

## BUILDING SOCIAL PROTECTION FLOORS WITH THE ILO

# TOGETHER, TO CHANGE MILLIONS OF LIVES IN THE LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC



International  
Labour  
Organization

### MOST PEOPLE IN LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC (PDR) HAVE NO ACCESS TO SOCIAL PROTECTION

Today, only some formally employed workers in Lao PDR, comprising less than 20 per cent of the labour force, benefit from comprehensive social protection coverage. Workers in the informal economy lack basic social protection coverage. There has been significant extension of health insurance coverage in recent years and it is estimated at 91 per cent in 2018, according to the Ministry of Health of Lao PDR. However, social welfare programmes remain fragmented. Almost no comprehensive social welfare programmes are in place for the most vulnerable segments of the population, particularly the poor, the near poor, the elderly and the disabled. Further support is required to widen the scope of social protection schemes and to support the implementation of the forthcoming national social protection strategy.

During the past 15 years, the ILO has supported the Government of Lao PDR (GOL) in the establishment of the Social Security Fund, which currently covers over 500,000 workers and their families in the formal economy, including the private sector, state-owned enterprises and public administration. Participants benefit from comprehensive social security coverage including old-age pensions. Assistance was provided on the development of the legal framework, strengthening of the administrative capacity and introducing social health insurance and income security benefits.

Assistance is being provided to support GOL in its efforts to enforce mandatory enrolment in the private sector and promote voluntary coverage for self-employed workers. The ILO is also providing support to the harmonization and integration of social security funds and to the plan of achieving Universal Health Coverage within the next decade.



### FORMULATING A SOCIAL PROTECTION STRATEGY

The Government of Lao PDR has developed a national social protection strategy and a strategic framework towards the progressive implementation of a social protection floor (SPF) for the people of Lao PDR. An Assessment-based National Dialogue on Social Protection has been completed with ILO support and the report has been published. The report assesses the policy gaps and implementation issues related to social protection in Lao PDR and proposes a set of policy options with priorities agreed upon by all national stakeholders. This report contributed to the national strategy.

ASEAN DECLARATION ON STRENGTHENING SOCIAL PROTECTION  
adopted by all member countries including Lao PDR (2013)

WE, the Heads of State/Government of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), hereby STRIVE to adhere to the following principle:

Everyone, especially those who are poor, at risk, persons with disabilities, older people, out-of-school youth, children, migrant workers, and other vulnerable groups, are entitled to have equitable access to social protection that is a basic human right.



## FROM RIGHT TO REALITY WITH YOUR SUPPORT

Social protection is a priority area of the United Nations Partnership Framework (UNPF 2017-21) and the 8th National Socio-Economic Development Plan (2016–20).

You can support us to:

- Phase 1: Formulate a comprehensive social protection framework, including advocacy, capacity building of national stakeholders and technical assistance on scheme design and costing.

US\$ 750,000

- Phase 2: Implement and evaluate pilot programmes in selected areas and/or for specific target groups, improve central and local capacities on delivery, develop a regulatory framework, draw lessons learned, and advocate for broader implementation.

US\$ 1,400,000

- Phase 3: Support the national implementation of some social protection programmes, develop central and local capacities on integrated benefit delivery, infrastructure systems, financial management, monitoring and evaluation.

US\$ 2,000,000

- Strengthen the institutional capacity of the National Social Security Fund to extend social security and health insurance coverage to the formal and informal sectors through awareness raising, inspection, system management, and actuarial reviews.

US\$ 1,200,000

- Document the country's experience through briefs and videos and contribute to ILO's how-to guides.

US\$ 50,000

## LISTENING TO YOUR AMBITIONS

As a donor, you receive regular reports on the progress made and have access to ongoing project activities and performance indicators.

To further discuss your objectives and the ways in which you can support stakeholders in Lao PDR and improve millions of lives, you can contact:




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