

Preamble:

The mid-term review of the 9th Five-year National Socio-Economic Development Plan (2021-2025) is an important mechanism to evaluate the implementation of the first half-term of the plan by summarizing the results obtained, good points, pending issues, causes and actual lessons to determine the direction in the last half of the plan. The summary also indicates the impact of external and internal factors that have resulted in both positive and negative aspects in the implementation of the national economic-social development plan for the past 5 years.

Based on Decree No. 90/PM, dated January 31, 2023, regarding the assignment and division of responsibilities across sectors and localities for implementing the 2023 Socio-Economic Development Plan, as well as the preparation of the mid-term review of the 9th Five-Year National Socio-Economic Development Plan (2021-2025), and Agreement No. 56/PM, dated April 24, 2023, on the appointment of a committee responsible for the mid-term review, ultimately the progress in implementing the 9th National Socio-Economic Development Plan (2021-2025) and the 10th five-year plan directions (2026-2030) has been thoroughly examined. This review process involved consultations at various levels, from the technical level in collaboration with relevant sectors for instant private sectors, development partners and social organizations as well as the government level, before being presented and approved during the 6th Ordinary Session of the 9th Legislature of National Assembly, as outlined in National Assembly Resolution No. 118/NA, dated November 21, 2023.

The mid-term review of the 9th Five-Year Socio-Economic Development Plan (2021-2025) provided an in-depth analysis of the plan's three strategic directions, six overarching goals, and 25 key focus areas over the past two and a half years. This review included a comprehensive assessment of achievements, shortcomings, underlying causes, lessons learned, and strategic priorities for the remainder of the plan's implementation through 2025.

The mid-term review of the 9th Five-Year Socio-Economic Development Plan (2021-2025) holds great significance and follows key technical principles, focusing on the following: (1) assessing the progress and achievements of the plan's implementation, including evaluating the alignment of the design outcomes with the monitoring and evaluation (M&E) framework; (2) conducting in-depth analysis and research to identify internal and external factors impacting the achievement of development goals; (3) identifying methods and corrective measures to accelerate the implementation of the plan during the remaining period until 2025; and (4) drawing lessons for the development for the 10th Five-Year National Socio-Economic Development Plan (2026-2030).

Over the past two and a half years, the implementation of the 9th Five-Year National Socio-Economic Development Plan (2021-2025) has taken place amid significant regional and international challenges, including economic and financial difficulties within the country, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and natural disasters. However, under the leadership of the Central Party's Political Bureau, the oversight of the National Assembly, and the proactive management of the government—combined with the contributions of Party and State organizations at all levels, the participation of people from all ethnic groups, and the support of friendly nations and development partners—our country has maintained strong political stability. Society remains fundamentally peaceful and orderly, and the economy has achieved an average annual growth rate of 4.03% per year. Additionally, cultural and social development has progressed, and the living conditions of the population have gradually improved. However, several key indicators are progressing slowly and are

at risk of not meeting their targets, including macroeconomic factors such as the inflation rate and exchange rate, as well as areas like education, public health, rural development, and poverty alleviation. These challenges will require intensified efforts over the remaining period of the 9th Five-Year National Socio-Economic Development Plan (2021-2025) to ensure successful outcomes by 2025.

In conclusion, I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to all parties from the central to local levels along with the private sector, development partners, and social organizations, for their active participation in the evaluation of the implementation of the 9th Five-Year National Socio-Economic Development Plan (2021-2025), which has seen significant success. I would also like to express my sincere thanks to the United Nations Development Programme for providing both financial and technical support for the mid-term review of the plan. I am confident that all relevant stakeholders will continue to offer their support and actively contribute to the successful implementation of the plan as we approach the end of its term, ensuring the achievement of its intended goals.

Vientiane, Date 6 August 2024.

Minister

Ministry of Planning and Investment

Dr. Phet Phomphiphack

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Chapter I

Mid-Term Review of the 9th Five-Year National Socio-Economic Development Plan (2021-2025)

I. Overall Context

1. Regional and International Context

During the mid-term implementation of the 9th Five-Year National Socio-Economic Development Plan (2021-2025) it has been carried out during a time of rapid changes of regional and international context and faced numerous challenges, for instant: In 2021, the COVID-19 pandemic continued to spread due to the mutation of the virus into Omicron variant, which spread faster than the Delta variant. This led to a sharp increase in new infections, prompting some countries, such as Japan, the Netherlands and Germany, to resume epidemic control measures and impose travel restrictions for travellers from high-risk areas. In. However, the distribution of COVID-19 vaccines has been successful in many countries, such as the US, European Union, and England and in many other countries, which has helped the socio-economic activities to be recovered, however, the prices of goods and energy in the global market have also risen, putting pressure on inflation rates to exceed the monetary targets set by many countries. In response, the central banks of the United States and European countries eased monetary policy, while the central banks in many countries adjusted interest rates to reduce inflationary pressure.

In 2022, economic growth progressed in a challenging and volatile global and regional context caused by Covid-19, natural disasters, and political conflicts in some countries, resulting in a slowdown in world economic growth from 6.0% in 2021 to 3.2% in 2022 (which was also lower than the previously forecasted 3.6% in April 2022). Data from some countries showed economic contraction: the USA's growth rate reduced to 1.6% (from 5.7% in 2021), the European Union's growth rate decreased to 3.1% (from 5.2% in 2021), and China's growth rate fell to 3.2% (from 8.1% in 2021) as well as in many other countries. In the meantime, many countries have been affected by high inflation rates: Thailand at 6.41%, Cuba at 34.3%, Sri Lanka at 69.8%, Argentina at 83% and other countries. Additionally, fuel prices have also increased, with New Zealand at \$ 2.2 per litre, Hong Kong at \$ 2.94 per litre, Germany at \$1.9 per litre and other countries¹.

During the first six months of 2023, the world continued to face rapid changes and difficulties, impacting nearly every country worldwide, particularly geopolitical conflicts, military, growing strategic conflicts between major countries, along with economic and financial difficulties, climate change, natural disasters, food insecurity, nutrition issues, and increasing hunger, among others. These events had a significant impact on many countries' economy, leading to many countries experiencing slower growth rates in 2023. For instant: the United States' economy was expected to grow at a slower rate of 1.6% in 2023, down from 2.1% in 2022. Similarly, the European Union was expected to grow at a slower rate of 0.8% in 2023, down from 3.5% in 2022. However, some countries have shown signs of recovery, such as China, which was expected to grow by 5.2% in 2023 (Up from 3% in 2022), the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, which is expected to grow by 5.8% in 2023 (Down from 8% in 2022), and Thailand, which was expected to grow by 3.4% in 2023 (Up from 2.6% in 2022). Overall, the global economy was

¹ Inflation and fuel price data are current as of September 2022.

expected to grow more slowly in 2023 compared to the previous year, decreasing from 3.4% in 2022 to 2.8% in 2023.

2. Local Context

The implementation of the plan over the past two and a half years has occurred under mixed regional and international conditions, notably the situation has been further complicated by the prolonged and severe impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, economic and financial difficulties, climate change, fluctuation in energy and food prices and other affecting unevenly countries around the world.

Domestically, the country faced difficulties from the severe and prolonged spread of Covid-19 and economic-financial challenges, cascading effects from external shocks, and frequent natural disasters. Under the guidance of the Political Bureau of the Central Party and the supervision of the National Assembly, the government has translated the 9th Five-Year National Socio-Economic Development Plan (2021-2025) and the two national agendas into detailed programs, projects, as well as determined the mechanisms, and measures for their implementation in each phase. The results of these efforts are as follows.

II. Achievements of implementation of the 9th Five-Year National Socio-Economic Development Plan (2021-2025)

1. Outcome 1: The national economy is continuously expanding, with qualitative, Stability and Sustainability

1.1 Output 1: Quality and Sustainable Economic Growth

1. Economic Growth (GDP)

– **GDP Growth²:** The economy has grown by an average of 4.03% over the last two and a half years (2021-2023) (surpassing the 5-Year Plan average target of 4% or more). The growth rate was 3.5% in 2021, 4.4% in 2022, and was expected to reach 4.5% in 2023. The Gross Domestic Product (GDP) was calculated based on the current prices of each year. The total value of the GDP in the three-year period is expected to be 658,063.30 billion Kip, which accounts for 49.12% of the five-year plan (1,056,692 billion Kip). The breakdown of the GDP value by year is as follows: 184,982 billion Kip in 2021, 215,609.30 billion Kip in 2022, 118,467 billion Kip in the first six months of 2023, and an expected 257,472 billion Kip by the end of 2023. *However, the depreciation of the Kip has caused a decrease in the Gross Domestic Product (GDP). The GDP per capita was 2,595 US dollars in 2021, decreased to 2,022 US dollars in 2022, and was expected to further decrease to 1,824 US dollars in 2023 (The 5-Year Plan target is 2,880 US dollars). The Gross National Income (GNI) per capita was 2,452 US dollars in 2021, dropped to 1,901 US dollars in 2022, and was projected to decrease even further to 1,712 US dollars in 2023 (The 5-Year Plan target for GNI per capita is 2,280 US dollars).*

² National Assembly Resolution No. 118/NPC, dated November 21, 2023, on the approval of the government's report regarding the conclusion of the implementation of the IX 5-Year Mid-Term National Socio-Economic Development Plan (2021-2025), the strategic direction for the end-of-term plan by 2025, and the implementation of the 2023 and 2024 annual plans.

The performance of each component is as follows:

- **Agricultural sector:** The average growth increased to 3.10% compared to the target of 2.50% average increase in 5-Year Plan. In 2021, the growth rate was 2.50%, while it rose to 3.40% in 2022, and it was expected to remain at 3.40% in 2023.

- **Industrial sector:** The average growth rate is 4.50% compared to the target of 4.10% average increase in 5-Year Plan. In 2021, the growth rate was 6.10%, followed by 4.40% in 2022, and an expected growth of 3.10% in 2023.

- **Service sector:** The average growth rate is 4.00% compared to the target of 6.00% average increase in 5-Year Plan. In 2021, the growth rate was 1.40%, followed by 5.00% in 2022, and an expected growth of 5.60% in 2023.

- **Customs and tax revenue:** The average growth rate is 3.40% compared to the target of 5.80% average increase in 5-Year Plan. In 2021, the growth rate was 3.10%, followed by 3.90% in 2022, and an expected growth of 3.80% in 2023.

– Economic structure:

- **Agricultural sector:** Accounts for 18.40% of GDP on average. In 2021, its share of GDP was 16.0%, increased to 17.8% in 2022 and was expected to reach 21.40% of GDP in 2023 (5-Year target: 15.30% of GDP).

- **Industrial sector:** Accounts for 33.40% of GDP on average. In 2021, its share of GDP was 34.00%, stable at 34.00% in 2022 and was expected to reach 32.20% in 2023 (5-Year Plan target: 32.30% of GDP).

- **Service sector:** Accounts for 37.00% of GDP on average. In 2021, its share of GDP was 38.10%, decreased to 37.00% in 2022 and was expected to reach 35.90% of GDP in 2023 (5-Year Plan target: 40.70% of GDP) and

- **Customs and tax revenue:** Accounts for 11.30% of GDP on average. In 2021, its share of GDP was 12.00%, decreased to 11.10% in 2022 and was expected to reach 11.00% in 2023 (5-Year Plan target: 11.70% of GDP).

The primary drivers of economic growth over the past two and a half years have been the energy-mining sector, the construction sector, the processing industrial sector, the agricultural production sector, and the communication sector. Following the relaxation of Covid-19 restrictions and the official reopening of the country in mid-2022, socio-economic activities, particularly those related to tourism and transportation, have experienced a significant increase compared to 2020.

Despite the numerous challenges, the Central Party and the Government have made efforts to stimulate the growth of the production and service sectors through reopening the country, promoting domestic production to replace imports and exports, implementing pilot mining projects and large-scale initiatives, and boosting tourism both domestically and internationally. Additionally, the Government has provided credits to finance to revival the economy. These measures have supported the economy in maintaining a growth rate within the 5-Year Plan target of 4% or higher. *However, it was also evident that in 2021, the growth rate did not meet the annual expectations due to the severe impact of the Covid-19 outbreak. This impact was especially pronounced because of the strict prevention and restriction measures both at home and abroad, which prevented the businesses from operating normally. Furthermore, the economic growth has not achieved the desired quality, as it is heavily reliant on natural resource-based sectors such as hydropower, mining, and construction that are mostly foreign investment. These sectors have provided few formal employment opportunities and have led to large external debts. Additionally, some of these activities have had negative environmental and social impacts. The economy lacks*

diversity, with a focus on low-quality products comprising raw materials and semi-finished goods that possess low added value. Despite economic growth, the real income of the people has been on a downward trend due to the depreciation of the Kip and increased prices of consumer products, significantly impacting people's livelihoods.

2. Development of Agricultural and Forestry Sector

Cultivation:

+ Rice production: In the last two years, the total production of husked rice was estimated to have reached an average of 3.78 million tons per year, which aligns with the planned target of 3.5-4 million tons per year. In 2021, the production was 3.66 million tons, and in 2022 it increased to 3.78 million tons, with an expected further increase to 3.90 million tons in 2023. *The production of rice met the plan due to higher rice prices, which motivated farmers to produce more. Additionally, the support and monitoring provided by central and local organizations played a significant role in encouraging increased production.*

Rice production							
No	Types of rice	2021		2022		2023	
		Harvested areas (Ha)	Production (Tons)	Harvested areas (Ha)	Production (Tons)	Harvested areas (Ha)	Expected Production (Tons)
1	Rain-fed rice	771,329	3,102,323	769,544	3,156,800	796,224	3,252,800
2	Irrigated rice	86,960	392,490	95,480	438,000	96,543	442,000
3	Highland rice	81,373	165,187	92,605	187,780	100,905	205,400
Total		936,662	3,660,000	957,629	3,782,580	945,963	3,900,200

+ Food crop production: The focus has been on producing food crops to meet domestic consumption, nutritional, and raw material needs for processing plants to transform agricultural products into commodities. Over the last two and half years, the average production of food crops has been 2.63 million tons per year, exceeding the target by 24% (5-Year Plan target: 2.12 million tons per year). In 2021, the production was 3.13 million tons, in 2022 it was 2.36 million tons, and it was projected to reach 2.42 million tons in 2023. The food crops with the most outstanding production were sweet corn, vegetables, and fruits, due to the increased demand for domestic consumption and agricultural processing.

Cultivation of Food Crops					
No	Cultivation Types	5-Year Target (Tons)	Production in 2021 (Tons)	Production in 2022 (Tons)	Expected Production in 2023 (Tons)
1	Sweet corn	223,720	211,300	170,930	161,740
2	Sweet potato / taro	134,340	214,584	214,350	250,343
3	Vegetables	1,462,000	1,437,781	1,492,950	1,422,000
4	Fruits	307,900	1,310,378	491,350	630,000

+ Commodity crop production: Farmers were encouraged to produce crops as commodities based on the potential of each locality, with focuses on accelerating the production of plants and animals that had market access agreements. Over the last two and half years, the average production of these crops has been 7.89 million tons per year, surpassing the 5-Year Plan target of 7.4 million tons per year. In 2021, the production was 5.78 million tons. In 2022, it increased to 8.17 million tons, and it was expected to reach 9.73 million tons in 2023. The prominent crops, such as coffee, saw an 8% increase, sugarcane increased by 26%, cassava increased by 31%, and other crops also contributed to the overall production.

Commodity Crops					
No	Crop Types	5-Year Target (Tons)	Production in 2021 (Tons)	Production in 2022 (Tons)	Expected Production in 2023 (Tons)
1	Coffee	175,500	161,200	171,000	183,000
2	Feed Corn	636,900	535,237	462,810	458,000
3	Cassava	3,600,000	3,710,000	4,863,400	6,255,000
4	Sugarcane	1,600,000	1,141,200	1,502,272	1,653,000
5	Banana	735,500	907,303	737,740	861,000

+ Production of meat, eggs, and fish: Over the last two and half years, the production of meat, eggs and fish has generally been able to meet domestic consumption needs, an average production of these products has been 507,880 tons, which represents 88.02% of the planned amount (5-Year Plan target: 577,000 tons per year). In 2021, the production was 485,480 tons; in 2022, it was 507,644 tons, and it was expected to reach 530,517 tons in 2023. *The average consumption rate is 68.2 kg per person per year, falling short of the five-year plan target of 73 kg per person per year.*

Production of Meat, Eggs and Fish					
No.	Types of Product	5-Year Target (Tons)	Production in 2021 (Tons)	Production in 2022 (Tons)	Expected Production in 2023 (Tons)
1	Meat	285,000	237,130	244,781	257,145
2	Eggs	55,000	42,350	47,263	50,272
3	Fish	237,000	206,000	215,600	223,100
Total		577,000	485,480	507,644	530,517

Animal husbandry and fisheries:

The animal husbandry sector has grown by an average of 3.36% per year, aligning with the 5-Year Plan target of 3-4% per year. In 2021, the growth rate was 2.70% per year, in 2022 it reached 3.88% per year, and in 2023 it was projected to be 3.50% per year. Currently, there are 2,261 livestock farms nationwide, housing more than 6.50 million animals. Over the last two and half years, the number of cattle farms has increased by 271, pig farms by 261, and egg farms by 73, which can achieve an average meat yield from animal husbandry of 41% of the total meat production.

Export of agricultural and forestry products:

+ Technical negotiation to open new markets: 64 trade items have been entered into contracts and can be officially exported to trading partners, representing an increase of 27 items compared to 2020. Among these, 33 items are destined for export to China, comprising 30 plant items and 3 large animal items, marking a significant increase of 27 items. Additionally, 16 plant items are designated for export to Vietnam, and 15 plant items to Thailand. It is worth noting that the European Union is open to all types of products that comply with the conditions set by the Union.

+ Export of agricultural products: Over the past two and half years, the average annual export value of agricultural products has been 1,425.09 million US dollars, surpassing the target by 11.13% (5-Year Plan target: \$1,200 million US dollars per year). Specifically, the export value in 2021 was 1,100 million US dollars, followed by 1,733.11 million US dollars in 2022 with expected full-year figure to reach 1,442.17 million US dollars.

For locally producible varieties, rice stands out as the most prominent, with 8 new varieties currently under research. Additionally, a list of goods aimed at promoting domestic production has been identified, consisting of 9 types of plants and three types of animals. Furthermore, sanitary, and phytosanitary (SPS) negotiations have facilitated the export for 48 items with neighboring countries, of which 10 are implemented as part of the national agenda.

Challenges: The weaknesses in industrializing and modernizing agricultural production, as well as the limited application of new scientific and technical achievements are still pervasive. The production and agricultural processing sectors remain in their early stages of development compared to the country's potential. The quantity and quality of the goods have not yet met the standards of trading partners. Access to appropriate funding sources remains challenging, and production costs are high, making it difficult to compete in domestic, regional, and global markets. Furthermore, *there are limitations in the proper handling and transportation of agricultural goods*, and the country faces significant deficits in products that cannot be domestically produced. These limitations have been further compounded by a volatile economic situation, rising input costs for agricultural production, the adverse effects of climate change, the negative impacts of pesticides, and the occurrence of natural disasters. As a result, *farmers' incomes are increasingly vulnerable*.

3. Development of Industrial Sector

+ **Processing industry and handicrafts:** Over the past two and half years, the production value of the processing industry has been 32,067.23 billion Kip, equivalent to 38.60% of the planned value for the 5-Year period (83,079.83 billion Kip). This represents an average annual increase of 4.79%, falling short of the 5-Year Plan target of 8-10% growth. Specifically, in 2021, the production value of the sector reached 11,878.86 billion Kip. In 2022, it increased to 13,210 billion Kip, and in the first 6 months of 2023, it amounted to 6,978.34 billion Kip. The ratio of the total production value of important processing industries is as follows: (1) Food production accounts for 24.01%, including tea, coffee, bread, instant noodles, rice noodles, noodles, canned food, dried fruits, sauce, meatballs, and others; (2) Production of beverages covers 16.75%, encompassing mainly soft drinks, beer, alcohol and so on; (3) Clothing production represents 12.21% of the total; (4) Production of paper and paper products makes up 9.43%, including pulp, hard paper, tissue paper, and so on; (5) Electrical and electronic equipment production accounts for 6.24%, including camera parts, rice cookers, fans, electric cables and so on; (6) Production of minerals other than metals covers 5.76%, including cement, brick, block, and so on; (7) Production of rubber and plastic products represents 4.21%, encompassing mainly plastic furniture, plastic bags, rubber pipes.

Challenges: Despite growth, the processing and handicraft sectors has expanded at a slower pace than expected and has not yet experienced the significant growth needed to align with regional and international economic development trends. Most of the processing sectors have not had the capacity to absorb the raw materials that the country can supply. This is primarily due to an unclear industrial support policy, insufficient investments in supporting infrastructure, a lack of systematic provision of production and supply information, and low usage of technologies in these sectors.

Energy and mine: Achievements over the past two and a half years are as follows:

+ Energy sector:

– Electricity production has reached a total of 120,263 million kilowatt hours, compared to 43.56% of the 8th 5-Year Plan target of 276,096 million kilowatt hours, falling short of the target of 2.14%. In 2021, the production was 44,915-million-kilowatt hours, and in 2022, it increased to 51,031 million kilowatt hours. In the first 6 months of 2023, production reached 24,316 million kilowatt hours. The value of electricity generation value reached 93,848 billion Kip, equivalent to 66.62% of the 5-Year Plan target (140,879 billion Kip, increased by 79%), marking a 186.42% increase compared to the first half of the VIII plan of up to 107,42%. This significant increase was

mainly due to the substantial depreciation of the Lao Kip, which began in the second half of 2022. In 2021, the production value was 26,813 billion Kip, which increased to 45,070 billion Kip in 2022. The production value for the first half of 2023 stood at 21,965 billion Kip, in which:

- Distribution of electricity to foreign countries: The distribution of electricity to foreign countries reached 95,616 million kilowatt hours, valued at 5,719 million US dollars, reflecting a 65.66% increase compared to the first half of the VIII plan;
- Domestic electricity distribution amounted to 22,789 million kilowatt-hours, valued at 1,456 million US dollars, marking an 83.60% increase compared to the first half of the VIII plan.

– Import of electricity from foreign countries: reached 2,781 million kilowatt hours, valued at 156 million US dollars, increasing 81.64% compared to the first half of the VIII plan.

– Under the regional energy cooperation framework, Laos can export 655 MW of installed capacity (520 MW to Thailand, 100 MW to Singapore, and 35 MW to Myanmar), equivalent to 13.10% of the plan (5-Year Plan target: 5,000 MW) accumulated installed capacity to produce electricity for export has now reached 7,000 MW.

– Currently, there are 94 power plants with a capacity of 1 MW or greater, totalling an installed capacity of 11,661.14 MW, capable of producing 58,813.42 GWh of electricity annually. Of these, 81 are hydropower plants, 8 are solar power plants, 4 are biogas power plants, and 1 is a coal power plant. In the first two and a half years of the NSEDP, 10 power plant projects have been completed, with a combined installed capacity of 1,501.50 MW, capable of producing 5,881.47 GWh of electricity per year. This accounts for 22.22% of the 5-Year Plan's target of 45 power plants. In 2021, the four constructed power plants included the lower Hinboun River dam (15 MW), Nam Ou 7 (210 MW), Nam Kong 1 (160 MW), and Nam Kong 3 (54 MW). In 2022, the two constructed power plants included the Huai Lamphanh lower section (15 MW) and Nam Theun 1 (650 MW). In the first six months of 2023, the four constructed dams included Nam Yimou (131.50 MW), Nam Sam 3 (156 MW), Nam Sam 1A (50 MW), and Huai LaNgae (60 MW).

+ Mining sector:

– The mineral production value reached 5,024 million US dollars, which accounted for 61.039% of the 5-Year Plan target of 7,832.10 million US dollars. This represents a 64.14% increase compared to the first half of the VIII plan. In 2021, the production value was 1,678 million US dollars. In 2022, it increased to 2,133 million US dollars. In the first six months of 2023, production value was 1,213 million US dollars.

– The distribution of ore reached 5,278 million US dollars, equivalent to 63.31% of the 5-Year Plan target of 8,336.40 million US dollars. This includes: (1) ore exports reaching 4,525 million US dollars, equivalent to 71.12% of the target of 6,362.40 million US dollars; and (2) domestic ore distribution reaching 753 million US dollars, equivalent to 38.14% of the target of 1,974 million US dollars.

– The Government has completed a project to conduct a basic geological and mineral map survey, at the ratio of 1/200.000, covering an area of 162,104 km², which represents 68.04% of the country's total land area. However, due to financial and economic difficulties, it is anticipated that only an additional 74,669 km² that has not been implemented, which covered 31.5% of the country's total area will be surveyed; by 2025, only 7,469 km², equivalent to just 10% of the

remaining unsurveyed land including: Xaysomboun province, Borlikhamxay province, Xekong province, Champasak province, and Attapeu province will be surveyed.

Production of Electricity and Mineral Products							
No.	Type of Production	Unit	5-Year Plan Target	2021	2022	2023	
						First Six Months	2.5 Year Average
I	Energy Sector						
1	Electricity Generation	Million Kwh	276,096	44,915	51,031	24,316	120,263
2	Value of Electricity Generation	Billion Kip	140,879	26,813	45,070	21,965	93,849
3	Export of Electricity	MW	5,000	0	655	0	655
4	Export Electricity to Foreign Countries	Million Kwh		36,617	39,965	19,033	95,616
5	Domestic Electricity Distribution	Million Kwh		8,011	9,704	5,073	22,789
II	Mineral Sector						
1	Mineral Production	Million USD	7,832.10	1,678	2,133	1,213	5,024
		Billion Kip		16,613	25,847	10,805	61,039
2	Export of Mineral Products	Million USD	8,336.40	1,630	1,808	805	4,525
3	Domestic Distribution of Mineral Products	Million USD		283	322	156	753

+ From the beginning of the national agenda until May 2023, a total of 89 companies have signed mining concession contracts in the pilot scheme. These included 38 iron ore, 8 gold ore, 2 Mabo stone, 31 oxide gold ore, and 10 rare ore companies. They covered an area of 36,450.11 hectares, which represents 0.13% of the country's total area. However, in fulfilling its obligations, the financing of the pilot scheme to the government, which includes advance payments and license purchase obligations, involves a total of 109 companies. Of these, 89 companies have signed concession agreements, 8 companies that have not yet signed such agreements, and 12 companies are involved in the rare minerals survey projects, with a total value of approximately 959.68 billion Kip and 177.17 million US dollars.

- The iron ore: 38 projects have provided advance guarantees of 21.38 million US dollars and 280.6 billion Kip, along with contractual obligations amounting to 75.557.000 US dollars and 6.9 billion Kip.
- Rare mineral projects: There are 20 projects, 13 of which are mining projects that have paid 20.5 million US dollars and 92.1 billion Kip in advance for resource costs. Three

projects, valued at \$ 2.5 Million, have been granted concessions for \$37.49 million and \$456.37 billion. Seven projects are overdue, with a total value of \$19.5 million.

- Oxide gold ore: There are a total of 39 oxide gold ore mine projects that have been granted concessions for 1,495 million US dollars and 75.94 billion Kip. These projects have paid lump sum duties of 89.069 million US dollars.
- Rare ore: There are 20 projects that have been granted concessions for 37.49 million US dollars and 456.37 billion Kip. Among these, 10 projects have paid 22 million US dollars, and 13 projects have paid resource costs of 20.5 million US dollars and 92.1 billion Kip.
- Ores: There are 9 projects, having paid 15.06 million US dollars and 120.61 billion Kip as deposits.
- Mabo stone: There are 2 projects, which have paid 600,000 US dollars as deposits.

4. Development of Service Sectors

- + **Domestic trade (Wholesale-retail and repair services):** The value of goods in the last two and a half years amounted to 171,347.70 billion Kip, representing 40.39% of the 5-Year Plan target of 424,247.50 billion Kip. The average annual growth rate during this period was 6.79%, falling short of the 5-Year Plan target of 8-10%. Specifically, in 2021, the value of goods was 61,092.71 billion Kip, while in 2022 it increased to 72,622.05 billion Kip. In the first six months of 2023, it amounted to 37,632,93 billion Kip. Among these, food accounted for 16.21%, construction equipment accounted for 15.66%, fuel and gas accounted for 11.47%, goods used for agricultural production accounted for 10.40%, handicrafts and woven products accounted for 10.12%, vehicles and spare parts accounted for 7.95%, beverages, alcohol, and tobacco accounted for 4.12%, and consumer goods and cosmetics accounted for 1.67%.

Challenges: The implementation and execution of trade activities during the past period have not been well-structured or effectively implemented. In particular, despite policies and measures in place, the control and management of commodity prices have been inadequate. Since mid-2022, various external factors, including rising inflation, the depreciation of the euro, and increasing fuel prices, have significantly driven up commodity prices directly impacting on people's livelihoods.

- + **Tourism:** Complete the tourism development plans, including: (1) tourism sector recovery plans after the Covid-19 pandemic (2021-2025); (2) Meuang Feuung Tourism Development Plan for 2023-2025; (3) Chinese tourist reception plan (2023-2025); (4) Study on Laos' agrotourism feasibility; (5) Compilation of tourist destinations and hospitality with participation from local people; (6) Improvement of the Master Plan to Develop and Manage Vang Vieng Tourism (2023-2033); (7) Constructing and upgrading of tourism infrastructure and facilities such as: (a) Champasak Province: Complete the improvement of clean toilets at Tat Farn Waterfall in accordance with ASEAN standards and construct a concrete road from Don Det to Don Kon in Khong District; (b) Vientiane Province: Improve the access road to Nam Ngeum Dam 1 and enhance tourism facilities in front of Nam Ngeum Dam 1, including the port, parking lots, shops, restaurants, and playgrounds; (c) Vang Vieng District, Vientiane Province: Upgrade the 6-kilometer concrete road leading to Keng Yui Waterfall and develop tourism facilities in the area. Improve the 26-kilometer road on the west side of the Song River into a two-layer asphalt road and build an 80-meter-long and 11-meter-wide bridge over the Song River. Also,

improve the landfill in Vang Vieng District; (8) Survey to collect information on tourism facilities and products to integrate into the Mekong Sub Region (through Lao-China Railway); (9) Participated in the ITE-HCMC 2022 tourism exhibition in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam; ASEAN Tourism Exhibition ATF 2022 in Sihanoukville, Cambodia; ITB Asia 2022 travel exhibition in Singapore; Attended the ASEAN Tourism Ministers' Meeting; The conference and tourism exhibition ASEAN ATF 2023 in Yogyakarta, Indonesia and the tourism exhibition BITE Beijing 2023 in China; (10) Prepared personnel as Lao Safe standard assessors with a total of 15 people and completed the assessment and issued the Lao Safe standard certificate for the business sector related to tourism; (11) Completed the assessment and verification of Lao Safe standards for service business units in the tourism sector with a total of 767 units; in which 594 units have been certified for Lao Safe standards; completed the development of the website www.laosafe.gov.la and Facebook Lao Safe to advertise and provide information to all parties. In addition, Lao PDR was awarded the ASEAN Tourism Standard Award for 2022 with a total of 17 awards, including the award of the ASEAN Hotel Standard 5 prizes, ASEAN Clean Tourism City 3 prizes, standards of ASEAN event organization 7 prizes and sustainable tourism awards 2 prizes. For the year 2023, Lao PDR received 35 prizes, including: 5 ASEAN People's Guesthouse Standard Awards; 5 People's Participatory Tourism awards; 7 ASEAN spa service standards awards and standards for ASEAN public toilets 18 awards. Through a series of implementation, the following results have been achieved:

Over the past two and a half years, there have been 3,171,559 domestic tourists, generating an income of 478.142.582 US dollars. Additionally, there have been 2,968,801 international tourists, equivalent to 19.63% of the planned 5-year total of 15 million people, generating an income of 572.373.427 US dollars. On average, tourists stay for 7 days. The total revenue from both domestic and international tourists amounted to 1,050 million US dollars.

Challenges: The development of numerous tourism infrastructures and facilities has not progressed as well as it should have. There is no systematic management of tourist destinations. There is a limited variety of tourist activities, and the quality and standard of tourism services are low. There are also a limited number of professional service providers, and the process of setting tourism standards is slow. The development of tourist destinations outlined in the plan is not meeting its targets, and there is no clear division of managing authority between the central and local authorities. Furthermore, investments in the sector cannot keep pace with its development.

- + **Transportation:** Key achievements include the construction of domestic, regional and international connectivity infrastructure, such as the construction of the Laos-China Railway and the Vang Vieng-Vientiane Expressway has been completed, along with improvements, upgrades, and repairs to national highways and international airports. Simultaneously, attention has been given to the development and amendment of laws, legislation, and regulations to facilitate transportation work. This includes initiatives such as the Law on Land Vehicle Transportation, the Decree on Land Ports, and the amendment of transportation agreements with neighboring countries. However, due to the outbreak of Covid-19 at the end of 2019, which lasted until the mid-2022, there was a direct impact on the transportation of goods, and some forms of transportation could not be carried out according to its target. At the end of 2021, the Lao-China railway service commenced. From the opening day until today, the number of passengers reached 2,521,598, and the transportation of goods amounted to 4,036,500

tons. The main types of goods transported were iron ore, magnets, cassava flour, and chemical fertilizers. Of the goods transported, 641,000 tons were from China to Lao PDR, and 330,859 tons were from Lao PDR to China. Additionally, efforts were made to enhance the services of the dry ports, namely Savannakhet Port, Champasak Port, and Thanalaeng Port in Vientiane Capital, which generated revenue of 109.82 billion Kip in 2022. Simultaneously, there was an effort to accelerate the construction of Thakhek port in Khammuan province and it is expected to open in 2023 (as of today, the completion is at 15%) The volume of transportation has averagely increased 1.59% annually from 2020-2022 and the transport volume of commodity has increased 23.04% per year on average in the period. Details are in the table below:

Volume of Goods and Passengers					
No.	Types of Transportation	2021	2022	2023	
				First Six Months of 2023	Full Year Estimation for 2023
I	Good Transportation (Thousand Tons)	7,253.8	10,029.9	6,070.5	12,754.0
1	Land Transportation	6,931.0	7,463.0	3,855.8	7,520.0
2	Water Transportation	268.5	325.8	114.4	380.0
3	Air Transportation	0.6	2.1	1.4	4.0
4	Rail Transportation	53.7	2,239.0	2,098.9	4,850.0
II	Passenger Transportation (Thousand People)	84,466.0	84,567.2	44,683.5	95,864.0
1	Land Transportation	83,217.0	81,033.0	41,934.6	87,500.0
2	Water Transportation	978.5	1,376.3	705.0	2,112.0
3	Air Transportation	229.0	758.0	676.4	2,302.0
4	Rail Transportation	41.5	1,399.9	1,367.5	3,950.0

1.2 Output 2: The Macroeconomy remain Strong and Stable

1. Fiscal Aspects

+ Revenue: Various measures have been implemented according to the Order No. 18/PM on Enhancing revenue management and preventing the leakage of state budget funds such as: **(1)** Modernizing and digitizing tax revenue operations has been a significant achievement, notably

through the upgrade of the system (Lao National Single Windows/ASYCUDA) to align with NSW+ (National Single Tax Window System Asycuda Plus), which has been officially made operational at the Thanalaeng Port. Additionally, the TaxRIS system has been 100% completed, expanded to cover 17 provinces and Vientiane Capital, 145 districts and 3 cities and 6 special economic zones; Completed a piloting of land tax management system through three banks (Lao Development Bank, Joint Development Bank, and Agricultural Promotion Bank). The system is being piloted in five villages in Xaythany District; reduced steps for tariff filing from 4 to 3 for imports and from 3 to 2 for exports; (2) The leakage of state budget revenue has been prevented by adjusting the tax reporting service and general tax informants in various forms. Furthermore, the mechanism for revenue collection and management of imports, inventory, and the purchase and sale of fuel has been improved through integration with the tax revenue collection management system (TaxRIS); (3) From 2022 to March 2023, revenue of 143.69 billion Kip was collected through the pursuit of various illegal cases. Additionally, the implementation of Order No. 20/PM aimed at addressing illegal imported cars, resulting in a total fiscal revenue collection of 361.36 billion Kip from 22,230 resolved cases. However, 8,245 cars still await resolution. The registration of vehicles according to their numbers will continue (Based on data from the end of October 2021 to the end of August 2022); (4) Revenue has been collected from 17 pilot digital asset companies, resulting in the government being able to collect a license fee of 5.5 million US dollars from 11 of these companies. Additionally, a license fee of 2 million US dollars and lump sum duties of 24 million US dollars have been collected from digital asset exchange centers; (5) The value added tax (VAT) revenue base expanded by 25.5% year on year, profit tax rose by 94.4%, income tax increased by 66.4%, excise tax rose by 14.3% while other income tax bases increased by 193.2% (The number is compared to the same period); (6) In 2023, the Government piloted the transfer of 101 business units managed by central level, valued at 2,420 billion Kip, to 9 provinces for management. Five provinces generated surplus profits (Luang Prabang, Borlikhamxay, Savannakheet, Khammouane, and Attapeu) and submitted tax revenues of 3,064 billion Kip, marking an increase of 30.3% comparing to the same period in year 2022; (7) Encouraged 6,266 business units (44% of the total amount of 14,283 units) to have an accounting system. By implementing these measures, budget revenue has increased and surpassed the target of each year. In 2021, it reached 28,905.03 billion Kip, which was 104.62% of the annual plan. In 2022, it amounted to 32,540.50 billion Kip, representing 103% of the annual plan. For the first six months of 2023, it reached 19,258.43 billion Kip, which is 50.09% of the annual plan. Over the past two years, a total of 80,704 billion Kip has been collected, which is equivalent to 44.96% of the planned amount or 16% of the GDP. The 5-Year Plan aims to achieve 179,500 billion Kip or equivalent to 17% of the GDP. Among these, domestic revenue collection was 52,023 billion Kip, 8% of GDP, or 31.2% of the 5 Year Plan (5-Year Plan target: 166,753 billion Kip or 15.8% of GDP).

+ Expenditure: Prioritized allocating budget in the Government priorities, along with strict expenditure management and the implementation of austerity measures. The aim is to ensure that domestic revenue can cover domestic expenditures, thereby keeping deficits within manageable ranges. The approach has resulted: In 2021, the expenditure was 29,507.44 billion Kip, which accounted for 93.43% of the annual plan. In 2022, the expenditure increased to 32,281 billion Kip, representing 91.19% of the annual plan. For the first six months of 2023, the expenditure was 13,957.82 billion Kip, which constituted 32.09% of the annual plan. Over the course of two and a half years, a total of 75,746 billion Kip was spent, representing 39.9% of the planned amount or 15% of the GDP. The 5-Year Plan target is 190,000 billion Kip or 18% of the GDP. Furthermore, the focus has also been on implementing austerity measures as defined in the

National Agenda, by improving spending mechanisms through experimentation and by granting more responsibilities to budget units. The Ministry of Finance will concentrate on managing macro-level work to streamline the approval process and enhance post-payment inspections. Concurrently, the approval process for salary and welfare payments to civil servants has been shifted from quarterly cash advances to annual advances. This change has been implemented in 39 central entities. Additionally, the government has enforced State Vehicle Decree No. 599/GOVT by reviewing the vehicle lists of 40 central-level offices, which collectively possess 39,754 cars. The vehicle information has been inputted into the state property information management system (AMIS), and stickers and QR codes have been affixed to 5,987 vehicles with 38 entities, constituting 93% of all vehicles belonging to central ministries (excluding retired employees' cars). These measures have been completed in Vientiane province, while the implementation process is ongoing in the other 16 provinces and Vientiane Capital and is expected to be completed by the end of 2023. Moreover, auctions have been conducted to dispose of 154 old vehicles, including 124 cars.

Debt management focuses on fixing public investment projects (domestic debts) through the allocation of the regular government budget and the use of debt triangles, as well as the periodic issuance of government bonds. In 2021, 148.65 billion Kip from the regular government budget was used to reduce public debts. This amount increased to 532.65 billion Kip in 2022, with a majority of the budget focused on resolving debts with arrears of 300 million Kip or less. In 2023, the allocation from the regular government budget for resolving public investment projects' debts increased to 890.82 billion Kip. Additionally, 10,000 billion Kip worth of triangle debts were used to address debt issues, and a proposal for 8,000 billion Kip is currently under review by the National Assembly, in which the documents submitted by the sectors and local levels are currently being reviewed. The government is also considering various approaches to resolving its debts, including the capitalization of outstanding debt, which is in the initial stage and undergoing consultation with related stakeholders.

+ **Budget Balance:** Fiscal deficit has gradually decreased. In 2021, there was a deficit of 602.41 billion Kip, which accounted for -0.33% of the GDP. In 2022, a surplus of 260 billion Kip was achieved, representing 0.12% of the GDP. For the first six months of 2023, a surplus of 5,300.61 billion Kip was recorded, constituting 0.02% of the GDP. Notably, over the past two and a half years, the budget surplus has exceeded 4,958 billion kip, equivalent to 0.46% of GDP, compared to the 5-year plan's average deficit of 10,500 billion kip equivalent to 1% of the GDP or a maximum of 2% of the GDP.

Challenges: Over the past two and a half years, the Government has focused on improving the mechanism of fiscal management, leading to a downward trend in regular budget deficits and the achievement of a surplus in 2022, therefore being able to invest in and allocate funds for state prioritized projects. *However, there are still some challenges that needs to be addressed in the future, particularly the delay in modernization, the revenue collection has not been fully realized relative to available resources, and planning and fiscal disciplines are not being well-practiced.*

2. Monetary Aspects³

In the first half of the 9th Five-Year National Socio-Economic Development Plan (2021-2025), the Lao economy faced several challenges amidst a volatile global economic situation. These challenges included the Covid-19 pandemic, geopolitical conflicts, as well as domestic and international inflationary pressures. The Bank of Lao PDR has adopted mixed monetary policy, sometimes moderate and sometimes consolidating to maintain a stable monetary. These are: (1) Phase 1: During the Covid-19 pandemic from the beginning of 2021 to mid-2022, in which the country was closed, and economic activity stopped, the Bank of Lao PDR adopted a relaxed monetary policy. This involved keeping the base interest rate at 3% and reducing the statutory reserves from 4% in 2020 to 3% in 2021 for the Lao Kip, and from 8% in 2020 to 5% in 2021 for foreign currencies. Furthermore, efforts will continue to encourage and develop a stronger open market. In the meantime, the Bank has contributed to resolving public investment project debt issues by purchasing bonds as part of a debt triangle, thereby creating liquidity for commercial banks. Additionally, the Bank has provided credits to alleviate the impact of Covid-19 and boost economic recovery. Moreover, the Bank has adopted a managed floating system for currency exchange, increasing the band from $\pm 0.25\%$ to $\pm 1.5\%$; (2) Phase 2: Since mid-2022, following the easing of Covid-19, the Bank of Lao PDR has shifted its monetary policies from being relaxed to being tightened. This was done by increasing the base interest rates for the Lao Kip for 7-day borrowing three times, from 3% per year to 7.5% per year. Additionally, the bank raised the reserve requirement three times as well, from 3% to 8% for the Lao Kip and from 5% to 10% for foreign currencies. The Bank of Lao PDR has continued to boost the economy by issuing and distributing zero-coupon bonds to the public, with a total amount of 9,000 billion Kip. Meanwhile, the Bank has also continued to adopt a managed floating system for currency exchange, with a wider band ranging from $\pm 1.5\%$ to $\pm 7.5\%$. In addition, to address global inflationary pressure and stabilize the domestic economy, the Bank of Lao PDR has revised Law No. 15/NA on Foreign Exchange Management. It has also introduced new legislations under this law, established the Department of Foreign Exchange Management, and set up representative offices of the Bank in Boten and the Golden Triangle Special Economic Zones to carry out its duties. The Bank has been promoting the use of the Lao Kip, enhancing its effective and efficient management of cash flows from cross-border trade in goods and services, as well as investment. The bank has advised and implemented specific government policies, such as providing policy loans to boost economic recovery, dispersing funds to local communities, and offering low-interest policy loans to promote the development of small and medium enterprises (SMEs). Additionally, the bank has contributed to government efforts to address poverty in rural areas through policy banks. It has also continued to promote and develop financial institutions that provide modernized banking services with a variety of products, to keep pace with the current situation and meet the needs of society. In addition, it has collaborated with relevant parties to monitor and manage market prices to prevent traders from raising prices arbitrarily. The implementation of the aforementioned measures has yielded the following results:"

+ Management of M2 money quantity: The management of M2 money quantity has seen an average expansion of 27.58% over the past two and a half years. Specifically, in 2021, M2 increased by 23.98% year on year, followed by a 36.85% increase in 2022, and a 27.46% increase

³ National Assembly Resolution No. 119/NPC, dated November 21, 2023, on the adoption of the government's report regarding the implementation of the State Budget Plan and the Medium-Term Currency Plan (2021-2025), the direction for the end-of-term plan until 2025, the summary of the 2022 budget plan implementation, and the State Budget and Currency Plans for 2023 and 2024.

in the first half of 2023 compared to the first half of 2022. It's important to note that the 5-Year Plan's target was for M2 to increase by no more than 20% per year.

+ Official exchange rates: During two and a half years, the average annual exchange rate of the Kip compared to the dollar weakened 18.32% and weakened 15.44% against the Thai Baht. In 2021, the Kip weakened by an average of 7.09% against the US dollar and 8% against the Thai Baht. In 2022, the Kip weakened by an average of 31.98% against the US dollar and 21.97% against the Thai Baht. In the first six months of 2023, the Kip weakened by an average of 17.28% against the US dollar and 16.04% against the Thai Baht (the 5-Year Plan target is within a $\pm 5\%$ band). The Lao Kip has depreciated against major foreign currencies, partly due to the appreciation of these currencies in international markets and the high demand for foreign currencies in the country. This is exacerbated by the limited income sources for foreign currencies. This creates an imbalance in foreign currency.

+ Inflation rates: In the past two and a half years, the average inflation rate has increased by 18.25%, which is higher than the target set by the National Assembly of not exceeding 6% on average. In 2021, the average inflation rate increased by 3.75%. In 2022, it rose sharply to 22.96%. In the first six months of 2023, the average inflation rate surged to 38.06%, indicating a continuous yearly increase in inflation. The product price categories that experienced the highest increases were communication and transportation, with an average of 26.89%, followed by food and non-alcoholic beverages at 24.70% and health care and medicine at 23.53%, and the high inflation rate has been influenced by external and internal factors, such as rising prices of production inputs, particularly fuel and energy, leading to inflation in some of the key trading partner countries. Many countries have implemented tightened monetary policies, resulting in volatile global monetary markets and inevitably affects the exchange rate of the Lao Kip." This, combined with the imbalance of supply and demand for foreign currencies in the country, low foreign currency reserves, weak production sectors, and lack currency management, has led to the current situation.

No.	Category	2021	2022	First 6 Months of 2023	Average
1	Food and non-alcoholic beverages	3.01	22.02	49.07	24.70
2	Alcoholic beverages and tobacco	4.46	14.21	25.53	14.73
3	Clothing and footwear	3.86	16.26	25.12	15.08
4	Housing, water, electricity, and fuels	3.03	16.44	24.83	14.77
5	Household appliances	3.78	18.66	32.86	18.43
6	Health care and medicine	4.19	27.63	38.77	23.53
7	Transportation and shipping	6.42	41.28	32.97	26.89
8	Post and Telecommunication	4.23	7.69	12.93	8.28
9	Entertainment and leisure	1.18	10.73	20.89	10.93
10	Education	0.52	6.45	12.07	6.35
11	Restaurants and hotel	3.15	18.82	35.21	19.06

12	Other Goods and Services	8.08	21.28	20.78	16.71
Consumer Price Index		3.75	22.96	38.06	18.25

+ Foreign currency reserves: In the first two and a half years, Laos was able to maintain imports for 3.67 months, meeting the 5-Year Plan target of at least 3 months. In 2021, the country could import for 5.32 months, and in 2022, it was 4.14 months. However, in the first six months of 2023, the country's import capacity increased to 5.33 months.

+ Commercial bank deposits: In the first two and a half years of the plan, commercial bank deposits reached 89.21% of GDP. In 2021, the deposits increased by 25.2% year on year, stood at 75.5% of GDP. In 2022, bank deposits increased by 40.63% year on year, reaching 91.08% of GDP. In the first half of 2023, bank deposits stood at 85.58% of GDP. (5-Year Plan target: At least 60% of GDP).

+ Commercial bank loans: In the first two and half years of the plan, commercial bank loans reached 60.44% of GDP. In 2021, bank loans increased 11.51% year on year or stood at 50.93% of GDP. In 2022, bank loans increased 45.63% of GDP, standing at 63.63% of GDP. In the first half of 2023, bank loans stood at 57.98% of GDP (5-Year Plan target: 49% of GDP).

+ Financial sector non-performing loans (NPLs): In the first two and half years of the plan, NPLs averaged at 1.91%. In 2021, NPLs were at 2.18% In 2022, NPLs were at 2.16% and in the first six months of 2023, NPLs stood at 1.91% (5-Year Plan target: average at no more than 3% of total loans in the system).

Challenges: Despite the government's efforts to address economic and financial difficulties, the macroeconomy remains unstable. This is due to the impact from external factors for instant: increasing inflation, highly fluctuating exchange rates, depreciation of the Kip, high accumulation of public debts, and low revenue collection. These factors continue to disrupt the macroeconomy and present challenges for its management, negatively impacting people's livelihoods. This is especially evident in the increased living costs, reduced household income, and diminished purchasing power for consumers.⁴ Overall, *the revenue collection as a percentage of GDP of Laos is still low compared to other countries in the region. Revenue collection relies mainly on indirect taxes, while income taxes remain low. Low tax rates, tax exemptions, and preferential treatments have affected revenue collection over the past 10 years, with the business income tax gap expected to be 90%. In 2022, during the covid-19 outbreak, the government implemented a policy to reduce the value-added tax (VAT) from 10% to 7% and granted exemptions for fuel taxes. This move significantly impacted revenue collection, despite increased volumes of traded goods and services. The reduction in VAT caused the Government to lose approximately 1% of GDP in revenue in 2022, but it can significantly increase the value base. Additionally, the exemption of fuel taxes is expected to lead to a decrease in foreign currency, estimated to be around 160 million US dollars between 2022 and 2023. As a result, it is necessary to revisit the tax collection policy and accelerate tax collection reforms.* Public expenditures have decreased in comparison to GDP and are lower than international standards due to the reduced revenue collection. To manage budget

⁴ Restoring Macroeconomic Stability and Accelerating Growth (Revenue and Spending): Public Finance Review, World Bank, September 2023. The report covers: (i) macroeconomic performance; (ii) revenue mobilization; (iii) public expenditure; (iv) state-owned enterprises; and (v) public-private partnerships.

deficits, the government has cut spending in many areas, leading to a reduction in the quantity and quality of public goods and services.

3. Export and import of goods

In the past two and a half years, the trade value reached 35,828.51 million US dollars. Within this figure, the export value was forecasted to be 19,885.35 million US dollars, representing 52.27% of the planned total (5-Year Plan target is 38,043.5 million US dollars). The import value was 15,943.16 million US dollars, which is 48.42% of the plan (5-Year Plan target is 32,927.3 million US dollars). The trade balance is anticipated to be a surplus of 3,942.20 million US dollars, slightly under the 5-Year Plan target of 5,116.20 million US dollars. Lao PDR's primary export products include electricity, mixed gold or gold bars, potatoes, potassium salt, gold ore, paper, and paper products. On the other hand, the main imported products consist of diesel fuel, vehicles, mechanical equipment, steel, steel products, electrical equipment, and others.

+ In 2021, the total trade value reached 13,514.25 million US dollars, marking a 20.59% increase compared to the previous year. The export value amounted to 7,626.92 million US dollars, showing a 23.65% increase from the same period last year. Meanwhile, the import value stood at 5,887.33 million US dollars, reflecting a 16.85% increase compared to the previous year. As a result, the trade surplus reached 1,739.59 million US dollars.

+ In 2022, the total trade value reached 15,005.95 million US dollars, marking an 11.04% increase year on year. This total includes an export value of 8,197.91 million US dollars, which grew by 7.49% year on year, and an import value of 6,808.05 million US dollars, representing a 15.64% increase year on year. The trade surplus for the year amounted to 1,389.86 million US dollars.

+ In the first six months of 2023, the total trade value reached 7,308.31 million US dollars, which accounts for 47.69% of the annual target of 15,325 million US dollars. The export value amounted to 4,060.53 million US dollars, representing 49.37% of the annual target, while the import value stood at 3,247.78 million US dollars, equivalent to 45.84% of the annual target. As a result, the trade surplus for the period was 812.75 million US dollars.

Challenges: Although Laos has experienced a trade surplus in the past two and half years, it has been observed that cash flows in the banking system do not correspond to the trade value. This is because some foreign investors, particularly in the hydropower and mining sectors, have not transferred money through the Lao banking system. Additionally, the inflow amounts are post debt-repayment amounts.

1.3 Output 3: Investment Quality and Effectiveness Enhanced

Over the past two and a half years, a total of approximately 154,058 billion Kip has been raised for investment in socio-economic development, which accounts for 75% of the 5-Year Plan target of 204,599 billion Kip. The breakdown of the funds is as follows:

1. Public Investment

Over the past two and a half years, the public investment was 7,975.28 billion Kip, equivalent to 34.75% of the 5-Year Plan target of 22,950 billion Kip. In 2021, 3,549.21 billion Kip was spent; in 2022, the public investment expenditure was 3,950 billion Kip; and in the first 6 months of 2023, it amounted to 476.07 billion Kip.

2. Investment Using Official Development Assistance (ODA)

The totaling from this channel is 22,424.42 billion Kip, which is equivalent to 60% of the 5-Year Plan's total of 37,344 billion Kip. Specifically, in 2021, the amount was 9,035.52 billion Kip; in 2022, it was 8,282.89 billion Kip; and in the first 6 months of 2023, it was 5,106 billion Kip.

3. Domestic Private Investment and Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)

The private sector investment has reached 123,658.69 billion Kip, which is equivalent to 124% of the planned amount (5-Year Plan: 100,000 billion Kip). In 2021, the investment amounted to 43,381.14 billion Kip. In 2022, it increased to 56,771.38 billion Kip. It was expected to reach 23,506.17 billion Kip in the first 6 months of 2023.

Challenges Over the past two and a half years, fundraising for investment has encountered various challenges due to smaller foreign funds and internal financial difficulties. Spending on the education and health sectors has decreased from 4.4% of GDP in 2016 to 3.1% in 2021, primarily because of the need to repay interest on external debts. This requires a rebalancing to ensure sustainability. The domestic private sector has the potential to contribute to the implementation of the country's development priorities.⁵

1.4 Output 4: Better Quality, Robust and Regionally and Internationally Competitive Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise

The Government has completed the revision of the law on the promotion of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) from No. 11/NA, dated December 21, 2011, to the Law on Promotion of SMEs No. 16/NA, dated July 7, 2022. Additionally, it has revised the Decree on SME Size Classification from No. 25/GOV, dated January 16, 2017, to the Decree on SME Size Determination No. 04/GOV, dated January 12, 2023. The revision of the Decree on SME Promotion Fund No. 299/GOV, dated September 04, 2019, has also been completed, updating it to the Decree on SME Promotion Fund No. 05/GOV, dated January 12, 2023. These revisions were made to align these regulations with the Law on the Promotion of SMEs No. 16/NA, dated July 07, 2022.

The promotion of SMEs is focused on the implementation of 7 key policies to encourage and develop SMEs to be strong, namely:

- 1. Improving access to funding sources for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)** through the organization and implementation of a policy for accessing funding via the SME Promotion Fund. The fund has been financed by five sources: □The establishment capital of 32 billion Kip; □Grants and loans from the World Bank under the SME access to capital program with the amount of 111.68 billion Kip; □The Government's capital contribution to the fund with an interest rate of 3% per year, with a total of 474 billion Kip; □The fund's accumulated capital from interest income, totaling 17.66 billion Kip; Borrowings from the World Bank under the fund accessible scheme for MSME to cope with the impacts of Covid-19, amounting 34 US dollars through 8 commercial banks and 11 financial institutions and 2 funds. From 2021 to present, the fund has granted credits to 1,648 units with 1,733 contracts, in the amount of 550.69 billion Kip. Furthermore, the fund has also provided funds for 123 technical projects, with the total amount of 10.5 billion Kip.

⁵ UN Common Country Analysis for the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2022-2026 and 2030 Agenda, Lao PDR, United Nations, 2021

2. **Build and develop new entrepreneurs:** (1) Signed an MOU with KOICA to jointly implement the Digital Innovation Human Resource Development Project for SME Promotion Fund in Lao People's Democratic Republic, for which the government of the Republic of Korea has provided a 5 million US dollar grant for a period of five years (2022-2026); (2) Collaborated with the Lao ICT Commerce Association (LICA) to organize the Startup ECOTHON competition twice, in 2021 and 2022. A total of 54 teams applied to participate in the competition. The winning team had the opportunity to join the ECOTHON ASEAN-ROK Startup in South Korea, with financial support from the Korean Ministry of SME and Startup; (3) Held Lao startup festival twice, in 2021 and 2022, in Vientiane Capital.; (4) Organized a workshop for new entrepreneurs to promote innovations among youth and students to establish a mindset geared towards entrepreneurship"
3. **Promote productivity, technology, and innovation to raise the quality and standards of products and services for SMEs:** (1) The National Productivity Master Plan until 2030 is being developed. A draft was completed, and comments are being collected for the draft to be presented at a government meeting for consideration in the third quarter of 2023; (2) An event was organized in Vientiane Capital to celebrate the 20th anniversary of Lao PDR's membership in the Asian Productivity Organization (APO). The event was attended by over 200 participants; (3) Completed the handover of 36 greenhouses after receiving a grant of US\$ 130,000 from the special budget of the APO to serve as a learning center or demonstration center for students and entrepreneurs in the agricultural sector; (3)Completed the project implementation of improving the competitiveness of the agribusiness sector through the certification of good production, analysis, and control systems (GMP and HACCP) in three target provinces: Luang Namtha, Saravan, and Champasak. This encompasses seven factories/companies that will receive GMP and HACCP certificates; (4) Conducted training and counseling sessions under the Lao PDR Agricultural Commodity Production Program (LACP) for government employees and rice millers on GHP and HACCP requirements with more than 300 participants.
4. **Promote access to business development consulting services:** (1) In collaboration with the National Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Department of Agriculture and the Provincial Chamber of Commerce and Industry have established SME service centers in Oudomxay and Bolikhamxay provinces; 4 centers have existed in the past, in: Vientiane Capital, Savannakhet province, Champasack province and Luang Prabang province; (2) The empowerment of business development service providers across the country has been completed through three rounds of training of trainers on the topic of "Business Planning, Financial Planning, and Cash Accounting". The training sessions had a total of 99 participants; (3) A training program was developed specifically for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to enhance their skills in business planning, financial planning, and cash accounting. This program was conducted 52 times, reaching a significant number of participants. Out of the 1,172 participants.
5. **Promote access to and expansion of markets:** (1) Organized a dissemination meeting to introduce the use of the ASEAN Access website to all 178 associations, groups, and business operators, including 55 females, in four provinces: Luang Prabang, Oudomxay, Savannakhet, and Bolikhamxay provinces. The objective of the meeting is to promote access to market information in the region, advertise their products and services, and provide information on business matching mechanisms; (2) Implemented measures to promote the cooperation of business groups by organizing 15 training sessions on "Capacity Building of Business

Group Cooperation" under the Agricultural Commodity Production project and the project to establish business groups. A total of 602 participants

6. Build a favorable environment for the establishment and operation of business: (1) To enhance the business registration system and licensing process;(2) A discussion forum has been established between the public and private sectors at various levels in the Lao Business Conference framework. The objective is to ensure effective communication and collaboration for improving the system; (3) Completed the amendment of the Law on Enterprises 2013;(4) Launched a business license database website; (5) Created a new electronic business registration system, known as online business registration. The objective is to complete the fundamental legislation and regulations necessary to support and provide a basis for the implementation of this new electronic registration system. As the recent ProFIT survey⁶ showed, improvements on the costs of business registration improved, but informal practices remain highly prevalent. Under domestic private finance, it is acknowledged that the current investment promotion regime was more designed towards attracting FDI, while MSME development was still constrained by an inadequate business environment. Another important thing is to reduce the process of starting a business from 173 days to 5 days. Also formulate and amend the legislation related to the issuance of business licenses to complete seven licenses. In addition, they created a business account that must apply for permission to conduct business by combining with the relevant sector to collect the account from the 15 Ministries such as: Ministry of Public Works and Transport, Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism, Ministry of Education and Sports, Ministry of Energy and Mine, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Ministry of Natural Resource and Environment, Ministry of Technology and Communications, Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare, The Bank of Lao PDR, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Public Security, Ministry of Defense, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Justice.⁷
7. **Appropriate tax and financial policies:**(1) Encourage SMEs, which has received government funding, to comply with legal accounting requirements. This should be done in conjunction with the Department of Account Management, Ministry of Finance by establishing a committee tasked with developing and refining mechanisms to support and enhance SME's account management practices. (2) support the relevant sectors in considering, developing, and improving policies related to the implementation of the policy concerning John."

Challenges: Private sector enterprises are operating in an environment that is not conducive to business development. Key bottlenecks include a lack of access to finance, low compatibility, limited product diversity, low product quality, the production could not make it to the system of high-value production chains and there is an absence of a centralized production group. SMEs lack an understanding of production standards and adapt to the norm to meet the high demands of the market. Most products are exported as raw materials and semi-finished goods, which do not generate high added value. Although the economy may continue to grow, real household income is declining due to the depreciation of the kip combined with rising consumer goods prices. Many business units struggle to access capital because they lack robust business operations and plans. They

⁶Provincial Facilitation for Investment and Trade Index: Measuring Economic Governance for Business Development in the Lao People's Democratic Republic —Second Edition, 2022

⁷ Ministry of Public Works and Transport, Information, Culture and Tourism, Education and Sports, Energy and Mine, Agriculture and Forestry, Natural Resources and Environment, Technology and Communication, Labor and Social Welfare, Bank of LPDR, Health, Public Security, Defence, Home Affairs, Finance and Justice.

produce goods and services that do not align with current development trends or meet the needs of domestic, regional, and international markets.

1.5 Output 5: Enhanced Efficiency and Effectiveness of State-Owned Enterprises and Collective Economy

- **Development of State-Owned Enterprise**

19 state enterprises have undergone continued reform, with 14 entities retaining 100% or a large proportion of shares, 1 entity selling shares, and 4 entities dissolving. Progress on the reform of the 5 strategic state-owned enterprises is as follows: (1) The Lao Electric Enterprise (EDL) has revised its rules as a state-owned enterprise. These revisions are currently being reviewed by the reform committee before being presented to the board of directors for approval. Additionally, EDL is considering the draft decree of the President on the role of the Lao Electric Energy Adjustment Committee and the Electric Energy Security Fund. The company is also reviewing the laws related to its business operations and personnel management to streamline the system. Furthermore, it is in the process of developing an asset management system and improving the electricity price structure in the domestic distribution sector. EDL is also considering adjustments to the shareholding structure of public companies in which it has ownership stakes. In addition, EDL is working on separating investment debts and re-evaluating investment projects to develop a debt management plan, particularly for outstanding debts from the past. The company is also in negotiations with creditors to postpone debt repayments for 3-5 years. To ensure financial accuracy, EDL is in the process of hiring an accountant to review and correct its accounts and to summarize them according to regulations. (2) The Lao Power Generation Public Company will continue to operate in its current form while implementing comprehensive improvements, as outlined by the new board of directors. These measures aim to ensure that the company can effectively adhere to the regulations governing publicly listed companies on the Stock Exchange. This move will involve the separation of the company from the EDL, which is currently grappling with complex debt issues. (3) Lao Airlines State Enterprise (Lao Airlines) has completed its reform plan and has collaborated with major creditors such as the Bank of the Lao PDR and the BCEL to finalize debt restructuring, including both principal and interest. This collaboration aims to adjust the debt structure and present a report to the government, requesting the issuance of debt clearing bonds. These bonds will help improve the financial position of Lao Airlines State Enterprise, making it more attractive to potential partners who meet all the necessary investment criteria. (4) The Lao State Fuel Company (LSFC) has completed its reform plan and reported it to the government. Currently, the company is in the process of reviewing and improving its internal regulations, enhancing its internal welfare policy, and defining the duties and responsibilities of its 9 departments and 4 branches in different provinces. In addition, LSFC has procured an auditing firm to review its business conditions. The company has also conducted an analysis of its business operations and the external environment using the SWOT Analysis. This analysis serves as the basis for determining the primary and contingency business strategies, as well as identifying opportunities to enhance and develop a modernized gas station model with comprehensive services, aimed at upgrading service quality; (5) The State Enterprise for the Development of Agriculture, Industry, and Export-Import Services has gathered information to create a reform plan. It has completed data collection on the state of business activities in all branches and has improved the organizational structure of personnel. Additionally, it has summarized and researched legislation and financial data.

- **Development of Collective Enterprises (Cooperatives or Community Production Groups)**

The establishment of production cooperatives has completed 1 cooperative, which is 1.47% of the 5-Year Plan (18 cooperatives in total). Currently, there are 28 production cooperatives. The expansion of the network of production groups of farmers has achieved 8 production groups, which is 33.33% of the 5-Year Plan (24 production groups in total). Presently, there are 66 community production groups.

The organization of production and cooperative groups, which are fundamental and have potential, is not yet strong enough to produce competitive products, exert influence in negotiations, or establish a stable market."

2. Outcome 2: Improved Quality of Human Resources to Meet Development, Research Capacity, Science and Technology Needs, and Create Value-added Production and Services

2.1 Output 1: More Inclusive and Better-quality Healthcare Services and Nutrition

1.1. Public Health

The health network system and health care services have been developed and improved in quality, allowing for good control of COVID-19 outbreaks, and resulting in a low death rate compared to other Asian countries. Efforts are simultaneously concentrated on delivering the COVID-19 vaccine, which is applicable to 86% of the population (dose 1). The policy of 5 Good 1 Satisfied has been implemented at the central, provincial, and district level facilities, improving service quality. For small hospitals, service quality has been improved with QPS quality assessment.

Concentrated on addressing other communicable diseases that present public health challenges in 2023, resulting in the elimination of elephantiasis according to the plan. Disease control and eradication strategies have been implemented for malaria, resulting in a 40% decrease in cases, from 3,926 people in 2021 to 2,338 people in 2022, over the past two and a half years. The implementing measures included destroying the source of mosquito breeding, providing health education, and mobilizing community participation. Expanding access to blood testing, treatment, and care services for people infected with HIV/AIDS, along with ensuring an adequate supply of drugs; The tuberculosis control network now reaches down to the district level, covering 100% of 148 districts and 98% of small hospitals nationwide.

Continuing to create and update legislation to manage public health affairs, including: the Public Health Law, the law on the prevention and control of communicable diseases, the Tobacco Control Law, and the development of a law on primary health care.

Public health infrastructure has been constructed and upgraded at the central and local levels, Setthatirath Hospital, Maho Sot Hospital, construction of sewage treatment system for children's hospital, Houaphan Provincial Hospital, Xaysomboune Provincial Hospital, Na Mor Community Hospital (Oudomxay Province), Yod U Community Hospital (Phong Saly Province), Nong Haed Community Hospital (Xiengkhouang Province), Phieng and Kanthao Community Hospital (Xayyaboury Province), Xiengkhouang Provincial Hospital, Dak Chuang Community Hospital (Sekong Province), Sanam Xay Community Hospital (Attapue Province) and 9 small hospitals; Isolated buildings in 3 southern provinces (Champasak, Attapue and Sekong).

Work related to the two national agendas has established counselling and treatment services for drug addicts in 34 community hospitals across six provinces (Vientiane, Vientiane Capital, Huaphan, Borikhamxay, Xayabuli, and Savannakhet). Currently, there are 1,518 patients and 2,389 family members seeking counselling."

Food, medicine, and medical product that are distributed in the market monitoring and inspection have been emphasized, inspections of food businesses. Inspect imports at checkpoints nationwide and monitor drug use in hospitals to ensure quality and safety at the fundamental level. Promote formal domestic production, enabling local factories to produce COVID-19 treatments (such as Monupiravir) to address the epidemic as needed. Simultaneously, strive to manufacture essential medicines to adequately supply the health network. Managed the oversight of drugs, psychoactive substances, and controlled chemicals by researching and summarizing demand plans for these substances. Monitored and reported import and usage data to the international drug management agency. Additionally, examined, researched, and verified 792 suspected drug samples from relevant sectors.

Overall, there have been 8 indicators that have progressed well and are likely to reach their goals by June 2023, and 3 indicators that are challenging and may not reach their targets. These are summarized as following:

8 indicators that are making good progress and are likely to reach their goals:

1. Mortality rate of children under 1 year old: The figures reported from the DHIS 2 data system show that the number of children under 1 year old who died in 2021 was 2,027, equal to 12.8/1,000 live births; In 2022, there were 2,022 people, equal to 13/1,000 people per live births and in 2023, it will be 11.8/1,000 people per live births. the target was likely to be achieved (Target: 20/1,000 people).

2. Mortality rate of children under 5 years of age: The number reported from the DHIS 2 data system contains the number of children under 5 years of age that died in 2021. There were 2,253 people, equal to 14.3/1,000 people per live birth; In 2022, there were 2,312 people, equal to 14/1,000 live births and in 2023, it was expected to be 13.4/1,000 live births. It was likely that this indicator would reach the target (Target: 30/1,000 people).

3. Maternal mortality rate: Figures reported from the DHIS 2 data system. The number of maternal deaths in 2021 was 96, equal to 60.8/100,000 live births; In 2022, there were 100 people, equal to 64.1/100,000 people per live births and in 2023 there were 42.2/100,000 people per livebirth. It was likely that this indicator would be achieved (Target: 110/100,000 people).

4. Assisted birth rates: in 2021, 79.1% of the target population implemented; In 2022, it was 80.5% and in 2023 it was 85.1%%. It was seen that this indicator would be achieved (Target: 85%).

5. Vaccination rates: In 2021, 86.6% of the target population can be covered; In 2022, it was 92% and in 2023 it was 96.2%. This indicator would be achieved (Target: 95%).

6. Clean water consumption rates: In 2021, 90.1% of the population can use clean water; In 2022, it was 92.1% and in 2023, it was 93.3.%. It was seen that reaching the target would be achieved (Target: 95%).

7. Household toilet usage rate: In 2021, there was 81.05% of all families; In 2022, it was 83.2% and in 2023 it was 83%. It was likely to be achieved (Target: 85%).

8. The rate of declaring and certifying as a model health village: In 2021, 83% of all villages in the country implemented; In 2022, 86.87% was implemented and in 2023, 89.4% was implemented. The target has been achieved (Target: 85%).

There are 3 indicators that are challenging and tend not to reach the target

1. Percentage of children under 5 years of age who are underweight: According to the Lao Social Indicator Survey (LSIS) 2023, it was 24.3%; It is seen that it was not reached the target (Target: 15%).

2. Proportion of children under 5 years of age with below standard height (chronic malnutrition): According to Lao Social Indicator Survey (LSIS) 2023, it was 32.8%; It was likely that this indicator will not reach the target (Target: 27%).

3. Health insurance coverage rates: In 2021, 94% of the target population can be covered and from 2022 to 2023, which is 94.5%. It is seen that there is a tendency to not reach the target (Target: 95%).

In addition, the total average life expectancy which is estimated from the results of the 2015 population and housing survey of the National Statistics Centre shows that in 2021 and 2022 the total average life expectancy is 67 years.

Challenges: In addition to the outstanding achievements that have been made, there are also many difficulties and challenges encountered in implementing public health work, such as:

1. Health infrastructure and medical equipment in many localities, especially community hospitals and small hospitals, are old and not up to standard, which makes health services inadequate.
2. The quantity and quality of medical staff in various hospitals, especially small hospitals, are still insufficient. Additionally, there are complaints from society about a service system that is not easy to trust, and the quality of service from doctors is not meeting expectations.
3. Many hospitals are experiencing financial problems due to delayed reimbursement of service fees related to the health insurance fund, social insurance, and various expenses used in response to the COVID-19 outbreak.
4. The arrangement of drugs and medical equipment to participating hospitals is delayed, and the price of drugs changes according to the fluctuation of the exchange rate, which is not compliant with contracts and puts many hospitals at risk.
5. There are still some indicators among the 11 indicators that have not yet been achieved, such as births attended by doctors, Penta 3 vaccination, clean water consumption rates, and health insurance coverage rates. Additionally, there are some expectations for common diseases such as AIDS, tuberculosis, dengue fever, and communicable diseases that need to be monitored and controlled to prevent them from becoming major health problems.
6. The management of hospitals and private examination rooms is not meeting expectations, and there are voices complaining about the management role of the health sector. At the same time, there has been a negative phenomenon in the management of employees who have technical knowledge and expertise.

7. The implementation of laws related to alcoholic beverages, tobacco, control of communicable diseases, and medical treatment has not yet received positive results.

2.1.2 Nutrition

The nutrition sector has focused and achieved many targets, such as completing the dissemination and implementation of the Decree on Food Products and Food Equipment for Infants and Children; Completed the construction of the National Nutrition Centre and the creation of a National Nutrition strategy; Promote micronutrients and anthelmintics in the target group of children 6-11 months which can distribute more than 70% of vitamin A and the postpartum mother receives 100% of iron; completed creation of the 3Ws map tab; completed the 2nd version of the website design and under the website development process; completed the report and policy proposal by summarizing "Evaluation of the quality of political factors Lack of nutrients "and "Methods and multi-sectoral coordination on nutrition activity groups (case studies of Phongsaly, Bokeo, Huaphan and Saravan provinces); completed a research paper on 5 topics: (1) Acceptable food (nutritional consumption) and nutritional status of children 6-23 months in Lao PDR; (2) The relationship between the mother's consumption of a variety of foods and the abnormal height of children under 5 years of age in Lao PDR; (3) Assess the cost of food diversity in Lao PDR; (4) The relationship between sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and malnutrition in children under 5 years old and (5) Completed the research paper on the effects of antenatal care on malnutrition in children under 2 years old (case study of Phongsaly, Bokeo, Huaphan and Saravan Provinces). The National Nutrition Program (NIPN) phase 2 will expand the work to more local areas by identifying 6 target provinces: Phongsaly, Udomxay, Khammouan, Savannakhet, Saravan and Sekong to strengthen the information creation related to nutrition within the target province.

Challenges: Malnutrition remains a development challenge in Lao PDR, with a percentage of 33.1% in 2017, higher compared to regional countries. There is also a disparity in the percentage of malnutrition at the provincial level and between different ethnic groups and income levels. About 73,000 children face malnutrition which can lead to childhood diseases such as pneumonia. Statistics from September 2022 show that 17% and 20% of households are headed by females and about 25% of households are unable to provide food and nutrition needs due to reduced income. 15% of households have enough food to meet their needs, 12% consume food according to the standard, and 3% consume food that is not nutritious.

2.2 Output2: Improved Quality of All Levels of Education and Conditions Created for Access to Education to Support Readiness for Regional and International Integration and Industry 4.0

Since 2020, Lao PDR has been affected by the spread of COVID-19, leading to difficult economic and financial situations in the country. This has also caused living conditions for ethnic groups to be difficult. The cost of fuel and living expenses has increased, negatively impacting directly and indirectly to the implementation of national socio-economic development plans and education and sports sector development plans over the past two and a half years. This situation, combined with limited quotas for new teachers, has had a negative impact on student enrolment and dropout rates at all levels. Despite these challenges, the education and sports sectors have continued to focus their limited resources on the development of education, science, and sports.

Efforts have been made in various areas including collaboration between the education and health sectors to ensure the safe reopening of schools through back-to-school campaigns on television, radio, and social media, which is accessible to a large population. "A learning database called "Khang Panya Lao" has been created, along with the development of digital teaching media such as teaching videos for teacher training and broadcast educational and sports television programs. Additional teaching has been provided for children in grade 1 and grade 2 in underprivileged districts, provided additional teaching for children and promoted mental health skills and psychological support for teachers and school principals through training on psychosocial first aid. To provide mental health support to teachers and students and to shorten the curriculum by focusing on important content to teach students.

which is described in each aspect as follows:

- **Pre-school education sub-sector:** Over the past two and a half years, this sub-sector has focused on expanding the pre-school education network, establishing child development groups in the community, and promoting multi-aged teaching, and encouraging the private sector to participate in the development of pre-school education. Along with providing pre-school education, group learning through playing continues in areas lacking adequate conditions. Efforts are being made to expand preparatory classes and kindergartens, as well as to increase access to early childhood education. The curriculum has been improved and developed, and childcare workers and teachers have been upgraded. Additionally, the school director's performance has been evaluated to improve the administration and management of the school teaching materials, and hygiene facilities and school lunches have been provided for students from poor families, especially in remote areas.
- **Primary education sub-sector:** Primary education is also an important sub-sector for the provision of reading and writing skills in the Lao language and basic math skills. Special attention has been given to the development and updating of the curriculum, the printing of textbooks and teacher's manuals, and the provision of learning materials for primary schools across the country. Teachers have been trained to use the new curriculum, which has been developed up to Grade 5, and preparations are underway to train teachers on its implementation. School grouping has also been improved to optimize the use of teachers and resources within the groups. Efforts have been made to improve the educational infrastructure in collaboration with the Education and Sports service at the provincial/capital city level, the Education and Sports Bureau at the district level, and local government agencies. Funds have been obtained from both domestic and foreign sources for the construction and repair of schools. Facilities for hygiene have been provided, including school lunches, and scholarships have been offered to students from poor families. These efforts have resulted in a decrease in the dropout rate of 1st grade students from 6.4% in the 2019-2020 school year to 4.8% in the 2022-2023 school year, and an increase in the primary education graduation rate from 92.6% in the 2019-2020 school year to 93.1% in the 2022-2023 school year.
- **Secondary education sub-sector** (including lower and upper secondary school): This sub-sector focused on improving the curriculum, providing various teaching materials, and training teachers in the use of the curriculum, including in-service teachers who have been trained in various topics. It also improved the infrastructure of some secondary schools across the country by using the budget from the government and financial assistance from development partners. It also provided allowance for underprivileged students and some students from poor families. It also improved and developed some legislation related to the implementation and management of teaching and learning in secondary education. It also expanded course

offerings and provided general vocational training in the ethnic boarding school throughout the country.

- **Non-formal education sub-sector:** Despite announcing the eradication of illiteracy throughout the country in the past decade, the government is still tasked with organizing learning, teaching, and eliminating illiteracy. Improving primary and secondary education and reducing the number of students who drop out of general education each year remains an important task that must be implemented throughout the country. In the past two and half years, district has been declared as the remedial class of secondary school graduation across the country, and efforts have been made to organize teaching and training to improve education and provide basic vocational training for the young population, who are illiterate and out of school according to the curriculum set by non-formal education sector. These efforts have benefited a total of 112,559 people according to the extracurricular education program completed by all students. An educational framework has been developed to bridge the gap between formal and non-formal education.
- **Teacher education sub-sector:** Teaching personnel are considered a crucial factor in improving the quality of teaching and learning. Therefore, the continuous professional development of teachers has been a priority of focus in the past, the focus has been placed on improving the teacher training curriculum to align with the general education curriculum, on training and upgrading teachers in teacher training institutes. Moreover, pedagogical system has been improved and on completing the development of the agreement on the continuous professional development of teachers. Additionally, Standards of ICT for teachers in Laos have been developed, and the national teacher policy has been established. In particular, assistance from development partners has been mobilized to build eight demonstration schools throughout the country.
- **Technical and Vocational Education and Training sub-sector:** Improved access to technical and vocational education and training has been prioritized by the Government. Efforts have been made to enhance infrastructure, provide technical equipment, allowance, and short-term training with varying professional certification levels. The Government also promote the collaboration with enterprises in creating quality labour skills in response to the demand of labour market and expanding vocational education institutes. One notable accomplishment has been the establishment of the railway Vocational Technical College, along with a review, improvement, and development of the teaching-learning curriculum. Additionally, several new professional courses have been created and developed, and management manuals for teaching and learning has been revised for 13 courses. Furthermore, the development of 34 training courses focused on competence and professional standards for 14 professions has been completed. The Government has also developed a decree on the Vocational Education Fund and seen an increase in students applying to vocational education institutions, with 34,221 individuals entering vocational education and graduating from public and private vocational education institutions of 37,582 individuals.
- **Higher education sub-sector:** The Ministry of Education and Sports in collaboration with higher education institutions continued to focus on improving and develop teaching and learning quality of universities for instant: A total of 25 courses were offered, including 21 bachelor's degree courses, of which four were continuing courses, and four master's degree courses. Additionally, academic positions for 251 people were accredited, including 98 female, comprising 149 assistant teachers, 75 female, 81 teachers, 18 female, 16 associate professors, three female, and five professors, two female. In the academic years 2020-2021 and 2021-2022, more than 28,000 new students were admitted to various higher education institutions, both public and private. Furthermore, more than 20,700 students graduated from

higher education institutions in the country, and Efforts were also made to improve the quality of research, with 375 scientific research topics being completed. Besides providing higher education within the country, from 2020-2022 the government also facilitate in sending student to pursue their study abroad of 8,630 students, of whom 4,297 were female. Additionally, 7,187 students returned from abroad, of whom 3,601 were female.

- **The sports-physical exercise sub-sector:** Physical activity for all Lao people, including physical activities that promote sports professions, is promoted by the sub-section. The exercise process on important days is organized, in collaboration with the National Sports Club, Disabled Sports Federation, and General Student Sports Federation, to organize sports competitions at the international level, annual sports competition, and party-state leadership contests are arranged, as well as important national days are celebrated. Provinces/Vientiane capital have been encouraged and promoted to organize annual mass sports-gymnastics competitions. Additionally, the organization of the III National Sports Competition for Disabled People hosted by Xiengkhuang Province has been completed, and participation in the 11th and 12th ASEAN Para Games for the Disabled, the World Weightlifting Championship, and the Asia-Pacific Championship has been carried out. The level of administrators, managers, referees, and sports-gymnastics coaches at the provincial and capital level has been upgraded, for a total of 1,191 people, of whom 371 were female. Ten types of sports have been covered and two international level coaches have been achieved. Disabled sports personnel have been developed to a total of 2,155 individuals, including 528 female. Moreover, disabled sports personnel have been developed, bringing the total number to 2,155 individuals, including 528 female. Furthermore, five new national sports federations for gymnastics, baseball and softball, dance, kung fu, and jujitsu have been established. 1 sport club has been established and 10 sports federation has been improved.
- **Through the implementation of the tasks mentioned above, in the 15 indicators of the education and sports sector, there are 7 indicators that are progressing well and 8 indicators that are at risk of not achieving the plan, which are detailed as follows:**

7 Indicators with good progress and tend to achieve by the target:

1. The drop-out rate of Grade 1 students decreased from 6.4 % in the AY 2019-2020 to 4.8 % in AY 2022-2023 (Target:4%);
2. The rate of completion of primary education increased from 92,6 % in AY 2019-2020 to 93,1 % in AY2022-2023 (Target: 95%);
3. Gender equality index, the promotion rate from grade 5 to grade 6 (M.1) reached between 0.99 (Target: between 0,97-1,03);
4. The young population, those who drop out of school to be nourished through non-formal education and vocational training reached 112,559 people equivalent to 75.04% of the five year plan (Target: 150,000 people);
5. Primary and secondary education teachers were trained more than 10% per year (Target: to provide more than 10% per year compared to the total number of teachers);
6. Support more than 2,500 students who are interested in entering the university to enroll in natural science, technology, engineering and mathematics each year (Target: 2,500 students per year);
7. Promote people of all ages and genders to participate in physical activity, physical exercise, and sports, reaching 40.39% of Lao citizens (Target: 50% of all citizens).

8 Indicators are at risk of not being achieved:

1. Enrollment rate of 5-year-old children across the country decreased from 82.7 % in AY 2019-2020 to 81.9 % in AY 2022-2023 (Target: 86%);
2. The rate of new Grade 1 students compared to 6- year-old children decreased slightly from 98.5 % in AY 2019-2020 to 98.3 % in AY 2022-2023 (Target : to achieve 98%) ;
3. The rate of new enrollment of the 5th Grade decreased from 100.4 % in AY 2019-2020 to 96.2% in AY 2022-2023(Target: to achieve 99%) ;
4. The dropout rate of primary school students increased from 4.3 % in AY 2019-2020 to 4.4 % in AY 2022-2023 (Target: 2 % remaining) ;
5. The completing rate of grade 5 to grade 1 decreased from 85.1 % in AY2019-2020 to 84.5 % in AY 2022-2023 (Target: to reach 85 %) ;
6. The dropout rate of middle school students increased from 10.3 % in AY 2019-2020 to 11.2% in AY 2022-2023 (Target: to decrease by 8%) ;
7. The total new enrollment rate at the upper school level Grade 9 (Mor 4) decreased from 71.6 % in AY 2019-2020 to 65.3 % in AY 2022-2023 (Target: to reach 74%);
8. The age of students who graduated from middle school continued to join vocational education and vocational training decreased from 3.8% in AY 2019-2020 to 1.4% in AY 2022-2023 (Target: 5%).

Challenges: The education sector has faced numerous challenges over the past two and half years, primarily due to the outbreak of Covid-19 and economic and financial difficulties. This has resulted in parents not paying enough attention to encourage their children to go to school, leading to some of the indicators declining for instant: there has been a decrease in the enrollment rate of 5-year-old children, as well as in the net new enrollment rate and total enrollment rate in upper secondary schools. However, dropout rates at the primary, lower, and upper secondary school levels are increasing. The main reasons are as follows:

1. The problem of high unemployment after graduation and the decrease in the employment quota are some of the reasons why students do not want to continue studying;
2. Secondary schools are located far away from the villages, making it impossible for students from poor families to attend school due to the lack of dormitories and scholarships;
3. The number of civil servant teachers received each year is small compared to the number of teachers retiring. This lack of manpower makes it impossible to expand the education network and results in an increase in classroom teaching, especially in rural and remote areas;
4. The budget allocated to the education, science, and sports sectors to improve the quality of education, science, and sports is limited;
5. There is still legislation with inconsistent and overlapping content, making implementation at the local levels difficult and non-unified;
6. Economic opportunities are incentives that lead students to drop out of school, especially at the secondary level, to work and earn money for their families;
7. Shifting production and scattered living are also obstacles to the universal provision of primary education;
8. Providing vocational guidance to students in secondary education is an important task for the Ministry of Education and Sports. It enables students to receive various information about their study options;
9. The participation of entrepreneurs and related sectors in the development of the workforce is still not extensive, resulting in poor quality graduates. However, at the same time, there is a lack of a labour market to support students who graduate from vocational education;

10. There is a significant shortage of infrastructure, facilities, textbooks, teacher's manuals, teaching materials, experimental equipment, and equipment for teaching and learning in all grades.

2.3 Output 3: Workforce Skills, Productivity and disciplinary Improved, and Job Diversification, Security and Income Opportunities Increased to Meet the Demands of Socio-Economic Development

Over the past two and a half years, efforts have been made to promote the development of labour skills for the unskilled, those seeking career changes, the unemployed, and individuals entering new positions in the job market. This initiative includes the development of 37 learning courses in institutions and skill development centres, as well as training in various fields. Business units are encouraged to enhance skills across different professional fields, resulting in the creation and improvement of 20 skills development courses (including the development of 5 new courses and enhancements to 15 existing courses). Equipment and machinery have been provided to facilitate skill training at the Skill Development Institute in Vientiane and the Attapeu Province Skill Development Centres. In addition, the construction of a dormitory for trainees and in the process of design and construction, improvement of infrastructure for skill development in Vientiane Capital and Oudomxay Province have been completed. The network of service points for job arrangement at two provinces and 33 districts has also been improved and expanded, reaching 91.66% of the plan (5-Year Plan: 36 districts), with service points for arranging jobs in all 18 provinces and 36 district HHS offices. Moreover, 46 domestic and foreign job placement service enterprises provide face-to-face and online job placement services. The job placement service mechanism has been modernized by issuing the announcement to business units, service units, domestic and international projects as well as special economic zones about the importance of registration of Lao and foreign labours; a program system has been developed, equipment has been provided and strengthen personnel and enable employees at the job placement service points at the provincial and district levels to log in to the Labor Market Information System (LMIS). This system connects to the labour market information system across the country and collects labour inventory and vacant positions, allowing individuals to apply for jobs, interview, select, and fill vacant positions online. Additionally, the labour market information system has become a link between the Lao labour database, foreign workers, and the basic salary of labour in the TaxRis system of the Ministry of Finance. Furthermore, labour fairs are organized in coordination with the business units, local governments, and development partners to collect data on labour demand, which has reached 78,168 positions.

Through these efforts, the labour and social welfare sector has made good progress towards achieving the targets that have been set, the results can be evaluated as follows:

- + Developed labour skills in institutions and skill development centres on various career fields for a total of 8,942 people (3,523 females), equivalent to 59.61% of the plan (5-Year Plan: 40,000 people). This includes agriculture 1,564 people (642 females), industry 5,659 people (1,859 females), and service 1,719 people (1,022 females).
- + Encouraged and promoted business units to develop skills in various professional fields, with a total of 26,819 people (13,113 females), exceeding the plan by 7.28% (5-Year Plan: 25,000 people). This includes agriculture 8,684 people (4,683 females), industry 12,596 people (5,578 females), and service 5,539 people (2,852 females).

- + Conducted skill tests according to the national skill standard and various professions. This includes a total of 2,735 people (1,085 females), equivalent to 73.92% of the plan (5-Year Plan: 3,700 people), in agriculture 436 people (141 females), industry 1,537 people (476 females), and service 762 people (468 females).
- + Developed the skill standard of the business unit as a national skill standard, achieving a total of 13 professions, exceeding the plan by 30% (5-Year Plan: achieve 10 professions).
- + Promoted employment in the domestic and foreign labour market for a total of 159,872 people (80,731 females), equivalent to 40.76% of the plan (5-Year Plan: 392,197 people). This includes providing domestic jobs for 69,066 people (30,417 females), equal to 88.35% of the domestic labour demand (total 78,168 positions). This includes agriculture 7,758 people (3,124 females), industry 37,449 people (18,594 females), and service 23,859 people (8,669 females) and sending 90,806 people (50,314 females) to work abroad, including agriculture 9,161 people (4,036 females), industry 37,293 people (20,015 females), and service 44,352 people (26,263 females).
- + The 2022 indicates that: labour force survey: the labour force structure consists of about 5.3 million people in the labour force who are 15 years old or older, with 2.5 million people (equal to 47.1%) in the employed labour force. The structure of such jobs is divided according to the economic structure: The agricultural sector accounts for 1.4 million people (equal to 56.8%), industry accounts for 252.4 thousand people (equal to 10.2%), and services account for 814.3 thousand people (equal to 32.9%). About 61.2 thousand unemployed people make the unemployment rate about 2.4% (Target: 15% by 2025).
- + Disseminate and inspect the implementation of the Labor Law in business units for 5,036 times (equal to 40.29% of the plan, 5-Year Plan: 12,500 times), involving a total of 161,251 workers (63,718 females). 683 business units have been encouraged to create and update internal regulations, exceeding the plan by 36.60% (5-Year Plan: 500 units). Additionally, 292 units have been encouraged to create labour contracts, equal to 58.40% of the plan (5-Year Plan: 500 units).
- + A total of 316 labour dispute cases have been submitted. Among these, 242 cases were investigated, equivalent to 76.58% of disputes (5-Year Plan: To mediate 80% of disputes each year) and brought benefits to workers in cash totalling 7,956.34 million Kip, 38,000 Thai baht, and 3,507.79 US dollars. Thirteen cases are being mediated, and 74 cases have been sent to the People's Court to continue with the consideration. One case was dismissed. Additionally, advise on labour laws and regulations have been given to solve labour user and worker disputes of 3,000 times, equivalent to 60% of the plan (Target: 5,000 times).

Challenges: The challenges in labor force structure information and labor market information include:

1. A lack of clarity in the sources of this information, as well as the lack of harmonization between the supply and demand for skill development within the domestic labor market. Furthermore, there is no mutual recognition of skills between the skill development department and business units. Additionally, the infrastructure, machinery, skill development equipment, and various skill standards are limited and do not meet the needs of the labor market.

2. In terms of job placement and access to job placement services, there is a lack of strength in the promotion of these services. Many households engage in work for consumption without income or profit, and labor productivity remains low. Furthermore, labor migration from rural to urban

areas and migration abroad has caused a shortage of local labor and investment projects in some places.

3. In the realm of laws and legislation, the legal framework is not yet a fully integrated system. The coordination of policies and strategies in labor development and social welfare planning between the central ministry and local levels is still lacking harmony. Investment projects remain limited and are unable to effectively drive the achievement of various goals. Despite government efforts to alleviate the rising cost of living for vulnerable labor groups by raising the minimum wage in Lao PDR 1.1 million Kip to 1.2 million Kip in 2022 and from 1.2 million Kip and to 1.3 million Kip in 2023, it still stands at nearly three times lower than the minimum wage in neighboring countries. This disparity is growing rapidly due to the weakness of the Kip, resulting in an increase in labor migration to work in neighboring countries, particularly since the opening of border crossings.

2.4 Output 4: Promoting and Utilizing Scientific Research, Technology, Innovation and Knowledge to Drive Socio-Economic Development

The development of science, technology, and innovation into a driving force for the country's development, and to utilize research results, technical-scientific knowledge, technological advancements, and intellectual property to impact the production process and services to create diversity and add value to products, supporting regional and international competition while transitioning towards a digital economy. Over the past two and a half years, the government has concentrated on managing and promoting scientific research and new innovations, as well as enhancing the quality and efficiency of research outcomes, innovations, and services. These included:

- Completed revision of the Law on Science and Technology; Developed an agreement on the management of scientific research for the Science and Technology Development Fund, along with five recommendations; Announced research topics and summarization of the research topics for 2023, totaling 194 topics; Selected experts and technical committees for filtering and considering scientific research topics; Completed the issuance of safety certificates from the use of radiation generators for 75 public and private hospitals. Additionally, the installation of environmental radiation measurement stations at 4 universities across the country.
- Developed and promulgated 2 decrees: (1) Decree on the amendment and application of further measures for violators of laws and regulations regarding standards, and (2) Decree on fines and measures against violators of laws and regulations on measurement. The focus has been on promoting domestic products to obtain national standards, resulting in the creation and approval of a total of 280 standards. This includes the amendment of 1 standard, the creation of 2 new standards, and the approval of international standards as national standards (280 standards). This is equal to 31.44% of the 5-Year Plan to obtain 900 standards. Currently, there are 616 national standards that have been announced.
- Preparation for the use of the system for filing applications for the registration of industrial property, new plants, notification of information copyrights and rights related to copyrights, and proposal for resolution of administrative intellectual property disputes through electronic (E-Filing System) together with the bank and the use of the Industrial Property Administration System (IPAS).

3. Outcome 3: The living conditions of the people, both physically and mentally, have been steadily improved.

3.1 Output1: Poverty Alleviated in Rural and Remote Areas, and People's Livelihoods, Cultural Values, and Media Work Improved

1. Rural Development and Poverty Alleviation:

Rural development and poverty alleviation were a major focus, with the implementation of the Politburo Central Party No. 097/PDCP, dated February 18, 2020, regarding the strengthening of leadership and guidance for rural development work and poverty alleviation. Efforts were made to create a new rural development focus development plan for the period 2021-2025, which identified a new rural development focus, with a total of 20 focuses in 17 provinces and Vientiane capital covering 20 districts, 109 villages, and a focus on land allocation and occupations with a total of 25 sleeping spots in 17 provinces covering 20 districts and 158 villages with 45 sites.

Over the past two and a half years, progress was made in implementing poverty eradication target figures and rural development targets. This has led to better development in rural and remote areas, as well as the improvement of living standards for ethnic minority groups. Data was collected based on all standards and development standards specified in Decree No. 348/Govt, with the following main objectives being implemented:

- Lifting household out of poverty target has achieved 48,067 families, which is equal to 23.52% of the set target (Target: to increase 204,360 families, or by 2025 to reach a total of 1,168,509 families).
- Lifting villages out of poverty target has covered 482 villages, equal to 15.53% of the target set (Target: to reach 3,104 villages, or by 2025 to reach a total of 7,896 villages).
- Lifting districts out poverty target has achieved 11 districts, equal to 15.94% of the target set (Target: to achieve 69 districts, or by 2025 to reach a total of 122 districts).
- Building developed families target has reached 50,076 families, equal to 20.38% of the target (Target: to reach 245,754 families or 982,750 families by 2025).
- Building developed villages target has reached 559 villages is equivalent to 12.65% of the target (Target: to reach 4,420 villages or 5,167 villages by 2025).
- Turning villages into a city target has been achieved with 12 villages being implemented, surpassing the target set by 20% (Target: to achieve 10 villages).
- The creation of permanent jobs and stable jobs for people has also been focused on, with 4 focuses implemented, equal to 16% of the set target (Target: to achieve 25 focuses).
- Lastly, the building of a comprehensively strong city has seen 1 city implemented, equal to 20% of the target set (Target: to achieve 5 cities).

Summing up, there are still 257,670 poor families, 2,964 poor villages, and 84 poor districts that need further attention.

Challenges: The set expectations may not be met by the solution to the poverty of poor families, poor villages, and poor districts. Issues related to quantity and quality are being affected by development efforts, such as village building and large-scale developments in rural areas. For example, sustainability has not yet been ensured by the allocation of land and living spaces for the people. Only land for residence has been allocated for most of the people, with no provisions for other activities. This affects the promotion of production and the improvement of living conditions. Additionally, the effective implementation of the use of internal capital, grant-loans,

and bank credit for rural development and poverty reduction has not been achieved. Consistency is also lacking in the allocation of funding to each locality. The spread of the COVID-19 disease over the past two and a half years has exacerbated these challenges. Unemployment has increased, and the loss of money transfer opportunities due to migration back to the land of origin has reduced household income. The inflation rate has also increased, resulting in higher prices for consumer goods which has reduced the food purchasing of households covering 34%, the households tend to switch to food that are cheaper in price or hunting and collecting foods from forest covering 39% and finally to grow their own food covering 47%. This indicated that: The increase in high food prices disproportionately affects low-income households, which spend a larger portion of their income on food. Reduced revenue collection and a high debt burden present fiscal constraints for the country. Additionally, limited funding for the national social security system impacts access for vulnerable groups. As a result, households have had to reduce spending on education and health covering 65% to cope with inflation. In 2011, the poverty rate in the middle-income group was USD 3.2 and it is expected to increase by 2.4% by 2021, with another 170,000 people expected to fall below the poverty line in 2021. This group of individuals, who were not anticipated to be poor before the spread of COVID-19, is now expected to become impoverished in 2021.

2. Information and Culture:

The media sector has been focusing on ensuring that advertisements align with the policies of the party-state and support the development of the economy and society, primarily through television media. This includes broadcasting on radio, news, print media, electronic media, and online news platforms throughout society. Attention is given to managing and monitoring the transmission of national radio signals, AM and FM systems, as well as national television signals via satellite 24 hours a day, using various media outlets. The technical infrastructure of Lao National Television has been gradually transformed from an analogy system to a digital system. The focus is on disseminating information about the implementation of the 2 national agendas, particularly the campaign to widely and continuously solve the problem of drug trafficking in each locality. The completion of the task of exploring, reviving, and promoting the good cultural values of the ethnic groups is also expected. This includes the production of 144 radio programs or 9 chapters, the research and promotion of traditional festival values, and the conservation of such values. Additionally, the organization of activities for children's culture centres throughout the country, including the implementation of personnel training programs and activity exchange programs for children's culture centres in provinces and districts, will be carried out 12 times. Currently, there are 47 children's culture centres. It is also planned to create a documentary promoting culture, customs, and lifestyle that can be broadcast on national radio, along with 120 mass cultural programs and 60 programs on national television. Furthermore, the work involves completing the research, creating and approving the decree on the creation of families and cultural villages, decree on national dress, guidelines for the implementation of the decree on creating families and cultural villages, and guidelines for the selection of outstanding individuals, families, and cultural villages, as well as spreading throughout the northern provinces. Additionally, the infrastructure and cultural equipment have been improved, such as National Physical Education, Guards National Artists, Libraries, Fine Arts, and Museums. These focus tasks have achieved the following main objectives:

- Expansion of radio broadcasts at the district level and equipped with a complete set of technical equipment in 4 districts: Nakai District and Mahaxai District, Khammouan Province; Taoi District, Saravan Province, and Son District, Huaphan Province; equaling to 11.11% of the plan (Target: 36 points) will be carried out.

- The plan also includes extending the telecommunications system at the village level to 1,751 sets/village, equaling to 62.53% of the plan (Target: 2,800 villages).
- Expansion plan includes the modernization of the technical system from an analog system to a digital system 1, equaling to 4.5% of the plan (Target: 22 points).
- The plan includes the creation of 38,540 cultural families, equaling to 29.65% of the plan (Target: 130,000 families)
- Building of 345 cultural villages, equaling to 46% of the plan (Target: 750 villages).
- Additionally, the plan involves completing the preparation of the application document to introduce Hin Nam Noo National Park, Khammouan Province as the first natural world heritage of the Lao PDR and completing the preparation of the application document on the topic of the wisdom of the Lao ethnic community and the Lao Lamvong dance to be revised according to the comments of UNESCO.
- Furthermore, the expansion plan involves exploring 24 archaeological sites, equaling to 68% of the plan (Target: 35 sites)
- Excavating 3 archaeological sites, equaling to 60% of the plan (Target: 5 sites).
- Registering the antiquities and Buddha images to be up to date with 3 finds and reports, equaling to 60% of the plan (Target: 5),
- Listing cultural, historical, and natural heritage from the local level to the national level for 11 places, equaling to 55% of the plan (Target: 20 places).

Challenges: The upgrading of technical knowledge in the media is still uncommon. The plans to promote, monitor, evaluate, improve, and resolve issues to raise the quality of press-media work has not yet implemented in a continuous and systematic manner. The development of basic infrastructure, technical equipment, and media vehicles is not yet compatible with the requirements of the work. The investment of the public sector and the private sector, both domestically and internationally, in the media sector is still small. There is a lack of literary works, song lyrics, plays, films, and shows that align with policy guidelines. The form and content of cultural works are not rich, diverse, and do not meet the needs of society. Additionally, there is a lack of a plan to promote, monitor, evaluate, and improve cultural works through various measures aimed at improving, adjusting and upgrading them

3.2 Output 2: Public Utility Infrastructure Improved and Access to Public Services Made More Inclusive and Equitable

To address the income and infrastructure gap between urban and rural areas, the Government has prioritized the development and enhancement of essential infrastructure in underserved regions. This includes improving rural roads, expanding electricity access in remote areas through the utilization of solar power where traditional grid expansion is not feasible, and establishing small-scale hydropower sources. Additionally, efforts have been made to extend community water supply systems, expand the telecommunications network, and establish schools and small hospitals. These initiatives aim to facilitate production and services, as well as improve access to public sector services, ultimately reducing income disparity. The government's focused efforts have yielded significant progress in key objectives, including:

- Increased the household electricity consumption rate to 95.45% nationwide, with a target of reaching 98% of households nationwide by 2022.
- Expanded the electricity grid system to cover 2.26% (28,000 families) and provided off-grid electricity to 0.74% (over 9,000 families), primarily through funding from cooperative sources such as grants and loans, in conjunction with public sector investment.

- Prioritized the expansion of the electricity grid system in three provinces (Phongsaly, Huaphan, and Sekong) with the lowest electricity consumption rates. Focus will be on providing electricity to residents through solar power systems and small hydropower projects.
- Expanded the water supply system to cover 117 towns and 1,480 villages, with a coverage ratio of 77.56% compared to the urban population, with an anticipated increase to 85% by 2025.

3.3 Output 3: Equal Access to Socio-Economic Development Opportunities Promoted and the Rights of Women and Children Protected

- Completed the development of the 7th five-year National Women Development Plan, Lao Women Development Strategy to 2030 and Vision to 2035; The national action plan has been completed, approved and promulgated in three versions: the 4th five-year National Action Plan for gender equality (2021-2025), the 3rd five-year National Action Plan for Mothers and Children (2021-2025), and the 2nd five-year National Action Plan to Prevent and Eliminate Violence against Women and Children (2021-2025). 9 ministries, 17 provinces, and Vientiane Capital have drafted an action plan for gender equality and an action plan to prevent and eradicate violence against women (2021-2025), and 12 sectors have integrated them into the development plan of their sector. Additionally, the use of the national action plan for strengthening the child protection system (2021-2025) has been announced. Furthermore, a national action plan to eliminate child labor and promote valuable work for the youth of the Lao PDR has been drafted.
- The Law on Gender Equality and the Law on Combating and Preventing the Use of Violence against Women were disseminated in an organized manner to the leadership, civil servants at ministries, agencies, provinces, capitals, the National Assembly, and social organizations a total of 75 times, with 9,814 participants (7,238 female).
- Strengthened and recommended the establishment of state budgets and investment plans that encompass gender roles for 17 ministries, 2 equivalent organizations, and 9 organizations at the central level.
- The mechanism to provide services to help survivors of violence has been strengthened by drafting national procedural standards to assist survivors of violence in the health sector, as well as by training Ministry of Health staff and doctors at central hospitals in providing services to help survivors of violence. National procedural standards have also been drafted to assist victims of violence in the social sector and to coordinate the management and referral of victims of violence. Operational standards for supporting women and children who have been victims of violence in the justice process in Lao PDR, as well as training for relevant sectors at both central and local levels. Furthermore, five counselling centers to help victims of violence have been expanded in Savannakhet, Bokeo, Attapu, Champasak, and Borikhamxay through the funding from international counterparts
- Organized a pilot training on the use of the manual for men's participation in combating violence in the community level (27 villages) of Savannakhet, Attapeu, Bolikhamxay, Bokeo, Champasack Provinces and Vientiane Capital; Identified victims of human trafficking and the use of manuals for the protection, assistance and referral of victims of human trafficking to women's unions in the 3 target provinces and provinces and organized training for child representatives to comment on the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and additional protocols and collect information at villages, draft the national report on the 10th phase implementation of the CEDAW Convention.

- In promoting gender equality and eliminate violence and children's right, the national action plan has been completed, approved and promulgated in three versions: the 4th five-year National Action Plan for gender equality (2021-2025), the 3rd five-year National Action Plan for Mothers and Children (2021-2025), and the 2nd five-year National Action Plan to Prevent and Eliminate Violence against Women and Children (2021-2025)
- Fulfilling the Lao PDR's obligation to report on the protection of the rights of women and children by completing the 10th national report on the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, as well as the 7th national report on the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its two additional conventions.
- Create conducive conditions and facilitate the placement of employees and civil servants in leadership and management positions through a structured leadership appointment plan, ensuring gender balance with increased female representation. Currently, the leadership appointment plan is being developed to oversee management at the central level, successfully administering 36 ministries and organizations, as well as 18 provinces and Vientiane capital. Additionally, efforts are underway to improve victim assistance services at two central hospitals: Mahosot Hospital and the Mother and Child Hospital. This includes establishing the first one-stop service point for healthcare at Mahosot Hospital, which is accessible via the hotline number 1527
- Promote the development of children and young people through the creation and enhancement of five national manuals, including: the National Child and Youth Participation Guide of Lao PDR; the Life Skills Development Guide for Children and Youth in Lao PDR; the Training Guide on Preventing and Eliminating Violence Against Children; the National Guide for Preventing and Addressing Violence Against Children in Secondary Schools; and the National Guide for Career Readiness Training for Children and Youth in Lao PDR. These five manuals have been integrated into five key institutions: the People's Police Academy, General Security Academy, the Research and Training Institute for Prosecutors, the Research and Training Institute for Judges, and the National Justice Institute
- Complete a study on early child marriage and teenage pregnancy in Lao PDR, with data collection focused on areas with high rates of teenage pregnancy, covering 9 provinces, 11 districts, and 30 villages. The study identified 8 key factors contributing to early child marriage and teenage pregnancy, along with 7 recommendations for relevant sectors. Additionally, a national guide on the prevention and resolution of violence against children in secondary schools has been published, with a recommendation to establish school-level conflict resolution committees in 8 provinces: Vientiane, Xayabuli, Huaphan, Xiengkhouang, Sekong, Khammouan, Luang Prabang, and Phongsaly.
- Expansion of child protection and support committees at the district level has been achieved in 23 districts, equivalent to 65.71% of the target (5-year plan: 35 districts), and at the village level in 684 villages, exceeding the target by 36.80% (5-year plan: 500 villages). Training on child protection and assistance has been provided to 1,554 individuals. Moreover, funds totaling 1.63 million kip were allocated to support 929 children, including 419 girls. Assistance was provided to 10,918 individuals, including 4,014 women, who are in need of special protection, at risk, victims of human trafficking, underprivileged children, and those affected by COVID-19, with a total distribution of 6.516 million kip
- Provided counselling services for women and children who have legal, physical, and mental health problems through face-to-face sessions and the free hotline number 1,362; Provided counselling service to 528 women and children, as well as 176 men.

- Developed and improved training manuals for counselling, protection and assistance to victims, publicizing laws and international conventions related to the legitimate rights and interests of women and children, created manuals for protection, assistance, and referral to victims of violence against women and children in the Lao PDR.

Through the implementation of priority initiatives to promote access to development and gender equality for women and children, the results of the successful implementation are as follows:

- 1) The proportion of children living in poverty, as defined by national standards, is targeted to decrease to 30% in each province by 2025, with survey data collected every 5 years.
- 2) The Gender Inequality Index has reduced from 0.478 (The target plan: to reduced 0.430 by 2025).
- 3) The gender equality development index is targeted to increase from 0.949 to 0.984 by 2025.
- 4) The Women's Empowerment Index and Women's Development Index were at 0.582 and the Women's Development Index were at 0.591 (Target: to increase 0.675 by 2025).
- 5) The number of women's union workers providing counselling for women and children has exceeded the 5-Year Plan target, reaching 1,549 individuals, covers 54.90% (5-Year Plan target: 1,000 people by 2025).
- 6) A total of 6,664 people (4,393 women) has received counselling services in person and via a 24-hour telephone hotline 1362.
- 7) 166 women and child who were victims of violence were assisted, and women and attended 68 provincial-level children's court sessions involving cases related to women and children.
- 8) 29.48% of the planned 403 female leadership-management staff have been designated (5-Year Plan: To cover 30% and above).
- 9) 17.57% of the planned 146 female employees in leadership-management roles (5-Year Plan: to cover 20% and above).
- 10) Women make up 28.35% of all members of the National Assembly and People's Council at the provincial level, with a target to reach 30% by the 5-Year Plan target.
- 11) Expanded the membership and organization of women's unions in the private business sector (business units with 50% or more women) to include 18 units and 24 foundations for women aged 15 and over.
- 12) 67.5% of the targeted 1,500 poor and disadvantaged women in the provinces have received short-term and long-term vocational training, totaling 1,012 individuals.

Challenges:

- The Covid-19 pandemic and the 4F crisis have disproportionately impacted women and girls, leading to a surge in domestic violence and heightened risks of sexual exploitation and abuse. Recently, there has been a rise in human trafficking in Southeast Asia, including instances of internet fraud. Lao PDR has also experienced an increase in human trafficking in the region. Therefore, there is a need for enhanced, comprehensive measures to effectively prevent and combat human trafficking.
- The monitoring system, data collection, and data analysis and evaluation processes are not yet robust. Personnel responsible for gender equality work, including those tasked with data collection and monitoring, currently lack a comprehensive understanding of how to utilize gender statistics in their roles. Additionally, sector-specific databases

and data collection sheets do not yet incorporate gender statistics. As a result, the interpretation and reporting of this data are incomplete, hindering the ability to provide thorough reports to the government and the international community as planned.

- Understanding of gender equality promotion and the protection of children's rights and interests remains limited in each sector and the local. There is a particular deficiency in strengthening and raising awareness about non-discrimination, ensuring women's equality, and safeguarding children's rights. The limited use of gender-role statistics further impedes effectiveness, resulting in insufficient recognition among all ethnic groups, including children, of their own rights and entitlements.
- The issues of discrimination and violence against women and children continue to spread and escalate. Victims often hesitate to seek help due to the influence of traditional rules and a lack of deep understanding among those providing assistance. Specifically, there is a deficiency in victim-centered support and adherence to existing legislation, which results in inadequate and untimely assistance for victims.

3.4 Output 4: Promote and Develop Youth to Improve Human Capital and Participation in the Workforce

- Focused on vocational training and creating jobs for people of working age, especially young people in remote areas, the poor and disadvantaged, so that they can develop their lives better. At the same time, provided counselling to young people who are disappointed, sad, looking for a solution in life and other problems. To enhance the effectiveness of youth development efforts, there should be a stronger emphasis on promotion and awareness.
- Disseminated the 8th National Youth Congress and Lao Youth Development Strategy 2021-2030 to 16 provinces, including 2 additional provinces: Sekong Province and Xayombon Province. Activated hotline 1554 to provide counselling to young people and general groups to relieve psychological distress at the basic level; Created a short video to remind the public about how to prevent Covid-19 and advertised it through radio programs FM 90.00 and 103.7, Lao Youth Union, Lao People's Revolutionary Youth Centre, Page: Noum Lao Mass Media, Lao Youth Media and website [www.nit.gov.la].
- Disadvantaged youths have received vocational training and have created job opportunities, particularly for those in remote rural areas, as well as for the poor and disadvantaged. The training has covered various professional fields, including motorcycle repair, automobile maintenance, electrical work, welding, tailoring, cosmetology, farming, and animal husbandry, benefiting a total of 2,539 people.
- Counselling 4,091 young people, 2,471 of whom were women, who were experiencing disappointment, a lack of direction in life, and other related issues.
- Over the past two and a half years, laws and policies have been promoted to youth across the country. Fourteen organizations participated, with over 5,000 total participants.
- Campaigned to raise awareness in elementary schools across the country on various important topics, including the effects of drugs, the four basic rights of children, anti-human trafficking, and promoting safe driving on the road. In total, 6,264 people participated in the campaign, with 3,467 of them being women.
- Provided technical training for youth workers from across the country, three trainings with a total of 160 participants.

- In the past two and a half years, a total of 3,724 individuals, with 1,888 of them being women have received vocational training in the fields of tailoring, cosmetology, weaving culinary arts, attending vocational training and training on social psychology.

Challenges: The Covid-19 pandemic has caused substantial economic and job losses among young people. Despite the government's commitment to tackling youth unemployment, the ongoing economic downturn has impeded investment in human resource development, leading to reduced spending in the social sector. This poses a risk of squandering the demographic dividend which could result in increased poverty and stunted development, especially in a developing country like Lao PDR.

3.5 Output 5: Individuals and workers in the corporate sector, as well as freelancers, have improved access to effective social protection services

Over the years, the government has been endeavouring to strengthen and streamline the social security system, particularly through the implementation of the national social protection strategy until 2025. The goal is to broaden social security coverage for workers across a diverse spectrum of target groups and to facilitate multiple avenues for accessing social security services. The focused efforts have enabled the expansion of social security services to be more regulated, and significant progress has been achieved in meeting the following goals:

- Expanded the management of enterprise units that are managed by social security to add 811 new units, equivalent to 64,88% of the plan (Target: 1,275 units)
- Registered 104,919 new insured persons, of whom 46,697 were female, which is 66.62% of the plan (Target: 157,500 people), of which: 6,864 people from the public sector, of whom 2,860 were female, which is 9.52% of the plan (Target: 7,500 people), in the enterprise sector, 86,724 people, of whom 37,031 were female, which is 64.24% of the plan (Target: 135,000 people) and 11,331 volunteers, of whom 6,806 were female, which is 75.54% of the plan (Target: 15,000 people).
- Subsidized various types of social security according to the Law on Social Insurance, which in the past two and a half years collected 4,265.82 billion Kip, which is 40.13% of the plan (5-Year Plan target: 10,630 billion Kip), of which the public sector was 2,916.18 billion Kip, which is 36.90% of the plan (Target: 7,902 billion Kip), and the enterprise and voluntary sector was 1,349.63 billion Kip, which is 49.47% of the plan (Target: 2,728 billion Kip). Spent 3,504.85 billion Kip for the implementation of expenses, subsidies and administration for the insured and the beneficiaries, which is 37.04% of the plan (Target: 9,461 billion Kip), of which: the public sector was 2,881.84 billion Kip, which is 36.52% of the plan (Target: 7,891 billion Kip) and the enterprise and voluntary sector was 623.01 billion Kip, which is 39.70% of the plan (Target: 1,569 billion Kip).
- Implemented the policy for those who have achievements and virtues in the national democratic revolutionary mission. 1,771 men and 203 women, which is equal to 42,993.49 million Kip, equals 11.07% of the plan (5-year plan Target: 16,000 people),. Among the 5 priority goals, 1 national hero was subsidized for 20 million Kip, 4 competitive warriors (2 women) for 40millionKip, money to replace the car quota of 65 people (10 women) was 4.75billionKip, one-time support for 893 people who lost their lives (60 women) was 19.9 billion Kip and one-time support for 644 people who are still alive was 14.97 billion Kip.

- Consider and approved a subsidy policy for individuals who were disabled during combat or while serving in the national democratic revolutionary mission, including 478 individuals and 102 women, achieving 50.31% of the target (5-year plan: 950 individuals).
- Expanded the committee to protect and help children at the district level to 23 districts, which is 65.71% of the plan (5-year plan Target: 35 districts) and village level 684 villages, exceeding the plan by 36.80% (5-year plan Target: 500 villages) as well as training 1,554 people to protect and help children, which is 210.80% exceeding the plan (5-year plan: at least 500 individuals, 100 individuals per year in average).
- Contributed funds to take care of the children of the SOS Home for 929 people, of whom 419 were female, for 1,630 million Kip.
- Helped children and women who need special protection, who are vulnerable and victims of human trafficking, underprivileged children and those affected by Covid-19, 10,918 people, of whom 4,014 were women, and 6,516 million Kip.
- Provided food assistance to disaster victims in Sanamxay District, Attapue Province, 33,681 tons worth 31,320 million Kip, with 4,678 families benefiting; donated 40,421.89 tons of food to disaster victims, the poor and the underprivileged throughout the country, amounting to 36,321.72 million Kip, with 322,160 beneficiaries, of whom 181,497 were female; provided various types of consumer goods to 77,911 disadvantaged people, 5,600 million Kip; collected materials and equipment to build houses for 2,928 families affected by various disasters, worth 1,316.02 million Kip and improved people's lives to reduce poverty in remote and rural areas for 195 families for 500 million Kip.
- Completed renovation of 2 warehouses for consumer goods, 1 in Vientiane and 1 in Champasak province and 1 is under construction in Oudomxay province.

Challenges:

- 1) The social safety net is still limited and largely unfunded. The health insurance budget is decreasing despite the increase in enrolment in the social security system. The public sector is still unable to ensure sustainable funding for social security due to budget constraints.
- 2) Labor safety, welfare and working environment have not been improved as much as they should be. They have not yet created a force to attract the labour force into some economic sectors and are not an incentive for the labour force to develop themselves both in terms of skills and work attitude. The promotion of labour relations is not as strong as it should be. The implementation of labour unit standards and the rules for the use of labour is not widespread. The protection of the rights and interests of child labour is still lacking. The management of Lao workers working abroad has not been done as well as it should be. The foreign workers working in Laos have not been systematically managed and there are no effective solutions, which has affected the employment of Lao workers and there are cases of non-fulfilment of obligations to the state.
- 3) The expansion of the social security system based on the labour unit system has not yet reached the set expectations. The society has not yet recognized and understood the social security system deeply and widely. The public social security fund cannot be a self-sustaining fund except for the income from the 8% and 8.5% legal contributions. Each year, the government also bears the burden of providing enough budget for social security subsidies according to actual needs because the number of recipients of social security subsidies increases every year. At the same time, the contribute payers, especially civil servants, have a decreasing trend, so the combined income

according to the obligations stipulated in the law is not enough to cover the social security subsidies every year. The lack of coordination and provision of health care services is not satisfactory for the insured and the beneficiaries.

4) The implementation of policies for those who have worked in the national democratic revolution mission has not yet achieved the set expectations. Some target group information is still unclear. The budget supply is still insufficient to meet the needs. The development of support for children, the disabled, and the elderly is not yet systematic. The management of social assistance and disasters is not yet strong, and the provision of emergency assistance to disaster victims, the disadvantaged, and the poor is still delayed.

3.6 Output 6: Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) Clearance Progressively Accelerated and More Lives Made Safe from UXO

- Unexploded ordnance clearance from production areas, community areas, and key business zones has been carried out on 11,879 hectares, achieving 23.76% of the target (5-year plan: 50,000 hectares).
- There have been 52 unexploded ordnance accidents resulting in 98 casualties, including 75 injuries and 23 fatalities, which represents 49% of the planned target. The 5-Year Plan aimed for less than 40 victims per year or a total of fewer than 200 casualties over the course of 5 years.
- There were also advertised the consequences and the source of unexploded explosives according to the target village group, reaching 5,496 villages, exceeding the plan by 83.20% (5-Year Plan target: 3,000 village visits), with 164,123 participants, of whom 52,671 were female, and 9,740 general education schools, with 750,748 students and teachers, of whom 364,555 were female.
- They have also organized a non-technical survey to find evidence of unexploded explosives in 594 villages, which is 21,40% of the plan (5-Year Plan: 2,776 villages), and a technical survey to determine the remaining area of 61,294,05 hectares, which is 24,52% of the plan (5-Year Plan target: 250,000 hectares).
- They have provided help and support for livelihood development for 199 victims of the explosion accident, which is 3,46% of the plan (5-Year Plan target: 5,750 people), of which: medical treatment for 70 people, mental health recovery for 42 people, medical rehabilitation for 52 people and housing construction for 35 people.

Challenges: The management of the unexploded ordnance clearance work has not been streamlined; the fundraising is not enough to meet the needs of the actual work.

4. Outcome 4: Environmental Protection Enhanced and Disaster Risks Reduced

4.1 Output 1: Natural Resources Sustainably Used and Managed

In the past two and a half years, the focus has been on managing and sustainably using natural resources by implementing and revising relevant legislation. The progress made in implementing the indicators outlined in the 9th NSEDP is as follows:

- Registered and issued 395,350 land titles, equivalent to 24.70% of the plan (5-Year Plan target: 1.6 million land titles nationwide).
- Developed comprehensive plans for land allocation and management of natural resources and the environment in 5 provinces. Until now, there have been 17 provinces and Vientiane Capital that have developed the plan (5-Year Plan target: 5 provinces). Simultaneously,

efforts have been made to disseminate and promote the use of the allocation plan in the implementation of the socio-economic development plans for the provinces and Vientiane Capital.

- Proposed to the Government to develop 3 national conservation forests into national parks: in 2021, there have been two completed (DongHua Sao and Sepian national parks); in 2022, there was one completed (Phou Khao Khuai national park), equivalent to 60% of the plan (5-year plan: 5 national parks)
- Forestry: Currently, the actual tree planting area stands at 65,600 hectares, representing 32.80% of the target (5-year plan: 200,000 hectares), while forest restoration efforts cover 61,450 hectares, amounting to 3.41% of the target (5-year plan: 1,800,000 hectares). It is evident that the promotion of tree planting and forest restoration has not progressed as effectively as planned. Additionally, issues such as land encroachment and the conversion of forest areas for production and investment, along with frequent forest fires, pose a significant risk to achieving the target of maintaining 70% forest cover across the country's land area by 2025
- Establish and enhance environmental quality monitoring through the creation of air quality measurement stations, 5 air quality monitoring stations were built, equivalent to 55.56% of the plan (5-Year Plan: At least 9 stations nationwide).
- Developed 12 large-scale river basins and provincial river basin: Nam Ou, Nam Tha, Nam Khan, Nam Ngum, Nam Theun-Nam Kading, Xebangfai, Xebanghieng, Nam Sam, Nam Seung, Nam Ngieb, Xedon and Xekong (5-Year Plan target: 14 river basins).

In addition, priority has been given to implementing key tasks as part of the focus plan, resulting in several significant achievements, including the following:

+ Land management and land use: In the process of modernizing land management, reviewing land management database, and estimating the investment costs for system modernization; improved ICT infrastructure to improve land management data; collaborated with private sector and relevant stakeholders to continue managing Lao Land Reg for land management and integrate with land use information to collect fee and other incomes from land, piloting in Xaythany district, Vientiane Capital (Department of Natural Resource and Environment Vientiane Capital). In addition, there has been evaluation of land renting and concession nationwide, having reviewed 438 projects and concessional lands, which resulted in revoking 101 projects, equivalent to 23% of the plan. Further, it was proposed to revise the Decree on state land renting and concessions. Ministries have been encouraged to register state land, with 11 ministries completing the registration of a total of 17,207 plots. The implementation of the National Land Allocation Master Plan has continued, with efforts to integrate it into development plans at various levels. To date, land allocation plans have been developed for 45 districts, representing 30% of districts nationwide, and for 3,200 villages, accounting for 36% of villages nationwide.

+ Management and use of forest resources: Promoted and supported relevant parties to sustainably use and manage forest resources by providing fund in the amount of 18.5 million US dollars under Environment and Society phase 2 in the following regions: Nam Ad – Phou lei, Nam Sam, Phousabod, Phoujornng, Tad Kuangsy, Phou Meud-Phou San, Nam Mouan, Phou Jorm Voi, Nakai – Nam Theun, Nam In Phou Hin Lak Fai, Phou Khao Khuai, Dong Na Tad. In addition, there was also support to the development and maintenance of botanical garden such as the preparations to adopt and announce Nam-Ad Phou lei and Nakai-Nam Theun as national parks.

+ Management and use of water resources: Encouraged provinces to develop their own mid-size reservoir management with 3 reservoirs received approval from vice governor: Nam San reservoir, Nam Ngum reservoir and Nam Phoun in Xayabouly province, equivalent to 16% of the plan (mid-size reservoir: 19 reservoirs). Several key legislation have been developed and updated to serve as the foundation for water management and resource conservation, with the goal of ensuring water is of good quality and sufficient quantity to meet consumption, utility, and sustainable development needs. Additionally, a strategy has been drafted for the management and utilization of water and water resources. A mechanism to reduce water pollution has been established through the issuance of wastewater discharge permits to investment projects and entrepreneurs. A provincial groundwater management plan has been created, and charcoal mud soil surveys and area demarcations have been conducted. Furthermore, water quality monitoring has been carried out at 202 points across various streams throughout the country.

+ Environmental management: Constructed and installed five air quality monitoring stations in Oudomxay province, Luang Namtha province, Bokeo province, Savannakhet province, and Khammouan province. These stations regularly reported on air quality, including PM 2.5, PM 10, NOx, and SOx, to the public; Surveyed sources of pollutants in factories and investment projects; Collaborated with line ministries and provincial authorities to implement measures to reduce and prevent wildfires, and address issues related to smoke from shifting agriculture through a reporting mechanism for wildfires in several areas. Furthermore, an action plan and direction for resolving smoke issues and land allocation plans in three types of forests were developed to determine land-use zones and forest protection areas to safeguard against encroachment. Efforts were made to strengthen environmental monitoring through the development and dissemination of laws, legislation, guidelines, and technical manuals related to environmental and social monitoring of investment projects and other large-scale activities. Develop a database system to monitor investment projects and facilitate information sharing with relevant stakeholders at both central and local levels, enabling regular environmental management reporting.

Challenges: Several tasks related to land management are facing obstacles, leading to challenges in achieving the target of registering 1.6 million land titles by 2025 due to implementation delays. Government regulations on land rental and concessions are not strictly enforced. Biodiversity continues to be negatively impacted by the expansion of the agricultural sector, the use of unsustainable pesticides, rapid infrastructure development, illegal mining, and environmentally harmful activities such as deforestation, destruction of biodiversity, and wildlife trade. These challenges hinder sustainable planning, resilience building against climate change, and reduce the effectiveness of the government's environmental management regulations. Although the government has introduced measures and regulations to build understanding and address the impacts of some large-scale projects, enforcing and monitoring the enforcement of these laws and regulations are still weak, potentially creating negative impacts on the environment and people's livelihoods. Regulations to manage waste effectively are still limited, and there is a lack of an efficient waste management system and mechanism, especially for hazardous and chemical waste. Open burning and improper waste disposal are common, which may lead to mercury leakages, resulting in health costs of approximately 2.5% of GDP, with children being particularly vulnerable.

4.2 Output 2: Green Growth Promoted and Actions Taken towards Climate Change Mitigation

In the past two and a half years, the government has implemented inclusive and participatory green growth with the participation of the government, development partners, private sectors, and other stakeholders to implement the National Green Growth Strategy until 2030. The aim is to promote a green economy and sustainably reduce poverty, increase the efficient use of natural resources, reduce pollution, greenhouse gas emissions, and create resilience to climate change while coping with internal and external shocks. Through these implementations, there has been progress in several areas, such as the development of carbon credit projects in six provinces in the north (Bokeo, Luang Namtha, Oudomxay, Huaphanh, Luang Prabang, and Xayabouly) for the period of 2020-2025, at the value of 42 million US Dollars. It is expected that carbon credits will reach 8.4 million tons (the 5-Year Plan target is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from deforestation to about 30 million tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO₂e) and to sell forest carbon credits worth at least 95 million US dollars).

Green Growth

To achieve the target of reaching net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2025, along with other green growth priorities, the National Green Growth Strategy until 2030 has identified seven key priorities. Progress has been made in the following areas:

1. Environment and Natural Resource Sector:

- Submitted the National Adaptation Plan: NDC version 2 report in 2021 and created an NDC implementation plan to increase the capacity of Lao PDR in achieving various goals, especially targeting zero greenhouse gas emissions and implementing mitigation and adaptation measures for climate change.
- Is developing a National Green Growth Index to support the implementation and measure the progress in achieving the goals of the National Green Growth Strategy by 2030. In the meantime, climate change adaptation plan was developed at local levels.
- Has strengthened the capacity to improve the greenhouse gas inventory management system.
- Has cooperated and coordinated with various stakeholders in the field of carbon credits, especially to establish regulations and policies that are consistent with the current situation.

2. Forestry:

- Completed the development of a strategy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from deforestation, including the establishment of emission reduction levels (REL) and monitoring, reporting, and verification (MRV) systems. Also, implemented social and environmental safeguard measures and a benefit-sharing policy. Additionally, created access criteria for the carbon fund, with a contract value of 42 million USD, achieving 44.21% of the 5-year plan target (95 million USD).
- Researched and developed a plan to manage the carbon credit market under the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility, which is expected to have about 8 million tons of carbon credits.

3. Industry and Commerce:

- Implemented a green industry project, developed a green industry policy, and developed a mechanism to access finance to upgrade technology to be more efficient.

4. Public Works and Transportation:

- Promoted the use of electric vehicles and observed a growth. There are currently 3,975 electric vehicles, of which 2,202 are electric cars and 1,773 are electric motorcycles. It is expected that by 2025 there will be around 20,000 electric cars. Installed 103 public electric car charging stations throughout the country and received interest from 18 companies representing fuel car distributors to import electric cars for distribution within the country. Encouraged the private sector to use small transport vehicles of less than 2 tons.
- Currently, studies are underway to build electric car charging stations for waste transportation in Vientiane Capital and Khammouan provinces. Simultaneously, a feasibility study was conducted for the bus project, with a recommendation to use electric buses. The feasibility study for a vehicle battery replacement system for two-wheeled vehicles has also been completed. Currently, there are 23 charging points across the country, representing 23% of the planned total. (5-Year Plan: to build more than 100 electric car charging stations/biofuel pumps in the country).
- Promoted green and clean urban development with the help of development partners in formulating a national urban sanitation strategy, a wastewater management strategy, creating a wastewater treatment system, etc., along with increasing the participation of the private sector.
- Implemented a waste recycling pilot project at many schools and collected 26 tons of recyclable waste and treated organic waste to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from waste.

5. Energy and mines:

- Conducted the first auction for solar power generation in 2022 to promote the generation of clean energy.
- During the implementation of the national agenda, a resolution was adopted to endorse and promote the use of electric vehicles. The agreement on electric vehicle charging services has been finalized, and standard requirements for electrical installations at residential charging stations have been issued.

6. Culture and Tourism:

- Strengthened SMEs to be able to promote sustainable tourism such as through collaboration with businesses in tourism sector to categorize and recycle waste along with integrating better with production value chain and services sector.
- Developed green city for Vientiane Capital and Pakse.

7. Financing and Planning:

- Completed the creation of a financial strategy to support the 9th five-year National Socio-Economic Development Plan by identifying green and sustainable finance as one of the priority tasks, which has defined detailed implementation measures to ensure funding sources to achieve green growth, which is the priority focus of the 1st and 4th major goals of the 9th five-year socio-economic development plan.
- Completed the assessment of the past and future greenhouse gas emissions levels as basic information for creating a long-term strategy for low greenhouse gas emissions development of Lao PDR (LT-LEDS).

- Promoted a circular economy to reduce waste and pollution associated with all sectors, especially sectors that can be implemented quickly, such as nature-friendly tourism, promoting the cultivation of cinnamon in the reservoir of the hydroelectric dam to produce bio-oil, fish oil and fertilizer, etc.; building and improving the basic infrastructure of landfills that meet the standards in the country. (In major cities, there are at least five landfill sites). Currently, there are plans to improve and rebuild one landfill in Vientiane, and to construct two transfer stations. The project is expected to be approved and begin implementation by mid-2024.
- Researched and studied green bonds, green investments related to the taxonomy to improve the monitoring process of green investments and the capacity to issue green bonds. Also, completed the appointment of the Environmental Protection Fund as an official partner of the Global Climate Fund (GCF) and supported the Bank of Lao PDR as another partner of GCF.

Climate change

+ Attention has been made to report on the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC). Developed the National Adaptation Plan: (NAP) and ensure its completion within 2023. Develop a comprehensive plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to a level that is balanced with the absorption capacity of natural and artificial carbon sinks, aiming for net-zero emissions by 2050."

+ Promoted the mechanism to reduce greenhouse gas such as REDD+ to contribute to the global level greenhouse gas reduction.

+ Completed the national strategy to contribute to climate change solutions by 2030 and completed the second version of the National Adaptation Plan (2021-2025) as well as integrating this plan into sectoral plans.

+ Completed the assessment of the current level of greenhouse gas emissions and projected the future emissions as basic information for creating a low greenhouse gas emissions development strategy of Lao PDR (LT-LEDS), which aims to achieve zero net emission by 2020 (Net Zero Emission 2050)

Challenges: Climate change efforts have ambitious and clear targets, particularly regarding greenhouse gas emissions and achieving net zero emissions by 2050 (Net Zero Emission Plan 2050). However, several sectoral work plans have not supported the achievement of these targets. The promotion of carbon trading from forests remains challenging due to ongoing deforestation and frequent wildfires in national protected areas. Access to the Green Climate Fund is still limited. Furthermore, financial and economic difficulties have also led to the granting of many mining concessions and hydropower projects, creating new challenges for the sustainable environmental development of Lao PDR, as well as the country's Nationally Determined Contribution under the Paris Agreement. The current economic growth model relies heavily on the extraction of natural resources, which does not align with SDGs. The cost for Lao for degraded natural resources is expected at 19.3% of GDP. During the implementation of the national agenda, some legislation and manuals have been revised to facilitate pilot mining projects by exempting or relaxing certain conditions for environmental and societal feasibility studies. This may impact the quality of environmental assessment studies. The expansion of agricultural production onto land that is not environmentally friendly has negative impacts on the environment, such as soil degradation, landslides, loss of biodiversity, chemical contamination, greenhouse gas emissions, and impacts on people's health. Additionally, it contributes to climate change.

4.3 Output 3: Capacities for Disaster Prevention, Management and Recovery Enhanced

Lao PDR remains amongst the most vulnerable countries to projected climate change trends, as its communities face significant climate-related hazards exacerbated by poverty, malnourishment, and high exposure of poor and marginalized communities. Amongst other impacts: the population annually exposed to river flooding is projected to double to over 80,000 people by 2030, rapid changes in temperature, precipitation, droughts, floods, and erosion have created significant production losses for agricultural production, and climate change may lead to seasonal diseases outbreak, particularly dengue fever.⁸⁹¹⁰

In recent years, the government has made significant efforts to prevent, manage, and recover from disasters by integrating national disaster prevention with sector-specific plans to strengthen resilience and build capacity to withstand and respond to disasters. The focus has been on improving information system and early warning systems to provide more accurate and timely information, ultimately reducing the impact of disasters. As the plan has been implemented, progress has been as follows:

- + Completed the enhancement of the information system and advanced notification mechanisms to ensure clarity and real-time updates by expanding the network of meteorological and hydrological stations across all provinces. A total of 82 stations have been established: 15 new meteorological stations, achieving 33% of the 5-year plan target of 45, and 67 new hydrological stations, surpassing the 5-year plan target of 25 by 267%."

- + 1 disaster management fund has been established at the central level, provincial level and district level meeting 100% of the planned goal for the five-year period. Additionally, 9 funds have been established at the provincial level and capital city, meeting 50% of the planned total of 18 funds for the five-year period. Furthermore, 43 funds have been established at the district level, meeting 76.79% of the planned total of 56 funds for the five-year period.

- + The Provincial Disaster Management Committees in 17 provinces and the Vientiane capital have been improved, achieving the 5-Year Plan (5-year plan target: 17 provinces and 1 Vientiane Capital, covering all provinces in the country, 177 districts at the district level, and 2,139 villages at the village level. A total of 2,681 male and 525 female participants took part in these efforts. Additionally, a central disaster risk reduction strategy and a disaster preparedness response plan have been established,

- + The encouragement of the creation of two provincial disaster risk reduction strategies, 15 provincials, 93 district, and 49 village disaster preparedness and response plans.

- + Furthermore, a national emergency disaster response exercise has been organized, equivalent to 50% of the plan (5-year target plan: 2 national response exercise).

- + The promotion of the creation of disaster risk reduction strategies at the provincial level has been achieved in 2 provinces, and contingency and preparedness plans have been developed in 15 provinces, 93 districts, and 49 villages. This exceeds the 5-Year Plan target, which aimed to develop plans for 10 provinces, 20 districts, and 80 villages.

- + The national contingency plan was conducted once, which is equivalent to 50% of the plan (the 5-Year Plan target is 2 times).

⁸World Bank and Asian Development Bank, 2021. Climate Risk Country Profile: Lao PDR

⁹ 4 IPCC, 2022: Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability. Contribution of Working Group II to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

¹⁰ National Health Adaptation Plan in final draft, MoH, November 2022. Climate change and health training report, conducted by School of Public Health and Postgraduate training Institute, HSU of the Lao PDR.

+ An emergency assessment and assistance team has been established at the central level, comprising 22 members, and at the provincial level, with 75 members. The team has coordinated with relevant parties to assess the damage and determine the short-term and long-term needs for relief in the aftermath of various natural disasters across 16 provinces, 65 districts, and 1,339 villages. The total budget requirement for these efforts is 552 billion Kip.

5. Outcome 5: Engagement in regional and international cooperation is enhanced with robust infrastructure and effective utilisation of national potential.

5.1 Output 1: Infrastructures improved for national, regional and international connectivity

The progress of the implementation over the past two and a half years has been satisfactory, as described below:

1. Land, water, air and railway connectivity

• **The construction-upgrade-restoration and repair of land transportation infrastructure that is a network of economic corridors according to ASEAN standards 2,800 Km** - currently, the Lao PDR's transportation routes that meet the ASEAN standards include a total of 1,147.90 Km, which consists of: □The highway from Vientiane to Vang Vieng, which is 109 km long; National Highway No. 3, from the junction of 13 North to Nateoy Huayxay – 4th Lao-Thai Friendship Bridge Lao-Thai border (Bokeo Province), which is 200.70 Km long; National Highway No. 13 North from Pakmong Village (Luang Prabang Province) to Udomxay-Nateoy - Boten (Lao-China border), which is 183.2 Km long; National Highway No. 9 from the border of Lao – Thai to Savannahkhet-Xeno-Dansavan (Laos – Vietnam border), which is 236.6 Km long; National Highway No. 11 between three junctions 13 north of Sikai village to Paksang Bridge, which is 52.5 Km long and; National Highway No. 4, from the intersection of road 13 north of Pakvaed village to Nakha village (Lao - Thai border), which is 365.90 Km long. Moreover, there are three more roads being upgraded to meet the ASEAN standards, namely: Route No. 13 north of Vientiane (Shikheud)-Phonhong road, which is 58 Km long and 99.98% completed; Road No. 13 South from Km 71 to Km 346, which is 275 Km long and 53.95% completed; Road No. 11 from Namsang Bridge to Nonsavan Village - Khokkhaodor Village, which is 104.89 Km long and 94.63% completed. At the same time, the government also encouraged the implementation of the upgrading of four roads in 2023 to meet the ASEAN standards, namely: Road No. 2E between Xay District and Khoua District, which is 100 Km long and; Road No. 2W between Xay District and Pakbeng District, which is 136 Km long, under the Southeast Asian Economic Corridor development project for connecting and linking (Southeast Asia Regional Economic Corridor and Connectivity Project-SEARECC), which has received a loan from the World Bank. Currently, the government is conducting preliminary design surveys and feasibility studies and environmental - social impacts assessments. This is expected to be completed by the end of June 2023; The improvement and repair project of road No. 13 North (Sikhai-Sikheud), which is 6,5 Km long, is currently evaluating the bid for the construction contractor and □the project of improvement and repair of road No. 13 South from Km 21 to Km 71, which is 50 Km long, has proposed a loan from the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) for the construction work and signed a contract with a consulting company to conduct environmental and social impact reports, redesign, road safety work in design, construction, repair and currently purchasing - hiring a company that will oversee the construction.

• Developing, restoring and repairing infrastructure and water transportation facilities along the Mekong and Huong Rivers, which are international water borders, including ports, navigation canals and riverbank defences:

– Set a plan to develop and improve the ports related to the improvement of the navigation canal along the Mekong River to support ships of 300-500 tons. Currently, there are 52 ports (including ferry ports) along the Mekong River and its tributaries, divided into 5 types of ports as follows: □30 passenger ports, □13 cargo ports, □6 ferry ports, □ 1 special port (Thuay Village Port, Borikhamxay Province) and □ 2 special economic zone ports (the Golden Triangle and Dok Ngiew Kham Tourism).

– Focus on the construction of riverbank protection along the banks of the Mekong River and the Nam Huong River, which are the border between countries, and tributaries related to the protection of territorial waters and national sovereignty. Over the past two and a half years, the outstanding results can be summarized as follows:

– Completed the construction of 05 landslide protection projects, with a total length of 3.38 km: Completion of the construction project to prevent landslides in Paklay District, Xayabouly Province; Completion of the construction project to prevent landslides in the 2nd phase of Khonkham Village, Meun District, Vientiane Province; Completion of the construction project to protect the banks of Nam Huong from landslides, Mueangmor Village, Kaenthao District, Xayabouly Province; Completion of the construction project to prevent landslides in Donpadek Village, Nongbok District, Khammouan Province, 500 meters long; and Completion of the construction project to prevent landslides in Chomkeo Village, Kaenthao District, Xayabouly Province (Phase 3).

– The construction of riverbank landslides that are being implemented are 5 projects, including: The development project of Champasak Province Phase 1, which has been completed 94.53%; Vientiane Riverbank Development project phase 2, which has been completed 17.50%; The Riverbank Development Project of Champasak Province, which has received additional concessional interest loans, and has been completed 12.11%; Flood disaster risk management project in Xay District, Oudomxay Province, Urban flood disaster risk management project in Lao PDR, which has been completed 48.67%, and □ landslide prevention project, Pakkading District, Bolikhamxay Province, which has been completed 26.24%.

– Moreover, there are other landslide protection construction projects that are implemented in 2023 include 03 projects with a total length of 7.74 Km, namely: Mekong Donmakmo River Landslide Construction Project, Vientiane, with a length of 6,53 Km; Project to restore, repair and protect the riverbank through layers of rocks, Huaysaphay Village, Thaphabath District, Bolikhamxay Province, 300 meters long; and The project to protect the riverbank from Nasavang Village, Paklay District, Xayabouly Province (Phase 2), 910 meters long.

• Develop an efficient and comprehensive marine transportation system that can compete at the regional level, which includes the development of the port and the improvement of the Vung Ang port 1, 2 and 3 with the facilities related to the Vung Ang port; Upgrade the efficiency management of the Vung Ang port:

– Conducted a feasibility study and design of a project to manage and develop maritime activities to establish a safety management unit office and register marine vessels, as well as conduct legislation and various procedures to apply for membership in the IMO (PPP project). Completed the submission of a feasibility study report on the development and management of

maritime activities of Aryavart Ship Management to the Ministry of Planning and Investment No. 9411/P, dated April 19, 2023.

– The governments of Laos and Vietnam have agreed to transfer shares of the Lao-Vietnamese Port (Vung Ang Port) to the Lao side, holding 60% of the shares. This has involved close coordination with all relevant parties, such as the Ministry of Finance (Department of State Enterprise and Insurance Reform) and the Ministry of Planning and Investment (Lao-Vietnam Cooperation Committee), in research and discussion with the Vietnamese side on a regular basis. Especially, the establishment of a 100% state-owned enterprise representing the government of the Lao PDR to join shares with the Lao-Vietnam International Port Partnership Company of the Republic of Vietnam, is currently in the process of research, reporting and seeking guidance from the government. At the same time, the Ministry of Public Works and Transport coordinated and cooperated with the Ministry of Transport and Communications of the Republic of Vietnam in the management and use of the infrastructure of Vung San Port and created conditions to facilitate the transit of goods through the Lao-Vietnam international port.

• **Conduct feasibility studies, explore-design, build, manage and maintain the railway line and various railway facilities according to the strategic plan approved by the government, such as the Lao-China railway line and the Lao-Thai railway line. For the railway line from Vientiane - Thakhaek - Vung Ang, it is currently in the stage of preparation for survey-detailed design in order to progress to the construction of Thakhaek - Muya (Lao-Vietnam border):**

– The construction of the Lao-China railway was completed and officially opened for use on December 02, 2021, completed the installation of various facilities at the stations (passenger and cargo stations) and was able to open all 11 stations. Currently, the international passenger transport service between Vientiane and Kunming can be opened on April 13, 2023. The statistical information of the Lao-China train service from the opening to present is as follows:

– Passenger transportation reached 2.52 million people, an average of 4,567 people/day and the highest number of passengers was 10,197 people/day. International transportation reached 7,628 passengers (3,885 outbound passengers and 3,743 inbound passengers).

– Transportation of goods reached 4.03 million tons, an average of 12,089 tons/day, goods from China imported to Lao PDR totalled 0.64 million tons and goods from Lao PDR exported to China totalled 3.39 million tons.

– Focused on the maintenance of the Lao-Thai railway line 3.5 Km by replacing the rail facilities and maintaining and repairing the signal system at Thanaleng railway station. At the same time, the construction of the Lao-Thai railway phase 2, section 2, Thanaleng-Khamsavath 7.5 Km, which is planned to be handed over and opened in 2023. The statistical information of the service of the Lao-Thai railway over the past two and a half years is as follows:

– International transportation achieved 10,816 passengers (5,520 inbound passengers, 5,296 outbound passengers), an average of 25 inbound passengers/day and an average of 28 outbound passengers/day.

– Transportation of goods through and across borders reached 68,091.26 tons, an average of 686.11 tons/day. Goods from Thailand imported to Lao PDR totalled 56,036.14 tons, goods from Lao PDR exported to Thailand totalled 3,004.21 tons and goods transited to Thailand totalled 5,770.96 tons, goods transited to China totalled 3,279.95 tons.

– For the train route from Vientiane-Thakek-Lao-Vietnam border, length 452 km, divided into 2 sections: □ The 1st section from Thakhaek district, Khammouan province to Lao-Vietnam border, length 139.18 km. Followed up on the renewal of the memorandum of understanding

(MOU) to continue the implementation of exploration studies and detailed design, review of economic, technical and environmental feasibility studies (Review FS), completed 100%, for the work specified in (MOU) is implemented 60%, □ the 2nd section from Vientiane to Thakhaek District, Khammouan Province, length 313 Km: followed the implementation of the economic, technical and environmental feasibility study review (Review-FS) of the Petroleum Trading Lao Public Company (PTL), currently in the preparation stage to select a consulting company.

• **Build, improve, restore, manage and maintain airports and aviation facilities to ensure safety and security protection according to international standards, which include: 4 international airports, domestic airports and aviation communication systems in air traffic management.**

– International Airport: Completed feasibility study to improve Luang Prabang International Airport with PPP model in cooperation with the Korea Airports Corporation (KSC); Completed feasibility study to improve and upgrade the Vientiane International Airport that has received assistance from the Japanese government through JICA Laos; Completed data study for the creation of a master plan to expand Wat Tai International Airport; Focused on monitoring the construction of Tonpherng Airport, Bokeo Province, which is 93% completed; Monitored the feasibility study of Sithandon International Airport.

– Domestic Airport: Completed the construction of Nongkhang Airport, Houaphan Province and the project was handed over on May 15, 2023; The renovation Huayxay Airport, Bokeo Province has been completed 58.88%, the government has suspended the project according to Notice No. 1292/PMO, dated September 7, 2022; At the same time, the project proposal document to request study-design consideration to improve Oudomxay Airport, Oudomxay Province and Bounneua Airport, Phongsaly Province, has been completed.

– Aviation standards: Completed aviation standards related to the management of flight license management, flight operation management and technical management of the aircraft, namely: the renewal of flight operation license for aviation personnel including pilots, aircraft repair technicians, flight facilitation staff and air traffic controllers, for a total of 460 times; Approved the updated training manual of the PACTEC pilot training centre; Updated Ops-Spec flight performance requirements to the airlines in Laos; Approved the manual on aircraft repair management and aircraft repairment plan of the airlines In Laos for a total of 03 copies; Created a regulation on the issuance of cabin crew licenses and others.

• **Develop a comprehensive modern transport service system in 9 logistics areas to utilize the Lao-China railway line to connect with the Mekong Sub-Region and ASEAN (SKRL), regional and international network (Trans-Asian Railway) and connect to the road network, port and airport to become a convenient, fast, modern, safe, highly efficient and cost-effective transport system.** The logistics service of the land ports that have been served for convenience and speed and quality include:(1)Focus on monitoring, managing and researching legislation related to the management of 3 land ports including: Savannakhet, Champasak and Thanaleng Vientiane; and (2) Follow up on activities, feasibility studies and land port development projects, such as The Natuey land port in Luangnamtha Province and selected the Lao-China Railway Company as the main company, Ammata City Lao Company Limited and International Transport Company as co-developers; Huayxay land Port in Bokeo Province was given to the state-owned Enterprise Transit Goods Service to conduct a feasibility study; Thakhaek land port, Khammouan Province, started construction with a progress of 15%; Lak 20 land port, Bolikhamxay, is still considering developers; □Luang Prabang land port; and Meuang Xay land Port in Oudomxay Province, the Ministry of Public Works and Transport is responsible for the feasibility study and preparation of tender documents as a model for attracting investment in the

form of PPP under the Southeast Asia Regional Economic Corridor and Connectivity Project - SEARECC. Through monitoring the management of 3 land ports that have been put into use over the past two and a half years, it has been seen that they can generate income to the budget amounting to 231.86 billion Kip (2021 amounting to 55.68 billion Kip, 2022 amounting to 109.82 billion Kip and the first six months of 2023 amounting to 28.02 billion Kip).

- **Focus on building and installing weighing stations and weighing equipment to manage the weight of trucks along the route connecting with countries in the region to be more efficient; Improve the mechanism and legislation to better manage the weight of trucks:** improved regulations, management mechanisms, inspection, and control of the weight of trucks and transport vehicles, which up to now has completed: The issuance of the agreement on the maximum gross weight of trucks No. 9393/PWT, dated April 13, 2023 to replace the requirements No. 13848/PWT; Completed the establishment of the role of the truck weighing station unit No. 09660/PWT, as a basis for the organization and implementing the work and issued a notice on the implementation of truck weight management work and measures against violators No. 14861/PWT; Completed the construction of 1 modern weighing station in Naluang village, R3 road, Bokeo province. At the same time, weighing stations will be modernized throughout the country.

2. Telecommunication, Post and Communication Links:

- Encouraged both public and private sectors to use digital centres in 78 sectors, so far more than 40% of these centres have been used.
- Completed the development of integrated digital applications such as M-Money and U-Money. They are payment systems through mobile and internet that can be used by the society.
- The government has issued a decree endorsing the digital economy development vision for 20 years (2021-2040), Digital Economy Development Strategy for 10 years (2021-2030), and five-year Digital Economy Development Plan (2021-2025) completed the development of a master plan for the promotion and development of business initiatives (Start Up) to step into the digital economy.
- Completed the establishment and expansion of the network system within the public sector, linking government organizations at both the central and local levels, amounting to 36 offices, equivalent to 53% of the plan (5 year plan: 68 offices), in which, there are 19 central offices and 17 local offices and can be connected to digital government systems such as video conference systems, public sector information centre systems and modern office systems conveniently, quickly and safely.
- Developed a plan of the Government Data Exchange system to exchange and integrate the Government Data Centre, the Open Government Data system so that all parties can use it to develop services for the people, including the Dashboard system as a standard in the administration of public sector statistical information to be unified.
- Successfully expanded the use of the Video Conferencing (VC) system for government offices at the central and local level, at the level of 97 offices, exceeded the plan by 43% (5-Year Plan: 68 offices); created a total of 739 user accounts, equivalent to 0.49% of the plan (5-Year Plan: 150,000 accounts).
- Completed the installation, expansion of the e-mail system (e-mail), and expansion of the use of the email system for all central and local government offices totalling 41 offices, 49 domains and having a total of 4,403 user accounts.

- Completed the development, improvement, and expansion of the use of modern office system (e-Office) for 44 offices equal to 97.77% of the plan (5-Year Plan: 45 offices), in which there are 27 departments in the central level and 17 provincial offices in the local area.
- Successfully developed and expanded the accounts of public sector communication system (G-Chat) to support all 15,000 accounts, expanded the use of a total of 14,033 accounts (the central level 8,410 accounts and the local level 5,623 accounts) equivalent to 50% and expanded the use by ministries, ministry-equivalent organizations at the central level to 38 offices and the local area has 685 offices.
- Developed and expanded the use of the public sector website system (G-Web Platform) for 33 parties, equivalent to 73.33% (the central level 11 parties and the local level 22 parties).
- Officially Completed the installation, development and use of the G-Share/G-Drive system and extended the application to ministries and equivalent to ministry organizations both central and local levels in total of 5,138 accounts (central level: 3,717 accounts, local level: 1,422 accounts). Currently, it can support 16,000 accounts.
- Established a system for sharing and verifying information in the public sector (Information Sharing System, Lao KYC). There are currently 3,386,686 system users. Promoted and cooperated with the business sector in the development of various social service systems with quality, fairness and safety, such as the successful development of the Lao KYC to become a Super App. It is currently connected to the Social Security System, the National Enterprise Database System and the Khang Panya Lao System.
- Completed the construction of 1 local electronic information service centre in Savannakhet province, equivalent to 33.33% of the plan (5-Year Plan: 3 places).
- Improved and expanded the cloud technical system by 10% to ensure the installation and development of electronic state administration systems and various software systems for modernization.
- Completed the permission to use all 23,450,000 telecommunications numbers, this includes the issuance of a new license for 900,000 numbers, of which 8,806,880 are currently in use and special numbers (3 and 4 digits) totalling 192 numbers, newly issued 26 numbers; To date, 4,118,676 mobile phone numbers have been registered, equivalent to 46.76% of total mobile phone numbers in use.
- The telecommunications infrastructure has been growing continuously, currently there are 8,904 mobile phone signal receiving stations, covering 18 provinces, 148 districts and 8,245 villages, making the whole country covered by mobile signal: the 2G system covering 97%, 3G covering 85% and 4G covering 76% of all villages. The 5G system coverage is 3% and is in the trial period to prepare for the transition to the digital economy and Industry 4.0 according to the current direction and the utilization to suit the growth level of the country's manufacturing and service industries; Expanded the telecommunication transmission network, fibreoptic cable to the provinces and municipalities reached 4,253 kilometres equivalent to 43% of the plan. Currently there is a total of 97,153 kilometres.

5.2 Output 2: Regional and international trade and investment cooperation and integration

Bilateral Trade Negotiations:

Bilateral trade negotiation and cooperation has been quite successful, which has completed the signing of the bilateral trade agreement and the Lao-Vietnam border trade agreement. In addition, Laos signed bilateral economic-trade agreements with various countries especially with

countries in the Asia region such as: Laos-Vietnam trade relations; Lao-Chinese trade relations and Lao-Thai trade relations. The benefits from cooperation with the 5 main trade partners that share borders with Lao PDR made the value of trade increased continuously. Especially, the trade value of the Lao-Thai trade, which has a total value of 14,832 million US dollars; followed by Laos-China with a value of 9,350 million US dollars and Laos-Vietnam with a value of 4,287 million US dollars. However, there was not much trade cooperation between Laos – Cambodia and Lao – Myanmar.

Cross-border trade, connectivity, and cities are pivotal for driving structural economic transformation and raising living standards. For the Lao PDR, the link between urban expansion and economic growth has been weak. Urbanization has proceeded at pace, but the country's cities have remained relatively small, with most cities reported to have less than 300,000 inhabitants. New roads have strengthened connectivity between cities and economic corridors, boosting potential for economic growth.

ASEAN Regional Trade Negotiations and the World Trade Organization

Region and sub-region trade negotiations are a key priority and are progressing effectively., Notably, a new focal point committee has been appointed to oversee the negotiation of service trade agreements within the ASEAN framework; Attended the 24th ASEAN Trade Facilitation Committee meeting (24th ATF-JCC) and other related meetings; agreed to eliminate the tariff rate of goods to 0 covering 98,6%; adopted important documents, namely: (1) A policy guide document on empowering women businesses in the national policy and action plan on micro and small and medium enterprises; and (2) A foundation document for negotiating the framework agreement on competition has been drafted; Additionally, efforts are ongoing to develop a work plans, monitoring mechanisms and evaluation framework for the implementation of the Lao PDR's ASEAN Electronic Commerce Decree, the Regional Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (RCEP) and other related frameworks.

– The negotiation and implementation of multilateral trade agreements have been successfully carried out in alignment with the international agreements to which Lao PDR is a party, including those under the World Trade Organization framework. The negotiation and implementation of multilateral trade agreements have been successfully carried out in alignment with the international agreement to which Lao PDR is a party, including those under the World Trade Organization. Especially, the trade facilitation agreement under category C according to Article 16.2 (b) and Article 7.2 electronic payment, Article 10.4 single door service, Article 10.8 rejection of goods and Article 12 tax cooperation. Over the past two and a half years, the implementation of various cooperation framework has strengthened trade and investment integration both regionally and internationally. This progress is evident and shows promising potential for continued growth, as outline below:

- + The export of processed industrial goods grew on average by 22.80% per year.
- + The export value of processed industrial goods accounted for 40% of total export.
- + The proportion of export value under special commercial rights in 2021 accounted for 36.68% and in 2022 accounted for 41.96% of the total export value, which is seen to be able to exceed the expected proportion of exports under special commercial rights set at 25% in 2025.

– Lao PDR is a member of the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) Economic Cooperation Program, and has the opportunity to leverage its regional position to grow the economy, boost trade, tourism increase agriculture production, and harness the power of its cities to promote inclusive and equitable growth, and increase its resilience to external shocks. Therefore, Lao PDR

need to improve its competitiveness, community, and regional connectivity, which can help to converge the country's income and living standards with other GMS member countries, especially in upgrading value chain positioning, diversify its industries, and enhance regional and global cooperation. Development of economic corridors including better connectivity and logistics, supports export diversification and it is an integral part of the GMS Program. Lao PDR's regional position offers opportunities and there may be unexploited potentials for expanding into more diverse products that can be traded with regional and global partners. A potential pathway for further economic diversification is through developing shared production and export capabilities via greater regional cooperation.

5.3 Output 3: Robust Regional and Local Development Based on the Potential of Each Region

(1). Northern Region

The implementation of the socio-economic development plan of the northern provinces over the past two and a half years has seen many difficulties and challenges which have resulted in a slow progress in the implementation of the main macroeconomic targets of the northern provinces, and some of which cannot be achieved according to the plan. These include: the growth rate of the gross domestic product cannot achieve according to the plan, the average income per capita has decreased due to many internal and external factors such as: the effects of the prolonged covid-19 pandemic, inflation, the increase in prices of fuel and other consumer goods resulted in higher cost of production and affects people's livelihood. However, the local authorities at all levels have encouraged the people and business units to continue to produce goods according to the local potential and the needs of the market, making the overall economic situation continue to grow at a continuous pace. This is reflected in each of the following aspects:

❖ Agricultural Areas:

- **Production of Food Crops:** Efforts have been accelerated to cultivate food crops essential for meeting domestic consumption needs, reducing imports, and producing a number of export goods. In 2022, the total rice cultivation area averaged approximately 204,116 hectares, yielding around 663,815 tons of rice annually. The provinces leading in rice production in the northern region are Xayaboury, Luang Prabang, and Xiengkhuang province. Additionally, other crops such as potatoes, vegetables, and fruits are also cultivated, with Oudomxay, Luang Prabang, Xayaboury, Huaphan, and Xiengkhuang being the most prominent provinces for these crops.
- **Agricultural Production:** Efforts have been made to encourage individuals and businesses to produce crops in alignment with the potential of each province and according to market agreements. In recent years, notable production levels for key crops include 1,589,280 tons of potatoes, 1,278,708 tons of sugarcane, 421,589 tons of hard corn, 400,744 tons of bananas, and 57,150 tons of watermelons (2022 statistics). The provinces leading in these crops are Xayaboury, Oudomxay, Huaphan, Luang Namtha, and Luang Prabang Provinces. Specifically, water-boiled tea cultivation in the northern region constitutes 90% of the total production, with the highest production occurring in Phong Saly, Luang Namtha, Oudomxay, and Xieng Khouang
- **Animal Husbandry:** Efforts have been made to encourage and promote the raising of large animals, farm animals, and the cultivation of forage crops in areas with high potential. The provinces that are prominent in large animal husbandry, serving as key sources for both

domestic consumption and export in the northern region, are Xayaboury, Xiengkhouang, and Luang Prabang Provinces.

- **Industrial Sector:** The manufacturing sector, particularly the processing industry, has been significantly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. However, some sectors have continued operations, notably the food and beverage industry, which includes the processing of agricultural products using modern technology and machinery to enhance production efficiency and add value. Other processing industries are gradually recovering, including those producing non-metallic mineral products, rubber, and plastic items. Currently, there are 1,784 industrial processing plants in the northern region, representing 20% of the country's total factories. The provinces with notable potential for industrial processing in this region are Xiengkhouang, Oudomxay, Luang Namtha, Luang Prabang, and Xayaboury. In the energy sector, there is significant potential for large-scale electricity production. The Luang Prabang hydroelectric project is under construction, while the Pak Baeng and Pak Lai hydroelectric projects are awaiting government approval for the signing of concession agreements. Additionally, a new cement factory is being constructed in Luang Prabang province.
- **Trade, Service, and Tourism Areas:** The overall trade in the northern provinces showed a positive trend towards the end of 2022, following the country's reopening. This improvement is particularly evident in border trade and transportation of goods, which have benefited from the easing of restrictions by trading partner countries. The trade and services sectors, including cargo and passenger transportation, have experienced significant growth compared to the period affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Notable developments include the flourishing cargo transportation services at inland ports such as Buk Natria Port in Luang Namtha Province, and the planned construction of additional land ports, including Huaysai Port, Luang Prabang Port, and Meuang Xai Port. The service and tourism sectors in the northern region have also seen increased activity due to the arrival of both domestic and international tourists. Luang Prabang District in Luang Prabang Province remains a top tourist destination, recognized globally as a World Heritage Site. Another significant site is the Plain of Jars in Xieng Khouang Province. Other notable tourist destinations include Oudomxay, Bokeo, Luang Namtha, and Phongsaly Province. Additionally, the opening of the Lao-China railway has spurred growth in logistics and tourism, enhancing connections between the central region, the northern provinces, and the border with China.

❖ **Social Development:**

Education: Both the public and private sectors have continued to advance teaching and learning to meet educational indicators and ensure universal access to quality education. Despite disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, which necessitated temporary suspension of classes and impacted the continuity of curricula, efforts were made to address these challenges. Following the pandemic, there has been increased cooperation between public and private sectors to enhance communication infrastructure, supporting new learning methods such as distance education, internet-based learning, and the use of computers and smartphones.

Public Health: The public health network has been expanded, with a focus on providing essential equipment, especially in remote rural areas. Efforts have also been directed toward monitoring, promoting preventive measures, and preparing for timely responses to seasonal disease outbreaks.

Labor and Social Welfare: Coordination with relevant parties has been ongoing to inspect, collect, and compile information on Lao workers returning from neighboring countries during the COVID-19 outbreak. Initiatives have been implemented to provide employment opportunities for Lao workers affected by the temporary and permanent closure of labor units in various production sectors. This effort aims to reintegrate workers into the domestic and international labor markets.

- Infrastructure Development: Efforts have continued to promote and oversee the implementation of projects aimed at enhancing connectivity within the northern region. This includes developing roads that link various provinces and extend to the borders of neighboring countries, in alignment with the socio-economic development plan's objectives. Key areas of focus include: Improving integration and connectivity to facilitate the transportation of goods to production areas and enhance the movement of people. Supporting infrastructure that fosters the public security and defense and addresses poverty alleviation. Repairing and upgrading irrigation systems to restore functionality and support agricultural production. Enhancing national highways, including Route 13, as well as provincial and district roads to improve access to train stations and production areas. Upgrading Huai Xai Airport and Nong Kharn Airport. Implementing construction projects for landslide protection and supporting urban development along the Mekong Subregion Phase 2.

(2). Central Region

The implementation of the 5-year socio-economic development plan of the provinces in the central region over the past two and a half years has faced with the fluctuated economic situation coupled with the effects of prolonged Covid-19 pandemic, which has affected the macroeconomic system as a whole, especially the manufacturing sector including: agricultural production, vehicle parts and electronic equipment manufacturing, other manufacturing industries as well as services and tourism sector have encountered significant downturns. This coupled with labour shortages further caused the slowdown of the growth in the central region. However, in the middle of 2022 when the country reopens, it has seen that the economic growth is growing at a faster pace, especially the processing industry in the special economic zone, logistics services of the land ports and tourism. The notable surge in tourism in the central region may be explained as follows:

❖ Agricultural Production Area:

Food Crop Production: In the past, the central region has had an average annual rice production potential of approximately 513,509 hectares, yielding around 2 million tons (2022 statistics). Rice cultivation represents the highest potential in the region, contributing up to 50% of the total rice production in the country. The central region leads all other regions, accounting for 73% of national rice production, largely due to its modern irrigation systems, which ensure sufficient water supply, and the availability of large-scale rice cultivation areas.

The key provinces contributing to combined rice production in the central region are Savannakhet, Khammouan, Vientiane, and the capital, Vientiane. Additionally, the region also produces other crops such as sweet corn, vegetables, fruits, and various other food crops. The most prominent provinces for diversified crop production include Savannakhet, Borikhamxay, Khammouan, and Vientiane.

Agricultural Production as a Commodity: The central region is notable for its large-scale cultivation of cassava, which accounts for 41.41% of the total national output. Other significant crops include tobacco, cotton, sugar cane, melons, and beans. The leading provinces for these commodities are Khammouan, Savannakhet, Borikhamxay, Vientiane, and Vientiane capital. In terms of export goods, the most prominent product is fragrant rice from Savannakhet's Phan Tha Seno district, which is exported to China and European countries.

Animal Husbandry: Livestock farming has been actively promoted in many localities, particularly pig farms in Bikon and Xai Phu Thong districts for export to Vietnam. Cattle farms are prominent in Pak San, Tha Khek, Nong Buk, and Phin districts. Additionally, poultry farms, producing thousands of eggs and meat, as well as fish farms, have successfully met local consumption needs. While overall agricultural production in the central region shows positive trends, certain areas still require improvements in mechanization, technology adoption, scientific application in production, and farmer education on advanced farming and processing techniques. The provinces with the highest levels of livestock farming are Savannakhet, Khammouan, Vientiane, the capital Vientiane, and Borikhamxay respectively.

Industrial Area: Processing Industry Sector: The processing industry sector in the central provinces has been one of the most impacted by the spread of COVID-19, resulting in the temporary halting of industrial production in several sectors, particularly in key manufacturing industries within the special economic zones. Many businesses experienced reduced production and exports due to the suspension of international orders. In the central region, there are a total of 5,553 processing factories, representing the highest percentage (62.43%) of the country's total, making it the most significant processing industry hub in Lao PDR. The leading provinces with prominent processing factories include Savannakhet, Vientiane, Khammouan, Vientiane Capital, and Bolikhamxay. These provinces have seen high levels of private sector investment in the industrial sector, supported by large-scale special economic zones, which produce a wide range of industrial products for export. Key industries include the production of electronic products, vehicle spare parts, imaging-related products, paper and paper products, charcoal-based metals, and electrical equipment.

❖ **Commerce, Service and Tourism Area:**

Trade Areas and Transport Services: Trade areas and transport services in the central region experienced notable growth in mid-2022 following the reopening of the country. This growth was particularly evident in border trade zones along various international and traditional checkpoints, which saw increased cargo and passenger traffic. Key borders included Friendship Bridges 1, 2, and 3, Nam Phao International border, Na Phao-Jor Lor border, and Savan-Lao Bao International Border. A significant development in logistics was the opening of two land ports: Thanalaeng Land Port in Vientiane Capital and Savannakhet Land Port in Savannakhet Province. Additionally, infrastructure development for other land ports, such as Thakek Port, has progressed by 15%. The tourism sector also saw rapid improvements as operators worked to upgrade hotels, guesthouses, restaurants, and related services to accommodate the rising of tourists. This was especially true for famous tourist destinations in the country. The provinces with the highest tourism potential are Khammouan and Vientiane Province, both of which are known for their eco-tourism and green tourism attractions.

❖ Social Development:

Education: Efforts have continued to improve and enhance the quality of teaching and learning in rural and remote areas, aiming for universal educational standards. Conditions were created to support access to distance learning systems during the COVID-19 pandemic, ensuring continuous education and preventing school dropouts, in alignment with the indicators set by the education sector. Public Health: Special attention has been directed toward the prevention, control, and response to the spread of COVID-19, which has had a direct impact on people's lives. Additionally, there has been ongoing monitoring of seasonal disease outbreaks to ensure the timely preparation of response plans. Labor and Social Welfare: The focus has been on identifying and reintegrating workers who returned to the country, encouraging their re-entry into the labor market. Furthermore, efforts have been made to mobilize business units to actively participate in social security initiatives.

❖ Infrastructure Development:

Infrastructure Development: Efforts continue to improve and restore National Highway No. 13, as well as provincial and district highways, to connect key production areas and facilitate the transportation of goods to neighboring countries and regions. Additionally, there is ongoing promotion and monitoring of large-scale projects crucial to driving economic and social development. Key projects include: The coastal protection construction project (Phase 2) from Main 3 District of Sinak District to Hat Phokeo Village, Hadsayfong District, Vientiane Capital; road development project from Champhon to Thang Thui Vietnam border in Houaphanh Province; The Pak San District Municipal Road Construction Project (Roads No. 1, 2, 3, and 4); The two-lane asphalt construction project for National Highway 1G leading to the border in Saravan Province; The urban development corridor project for the IV River Sub-region in Khammouan Province, funded by an ADB low-interest loan; The development of the international crossing at Na Phu-Jorlo in Khammouan Province; The capital integration project along the sub-regional economic corridor in Savannakhet Province, supported by continuous ADB low-interest loans.

(3). Southern Region

The implementation of the 5-year socio-economic development plan of the provinces in the southern region over the past two and a half years can still continue to grow at a better recovery pace, especially in the manufacturing, services and tourism sectors, despite being affected by many factors both internal and external, such as: the prolonged outbreak of covid-19, natural disasters, seasonal epidemics and economic-financial difficulties that are pose challenges and pressure on the implementation of the main targets of the socio-economic of the provinces in the southern region, which may be explained as follows:

❖ Agricultural Production Area:

Food Crop Production: In recent years, the southern region has had an average annual rice production potential of 241,779 hectares, yielding approximately 986,405 tons (2022 statistics). The most prominent agricultural activity is paddy rice cultivation, which represents 90% of the region's total rice production. The key provinces for rice cultivation in the southern region are Champasak, Saravan, and Attapeu Provinces. Additionally, the region produces a variety of other crops such as sweet corn, peanuts, vegetables, fruits, and other economic crops. The provinces leading in crop production are Champasak, Saravan, Attapeu, and Sekong Province.

Agricultural Production as a Commodity: The southern region has significant production potential for commodities such as potatoes, sugarcane, bananas, and watermelon. The most prominent commodity crop in the region is coffee, producing 167,000 tons annually, which accounts for 97.79% of the country's total coffee production. The leading provinces for coffee cultivation are Champasak, Saravan, Attapeu, and Sekong Province. Additionally, agricultural products have been promoted through market access agreements for commodities like coffee, rubber, potatoes, maize, bananas, sugarcane, tea, peanuts, and chilies. Champasak Province, in particular, has engaged in contract farming to supply domestic factories and for export. Key exports include coffee (both raw and processed) and rice (sticky and non-sticky varieties), with China being a major destination.

Animal Husbandry: Livestock farming is prominent across many districts, particularly with 170,444 pigs, 29,429 cattle across 107 farms, and 1,125,850 chickens from 76 poultry farms. Additionally, fish production, including both wild and farmed varieties, reached 27,422 tons in 2022. This level of production ensures a steady supply of meat, eggs, and fish for local consumption.

Industrial Area: Development of the Processing Industry: Despite being significantly affected by the COVID-19 outbreak last year, the processing industry in the southern region has managed to continue operations, particularly in the food and beverage sector. Key industries include the processing of agricultural products such as coffee beans, frozen rubber, dried potatoes, and fruit juices and so on.

Several special economic zones and industrial areas have seen continuous infrastructure development, including the Pakse-Japan Industrial Zone, Siphandon New Economic Zone, Vang Tao-Phonthong Economic Zone, Main Industrial Zone 16 in Bachieng District, and Main Industrial Zone 30 in SanaSomboun District. Additionally, the development triangle area of Attapeu Province has been positioned to support private investment from both domestic and foreign entities. Currently, the southern region is home to 1,558 industrial processing factories, accounting for 20% of the total number of factories in the country. The region is considered a key area for processing agricultural products due to its rich source of raw materials. The leading provinces in the processing industry are Champasak, Saravan, Sekong, and Attapeu Province.

❖ **Commerce, Service and Tourism Area:**

Trade and transportation services have been developed and have a growing trend, especially the commercial areas along international border crossings and various traditional crossings that connect with neighboring countries; The export of agricultural products, livestock and processed products from agricultural products according to the negotiation agreement to open the market technique with foreign countries and the service of transporting goods through the land port and Champasak port, which has been opened since the end of 2021 and passenger transportation services that many airlines have returned to serve various routes again, making the tourism sector and other related service sectors such as hotels, Restaurants, tourist attractions and other services have improved infrastructure and services to meet international standards and be able to return to normal service. The province with outstanding potential in tourism as a destination in the southern region is Champasak province, followed by Saravan, Attaphu and Sekong Province respectively.

❖ Social Development:

Education: Special attention has been given to preventing, controlling, and responding to the spread of COVID-19, which has directly impacted the lives of children and students. Efforts have been made to improve teaching and learning methods in line with the new conditions, including the implementation of distance learning systems. Educational materials have also been provided to support new teaching and learning approaches.

Public Health: Measures to prevent and control the spread of COVID-19 have been communicated to provincial departments, educational institutions, companies, and the private sector in the southern provinces. Efforts have been made to mobilize the population for vaccination and to monitor seasonal diseases, ensuring timely response plans are in place.

Labor and Social Welfare: Unemployed individuals have been assisted and allocated to jobs based on employer needs, while efforts have been made to inform and educate returning workers about government policies. Additionally, there has been a focus on encouraging and mobilizing domestic labor to reduce reliance on imported skills.

- ❖ **Infrastructure Development:** Continued efforts are being made to promote the implementation of key projects aimed at achieving the goals of the socio-economic development plan, enhancing integration and connectivity, and improving the transportation of goods from production bases as well as facilitating movement for people. These infrastructure projects also serve to support the public security and defense and contribute to poverty alleviation by ensuring timely construction and utilization. Notable projects include: The joint capital development project between Champasak Province and the Republic of Korea (low-interest loan); The construction of the asphalt road from Ban Hieng to Songtau in Sukhuma District; The development of Vang Tao International Border Crossing in Phonthong District (Lao-Thai border); The construction of a two-lane asphalt road on Route No. 26905 (S3 main road) from the 5-way junction to the Lao-Vietnam border, spanning 22.55 km; The national highway construction project, Route No. 16B, from Sekong to Dakcheung and from Dakcheung to the Vietnam border; The construction of seven concrete bridges along the Sekong-Kaleum New Road; The development of a two-lane asphalt road, Route No. 18A, from the village to Huay Ouk Bridge in Sanam Xay District, funded by compensation from the Saphon-Senam Noy Dam project; The strategic road construction project along the Laos-Vietnam-Cambodia border, from F 1 to F 6/6; The restoration and repair of Road 18B, elevating it to a national highway standard (Phu Keua to Ber E International Crossing), to improve traffic flow and ensure efficient transportation of goods.

Challenges: Regional development with respect to the provision of basic infrastructure and facilities is still limited and not keeping pace with urbanization. For example, districts in large provinces like Vientiane Capital is failing to keep up with the rapid increase in private transportation ownership and public transport system is not expanded to cover all areas of the city. Moreover, the expansion of the water supply network and the sanitation system are increasing rapidly, but the wastewater management system is not as comprehensive. The local development plan is still not comprehensive as well as the joint development plans between provinces. Local development planning based on the situations of the northern, central and southern regions will contribute significantly to the inclusive and sustainable development of the Lao PDR. This local development will need to promote and support future urbanization.

5.4 Output 4: Urban areas and Special Economic Zones developed into production, investment, trade and tourism

Urban development:

- 1) Implementation of the urban development project to be completed in 3 cities, cities along the Mekong River sub-region (GMS) to be completed at least 4 cities in order to improve the infrastructure and urban environment:
 - + Urban development and environmental improvement in 3 cities: Completed the improvement of the environment of Pakse, Champasak Province, and completed the development of Kaisone phomvihan City which is part of the urban development project along the Eastern Economic Corridor - West Mekong sub-region 1 (GMS1). At the same time, preparing the urban development project and improving the environment in Luang Prabang, which is now completing its initial economic-technical study (Pre-FS).
 - + Urban development along the Mekong sub-region: Completed the GMS1 project in Kaisonep homvihan City, Savannakhet province; GMS2 project in Huayxay, Bokeo Province and Namtha district, Luangnamtha province, and GMS4 project is being implemented in Paksan District, Borikhamxay Province with 57.10% progress and Thakek District, Khammouan Province with 41% progress.
- 2) Garbage disposal sites that meet the hygiene standards in Vientiane Capital, 3 cities and at least 4 districts along the Mekong sub-region:

Garbage disposal field: (1) One in Vientiane Capital (Garbage Field Km. 32, Xaythani District) and is currently studying the possibility of improving and developing this field to meet the standard; (2) One in Luang Prabang City, Luang Prabang Province (Km. 8 landfill), which is an open landfill with a plan to improve it into a hygiene landfill like a closed landfill; (3) Kaisone phomvihan City, Savannakhet Province has 1 landfill and (4) Pakse City, Champasak Province has 1 landfill that has been sanitized and completed in December 2021. In addition, under the GMS project, landfills in cities have been improved to meet standards, such as the completion of construction of landfills in Huay Xai District, Bokeo Province and Nam Tha District, Luangnamtha Province; 92.74% progress is being made on the construction of the landfill in Paksan District, Borikamxay Province, and Thakek District, Khammouan Province as a progress of 43.12%.
- 3) Appropriate waste water treatment systems in Vientiane Capital, 3 cities and at least 4 districts along the Mekong sub-region: Focus on the implementation of the project to build the capacity to manage waste water and garbage to improve the urban environment in Vientiane Capital and Pakse City, Champasak Province (KOICA & GGGI) with 86% progress; Wastewater treatment project (water supply and sewage) Vientiane City with 30% progress and unintegrated sewage treatment system in Kaisone phomvihan City, Savannakhet Province.
- 4) Establish at least 1 prototype Smart City: Focus on encouraging and promoting the cities that are member cities in the pilot project of the ASEAN Smart City Network, namely Vientiane Capital and Luang Prabang, and the ASEAN-Australian modern city, namely Kaisone phomvihan City; Encourage and promote modern urban development projects that the government has approved the private sector to study investment opportunity, including foreign aid projects to build modern urban infrastructure.

Development of Special Economic Zones:

To date, Lao PDR has a total of 21 special economic zones located in 7 provinces, with a total land area as per the contract of 37,938 hectares (the actual developed area is about 11,640

hectares), be able to attract investment from 1,430 companies (168 domestic companies, 1,191 foreign companies and 71 joint ventures with foreign companies) with a total capital of more than 65 billion US dollars and a registered capital of more than 20 billion US dollars. Over the past 2 and a half years, the development of special economic zones has made progress in many aspects and can continue to be implemented according to the plan, such as: generating income for the budget, creating jobs and skills, developing infrastructure that has been connected and integrated as a complete system, resulting in new cities in remote areas (Golden Triangle and Bo Ten). New industrial production bases have emerged that can link new production chains with the regional and the global level, as well as being able to supply domestic and export markets (Xaysettha, Savan-Seno, Vita area and other areas). There is an international airport in Bokeo province, three land ports (Savannakhet Land Port, Thanaleng Land Port and Tao-Phonthong Land Port). There are two ICD cargo transfer service areas (Bo Ten area and Tha Khek area), roads and various facilities to support investment and business operations within the area etc., the implementation of which is outstanding in each aspect as follows:

- + **Investment attraction:** Focused on attracting and mobilizing domestic and foreign investment in many ways, which in the past two and a half years have attracted a total of 277 companies, most of which are foreign direct investment companies, which accounts for 80% of the total investment (in which: there are 43 domestic companies, 180 foreign companies and 54 domestic and foreign joint ventures), equivalent to 39.06% of the plan (5-year plan: 709 companies). There is a registered capital of over 555 million US dollars and a total investment plan of 555 million US dollars. The service sector attracted the most investors, accounting for 63%, followed by the commercial sector, accounting for 22% and the industrial sector accounting for 15%. The areas where the companies invested the most is in the Golden Triangle area, Beung That Luang area, the Xaysettha area, the Vientiane Logistics area, the Savan-Seno area, etc. Although the overall attraction of investment has increased, some special economic zones still do not perform as planned due to limitation on legislations, policies and facilitation mechanisms that are connected to the legislation in other sectors such as: issuance of labour card, applying for multiple entries visas, import-export of goods and other issues related to the approval of investment activities in the controlled list.
- + **Tax collection:** Completed the installation of the TaxRis system with tax officials stationed in each area (Vientiane Capital, Gold Triangle, Botaen Daengarm, and Vang Tao-Phonthong areas) which can collect a total revenue of 410 billion kip, equivalent to 33.68% of the plan (5-year plan: 1,217 billion kip); Most of the collected revenue comes from value added tax, profit tax, salary tax, service fee, and other taxes respectively. The area that collects the most revenue is covering Xaysettha, the Golden Triangle, the Savan-Seno area, Botaen Daengarm area and Longthaeng-Vientiane area, respectively.
- + **Import-export:** Although the past two and a half years have been affected by the outbreak of the Covid-19, coupled with the fluctuated domestic and international economic conditions, the factories in the industrial sector continued to operate continuously and the investors continue to develop their areas, so that the import of raw materials, machinery and equipment to support production and infrastructure construction continues to be implemented according to the plan, which has a total value of more than 1,367 million US dollars, which is 58.19% of the plan (5-year plan: 2,349 million US dollars).); The areas that import the most are Vientiane-Non Thong commercial area, Savan-Seno area, Xaysettha area and Pakse-Japan area. Export of goods: with a total value of more than 1,000 million US dollars, equal to 38.61% of the plan (5-year plan: more than 2,626 million US dollars), the areas that export the most goods are Vientiane-Nonthong commercial area, Savan-Seno area, Xaysettha area and Pakse-Japan area.

- + **Job creation:** The development of Special Economic Zones has helped raise Lao labor capacity, especially in the fields of industry, trade and services, as well as helping to support small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs); Currently there are more than 66,200 workers in special economic zones (over 33,000 Lao workers, accounting for 49.85%). The area with the most workers is the Golden Triangle area with more than 15,000 people, followed by Savan-Seno area with more than 4,100 people, Xaysetha area with more than 3,900 people and other areas. Although the number of new workers has increased significantly, it is still not enough to meet the annual demand for workers in special economic zones. The supply of Lao workers is still an obstacle to the development of special economic zones because there are still many limitations, such as: Lao workers are still not used to working in the industrial sector, the recruitment and resignation process is still not systematic. Most importantly, skilled workers are not enough to meet the needs of newly established industries. The higher inflation rate also contributed to labour migration; and Lao workers do not meet the criteria of production units in some sectors.

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

6.1 Output 1: Enhanced efficiency of public governance and administration and deepened implementation of the Sam Sang Directive

- Completed the revision of the roles of 19 ministries and equivalent agencies (except for the Ministry of Public Security and Defence). The direct level of the government can be reduced from 21 ministries and equivalent state agencies to 19 ministries and equivalent state agencies. At the ministry level, the departmental level has decreased by 43 departments/equivalent (from 493 departments to 450 departments); number of divisions of ministries and agencies can be reduced by 136 division (from 2,349 divisions to 2,213 divisions); for the numbers of sectors at provincial level, 308 sectors can be reduced (from 3,695 sectors to 3,599 sectors); units under district offices can be reduced by 2,253 units (from 15,107 units to 12,854 units). In particular, with the guidance of the Political Bureau of the Central Party and the agreement of the National Assembly, the government has improved and expanded the personnel who are members of the government according to the requirements of the work of each period, and has also improved and established special committees according to the needs of each period to solve the difficult tasks.
- Completed the adoption of the results of determining the positions of various parties in 586 units out of 4,450 units: in this, the central level has 164 units equal to 36.44% (450 central level units), the provincial level has 129 units, equal to 22.91% (563 provincial level units) and the district level has 293 units equal to 8.52% (out of 3,437 district level units).
- Completed the proposal to the government for approval and promulgation of the Lao PDR's civil servant management strategy until 2030, No. 200/PM, dated May 8, 2023; Drafted a research paper on reducing the number of civil servants in the state organization and the report on researching the position of assistants and advisors to ministers, held a meeting to comment on the draft law on civil servants at the central level and a number of local levels.
- Completed the proposal to the government to adopt the decree on the policy for civil servants who work in remote areas (revised version) No. 292/GOV, dated April 5, 2021. At the same time, completed the evaluation for the year 2022 for 12 provinces, total number of civil servants: 5,265 persons; monthly budget paid to civil servants at level i amounts to 369,134,406Kip, level ii amounts to 1,113,050,823 Kip and civil servant level iii amounts to 1,086,119,213 Kip, total amount paid: 2,566,304,442 Kip.

– Completed the approval of new civil servants for 2021 and 2022 at 2,800 persons for ministries and agencies at central and local level together with proposing required number of new civil servants for 2023 at the government meeting, and the government approved at 800 persons; Considered the improvement of the value of the basic salary index from 7,200 Kip to 7,350 Kip in 2022 and increased the living allowance for civil servants to the amount of 150,000 Kip/month/person in early 2023.

– Completed the distribution of staff cards to employees-civil servants at the central level in the number of 47 departments with 15,359 cards, at the provincial level in 14 provinces with 15,186 cards, and at the district level in Luangnamtha Province in 05 districts with 1,535 cards and in Vientiane in 09 districts with 2,387 cards; as well as issued an endorsement agreement and signed a contract with 4 banks (BCEL Bank, Agricultural Promotion Bank, Lao-Viet Bank and Lao Development Bank) to participate in the project to issue employee-civil servant cards; Completed the connection of the Income-Expenditure System (RTIS) of the Ministry of Finance which is linked to the salary calculation system in the Civil Service Management Database (PIMS).

– Piloted the transformation of government units with technical income to become self-funded for a total of 5 departments and also approved 2 additional units (Department of Customs and Department of Tax); collected information from a number of suitable units to prepare for the transformation to be self-funded with a target of 3 additional departments including: Vehicle Management Department (Vientiane Capital), Airport Management Department (MPWT) and Environmental Protection Fund.

– Completed the initial steps in creating 2 draft decrees including: draft decree on the transformation of self-funded government units and draft decree on employees of the self-funded government units. Concurrently, completed the collection of information of 5 technical units that the government approved piloting the transformation to self-funded units including: National University of Laos, Pakpasack Technical College, Mahosoth Hospital, Friendship Hospital and Setthathirat Hospital. Apart from those 5 units, the information collection at technical units of the ministries-organisations that can generate income has been completed for a total of 17 organisation with 105 units. Through the research, there 53 units that could be transformed to become self-funded agencies.

– Continued to improve the internal and foreign investment management mechanism to make it more consistent by eliminating the central and local level domestic and foreign investment management board and improving some content in Decree 02/PM and Decree 03/PM to facilitate the investment by various parties to be more convenient and faster.

– Challenges: (1) As the main coordination for the government in considering the improvement of the government system has not been sufficiently comprehensive, the system of some ministries-organizations is still not suitable to the reality, especially in the local organizations. The improvement of the system at the ministry level is still not in a comprehensive direction, and there is still a tendency in many places to have too many units. The formulation and improvement of various administrative laws and regulations are not yet comprehensive and focused, and some of the laws promulgated cannot be implemented due to inconsistency. The work of the Three Builds has been completed but the implementation has not yet become a widespread system. Some localities still lack a unified understanding. The improvement of the local organizational system has not yet followed the direction of the Three Builds in delegating rights and responsibilities to the localities; (2) There have been many laws and legislations, but the actual implementation has not been strict. The Monitoring and enforcing disciplinary actions against civil servants have not been conducted with sufficient decisiveness, and the entry and exit

of civil servants do not follow the system. The performance evaluation of civil servants has not yet been implemented uniformly. The development of civil servants still lacks a detailed plan.

6.2 Output 2: Improved and harmonised coordination mechanisms and regulations within the public sector to increase efficiency

– Completed the update of the village administration legislation and considered the uniforms for village head and vice head and the management of document service fees of the village administration organization; Collected information on the working mechanism and coordination relationship between district-village group/development area-village in Paksong District, Champasak Province, Sanamxay District, Attapue Province, Dakcheung District, Sekong Province, Toumlan District, Salavan Province, Xaysathan District, Xayabouly Province, Pakseng District, Luang Prabang Province, Houameuang District, Houaphan Province and Mok District, Xiengkhuang Province as a basis for researching the possibility of establishing a network between the district and the village.

– Continued to improve the internal and foreign investment management mechanism to make it more consistent by eliminating the central and local level domestic and foreign investment management board and improving some content in Decree 02/PM and Decree 03/PM to facilitate the investment by various parties to be more convenient and faster.

– After the government announced the establishment of 3 cities from 2018 onwards which is 05 years, Pakse city has completed the evaluation of its activities. Completed the proposal to the government to establish Thakhek Municipality in Khammouan Province according to the local governance law which the Ministry of Home Affairs (MOHA) provided coordination and guidance in the preparation for the establishment of the municipality. Completed organizing a meeting to summarize the results of the implementation of the Three Builds projects in the whole country from 2016-2020; Encouraged and monitored central and local ministries-organizations in their implementation of Three Builds directives regularly in order to prepare for the evaluation of province as a strategic unit, the district as a strong comprehensive unit and the village as a development unit according to the steps.

– The revenue base has been given to all 9 self-sufficient provinces, in which 5 provinces are capable of generating surplus income (Luang Prabang, Bolikhamxay, Savannakhet, Khammouan and Attapue). In addition, an agreement has been issued to pilot local oversight of business units at provincial level to 9 provinces in 2023.

– The improvement of one stop service mechanism to ensure quick, convenient, and easy access for the public has been a key priority for the Ministry of Home Affairs in recent years. The improvements reflected in the expansion of the new one-stop service centres where 9 new centres have been established, from 43 centres in 2020 to 55 centres in 2023. 20 centres are located at provincial level, and 35 centres at district level. This is equivalent 60% of the plan (5 year plan: 15 additional centres, from 43 centres to 58 centres in 2025).

– Completed the dissemination of the Law on surveying, measuring and developing maps in the provinces; Completed GPS measurements to connect with the Asia-Pacific region in 03 points in 2022; provided 2,302 maps of various parts (in paper), 348 number in system, 12 level points and 40 GPS data points, 16 photographic maps and provided map data to the society to contribute to socio-economic development planning, and a number of national defence and security work; Created maps at a scale of 1/10,000 for Khamkheuth District and Xaychamphon District, Bolikhamxay Province, of which 20% of the project has been completed; Created a 1/2,000 scale map of the Savan-Seno Special Economic Zone, which is a grant project from the Korean

government and 50% has been completed; Created an Atlas of 17 provinces which has achieved 98%;

– Challenges: The public service mechanism at the central and local level has not been improved to quality, such as the one-stop service. There is still a lack of unified understanding regarding the one-stop service, and some sectors providing services are reluctant to participate in this mechanism.

6.3 Output 3: Ensure political stability, peace and order, unity, democracy, justice and civilization within the society

Justice work:

– The government has issued an order in the delegation of responsibility in the implementation of the resolution of the National Assembly on the alleviation of economic and financial difficulties No. 07/GOV, dated 04 October 2021 and the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) has approved and promulgated the instructions of the Minister of Justice on the implementation of national agenda in relation to the justice sector No. 377/MOJ, dated 22 March 2022. In 2022, MOJ actively coordinated and encouraged relevant sectors at both central and local levels to create and amend laws related to the 2 national agendas for a total of 7 laws namely: 1) law on state property; 2) law on promotion of small and medium enterprises; 3) the law on the amendment of some articles of the law on water and water resources; 4) law on foreign exchange management; 5) law on court registration; 6) law on state enterprises and 7) law on electronic transactions.

– Completed the drafting and updating of 6 volumes of legal publicity manuals. Completed the publicity and dissemination of the law as planned with a focus on disseminating the legislation of justice related to 2 national agendas in 5 provinces (Bolikhamxay Province, Xayabouly Province, Savannakhet Province, Vientiane Capital and Vientiane Province). In addition, uploaded 34 legislations under the laws to the Lao Official Gazette website, produced 252 radio programs in Lao language and 42 times in Hmong language; Organized continuous law promotion activities at the central level and continued to promote the law through Public Security television program called “social justice” on a regular basis; Compiled and published 36 legal articles in newspapers, distributed 699 legal books and 6,000 magazines, and made 30 pieces of legislation available on the website.. For the local level, laws have been disseminated through 84 television broadcasts 654 radio broadcasts in Lao language, 4,682 provincial television advertisements, word-of-mouth advertisements in 540 villages, 42 village groups, 30 schools, 378 other places; which had a total of 56,395 participants, 26,555 women.

– Contributed to the examination of the conformity of 50 draft of laws (16 new drafts and 34 amended drafts) and a number of legislations under the law, of which 32 laws were considered in the 2nd, 3rd and 4th ordinary sessions of the National Assembly and 17 laws were related to 2 National Agendas, among which 11 laws were related to the solution of economic-financial difficulties, especially the legislation related to Order No. 18/PM. At the same time, the government also explored development strategies in various areas and presented them to the National Assembly for approval. For example: 10-year mineral development strategy draft (2021-2025) and vision until 2035, national water and water resources management strategy until 2030. In addition, there were a number of additional strategies that were discussed together with development partners to support the 9th five-year National Socio-Economic Development Plan (2021-2025).

– There was a total of 54,575 court rulings, 43,660 cases could be implemented, equal to 80%, 4,658 cases were completed and closed, which was equal to 8.53% of the total case

judgments and equal to 28.78% of the number of new case judgments; 267 cases were sent to the prosecutor. Until now, there were 49,650 pending court decisions (9,393 civil cases, 36,472 criminal cases) of which: 3,614 cases were unenforceable (513 civil cases, 3,101 criminal cases) and 171 cases were suspended (43 civil cases, 128 criminal cases).

– There were economic disputes that were submitted to the Economic Dispute Resolution Centre and the Economic Dispute Resolution Office throughout the country. There was a total of 164 disputes, and 91 disputes were resolved with a total value of 169,475,163,166 kip and 20,302,550 US dollars, 121,882,795 baht and 2,000,000 yuan, and 31 disputes were exported, in progress 42 cases.

– The outstanding fundamental justice work was the endorsement of the strengthening plan for the fundamental justice, especially the work of building families and villages that follow the law, mediation of village disputes and children's justice work related to 2 national agendas; Completed the consideration of 12 applications for Lao citizenship, reclaiming 6 Lao citizenships and 1 giving up Lao citizenship; Reviewed one adoption request submitted by a foreign national. Issued 2 certificates of adoption of children by foreigners and considered 4 applications for adoption of Lao children by foreigners.

– Challenges: (1) The development of justice work had some aspects that did not receive attention. Most of them focused with specific problems, some of the strategic features were still not done well, to prolong and others, the complaints from society were about the implementation of the court's decision, which was delayed, unreasonably prolonged, causing the number of cases to increase day by day. (2) Acting as coordinator to the government and local governing bodies regarding law and justice work was not fully completed, especially at the local level, most of them were unable to act as chief of staff in the creation and review of legislation put forward by party committees and local governing bodies. (3) Implementation of the summary, report, feedback system of many parts was still not done well, the content lacks detail and clarity is delayed, and does not align with the schedule and reality, resulting in the provision of information and documents that are not reliable. Lack of service, creation of favourable conditions for activities throughout the justice sector was still delayed, sometimes lacked detail and did not have a clear detailed plan.

Prosecutor work:

– Office of People's Prosecutor at all levels have increased the monitoring of the implementation of court decisions, especially focusing on the implementation of Order No. 015/OSPP, dated August 25, 2021 regarding the strengthening of the monitoring of the implementation of court decisions and signed a joint memorandum to establish a coordination mechanism for monitoring the implementation of court decisions between the Lao Office of the Supreme People's Prosecutor and the Ministry of Justice, as well as issued Order No. 003/OSPP, dated January 17, 2023 for the departments and local people's prosecutor to implement more accurately and more strictly. Currently, a number of Provincial Office of People's Prosecutor have implemented with relevant parties, such as in Huaphan, Luang Prabang, Xayaburi, Xieng Khouang, Phongsaly, Bokeo, Khammouan, Borikhamxay, Saravan, Savannakhet and Champasak. Through monitoring over the past two and a half years, there were 47,254 criminal cases under the judgment organization (Ministry of Justice), of which 5,200 cases have been completed, equivalent to 11% and there were 13,911 civil case, of which 2,948 cases have been completed, equivalent to 21.19%. In addition, the Government's Decree No. 07/GOV and No. 280/GOV, dated August 9, 2022, a committee has been appointed to gather information on property, property that are seized, and judgments related to state-owned assets. The committee is tasked with

collecting and summarizing information on two instances of state-owned properties that are currently being processed. Additionally, the committee will oversee the management of seized assets,

- Transferring some officials of the People's Prosecutor Office to be stationed at the detention centres to implement the joint recommendation between the Office of Supreme People's Prosecutor, the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Public Security No. 015, dated September 9, 2019 regarding the transfer of the Prosecutor's staff and court decision implementation staff to be stationed at the detention centre; as well as turning to the local area to promote the work of monitoring the detention centre in connection with the national agenda of solving drug problem.

- Raised the quality of monitoring the implementation of law in court proceedings according to Order No. 010/OSPP, dated July 30, 2021 on the appointment of public prosecutors to monitor criminal proceedings in court and attend criminal court meetings to review the implementation of laws in court meetings.

- Signed a joint memorandum between the Office of Supreme People's Prosecutor and the People's Supreme Court on determining coordination mechanisms from 2021 to June 2023. The People's Prosecution Offices at all levels have prioritized the investigation and resolution of the following cases:

1) Criminal Case:

Preliminary Criminal Cases: A total of 27,848 cases were received, of which 680 are still pending, and 26,781 cases have been resolved, representing a 96.17% resolution rate. There are 1,067 cases currently under investigation. Of the resolved cases, 14,364 were adjudicated in court, with the court ruling in favor of the prosecutor's statements in 14,295 cases, equating to 99.52%. The court partially accepted 18 statements and did not accept 51 statements, while the prosecutor submitted 35 objections.

- Criminal Cases on Appeal: A total of 985 cases were received on appeal, with 934 resolved, representing 94.82% of cases. There are 51 cases currently under review. Of the resolved cases, 565 were adjudicated in court, with the court ruling in favor of the prosecutor's statements in 499 cases (88.32%). The court partially accepted 37 statements and did not accept 29, while the prosecutor proposed 14 objections.

- Dismissed Criminal Cases: A total of 423 cases were marked for dismissal, with 390 cases resolved, representing a 92.20% resolution rate. There are 33 cases still under review. Of the resolved cases, 226 were adjudicated in court, with the court accepting 183 of the prosecutor's statements (96.82%). The court accepted 1 partial statement and rejected 5 statements, while the prosecutor submitted 2 objections.

- Requests for Reopening Criminal Cases: A total of 153 requests were received, with 138 resolved (90.20%) and 15 cases still under investigation. Of the resolved cases, 98 were dismissed. The prosecutor reviewed 30 cases, issued notifications for 4 cases, referred 5 cases to other parties, and 1 case was withdrawn by the involved parties

- File of the Reopening Criminal Cases: A total of 98 cases were received, of which 87 have been resolved (88.78%) and 11 are still under investigation. Of the resolved cases, 16 were proposed for reopening, and 15 cases were agreed not to be dismissed. The court overturned orders that were deemed legally incorrect, including orders to clarify cases and orders not to open investigations or inquiries in 14 cases. The court also reported back to the National Assembly in 24 cases, transferred 15 cases to the local People's Prosecutor's Office, and provided responses in 3 cases.

2) Civil Case:

- Preliminary Civil Cases: A total of 3,610 civil cases were received, with 46 cases still pending and 3,514 cases resolved, representing a resolution rate of 97.3%. There are 96 cases currently under investigation. Of the resolved cases, 1,892 were adjudicated in court, with the court deciding in favor of the prosecutor's statement in 1,874 cases (99.05%). The court partially accepted 12 statements, rejected 6, and the prosecutor objected to 3 cases.
- Civil Cases on Appeal: A total of 1,343 civil cases were appealed, with 28 cases still pending and 1,287 cases resolved, equal to a resolution rate of 95.83%. There are 56 cases still under review. Of the resolved cases, 1,072 were adjudicated in court, with the court accepting 933 cases (87.03%) according to the prosecutor's statements. The court partially accepted 68 statements, rejected 71 cases, and the prosecutor proposed 7 objections.
- Civil Cases to be Dismissed: A total of 678 cases were identified for dismissal, with 23 cases pending and 634 cases resolved, equal to a resolution rate of 96.99%. There are 14 cases still under review. Of the resolved cases, 441 were investigated by the court, with the court upholding the prosecutor's statement in 394 cases (89.34%) and partially accepting the prosecutor's statement in 47 cases (10.66%).
- Requests for Reopening Civil Cases: A total of 491 requests were received, with 50 cases still pending and 476 resolved, representing a 96.94% resolution rate. There are 15 cases still under review. Of the resolved cases, the court agreed not to reopen 305 cases, reviewed 138 cases, referred 28 cases to other parties, and 5 cases were withdrawn by the involved parties.
- File of Reopening Civil Cases: A total of 244 civil cases were received, with 201 resolved (82.37%) and 15 still under review. Of the resolved cases, 9 were settled according to the National Assembly's notification, 30 cases were agreed not to be reopened, and 17 issues were reported back to the National Assembly. Additionally, 58 cases were reopened upon request, 69 cases were agreed not to be reopened, and 18 cases were transferred to the local People's Prosecutor's Office for monitoring according to legal procedures, as they are being processed at the local level.

3. Public security – national defence:

The government has continued to focus on the support for the implementation of national and public security for all people with all measures. This includes continuing to focus on building the political foundation and developing the central focus area related to the improvement of the national defense force, public security at all levels according to the 4 major tasks and 26 programs of national defense, public security and all defense-security at all levels has been strongly improved, in all aspects, which can perform its political duties in all situations. The special focus is on guiding the implementation of the national agenda to solve the drug problem in relation to the solution to social problems. Through the actual implementation, there have been successes in many aspects, the main of which is being able to prevent and solve the potential cause of unrest in a timely manner, so that the nation continues to maintain political stability, with a peaceful well-regulated society.

Challenges: Some negative phenomena still exist in the society and in the local community at different levels including drug problems, theft, illegal trade, and human trafficking. It is estimated that the number of victims will be increasing, especially among migrant workers, cross regional work and the incremental illegal online work and exploitation (fraudulent chats and calls, etc.)

III. Implementation of Least Development Country (LDC) Graduation Conditions

+ **LDC graduation review in 2021:** Lao PDR has passed the 2021 Triennial Review by the UN CDP, marking the second time that Lao PDR has received a satisfactory result from the review, following its initial review in 2018.

- 1) Gross National Income(GNI): Lao PDR has met all three criteria for graduating from the status of a Least Developed Country (LDC), according to the evaluation results of the United Nations Committee for Development Policy (CDP) under the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). This marks the second consecutive time that Lao PDR has achieved this milestone, following the initial evaluation in 2018. In the 2021 evaluation, Lao PDR successfully met the following criteria
- 2) Per capita income index or Gross National Income (GNI): is a measure of the change in the living conditions of the Lao people. In 2021, Laos' GNI was 2,449 US dollars, which is higher than the 5-Year Plan target of 1,222 US dollars and higher than the 2018 GNI of 1,996 US dollars per person per year.
- 3) Human Asset Index(HAI):is a measure of human capital, which serves as the foundation for the country's development, includes indicators such as nutrition, birth rate, death rate, literacy rate, and secondary school enrollment rate. The 2021 review indicates that the enrollment rate has decreased from 72.8 in 2018 to 72.7 in 2021; however, it remains higher than the 5-Year Plan target of 66.
- 4) Economic Vulnerability Index(EVI): shows the vulnerability of the economy to internal and external shocks and the country's capability to cope with their impacts. In 2018, Laos did not meet the criteria, as some of the EVI criteria, such as geographical location, export and agricultural variety, and stability, could not be controlled. However, in the 2021 review, this issue showed improvement, especially in terms of connectivity infrastructure with key trading partners and elements related to policy stability, export instability, and agriculture. This resulted in Laos' EVI increasing from 33.7 in 2018 to 27 in 2021, though still lower than the target of 32 in the 5-Year Plan.

+ **Preparations for the 3rd LDC Review in 2024:** Based on current developments, it is observed that in 2023, the growth of Lao PDR continued to be strong. Sub-indices under the three criteria are still looking positive. Despite the current economic situation impacting per capita income and social development, it is expected that Lao PDR will continue to meet the three criteria for graduating from Least Developed Country (LDC) status in the 2024 assessment by the Committee for Development Policy (CDP). Therefore, despite the current economic situation affecting GNI and social development, it is expected that Lao PDR will continue to meet the three criteria for graduating from Least Development Policy (LDC) status in the 2024 assessment by the Committee for Development Policy (CDP).

+ **The Lao PDR's Smooth Transition Strategy for LDC Graduation 2022-2026 and Beyond 2026 The development of LDC Graduation Smooth Transition Strategy of Lao PDR (2022-2026 and beyond):** The Smooth Transition Strategy has been in development since the end of 2021 through consultations with government entities, development partners, international Organization, UN agencies, and other stakeholders, including social organizations and the private sector. As of now, the strategy has been endorsed by the government and will be continually integrated into sectoral plans for effective future implementation.

IV. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The Lao PDR has focused on the implementation of the SDG proactively in the past through integration into the national socio-economic development priorities and plans and various sectoral

plans which can achieve progress in many aspects. The integration into the 8th National Socio-Economic Development Plan (NSEDP) (2016-2020), a total of 46 indicators were established across 18 SDG targets. This integration has continued into the Ninth Five-Year Plan, which includes the national agenda for addressing economic and financial challenges, particularly by prioritizing capital allocation for urgent sectors and targets that are at risk of not being met such as the work of providing funding for health services, the reduction of mortality rate of children below 5 years which are seen as still challenging.

These goals will continue to be implemented in the 9th NSEDP (2021-2025). The 9th NSEDP is the framework around which the Government aims to accomplish the national development goals including SDGs, LDC graduation, and green growth. The NSEDP outlines a strategy that supports further growth in employment across different sectors, agricultural production, trade, and resource mobilization. The Government is committed to social policies to support creating a healthy and educated population. Important efforts are also being undertaken to build the resilience of institutions, communities and households to economic and natural shocks. But as there have been achievements, there have also been challenges related to SDG implementation that will need critical attention within the time frame of 9th NSEDP.

It is one of the priority tasks that the Lao PDR has an obligation to the international community to achieve the joint development goals. After the adoption of these goals, the Lao PDR has integrated this work into the 8th five-year plan (2016-2020) and continued to integrate it in the 9th five-year plan (2021-2025),.

In the recent past, the Lao PDR has made a voluntary national report No. 2 (in 2018 and 2021). According to the report, the implementation of the SDG within the country or sectoral bodies from central to local level is facing challenges that are obstacles to the implementation of the SDGs. Several SDG related works under sectoral and subnational development plans have been delayed, especially during the spread of Covid-19. United Nations ranked the implementation of SDG in Laos at 115th out of 166 countries, with the score of 63/100. The analysis by the UN organization indicates that Lao PDR still faces significant challenges in achieving its development goals. Laos had positive trends to achieve Goals 3 (Health), 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure), and 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities). However, the assessment provided by the international organization may not fully reflect the actual progress of implementation within the country. This discrepancy may arise from the organization's limited access to complete, accurate, and up-to-date information from official sources in Lao PDR, which could contribute to inconsistencies between the international assessment and the actual situation in Lao PDR.

Overall, significant progress has been made in implementation efforts, particularly in Priority 3: ensuring good health. The focus has been on improving health services, maternal and child care, and nutrition. Many indicators are showing positive progress and are on track to meet the targets outlined in the plan. Lao PDR ranks among the top 10 ASEAN countries with the fastest improvement in maternal mortality rates. Additionally, statistical data for the education sector has been compiled and improved across 34 indicators, with several showing promising progress toward achieving their goals such as: the primary school completion rate reached 93.1%. SDG 5: Gender Equality has focused on implementing the National Action Plan for Gender Equality, maternal and child care, and the prevention and elimination of violence against women and children, which has been recognized as a significant success. SDG 7: Ensuring Access to Modern Energy has also made substantial progress, particularly in expanding the electricity grid to more

remote areas. As of 2022, 95.23% of households now have access to electricity. On the other hand, Goal 15: Conservation and Sustainable Use of Terrestrial Ecosystems, is on a downward trend. Additionally, some indicators across various goals are progressing slowly and are at risk of not being achieved. These include increasing the percentage of the population covered by the social security system, improving food security and nutrition—particularly child weight and height ratios that are not meeting the standard. Goal 4: Education, specifically indicators on school dropout rates, is also lagging behind the target reduction threshold. Furthermore, Goal 18, which focuses on the clearance of remaining unexploded ordnance, faces the risk of not being met as expected due to limited budget allocations and a decline in international aid. Currently, preparations are underway for the mid-term review of the National Plan of Action through 2030 and the third Voluntary National Review (VNR) of Lao PDR, scheduled for 2024."

V. Overall Evaluation

In the past two and a half years, although the situation of the world and the region continues to change in a complex manner, domestically, along with many opportunities, there are also many difficulties, with the efforts of all parties at all levels in organizing the democratic political system, all the expectations and indicators of the 9th five-year plan and the two national agendas approved by the National Assembly have been implemented, the main results of which are as follows:

1. Key Achievements

- 1) The nation continues to have strong political stability, the society is basically peaceful and orderly, based on the spirit of enhancing the foundation of unity, mutual help of the people of all ethnic groups under the leadership of the party, whose central axis is the Politburo and the Party Central Secretariat.
- 2) The basis of production and services continued to be developed and a number of new branches were born, such as the production of plants and animals for food and as export goods, so that the economy gradually recovered and continued to grow continuously; The management of income, expenditure and currency has been improved gradually, the important thing is that the country's economy does not fall into a crisis.
- 3) Important infrastructure for production, business, regional and international integration has been developed and upgraded with the participation of all economic sectors, such as the Lao-China railway, expressway, land port-logistics system and national highways at some necessary times.
- 4) Although the ability to provide funds and the budget are limited, with the participation of all economic sectors including the society, the cultural-social field has continued to focus on development and there are many aspects that have made better progress; Rural development and poverty alleviation according to Decree 348/PM of various localities continue to receive attention according to the conditions and budget capacity and have achieved good results in many areas.
- 5) Laws and legislation under the law have been revised and created many versions which have been an important tool for the movement of organizing a democratic political system; Improving the organization, service-investment system of all economic sectors related to state-social management with laws has been improved and there has been an active transformation.
- 6) International Cooperation according to the direction set in Resolution XI of the party continues to operate regularly with forms and methods that are in line with the changes in the situation from time to time and bring benefits to the nation in all situations.

2. Key Success Factors

- 1) Because of the leadership and guidance of the Party Central Committee, which is direct and regular, is the Politburo of the Party Central Committee, there is the monitoring of the National Assembly, Provincial People's Council, Vientiane more closely, regularly and more strictly than in the past.
- 2) The administration of the government as well as the local government organization has been improved day by day, there has been a deep transformation, in many aspects there has been an active transformation; The entire party, the entire Lao people, all ethnic groups, including various economic sectors, have actively contributed to the protection and building of the nation on a regular basis.
- 3) There is cooperation and assistance from friendly countries and international organizations in bilateral and multilateral frameworks, including development partners, both in normal conditions and in the face of disease outbreaks, as well as during the occurrence of various natural disasters. In particular, there is cooperation and help in all aspects from friendly strategic country.

3. Shortcomings, Difficulties and Challenges

- 1) Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is increasing, but the growth has not guaranteed stability; implemented the national agenda of solving the economic-financial difficulties, but the expansion of the income base along with the collection of income is not yet commensurate with the potential. Budget expenditure management has improved the government budget and reduced the approval of civil servants each year, but compared to ASEAN countries, the budget expenditure of our country is still high; What is worrying is that the inflation rate is still relatively high, the exchange rate fluctuates in a complex manner, causing the cost of living to increase and may affect the main objectives of the 9th five-year plan (2021-2025), including the implementation of the LDC and the SDGs; The implementation of a number of state investment projects has not yet been able to follow strict laws and regulations, such as the implementation of Article 19 of the State Investment Law; State investment in various fields cannot be allocated according to the plan, especially in the social field; Compliance with the results of inspection every year is progressing slowly.
- 2) The production of goods and services to replace imports is not yet strong and efforts have been made to produce goods for export, but most of the exports are raw materials and the quality is still low; The development of micro-enterprises, small and medium-sized enterprises is not yet strong, so that these enterprises cannot compete with the outside; The reform of strategic state-owned enterprises is still delayed and unable to create model enterprise units according to the direction set by our party.
- 3) The exploration and use of the potential of natural resources is hasty and does not follow scientific principles, so the implementation of a number of projects is low, including mineral exploration, agricultural production and forestry, as well as projects in various sectors and affect the natural environment and society at different levels. At the same time, the management of state service organizations at each level is not yet strong and strict according to the law, nor has it guaranteed the 3 principles (decisiveness, transparency, professionalism).
- 4) The development of social fields and the solution of poverty, although there have been efforts from sectors, organizations and local governments at each level, but a number of indicators have not yet been guaranteed both in terms of quantity and quality and there is a risk of not meeting the expectations approved by the National Assembly, including education, public health, labour and social welfare, rural development and poverty alleviation.

- 5) The regime, regulations and management mechanism as well as the administration of state affairs, both the coordination mechanism between the government and the National Assembly, although they have tried to improve, but have not been able to meet the demands of the work in the new conditions. At the same time, the laws laid down in some articles are not yet in line with the new situation and there are contradictions; Modernization is delayed and unable to meet the demands of the work; The division of management according to the 3 builds direction, including the system to shed light on the situation of various sectors and localities, some of which do not meet the deadlines set; Some civil servant placements remain misaligned with the specific fields of study they have pursued. Solving the problems in the society related to the solution of drugs, although efforts have been made, the problem of drugs, theft, illegal trade, etc. is still happening in all localities at different levels, which has created difficulties for the production and living of people in all areas.
- 6) Cooperation with foreign countries, although there have been efforts, but the problem that needs to be continued is that the authority in terms of agreements with the international community and our friendly countries is not yet high, and many cases are conducted in a sporadic and long-term manner.

4. Causes of Shortcomings

- 1) The leadership to guide the implementation of the 9th five-year plan is related to the implementation of Resolution XI of the Party, the two national agendas to be detailed in a number of sectors, organizations and localities have not yet been carried out seriously, nor have they been published, and permeated to all parties including the people of the ethnic groups to be widely aware, thus making the understanding of the employees, soldiers and the people of a number of the ethnic groups to the policy guidelines of the party-state and the government's relevant legislation related to the implementation of the 9th five-year Socio-Economic Development Plan. Also, the solution to the economic-financial and drug problems is not yet as deep and unified as it should be.
- 2) Some articles in the laws and regulations issued in the past were not in line with the requirements of the work in the new situation. The ones that are already correct and consistent, but the actual implementation of some organizations and individuals is not strict enough strict, especially the use of natural resources, including the discipline of planning, finance, etc.
- 3) Coordination between sectors and local areas in various tasks remains insufficiently harmonized, with numerous overlapping mechanisms This has hindered the effective implementation of resolutions and plans issued by the party-state and party-governing bodies at all levels. In some cases, the lack of unity has resulted in low overall effectiveness.
- 4) The socio-economic development in each phase lacks clear information, especially information on the use of different types of land, thus making the actual implementation difficult and delayed, including attracting domestic and foreign investment. At the same time, modernization in all areas of work at all levels and the sector has not been seriously implemented yet.
- 5) The response to the budget as well as the funding needed to serve the political functions of various parties at all levels as well as the development in all areas of work is not enough to meet the actual needs.
- 6) The production base is not yet strong and the economic-financial difficulties have been accumulated for many years and our national economic base is still very young. At the same time, it has been affected by the covid-19 epidemic, regional and international economic and

political fluctuations, which have become difficulties and challenges for the economic-social development and the improvement of the lives of the ethnic groups.

5. Lessons Learnt

- 1) Ensuring political stability, social order related to the maintenance of macro-economic stability that ensures the enhancement of the unity of the ethnic people under the leadership of the party is a basic and important condition for the achievement of the various expectations set in the plan from time to time.
- 2) Effective and precise statistical data, along with cohesive and unified coordination from the public sectors, and the organization of robust production groups, are vital catalysts for driving continuous growth and stability in economic and social development in line with its full potential.
- 3) Developing human resources with knowledge, skills and strong revolutionary moral values is key to effectively supporting the implementation of the socio-economic development plan over time.
- 4) It is crucial to create and update laws and regulations to ensure they are current, oriented, and aligned with the evolving needs of each political party's operational functions in terms of integration, external connectivity, and enhanced state administration management in strict adherence to transparent, verifiable laws. Additionally, exercising the right to "be honest and progressive", which is a key factor in promoting justice within society and ensuring the efficiency and effectiveness of state administration.
- 5) To ensure consistency between the National Socio-Economic Development Plan and the strategies supporting socio-economic development, the vision until 2030 places central emphasis on the goal of achieving sustainable development and upholds the principle of continuous development.
- 6) It is essential to actively implement long-term strategic plans and effectively address urgent issues by systematically taking comprehensive measures, monitoring, inspection, and evaluation of directives, goals and objectives in each area, is essential. Additionally, providing timely reporting to relevant higher authorities is also crucial for ensuring the smooth execution of all plans and targets.

Part II

Directions and Priorities for the Second Half of the Plan until 2025.

1. Anticipation of Global, Regional and Domestic Situations

By 2025, the international and regional environment is expected to be remain volatile, complex and difficult to predict. Challenges such as economic-financial instability, political conflicts, climate change and other global issues will likely persist. However, amidst these challenges, there will be numerous opportunities and potentials, including economic recovery of neighbouring countries, particularly the Republic of Vietnam and China, the development of infrastructure such as the Lao-China railway, land ports, and special economic zones, as well as the country's natural resources and cooperation with the international partners and strategic allies to drive future development.

2. Overall Direction

It is imperative that, from now until the end of 2025, the directions, objectives, and focus tasks outlined in the resolution of the 11th General Assembly of the Party and the 9th 5-Year National Socio-Economic Development Plan (2021-2025) be adhered to and implemented. These must be linked to the implementation of 2 national agendas, with a focus on continuing to bring about strong and profound transformations across all aspects. Foremost, it is essential to ensure that political stability, social order, and basic order are maintained, while the economy is transformed and expanded. Attention must also be given to raising awareness of public security and national defense and promoting peace, which is tied to the development of the economy, society, and cooperation with foreign countries and can lay a solid foundation for the implementation of the 10th Five-Year National Socio-Economic Development Plan (2026-2030).

3. Targets

- Sustain the ongoing and consistent growth of the country's economy in line with Party Resolution XI and the 9th 5-Year National Socio-Economic Development Plan.
- Mitigate and address the impacts of economic and financial challenges, currency fluctuations on the social sphere, and the living standards of people from all ethnic backgrounds and workers, while minimizing any potential societal disruptions.
- Turn the macro-economic crisis into an opportunity for internal improvement by upgrading the capacity and efficiency of the related duties of the administration-state as well as the business sector to another level.

Targets and Development Priorities for the Second Half of the 9th NSEDP until 2025

The implementation of the second half of the NSEDP should aim to achieve the main outcomes and development priorities outlined in the six outcomes and 25 outputs. This should be done with a focus on the following key areas: 1. Indicators for income generation, budget allocation (including increasing budget revenue), poverty reduction (particularly in remote areas), and Promoting exports that create added value and increase employment are essential; Additionally, the production of substitute goods to

reduce imports and the strict management of natural resources allocation are critical for addressing challenges in the first half of the 9th Five-Year Plan. These indicators will serve as the foundation for developing the 10th NSEDP (2026-2030, as outlined below:

1. Outcome 1: Continuous Quality, Stable and Sustainable Economic Growth Achieved

1.1 Output 1: Quality and Sustainable Economic Growth

❖ Target:

- Aim to achieve an annual GDP growth rate of 4% per year or more; reaching a target value of 1,056,692 billion kip in the current year. Increase GDP per capita to 2,880 US dollars and GNI per capita to 2,280 US dollars by 2025.
 - + Agricultural sector to grow on average at 2.5% per year to account for 15.3% of GDP;
 - + Industrial sector to grow on average at 4.1% per year to account for 32.3% of GDP;
 - + Service to grow on average at 6% per year to account for 40.7% of GDP;
 - + Customs and tax income to grow on average at 5.8% to account for 11.7% of GDP.
- Aim to produce rice at 3-4 million tons per year;
- Animal raising: To grow 3-4% per year;
- Forestry area: To increase by 1.5% per year;
- Fishery: To increase by 3-4% per year;
- To produce commodity crops per year: Coffee at 175,500 tons/year; animal feed at 636,900 tons/year; Cassava at 3.6 million tons/year; Sugarcane at 1.6 million tons/year; Bananas at 753,500 tons/year and nuts at 74,750 tons/year.
- Export of agricultural products: 1,200 million US dollars per year;
- Create value addition for processing industry and handicrafts: 83,079.8 billion Kip or growing at 8-10% per year;
- Electricity generation: 276,096 Kwh, increasing 15.8% per year on average;
- Mineral production: 7,832.1 million US dollars;
- Good circulation (Wholesale-retail and repair service): To achieve 424,227.5 billion Kip or growing on average 8-10% per year;
- Attract international tourists to Laos 15 million people, generating income of 3,813 million US dollars by 2025, average stay of 7 days/person;
- Survey, manage, define and issue certificate of tourist destinations: To achieve 30 places by 2025;
- Goods transported: Land transport to grow at 7% per year, water transport at 5%, air transport 12% and rail transport 7%;
- Passenger transport: Land transport to grow at 7% per year, water transport at 5%, air transport 12% and rail transport 10%.

❖ Priorities

+ Agriculture and Forestry:

- Develop plans and measures to balance production and consumption; Promote agricultural productions that are related to higher value-added processing industries; Improve agricultural product quality; Promote access to credit and transportation markets, while implementing support measures mitigate the impact of various disasters, pest outbreaks and seasonal challenges. Additionally, establish comprehensive plans and management strategies for agricultural land development and scientific research in agriculture and

forestry; It is also essential to strengthen and enhance coordination mechanism with relevant sectors to ensure effective collaboration.

- Collaborate with relevant sectors to negotiate new markets for 17 fruit items to promote exports to China; Continue to support the implementation of 50,000-ton quota of rice to China; Prioritize promoting products with great potentials, such as large animals to achieve 50,000 tons per year and negotiate opening new markets for large animal meat (dry meat and frozen meat).
- Research on products that have potentials to be exported to neighbouring countries through focused capacity building and creating production collectives that can compete with regional and international producers.
- Create and develop systems to monitor, inspect and verify the use of labelling for clean and safe agricultural production. This will help build customer confidence, facilitate exports to tourism services, and ensure compliance with international standards (SPS) for exports to foreign countries.
- Promote and develop agricultural and forestry processing factories in a systemic value chain, from planning to processing to marketing to achieve integrated and effective development. It is required to develop and improve legislations and collaborate with factories and localities to ensure a sufficient supply of raw materials to support job creation.

+ Industrial sector:

- Continue leverage each locality's comparative advantage to promote processing of agricultural products as import substitute and for export; Promote processing sectors based on the 8 priority sectors and 4 leading industries: Construction material production (cement and concrete); Chemical industry (Potassium fertilizers, bromine, caustic soda, and other related products.); mineral processing industry (silicon, steel); Food processing industry; Agro-processing industry (rubber, cassava flour, tea, and coffee).
- Prioritize enhancing the environment standards in the establishment and operation of factories by: developing an industrial plant information database; Promoting the use of the national chemical database; implementing green industrial policies; and creating a comprehensive bioenergy development strategy.
- Collect details of important products that have been produced and consumed domestically, production capacity and actual production to serve as the basis to collaborate with relevant parties to promote the use of domestic products.
- Prioritize developing hydropower, wind power, solar power and other clean energy productions; And complete the objectives outlined in the 9th Five-Year Plan, while also encouraging energy projects that have been completed to operate at full capacity in accordance with the established plan.
- Continue study energy market to concretize selling electricity current to neighbouring countries and other ASEAN countries.
- Encourage mining projects currently in the exploration phase to conduct economic and technical feasibility studies, paving the way for exploration and processing. Additionally, support investors in developing mining projects to establish processing plant and smelting plant for basic minerals such as gold, iron, zinc, and tin.
- Prioritize 1/200,000 mineral map survey in the unfinished areas of 74,696 Km².

+ Service sector:

- Promote domestic products (Made in Lao) to reduce imports through increasing quality and popularity to penetrate both domestic and international markets; Determine products to be prioritized with clear strategies to establish clear and strategic product promotion goals, with a focus on supporting producers in alignment with government guidelines.
- Strengthen Lao brand through improving production processes; Strengthen marketing knowledge for businesses; Link products with markets, including through workshops, seminars, exchange, and other forms.
- Develop modernized markets for products, such as shopping centres and stores, markets in the rural areas, big market in cities, along with the development of local producers; Promote One District One Product (ODOP) to facilitate direct trade.
- Promote the One District, One Product (ODOP) initiatives to enhance marketing, sales, and consumption of handicrafts that meet growing demands of tourism and exports. This includes products such as silk weaving, natural dyeing colour, metal work (jewellery), pottery, wood carving, iron work, traditional cooking and other artisan goods.
- Improve transportation infrastructure and system to ensure safe, fast and high-quality transportation to facilitate trade and investment.
- Promote tourism and related activities for 2024 Lao tourism year targeting international tourists; improve the variety of tourist activities and engage the private sector in the development; Prepare for the 27th ASEAN Tourism Ministers’ Meeting and related meetings as well as the ASEAN Tourism Exhibition (ATF) 2024: while also encouraging and promoting “Traditional Festival” tourism activities within the country.
- Continue improving the master plan for developing and managing tourism in Vangvieng, Vientiane Province (2023-2030); Develop tourism plan for the northern, central and southern parts; Develop eco-tourism plan for Lao PDR (2024-2030); Develop a strategy to link Lao and Thai tourism (2024-2028).
- Continue phase 2 tourism infrastructure and facility improvement to promote tourism in the long run, in Luang Prabang, Vientiane and Champasack to accomplish in accordance with the plan.
- Implement tourism standardization in tourist destinations nationwide, starting from provinces with high potentials such as Champasack (Wat Phou) and Vientiane Capital (Hor Pa Keo, That Luang and Patouxay); Evaluate and select tourist destinations in the target provinces for the cleanest and sustainable tourism in 2024 and 2025.
- Continue to develop detailed plans for agricultural tourism in Lao PDR and implement these programs. Additionally, create conservation tourism development plans for the 4 southern provinces and other regions throughout the country.
- Collaborate with provinces to survey, allocate, and demarcate boundaries, issue land titles, and identify priority travel routes to ensure completion.

1.2 Output 2: Robust and Stable Macroeconomic Management Ensured

❖ Targets:

+ Fiscal aspects:

- Attain total budget revenue of no less than 179,500 billion Kip or 17% of GDP, of which domestic revenue should reach 166,753 billion Kip or 15.8% of GDP;
- Expenditures should not exceed 190,000 billion Kip or 18% of GDP
- The average budget deficit over five years should be 10,500 billion Kip or 1% of GDP, with maximum no more than 2%.

- + Monetary aspects:
 - M2 supply quantity should not exceed 20% per year;
 - Inflation rate no more than 9% by 2025;
 - Manage the exchange rate to fluctuate in alignment with economic and monetary balance, ensuring that it does not create inflationary pressures. ;
 - Deposits in commercial banks should reach 60% of GDP;
 - Bank credits should be at 49% of GDP;
 - Foreign reserves should cover at least 3 months of import;
 - The average non-performing loan ratio of the entire banking system should not exceed 3% of the total credit balance.

- + Import and export:

- Aim to achieve export value of 38,043.5 million US dollars or increasing 8-10% per year.
- Import value is targeted at 32,927.3 million US dollars or increasing no more than 9% percent per year.

- ❖ **Priorities:**

- Accelerate the implementation of measures and policy to address and rising inflation, the depreciation of the Kip, rapidly increasing exchange rates, escalating living cost, and issues related to public debt and public investment projects debt. The goal is to avoid placing additional pressure on financial and monetary management and to restore stability as soon as possible.
- Focus on managing macroeconomy with an emphasis on monetary stability, particularly concerning the inflation rate and exchange rate. Implement stricter monetary policies, enhance the foreign currency reserve fund by managing currency inflows into the banks, and regular monitor commodity prices
- Increase bank transactions for export to be no less than 70% of the total export value (Not include some business units that have been exempted from the implementation of foreign exchange law in the past).
- Continue expand revenue base by reviewing tax rates (income tax, excise tax and value-added tax); while researching and re-evaluating tax exemptions associated with the promotion of investment in large-scale projects. Additionally, focus on expanding a new, diverse and stable income base and modernizing income collection methods.
- Accelerate efforts to recover outstanding debts and implement corrective actions based on audit and inspection results that have been pending for years. Ensure full integration into the budget plan, in compliance with legal requirements and strict financial regulations.
- Focus on surveying, exploring, and building tax income database, including formalize income from the informal sectors into TaxRis; Enhance the management approach by streamlining and clearly defining the responsibilities between central and local authorities
- Continue manage expenditures according to austerity measures against luxurious expenditures of the Government; Improve the efficiency and effectiveness of implementing the state budget expenditure plan in strict accordance with the law and resolution approved by the National Assembly. Prioritize the timely execution of the public debt repayment plan, both domestically and internationally, while exploring sustainable budget-balancing measures. This includes reducing foreign borrowing, negotiating debt maturity extensions with creditors, and maximizing potential revenue sources within the country

- Explore alternative sources to balance the budget and reduce reliance on foreign loans. Develop a strategic plan to increase domestic borrowing while clearly outlining replacement strategies for external loans.

1.3 Output 3: Investment Quality and Effectiveness Enhanced

❖ Targets:

- Mobilized resources for development no less than 204,599 billion Kip or 19.4% of GDP:
 - + Investment from the national budget should reach 22,950 billion Kip or 11% of total investment.
 - + Official Development Assistance should reach 37,344 billion Kip or 18% of total investment.
 - + Domestic and foreign private investment should reach 100,000 billion Kip or 49% of total investment.
 - + Other investments should reach 44,305 billion Kip or 22% total investment.

❖ Priorities:

- Continue reducing public debt according to endorsed strategies.
- Continue refining mechanisms and regulations to ensure clarity and mutual support, while removing barriers that hinder private sector investment. Engage all sectors of society in contributing to the nation’s development to achieve target goals
- Promote the use of Public-Private Partnership to investment in infrastructure and other public goods and services. Therefore, achieving key sectoral priorities—such as investment in human resource development, climate change mitigation, environmental protection, and state administration—is closely tied to the state's revenue sources
- Implement the 9th five-year NSEDP Financing Strategy to support the implementation of the 9th NSEDP¹¹ By deepening the four funding sources in line with international principles, 54 implementation measures and a comprehensive monitoring and evaluation framework will be established to assess and report on the progress of these funding sources for development in a clear and timely manner.
- Improve public revenue collection to serve as the main source of financing to invest in education, health, and social protection to prevent decline in human resource development.

1.4 Output 4: Better Quality, Robust and Regionally and Internationally Competitive Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises

❖ Targets:

- Improve Lao PDR’s ranking in the ‘Starting a business’ indicator by 2025.
- To increase the contribution of MSMEs to 18% of GDP by 2025.
- Strive to increase the number of new entrepreneurs in MSMEs by 2% annually.

❖ Priorities:

- Continue to develop legislation to expand up on the revised enterprise law (2022).
- Improve business environment to resolve difficulties related to starting new businesses in Laos by continuously enhance the enterprise registration process and the issuance of business licenses, to ensure greater transparency and efficiency, thereby reducing unnecessary costs, especially for SMEs.

¹¹ https://rtm.org.la/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/Advanced_draft_FS_clean_with_exec_summary_DOP-_24_01.pdf

- Improve transparency in the trade and private sector, as well as strengthening the platform for discussions between the government and the private sector under Lao Business Forum and support the operations of commercial and private sector entities.
- Establish and improve the mechanism to support and promote SMEs to have an accounting system, especially, continue to encourage SMEs, who have received a credits with an annual interest rate of 3% from the bank, to manage their accounts in accordance with legal requirement. This will promote access to additional funding sources. Monitor banks that have received credit from various financial institutions to ensure that the number of support units remains at 60.; Continue providing credits with no less than 840 billion Kip to 530 businesses through commercial banks to offer various types of credit to businesses with high potentials in producing essential goods for the community.
- Study the possibility to establish policies for bank credit, budget allocation, and tax incentives with a concessional nature
- Establish a startup innovation centre focused on micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs); Organize the annual Startup ECOTHON competition at least twice as part of the ASEAN-South Korea Startup Cooperation Program. Continue workshops on business planning, financial planning and cash accounting, under certification programme for SMEs in 18 provinces nationwide.
- Promote economic restructuring to boost employment creation by MSMEs; Promote production value chain and improve the quality of export products to meet international standards; Aim to reduce imported products and reliance on natural resources.

1.5 Output 5: Enhance Efficiency and Effectiveness of State-Owned Enterprises and Collective Economy

❖ Priorities:

- Accelerate the reforms of state-owned enterprises (SOEs) as planned, focusing on the reforms of the 5 strategic SOEs to turn losses into profits
- Develop new legislations to manage SOEs, such as the issuance and management of business license, salary setting, welfare, personnel subsidies, operational costs to ensure uniformity, systematic organization, and more stringent management standards
- Establish legislation on the appointments of government officers in board of directors and management to serve as a support centre for guiding state-owned enterprises in aligning their operations with established goals."
- Establish a state asset management company to oversee state investments, ensuring the smooth and effective operation of state enterprises
- Establish a system to monitor financial and non-financial performances of SOEs to find out issues and resolve in a timely manner.
- Improve the knowledge and skills of employees to develop strong expertise in state enterprise reform, given the diverse sectors involved in this process.
- Promote the organization of production among existing households to transition into cooperatives, micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs), and special association networks, aiming for a 50% increase by connecting to the promotion of value-added chains in agricultural production that are environmentally friendly.
- Focus on improving the production capacity of groups, cooperatives, and associations to enhance productivity, prioritizing commodity production and joint economic efforts. This includes forming new production groups, associations, and cooperatives. Simultaneously,

encourage these entities to access SME credit policies and various funds with favorable interest rates, facilitating the creation of a network that links growers and producers with processing plants for mutual benefit.

2. Outcome 2: Improved Quality of Human Resources to Meet Development, Research Capacity, Science and Technology Needs, and Create Value-Added Production and Services

2.1 Output 1: More Inclusive and Better-Quality Healthcare Services and Nutrition

❖ Targets:

- Reduce the prevalence of underweight among under-five children to 15%.
- Reduce the proportion of stunting among under-five children to 27%.
- Reduce the infant mortality rate to 20/1,000 live births.
- Reduce the under-five mortality rate to 30/1,000 live births.
- Reduce maternal mortality rate to 110/100,000 live births.
- Increase the number of births attended by skilled health personnel to 85% of the target population.
- Increase immunization coverage for babies up to one year old to 95% of the target population.
- Increase the proportion of people with access to safe drinking water to 95% of the total population.
- Increase household improved latrine utilization to 85% of all households.
- Increase universal health insurance coverage rate to 94.5% of the total population.
- Increase the accreditation rate of Model Health Village to 85% of all villages.
- Increase the average life expectancy to more than 73 years.

❖ Priorities:

- Continue the implementation of the National Strategy and Plan of Action for integrated reproductive, maternal, newborn, and child health services, along with nutrition strategy, with a focus on provinces, districts and smaller hospitals that face technical, budgetary, and logistical challenges. Additionally, mobilize the participation of local authorities and communities in these efforts.
- Improve and expand health service to mothers and children and youth to ensure comprehensive and high-quality coverage across the country. Focus on key sector indicators, including vaccination rates, prenatal and childbirth examinations with medical assistance, postnatal check-ups, family planning, health of children under five, youth health, and the assessment of service quality linked to maternal and child health.
- Continue build the capacity to monitor and cope with health emergencies; Strengthen cautions against variants of NGS such as Covid-19, dengue; Promote the use of Wolbachia to control mosquitos; Ensure the coverage of access to healthcare related to tuberculosis, HIV, and other sexually transmitted diseases and malaria.
- Continue improving the quality of hospitals through upgrading infrastructure to meet standards, including essential medicines and medical equipment. Enhance services in accordance with the '5 Good, 1 Satisfied' policy to foster a positive image and ensure success. Continue piloting self-sufficient hospitals of the 3 hospitals and expand the piloting to other hospitals that are ready, aiming mainly for financial sufficiency and reducing reliance on government's budget.

- Strengthen monitoring of the quality of foods, drugs and medical products, from import to circulation, to curb the import of illicit drugs and medical equipment; Maintain the ISO 17025 of the National Food and Drug Research Centre and continue to develop the centre to achieve certification from the World Health Organization (WHO PQ) and enhance the capabilities of provincial research units to conduct quality assessments of food and medicine at the grassroots level."
- Continue to develop the curriculum and teaching methods for medicine and traditional medicine through collaboration between the Institute of Medicine and Traditional Medicine and the University of Health Sciences."

2.2 Output 2: Improved the Quality of All Levels of Education and Conditions Created for Access to Education to Support Readiness for Regional and International Integration and Industry 4.0

❖ Targets:

- Enrolment rate for the 5-year-olds in pre-school education nationwide to reach at least 86% by 2025.
- Enrolment rate grade 1 to exceed 98%.
- Gross enrolment rate for grade 5 to reach 97%.
- Reduce the dropout rate for grade 1 to 4%.
- Completion rate of primary education to reach more than 94%.
- The proportion of grade 5 students enrolled in Year 1 of lower secondary education to reach 85%.
- Reduce the dropout rate of primary school students to no more than 4%.
- Gender parity index for transition rate from grade 5 to year 1 of lower secondary education between 0.97 to 1.03.
- Gross enrolment rate for year 4 of secondary education to reach more than 68%.
- Reduce the dropout rate in lower secondary education to 11%.
- Number of youth and those dropped out of school can have access to non-formal education and vocational training to be more than 25,000 people per year (5-Year Plan target: 150,000 people).
- Percentage of primary and secondary school teachers having completed trainings to reach at least 10% per year.
- Percentage of lower secondary school graduates enrolled in technical and vocational schools to reach more than 3% of the total number of lower secondary school graduates.
- University student enrolment in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) to reach 2,500 people (5-year plan: to reach 12,500 people).
- The proportion of people of all genders and ages in society practicing physical exercise, playing sports and gymnastics to reach 50% of the total population.

❖ Priorities:

- Promote pre-school education in the forms that are suitable for each regions; For example, implement community-based learning initiatives, age-appropriate teaching, and the expansion of pre-primary classrooms, while encouraging community and private sector participation in the provision of early childhood education. "Continue improving the learning outcome of primary school students, especially on Lao language and mathematics by focusing on training, monitoring, and supporting teachers' instruction and school principals' performance."

- Continue addressing the dropout rates of students in general education by working more closely with the parents and communities to support children in the age range to finish the compulsory education.
- Continue addressing lack of teaching personnel by developing a medium-term national strategy for recruiting teacher civil servants in schools, aimed at enhancing equity and efficiency in the deployment of educators to support effective teaching and learning."
- Strengthen technical and vocational education provision through a better collaboration between the Ministry of Education and Sports and private sector providers, specifically, ensure alignment of vocational education institutions with entrepreneurial standards and enhance participation in curriculum design. Continue to explore and implement different forms, alternative and flexible education options to better accommodate diverse student needs. Enhance the quality of teaching in higher education institutions while promoting scientific research.
- Further, explore the feasibility and capacity to establish a credit policy for students who are committed to their studies but lack funding, particularly for admission to government priority programs.
- Continue to promote sports and physical activities broadly while building and developing a skilled workforce in this area with a focused approach.
- Continue to collaborate with various sectors of society on scientific research and geology, and promote the creation of new innovations.

2.3 Output 3: The workforce has been developed with enhanced skills, expertise, and discipline, resulting in a diverse range of professions that provide stable employment and higher income levels, effectively meeting the needs of economic and social development

❖ **Targets:**

- Train 10,000 people at skills development institutes and training centres at different levels and provide mobile training in various skill areas to 5,000 people.
- Support labour units to develop skilled labour in various areas for 25,000 people.
- Test skills standard of at least 2,000 people in 32 skill areas.
- Develop skills of workers in labour units to meet the national skill standards in 10 skill areas. Coordinate with relevant professional groups to establish national skill standards for 32 existing fields and compare the Lao and Thai skill standards in four specific professions.
- Encourage and promote the organization of local skill competitions, with a target of five time at the institutional level, two at the national level, and two at the ASEAN level.
- Develop training courses for 11 professional fields and enhance course offerings for 7 occupational fields.
- Promote the creation of jobs for 392,197 people, both at home and abroad.
- Reduce unemployment rate to 5% by 2025.

❖ **Priorities:**

- Continue to develop a robust database and information system to enhance labour skills and effectively collect and provide information on skilled labour to the jobmarket. This system will also serve as a foundation for creating a more flexible skill development plan based on demand.
- Develop macro policies that are conducive to skill development to be able to meet labour market needs.

- Coordinate the creation and enhancement of basic infrastructure and skills development mechanisms through the participation of the public sector, private sector, labor organizations, and domestic and foreign investment project. Promote competitiveness in private sector to establish an effective market mechanism for labor and a robust labor skills development system, while also fostering the growth of the MSMEs sector to support employment.¹²
- Focus on developing courses and skill standards tailored to the specific needs of various professions, ensuring they are suitable for different worker groups. Additionally, implement testing and certification processes to issue skills certificates for target groups, aligning with the demands of the labor market across economic sectors
- Strengthen the capacity of government officials responsible for facilitating job seekers to better provide service; Establish a mechanism to fairly benefit informal workers, as well as to enhance the promotion mechanisms for informal workers to facilitate their entry, fostering access to valuable and equitable employment opportunities.
- Implement the strategy to promote job creation in the rural areas in relation to agricultural production, handicrafts, food production, SMEs, services and promote nature tourism to create stable employment, increase labour productivity, and boost income."

2.4 Output 4: Promoting and Utilizing Scientific Research, Technology, Innovation and Wisdom to Drive Socio-Economic Development

❖ Priorities:

- Revise and develop regulations and legislation related to product and goods quality control ensuring alignment with national, regional and international standards for commercial competition.
- Establish systems to ensure that product quality complies with ISO/AEC 17065, ISO 9001; Improve a system to manage, monitor and test according to ISO/AEC 17025.
- Strengthen the management of intellectual properties, ensuring its contribution to every sector of socio-economic and culture development, especially education institutions; scientific research and development, technology transfer, as well as advancements in industry, agriculture, trade, services and both domestic and foreign investments.
- Digitalize networks to manage intellectual properties in Laos, including research, patent application for industrial and agricultural products, information of patents, to integrate with the regional and global networks.
- Strengthen the intellectual property framework to support production groups and enterprises in creating added value through the development of trademarks and collective marks to brand their products, especially One District One Product (ODOP) items and agricultural goods like rice and processed meats. Promote the registration of geographical indications for unique local products and traditional wisdom, such as Dackjeung ginseng, Sekong Province, and Phousan tea and silk weaving in Xieng Khuang Province.

¹² Lao National Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Interview, October 2023

3. Outcome 3: The physical and mental well-being of the people has gradually improved

3.1 Output 1: Poverty Alleviated in Rural and Remote Areas, and People's Livelihoods, Cultural Values, and Media Work Improved

❖ Targets:

- According to the results of the 6th Household Expenditure and Consumption Survey (LECS6): the poverty rate remains at 13.9% of the total population. The poverty rate remains at 9.5% of all households.
- In accordance with Decree No. 348/GOL on Poverty Eradication Standards and Development:
 - Establish 204,360 poverty eradicated families.
 - Establish 3,104 poverty eradicated villages.
 - Establish 69 poverty eradicated districts.
 - Promote 245,754 developed families.
 - Develop 4,420 developed villages.
 - Establish 10 villages as a model of large village towns in the countryside.
- Strive to allocate permanent and stable jobs to people in 25 focus areas.
- Expand the village development fund of 500 million kip for poor districts to 64 villages.
- Build and expand district-level radio broadcasts to 36 locations and expand the telecommunication system at the village level to 2,800 villages.
- Modernize the technical system from analogue to digital in 22 locations.
- Create cultural families for 130,000 families and establish cultural villages for 750 villages.
- Continue to propose Hin Nam Nor National Park in Khammouan Province as a natural world heritage site.
- Explore, collect information, and register 35 archaeological sources.
- Register 5 antiques and Buddha images.
- Elevate the status of cultural, historical, and natural heritage from the local level to the national level for 20 places and register 5 ancient Buddhist sites.

❖ Priorities:

+ Rural development and poverty alleviation:

- Develop the party-state policy direction into specific plans, programs, and detailed measures to promote agricultural production, forest management, rural development, and poverty alleviation.
- Foster a unified understanding of rural development and poverty alleviation, in line with the goal of creating comprehensive, focused, and effective mechanisms and policies to encourage rural production, with a focus on capital and manpower.
- Promote various economic sectors to contribute to rural development and create economic opportunities, decent jobs, and stable income to reduce labour migration from rural to urban areas.
- Implement poverty alleviation funds and border development funds.
- Allocate fixed land and permanent livelihoods to people in targeted areas and address reckless migration to complete basic needs.

+ Information and Culture:

- Utilize various media channels such as television, radio, print, and online platforms to disseminate the party-state's socio-economic development policies, with a focus on managing and monitoring national radio and TV signals to ensure regular and widespread transmission.
- Emphasize the promotion of Lao PDR's ASEAN chairmanship in 2024 and related events such as the ASEAN Cultural-Social Community Ministerial Meeting, ASEAN Tourism Ministerial Meeting, and Lao Tourism Year 2024 activities.
- Diversify media products, including newspapers, radio programs, television programs, and video clips, to meet market demands, ensuring accurate and high-quality content while generating technical income.
- Expand cooperation in press-media work with strategic friendly countries, ASEAN countries, dialogue partner countries, and international media organizations to stabilize the information situation.
- Collaborate with the Ministry of Education and Sports to enhance vocational curriculum, develop a curriculum for certificate level system to seamlessly transition to the higher diploma level. Ensure the availability of sufficient textbooks, manuals, and teaching materials.
- Promote cultural activities, including organizing large-scale events such as: cultural festivals, national ethnic art competitions, the doll festival, children's cultural events, and reading promotion activities, the Champa Flower film festival, and exhibitions of cultural products, photographs, paintings, books, prints and artifacts. These events will be widely publicised through various advertising media.

3.2 Output 2: Public Utility Infrastructure Improved and Access to Public Services Made More Inclusive and Equitable

❖ **Targets:**

- Achieve a household electricity consumption rate of 98% nationwide.
- Expand the electricity grid system to serve 2.26% (28,000 families) and provide off-grid electricity to 0.74% (over 9,000 families).
- Complete the expansion of the electricity grid system in three provinces (Phongsaly, Huaphan, and Sekong) with the lowest electricity consumption rates in the country.
- Ensure 98% of all families have access to the health service system.
- Reduce the maternal mortality rate in rural areas by 30%.
- Decrease the death rate of newborns in rural areas by 30%.

❖ **Priorities:**

- Continue to develop rural areas and proactively address poverty by providing necessary infrastructure, including roads and delivery systems to reach villages and production areas, as well as connecting focal points with each village; Expand the telecommunication and communication system to reach the general public; Expand the rural electricity network, both within and outside the system, to remote rural areas; Enhance education to ensure widespread access and high quality; Expand health

services to ensure that every small hospital is adequately staffed and equipped to provide basic treatment; Mobilize funds from international sources and encourage contributions from all sectors of society, while promoting private sector investment to support rural development and poverty alleviation.

3.3 Output 3: Equal Access to Socio-Economic Development Opportunities Promoted and the Rights of Women and Children Protected

❖ Targets:

- Reduce the gender inequality index to 0.430 by 2025.
- Increase the Gender Equality Development Index to 0.984 by 2025.
- Increase the Women's Development Index by 0.675 in 2025.
- Ensure that Lao women of all ethnic groups are well-versed in the integration of party policies, the constitution, and laws, as well as the socio-economic development plan and Lao women's development plan, with coverage of 80% or more of women aged 15 and over.
- Strengthen and expand the organization of the women's union at each level to enhance political thought leadership, and increase membership to cover 70% of the target number in all areas, with at least 5 units in the business sector.
- Aim for at least 50% of civil servants to be women, and promote their inclusion in leadership and management positions, with an average representation of 20% or more. This includes ensuring that female members of the National Assembly and Provincial People's Council account for 30% or more, female leadership at the central level reaches 30% or more, and at the provincial, Vientiane, and district/city levels, it is 20% or more, and 10% or more at the village level.
- Continue to support short term and long-term vocational training for poor and disadvantaged women in the provinces, with a target of 1,500 individuals over the 5-year plan.
- Contribute to promoting women's and children's access to the justice system, ensuring the protection of their rights and benefits, with support from the Party-State, women's unions, and society. The goal is to increase access while gradually reducing social discrimination;
- Reduce the percentage of women who experience partner violence in one of the three forms (physical, sexual, or psychological) from 30.3% to 15%.
- Decrease the percentage of women subjected to violence during their lifetime from 15.3% to 6% (based on the 2014 Lao PDR survey on violence against women).
- Reduce the use of violence against children (data from the 2015 survey on violence against children in Lao PDR):
 - + Physical violence: girls from 15% to 10%, boys from 16.9% to 10%.
 - + Mental violence: girls from 24.2% to 20%, boys from 17.7% to 12%.
- Reduce the percentage of children experiencing multidimensional poverty, as defined by the national poverty standards, to 30% (based on the 2019 analysis of multidimensional child poverty)."

❖ Priorities:

- Enhance political-ideological education for members of the Lao Women's Union and ethnic groups, aligning with the resolutions of the 11th General Conference of the Party and the 8th General Conference of Lao Women's Representatives nationwide. Integrate

the 5-year national women's development plan (2021-2025) with sectoral and local development plans for effective implementation.

- Strengthen and expand the organizational structure of the women's union at all levels, while increasing its membership to bolster its influence and reach.
- Collaborate with relevant stakeholders to safeguard the legitimate rights and interests of women and children. Provide counselling services, participate in discussions, and contribute to problem-solving initiatives pertaining to women and children. Promote the advancement of women and gender equality within families and society.
- Regularly assess and evaluate the implementation of the slogans and 3 good terms of the Lao Women's Union. Encourage and monitor the assessment of family and women's villages in alignment with the 3 good principles related to village development based on three-built direction.
- Facilitate access to beneficial information for women's union members and ethnic women in target groups. Ensure that information officers possess the necessary skills to utilize modern scientific techniques in their duties, which are conducive to the development of women and families.

3.4 Output 4: Promote and Develop Youth to Improve Human Capital and Participation in the Workforce

❖ Priorities:

- Prioritize the development of young human resources as an urgent and essential task, given the projected annual influx of over 80,000 job seekers in the next decade. Prepare to invest in resources to meet this demand.
- Develop a national youth and youth development strategy and integrate it with the national population policy into the national socio-economic development plan periodically, ensuring that the Lao PDR leverages its young population for national benefit.
- Establish a coordinating committee for population and youth development in accordance with the national policy on population and development (2019-2030).
- Enhance the skills of young people by creating cohesive vocational courses that encompass general skills and curricula, providing greater access to training for disadvantaged youth.
- Continue to provide comprehensive sex education and essential life skills to young people, both in and out of school, while supporting youth engagement. Prioritize financial and housing assistance to ensure that girls can continue their education.
- Provide counselling services for young people experiencing disillusionment, hopelessness, and other challenges, to enhance the effectiveness of youth resource development efforts, with a focus on public awareness campaigns.

3.5 Output 5: Expand Access to More Efficient Social Protection Services for the People, Including Workers and Self-employed Individuals

❖ Targets:

- Expand social security coverage to 157,500 individuals, including 7,500 government sector employees, 135,000 enterprise workers, and 15,000 volunteers.
- Implement to recognize individuals who have demonstrated exemplary work and virtues in the national democratic revolutionary mission, with a focus on 5 priority goals, benefiting 14,229 people, with a total allocation of 375.83 billion kip.
- Increase the management of new enterprise units to 439, including the registration of new insurers and the contributed payments for 78,750 individuals.
- Conduct inspections to ensure compliance with labour laws and regulations by 7,464 labour units, while encouraging these units to meet national labour standards (90 units), create and update internal rules (500 units), and establish labour contracts with workers (208 units).
- Promote annual health check-ups for workers by encouraging labour units to facilitate this for 100 individuals and establish 60 workplace units focused on work safety and health. Additionally, establish a provincial-capital labour relations committee in one province.
- Actively resolve labour disputes by mediating 80% of complaints annually.
- Provide legal and regulatory counselling for workers and labour users 2,000 times.

❖ **Priorities:**

- Continue to promote social security job opportunities through diverse media channels and conduct regular inspections to ensure compliance with labour laws and regulations by labour units.
- Develop a comprehensive policy implementation database system for individuals who have demonstrated exemplary work and virtues in the national democratic revolutionary mission at both central and local levels.
- Conduct research and gather information on the disabled and the elderly for comprehensive understanding and support.
- Enhance the database system for the registration and collection of labour information, integrating it with the tax revenue management database system (TaxRIS) for improved efficiency.
- Modernize the system for income collection and subsidy payments to ensure fast and accurate services for the insured and beneficiaries.
- Strengthen and expand the social security coverage for the business and voluntary sectors, improve administration and management services, and extend services to additional cities and through mobile platforms.
- Prioritize the development of social protection for various disadvantaged groups, ensuring they receive adequate support.
- Bolster the social security system to provide financial and economic assistance, fostering social stability and equal long-term development opportunities for women and girls, the disabled, the disadvantaged, and the elderly.

3.6 Output 6: Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) Clearance Progressively Accelerated and More Lives Made Safe from UXO

❖ **Targets:**

- Decrease the annual number of unexploded ordnance victims to fewer than 40 individuals.

- Conduct awareness campaigns on the impact and sources of unexploded ordnance in 3,000 targeted villages, and expand the provision of explosive ordnance education in 500 educational institutions.
- Conduct non-technical surveys to identify evidence of unexploded ordnance in 2,182 villages, and technical surveys to assess the extent of unexploded ordnance across 188,706 hectares.
- Clear 38,121 hectares of unexploded ordnance from agricultural, community, and commercial areas.
- Improve the living conditions of 5,551 victims of unexploded ordnance.
- Tailor efforts to address unexploded ordnance in alignment with the 18th sustainable development goal, ensuring flexibility in approach to meet targets and indicators.

4. Outcome 4: Environmental Protection Enhanced and Disaster Risks Reduced

4.1 Output 1: Natural Resources Sustainably Used and Managed

❖ Targets:

- Aim to achieve a forest land area of 70% and maintain 70% forest cover nationwide by 2025.
- Upgrade the status of 5 national parks to fully achieve national park designation by 2025.
- Strive to complete the registration and issuance of land titles for 1,600,000 plots nationwide by 2025.
- Plant 200,000 hectares of new forest and restore 1,800,000 hectares of existing forest.
- Establish a minimum of 9 air quality measurement stations across the country.
- Develop management plans for 14 major watershed areas and the primary watershed area of each province nationwide.

❖ Priorities:

- Continue the registration and issuance of land titles planned for 2025, and modernize the management system using a digital platform for land census and information management to integrate the land plot database with the land revenue collection system of the financial and banking sectors.
- Encourage the development of land use strategies at central and provincial levels, and enhance legislation and regulations on land valuation, land use assessment, land market management, and property registration to modernize income generation, land transactions, and tax collection processes, land income tax, leasing fees, and land concessions. The goal is to ensure that revenue is effectively and comprehensively integrated into the state budget.
- Enhance the mechanism and procedure for investing in and monitoring the use of state land, particularly in undeveloped investment projects and land lease-concession projects, to ensure compliance with laws and address land-related issues.
- Develop the National Land Master Plan to maintain 70% forest land by 2025, accelerating the allocation of land to towns and villages.

- Monitor environmental quality nationwide, emphasizing water and air quality, as well as hazardous chemicals, and create a pollution distribution map for high-risk areas such as Vientiane, Luang Prabang, Kaisonphomvihan, Pakse, and Vang Vieng.
- Improve coordination among relevant sectors for implementing international conventions related to natural resources and the environment, enhancing macro management and coordination with local sectors to facilitate access to international funding sources.

4.2 Output 2: Green Growth Promoted and Actions Taken Towards Climate Change Mitigation

❖ Targets:

- Continue the development of the 3rd version of the National Adaptation Plan (NAP), with the aim of presenting it for approval in 2025.
- Conduct a feasibility study on creating a comprehensive plan to achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 (Net Zero Emission Plan 2050).
- Implement initiatives to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from forest destruction, targeting a reduction of approximately 30 million tons of carbon dioxide (tCO₂e) and generate revenue by selling forest carbon credits, aiming to reach around 95 million US dollars in revenue.
- Establish and expand the network of electric car charging stations and biofuel pumps, with a goal of setting up more than 100 stations nationwide to promote the use of eco-friendly vehicles.
- Enhance and standardize the infrastructure of landfills in major cities, with a focus on at least 5 key urban areas, to improve waste management and environmental sustainability.

❖ Priorities:

- Finalize the creation of a decree on the management of carbon trading
- Further integrate the principles of green and sustainable development, emphasizing the importance of preserving natural resources for sustainable use, promoting circular economy practices, green agricultural production, eco-friendly tourism, and clean energy projects.
- Continue implementing climate change management efforts to achieve the goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions and increasing absorption to net zero by 2050, while also promoting climate change tolerance and adaptation, including the trading of carbon credits.
- Strengthen coordination with international development partners to enhance Lao PDR's capacity to access environmental and climate change funding sources such as the Green Climate Fund, Global Environment Facility, and Adaptation Fund, focusing on capacity building for environmental management and climate change resilience.
- Develop guidelines for the implementation of the electric vehicle policy in collaboration with relevant sectors, particularly addressing the disposal and handling of damaged batteries and waste from electric vehicle activities.
- Ensure the scientific validity of environmental quality standards for enforcing environmental laws and regulations and promote the implementation of ISO standards

and environmental management systems in medium and large-scale industries nationwide.

- Coordinate and provide support to relevant sectors for the construction and enhancement of landfill infrastructure that meets national standards, particularly targeting at least 5 key urban areas.

4.3 Output 3: Capacities for Disaster Prevention, Management and Recovery Enhanced

❖ Target:

- Construct 45 new meteorological stations and 25 new hydrological stations across the country.
- Encourage the establishment of disaster management funds for 9 provinces, 1 capital, and 17 districts.
- Promote the formation and enhancement of district and village disaster management committees in high-risk areas include 50 towns and 100 villages in 7 provinces and 1 capital in disaster management efforts, focusing on capacity building.
- Allocate 700 individuals for disaster management responsibilities at the provincial, district, and village levels.
- Update disaster risk information at both central and local levels to assess risks and develop disaster risk maps. Support the development of strategic plans to mitigate disaster risks at the provincial level, including the formulation of disaster preparedness plans for 3 provinces, 20 districts, and 80 villages with high disaster risk.
- Organize 1 ASEAN disaster response training, 2 national-level, and 4 local-level disaster response training programs.
- Establish emergency assessment and assistance teams comprising 30 individuals at the central level, 100 individuals at the provincial level, and 300 individuals at the district level, while correspondingly enhancing the teams' capacity.

❖ Priorities:

- Continue to prioritize the establishment and enhancement of modern automatic meteorological and hydrological stations, as well as early warning systems, to improve the quality of weather forecast reporting and notifications in a timely and clear manner.
- Develop urban and rural resilience to adapt to climate change by effectively managing ecosystems and biodiversity to mitigate and prevent floods in 6 districts.
- Encourage provincial and district disaster management committees to establish disaster management funds in compliance with the law.
- Foster increased coordination and collaboration among the public sector, private sector, communities, and development partners to reduce the risk and impact of natural disasters, ensuring safety and security while sustaining economic and social development.
- Enhance the efficiency of power plant safety management units and establish relevant legislation to improve power plant safety, while also building community resilience and managing downstream ecosystems.

5. Outcome 5: Engagement in Regional and International Cooperation and Integration is Enhanced with Robust Infrastructure and Effective Utilization of National Potential and Geographic Advantages

5.1 Output 1: Infrastructures Improved for National, Regional and International Connectivity

❖ Targets:

- Improve the logistics performance index of Lao PDR.
- Aim for a 7% annual increase in land cargo transportation, 5% in water transportation, 12% in air transportation, and 7% in railway transportation.
- Encourage both public and private sectors to increase the utilization of digital information centres by 40%.
- Digitize essential public sector services to achieve a 50% completion rate, enhancing the electronic government administration and ICT development index.
- Expand the use of video conferencing systems by adding 5 more facilities for central and local government offices. Establish user accounts and expand the utilization of the email system in 27 government offices at central and local levels.
- Implement modern office systems (e-office) in 17 central and local government offices, as well as 10 equivalent organizations at central level.
- Establish two local electronic information service centres, one in the north and one in the south.
- Expand and utilize FTTx high-speed internet network in 148 cities and 50% of villages nationwide.
- Increase mobile signal receiving-transmitting stations to achieve 100% coverage for 3G, 90% coverage for 4G, and coverage for 5G systems in major cities across 18 provinces.
- Construct two backup data centres, one in the north and one in the south.
- Increase computer literacy to 70% of the population, with 60% proficient in using wired internet and 60% of households utilizing computers, smartphones, and smart devices. Achieve 100% registration of the population for both wired and wireless landline phone services, as well as ensure that 100% of the population has access to high-speed wired and wireless internet.

❖ Priorities:

- Continue to develop the infrastructure of road, rail, water, and air transport, with a focus on completing plans and projects for highways, railways, and land ports.
- Upgrade main land transportation routes, particularly in the economic corridors of the Mekong sub-region and the ASEAN connecting corridors, and prioritize maintenance and repair of roads affected by natural disasters.
- Continue to manage the developed land ports with a focus on convenience, speed, and quality for Thabok Thanaleng Savannaket and Champasack land port. Additionally, encourage the monitoring and management of ongoing construction at the following ports to ensure timely completion: Tha Kaek Port in Khammouan Province, Natuey Port in Luang Namtha Province, Thabok KM20 Port in Borikhamxay Province, Huai Xai Port in Bokeo Province, Luang Prabang Port in Luang Prabang Capital, and MeuangXay Port in Oudomxay Province. Furthermore, research flexible management regulations, organizational structures, and activities for the logistics area.
- Create conditions that facilitate easy transportation to attract investment and encourage development in industrial areas, Smart City urban areas, logistics service areas, and land ports along the Lao-China Economic Corridor and border trade areas.

- Increase investment in infrastructure to stimulate integration and connectivity, aiming for participatory and sustainable development. Improve both regional and domestic connectivity to facilitate access to markets, public services, and transportation services, thereby stimulating growth in private sector investment, trade, and job creation.
- Focus on modernization and the transformation of the digital economy to contribute to socio-economic development.
- Improve and expand the network system to government organizations electronically, ensuring ease, speed, savings, and safety at both the central and local level. Additionally, this will contribute to increased revenue for the state budget.
- Develop telecommunications and ICT and digital infrastructure to international standards, ensuring sustainability, safety, modern management tools, and services in all cities across the country to support digital transformation and international connectivity.
- Encourage and promote the development of the digital industry by researching and utilizing advanced and intelligent technology. Support the establishment of enterprises that leverage new innovations (start-ups) and foster ICT innovations, including mobile financial services (Mobile Money), to drive economic growth in the digital era. Facilitate digital transformation and the digital economy by enhancing infrastructure and telecommunications services. Recognize and promote the digital and ICT innovations of the Lao people on the international stage, aiming to reduce the digital divide.

5.2 Output 2: Regional and International Trade and Investment Cooperation and Integration Enhanced and Expanded

❖ Targets:

- Aim to achieve a total trade integration ratio to gross domestic product (country openness rate) of over 70% by 2025.
- Endeavor to increase the export value of processed industrial goods to encompass 50% of total exports by 2025.

❖ Priorities:

- Continuously prioritize the promotion and attraction of international trade and investment, with a focus on entering the export markets of key trading partner countries in the region such as China, Vietnam, Thailand, Japan, and India and other countries.
- Strengthen government and related business units to effectively implement terms and conditions agreed upon in bilateral, sub-regional, regional, and multilateral cooperation frameworks.
- Enhance the standards and quality of industrial products and production networks, with a focus on participating in regional supply chains and promoting the development of border trade and transit trade services in the era of enhanced logistics connectivity.
- Improve the investment and business environment, creating incentives to attract foreign investment in support of macroeconomic stability and social sector spending, while also working towards promoting the green economy and building resilience to climate change.
- Foster private sector investment to leverage the improved business environment, with the goal of enhancing the business environment in Lao PDR and increasing trade within all cooperation frameworks between Lao PDR and the European Union, as well as in the regional context, particularly in closer alignment with the ASEAN Economic Association.

5.3 Output 3: Robust Regional and Local Development Based on the Potential of Each Region

❖ Priorities:

The 5-year socio-economic development plan for the provinces is being implemented in accordance with the specified directions, overall duties, goals, and focus. The plan aims to ensure political stability, social order, and a harmonious society, with all ethnic groups living in peace and unity. Furthermore, the plan seeks to strengthen national defence and public security efforts, while also promoting a balanced development across the economy, culture, society, and environment. A key focus of the plan is the gradual development of a sustainable digital economy, with a strong emphasis on human resource development. In addition, the plan aims to bolster domestic industries and crafts, integrating them into value-added production chains and reducing reliance on imports. The agricultural sector is targeted for high growth, with the goal of transforming it into a key commodity for domestic consumption and export goods in accordance with the terms outlined in market opening negotiations with trading partner countries. Promote logistics transportation services across various land ports and economic corridors, including the Lao-China railway corridor and other potential locations. Promote border trade, and economic relations between provinces, while also fostering tourism that highlights important and unique local destinations such as historical sites, ancient artifacts and various clean and safe tourism resources, to attract both domestic and international visitors. Government agencies at all levels are expected to mobilize and support the production of goods, ensuring active participation from the public improve economic infrastructure to sustain provincial growth. Emphasizing grassroots initiatives at the district and village levels that relate to rural development, poverty alleviation, and the creation of permanent jobs for residents. Additionally, efforts should be made to develop villages and ultimately establishing towns in rural areas, creating a foundation for continuous and stable economic growth.

5.4 Output 4: Urban areas and Special Economic Zones Developed into Production, Investment, Trade and Tourism

❖ Targets:

- Completion of the urban development project in 3 cities, with at least 4 cities along the Mekong Subregion (GMS) corridor to enhance infrastructure and urban environment.
- Implementation of waste disposal in accordance with hygiene standards in Vientiane capital, 3 cities, and at least 4 towns along the Mekong sub-region.
- Establishment of appropriate sewage treatment systems in Vientiane capital, 3 cities, and at least 4 towns along the Mekong sub-region.
- Provision of garbage disposal services in Vientiane capital, 3 cities, and at least 4 towns along the Mekong sub-region corridor, accounting for over 80% of general waste and hazardous waste.
- Development of at least 1 prototype Smart City.

❖ Priorities:

Urban development:

- Conduct in-depth studies and assessments to determine the direction for developing modern cities in accordance with the country's potential, by seeking cooperation, learning from international experiences, and obtaining assistance from abroad collaborate with modern urban networks and regional and international development partners, including the private sector, to explore funding sources for the development of modern urban elements and establish strong connections.

- Promote and support member cities in the pilot project of the ASEAN Smart City Network, including Vientiane Capital, Luang Prabang, and Kaisonphomvihan, to effectively implement modern urban initiatives.
- Focus on developing the capital, cities, and towns with economic potential to become centres that can support the development of other surrounding cities.
- Encourage participation from all sectors of the economy, both public and private, as well as the general public, in the collection, transportation, and disposal services of garbage in various cities. Emphasize environmental protection and pollution reduction to ensure a balanced ecosystem.
- Prioritize the improvement of basic infrastructure to ensure access to sewage management and administration with appropriate technology for cities at all levels, promoting affordability and a sustainable environment for all households.

Development of Special Economic Zones:

- Facilitate the attraction of investment to 709 units, aiming to create more job opportunities with a focus on employing Lao workers, while encouraging the contribution of income to the state budget as per the plan, focus on achieving an export target of 340 million US dollars by 2025."
- Regularly assess and monitor the implementation of contracts within special economic zones, resolving outstanding issues, particularly addressing 6 groups of challenges in the Golden Triangle and borderless areas. In addition, continue to develop the management mechanism outlined in Prime Ministerial Agreement No. 60/NA, dated April 28, 2023, pertaining to the Golden Triangle area.
- Enhance the one-stop service within special economic zones to streamline administration modernize revenue collection, and expedite the issuance of various permits, thereby alleviating burdensome administrative processes that hinder production, trade, and services.
- Foster collaboration with relevant sectors, including government entities and businesses within the region, to forecast labour requirements for each phase, and implement training programs to ensure an adequate supply of high-quality Lao labourers in the region. Moreover, promote the participation of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in the region's development endeavours.

6. Outcome 6: Public Governance and Administration is Improved, and Society is Equal, Fair, and Protected by the Rule of Law

6.1 Output1: Enhanced Efficiency of Public Governance and Administration and Deepened Implementation of the Sam Sang Directive

❖ Target:

- Strive to modernize state administration and transition towards e-government.
- Implement improvements in state administrative organization at all levels in line with the three builds direction, with the goal of reducing the number of departmental and departmental organizational units at various ministries and organizations by 20%, and at the sector, unit, and local administrative unit level by 30%.
- Establish provinces as strategic units, with the objective of creating 4 provinces, and elevate districts to comprehensive units, targeting 20 districts. Similarly, aim to develop villages as fundamental development units, with a goal of 1,028 villages.

❖ **Priorities:**

- Continuously develop and enhance laws and legislation in accordance with the approved plan by the National Assembly.
- Create a strategic plan for the comprehensive improvement and development of the state organization nationwide by 2030.
- Improve the structure and roles of ministries, equivalent organizations, and localities to be organized, efficient, and modern. Research and enhance the roles, functions, and scope of rights, as well as the management division of various technical sectors.
- - Enhance and expand the transformation of budget units with technical income to self-funding and gradually transition a number of technical units or activities of the state towards financial independence.
- Strengthen monitoring and promotion of central and local job designations, establish a database of jobs and positions, and improve the organizational structure and personnel of the internal sector at both ministry and local levels to appropriately reduce personnel numbers and determine necessary positions.
- Modernize public administration to align with the demands of the 4.0 industrial era through the transformation of electronic public administration (e-government or Digital government).
- Maintain and update the civil servant management database with modern computer systems and technology (PIMS) to establish a unified system throughout the country and promote family registration, particularly registering and issuing birth certificates to Lao citizens and children, aiming for a 70% or higher coverage.
- Enhance the information monitoring system to provide specific, separate, and timely information, enabling the government to make necessary decisions promptly. Improve the human resource development plan to enhance efficiency in state services.

6.2 Output 2: Improved and Harmonized Coordination Mechanisms and Regulations within the Public Sector to Increase Efficiency

❖ **Target:**

- Strive to establish 15 local one-stop service units, with an average increase of 3 units per year, aiming to increase the total from the current (2023) count of 52 to 58.
- Create a municipal/city local government organization in at least 3 locations.

❖ **Priorities:**

- Conduct research and develop legislation to enhance the management and administration of urban development and administration agencies (OPP/OPPT), and establish mechanisms to monitor their activities.
- Research, improve, and create legislation to strengthen local government agencies at the provincial, district, and village levels. Assess and organize the coordination of three established cities, and develop mechanisms to enhance collaboration between cities and villages.
- Evaluate the implementation of three builds strategy by having strategic units at the provincial, district as a comprehensive unit, and village as developed unit Enhance procedures for investment promotion and business operation permits to streamline and expedite the process.
- Utilize satellite image data to develop a Geographical Information System (GIS) map, identify disaster-prone areas, and create specific topographical maps in various scales (1/10,000; 1/25,000; 1/50,000; and 1/100,000) for development focus areas in cities and provinces nationwide.

6.3 Output 3: Ensure Political Stability, Peace and Order, Unity, Democracy, Justice and Civilization within the Society

❖ Target:

- Strive to achieve an 80% implementation rate for pending and new decisions, with 20% dedicated to completing implementation and closing cases.
- Establish a transparent litigation mechanism at all stages of court proceedings to ensure expedited hearings, aiming for a success rate of 85% and above, with an appeal rate not exceeding 15%, and a reduction in annual case cancellations.
- Revise three versions of existing laws under the jurisdiction of the Supreme People's Court.
- Ensure the quality of monitoring and law enforcement, aiming for a 95% rate of bringing accused individuals to court based on thorough case research, and a 95% rate of court decisions aligned with the order to prosecute and the prosecutor's statement.

❖ Priorities:

Justice work:

- Research and develop detailed legislation under the law to further enhance the process of creating legislation, with an amended version in 2021.
- Complete the legislative handbook and organize training on legislation creation and techniques for responsible units at central and local levels.
- Improve the quality of the chief of staff for local government agencies in checking legal consistency of draft legislation at the local level, to be presented to the Provincial People's Court meeting and local governing bodies for their consideration.
- Focus on deepening and broadening legal publicity efforts through diverse, engaging methods that are tailored to the awareness levels and lifestyles of all ethnic groups. Enhance societal interest in legal matters by improving the content, form, and methods of legal awareness campaigns. This includes creating and producing legislative promotional materials such as posters, stickers, brochures, radio advertisements, short dramas, sitcoms, and documentaries. Research and promote the idea that the responsibility for legal education rests with the entire party and state, ensuring that all citizens are informed of the law, adhere to it, and understand their legal responsibilities. This initiative aims to combat and prevent fraudulent activities within society. Continue researching and transforming laws into legislation, including updating the handbook on implementing court decisions to create a comprehensive system. Establish a responsible committee to assist the minister in ensuring that the implementation of court decisions is prompt, strict, and respected. This will help gradually reduce the number of outstanding court decisions and ensure that implementation meets the targets approved by the National Assembly. Enhance efforts to create and improve the nationwide statistical database system for court judgments, integrating it into a comprehensive system. Facilitate the entry of court judgment data into statistical programs, ensuring completeness and classification by type. Based on this, research and identify the causes to develop realistic and actionable strategies for the implementation of each type of decision, fostering a dynamic transformation.
- Increase public awareness of Economic Dispute Resolution to foster a broader understanding of its role in society. Enhance the management and services of the economic conflict resolution to ensure greater efficiency. Continue strengthening the Economic Dispute Resolution Centre as a key macro-management organization, coordinating with

relevant parties to improve mechanisms for fast, transparent, and fair conflict resolution, aligned with socio-economic development goals.

Prosecutor work:

- Strengthen the monitoring of law enforcement by implementing the order to increase general monitoring efforts, and establish a coordination mechanism with relevant parties on the enhancement of legislative research, manuals, administrative case statement writing, and monitoring and correction based on requests from government organizations, collectives, societies, and citizens.
- Improve the quality of monitoring law enforcement by investigative agencies, particularly the implementation of 7 preventive measures.
- Monitor the implementation of court decisions, especially in cases where the offender has been acquitted of criminal charges but civil damages have not been completed, to ensure decisive and proper implementation of court decisions and judgments.
- Establish a monitoring and reporting mechanism for civil settlements, collection and remittance of court fees, taxes, and fines to the budget, as well as the confiscation of state-owned property.
- Create a mechanism for public access to legal services at the local People's Prosecutor's Office and facilitate the transfer of staff at the level of office head, department head, and prosecutor's research and training institute to monitor, supervise, and encourage comprehensive implementation of duties to ensure the high-quality execution of the role, rights, and duties of the People's Prosecutor's Office.

Public security – national defence:

- Continue to strengthen the political foundations at both central and local levels, fostering strong and unwavering political thinking and instilling a sense of patriotism to develop the entire population as leaders.
- Focus on implementing the national agenda to address drug-related issues and combat poverty in society through a range of regular measures.
- Enhance efforts to combat human trafficking in all its forms, including trafficking of persons, and improve access to the social protection system, especially for victims of trafficking with increasing the efforts to combat drug trafficking, theft, illegal trade, and other negative societal phenomena that have a detrimental impact on the country's socio-economic development and security.

Implementation measures and mechanisms for the second-half of the 9th Five-Year National Socio-Economic Development Plan until 2025

- 1) Ensure wide dissemination and integration of the directions, targets, and focus tasks outlined in the 9th Five-Year National Economic-Social Development Plan (2021-2025) at sector and local levels. Develop detailed implementation plans, programs, and measures tailored to the specific conditions of each sector and locality, and mobilize strong societal participation to contribute to national economic-social development in line with the financial strategy for 2023-2025.
- 2) Enhance relevant laws, legislation, and regulations to ensure consistent management of the economy and society, providing a unified basis for sectors and localities to gradually transition to law-based state management.

- 3) Improve coordination mechanisms between levels and sectors to enhance harmony, particularly in relation to modernization. Enhance statistical databases and data integration within each sector and locality to support mutual cooperation, facilitate summarization, and timely reporting of the national socio-economic development plan.
- 4) Maintain focus on monitoring, inspection, evaluation, and periodic reporting on the implementation of the 9th Five-Year National Economic-Social Development Plan (2021-2025), conducting systematic reviews and reporting to relevant parties on a monthly, quarterly, and annual basis and ensuring timely reporting to related sectors.

Annex

9th Five-Year National Socio-Economic Development Plan (2021-2025) by NA, no. 20/NA, Dated: 26/03/2021

No	Indicators	Unit	2021	2022	Estimate first 6-month 2023	Estimate 2023	Sum/Average 2.5 years	Sum/Average 3 years	Estimate 2025	2025 Target	Sum/Average 2.5 years	Sum/Average 5 year
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12=8/11	13=9/11
I	<u>Outcome by Macro Economics</u>											
1.1	<u>Economic Growth</u>											
1	GDP	%	3.50	4.40	4.70	4.20		4.0		>4		
2	GDP (5-year cumulative figure)	Bill LAK	184,982.00	215,609.30	122,874.00	264,209.00	523,465.30	664,800.30		1,056,692.00	50%	
3	Annual GDP per capita	USD	2,595.00	2,022.00		1,824.00	4,617.00	2,147.00		2,880.00		
4	GNI per capita	USD	2,452.00	1,901.00		1,712.00	4,353.00	2,021.67		2,280.00		
5	Growth by Sectors											
5.1	Agricultural sector growth	%	2.50	3.40	3.80	3.40	3.10	3.10		2.50		
5.2	Industrial sector growth	%	6.10	4.40	4.70	4.90	4.50	5.13		4.10		
5.3	Services sector growth	%	1.40	5.00	5.60	4.80	4.00	3.73		6.00		
5.4	Tax revenue	%	3.10	3.90	4.10	3.80		3.60		5.80		
6	Economic Structure											

6.1	Agricultural sector	%	16.00	17.80	14.60	21.10	18.40	18.30		15.30		
6.2	Industrial sector	%	34.00	34.00	36.60	32.20	33.40	33.40		32.30		
6.3	Services sector	%	38.10	37.00	37.60	35.90	37.00	37.00		40.70		
6.4	Tax revenue	%	12.00	11.10	10.70	10.60		11.23		11.70		
1.2	Monetary											
1	M2 money supply	%	23.98	36.85	27.46	33.26	29.43	31.36	ປັນລູຄາດ ໝາຍໃນແຕ່ ລະປີ	≤ 20		
2	The exchange rate against the USD (year-on-year)	%	-7.09	-31.98	-17.28	-23.46	-18.78	- 20.84	ໜຶ່ງຕີ ສອດຄ່ອງ ກັບດຸນຍະ ພາບ ເສດຖະກິດ- ເງິນຕາ	±5		
3	Inflation (year-on-year)	%	3.80	22.69	38.06		18.25		<10	≤ 6		
4	Foreign exchange reserves (each year no less than)	Month	5.32	4.14	5.33	4.60	4.93	4.69	≥3	≥3		
5	Bank credits to GDP ratio	%	75.50	91.08	85.58	100.20	84.05	88.93		60		
6	Capital market mobilisation to GDP ratio (cumulative balance)	%	50.93	63.63	57.98	66.34	57.51	59.72		49		
7	Non-performing loan (NPL) to total credit balance ratio	%	2.18	2.16	1.91	1.41	2.08	1.92	≤3	≤3		
1.3	Budget											

1	Total budget revenue	Bill LAK	28,905.03	32,540.50	19,258.43		80,703.96			179,500.00	45%	
-	Total budget revenue to GDP ratio	%	15.63	15.09	15.67		15.42			17.00		
2	Total budget expenditures	Bill LAK	29,507.44	32,280.86	16,474.00		78,262.30			190,000.00	41%	
-	Total budget expenditures to GDP ratio	%	15.95	14.97	13.41		14.95			18.00		
3	Total budget deficit	Bill LAK	-602.41	259.64	2,784.43		2,441.66			10,500.00		
-	Total budget deficit to GDP ratio	%	-0.33	0.12	2.27		0.47			-1 ໘ ≤ 2		
1.4	Fund for Development											
1	Total investment expenditure	Bill LAK	55,965.87	69,004.27	29,088.25		154,058.39			204,599.00	75%	
-	Total investment expenditure to GDP ratio	%	30.25	32.00	23.67		29.43			19.40		
2	Investment from the national budget	Bill LAK	3,549.21	3,950.00	476.07		7,975.28			22,950.00	35%	
-	Ratio of investment from the national budget to total investment	%	6.34	5.72	1.13		5.18			11.00		
3	Official Development Assistance (ODA)	Bill LAK	9,035.52	8,282.89	5,106.00		22,424.41			37,344.00	60%	
-	Ratio of Official Development Assistance (ODA) to Total Investment	%	16.14	12.00	17.55		14.56			18.00		
4	private investment and FDI	Bill LAK	43,381.14	56,771.38	23,506.17		123,658.69			100,000.00	124%	
-	FDI to total investment	%	77.51	82.27	80.81		80.27			49.00		
5	other investments to total investment	Bill LAK	-	-	-					44,305.00		
-	Ratio of other investments to total investment	%	-	-	-					22.00		

1.5	International Trade											
1	Trade Values	Mill USD	13,514.00	15,006.00	7,546.04	15,325.00	36,066.04	43,845.00		70,970.80	62%	
-	average annual growth rate	%	23.90	11.04		2.13	12.36					
2	Export value of goods (5-year cumulative figure)	Mill USD	7,627.00	8,198.00	4,272.15	8,225.00	20,097.15	24,050.00		38,043.50	53%	
-	average annual growth rate	%	23.90	7.49		0.33	10.57			8-10		
3	Import value of goods (5-year cumulative figure)	Mill USD	5,887.00	6,808.00	3,273.89	7,100.00	15,968.89	19,795.00		32,927.30	48%	
-	average annual growth rate	%	16.20	15.64		4.29	12.04			< 9		
4	Deficit Values	Mill USD	1,740.00	1,390.00	998.26	1,125.00	4,128.26	4,255.00				
-	average annual growth rate	%										
II	<u>Outcome by Production and Service</u>											
2.1	Agriculture Sector											
1	Average annual paddy rice production	Mill Tons	3.66	3.78	0.44	3.81		3.75		3.5 - 4		
2	Average crop production per year:											
2.1	Coffee	Tons	161,200.00	171,000.00	171,000.00	176,000.00		169,400.00		175,500.00		
2.2	Feed corn	Tons	535,237.00	462,810.00	14,800.00	653,800.00		550,615.67		636,900.00		
2.3	Casava	Mill Tons	3.71	4.86	-	4.97		4.51		3.60		
2.4	Sugarcane	Mill Tons	1.14	1.50	0.65	1.46		1.37		1.60		
2.5	Bananas	Tons	907,303.00	737,740.00	10,700.00	760,000.00		801,681.00		735,500.00		

3	Annual livestock growth	%	2.70	3.88		3.50				3 - 4		
4	Fish farming and aquafarming growth	%	2.90			4.30				3 - 4		
5	Annual production of meat, eeg and fish	Tons	485,480.00	507,644.00	263,095.00	531,000.00		508,041.33		340,000.00		
6	Annual export of argricultural products	Mill USD	1,100.00	1,733.11	901.72	1,200.00		1,344.37		1,200.00		
2.2	Industry and Commerce Sector											
1	Annual growth of industry and handicraft production	Bill LAK	11,878.86	13,210.00	6,978.34	14,029.09	32,067.20	39,117.95		83,079.80	38.6%	
-	average annual growth rate	%	- 6.84	11.21	4.41	6.20		3.52		8-10		
2	Annual average growth (wholesale-retail and services and motorcycle and automobile repair services)	Bill LAK	61,092.00	72,622.05	37,360.78	73,541.80	171,074.83	207,255.85		424,227.50	40%	
-	Revenue from tourism	%	- 6.51	18.87	3.41	1.27				8-10		
2.3	Energy and Mine Sector											
1	Electricity generation (5-year cumulative figure)	Mill kWh	44,915	51,031	24,316	52,491	120,262	148,437		276,096	44%	
2	Electricity genderation value (5 years accumulated balance)	Bill LAK	26,813	45,070	21,965	44,298	93,848	116,181		140,879	67%	
3	Export of electricity (cumulative figure)	Megawatt			655		655			5,000	13%	
4	Mineral production (5-year cumulative figure)	Mill USD	1,678	2,133	1,213		5,024			7,832.1	64.15%	
5	Mineral sales (5-year cumulative balance)	Mill USD	1,913	2,130	961	1,840	5,278			8,336.4	63.31%	
5.1	Domestic mineral sales	Mill USD	283	322	156	312	752			1,974	38%	

5.2	Aboard mineral sales	Mill USD	1,630	1,808	805	1,528	4,525			6,362.4	71%	
6	Survey and establish baseline geological and mineral data at a scale of 1/200,000	Kilometre								74,696.00		
2.4	Service Sector											
1	An increase in the quantity of goods in the interconnection network with countries in the region in all forms of transportation	1.000 Tons	7,253.80	10,029.90	6,070.50	12,754.00	23,354.20	30,037.70				
-	average annual growth rate	%	5.88	38.27		27.16		23.77		-		
1.1	land	1.000 Tons	6,931.00	7,463.00	3,855.80	7,520.00	18,249.80	21,914.00				
-	average annual growth rate	%	4.88	7.68		0.76		4.44		7.00		
1.2	water	1.000 Tons	268.50	325.80	114.40	380.00	708.70	974.30				
-	average annual growth rate	%	11.88	21.34		16.64		16.62		5.00		
1.3	air	1.000 Tons	0.60	2.10	1.40	4.00	4.10	6.70				
-	average annual growth rate	%	-73.91	250.00		90.48		88.85		12.00		
1.4	railways	1.000 Tons	53.70	2,239.00	2,098.90	4,850.00	4,391.60	7,142.70				
-	average annual growth rate	%	13325.00	4069.46		116.61		5,837.02		10.00		
2	An increase in the number of passengers in the interconnection network with countries in the region in all forms of transportation	1.000 Persons	84,466.00	84,567.20	44,683.50	95,864.00	213,716.70	264,897.20				
-	average annual growth rate	%	2.58	0.12		13.36		5.35				
2.1	land	1.000 Persons	83,217.00	81,033.00	41,934.60	87,500.00	206,184.60	251,750.00				

-	average annual growth rate	%	4.19	-2.62		7.98		3.18		7.00		
2.2	water	1.000 Persons	978.50	1,376.30	705.00	2,112.00	3,059.80	4,466.80				
-	average annual growth rate	%	-24.87	40.65		53.45		23.08		5.00		
2.3	air	1.000 Persons	229.00	758.00	676.40	2,302.00	1,663.40	3,289.00				
-	average annual growth rate	%	-80.31	231.00		203.69		118.13		12.00		
2.4	railways	1.000 Persons	41.50	1,399.90	1,367.50	3,950.00	2,808.90	5,391.40				
-	average annual growth rate	%	1,704.35	3273.25		182.16		1,719.92		7.00		
3	Proportion of coverage area of mobile signal receiving station - 3G	%	83.00	85.00	85.00					100.00		
4	Proportion of coverage area of mobile signal receiving station - 4G	%	75.00	76.00	76.00					90.00		
5	Proportion of coverage area of mobile signal receiving station - 5G	Place	-	3.00	3.00					ຄວມຄຸມຕິວ ເມືອງໃຫຍ່ 18 ແຂວງທົ່ວ ປະເທດ (50%)		
6	Establish a National Internet Reserve Center	Place								2.00		
III	<u>Outcome by Culture and Soci</u>											
3.1	<u>Education and Sport Sector</u>											
1	Enrollment rate for 5-year-olds in preschool	%	82.90	80.20	81.90	81.90			83.00	86.00		

2	New enrollment student rate for grade 1	%	98.50	97.90	98.30	98.30			98.00	> 98		
3	New enrollment student rate for grade 5	%	97.40	97.70	96.20	96.20			97.00	> 99		
4	Dropout rate of Grade 1 students -	%	5.40	6.50	4.80	4.80			4.00	4.00		
5	Primary graduation rate	%	93.00	92.70	93.10	93.10			94.00	> 95		
6	Promotion rate from grade 5 to grade 6	%	85.50	82.40	84.50	84.50			85.00	> 90		
7	Dropout rate of students in Primary school	%	4.10	4.90	4.40	4.40			4.00	2.00		
8	Gender Equality Index of the promotion rate from Grade 5 to Grade 6 and Grade 12	%	0.99	0.99	0.99	0.99			0.97-1.03	0.97-1.03		
9	Total enrollment rate for primary school (Grade 4)	%	70.10	68.10	65.30	65.30			68.00	74.00		
10	Dropout rate of High school students	%	10.30	11.00	11.20	11.20			11.00	8.00		
11	Young people and dropouts to be trained through non-formal education and vocational training	Person	33,284.00	43,154.00	36,121.00	36,121.00	112,559.00		125,000.00	150,000.00	75%	
12	Percentage of trained primary and secondary teachers	%	31.00	28.30	1.90	1.90			>10	>10		
13	Percentage of graduates of lower secondary education enrolled in vocational education and training	%	4.30	2.30	1.40	1.40			3.00	5.00		
14	Number of students applying to the university in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics- STEM	Person	4,189.00	3,250.00	3,243.00	3,243.00	10,682.00		12,500.00	12,500.00	85%	

15	A large proportion of people of all genders and ages participated in aerobics, exercise and sports of citizens.	%	31.70	35.00	40.39	40.39			50.00	50.00		
3.2	Health Sector (11 Indicators)											
1	Prevalence of underweight among under-five children	%	19.00	19.50	14.80	14.80	17.32	17.60	15.00	15.00		
2	Proportion of stunting among under-five children	%	31.00	31.70	27.30	27.30	29.52	29.77	27.00	27.00		
3	Infant mortality rate (under 1)	Per 1.000 live births	12.80	13.00	6.10	12.20	10.12	12.60	20.00	20.00		
4	Under 5 mortality rate	Per 1.000 live births	14.30	14.80	6.84	13.68	11.32	14.09	30.00	30.00		
5	Maternal mortality rate	Per 1.000 live births	60.80	64.10	20.80	41.60	44.80	54.40	110.00	110.00		
6	Birth rate attended by skilled health personels	%	79.00	80.60	39.20	78.40	79.24	78.80	85.00	85.00		
7	Vaccinate Percentage of infant mortality (28 days and under)	%	86.60	92.00	49.60	99.20	91.64	90.80	95.00	95.00		
8	Proportion of population using clean drinking water compared to the total population (clean water consumption rate)	%	90.10	92.10	92.63	93.16	91.32	91.12	95.00	95.00		
9	Proportion of population using improved latrines relative to total population (latrine utilization rate)	%	81.05	83.20	83.95	84.70	82.51	82.27	85.00	85.00		
10	Public health insurance coverage	%	94.00	94.50	94.50	94.50	94.20	94.17	94.50	96.00		
11	Rate and declaration as a model health village	%	83.00	86.87	87.60	88.33	84.84	84.78	89.00	85.00		
3.3	Labor and Social Welfare Sector (7 Indicators)											

1	Skills Development	Person	21,025	9,207	5,529	8,028	35,761	43,789	66,819	40,000	89.4%	
1.1	at institutions and centers for the development of skills at various levels	Person	2,930	2,107	1,550	2,000	6,587	8,587	10,000	10,000.00	65.9%	
1.2	training in various professions	Person	346	981	1,028	1,028	2,355	3,383	5,000	5,000.00	47.1%	
1.3	Encourage labor units to develop skills in various fields	Person	17,749	6,119	2,951	5,000	26,819	31,819	51,819	25,000.00	107.3%	
2	Job opportunity providing to the domestic and foreign labor market	Person	20,244	73,541	66,087	78,200	159,872	238,072	392,197	392,197.00	41%	
3	Unemployment rates	%	21.80	2.40	-	-	-	-	<5	15.00	0%	
4	Social Security Coverage Expansion	Person	32,726	52,410	22,877	31,500	108,013	139,513	186,763	157,500	69%	
4.1	- Public Sector	Person	3,127	2,656	1,032	1,500	6,815	8,315	10,565	7,500	91%	
4.2	- Enterprise Sector	Person	26,442	44,460	18,886	27,000	89,788	116,788	157,288	135,000	67%	
4.3	- Volunteers	Person	3,157	5,294	2,959	3,000	11,410	14,410	18,910	15,000	76%	
5	Number of people that included in the welfare policy for those who contributed to the national revolutionary cause	Person	815	639	317	691	1,771	2,462	16,000	16,000	11%	
5.1	In 5 Priority Target Groups	Person	815	639	317	691	1,771	2,462		15,000	12%	
5.1	General Group	Person	-	-	-	-	-	-		1,000		
6	UXO cleared agricultural land, community areas and economic centres	Hectares	3,289.00	5,349.00	1,464.33	10,000.00	10,102.33	20,102.33	50,000.33	50,000.00	20%	

7	Number of UXO casualties by age and sex	Person	55.00	17.00	12.00	<40	33.60		<40	< 40		
8	Number of UXO survivors and victims - Medical treatment - Mental health rehabilitation - Vocational rehabilitation - Training and careers - Disability rights advocacy	Person	76.00	123.00	9.00	223.00	208.00	431.00	5,760.00	5,760.00	4%	
9	Number of Blood Donations	Bag	55,692	67,017	36,095		158,804	158,804	354,409	363,400	44%	98%
9.1	<i>National level</i>	Bag	25,808	31,543	17,524		74,875	74,875	157,654	151,530	49%	104%
9.2	<i>Local level</i>	Bag	29,884	35,474	18,571		83,929	83,929	196,455	211,870	40%	93%
10	Establish provincial and district central disaster management funds		12	41	7	15	60	75	86	75		
10.1	Central level	Place	1	-	-	-	1	1	1	1	100%	100%
10.2	Provincial level	Place	2	7	-	4	9	13	18	18	50%	100%
10.3	District level	Place	9	34	7	11	50	61	67	56	89%	120%
3.4	<u>Information, Culture and Tourism Sector</u>											
1	Build and expand radio transmitting stations at district level	Station	2.00	2.00			4.00		6.00	36.00	11%	
2	Expand radio broadcast speakers at the village level	Village	691	550	510		1,751		2,551	2,800	63%	
3	Expand the transition from the analogue system to the digital system	Station	1.00				1.00		3.00	22.00	5%	
4	Cultural family and Cultural village											

4.1	Cultural family	Family	6,997.00	23,508.00	8,035.00		38,540.00		130,020.00	130,000.00	29.6%	
4.2	Cultural village	Village	80.00	181.00	84.00		345.00		750.00	750.00	46.0%	
5	Proposing the national heritage Hin Nam Noo, Khammouan province as a world heritage	Place					ສຳເລັດກະກຽມ ເອກສານ			ເປັນມໍລະດົກ ໂລກ		
6	Survey, data collection and registration in the cultural sector											
6.1	Explore archeological sites	Site	2	5	1		8		20	35	22.9%	
6.2	Excavate archeological sites	Site	2				2		5	5	40.0%	
6.3	Register a list of ancient statues and Buddha images	Site	1	1	1		3		5	5	60.0%	
6.4	Register a list of cultural, historical and natural heritage from the local level to the national level	Site		2			2			20	10.0%	
6.5	Register of ancient Buddhist rituals	Site								5	0.0%	
7	Tourist Attraction	1.000 Persons	-	1.29	1.67		2.96			15.11	19.6%	
8	Revenue from tourism	Mill USD	-	264.51	308.00		572.51			3,813.00	15%	
9	Survey, allocate, demarcate, and issue certificates for tourism destinations	Site	1.00	4.00	-		5.00		6.00	30.00	17%	
IV	<u>Rural development and poverty eradication sector</u>											
1	Poverty rate (percentage of the population living below the national poverty line by urban, rural and gender)	%								13.90		

2	Number of families built to meet poverty alleviation standards (5-year cumulative figure)	Family	20,904	27,163	-	16,000	48,067	64,067	148,816	204,360	23.5%	73%
3	Number of villages lifted out of poverty	Village	238	182	62	200	482	620	1,815	3,104	15.5%	58%
4	Number of districts lifted out of poverty	District	2	5	4	15	11	22	52	69	15.9%	75%
5	Number of developed families	Family	24,298	25,778	-	20,000	50,076	70,076	150,503	245,754	20.4%	61%
6	Number of developed villages	Village	262	220	77	250	559	732	1,782	4,420	12.6%	40%
7	Number of large villages built as rural towns	Village	2	8	2	4	12	14	24	10	120.0%	240%
8	Number of resettlement points and occupations for people without fixed settlements and non-permanent occupations	Target point	-	-	1	92			-	25		
9	Established production groups, qualified production cooperatives and model cooperatives.	Unit								18		
V	<u>Human Resource and Environment Sector</u>											
1	Proportion of forest cover in the whole country	%								70.00		
2	Plantation	Hectares	19,973.00		-	19,973.00				200,000.00		
3	Reforestation areas	Hectares	61,450.00		-	61,450.00				1,800,000.00		
4	Upgrade the protected areas to a national park	Area	2	1						5		
5	Number of land titles issued (increased from 1.5 to 3.1 millions)	Bill Ton	0.10	0.13	0.06	0.20	0.28	0.43	0.85	1.60	18%	53%

6	Number of meteorological stations (cumulative figure)	Station	-	32	-	15	32			45	71%	
7	Number of hydrological stations (cumulative figure)	Station	-	23	-	5	23			25	92%	
8	Number of stations measuring air quality with 2.5 Micron	Station	4	1	-	1	5	6		9	56%	
9	Develop a priority catchment management plan	Catchment	-	7	1	5	8	12		14	57%	
10	The catchment area of the province in the whole country to be completed	Catchment	-	-	-	3.00	-	3.00		ໃຫ້ສໍາເລັດທຸກແຂວງ		
11	Create a national plan to contribute to solving the climate change problem	Number of Document								ໃຫ້ສໍາເລັດ		
12	Create a national plan on adaptation to climate change	Number of Document								ໃຫ້ສໍາເລັດ		
13	Proportion of waste disposal services in Vientiane Capital, 3 capitals and 4 cities along the Mekong subregion in general waste and infectious and hazardous waste	Site	2.00	2.00			4.00			5.00		
VI	<u>Gender Equality Expectation</u>		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	Average proportion of women included in the leadership-management positions at various levels	%	10.37							>20		
2	Proportion of female members of the National Assembly and members of the Provincial People's Assembly	%	28.35	28.35	28.35	28.35	28.35	28.35	28.35	>30		

-	Proportion of female members of the National Assembly		21.95	21.95	21.95	21.95	21.95	21.95	21.95			
-	Proportion of female members of the Provincial People's Assembly		30.48	30.48	30.48	30.48	30.48	30.48	30.48			
3	Gender Inequality Index	Index		0.478						0.430		
4	Gender Equality Index	Index		0.949						0.984		
VII	<u>Government Management</u>		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	Proportion of One Door Service in the local level	Site	6.00	2.00	4.00	3.00				15.00		
2	Number of municipality / city which is the local authority in the city	Site				1.00		2.00	3.00	8.00		
3	To establish the province as a strategic unit	%								66.66		
4	To establish the district as a comprehensive unit	%								33.33		
5	To establish the village as a development unit	%								66.66		
6	Issued the prosecutor's statement	%	96.20	97.30	96.50	95.00	96.69	95.00	95.00	95.00	102%	
7	Court decision-judgment ratio	%			52.35		80.58			85.00		
8	Implementation rate of previously pending court judgements and new court judgements	%					80.00			80.00		
8.1	Proportion of judgments that have been completed and closed	%					8.53			20.00		

Monitoring-Evaluation Framework for 9th Five-Year National Socio-Economic Development Plan (2021-2025)

No	Indicators	Unit	2021	2022	Estimate first 6-month 2023	Estimate 2023	Sum/Average 2.5 years	Sum/Average 3 years	Estimate 2025	2025 Target	Frequency of reporting	Data Source	Responded by	Links with	SDG Tier
Outcome 1: Continuous quality, stable and sustainable economic growth achieved															
1	GNI per capita	US \$	2,452	1,901		1,721	4,353	2,025		2,280	3 years	Data from the report	Lao Statistics Bureau / CDP	LDC	
2	EVI	%	27	-	-	-				32	3 years	Data from the report	Lao Statistics Bureau / CDP	LDC	
3	Annual GDP per capita	US \$	2,595	2,022		1,824	4,617	2,147		2,880	Annually	Data from the report	Lao Statistics Bureau	SDG 8.1.1	I
Output 1: Quality and sustainable economic growth															
4	GDP (5-year cumulative figure)	Billion kip	184,982	215,609.30	118,467	257,472	519,058	658,063		1,056,692	Annually	Data from the report	Lao Statistics Bureau	9th NSEDP	
	GDP growth rate	%	3.50	4.40	4.90					4.82	Annually	Data from the report	Lao Statistics Bureau	9th NSEDP	
5	Agricultural sector growth	%	2.50	3.40	3.80	3.40	3.10	3.10		2.5	Annually	Data from the report	Lao Statistics Bureau	9th NSEDP	
	Share of Agricultural sector in GDP	%	16.00	17.80	14.60	21.10	18.40	18.30		15.3	Annually	Data from the report	Lao Statistics Bureau	9th NSEDP	
6	Industrial sector growth	%	6.10	4.40	4.70	4.90	4.50	5.13		4.1	Annually	Data from the report	Lao Statistics Bureau	9th NSEDP	
	Share of Industrial sector in GDP	%	34.00	34.00	36.60	32.20	33.40	33.40		32.3	Annually	Data from the report	Lao Statistics Bureau	9th NSEDP	

7	Services sector growth	%	1.40	5.00	5.60	4.80	4.00	3.73		6	Annually	Data from the report	Lao Statistics Bureau	9th NSEDP
	Share of service sector in GDP	%	38.10	37.00	37.60	35.90	37.00	37.00		41.3	Annually	Data from the report	Lao Statistics Bureau	9th NSEDP
8	Average annual paddy rice production	Million tons	3.66	3.78	0.44	3.90		3.75		3.5 - 4	Annually	Data from the report	Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry	9th NSEDP
9	Annual livestock growth	%	2.70	3.88		3.50				3-4	Annually	Data from the report	Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry	9th NSEDP
10	Fish farming and aquafarming growth	%	2.90			4.30				3-4	Annually	Data from the report	Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry	9th NSEDP
11	Average crop production per year:													
	Coffee	Ton	161,200	171,000	171,000	183,000		171,733		175,500	Annually	Data from the report	Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry	9th NSEDP
	Feed corn	Ton	535,237	462,810	14,800	458,000		485,349		636,900	Annually	Data from the report	Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry	9th NSEDP
	Casava	Million tons	3.71	4.86	-	6.25		4.94		3.6	Annually	Data from the report	Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry	9th NSEDP
	Sugarcane	Million tons	1.14	1.50	0.65	1.65		1.43		1.6	Annually	Data from the report	Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry	9th NSEDP
	Bananas	Ton	907,303	737,740	10,700	861,000		835,348		735,500	Annually	Data from the report	Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry	9th NSEDP
12	Export value of goods (5-year cumulative figure)	US \$ million	7,627	8,198	4,272	8,037	20,097	23,862		38,043.52	Annually	Data from the report	Ministry of Industry and Commerce	9th NSEDP
	average annual growth rate	%	23.90	7.49		1.96	11.12			8-10	Annually	Data from the report	Ministry of Industry and Commerce	9th NSEDP
13	Import value of goods (5-year cumulative figure)	US \$ million	5,887	6,808	3,274	6,937	15,969	19,632		32,927.35	Annually	Data from the report	Ministry of Industry and Commerce	9th NSEDP
	average annual growth rate	%	16.20	15.64		1.90	11.25			< 9	Annually	Data from the report	Ministry of Industry and Commerce	9th NSEDP

14	Annual export of agricultural products	US \$ million	1,100	1,733	1,118	902	1,494	1,245		1,200	Annually	Data from the report	Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry	9th NSEDP
15	Annual growth of industry and handicraft production	%	6.84	11.21	4.41	10.00		4.79		8-10	Annually	Data from the report	Ministry of Industry and Commerce	9th NSEDP
16	Electricity generation (5-year cumulative figure)	Million kWh	44,915	51,031	24,316	52,491	120,262	148,437		276,096	Annually	Data from the report	Ministry of Energy and Mines	9th NSEDP
	Electricity generation value (5 years accumulated balance)	Billion kip	26,813	45,070	21,965	44,298	93,848	116,181		140,879	Annually	Data from the report	Ministry of Energy and Mines	9th NSEDP
	Export of electricity (cumulative figure)	Megawatt			655		655			5,000	Annually	Data from the report	Ministry of Energy and Mines	9th NSEDP
17	Mineral production (5-year cumulative figure)	US \$ million	1,678	2,133	1,213		5,024			7,832.10	Annually	Data from the report	Ministry of Energy and Mines	9th NSEDP
	Mineral sales (5-year cumulative balance)	US \$ million	1,913	2,130	961	1,840	5,277			8,336.40	Annually	Data from the report	Ministry of Energy and Mines	9th NSEDP
18	Survey and establish baseline geological and mineral data at a scale of 1/200,000	%								31.5	Annually	Data from the report	Ministry of Energy and Mines	9th NSEDP
19	Annual average growth (wholesale-retail and services and motorcycle and automobile repair services)	%	6.51	18.87	3.41	8.00				8-10	Annually	Data from the report	Ministry of Industry and Commerce	9th NSEDP
20	Revenue from tourism	US \$ million	-	264.51	308.00	1,050.00	572.51			3,813	Annually	Data from the report	Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism	9th NSEDP
	Number of tourists (5-year cumulative figure)	Millions of times	-	1.29	1.67		2.96			15	Annually	Data from the report	Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism	9th NSEDP
21	Survey, allocate, demarcate, and issue	Place	1	4	-		5		6	30	Annually	Data from the report	Ministry of Information,	9th NSEDP

	certificates for tourism destinations												Culture and Tourism		
Output 2: Robust and stable macroeconomic management ensured															
22	Total budget revenue	Billion kip	28,905	32,541	19,258		80,704			179,500	Annually	Data from the report	Ministry of Finance	9th NSEDP	
	Total budget revenue to GDP ratio	%	15.63	15.09	16.26	-	15.55			17	Annually	Data from the report	Ministry of Finance	9th NSEDP SDG 17.1.1	I
23	Tax revenue	Billion kip								144,776	Annually	Data from the report	Ministry of Finance	9th NSEDP SDG 17.1.2	I
	Tax revenue to GDP ratio	%								14	Annually	Data from the report	Ministry of Finance	9th NSEDP	
24	Non-tax revenue	Billion kip								21,977	Annually	Data from the report	Ministry of Finance	9th NSEDP	
	Non tax revenue to GDP ratio	%								2	Annually	Data from the report	Ministry of Finance	9th NSEDP	
25	Grant revenue	Billion kip	2,781							12,410	Annually	Data from the report	Ministry of Finance	9th NSEDP	
	Grant revenue to GDP ratio	%	1.50							1	Annually	Data from the report	Ministry of Finance	9th NSEDP	
26	Total budget expenditures	Billion kip	29,507	32,281	16,474		78,262			190,000	Annually	Data from the report	Ministry of Finance	9th NSEDP	
	Proportion of Total budget expenditures to GDP	%	15.95	14.97	13.91	-	15.08			18.0	Annually	Data from the report	Ministry of Finance	9th NSEDP	
27	Total budget expenditures	Billion kip								130,500	Annually	Data from the report	Ministry of Finance	9th NSEDP	
	Total budget expenditures to GDP ratio	%	-							12.3	Annually	Data from the report	Ministry of Finance	9th NSEDP	
28	Total investment expenditure	Billion kip								59,500	Annually	Data from the report	Ministry of Finance	9th NSEDP	

	Total investment expenditure to GDP ratio	%	-	-						5.6	Annually	Data from the report	Ministry of Finance	9th NSEDP	
29	Total budget deficit	Billion kip	-602	260	2,784					-10,500	Annually	Data from the report	Ministry of Finance	9th NSEDP	
	Total budget deficit to GDP ratio	%	1.30	-	6.35					-1 or ≤ 2	Annually	Data from the report	Ministry of Finance	9th NSEDP	
30	State treasury	Billion kip								1,500	Annually	Data from the report	Ministry of Finance	9th NSEDP	
31	Inflation (year-on-year)	%	3.75	22.96	38.06		18.25			≤ 6	Annually	Data from the report	Bank of the Lao PDR	9th NSEDP	
	M2 money supply	%	23.98	36.85	27.46	33.26	27.58			≤ 20	Annually	Data from the report	Bank of the Lao PDR	9th NSEDP	
32	The exchange rate against the USD (year-on-year)	%	-9.07	-31.48	-14.41	-23.46	-18.32			±5	Annually	Data from the report	Bank of the Lao PDR	9th NSEDP SDG 17.3.1	I
33	Foreign exchange reserves (each year no less than)	Month	3.87	3.14	4.23	4.60	3.67			3	Annually	Data from the report	Bank of the Lao PDR	9th NSEDP SDG 17.3.1	I
	Commercial bank deposits to GDP ratio	%	75.50	83.62	89.21	100.20				60	Annually	Data from the report	Bank of the Lao PDR	8th NSEDP	
34	Bank credits to GDP ratio	%	50.93	60.53	60.44	66.34				49	Annually	Data from the report	Bank of the Lao PDR	9th NSEDP	
35	Capital market mobilisation to GDP ratio (cumulative balance)	%								15-18	Annually	Data from the report	Bank of the Lao PDR	9th NSEDP	
36	Non-performing loan (NPL) to total credit balance ratio	%	2.18	2.16	1.91	1.41	2.08	2		≤ 3	Annually	Data from the report	Bank of the Lao PDR	9th NSEDP	
Output 3: Investment quality and effectiveness enhanced															
37	Fund for development	Billion kip	55,965.87	69,004.27	29,088.25		154,058.39			204,599	Annually	Data from the report	Ministry of Planning and Investment	9th NSEDP	

	Fund for development to GDP ratio	%	30.25	32.00	24.55		29.68			19.4	Annually	Data from the report	Ministry of Planning and Investment	9th NSEDP	
38	Ratio of investment from the national budget to total investment	%	6.34	5.72	1.13		5.18			11	Annually	Data from the report	Ministry of Planning and Investment	9th NSEDP	
39	Ratio of Official Development Assistance (ODA) to Total Investment	%	16.14	12.00	17.55		14.56			18	Annually	Data from the report	Ministry of Planning and Investment	9th NSEDP	
40	Ratio of private investment to total investment	%	77.51	82.27	80.81		80.27			49	Annually	Data from the report	Ministry of Planning and Investment	9th NSEDP	
41	Ratio of other investments to total investment	%	-	-	-					22	Annually	Data from the report	Ministry of Planning and Investment	9th NSEDP	
Output 4: Better quality, robust and regionally and internationally competitive micro, small and medium enterprises															
42	Contribution of MSMEs to GDP	%								18	5 years	Data from survey	Lao Statistics Bureau	9th NSEDP	
43	Number of new MSMEs increased per year	%								2	Annually	Data from survey	Ministry of Industry and Commerce	9th NSEDP	
44	Number business units awarded the national ODO trademark increased	%								8	Annually	Survey of small and medium enterprises	Ministry of Industry and Commerce	SDG 9.2.3* 8th NSEDP	I
45	Proportion of women owning a business/enterprise	%								9	Annually	Data from survey	Ministry of Industry and Commerce	SDG 8.5.3* 8th NSEDP	I
Output 5: Enhanced efficiency and effectiveness of state-owned enterprises and collective economy															
46	Established production groups, qualified production	Number	-	26			26			68	Annually	Data from the report	Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry	9th NSEDP	

cooperatives and model cooperatives.

Outcome 2: Improved quality of human resources to meet development, research capacity, science and technology needs, and create value-added production and services

47	Human Property Index (HAI)	Index	72.70							66	Unspecified	National Accounts	Lao Statistics Bureau	LDC	
48	Maternal mortality rate	Per 100,000 live births	60.80	64.10	20.80	42.20	44.80	54.40	110.00	110	10 years	Data from the census/ data from the report	Lao Statistics Bureau/Miistry of Health	9th NSEDP SDG 3.1.1	I
49	Infant mortality rate (under 1)	Per 100,000 live births	12.80	13.00	6.10	11.80	10.12	12.60	20.00	20	5 years	Lao Social Indicator Survey (LSIS)	Lao Statistics Bureau	9th NSEDP SDG 3.2.3	I
50	Under 5 mortality rate	Per 100,000 live births	14.30	14.80	6.84	13.40	11.32	14.09	30.00	30	5 years	Lao Social Indicator Survey (LSIS)	Lao Statistics Bureau	9th NSEDP LDC SDG 3.2.1	I
51	Proportion of stunting among under-five children	%	31.00	31.70	27.30	32.80	29.52	29.77	27.00	27	5 years	Lao Social Indicator Survey (LSIS)	Miistry of Health/ Lao Statistics Bureau	9th NSEDP LDC SDG 2.2.1	I
52	Prevalence of underweight among under-five children	%	19.00	19.50	14.80	24.30	17.32	17.60	15.00	15	5 years	Lao Social Indicator Survey (LSIS)	Miistry of Health/ Lao Statistics Bureau	9th NSEDP SDG 2.2.3	I
53	Infant mortality rate (28 days and under)	Per 100,000 live births									5 years	Lao Social Indicator Survey (LSIS)	Lao Statistics Bureau	SDG 3.2.2	I

54	Proportion of children and young people achieving at least a minimum proficiency level in (i) reading and (ii) mathematics (male/female) according to national student performance assessments: (a) in grades 2/3; (b) at the end of primary; education (grade 5) (c) at the end of lower secondary education (grade 9)	%	0.00	0.00							(A) Lao language 50% / Mathematics 30% (b) Lao language 10% / Mathematics 20% (c) Lao language 40% / Mathematics 20%	every 2 years	SEA-PLM 2019: Regional Learning Assessment - ASLO National Learning Assessment Grade 9	Ministry of Education and Sports	SDG 4.1.1	
55	The incidence of puberty (15-19 years old) per 1,000 women in that age group	%	0.00	0.00							63	every 5 years		Ministry of Health	SDG 3.7.2	
56	Use of Basic Sanitation Services	%	0.00	0.00							85	5 years	LSIS (5 years) / LECS (5 years) / Family (10 years)	Miistry of Health/ Lao Statistics Bureau		
57	Use of basic water supplies	%	0.00	0.00							95	5 years	LSIS (5 years) / LECS (5 years) / Family (10 years)	Lao Statistics Bureau		
Output 1: More inclusive and better-quality healthcare services and nutrition																
58	Birth rate attended by skilled health personels	%	79.00	80.50	39.20	85.10	79.24	78.80	85.00		85	5 years/annually	Lao Social Indicator Survey (LSIS)/ Data from the report	Lao Statistics Bureau/Miistry of Health	9th NSEDP SDG 3.1.2	I

59	Percentage of infant mortality (28 days and under)	%	86.60	92.00	49.60	96.20	91.64	90.80	95.00	95	Annually	Data from the report	Ministry of Health	9th NSEDP	
60	Proportion of population using clean drinking water compared to the total population (clean water consumption rate)	%	90.10	92.10	92.63	93.30	91.32	91.12	95.00	95	5 years/annually	Lao Social Indicator Survey (LSIS)/ Data from the report	Lao Statistics Bureau/Ministry of Health	9th NSEDP SDG 6.1.1.a	II
61	Proportion of population using improved latrines relative to total population (latrine utilization rate)	%	81.05	83.20	83.95	84.60	82.51	82.27	85.00	85	5 years	Lao Social Indicator Survey (LSIS)	Lao Statistics Bureau	SDG 6.2.1	II
62	Public health insurance coverage	%	94.00	94.50	95.00	94.50	94.20	94.17	94.50	96	Annually	Data from the report	Ministry of Health	9th NSEDP	
63	Rate and declaration as a model health village	%	83.00	86.87	87.60	89.40	84.84	84.78	89.00	85	Annually	Data from the report	Ministry of Health	9th NSEDP	
Output 2: Improved quality of all levels of education and conditions created for access to education to support readiness for regional and international integration and Industry 4.0															
64	Enrollment rate for 5-year-olds in preschool	%	82.90	80.20	81.90	81.90			83	86	Annually	data from the administrative report	Ministry of Education and Sports	9th NSEDP SDG 4.2.3*	
65	Promotion rate from grade 5 to grade 6	%	85.50	82.40	84.50	84.50			> 85	> 90	Annually	data from the administrative report	Ministry of Education and Sports	9th NSEDP	
66	New enrollment student rate for grade 1	%	98.50	97.90	98.30	98.30			> 98	> 98	Annually	data from the administrative report	Ministry of Education and Sports	9th NSEDP	
67	Total enrollment rate for primary school (Grade 5)	%	97.40	97.70	96.20	96.20			> 97	> 99	Annually	data from the administrative report	Ministry of Education and Sports	9th NSEDP SDG 4.1.3*	
68	Lower Secondary (Grade 4)	%	70.10	68.10	65.30	65.30			> 68	> 74	Annually	data from the administrative report	Ministry of Education and Sports	9th NSEDP SDG 4.1.3*	

69	Primary graduation rate	%	93.00	92.70	93.10	93.10			> 94	> 95	Annually	data from the administrative report	Ministry of Education and Sports	9th NSEDP SDG 4.1.4*
70	Gender Equality Index of the promotion rate from Grade 5 to Grade 6 and Grade 12	%	0.99	0.99	0.99	0.99			0.97-1.03	0.97-1.03	Annually	data from the administrative report	Ministry of Education and Sports	9th NSEDP SDG 4.5.1.a
71	Dropout rate of Grade 1 students	%	5.40	6.50	4.80	4.80			4	4	Annually	Data from the report	Ministry of Education and Sports	9th NSEDP
	Primary school	%	4.10	4.90	4.40	4.40			< 4	< 2	Annually	Data from the report	Ministry of Education and Sports	9th NSEDP
	Lower secondary	%	10.30	11.00	11.20	11.20			< 11	< 8	Annually	Data from the report	Ministry of Education and Sports	9th NSEDP
72	Young people and dropouts to be trained through non-formal education and vocational training	%	33,284	43,154	36,121	36,121	112,559		125,000	150,000	Annually	Data from the report	Ministry of Education and Sports	9th NSEDP LDC SDG 4.3.3*
73	Percentage of trained primary and secondary teachers	% Per annum	31.00	28.30	1.90	1.90			>10	>10	Annually	Data from the report	Ministry of Education and Sports	9th NSEDP SDG 4.c.1
74	Percentage of graduates of lower secondary education enrolled in vocational education and training	%	4.30	2.30	1.40	1.40			3	5	Annually	Data from the report	Ministry of Education and Sports	9th NSEDP SDG 4.3.4*
75	Number of students applying to the university in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics- STEM	person	4,189	3,250	3,243	3,243	10,682		12,500	12,500	Annually	Data from the report	Ministry of Education and Sports	9th NSEDP
76	A large proportion of people of all genders and ages participated	%	31.70	35.00	40.39	40.39			50	50	Annually	Data from the report	Ministry of Education and Sports	9th NSEDP

	in aerobics, exercise and sports of citizens.															
Output 3: Workforce skills and productivity improved, and job diversification, security and income opportunities increased to meet the demands of socio-economic development																
77	Unemployment rates	%	21.80	2.40	-	-	-	<5	15	Annually	Data from the report	Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare	9th NSEDP SDG 8.5.2	I		
78	Skills Development - at institutions and centers for the development of skills at various levels - training in various professions	Person	3,276 2,930 346	3,088 2,107 981	2,578 1,550 1,028	3,028 2,000 1,028	8,942 6,587 2,355	11,970 8,587 3,383	15,000 10,000 5,000	15,000 10,000 5,000	Annually	Data from the report	Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare	9th NSEDP		
79	Encourage labor units to develop skills in various fields	Person	17,749	6,119	2,951	5,000	26,819	31,819	51,819	25,000	Annually	Data from the report	Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare	9th NSEDP		
80	Number of workers who passed the National Skills Test	Person	470	2,051			2,521			1,700	Annually	Data from the report	Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare	9th NSEDP		
81	Number of workforce in working age	%	0	0	0	0	0			48.30	5 years	Data from the report	Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare	9th NSEDP		
82	Number of labor units established in the Occupational Safety and Health Unit	Place	14	6			20			100	Annually	Data from the report	Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare	9th NSEDP		
Output 4: Promoting and utilising scientific research, technology, innovation and knowledge to drive socio-economic development																
83	Number of scientific researchers	Per 10,000 population								8.50	Annually	Data from the report	Ministry of Technology and Communication	9th NSEDP SDG 9.5.2		
84	Proportion of government investment in research and development of science and technology in the	%								1.00	Annually	Data from the report	Ministry of Technology and Communication	9th NSEDP SDG 9.5.1	I	

	government investment budget each year														
85	Proportion of private investment, both domestic and foreign, into research and development (R&D) in the budget each year	%								35.00	Annually	Data from the report	Ministry of Technology and Communication	9th NSEDP	
Outcome 3: Enhanced well-being of the people															
86	Poverty rate (percentage of the population living below the national poverty line by urban, rural and gender)	%								13.9	5 years	LECS 6	National Statistics Center/Agriculture	SDG 1.2.1/9th NSEDP	
87	Proportion of children who are multidimensionally deprived according to national definition	%								35.0	5 years	Data from the report	Lao Statistics Bureau	SDG 1.2	
88	Proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority by age	%								70.0	5 years	Data from the report	Lao Statistics Bureau	SDG 16.9.1	-
Output 1: Poverty alleviated in rural and remote areas, and people's livelihoods, cultural values, and media work improved															
89	Number of families built to meet poverty alleviation standards (5-year cumulative figure)	Family	20,904	27,163	-	16,000	48,067	64,067	148,816	1,168,509	5 years	Data from the report	Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry	9th NSEDP	
90	Number of villages lifted out of poverty	Village	238	182	62	200	482	620	1,815	7,896	Annually	Data from the report	Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry	9th NSEDP	
91	Number of districts lifted out of poverty	District	2	5	4	15	11	22	52	122	Annually	Data from the report	Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry	9th NSEDP	

92	Number of developed families	Family	24,298	25,778	-	20,000	50,076	70,076	150,503	982,750	Annually	Data from the report	Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry	9th NSEDP	
93	Number of developed villages	Village	262	220	77	250	559	732	1,782	5,167	Annually	Data from the report	Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry	9th NSEDP	
94	Number of large villages built as rural towns	Village	2	8	2	4	12	14	24	10	Annually	Data from the report	Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry	9th NSEDP	
95	Number of resettlement points and occupations for people without fixed settlements and non-permanent occupations	Target point	-	-	1	92				170	Annually	Data from the report	Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry	9th NSEDP	
96	Build and expand radio transmitting stations at district level	Station	2	2			4		6	36	Annually	Data from the report	Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism	9th NSEDP	
97	Expand radio broadcast speakers at the village level	Village	691	550	510		1,751		2,551	2,800	Annually	Data from the report	Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism	9th NSEDP	
98	Expand the transition from the analogue system to the digital system	Station	1				1		3	22	Annually	Data from the report	Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism	9th NSEDP	
99	Cultural family	Family	6,997	23,508	8,035		38,540		130,020	130,000	Annually	Data from the report	Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism	9th NSEDP	
100	Cultural village	Village	80	181	84		345		750	750	Annually	Data from the report	Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism	9th NSEDP	
101	Survey, data collection and registration in the cultural sector														
	Explore archeological sites	Place	2	5	1		8		20	35	Annually	Data from the report	Ministry of Information,	9th NSEDP	

													Culture and Tourism		
	Excavate archeological sites	Place	2				2		5	5	Annually	Data from the report	Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism	9th NSEDP	
	Register a list of ancient statues and Buddha images	Place	1	1	1		3		5	5	Annually	Data from the report	Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism	9th NSEDP	
	Register a list of cultural, historical and natural heritage from the local level to the national level	Place					2			20	Annually	Data from the report	Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism	9th NSEDP	
	Register of ancient Buddhist rituals	Place	-							5	Annually	Data from the report	Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism	9th NSEDP	
Output 2: Public utility infrastructure improved and access to public services made more inclusive and equitable															
102	Proportion of households that have access to electricity in all households nationwide	%								98	Annually	Data from the report	Ministry of Energy and Mines/ Lao Statistics Bureau	9	
Output 3: Equal access to socio-economic development opportunities promoted and the rights of women and children protected															
103	Average proportion of women included in the leadership-management positions at various levels (Average proportion of women included in the leadership-management positions at various levels): - Village - District	%	10				17.57 29.48				Annually	Data from the report	Lao Women's Union/ Ministry of Home Affairs/Central Party Organizational Committee	SDG 5.5.2	I

	- Provincial level - Central level															
104	Proportion of female members of the National Assembly and members of the Provincial People's Assembly (percentage of women holding positions in the National Assembly compared to all members of the National Assembly): - Proportion of female members of the National Assembly - Proportion of female members of the Provincial People's Assembly	%	28.35 21.95 30.48	28.35 21.95 30.48	28.35 21.95 30.48	28.35 21.95 30.48	28.35 21.95 30.48	28.35 21.95 30.48	28.35 21.95 30.48	≥ 30	5 years	Data from the report	National Assembly/Lao Women's Union	9th NSEDP SDG 5.5.1	I	
105	Gender Inequality Index	Index		0.478						0.430	5 years	Data from the report	Lao Women's Union	9th NSEDP		
106	Gender Equality Index	Index		0.949						0.984	5 years	Data from the report	Lao Women's Union	9th NSEDP		
107	Percentage of child marriages aged 15-19 - girls - boys	%	-	-						9 3	5 years	LSIS/LSB	The National Commission for The Advancement of Women, Mothers, and			

													Children (NCAWMC)		
Output 4: Promote and develop youth to improve human capital and participation in the workforce															
108	Proportion of young people who received vocational training and created jobs in vocational fields (motorcycle mechanics, car mechanics, electrician, welder, tailor, beautician, farmer and animal husbandry) of all unemployed youth (through Youth Center) - number - percentage	person per year %	454	1,391	1,148	521	2,993			3,550 20	Annually	Data from the report	Lao Youth Union/Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare	9th NSEDP	
Output 5: Expand access to more efficient social protection services for the people, including workers and self-employed individuals															
109	Social Security Coverage Expansion - Public Sector - Enterprise Sector - Volunteers	Unit	32,726 3,127 26,442 3,157	52,410 2,656 44,460 5,294	22,877 1,032 18,886 2,959	31,500 1,500 27,000 3,000	108,013 6,815 89,788 11,410	139,513 8,315 116,788 14,410	186,763 10,565 157,288 18,910	157,500 7,500 135,000 15,000	Annually	Data from the report	Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare	9th NSEDP	
110	Increase the number of enterprise units covered by Social Security	Unit	282	322			604			1,275	Annually	Data from the report	Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare	9th NSEDP	
111	Number of Blood Donations - National level - Local level	Bag	55,692 25,808 29,884	67,017 31,543 35,474	36,095 17,524 18,571		158,804 74,875 83,929	158,804 74,875 83,929	354,409 157,654 196,455	364,400 151,530 211,870	Annually	Data from the report	Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare	9th NSEDP	

112	Number of people that included in the welfare policy for those who contributed to the national revolutionary cause - In 5 Priority Target Groups - General Group	Person	815 815 0	639 639 0	317 317 0	691 691 0	1,771 1,771 0	2,462 2,462 0	16,000 0 0	16,000 15,000 1,000	Annually	Data from the report	Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare	9th NSEDP	
Output 6: Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) clearance progressively accelerated and more lives made safe from UXO															
113	Number of UXO casualties by age and sex	Person	- Total 55 - Injured 44 - Death 11	- Total 17 - Injured 14 - Death 3						< 40	Annually	Data from the report	Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare	SDG 18.1.1	I
114	Number of villages surveyed Non-technical to find evidence of UXO (cluster munitions)	Person	198	150		348	348			2,776	Annually	Data from the report	Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare	9th NSEDP	
115	Confirmed hazardous areas (HCA)	Hectares	16,239	15,897		32,136	32,136			250,000	Annually	Data from the report	Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare	9th NSEDP	
116	UXO cleared agricultural land, community areas and economic centres	Hectares	3,289	5,349	1,464.33	10,102.0 0	10,102	20,204	50,000	50,000	Annually	Data from the report	Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare	9th NSEDP	

117	Number of UXO survivors and victims - Medical treatment - Mental health rehabilitation - Vocational rehabilitation - Training and careers - Disability rights advocacy	Person	76	123	9	208	208	416	5,760	5,760 250 250 750 2,010 2,500	Annually	Data from the report	Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare	9th NSEDP SDG 18.3.2	
Outcome 4: Environmental protection enhanced and disaster risks reduced															
118	Proportion of forest cover in the whole country	%								70	5 years	Data from the report	Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry	9th NSEDP Green growth SDG 15.1.1	I
119	Number of people killed and missing from the disaster per 100,000 population (Compared to 7 million)	Per 100,000 population								1.43	Annually	Data from the report	Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare	SDG 11.5.1	II
120	Reduce greenhouse gas emissions from deforestation	Ton								30	4 years	Data from the report	Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry	Green growth GG Strategy	
Output 1: Natural resources sustainably used and managed															
121	Plantation and reforestation areas - Plantation - Reforestation	Hectares	19973 61450		0 0	19973 61450				200,000 1,800,000	Annually	Data from the report	Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry	9th NSEDP	
122	Upgrade the protected areas to a national park	Place	2	1						5	Annually	Data from the report	Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry	9th NSEDP	
123	Number of land titles issued (increased)	Millions land titles	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1.6	Annually	Data from the report	Ministry of Natural	9th NSEDP	

	from 1.5 to 3.1 millions)												Resources and Environment		
124	Develop land management plans, comprehensive management of natural resources and environment at the provincial level throughout the country	Number of provinces	1	4	-	5				5	Annually	Data from the report	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment	Green growth 8th NSEDP	
125	Number of stations measuring air quality with 2.5 Micron	Station	4	1	-	1	5	6		9	Annually	Data from the report	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment	9th NSEDP	
126	Develop a priority catchment management plan	Number	-	7	1	5	8	12		14	Annually	Data from the report	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment	SDG 6.5.1	I
Output 2: Green growth promoted and actions taken towards climate change mitigation															
127	Sales value of forest carbon credits	US \$ million	-				42			>95	5 years	Data from the survey	Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry	9th NSEDP	
128	Provide information on the risks of climate change	Number of provinces	-							18	Annually	Data from the report	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment	SDG 6.4.4*	I
129	Rates of clean energy use in transportation (Vehicle Statistics 2017)	%								14	Annually	Data from the report	Ministry of Posts, Telecommunications and Communications	9th NSEDP	
130	Proportion of waste disposal services in Vientiane Capital, 3 capitals and 4 cities along the Mekong subregion in general waste and infectious and hazardous waste	%								80	Annually	Data from the report	Ministry of Posts, Telecommunications and Communications	9th NSEDP	

Output 3: Capacities for disaster prevention, management and recovery enhanced															
131	Number of meteorological stations (cumulative figure)	Station	-	32	-	2	32			45	Annually	Data from the report	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment	9th NSEDP	
132	Number of hydrological stations (cumulative figure)	Station	-	23	-	8	23			25	Annually	Data from the report	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment	9th NSEDP	
133	Disaster Risk Management Committee revised and established in accordance with Decree No. 239 / PM dated 18/05/2020 - Number of districts that revised the Committee on Disaster Risk Management - Number of villages that established the Disaster Risk Management Committee	Village district	140 483		07					50 100	Annually	Data from the report	Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare	9th NSEDP	
134	Establish provincial and district central disaster management funds Central level Provincial level District level	Number	1 2 9	0 7 34	0 0 7	- 4 11	1 9 50	1 13 61	1 18 67	1 18 56	Annually	Data from the report	Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare	9th NSEDP	
135	Develop provincial, district and village disaster risk reduction strategies Central level Provincial level District level	Number	5 6 70							10 20 80	Annually	Data from the report	Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare	11.b.0 SENDAI Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction	

Outcome 5: Engagement in regional and international cooperation and integration is enhanced with robust infrastructure and effective utilisation of national potential and geographic advantages

136	Total trade integration rate to gross domestic product (Country rate of openness)	%									> 70	5 years	Data from survey	Ministry of Industry and Commerce	9th NSEDP	
137	Increased foreign direct investment (FDI)	%														
Output 1: Infrastructures improved for national, regional and international connectivity to facilitate production, services, trade and investment																
138	Percentage of Telecommunication and Communication (ICT) usage per capita: - Computers - Internet - Wired and wireless landlines - Mobile phones - Wired and wireless high speed internet	%		36							70	5 years and annually	Data from the report/Data from the survey	Ministry of Technology and Communication		
				51							60					
				45							100					
				0												
				37							70					
139	Percentage of population aged 15-24 using computer and internet, classified by ICT ability, sex and housing to the total population of that age group: - Percentage of computer use (female) - Percentage of Internet use (female) - Percentage of computer use (male)	%										5 years	Data from the survey	Ministry of Technology and Communication	SDG 4.4.1	II

	- Percentage of Internet use (male)														
140	Proportion of coverage area of mobile signal receiving station (- 3G - 4G - 5G) - 3G - 4G - 5G	%	83 75 0	85 76 3	85 76 3					100 90 50	Annually	Data from the report	Ministry of Technology and Communication	9th NSEDP SDG 9.c.1	I
141	Establish a National Internet Reserve Center	Number								2	Annually	Data from the report	Ministry of Technology and Communication	9th NSEDP	
142	Number of central and local offices that use the modern office system (e-office) in the party-state organization	Number	18							45	Annually	Data from the report	Ministry of Technology and Communication	9th NSEDP	
143	Number of government offices using teleconferencing and email systems	Number	78							68	Annually	Data from the report	Ministry of Technology and Communication	9th NSEDP	
144	Public and private sectors turning to Lao satellites for work	Number								18	Annually	Data from the report	Ministry of Technology and Communication	9th NSEDP	
Output 2: Regional and international trade and investment cooperation and integration enhanced and expanded															
145	An increase in the number of passengers in the interconnection network with countries in the region in all forms of transportation per year - land - water - air - railways	%	-4.19 -24.87 229.00 1,704.35	-2.62 40.65 231.00 3,273.25	7.98 53.45 203.69 182.16					3.18 23.08 118.13 1,719.92	7 5 12 7	Annually	Data from the report	Ministry of Public Works and Transport	9th NSEDP

146	An increase in the quantity of goods in the interconnection network with countries in the region in all forms of transportation per year - land - water - air - railways	%	4.88 11.88 -73.91 13,325.00	7.68 21.34 250.00 4,069.46		0.76 16.64 90.48 116.61		4.44 16.62 88.85 5,837.02		7 5 12 10	Annually	Data from the report	Ministry of Public Works and Transport	9th NSEDP
147	Proportion of export value under trade privileges	%								25	Annually	Data from the report	Ministry of Industry and Commerce	8th NSEDP
Output 3: Robust regional and local development based on the potential of each region														
148	GDP growth rate for each region year on year:													
	- North	%								6.65	Annually	National Accounts	Lao Statistics Bureau	8th NSEDP
	- Centre	%								6.25	Annually	National Accounts	Lao Statistics Bureau	8th NSEDP
	- South	%								6.31	Annually	National Accounts	Lao Statistics Bureau	8th NSEDP
149	GDP per capita in each region													
	- North	US \$								2,164	Annually	National Accounts	Lao Statistics Bureau	8th NSEDP
	- Centre	US \$								7,010	Annually	National Accounts	Lao Statistics Bureau	8th NSEDP

	- South	US \$								2,670	Annually	National Accounts	Lao Statistics Bureau	8th NSEDP	
Output 4: Urban areas and Special Economic Zones developed into production, investment, trade and tourism bases for regional and international integration															
150	Number of cities along the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) - To complete the implementation of urban development projects - To have a standardized waste disposal site - To have an appropriate wastewater treatment system	City	1 0 0							4 4 4	Annually	Data from the report	Ministry of Public Works and Transport	9th NSEDP	
151	Number of capitals - To complete the implementation of urban development projects - To have a standardized waste disposal site - To have an appropriate wastewater treatment system	Capital	0 0 0							3 3 3	Annually	Data from the report	Ministry of Public Works and Transport	9th NSEDP	
Outcome 6: Public governance and administration is improved, and society is equal, fair, and protected by the rule of law															
152	Proportion of the public administration structure that has been streamlined according to the Sam Sang Directive: - Departments and	%								20 30	Annually	Data from the report	Ministry of Home Affairs	9th NSEDP	

	divisions at ministries -other agencies - Departments and divisions at ministries- Sections, units and divisions at the local administrative level														
153	Proportion of One Door Service in the local level	%	6	2	4	3				15	Annually	Data from the report	Ministry of Home Affairs	9th NSED	
154	Proportion of population accessing justice process (access to justice and government services)										Annually	Data from the report	Ministry of Home Affairs	9th NSED	
Output 1: Enhanced efficiency of public governance and administration and deepened implementation of the Sam Sang Directive															
155	Sam Sang Directive: - To establish the province as a strategic unit - To establish the district as a comprehensive unit - To establish the village as a development unit	Ratio								2/3 (66.6%) 1/3 (33.3%) 2/3 (66.6%)	Annually	Data from the report	Ministry of Home Affairs	9th NSED	
156	Number of municipality / city which is the local authority in the city	Number				1		2	3	8	Annually	Data from the report	Ministry of Home Affairs	9th NSED	
157	Proportion of the essential basic services required of the governing party as online services	%								50	Annually	Data from the report	Ministry of Home Affairs	9th NSED	
158	Number of the essential basic services required of the governing party as online services	Number									Annually	Data from the report	Ministry of Home Affairs	SDG 16.6.2	

Output 2: Improved and harmonised coordination mechanisms and regulations within the public sector to increase efficiency																	
159	Management within both central and local government organizations that use digital systems	%								80	Annually	Data from the report	Ministry of Technology and Communication	9th NSEDP			
Output 3: Ensure political stability, peace and order, unity, democracy, justice and civilisation within the society																	
160	The quality of monitoring, respecting the implementation of the law and ordering the accused to be promoted to the court to be upgraded - Proportion of resolved cases - Proportion of court judgements according to the statement of the prosecutor	%										Data from the report	Office of the Supreme People's Prosecutor	9th NSEDP			
			96.20	97.30	96.50	95.00	96.69	95.00	95.00								
161	Court decision-judgment ratio	%			52		80.58			85	Annually	Data from the report	People's Supreme Court	9th NSEDP			
162	Implementation rate of previously pending court judgements and new court judgements	%					80			80	Annually	Data from the report	Ministry of Justice/ Office of the Prosecutor/ People's Supreme Court	9th NSEDP			
163	Proportion of judgments that have been completed and closed	%					8.53			20	Annually	Data from the report	Ministry of Justice	9th NSEDP			
164	Number of staff, law graduates who have been trained in law and justice to become judges, prosecutors	Person								500	Annually	Data from the report	Ministry of Justice	9th NSEDP			

	and lawyers each year														
165	Number of people accessing law services through legal aid offices across the country	Person								200,000	Annually	Data from the report	Ministry of Justice	9th NSEDP	
166	Number of disputes entered through the Village Mediation Committee throughout the country	Case								<15,000	Annually	Data from the report	Ministry of Justice	9th NSEDP	
167	Proportion of all cases in force	%								52	Annually	Data from the report	Ministry of Justice	SDG 16.3.3	I
168	Completed the collection of census statistics of at least once in the last 10 years	Book									Annually /10 years	Data from the report/Data from the survey	Lao Statistics Bureau/Ministry of Public Security	SDG 17.19.2.a	I