

## Country Programme document for the Lao People's Democratic Republic (2007-2011)

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## I. Situation analysis

1. A defining characteristic of the Lao People's Democratic Republic is that it is a landlocked least developed country which is in transition to a market economy. Since the country's New Economic Mechanism policy was introduced in 1986, the Government has implemented various reforms to better support the transition process. The economy has been growing at about 6 per cent per annum in the recent past. The overall rate of poverty fell from 46 per cent in 1992/93 to 32 per cent in 2002/2003. The UNDP Global Human Development Index (HDI) has shown consistent improvement since 1993; the Lao People's Democratic Republic is currently ranked 133rd out of 177 countries, and is classified in the "Medium Human Development" category. The country was once the third largest producer of opium globally but was declared opium-free in 2005.

2. Inequity levels, as measured through the Gini coefficient, have increased from 28.6 in 1992 to 35.7 in 1997. That figure is still valid, according to a 2002/2003 survey. Poverty in rural areas is twice as high as in urban areas. The rise of the Gini index indicates that a significant part of the population has not enjoyed the benefits accruing from a relatively high gross domestic product (GDP) growth. Disparities are particularly marked among the rural poor, women and ethnic groups. The population is growing at the rate of 2.0 per cent with 55 per cent of the population being under 20 years of age. The challenges that such demographic trends pose, both in terms of employment prospects and human development advances, are further compounded by the tribulations of unexploded ordnance, remnants from the Indo-China War. Fifty per cent of the country is contaminated by unexploded ordnance, which still poses enormous challenges for development and the personal safety and security of people. There is a strong correlation between the areas that are contaminated by unexploded ordnance and the location of the poorest districts, as identified by the Government. Additionally, major challenges pertaining to the environment are becoming evident. The economic expansion combined with population growth intensifies utilization of land and other natural resources and increases pressures on the environment.

3. The Government formulated its localized poverty reduction strategy paper (PRSP), the National Growth and Poverty Eradication Strategy, in 2003. That document identifies the private sector as the main engine of growth and focuses on four key sectors: agriculture, infrastructure, education and health. It also highlights cross-cutting themes such as capacity development, unexploded ordnance, HIV/AIDS, gender and the environment. Prominent features of the strategy include a direct channeling of funds to the poorest districts, augmented by incremental increases in the national budget for the social sectors, particularly education and health. In 2004, the Government set up its localized targets and relevant indicators within the framework of the Millennium Development Goals and published its first National Millennium Development Goals Report, which went a long way in establishing solid baselines to track the country's progress towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals by 2015. The Government is currently finalizing its sixth National Socio-economic Development Plan for the period 2006-2010, which incorporates the main elements of both the National Growth and Poverty Eradication Strategy and the Millennium Development Goals. That pro-poor and Millennium Development Goals-based plan is expected to form the basis of future alignment of official development assistance (ODA) to the country.

4. The Lao People's Democratic Republic has been playing an active role as a member of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) since its membership in 1997. The ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA) is set to be established by 2008. With the tariff reduction scheme that it entails, trade is expected to be further accelerated within the region. The Lao People's Democratic Republic is also working towards World Trade Organization accession in the foreseeable future. Further regional integration and globalization have emerged as key priorities of the National Socio-economic Development Plan. It is predicted that hydroelectricity and mining exports will start generating significantly increased national revenue in the coming years. With a view to building a more robust economy, exports would need to be further diversified both in terms of export items and markets. Those positive economic prospects and trade opportunities may pose the danger of widening disparities, leading to further inequity. While the

incidence of HIV/AIDS remains low in the Lao People's Democratic Republic, rapid regional developments and cultural changes are being translated into increasing vulnerabilities.

5. Currently, the country is heavily dependent on ODA, with about 70 per cent of its public investment being financed by external resources. The current ratio of national revenue against GDP stands at 11 per cent, which is one of the lowest in the region. It is therefore important that due attention be paid to increasing domestic resources for financing development, including the provision of better public services for the people. The poverty impact of fiscal management, including taxation, warrants deeper analysis in the long run. The National Socio-economic Development Plan emphasizes the central role of the domestic private sector and foreign direct investment (FDI) in promoting economic growth. Recent policy reviews indicate the importance of good governance as a precondition to fostering private sector development. The Government would need to play a proactive role and take decisive action in order to facilitate easier business entry and expansion through less control by the Government, greater promotion of the rule of law, more efficient tax and customs administration and the protection of property rights. Additionally, the capacity of civil servants, particularly at the decentralized levels, would also need to be strengthened, for the purposes of stronger public financial management and the provision of better public services.

## **II. Past cooperation and lessons learned**

6. The UNDP Assessment of Development Results, conducted in 2006, called for the continuation of the focus on the key programme areas of poverty reduction, governance and unexploded ordnance as it formed an appropriate strategic niche for UNDP. However, while UNDP should continue to provide policy advice, emphasis should also be placed on translation of policies into actions. Specific observations and recommendations included those discussed below.

7. Effective coordination both within the United Nations system and among donors in the Lao People's Democratic Republic has been a key achievement of UNDP and a role that the

organization should continue to play. UNDP has supported the Government in consulting with the donor community on key development issues and concerns, including the National Growth and Poverty Eradication Strategy, the Nam Theun 2 Dam, the next National Socio-economic Development Plan, and implementation of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness through the round-table process. United Nations assistance is being aligned to the national plan, including the National Growth and Poverty Eradication Strategy priorities and the Millennium Development Goals. The Government recently established eight sectoral working groups to interact with existing donor groups on key sectors and cross-cutting themes, a significant step forward in coordination and alignment with the priorities of the National Socio-economic Development Plan. UNDP plays a pivotal role, through the United Nations resident coordinator, in facilitating discussions between the Government and the donor community.

8. UNDP has developed an approach to supporting change that is appropriate to the conditions in the Lao People's Democratic Republic: high-level policy dialogue, identification and support for change and advice to policymakers; flexibility in meeting emerging needs and creative innovations such as the launch of the country's first-ever development journal as an advocacy tool for moving the reform agenda forward.

9. The poverty agenda is increasingly addressed through policy dialogue and strengthening of governance systems, particularly the central and provincial governance and public administration reform programmes. Effective donor coordination as well as specific research projects, such as the national human development report (NHDR), and other technical support have contributed to the inclusion of the Millennium Development Goals and pro-poor policies in the national plan.

10. The need for a strategic review and critical analysis of planned economic measures in the Lao People's Democratic Republic has also emerged. In that regard, the third NHDR on international trade and human development examined both the positive and negative impacts of international trade and recommended a few key options for policymakers.

Given the important role the Government assigns to the private sector and trade, UNDP should also consider supporting formulation of pro-poor trade policies and creative approaches to private sector development.

11. Gender, a critical cross-cutting issue, is mainstreamed within the scope and rollout of all programme components of UNDP support. A detailed and thorough gender review of UNDP overall programmes and interventions was undertaken in late 2005 in the area of poverty reduction, governance, environment, and unexploded ordnance. At the macro-level, it resulted in the identification of several strategic areas for gender mainstreaming in ongoing and planned activities.

12. Capacity development is critical in the Lao People's Democratic Republic, both from an ownership perspective and for the sustainability of development results. The UNDP focus is on extending and increasing capacity in government at the central and provincial levels. That includes both individual and institutional capacity through workshops, technical advisers and knowledge networking.

### **III. Proposed programme**

13. The proposed programme has been prepared based on the analysis made in the common country assessment (CCA) and will contribute to the three United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) outcomes through nine country programme outcome areas summarized in the results and resources framework (see annex).

#### **A. Poverty reduction and equitable growth**

14. Support towards outcomes related to poverty reduction and equitable growth, as articulated in the UNDAF, are to be undertaken through three main avenues: (a) pro-poor planning mechanisms and harmonization of aid coordination; (b) equitable economic growth approaches and regional integration with a pro-poor focus; and (c) sustainable use of natural resources and improved access to land. Specifically, the UNDP programme will provide support in the following areas:

(a) Central- and local-level dynamics related to Millennium Development Goal-based development strategies, policies, planning, implementation and monitoring that combine a pro-poor and equitable approach to the development processes. Concrete initiatives will include: support for the implementation of the National Socio-economic Development Plan and its monitoring at the central and provincial levels; rollout of the regional Integrated Package of Services, which is linked to Millennium Development Goal-based national planning; the strengthening of national capacities to undertake strategic and catalytic research through the NHDR process and similar demand-driven and nationally owned policy research initiatives; the consolidation of a sound database to monitor the achievement of local Millennium Development Goal targets and other national development indicators through the further development and scaled-up use of the existing LaoInfo database. Data quality will be enhanced with more sex-disaggregated information.

(b) Alignment of external aid with Millennium Development Goal-based national plan and development priorities and capacity development for ODA management through the round-table process. Specific initiatives will include: continuing strategic support to the round-table process through the strengthening of dialogue mechanisms and aid alignment, as facilitated through the joint government and donor sector working groups; provision of policy advice and support to the Government on the enhancement of ODA effectiveness and effective aid coordination; and capacity development

(c) Deepening of pro-poor growth principles through the promotion of the domestic private sector and the enhancement of incomes of farm families, with a concerted focus on sustainable employment generation. Specific initiatives will include: policy efforts geared towards identifying key bottlenecks and quick-wins for the creation of a robust domestic private sector, specifically, micro-, small- and medium-size enterprise development among rural, agriculture-dependent and marginalized populations, and generation of employment opportunities for the rural poor and women

(d) Policy advice on pro-poor trade policies, including global and regional agreements such as the ASEAN Free Trade Agreement (AFTA) and accession to the World Trade Organization. Specific

initiatives will include: the provision of policy advice and support to the Government, following the burgeoning international trade and recent bilateral trade agreements and a critical analysis and evaluation of trade-related issues such as gender impacts of the end of the Multi-Fiber Agreement on the textile industry. Support for aid coordination will be undertaken for the Integrated Framework for trade-related technical assistance to translate the country's land-locked status into advantages of a land-linked economy.

15. UNDP will strengthen its support for the environment sector, particularly implementation of environmental policies, strategies, legislation and action plans. The two main areas of assistance include promoting green growth and support to the policy and regulatory framework. The proposed programme areas include:

(a) Enhancing the role of biodiversity, agrobiodiversity, land management and environment in general in livelihoods improvements and poverty reduction. Support will be provided to the Government, particularly at the provincial and local levels to strengthen their knowledge and capacities to manage and utilize natural resources in a sustainable manner and with a pro-poor focus. Support will also be provided for implementation of various national strategies including the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan and the National Agricultural Biodiversity Programme.

(b) Enhancing management and implementation capacity for international environmental instruments. Support will be provided to the Government at the national and provincial levels to strengthen the implementation of multilateral environmental agreements and related national policies and legislation. Specific initiatives will include: strengthening coordination and integration of the implementation of multilateral environmental agreements; and strengthening the capacity to implement natural resources legislation with a focus on issues relevant to the Rio conventions.

16. UNDP will continue to support the Government in addressing the long-term humanitarian and development issue of unexploded ordnance. The proposed programme for the next five years will focus on: (a) support for full operationalization of the newly established National Regulatory Authority for

the demining sector, whose responsibilities include oversight and regulation of unexploded ordnance/mine action activities, in accordance with international standards and socio-economic development priorities; and (b) continuation of development assistance to UXO Lao, the national clearance operator, to further develop capacity and increase efficiency and effectiveness in order to speed up the release of land to cater to the demands of an increasing rural population. Special attention will be given to gender-specific impacts of land clearance and land usage policies.

17. In the light of recent devastating natural disasters, disaster preparedness and management have emerged as key elements contributing to the successful achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. The Lao People's Democratic Republic is known to be prone to disasters, including floods, drought and epidemics such as avian and human influenza. Those disasters for the most part affect poor rural communities whose livelihoods depend heavily on their agricultural activities. UNDP will, therefore, work with the Government to further develop national and local capacities to better prepare for and respond to disasters as well as national capacity for aid coordination.

## **B. Governance**

18. Governance is directly linked to poverty reduction in that limited public resources must be used effectively and efficiently to reach out to the poor. Importantly, in the transition to a market-based economy, the system of decision-making must be more community-based, transparent and accountable. For the past decade, the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic has embarked on wide-ranging public administration reforms, designed to create an effective and efficient public administration, including the requisite institutional and legal framework. In 2003, the Government presented a policy paper on governance, indicating its intention to pursue an ambitious reform agenda in that area. The policy paper, the main elements of which have since been incorporated into the National Socio-economic Development Plan, provides a comprehensive overview of major governance activities, including the four themes of public service reform, people's participation, the rule of law, and

sound financial management. Those priority areas form the basis of UNDP support in the area of governance.

19. UNDP will continue its commitment to supporting government-led initiatives to ensure more efficient, accountable and transparent policies and practices to protect the rights of citizens, especially the poorest and most vulnerable. Key programmatic initiatives envisaged for support include:

(a) Fostering enhanced community and civil society participation in the planning, implementation and monitoring of local development activities;

(b) Developing institutional capacity of the legal sector to improve the application of the law in an impartial, effective and predictable manner. Improved law enforcement mechanisms would aim, in particular, to build private sector confidence and stimulate growth;

(c) Strengthening capacities of the National Assembly, including empowerment of the women's caucus, to provide effective oversight and hold government agencies accountable for timely and predictable delivery of services and implementation of laws;

(d) Enhancing capacities of central and local government agencies for effective and efficient decentralized planning, management and service delivery. Priority initiatives include: continued support to and consolidation of the national Governance and Public Administration Reform Programme at the central level and in selected target provinces and districts together with many partners, including the United Nations Capital Development Fund; and development of capacities and incentive structures to facilitate more effective fiscal management to enhance domestic revenue collection and strengthen public expenditure management;

(e) Contributing to the strengthening of accountability, transparency and integrity in the management of public resources. Priority initiatives include support to the implementation of anti-corruption legislation through the development of a national strategy and reforms in administrative systems, information dissemination, participation of the public and law enforcement;

(f) Participation in key international treaties, including human rights instruments, translation of

international obligations into national legislation and promoting mechanisms and opportunities to convey the rights and interests of citizens to decision-makers, through meaningful public participation.

### **C. Cross-cutting issues**

#### *Gender*

20. UNDP seeks to implement a tailored project on Gender Empowerment for Poverty Eradication in collaboration with other partners, including the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM). It seeks to achieve three strategic outcomes: (a) strengthened capacity of select central and provincial government actors to effectively mainstream gender equality for poverty reduction into policies, planning, and development activities; (b) increased gender equality in participatory planning in select provinces, districts and villages, local decision-making and development activities; and (c) formulation of strategic tools for pro-poor, gender-sensitive planning, policy formulation and resource allocation and strengthened national capacities.

#### *HIV/AIDS*

21. In support of the National HIV and AIDS Strategy and Action Plan, 2006-2010, and within the framework of a joint United Nations programme on HIV and AIDS, the overall UNDP strategy is geared towards (a) strengthening HIV/AIDS responses that are being undertaken at the national level by building leadership capacities and organizational effectiveness among key leaders, decision makers and opinion makers, with special focus on developing the leadership potential of female officials; (b) mainstreaming and integrating responses on HIV in different line Ministries through an effective advocacy and communication strategy that is developed and implemented at the national and provincial government levels; and (c) partnerships with the Government, United Nations Volunteers and other organizations such as the Lao Network of Positive People and Lao Red Cross for a meaningful involvement of people living with HIV/AIDS, including those residing in female-headed households.

#### **IV. Programme management, monitoring and evaluation**

22. Programme execution under the overall direction of a country programme board will be the main modality for programme management. Outcome boards will monitor the realization of expected outcomes. They will also be responsible for programme-level assurance and for approval of annual work plans. While the Government and UNDP encourage the use of national bodies for programme implementation, other implementation modalities may be explored where national implementation capacity may not meet the required standards. The capacity of implementing partners will be assessed and measures will be taken to address existing gaps. The country office will continue to provide project support services at the request of implementing partners.

23. Special attention will be paid to United Nations simplification and harmonization initiatives by applying new guidelines such as the 'harmonized approach to cash transfers to implementing partners'. Results-based management systems and tools used at the country office level will be improved and gradually integrated across all UNDP-supported projects and programmes. Results will be measured based on outcome indicators agreed upon with the Government. In addition, comprehensive participatory approaches for monitoring and evaluation will be developed and applied in partnership with implementing partners and beneficiaries to ensure that basic monitoring systems are in place and aligned with the results framework. Annual reviews will be conducted in the context of the UNDAF, together with other members of the United Nations Country Team. Evaluations will be conducted at the level of country programme outcomes and, if necessary, also at the output level.

24. The successful implementation of the country programme will also depend on the mobilization of non-core resources. A comprehensive partnership and resource mobilization strategy has been prepared that highlights the need to broaden the partnership base and forge further strategic alliances with key donors.

25. UNDP will continue to provide support and knowledge goods through its global knowledge network and the two Regional Centres in Bangkok and Colombo.

## Annex Results and resources framework for the Lao People's Democratic Republic (2007-2011)

Programme component	Programme outcomes	Programme outputs	Output indicators, baselines and targets (Baseline 2005, in italics)	Resources by goal (thousands of dollars)
<b>UNDAF outcome 1:</b> By 2011, the livelihoods of poor, vulnerable and food insecure populations are enhanced through sustainable development (within Millennium Development Goals framework)				
Crisis prevention and recovery  Energy and environment for sustainable development	1. Improved and equitable access to land, markets and social and economic services, environmentally sustainable utilization of natural resources	1.1 Enhanced safety, awareness of risks, and more land cleared of UXO for productive use under the supervision of the National Regulatory Authority for the UXO sector 1.2 The role of biodiversity, agrobiodiversity, land management and environment in general in the livelihoods improvements and poverty reduction strengthened through enhanced knowledge and management capacity 1.3 Enhanced management capacity of the Government in meeting its international environmental obligations through strengthened implementation of multilateral environmental agreements and related national policies and legislation	1.1 Decrease in the number of casualties caused by UXO: less than 100 per year ( <i>91 accidents and 145 casualties in 9 provinces where UXO Lao operates</i> ); land cleared of UXO for productive use: 18,000 hectares of priority land in 10 years ( <i>1,566 hectares</i> ) 1.2 Capacities to manage indigenous agrobiodiversity and wetlands with pro-poor focus at target areas enhanced. ( <i>Limited capacity at the provincial level</i> ) 1.3 Second National Communication on Climate Change finalized and submitted to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change secretariat. ( <i>First National Communication completed</i> ); Increased availability of tools for implementation of the legislation relating to the environment and natural resources use ( <i>No tools available</i> )	<b>Regular</b> 2 500  <b>Other</b> 17 000
Achieving the MDGs and reducing human poverty  Crisis prevention and recovery	2. Enhanced ownership and capacity for pro-poor planning, implementation and harmonized aid coordination, and disaster management	2.1 Increased capacity at the central and local levels for MDG-based development strategies, policies, and planning that combine a pro-poor and equitable approach to development processes; and effective implementation of public investment programmes in poor areas 2.2 External aid aligned with MDG-based national development priorities and capacity for ODA management increased through the round-table process 2.3 Increased capacity in disaggregated data collection and analysis, research, dissemination and utilization of data for improved advocacy, policy and strategy development, poverty reduction, labour market policy formulation and sustainable development 2.4 Increased capacity within the Government to prepare and respond to natural as well as man-made disasters at all levels	2.1 Implementation and monitoring systems of the NSEDP and annual plans established. Consultations held with donors, private entrepreneurs, and academia; Number of staff trained in improved participatory planning at the central and provincial levels 2.2 Thorough analysis and impact assessment on ODA effectiveness undertaken; RTM forums and the government and donor sectoral working groups meet regularly ( <i>Sectoral working groups mechanisms set up</i> ) 2.3 Rollout and implementation of LaoInfo software; number of government staff trained in LaoInfo; NHDRs developed and published 2.4 Common United Nations/Lao Government framework for comprehensive disaster management agreed and operationalized ( <i>Framework not available</i> )	<b>Regular</b> 2 000  <b>Other</b> 1 000

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Achieving the MDGs and reducing human poverty	3. Enabled environment for growth with equity	3.1 Improved policy advice for the promotion of the domestic private sector with focus on employment generation and pro-poor impacts of small and medium enterprises 3.2 Capacity built for service delivery and enhancement of negotiation skills and policy advice on trade and poverty policies, including global and regional agreements such as the ASEAN Free Trade Agreement, accession to the World Trade Organization	3.1 Formal consultation processes for formulating clear and enforceable business regulations commenced; reduction in the number of days required for new business entry achieved ( <i>Lao People's Democratic Republic ranks at 147<sup>th</sup> among 155 countries in an index that ranks the "ease of doing business" globally</i> ) 3.2 The development, formulation and implementation of an "action-matrix" of the Integrated Framework for trade-related technical assistance commenced and key partners identified; Policy advice related to ASEAN and World Trade Organization accession provided ( <i>negotiations on World Trade Organization accession commenced</i> ).	<b>Regular</b> 1 500 <b>Other</b> 5 000
<b>UNDAF outcome 2:</b> Increased and more equitable access to and utilization of quality and prioritized social services				
Achieving the MDGs and reducing human poverty	4. Strengthened capacity for policy and practice related to gender empowerment and poverty reduction	4.1 Strengthened capacity of selected central and provincial government actors to effectively mainstream gender equality for poverty reduction into policies, planning and development activities 4.2 Increased gender equality in participatory planning in select provinces, districts and villages 4.3 Strategic tools formulated for pro-poor gender-sensitive planning, policy formulation and resource allocation and the strengthened capacity of Gender Resource Information and Development (GRID) Centres of the Lao Women's Union as a gender mainstreaming resource for the Lao People's Democratic Republic	4.1 Gender dimensions explicitly reflected in laws and policy decisions ( <i>Law on the Development and Protection of Women was passed by the National Assembly</i> ); improved sex-disaggregated data collection and analyses. ( <i>A directive on the integration of sex-disaggregated statistics in policy exists; new gender indicators established by the Prime Minister Notification 008</i> ) 4.2 Gender-sensitive participatory planning guidelines published by the Government 4.3 A Comprehensive Gender Mainstreaming Toolkit for the Lao People's Democratic Republic developed; strengthened GRID Centres as leading resource for gender equality in the Lao People's Democratic Republic	<b>Regular</b> 300 <b>Other</b> 1 000
Responding to HIV/AIDS	5. Increased coverage of quality HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment, care and support, focusing on the most vulnerable groups as defined in the national strategy on HIV/AIDS/STI	5.1 Enhanced capacity among key decision-makers for coordination, leadership, management and implementation of an expanded national response 5.2 Strengthened capacities of PCCAs and DCCAs for enhancing the prevention and care continuum in priority geographic areas 5.3 Enabling environment promoted for ensuring the Greater Involvement of People with HIV/AIDS (GIPA) within the Lao People's Democratic Republic national response	5.1 Number of policy- and decision-makers trained in transformative methodologies for effective leadership on HIV/AIDS; number of "breakthrough" results formulated and scaled up 5.2 Performance reports of provincial and local committees detailing delivery effectiveness and impact of targeted skill development programmes 5.3 Number of HIV infected and affected persons brought on board as NUNVs ( <i>No HIV infected NUNVs</i> ); training facilities extended to people living with HIV/AIDS	<b>Regular</b> 200 <b>Other</b> 1 000
<b>UNDAF outcome 3:</b> By 2011, strengthened capacities of public and private institutions to fulfill their duties and greater people's participation in governance and advocacy for the promotion of human rights in conformity with the Millennium Declaration				

Fostering democratic governance	6. Greater people's and community participation in and contribution to public policy, local development and nation building	<p>6.1 Increased mechanisms and opportunities to convey the rights and interests of citizens, (young people and women in particular) to decision-makers through meaningful public participation</p> <p>6.2 Strengthened community participation in the planning, management, implementation and monitoring of gender-sensitive local development activities</p> <p>6.3 Increased and more equal public access to timely and relevant information, especially in rural and remote areas and among poor, vulnerable populations, particularly women, youth and children</p>	<p>6.1 Increased proportion of women represented in public institutions (<i>The National Assembly, 22%; ministerial cabinet, 8.1%; district chiefs, 2.1%; village chiefs, 1.3%; civil service above Director-Genera and Deputy Directors General, 8.9%</i>)</p> <p>6.2 Greater awareness of and access by communities to the Village Development Funds; greater number and frequency of village/community meetings, involving the public, including women, youth and ethnic groups (disaggregated data)</p> <p>6.3 Increased number of calls responded to through the telephone hotline established by the National Assembly (disaggregated data)</p>	<p><b>Regular</b> 752</p> <p><b>Other</b> 3 000</p>
	7. Increased and more equitable access to justice and strengthened rule of law	<p>7.1 Enhanced institutional capacity development of the legal sector to improve the application of the law in an impartial, effective and predictable manner, particularly for women, low-income households and vulnerable groups</p> <p>7.2 Improved law enforcement mechanisms particularly to build private sector confidence and stimulate growth</p> <p>7.3 Strengthened oversight functions of the National Assembly in holding government agencies accountable, including more timely and predictable delivery of services and implementation of laws</p>	<p>7.1 Legal Sector Master Plan finalized, with costing completed, resources mobilized, and implementation under way; increase in the number and quality of laws passed/amended (<i>Current number of laws passed/amended: 62</i>); increase in the membership of the Lao Bar Association (disaggregated data) (<i>69</i>)</p> <p>7.2 Increased number of trained court officials (disaggregated data)</p> <p>7.3 Monitoring system for enforcement of laws established and functioning</p>	<p><b>Regular</b> 1 000</p> <p><b>Other</b> 7 000</p>
	8. Increased efficiency, effectiveness, transparency, and accountability of the public administration at both central and local levels	<p>8.1 Capacities of central and local administrations for decentralized planning, management and service delivery further strengthened.</p> <p>8.2 Enhanced capacities and incentive structures to facilitate more effective fiscal management in terms of stimulating greater domestic revenue collection and strengthened public expenditure management.</p> <p>8.3 Strengthened implementation of anti-corruption legislation and practices through reforms in administrative systems, public information dissemination and law enforcement.</p>	<p>8.1 Functional analysis of government departments, including job descriptions completed (<i>Weak human resource capacity at provincial/district level</i>); national civil service training curriculum developed and implemented nationwide (<i>No standardized/common civil service training curriculum</i>)</p> <p>8.2 Establishment of a national tax and customs administration reporting to the Ministry of Finance (<i>No national (centralized) tax and customs administration</i>)</p> <p>8.3 Establishment of citizen information centres containing information on laws, policies, budgetary allocation, public expenditure, audit results, and procurement contracts (<i>Citizens do not have access to public information</i>)</p>	<p><b>Regular</b> 950</p> <p><b>Other</b> 5 500</p>

	<p>9. Progressive realization of international treaty obligations, including protection of human rights, in accordance with the Lao Constitution and the Millennium Declaration</p>	<p>9.1 Key international treaties, including human rights instruments, are acceded to, effectively transformed into national legislation, and increasingly observed, enforced and monitored by appropriate government bodies                  9.2 Laws and policies support reforms to create an enabling environment to improve the situation of disadvantaged groups, such as women, children and ethnic groups, including legislation and provisions that contribute to protection of their rights</p>	<p>9.1 Increased number of awareness/training workshops held in the field of international law, including all human rights conventions (<i>Poor understanding of national responsibilities under internationally binding treaties</i>); increased number of national laws passed/amended, citing compliance with international treaty obligations (<i>Lack of consistence/harmonization between national legislation and international treaty obligations</i>); timely reporting on international treaty obligations                  9.2 Enhanced level of public service delivery and responsiveness by duty bearers including the establishment of 'one door services'</p>	<p><b>Regular</b> 950 <b>Other</b> 4 000</p>
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**Total regular: 10 152**  
**Other: 44 500**