



DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION FACTSHEET

Laos

MAY 2025



Overview

Estimated Australian ODA: \$55.1m (2025-26)

Gross National Income Per Capita: US\$2,110 (2023)

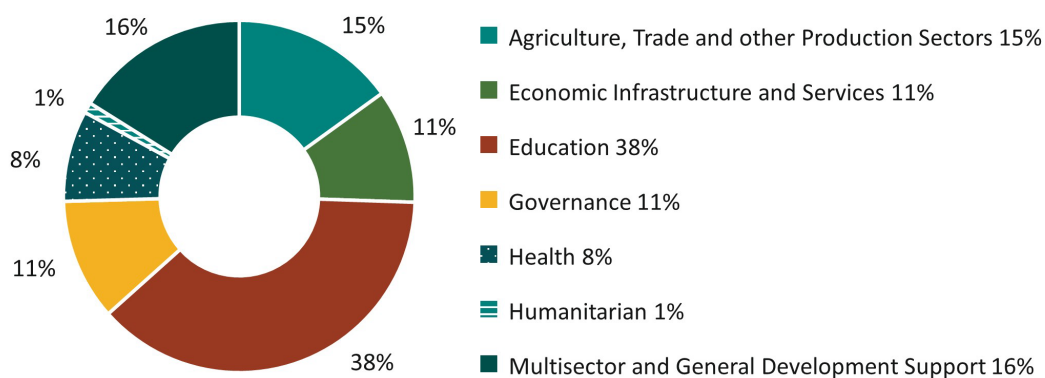
Population: 7.7m (2023)

Table 1: Australian ODA to Laos, 2023-24 to 2025-26

Australian ODA	2023-24 Actual (\$m)*	2024-25 Budget Estimate (\$m)*	2025-26 Budget Estimate (\$m)*
Country Programs	28.0	24.1	26.1
Regional	22.7	23.7	16.8
Global / Other	5.2	5.4	5.8
Other Government Departments	5.0	-	6.4
Total ODA to Laos	60.9	53.2	55.1
Percentage total Australian ODA	1.3%	1.1%	1.1%

*Due to rounding, discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items in totals

Figure 1: Australian ODA to Laos by Sector Group, 2025-26 budget estimate



Sustainable Development Goals



Australia and Laos are longstanding bilateral and regional partners. The relationship is underpinned by development cooperation, business ties and people-to-people links.

In 2024, Australia and Laos elevated our relationship to a Comprehensive Partnership, deepening and expanding our engagement. In addition to our bilateral development program, we provide substantial support through regional programs, including the Mekong-Australia Partnership and Partnerships for Infrastructure.

Strategic direction

As outlined in the [Australia-Laos Development Partnership Plan 2024-2029](#), Australia is supporting the following shared priorities with Laos: building human capital; supporting resilient, inclusive economic growth; and support for climate change resilience, adaptation and mitigation. Australia's investments support the overarching Australia-Laos development partnership – a prosperous, resilient and stable Laos. The most vulnerable groups in Lao society, including women and girls, people with disabilities and ethnic minorities, are central to our engagement.

Program highlights

In 2024-25, Australia:

- Awarded scholarships to 48 Lao nationals to study at world-class Australian higher education institutions – the highest number of Australia Awards Scholarships awarded per intake to date.
- Expanded a Lao language support program nationwide, increasing access to primary education for learners from non-Lao-speaking backgrounds.
- Delivered 36 tonnes of humanitarian supplies to strengthen the Government of Laos' preparedness and emergency response capacity.
- ACIAR launched two new projects worth AUD7.4 million, to improve soil fertility for rice production restore forests. These are part of 19 ongoing ACIAR-funded research projects aimed at improving agricultural performance, strengthening research capacity and the resilience of Lao smallholder farmers.
- Provided an additional AUD4.5 million to help control the spread of dengue fever in hotspot cities in Laos.
- The Laos Australia Connectivity Partnership supported Laos in developing its first National Transport Strategy, which aims to create a connected, modernised transport system, attract investment, deliver economic and social benefits, and strengthen government capacity.
- Worked with the World Bank to provide support to the Ministry of Industry and Commerce to reduce the time to start a business to 23 days (from 173 days in 2018) and facilitated greater trade by cutting import, export, and transit times to 3.19 hours (from 9.4 hours in 2018).
- ACIAR and DFAT supported fish-friendly irrigation models in the Lower Mekong Basin through the construction of fish passages, which initial modelling showed were able to pass around 78 fish species ranging from 10-800mm in length.