Australia and Lao PDR are long-standing regional partners. Our countries share a warm relationship underpinned by development cooperation, economic ties and community links.

Strategic direction
Australia has a strong interest in supporting Laos’ efforts to develop its economy and contribute to regional security and prosperity. Australian development cooperation supports Laos’ socio-economic priorities and goal to graduate from Least Developed Country status. Major bilateral programs contribute towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals relating to basic education, human resources development and private sector development.

Program highlights
- In 2016-17, more than 81,500 education administrators were trained; children in 194 schools across Laos received water and sanitation; and more than 140,000 children received school meals.
- In 2017-18, 25 village banks, providing financial services to 15,546 people (53 per cent women), were established.
- Since 2014, 215 Lao students, including 36 in 2018, have completed their studies in Australia under the Australian Government’s scholarship program.

For more details
Australia’s Aid Investment Plan for Laos 2015-16 to 2019-20

Australian ODA to Laos, by Investment Priorities 2019-20

- Infrastructure and Trade
- Agriculture, Fisheries and Water
- Effective Governance
- Education
- Health
- Building Resilience
- General Development Support

ODA = Official Development Assistance

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