Lao People Democratic Republic

Lao PDR is a lower middle-income country and a least developed country (LDC) with a GNI of 2,270 USD per capita (2017) and a population of 6.9 million inhabitants (2017). In the 2018 Monitoring Round, Lao PDR reported on 523 million USD in development co-operation flows.

1. National development planning and results orientation

Overall quality of national results framework
High-quality, inclusive and results-oriented development strategies are critical for countries’ ownership over their development and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The quality of national development planning in Lao PDR is high (87%).

Extent of use of country-owned results frameworks by development partners
Development partner alignment to country-led development priorities is at the heart of country ownership. Global Partnership monitoring assesses whether interventions: draw objectives from national development strategies; draw indicators from country results frameworks; use government data and statistics for monitoring; and involve government in evaluations. The first three elements provide the official data to report on SDG indicator 17.15.1. In Lao PDR, development partners align to country priorities to a medium extent (65% - SDG indicator 17.15.1).

The national development strategy and results framework...
... defines priorities, targets and indicators
✔ YES
... includes budget or costing information
✔ YES
... aligns to SDGs
✔ YES
Regular progress reports are available
✔ YES

2. Multi-stakeholder engagement

Recognising that successful development efforts require the inclusive and equitable participation of all actors, the 2030 Agenda calls for collective action by the whole of society. Global Partnership monitoring examines the engagement of civil society and the private sector from both the perspective of the government and representatives of these stakeholder groups.

Quality of public-private dialogue
Government representatives perceive the quality of public-private dialogue as consolidating. The quality of public-private dialogue was not assessed by private sector stakeholders in Lao PDR.

Enabling environment for civil society organisations...
... was reported as basic by government representatives and moderate by civil society organisations.
3. Quality and use of public financial management systems

**Strengthening public financial management systems**

Strong public financial management (PFM) systems are an essential element of good governance and vital to achieving development goals. Lao PDR did not assess progress in the quality of its PFM systems.

**Development partners’ use of country systems**

Development partners’ use of these systems to deliver co-operation both lowers transaction costs but also helps to accelerate their strengthening. In Lao PDR, use of country PFM systems increased from 22% in 2016 to 42% in 2018.

Further, legislative oversight of the budget has improved. The share of development co-operation recorded on budgets subject to parliamentary scrutiny increased from 19% in 2016 to 24% in 2018.

**Systems to track development co-operation information in Lao PDR**

Adequate and effective financing is essential to achieve gender equality and to empower all women and girls. Lao PDR has none of the elements of a system in place to track and make public allocations for gender equality and women's empowerment, not meeting the requirements of SDG indicator 5.c.1.

4. Predictability and forward planning

High-quality and timely information on development co-operation helps governments in planning and managing resources for results and can guide development partners in coordinating their support with other providers, as to avoid fragmentation and duplication of efforts.

Annual predictability of development co-operation is low, with 70% of co-operation disbursed as scheduled. Medium-term predictability is low, with 32% of co-operation available in forward looking expenditure plans for the next three years.

**Predictability of development co-operation**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Disbursements as scheduled</th>
<th>Trend 2018 vs 2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70%</td>
<td>84%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Systems to track development co-operation information in Lao PDR**

89% of development partners report through one or more of these systems.

- **AIMS** (Aid Information Management System)
- **DMS** (Debt Management System)
- **FMIS** (Financial Management Information Systems)
- **Other** (Excel-based systems or similar)

5. Mutual accountability mechanisms

Mutual accountability underpins the efforts of development actors to meet joint commitments, improve how they work together and increase their development effectiveness. Mutual accountability mechanisms are made up of multiple, reinforcing components that can help enhance transparency and accountability at country level. Global Partnership monitoring defines and assesses mutual accountability against five components. Lao PDR has four out of five components in place.

**Component 1** Comprehensive policy framework for development co-operation

**Component 2** Country-level targets for government and development partners

**Component 3** Regular joint assessment of progress

**Component 4** Assessments are inclusive and involve non-state actors

**Component 5** Timely, publicly available results of assessments

Disclaimer: This document was prepared based on data collected from voluntary reporting to the 2018 Monitoring Round of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation. The information provided does not necessarily represent the views of OECD, UNDP or the Government of Lao PDR. For ease of reference, the term ‘country’ is used to refer to developing countries and territories that reported to the 2018 Monitoring Round. Participation in this process and mention of any participant in this document is without prejudice to the status or international recognition of a given country or territory.