



Country card  
**Lao PDR**

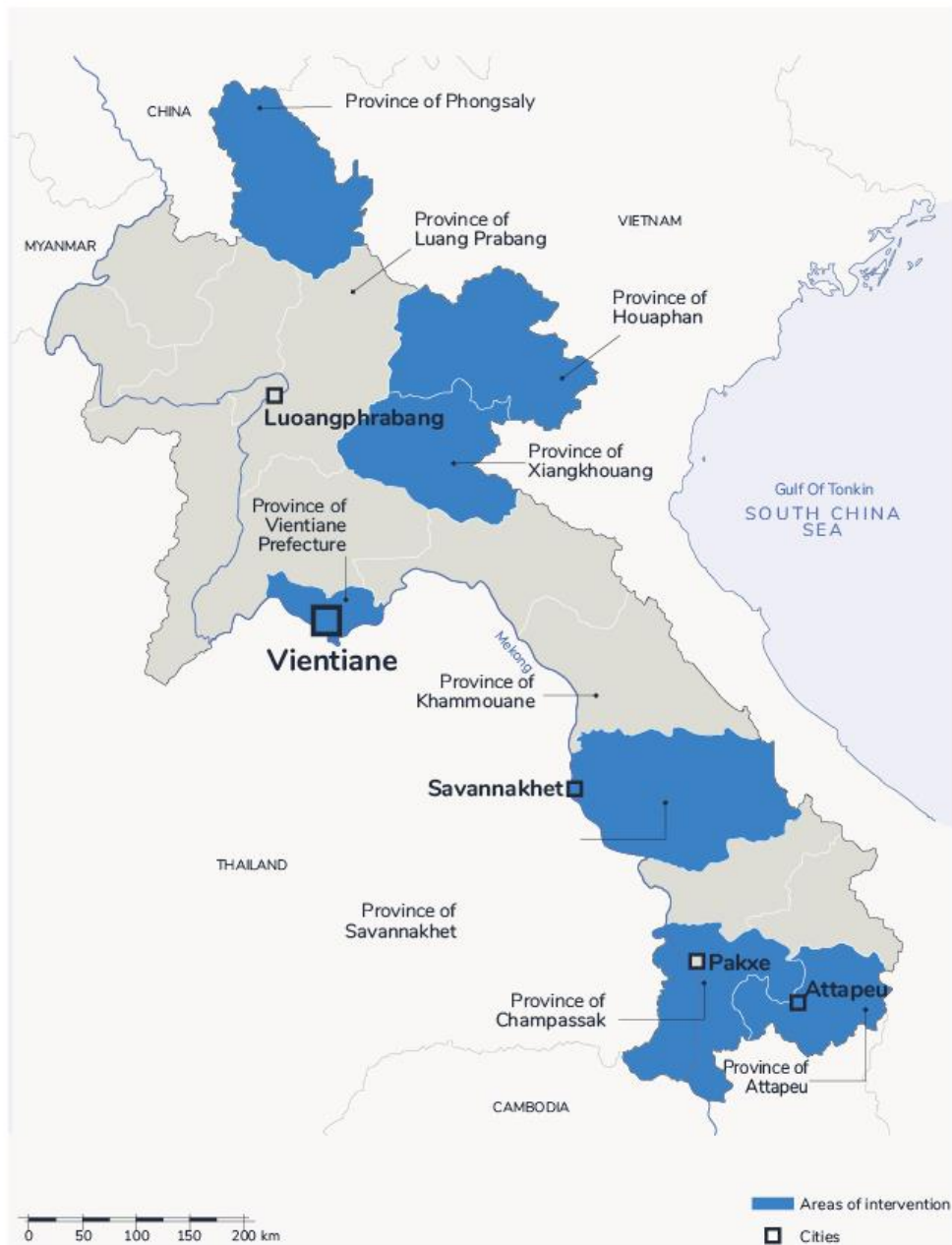




# HI Team and Areas of intervention

HI Lao PDR program has 112 staff members.

Laos





# General data of the country

## a. General Data

Country <sup>1</sup>	Laos	Neighboring country (Cambodia)	France
Population	7529475	16.946.446	67.499.343
IHDI	0.459	0.475	0.90
Maternal mortality	126	184	4
Gender Development Index	0.949	0.922	0.987
Population under HCR mandate		75.036	580.898
INFORM index		4.6	2.3
Fragile State Index	74.7	80.5	30.9
GINI Index	38.8		32.4
Population covered by at least one social protection benefit (%)	12.1	6.2	100

## b. Humanitarian law instruments ratified by the country

Humanitarian law instruments	Status
Mine Ban Treaty	Not joined
Convention on Cluster Munitions	18/03/2009
UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	25/09/2009
UN Declaration of Human Rights ?	

<sup>1</sup> [https://hinside.hi.org/intranet/jcms/pl1\\_2540344/fr/2020-update-country-indicators-2ndary-data/-donnees-secondaires-mises-a-jour](https://hinside.hi.org/intranet/jcms/pl1_2540344/fr/2020-update-country-indicators-2ndary-data/-donnees-secondaires-mises-a-jour)



### c. Geopolitical analysis

Lao PDR, like most of Southeast Asia, is an area of conflict of interests between Western powers and larger continental powers, like China. Traditional Western influence and Chinese influence are in a regular tug of war for the socio-political and economic direction of the country. Unlike its neighbours: Thailand, Cambodia, Myanmar, Vietnam, and China; Lao PDR is a landlocked country.

Lao PDR practices a socialist model of one-party political system. This single political party is called the Lao People's Revolutionary Party (LPRP). The current head of state is President Khamthai Siphandone who also is LPRP general secretary; making him the de facto leader of Lao PDR. The head of government is Prime Minister Thongloun Sisoulith. Government policies are determined by the party through the all-powerful nine-member Politburo of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party and the 49-member Central Committee. Important government decisions are then vetted by the Council of Ministers. The further evolution and embodiment of socialism remains a major political priority for the country's development.

The economy of Lao PDR is predominantly agrarian with 72 percent of the total cultivated area being dedicated to rice and 80 percent of the population involved in subsistence farming. Most of the provinces that are deficient in rice are surplus maize producers. Other important economic crops include coffee, sugarcane, cassava, sweet potato, and industrial tree crops (such as rubber, eucalyptus, and acacia). Copper, gold, and tin mining are also significant industries. According to the International Council on Mining and Metals, as of 2011, the mining sector has accounted for 12% of government revenues and 10% of national income with 80% of foreign direct investment. Mining exports contributed 45% of the total exports of the country. The country's power production network enables the export of electricity to neighboring countries. The northwestern part of the country is part of the "Golden Triangle", which includes mountainous areas of Lao PDR, Thailand and Myanmar. It is second after the region around Afghanistan for the mass production of opiates. The export of drugs, especially opiates, is a big part of the shadow economy. Indeed, Lao PDR is the third largest producer of raw opium in the world.

## Summary of HI presence in the country

In Lao PDR, Handicap International performed an exploratory mission in 1983, and then officially launched in 1985 an orthopedic project with 7 disabled workers trained to build prostheses in the village of NongKhiao. This was the start of a long collaboration with the Government and some local partners.



HI started operating in Lao PDR in 1996 to carry out a national Unexploded Explosive Ordnance (UXO) impact survey that is still a reference for clearance operators in the country. Following the survey, technical assistance was provided to the national clearance operator UXO Lao in Savannakhet and Khamouane (from 2004) Provinces until 2006. A study on the psychosocial impact of UXO for child survivors and families was conducted in 2002-2003.

In 2006 HI became a recognized independent clearance operator.

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## Overview of ongoing projects

Sectors of services where HI conducts projects and focus on beneficiaries and operational partnerships

Main sector of intervention and project title	Main activities	Beneficiaries	Partners	Location	Dates of beginning and end of projects	Donors
Health (HIV, Tuberculosis and Malaria)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-Research</li><li>-Publications</li><li>-implementation of intervention model</li><li>-Training Village health workers</li><li>-Testing and adequate treatment</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 1,120 community members</li><li>• 15,157 females receiving integrated Mobile Health Education Package (MHEP)</li><li>• 12,173 households receiving MHEP</li></ul>	MOH, Communicable Disease Department, Institute Recherche Developpement (IRD) , Chias	Savannakhet Province	07/01/2020 to 30/06/2024	Expertise France



<p>Inclusive governance Economic Inclusion Rehabilitation (OKARD Project)</p>	<p><b>Inclusive governance:</b> Strengthen Organization of People with Disabilities (OPD) and Civil Society Organizations (CSO) and their engagement with the government. Mobilize CSO to better support persons with disabilities and their households, increase participation in advocacy, and empower individuals to engage in community.</p> <p><b>Economic Empowerment:</b> - Provide assistance to persons with disabilities and their households to access market-based income</p>	<p>-The ultimate target group is women, men, girls and boys with disabilities, and their households, with a focus on UXO victims, victims of war and conflict and persons with disabilities with mobility limitations.</p> <p>-The program will also focus on communities and the public to engage their support in helping persons with disabilities achieve their full potential</p>	<p>-Disability Mainstreaming Advisory Service Center (DMAS) Association for Rural Mobilisation and Improvement (ARMI) Association for Autism (AfA)</p>	<p>Xieng Khouang and Savannakhet provinces</p>	<p>01/11/2017 to 30/04/2024</p>	<p>USAID through World Education (lead)</p>
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	<p>generation opportunities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Engage private sector and Lao vocational support entities to integrate persons as well as universities and vocational schools.</li> </ul> <p><b>Health/Rehab:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Training for relevant health service providers</li> <li>-Support health and rehab centers to provide appropriate AT and establish best practices</li> <li>- Promote rehab as continuum of care</li> </ul>					
Inclusive education (Learn to Read)	Improved Lao reading ability of pre-primary and first- and second-grade students with a special focus on non-Lao speakers and vulnerable students.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1,040 schools, reaching at least 63,000 children in 16 of the most disadvantaged</li> </ul>	Ministry of Education and Sports, Save the Children and Room to Read	Attapeu, Champasak, Xiengkhouang and Vientiane provinces	From 2018-08-15 to 2025-05-14 (2 years cost)	USAID through Save the Children (lead)





	Improved classroom instruction through enhanced teacher competencies and resources to meet needs of target children.	districts in 4 target provinces			extension).	
Inclusive Education	Improve access to quality inclusive education for the most marginalized children in Champassak and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 200 children (screened)</li> <li>• 10 AfA and IDA staff</li> </ul>	Ministry Of Education, Association for Autism (AfA)	Champasak and Houaphan province	From 2020-04-01 to 2024-03-31	EU MAEE Lux



	<p>Huaphan provinces by reinforcing the capacity of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), educators, Provincial Education and Sports Service (PESS) and District of Education and Sports Bureau (DESB) through the support of communities and parents.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 20 principals from target schools</li> <li>• 20 students from the -Teacher Training Colleges (TTCs)</li> <li>• 75 parents (including -50% women)</li> <li>• 30 local medical staff</li> </ul>	<p>Association of Intellectual Disability (IDA)</p>			
<p>Armed Violence Reduction (AVR)</p>	<p>Survey &amp; Clearance of Dangerous Areas Risk Education and implementation of Community Risk Management Strategy; Data collection on People with disabilities and relevant follow-up services</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 18,365 people from 44 villages in Hiem and Houamouang districts in Houaphan Province, Mai and Khoua districts</li> </ul>	<p>GRET, Oxfam, LDPA, National Regulatory Authorities (NRA), UXO Lao, Provincial and District Departments of Labor and Social Welfare, NCDE,</p>	<p>Houaphan Province; Houamouang and Hiem Districts Northeast Lao PDR  Phongsaly province, Mai and khoa District</p>	<p>01/01/2018 to 31/08/2023</p>	<p>BUZA Norway 9 CLFI (Canada Fund for Local Initiatives)</p>



	(first-aid, PSS, medical referral...)	in Phonsaly Province.	Education and Sports and BNDA,			
Armed Violence Reduction (AVR)	Survey & Clearance of mined areas; capacity building of national operator; technical knowledge building for UXO sector in Lao PDR	<b>UXO Lao staff members who will benefit from technical capacity building in demining operations and in UXO operations.</b> The target population will be men and women living in poverty in remote rural communities who access a limited range of local services and opportunities and who are affected by mine contamination.	UXO Lao NRA	Houaphan Province; Houamouang Northeast Lao PDR	01/05/2023 to 31/10/2025	GFFO
Rehabilitation	Referral of children with disabilities to access rehabilitation services.  Training of Health Center Staff on WHO Basic Rehabilitation Package	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 Rehab structures strengthened</li> <li>• 50 rehab professionals trained (25 men &amp; 25 women)</li> <li>• 170 new service</li> </ul>		Sam Neua, Viengxay and Houamoung districts (Houaphan Provinces) and Pakse and Bachieng districts (Champasak Province)	01/01/2023 to 31/12/2027	MAEE Luxembourg



	<p>Pilot the HI Open-tele rehab in the Center for Medical Rehabilitation (CMR) Lao PDR.</p> <p>Develop an action plan for integration of disability data in EMIS based on the key recommendations of the study.</p> <p>Conduct Assistive Technology Country Capacity Assessment (ATA-C) in Lao PDR</p>	<p>users (50 women, 50 men, 35 boys, 35 girls)</p>				
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# Donors

	<p><b>USAID</b></p> 	<p><b>GFFO</b></p> 	 <p>Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands</p>
	<p><b>MAEE LUXEMBOURG</b></p> 		