of gross value added by all resident producers in the economy plus any product taxes and minus any subsidies not included in the value of the products. It is calculated without making deductions for depreciation of fabricated assets or for depletion and degradation of natural resources. Data are calculated in current prices. **Development context:** Currently, the National Accounts System needs strengthening to be able to measure GDP accurately for each region/province. It would be more useful to measure GDP by province instead of region alone, since each province is a discrete administrative unit. The indicator is a basic economic indicator and measures the level of total economic output relative to the population of that region/province. Differences between the regions or provinces will reflect differences in the well-being of the population of that region/province.
38. Percentage of families defined as poor by NCRDPE	%	**Definition and measurement:** This indicator measures the poverty of families based on their income level according to poverty criteria set by the National Committee for Rural Development and Poverty Eradication (NCRDPE). The denominator is the total number of families and the numerator is the number of families that have an average monthly income less than the defined threshold set by the NCRDPE. In 2016, households are considered poor when they have an income (or the equivalent in kind) less than the defined threshold: this is LAK 240,000 for urban and LAK 180,000 for rural households. **Development context:** The NCRDPE monitors poverty annually in terms of income and basic services access, not by consumption. The household/family level is monitored as the smallest unit. The NCRDPE monitoring system is capable of disaggregating data by family, village, district, province and urban/rural divisions. The poverty data from NCRDPE are not comparable with the poverty rate from surveys such as LECS since the two employ different definitions and methodologies of data collection. The

Performance indicators	Unit	Definition and issues
		advantage is that the NCRDPE produces annual poverty data. However, the Committee notes that data quality will need to improve.
39. Percentage of villages defined as poor by NCRDPE	%	**Definition and measurement:** This indicator measures the poverty of villages based on income level of constituent families as well as access to services according to criteria set by the NCRDPE. The denominator is the total number of villages and the numerator is the number of villages defined as poor according to the criteria set by the NCRDPE, as follows: The NCRDPE defines a village as poor when just one of the following five criteria is not met: • Minimum income threshold: 50 percent or more of households in the village have an income *not less* than the defined threshold (in 2016, the defined threshold is LAK 240,000 for urban and LAK 180,000 for rural households • Education access: the village is less than one hour's walking distance from a complete primary school • Health access: the village is less than two hours' walking distance from a health clinic • Easy access to water: the water source must be in the village or close by • All-weather road access: it is possible to reach the village safely by car during all seasons. **Development context:** The NCRDPE monitors poverty annually in terms of income and basic services access, not by consumption. The household/family level is monitored as the smallest unit. The NCRDPE monitoring system is capable of disaggregating data by family, village, district, province and urban/rural divisions. Poor districts are those where 50 percent or more of the villages in that district are poor, according to the above criteria. The poverty data from the NCRDPE are not comparable with the poverty rate from surveys such as LECS since the two employ different definitions and methodologies of data collection. The advantage is that the NCRDPE produces annual poverty data. However, the Committee notes that data quality will need to improve.
40. Percentage of villages with all-weather road access	%	**Definition and measurement:** All-weather road access means that it is possible to reach the village safely by car during all seasons, in accordance with the definition of road and car access set by the NCRDPE. The denominator is the total number of villages in the country/province. The numerator is the number of villages that can be reached safely by car during all seasons. **Development context:** The NCRDPE monitors this indicator as one of five criteria for villages that are not defined as poor (Indicator 39).
Outcome 1, Output 5 – Improved public/private labour force capacity		
41. Labour productivity (GDP/per person employed): • non-resource sectors • resource sectors	US$	**Definition and measurement:** Labour productivity is defined as gross domestic product (GDP) per person employed. Labour productivity is obtained by dividing GDP by the total number of employed persons, whether in the formal or informal sectors. For Lao PDR, the resource sectors are energy (hydropower), mining and forestry. Non-resource sectors are the remaining sectors.

Performance indicators	Unit	Definition and issues
		In Lao PDR, statistics on the number of self-employed and family workers in agricultural and informal activities can only be obtained through labour force surveys and censuses. Since self-employment and informal activities account for a substantial part of labour input in Lao PDR (see sections on employment to population ratio and vulnerable employment), labour statistics in the formal sector (which are available) cannot provide sound proxy indicators. **Development context:** Labour productivity is useful in assessing the likelihood of a country's economic environment to create and sustain decent employment opportunities with fair and equitable remuneration. However, data on labour productivity should be interpreted with caution. When economic growth is high, and GDP growth rates are about three times the growth in employment levels (as in Lao PDR between 2005 and 2010), then labour productivity can also grow, without, however, an increase in decent employment opportunities. For Lao PDR, labour productivity should be monitored by sector. The next labour force survey should plan to allow the measurement of labour productivity by sector, with the sector breakdown including tourism in addition to other services. See Indicators 130 and 131 on a Tourism Satellite Account in addition to a System of National Accounts (SNA), in order to measure the contribution of tourism to GDP. **Reference:** • Millennium Development Goal Indicators: The official United Nations site for the MDG indicators. Metadata: http://mdgs.un.org/unsd/mdg/Metadata.aspx
42. Average annual growth rate of real GDP per person employed (growth of labour productivity)	%	**Definition and measurement:** Labour productivity is defined as gross domestic product (GDP) per person employed. Labour productivity is obtained by dividing GDP by the total number of employed persons, whether in the formal or informal sectors. The growth of labour productivity is defined as the growth rate of real gross domestic product (GDP) per person employed – in other words, the growth rate in the output per person employed, whether in the formal or informal sectors To obtain the growth rate of labour productivity (LP) for Lao PDR, ILO recommended the following method for the 2013 MDG progress report: The total number of employed people in 1995 and 2005 was obtained from the 1995 and 2005 censuses by applying the definitions of employment comparable to those used by the 2010 Labour Force Survey. The definitions of employed in the censuses included the categories of *government employee, parastatal employee, state enterprise employee, employer, own-account worker*, and *unpaid family worker*. This produced three data points (1995, 2005, and 2010) for the number of people employed over a 15-year period. The standard formula for Compound Annual Growth Rates was applied to these three data points, yielding average annual growth rates in labour productivity for the periods 1995-2005 and 2005-2010: $LP19952005_{growth} = \left(\frac{GDP_{2005}/Employed_{2005}}{GDP_{1995}/Employed_{1995}}\right)^{\frac{1}{2005-1995}} - 1$ $LP20052010_{growth} = \left(\frac{GDP_{2010}/Employed_{2010}}{GDP_{2005}/Employed_{2005}}\right)^{\frac{1}{2010-2005}} - 1$

Performance indicators	Unit	Definition and issues
		Development context: Labour productivity is useful in assessing the likelihood of a country's economic environment to create and sustain decent employment opportunities with fair and equitable remuneration. However, data on labour productivity should be interpreted with caution. When economic growth is high, and GDP growth rates are about three times the growth in employment levels (as in Lao PDR between 2005 and 2010), then labour productivity can also grow, without, however, an increase in decent employment opportunities. **Reference:** • Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and United Nations, 2013. The Millennium Development Goals: Progress Report for the Lao PDR 2013. Vientiane: Ministry of Foreign Affairs and United Nations.
43. Employment-to-population ratio: • number of employed persons • percentage of working age population that is employed	number %	**Definition and measurement:** The proportion of the population that is employed is known as the employment-to-population ratio (ETPR). The first part of Indicator 43 (numerator) is the number of employed persons of working age according to the definitions set out below. The ETPR is calculated by dividing the number of employed persons of working age by the population of working age. The working-age population for Lao PDR is defined as persons who are of age 15 years and older. Employed: Persons engaged in economic activities (as defined below) for a specified time period, are said to be employed. Economic activity, as used in the Lao PDR 2010 Labour Force Survey and adopted by the Thirteenth International Conference of Labour Statisticians, is defined broadly in terms of the production of goods and services as set forth in the System of National Accounts (SNA). Persons are considered economically active if (and only if) they contribute or are available to contribute to the production of goods and services falling within the SNA production boundary. The SNA production boundary includes production of all services by market enterprises, government and non-profit institutions. However, it excludes the production of almost all services for own final consumption within the same household. Domestic and personal services produced by employing paid domestic staff is included within the SNA production boundary. In other words, production for home consumption is not counted as "work", unless some of the output is sold. **Development context:** When a large proportion of the working-age population is employed (high ETPR), this is not always desirable. In richer countries, the ETPR is lower, one of the causes being continuing education and more leisurely lifestyles. A high ETPR means that the quality of work may be a key concern, because relatively high ratios in poor countries (e.g., above 80 percent) usually means an abundance of poor quality jobs. During a country's development process, the employment to population ratios and poverty rates can both be high, because people simply have to work to survive. In Lao PDR, a large percentage of both the population and employed people work in semi-subsistence agriculture (see below), which is the main driver of the high ETPR. **Reference:** • Millennium Development Goal Indicators: The official United Nations site for the MDG indicators. Metadata: http://mdgs.un.org/unsd/mdg/Metadata.aspx
44. Proportion of own-account and contributing	%	**Definition and measurement:** The proportion of own-account workers and contributing family workers in total employment is defined as the proportion of workers in self-employment who do not have employees, and unpaid family workers in total employment. This indicator is

Performance indicators	Unit	Definition and issues
family workers in total employment		calculated by dividing the sum of contributing family workers and own-account workers (numerator) by the total number of persons employed (denominator) and reported in percentage. Own-account workers are those workers who, working on their own account or with one or more partners, hold self-employment jobs and have not engaged, on a continuous basis, any employees to work for them. Contributing family workers, also known as unpaid family workers, are those workers who are self-employed in a market-oriented establishment operated by a related person living in the same household, but those same workers cannot be regarded as partners, because their degree of commitment to the operation of the establishment, in terms of various factors to be determined by national circumstances, is not at a level comparable with that of the head of the establishment. Self-employment includes those jobs where the remuneration is directly dependent upon the profits (or the potential for profits) derived from the goods and services produced (where own consumption is considered to be part of profits). Employees are those workers who hold paid employment jobs, where the incumbents hold explicit (written or oral) or implicit employment contracts that give them a basic remuneration that is not directly dependent upon the revenue of the unit for which they work. Total employment means the total number of persons engaged in economic activities (as defined below) for a specified time period. Economic activity, as used in the Lao PDR 2010 Labour Force Survey and adopted by the Thirteenth International Conference of Labour Statisticians, is defined broadly in terms of the production of goods and services as set forth in the System of National Accounts (SNA). Persons are considered economically active if (and only if) they contribute or are available to contribute to the production of goods and services falling within the SNA production boundary. The SNA production boundary includes production of all services by market enterprises, government and non-profit institutions. However, it excludes the production of almost all services for own final consumption within the same household. Domestic and personal services produced by employing paid domestic staff is included within the SNA production boundary. In other words, production for home consumption is not counted as “work”, unless some of the output is sold. **Development context:** Vulnerable employment is a measure of persons who are employed under relatively precarious circumstances. Contributing family workers and own-account workers are less likely to have formal work arrangements and access to benefits or social protection programmes, and are more “at risk” in downturns in economic cycles. Therefore, these categories of workers are considered “vulnerable”. There is a connection between vulnerable employment and poverty. If the proportion of vulnerable workers in total employment is sizeable, it may be an indication of widespread poverty. The connection arises because vulnerable workers lack social protection and safety nets to guard against poverty in periods of low economic demand. In addition, vulnerable workers are often incapable of generating sufficient savings for themselves and their families to offset declines in remuneration during economic downturns and are less able to deal with catastrophic illness. **Reference:** • Millennium Development Goal Indicators: The official United Nations site for the MDG indicators. Metadata: http://mdgs.un.org/unsd/mdg/Metadata.aspx and http://mdgs.un.org/unsd/mi/wiki/1-7-Proportion-of-own-account-and-contributing-family-workers-in-total-employment.ashx

Performance indicators	Unit	Definition and issues
45. Percentage of employed people who have education at secondary school level or above	%	**Definition and measurement:** The numerator is the number of employed people with the education level of having completed secondary school or a higher level. The denominator is the total number of employed people. Employed: Persons engaged in economic activities (as defined below) for a specified time period, are said to be employed. Economic activity, as used in the Lao PDR 2010 Labour Force Survey and adopted by the Thirteenth International Conference of Labour Statisticians, is defined broadly in terms of the production of goods and services as set forth in the System of National Accounts (SNA). Persons are considered economically active if (and only if) they contribute or are available to contribute to the production of goods and services falling within the SNA production boundary. The SNA production boundary includes production of all services by market enterprises, government and non-profit institutions. However, it excludes the production of almost all services for own final consumption within the same household. Domestic and personal services produced by employing paid domestic staff is included within the SNA production boundary. In other words, production for home consumption is not counted as “work”, unless some of the output is sold. **Development context:** This indicator is used to monitor the quality of total employment as well as the status of education among women in employment, which lags significantly behind men.
46. New employment each year: • number of new jobs per year • average annual growth in new jobs	number %	**Definition and measurement:** The aim of this indicator is to obtain an estimate of the number of new jobs that are created each year. This can be calculated in two ways, with each yielding a different result. The basic principle of both approaches is that only net jobs created should be counted as new employment. “Net” means (jobs created) – (jobs lost) = “net” jobs created. Example: If 100 jobs are gained in a firm, and 50 lost, then the net number of jobs gained is 50. *A. The FTE approach recommended by the Donor Committee for Enterprise Development (DCED):* This approach counts only the number of *net, full-time-equivalent (FTE) jobs* created each year in Lao PDR and the annual growth rate of these new jobs. It converts part-time jobs into FTE jobs. Full-time equivalent (FTE) means the days of work associated with the new jobs are converted to the equivalent of a full-time job. This is converted as follows: • Decide on the number of workdays for a full-time job for Lao PDR (FTE workdays). Most industrialized countries define the days of work in a full-time job as 240 days a year, as follows: 52 weeks, five days a week = 260 days Minus 2 weeks’ vacation = 10 days Minus official holidays = 10 days Therefore, days of full-time work = 240 days • Divide the number of working days a year created by the new job by 240, which will convert this into an FTE job. Example: for a half-time job, its full-time equivalent would be 120 days (120 days a year divided by 240 is 0.5 FTE job

Performance indicators	Unit	Definition and issues
		year. If two half-time jobs are created, of 120 days each per year, then that equals one FTE job. However, the use of this approach is not possible without comprehensive data. *B. The ILO approach:* The ILO does not use the FTE method for calculating employment. The ILO definition of employment includes all those who are self-employed, such as unpaid family workers irrespective of the number of hours worked during the reference period. **Development context:** Administrative statistics from the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare will only cover the jobs that have been registered/reported (usually with wages or salaries) and will not cover jobs that have not been registered such as those of agricultural workers, the self-employed, workers in private households, unpaid family workers, and workers on unpaid leave. Also, it may not record jobs that have been lost. To obtain a more complete picture of the net jobs created, household surveys are essential as these will cover the workers in the informal sectors. This indicator therefore requires the next labour survey to collect the data needed, including for the FTE approach. **Reference:** • Donor Committee for Enterprise Development (DCED): http://www.enterprise-development.org/
47. Graduates with degrees or professional certification in any of the following (number and percentage increase over previous year): • agro-processing • tourism • construction/engineering • motor vehicle mechanics • business administration • management	number %	**Definition and measurement:** "Graduates with degrees or professional certification" means people who have successfully completed officially recognized training and/or education at International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED) level 4 or above, and/or skill levels 3 and 4 (ILO International Standard Classification of Occupations). This includes education classed as post-secondary and non-tertiary, as well as all courses above this level, including tertiary. Data disaggregation should be by the courses provided. The first part of the indicator is the number of graduates meeting the above criteria each year. The second part of the indicator is the percentage increase in this number from the previous year. To calculate the annual increase/decrease the following formula is applied and reported in percentage. (graduates in year 2 / graduates in year 1) – 1. Sectors should be determined in consultation between MoLSW and MoES. **Development context:** Regional economic integration associated with the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) is expected to transform ASEAN into a single region with free movement of goods, services, investment, skilled labour and freer flow of capital. To realize the benefits of AEC entry, Lao PDR will need to upgrade the education and skills of the young population and this is most urgent. Lao PDR will not be able to meet the demand for medium-skilled and high-skilled workers generated by AEC entry unless it can resolve the current mismatch between labour market needs and young people's education and skills. Another challenge is the low productivity. Unless this is tackled, Lao PDR will not be able to fully develop its potential in the next decade. Lao PDR's economy needs to become much more competitive and diversified. To achieve all this, Lao PDR's young people need to be provided with sound technical and vocational education and training (TVET). **Reference:**

Performance indicators	Unit	Definition and issues
		• UNESCO, 2011. International Standard Classification of Education: http://www.uis.unesco.org/Education/Documents/isced-2011-operational-manual.pdf • ILO, 2008. International Standard Classification of Occupations: http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---dcomm/---publ/documents/publication/wcms_172572.pdf
Outcome 1, Output 6 – Local entrepreneurs are competitive in domestic and global markets		
48. Total number of locally owned SMEs	number	**Definition and measurement:** Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) are independent enterprises that are legally registered and that operate according to the prevailing laws of Lao PDR, with less than 100 staff, as follows: • small enterprises (1–19 staff) • medium-sized enterprises (20–99 staff). According to the Ministry of Industry and Commerce: Locally owned SMEs refers to enterprises where the owners or shareholders and joint partners are 100 percent Lao nationals who manage businesses to create income by applying their creative skills and intellectual efforts and take responsibility for all risks for both profits and losses. The enterprises have a licence and are operating in compliance with the laws of the Lao PDR. **Development context:** SMEs are an important part of the economy of Lao PDR and employ a significant part of the population. Strengthening the competitiveness of SMEs is important for two main reasons – the transitory nature of the resources boom and the country's accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO) in February 2013. While the resources sector contributes significantly to exports and fiscal revenue, this is expected to decline in the medium term. Non-resource sectors will thus need to expand their contribution to be able to play a pivotal role in employment generation and in making the economic growth of the country both sustainable and inclusive. Second, while WTO membership is a substantial achievement that will help integrate Lao PDR further into the world economy, such trade exposure can affect industries differently; some will expand due to new opportunities while others will have to undergo substantial restructuring to survive and prosper. Hence, assisting structural adjustment so that SMEs can benefit from the new opportunities is essential. In addition, SMEs also face constraints such as inefficient regulations, poor access to services and finance, and non-transparent trade policies, which results in low utilization of tariff preferences. The indicator reflects the Government's priority of promoting local ownership of SMEs and removing policy and legal obstacles to SME growth. **References**: • Prime Minister's Decree 42 • Small and Medium Enterprise Promotion and Development Office (SMEPDO), Ministry of Industry and Commerce • Asian Development Bank: Second Private Sector and Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises Development Programme. http://adb.org/sites/default/files/projdocs/2013/44057-013-rrp.pdf

Performance indicators	Unit	Definition and issues
49. Net increase/decrease in number of locally-owned enterprises	number	**Definition and measurement:** This indicator records the net increase or decrease in the number of locally owned enterprises, where "net" increase or decrease is obtained each year by the difference between the number of locally owned enterprises the previous year and the number in the current year. Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) are independent enterprises that are legally registered and that operate according to the prevailing laws of Lao PDR, with less than 100 staff, as follows: • small enterprises (1–19 staff) • medium-sized enterprises (20–99 staff). According to the Ministry of Industry and Commerce: Locally owned SMEs refer to enterprises where the owners or shareholders and joint partners are 100 percent Lao nationals who manage businesses to create income by applying their creative skills and intellectual efforts and take responsibility for all risks for both profits and losses. The enterprises have a licence and are operating in compliance with the laws of the Lao PDR. **Development context:** SMEs are an important part of the economy of Lao PDR and employ a significant proportion of the population. Strengthening the competitiveness of SMEs is important for two main reasons—the transitory nature of the resources boom and the country's accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO) in February 2013. While the resources sector contributes significantly to exports and fiscal revenue, this is expected to decline in the medium term. Non-resource sectors will thus need to expand their contribution to be able to play a pivotal role in employment generation and in making the economic growth of the country both sustainable and inclusive. Second, while WTO membership is a substantial achievement that will help integrate Lao PDR further into the world economy, such trade exposure can affect industries differently; some will expand due to new opportunities while others will have to undergo substantial restructuring to survive and prosper. Hence, assisting structural adjustment so that SMEs can benefit from the new opportunities is essential. In addition, SMEs also face constraints such as inefficient regulations, poor access to services and finance, and non-transparent trade policies, which results in low utilization of tariff preferences. The indicator reflects the Government's priority of encouraging locally owned SMEs. **References**: • Prime Minister's Decree 42 • Small and Medium Enterprise Promotion and Development Office (SMEPDO), Ministry of Industry and Commerce • Asian Development Bank: Second Private Sector and Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises Development Programme. http://adb.org/sites/default/files/projdocs/2013/44057-013-rrp.pdf
Outcome 1, Output 7 – Regional and international cooperation and integration		
50. Border cost related to importing one container	US$ per container	**Definition and measurement:** Border cost (to import) measures the fees levied on a 20-foot container in US dollars. All the fees associated with completing the procedures to export or import the goods are included. These include costs for documents, administrative fees for

Performance indicators	Unit	Definition and issues
		customs clearance and technical control, customs broker fees, terminal handling charges and inland transport. The cost measure does not include tariffs or trade taxes. Only official costs are recorded. This standardized indicator is monitored by the World Bank Group in surveys. The complete methodology is described in the reference below, including the assumptions made about the businesses surveyed and the assumptions about traded goods. **Development context:** While the situation in Lao PDR with regard to import–export is specific (e.g., two of its main exports, timber and electricity, are not exported in containers), it is nonetheless important to adopt an indicator that could be compared with those of other landlocked countries. **Reference.** • World Bank Group: Doing Business – Trading across Borders methodology. http://www.doingbusiness.org/methodology/trading-across-borders
51. Border cost relating to exporting one container	US$ per container	**Definition and measurement:** Border cost (to export) measures the fees levied on a 20-foot container in US dollars. All the fees associated with completing the procedures to export or import the goods are included. These include costs for documents, administrative fees for customs clearance and technical control, customs broker fees, terminal handling charges and inland transport. The cost measure does not include tariffs or trade taxes. Only official costs are recorded. This standardized indicator is monitored by the World Bank Group in surveys. The complete methodology is described in the reference below, including the assumptions made about the businesses surveyed and the assumptions about traded goods. **Development context:** While the situation in Lao PDR with regard to import–export is specific (e.g., two of its main exports, timber and electricity, are not exported in containers), it is nonetheless important to adopt an indicator that could be compared with those of other landlocked countries. **Reference:** • World Bank Group's Doing Business: Trading across Borders methodology. http://www.doingbusiness.org/methodology/trading-across-borders
52. Trade in goods and services: • exports • imports	million US$	**Definition and measurement:** This indicator measures trade in goods and services, in terms of value of exports and imports. Goods consist of merchandise imports and exports. Services cover transport, travel, communications, construction, IT, financial, other business, personal and government services, as well as royalties and licence fees. **Development context:** This indicator is more useful where trade (the sum of exports and imports of goods and services) is computed as a share of GDP. This indicator measures a country's "openness" or "integration" in the world economy. It represents the combined weight of total trade in its economy, a measure of the degree of dependence of domestic producers on foreign markets and

Performance indicators	Unit	Definition and issues
		their trade orientation (for exports) and the degree of reliance of domestic demand on foreign supply of goods and services (for imports). The trade-to-GDP ratio is often called the “trade openness ratio”. The value of trade can be more than 100 percent of GDP in small countries with high productivity (such as Luxembourg and Singapore). This is explained as follows: GDP may be considered as being made up of five components: Consumption (C), Investment (I), Government spending (G), Exports (X), and Imports (M), in the following formula: GDP = C + I + G + X – M These countries, due to their small size, do not try to be self-sufficient and produce all the products their population needs. Instead, they specialize in a few highly profitable industries that may produce more money from exports than the entire domestic economy. All the earnings from exports allows the country to purchase imports far in excess of what their domestic economy could otherwise support. Since imports are subtracted from GDP, and exports are added to GDP, the total GDP may be less than the value of exports. **References:** • World Bank data: http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NE.TRD.GNFS.ZS • UK Government, 2015. Openness to Trade: Exports plus imports as a share of GDP, ranked against major competitors. Department for Business, Innovation and Skills. https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/401199/openness-to-trade-exports-plus-imports-as-a-share-of-gdp-ranked-against-major-competitors.pdf
53. Proportion of export value under preferential treatment as LDC	%	**Definition and measurement:** The denominator of this indicator is the total value of exports from Lao PDR in a given year. The numerator is the value of Lao PDR’s exports that were given preferential treatment as the country was an LDC in the same year. Preferential treatment may include the following: duty-free and quota-free (DFQF) market access, reduced tariff rates provided for LDC exports by other countries, reduced quotas, and an increase in the relative preferential tariff margins (the difference between the tariff rates applicable to Lao PDR’s exports and those applicable to the exports of competitors). **Development context:** Providing duty-free and quota-free (DFQF) market access to LDCs is one of the main pillars of international support to doubling the LDCs’ share of global exports by 2020, which is one of the SDG targets. **Reference:** • UNCTAD, 2015. “Improving market access for the least developed countries in the 2030 agenda for sustainable development”: *Policy Brief* 06, October 2015. http://unctad.org/en/PublicationsLibrary/presspb2015d11_en.pdf
OUTCOME 2. Human resources developed, public/private workforce capacity upgraded, poverty in all ethnic groups reduced, equal access by female/male/all ethnic groups to quality education and health services, the unique Lao culture promoted, protected and developed, and political stability maintained with social peace and order, justice and transparency		

Performance indicators	Unit	Definition and issues
54. HAI component: under-5 mortality rate	per 1,000 live births	**Definition and measurement:** The under-5 mortality rate (U5MR) is the probability for a child born in a specified year to die before reaching the age of 5, if subject to current age-specific mortality rates. This indicator is expressed as number of deaths per 1,000 live births. A *live birth* is the complete expulsion or extraction from its mother of a product of conception, irrespective of the duration of the pregnancy, which, after such separation, breathes or shows any other evidence of life, such as beating of the heart, pulsation of the umbilical cord, or definite movement of voluntary muscles, whether or not the umbilical cord has been cut or the placenta is attached. Each product of such a birth is considered a live birth. Two methods exist for calculating the U5MR: the direct method and the indirect method. The direct method requires each child's date of birth, survival status, and date or age at death. This information is typically found in vital registration systems and in household surveys that collect complete birth histories, such as the Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS). The indirect method requires less detailed information that is available in censuses, general surveys, and household surveys that collect incomplete birth histories, such as the Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS). This information consists of the total number of children born to each woman, the number who survive and the woman's age (or the number of years since she first gave birth). The best source of data for computing direct estimates of U5MRs is a complete vital statistics registration system—one covering at least 90 percent of vital events in the population. However, few developing countries have well-functioning civil registration systems. Alternatively, household surveys that collect complete birth histories (such as the DHS) can be used to get direct estimates of U5MRs. If no source of direct estimates is available, population censuses, household surveys that collect incomplete birth histories (such as the MICS), and general surveys can be used to derive indirect estimates of U5MRs. Survey data are subject to recall error, survivor selection bias and age truncation. The heaping of deaths at age 12 months is especially common. Age heaping may transfer deaths across the one-year boundary and lead to underestimates of infant mortality rates. Fortunately, it has little effect on under-5 mortality rates, which makes the U5MR a more robust estimate than the infant mortality rate when data are drawn from household surveys. There are also gender-based biases in the reporting of child deaths. Moreover, survey frequency is generally only every three to five years. Another limitation is that indirect estimates rely on model actuarial ("life") tables that may be inappropriate for the population concerned. Indirect estimates obtained from household surveys have attached confidence intervals that need to be considered when comparing values over time or across countries. Similarly, these estimates are often affected by non-sampling errors that may affect recent levels and trends of U5MRs. **Development context:** This indicator reflects the social, economic and environmental conditions in which children (and others in society) live, including the quality of health care. Data on disease incidence and prevalence (morbidity data) are frequently unavailable, so mortality rates are often used to identify vulnerable populations. This indicator helps in identifying such populations because in high-mortality settings a large proportion of all deaths occur before age 5. In fact, the under-5 mortality rate captures more than 90 percent of global mortality among children under the age of 18. Under-5 mortality levels are influenced by poverty and low levels of education, particularly of mothers; the availability, accessibility and quality of health services; environmental risks including access to safe water and sanitation; and nutrition.

Performance indicators	Unit	Definition and issues
		Reference: • Millennium Development Goal Indicators: The official United Nations site for the MDG indicators. Metadata: http://mdgs.un.org/unsd/mdg/Metadata.aspx
55. Prevalence of stunting among children under 5 years of age (height for age <-2 standard deviations from the median of the World Health Organization (WHO) Child Growth Standards)	%	**Definition and measurement:** The numerator is the number of children under 5 years of age falling below minus 2 standard deviations from the median height-for-age of the reference population. The denominator is the number of children under 5 years of age in the surveyed population. The reference population is drawn from that used for the WHO 2006 Child Growth Standards. See reference. Stunting rates are computed using a global reference standard on child growth that ensures proper cross-country comparability. Data accepted into the dataset have been collected and analysed using standard equipment and methods. **Development context:** Stunting has high human and economic costs. It affects physical growth, impairs cognitive development and affects educational performance and future earning potential. It is important to distinguish between stunting, wasting and underweight. Underweight is a composite indicator of stunting and wasting. Stunting in children remains the biggest challenge in Lao PDR. Stunting is the result of the cumulative effects of undernutrition and infections since and before birth. Stunting has several determinants. These include insufficient nutrient intake, linked to poor feeding and care practices, and a high burden of infectious diseases, especially diarrhoea and parasitic infections. Underlying these are poor maternal health and nutrition, adolescent pregnancy, women's lack of knowledge and education, insufficient food diversity, poor dietary practices, poor health services, unsafe water, and poor sanitation and hygiene practices. Determinants at a deeper level include cultural beliefs, food taboos, women's status, farming practices, and prevailing power structures. **References:** • The WHO Child Growth Standards: http://www.who.int/childgrowth/standards/en/ • Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and United Nations, 2013. The Millennium Development Goals: Progress Report for the Lao PDR 2013. Vientiane: Ministry of Foreign Affairs and United Nations.
56. Maternal mortality ratio	per 100,000 live births	**Definition and measurement:** The maternal mortality ratio (MMR) is the annual number of maternal deaths from any cause related to or aggravated by pregnancy or its management (excluding accidental or incidental causes) during pregnancy and childbirth or within 42 days of termination of pregnancy, irrespective of the duration and site of the pregnancy, per 100,000 live births, for a specified year. The measurement requires information on pregnancy status, timing of death (during pregnancy, during childbirth, or within 42 days of termination of pregnancy), and cause of death. The maternal mortality ratio should not be confused with the maternal mortality rate (whose denominator is the number of women of reproductive age), which reflects not only the risk of maternal death per pregnancy or birth but also the level of fertility in the population. The maternal mortality ratio (whose denominator is the number of live births) indicates the risk of death once a woman becomes pregnant, and does not take fertility levels into consideration.

Performance indicators	Unit	Definition and issues
		Maternal deaths can be divided into two groups, namely direct and indirect obstetric deaths. Direct obstetric deaths result from obstetric complications of the pregnant state (pregnancy, labour and puerperium); interventions, omissions or direct treatment; or a chain of events resulting from any of these. Indirect deaths result from previously existing diseases, or diseases that developed during pregnancy, which were not directly due to obstetric causes but were aggravated by the physiological effects of pregnancy. A *live birth* is the complete expulsion or extraction from its mother of a product of conception, irrespective of the duration of the pregnancy, which, after such separation, breathes or shows any other evidence of life, such as beating of the heart, pulsation of the umbilical cord, or definite movement of voluntary muscles, whether or not the umbilical cord has been cut or the placenta is attached. Each product of such a birth is considered a live birth. Primary sources of data include vital registration systems, household surveys, reproductive age mortality studies, disease surveillance or sample registration systems, special studies on maternal mortality, and national population censuses. Complete vital statistics registration systems with accurate cause of death estimations are the most reliable data source for calculating maternal mortality and monitoring change over time. However, these are rare in developing countries. Therefore, in developing countries, survey data, especially those from the Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS) and similar household surveys constitute the most common source of data on maternal mortality. Because maternal mortality is a relatively rare event, large sample sizes are needed when data are derived from household surveys. This is very costly and may still result in estimates with large confidence intervals. The sisterhood method, used in DHS surveys, reduces sample size requirements by asking survey respondents about the survivorship of sisters. However, this produces estimates covering some 7-12 years before the survey, which renders data problematic for monitoring progress or observing the impact of interventions. The (newer) direct sisterhood method asks respondents to provide date of death, which permits the calculation of more recent estimates, but even then the reference period tends to refer to 0-6 years before the survey. **Development context:** This indicator monitors deaths related to pregnancy and childbirth. It reflects the capacity of health systems to provide effective health care in preventing and addressing the complications occurring during pregnancy and childbirth. It also reflects the status of women in societies. Interpreting the maternal mortality ratio requires other reproductive health-related information, including presence of skilled health personnel at delivery, antenatal care, and levels of fertility. **Reference:** • Millennium Development Goal Indicators: The official United Nations site for the MDG indicators. Metadata: http://mdgs.un.org/unsd/mdg/Metadata.aspx
57. Completion rate, primary education	%	**Definition and measurement:** Primary completion is also known as the “Gross intake ratio to the last grade of primary education”. This is the total number of new entrants in the last grade of primary education (according to the International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED 2011) Level 1), regardless of age, expressed as a percentage of the total population of the theoretical entrance age to the last grade of primary education.

Performance indicators	Unit	Definition and issues
		Numerator: number of new entrants in the last grade of primary, irrespective of age, minus the number of repeaters in that grade. Denominator: population of theoretical entrance age to the last grade of primary education. Data on population used in deriving this indicator should refer strictly to the theoretical entrance age in the last grade of primary. Care should be taken not to include repeaters in the last grade, which would inflate the ratio. The calculation includes all new entrants to the last grade (regardless of age). Therefore, the ratio can exceed 100 percent, due to over-aged and under-aged children who enter primary school late/early and/or repeat grades. **Development context:** This proxy measure of primary completion reflects the impact of policies shaping the early grades of primary school, which can have an impact on the final grade of this education level. It also indicates the capacity of the education system to provide primary completion for the theoretical entrance age population to the last grade of primary. The indicator, which monitors education system coverage and student progression, is intended to measure human capital formation and school system quality and efficiency. The indicator focuses on the share of children who ever complete the cycle; it is not a measure of "on-time" primary completion. Various factors may lead to poor performance on this indicator, including low quality of schooling, discouragement over poor performance, and the direct and indirect costs of schooling. Students' progress to higher grades may also be limited by the availability of teachers, classrooms and educational materials. **References:** • UNESCO 2009. Education Indicators: Technical guidelines. http://www.uis.unesco.org/Library/Documents/eiguide09-en.pdf • World Bank database: http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SE.PRM.CMPT.ZS
58. Completion rate, lower secondary education	%	**Definition:** Lower secondary completion is the total number of new entrants in the last grade of lower secondary education, regardless of age, expressed as a percentage of the total population of the theoretical entrance age to that last grade of lower secondary education. Numerator: the total number of new entrants in the last grade of lower secondary education, regardless of age, minus the number of repeaters in that grade. Denominator: the total population of the theoretical entrance age to the last grade of lower secondary. This indicator is also known as "Gross intake ratio to the last grade of lower secondary general education." Lower secondary education means International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED 2011) Level 2. Data on population used in deriving this indicator should refer strictly to the theoretical entrance age in the last grade of lower secondary. Care should be taken not to include repeaters in the last grade, which would inflate the ratio. The calculation includes all new entrants to the last grade of lower secondary (regardless of age). Therefore, the ratio can exceed 100 percent, due to over-aged and under-aged children who enter lower secondary school late/early and/or repeat grades. **Development context:**

Performance indicators	Unit	Definition and issues
		This measure is a proxy that should be taken as an upper estimate of the actual lower secondary completion rate (i.e., in reality, the rate may be lower due to students who drop out in the last year). **References:** • UNESCO 2009. Education Indicators: Technical guidelines. http://www.uis.unesco.org/Library/Documents/eiguide09-en.pdf • World Bank database: http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SE.SEC.CMPT.LO.ZS
59. Completion rate, upper secondary education	%	**Definition and measurement:** Upper secondary completion is the total number of new entrants in the last grade of upper secondary education, regardless of age, expressed as a percentage of the total population of the theoretical entrance age to that last grade of upper secondary education. Numerator: the total number of new entrants in the last grade of upper secondary education, regardless of age, minus the number of repeaters in that grade. Denominator: the total population of the theoretical entrance age to the last grade of upper secondary. Upper secondary education means International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED 2011) Level 3. The ratio can exceed 100 percent due to over-aged and under-aged children who enter upper secondary school late/early and/or repeat grades. **Development context:** Data limitations preclude adjusting for students who drop out during the final year of upper secondary education. Thus this measure is a proxy that should be taken as an upper estimate of the actual upper secondary completion rate (i.e., in reality, the rate may be lower due to students who drop out in the last year). **Reference:** • UNESCO 2009. Education Indicators: Technical guidelines. http://www.uis.unesco.org/Library/Documents/eiguide09-en.pdf
60. Literacy and numeracy of youth, 15-24 years old	%	**Definition and measurement:** This is the percentage of the population 15-24 years old achieving at least a fixed level of proficiency in functional (a) literacy and (b) numeracy skills. This indicator shows the proportion of youth aged 15-24 years who can both read and write, with understanding, a short simple statement on their everyday life *and* have the ability to make simple arithmetic calculations, as a proportion of the total population in that age group. The numerator is the number of people aged 15-24 years who are (a) literate (b) numerate, while the denominator is the total population in the same age group. If possible, both literacy and numeracy should be tested and the results disaggregated. Research and various tests show that, while literacy and numeracy are highly correlated and complementary, relative levels of literacy and numeracy may vary between groups and countries, with one having higher levels of literacy but lower levels of numeracy compared with another.

Performance indicators	Unit	Definition and issues
		Disaggregating literacy and numeracy will also be useful for policy decisions on basic education learning outcomes (Indicator 87) and designing tools for improving outcomes. The rate cannot exceed 100 percent. It will be useful to align measurements of literacy and numeracy with the standard international definition given above, and to administer literacy and numeracy tests on a sample basis to verify and improve the quality of literacy statistics. Tests provide a more precise estimate of literacy and numeracy, since errors in literacy/numeracy self-declaration affect the reliability of surveys that do not test. Practices for identifying literate and illiterate/numerate and innumerate people during census enumeration or surveys should remain the same between each survey and/or census. Persons with no schooling cannot necessarily be equated with illiterates or innumerates. In all cases, methods need to specify whether the literacy and numeracy are self-reported or tested. **Development context:** This indicator reflects the recent outcomes of the basic education process. It is a summary measure of the effectiveness of the education system. A high literacy and numeracy rate among 15-24-year-olds suggests a high level of participation and retention in primary education, and its effectiveness in imparting the basic skills of reading, writing and arithmetic. Because persons belonging to this age group are entering adult life, monitoring their literacy and numeracy levels is important with respect to national human resources policies, as well as for tracking and forecasting progress in adult literacy and numeracy. **References:** • UNESCO 2009. Education Indicators: Technical guidelines. http://www.uis.unesco.org/Library/Documents/eiguide09-en.pdf • Shomos, A., 2010. The Links Between Literacy and Numeracy Skills and Labour Market Outcomes. Commonwealth of Australia 2010, Productivity Commission Staff Working Paper. http://www.pc.gov.au/research/supporting/literacy-numeracy-labour-outcomes/literacy-numeracy-labour-outcomes.pdf
61. Proportion of population living below national poverty line by region/province (poverty headcount rate)	%	**Definition and measurement:** This indicator, also known as national poverty rate, is the proportion of the population living below the national poverty line. National poverty line is the threshold below which a person is deemed to be poor. The total number below the poverty line is divided by the total population to estimate the proportion of the population that is poor and reported as a percentage. The poverty headcount rate is not comparable with NCRDPE poverty criteria. For Lao PDR, a consumption-based welfare measure is used to measure poverty following the cost-of-basic-needs approach. While both consumption and income measurement have advantages as measures of welfare, consumption is seen as a better proxy of permanent income from a theoretical perspective, and is often preferred from a practical perspective, because income is difficult to measure in developing countries where own consumption of produce is common and the majority of people are in self-employment. The poverty line used in Lao PDR was derived based on the consumption basket of a reference poor population. The cost of non-food consumption was calculated using the average ratio of food to total consumption among households with total consumption who are close to the food poverty line (the cost of consuming at least 2,100 calories per day per person). Regional poverty lines are established and adjusted to account for spatial price differences. The national poverty line is expressed as the weighted mean of the regional poverty lines.

Performance indicators	Unit	Definition and issues
		Data disaggregation: 2017/18 LECS should have data disaggregated by gender of household head and presence or absence of children in household. Time use will also be required in LECS and other surveys in the context of Indicator 158, which also happens to be an SDG indicator. **Development context:** The poverty headcount rate is useful to track poverty reduction trends in time by geographic region, ethnicity and so on. Since survey data are almost always related to households, measuring poverty at the individual level makes the assumption that all members of a given household enjoy the same level of well-being. This assumption may not hold in many situations. LECS surveys should be designed so that certain modules (e.g., water and sanitation, employment) apply the same criteria and standards used in other national surveys such as MICS, LSIS and Labour Force Surveys, so as to produce comparable data at shorter intervals. **References:** • World Bank Institute, 2005. Introduction to Poverty Analysis. http://siteresources.worldbank.org/PGLP/Resources/PovertyManual.pdf and http://siteresources.worldbank.org/PGLP/Resources/povertymanual_ch4.pdf • Pimhidzai, O., Fenton, N., Phonesaly Souksavath and Vilaysouk Sisoulath, 2014. Poverty Profile in Lao PDR: Poverty Report for the Lao Consumption and Expenditure Survey, 2012-2013 (LECS). Vientiane: Ministry of Planning and Investment, Lao Statistics Bureau and World Bank. • Millennium Development Goal Indicators: The official United Nations site for the MDG indicators. Metadata: http://mdgs.un.org/unsd/mdg/Metadata.aspx
Outcome 2, Output 1 – Improved living standards through poverty reduction		
62. Share of poorest quintile in national consumption	%	**Definition and measurement:** The share of the poorest quintile in national consumption is defined as the share of a country's national consumption or income that accrues to the poorest quintile (fifth) of the population. The poorest quintile is the bottom 20 percent of the population, ranked by income or consumption levels. Consumption, including consumption from own production or income, is calculated from household data for the entire household, adjusted for household size, and then divided by the number of persons living in the household to derive a per capita measure. The population is then ranked by consumption or income, and the bottom fifth of the population's consumption or income is expressed as a percentage of aggregate household income. The calculations are made in local currency, without adjustment for price changes, exchange rates or spatial differences in the cost of living within countries because the data needed for such calculations are generally unavailable. **Development context:** This indicator is a measure of inequality in the distribution of income, reflected in the percentage shares of income or consumption accruing to portions of the population ranked by income or consumption levels. Inequality is a broader concept than poverty because it is defined over the entire population, and not just the population below a certain poverty line. Because the consumption of the poorest fifth is expressed as a percentage of total household consumption (or income), this indicator is

Performance indicators	Unit	Definition and issues
		a measure of "relative inequality". This means that, while the absolute consumption of the poorest fifth may increase, its share of total consumption may remain the same (if the total goes up by the same proportion), decline (if the total goes up by a larger proportion) or increase (if the total goes up by a smaller proportion). Values can range from 0 to 20. Smaller values indicate higher inequality, especially when compared with the share of income accruing to the wealthiest quintile. A value of 20 for each quintile would indicate perfect equality between quintiles. The indicator does not reveal the distribution of income within the poorest quintile. Therefore, further disaggregation by deciles or percentiles is needed to assess inequality among the poorest quintile. **References:** • Millennium Development Goal Indicators: The official United Nations site for the MDG indicators. Metadata: http://mdgs.un.org/unsd/mdg/Metadata.aspx and http://mdgs.un.org/unsd/mi/wiki/1-7-Proportion-of-own-account-and-contributing-family-workers-in-total-employment.ashx • World Bank Institute, 2005. Introduction to Poverty Analysis. http://siteresources.worldbank.org/PGLP/Resources/PovertyManual.pdf
63. Poverty gap ratio (percentage of poverty line)	%	**Definition and measurement:** The poverty gap ratio is the mean shortfall of the total population from the poverty line (counting the non-poor as having zero shortfall), expressed as a percentage of the poverty line. It measures the "poverty deficit" of the entire population, where the poverty deficit is the per capita amount of resources needed to bring all poor people above the poverty line through perfectly targeted cash transfers. See Indicator 61 for a definition of the poverty line. **Development context:** The indicator is often described as a tool for measuring the per capita amount of resources needed to eliminate poverty, identifying the poverty depth in population groups, which makes it a useful indicator. The poverty gap indicator supplements the poverty headcount indicator in describing the poverty situation. The larger the poverty gap the poorer on average are people below the poverty line and the more resources are needed to lift everyone out of poverty. If two countries have about the same poverty headcounts, but the first country has a poverty gap estimate that is much higher than the second country, then the first country can be considered "poorer" than the second country. Poverty measures based on an international poverty line attempt to hold the real value of the poverty line constant across countries, as is done when making comparisons over time. Therefore, when computed based on a common poverty line measured using purchasing power parities, poverty gaps are comparable across countries. **Reference:** • World Bank Institute, 2005. Introduction to Poverty Analysis. http://siteresources.worldbank.org/PGLP/Resources/PovertyManual.pdf and http://siteresources.worldbank.org/PGLP/Resources/povertymanual_ch4.pdf
64. Poverty severity index	index	**Definition and measurement:** The poverty severity index is also known as squared poverty gap index. This is simply a weighted sum of poverty gaps (as a proportion of the poverty line), where the weights are the proportionate poverty gaps themselves; a poverty gap

Performance indicators	Unit	Definition and issues
		of (say) 10 percent of the poverty line is given a weight of 10 percent while one of 50 percent is given a weight of 50 percent; this is in contrast with the poverty gap index, where they are weighted equally. Hence, by squaring the poverty gap index, the measure implicitly puts more weight on observations that fall well below the poverty line. **Development context:** The measures of poverty depth and poverty severity provide complementary information on the incidence of poverty in addition to the poverty headcount rate. Depth and severity might be particularly important for the evaluation of programmes and policies. A programme might be effective at reducing the number of poor (the incidence of poverty) but might do so only by lifting those who were closest to the poverty line out of poverty (low impact on the poverty gap). Other interventions might better address the situation of the very poor but have a low impact on the overall incidence (if these bring the very poor closer to the poverty line but not above it). **Reference:** • World Bank Institute, 2005. Introduction to Poverty Analysis. http://siteresources.worldbank.org/PGLP/Resources/PovertyManual.pdf and http://siteresources.worldbank.org/PGLP/Resources/povertymanual_ch4.pdf
65. Gini coefficient	index	**Definition and measurement:** The Gini index measures the extent to which the distribution of income (or consumption expenditure) among individuals or households within an economy deviates from a perfectly equal distribution. A Lorenz curve plots the cumulative percentages of total income received against the cumulative number of recipients, starting with the poorest individual or household. The Gini index measures the area between the Lorenz curve and a hypothetical line of absolute equality, expressed as a percentage of the maximum area under the line. Thus a Gini index of 0 represents perfect equality, while an index of 100 implies perfect inequality. **Development context:** The Gini coefficient was proposed as a measure of inequality of income or wealth. The Gini coefficient has features that make it useful as a measure of dispersion in a population, and inequalities in particular. It is a ratio analysis method, making it easier to interpret. For a given time interval, the Gini coefficient can therefore be used to compare diverse countries and different regions or groups within a country. Gini coefficients can be used to compare income distribution over time; thus it is possible to see if inequality is increasing or decreasing independent of absolute incomes. However, the Gini index is not easily decomposable or additive across groups. That is, the total Gini of society is not equal to the sum of the Gini coefficients of its subgroups. **Reference:** • World Bank Institute, 2005. Introduction to Poverty Analysis.http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SI.POV.GINI
66. Percentage of households with ownership of the following assets: • television	%	**Definition and measurement:** The denominator is the total number of households in the survey. The numerator is the number of households with at least one member of the household owning a television, mobile phone, radio or motorbike.

Performance indicators	Unit	Definition and issues
• mobile phone • radio • motor bike		If definitions could be standardized between the different surveys and censuses (LECS, LSIS/MICS, census, etc.) comparable data could be obtained more frequently. **Development context:** The indicator, normally collected in LECS surveys, is part of a range of indicators that show the living conditions of families. When tracked over time and when disaggregated into poor and non-poor households (below and above the poverty line), the indicator shows the improvement in living conditions as poverty declines. **Reference:** • Pimhidzai, O., Fenton, N., Phonesaly Souksavath and Vilaysouk Sisoulath, 2014. Poverty Profile in Lao PDR: Poverty Report for the Lao Consumption and Expenditure Survey, 2012-2013 (LECS). Vientiane: Ministry of Planning and Investment, Lao Statistics Bureau and World Bank.
67. Percentage of houses with brick or concrete walls	%	**Definition and measurement:** The denominator is the total number of households in the survey. The numerator is the number of households living in houses mainly built with bricks or concrete, as defined by the LECS surveys. **Development context:** The indicator, normally collected in LECS surveys, is part of a range of indicators that show the living conditions of families. When tracked over time and when disaggregated into poor and non-poor households (below and above the poverty line), the indicator shows the improvement in living conditions as poverty declines. Definitions should be standardized across the different surveys and censuses (LECS, LSIS/MICS, census, etc.) so that comparable data could be obtained more frequently. The “condition of housing” should include water and sanitation facilities as defined by WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP) definitions, which are used for SDGs and are measured by MICS/LSIS surveys (Indicators 121 and 122). SDG 11.1.1 defines inadequate housing as housing that lacks one or more of the following: durable housing, sufficient living space, easy access to safe water, access to adequate sanitation, and security of tenure. For water and sanitation, JMP definitions are used. **Reference:** • Pimhidzai, O., Fenton, N., Phonesaly Souksavath and Vilaysouk Sisoulath, 2014. Poverty Profile in Lao PDR: Poverty Report for the Lao Consumption and Expenditure Survey, 2012-2013 (LECS). Vientiane: Ministry of Planning and Investment, Lao Statistics Bureau and World Bank.
68. Villages without a primary school in the village or further than one hour’s walking distance from any school: • number • percentage of total villages	number %	**Definition and measurement:** This indicator measures the number of villages without easy access to complete primary schools, i.e., there is no complete primary school in the village and no such school within one hour’s walking distance from the village. The results are reported as the number as well as in terms of the percentage of the total number of villages in the country. The indicator is measured by the NCRDPE’s monitoring system and uses its criteria to determine the walking distance. A complete primary school is one with sufficient facilities for children to complete the primary cycle up to grade 5, according to the MoES. **Development context:**

Performance indicators	Unit	Definition and issues
		The rationale is that all children in all villages should be able to walk to school in a reasonable time. This indicator is one of five criteria that determine poverty as defined by the NCRDPE (see Indicator 39).
69. Villages without health clinic and drug kits in the village, or further than two hours' walking distance from any health clinic/drug kit access: • number • percentage of total villages	number %	**Definition and measurement:** This indicator measures the number of villages without easy access to a health clinic and drug kits, i.e., either there is no health clinic in the village and no health clinic within two hour's walking distance from the village. The results are reported as the number as well as in terms of the percentage of the total number of villages in the country. The indicator is measured by the NCRDPE's monitoring system and uses its criteria to determine the walking distance and to define the "health clinic and drug kits". **Development context:** The rationale is that all villages should be able to have better access to health facilities. This indicator is one of five criteria that determine poverty as defined by the NCRDPE (see Indicator 39).
70. Villages without a safe water source in or close to the village: • number • percentage of total villages	number %	**Definition and measurement:** This indicator measures the number of villages without easy access to water, i.e., without a water source in or close to the village. The results are reported as the number as well as in terms of the percentage of the total number of villages in the country. The indicator is measured by the NCRDPE's monitoring system and uses its criteria to determine the closeness and acceptability of the water source. **Development context:** The rationale is that all villages should be able to have better access to a safe water source. This indicator is one of five criteria that determine poverty as defined by the NCRDPE (see Indicator 39).
71. Number of villages in the nine provinces where a Non-Technical Survey has been completed in accordance with the Lao PDR UXO survey procedures	number	**Definition and measurement:** This indicator measures the number of villages in the nine most UXO-contaminated provinces where a Non-Technical Survey has been completed in accordance with the Lao PDR UXO survey procedures. The term UXO is used generically for both unexploded ordnance (UXO) and abandoned explosive ordnance (AXO). A Non-Technical Survey involves collecting and analysing new and/or existing information about a hazardous area. Its purpose is to confirm whether there is evidence of a hazard or not, to identify the type and extent of hazards within any hazardous area, and to define, as far as is possible, the perimeter of the actual hazardous areas without physical intervention. A Non-Technical Survey does not normally involve the use of clearance or verification assets. The indicator is measured by the National Regulatory Authority (NRA) for the UXO/mine action sector in Lao PDR in line with established procedures. **Development context:** UXO remains a challenge for the progress of development in Lao PDR. An estimated 80 million cluster sub-munitions remain unexploded. UXO limits safe access to agricultural land and land for development projects and makes construction of transport and power infrastructure, schools, hospitals and water supply facilities much costlier and more dangerous. UXO is also a major humanitarian threat.

Performance indicators	Unit	Definition and issues
72. Number of Focal Development Areas where a Cluster Munitions Evidence-Based Technical Survey has been completed in accordance with the Lao PDR UXO survey procedures	number	**Definition and measurement:** This indicator measures the number of Focal Development Areas where villages in the nine most UXO-contaminated provinces where Cluster Munitions Evidence-Based Technical Surveys have been completed in accordance with the Lao PDR UXO survey procedures. The term UXO is used generically for both unexploded ordnance (UXO) and abandoned explosive ordnance (AXO). A Technical Survey is a detailed intervention undertaken with clearance or verification assets as the preliminary step to clearing a confirmed hazardous area (CHA) or part of a CHA. The survey should confirm the presence of UXO, and lead to a defined hazardous area (DHA), or it may indicate the absence of UXO, which could allow land to be released when combined with other evidence. The term "confirmed hazardous area" (CHA) refers to an area identified by a Non-Technical Survey in which the necessity for further intervention, through either technical survey or clearance, has been confirmed. The term "defined hazardous area" (DHA) refers to an area, generally within a CHA, that requires full clearance. The indicator is measured by the National Regulatory Authority (NRA) for the UXO/mine action sector in Lao PDR in line with established procedures. **Development context:** UXO remains a challenge for the progress of development in Lao PDR. An estimated 80 million cluster sub-munitions remain unexploded. UXO limits safe access to agricultural land and land for development projects and makes construction of transport and power infrastructure, schools, hospitals and water supply facilities much costlier and more dangerous. UXO is also a major humanitarian threat.
73. Number of casualties reported as a result of UXO incidents	number	**Definition and measurement:** The number of casualties reported as a result of UXO incidents include those killed by UXO impact and those injured by UXO impact. The indicator is measured by the National Regulatory Authority (NRA) for the UXO/mine action sector in Lao PDR in line with established criteria and procedures. **Development context:** UXO remains a challenge for the progress of development in Lao PDR. An estimated 80 million cluster sub-munitions remain unexploded. UXO limits safe access to agricultural land and land for development projects and makes construction of transport and power infrastructure, schools, hospitals and water supply facilities much costlier and more dangerous. UXO is also a major humanitarian threat.
74. Number of UXO survivors having received medical assistance	number	**Definition and measurement:** The indicator relates to the number of UXO survivors having received medical assistance, as confirmed by the National Regulatory Authority (NRA) in line with established criteria and procedures. **Development context:** UXO remains a challenge for the progress of development in Lao PDR. An estimated 80 million cluster sub-munitions remain unexploded. UXO limits safe access to agricultural land and land for development projects and makes construction of

Performance indicators	Unit	Definition and issues
		transport and power infrastructure, schools, hospitals and water supply facilities much costlier and more dangerous. UXO is also a major humanitarian threat.
Outcome 2, Output 2 – Ensured food security and reduced incidences of malnutrition		
75. Enhanced food production systems and agricultural productivity: • rice per hectare • rice kilograms per capita	ton/ha kg/capita	**Definition and measurement:** The first indicator measures the tons of rice produced per hectare annually, obtained from the administrative data of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF). The numerator is the total amount of rice produced in the country, including rice for export. The denominator is the number of hectares under rice cultivation. The second indicator measures the rice produced in relation to the population. It is obtained by dividing the annual amount of rice produced (converted to kilograms) by the population in the country. The numerator should include the rice for export. **Development context:** These two indicators on rice are proxies for agricultural productivity, which depends on the methods used, access to inputs and extension services, climate resilience, and many other factors.
76. Fish/meat/egg production in kilograms per capita	kg/capita	**Definition and measurement:** Fish includes all aquatic food products, such as shrimp and crab. The numerator is the total number of kilograms of aquatic food products produced each year, including for export. The denominator is the population in the country. **Development context:** This indicator is a proxy for other protein products available to the population, since data on meat and eggs are harder to measure.
77. Percentage of population consuming less than the minimum dietary energy requirements of 2,100 calories/day/person (i.e., under the Food Poverty Line defined by the Government for that year)	%	**Definition and measurement:** The numerator is the number of people who consume less than 2,100 calories per day, as measured by the amount and composition of food consumption expenditure. The denominator is the total population. This indicator is measured by surveys (LECS) every five years, and is based on household consumption data, which includes food and non-food components. **Development context:** The cost of 2,100 calories per day per person defines the food poverty line based on the consumption basket of a reference poor population used for LECS. The food poverty line, like the poverty line, is set for various regions of the country (Vientiane, North, Central and South, with a rural–urban disaggregation), adjusted to account for spatial price differences, using regional prices to estimate spatial price indices. Not all families below the food poverty line are poor, as defined by the national poverty line. These non-poor families may spend less on food (becoming “food poor”) but may spend more on consumer goods.
78. Prevalence of underweight among children under 5 years of age	%	**Definition and measurement:** The numerator is the number of children under 5 years of age falling below minus 2 standard deviations from the median weight for age of the reference population. The denominator is the number of children under 5 years of age in the surveyed population. The reference population is drawn from that used for the WHO 2006 Child Growth Standards.

Performance indicators	Unit	Definition and issues
		Underweight rates are computed using a global reference standard on child growth that ensures proper cross-country comparability. Data accepted into the dataset have been collected and analysed using standard equipment and methods. **Development context:** Underweight alone may be difficult to interpret since it is a composite indicator of wasting and stunting. It is therefore important to examine both stunting and wasting. **Reference:** • The WHO Child Growth Standards: http://www.who.int/childgrowth/standards/en/
79. Prevalence of wasting among children under 5 years of age	%	**Definition and measurement:** The numerator is the number of children under 5 years of age falling below minus 2 standard deviations from the median weight for age of the reference population. The denominator is the number of children under 5 years of age in the surveyed population. The reference population is drawn from that used for the WHO 2006 Child Growth Standards. Wasting rates are computed using a global reference standard on child growth that ensures proper cross-country comparability. Data accepted into the dataset have been collected and analysed using standard equipment and methods. **Development context:** Wasting indicates acute weight loss, the result of insufficient food intake or repeated infectious diseases, especially diarrhoea. Wasting impairs the functioning of the immune system and can lead to an increased risk for death. In Lao PDR, food insufficiency in certain households, especially in certain seasons, poor hygiene practices (such as the practice of open defecation), diarrhoeal diseases and infections are major contributors to wasting among young children. **References:** • The WHO Child Growth Standards: http://www.who.int/childgrowth/standards/en/ • Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and United Nations, 2013. The Millennium Development Goals: Progress Report for the Lao PDR 2013. Vientiane: Ministry of Foreign Affairs and United Nations.
Outcome 2, Output 3 – Access to high quality education		
80. Percentage of preschool-aged children attending ECD/ECE/preschool programmes	%	**Definition and measurement:** The numerator for this indicator is the number of children of preschool age enrolled in early childhood development (ECD), early childhood education (ECE) and other preschool or school readiness programmes. The denominator is the total number of children of preschool age. Preschool programmes correspond to Level 0 of the International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED 2011). The data on enrolment should cover both public and private institutions and programmes. Countries that have data only for public or state-supervised preschool educational programmes will need to supplement these data with information on enrolment in other types of ECD/ECE programmes, possibly through case studies and/or sample surveys. The distinction between ECD/ECE programmes and organized, custodial childcare can be difficult to define in an internationally consistent way, especially with regard to very young children, for whom the natural pace of development limits the pedagogical possibilities.

Performance indicators	Unit	Definition and issues
		Development context: The purpose of this indicator is to monitor the level of participation of young children in ECD/ECE programmes, or some form of early childhood learning. It indicates a country's capacity to prepare young children for primary education. **References:** • UNESCO 2009. Education Indicators: Technical guidelines. http://www.uis.unesco.org/Library/Documents/eiguide09-en.pdf • UNESCO 2011. International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED 2011) http://www.uis.unesco.org/Education/Documents/isced-2011-en.pdf
81. Gross enrolment ratio (GER): secondary education	%	**Definition and measurement:** This indicator shows the total enrolment in secondary education, regardless of age, expressed as a percentage of the eligible official school-age population corresponding to secondary education in a given school year. The numerator is the number of pupils (or students) enrolled in secondary education, regardless of age, while the denominator is the population of the age group that officially corresponds to secondary education. The result is then reported in percentage. Secondary education means Levels 2 and 3 of the International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED 2011). **Development context:** This indicator shows the general level of participation in secondary education. It indicates the capacity of the education system to enrol students of secondary school age. It can also be a complementary indicator to net enrolment rate (NER) by indicating the extent of over-aged and under-aged enrolment. A high gross enrolment ratio (GER) generally indicates a high degree of participation, whether the pupils belong to the official age group or not. A GER value approaching or exceeding 100 percent indicates that a country is, in principle, able to accommodate all of its secondary-school-age population, but it does not indicate the proportion already enrolled. The achievement of a GER of 100 percent is therefore a necessary but not sufficient condition for enrolling all eligible children in school. A GER can exceed 100 percent due to the inclusion of over-aged and under-aged pupils/students because of early or late entrants, and grade repetition. In this case, a rigorous interpretation of the GER needs additional information to assess the extent of repetition, late entrants, etc. **References:** • UNESCO 2009. Education Indicators: Technical guidelines. http://www.uis.unesco.org/Library/Documents/eiguide09-en.pdf • UNESCO 2011. International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED 2011) http://www.uis.unesco.org/Education/Documents/isced-2011-en.pdf
82. Gross enrolment ratio (GER): primary education	%	**Definition and measurement:** This indicator shows the total enrolment in primary education, regardless of age, expressed as a percentage of the eligible official school-age population corresponding to primary education in a given school year. The numerator is the number of pupils (or students) enrolled in primary education regardless of age, while the denominator is the population of the age group that officially corresponds to primary education. The result is then reported in percentage. Primary education means Level 1 of the International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED 2011).

Performance indicators	Unit	Definition and issues
		Development context: This indicator shows the general level of participation in primary education. It indicates the capacity of the education system to enrol students of primary school age. It can also be a complementary indicator to net enrolment rate (NER) by indicating the extent of over-aged and under-aged enrolment. A high GER generally indicates a high degree of participation, whether the pupils belong to the official age group or not. A GER value approaching or exceeding 100 percent indicates that a country is, in principle, able to accommodate all of its primary-school-age population, but it does not indicate the proportion already enrolled. The achievement of a GER of 100 percent is therefore a necessary but not sufficient condition for enrolling all eligible children in school. A GER can exceed 100 percent due to the inclusion of over-aged and under-aged pupils/students because of early or late entrants, and grade repetition. In this case, a rigorous interpretation of the GER needs additional information to assess the extent of repetition, late entrants, etc. **References:** • UNESCO 2009. Education Indicators: Technical guidelines. http://www.uis.unesco.org/Library/Documents/eiguide09-en.pdf • UNESCO 2011. International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED 2011) http://www.uis.unesco.org/Education/Documents/isced-2011-en.pdf
83. Gross enrolment ratio (GER): lower secondary education	%	**Definition and measurement:** This indicator is the total enrolment in lower secondary education, regardless of age, expressed as a percentage of the eligible official school-age population corresponding to lower secondary education in a given school year. The numerator is the number of pupils (or students) enrolled in lower secondary education regardless of age, while the denominator is the population of the age group that officially corresponds to lower secondary education. The result is then multiplied by 100 to obtain the percentage. Lower secondary education means Level 2 of the International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED 2011). **Development context:** This indicator shows the general level of participation in lower secondary education. It indicates the capacity of the education system to enrol students of lower secondary school age. It can also be a complementary indicator to net enrolment rate (NER) by indicating the extent of over-aged and under-aged enrolment. **References:** • UNESCO 2009. Education Indicators: Technical guidelines. http://www.uis.unesco.org/Library/Documents/eiguide09-en.pdf • UNESCO 2011. International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED 2011) http://www.uis.unesco.org/Education/Documents/isced-2011-en.pdf
84. Gross enrolment ratio (GER): upper secondary education	%	**Definition and measurement:** This indicator is the total enrolment in upper secondary education, regardless of age, expressed as a percentage of the eligible official school-age population corresponding to upper secondary education in a given school year. The numerator is the number of pupils (or students) enrolled in upper secondary education regardless of age, while the denominator is the population of the age group that officially corresponds to upper secondary education. The result is then multiplied by 100 to

Performance indicators	Unit	Definition and issues
		obtain the percentage. Upper secondary education means Level 3 of the International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED 2011). **Development context:** This indicator shows the general level of participation in upper secondary education. It indicates the capacity of the education system to enrol students of upper secondary school age. It can also be a complementary indicator to net enrolment rate (NER) by indicating the extent of over-aged and under-aged enrolment. **References:** • UNESCO 2009. Education Indicators: Technical guidelines. http://www.uis.unesco.org/Library/Documents/eiguide09-en.pdf • UNESCO 2011. International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED 2011) http://www.uis.unesco.org/Education/Documents/isced-2011-en.pdf
85. Net intake rate to first grade of primary education	%	**Definition and measurement:** This indicator represents new entrants in the first grade of primary education who are of the official primary school entrance age, expressed as a percentage of the population of the same age. The numerator is the number of children of official primary school entrance age who enter the first grade of primary education for the first time. The denominator is the child population of the same age. The result is multiplied by 100 to obtain the percentage. Primary education means Level 1 of the International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED 2011). Data on both new entrants and population used in deriving this indicator should refer strictly to the official school entrance age. The net intake rate, in principle, should not exceed 100 percent. This indicator can be distorted by an incorrect distinction between new entrants and repeaters in the first grade. This can be the case especially for under-aged pupils who may repeat the first grade at the official entrance age. **Development context:** The purpose of this indicator is to precisely measure access to primary education by the eligible population of primary school entrance age. A high net intake rate indicates a high degree of access to primary education for children of the official primary school entrance age. A net intake rate of 100 percent is a necessary condition for the policy goal of universal primary education. For Lao PDR, this indicator should be considered together with dropout rates in the early grades, since children who enter the first grade may drop out in subsequent grades.
86. Net enrolment ratio (NER): primary education	%	**Definition and measurement:** This indicator shows enrolment of the official age group for primary education expressed as a percentage of the corresponding population. The numerator is the number of pupils (or students) enrolled in primary school who are of official primary school age, while the denominator is the population for the same age group. The result is then multiplied by 100 to obtain the percentage. Primary education means Level 1 of the International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED 2011). The NER should be based on enrolment of the relevant age group in all types of schools and education institutions, including public, private and all other institutions that provide organized educational programmes.

Performance indicators	Unit	Definition and issues
		Development context: This indicator shows the extent of coverage in primary education of children belonging to the official age group corresponding to primary education. A high NER denotes a high degree of coverage for the official primary school age population. The theoretical maximum value is 100 percent. Increasing trends can be considered as reflecting improving coverage at primary education level. When the NER is compared with the GER, the difference between the two highlights the incidence of under-aged and over-aged enrolment. If the NER is below 100 percent, then the complement, i.e. the difference from 100 percent, provides a measure of the proportion of children not enrolled at the specified level of education. However, since some of these children could be enrolled at other levels of education, this difference should in no way be considered as indicating the percentage of students not enrolled. This is taken into consideration by the following: To measure universal primary education, *adjusted primary NER* is calculated on the basis of the percentage of children in the official primary school age range who are enrolled in either primary or secondary education. A more precise complementary indicator is the *age-specific enrolment ratio (ASER)*, which shows the participation in education of the population of each particular age, regardless of the level of education. **References:** • UNESCO 2009. Education Indicators: Technical guidelines. http://www.uis.unesco.org/Library/Documents/eiguide09-en.pdf • UNESCO 2011. International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED 2011) http://www.uis.unesco.org/Education/Documents/isced-2011-en.pdf
87. Percentage of students at each level having achieved minimum proficiency standards in reading and mathematics at the end of: • primary • lower secondary	%	**Definition and measurement:** This indicator measures the proportion of students at each level (primary and lower secondary schooling) having achieved minimum proficiency standards in reading and in mathematics at the end of the primary cycle and lower secondary cycle respectively. The denominator is the total number of students in the sample for each level, while the numerator is the number of students in each sample having achieved minimum proficiency standards in each subject being assessed: (a) reading and (b) mathematics. The proficiency standards are those adopted by the Ministry of Education and Sport. Primary and Lower secondary education mean International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED 2011) Level 1 and 2 respectively. Assessments of student learning outcomes (ASLO) are conducted by RIES (Research Institute for Educational Sciences) at the Ministry of Education and Sports. Thus far, ASLO III was conducted in 2014 for Grade 3, while ASLO II and ASLO I for Grade 5 were in 2009 and 2006 respectively. The ASLO assessments need to be planned so that the grade being assessed and the frequency of assessment meet NSEDP requirements for tracking outcomes at the end of primary and lower secondary schooling. Other learning assessments may be used, such as the Southeast Asia Primary Learning Metric (SEA-PLM) assessment for Grade 5. However, these may not provide continuity for tracking improvements, which are thus far based on ASLO. **Reference:**

Performance indicators	Unit	Definition and issues
		• Ministry of Education and Sports, Research Institute for Educational Sciences (RIES), 2010. National Assessment of Student Learning Outcome (ASLO II): Primary Grade 5. Vientiane: Ministry of Education and Sports, Research Institute for Educational Sciences, June 2010.
88. Gender parity index (GPI) for primary education calculated with GER	index	**Definition and measurement:** The Gender Parity Index (GPI) in primary education is obtained by dividing the female primary gross enrolment ratio (GER) by the male GER for primary education. A GPI of 1 indicates parity between the sexes. The GER is the number of pupils enrolled in a given level of education, regardless of age, expressed as a percentage of the population in the theoretical age group for the same level of education (see Indicator 82). **Development context:** GPI measures the disparity between males and females regarding access to schooling. At a given level of education, a GPI lower than 1 indicates that females are disadvantaged in schooling at that level, whereas a GPI greater than 1 indicates that males are disadvantaged. However, the GPI is an imperfect measure of the accessibility of schooling for girls because it does not allow a determination of whether improvements in the ratio reflect increases in girls' school enrolment (desirable) or decreases in boys' enrolment (undesirable). It also does not show whether the overall level of participation in education is low or high. The GPI must therefore be considered with other education indicators. **Reference:** • Millennium Development Goal Indicators: The official United Nations site for the MDG indicators. Metadata: http://mdgs.un.org/unsd/mdg/Metadata.aspx
89. Gender parity index (GPI) for lower secondary education calculated with GER	index	**Definition and measurement:** The Gender Parity Index (GPI) in lower secondary education is obtained by dividing the female lower secondary gross enrolment ratio (GER) by the male GER for lower secondary education. A GPI of 1 indicates parity between the sexes. The GER is the number of pupils enrolled in a given level of education, regardless of age, expressed as a percentage of the population in the theoretical age group for the same level of education (see Indicator 83). **Development context:** GPI measures the disparity between males and females regarding access to schooling. At a given level of education, a GPI lower than 1 indicates that females are disadvantaged in schooling at that level, whereas a GPI greater than 1 indicates that males are disadvantaged. However, the GPI is an imperfect measure of the accessibility of schooling for girls because it does not allow a determination of whether improvements in the ratio reflect increases in girls' school enrolment (desirable) or decreases in boys' enrolment (undesirable). It also does not show whether the overall level of participation in education is low or high. The GPI must therefore be considered with other education indicators. **Reference:** • Millennium Development Goal Indicators: The official United Nations site for the MDG indicators. Metadata: http://mdgs.un.org/unsd/mdg/Metadata.aspx

Performance indicators	Unit	Definition and issues
90. Gender parity index (GPI) for upper secondary education calculated with GER	index	**Definition and measurement:** The Gender Parity Index (GPI) in upper secondary education is obtained by dividing the female upper secondary gross enrolment ratio (GER) by the male GER for upper secondary education. A GPI of 1 indicates parity between the sexes. The GER is the number of pupils enrolled in a given level of education, regardless of age, expressed as a percentage of the population in the theoretical age group for the same level of education (see Indicator 84). **Development context:** GPI measures the disparity between males and females regarding access to schooling. At a given level of education, a GPI lower than 1 indicates that females are disadvantaged in schooling at that level, whereas a GPI greater than 1 indicates that males are disadvantaged. However, the GPI is an imperfect measure of the accessibility of schooling for girls because it does not allow a determination of whether improvements in the ratio reflect increases in girls' school enrolment (desirable) or decreases in boys' enrolment (undesirable). It also does not show whether the overall level of participation in education is low or high. The GPI must therefore be considered with other education indicators. **Reference:** • Millennium Development Goal Indicators: The official United Nations site for the MDG indicators. Metadata: http://mdgs.un.org/unsd/mdg/Metadata.aspx
91. Gender parity index (GPI) calculated with completion rate: primary education	index	**Definition and measurement:** The Institute for Statistics of UNESCO uses a general definition of Gender Parity Index (GPI): for any development indicator one can define the GPI relative to this indicator by dividing its value for females by its value for males. Thus, the GPI for primary completion rate is obtained by dividing the female completion rate at that level by the male completion rate at the same level. A GPI of 1 indicates parity between the sexes. For primary completion rate, see Indicator 57. **Development context:** The GPI for primary completion measures the disparity between males and females regarding primary education completion. A GPI for primary completion that is lower than 1 indicates that female completion rates are below those of males, whereas a GPI for primary completion greater than 1 indicates that male completion rates are below those of females. However, the GPI is an imperfect measure of the completion of schooling for girls and boys, because it does not allow a determination of whether improvements in the ratio reflect increases in girls' school completion (desirable) or decreases in boys' completion (undesirable). It also does not show whether the overall level of primary education completion is low or high. Any GPI must therefore be considered with the actual completion rate in percentage and other education indicators. **Reference:** • UNESCO 2009. Education Indicators: Technical guidelines. http://www.uis.unesco.org/Library/Documents/eiguide09-en.pdf
92. Gender parity index (GPI) calculated with completion	index	**Definition and measurement:**

Performance indicators	Unit	Definition and issues
rate:, lower secondary education		The Institute for Statistics of UNESCO uses a general definition of Gender Parity Index (GPI): for any development indicator one can define the GPI relative to this indicator by dividing its value for females by its value for males. Thus, the GPI for lower secondary completion rate is obtained by dividing the female completion rate at that level by the male completion rate at the same level. A GPI of 1 indicates parity between the sexes. For lower secondary completion rate, see Indicator 58. **Development context:** The GPI for lower secondary completion measures the disparity between males and females regarding lower secondary education completion. A GPI for lower secondary completion that is lower than 1 indicates that female completion rates are below those of males, whereas a GPI for lower secondary completion greater than 1 indicates that male completion rates are below those of females. However, the GPI is an imperfect measure of the completion of schooling for girls and boys, because it does not allow a determination of whether improvements in the ratio reflect increases in girls' school completion (desirable) or decreases in boys' completion (undesirable). It also does not show whether the overall level of lower secondary education completion is low or high. Any GPI must therefore be considered with the actual completion rate and other education indicators. **Reference:** • UNESCO 2009. Education Indicators: Technical guidelines. http://www.uis.unesco.org/Library/Documents/eiguide09-en.pdf
93. Gender parity index (GPI) calculated with completion rate: upper secondary education		**Definition and measurement:** The Institute for Statistics of UNESCO uses a general definition of Gender Parity Index (GPI): for any development indicator one can define the GPI relative to this indicator by dividing its value for females by its value for males. Thus, the GPI for upper secondary completion rate is obtained by dividing the female completion rate at that level by the male completion rate at the same level. A GPI of 1 indicates parity between the sexes. For upper secondary completion rate, see Indicator 59. **Development context:** The GPI for upper secondary completion measures the disparity between males and females regarding upper secondary education completion. A GPI for upper secondary completion that is lower than 1 indicates that female completion rates are below those of males, whereas a GPI for upper secondary completion greater than 1 indicates that male completion rates are below those of females. However, the GPI is an imperfect measure of the completion of schooling for girls and boys, because it does not allow a determination of whether improvements in the ratio reflect increases in girls' school completion (desirable) or decreases in boys' completion (undesirable). It also does not show whether the overall level of upper secondary education completion is low or high. Any GPI must therefore be considered with the actual completion rate and other education indicators. **Reference:** • UNESCO 2009. Education Indicators: Technical guidelines. http://www.uis.unesco.org/Library/Documents/eiguide09-en.pdf

Performance indicators	Unit	Definition and issues
94. Adult literacy rate: percentage of population (15 years and over) achieving at least a fixed level of proficiency in functional (a) literacy and (b) numeracy skills	%	**Definition and measurement:** This indicator shows the percentage of the population aged 15 years and over who can both read and write, with understanding, a short simple statement on their everyday life *and* have the ability to make simple arithmetic calculations, as a proportion of the total population in that age group. The numerator is the number of people aged 15 years and over who are (a) literate (b) numerate, while the denominator is the total population in the same age group. If possible, both literacy and numeracy should be tested and the results disaggregated. Research and various tests show that, while literacy and numeracy are highly correlated and complementary, relative levels of literacy and numeracy may vary between groups and countries, with one having higher levels of literacy but lower levels of numeracy compared with another. Disaggregating literacy and numeracy will also be useful for policy decisions on basic education learning outcomes (Indicator 87) and designing tools for improving outcomes. The rate cannot exceed 100 percent. It will be useful to align measurements of literacy and numeracy with the standard international definition given above, and to administer literacy and numeracy tests on a sample basis to verify and improve the quality of literacy statistics. Tests provide a more precise estimate of literacy and numeracy, since errors in literacy/numeracy self-declaration affect the reliability of surveys that do not test. Practices for identifying literate and illiterate/numerate and innumerate people during census enumeration or surveys should remain the same between each survey and/or census. Persons with no schooling cannot necessarily be equated with illiterates or innumerates. In all cases, methods need to specify whether the literacy and numeracy are self-reported or tested. **Development context:** This indicator aims to show the accumulated achievement of primary education and literacy programmes in imparting basic literacy skills to the population, thereby enabling them to apply such skills in daily life and to continue learning and communicating using the written word. Literacy represents a potential for further intellectual growth and contribution to economic and sociocultural development of society. A high literacy rate (or low illiteracy rate) suggests the existence of an effective primary education system and/or literacy programmes that have enabled a large proportion of the population to acquire the ability of using the written word (and making simple arithmetic calculations) in daily life and to continue learning. It is common practice to present and analyse literacy rates together with the absolute number of adult illiterates as improvements in literacy rates may sometimes be accompanied by increases in the illiterate population due to the changing demographic structure. **Reference:** • UNESCO 2009. Education Indicators: Technical guidelines. http://www.uis.unesco.org/Library/Documents/eiguide09-en.pdf
95. Percentage of graduates from lower secondary enrolled in vocational education	%	**Definition and measurement:** The denominator for this indicator is the number of students having graduated from lower secondary education (ISCED 2011 level 2). The numerator is the number of those lower secondary graduates who have enrolled in vocational education courses of ISIC classification Class 8522 and above; these include vocational ISCED levels 2 and 3 vocational programmes and ISCED levels 4 and 5 post-secondary non-tertiary vocational and terminal programmes that prepare for the labour market.

Performance indicators	Unit	Definition and issues
		Vocational education is defined as education programmes that are designed for learners to acquire the knowledge, skills and competencies specific to a particular occupation, trade, or class of occupations or trades. Such programmes may have work-based components (e.g., apprenticeships, dual-system education programmes). Successful completion of such programmes leads to labour-market-relevant vocational qualifications acknowledged as occupationally oriented by the relevant national authorities and/or the labour market. **References:** • UNESCO, 2011. International Standard Classification of Education: http://www.uis.unesco.org/Education/Documents/isced-2011-operational-manual.pdf • United Nations, 2008. International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC): Revision 4. http://unstats.un.org/unsd/publication/seriesM/seriesm_4rev4e.pdf
96. Percentage of graduates from upper secondary enrolled in vocational education	%	**Definition and measurement:** The denominator for this indicator is the number of students having graduated from upper secondary education (ISCED 2011 level 3). The numerator is the number of those upper secondary graduates who have enrolled in vocational education courses of ISIC classification Class 8522 and above; these include vocational ISCED levels 2 and 3 vocational programmes and ISCED levels 4 and 5 post-secondary non-tertiary vocational and terminal programmes that prepare for the labour market. Vocational education is defined as education programmes that are designed for learners to acquire the knowledge, skills and competencies specific to a particular occupation, trade, or class of occupations or trades. Such programmes may have work-based components (e.g., apprenticeships, dual-system education programmes). Successful completion of such programmes leads to labour-market-relevant vocational qualifications acknowledged as occupationally oriented by the relevant national authorities and/or the labour market. **References:** • UNESCO, 2011. International Standard Classification of Education: http://www.uis.unesco.org/Education/Documents/isced-2011-operational-manual.pdf • United Nations, 2008. International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC): Revision 4. http://unstats.un.org/unsd/publication/seriesM/seriesm_4rev4e.pdf
97. Number of students enrolled in vocational education and training	number	**Definition and measurement:** This indicator measures the total number of students enrolled in official vocational education and training programmes at any level recognized by the Government, including vocational ISCED levels 2 and 3 programmes to ISCED levels 4 and 5 post-secondary non-tertiary vocational programmes that prepare for the labour market. **Development context:** Regional economic integration associated with the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) is expected to transform ASEAN into a single region with free movement of goods, services, investment, skilled labour and freer flow of capital. To realize the benefits of AEC entry, Lao PDR will need to upgrade the education and skills of the young population and this is most urgent. Lao PDR will not be able to meet the demand for medium-skilled and high-skilled workers generated by AEC entry unless it can resolve the current mismatch between labour market needs and young people’s education and skills. Another challenge

<table>
<tr><th>Performance indicators</th><th>Unit</th><th>Definition and issues</th></tr>
<tr><td></td><td></td><td>is the low productivity. Unless this is tackled, Lao will not be able fully develop its potential in the next decade. Lao PDR’s economy needs to become much more competitive and diversified. To achieve all this, Lao PDR’s young people need to be provided with sound technical and vocational education and training (TVET).</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="3">Outcome 2, Output 4 – Access to high quality health care and preventative medicine</td></tr>
<tr><td>98. Percentage of population covered by all social health protection schemes (including community-based health insurance, Health Equity Fund, State Authority for Social Security, Social Security Organisation)</td><td>%</td><td rowspan="6">Definition and measurement:
Indicator 98: The numerator for this indicator is the number of people covered by all social health protection schemes (including community-based health insurance, Health Equity Fund, State Authority for Social Security, and Social Security Organisation). The denominator is the total population. This indicator is then complemented by Indicators 99 to 103, in terms of number of people enrolled in the social health protection schemes operating in Lao PDR. Indicator 100 measures the absolute number of people benefitting from the Health Equity Fund as well as the percentage of poor who are beneficiaries. The denominator is the target population (defined as poor people) for the Health Equity Fund as stipulated by the Government and the numerator is the number of Health Equity Fund beneficiaries from this population. The State Authority for Social Security (SASS) is a civil servants’ scheme for government employees, while the SSO is a social security scheme for those working in enterprises.
Development context:
These indicators, together with Indicator 124 (number of informal sector workers covered by social security) and Indicator 104 (out-of-pocket health expenditure), attempt to respond to SDG indicators:
• 1.3.1 Percentage of the population covered by social protection floors/systems
• 3.8.2 Number of people covered by health insurance or a public health system per 1,000 population.
Financial risk protection (ensuring that people are protected against the financial consequences of paying for health services) is part of universal health coverage (UHC) (SDG 3.8); there are other aspects of UHC and the indicators for UHC still have Tier III status, which means “no established methodology and standards or methodology/standards are being developed/tested”.
The current NSEDP indicators may, therefore, need to be revisited at the Mid-Term Review of the NSEDP to take into account the evolving set of indicators for UHC at country level.
Reference:
• Provisional Proposed Tiers for Global SDG Indicators as of March 24, 2016. Third meeting of the IAEG-SDGs, 30 Mar - 1 Apr 2016, Mexico City.</td></tr>
<tr><td>99. Number of people enrolled in community-based health insurance</td><td>number</td></tr>
<tr><td>100. Number/percentage of poor people enrolled in Health Equity Fund</td><td>number
%</td></tr>
<tr><td>101. Number of people enrolled in State Authority for Social Security (SASS)</td><td>number</td></tr>
<tr><td>102. Number of people enrolled in Social Security Organization (SSO)</td><td>number</td></tr>
<tr><td>103. Number of people enrolled in private sector health insurance</td><td>number</td></tr>
<tr><td>104. Out-of-pocket health expenditure</td><td>US$/capita</td><td>Definition and measurement:
Out-of-pocket (OOP) expenditure is any direct outlay by households, including gratuities and in-kind payments, to health practitioners and suppliers of pharmaceuticals, therapeutic appliances, and other goods and services whose primary intent is to contribute to the restoration or enhancement of the health status of individuals or population groups. It is a part of private health expenditure.
This indicator measures OOP expenditure in terms of current US dollars per capita.</td></tr>
</table>

Performance indicators	Unit	Definition and issues
		Development context: Out-of-pocket payments for health can cause households to incur catastrophic expenditures, which in turn can push them into poverty. The need to pay out of pocket can also mean that households do not seek care when they need it. To evaluate health systems, the World Health Organization (WHO) has recommended that key components, such as financing, service delivery, workforce, governance, and information, be monitored using several key indicators. Monitoring health systems allows the effectiveness, efficiency, and equity of different health system models to be compared. Health system data also help identify weaknesses and strengths and areas that need investment, such as additional health facilities, better health information systems, or better trained human resources. Health expenditure data are broken down into public and private expenditures. In general, low-income countries have a higher share of private health expenditure than do middle- and high-income countries. In the low income countries, OOP expenditure (direct payments by households to providers) makes up the largest proportion of private expenditures. Health financing data are collected through national health accounts maintained by WHO at global level. The accounting system can then provide an accurate picture of resource envelopes and financial flows and allow analysis of the equity and efficiency of financing to inform policy. **Reference:** • World Health Organization http://apps.who.int/nha/database
105. Infant mortality rate	per 1,000 live births	**Definition and measurement:** The infant mortality rate (IMR) is the probability that a child born in a specified year will die before reaching the age of 1, if subject to current age-specific mortality rates. This indicator is expressed in terms of deaths per 1,000 live births. The indicator is calculated by dividing the number of deaths of infants under 1 year of age in a calendar year by the number of live births in the same year and multiplied by 1,000. A *live birth* is the complete expulsion or extraction from its mother of a product of conception, irrespective of the duration of the pregnancy, which, after such a separation, breathes or shows any other evidence of life, such as beating of the heart, pulsation of the umbilical cord, or definite movement of voluntary muscles, whether or not the umbilical cord has been cut or the placenta is attached. Each product of such a birth is considered a live birth. Two types of methods exist for calculating the IMR: the direct method and the indirect method. The direct method requires each child's date of birth, survival status, and date or age at death. This information is typically found in vital registration systems and in household surveys that collect complete birth histories, such as the Demographic and Health Surveys. The indirect method requires less detailed information that is available in censuses, general surveys, and household surveys that collect incomplete birth histories, such as the Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS). This information consists of the total number of children born to each woman, the number who survive and the woman's age (or the number of years since she first gave birth). The IMR is considered to be a more robust estimate than the under-5 mortality rate if data are drawn from vital statistics registrations. On the contrary, when using survey data, infant mortality might be underestimated and under-5 mortality rates are considered to be more robust than infant mortality rates. Survey data are subject to survivor selection bias and age

Performance indicators	Unit	Definition and issues
		truncation. Mothers may misreport their children's birth dates, current ages or ages at death—perhaps more so if the child has died. The heaping of deaths at age 12 months is especially common. Age heaping may transfer deaths across the one-year boundary and lead to underestimates of infant mortality rates. Also, indirect estimates of the IMR are more dependent than U5MR on the choice of model life table. **Development context:** The infant mortality rate is useful to monitor progress since it represents an important component of under-5 mortality. Infant mortality rates are also important because they reflect the social, economic and environmental conditions in which children (and others in society) live, including the quality and accessibility of health care (both in general and at child birth). In addition, data on disease incidence and prevalence (morbidity data) are frequently unavailable, so mortality rates are often used to identify vulnerable populations. Infant mortality can also be disaggregated into the neonatal and post-neonatal periods. Neonatal mortality reflects safe delivery and availability of infant resuscitation, while post-neonatal mortality is more influenced by nutrition and infectious diseases. **Reference:** • Millennium Development Goal Indicators: The official United Nations site for the MDG indicators. Metadata: http://mdgs.un.org/unsd/mdg/Metadata.aspx
106. Proportion of 1-year-old children immunized against DPT3 (coverage of DPT3 vaccination)	%	**Definition and measurement:** This indicator is the percentage of children aged 12-23 months who have received three doses of the combined diphtheria, tetanus toxoid and pertussis (DPT) vaccine any time before the survey (or before the age of 12 months). The numerator, therefore, is the number of children aged 12-23 months who received the third dose of DPT vaccine (DPT3) by their first birthday, while the denominator would be the total number of children age 12-23 months The two data sources available at the national level are reports of vaccinations performed by service providers (administrative data), and household surveys containing information on children's vaccination histories (coverage surveys). There are limitations to both sources. For coverage estimates based on administrative data, biases occur when some sites fail to report their information. A similar bias occurs when the data collection/reporting system excludes part of the population. In many developing countries, lack of precise information on the size of the age-specific cohort of children makes immunization coverage difficult to estimate. Estimates based on surveys also have advantages and disadvantages. The principal advantages of surveys are that an estimate of immunization coverage can be obtained even if the denominator for the whole population is unknown and vaccinations given by the private sector are included. In addition, because they include persons who have not been vaccinated, reasons for not vaccinating can be identified. The main disadvantage of surveys is that they provide information on the previous birth year's cohort (making them difficult to use for timely programme intervention). In addition, survey methodology may entail a wider than desired confidence interval, interviewers may be poorly trained, and survey implementation and supervision may be of inadequate quality. **Development context:**

Performance indicators	Unit	Definition and issues
		The indicator provides a measure of the extent of coverage and the quality of the child healthcare system in a country. Immunization is an essential component for reducing under-5 mortality rates. In the Lao PDR context, the data are derived from analysis of household or health surveys. Measles and DPT3 vaccinations constitute reliable parameters for monitoring age-appropriate vaccination of childhood immunization. **References:** • World Health Organization: Indicator and Measurement Registry: http://apps.who.int/gho/indicatorregistry/App_Main/view_indicator.aspx?iid=4432 • UNICEF: MICS indicators: MICS5 Indicator List. http://mics.unicef.org/tools
107. Proportion of 1-year-old children immunized against measles	%	**Definition and measurement:** Children under 1 year of age who have received a measles vaccine are estimated as the percentage of children aged 12-23 months who received at least one dose of measles vaccine any time before the survey or before the age of 12 months. It is generally recommended for children to be immunized against measles at the age of 9 months. The numerator is the number of children aged 12-23 months who received measles vaccine by their first birthday and the denominator is the total number of children aged 12-23 months. The two data sources available at the national level are reports of vaccinations performed by service providers (administrative data), and household surveys containing information on children's vaccination histories (coverage surveys). There are limitations to both sources. For coverage estimates based on administrative data, biases occur when some sites fail to report their information. A similar bias occurs when the data collection/reporting system excludes part of the population. In many developing countries, lack of precise information on the size of the age-specific cohort of children makes immunization coverage difficult to estimate. Estimates based on surveys also have advantages and disadvantages. The principal advantages of surveys are that an estimate of immunization coverage can be obtained even if the denominator for the whole population is unknown and vaccinations given by the private sector are included. In addition, because they include persons who have not been vaccinated, reasons for not vaccinating can be identified. The main disadvantage of surveys is that they provide information on the previous birth year's cohort (making them difficult to use for timely programme intervention). In addition, survey methodology may entail a wider than desired confidence interval, interviewers may be poorly trained, and survey implementation and supervision may be of inadequate quality **Development context:** This indicator provides a measure of the extent of coverage and the quality of the child healthcare system in a country. Immunization is an essential component for reducing under-5 mortality rates. Health and other programmes targeted at measles are one practical means of reducing child mortality. Vaccination coverage for measles needs to be above 90 percent to stop transmission of the virus. When coverage is high and the denominator has been underestimated, coverage estimates can exceed 100 percent. Measles and DPT3 vaccinations constitute reliable parameters for monitoring age-appropriate vaccination of childhood immunization. **References:**

Performance indicators	Unit	Definition and issues
		• Millennium Development Goal Indicators: The official United Nations site for the MDG indicators. Metadata: http://mdgs.un.org/unsd/mdg/Metadata.aspx • UNICEF: MICS indicators: MICS5 Indicator List. http://mics.unicef.org/tools
108. Proportion of births attended by trained health personnel	%	**Definition and measurement:** This indicator is calculated as the number of women aged 15-49 with a live birth attended by a birth attendant *professionally trained in providing life-saving obstetric care* (doctors, nurses or midwives), expressed as a percentage of women aged 15-49 with a live birth in the same period. A *live birth* is the complete expulsion or extraction from its mother of a product of conception, irrespective of the duration of the pregnancy, which, after such a separation, breathes or shows any other evidence of life, such as beating of the heart, pulsation of the umbilical cord, or definite movement of voluntary muscles, whether or not the umbilical cord has been cut or the placenta is attached. Each product of such a birth is considered a live birth. The international formulation using “skilled health personnel” has been replaced by “trained health personnel”, since the concept of “skilled” proved difficult to specify in the Lao context. *A trained birth attendant* is an accredited health professional—such as a midwife, doctor or nurse—who has been educated and trained to proficiency in the skills needed to manage normal (uncomplicated) pregnancies, childbirth and the immediate postnatal period, and in the identification, management and referral of complications in women and newborns. Traditional birth attendants (whether trained or not), are excluded. Data are collected through national-level household surveys. In the absence of survey data, some countries may have health facility data. However, these data may overestimate the proportion of deliveries attended by a trained health professional because the denominator presumably excludes women who give birth outside of health facilities. **Development context:** Because measuring maternal mortality accurately is notoriously difficult, except where there is a comprehensive vital registration system, this indicator is one of several process indicators for tracking progress toward improving maternal health. Attendance of professional care during pregnancy and childbirth is particularly important for the management of complications. Assistance by properly trained health personnel is key to lowering maternal deaths. This indicator is a measure of a health system’s ability to provide adequate care during birth, a period of elevated mortality risk for both mothers and newborns. However, this indicator may not adequately capture women’s access to good quality care, particularly when complications arise. In order to effectively reduce maternal deaths, trained health personnel should have the necessary equipment and adequate referral options. **Reference:** • Millennium Development Goal Indicators: The official United Nations site for the MDG indicators. Metadata: http://mdgs.un.org/unsd/mdg/Metadata.aspx
109. Percentage of women of reproductive age (aged 15-49) who have their need for	%	**Definition and measurement:** This indicator aims to measure the percentage of women of reproductive age (15-49 years) who have their need for family planning satisfied with modern methods. The numerator is the percentage of women of reproductive age (15-49 years) who

Performance indicators	Unit	Definition and issues
family planning satisfied with modern methods		are currently using, or whose sexual partner is currently using, at least one *modern* contraceptive method. The denominator is the *total demand for family planning*, that is, those who are using contraception (any form) and those who wish to use contraception, but do not do so for various reasons. More precisely, total demand is obtained by adding: - *contraceptive prevalence*: women who are currently using, or whose sexual partner is currently using, at least one method of contraception, regardless of the method used. It is usually reported for married or in union women aged 15 to 49., and - *the unmet need for family planning*: women who are fecund and sexually active but are not using any method of contraception, and report not wanting any more children or wanting to delay the next child. Household surveys include a series of questions to measure modern contraceptive prevalence rate and demand for family planning. The indicator should include women who are not married but who are exposed to the risk of pregnancy. The indicator also limits the numerator to women who are using a modern method of family planning. Women who are using a traditional method of contraception are not considered as having met their need for family planning. **Development context:** This indicator enables assessment of family planning programmes and progress in providing contraceptive services to women who wish to avoid getting pregnant. Access to family planning provides women and their partners opportunities to make decisions about family size and timing of pregnancies. This contributes to maternal and child health by preventing unintended pregnancies and pregnancies that are too closely spaced, which are at higher risk for poor obstetrical outcomes. **References:** • Millennium Development Goal Indicators: The Official United Nations site for the MDG indicators. Metadata: http://mdgs.un.org/unsd/mdg/Metadata.aspx • Inter-agency Expert Group on SDG Indicators, 2016: Compilation of Metadata for the Proposed Global Indicators for the Review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. http://unstats.un.org/sdgs/iaeg-sdgs/metadata-compilation/
110. Adolescent birth rate	per 1,000	**Definition:** The adolescent birth rate measures the annual number of live births to women 15-19 years of age per 1,000 women in that age group. It represents the risk of childbearing among adolescent women 15-19 years of age. It is also referred to as the age-specific fertility rate for women aged 15-19. A *live birth* is the complete expulsion or extraction from its mother of a product of conception, irrespective of the duration of the pregnancy, which, after such a separation, breathes or shows any other evidence of life, such as beating of the heart, pulsation of the umbilical cord, or definite movement of voluntary muscles, whether or not the umbilical cord has been cut or the placenta is attached. Each product of such a birth is considered a live birth. The indicator is calculated differently depending on whether data from civil registrations, surveys or censuses are used. Data on births by age of mother are usually obtained from civil registration systems, as long as the latter cover 90 percent or more of all live births. Census or survey estimates can supplement registry data for periods when civil registration data are not available. In countries lacking a civil registration system or where the coverage is lower than 90 percent, the adolescent birth rate can be obtained from household survey and census data.

Performance indicators	Unit	Definition and issues
		Development context: The adolescent birth rate is an essential indicator for the design of policies aiming to achieve an overall improvement of girls' education and maternal health. Maternal mortality for younger adolescent women (below age 18) tends to be much higher than for older women or older adolescents (ages 18 and 19). When the overall maternal mortality for adolescent women is high, reducing adolescent fertility contributes to improving maternal health by reducing overall maternal mortality rates. Very early motherhood not only increases the risk of dying in childbirth, it also jeopardizes the well-being of mothers and their children. Young mothers frequently forego education and socio-economic opportunities, and children born to adolescent mothers are at greater risk of dying in infancy or childhood and, if they survive, have fewer opportunities to participate in education. **Reference:** • Millennium Development Goal Indicators: The official United Nations site for the MDG indicators. Metadata: http://mdgs.un.org/unsd/mdg/Metadata.aspx
111. Antenatal care coverage: at least one visit by trained health personnel	%	**Definition and measurement:** Antenatal care coverage (at least one visit) is the percentage of women aged 15–49 with a *live birth* in a given time period who received *antenatal* care provided by *trained health personnel* at least once during their pregnancy. Antenatal care coverage (at least four visits) is the percentage of women aged 15–49 with a *live birth* in a given time period who received *antenatal care* by any provider four or more times during their pregnancy. The percentage of women aged 15–49 with a live birth in a given time period who received antenatal care provided by trained health personnel at least once during their pregnancy (ANC 1+) is calculated by dividing the number of women attended at least once during pregnancy by trained health personnel for reasons related to the pregnancy, by the total number of women with a live birth and multiplying by 100. The percentage of women aged 15–49 with a live birth in a given time period who received antenatal care four or more times during pregnancy (ANC 4+) is calculated by dividing the number of women attended at least four times during pregnancy by any care provider for reasons related to the pregnancy by the total number of women with a live birth and multiplying by 100. Due to data limitations, it is not possible to determine the type of provider for each visit. A *live birth* is the complete expulsion or extraction from its mother of a product of conception, irrespective of the duration of the pregnancy, which, after such a separation, breathes or shows any other evidence of life, such as beating of the heart, pulsation of the umbilical cord, or definite movement of voluntary muscles, whether or not the umbilical cord has been cut or the placenta is attached. Each product of such a birth is considered a live birth. *Antenatal care* constitutes screening for health and socio-economic conditions likely to increase the possibility of specific adverse pregnancy outcomes; providing therapeutic interventions known to be effective; and educating pregnant women about planning for safe birth and emergencies during pregnancy and how to deal with them. *Trained health personnel* are accredited health professionals—such as a midwifes, doctors or nurses—who have been educated and trained to proficiency in the skills needed to manage normal (uncomplicated) pregnancies, childbirth and the immediate postnatal period, and in the
112. Antenatal care coverage: at least four visits by trained health personnel	%	

Performance indicators	Unit	Definition and issues
		identification, management and referral of complications in women and newborns. Both trained and untrained *traditional birth attendants* are not included. Household surveys should be used as the main data sources for the antenatal care indicator. Recall error is a potential source of bias in the data. **Development context:** The antenatal period presents opportunities for reaching pregnant women with interventions that may be vital to their health and well-being and that of their infants. The World Health Organization (WHO) recommends a standard model of four antenatal visits based on a review of the effectiveness of different models of antenatal care. WHO guidelines are specific on the content of antenatal care visits (see references). These include: a clinical examination; blood testing (to detect syphilis, severe anaemia and other conditions such as human immunodeficiency virus and malaria, as necessary according to epidemiological context); estimations of gestational age and uterine height; taking blood pressure; recording maternal weight/height; performing a detection of symptomatic sexually transmitted infections; urine test (multiple dipstick); requesting blood type and Rh; giving tetanus toxoid; providing iron/folic acid supplementation; and providing recommendations for emergencies/hotlines for emergencies. It is important to note that the indicators of antenatal care (at least one visit and at least four visits) do not capture these components of care. Thus, it should not be assumed that women received all of the components listed above. The minimum four antenatal visits recommended by UNICEF and WHO include at least one visit in the first trimester of pregnancy, another visit in the second trimester and two visits during the third trimester. **References:** • Millennium Development Goal Indicators: The official United Nations site for the MDG indicators. Metadata: http://mdgs.un.org/unsd/mdg/Metadata.aspx • World Health Organization (2002). Antenatal Care Randomized Trial: Manual for the Implementation of the New Model. Geneva. Available from http://whqlibdoc.who.int/hq/2001/WHO_RHR_01.30.pdf • World Health Organization (2003). Antenatal Care in Developing Countries: Promises, Achievements and Missed Opportunities: An Analysis of Trends, Levels and Differentials, 1990-2001. Geneva. Available from http://whqlibdoc.who.int/publications/2003/9241590947.pdf
113. Estimated new HIV infections:	number per 1,000	**Definition and measurement:** This indicator is *estimated* HIV incidence expressed as the estimated number of persons newly infected with HIV per 1,000 population. Modelling is currently used to estimate incidence. Prevalence data inform these models. It is important to understand the difference between HIV incidence and new diagnoses of HIV infection. HIV incidence refers to persons newly infected with HIV, whereas individuals newly diagnosed with HIV may have been infected years before being diagnosed. **Development context:** Incidence estimates are useful for planning and for allocating funds, as well as evaluating the impact of HIV prevention programmes.

Performance indicators	Unit	Definition and issues
114. Percentage of key populations at risk of having access to combination HIV prevention programmes	%	**Definition and measurement:** This indicator is the percentage of key populations at risk who have access to combination HIV prevention programmes. Key populations at risk in the Lao context are sex workers, men having sex with men and injecting drug users. Combination prevention programmes are “rights-based, evidence-informed, and community-owned programmes that use a mix of biomedical, behavioural, and structural interventions, prioritized to meet the current HIV prevention needs of particular individuals and communities, so as to have the greatest sustained impact on reducing new infections. Well-designed combination prevention programmes are carefully tailored to national and local needs and conditions; focus resources on the mix of programmatic and policy actions required to address both immediate risks and underlying vulnerability; and they are thoughtfully planned and managed to operate synergistically and consistently on multiple levels.” Combination prevention services in the Lao context, therefore, are services tailored to the country context, to be further specified by MoH and UNAIDS, including condom promotion, harm reduction interventions, etc. This indicator is being measured for global reporting by the Ministry of Health’s HIV/STI Integrated Biological and Behavioural Surveillance (IBBS) system in six provinces. Estimations are made for the rest of the country. **Development context:** Combination prevention is calculated to assist prevention planners and programmers in facing one of the central challenges in HIV prevention – “coming to terms with [the inherent] complexity” of the epidemic. Taking advantage of available tools to assemble biomedical and behavioural data to estimate incident HIV infections by modes of transmissions, national planning processes should identify and characterize the key populations and the relative importance of various behaviours and settings that are associated with increased risk of HIV infection. The planning processes need to be inclusive and transparent. **Reference:** • UNAIDS, 2010. Combination HIV Prevention: Tailoring and Coordinating Biomedical, Behavioural and Structural Strategies to Reduce New HIV Infections. A UNAIDS Discussion Paper. Available at: http://www.unaids.org/sites/default/files/media_asset/JC2007_Combination_Prevention_paper_en_0.pdf
115. Percentage of people with diagnosed HIV receiving sustained ART	%	**Definition and measurement:** The numerator for this indicator is the number of people with diagnosed HIV who receive sustained antiretroviral therapy (ART). The denominator is the total number of people with diagnosed HIV according to health records. The result is reported as a percentage. *Sustained ART* means that a person with a diagnosed HIV-positive status is on a continued ART treatment regime, whatever the CD-4 level, without requirement of a CD-4 test and in accordance with WHO treatment guidelines. **Development context:** This indicator, called Target 2, is also known as *90 percent on treatment*. It is part of the three new global targets for HIV treatment scale-up beyond 2015: (i) by 2020, 90 percent of all people living with HIV will know their HIV status (90 percent diagnosed); (ii) by 2020, 90 percent of all people with diagnosed HIV infection will receive sustained antiretroviral therapy (90 percent on treatment); (iii) by 2020, 90 percent of all people receiving ART will have viral suppression (90 percent virally suppressed). When this three-part target is achieved, at least 73 percent of all people living with HIV worldwide will be virally

Performance indicators	Unit	Definition and issues
		suppressed. Modelling suggests that achieving these targets by 2020 will enable the world to end the AIDS epidemic by 2030, which in turn will generate profound health and economic benefits. To achieve and maintain high treatment coverage levels, countries will need to ensure that HIV treatment and care, including diagnostic tests and other treatment-related items, is free to the individual. Countries will also need to address implementation issues that have often slowed scale-up, including frequent drug stock-outs, barriers to procurement of optimally affordable medicines and diagnostics, and inadequate availability of second- and third-line regimens. **Reference:** • UNAIDS, 2014. 90-90-90: An ambitious treatment target to help end the AIDS epidemic: http://www.unaids.org/sites/default/files/media_asset/90-90-90_en_0.pdf
116. Malaria incidence rate among the population living in areas where malaria transmission occurs	cases per 1,000	**Definition and measurement:** The incidence rate of malaria is the number of new cases of malaria per 1,000 people per year. The numerator is the number of malaria cases. The denominator is the population at risk (number of people living in areas where malaria transmission occurs). The working definition of a case of malaria is "fever with plasmodium parasites" which defines a person who requires anti-malarial treatment. Estimates of the number of malaria cases are particularly sensitive to the completeness of health facility reporting. If health ministries keep accurate records of the number of surveillance reports received and expected from health facilities, then adjustments can be made for missing reports. However, if this information is not rigorously recorded, and the stated reporting completeness differs from reality, then the number of malaria cases will be incorrectly estimated. In addition, many cases recorded in poorly resourced countries are not confirmed by microscopic examination; hence, a substantial proportion of patients diagnosed with malaria may have fevers due to other illnesses. **Development context:** Malaria is serious in its own right, but also increases the risk of death from other conditions. In addition, malaria imposes an economic burden on families, particularly those who are least able to pay for prevention and treatment and most affected by loss of income due to the disease. The disease represents a financial burden to malaria-endemic countries that must use scarce resources to provide bed nets, insecticides and drugs in an effort to control the disease. In low transmission settings, where little immunity to malarial disease exists, cases are evenly distributed by age. In high transmission settings, cases and deaths are concentrated in children under 5 because frequent exposure has enabled older age groups to develop some immunity. The incidence of malaria appears to be evenly distributed across sexes in children, but pregnant women are particularly susceptible to the disease. **Reference:** • Millennium Development Goal Indicators: The official United Nations site for the MDG indicators. Metadata: http://mdgs.un.org/unsd/mdg/Metadata.aspx
117. Proportion of children under age 5 testing positive for malaria who are treated	%	**Definition and measurement:** The denominator for this indicator is the total number of children who test positive for malaria as per WHO-recommended diagnostic testing to confirm malaria infection. The numerator is those children testing positive for malaria who are then

Performance indicators	Unit	Definition and issues
with appropriate anti-malarial drugs		treated with appropriate anti-malarial drugs. The anti-malarial drugs are prescribed according to the type of malaria that the patient has. In 2010, WHO recommended the universal use of diagnostic testing to confirm malaria infection before treatment. Household surveys based on cases of fever and mothers' recall of treatment cannot be used for this indicator, since not all fever cases are of malaria. Moreover, a significant proportion who test positive for malaria have been known to be asymptomatic. Parasitological confirmation is required to identify malaria. Therefore, this indicator should be based on health services data on diagnostic testing and anti-malarial drug administration. **Development context:** Malaria is serious in its own right, but also increases the risk of death from other conditions. In addition, malaria imposes an economic burden on families, particularly those who are least able to pay for prevention and treatment and most affected by loss of income due to the disease. The disease represents a financial burden to malaria-endemic countries that must use scarce resources to provide bed nets, insecticides and drugs in an effort to control the disease. In low transmission settings where little immunity to malarial disease exists, cases are evenly distributed by age. In high transmission settings, cases and deaths are concentrated in children under 5 because frequent exposure has enabled older age groups to develop some immunity. The incidence of malaria appears to be evenly distributed across sexes in children, but pregnant women are particularly susceptible to the disease. **Reference:** • Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and United Nations, 2013. The Millennium Development Goals: Progress Report for the Lao PDR 2013. Vientiane: Ministry of Foreign Affairs and United Nations.
118. Incidence, prevalence and death rates associated with tuberculosis	per 100,000	**Definition and measurement:** The incidence of tuberculosis (TB) is defined as the number of new TB cases per 100,000 population per year. The prevalence of TB is defined as the number of TB cases in a population at a given point in time (sometimes referred to as "point prevalence") per 100,000 population. Death rates associated with TB are defined as the estimated number of deaths due to TB in one year per 100,000 population. WHO notes that "deaths from TB among HIV-positive people are officially classified as deaths caused by HIV/AIDS in the International classification of diseases" (Global Tuberculosis Report 2015). A tuberculosis case is defined as a patient in whom TB has been bacteriologically confirmed or diagnosed by a clinician. In dividing the calculated numbers of incidence, prevalence and deaths by the total population in units of 100,000 people, population estimates are used where data come from administrative health records. The total population in the survey is used when the data come from household surveys. Available data sources generally include case notifications and death records (from routine surveillance and vital registration), and measures of the prevalence of disease (from population-based surveys). Prevalence of disease surveys are costly and logistically complex; however, they do provide a direct measure of bacteriologically confirmed, prevalent TB disease, and can serve as a platform for other investigations, e.g., the interactions between patients and the health system. **Development context:**

Performance indicators	Unit	Definition and issues
		Detecting TB and curing it are key interventions for addressing poverty and inequality. Prevalence and deaths are more sensitive markers of the changing burden of TB than incidence (new cases), but data on incidence are more comprehensive and give the best overview of the impact of global TB control. Incidence rates are important because they give an indication of the extent of TB in a population, and of the size of the task faced by a national TB control programme. Incidence rates can be used to track changes in the rate at which people infected with mycobacterium tuberculosis develop TB disease. Because TB can develop in people who became infected in the past, however, the effect of TB control on incidence is less visible than the effect on prevalence or death rates. Prevalence and death rates can be used to directly monitor the burden of TB because they indicate the number of people suffering from the disease at a given point in time and the number dying each year. Prevalence and mortality rates are also useful for monitoring the effects of improvements in TB control because treatment reduces the average duration of the disease (thus decreasing prevalence) and the likelihood of dying from the disease. **References:** • Millennium Development Goal Indicators: The official United Nations site for the MDG indicators. Metadata: http://mdgs.un.org/unsd/mdg/Metadata.aspx and http://mdgs.un.org/unsd/mi/wiki/6-9-Incidence-prevalence-and-death-rates-associated-with-tuberculosis.ashx • World Health Organization: Global Tuberculosis Report 2015. http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/191102/1/9789241565059_eng.pdf
119. Proportion of tuberculosis cases detected under directly observed treatment short course (DOTS)	%	**Definition and measurement:** Estimates of TB incidence [Indicator 119] are based on a consultative and analytical process in WHO and are published annually. The directly observed treatment short cource (DOTS) detection rate for new smear-positive cases is calculated by dividing the number of new smear-positive cases treated in DOTS programmes and notified to WHO divided by the estimated number of incident smear-positive cases for the same year, expressed as a percentage. A tuberculosis case is defined as a patient in whom TB has been bacteriologically confirmed or diagnosed by a clinician. Case detection means that TB is diagnosed in a patient and is reported within the national surveillance system. A new case of TB is defined as a patient who has never received treatment for TB, or who has taken anti-TB drugs for less than one month. Directly observed treatment short course (DOTS) is a proven TB treatment system based on accurate diagnosis and consistent treatment with a full course of anti-TB drugs. DOTS is the first component and foundation of the internationally recommended Stop TB Strategy, which was launched by WHO as a successor to the DOTS strategy in 2006. Bacteriology remains the recommended method of TB case detection, first using sputum smear microscopy and then culture and drug susceptibility testing (DST). The number of new cases detected by national TB programmes is collected as part of the routine surveillance (recording and reporting) that is an essential component of the Stop TB Strategy. Quarterly reports of the number of TB cases registered are then compiled and sent (either directly or via intermediate levels) to the central office of the national TB control programme. **Development context:** Since TB is an airborne contagious disease, finding and treating cases and thus limiting the risk of acquiring infection is the primary means of controlling the spread of TB. The recommended approach to primary control is the Stop TB Strategy, an

Performance indicators	Unit	Definition and issues
		inexpensive strategy that could prevent millions of TB cases and deaths over the coming decade. TB case detection rates and TB treatment success rates provide a measure of the effectiveness of national TB programmes in finding and diagnosing people with TB. **References:** • United Nations: Millennium Development Goal Indicators: The official United Nations site for the MDG indicators. Metadata: http://mdgs.un.org/unsd/mdg/Metadata.aspx • WHO: Pursue high-quality DOTS expansion and enhancement: Five components of DOTS. http://www.who.int/tb/dots/en/
120. Tuberculosis treatment success rate	%	**Definition and measurement:** This is the proportion of new smear-positive TB cases registered under DOTS in a given year that successfully completed full treatment, whether with bacteriologic evidence of success (“*cured*”) or without (“*treatment completed*”). At the end of treatment, each patient is assigned one of the following six mutually exclusive treatment outcomes: *cured; completed*; died; failed; defaulted; and transferred out with outcome unknown. The proportions of cases assigned to these outcomes, plus any additional cases registered for treatment but not assigned to an outcome, add up to 100 percent of cases registered. A tuberculosis case is defined as a patient in whom TB has been bacteriologically confirmed or diagnosed by a clinician. A new case of TB is defined as a patient who has never received treatment for TB, or who has taken anti-TB drugs for less than one month. Directly observed treatment short course (DOTS) is a proven TB treatment system based on accurate diagnosis and consistent treatment with a full course of anti-TB drugs. DOTS is the first component and foundation of the internationally recommended Stop TB Strategy, which was launched by WHO as a successor to the DOTS strategy in 2006. The treatment success rate is calculated based on the results of the treatment for each patient. Data for this indicator are derived from national TB programmes, which monitor and report cases detected, treatment progress and programme performance. Through this system, cohorts of patients can be monitored directly and accurately by making systematic evaluations of patient progress and treatment outcomes. **Development context:** Since TB is an airborne contagious disease, finding and treating cases and thus limiting the risk of acquiring infection is the primary means of controlling the spread of TB. The recommended approach to primary control is the Stop TB Strategy, an inexpensive strategy that could prevent millions of TB cases and deaths over the coming decade. TB case detection rates and TB treatment success rates provide a measure of the effectiveness of national TB programmes in finding and diagnosing people with TB. **References:** • United Nations: Millennium Development Goal Indicators: The official United Nations site for the MDG indicators. Metadata: http://mdgs.un.org/unsd/mdg/Metadata.aspx WHO: Pursue high-quality DOTS expansion and enhancement: Five components of DOTS. http://www.who.int/tb/dots/en/

Performance indicators	Unit	Definition and issues
121. Proportion of population using an improved drinking water source	%	**Definition and measurement:** The proportion of the population using an improved drinking water source is the share of the population that uses any type of improved drinking water supplies. The numerator is the number of people who use an improved drinking water source (see below for definitions) while the denominator is the total population, and the result is multiplied by 100 to report as a percentage. An improved drinking water source is a facility that, by nature of its construction, is protected from outside contamination, in particular from contamination with faecal matter. Improved drinking water sources include: piped water into a dwelling, plot or yard; public tap/standpipe; borehole/tube well; protected dug well; protected spring; rainwater collection and bottled water. Users of bottled water are considered to have access to improved sources only when they have a secondary source that is of an otherwise improved type. Improved drinking water sources do not include unprotected wells, unprotected springs, water provided by carts with small tanks/drums, tanker truck-provided water and bottled water (if the secondary source is not improved) or surface water taken directly from rivers, ponds, streams, lakes, dams, or irrigation channels. Drinking water is defined as water used for ingestion, food preparation and basic hygiene purposes. These definitions are in line with the World Health Organisation/United Nations Children's Fund (WHO/UNICEF) Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP) for Water Supply and Sanitation. Use of an improved drinking water source is a proxy for measuring access to safe drinking water. Sample surveys and censuses provide an estimate of what facilities are actually used by the population interviewed, at the time of measurement, including those constructed by different actors and excluding those that have fallen into disrepair and are no longer in use. For these reasons, data from surveys and censuses are deemed more reliable and objective than administrative records. **Development context:** Greater access to improved drinking water sources is important as it contributes to lowering the incidence of many diseases. This indicator does not specify a minimum available amount of water per capita per day, nor does it specify a distance to the source, expressed either in the amount of time required to collect water or the actual distance in metres. Neither does it include compliance with drinking water quality standards (faecal, bacteriological and chemical). The SDGs address the quality of water, by defining "safely managed drinking water services" as free of faecal (and priority chemical) contamination, to be monitored by direct water quality testing and data from drinking water regulators on compliance with standards for water quality and availability. Lao PDR does not have yet a system for water quality testing and management. **References:** • United Nations: Millennium Development Goal Indicators: The official United Nations site for the MDG indicators. Metadata: http://mdgs.un.org/unsd/mdg/Metadata.aspx • WHO and UNICEF: http://www.wssinfo.org/fileadmin/user_upload/resources/Methodological-note-on-monitoring-SDG-targets-for-WASH-and-wastewater_WHO-UNICEF_8October2015_Final.pdf
122. Proportion of population using an improved sanitation facility	%	**Definition and measurement:**

Performance indicators	Unit	Definition and issues
		The indicator is defined as the proportion of the population using an improved sanitation facility, expressed as a percentage. It is computed for both urban and rural areas by dividing the number of people using improved sanitation facilities by the total urban or rural population and multiplying by 100. An improved sanitation facility is defined as a facility that hygienically separates human excreta from human, animal and insect contact. Improved sanitation facilities include flush/pour-flush toilets or latrines connected to a sewer, septic tank or pit; ventilated improved pit latrines; pit latrines with a slab or platform of any material that covers the pit entirely, except for the drop hole; and composting toilets/latrines. Unimproved facilities include public or shared facilities of an otherwise improved type; flush/pour-flush toilets that discharge directly into an open sewer or ditch or elsewhere; pit latrines without a slab; bucket latrines; hanging toilets or latrines; and the practice of open defecation in the bush, field or bodies of water. Administrative or provider-based data are often based on cumulative totals of facilities constructed multiplied by a fixed number of users per type of facility. Administrative data often exclude facilities constructed by non-profit associations or by individual households and the cumulative reporting does not reflect facilities that have fallen into disrepair. Using such data in developing countries would be error prone. In contrast, sample surveys and censuses provide an estimate of what facilities are actually used at the time of measurement, and which are no longer in use. For these reasons, data from surveys and censuses are deemed more reliable and objective than administrative records. At a minimum, all surveys and censuses should use the four sanitation categories demarcated by the World Health Organisation/United Nations Children's Fund (WHO/UNICEF) Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP) for Water Supply and Sanitation: (i) improved sanitation facilities; (ii) shared sanitation facilities; (iii) unimproved sanitation facilities; and (iv) open defecation. The primary data sources used for international monitoring include nationally representative surveys and censuses. When the JMP receives new survey or census data, it assesses the validity of the data based on objective criteria and enters the data into the JMP database only if these criteria are met. For the equivalent SDG, safe disposal and safe treatment are also included. **Development context:** Studies suggest that the use of improved sanitation facilities reduces diarrhoea-related morbidity in young children by more than one third. If hygiene promotion is added, such as teaching proper handwashing, the morbidity could be reduced even further. Improved sanitation would also help accelerate economic and social development in countries where poor sanitation is a major cause for missed work and school days because of illness. Millions of people—especially the poor in developing countries—defecate in bags, buckets, fields or roadside ditches, because they lack access to improved sanitation facilities, causing serious health risks to themselves and others. Adequate sanitation is important for both urban and rural populations, but the risks of poor sanitation practices, notably open defecation, are considered greater in populated peri-urban and slum areas where it is more difficult to avoid contact with waste. Estimates of open defecation rates are particularly valuable for policy purposes. Therefore, surveys and censuses should not group the category of open defecation together with other sanitation facilities. **References:**

Performance indicators	Unit	Definition and issues
		• United Nations: Millennium Development Goal Indicators: The official United Nations site for the MDG indicators. Metadata: http://mdgs.un.org/unsd/mdg/Metadata.aspx • WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP) for Water Supply and Sanitation: http://www.wssinfo.org/definitions-methods/watsan-categories/ • WHO and UNICEF: http://www.wssinfo.org/fileadmin/user_upload/resources/Methodological-note-on-monitoring-SDG-targets-for-WASH-and-wastewater_WHO-UNICEF_8October2015_Final.pdf
123.. Investment in water supply and sanitation: • urban water supply • urban sanitation • rural water supply • rural sanitation	US$	**Definition and measurement:** This indicator measures the funds invested each year in water supply and sanitation. Disaggregation by urban and rural and by sector (water supply and sanitation) is necessary to monitor the progress toward 2020 national planning targets. **Development context:** To meet the 2020 national planning targets, the World Bank has calculated that, each year, Lao PDR would need to invest US$ 18 million for urban water supply, US$ 12 million for urban sanitation, and US$ 10 million for rural water and sanitation (US$ 40 million a year in total). This is well above the current spending level, which is estimated to meet about one quarter of the needs. Meeting national goals and targets will require steep increases in investments for design and construction, institutional strengthening and human resource development. **Reference:** • World Bank, 2010. Lao People's Democratic Republic Water Supply and Sanitation Sector Review. 15 December 2010. Washington DC: World Bank.
Outcome 2, Output 5 – Enhanced social protection		
124. Number of informal sector workers covered by social security	number	**Definition and measurement:** This indicator is a new one still being developed by the Ministry of Social Welfare and Labour and is meant to track the number of informal sector workers enrolled in the national social security system, which is still under development. Informal sector workers mean those who work in the informal economy, which often means poor employment conditions, lack of protection in the event of non-payment of wages, compulsory overtime or extra shifts, lay-offs without notice or compensation, unsafe working conditions, and the absence of social benefits such as pensions, sick pay and health insurance. **Development context:** In Lao PDR, there are four formal social health-protection systems: the State Authority for Social Security (SASS), the Social Security Organization (SSO), community-based health insurance (CBHI) and Heath Equity Funds (HEFs). Coverage of social protection in Lao PDR is limited. The Government of Lao PDR is planning to develop a new social protection scheme by merging all social protection systems into a single national social security system. **Reference:** • Social Health Protection In Lao PDR: Government of Lao PDR presentation at the International Forum on the Development of Social Health Protection in the Southeast Asian Region, Hanoi, 27-28 October 2014, 28/10/2014. http://www.coopami.org/en/countries/countries/vietnam/projects/2014/pdf/2014102703.pdf

Performance indicators	Unit	Definition and issues
125. Number of villages with child protection bodies or child protection networks	number	**Definition and measurement:** This indicator measures the total number of villages that have child protection bodies or child protection networks established in the village, according to the definition of child protection body and child protection network as defined by the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare. **Development context:** Rapid economic development and social changes are exposing children to greater risks, such as displacement and resettlement due to large development projects, young appetites for consumer goods, growing urbanization and migration, and the breakdown of traditional family structures as parents and/or young people leave home to seek better opportunities in cities or abroad. In this context, child protection issues are becoming increasingly prominent as children are more vulnerable to violence, abuse, exploitation and trafficking. Lao PDR is in the process of developing child protection systems and institutions. The village child protection bodies and networks aim to provide community-based child protection services that assist children at risk or in situations of harm.
126. Number of qualified social workers	number	**Definition and measurement:** Qualified social workers means those who graduated with a professional qualification in social work, as recognized by the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare. **Development context:** Rapid economic development and social changes are exposing children to greater risks, such as displacement and resettlement due to large development projects, young appetites for consumer goods, growing urbanization and migration, and the breakdown of traditional family structures as parents and/or young people leave home to seek better opportunities in cities or abroad. In this context, child protection issues are becoming increasingly prominent as children are more vulnerable to violence, abuse, exploitation and trafficking. Lao PDR is in the process of developing child protection systems and institutions. An essential part of this process is to produce qualified social workers with the authority and skills to monitor families where children are at high risk, intervene and rescue children when necessary.
127. Number of child protection committees established at province and district level	number	**Definition and measurement:** This indicator measures the total number of child protection committees established at province or district level, as defined by the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare. **Development context:** Rapid economic development and social changes are exposing children to greater risks, such as displacement and resettlement due to large development projects, young appetites for consumer goods, growing urbanization and migration, and the breakdown of traditional family structures as parents and/or young people leave home to seek better opportunities in cities or abroad. In this context, child protection issues are becoming increasingly prominent as children are more vulnerable to violence, abuse, exploitation and trafficking.

Performance indicators	Unit	Definition and issues
		Lao PDR is in the process of developing child protection systems and institutions. The child protection committees are one part of this system which aims to assist children at risk or in situations of harm.
128. Number of grievance cases referred to court, as monitored by the National Committee for Advancement of Women (NCAW)	number	**Definition and measurement:** This indicator measures access to justice for women and is also relevant to Outcome 2, Output 7. It monitors the number of grievance cases referred to court by the National Committee for Advancement of Women (NCAW). It would be much better to have the percentage of grievance cases registered at community/village level that were referred to court. However, this is not possible with current data systems. The Mid-Term Review of the NSEDP provides an opportunity to review and strengthen this indicator. **Development context:** Violence against women is a significant problem that needs credible response by both formal and traditional systems of intervention, protection and compensation. There is, however, little data on whether the grievance cases brought by women at community level make their way into the courts of law. This indicator represents a start in tracking this process.
Outcome 2, Output 6 – Protection of traditions and culture		
129. Number of villages developed into "cultural villages"	number	**Definition and measurement:** This indicator measures the number of villages that have been developed into “cultural villages,” according to the definition and requirements of the Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism (MoICT). The development of a cultural village has five aspects, according to MoICT: i) Cultural families: 70 percent of the village should be “cultural families” ii) Cultural establishments and institutions: these include cultural club, library, cultural showcase venue, news station, village radio/loudspeakers, village cultural/artist/sports groups iii) Cultural conservation: ethnic/village/provincial/national cultures are well conserved iv) Development activities such as production promotion to improve livelihoods, illiteracy elimination, environmental protection and waste management are undertaken v) Strong management is practised that ensures compliance with the law and promotes unity, peace and order. (Standards of Cultural Person, Families and Villages, MoICT, 2014). **Development context:** Cultural villages are part of the Government’s efforts to promote the traditions and values of Lao cultural heritage as well as sustainable tourism development.
130. Number of established tourist sites: • national heritage sites (cultural, historical and natural) • nature tourism sites	number	**Definition and measurement:** National heritage sites are established according to the criteria established by the Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism (MoICT). National heritage refers to items produced by mankind or formed by nature that have outstanding cultural, historical or natural value, thereby becoming precious assets and property of the Lao national community, some of which are adopted as regional and world heritage. National heritage consists of cultural, historical and natural heritage existing in the form of tangible

Performance indicators	Unit	Definition and issues
		objects, intangible items, moveable or immoveable property, and living or non-living organisms, reflecting the history of the Lao nation and the Lao people in each different era (2005 Law of National Heritage, amended on 24 December 2013). **Development context:** National heritage sites promote the traditions and values of Lao cultural heritage as well as sustainable tourism development. Among these sites are included cultural heritage sites, historical heritage sites and natural heritage sites. Natural heritage sites are defined as having aesthetic or biodiversity value, such as national conservation forests, biodiversity conservation areas, and natural heritage areas having scientific or ecological value. To reflect the country's progress toward "green growth," the indicator should not only disaggregate national heritage sites into national cultural heritage sites, historical heritage sites and natural heritage sites, but also monitor the areas designated as nature tourism sites. **Reference:** • Lao PDR 2005 Law of National Heritage http://www.unesco.org/culture/natlaws/media/pdf/laos/laos_national_heritage_law_2005_eng.pdf
131. Number of international tourists entering Lao PDR	number	**Definition and measurement:** This indicator refers only to international tourists, although there are also domestic tourists. *International tourists* are defined as people from other countries who come to Lao PDR for less than a year and whose main purpose in coming is not employment but can be one of the following: holidays, leisure and recreation, visiting friends and relatives, education and training, health and medical care, religion/pilgrimages, shopping, transit and other purpose (except employment). As long as it is incidental to the trip, a visitor might earn some income during his/her stay; for example, tourists may include young people taking small jobs during their trip in order to partly finance their expenses. The main purpose of a trip is defined as the purpose in the absence of which the trip would not have taken place. **Development context:** Tourism is a major activity with characteristics that make it particularly valuable as an agent for development. Developing countries, however, face a particular fragility in their natural, economic, social and human environments that could jeopardize the sector's dynamism and beneficiary qualities. With such a significant potential for development, the need for a sustainable approach to tourism in developing countries to promote growth in the long term while maintaining a balanced use of resources is imperative. **Reference:** • United Nations, 2010. *International Recommendations for Tourism Statistics 2008.* Studies in Methods Series M No. 83/Rev.1 (pages 9-10 provide definitions) http://unstats.un.org/unsd/publication/SeriesM/seriesm_83rev1e.pdf
132. Revenue from tourism sector (international tourism receipts)	billion kip	**Definition and measurement:** The World Bank definition of international tourism receipts is expenditures by international inbound visitors, including payments to national carriers for international transport. These receipts include any other prepayment made for goods or services received in the destination country. They also may include receipts from same-day visitors, except when these are

<table>
<tr><th>Performance indicators</th><th>Unit</th><th>Definition and issues</th></tr>
<tr><td></td><td></td><td>important enough to justify separate classification. For some countries they do not include receipts for passenger transport items. Data are in current US dollars.
Current national statistical systems in Lao PDR are not set up to measure the government revenue attributable to tourism, which is calculated largely from taxes. As there is no specific "tourism industry/commodity" within the statistical system, and tourism is dispersed among the various industries and commodities of the system, this is difficult in the Lao PDR context.
Development context:
Tourism is officially recognized as a directly measurable activity, enabling more accurate analysis and more effective policy. An increasing number of countries have opened up to and invested in tourism development, making tourism a key driver of socio-economic progress through export revenues, the creation of jobs and enterprises, and infrastructure development. As an internationally traded service, inbound tourism has become one of the world's major trade categories. For many developing countries it is one of the main sources of foreign exchange income and a major component of exports, creating much-needed employment and development opportunities.
References:
• United Nations, 2010. International Recommendations for Tourism Statistics 2008. Studies in Methods Series M No. 83/Rev.1 (pages 9-10 provide definitions) http://unstats.un.org/unsd/publication/SeriesM/seriesm_83rev1e.pdf
• World Bank: http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/ST.INT.RCPT.CD</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="3">Outcome 2, Output 7 – Maintain political stability, social peace, order, justice and transparency</td></tr>
<tr><td>133. Number of communication means engaging the public to understand the Party's and Government's policy directions</td><td>type/means</td><td rowspan="2">Definition and measurement:
Communication means engaging the public refers to communication tools used to raise public awareness on the Government’s and Party’s policies and direction. These include different media, such as radio, television, and the Internet, which may be disaggregated by types, channels, and medium used.
Indicator 134 tracks the proportion of districts with an established communication system to engage the public with these communication tools.
Development context:
Public awareness and understanding are necessary for the effective implementation of policies.</td></tr>
<tr><td>134. Proportion of rural districts with established communication system engaging the public to understand the Party's and Government's policy directions</td><td>%</td></tr>
<tr><td>135. Number of laws certified by the Ministry of Justice to be compliant with the requirements of</td><td>number</td><td>Definition and measurement:
Lao PDR’s 2012 Law on Laws sets out the requirements for drafting or amending laws and for public consultations on laws. This indicator refers to the number of laws that are certified by the Ministry of Justice to be compliant with these requirements.
This indicator is part of the draft Lao PDR–United Nations Partnership Framework 2017-2021. It will be measured through annual reviews by the Ministry of Justice.</td></tr>
</table>

Performance indicators	Unit	Definition and issues
drafting/amending laws and public consultations		**Development context:** An assessment of law-making conducted by the Ministry of Justice in 2014 found no draft law that strictly complied with the requirements set out under the 2012 Law on Laws, which includes broad participatory consultations, explanatory notes and impact assessment reports. The recently developed law-making manual is expected to provide technical support to law drafters in order to comply with these requirements. This indicator is part of the Government's efforts, assisted by development partners, to develop systems and fora to receive public feedback on draft laws and law enforcement. This will enhance citizens' awareness of their rights, and increase the number of people benefiting from access to formal judicial services through inclusive and accountable institutions.
136. Laws passed by the National Assembly that have implementation regulations in place: • number • percentage of total laws passed	% number	**Definition and measurement:** The indicator refers to the number of laws that have implementation regulations in place. When reported as a percentage, the denominator is the number of total laws passed by the National Assembly. The data for this indicator will be obtained from annual reviews of the status of laws passed by the National Assembly. **Development context:** The Lao National Assembly has passed many laws. However, not all implementation is on track and some laws still do not have implementation regulations in place. This indicator is part of the Government' efforts, assisted by development partners, to promote inclusive and accountable institutions.
137. Number of grievances from citizens resolved through courts and village mediation units using legal aid services	number	**Definition and measurement:** This indicator is the number of grievance cases that are resolved using legal aid services, either provided by the courts or obtained in the form of village mediation units. It would be more meaningful to have the percentage of total grievance cases that were resolved using legal aid services, either by the courts of by village mediation units. However, measurement of the percentage is not possible with current data systems. The Mid-Term Review of the NSEDP provides an opportunity to review and strengthen this indicator. This indicator is part of the draft Lao PDR–United Nations Partnership Framework 2017-2021. It will be measured through annual data from the Peoples' Supreme Court and Ministry of Justice. **Development context:** This indicator is part of the Government's efforts, assisted by development partners, to develop systems and fora to enhance citizens' awareness of their rights, and improve access to formal judicial services, through inclusive and accountable institutions (see also Indicator 128 for women's access to justice).
138. Percentage of accepted recommendations of the second Universal Periodic Review cycle that have been implemented	%	**Definition and measurement:** The denominator is the total number of recommendations from the 2015 Universal Periodic Review (UPR) that were accepted by the Government of the Lao PDR as in the UN document A/HRC/29/7/Add.1, 23 June 2015. The numerator is the number of those recommendations that have been implemented. This indicator is part of the draft Lao PDR–United Nations Partnership Framework 2017-2021. It will be measured through annual reports on the Universal Periodic Review Action Plan.

Performance indicators	Unit	Definition and issues
		Development context: The UPR is held under the auspices of the Human Rights Council and examines the actions States Members of the UN have taken to improve the human rights situation in their countries and to fulfil their human rights obligations. Subsequently, some recommendations are accepted by the concerned State Member, whereas others are not. This indicator attempts to measure Lao PDR's progress toward implementation of the UPR. The UPR provides the opportunity for each State Member to declare what actions it has taken to improve the human rights situation in its country and to fulfil its human rights obligations. The UPR was created through the UN General Assembly on 15 March 2006 by resolution 60/251, which established the Human Rights Council itself. **References:** • United Nations, 2015. Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Lao People's Democratic Republic. A/HRC/29/7. 23 March 2015. https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G15/061/51/PDF/G1506151.pdf?OpenElement • United Nations, 2015. Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Lao People's Democratic Republic. Addendum: Views on conclusions and/or recommendations, voluntary commitments and replies presented by the State under review. A/HRC/29/7/Add.1, 23 June 2015. https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G15/131/75/PDF/G1513175.pdf?OpenElement
139. Percentage of children under 5 whose births have been registered with a civil authority	%	**Definition and measurement:** Birth registration or birth certificate is the official recording of a child's birth by the government. The numerator of this indicator is the number of children under the age of 5 whose birth certificate was seen by the interviewer or whose mother or caregiver reported having registered the child's birth. The denominator is the total number of children under age 5 in the survey or census. Since Lao PDR still does not have a fully developed vital registration system, surveys or censuses are the only means of measuring this indicator on a nationally representative basis. **Development context:** Birth registration establishes the existence of the child under law and provides the foundation for safeguarding many of the child's civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights. Article 2 and Article 7 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child together indicate that every child has the right to be registered at birth without any discrimination. Apart from being the first legal acknowledgement of a child's existence, birth registration is central to ensuring that children are counted and have access to basic services such as health, social security and education. Knowing the age of a child is central to protecting them from child labour, being arrested and treated as adults in the justice system, forcible conscription into armed forces, child marriage, trafficking and sexual exploitation. A birth certificate as proof of birth can support the traceability of unaccompanied and separated children and promote safe migration. In effect, birth registration is their "passport" to protection.

Performance indicators	Unit	Definition and issues
		Being an integral part of civil registration systems, the demographic information provided by birth registration is imperative for governments to create and monitor national population statistics. Improved birth registration records contribute to statistical data that are crucial for planning, decision-making and monitoring actions and policies aimed at protecting children. **Reference:** • Convention of the Rights of the Child. http://www.ohchr.org/en/professionalinterest/pages/crc.aspx •
140. Number of arrests related to human trafficking	number	**Definition and measurement:** This indicator records the number of trafficking-related arrests made by Lao PDR authorities. Trafficking in persons is defined as the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the following, for the purpose of exploitation: • the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion • abduction, or fraud, or deception • the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability, or • the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person. Exploitation includes, at a minimum, prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs. If the trafficked person is a child (i.e., under the age of 18 according to the Convention on the Rights of the Child), trafficking the child is still considered punishable even if that child goes along voluntarily with the traffickers, since this would be an abuse of a position of vulnerability. This indicator can only be measured through administrative records of the police and other Lao PDR authorities. It is important to emphasize that current data availability is limited to detected victims of trafficking. For each victim who is detected, there are many more trafficked victims who are undetected. **Development context:** This indicator contributes to addressing trafficking in persons. Lao PDR is largely a source country for trafficked persons who are then transferred to other countries for exploitation purposes. Even within the country, trafficking in persons (usually rural victims exploited in urban areas) may also exist. The Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children (which entered into force on 25 December 2003) is the first global legally binding instrument with an agreed definition on trafficking in persons. It is important to be clear about definitions. The intention behind the UN definition is to facilitate convergence in national approaches with regard to the establishment of domestic criminal offences that would support efficient international cooperation in investigating and prosecuting cases that involve trafficking in persons. An additional objective of the Protocol is to protect and assist the victims of trafficking in persons with full respect for their human rights. **Reference:** • Article 3, paragraph (a) of the United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons. http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/ProtocolTraffickingInPersons.aspx

Performance indicators	Unit	Definition and issues
141. Number of victims of human trafficking per 100,000 people	per 100,000 population	**Definition and measurement:** This indicator is the number of human trafficking victims per 100,000 of the population . Current data availability for Lao PDR is limited to detected victims of trafficking. For each victim who is detected, there are many more trafficked victims who are undetected. Trafficking in persons is defined as the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the following, for the purpose of exploitation: • the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion • abduction, or fraud, or deception • the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability, or • the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person. Exploitation includes, at a minimum, prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs. If the trafficked person is a child (i.e., under the age of 18 according to the Convention on the Rights of the Child), trafficking the child is still considered punishable even if that child goes along voluntarily with the traffickers, since this would be an abuse of a position of vulnerability. There are two steps in calculating the “number of victims”. Systems in Lao PDR will measure only the first step, the number of detected victims: • Detected: The number of victims is the number of adult women and men and girls and boys (below the age of 18 years) who have been trafficked and detected by the Lao authorities • Non-detected: The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) obtains the number of *estimated but non-detected* adult women and men and girls and boys (below the age of 18 years) who have been trafficked by using an estimated ratio between the detected and non-detected victims. This allows the agency to estimate the total number of human trafficking victims (detected and non-detected) at national, regional and global levels. In addition, the ratio is used to measure the efficiency of countries in detecting trafficking victims. Currently, the available and country-specific number of *detected* victims is collected yearly from the UN States Members using a specific questionnaire. It is published in the UNODC biennial Global Report on Trafficking in Persons. Data are available for about 130 countries since 2007. The data are disaggregated for age, sex and forms of exploitation. The estimated number of *non-detected* victims is established by applying methodologies developed to measure the estimated number of different hidden populations (e.g., Respondent Driven Sampling and Network Scale-up Method). These methodologies have been tested with different forms of trafficking in persons. **Development context:** Human trafficking for different forms of exploitation represents a major violation of victims’ human rights, dignity and inclusion in society. It has an impact on a person’s health and opportunities, it creates economic inequalities and it is a threat to personal security. The monitoring of this indicator will contribute to developing plans and strategies to combat trafficking at national, regional and global levels. It also helps to assess the capacity of countries to detect and consequently support victims of trafficking. It will raise awareness on the most prevalent forms of trafficking in persons in different parts of the world.

Performance indicators	Unit	Definition and issues
		References: • United Nations Sustainable Development Goals: http://unstats.un.org/sdgs/iaeg-sdgs/metadata-compilation/ and http://unstats.un.org/sdgs/files/metadata-compilation/Metadata-Goal-16.pdf • Article 3, paragraph (a) of the United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons. http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/ProtocolTraffickingInPersons.aspx
OUTCOME 3. Natural resources and the environment protected and sustainably managed, green growth promoted, disaster preparedness enhanced and climate resilience developed		
142. Forest area as a percentage of total land area	%	**Definition and measurement:** The Lao PDR definition of *forest* sets a higher standard for tree crown cover than the FAO definition. The Lao PDR definition is: Current Forest includes natural forests and plantation forests. It refers to land with a tree canopy cover of more than 20 percent and an area of more than 0.5 hectares. The trees should be able to reach a minimum height of 5 metres. The basis for the distinction between forest and other land use groups is the crown density. Some plantations are classified as forest. Rubber plantations are classified as Plantation Forest. However, oil palm plantations and bamboo forests are not considered as forests. Coffee, tea and shade-providing trees for coffee and tea, as well as fruit trees, are also not classified as Plantation Forest. The FAO definition of *forest* is: Land with tree crown cover (or equivalent stocking level) of more than 10 percent and area of more than 0.5 hectares. The trees should be able to reach a minimum height of 5 metres at maturity in situ. It also includes “plantations primarily used for forestry purposes, including rubber wood plantations”. Forest area excludes land that is predominantly under agricultural or urban land use. The Lao PDR definition of forest will be used, as was used for the 2013 MDG Report, which are definitions extracted from Forestry Strategy to the Year 2020 and Forestry Law 2007, Lao PDR. **Development context:** Forests fulfil a number of functions that are vital for humanity, including the provision of wood and non-wood forest products, and services such as habitat for biodiversity, carbon sequestration, coastal protection and soil and water conservation. This indicator provides a measure of the relative extent of forest in a country. The availability of accurate data on a country's forest area is a key element for forest policy and planning within the context of sustainable development. Changes in forest area reflect the demand for land for other uses and may help identify unsustainable practices in the forestry and agricultural sectors. Negative trends in the proportion of land covered by forest are a cause for concern due to the role played by forests in biodiversity conservation, climate change and provision of livelihoods. Positive trends indicate large reforestation efforts or the natural expansion of forest onto abandoned agricultural land. **Reference:**

Performance indicators	Unit	Definition and issues
		• Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and United Nations, 2013. The Millennium Development Goals: Progress Report for the Lao PDR 2013. Vientiane: Ministry of Foreign Affairs and United Nations.
143. Number of people killed, missing, injured, relocated or evacuated due to disaster per 100,000 people	per 100,000 population	**Definition and measurement:** A disaster is defined by the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) as: A serious disruption of the functioning of a community or a society involving widespread human, material, economic or environmental losses and impacts, which exceeds the ability of the affected community or society to cope using its own resources. The list of disasters includes weather phenomena such as tropical storms, extreme heat or extreme cold, winds, floods, earthquakes, landslides and volcanic eruptions. However, some of these events could also result from natural hazards increased by human action. Definitions are clear on the number killed but the number otherwise affected is subject to various interpretations. It is proposed to take only *those killed, injured and/or displaced* for Lao PDR's definition of those affected by disaster: in the definition of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) below, this would be the *primary population*. The numbers affected should then be divided by 100,000 to conform to international statistics. Disaster statistics for Lao PDR are collected by MoNRE and MoLSW. ECLAC defined the following populations affected by disaster: The *primary population* is in the direct path of the disaster and suffers the direct effects (death, homelessness, injury) of the disaster. The *secondary population* is near the path of the disaster and suffers the indirect effects of the event. These persons may include caregivers to the disaster affected and family and neighbours who take in the homeless. The *tertiary population* is outside the disaster zone but is affected by the disaster, e.g., through injury or other damage due to panic, loss of essential medical or social services, or any other severe disruption or inconvenience due to the disaster. It is proposed to take only the primary population for Lao PDR's definition of those affected by disaster. **Development context:** Disasters are often described as a result of the combination of exposure to a hazard, the conditions of vulnerability that are present, and insufficient capacity or measures to reduce or cope with the potential negative consequences. Disaster impacts may include loss of life, injury, disease and other negative effects on human physical, mental and social well-being, together with damage to property, destruction of assets, loss of services, social and economic disruption and environmental degradation. **References:** • United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR), 2009. 2009 UNISDR Terminology on Disaster Risk Reduction: http://www.unisdr.org/files/7817_UNISDRTerminologyEnglish.pdf Guho-Sapir, D., Hoyois, P., 2015. Estimating populations affected by disasters: A review of methodological issues *and research gaps* Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters (CRED): https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/7774UN%20Note%20on%20affected%20-%20Final%20version.pdf

Performance indicators	Unit	Definition and issues
Outcome 3, Output 1 – Environmental protection and sustainable natural resources management		
144. Production forest area: • certified by FSC • with FLEGT licence	hectare	**Definition and measurement:** This indicator measures the total number of hectares of production forest area that is certified by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) or with a Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) licence. The two processes are different and there is some overlap. The two are monitored separately. Production forests in Lao PDR refer to natural and planted forests for sustainable utilization purposes, including the harvesting of wood and forest products for local people's livelihood and for national socio-economic development (MAF definition for the 2013 MDG Report). FSC certification is a process where independent FSC-accredited certification bodies ("certifiers") verify that the certified forest conforms to the requirements contained within the relevant FSC forest management standard. The Action Plan on Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) is the European Union response to illegal logging. It was adopted in 2003. A FLEGT licence guarantees that timber from a Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) country has been harvested, processed and exported in accordance with national laws. **Development context:** FSC certification ensures that products come from well-managed forests that provide environmental, social and economic benefits. Forest owners and managers may want to become FSC certified to demonstrate that they are managing their forests responsibly. Along the supply chain, FSC certification can provide benefits such as access to new markets. The FSC Principles and Criteria set out best practices for forest management. In many countries, FSC regional or national standards are developed by FSC working groups. Regional and national standards transfer the FSC Principles and Criteria to the specific conditions and context found in each country or region. FLEGT licences serve border control requirements and are not intended as a product label. Illegal logging is the harvesting of timber in contravention of the laws and regulations of the country of harvest. Illegal logging is a global problem with significant negative economic, environmental and social impact. In economic terms, illegal logging results in lost revenues and other foregone benefits. In environmental terms, illegal logging is associated with deforestation, climate change and loss of biodiversity. In social terms, illegal logging can be linked to conflicts over land and resources, the disempowerment of local and indigenous communities, corruption and armed conflict. Illegal activities also undermine the efforts of responsible operators by making available cheaper but illegal timber and timber products in the market place. **References:** • Forest Stewardship Council: https://ic.fsc.org/en Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade: http://www.euflegt.efi.int/home
145. Number of projects that completed IEE and/or EIA before MPI signs to approve project implementation	number	**Definition and measurement:** This indicator is the number of projects having conducted an environmental impact assessment (EIA) and/or an initial environmental examination (IEE) in the period 2016-2020, and in line with the official guidelines of MoNRE/DESIA. This indicator is related to Indicator 3 but reports only on those projects that completed EIA and/or IEE before implementation. Indicator 3 gives the number of investment projects having been evaluated against social and environmental criteria.

Performance indicators	Unit	Definition and issues
146. Completion of land use classification in all parts of the country: • provinces • districts	number	**Definition and measurement:** This is the number of provinces and number of districts that have completed land use classification according to the standards and definitions as established by the Government.
147. Number of districts that have completed preliminary assessments for Green and Clean Towns (including climate-smart planning) along Road No. 13	number	**Definition and measurement:** Green and Clean Towns are towns that are environmentally sustainable, as defined by the Government in the National Guidelines for Environmentally Sustainable Cities. Measures to make a town green and clean include increasing the town's public green spaces, ensuring pollution-free natural waterways, preparing for full re-use and recycling of wastes, maintaining the air quality within the national standards and limiting greenhouse gas emissions from all sources.
148. Number of known species threatened with extinction • mammals • reptiles • birds • fish • amphibians	number	**Definition and measurement:** The number of known species threatened with extinction is those known to be threatened within those species that have been assessed to date by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN). It is not the overall total number of threatened species, as there are still many species that have not yet been assessed for the IUCN Red List and therefore their status is not known. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species provides taxonomic, conservation status and distribution information on plants, fungi and animals that have been globally evaluated using the IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria. This system is designed to determine the relative risk of extinction, and the main purpose of the IUCN Red List is to catalogue and highlight those plants and animals that are facing a higher risk of global extinction (i.e. those listed as Critically Endangered, Endangered and Vulnerable). **Development context:** This indicator is a measure of biodiversity. Protecting biodiversity is in the self-interest of humans and human civilizations. Nature's products support such diverse industries as agriculture, pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, pulp and paper, horticulture, construction and waste treatment. The loss of biodiversity threatens food supplies, opportunities for recreation and tourism, and sources of wood, medicines and energy. It also interferes with essential ecological functions. The vast array of interactions among the various components of biodiversity makes the planet habitable for all species, including humans. Human health and the health of economies and human societies depend on the continuous supply of various ecological services that would be extremely costly or impossible to replace. These natural services are so varied as to be almost infinite. For example, it would be impractical to replace, to any large extent, services such as pest control performed by various creatures feeding on one another, or pollination performed by insects and birds going about their everyday business. Goods and services provided by ecosystems include: (i) provision of food, fuel and fibre; (ii) provision of shelter and building materials; (iii) purification of air and water; (iv) detoxification and decomposition of wastes; (v) stabilization and moderation of the earth's climate; (vi) moderation of floods, droughts, temperature extremes and the forces of wind; (vii) generation and renewal of soil fertility, including nutrient cycling; (viii) pollination of plants, including many crops; (ix) control of pests and

Performance indicators	Unit	Definition and issues
		diseases; (x) maintenance of genetic resources as key inputs to crop varieties and livestock breeds, medicines, and other products; (xi) cultural and aesthetic benefits; and (xii) ability to adapt to change. **References:** • The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species http://www.iucnredlist.org/about/summary-statistics and http://cmsdocs.s3.amazonaws.com/summarystats/2016-1_Summary_Stats_Page_Documents/2016_1_RL_Stats_Table_5.pdf • Convention on Biological Diversity: Sustaining life on earth. https://www.cbd.int/convention/guide/default.shtml?id=changing
Outcome 3, Output 2 – Preparedness for natural disasters and risk mitigation		
Number of people killed, missing, injured, relocated or evacuated due to disaster per 100,000 people	%	See Indicator 143.
Outcome 3, Output 3 – Reduced instability of agricultural production		
149. Instability of agricultural production	Index	This is one of several criteria for LDC graduation. See Annex 3 .
CROSS CUTTING OUTPUTS		
Cross-cutting Output 1– Public governance and administration enhanced		
150. Percentage of districts meeting the criteria of a 3-builds district	%	**Definition and measurement:** The denominator for both indicators is the total number of districts in Lao PDR. For Indicator 150, the numerator is the number of districts meeting the criteria of 3-builds district; for Indicator 151, it is the number of districts having completed training for the rollout of the 3-builds. Under the Government's Sam Sang (3-builds) decentralization policy, local administrations are given a greater role and responsibility in exercising discretionary decision-making power and authority. According to the Government, a district under the 3-builds (Sam Sang) pilot scheme is comprehensively strong, with an increased role for district management, including the district Party committee and the district administrative authority, and strengthened planning and financial management systems. **Development context:** Prime Ministerial Decree No. 16 and the Resolution of the 9th Party Congress calls for resources to be channelled to sub-national level through the 3-builds strategy (Sam Sang): build the province as the strategic unit; build the district to be the overall strengthening unit; and build the village to be the development unit. In other words, provinces are to be built up as strategy-making units, districts are to be strengthened in all regards, and villages are to become development units. The
151. Percentage of districts having completed training for the rollout of the 3-builds (Sam Sang)	%	

Performance indicators	Unit	Definition and issues
		directive has been in force since October 2012 and provides a model for decentralized development through developing the districts and villages targeted as Sam Sang models, so these could in turn drive development in the surrounding areas. **Reference:** • Politburo Resolution No. 03/Politburo, dated 15/2/2012: Build Provinces to become Strategic Units, Build Districts to become Comprehensively Strong Units and Build Villages to become Development Units.
Cross-cutting Output 2 – Local innovation and use of science, technology and telecommunications promoted, information and communications technologies (ICT) enhanced		
152. Percentage of the population registered as Internet users through landline and wireless	%	**Definition and measurement:** The denominator is the total population while the numerator is the number of people registered as Internet users via landline and wireless. Internet users are people who have used the Internet (from any location) in the last 12 months. Internet can be used via a computer, mobile phone, personal digital assistant, games machine, digital TV, etc. Statistics on telecommunications and other ICT should differentiate among three measures: subscriptions, access and use. Household surveys are necessary for the last two. Information on subscriptions provides a general idea of access, but a more precise measure is the penetration rate - the share of households with access to telecommunications. Data on actual use of telecommunications services are also required. The 2011/12 LSIS in Lao PDR showed that Internet use varied by urban/rural residence, sex and wealth quintile. The SDGs measure "the proportion of individuals using the Internet," while the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) reports on "Internet users per 100 population". Indicator 152 will underestimate the number of internet users, since many people in Lao PDR access the Internet through their mobile phones (Indicator 153 measures the proportion of the population who are mobile phone users). The Ministry of Post and Telecommunications (MPT) notes that it is not possible to disaggregate users as personal and business: in businesses, one Internet account may be used by several people. **Development context:** Public access to the Internet is more affordable than access via private mobile phone. It is therefore important to measure both. People in low- and middle-income countries, including the underemployed, women, rural residents and others who are often marginalized, derive benefits in such areas as education, employment and health when they use computers and the Internet at public access venues. ICT offers vast opportunities for progress in all walks of life in all countries - opportunities for economic growth, improved health, better service delivery, learning through distance education, and social and cultural advances. Comparable statistics on access, use, quality, and affordability of ICT are needed to formulate growth-enabling policies for the sector and to monitor and evaluate the sector's impact on development. **References**: • International Telecommunication Union (ITU) statistics: http://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Statistics/Pages/stat/default.aspx • World Bank statistics from the ITU: http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/IT.NET.USER.P2

Performance indicators	Unit	Definition and issues
153. Proportion of the population registered as mobile phone users	%	**Definition and measurement:** The denominator is the total population, while the numerator is the number of people registered as mobile phone users. In Lao PDR, the data for this indicator is obtained from the administrative data of the Ministry of Post and Telecommunications (MPT). This indicator measures the subscriptions to a public mobile telephone service that provides access to a public switched telephone network using cellular technology. As with Indicator 152, statistics on telecommunications and other ICT should differentiate among three measures: subscriptions, access and use. Indicator 153 is not the same as Indicator 66 on the percentage of households using mobile phones (76 percent in 2012). More than one person may use the same mobile phone; in rural areas, more than one household may use the same mobile phone registered to one person in the village. **Development context:** The quality of an economy's infrastructure, including power and communications, is an important element in investment decisions for both domestic and foreign investors. Government effort alone is not enough to meet the need for investments in modern infrastructure; public–private partnerships, especially those involving local providers and financiers, are critical for lowering costs and delivering value for money. The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) estimates that there were about 6 billion mobile phone subscriptions globally in the early 2010s. No technology has ever spread faster around the world. Mobile communications have a particularly important impact in rural areas. The mobility, ease of use, flexible deployment, and relatively low and declining rollout costs of wireless technologies enable them to reach rural populations with low levels of income and literacy. **References**: • International Telecommunication Union (ITU) statistics: http://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Statistics/Pages/stat/default.aspx • World Bank statistics from the ITU: http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/IT.CEL.SETS.P2
154. Percentage of the population registered as landline and wireless home phone users	%	**Definition and measurement:** The denominator is the total population while the numerator is the number of people registered as landline and wireless home phone users (i.e., fixed telephone subscriptions). A landline phone uses a metal wire or fibre optic telephone line for transmission, as distinguished from a mobile cellular line, which uses radio waves for transmission. Fixed telephone lines are those that connect a subscriber's terminal equipment to the public switched telephone network and that have a port on a telephone exchange. Integrated services digital network channels and fixed wireless subscribers are included. The data for this indicator is obtained from the administrative data of the Ministry of Post and Telecommunications (MPT). **Development context:** Over the past decade, new financing and technology, along with privatization and market liberalization, have spurred dramatic growth in telecommunications in many countries. However, the number of landline subscribers is on the decline due to upgrades in digital technology and the relative ease of installing mobile wireless towers that people can connect to from anywhere, compared to the difficulties in installing landlines and the conveniences that come with switching to mobile telephony or Internet-based alternatives.

Performance indicators	Unit	Definition and issues
		References: • International Telecommunication Union (ITU) statistics: http://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Statistics/Pages/stat/default.aspx • World Bank statistics from the ITU: http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/IT.MLT.MAIN.P2
Cross-cutting Output 3 – Gender equality and empowerment of women and youth		
Gender equality in education and employment		See Indicators 60, 88-94, 43-47
155. Percentage of women in decision-making/leadership positions	%	**Definition and measurement:** The denominator of this indicator is the total number of men and women in decision-making/leadership positions. The numerator is the total number of women in those positions. The type and level of positions are as determined by the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Central Party Bureau. In the 2013 MDG Report, these positions were: National Assembly, Minister or equivalent, Deputy Minister or equivalent, Assistant to the Minister, Provincial Governor, Vice-Provincial Governor, District Governor, Vice District Governor, Village Chief, Deputy Village Chief, Director General or equivalent, Deputy Director General or equivalent. **Development context:** Lao PDR has among the highest proportions of women in national parliaments in the region. It is well above the world average in terms of women's representation in the National Assembly. However, the proportion of women in other decision-making institutions is still low. Out of more than 25,900 decision-making positions, only 5 percent were filled by women in 2012 and 13 percent in 2015. The Government aims to have women in more than 15 percent of all such decision-making positions by 2020.
156. Percentage of women in the National Assembly	%	**Definition and measurement:** This indicator is calculated as the total number of seats occupied by women divided by the total number of seats occupied in the National Assembly and multiplied by 100. The data is regularly updated by the National Assembly, and then sent to the Inter-Parliamentary Union. **Development context:** Lao PDR has among the highest proportions of women in national parliaments in the region, and higher than the world average (27.5 percent for Lao PDR against 22.7 percent for the global average as of 1 June 2016). The indicator measures the degree to which women have equal access to parliamentary decision-making. Women's participation in parliaments is a key aspect of women's opportunities in political and public life, and is therefore linked to women's empowerment. A stronger presence of women in parliament allows new concerns to be highlighted on political agendas, and new priorities to be put into practice through the adoption and implementation of policies and laws. The inclusion of the perspectives and interests of women is a prerequisite for gender equality, and contributes to good governance. A representative parliament also allows the different experiences of men and women to shape the social, political and economic future of societies. **Reference**: • Inter-Parliamentary Union: Women in National Parliaments: http://www.ipu.org/wmn-e/classif.htm

Performance indicators	Unit	Definition and issues
157. Share of women among owners of businesses/ enterprises	%	**Definition and measurement:** The denominator for this indicator is the total number of owners of businesses and enterprises. The numerator is the number of women owners. This indicator is measured through surveys. **Development context:** This indicator is one dimension of women's empowerment. In many developing countries, opportunities and incentives are unfavourable for women to begin businesses, even when they have the abilities and knowledge to do so. Women's entrepreneurship is largely skewed toward smaller firms. Additionally, the average growth rate of women's enterprises is significantly lower than the average growth rate for SMEs run by men. Among the barriers impeding the growth of women-owned businesses are institutional and regulatory issues, lack of access to finance, relatively low rates of business education or work experience, risk aversion, confinement of women's businesses to slower growth sectors, and the burden of household management responsibilities. The 2010 Labour Force Survey recorded a 23 percent share of women among employers. The MoLSW has the ownership records for registered businesses and enterprises. However, in the Lao PDR context, there are many small businesses in the informal sector. Although a proxy indicator can be derived from MoLSW records, this is not advisable as it would leave out many. **Reference:** • International Finance Corporation, 2011. Strengthening Access to Finance for Women-Owned SMEs in Developing Countries. http://www.ifc.org/wps/wcm/connect/a4774a004a3f66539f0f9f8969adcc27/G20_Women_Report.pdf?MOD=AJPERES
158. Percentage of time spent on unpaid domestic and care work by sex, age group and location	%	**Definition and measurement:** The OECD defines unpaid care work as all unpaid services provided within a household for its members, including care of persons, housework and voluntary community work. These activities are considered work, because theoretically one could pay a third person to perform them. Time use surveys are required to measure this indicator. The nature of the unpaid care/domestic work differentiates this indicator from Indicator 44, which covers "own-account and contributing family work". **Development context:** Around the world, women spend two to ten times more time on unpaid care work than do men. This unequal distribution of caring responsibilities is linked to discriminatory social institutions and stereotypes on gender roles. Gender inequality in unpaid care work is the missing link in the analysis of gender gaps in labour outcomes, such as labour force participation, wages and job quality. Tackling entrenched gender norms and stereotypes is a first step in redistributing responsibilities for care and housework between women and men. **Reference:** • Ferrant, G., Pesando, L.M. and Nowacka, K., 2014. Unpaid Care Work: The missing link in the analysis of gender gaps in labour outcomes. OECD Development Centre, December 2014 https://www.oecd.org/dev/development-gender/Unpaid_care_work.pdf

Performance indicators	Unit	Definition and issues
159. Adolescent pregnancy as a percentage of total pregnancy	%	**Definition and measurement:** The denominator is the total number of pregnancies, while the numerator is the number of pregnant adolescent women, defined for the purposes of this indicator as below the age of 19. This indicator also shows the extent of early marriage. The 2011/12 LSIS found that one in four young women aged 15-19 was currently married and that one in ten women were married before age 15. It is easier to measure adolescent pregnancy through the health system, although data may be poor. On the other hand, household surveys are required to measure early marriage. **Development context:** Monitoring adolescent pregnancies is the first step in attempting to reduce adolescent marriages and adolescent birth rate, which is an essential indicator for the design of policies aiming to achieve an overall improvement of maternal health. Maternal mortality for younger adolescent women (below age 18) tends to be much higher than for older women or older adolescents (ages 18 and 19). When the overall maternal mortality rate for adolescent women is high, reducing adolescent fertility contributes to improving maternal health by reducing overall maternal mortality rates. Very early motherhood not only increases the risk of dying in childbirth, it also jeopardizes the well-being of mothers and their children. Young mothers frequently forego education and socio-economic opportunities, and children born to adolescent mothers are at greater risk of dying in infancy or childhood and, if they survive, have fewer opportunities to participate in education.

Acronyms

AIDS: acquired immune deficiency syndrome
ASER: age-specific enrolment ratio
ASLO: assessment of student learning outcomes
AXO: abandoned explosive ordnance
CBHI: community-based health insurance
CHA: confirmed hazardous area
DCED: Donor Committee for Enterprise Development
DFQF: duty free and quota free
DHA: defined hazardous area
DOTS: directly observed treatment short course
DPT: diphtheria, pertussis (whooping cough), and tetanus
ECD: early childhood development
ECE: early childhood education
ECLAC: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
EIA: environmental impact assessment
ESIA: environmental and social impact assessment
ETPR: employment-to-population ratio
FDI: foreign direct investment
FLEGT: Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade
FSC: Forest Stewardship Council
FTE: full-time equivalent
GER: gross enrolment ratio
HEF: Health Equity Fund
HIV: human immunodeficiency virus
IAEG: Inter-Agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators
IBBS: integrated biological and behavioural surveillance
IMR: infant mortality rate
ISCED: International Standard Classification of Education
ICT: information and communications technologies
IMF: International Monetary Fund
ITU: International Telecommunication Union
IUCN: International Union for the Conservation of Nature
JMP: Joint Monitoring Programme
LDC: Least Developed Country
LECS: Lao Expenditure and Consumption Survey
LSIS: Lao Social Indicators Survey
MAF: Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
MDG: Millennium Development Goal
MICS: Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey
MMR: maternal mortality ratio
MoES: Ministry of Education and Sports
MoH: Ministry of Health
MoIC: Ministry of Industry and Commerce
MoICT: Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism
MoLSW: Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare
MoNRE: Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment
MPI: Ministry of Planning and Investment
MPT: Ministry of Post and Telecommunications
NCAW: National Commission for the Advancement of Women
NCRDPE: National Committee for Rural Development and Poverty Eradication
NER: net enrolment rate
NSEDP: National Socio-Economic Development Plan
OECD: Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
RIES: Research Institute for Educational Sciences

IEE: initial environmental examination

SASS: State Authority for Social Security

SDG: Sustainable Development Goal
SEZ: Special Economic Zone
SMEPDO: Small and Medium Enterprise Promotion and Development Office
SSO: social security organization
STI: sexually transmitted infection
TB: tuberculosis
TVET: technical and vocational education and training
U5MR: under-5 mortality rate
UHC: universal health coverage
UNAIDS: Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNCTAD: United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNICEF: United Nations Children's Fund
UNISDR: United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction
UNODC: United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UPR: Universal Periodic Review
UXO: unexploded ordnance
VPA: Voluntary Partnership Agreement
WHO: World Health Organization
WTO: World Trade Organization