



Country card

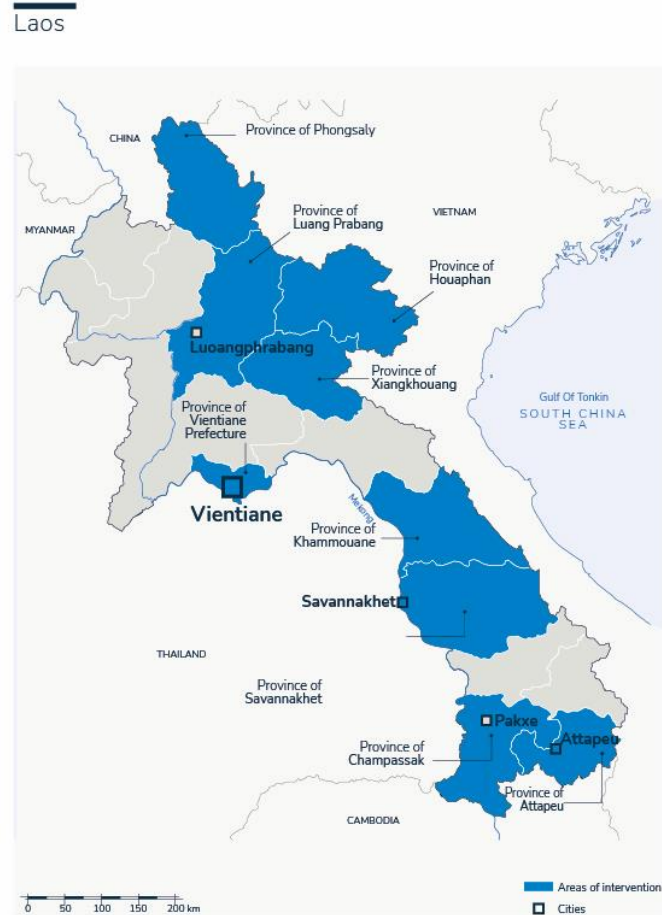
**Lao PDR**





# HI Team and Intervention Areas

The HI Lao PDR program has 112 staff members.





# General data of the country

## a. General Data

Country <sup>1</sup>	Laos	Neighboring country (Cambodia)	France
Population	7.379.358	16.946.446	67.499.343
IHDI	0.461	0.475	0.90
Maternal mortality	217	184	4
Gender Development Index	0.927	0.922	0.987
Population under HCR mandate		75.036	580.898
INFORM index		4.6	2.3
Fragile State Index	75.5	80.5	30.9
GINI Index	38.8		32.4
Population covered by at least one social protection benefit (%)	12.1	6.2	100

## b. Humanitarian law instruments ratified by the country

Humanitarian law instruments	Status
Mine Ban Treaty	Not joined
Convention on Cluster Munitions	18/03/2009
UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	25/09/2009
UN Declaration of Human Rights ?	

<sup>1</sup> [https://hinside.hi.org/intranet/jcms/pl1\\_2540344/fr/2020-update-country-indicators-2ndary-data/-/donnees-secondaires-mises-a-jour](https://hinside.hi.org/intranet/jcms/pl1_2540344/fr/2020-update-country-indicators-2ndary-data/-/donnees-secondaires-mises-a-jour)



## c. Geopolitical analysis

### 1. Social/cultural/demographic elements

Laos, like most of Southeast Asia, is an area of conflict of interests between Western powers and larger continental powers, like China. Traditional Western influence and Chinese influence are in a regular tug of war for the socio-political and economic direction of the country. Unlike its neighbors: Thailand, Cambodia, Myanmar, Vietnam, and China; Laos is a landlocked country.

### 2. Political Context

Lao PDR practices a socialist model of one-party political system. This single political party is called the Lao People's Revolutionary Party (LPRP). The current head of state is President Thongloun Sisoulith who also is LPRP general secretary; making him the de facto leader of Lao PDR. The head of government is Prime Minister Phankham Vihavanh. Government policies are determined by the party through the all-powerful nine-member Politburo of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party and the 49-member Central Committee. Important government decisions are then vetted by the Council of Ministers. The further evolution and embodiment of socialism remains a major political priority for the country's development.

**International relations.** Lao PDR, like other countries in Southeast Asia, is an area of conflict of interests among Western powers and larger continental powers, like China. Western influence and Chinese influence are in a regular tug of war for the socio-political and economic direction of the country.

### 3. Economic Elements

The economy of Lao PDR is predominantly agrarian with 72 percent of the total cultivated area being dedicated to rice and 80 percent of the population involved in subsistence farming. Most of the provinces that are deficit in rice are surplus maize producers. Other important economic crops include coffee, sugarcane, cassava, sweet potato and industrial tree crops (such as rubber, eucalyptus and acacia). Copper, gold, and tin mining are also significant industries. According to the International Council on Mining and Metals, as of 2011, the mining sector has accounted for 12% of government revenues and 10% of national income with 80% of foreign direct investment. Mining exports contributed 45% of the total exports of the country. The country's power production network enables the export of electricity to neighboring countries. The northwestern part of the country is part of the "Golden Triangle", which includes mountainous areas of Lao PDR, Thailand and Myanmar. It is second after the region around Afghanistan for the mass production of opiates. The export of drugs, especially opiates, is a big part of the shadow economy. Indeed, Lao PDR is the third largest producer of raw opium in the world. Tourism is a growing sector, especially in and around Luang Prabang with a jump in tourists from 2.5 million in 2010 to 4.2 million in 2016.



## Summary of HI presence in the country

In Lao PDR, Handicap International performed an exploratory mission in 1983, and then officially launched in 1985 an orthopedic project with 7 disabled workers trained to build prostheses in the village of NongKhiao. This was the start of a long collaboration with the Government and some local partners.

HI started operating in Lao PDR in 1996 to carry out a national Unexploded Explosive Ordnance (UXO) impact survey that is still a reference for clearance operators in the country. Following the survey, technical assistance was provided to the national clearance operator UXO Lao in Savannakhet and Khamouane (from 2004) Provinces until 2006. A study on the psychosocial impact of UXO for child survivors and families was conducted in 2002-2003. In 2006 HI became a recognized independent clearance operator.



# Overview on ongoing projects

Sectors of services where HI conducts projects and focus on beneficiaries and operational partnerships

Main sector of intervention	Main activities	Beneficiaries	Partners	Location	Dates of beginning and end of projects	Donors funding it
<b>Prevention and Health</b>	Early childhood screening/detection and intervention	10,000 new-borns and children screened (at least 40% female).	Ministry of Health, National Children's Hospital	Vientiane Capital		
	Awareness and training					
<b>Early childhood development</b>	Research and publications Implementation of intervention model	1120 community members, 15157 females receiving integrated MHEP	MOH, communicable disease department, IRD, Chias	Savannakhet Province, Phine District	01.07.20 / 30.06.23	Expertise France
<b>HIV, TB and Malaria</b>	Training Village health workers Testing and adequate treatment	and 12.173 HH receiving MHEP				



<b>Support to rehabilitation sector</b>	Support improved management of rehabilitation service centers	31 staff of the CMR and 63 staff of PRCs will benefit from awareness on national rehab strategy	Ministry of Health, Center for Medical Rehabilitation (CMR)	Vientiane Capital, Xieng Khouang, Savannakhet, Champasak and Luang Prabang	01.01.18 / 31.12.22	MAE LUX
	Support implementation and monitoring of National Rehabilitation Action Plan	25 PT will benefit from continuing professional development				
	Improved Lao reading ability of pre-primary and first- and second-grade students with a special focus on non-Lao speakers and vulnerable students	Learn to Read proposes to improve the reading readiness of children in pre-primary classrooms and the reading skills of primary school students in 1,040 schools, reaching at least 63,000 children in 16 of the most disadvantaged districts in four target provinces	Ministry of Education and Sports, Save the Children and Room to Read	Attapeu, Champasak, Xiengkhouang and Vientiane provinces	From 2018-08-15 to 2023-05-14	USAID
<b>Inclusive education</b>	Improved classroom instruction through enhanced teacher competencies and resources to meet needs of target children Strengthened community engagement to create a conducive learning environment for improved reading skills, particularly for non-Lao-speaking and vulnerable communities		MOE, AFA and IDA	Champasak and Houaphan province	From 2020-04-01 to 2024-03-31	DG DEVCO





The project aims to contribute to improving access to quality inclusive education for the most marginalized children in Champassak and Huaphan provinces by reinforcing the capacity of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), educators, Provincial Education and Sports Service (PESS) and District of Education and Sports Bureau (DESB) through the support of communities and parents.

200 children (screened)  
 10 AfA and IDA staff  
 20 principals from target schools  
 20 students from the -Teacher Training Colleges (TTCs)  
 75 parents (including - 50% women)  
 30 local medical staff

**Support to OPDs/local inclusion**

Three main components: Health, Economic Empowerment, and Stakeholder Engagement.

The ultimate target group is women, men, girls and boys with disabilities, and their households, with a focus on UXO victims, victims of war and conflict and persons with

Consulted stakeholders include: MoH-CMR, MoLSW, MoES, NCDE, Xieng Khouang and Savannakhet Provincial Government, TVET, UNDP/UNFPA,

In Phase 1 of the program, from 2017 to 2020, the Program will be implemented in Xieng Khouang, Savannakhet, and Vientiane

11.01.17 / 31.07.23

USAID





<p><b>Disability mainstreaming &amp; inclusion</b></p>	<p>Develop the skills of VTE based Handicap International and government partners for facilitation of Early Childhood Development (ECD) &amp; Impairment Screening</p> <p>Conduct a Childhood Development and Impairment Screening Workshop for district and health center MNCH health staff in Nan district</p>	<p>disabilities with mobility limitations. The program will also focus on communities and the public to engage their support in helping persons with disabilities achieve their full potential</p> <p>Provision of technical support to SCI PHC team, provincial and district health teams and communities in Luang Prabang Province to increase awareness about disability, promote disability inclusion and</p>	<p>WHO, SDC, GIZ, LDPA, COPE, QLA, CBM, CRS, SNV, FMT, University of Arizona, University of Melbourne-Nossal Institute, University of Queensland, World Vision, ADDP, AAR, AIESIC, Cord</p> <p>SCI PHC team, provincial and district health teams and communities in Luang Prabang Province</p>	<p>Capital. In Phase 2 of the program, from 2020 to 2022, based on program results in Phase 1, the Program will consider expansion to Houaphan and Khammouane provinces</p> <p>Luang Prabang Province</p>	<p>01/06.16 / 31.05.21</p>	<p>Save the Children International</p>
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	<p>Conduct follow up monitoring for integration of ECD and impairment screening into routine work and provide Refresher Training &amp; Health Center Screening Follow up in Nan District</p> <p>Conduct a 2-day disability legislation dissemination workshop for multisector department staff in Nan district</p> <p>Capacity building of OPDs</p> <p>Capacity building of the national authorities</p>	<p>build skills for planning and implementing actions to increase access to health services for persons with disabilities, with a specific focus on children with disabilities.</p>				
<b>Disability rights and policy</b>	<p>Quality collaboration amongst stakeholders working on VA and disability</p> <p>Advocacy for and awareness-raising on disability mainstreaming and VA approach</p>	<p>Persons with disabilities, OPDs and NCDE/MLSW</p>	<p>National Committee for Disabled People and the Elderly (NCDE) within Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare</p>	<p>Vientiane;</p> <p>National Policy</p>	<p>01.06.21 / 31.05.22</p>	<p>MOFA</p> <p>Norway 8</p>
<b>Mine action</b>	<p>Survey &amp; Clearance of Dangerous Areas Risk Education and implementation of Community Risk Management Strategy; Data collection on PwD and relevant follow-up services (first-aid, PSS, medical referral...)</p>	<p>18,365 people from 44 villages in Hiem and Houamouang districts in Houaphan Province</p>	<p>GRET, Oxfam, LDPA, National Regulatory Authorities (NRA), UXO Lao, Provincial and District Departments of</p>	<p>Houaphan Province; Houamouang and Hiem Districts Northeast Lao PDR</p>	<p>01.01.18 / 31.08.23</p>	<p>DG DEVCO</p> <p>2018 until May 2021</p> <p>BUZA from September 2020 to</p>



Mai and Khoua districts in Phongsaly Province.	Labor and Social Welfare, NCDE, Education and Sports and BNDA,	Phongsaly province, Mai and khoa District	August 2023.
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## Donors

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