



The Government of the Lao PDR

NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL MASTER PLAN 2009-2013

A Five Year Strategy to Address the Illicit Drug Control
Problem in the Lao PDR



UNODC

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

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**This National Drug Control Master Plan was approved by
the Government of Lao PDR in February 2009**

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Introduction

The National Drug Control Master Plan addresses the recent rise and proliferation of illicit drug production, trafficking, abuse as well as related criminal activity in the Lao PDR. The Master Plan responds to the heightened risks this activity poses to the country's social order and national stability through a comprehensive strategy. This new Master Plan will facilitate implementation of the National Drug Law which the National Assembly passed on 25 December 2007, and promulgated by the President of the Lao PDR on the 14 January 2008. The Lao National Commission for Drug Control and Supervision (LCDC), with an expanded mandate under this law, will coordinate Master Plan implementation.

Country Profile

The Lao People's Democratic Republic is located at the hub of the Mekong Sub-Region, and was part of what was once the largest opium producing area called the "Golden Triangle". The country is surrounded by a porous 5,038 kilometer border with the other five countries (China, Cambodia, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam) of the Mekong Sub Region.

In 1975, with the end of the Indochina War, the Lao PDR was established. In 1986, the country adopted the New Economic Mechanism by which the country expanded its economy from central Planning to a mixed system which encourages private enterprise. To stimulate it, the Government has been reworking its legal framework supported by a new Constitution adopted by the National Assembly in 1991 which guarantees fundamental private rights.

Since then, national economic growth has averaged 6% except when briefly interrupted in 1997 due to the Asian Financial Crisis. This has enabled the Lao PDR to expand its road system with several highways traversing the country (some part of the Asian Highway), build four bridges across the Mekong (with more planned), and undertake large hydropower schemes.

The Lao PDR has expanded its international contacts during this time, such as by joining ASEAN in July 1997. In relation to drug control, the country entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with UNODC in 1993 to implement its Regional Action Plan to reduce drug use. After the Lao PDR

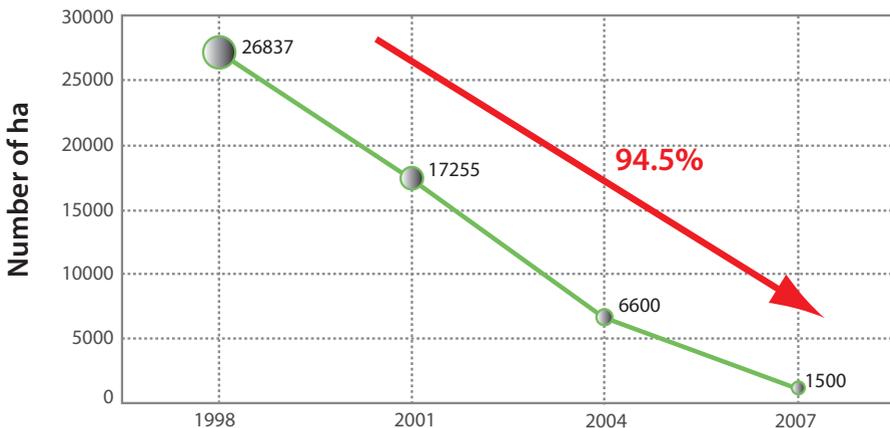
participated in the United Nations General Assembly's 20th Special Session (UNGASS) on the World Drug Situation in 1998, the Government formulated its Balanced Approach to Opium Reduction the following year which led to opium being eliminated in the country.

Despite this progress, the Lao PDR remains a Least Developed Country with 80% of the people subsistence farmers and 4 of its 6.7 million people living on US\$2 or less per day. Progress is being made in meeting the country's aim of emerging from least-developed status by 2020. The UNDP Global Human Development index now ranks the Lao PDR at 133 out of 177 countries with the country at the "Medium Human Development" level. Essential to meeting this goal is addressing the threats to society and stability from illicit drugs including drug induced violence, crime, corruption, money laundering, human trafficking, HIV/AIDS etc.

Elimination of Opium

Opium cash cropping developed in the Lao PDR during the colonial period. By 1990, the Lao PDR was the third largest producer of illicit opium and had the second highest rate of addiction in the world. However, through its first Drug Control Programme (1994-1999) and the ensuing Balanced Approach to Opium Elimination (2000-2005), the Lao PDR reduced opium significantly. On the 14 February 2006, the Lao PDR officially announced its success in significantly reducing opium production and consumption.

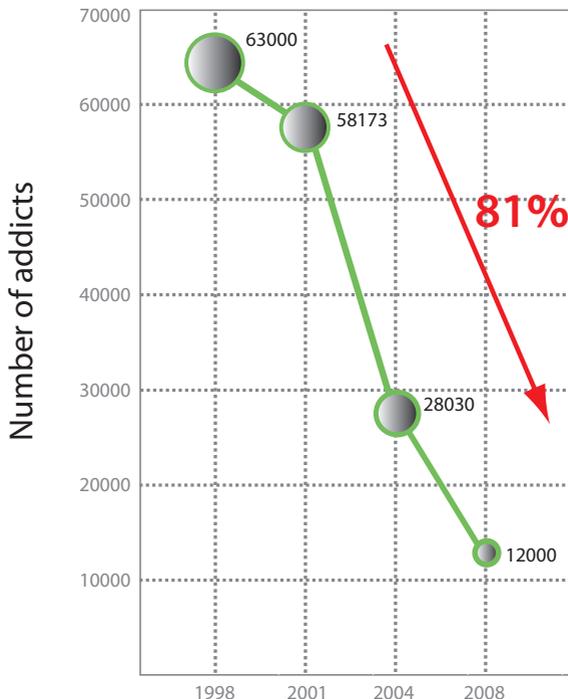
Opium Cultivation in Laos



LCDC-UNODC opium surveys report that from 1997/1998, a total of 2,056 villages were engaged in poppy cultivation on 26,837 hectares, this dropped to less than 1,500 hectares in 2007 or a reduction of over 94%. Declines in opium production and availability have however resulted in the price of opium rising to about \$1,300 per kilogram from US\$80 in 2000.

Opium addiction has been reduced, from about 63,000 to 7,700 drug users over the same period. Since 2002, support was received from UNODC and the U.S. Embassy's Narcotics Affairs Section for nationwide community-based treatment of opium users, an approach growing continually more effective. However about 4,000 treated users have relapsed bringing the total number of addicts to over 12,000. Opium addiction drains precious financial resources, reduce household productivity, increases domestic violence and impedes poverty reduction efforts.

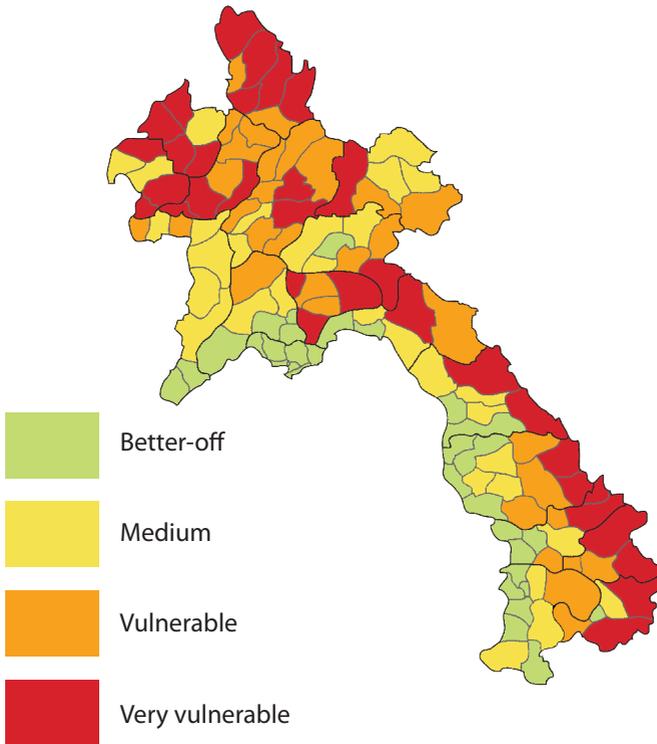
Opium Addicts in Laos



Sources: LCDC, UNODC

Opium elimination remains very fragile and the Government of the Lao PDR (GOL) has made it a high priority to sustain the elimination of opium. The cultivation and production of opium is closely associated with poverty and opium abuse. Of the 47 poorest districts identified by the National Growth and Poverty Eradication Strategy 32 districts used to grow opium poppy.

Vulnerability to poverty in the Lao PDR



The socio-economic impact survey carried out by LCDC/UNODC in 2005 indicated that about 50% of former opium poppy farmers could revert back for lack of alternatives and other opportunities. The 2005 Opium Survey also found that poppy growers had an annual cash income of \$139 while their non-growing neighbors earned \$231. Although there have been general increases in rural income, incomes in former opium poppy growing villages are rising more slower than non opium poppy growing villages. This increasing disparity, along with the high price of

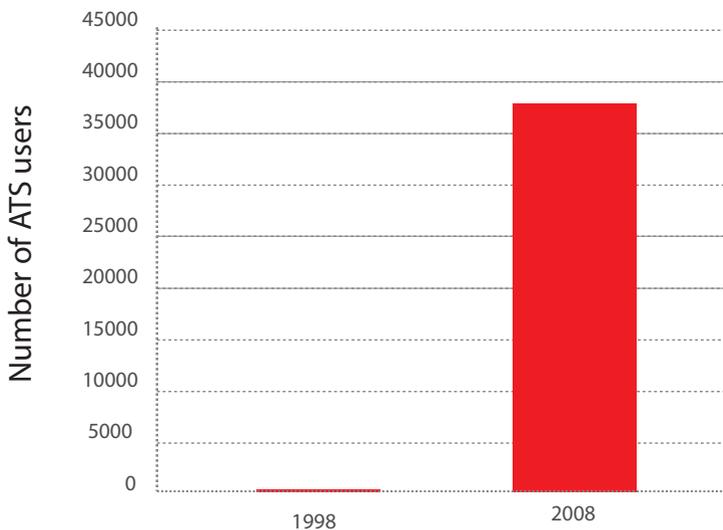
opium, raises the likelihood that ex-growers will resume poppy cultivation. If that occurs, eliminating it again will be very hard to stop due to the reduced trust farmers will have and the spread of transnational organized criminal activity in border areas.

The Government has built the sustained elimination of poppy cultivation as a poverty-focused programme into the 6th Five-Year National Socio-Economic Development Plan (2006-2010).

Related Criminal Activity and the Spread of Amphetamine Type Stimulants (ATS)

Unlike poppy growing, which is rooted in poverty, the emerging drug problems in the Lao PDR arise from criminal activity. Since the late nineties there have been increases in ATS, heroin, precursors, and other illegal substances being trafficked by transnational organized crime groups through the Lao PDR. Attracted by the country's economic growth and improving road network, they began to ship illicit goods through the country and also to convince Lao youth to try drugs. Related criminal activity is also on the rise - a UN report indicates that human trafficking from the Lao PDR is "high".

Estimated ATS usage

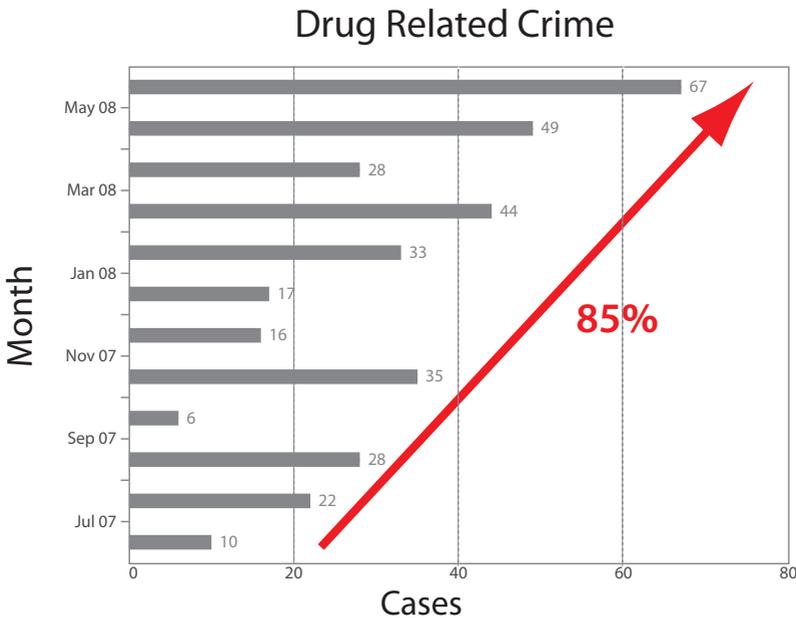


Source: LCDC

Trafficking increases drug use. With heroin from elsewhere in Asia being smuggled through the Lao PDR, injecting heroin use has been observed in border areas and cities since 2004.

Before 1996, ATS was unheard of but in 2006 there was a reported 40,000 ATS users mostly amongst the youth of Laos. ATS use has grown in urban centers, as confirmed by sample urine tests on 14,260 students from 99 schools in 17 provinces. From 2003, when one survey found an average of 3.7% of high-risk students in urban areas had tried ATS, this increased to 27.6% in 2005. Some former opium users, as well as new drug users, have begun poly drug use. A LCDC/UNODC survey conducted recently found that in three northern border provinces, 2.8% of highland villages had used heroin with 4% of those injecting.

There are more negative impacts. Expanding drug use in the country has contributed to an estimated 85% growth in petty and sometimes violent crime since early-2007.



Source: UNODC

Because the Lao PDR is also surrounded by countries where HIV/AIDS and Injecting Drug Use rates are high, the risk of a major HIV/AIDS epidemic is acute.

The new drug use situation confronting the Lao PDR gives rise to corruption, money laundering and other criminal activities. All this threatens stability and security in the Lao PDR, and, thus, national socio-economic development. In order to address these issues, it is crucial to strengthen capacity and institutional building. There is a need to upgrade human, physical, and technical resource development across all sectors. This includes law enforcement officers, prosecutors, lawyers, the judiciary, health care staff and scientists.

Because of the shortage in the judiciary, many drug cases are tried before judges from other branches, such as the Family or the Children's Court, who are often unaware of drug case issues. In fact it is not only judges who are unaware: much of the Lao population does not understand the nature and dangers of the synthetic drugs and other new substances coming on the market.

Treatment for drug use of all kinds is challenging. Addiction is a brain disease complicated by chronic relapse and complex physical, social, economic, and legal factors. Measures are needed to develop more effective community based techniques and address underlying social factors that facilitate addiction.

Yet another concern is cannabis cultivation in remote areas of central Lao provinces. Most often entrepreneurs from across the border contract Lao farmers to cultivate cannabis.

All this indicates that transnational organized crime groups have targeted the Lao PDR for trafficking and marketing illegal substances that generate massive profits. Drug related criminal activity also raises the risk of increased corruption and challenges the rule of law. Certain situations also exist where transnational organized criminal activities are fuelled by strife, instabilities and insecurities in other regions.

Addressing these complex conditions requires a diverse approach, carried out through a partnership between the Government of the Lao PDR and joint regional coordinated efforts with different countries, international organizations, as well as Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs). Only in this way, with the Government, mass organizations, local NGOs, and individual communities working together, will the Lao PDR be able to overcome the grave threat of drugs.

National Drug Control Strategies and Programmes:

The Lao PDR drug situation has grown increasingly complex, as can be seen in the evolution of the National Drug Control Master Plan.

1. 1994-2000: **National Drug Control Programme:** (gradual and balanced approach to drug control with an emphasis on Alternative Development)
2. 2000-2006: **The Balanced Approach to Opium Elimination** (alternative development, demand reduction & law enforcement)
3. 2006-2009: **National Programme Strategy for the Post-Opium Scenario and The Action Plan** targeting 1,100 poorest priority villages; (Alternative development, demand reduction, civic awareness & law enforcement linked to 6th National Socio-economic Development Plan as a poverty reduction focused programme)
4. 2009-2013: **National Drug Control Master Plan** (comprehensive). The National Drug Control Master Plan will provide policy direction for the National Steering Committee to Combat Drugs which was appointed by the President of the Lao PDR in October 2001.

The National Steering Committee to Combat Drugs has the Prime Minister as Chairman, the Minister of Public Security as Co-Vice Chairman, the Minister to the President's Office and the Chairman of LCDC as the Co-Vice Chairman, the Deputy Minister of Defence, Deputy Minister of Information & Culture, Deputy Minister of Education and Deputy Minister of Public Health as members.

The lead agency for implementing the National Drug Control Master Plan is the Lao National Commission for Drug Control and Supervision (LCDC). The new Drug Law of 2008 gives LCDC new status as a national organization with the broader mandate of coordinating drug control, prevention activities with other sectors responsible within the Ministries of Public Security, Foreign Affairs, Finance, Justice, Labor & Social Welfare, Education, Public Health, Agriculture and Forestry, Industry & Commerce, Information & Culture, People's Supreme Prosecutors Office, People's Supreme Court, Lao Front for National Construction, Central Mass Organizations and other concerned agencies.

The reorganized LCDC has five divisions: Administration, Planning and Cooperation, Supply and Demand Reduction, Drugs Use Control, and Law Enforcement. The Master Plan calls for increasing the capacity of the LCDC and the staff of relevant Ministries as well as line offices at the national, provincial, district and village level to be able to respond promptly and efficiently to new as well as old drug control situations.

The Comprehensive National Drug Control Strategy

The new National Drug Law provides the framework for controlling drugs and related crime. The law specifies responsibilities for different sectors, including government agencies, society, the family, and the individual. Related criminal activity, such as fraud is covered while international cooperation is stressed. The law strengthens the Lao National Commission for Drug Control and Supervision as the National Government Organization responsible for coordinating drug control.

To implement the drug law, the LCDC with support from UNODC has devised the country's first comprehensive National Drug Control Master Plan. The comprehensive National Drug Control Master Plan, comprises a strategy of nine components, three of which are cross-cutting.

Following are the objectives and activities of the nine components of the strategy:

1. Trend Analysis and Risk Assessment

Objective: To monitor the production, consumption, and trafficking of drugs in order to develop effective drug control policies, strategies, and programmes.

The changing drug situation in the Lao PDR requires a unified data collection system. Baseline data on cultivation, production, abuse, trafficking, arrests, and types of substances are to be compiled as the basis for tracking changes and measuring impact and to develop a proactive and effective response.

ACTIVITIES

- Provide training in investigative and data-gathering techniques, particularly at provincial and district levels
- Upgrade facilities to manage the data collection network.

INDICATORS

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| - Integrated data collection on all aspects of drug use and related criminal activities being conducted. |
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OUTPUTS

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| - Risk assessment procedures implemented with future drug trends predicted and courses of action prepared. |
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NATIONAL PARTNER MINISTRIES

LCDC, Ministry of Planning & Investment (National Statistical Center), Ministry of Defense, Ministry of Public Security, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education.

2. Alternative Development and Poverty Reduction

Objective: Negate the socio-economic need to produce opium and address special needs of communities involved.

Alternative Development (AD) in the Lao PDR addresses the special and specific needs of former illicit drug crop (especially opium poppy) cultivating and consuming communities. AD will also include taking necessary preventive measures. There is increased transnational drug trafficking through certain border areas and poly drug use in vulnerable ethnic communities that used to produce opium. This will require a holistic approach to address the more complex and complicated situation in the uplands.

In August 2006, the Lao PDR's post-opium scenario programme strategy introduced an Action Plan targeting 1,100 impoverished former opium poppy cultivating villages. AD work will focus on 32 of the 47 poorest districts as identified in the National Growth and Poverty Eradication Strategy. The Lao PDR Plans to provide sufficient support for the critical period after opium elimination when assistance must be provided to make the elimination sustainable. At the same time address the special needs of the communities impacted. The table below prioritizes 18 districts that require special alternative development assistance and are most at risk.

ACTIVITIES

- | |
|---|
| - Build a comprehensive national AD programme with strong district-level implementation centers, and |
| - Develop an alternative development fund to provide credit for alternative livelihoods and income generation for former opium producing communities. |
| - Staff the district centers with specialists in specific fields, such as Micro-credit, income generation and drug treatment. |

INDICATORS

- AD work linked with the MDGs and national economic growth programmes for implementation with development partners from national and international agencies.

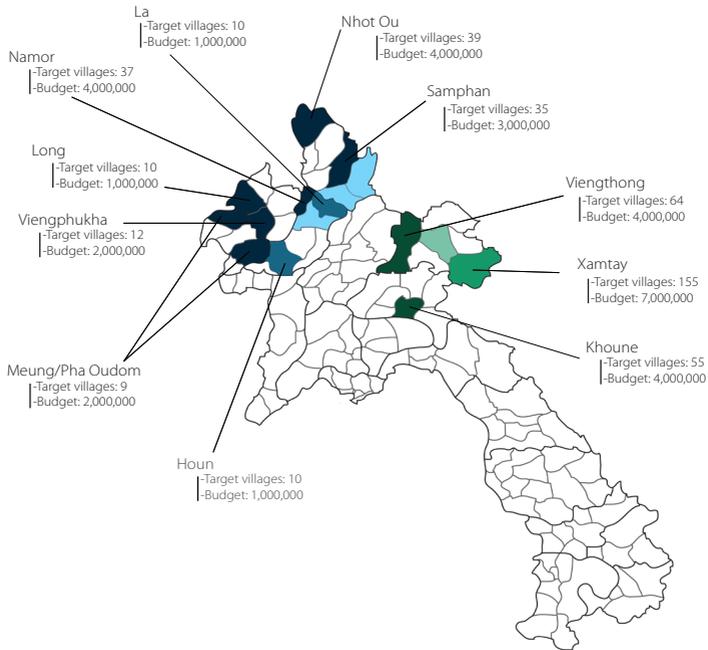
OUTPUTS

- AD work mainstreamed with other national programmes and the sustained elimination of opium is assured.

NATIONAL PARTNER MINISTRIES

LCDC, Provincial & District Governments, Steering Committee for Rural Development and Eradication of Poverty, Ministry of Agriculture & Forests, Ministry of Public Works,

Alternative Development Programme Modules and ensuing sub-projects



Joint UNODC/UNIDO Programme Module
North-Western Lao PDR

- On-going projects
- On-going requiring extension
- Future priority target areas

Target Provinces: 4
Target Districts: 9
Total Target villages: 162
Total Budget: 18,000,000 USD

UNODC Programme Module
North-Eastern Lao PDR

- On-going projects
- On-going requiring extension
- Future priority target areas

Target Provinces: 2
Target Districts: 3
Total Target villages: 274
Total Budget: 15,000,000 USD

Priority Former Opium Producing Districts

No:	Provinces	Districts	Villages	Cost (US\$ million)
1.	Phongsaly	Nnot Ou	39	5
2.		Samphan	35	3
3.	Oudomxay	Namor/Nga	37+15	5
4.	Luangnamtha	Viengphukha/Na Lae	12+6	2
5.	Houaphan	Xamtai Phase II	155	7
6.		Viengthong	64	4
7.		Viengxay/Sop Bao	32+27	4
8.	Xiengkhoung	Khouné	55	4
9.	Luangprabang	Phonexay	16	3
10.	Bokeo	Meung/Pha Oudom	9	2
11.	Vientiane	Xaisomboun/Hom	10+22	3
12.	Bolikhamxay	Khamkeuth/Viengthong	10+13	2
Total	9 provinces	18 districts	557	44

3. Drug Demand Reduction and HIV Prevention

Objective: Reduced drug abuse, the spread of HIV/AIDS, and the harm caused by both.

There will be a focus on six approaches:

1. Building quality information and data about patterns of drug use and related problems and evaluating the impact of policies and interventions.
2. Building community responses. This will include several interrelated approaches that aim to build better knowledge about drugs among key stakeholders. This will include strategies to target vulnerable groups, including those who have become, or are at risk of becoming detached from school/community and will be linked to current activities around drug prevention in schools.
3. Providing information and advice for community members/parents, early intervention for drug consumers and professional support through

a call-centre that provides advice, information and referral for those affected by drug use. Such a service can simultaneously contribute to an early warning system about changing patterns of drug use and related problems.

4. Implementing strategies to address the needs of the older people who are opium dependent.

5. Improving treatment quality and building the capacity of medical and mental health services to respond to drug problems.

6. Trialing a comprehensive response to drugs among young people, including: Outreach; Community based management of intoxication and withdrawal; Educational and vocational rehabilitation; and Community based rehabilitation and support.

ACTIVITIES

- Establish a Monitoring and Evaluation Coordinating Team;
- Establish an information and education team to develop and implement information/education programs to prevent and reduce drug use and related problems;
- Establish a team to develop the knowledge and expertise of community leaders to enhance their ability to prevent and reduce drug use and related problems;
- Develop and trial peer education strategies to prevent drug use, to reduce risks associated with drug use and facilitate treatment engagement;
- Develop the knowledge and expertise of parents, teachers and community leaders to identify and respond to factors that increase the risk of drug use;
- Establish, trial and where indicated, support roll-out of a national call-centre;
- Engage opium users, who have been resistant to current approaches, in treatment to reduce dependence on illegal opium and reduce risk of other drug use, including injecting drug use;
- Trial a short-term residential withdrawal program and rehabilitation service for dependent people who are at high-risk of relapse.
- Construct as well as develop the capacity and effectiveness of Treatment and Rehabilitation Centers to provide integrated care for clients;
- Enhance the capacity of mental health services to respond to patients affected by drug problems, particularly ATS use;
- Enhance understanding of effective treatment and community responses to drug problems and HIV & AIDS;
- Develop and trial a comprehensive approach to respond to drug problems & HIV/AIDS

INDICATORS

- Treatment approaches designed for specific populations and substances being implemented.

OUTPUTS

- Comprehensive response to drugs and HIV & AIDS among youth, and communities in place and operational resulting in reduced drug abuse and HIV & AIDS in the country.
- More effective and comprehensive treatment of drug use in Lao PDR, resulting in reduced relapse.

NATIONAL PARTNER MINISTRIES

LCDC, Ministry of Health, Ministry for Labor & Social Welfare, Ministry for Public Security

The Drug Demand Reduction Programme will include 12 projects with an estimated total cost of US\$ 16 million.

4. Civic Awareness and Community Mobilization

Objective: Mobilize all sectors of the Lao population to establish an anti-drug culture based on a better understanding of drug-related harms.

With the widespread threats drug use poses in the Lao PDR, the Government will increase civic awareness through education, campaigns, and an increased diversity of youth activities. A full knowledge of the nature and effects of drugs will be provided to youth to keep them from wanting to start. This knowledge, as well as the development of sports, income-generating, and entertainment activities will attract youth to productive non-drug related activities.

ACTIVITIES

- Target specific high-risk populations with tailor-made awareness raising approaches,
- Involve mass organizations, NGOs, and other organizations with access to drug users,
- Use indigenous methods and traditional theater as appropriate, and carry out activities, such as sports competition and contests, to publicize reasons for avoiding drugs.

INDICATORS

- Increased activities for high-risk populations as alternatives to drug use being implemented.

OUTPUTS

- Youth and other high-risk communities mobilized and more resilient to drug use.

NATIONAL PARTNER MINISTRIES

LCDC, Ministry of Public Security, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Information & Culture, Provincial and District Governments

5. Law Enforcement

Objective: Provide the entire Lao PDR with the means to resist drugs.

The Lao PDR will keep abreast of changing drug abuse conditions by involving local communities through village laws and regulations to oppose drug use and sales. Capacity enhancement of law enforcement agencies, increasing border surveillance and the ability to interdict trafficked substances, as well as detecting and prosecuting drug-related crime, such as money laundering, are also priorities.

ACTIVITIES

- Provide training in drug interdiction and detection,
- Give training using computer-based enforcement methodologies,
- Provide training on detecting money laundering and other forms of corruption related to illicit drug use,
- Increase Border Liaison Office network, strengthen capacity to interdict especially for drug entry and exit points.
- Develop appropriate measures to fund and reward drug and crime control efforts
- Establish central data base for drugs and crime
- Strengthen international and regional law enforcement cooperation

INDICATORS

- Increased capacity to control shipments of precursors and other illicit substances,
- Increased capacity to detect money laundering in the Lao PDR, and
- More trained provincial and district drug enforcement personnel.

OUTPUTS

- Increased number of cases made against drug traffickers, and
- Increased number and amount of seizures made.

NATIONAL PARTNER MINISTRIES

LCDC, Ministry of Public Security, Ministry of Defense, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Justice, Provincial, District and Village authorities

6. Criminal Justice and the Rule of Law

Objective: Support the Rule of Law and effective enforcement in controlling drugs.

As a part of efforts to control drug related crimes while upholding human rights, the Government is strengthening access to the judicial system and ensure the integrity within the system such as countering

corruption, supporting good governance, and providing appropriate witness and victim protection. This includes providing training to strengthen capacity and overcome a critical shortage of personnel.

ACTIVITIES

- Strengthen Supreme Prosecutor's Office by providing additional staff training and implementing a Code of Conduct and
- Provide training for all members of the judiciary to facilitate their ability to hear drug cases.
- Strengthen the investigative and technical capacity of criminal justice officers

INDICATORS

- Improved knowledge of judges, prosecutors, law enforcement officers, and other relevant officials about drugs, after courses provided and manuals prepared.

OUTPUTS

- Strengthened judicial integrity in the trying of cases by the establishment of an oversight section and support given to an independent judiciary, police and customs..

NATIONAL PARTNER MINISTRIES

LCDC, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Public Security, Supreme Court, Supreme People's Prosecutor, Government Inspection Authority, Lao Bar Association, Ministry of Education.(University of Lao)

7. Chemical Precursor Control and Forensics Capacity

Objective: Implement effective precursor control measures and improve technical capacity to identify illicit substances as required for enforcing the law.

The increased use and smuggling of ATS, other synthetic drugs, and precursor chemicals in and through the Lao PDR require an improved forensics capacity as well as effective measures to control the import and exportation of precursor chemicals. Since drug penalties are linked to the amount possessed, well trained technicians and better-equipped laboratories are essential. The National Forensics Laboratory in Vientiane is under the Food and Drug Department in the Ministry of Health while the Ministry of Public Security runs a smaller lab. Also consideration on the establishing forensic testing capacity within LCDC and expansion to local areas where necessary.

ACTIVITIES

- Strengthen human resources in scientific knowledge and legal requirements
- Partnership network developed to address precursor control
- Effective implementation of the national action Plan for precursor control
- Develop a National Training Programme on drug analysis
- Upgrade the National Forensics Laboratory and establish branch laboratories in regional centers
- Develop legal certification systems for court purposes

INDICATORS

- Increased number of substances analyzed.

OUTPUTS

- Proper monitoring and control of chemicals across borders.
- Timely and accurate support given to the prosecution of criminal cases and the analysis of drug use trends.

NATIONAL PARTNER MINISTRIES

LCDC, Ministry of Public Security, Ministry of Health (Food & Drug Agency)

8. International Cooperation (cross-cutting)

Objective: Expand the partnerships by which the Lao PDR addresses the drug problem and control trans-national trafficking of illicit substances and sharing best practices.

The Lao Government cooperates with other countries at a global and regional level to combat drugs. The Lao PDR has ratified UN conventions and other anti-drug agreements and will participate in UNGASS 2009, on the world drug situation, all as part of its work to control drug use in the country. The country also has involved a range of partners in all aspects of drug control, including mass organizations, NGOs, and private businesses.

ACTIVITIES

- Support the ability of the Government to ratify and comply with the obligations of UN anti-drug conventions, and other relevant international conventions, treaties and agreements
- Support the ACCORD and ASEAN drug control efforts, and
- Participate in bilateral, trilateral, multilateral as well as other anti-drug partnerships

INDICATORS

- Joint international activities carried out in drug enforcement AD, and other sectors with neighboring countries.

OUTPUTS

- Enhanced cooperation and joint Planning for drug control.

NATIONAL PARTNER MINISTRIES

LCDC, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Public Security, Ministry of Health, Supreme Court, Supreme People's Prosecutor
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9. Institutional Capacity Building (cross-cutting)

Objective: Provide the Lao PDR the increased capacity by which this National Drug Control Master Plan can be effectively and efficiently implemented.

The LCDC has been upgraded and given expanded scope in order that it supervises the drug control programme in the Master Plan. With the LCDC as the focal point, the Lao Government aims to upgrade the capacity of all aspects of the national drug control programme.

ACTIVITIES

- Train staff of LCDC and related agencies for specific tasks, such as in law enforcement, forensics, drug treatment, statistical analysis and other relevant fields.

INDICATORS

- Training courses on relevant fields completed with trained staff operating in drug control sectors.

OUTPUTS

- Capacity developed for LCDC to carry out its role coordinating Master Plan implementation.
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NATIONAL PARTNER MINISTRIES

LCDC, MOFA, MOH, MOPS, MPI, SC, SPP, GIA, local authorities, etc.

End of the Master Plan Scenario

The Government of the Lao PDR is fully committed to check the recidivism of opium production, control trafficking and curb the abuse of illicit drugs including ATS, cannabis, heroin, injecting drug use and HIV/AIDS.

Measures to prevent and control illicit drug related activities including corruption, crime and violence that could negatively impact society, the economy, development and security of the country, rank amongst the highest of national priorities and will be put in place.

This Master Plan provides direction to enable the Lao PDR to address both old and emerging drug related problem. It provides the LCDC, relevant partner Ministries and cooperating agencies with the capacity to manage drug control proactively through risk assessments, long-term Planning, and on-going capacity development.

The Lao PDR expects that illicit drug problems including ATS abuse amongst youth will decline progressively and be adequately addressed particularly opium elimination will be sustained. The rule of law will be promoted, and national anti-drug resilience enhanced.

In so doing, the Lao PDR will have addressed the root causes of drugs, their production, trade, and use. Instead of being obliged to respond to changing situations, the Lao PDR will be taking the initiative to foresee trends and accurately assess the associated risks as well as develop a comprehensive anti-drug culture.



NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL MASTER PLAN STRATEGY PROGRAMME COSTS:

The Programme is estimated to cost US\$ 72,000,000 over a five-year period (from 2009-2013). Funding will be utilized for the following programmes, related projects and activities which will support the nine components of the national drug control strategy programme:

Programme Strategy Component		US\$
1	Trend Analysis and Risk Assessment (cross-cutting)	500,000
2	Alternative Development and Poverty Reduction	44,000,000
3	Drug Demand Reduction especially ATS as well as HIV & AIDS Prevention	16,000,000
4	Civic Awareness and Community Mobilization	1,500,000
5	Law Enforcement	4,000,000
6	Criminal Justice and the Rule of Law	4,000,000
7	Chemical Precursor Control and Forensics Capacity	1,000,000
8	International and National Cooperation (cross-cutting)	500,000
9	Institutional Capacity Building (cross-cutting)	500,000
Grand Total		72,000,000

Risks of Not Addressing Drug and Crime Issues in the Lao PDR

The Lao PDR is at a critical juncture. Not providing timely, sufficient, and appropriate assistance risks reversing the successes achieved. If opium poppy farmers and addicts resume growing poppy in order to survive as well as to feed their addiction, this together with increased cross-border ATS, heroin and human trafficking, would give rise to corruption, money laundering, and related criminal activity including transnational organized crime.

The growth of such criminal and corroding elements in the Lao PDR would threaten the national security and stability necessary for poverty alleviation and development. Unchecked this could threaten the development and economy of the entire region.

Implementation arrangements

The Master Plan programme modules will be integrated with relevant national programmes, such as the National socio-economic development Plan. The Master Plan will be linked with and managed in complementary partnerships with joint programmes and projects of other relevant national, international organizations and agencies. In the spirit of the Paris and the Vientiane Declarations the Drug Control Master Plan aims to maximize positive impacts and synergy through integrated coordination and joint collaboration ensuring aid effectiveness.

Partnerships could include other UN organizations and agencies such as UNODC, UNIDO, WFP, UNICEF, UNAIDS, WHO, UNDP, FAO, international financial institutions such as ADB, WB and IFAD, bilateral development partners such as Australia, Brunei, Canada, China, India, Japan, Luxembourg, Norway, Republic of Korea, Russia, Sweden, the USA Governments as well as other ASEAN member countries, NGOs such as Norwegian Church Aid as well as other NGOs and national organizations including relevant line ministries, mass organizations, and research institutions.

Conclusion

Drugs and their related problems are a global problem. The Lao PDR is not able to address these problems alone and requires the help of the global community and international organizations to address this serious threat in a joint collaborative effort.

The Government of the Lao PDR welcomes all assistance and support both financial and technical to enable it to achieve the goal of creating a happy drug free, prosperous society governed by the rule of law for all Lao people and work towards as the vision of a drug-free ASEAN (2015).

Evolution of the National Drug Control Master Plan :

1. 1994-2000: **National Drug Control Programme:** (gradual and balanced approach to drug control with an emphasis on Alternative Development)
2. 2000-2006: **The Balanced Approach to Opium Elimination** (alternative development, demand reduction & law enforcement)
3. 2006-2009: **National Programme Strategy for the Post-Opium Scenario and The Action Plan** targeting 1,100 poorest priority villages; (Alternative development, demand reduction, civic awareness & law enforcement linked to 6th National Socio-economic Development Plan as a poverty reduction focused programme)
4. 2009-2013: **National Drug Control Master Plan** (comprehensive)
The National Drug Control Master Plan provides policy direction for the National Steering Committee to Combat Drugs which was appointed by the President of the Lao PDR in October 2001.