



ESTIMATED AUSTRALIAN ODA 2021-22	\$39.3 MILLION
POPULATION	7.1 MILLION (2019)

LAO PDR



Development Cooperation Factsheet: May 2021

Australia is a longstanding and valued partner to Laos. We are committed to working with Laos to support its prosperity, stability and resilience.

Laos has avoided the worst health impacts of COVID-19, thanks to a low number of cases and an agriculture-based economy. However, its COVID-19 economic downturn and high levels of debt have contributed to Laos being returned to the World Bank's list of countries with high levels of institutional and social fragility.

Strategic direction

Our development program has five core objectives:

- supporting health security, stability and economic recovery in response to COVID-19
- improving the quality and access to education
- strengthening Laos' human resource base
- building a more competitive private sector
- promoting the sustainable use of water resources.

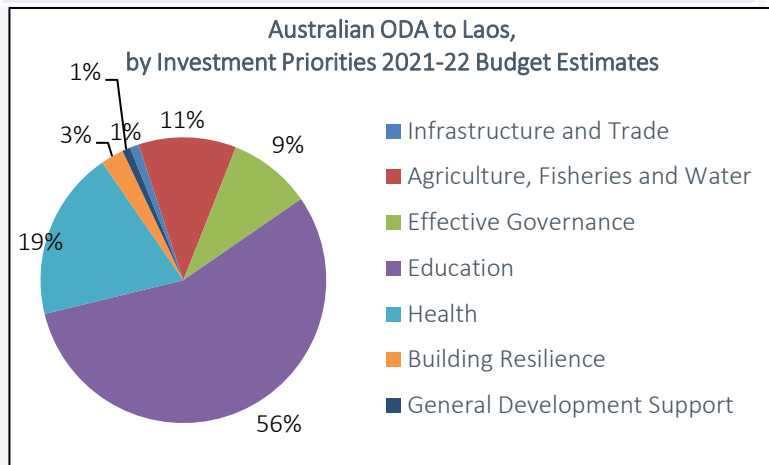
Our work in Laos focuses on supporting the most vulnerable segments of Lao society, including women and girls, people with disabilities and ethnic minorities.

Program highlights (2019-20)

- improved **health security** through training and essential equipment for infection prevention and intensive care to hospitals and health offices
- built capacity in **outbreak surveillance** and response for Laos' Emergency Operations Centres and National Centre for Epidemiology and Laboratory Expertise
- bolstered economic recovery from COVID-19 through an additional \$1 million to the Laos Competitiveness and Trade Project to help remove barriers to **trade, investment** and **enterprise development**
- supported the delivery of 66 outreach activities to help private enterprises with **business development**, reaching 2,798 people across seven provinces
- **Australia Awards** presented to 30 high-achieving Lao women and men to undertake higher degree courses at Australian universities on scholarship
- provided training for 10,005 **teachers**, including training in Laos' new Grade 1 curriculum

Program	2019-20 Outcome (\$m)*	2020-21 Budget Estimate (\$m)*	2021-22 Budget Estimate (\$m)*
Country Programs	25.6	20.6	20.6
Regional	9.2	8.2	7.3
Global	6.8	9.6	7.4
Other Government Departments	3.7	1.6	3.9
Total ODA to Lao PDR	45.3	40.1	39.3
% Total Australian ODA	1.1%	1.0%	1.0%

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



- supported 22,246 **students** and 1,680 **teachers** across six provinces by re-printing and distributing 100,606 **textbooks** and **teacher guides**
- assisted 68 **disadvantaged** Lao students (50% women, 4% with a **disability**) to graduate with a Bachelor's degree and additional employable skills
- trained 284 (129 women and 155 men) Village Mediation Unit members and change agents on community dialogue to reduce **gender-based violence**.

For more details, see [Laos COVID-19 Development Response Plan](#)

