

New Zealand's aid helps to eliminate poverty and create a safe and just world.

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| NZAID making a difference in Lao PDR

NEW ZEALAND'S DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE

NZAID snapshot

- NZAID is the Government's international aid and development agency
- In 2008/09 NZAID will spend \$471.3 million on overseas development assistance
- NZAID will spend close to \$52 million in Asia in 2008/09
- NZAID's assistance to Lao People's Democratic Republic (PDR) in 2008/09 is NZ\$3.4 million.

The facts

- Lao PDR is a landlocked country in Southeast Asia, bordering Cambodia, Myanmar, Thailand, and Viet Nam
- It has a population of over five million, which is made up of over 49 different ethnic groups
- Lao has many natural resources, including timber and water for hydropower.

The issues

- 80 percent of the population live in rural and mountainous areas and rely on subsistence farming
- Around 30 percent of the 580,000 aerial bombs dropped in the country during the conflict between 1964 and 1975 still remain. This affects 15 of Lao's 19 provinces and has significantly affected Lao's rural development

NZAID in Lao PDR

Guided by the NZAID Cambodia Country Strategy 2005-10, NZAID's key priority areas in Lao PDR are:

- building up sustainable rural livelihoods through pro-poor tourism and improving natural resource management
- strengthening the country's human resources.



NZAID assistance is aligned to the National Growth and Poverty Eradication Strategy (NGPES) – a strategy devised by the Lao Government in 2003.

It focuses on poverty reduction through human resource development, rural development, and people's participation.

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...towards a safe and just world


nzaid

New Zealand's International
Aid & Development Agency

NEW ZEALAND'S DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE

NZAID on the ground

• Natural resource management

NZAID is supporting the Lao National Tourism Administration (LNTA) and UNESCO to implement a four-year sustainable livelihoods programme through UXO Clearance, pro-poor tourism and sustainable heritage resource management in the Plain of Jars in Xieng Khouang Province. Phase IV of the programme involves UXO clearance, erosion control, capacity building and training locals in community-based heritage tourism, establishing and training guide services, and building awareness and nomination of the area for World Heritage inscription.

• Pro-poor tourism

Building on the internationally recognised success of the Nam Ha Eco-Tourism project, NZAID is assisting the LNTA to design the Eco-tourism Support Programme. This will assist the LNTA to implement the Lao National Tourism Strategy with a focus on pro-poor, environmentally and culturally sensitive tourism. The programme will facilitate the development of best practice pro-poor community-based tourism and value chain interventions in four provinces: Luang Namtha, Xieng Khouang, Bolikhamxay, and Khammouane.

• Partnership & harmonisation and aid effectiveness process

NZAID, in partnership with the World Bank, supports the implementation of the Lao PDR Aid Effectiveness Agenda through capacity development of government systems and officials. The programme seeks to improve service delivery in key Ministries including Health, Education, Agriculture and Forestry.

NZAID together with 22 other partners signed the Vientiane Declaration on Aid Effectiveness with the Government of Lao in late November 2006. NZAID participates in the "Informal Donor" meetings.

• Human resource development

The New Zealand Development Scholarship (NZDS) Programme is available to Lao officials and open candidates. The NZDS programme strengthens Lao human resources by giving up to 10 selected Lao candidates per year the opportunity to undertake postgraduate study in New Zealand. Their studies must be linked to agreed priority development sectors.

Lao PDR also benefits from other regional training programmes supported by NZAID such as training programmes for middle management at the Mekong Institute and the Phnom Penh Plan for Management.

• Rural livelihood development

NZAID also provides small scale rural livelihood development projects through the Head of Mission Fund and the Small Project Fund managed by the Post. These funds aim to enhance living standards and human resource development of the poor and in particular vulnerable groups through equitable and sustainable social and economic development.



New Zealand Government