



WORKING
BETTER TOGETHER

SUMMARY

European Joint Programming for Lao People's Democratic Republic 2016-2020

Education



OVERALL OBJECTIVE

The focus of European Joint Programming in this sector is on basic education, comprising primary and lower secondary education. Basic education is an essential building block in Lao PDR because it has an outsized impact on public health, demography, economic growth, governance and, although more difficult to measure, also on human rights and political stability.



Good progress has been made in increasing enrolment in primary and secondary education and reducing school drop-out rates. The Government continues to execute its plan of using education to build a workforce that is able to support social and economic development and to ensure that the Lao PDR is ready to benefit from ASEAN integration. Government's efforts to boost education indicators among disadvantaged groups and in weaker districts are expected to bear fruit.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

SO 1 – Support to Ensuring Equitable Access to and Completion of Basic Education (with a focus on disadvantaged groups)

Children from disadvantaged groups, particularly ethnic minority groups, children with disabilities and those living in remote and impoverished circumstances, are less likely to complete primary school. Girls are also more likely to be out of school than boys. Support seeks to increase the participation and completion rates for all levels by 2020 by addressing barriers to equitable access.

SO 2 – Support to Improvement of Education Quality and Relevance

Support is being provided to increase the quality of learning through the improvement of curricula and teaching.

Substantial and rapid improvements will be made through human and physical resourcing in:

- Literacy- and numeracy-based primary curriculum
- Teacher supply, teacher training and teacher deployment
- Supply and management of text books and other basic teaching and learning materials
- More balanced infrastructure investments between urban and rural areas.

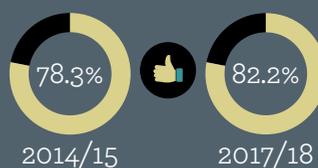
SO 3 – Support to Improved Governance of the Education System

In order for resources to be utilised effectively and to raise awareness of the need for greater investment in education, European Joint Programming support enables the education sector to be planned, financed and monitored appropriately.

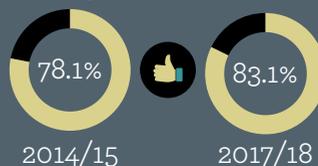
UPDATE

Progress has been made in primary and secondary education with more children enrolling in school and a greater proportion finishing their primary and secondary education.

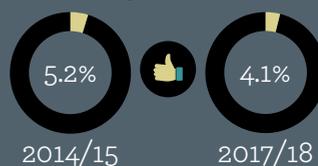
Enrolled pupils completed Grade 5



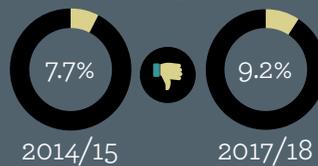
Lower secondary gross enrolment



Primary drop-out rate



Lower Secondary drop-out rate



40

Districts identified by MoES as 'the most educationally disadvantaged'.

- Increased financial resources allocated
- Committee at national and subnational level to provide support

THE LAO-FRENCH BILINGUAL PROGRAMME

Aim: To improve teaching practices and learning outcomes

4	13	9 primary schools
SUBJECTS	SCHOOLS	4 secondary schools
Mathematics, physics, science and language.	In Vientiane, Savannakhet, Pakse and Luang Prabang.	2,988 students enrolled

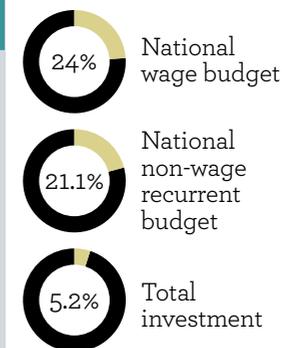
JOINT PROGRAMMING CONTRIBUTION IN THIS SECTOR FROM 2016 TO 2020



European Joint Programming focuses support and dialogue on core education reforms, particularly the quality of education and efficiency of sector resource allocation. Joint Programming has provided an important platform for internal coordination and complementarity, while minimising risks of duplication. For instance, the EU Delegation, as the co-chair of the Education Sector Working Group, facilitates the dialogue in Basic Education and overall sector governance issues.

- EU Member States and Switzerland** focus their support and dialogue on Higher Education and TVET.
- France** focuses on primary and secondary bilingual classes and Higher Education.
- Luxembourg** focuses on higher education in the legal sector,
- Luxembourg** and **Switzerland** focus on vocational education in the tourism and hospitality sector.
- The **UK** focuses on curriculum development, in particular English language courses.

Education sector receives:

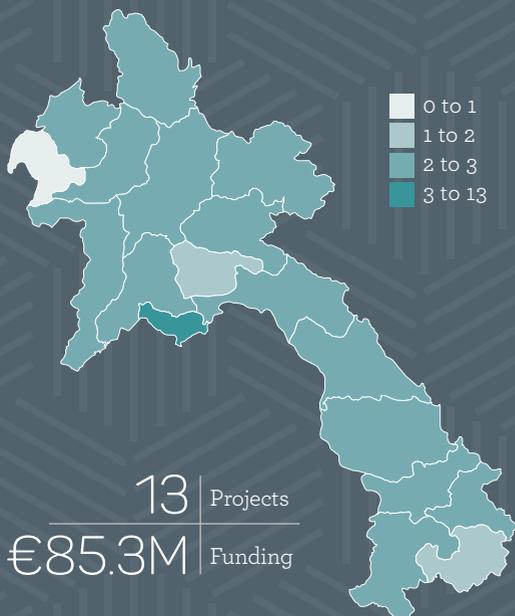


The share of education in the Budget Plan



European partners also provide scholarships through programmes such as ERASMUS+

The map below shows the geographical distribution of Education projects funded by European Partners through Joint Programming. Projects with national coverage are reported in Vientiane Capital.



IN FOCUS

Governance, Equity, Quality, Access – Basic Education (GEQuA-BasEd)

This 10-year national program, led by the Lao Government with support from the Australian Government and the European Union, focusses on the development and implementation of the national new curriculum for grades 1–5, the improvement of teacher education and the strengthening of support systems such as planning, management and monitoring of teaching.



“My name is Mrs Kaenkham Yang. Many people in my village speak only their ethnic language and can’t understand Lao. This could become really challenging when they need to communicate with people outside our community. I strongly want to support the education of all children in my community. This is why I volunteered to be a facilitator for the BEQUAL Reading Promotion activities. In the programme, I run after-school reading activities with primary school

children, coordinate parents’ awareness workshops and help the Village Education Development Committee to identify disadvantaged children from my community eligible for the small grants support for education access and reading promotion.”



PICTURES FRONT PAGE CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Conversation workshop ©UNL. EU site visit ©eEU. Launch of new classrooms in Savannakhet Province © Dominique le Roux. Lao-French Bilingual Programme © Embassy of France.