

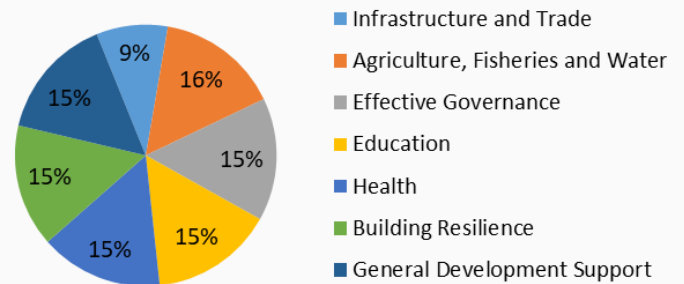


2019-20 LAOS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM PROGRESS REPORT

Program Budget	2019-20 Budget Estimate (\$m)*
Bilateral	20.6
Regional	5.3
Global	9.3
Other Government Departments	2.7
Total Australian ODA to Lao PDR	37.9

*Actual expenditure is expected to be available in December 2020

May 2019 estimated Australian ODA to Laos by Sector, 2019-20 (pre-Covid19)*



* Due to rounding the total percentage may not add up to 100 per cent

COVID-19 Development Response

- In line with *Partnerships for Recovery*, we have pivoted our existing programs and increased our bilateral Official Development Assistance (ODA) to Laos by almost 25% (\$4.8 million) in 2019-20 (additional COVID-19 support is not included in the 2019-20 Budget Estimate).
- We are working to improve health security in Laos, providing training and essential equipment for infection prevention and intensive care to hospitals and health offices, partnering with the Ministry of Health and World Health Organization.
- We provided capacity-building support on outbreak surveillance and response for Laos' Emergency Operations Centres and National Centre for Epidemiology and Laboratory Expertise.
- Through our flagship *Basic Education Quality and Access for Laos (BEQUAL)* program, we are working closely with the Ministry of Education and Sports to limit the negative impact of COVID-19 on primary education. BEQUAL is supporting a remote learning program, enabling many children to continue learning during lockdown.
- Australia is working to bolster Laos' economic recovery from COVID-19, providing an additional \$1 million to the *Laos Competitiveness and Trade Project (LCTP)* to help remove barriers to trade, investment and enterprise development.
- We continued to place a high priority on gender equality and social inclusion, and supported the Lao Women's Union to improve referral pathways for victims of gender-based violence.

Other program highlights

- Australia provided training for 10,005 teachers in 2019-20, including training on Laos' new Grade 1 curriculum and targeted support for educationally disadvantaged areas.
- We supported 22,246 students and 1,680 teachers across six provinces by re-printing and distributing 100,606 textbooks and teacher guides.
- We supported the delivery of 66 outreach activities to support private enterprises with business development, reaching 2,798 people across Vientiane and six provinces.
- Australia provided support to 795 Village Banks and seven associated Network Support Organisations, which provide additional financial services for Village Banks and their members.
- We assisted 68 disadvantaged Lao students (50% women; 4% with a disability) to graduate with a Bachelor degree and additional employable skills.
- We continued to support Laos' human resource development by providing 30 Australia Awards to allow high-achieving Lao women and men to undertake higher degree courses at Australian universities on scholarship.
- Through our *Standing Up Speaking Out* project, we trained 284 (129 women and 155 men) Village Mediation Unit members and change agents on the use of community dialogue to reduce gender-based violence.

PROGRESS AGAINST 2019-20 PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

TITLE OF STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE	PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK INDICATOR/BENCHMARK	BRIEF SUMMARY OF PROGRESS AGAINST INDICATOR/BENCHMARK
Objective 1 More disadvantaged girls and boys complete a quality basic education	1.1 Percentage of staff within the Ministry of Education and Sport assigned to curriculum writing and development who can operate with minimal specialist technical support	37% (target 40%) of curriculum writers were operating with reduced specialist technical assistance by February 2020. There has been steady improvement and increased efficiency in curriculum development, approval and production processes compared to baseline.
	1.2 Percentage of Grade 1 teachers demonstrating knowledge of the new Grade 1 curriculum in classroom practice	71% (target 60%) of Grade 1 teachers in BEQUAL target districts demonstrated knowledge of new Grade 1 curriculum in classroom practice.
	1.3 Percentage of Provincial Education and Sport Services (PESS) and District Education and Sports Bureaus (DESB) successfully using ESGs for the purpose intended and reporting according to grant agreements	100% of PESSs successfully managed and acquitted ESGs for Grade 1, but only 85% (target 100%) of DESBs were assessed as achieving the target.
	1.4 Percentage of graduated ethnic teachers – 60% female – are deployed and teaching effectively in targeted schools	100% of 122 Cohort 2 graduates (63% female) deployed as volunteer teachers to target schools by February 2020.
Objective 2 Improving Laos' human resources through scholarships, training and organisational capacity building	2.1 Percentage of Long Term Scholarship awardees successfully completing studies	97% (33/34) of Australia Awards students completed their studies, exceeding our 95% target. However, Laos Australia National Scholarships (LANS) students fell just short of the 95% target, with 93% (68/73) completing.
	2.2 Percentage of alumni able to provide examples of relevant contributions to development in Laos at selected periods after receiving support	100% of Australia Awards alumni (95% target); 100% of LANS alumni (75% target); and 94-100% of other short course alumni (90% target) to provide relevant examples.
	2.3 Percentage of female Long Term Scholarship awardees successfully completing studies.	94% of female Australia Awards (16/17) and 94% of female LANS (34/36) awardees successfully completed their studies, just short of our 95% target.
Objective 3 A stronger trade regime and more competitive private sector	3.1 Time (in days) to obtain Enterprise Registration Certificate (ERC) from Department of Enterprise Registration and Management disaggregated by women-led enterprises versus men-led enterprises	The average time to obtain an ERC was reduced to 3 days, exceeding the target of 5 days. Average time is the same for women-led enterprises as for enterprises led by men.
	3.2 Number of women-led enterprises who access matching grants from the Business Assistance Facility (BAF)	39 women-led companies had received grants through BAF, which constitutes 47% of grants and exceeds our 40% target.
	3.3 Percentage of supported village banks working sustainably, even after booking loan loss provision	Percentage remains at 96% (target 98%) – same as the baseline assessment for this stage of the program.
	3.4 Number of women holding single accounts in village banks (AFP V)	The number of women holding single accounts in village banks has increased to 35,394, just short of our target of 36,344.

ANNEX A: PROGRAM QUALITY

Investment Monitoring Report ratings

Investment name	Approved budget and duration	Year on year	Effectiveness	Efficiency	Gender equality
INL332 Basic Education Quality and Access in Laos (BEQUAL)	\$66.5m, 2016-20	2019 AQC	4	5	4
		2020 AQC	5	5	4
INK562 Laos Australia Institute	\$30m, 2012-21	2019 AQC	4	4	5
		2020 AQC	4	4	5
INL846 Laos Australia Development Learning Facility	\$11.8m, 2015-21	2019 AQC	4	3	5
		2020 AQC	4	4	5
INN015 Lao PDR Competitiveness and Trade	\$4.5m, 2018-23	2020 AQC	4	5	4
INN161 Access to Finance for the Poor V	\$3.2m, 2018-22	2020 AQC	3	4	5

Humanitarian Investment Monitoring Report ratings

Investment name	Approved budget and duration	Effectiveness	Efficiency	Gender equality	Relevance	Monitoring and Evaluation	Connectedness	Protection
INM615 Humanitarian Assistance to Dam Collapse in Attapeu	\$3.4m 2018-20	5	5	6	5	6	5	5

Definitions of rating scale:

Satisfactory (4, 5 and 6)

6 = Very good; satisfies criteria in all areas. 5 = Good; satisfies criteria in almost all areas.

4 = Adequate; on balance, satisfies criteria; does not fail in any major area.

Less than satisfactory (1, 2 and 3)

3 = Less than adequate; on balance does not satisfy criteria and/or fails in at least one major area.

2 = Poor; does not satisfy criteria in major areas. 1 = Very poor; does not satisfy criteria in many major area.