



UNITED NATIONS in Lao PDR

**UNCT Configuration Assessment
COOPERATION FRAMEWORK 2022-2026**

March 2022

Introduction

The UN country team (UNCT) in Lao PDR entails 25 agencies, funds and programmes (AFPs) of the United Nations Development System (UNDS) and will be guided by the new Lao PDR - UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF or CF) 2022-2026.

The UNSDCF is pivotal to the delivery of the UN reform, which aims at changing the way that the UNDS works across countries. The new strategy builds a functional platform for greater coordination, coherence, and effectiveness. This should foster more effective and efficient progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and benefit all people in Lao PDR.

The **independent [evaluation](#)** of the previous UN – Lao PDR Partnership Framework 2017-2021 (UNPF) emphasised that the UNCT should focus on strengthening ties with government, broadening partnerships, and enhancing internal collaboration and coordination. Both UN AFPs and the Government of Lao PDR (GoL) committed to advancing on these fronts through the formulation of a new UNSDCF covering the period 2022-2026 closely informed by the **National Socio-economic Development Plan 2021-2025**.

Against the backdrop of the identified development challenges, and compelled by the opportunity and comparative advantage of harnessing technical expertise from specialised agencies within their mandates, attention was dedicated to firmly and sustainably integrating non-resident AFPs in the discussions. This approach strengthened the broad-based technical area of expertise and inclusive ownership of the strategy and fosters a profound change towards working better together as envisioned by the UN reform.

The new **[UNSDCF](#)** constitutes a major shift from the previous UNPF. Following the finalisation of a robust **[common country assessment](#)** (CCA) that outlines the accomplishments and challenges to date in the development pathway of Lao PDR, the contours of four distinct strategic priority areas were identified, namely, the need to work towards

... more equitable and inclusive access to and benefit from better quality public services such as health, nutrition, food, shelter, protection, water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH), and education and learning, including during emergencies.

... more inclusive, resilient, transformative, and sustainable socio-economic and demographic opportunities to reduce poverty and inequalities.

... more transparent, accountable, inclusive and strengthened public institutions, at all levels that provide services in a manner that enable citizens to exercise their rights and obligations under the rule of law and international human rights commitments made by Lao PDR are upheld.

... and, towards ensuring that institutions be better able to sustainably access, manage, preserve, and benefit from natural resources and promote green growth that is risk-informed, disaster and climate-resilient.

In one key set of decisions, the number of **outcomes** was reduced from eight to four to foster synergies and the allowance for more integrated and multisectoral approaches. These are complemented by 21 **joint outputs** which, albeit organised under the four respective outcomes, may also feature elements of cross-cutting and multisectoral nature, and should help to operationalise the

objectives and support ongoing information sharing and collaboration.

The CF upholds the six **guiding principles** of the UN Sustainable Development Group, namely, to work with a Human Rights-Based Approach, and for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment, Resilience, Sustainability and Accountability, and addresses the needs of the most vulnerable and marginalised groups with the objective to ensure that *no one is left behind*.

The formulation of the CF also includes a **configuration exercise** to determine the necessary capacities needed of the UNCT to deliver on agreed objectives, which took place in 2021. The primary aim was to assess the UNCT's technical, operational, and financial capacities to contribute towards the collective achievement of the outcomes and outputs agreed under the UNSDCF.

To maintain the spirit of the inclusive CF formulation process and upholding the guiding principles, the UNCT configuration exercise itself was conducted in these four steps:

- 1) Self-assessments by the 25 contributing AFPs focusing on technical and financial capacities to deliver on CF objectives over the next five years.
- 2) Analysis of the self-assessments by the RCO, including making any necessary follow-up inquiries and holding preliminary discussions with AFPs on how they foresaw to tackle capacity gaps to deliver outcomes or outputs.
- 3) A series of bilateral discussions between the UN Resident Coordinator (RC) and her office and the country representative of each AFP and senior staff, including with regional and global staff capacity supporting the entity's engagement in Lao PDR, to discuss financial

and technical capacity issues and agree on the AFPs' contribution towards the CF, including the potential for shifts and increases in capacity where necessary to deliver on CF commitments.

- 4) A configuration workshop with the participation of all AFPs to agree on the structure of the UNCT and endorsement of the implementation modalities of the CF. This workshop also helped to identify the AFPs that would assume leadership roles of the Result Groups (RG), or outcomes, throughout the CF and finalise the structure and reach of coordination mechanisms.

This paper summarises the process and results of the configuration exercise. It starts with the presentation of the UNCT in Lao PDR and its comparative advantage, followed by an analysis of risks and mitigation measures, which set a pathway towards a successful implementation of the CF.

Configuration of the UNCT in Lao PDR 2022-2026

Twenty-five UN AFPs were involved in the development of the new Lao PDR-UNSDCF 2022-2026: the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA); Food and Agriculture Organisation (**FAO**); International Labour Organisation (**ILO**); International Fund for Agricultural Development (**IFAD**); International Organisation for Migration (**IOM**); International Trade Centre (**ITC**); Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights (OHCHR); Joint UN Programme on HIV/AIDS (**UNAIDS**); UN Capital Development Fund (**UNCDF**); United Nations Commission On International Trade Law (UNCITRAL); UN Convention on Trade and Development (UNCTAD); UN Development Programme (**UNDP**); UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR); UN Environment Programme (UNEP); UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO); UN Population Fund (**UNFPA**); UN Human Settlements Programme (**UN-Habitat**); UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR); UN Children's Emergency Fund (**UNICEF**); UN Industrial Development Organisation (**UNIDO**); UN Office on Drugs and Crime (**UNODC**); UN Office for Project Services (**UNOPS**); UN Volunteers (**UNV**); World Food Programme (**WFP**) and the World Health Organisation (**WHO**).

- Of these, 17 (in **bold** above) are physically present in the country, and eight are operating from a regional office or global headquarters.
- Of the AFPs present in-country, 12 have a representative or country office while six (**bold italic**) have a project or liaison office in Lao PDR.

The UN is uniquely placed to support development priorities as the 25 AFPs unite a wide range of specialised mandates and technical expertise. Moreover, under the leadership of

the RC and the multilateral nature that the Organisation represents, the UNCT can act as a convener of both national and international stakeholders including representatives of Government, development partners, NGOs and international organisations. Specifically, with the RC as co-chair of the Lao PDR Round Table Process, the UN plays a key role in convening and facilitating overall development partner cooperation and support.

Other comparative advantages of the UNCT in Laos include the ability to leverage financing, partnerships, and knowledge to support the national implementation of the SDGs, being an impartial partner as well as promoting and protecting international standards and norms whilst holding Lao PDR accountable to the many instruments to which they are committed and subscribe.

The development of the CF reflected these strengths, whilst also seeking to address priorities for improvement driven by the reform of the UNDS, and the evaluation of the UNPF. Through this process, and in close consultation with the GoL, UNCT agreed on the following strategic priorities and engagement of AFPs:

Strategic Priority 1: People's Wellbeing

The 1st strategic priority addresses the prospects for more equitable and inclusive access for people to health, nutrition, food, shelter, protection, water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH), and education, especially during emergencies.

ILO, IOM, UNFPA, UNICEF and WHO have operationally committed to this strategic priority and will programmatically engage to strengthen capacities to prevent and respond to violence against women and girls,

children, migrant workers, and other vulnerable groups to improve their **protection**.

Targeting public **health**, UNAIDS, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNOPS and WHO will contribute towards improving healthcare services and strengthen the response to public health emergencies.

In collaboration with partners FAO, ILO, IOM, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNICEF and WFP will work closely with the GoL to improve their educational capacities and to ensure children, youth and adults have access to and complete quality **education**.

On **nutrition and food security**, FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP and WHO will work to improve GoL's capacity to plan, deliver and monitor sufficient and equitable quality nutrition services and improve people's knowledge and skills to meet food security needs.

UN-Habitat, UNICEF, UNOPS, WFP and WHO will work with the GoL to strengthen capacity to improve coverage and quality of **WASH** services, and to improve WASH practices.

IOM, UNFPA, UN-Habitat, UNICEF and UNOPS will work to increase access to appropriate, safe, serviced, and affordable **shelter**.

Strategic Priority 2: Inclusive Prosperity

The 2nd strategic priority focus on ensuring that people benefit from more inclusive, resilient, transformative, and sustainable socio-economic and demographic opportunities to reduce poverty and inequalities.

A priority lies in preparing Lao PDR for a **smooth LDC transition**, with defined graduation support from the UN system including by ILO, ITC, UNCDF, UNCITRAL, UNCTAD, UNDESA, UNDP and UNIDO and other development and trading partners.

With the aim of **improving planning and financing for the SDGs**, IFAD, UNCDF, UNDESA, UNDP, UNFPA, UN-Habitat, UNICEF and WHO will together with partners, including the IFIs and bilateral development actors, support the introduction of an Integrated National Financing Framework (INFF) and improve the GoL's technical and fiscal capacity dedicated to financing for development.

ILO, IOM, UNCDF, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, WFP and WHO will increase capacity to **social protection systems** to enhance people's resilience, in particular in crisis, with a focus on gender-sensitivity and life cycle and the sustainability of systems.

IOM and ILO will contribute towards a conducive environment for safe, orderly, and regular **migration** through advocacy and enhanced regulatory frameworks and policies as well as law compliance.

FAO, IOM, UNCDF, UNDP, UNFPA, UN-Habitat, UNIDO and UNOPS will work with the GoL and relevant partners to carry out activities to improve spatial planning, connectivity, mobility, investments, and livelihoods in urban areas under the cue **urban development**.

FAO, IFAD, ILO, UNDP and UNICEF will programmatically assist the GoL in strengthening **rural development** through integrated planning and identification as well as clearance of **UXO**-affected areas for productive use and support UXO survivors.

Supporting the **private sector, skills development and digitalisation** is key in the operational collaboration of FAO, ILO, IOM, ITC, UNCTAD, UNCDF, UNDESA, UNCITRAL, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNIDO and WFP working with partners to enhance multi-stakeholder capacity and contribute towards an improved policy and harmonized regulatory environment.

Strategic Priority 3: Governance and the Rule of Law

The 3rd strategic priority targets public institutions at all levels to better serve people in a transparent and inclusive manner so that people can exercise their rights and obligations. Institutions will be strengthened and more accountable while the rule of law and international human rights commitments made by Lao PDR are upheld.

OHCHR, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF and UNV will work to empower people under the cue **civic space and participation** by strengthening mechanisms for dialogue between people, CSOs, government, elected representatives, international organisations and others.

Aiming at strengthening **rule of law and access to justice**, ILO, IOM, OHCHR, UNDP, UNICEF and UNODC will enhance capacity of key justice agencies and legal professionals with the aim to increase access to justice, in line with relevant international human rights obligations and laws that Lao PDR is party to.

Specific activities around **gender equality, women's empowerment and human rights** will be conducted by FAO, IOM, OHCHR, UNDP, UNFPA, UN-Habitat and UNICEF. The AFPs mainstream gender equality and international human rights in the design, implementation and monitoring of legal and policy frameworks and increase national capacity to harmonise domestic legislation.

IOM, OHCHR, UNDP, UNFPA, UNODC and UNOPS will address challenges linked to **Trans-national Organised Crime**. The activities aim at reducing all forms of violence and exploitation, especially against women and girls, and to improve the population's safety, well-being, and human rights.

To strengthen **public administration reform and data driven governance**, UNCDF,

UNDESA, UNDP, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF and WHO will support capacities development to improve M & E, effective decentralisation, digitalisation of the public sector and services as well as civil service reform.

Strategic Priority 4: Environment, Climate Change and Resilience

The 4th strategic priority aims at ensuring that people can sustainably access, manage, preserve, and benefit from natural resources. Moreover, also to promote risk-informed, disaster and climate-resilient green growth.

FAO, IFAD, ITC, UNCDF, UNDESA, UNDP, UNEP, UN-Habitat, UNIDO, UNOPS, WHO and WFP will conduct activities around **green growth** by fostering stakeholders' capacities to formulate and implement 'green' growth policies, mobilise climate finance, reduce GHG emissions as well as mainstreaming climate change mitigation and adaptation into policies and plans.

Targeting **natural resources management**, FAO, IFAD, UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO, UNICEF, UN-Habitat, UNOPS and WFP will support natural resources and environmental management plans that enable sustainable and equitable access to resources with a focus on community participation and better-quality data generation and use.

FAO, IFAD, IOM, UNDP, UNDRR, UNESCO, UNFPA, UN-Habitat, UNICEF, UNOPS, WFP and WHO will improve **resilience** by strengthening capacity to anticipate and recover from shocks, reduce risks, and address climate change challenges through greater awareness, including improved hazard and disaster risk data and early warning systems.

Synergies

Based on the CF, strong synergies between the strategic priorities can be identified:

People's Wellbeing addresses the necessary investments in health, education, nutrition, protection, and housing, which are required for people to live empowered and fulfilling lives - the core ambition of the Inclusive Prosperity objectives. Adequate investments in social services relies on adequate development finance, which intrinsically links the two strategic priorities.

Governance and the Rule of Law has a focus on inclusive participation in decision-making and the set-up of accountable institutions. Progress towards this outcome will in turn enable progress towards of all other outcomes as it ensures access to and strengthens the ability of public institutions to provide higher quality public services. A strong link will be vital between the overall ambition of the output on planning and financing for the SDGs under the outcome of Inclusive Prosperity, and of the output on public administration reform and data driven governance seen as a necessary output under good and rules-based governance.

Environment, Climate Change, and Resilience and Inclusive Prosperity are closely linked. Sustainable and inclusive economic development can only occur with a radical shift away from the capital-intensive, extractive and infrastructure-driven development, towards a healthier and green growth, and a more circular, low-carbon, and climate-resilient development pathway.

To fully harness such synergies, the CF configuration entails strong overarching mechanisms, which provide oversight and guidance across the four strategic priorities. The CF structure foresees for these tasks a Programme Oversight Group (POG), the UN

UNCT and the Joint Steering Committee (JSC), the latter which consists of representatives from the Government and the members of the UNDS engaged in Lao PDR, e.g., the UNCT.

Implementation Mechanisms

Following the open and inclusive CF development process and the configuration exercise, the UNCT, now encompasses Heads of Agency of the 25 AFPs that carry out operational development activities in Lao PDR. This is an increase from the 21 signatories of the UNPF. The group is convened and chaired by the RC and is the highest internal decision-making body for the UN in Lao PDR.

The POG is the second overarching group and reports to the UNCT. It consists of the agencies' Deputy Heads. The group ensures coherence and collaboration on a technical level across the four strategic priorities and uphold the guiding principles for an efficient and effective implementation throughout the entire UN footprint in Lao PDR.

A special focus of the UNCT in Lao PDR lies on the integration of non-resident agencies. Eight AFPs operating from outside the country have already played a fundamental role in developing the CF. They will continue to provide technical expertise during the implementation phase, especially in areas for which sufficient technical capacity and specialised expertise does not sit within the resident agencies, such as ensuring full inclusion and LNOB adherence, comprehensively managing transition from LDC status, and increasing capacity to manage climate change and environmental risks or ensuring the sustainable financing of development.

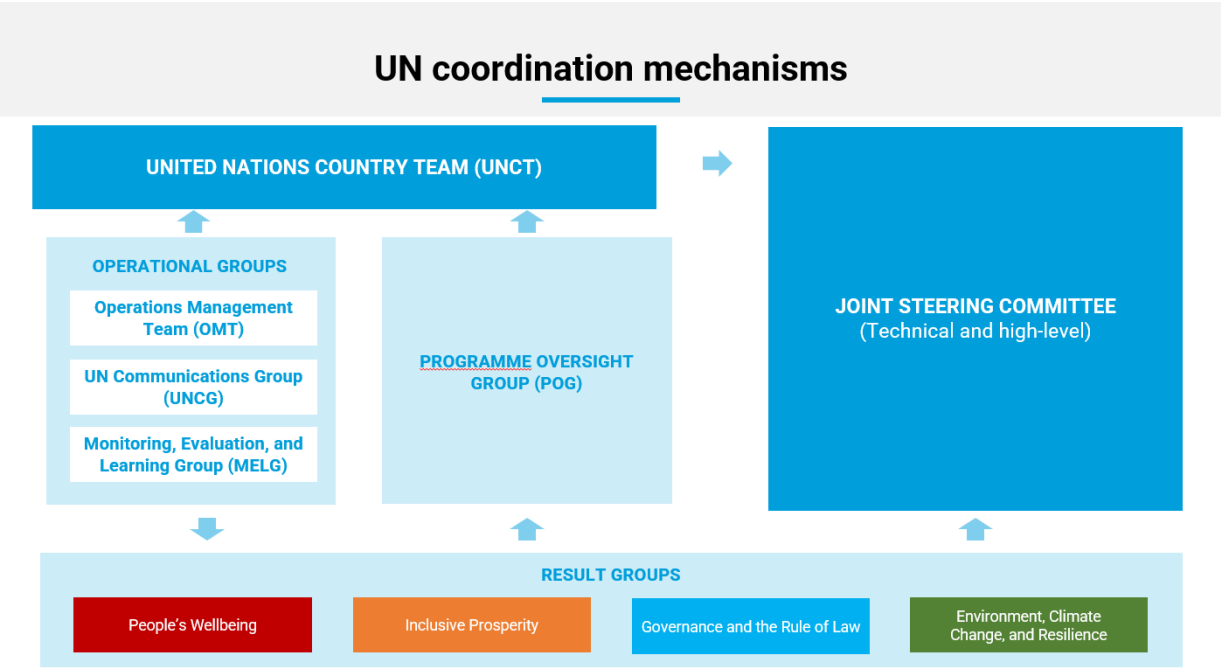
The UNCT and POG are supported by the Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Group (MELG), an Operational Management Team (OMT), and a UN Communications Group

(UNCG). The three groups comprise specialists from the 25 AFPs and aim at improving awareness and coordination, quality and reporting and informing the UNCT as well as the four Result Groups (RG) on the programme cycle.

Co-led by two AFPs, the RGs are organised along the four strategic priorities formulated as the desired outcome areas. The bodies consist of AFPs and Government representatives and aim at setting up, implementing, and monitoring and evaluating programmatic engagements that serve to operationalise the strategic priorities relevant to the desired outcomes. Further details on this engagement can be found in entity specific country programme instruments that serve to operationalise the CF.

With the objective of distilling synergies, Output groups with flexible ways of working as determined by the lead AFP in collaboration with the group of contributing AFPs facilitate the transfer of information between specialists in the coordination, collaboration, sequencing, and implementation of activities.

Finally, the Joint Steering Committee (JSC) is the overarching body that oversees the whole implementation mechanism of the CF. Its membership includes high-level representatives from both the Government and the UN. Please refer to graph 1 below visualizing the coordination structure. Full terms of reference for each group are included in the annex of the Lao PDR UNSDCF 2022-2026.



Graph 1: Implementation mechanisms of the UNSDCF 2022-2026 in Lao PDR

Challenges and Mitigations Measures

The configuration assessment revealed several risks that the UNCT is facing in Lao PDR, which centre around gaps in financial or technical capacities and planning processes. The table below summarises key risks, which could hamper the achievement of the CF goals, and presents mitigating measures which were envisioned directly within the final version of the CF main document and annexes or otherwise agreed by the UNCT.

Risks	Mitigation Measures
Technical and coordination capacity	
1. Insufficient capacity to transition from the previous PF (UNDAF) to the new generation of CF as the shift comes with substantial additional short-term efforts (e.g., briefing technical staff about the CF's content, operationalising joint output groups, identifying further areas of collaboration etc.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Joint Workplans (JWP) take this short-term increase in workload for agencies and the RCO into consideration and set realistic goals for the changes needed in the initial year of the CF's implementation. • The RCO core staff leading the CF implementation are supported by UNVs providing additional expertise and capacity (since early 2021, three donor funded UNVs with ToRs in areas on UN reform, on financing for development and on inclusion and LNOB supported the CF formulation process and the joint workplanning exercise). This model, adopted to answer the required increase in capacity during the strategic planning phase, is likely to be needed throughout the first year of set-up and implementation of the CF. • In tandem, also AFPs are recommended to better plan for this transition by increasing coordination capacity with a set of new, or reformed ToRs among staff, reallocating staff time, spread the workload between all relevant staff and in other ways surge the existing capacity during this change realising that both incentives and enforcement may be needed with well-articulated KPIs aligned to the MAF to secure the expected changes of the reform. • Additional support from DCO through training, templates, guidance, and peer-group sharing of best practices on CF implementation arrangements including JWPs, structure of outcome/output group meetings, structure of the CF's resource mobilisation strategy, etc. will also be useful.
2. Coordination mechanisms fail to improve the quality, efficiency, and effectiveness of programming as expressed in the CF in line with the UNSDG Management and Accountability Framework (MAF)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The development of the CF involved active and detailed participation by AFPs, who were consulted repeatedly on the various components of the CF (theories of change, outcomes, outputs). The way of working developed throughout the CF process was the most compelling inspiration for the development of the CF coordination mechanism, to ensure buy-in from the onset. • The ToR for each group has been co-designed, and agreed by all AFPs, with a view to building practical, useful, and

<p>chapter 3.2 (vers. 15 Sept 2021)</p>	<p>efficient structures that should yield ongoing benefits to the work of AFPs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The RCO and the respective leads are expected to allocate sufficient time for preparatory and follow-up work for coordination meetings between AFPs as envisioned in the CF, including through UN joint results groups, joint workplans, and activities. Referencing the MAF, RC recommended the recruitment or restructuring of existing capacity to increase coordination capacity when meeting with all entities in the configuration process. • AFPs were recommended to assign responsibilities within the CF coordination mechanisms to a wide variety of staff, including representatives, deputies, senior and junior technical staff, in order to strengthen coordination within and beyond their agencies, and spread the workload between all relevant staff. • AFPs are to align agency programme cycles related to development activities and development related content so that they are derived from the CF (and not vice versa) and draw on the CF for entity specific country strategies, a process which therefore is easier when sequenced following the CF finalization. To facilitate the process, AFPs can allocate specific coordination capacities to dedicated focal points (e.g., like UNICEF and FAO identifying clear CF focal points for the RCO). • The RCO allocates sufficient time to consider and further unpack and develop guidance from headquarters, translate it into the Lao PDR context, liaise with relevant leads, and develop processes and templates facilitating coordinated and collaborative work. • The RCO develops an array of mailing lists and appropriate knowledge management tools to support the CF implementation, reducing the costs of coordination and knowledge sharing. • The Joint Work Plans (JWP) are assigning agency-specific responsibilities regarding programming and reporting for each strategic priority to avoid ambiguities. • There is an agreement to assess at the UNCT level, the effectiveness and efficiency of these coordination mechanisms at the end of Year 1 of implementation. Constant interactions between the Representatives and the RC on possible improvements to ways of working are critical to maintain buy-in and adapt to an evolving development context.
<p>3. AFPs with limited capacity are overstretched and struggle to participate as</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The AFPs membership in joint outputs and outcomes was discussed in detail during the bilateral configuration discussions to avoid overstretch.

<p>expected in the CF implementation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The UNCT agreed that membership in output groups would need to be justified by the existence of relevant programmes or the ambition to develop relevant programmes. • For AFPs with an interest in the issues discussed in specific outcomes which lack relevant programming, inclusion in mailing lists or even the outcome level membership are preferred. • The outcomes and joint outputs as well as their ToRs were specifically designed to gain cooperation benefits while avoiding labour intensive and time-consuming work and meetings for AFPs.
<p>4. Non-resident AFPs (NRAs) are not able to substantially engage in the CF implementation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNCT chose several NRAs as lead agencies for outcomes (e.g., UNEP) or outputs (e.g., DESA, UNDRR, OHCHR). • CF strategic priorities, including human rights, climate action, environmental protection and resilience, that depend on the specialised and technical expertise of NRAs are subject for discussions on how to ensure in-country regular programme follow-up, M & E and coordination, and recommended for conversations around their business models, incl. the option of embedding capacity at RCO. (e.g., UNEP JPO, UNDRR UNV, OHCHR UNV) • Joint Programming and Joint Programmes can facilitate the involvement of many NRAs. JWPs should identify how NRAs can benefit from working closer with resident AFPs while providing remote substantial expertise. • NRAs were advised to be specific in how they engage with coordination mechanisms and join only most relevant output groups. As mentioned, certain agencies are joining an RG but not necessarily the related outputs.
<p>5. The CF becomes detached from strategies and working modalities of other stakeholders including the GoL, IFIs, NGOs, CSOs, DPs, etc.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JWPs and the CCA are updated on an annual basis and can, therefore, be adopted towards changing contexts and priorities of other stakeholders. • The RGs maintain and further expand partnerships with organisations and networks such as the Sector Working Groups, which can be institutionalised in more details in the ToRs when specific needs are identified. • The RG meetings and the JSC entail focal points from GoL, which can ensure that the CF's trajectory aligns with national priorities.
<p>6. The RCO alone has insufficient capacity to meaningfully promote and advocate for the fundamental values, standards and principles of the UN Charter, (including human</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The RCO embedded OHCHR technical capacity to assist in strengthening the UNCT's ability to apply a more evidence-based application of the LNOB commitment and strengthen collective advocacy work. • The POG ToR's were designed with the aim to strengthen the group's oversight function in terms of ensuring that human rights, gender equality and LNOB aspects are mainstreamed across the work of the UNCT.

rights, gender equality and LNOB aspects)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The JWPs of the four Outcome areas include a mapping of current programming against the CF's guiding principles.
<p>7. With limited existing programmatic work, the UN footprint on the environment, climate change, and resilience, and more specifically the joint output on resilience, lacks coherence and vision, which is needed as many AFPs are expected to substantially increase their involvement in these themes during the new planning cycle.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formulating a JWP, which translates outcomes and outputs statements into clear programmatic goals, clarifies responsibilities, and highlights gaps and synergies among the contributing AFPs. • Involvement of the RCO for supportive analytical support in environmental economics, including I the regional collaborative platform with the IBCs that offer analytics tailored to the regional and country needs, notably UNEP/ESCAP led IBC on CC and Air pollution, UNDP/UNDRR led on building resilience. In addition, upcoming recruitments of an in-country UNV on Resilience issues (with UNDRR) and a JPO on Environmental issues (with UNEP) are foreseen to facilitate the convening and coordination of activities under Outcome 4 on climate change, environment and resilience. • Non-resident AFPs specialised in environmental issues could expand their capacity in Lao PDR in various ways.
<p>8. Insufficiently structured portfolio of programmes in the Inclusive Prosperity outcome. The UN has a specific role to play in sustainable and inclusive development which will require additional capacity.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formulating a JWP, which translates outcomes and outputs statements into clear programmatic goals, clarifies responsibilities, and highlights gaps and synergies among the contributing AFPs. • Output groups were designed to strengthen coherence and complementarity among AFPs working on similar themes. • Involvement of the RCO for analytical and coordination support in several output areas. • Two co-chairs were appointed by UNCT of AFPs with extensive experience in the outputs covering the UN footprint. • Specific coordinated work taking place at the same time as the joint workplanning (over the course of the first two quarters) of the year, namely the finalization of the national plan financing strategy, under the UN Joint Programme, and the support to MoFA on a LDC Graduation Smooth Transition Strategy, will help to clarify programmatic priorities for the planning cycle. • Upcoming recruitments taking place across the UN AFPs should increase capacity and support the aspirations set out in the CF.
<p>9. Challenges to translate the guiding principles into strategic programmatic actions, to ensure the continuous improvement of the efficiency and efficacy of programming, and</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The inclusion, directly within the POG's mandate, of responsibilities to monitor, evaluate, and provide strategic recommendations to outcomes and outputs in order to ensure the UN's mandate to LNOB, mainstream Gender Equality and the HRBA, and continuously improve the sustainability, resilience, and accountability of our results. • The POG is also tasked with the update of the CCA, in close collaboration with other coordination mechanisms, notably the outcome groups and the MELG.

<p>adapt to a changing development context.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The decision, by the UNCT, to position a resident AFP with extensive experience in the country, to support strategic programming and ensure sustainability, accountability, and resilience of development results. • The decision, by the UNCT, to position OHCHR as co-lead of the POG to fully integrate the LNOB, gender equality and HRBA principles, and the recruitment of a UNV Specialist responsible for Human Rights and Guiding Principles at the RCO for additional capacity.
<p>10. Insufficient technical expertise in monitoring and evaluation as well as data management across the UNCT, and specifically in the Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Group (MELG).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The MELG addresses the issue of lacking M & E capacity in its JWP for the first year and presents solutions to close this gap including the identification of priority recruitments. • The joint workplanning exercise of the MELG begins once the RGs have developed an initial draft of their own programmatic priorities, to ensure the translation of programmatic priorities into MELG. The POG, with support from the RCO, ensures the coherence of all JWPs from all coordination mechanisms. • AFPs dedicate sufficient staff time for M & E and data management tasks including in extending UN AFP coordinated capacity to external collective engagements with LSB, SDG secretariat, together with the relevant parties such as the WB, with benefit also from the UNDP led coordination under the output group on Public Administrative Reform and Data Driven Governance. In particular agencies with small presence in country are encouraged to reach out for headquarter or regional resources. • The RCO provides strong secretariat support to the lead agency in order to develop smooth processes adapted to the MELG current capacity and address its priority issues. • The lead agency of the MELG (UNICEF in year 1) was chosen due to its strong M & E capacity, with a dedicated unit, and is expected to facilitate capacity building and knowledge transfers throughout the planning cycle.
<p>11. Inadequate technical expertise in communications across the UNCT and challenges developing UN-wide coordinated clear advocacy and communications strategy to support the UNSDCF commitments.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The UNCG will address the issue of lacking communications and advocacy capacity in its JWP for the first year and present solutions to close this gap including the identification of priority recruitments or the refocusing of activities towards a set of strategic priorities aligned with programmatic, government and global advocacy priorities. • The joint workplanning exercise of the UNCG begins once the RGs have developed an initial draft of their programmatic priorities, to ensure the translation of programmatic priorities into communications and advocacy. The POG, with support from the RCO, ensures the coherence of all JWPs from all coordination mechanisms. • The co-chair of the UNCG (UNICEF) was chosen due to its communications and advocacy capacity and experience

	<p>and is expected to facilitate capacity building and knowledge transfers throughout the planning cycle.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The RCO has been identified as the chair of the UNCG and will intend to stimulate the group, sharing global corporate communication guidance, involving it early in the joint work-planning process, and stimulating links with program-matic/technical/strategic groups, such as the POG. • AFPs dedicate sufficient staff time for communications tasks. In particular agencies with small presence in country reach out for headquarter or regional resources.
<p>12. Coordinated program-ming is impaired by in-sufficient coordination on operational issues, with limited capacity in the OMT.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To ensure continued stimulation of discussions on opera-tional matters, the RCO takes an ad interim lead role. A deci-sion is needed by the UNCT on which programmatically operational AFP that will be able to take a leadership role for upcoming years. • Guided by the UNDS and management reforms the OMT de-velops a JWP for the first year, with the global business process, common premises and country based shared ser-vices strategies and associated mandatory timelines, whose design begins towards the end of the RGs joint workplanning, to ensure the OMT identifies the operational solutions that can ensure the implementation of the identi-fied and agreed strategic priorities.
<p>Financial capacity</p>	
<p>13. The funding for several joint outputs in Strategic Priority 2: Inclusive Prosperity is unclear. More specifically, data is missing for 'smooth transition from the LDC status', 'migration policy' and 'urban develop-ment'.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Several outputs were designed to answer issues that arose recently (LDC Graduation management) or coalesce unco-ordinated or new UN programming, (urban planning, migra-tion issues, etc) which has limited the assessment's ability to identify financial capacity precisely. • The formulation of clear joint workplans for all outcomes, with, when necessary, a specific focus on the output level, should help to operationalise high-level commitments of the CF, and give indications as to where resources will be necessary and where joint or targeted RM can be done. • Towards the end of the joint workplanning phase, a multi-year funding framework should clearly display estimated fi-nancial resources available and resources to mobilise for relevant joint outputs. This allows the RGs to detect finan-cial gaps in advance and raise them to the POG and UNCT if necessary.
<p>14. The funding for several joint outputs in Strategic Priority 3: Govern-ance and Rule of Law is unclear. More specifi-cally, data is missing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certain outputs have activities for which an assessment of financial resources is more difficult, as they often rely on core and non-core staff providing technical expertise, com-munications, and advocacy. • JWPs should help to identify resources that may be re-quired to achieve the desired outcomes expressed in the CF. Indicating estimated financial resources available and

<p>for ‘civic space and participation’ and ‘rule of law and access to justice’.</p>	<p>resources to mobilise for the relevant joint outputs. This allows the UNCT to detect financial gaps in advance.</p>
<p>15. Several joint outputs have few available financial resources as a proportion to resources to mobilise. This includes ‘shelter’, ‘rule of law and access to justice’, ‘planning and financing for the SDGs’ and ‘social protection’.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For these outputs, a major part of the financial resources has not been secured yet, even if programming is likely. • Sharing continuous updates on funding situation within the joint output group will support resource mobilization. • Developing a resource mobilisation strategy, which identifies clear priorities and helps coordinating AFP’s resource mobilisation efforts. • Two outputs (planning and financing for the SDGs and social protection) are based on existing joint programmes. Specific output-level discussions on how best to take forward results achieved will be necessary.
<p>16. Programmatic commitments sometimes appear to be made in reaction to the availability of financial resources. There is a need to shift the sequencing, where possible, to ensure that resource mobilization follows strategic planning, and strengthens coherence of the UN footprint.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following the capacity assessment, AFPs were asked to provide more details on their expected financial resources during the CF implementation, to improve the data collected by the RCO ahead of joint workplanning (and set up the architecture of the new CF in UN-Info). • Collective workplanning and resource mobilization strategies should help to foster coherence in resources by supporting the development of joint initiatives which can be used to approach donors and leverage new funds.

Conclusion



The configuration assessment and its associated configuration exercise of the UNCT in Lao PDR was conducted through a structured and inclusive process involving self-assessments, an analytical review, bilateral discussions and a UNCT workshop.

Compared to the 21 AFPs of the previous configuration, the new UNCT in Lao PDR now entails a total of 25 UN agencies working in or outside the country. The configuration exercise enabled the AFPs to think about their comparative advantage as well as where and how to focus their efforts best within the UNCT in Lao PDR.

Importantly, the risk for internal capacity overstretch was identified and highlighted by RCO to AFPs in this process and in some cases collectively resolved through discussions on re-organisation, complementation (from regional and/or HQ levels, such as with OHCHR, UNDRR and UNEP) and/or re- or down prioritisation of focus of engagement.

The AFPs defined their involvement in Outcomes and Outputs in the CF as illustrated in this paper. The approach helped to clarify the expected roles and contributions of each AFP to the CF.

Some agencies implemented innovative business models to optimise their support towards Lao PDR. In discussions with RCO and against the backdrop of higher focus on qualitative results in UNCT delivery as a whole, OHCHR for example agreed on the cost sharing of a UNV capacity in the RCO on inclusion and LNOB to help ensure a stronger normative dimension in UNCT programming.

A similar model is also considered by UNEP and UNDRR with the investment in in-country capacity embedded and with the daily

supervision and direction of operational tasking of RCO under the priority discussions of JWP together with the UNCT with the technical guidance, expertise and quality assurance by specialised entity. The summaries of the 25 agency-specific configurations can be found in the annex.

The configuration exercise further showcased several risks that could hamper achieving the goals of the CF. The key concerns centre around financial or technical capacity gaps and the deficient use of coordination mechanisms. The section further presents mitigating measures to tackle these issues such as the development of JWPs, a resource mobilisation strategy or shifts in AFPs' business models.

An important finding from the Configuration Exercise is that the implementation of the CF commitments will require more efficient coordination, adaptability, reorganization, and goodwill from a wide range of actors in the UN Development System.

Whilst recognising that the UNSDCF formulation phase was undertaken during the COVID-19 pandemic which may have challenged the UNSDG's ability to train and guide RCOs and country teams sufficiently for the upcoming task of operationalising the reform through a new generation of country team instruments including the CCA, and the UNCT configuration exercise in tandem with the UNSDCF formulation followed by the entity specific country planning documents derived therefrom, the growing lessons of early UNDS reform show that, first and foremost, its successful implementation will depend on a changing mindset and engagement in good faith in higher levels of integration among all UNCT members, at country level,

at regional level and at HQ. Improvements to our ways of working will need the full buy-in of AFPs, at all levels in order to deliver expected enhanced results.

Recent decisions made following this exercise, with regards to leadership roles, business model, and commitments, demonstrate the relevance of structured and iterative discussions between all parties in line with the Management and Accountability Framework endorsed by all the Principals of the UNSDG.

The configuration of the UNCT in Lao PDR under the UNSDCF 2022-2026 aim at fundamentally changing the way in which the UN operates in Lao PDR. The new coordination structures, underpinned by a more collaborative, and elaborate JWP support a shift towards more effective and more efficient programming and reporting. This also reflects the inherent interdependence of AFPs programming (and expected successful results), of the necessary more integrated and multi-sectoral approaches to respond to today's increasingly multidimensional development challenges.

The configuration intends to ultimately foster progress towards the multidimensional nature of the SDGs and to better assist the Government and all people in Lao PDR, including future generations, to realise their full potential and human rights.

The capacity and capability of the UNCT as a whole, as well as of the individual AFPs and the RCO in particular, was explored in detail through the configuration process. In particular, questions were raised about capacities for *operational planning and coordination* at programmatic levels to ensure the synergies and more integrated delivery expected across sectors, to truly address multidimensional development challenges in line with the expectations of the UNDS reform.

In short, and in particular with reference to the transition period in which we will need to collectively *invest and restructure* to deliver more effective ways of working, UNCTs would profit from additional technical capacities aiming to *change how* we collectively deliver on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development that leaves no one behind.

Taking into considerations prevailing budget constraints, a combination of additional support from both regional and headquarter levels of AFPs and increased AFP and RCO coordination capacity at country level in the formulation process and the first year of implementation – seeing through the JWP in transitioning from the previous UNDAF oriented partnership framework to a much-reformed more integrated way of working under the new CF could help mitigating the identified gaps.

I. UN agencies, funds and programmes – UNSDCF in Lao PDR

No	Acronym	Full name of AFP	Physical Presence	Business model				
				Representative or country office	Separate liaison or project office	Capacity embedded in RCO or another AFP	Through a regional, sub-regional, multi-country office or headquarters	Short-term technical support and other
1	FAO	UN Food and Agriculture Organisation	Yes	x				
2	IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development	Yes		x			
3	ILO	International Labour Organisation	Yes		x			
4	IOM	International Organisation for Migration	Yes	x			x	x
5	ITC	International Trade Centre of the UN – WTO	Yes		x			
6	OHCHR	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights	No			x	x	
7	UNAIDS	UN Programme on HIV/AIDS	Yes	x				
8	UNCDF	UN Capital Development Fund	Yes		x		x	
9	UNCITRAL	UN Commission on International Trade Law	No				x	
10	UNCTAD	UN Conference on Trade and Development	No				x	
11	UN DESA	UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs	No				x	x
12	UNDP	UN Development Programme	Yes	x				
13	UNDRR	UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction	No				x	x
14	UNEP	UN Environment Programme	No			x	x	x
15	UNESCO	UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation	No				x	
16	UNFPA	UN Population Fund	Yes	x			x	
17	UN-Habitat	UN Human Settlements Programme	Yes	x				
18	UNHCR	UN High Commissioner for Refugees	No				x	
19	UNICEF	UN Children's Emergency Fund	Yes	x				
20	UNIDO	UN Industrial Development Organisation	Yes	x				
21	UNODC	UN Office for Drugs and Crime	Yes		x		x	
22	UNOPS	UN Office for Project Services	Yes	x	x		x	
23	UNV	UN Volunteers	Yes	x				
24	WFP	World Food Programme	Yes	x				x
25	WHO	World Health Organisation	Yes	x				

II. UN entities final individual statements and capacities

	Full name of AFP	Page
FAO	UN Food and Agriculture Organisation	3
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development	5
ILO	International Labour Organisation	7
IOM	International Organisation for Migration	9
ITC	International Trade Centre of the UN – WTO	11
OHCHR	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights	13
UNAIDS	UN Programme on HIV/AIDS	16
UNCDF	UN Capital Development Fund	18
UNCITRAL	UN Commission on International Trade Law	20
UNCTAD	UN Conference on Trade and Development	21
UN DESA	UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs	23
UNDP	UN Development Programme	26
UNDRR	UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction	28
UNEP	UN Environment Programme	29
UNESCO	UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation	31
UNFPA	UN Population Fund	33
UN-Habitat	UN Human Settlements Programme	36
UNHCR	UN High Commissioner for Refugees	38
UNICEF	UN Children’s Emergency Fund	40
UNIDO	UN Industrial Development Organisation	43
UNODC	UN Office for Drugs and Crime	46
UNOPS	UN Office for Project Services	48
UNV	UN Volunteers	51
WFP	World Food Programme	52
WHO	World Health Organisation	54

UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)

Agency-specific assessment for planned contributions to the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework

Relevance of the UN entity to the UNSDCF		<p>The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) is a specialised agency that leads international efforts to defeat hunger. FAO goal is to achieve food security for all and make sure that people have regular access to enough high-quality food to lead active, healthy lives. With 194 member states, FAO works in over 130 countries worldwide. FAO's broad mandate covers key pillars of the 2030 Agenda which are crucial to achieve the SDGs. FAO, was established to raise levels and standards of nutrition and living globally; secure improvements in the efficiency of the production and distribution of all food and agricultural products, including sound management and sustainable utilisation of national resources; and better the condition of rural populations. Article I of the FAO Constitution describes the FAO's core functions as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - collection, analysis, interpretation and dissemination of information relating to nutrition, food and agriculture; - promotion and recommendation of national and international action with respect to inter alia scientific, technological, social and economic research relating to nutrition, food and agriculture; - conservation of natural resources, the adoption of improved methods of agricultural production, and the development of policies for the provision of adequate agricultural credit and with respect to agricultural commodity arrangements; - provision of technical assistance as governments may request; - organization, in co-operation with the governments concerned, of missions that may be needed to assist them in fulfilling the obligations arising from their acceptance of the recommendations of the United Nations Conference on Food and Agriculture and of the Constitution.
Residual programme commitments (CPD or similar)		<p>The Country Programming Framework 2016-2021 (CPF) reflects relevant priorities in national development policies and programmes, including the Agricultural Development Strategy to 2025 adopted in 2015. The CPF for Laos addresses four priority areas: (1) Fostering agricultural production and rural development; (2) Improved food security and nutrition, with special focus on the most vulnerable (e.g, poor women, food-insecure farm households); (3) Forests and other ecosystems are protected and enhanced; (4) Improving capacity to respond to food and agricultural threats and emergencies and the impact of climate change. The next CPF that will cover the period from 2022 to 2026 will be fully aligned to the relevant outcomes of the CF.</p>
Technical Capacities	Thematic policy expertise	<p>FAO has five strategic objectives, which also constitute key areas of expertise: 1. Help eliminate hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition, 2. Make agriculture, forestry and fisheries more productive and sustainable, 3. Reduce rural poverty, 4. Enable inclusive and efficient agricultural and food systems, 5. Increase the resilience of livelihoods to disasters.</p>
	Expertise in international norms and standards	<p>FAO provides normative and standard-setting instruments such as international agreements, codes of conduct, and voluntary guidelines through support in negotiating trade agreements, meeting domestic, regional and global food safety and quality standards. FAO has a document repository that contains all numerous publications and voluntary guidelines on issues such as land, water, fisheries, forestry, agriculture etc.</p>
Functional Capacities	Advisory capacity for policy formulation and implementation	<p>FAO has abundant technical capacity in all thematic areas related to the mandate that includes; policy development, implementation of normative and standard-setting instruments, such as international agreements, codes of conduct, technical standards and others.</p>
	Capacity to connect and engage in networks and partnerships	<p>To meet the Zero Hunger Challenge, political commitment and major alliances with key stakeholders are crucial. Partnerships are at the heart of FAO's mission to help build consensus for a world without hunger. FAO is building partnerships with governments, civil society, private sector, academia, research centres and cooperatives, and making use of each other's knowledge and comparative advantages, can food insecurity be defeated. At national level FAO partnership with the GoL has been further enhanced through various platforms including the Sector Working Group on Agriculture and Rural Development.</p>
	Communication and advocacy capacity	<p>Communication and Advocacy capacity of FAO is visible at national, regional and global levels, closely related to FAO's mandate. Advocacy and policy role of FAO in Lao PDR has been beneficial in agriculture and environment sectors and lately in enabling the Hand in Hand Initiative. Moreover, FAO in Lao PDR has in-house communication specialists.</p>

	Project and program implementation capacity	The FAO Representation has full technical and operational capacity for project and programme implementation in Lao PDR. The in-house technical capacity is further supported by FAO Regional office for Asia and Pacific and technical departments in FAO in Rome. The FAO Representation in Lao PDR is well equipped to fulfil its fiduciary obligations in the financial, administrative, and operational aspects of project and programme implementation.
	M & E capacity	The FAO Office of Evaluation (OED) conducts evaluations of FAO programmes and projects at the global, regional, and national levels for increased accountability and learning, focusing on the Organization's strategic positioning and results. OED reports to the FAO Governing Bodies and to the DG. The evaluations focus on (1) the country programme aiming to enhance understanding of FAO's contributions and strategic relevance at the country level, (2) individual programmes and projects that are usually funded from extra-budgetary resources and have budgets of US\$4 million and above (3) joint evaluations and syntheses reports are conducted in collaboration with the evaluation offices of other UN agencies or with other partners and (4) other programme evaluations are evaluations of key programme areas around specific themes, including evaluation of emergency responses in crises contexts.
	Operational business model	Representative Office
	New or innovative modality	FAO can offer a so called "Operational Partners Implementation Modality", which is an indirect implementation of projects/programmes. The approach involves Operational Partners for the implementation of program/project components, where FAO retains overall accountability to the Resource Partner and the Government for proper management of funds, technical quality and results achieved.
	Participation in outcomes and outputs	<p>Outcomes: People's Wellbeing, Inclusive Prosperity, Governance and the Rule of Law and Environment, Climate Change (lead), and Resilience.</p> <p>Joint Outputs: Education, Nutrition and food security, Urban development, Rural development and UXOs (co-lead), Private sector, skills development and digitalisation, Gender equality, women's empowerment and human rights, Green growth, Natural resources management (lead), Resilience</p>
	Conclusions of the configuration discussions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) FAO is strengthening its coordination capacity especially regarding its co-leading role in outcome 4 on Environment, Climate Change, and Resilience and two joint outputs groups on Rural development and UXOs as well as Natural resources management. 2) FAO considers recruiting an agricultural economist to better address the linkages between agriculture and economic impacts in its programming. 3) FAO is emphasising the link between UXOs and rural development more strongly in its work in line with the structure of the new UNSDCF. 4) FAO and UNODC will strengthen their collaboration specifically on aspects of transboundary crime and the Hand in Hand initiative.

International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

Agency-specific assessment for planned contributions to the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework

Relevance of the UN entity to the UNSDCF		<p>IFAD’s comparative advantage in Lao PDR is rooted in smallholder agricultural technology, building resilience to climate change and developing value chains. The Country Strategic Opportunities Programme (COSOP) ’s goal is to build resilient livelihoods among women and men in rural Lao PDR. It will be achieved through the provision of financing and technical support to scale up innovative development models. IFAD will focus on strengthening vulnerable groups including: (i) smallholder farmers (women and men); (ii) women and woman-headed households; and (iii) female and male youth. The COSOP would be implemented through two strategic objectives: (SO-1) Smallholders have enhanced resilience to natural shocks and improved food security and nutrition; and (SO-2) Smallholders enhance access to financial services and markets. The COSOP covers the period 2018-2024. It supports the NSEDP and Agriculture Development Strategy 2016-2022 and consequent policies.</p> <p>The COSOP will contribute to SDG 1 (no poverty) and SDG 2 (zero hunger) through enhanced capacities of smallholders for boosting agricultural productivity, incomes and nutrition. The COSOP mainstreams gender through a gender and poverty sensitive targeting approach and boosts awareness of the public services (SDG 5 - gender equality). The COSOP addresses shortfalls in accessing rural financial services and promotes youth employment, in support of SDG 8 (inclusive economic growth). The COSOP places a strong thrust on the adaptive capacity of smallholders to cope with the effects of adverse climate events (SDG 13 - climate action).</p>
Residual programme commitments (CPD or similar)		<p>See reference to COSOP above. More specifically, there will be IFAD funded programmes and commitments to support the UNSDCF:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Agriculture for Nutrition Programme (AFN-GAFSP: USD 1.5 million will be implemented during 2021-2022. Please note that the AFN-GAFSP program was for an overall financing of about \$38 million. We are indicating that the amount potentially available for 2022.- Partnerships for Irrigation and Commercialization of Smallholder Agriculture (PICSA): USD 21 million is the total of IFAD financing, of which, approx. USD 4 million will be disbursed by end 2021 and about USD17 million will be utilized in the next CF period.- As planned, IFAD’s next round of financing will be determined by end 2021, based on the on-going IFAD 12th Replenishment Consultations. It should be noted that these will be loans and will therefore be subject to debt sustainability assessments by IFAD and GoL/MOF, and negotiations and agreement on the terms and utilization of the loan. This is expected in end-2022/ early 2023.- Based on the above, the amount of financing currently committed is about \$18.5 million (GAFSP + PICSA). Based on future financing and loan negotiations, IFAD’s financing could be updated by early 2023.
Technical Capacities	Thematic policy expertise	<p>IFAD is not an implementing agency. As an IFI, IFAD will operate through loan-financed operations, implemented by technical line ministries, directly supporting the government decentralization policy. Capacities will be built in national institutions at central and local levels in terms of planning, implementation / management, reporting and related areas.</p> <p>In terms of IFAD staff, the program is managed by the Country Director based in Hanoi, and one staff/ long-term consultant based in Vientiane. There is separate global in-house capacity (in Rome/ HQ) and other locations on agriculture, value chains, food security and nutrition and related areas.</p>
	Expertise in international norms and standards	NA
Functional Capacities	Advisory capacity for policy formulation and implementation	<p>IFAD will use existing government structures at central and local levels in planning, implementation / management and supervision of the programmes.</p> <p>Capacities of the government line ministries (MAF) will be built in related areas - agriculture, value chains, food security and nutrition and related areas.</p> <p>IFAD will continue its engagement in the agricultural sector working groups and contribute to policy discussions with concrete project results and lessons learnt.</p> <p>These will be complemented with IFAD’s regional and national grant programmes and the on-coming regional grant for connecting national policy institutions and think tanks across the Mekong region. Thematic workshops and review meetings will link the field with the policy level.</p>

	Capacity to connect and engage in networks and partnerships	IFAD will partner with government agencies – MAF, MPI, MoF, etc., country-based DPs, research centres, and related service providers, to support IFAD country operations on agriculture development, value chains, food security and nutrition and related areas. IFAD will have close partnership with the Rome-Based Agencies - WFP and FAO, for joint programmes at country level, in order to facilitate GAFSP investments in Lao PDR.
	Communication and advocacy capacity	IFAD will support knowledge management (KM) linking between project investments, policy engagement and scaling up. IFAD will build on the country programme level M & E systems. IFAD will support systematic documentation and sharing of knowledge through a management information system, hosted by MAF. Projects will be trained in preparing high quality knowledge and communication products and in the use of mass and social media. Where possible, investment projects will be backed up to enable analytical work and dissemination. IFAD will continue to assist projects in organising KM activities. The country programmes will take part in regional KM activities such as the Mekong KM and Learning Fairs at regional and country levels, promoting innovations and learning with development partners and policy makers at regional and country levels.
	Project and program implementation capacity	Capacities of government implementing partners, notably MAF, at central, provincial and district levels will be strengthened on different areas – project management, agriculture, value chain, nutrition, etc., through trainings and participation in programme implementation and management.
	M & E capacity	<p>Management Information System at MAF will be in place with IFAD support, recording key project information, achievements and contributions to government goal / objectives.</p> <p>IFAD funded programmes will have well-structured and functioning M&E system. It provides timely information for reporting and assessment of key project indicators, status and issues as inputs for decision management decision making.</p> <p>Regular M & E monitoring and impact surveys will be conducted by projects, illustrating impacts and contributions to SDGs.</p> <p>Annual COSOP (country strategy) review meeting at country level will report on progress towards the outcome indicators of COSOP results framework, identify lessons learnt and feed these into policy work. COSOP outcomes will be linked to the indicators of the 9th NSEDP and the CF.</p>
	Operational business model	Separate liaison or project office
	New or innovative modality	NA
	Participation in outcomes and outputs	<p>Outcomes: People's Wellbeing; Environment, Climate Change, and Resilience</p> <p>Joint Outputs: Food security and Nutrition; Green growth; Natural Resources Management; Resilience</p>
	Conclusions of the configuration discussions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) As an IFI IFAD is in a distinct position within the UNCT in Lao PDR. This status requires IFAD to maintain and also build new partnerships with other entities in and outside the UN. 2) Limited availability of staff time constitutes a major challenge for IFAD in Lao PDR. 3) IFAD will raise this issue with its headquarters to discuss opportunities to increase its technical capacities to support the implementation of its country strategy (COSOP) and the CF.

International Labour Organization (ILO)

Agency-specific assessment for planned contributions to the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework

Relevance of the UN entity to the UNSDCF		<p>The ILO is the UN agency for the world of work. We bring together governments, employers and workers to drive a human-centred approach to the future of work through employment creation, rights at work, social protection and social dialogue.</p> <p>Under the CF, ILO plans to contribute its unique mandate and added value in the UN system with respect to international labour standards (ILS), tripartism and social dialogue, and to expand the support of the ILO to promote decent work in the country.</p> <p>The ILO will develop the 3rd Decent Work Country Programme (DWCP) for Lao PDR (2022-2026) as the framework for ILO support to the tripartite constituents (government, workers' and employers' organizations) and contributing to the CF. The 3rd DWCP will derive from the CF and contributing to the CF's priorities. The DWCP will further specify how the CF priorities and outcomes in relation to decent work will be realized and the specific outputs that the ILO will deliver.</p> <p>The National Tripartite Steering Committee for DWCP tasked with guiding and overseeing the DWCP provides government, workers and employers organizations with an opportunity to engage in specific initiatives of the ILO and of other UN agencies in Lao PDR, and to be informed about progress in the implementation of the CF.</p>
Residual programme commitments (CPD or similar)		<p>Although the ILO is a non-resident agency in Lao PDR, since the late 1980s it has been engaged in supporting the national development in a range of key areas related to the Decent Work Agenda. The Decent Work Team of Technical Specialists based in Bangkok and headquarters specialists provide technical backing to the Lao DWCP implementation, which contributes to the UNCF implementation.</p> <p>The ILO also brings in its technical expertise in policy advice and in facilitating policy implementation to promote rights at work, encourage decent employment opportunities, enhance social protection and strengthen dialogue on work-related issues. The ILO focuses on building institutional and technical capacity among national partners, facilitating effective participation of employers' and workers' organizations in ILO programmes, and strengthening social dialogue. The ILO's specialist staff have access to relevant country experience and lessons from within ASEAN and worldwide.</p>
Technical Capacities	Thematic policy expertise	<p>ILO brings in its expertise to support the achievement of the CF on the following thematic areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - International labour standards and fundamental principles and rights at work; - Promotion of greater opportunities for women and men to attain decent employment and income; including strengthening labour market information, and safe migration; - Enhance effectiveness of social protection; - Strengthen partnership and consultation between government, workers and employers' organization.
	Expertise in international norms and standards	<p>The ILO is a normative agency and is mandated to set international labour standards and contributes importantly to human rights at work (non-discrimination, freedom of association and collective bargaining, child labour, forced labour) and these remain a priority in pursuit of the global commitment to leave no one behind.</p>
Functional Capacities	Advisory capacity for policy formulation and implementation	<p>The International Labour Standards guide the ILO advice on key national policy areas and ILO technical specialists have advanced knowledge and experience of relevant policies and programmes related to promoting social justice in and beyond the world of work.</p> <p>The ILO has supported Lao PDR in achieving significant progress in the development of national policies, laws and decrees, strategies, action plans, institutional mechanisms and capacities for implementation of decent work commitments.</p>
	Capacity to connect and engage in networks and partnerships	<p>The ILO's specialists and staff have access to relevant country experience and lessons from within ASEAN and worldwide.</p>
	Communication and advocacy capacity	<p>Improvement of the communication function is ongoing at the ILO office in Lao PDR with support from the communications team based in Bangkok.</p>

	Project and program implementation capacity	The ILO views results-based management as central to the ILO's accountability framework. It applies the principles of results-based programming and budgeting to its support to the country. The ILO Decent Work Country Programmes adopts a results-based management approach. Programme documents define the results they intend to achieve, elaborate strategies they will put in place to achieve them, and design systems that will be used to measure progress. The ILO also enhances reporting and knowledge management systems, and increases staff development, to ensure it mainstreams the results-based management approach effectively.
	M & E capacity	<p>The ILO has a strong and growing organizational culture of evaluation, with an approach to evaluation that is fully congruent with the criteria of the United Nations Evaluation Group and OECD DAC. The ILO's evaluation commits to ensuring the "transparency and independence of the evaluation function in line with international good practice". The planned evaluation of the ILO programme in Lao PDR includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A mid-term and end-of-term and DWCP reviews, linked to similar processes under the CF; - Evaluation of development cooperation projects to be linked to their contribution to the achievement of overall DWCP outcomes; and - Development and regular updating (at least quarterly) of the DWCP Monitoring Plan.
	Operational business model	Separate liaison or project office
	New or innovative modality	Innovation in implementation models, joint programmes, and business process
	Participation in outcomes and outputs	<p>Outcomes: People's Wellbeing; Inclusive Prosperity (Lead); Governance and Rule of Law</p> <p>Joint Outputs: Protection; Education; Smooth transition to LDC graduation; Social Protection (Lead); Migration Policy; Private sector development and trade, skills development, and digitization (Lead); Rural development and UXOs; Rule of Law and access to justice</p>
	Conclusions of the configuration discussions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) ILO's current business model entails constraints due to the limited in-country representation. However, ILO is very well connected in Lao PDR, which is a major asset. 2) ILO has been a leading agency in the development process of the CF and will play an important role in its implementation through coordination tasks specifically under outcome 2 on Inclusive Prosperity and two output on Social Protection as well as PSD, Skills Development and Digitalisation. 3) Increasing ILO's technical and coordination capacity should be considered due to its important role in the new CF structure and key developments under outcome 2 (e.g. LDC graduation, debt situation etc.), which is led by ILO. The decision is subject to internal ILO considerations at regional and head quarter's level.

International Organization for Migration (IOM)

Agency-specific assessment for planned contributions to the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework

Relevance of the UN entity to the UNSDCF		As a landlocked nation sharing borders with five countries, Lao PDR is best known as an origin country in migration, and to a lesser extent, a transit and destination country. Internal and cross-border human mobility is an important issue. With rapid regional and domestic infrastructure development, well-governed migration has become increasingly crucial in the country's development. To maximize the efforts for safe migration and to counter-trafficking and transboundary issues related to migration, it is crucial to include migration in the Cooperation Framework, as well as the Lao PDR's 9 th National Socio-Economic Development Plan (NSED) which covers the period of 2021-2025.
Residual programme commitments (CPD or similar)		<p>As of April 2021, IOM Lao PDR has eight projects with around 5.3 million dollars multi-year budget including three projects on counter-trafficking, two regional labour migration projects, one COVID-19 response project, one immigration and border management project and one policy project to support the government with developing its migration profile. IOM takes a multi-sectoral approach to responding to migration issues, as such, implementation of the above programmes is done based on the national priorities of the Government of Lao PDR under the framework of IOM's Regional Strategy for Asia and the Pacific 2020-2024, guided by the IOM Strategic Vision.</p> <p>IOM does not foresee any planned interventions falling outside of the Cooperation Framework, and residual commitments can all be reported under the new Cooperation Framework which have been developed to respond to the shifting dynamics of migration in Lao PDR and within the region.</p>
Technical Capacities	Thematic policy expertise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Migration Management - Migration and Development - Facilitating Migration - Regulating Migration - Addressing Forced Migration <p>Cross cutting areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Promotion of International Migration Law - Policy Debate and Guidance - Protection of Migrants' Rights - Migration Health - Gender Dimension of Migration
	Expertise in international norms and standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Human Rights treaties - 1951 Convention and/or the 1967 Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees - UN Convention on the Protection of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families - The Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, - Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air
Functional Capacities	Advisory capacity for policy formulation and implementation	<p>IOM has been providing policy assistance to the GoL, in particular, the MoLSW on facilitating regular migration, decent work and enhancing the positive benefits of migration, such as improving labour force capacity through skills development and establishment of Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) and engaging with countries of destination, such as Thailand to better understand the labour market needs to ensure proper alignment with skills and knowledge gained in formal and informal education sectors in Lao PDR.</p> <p>IOM has supported the Department of Social Welfare, MoLSW with the development of its bilateral MoUs for the Return and Reintegration of Victims of Human Trafficking and accompanying Implementation Action Plans, since 2002.</p>
	Capacity to connect and engage in networks and partnerships	<p>Given the cross-cutting nature of migration and IOM's extensive portfolio and partners with whom it works with, IOM engages in multiple national, regional and international dialogues. At the national level, IOM has been co-chairing the Human Trafficking Working Group, alongside the MoFA which brings together government and development partners to discuss emerging needs and trends which impact the country's ability to address and respond to trafficking in persons and transnational organized crime.</p> <p>Globally, IOM is mandated as the Network Secretariat of the United Nations Network on Migration, supporting Member States with their implementation, follow-up and review of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM).</p>

	Communication and advocacy capacity	IOM has a fully functional Communications Team comprised of one international and one national staff, who receive support from IOM's Regional Office in Bangkok.
	Project and program implementation capacity	<p>IOM works across a range of migration issues, through a direct implementation model, alongside implementing partners. IOM is projectized and number of project staff is dependent on number of projects.</p> <p>IOM takes a rights-based approach to migration programming, at project inception IOM assesses which rights issues can be incorporated into the results of the project and how rights principles can be incorporated into the process of the project.</p>
	M & E capacity	5% of every project budget is allocated to M & E activities under that project. IOM does not have a dedicated M & E resource in Lao PDR but instead seeks support from its regional office, when project staff require assistance.
Operational business model		Representative of Country Office
New or innovative modality		NA
Participation in outcomes and outputs		<p>Outcomes: People's Wellbeing; Inclusive Prosperity; Governance and Rule of Law</p> <p>Joint Outputs: Protection; Education; Shelter; Social Protection; Migration Policy (Lead); skills development, and digitization; Rule of Law and access to justice; Gender equality, women's empowerment and human rights; Trans-national organized crime</p>
Conclusions of the configuration discussions		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) It is important that IOM pools its resources and concentrates on key issues considering the wide participation in different coordination groups under the CF. IOM is encouraged to focus its engagement on the outcome rather than output level to be more efficient and effective. 2) As a projectised agency IOM faces the challenge to anticipate funding streams for the duration of the CF, which makes the development of a credible and sound resource mobilisation strategy crucial. 3) Due to the projectised nature of IOM and the resulting insecurities about funds and capacities, coordination responsibilities should be limited to IOM's core expertise (i.e. leading the joint output on migration).

International Trade Centre of the UN-WTO (ITC)

Agency-specific assessment for planned contributions to the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework

Relevance of the UN entity to the UNSDCF		<p>Efforts of the International Trade Centre (ITC), the joint agency of the UN and the WTO, are fully aligned with the outcome areas 2 (inclusive prosperity) and 4 (environment) of the CF for Lao PDR.</p> <p>Currently, ITC is implementing 3 projects in Lao PDR. The ASEAN Regional Integration Support (ARISE Plus Lao PDR, hosted at DPC/MoIC), the Systematic Mechanism for Safer Trade (SYMST, hosted at DoA/MAF), and the Trade 4 Sustainable Development (T4SD, hosted at LNCCI).</p> <p>The ARISE Plus project aims to contribute to inclusive economic growth, increased climate change resilience, mitigation of vulnerability (especially due to dependence on a limited number of sectors and markets) and job creation. Through a series of activities (trade related technical assistance (TRTA)) the project aims 1) to improve the business environment in targeted sectors with a focus on regional economic integration (ASEAN), and 2) to increase trade and participation in global value-chains in particular for the wood processing and coffee sectors. Expected results are increased regional economic integration, increased awareness on trade preference for exports, strengthened support services (especially for smallholders and SMEs, with a focus on women), reduction of supply-side constraints, and trade and investment promotion in targeted sectors.</p> <p>The SYMST project is oriented towards the improvement of food safety and market access through better governance and application of norms and standards. Through a series of activities (TRTA) the project aims at 1) improving awareness and knowledge of private sector and authorities in Lao PDR on plant health and pesticide issues in fruits, vegetables and other plant products, 2) improving the performance of the regulatory and control institutions and improve the capacity of the fruits, vegetables and other plant products supply chain actors to comply with plant health and pesticides control in Lao PDR; and 3) strengthening market access opportunities and facilitated business linkages of fruits, vegetables and other plant products actors from Lao PDR to EU and regional target markets. The project targets basil and chili in Pakse, Champasak Province for export to EU with focus on plant health issues; native rice in Vientiane Capital for export to EU with focus on alternative production practices; watermelon in Luang Namtha for export to China with focus on pesticide issues.</p> <p>The T4SD is a training of trainers which offers technical assistance for SMEs to build the capacity and knowledge to implement green business practices through its services focusing on key aspects such as sustainability standards, climate resilience and resource efficiency.</p> <p>These three projects are fully in alignment with the 9th NSEDP, concerning aspects related among others to SME/MSME development, private sector development, regional integration, trade, business and investment environment, LDC graduation and Green Growth. ITC is the only UN agency which is fully (100% Aid for Trade) dedicated to supporting the internationalization of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). It is ITC's mandate to enable SMEs in developing and transition economies to become more competitive and connect to international markets for trade and investment, thus raising incomes and creating job opportunities, especially for women, young people, and poor communities, in full alignment with the SDGs, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and also the NSEDP and the CF.</p>
Residual programme commitments (CPD or similar)		See above
Technical Capacities	Thematic policy expertise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Building export capacity of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) - Building capacities of trade support institutions to support the private sector - Enhancing access to trade intelligence - Promoting economic integration and developing intra-regional trade - Formulating national and sectoral export strategies - Increasing understanding of non-tariff measures faced by the business community - Trade intelligence
	Expertise in international norms and standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Multilateral trade agreements (WTO - SPS/TBT, GATS, GATT, TRIPS etc.) and related applications of SPS/TBT at EU level and international standards - Regional trade agreements (e.g., ASEAN – ATIGA, AFAS, ACIA etc.) - 10 Global Goals for Sustainable Development

Functional Capacities	Advisory capacity for policy formulation and implementation	Yes, including design and implementation of national export strategies, National Quality and SPS Policies
	Capacity to connect and engage in networks and partnerships	Yes, for example in SPS and TBT areas with international standard setting organizations and networks (i.e., WTO SPS/TBT Committees, STDF, OIE, IPPC, Codex, ISO, inter-national, regional and national actors, EU DG SANTE)
	Communication and advocacy capacity	Yes, for example as part of the ARISE Plus project
	Project and program implementation capacity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project office at MoIC (3 ITC staff – 1 senior officer, 1 national officer, 1 admin) - Capital and regional coverage with SYMST Project office at DOA and in three provinces with local focal points in Champasak Province, Vientiane Capital, in Luang Namtha) - A series of national consultants, short and long-term - A large network of specialized expertise through international and regional experts and ITC advisers
	M & E capacity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Integrated in governance structure of MoIC and MAF. - This includes biannual Project Review Committees and an annual Project Executive Committee. Project results, achievements, lessons learned are being discussed at these meetings. - A comprehensive report, outlining the progress and the upcoming work plan, is being submitted to all relevant stakeholders and presented at the PRC/PEC meetings. - Projects overall and its impact are being evaluated against the log frame and regular reporting cycle agreed upon with DP. - M&E costs are embedded within the project's overall budgets.
Operational business model		Separate liaison/project office
New or innovative modality		NA
Participation in outcomes and outputs		<p>Outcomes: Inclusive Prosperity; Environment, Climate Change, and Resilience</p> <p>Joint outputs: Smooth transition beyond LDC graduation; Private sector, skills development and digitalisation; Green growth</p>
Conclusions of the configuration discussions		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) ITC's mandate and expertise in trade is key for Lao PDR with regard to LDC graduation. 2) ITC invests its in-country capacities strategically on three output groups, which should ensure efficient and effective contribution to the CF. 3) Financial needs are well covered for the current portfolio although the resources are linked to the specific projects. The current resource mobilisation strategy is for projects, not for the country, which makes long-term planning more challenging.

Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)

Agency-specific assessment for planned contributions to the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework

Relevance of the UN entity to the UNSDCF	<p>The CF has a strong normative and human rights foundation which provides a robust basis for OHCHR's engagement at the country level in mainstreaming human rights within the UN planning, programming and advocacy efforts in support of achieving the priorities of the 9th NSED) and implementing the 2030 Agenda. This, inter alia, encompasses assistance in a stronger integration of the HRBA and LNOB principles, as well as data and analysis produced by the international human rights mechanisms within the development and humanitarian work of the UNCT and individual UN Agencies/Funds/Programmes (AFPs), including through capacity-building across the CF Result Groups' members and all UN staff.</p> <p>Support to the UNCT in ensuring the implementation of the Human Rights up Front (HRuF) Initiative and the UN SG's Vision Paper on Integrated Platform for Prevention and the SG's Call to Action for Human Rights remains a priority for OHCHR. This, inter alia, includes regular monitoring of human rights issues and emerging trends at both the country and regional levels, provision of an in-depth analysis of principal human rights concerns/risks of human rights violation and identification of the UNCT's collective action points, including through regular country stocktaking exercises and updates of the CCA. OHCHR is also committed to supporting the UNCT and CF Result Groups to establish an overarching human rights monitoring/early-warning system.</p> <p>In close cooperation with the UN RCO, other AFPs and development partners, OHCHR will continue its engagement with the GoL to strengthen Lao PDR's National Mechanism for Reporting, Implementation and Follow-Up (NMRF). OHCHR's Treaty Body Capacity Building Team will provide advisory services, technical support and capacity-building to the National Human Rights Committee and the Human Rights Focal Points towards development and endorsement of a comprehensive UPR Action Plan, as well as the coordinated and integrated implementation of the recommendations issued by the Treaty Bodies whilst advocating for the ratification of the remaining core International Human Rights Treaties. This will directly contribute to the implementation of the 9th NSEDP Outcome 6.3 and CF "Governance and Rule of Law" outcome.</p> <p>OHCHR will continue engaging with and supporting civil society organizations (CSOs) and other non-governmental stakeholders, working in/on Lao PDR, with a focus on their cooperation with the international human rights mechanisms, including by building their capacity to effectively use the mechanisms and support in monitoring and documenting human rights concerns and advocacy.</p> <p>In line with UNDS reform, OHCHR will continue enhancing its collaboration in the area of human rights and human rights dimensions of frontier issues with other AFPs, ESCAP, DCO and RCO, both bilaterally and within RGs, Asia-Pacific Regional Issue-Based Coalition on Human Rights, Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment and Asia-Pacific Regional Human Rights Working Group, to accelerate the 9th NSEDP and SDGs implementation.</p>
Residual programme commitments (CPD or similar)	See above
Technical Capacities Thematic policy expertise	<p>OHCHR has thematic policy expertise across all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including civic and political rights, economic, social and cultural rights, right to development, thematic rights and rights of specific groups or persons. In addition, OHCHR obtains knowledge on human rights dimensions of frontier issues in the areas of climate change, digital space, corruption, people on the move, etc.</p> <p>OHCHR can play an instrumental role in integrating human rights in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and supporting the UNCT to strengthen interlinkages between all SDGs framework, as well as to operationalize its human rights-based commitment to LNOB, inter alia, through applying the LNOB five-step methodology and ongoing integration of LNOB across the living CF (UN INFO, CCA regular updates, Working Plans, Annual Reports, Crisis Addendums, etc.)¹</p> <p>Through its South-East Asia Regional Office, OHCHR is well-positioned to monitor and analyse data related to the human rights situation and vulnerable/marginalized groups at both the country and regional levels; provide human rights-related expert advice, guidance and tools on countering discrimination and inequalities; facilitate capacity-building and knowledge transfer on the implementation of the HRBA and LNOB principles within the development and humanitarian work of the UNCT and individual AFPs.</p>

¹ UNSDG, "Leaving No One behind: A UNSDG Operational Guide for UN Country Teams". Interim Draft as of 18 March 2019.

	Expertise in international norms and standards	<p>OHCHR's mandate is focused on supporting States in the implementation of their international human rights obligations.</p> <p>In Lao PDR, OHCHR is well-positioned to support the stakeholders in effectively engaging with the UN Human Rights Mechanisms and implementing their recommendations, including as they relate to the 9th NSEDP and SDGs, inter alia, by building capacities of the UNCT and the Government, particularly the National Human Rights Committee and the Human Rights Focal Points, CSOs and other non-governmental stakeholders to follow-up, implement, monitor and report on the human rights recommendations in a coordinated and integrated manner.</p>
Functional Capacities	Advisory capacity for policy formulation and implementation	Drawing on the UNCT's joint analysis of human rights risk issues and emerging trends produced through regular country stocktaking exercises, OHCHR can support the UNCT in identifying human rights trends and developments, potential triggers and root causes of violations, as well as identification of mitigating factors and collective action points. Stocktaking exercises can be used for the CCA regular updates.
	Capacity to connect and engage in networks and partnerships	<p>At the global level, OHCHR maintains a strong partnership with DCO, UNDP and DESA to continue its work in mainstreaming human rights within the UN development context, including within country-level CCAs and UNSDCF. OHCHR's leadership at the CEB Inequalities Framework - UN high-level policy-making body - is focusing on strengthening inter-agency work on inequality.</p> <p>In the Asia-Pacific region, OHCHR partners and cooperates at the technical level with several AFPs on the effective implementation of specific economic, social and cultural rights (ESCRs) and SDGs (UNDP and UNODC on SDG16, UNEP on SDG13, UN-Women on SDG5). OHCHR's South-East Regional Office also contributes to undg Peer Support Group (PSG) and co-chairs the Asia-Pacific Regional Issue-Based Coalition on Human Rights, Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment, as well as the Asia-Pacific Regional Human Rights Working Group which consists of the AFPs' Human Rights Focal Points from both the regional and country levels.</p> <p>In addition, OHCHR collaborates with the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AI-CHR), inter alia, to support the implementation of the ASEAN-UN Plan of Action and its Outcome 1.2 on "Promotion of Good Governance, Human Rights and Democracy".</p> <p>In Lao PDR and in cooperation with the RCO, OHCHR is engaged with the network of development partners, including those with bilateral Human Rights Dialogues with Lao PDR, through quarterly In-Depth Discussions on Human Rights.</p> <p>As in all countries, OHCHR engages with CSOs and CSO networks as well as other non-governmental stakeholders working in/on Lao PDR.</p>
	Communication and advocacy capacity	OHCHR is positioned to leverage the regional and HQ-level for advocacy messages and talking points on human rights, inter alia, around the periodic reviews of Lao PDR by the international human rights mechanisms and relevant International Days.
	Project and program implementation capacity	NA
	M & E capacity	<p>As one of the facilitators of Global Alliance for reporting on Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies (which is one of the principal multi-stakeholder platforms for SDG16+) and the global "custodian" for four SDG16 indicators, such as on conflict-related deaths (16.2); killings and other attacks against human rights defenders, journalists and trade unionists (16.10.1); independent national human rights institutions (16.a.1); and prevalence of discrimination and harassment (10.31/16.b.1), OHCHR can play an important role in providing tools and guidance to the UNCT on collecting, disaggregating and analysing SDG16 data, monitoring and reporting, as well as identifying collective action points to accelerate its implementation.</p> <p>Globally, OHCHR also developed the "thematic" human rights indicators for the UN system to assess and mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on human rights and identify the extent to which national responses respect human rights. Under the leadership of the RC, OHCHR's South-East Regional Office can continue to support the UNCT in Lao PDR in integrating and implementing the Human Rights Indicators on COVID-19 across the pandemic-related assessments and projects.</p> <p>Moreover, OHCHR's Headquarters co-lead data collection for two programmatic indicators of the UN Framework for the Immediate Socio-Economic Response (SERF) to COVID-19, such as on human rights protection services related to COVID-19 (2.5) and community-based organizations' capacities to respond to COVID-19 (5.2) which contributes to both the global and country-level monitoring of progress and achievements of the UN's collective actions in the immediate socio-economic response.</p>

	<p>In Lao PDR, OHCHR is also in a position to support the UNCT and the Government in developing an M&E Framework and National Recommendations Tracking Database (NRTD) for the UPR-accepted recommendations, including by strengthening the information management capacity of the National Human Rights Committee and the Human Rights Focal Points. This could contribute to the monitoring and evaluation of the UPR-related indicators of both the 9th NSEDP and the CF.</p> <p>At the country level, OHCHR's South-East Regional Office can also support the UNCT and the Lao Statistics Bureau, National SDG Secretariat and National Human Rights Committee with linking up the national reporting on the realization of the human rights obligations and implementation of the SDGs, including by utilizing the Universal Human Rights Index that categorizes the international human rights recommendations by SDGs and their targets.</p> <p>In the framework of the CF Result Groups, OHCHR can support the UNCT to select and contextualize the Human Rights Indicators for each CF Result Group and establish a CF overarching human rights monitoring/early-warning system.</p> <p>In addition, in line with OHCHR's guidelines on the "Human Rights-Based Approach to Data", OHCHR's South-East Regional Office can provide technical support and guidance to the UNCT and its CF Result Groups and M&E/Data Working Group in strengthening and systematizing the integration of the HRBA principles and methodologies in the UNCT/UN Joint Programmes data collection, analysis and disaggregation processes.</p>
Operational business model	Through a regional, sub-regional, multi-country office or headquarters
New or innovative modality	In collaboration and cost-sharing with RCO, supporting the RC and RCOs coordination and convening mandate and capacity with technical guided and quality assured human rights expertise through an in-country UNV under technical guidance from and direct collaboration with OHCHR's South-East Regional Office
Participation in outcomes and outputs	<p>Outcomes: Governance and Rule of Law</p> <p>Joint outputs: Civic space and participation (Lead); Rule of law and access to justice; Gender equality, women's empowerment, and human rights; Trans-national organized crime</p>
Conclusions of the configuration discussions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) OHCHR has a crucial mandate in Lao PDR with regard to strengthening LNOB aspects. Linked to this, OHCHR would be the natural lead of the Programme Oversight Group for the initial first year. 2) To reinforce the UNCT's normative work and support the RC/RCOs convening mandate and capacity on human rights, OHCHR cost shares an in-country UNV expert. 3) OHCHR focuses its engagement on outcome 3 on Governance only to avoid overstretching its resources.

UN Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)

Agency-specific assessment for planned contributions to the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework

Relevance of the UN entity to the UNSDCF		<p>The UNAIDS leads the coordination of the Joint UN Programme on HIV/AIDS. The UNAIDS country office (UCO) also take lead in advocating for increase investment for resource mobilization to support the Lao PDR in meeting the global vision of “Ending AIDS by 2030”.</p> <p>Lao PDR is not yet on track to meet all 2030 global targets set by world leaders and endorsed in 2016 through the UN Political Declaration. Approximately 15,000 people are still living with HIV but only 54% have accessed to Antiretroviral Therapy, resulting in high number of deaths in public hospitals in comparison with other communicable diseases. Currently, the HIV epidemic is concentrated in key populations. Through the new CF, UNAIDS is committed to directly contribute to outcome 1. Key priorities for UNAIDS Secretariat to deliver in the next five years include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Capacity of national and CSOs partners strengthened to provide accessible, equitable and quality HIV services to key populations and support the global AIDS strategy to “end AIDS by 2030”. - Policy and structural barriers in accessing HIV services for key populations removed and more spaces created for CSOs/private sector to actively engage in the AIDS response, including community-led services. - Development partners mobilized to provide technical and financial support and ensure country's progress toward achievement of national targets. - National and subnational system for health strengthened with sustainable investment made in the HIV/AIDs response.
Residual programme commitments (CPD or similar)		<p>UNAIDS's portfolio has no residual programme commitments.</p> <p>Globally, UNAIDS unites the efforts of 11 UN organizations: UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP, UNDP, UNFPA, UNODC, UN Women, ILO, UNESCO, WHO and the World Bank. Together, its mission is to achieve universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support. At the country level, UNAIDS is leading in coordination with Co-sponsors and development partners to support the implementation of the National Strategic Action Plan 2021-2025 on HIV/AIDS.</p>
Technical Capacities	Thematic policy expertise	Advocacy, coordination and resource mobilization for increase investment in HIV response, generate evidence and document best practices and new innovation, develop strategic information, and data management.
	Expertise in international norms and standards	UCO expert has good understanding of the Economic and Social Council Resolution 1994/24 which mandates UNAIDS to achieve its global vision of “Ending AIDS by 2030”. UCO expert is also experienced in the right based approach to programming and has supported the work of human rights defenders in the country to ensure that the rights of everyone are fulfilled.
Functional Capacities	Advisory capacity for policy formulation and implementation	With technical support from UNAIDS, Lao PDR completed the development of the 10-year National Strategic Plan 2021-2030 and Action Plan 2021-2025 for the Prevention and Control of HIV/AIDS.
	Capacity to connect and engage in networks and partnerships	<p>UCO coordinates with HIV/AIDS key players (donors, INGOs, CSOs) at the country level to share information and seek ways to improve coordination and increase synergy of the HIV/AIDS interventions among the key players.</p> <p>In addition, UCO also collaborates with the UN agencies (IOM, WHO, UNODC, UNFPA) to mainstream HIV/AIDS into existing programs.</p> <p>UCO partners with the Center for HIV/AIDS and STI, ART sites throughout the country and the Ministry of Health to support the implementation of the national HIV/AIDS Action Plan.</p> <p>UCO engages with the University of Health Science to mainstream HIV/AIDS into the medical school curriculum. UCO also coordinated with UCOs in the region to share best practice on Sentinel Surveillance Plus and key actors in Thailand to leverage TA support on PrEP, PMCT and cross border collaboration.</p> <p>The UCO also has extended networks with the Lao media.</p>
	Communication and advocacy capacity	UCO has experience in development of communication for behaviour change program, including campaign and IEC development (leaflet, booklet, posters, guidelines, VDO). UCO has also built the capacity of CSOs on advocacy for policy development and changes.

	Project and program implementation capacity	UCO has experience in program implementation on HIV/AIDS prevention, care and support. In addition, the Regional Technical Support Team based in Bangkok is experienced in community-led services – PrEP and harm reduction.
	M & E capacity	UCO do not directly implement programs in the country so there are no planned monitoring arrangement or evaluations.
	Operational business model	Representative or Country Office
	New or innovative modality	NA
	Participation in outcomes and outputs	Outcomes: People's Wellbeing Joint outputs: Health
	Conclusions of the configuration discussions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) UNAIDS, as a highly specialised agency, concentrates its work entirely on the health output under outcome one of the CF. 2) It is important that UNAIDS' mandate and business model coincide. Therefore, alternative options such as a liaison office or embedded capacities within a larger agency should be explored. 3) UNAIDS' business model is currently being discussed at the regional and headquarter level.

UN Capital Development Fund (UNCDF)

Agency-specific assessment for planned contributions to the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework

Relevance of the UN entity to the UNSDCF

UNCDF is the specialist Agency that carries the UNGA mandate to provide capital finance solutions and associated technical support to member states with a focus on the LDCs.

Critical development issues that are emerging in Lao PDR and which have been encapsulated within the 9th NSEDP include rapid urbanization, the continuation of low productivity in the agricultural sector, fiscal constraints, debt sustainability, optimized public financial management including revenues, a lagging decentralization process and limited integration into the regional production networks and by extension the global value chains. The development of the economic corridors, because of the BRI investments into new rail and road linkages, are moving Laos from being landlocked to land linked. This will have a lasting effect on the development trajectory of Laos over the next decades. Laos is critically slipping back against its neighbours and peers in terms of the digital economy and transformation, lacking many of the basis systems and components of a harmonized regulatory base that are currently deployed across the region to boost trade and take advantage of its overspill in terms of MS/SME development and business start-ups.

UNCDF has an extensive and active engagement in Lao PDR through government and financial institutions within intervention areas that includes de-decentralization, urban investment, digital financial services and solutions for inclusivity and MS/SME sector development, social protection capital supply systems and public financial management.

Outcome 1: Peoples Well Being; UNCDF will contribute through the provision of financing solutions and funded interventions towards creating safer and inclusive urban areas. This will be through our global and regional programs combined with capital injections via applications to the International Municipal Investment Fund (IMIF). The agency will focus on smart city solutions being inclusive of digital, climate resilience and urban services greening and expansion to meet city growth through a mix of dedicated TA to support urban asset and financial management, digitization of services, and facilitating investment planning and developing and implementing urban in partnership with UN Habitat that can additionally access the UNCDF IMIF global fund and other sources of capital finance.

Outcome 2: Inclusive Prosperity; The agency will provide support to a 6 of the 8 output areas with critical focus being placed on smooth LDC transition and SDG financing through our current projects and continued support to PFM via various channels including optimization of budgets, IGFTs and debt management that fall under the government's current PFM strategy. In this vein UNCF will support the creation of new fiscal space and contribute to the government's efforts of building additional GFCF through our financial solutions inclusive of instruments and investments. Through this pillar UNCDF will implement its corporate strategy within Laos i.e. to facilitate the increase of financial flows into LDCs that will enable sustainable and inclusive investments for (i) last mile financing, (ii) MS/SME start-ups and investments to upgrade the domestic MS/SME to enter into regional production networks and value chains and services that in particular support youth entrepreneurship and women's economic empowerment and (iii) connectivity and services through productive infrastructure investments that support transformation of the national economy through sub national territorial development.

Outcome 3: Governance and Rule of Law; UNCDF have decades long history in supporting the decentralization programme through the development of fiscal transfer systems for both recurrent and capital expenditure. CDF will continue to support the decentralization process being implemented by the government specifically under the PAR and Data Driven Governance output areas for the duration of this framework through partnerships with UNDP and UN Habitat to further develop the IGFTs that support the strengthening of the regional government and People's Assembly. UNCDF will also support the digitization of sub national government services and application of big data driven local territorial planning, offering technical solutions to enhance data gathering for sub national planning and investment, systems for improving local government OSR and digitized G2B and G2C payments services.

Outcome 4: Environment, climate change and resilience, UNCDF through our global facility LoCAL being recognised and adopted by UNFFFC as a global solution for local government climate resilience urban and rural financing will actively participate in the reinforcement of national and subnational institutions' capacity, as well as communities, to better manage climate adaption through the use of performance based grants, dedicated climate adaptative investments and support the government to manage and implement their NDC commitments.

Residual programme commitments (CPD or similar)		<p>In relation to UNCDFs ongoing initiatives in Lao PDR there are no residual programme commitments. UNCDFs programme of work is informed by the upcoming UNCDF Strategic Plan for 2021-2024, the Lao PDR - UN PF 2017-2021 and the 8th & 9th NSEDP respectively.</p> <p>Therefore, all current projects and emerging but funded projects are aligned with the CF objectives, with a strong emphasis on increasing quality financial flows into the country for development and structural transformation purposes. These quality investments into last mile, MS/SME and local productive infrastructures will further take advantage and sensitize the large BRI projects by connecting secondary cities, communities and citizens through new forward and backward socio-economic linkages. These activities will contribute to the creation of new fiscal space at national and subnational levels and the potential to increase GGFCF through effective asset management and SDG focused investments. This will necessarily include the building of new capacities and competencies for enhanced PFM last mile, MS/SME, connectivity and services and climate resilient investments that will enable Lao PDR to tap into UNCDF dedicated global development funds and other non-traditional forms of finance.</p>
Technical Capacities	Thematic policy expertise	<p>UNCDF policy expertise is in the main associated to the public finance, private and financial sectors. UNCDF are specialized in supporting policy makers in developing data driven financing solutions for; (i) The Last Mile - LNOB, (ii) MSME start-ups and diversification and challenge funds and (iii) Municipal and rural infrastructure financing through capital markets, public sector blended finance solutions, and unlocking of domestic capital. In addition, our non-investment-oriented policy expertise includes the digitization of B2B, B2C, G2B and G2C services, regulatory and policy support for inclusive digital economies, Public Financial Management, and debt financing. These areas of expertise match our unique broad set of financial instruments and services that will be available to deploy to Laos.</p> <p>UNCDF offers extensive technical and research capacities including a global knowledge base to support the government in the context of development finance, public finance management and the application of dedicated financial instruments to implement quality people centered investments including MS/SME and PPPs and associated transaction advisory and deal closure. UNCDF provides policy expertise in terms of data for investment futures, investment analysis, sector modelling for growth, capital markets risk appetites to aid project origination and development into bankable investment ready projects.</p>
	Expertise in international norms and standards	<p>UNCDF unique technical solutions in climate financing are recognized and qualified by UNFCCC and GCF as a global standard for climate financing for local governments. Our in-house and corporate capacities support our investments that align with the New Urban Agenda, Paris Agreement, and Sendai Framework on DDR, and SDGs.</p>
Functional Capacities	Advisory capacity for policy formulation and implementation	<p>Current work that will extend into the new CCA framework will include (i) policy advisory to support the creation of new fiscal space, public sector financial and debt management, (ii) continued advisory support to increase financial flows into specific sectors determined through big data analysis and modelling.</p>
	Capacity to connect and engage in networks and partnerships	<p>UNCDF has the unique capacity to connect with and engage in global and regional networks within the spheres of development finance and capital with international, regional and national actors. UNCDF is fully engaged at global levels in climate financing through COP events and partnerships with UNFCCC, GCF and other key institutions. In the local governance financing sphere, UNCDF are fully partnered with UCLG ASPAC Cities Alliance, DeLog, and FMDV, having developed in partnership with UCLG the US\$ 350 million international municipal investment fund (IMIF) that is externally managed through Meridiam capital, Paris, to finance through equity and loans urban and municipal projects. Projects are currently being implemented in partnership with ADB, ASEAN Smart Cities Network,</p> <p>UNCDF is partnered with Switzerland in a global water basin management initiative that brings in innovative financing for river basins. The global initiative "Blue Peace" will be introduced to Laos during the CCA.</p> <p>In the digital economy and digital governance space, UNCDF digitalization, data and inclusive micro financing capacities are extensively networked with numerous public and private partners that include ESCAP, ASEAN, Master Card, Gates Foundation, etc.</p> <p>UNCDF enjoy active relationships with MoHA, MoPI, MoF, MoSWL, MoPW and the Bank of Laos.</p>
	Communication and advocacy capacity	<p>UNCDF provide knowledge base materials, research publications and project relevant reports and data through our in-house capacities held in New York and the Regional Office in Bangkok.</p>
	Project and program implementation capacity	<p>UNCDF have office and professional located in Lao PDR being supported from Bangkok Regional Hub and our New York HQ. In house we have extensive capacity to develop and implement joint projects within the UNCT and have extensive experience and reach into the field. In essence we have full</p>

		implementation capacity from project origination and design, project document and RF development, activity implementation and M&E
	M & E capacity	UNCDF manage internally all evaluations related to UNCDF projects and have a dedicated M&U in New York. ON an annual basis UNCDF provides a results report that consolidates all project monitoring information into a single public domain document that can be readily accessed through the UNCDF website. Additionally, UNCDF have established a live transparency page that provided on-time information and data related to funds and activities
	Operational business model	Separate liaison or project office
	New or innovative modality	NA
	Participation in outcomes and outputs	<p>Outcomes: People's Wellbeing; Inclusive Prosperity; Governance and Rule of Law; Environment, Climate Change, and Resilience</p> <p>Joint outputs: Protection; Smooth transition to LDC graduation; Planning and financing for the SDGs; Social protection; Migration policy; Private sector development, skills, and digitisation; gender equality, women's empowerment, and human rights; Green growth</p>
	Conclusions of the configuration discussions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) UNCDF needs to pool its resources and to concentrate on key issues considering the wide participation in different coordination groups under the CF. UNCDF is encouraged to focus its engagement on the outcome rather than output level to be more efficient and effective. 2) Due to the limited in-country capacity, coordination responsibilities should be limited. 3) UNCDF plays a key role in order to achieve the goals set under outcome 2 on Inclusive Prosperity.

UN Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL)

Agency-specific assessment for planned contributions to the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework

Conclusions of the configuration discussions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) UNCITRAL, as a highly specialised agency, concentrates its engagement under outcome 2 on Inclusive Prosperity. 2) In line with UNCITRAL's focus on international trade and commercial law, the agency will contribute towards the joint outputs on LDC Graduation and Private sector, skills development and digitalisation. 3) UNCITRAL is not a formal member of outcome 3 on Governance but will be included in discussions about cross-cutting issues linked to rule of law / governance and trade such as the Singapore Convention on Mediation and similar matters.
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UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

Agency-specific assessment for planned contributions to the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework

Relevance of the UN entity to the UNSDCF		<p>UNCTAD carries out economic research, promotes consensus at the multilateral level with innovative analyses and makes policy recommendations to support government decision-making. It turns research findings into practical applications and offers direct technical assistance to help countries to build the capacities they need for equitable integration into the global economy and improve the well-being of their populations. As the focal point within the UN system for the integrated treatment of trade and development and interrelated issues in the areas of finance, technology, investment and sustainable development, UNCTAD is uniquely placed to address the cross-cutting development implications of e-commerce and the digital economy.</p> <p>In this context, Lao PDR benefited from an eTrade Readiness Assessment, providing a detailed overview of constraints and opportunities for e-commerce development by bringing relevant stakeholders together, serving as a tool to ensure that relevant e-commerce policies and strategies are carefully mainstreamed in national development plans. As the 9th National Socio-Economic development Plan in Lao PDR recognizes the potential of the digital revolution for e-commerce to meet the country's ambitions to graduate from LDC status, UNCTAD is well positioned to extend its technical assistance in areas like e-commerce strategy development, capacity building for legal reforms, measuring e-commerce and the digital economy and women digital entrepreneurs as part of the CF 2022-2026.</p> <p>Furthermore, UNCTAD assistance aims at supporting smooth transition from the LDC category with tailored policy recommendations to improve the trade and investment climate in the country, including support to Government on debt management.</p> <p>In light of the above, UNCTAD is uniquely placed to contribute to the "Inclusive prosperity" Outcome Pillar of the UNCF 2022-2026 in Lao PDR, namely that "by 2026, people, especially the most vulnerable and marginalized, benefit from more inclusive, and resilient, transformative, and sustainable socio-economic opportunities to reduce poverty and inequalities".</p>
Residual programme commitments (CPD or similar)		See above
Technical Capacities	Thematic policy expertise	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Debt Management- E-commerce and digital economy (ECDE) programme- LDC graduation
	Expertise in international norms and standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- UNCTAD heads of the Secretariat of the UN Commission of Science and Technology for Development- UNCTAD is co-organizer of the World Summit on the Information Society Forum (WSIS 2021)- UNCTAD is the convener of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on E-commerce and the Digital Economy and Working Group on Measuring E-commerce and the Digital Economy (agenda items of the Trade and Development Board)
Functional Capacities	Advisory capacity for policy formulation and implementation	<p>This is a main part of UNCTAD mandate through its pillars on research and policy formulation, as well as technical assistance. In line with the thematic areas above and the prosperity Pillar of the CF, this consists of the following capacities.</p> <p>Technical assistance, advisory services, diagnostics and strategy development in the areas of e-commerce and ICT planning at the request of governments. Preparation and revision of e-commerce laws aligned with international and regional instruments, regional and national capacity-building workshops. Empowerment of women entrepreneurs in e-commerce and the digital economy (eTrade for Women). Technical assistance on measuring e-commerce and the digital economy.</p> <p>LDC graduations support is geared towards strengthening capacity, among government officials in recipient countries, to mainstream resilience-building, and smooth transition strategies into national policy-making.</p>

	Capacity to connect and engage in networks and partnerships	<p>This is a main part of UNCTAD expertise, translating policy recommendations from global research (flagship reports) into regional-local context through Peer Reviews and additional tailored reports. For example, the Digital Economy Report, published every other year, monitors trends and policies related to access, use and impact of digital technologies from a development perspective. Its findings are incorporated in several global fora and disseminated through several knowledge exchange networks.</p> <p>Furthermore, UNCTAD leads the 'eTrade for all' partnership initiative. Launched in July 2016 at the UNCTAD Ministerial Conference in Nairobi, it aims to scale up cooperation, transparency and aid-efficiency towards the attainment of more inclusive e-commerce, building on a collaborative effort of 32 development partners. Established as a global platform, engagement at the country level is nurtured through its spin-off programmes and networks such as the eTrade Readiness Assessments and eTrade for Women initiative.</p> <p>Last, UNCTAD is also partnering with UN entities working on trade via the UN Inter-Agency Cluster on Trade and Productive Capacity.</p>
	Communication and advocacy capacity	<p>UNCTAD has unique expertise which is advocated at the global, regional and national levels.</p> <p>In the area of ECDE, UNCTAD organize global and regional eCommerce Weeks. Since its inception in 2015, the UNCTAD eCommerce Week has become the leading forum to discuss challenges and opportunities relating to e-commerce and the digital economy and through a wide range of events contributed to the global dialogue to make the development of e-commerce more inclusive.</p> <p>To date, five global and one regional (Africa, 2018) eCommerce Weeks have been organized (the Asia eCommerce Week is scheduled for October 2021), each of these benefiting from the cutting-edge expertise and active involvement of its eTrade for all partners and showing a steady increase in the number of participants.</p>
	Project and program implementation capacity	Implementation Capacity through Headquarters and local capacity including with trained Staff from Government identified as Focal Point.
	M & E capacity	<p>UNCTAD ECDE Programme has its own Results-based Management system in place and an M & E framework against which programme performance is measured.</p> <p>Data from the ECDE M & E framework feed into UNCTAD-wide Annual Reporting through "UNCTAD Review of the technical cooperation activities and their financing" introduced to Member States during Annual Working Party on UNCTAD Strategic Framework and Programme Budget organized at the PdN, Geneva, Switzerland.</p>
	Operational business model	Through a regional, sub-regional, multi-country office or headquarters
	New or innovative modality	NA
	Participation in outcomes and outputs	<p>Outcomes: Inclusive Prosperity</p> <p>Joint outputs: Private sector development, skills, and digitalisation; LDC graduation</p>
	Conclusions of the configuration discussions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) UNCTAD has strong technical capacities on digitalization and e-commerce and e-trade, which is a crucial element within the joint output on Private sector development, skills, and digitalisation. 2) UNCTAD needs to focus its contributions on two joint outputs only due to limited capacity and the business model of a non-resident agency. 3) It is important that the different units within UNCTAD working on projects concerning Lao PDR are well connected and in regular exchange.

UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA)

Agency-specific assessment for planned contributions to the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework

Relevance of the UN entity to the UNSDCF	<p>DESA provides analytical and policy support to the General Assembly, ECOSOC and its subsidiary bodies' deliberations on global norms and standards related to the economic, social, and environmental spheres under the DESA mandate and expertise. DESA also assists Member States in translating the norms, standards and global policy frameworks emerging from intergovernmental deliberations into integrated, evidence-based, inclusive and well-funded national strategies and plans to implement the 2030 Agenda.</p> <p>To deliver on this, DESA has developed a series of practical methodologies, tools and models that can support Member States integrate global approaches into their national sustainable development planning in the following areas of expertise: data and statistics; demographic trends and analysis; social inclusion of marginalized groups; macroeconomic analysis and forecasting; integrated policy analysis; science and technology for the SDGs, including science-policy interface; LDC graduation strategies and international support measures; financing for development; including domestic resource mobilization through taxation; sustainable forest management and financing; sustainable development issues related to water, oceans, energy and transport; institutional development; civil society engagement and public service delivery.</p> <p>This support is provided at the request of Member States or RCOs through ad hoc technical advisory services, training, workshops, seminars or as part of longer-term, multi-country, project-based interventions, generally in collaboration with partners (including UNCT members).</p>
Residual programme commitments (CPD or similar)	<p>DESA is currently implementing the following multi-country projects that include Lao PDR, almost all of which would be completed before the new CF comes into effect:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strengthening the capacity of LDCs to develop evidence-based, coherent and well financed national strategies and plans to implement the 2030 Agenda (an interdivisional project continuing to 2021, supported by the UN PDF); - Monitoring the SDGs (DESA Statistics Division project, continuing to 2021, supported by the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO)); - Institutional arrangements for policy integration, coordination and stakeholder engagement in SDG implementation and reviews in Asia and the Pacific (DESA Division for Public Institutions and Digital Governance (DPIDG), supported by the UN Development Account); - New assistance measures for graduating least developed countries (LDCs) (two DESA Economic Analysis and Policy Division (EAPD) projects, supported by the UN PDF and UN Development Account); - Jointly building the Belt and Road towards the SDGs (DESA/EAPD, supported by the UN PDF); - Support to develop the Lao PDR National Small and Medium (SME) Enterprise Development Plan 2021-2025 (DESA Division for Sustainable Development Goals (DSDG), funded by the UN Regular Programme of Technical Cooperation (RPTC); - Enhancing national capacities for unleashing potentials of Micro-, Small- and Medium-size enterprises (MSMEs) in achieving the SDGs in developing countries (DSDG), funded by the UN PDF. <p>Most of these programme commitments will have been delivered before the new CF begins in 2022. The project on "New assistance measures for graduating LDCs" continues into the new CF cycle and is well aligned with the CF priority on LDC graduation and development of a smooth transition strategy (STS), given Lao PDR's expected graduation at the end of the CF cycle in 2026.</p>

<p>Technical Capacities</p>	<p>Thematic policy expertise</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - LDCs - DESA is the secretariat of the Committee for Development Policy (CDP), which advises the (ECOSOC on issues related to smooth graduation from this category. CDP will monitor Lao PDR's development progress with DESA's support leading up to (and following) its expected 2026 graduation date. DESA can support Lao PDR on the graduation process under the Graduation Support Facility, which is designed as a country-led global platform, bringing in relevant UN and International partners, driven by national demands for capacity development support and technical advisory services across six key areas: i) addressing the loss of LDC international support; ii) preparing and implementing a smooth transition strategy (STS); iii) transition finance; iv) improving the ability of graduating LDCs to access existing and new support measures; v) South-South Cooperation, dialogue and sharing country as well as region-specific knowledge and experience; and ensures vi) effective participation in the monitoring process of the CDP. DESA can also offer the broad range of support related to SDGs implementation - e.g., related to data, policy and finance - adapted to the specific needs of LDCs. - Statistics and Data Analytics - As the Secretariat of the UN Statistical Commission, DESA has an authoritative voice on developing concepts and methods to implement international statistical standards set by the Commission at global, regional and national levels. DESA work on data and statistics is geared to advise and build the capacity of national statistical offices (NSOs) to produce, collect, compile, store, analyse and disseminate official statistics and indicators consistent with these standards, in social statistics; economic statistics, (incl. international trade, financing flows and gaps, economic globalization, tourism, energy and industrial statistics); environmental statistics and environmental economic accounting; and statistics related to the SDGs and indicators. DESA also advises on forest-related indicators, on demographic projections, and on geospatial information management. Considering that the next Census of Laos will take place in 2025, DESA could provide training in specific areas such as the production of demographic projections, once the new data is made available. DESA also provides technical assistance to national statistics offices on disaggregation of national economic accounts by age and gender based on UN standards in support of the 2030 Agenda on LNOB. Laos has previously participated in this training. DESA is well positioned to strengthen RC/UNCT efforts to build national statistical capacity for SDG indicator formulation, tracking, and data management; strengthen statistical governance (including policies, law and institutions) and modernize statistical systems, including big data and geospatial infrastructure management. Possible modalities to access such support are: DESA knowledge platforms and databases; global network of statisticians; and capacity development work. - Capacity development work in Lao PDR has included support to the Lao Statistics Bureau (LSB) on metadata, user engagement strategies, modelling of SDG data to SDMX standard for easier transfer, and preparation for establishment of an SDG indicator platform. More information on the work can be found at unstats.un.org/capacity-development/UNSD-FCDO. - Integration of the 2030 Agenda and SDGs into NSEDP, Multi-stakeholder Engagement and Partnerships - DESA can support RC/UNCT capacities to organize and support in-country multi-stakeholder consultations and workshops and strengthen their efforts to build national capacities for multi-stakeholder engagement and effective partnerships for the SDGs. It can provide a wealth of good practices, learning material, online training tools and direct training support on multi-stakeholder engagements and partnerships for a variety of purposes as well as an e-learning course for government officials on tools and methodologies for stakeholder engagement in national SDG reviews. A focus in Lao PDR could be to continue increasing the capacity of SDG Focal Points in the Government to contribute to national efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda, monitor and evaluate progress, and engage stakeholders in these efforts. Support to MSMEs frameworks could also be provided within this context. - Governance and effective, accountable and inclusive public institutions for the SDGs2. DESA can support the Government of Lao PDR's ability to improve the performance of normative frameworks, institutions and systems and promote participation, transparency and accountability increased at national and sub-national level. We can offer an array of tools in this regard, including a Curriculum on Governance, which is a comprehensive set of Training of Trainers Capacity Development Toolkits with ready-to-use and customizable training material on key governance dimensions needed to advance the implementation of the SDGs available at no cost on the UN Public Administration Network's website at unpan.un.org
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² One of the DESA divisions (DPIDG) provides the Secretariat and substantive support to the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council on issues related to governance and public administration (Committee of Experts on Public Administration (CEPA)).

		Other areas of DESA work where a contribution to the CF might be discussed include economic analysis and forecasting, inclusive social development, including for indigenous peoples, persons with disabilities, youth and older persons, asset management, and advisory services on forest finance.
	Expertise in international norms and standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support to UN intergovernmental processes and the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, including review of progress towards the SDGs e.g., through VNRs. - Statistical norms, standards and guidance, e.g., Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, 2030 Agenda's framework of indicators and statistical data, UN National Quality Assurance Frameworks Manual for Official Statistics (UN NQAF Manual). - Eleven principles of Effective Governance for Sustainable Development, endorsed by the Economic and Social Council on 2 July 2018, highlighting the need for pragmatic and ongoing improvements in national and local governance capabilities to reach the SDGs. - Expertise in implementation of international normative frameworks on inclusive social development and human rights including the CRPDs, Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, as well as related internal UN frameworks, such as the System-Wide Action Plan on indigenous peoples.
Functional Capacities	Advisory capacity for policy formulation and implementation	DESA is well placed to provide advisory services and capacity building for the carrying out of inclusive development and implementation processes for economic and social development policies, strategies and programmes.
	Capacity to connect and engage in networks and partnerships	NA
	Communication and advocacy capacity	NA
	Project and program implementation capacity	NA
	M & E capacity	NA
Operational business model		Through a regional, sub-regional, multi-country office or headquarters
New or innovative modality		DESA can support and collaborate with RC/UNCT country-level efforts in a variety of ways, depending on RC/UNCT specific needs and DESA available resources and capacities. Modalities can thus range from: a) providing easy access to existing knowledge resources, research material, databases, and online training tools, including webinars on specific issues (upon request); b) access to and training on existing guidance, methodologies and toolkits; c) ad-hoc technical support either in-country or remotely (e.g. through the statistic hot link, the DESA global network of data officers and statisticians, which include the RCO data officers, and the UN network of economists, which include the RCO economist); and d) access to longer-term capacity development in-country interventions at the request of governments via the RCs and upon availability of project funds and staff resources.
Participation in outcomes and outputs		<p>Outcomes: Inclusive Prosperity; Governance and the Rule of Law; Environment, Climate Change, and Resilience</p> <p>Joint outputs: Smooth transition beyond LDC graduation (lead); Planning and financing for the SDGs; Private sector, skills development and digitalisation; Public administration reform and data driven governance; green growth</p>
Conclusions of the configuration discussions		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) DESA's work is specifically important for Laos LDC graduation support (CDP secretariat), statistical capacity development (Public Administration), SDGs data and M&E. 2) Beyond this, DESA is engaged in climate finance and the INFF (Green Growth and Financing), the INFF and MESME support (Private sector, skills development and digitalisation), the BRI (Urban Development) as well as social protection policies (Social Protection). 3) Due to this broad engagement in the CF, DESA is encouraged to explore opportunities to increase its capacities for Lao PDR for example by installing embedded capacities within the RCO.

UN Development Programme (UNDP)

Agency-specific assessment for planned contributions to the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework

Relevance of the UN entity to the UNSDCF		<p>UNDP's contribution to the CF will be mainly in the areas of Inclusive Prosperity, Environment/Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management, and Governance. UNDP is one of the major contributors to the CF Prosperity pillar. UNDP's work in this area is informed by the need to ensure a mutually reinforcing link of policies and programmes informed by concrete evidence of what works at scale. UNDP will support the implementation of the NSEDP through MPI, including through the Sector Working Groups, focusing on M&E, costing and financing strategies, at national and sub-national levels.</p> <p>On Environment, UNDP will work with State authorities, at central level and provincial/district levels in the most affected areas, to develop policies and guidelines that improve national resources management, disaster risk management and resilience to climate change. UNDP's programme on governance and rule of law is predicated on the belief that public institutions that are responsive and accountable to the public are a necessary precondition for progress. This includes trust in the rule of law and judiciary. Therefore, UNDP will support State and non-state actors to put in place transparent and participatory evidence-based policy and decision-making processes to further strengthen human rights protection and accountability. UNDP will continue to support the UXO sector, by building the capacity of NRA and supporting UXO clearance and explosive ordnance risk education to reduce the loss of lives and increase economic opportunities, such as agriculture, or safer school grounds.</p>
Residual programme commitments (CPD or similar)		See above
Technical Capacities	Thematic policy expertise	The UNDP Country Office has amongst its team enhanced capacities on governance, public administration reform, rule of law and access to justice, human rights, UXO/mine action, national social and economic development strategies including financing, costing and M&E, environment/climate change and disaster risk reduction, innovation, as well as long-term relationships on national planning. In addition, capacities from UNDP's Global Policy Network can be called upon at short notice.
	Expertise in international norms and standards	The Country Office has expertise on international norms and standards related to HR treaties, as well as on other governance issues such as anti-corruption, anti-trafficking, business and human rights, etc. UNDP also has expertise at the regional and global level on international environmental norms and standards, e.g., Montreal Protocol, UNFCCC, etc.
Functional Capacities	Advisory capacity for policy formulation and implementation	The Country Office has amongst its team enhanced capacities on governance, environment/climate change and disaster risk reduction, as well as on national planning. In addition, capacities from UNDP's Global Policy Network can be called upon at short notice.
	Capacity to connect and engage in networks and partnerships	UNDP has a long-standing relationship and partnership with the government in strategic development areas such as MPI on national planning and Aid Effectiveness (Round Table Process), MoLSW on UXO and DRR, MoHA on governance, MoJ on justice and the rule of law, MAF and MoNRE on environmental protection, Lao Women's Union (LWU) on women empowerment, MoICT on enhancing access to information for ethnic groups in remote areas, and National Assembly. In recent years, UNDP has extended partnerships with new agencies such as Lao Youth Union on youth employment and skills development and MoH on COVID19 prevention. UNDP co-chairs the Governance and UXO Sector WG which gives it a unique capacity to engage a wide range of actors at the national level. UNDP works in partnership with UN and other partners.
	Communication and advocacy capacity	UNDP has a full-time communications analyst who supports all programmes with a focus on outreach and advocacy. UNDP has been supporting a network of community radios across the country which have been used to share messages on legal dissemination, UXO risks, Covid, etc. In addition, UNDP's regional communications advisor is on call.
	Project and programme implementation capacity	UNDP uses either national implementation or direct implementation modalities for programmes that it supports. Both have been used in Lao PDR and the CO is constantly adjusting to use the most appropriate modality per project. UNDP Country Office has a dedicated programme support unit.
	M & E capacity	The Country Office has a M & E Analyst who provides advice to regular monitoring and manages evaluations of projects and Outcomes. All projects with a total delivery of more than 5 million USD are subject to independent mid-term and final evaluations. On average, a project evaluation will cost USD 30,000-

		40,000 and the cost is inbuilt into the respective projects. Outcome evaluations are cost-shared across projects. UNDP CPD evaluation will be carried out by the Independent Evaluation Office.
Operational business model		Representative Office
New or innovative modality		The Country Office hosts an Accelerator Lab which explores local solutions to development challenges and co-designs experiments which can then be taken up to scale. This approach is being integrated in UNDP projects to achieve greater systems transformation.
Participation in outcomes and outputs		<p>Outcomes: Inclusive Prosperity; Governance and Rule of Law (Lead); Environment, Climate Change, and Resilience</p> <p>Joint outputs: Smooth transition to LDC graduation; Planning and financing for the SDGs (Lead); Rural development and UXOs (Lead); Private sector development, skills, and digitalisation; Civic space and participation; Rule of law and access to justice (Lead); Gender equality, women's empowerment, and human rights; Trans-national organized crime; Public administration reform and data-driven governance (Lead); Green growth (Lead); Natural resources management; Resilience</p>
Conclusions of the configuration discussions		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) UNDP role in promoting integrated solutions to development challenges is essential and a key part of the CF's ambition. 2) UNDP's technical and coordination capacities are well developed to lead outcome 3 on Governance and Rule of Law, they need to and are now being strengthened to make stronger contributions to outcome 2 on Inclusive Prosperity and outcome 4 on Environment, climate change and resilience. 3) In line with the above, and the envisioned lead of or active contributions towards 12 outputs, which is more than any other AFP, UNDP could benefit from organising and/or strengthening its capacities aligned to the CF and the CPD derived therefrom to meet these multiple commitments. 4) An elaborated resource mobilisation strategy and CPD are key to define UNDP's strategic direction and increase its footprint in Lao PDR.

UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)

Agency-specific assessment for planned contributions to the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework

Relevance of the UN entity to the UNSDCF		UNDRR is the UN focal point for disaster risk reduction and oversees the implementation of the global Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030). It supports member states in their implementation, monitoring and sharing of experiences in reducing existing disaster risk and preventing the creation of new disaster risk. The UNDRR Regional Office for AP based in Bangkok will work with the UNCT and relevant Results Groups to ensure its technical DRR expertise, training workshop packages and DRR guidelines and knowledge products are integrated into the UNCT collective efforts to support implementation of the CF.
Residual programme commitments (CPD or similar)		All current projects are aligned with the CF objectives.
Technical Capacities	Thematic policy expertise	Disaster Risk Reduction
	Expertise in international norms and standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-30) - Disaster-related indicators in SDGs and Sendai Framework for DRR - Creation of and alignment of national and local DRR strategies to Sendai Framework for DRR
Functional Capacities	Advisory capacity for policy formulation and implementation	Technical DRR expertise and advice and guidance in the formulation of DRR policies, national and local DRR strategies and analysis of disaster risk.
	Capacity to connect and engage in networks and partnerships	Supporting Lao PDR to attend UNDRR Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, Asia Pacific Ministerial Conferences for DRR and providing space for member states such as Lao PDR to network and share disaster risk reduction experiences. Linkages with stakeholder-led networks (e.g., civil society, science and technology and the private sector).
	Communication and advocacy capacity	Advocacy for DRR to member states such as Lao PDR in-particular to high level government officials, and national / local stakeholders.
	Project and program implementation capacity	<p>Delivery of relevant training workshops in DRR; disaster-related data collection, reporting and use to inform resilient development; business resilience to disasters training; and national & local DRR strategy development as needed.</p> <p>Proposed future joint activity with WMO and World Bank will include project to enhance the capacities of national and regional stakeholders/institutions to provide effective and inclusive risk-informed early warning services to vulnerable populations in Cambodia and Lao PDR.</p>
	M & E capacity	NA
Operational business model		Through a regional, sub-regional, multi-country office or headquarters; Short-term technical support and other
New or innovative modality		NA
Participation in outcomes and outputs		<p>Outcomes: Environment, Climate Change, and Resilience</p> <p>Joint outputs: Resilience</p>
Conclusions of the configuration discussions		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Resilience and DRR are insufficiently covered by the current work of the UNCT in Lao PDR. 2) Despite UNDRR's important contributions during the development of the CF, the agency lacks capacities to meaningfully engage in its implementation and to fulfil a coordinator role on resilience. 3) The opportunity to install embedded capacity in the RCO will be explored.

UN Environment Programme (UNEP)

Agency-specific assessment for planned contributions to the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework

Relevance of the UN entity to the UNSDCF		<p>The UNEP is the leading global environmental authority that sets the global environmental agenda, promotes the coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development within the UN system, and serves as an authoritative advocate for the global environment.</p> <p>The mission is to provide leadership and encourage partnerships in caring for the environment by informing, enabling and inspiring nations and peoples to improve their quality of life without compromising that of future generations.</p> <p>UNEP works within a four-year Medium-Term Strategy 2022-2025, which is underpinned by two biennial programmes of work. The governing body of UNEP is the UN Environment Assembly, which brings together representatives of the 193 Member States of the UN, to agree on policies to address the world's most pressing environmental challenges.</p> <p>Work is delivered through UNEP expert staff through our Regional Office for Asia Pacific in Bangkok and our HQs in Nairobi.</p>
Residual programme commitments (CPD or similar)		See above
Technical Capacities	Thematic policy expertise	<p>UNEP has regional Bangkok based (and global) advisors covering our core areas of focus:</p> <p>Climate action, Nature Action, Chemicals and Pollution Action are the thematic focus areas of expertise for UNEP. These are underpinned by expertise in a set of supporting subprogrammes namely: finance and economic transformations; digital transformations; environmental governance; and science-policy.</p>
	Expertise in international norms and standards	<p>Support to Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs): In addition to providing secretariat services to 22 global and regional MEAs, UNEP supports Member States in the implementation of MEAs through technical capacity building and legislative and policy support. UNEP also assists countries negotiate effectively in the Conferences of the Parties and ratify newly adopted conventions and protocols. UNEP supported secretariats of MEAs and research bodies include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Convention on Biological Diversity - The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora - The Minamata Convention on Mercury - The Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions - The Vienna Convention for the Protection of Ozone Layer and the Montreal Protocol - The Convention on Migratory Species - The Carpathian Convention - The Bamako Convention - The Tehran Convention
Functional Capacities	Advisory capacity for policy formulation and implementation	In core areas of focus noted above.
	Capacity to connect and engage in networks and partnerships	<p>In our core areas of focus noted above plus UNEP supports a number of regional thematic and intergovernmental forums where Laos PDR is a participant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Regional Ministerial Forum on Environment and Health. - Regional Forum of Ministers and Environment Authorities of Asia Pacific - Asia Pacific Adaptation Network - East Asia Acid Deposition Network - Asia Pacific Clean Air Partnership - Asia Pacific Adaptation Network - UNEP Finance Initiative Roundtable on Sustainable Finance in Asia Pacific
	Communication and advocacy capacity	NA

	Project and program implementation capacity	<p>Preferred approach is to catalyse, design and strongly support both demonstration and large flagships projects and programmes via partnerships – without taking on the in-country/field level project management role.</p> <p>Technical and project management expertise focused on the creation, financing and mobilization of multi-partner environment and climate projects. Support is provided for a range of roles and levels of intensity. With limited in country capacity, these include UNEP serving in the following areas: initiating and designing projects and programmes; piloting smaller scale projects and programmes for future up-scaling by partners; resource mobilization support and strategic and technical oversight to larger multi-partner projects and programmes; GEF/GCF and other large project and programme implementation in partnership with development partners who have in country capacity.</p>
	M & E capacity	All UNEP projects are continually monitored and reported on formally mid and end year through the UNEP online Programme Information and Management System.
Operational business model		Through a regional, sub-regional, multi-country office or headquarters; Short-term technical support and other
New or innovative modality		NA
Participation in outcomes and outputs		<p>Outcomes: Environment, Climate Change, and Resilience</p> <p>Joint outputs: Green Growth; Natural Resources Management</p>
Conclusions of the configuration discussions		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) UNEP played an important role in defining outcome 4 on Environment during the development of the CF and the agency is the natural outcome lead. 2) UNEP lacks in-country staff capacities. 3) The development of joint programmes and installing embedded capacities in the RCO (e.g., a JPO) are options for UNEP to increase its footprint in Lao PDR.

UN Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO)

Agency-specific assessment for planned contributions to the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework

Relevance of the UN entity to the UNSDCF	<p>UNESCO's mandate is to build lasting peace and promote equitable and sustainable development through advancing cooperation in education, the sciences, culture, communication and information. As per its mandate, UNESCO provides institutional support and technical assistance, convenes stakeholders, acts as an innovation laboratory, and strengthens national capacities in Lao PDR through targeted programming and multi-sectoral engagement and cooperation that are human rights-based and that promote the key principles of inclusion, equity, and gender equality.</p>
Residual programme commitments (CPD or similar)	<p>See above</p>
<div>Technical Capacities</div> <div>Thematic policy expertise</div>	<p>Pillar: People's well-being: Education: inclusive and quality education and learning, learning assessment, teacher education, non-formal education, lifelong learning, higher education, TVET, ICT in education, educational planning, education statistics, comprehensive sexuality education, education for sustainable development, gender equality in education. >> Key activities/projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Capacity Building in Teacher Education aims at improving the quality of the teacher education system and the teaching workforce from preschool up to secondary education through: developing a comprehensive national teacher policy; enhancing the quality of early childhood teacher education in teacher training colleges; developing the capacities of institutions providing in-service teacher training programmes; promoting more girls' participation and achievements in STEM education; improving the Teacher Education Management Information System. - Education Response to the COVID-19 Crisis aims to strengthen the education system to be more inclusive and resilient to crises through developing national capacities on blended learning modalities for teacher education in response to COVID-19 school closures and beyond; and enhancing the digital resilience through competency-based teacher training reforms to facilitate ICT-pedagogy integration. - Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) in Schools will (i) support evidence gathering on the situation of pre-service teacher education for CSE through the Sexuality Education Review and Assessment Tool (SERAT); (ii) facilitate capacity-building for good quality design and delivery of CSE programmes, including through the online CSE implementation toolkit, and (iii) support targeted efforts in pre-service teacher education institutions for enhancing teacher's professional learning for CSE focused on pedagogical skills-building. - Non-formal Education Equivalency Programmes support the Department of Non-formal Education of the Ministry of Education and Sports in the policy and capacity development in primary and secondary education equivalency programmes for disadvantaged children and youth, including through the development of online courses for Ministry officials and service providers as well as a learning platform for children and youth including Lao learning materials. - Increasing Access to Basic Education for Out-of-School Children (OOSC) aims to tackle the issue of educational inequity and exclusion through piloting a blended non-formal lower-secondary equivalency program for OOSC in urban areas, as well as implementing the face-to-face non-formal primary education program for OOSC in rural areas, including creating digital contents, developing a learning management system and providing teachers with training on blended learning. <p>Pillar: Inclusive prosperity: Urban development: cultural and creative industries, safeguarding intangible cultural heritage, sustainable tourism, cultural heritage management; Private sector development: cultural and creative industries, sustainable tourism, cultural heritage, and Skills development and digital-ization: TVET, higher education, non-formal education including literacy and skills development, digital citizenship, media and information literacy; cultural and creative industries, safeguarding intangible cultural heritage, sustainable tourism, cultural heritage management, culture and digital technologies. >>Key activities/projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (2003): Capacity-building in the safeguarding of ICH for employment, tourism, and livelihoods through the creation of a community-based intangible cultural heritage (ICH) inventory for Luang Prabang; the enhancement of the safeguarding of ICH in the Town of Luang Prabang World Heritage Site using information and communications technologies; and building networks and capacity for youth in safeguarding ICH. - Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (2005): Building a network of organizations promoting arts and creative and cultural expressions; capacity-building to promote creative industries for employment, tourism, and livelihoods and linking the culture sector to digital technology and creative economy. - Online digital skills development courses for employment: https://ill-olc.net/#digital-skills-course

		<p>Pillar: Environment, climate change and resilience. Natural resources management: water, biodiversity, biosphere reserves, science education, climate science and research; Resilience: cultural and natural heritage management. >> Key activities/projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (1972): Capacity-building of heritage professionals in the sustainable management of the World Heritage sites of Luang Prabang, Vat Phou, and the Plain of Jars through support to World Heritage Management offices in developing and strengthening management systems and updating management plans in relation to disaster risk management, emergency preparedness, and resilience. Support to the government in conducting heritage impact assessments for the site of Luang Prabang, and in the preparation of the nomination of the Hin Nam No National Protected Area to become a World Heritage site.
	Expertise in international norms and standards	<p>The Right to Education and Freedom of Expression articles in HR treaties. Some of UNESCO's normative instruments relevant to UNCF are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Convention and Recommendation against Discrimination in Education; - Asia-Pacific Regional Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications in Higher Education; - Recommendation on Adult Learning and Education; Recommendation concerning the Status of Teachers; Recommendation on Open Educational Resources (OER); - Recommendation concerning technical and vocational education and training (TVET) - Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (2005); - Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (2003); - Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property (1970); - Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (1972).
Functional Capacities	Advisory capacity for policy formulation and implementation	See above
	Capacity to connect and engage in networks and partnerships	See above
	Communication and advocacy capacity	See above
	Project and program implementation capacity	See above
	M & E capacity	See above
Operational business model		Through a regional, sub-regional, multi-country office or headquarters
New or innovative modality		NA
Participation in outcomes and outputs		<p>Outcomes: People's Wellbeing; Inclusive Prosperity; Environment, Climate Change, and Resilience</p> <p>Joint outputs: Education; Private sector development, skills, and digitalization; Natural Resources Management; Resilience</p>
Conclusions of the configuration discussions		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) UNESCO's key programs and projects on cultural heritage management, climate science, education, skills development need to be more visible in Lao PDR. 2) CF coordination mechanism can facilitate new partnerships (e.g., national stakeholders, other UN agencies) and upscale UNESCO's work. 3) The opportunities offered by in-country presence compared to the current non-resident business model should be explored.

UN Population Fund (UNFPA)

Agency-specific assessment for planned contributions to the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework

Relevance of the UN entity to the UNSDCF		<p>UNFPA is the UN agency specialized in the area of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, implementing programmes in the areas of sexual and reproductive health, Comprehensive Sexuality Education and empowerment of youth, GBV, women’s empowerment and Gender Equality, and Population Data. UNFPA’s work will span across several outcome areas of the CF, including people’s well-being, inclusive prosperity, as well as governance and rule of law. Implementation will be conducted through projects together with, as well as technical and financial support to, government counterparts within the respective programme areas, as well as through partnerships with non-governmental organizations and the private sector.</p> <p>Strategic support and strategic thinking on demographic dividend and Human capital investments for 9th NSEDP supported by technical inputs for data collection, analysis and national capacity building. Strategic support for SRH Rights, Women’s Rights and Youth Rights through policy and technical work.</p> <p>Platform for and convene CSOs, INGOs, Pvt Sector for ICPD, financial leveraging and increased partnerships for sexual and reproductive health, family planning, youth friendly services, gender-based violence, adolescent pregnancies, child marriage, addressing school dropout and comprehensive sexuality education to deliver optimally on cross cutting nature of mandate, UNFPA is engaged in 6 UNJPs.</p> <p>UNFPA leads the technical support for the Census in 2025.</p>
Residual programme commitments (CPD or similar)		<p>UNFPA Lao PDR’s country programme will focus on four main areas of sexual and reproductive health and rights, based on the UNFPA global priority to the three Zeros (Zero preventable maternal deaths, Zero Gender based violence and harmful practices, Zero unmet need for family planning) across the development-humanitarian continuum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Sexual and reproductive health, focusing in particular on decreasing the maternal mortality ratio and adolescent birth rate.- Adolescent and youth empowerment, focusing in particular on addressing discriminatory barriers to accessing education, TVET and other learning opportunities for essential life skills, including comprehensive sexuality education, to better position Lao PDR to reap the demographic dividend- Gender Based Violence prevention and response, focusing in particular on providing protection and essential services, addressing discriminatory norms and practices, and empowerment of women- Population data, focusing on strengthening the government’s capacity to develop disaggregated data in the area of ICPD and SDGs as well as support for Population Housing Census 2025 and CRVS. <p>In addition to integrating relevant outcomes and into our CPD and joint outputs into relevant programming instruments, UNFPA will contribute to the implementation of the UNSDCF through joint-programmes and, where there are no joint-programmes, by participating in relevant Outcome groups and the coordination of these to inform the UNCT on our contribution to realize the framework.</p>
Technical Capacities	Thematic policy expertise	<p>Sexual and reproductive health and rights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Sexual and reproductive health- Adolescent and youth empowerment- Gender based violence and gender equality- Population related Data for development
	Expertise in international norms and standards	<p>Main ones include but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- UPR,- International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD)- Beijing declaration and platform for action- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)- Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)- SDGs: 3 (good health and well-being), 4 (quality education) and 5 (gender equality)
Functional	Advisory capacity for policy formulation and implementation	<p>UNFPA Lao PDR provides technical and thematic expertise to relevant government agencies on policy development and implementation in the areas of sexual and reproductive health, adolescents and youth, gender-based violence and gender equality, and evidence-based policy planning through disaggregated population data.</p>

		Technical and advocacy work for the design and approval of amongst others: the National Population Development policy, National Adolescents and Youth Strategy and Youth law, National Action plans on EVAW, on Women and children, on Gender Equality, RMNCAH Strategy.
	Capacity to connect and engage in networks and partnerships	<p>UNFPA is well-established in Lao PDR with cross-sectoral partnerships with government counterparts, such as MoH, MoES, MPI, LWU, NCAWMC and LYU, private sector, as well as national and international non-governmental organizations and CSOs.</p> <p>UNFPA is also leading and engaging actively in several networks bringing together actors across sectors as well as community members to facilitate multi-stakeholder collaboration on research, investments, sexual and reproductive health, psychosocial support, gender-based violence, adolescents & youth empowerment and LGBTIQ+ as well as other vulnerable groups.</p>
	Communication and advocacy capacity	<p>Supporting the programme teams and the operations team, UNFPA Lao PDR has a communication team that coordinates the fund's external communication and advocacy activities. Some of the more major activities include the advocacy tool the Noi Framework on adolescents' right to sexual and reproductive health and gender equality, the Me, My Body, My Future, My Planet campaign, the 16 Days of Activism Campaign against Gender Based Violence, communication and advocacy campaigns during the International Day of the Girl Child, World Population Day, International Youth Day and International Women's Day, as well as broadcasts by Lao Youth Radio and China Radio International.</p> <p>Technical advice and advocacy work on the National Commitments of Lao PDR to ICPD25.</p>
	Project and program implementation capacity	<p>UNFPA has four programme teams working in the areas of sexual and reproductive health, empowerment of youth and adolescents, gender and population data which all are implementing programmes and projects in their respective specialized areas.</p> <p>SRH: Focusing on reducing maternal mortality ratio and adolescent pregnancies. Interventions include strengthening the midwifery workforce, implementation of the safe abortion guidelines, provision of family planning services, mental health and psychosocial support, and TeleHealth.</p> <p>Adolescent girls and youth: addressing early marriage and other harmful norms and practices that constitute barriers for adolescent girls and youth to fully realise their potential. Specifically improve access to essential life skills and comprehensive sexuality education across primary, secondary, TVET University and Teacher training colleagues as well as for out of school. Diverse and innovative learning opportunities aim to help youth to achieve their full potential and place Lao on a path to reap the demographic dividend. Increasing partnerships through advocacy and community sensitization with the Noi Framework and Ecosystem.</p> <p>GBV and Gender Equality: addressing discriminatory norms and practices and engaging men to prevent gender-based violence, implementing the essential services package, including health, justice, health, protection, MHPSS psychosocial support, counselling and TVET for survivors of violence.</p> <p>Population data: Strengthening the capacity of government to collect, analyse, utilize and disseminate disaggregated population for improved policy making and planning. Also helping the government in conducting the Population and Housing Census, Lao Social Indicator Survey (LSIS) and other surveys and administrative data (CRVS).</p>
	M & E capacity	<p>During UNFPA's 7th Country programme, UNFPA, together with UN agencies, will provide inputs to strengthen the CF evaluation. This exercise will consider relevance, effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability of the 7th country programme' ability to deliver outcomes within the UNFPA mandate that can contribute towards CF outcomes and to identify challenges and opportunities to inform the next cycle.</p> <p>UNFPA will be an active member of the MELG that provides technical assistance, quality assurance and guidance to the Results Groups and the UNCT for monitoring, evaluation and reporting on the CF implementation, and for preparation of the One Country Results report annually. As the custodian of specific CF outcome and output level indicators, UNFPA will be responsible for data collection, analysis and reporting on those indicators on an annual basis.</p> <p>As a member of the UNCT and JSC, co-chaired by MoFA and the UNRC, UNFPA will participate in annual review meetings to review progress towards the expected results as set forth in the CF and recommend strategic adjustments to accelerate action and remain relevant in a changing environment.</p>
	Operational business model	Representative Office
	New or innovative modality	During Covid-19, UNFPA has piloted the TeleHealth initiative in the Luang Prabang province to ensure access to sexual and reproductive health care services/consultations as a response to the disruption of services during the initial phases of the pandemic. Technological innovations such as TeleHealth can

	<p>have a more comprehensive impact to meet health needs for people during humanitarian crises and for people living in hard-to-reach areas if scaled-up along with improved digital and electric infrastructure.</p> <p>As part of the COVID-19 response UNFPA increasingly used digital means as an effective response, provided technical assistance and capacity building on mental health and psychosocial support to adolescents and young people through telephone helplines, hotlines, and social media, run by LWU, LYU, Health staff as well as the Vientiane Youth Center. UNFPA, together with MoH, has developed the Noi Yakhoo mobile app to provide adolescents with relevant and accurate SRH information and referral linkages. A series of videos were developed in collaboration with MoES and used for providing comprehensive sexuality education to adolescents and young people through online and education and sports channels of the MoES.</p> <p>The Noi framework and ecosystem serves both as a gender-sensitive advocacy and programmatic tool to help protect girls' rights, reduce school dropouts, reduce early marriages and early pregnancies, fight gender-based violence, and to engage positively men and boys to participate into the promotion of women and girls' rights. It is comprehensive and facilitates diverse strategic partnerships for investments in adolescent girls in Lao PDR.</p> <p>UNFPA has a wide and active engagement with INGOs and CSO through the work with youth, gender and reproductive health and rights. It also has strategic partnerships with the private sector and with INGOs for support to and financing of the ICPD PoA and three Zeros (zero maternal deaths, GBV and harmful practices and unmet need for Family Planning). Based on these diverse alliances it is able to run large scale social media campaigns to inform, engage and influence.</p>
Participation in outcomes and outputs	<p>Outcomes: People's Wellbeing (Lead); Inclusive Prosperity; Governance and Rule of Law</p> <p>Joint outputs: Protection; Health; Education; Planning and financing for the SDGs; Urban development; Private sector development, skills, and digitalisation; Gender equality, women's empowerment, and human rights (Lead); Public administration reform and data driven governance</p>
Conclusions of the configuration discussions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) UNFPA has substantially contributed during the development process of the CF and is leading outcome 1 on People's Wellbeing and participating in 11 joint outputs. 2) UNFPA is encouraged to revise the number of joint outputs it is participating in to avoid overstretching its resources. 3) To fulfil upcoming coordination efforts, UNFPA intends to increase its capacity in the planning, policy, and communications unit.

UN Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

Agency-specific assessment for planned contributions to the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework

Relevance of the UN entity to the UNSDCF		<p>UN-Habitat is the UN agency specialised in urban issues and is mandated to support Member States to implement SDG 11 and make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.</p> <p>Rapid and uncontrolled urbanisation is an emerging issue in Lao PDR, increasing poverty, inequalities and vulnerabilities. In 2015, approximately 33% of the population was considered as urban, and projections estimate that urbanisation will reach 47.7% in 2025. Furthermore, highly vulnerable to climate change and its effects, urban areas are also facing an important lack of basic services and infrastructure to ensure sustainable development.</p> <p>UN-Habitat in Lao PDR has a large portfolio on building climate change resilience within human settlements, providing access to safe water and shelter, and developing resilient-infrastructure systems. As a result, the agency is well positioned to actively contribute to the development of the Cooperation Framework within cities and along the urban-rural continuum to ensure sustainable green growth, urban planning and recovery.</p> <p>Throughout this new CF, the agency is committed to directly contribute to Outcomes 1, 2 and 4, while aligning its interventions, when relevant, with Outcome 3.</p> <p>People's well-being, the agency will substantially contribute through interventions that target shelter, WASH and safer cities. This will be done by strengthening government capacity at all levels to provide access to appropriate, safe, affordable, climate-resilient and serviced shelter and urban spaces to all, including the most vulnerable in urban and rural areas, and support government and local authorities to deliver and improve coverage and quality of WASH services.</p> <p>Inclusive prosperity, UN-Habitat will contribute to reduce the rural-urban development gap through inclusive and integrated spatial planning, promotion of circular economies and public-private partnerships, improvement of infrastructures and services, and strengthening urban and rural entrepreneurship.</p> <p>Environment, climate change and resilience, UN-Habitat will actively participate in the reinforcement of national and subnational institutions' capacity, as well as communities, to better manage natural resources, enhancing resilience while preventing, adapting to, and recovering from shocks, disruptions and disasters. UN-Habitat will therefore support risk reduction planning and awareness by improving assessment tools, data and systems, and strengthening national adaptation strategies, with a focus on urban contexts.</p>
Residual programme commitments (CPD or similar)		<p>Regarding ongoing initiatives, UN-Habitat's portfolio has no residual programme commitments. UN-Habitat's programme of work is informed by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) Strategic Plan for 2020-2023, Country Programme Document (HCPD) 2018-2020, and the Lao PDR – UNPF 2017-2021.</p> <p>Thus, all current projects are aligned with the CF objectives, with a strong emphasis on building capacity to accelerate climate change resilience, improve access to basic services and shelter, and advance private sector engagement at all levels.</p>
Technical Capacities	Thematic policy expertise	Urban development and governance, urbanisation, urban planning, integrated development, natural resources management (mainly water and land), green growth, basic services, WASH, DRR, shelter, sustainable mobility, resilience, climate change vulnerability, adaptation and mitigation.
	Expertise in international norms and standards	Experts at the Lao CO are aware of and experienced in developing projects that align with the New Urban Agenda, Paris Agreement, and Sendai Framework on DRR, SDGs.
Functional Capacities	Advisory capacity for policy formulation and implementation	<p>Especially on urban governance, development and policy; rights to housing and adequate living environment; basic services provision; and climate resilience. UN-Habitat's global guidelines, tools and publications on these topics back our operations.</p> <p>The Lao CO has in-country experts (architects, engineers, urban planners, GIS and management experts) and receives technical and managerial support from experienced professionals at the Regional Office in Asia and the Pacific (ROAP) and HQ. The Lao CO is also unique in the sense that it acts as a sub-regional hub for Urban Basic Services with the Regional Advisor stationed here. Thus, the Laos office has direct reporting line to both HQ and ROAP.</p>

	Capacity to connect and engage in networks and partnerships	<p>The UN-Habitat CO in Lao PDR has the capacity to connect with and engage in networks with international, regional and national actors. UN-Habitat has engaged in relevant networks, such as the Resilient Cities Network, Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI), Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). Projects have been implemented in partnership with Asian Development Bank (ADB), Waterworks Technical Training Centre (W TTC), Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI), Asia-Pacific Water Forum (APWF) and other sister agencies, such as UNDP, UNEP, UNFPA and IOM, among others.</p> <p>UN-Habitat has a strong in-country presence and has developed robust partnerships at national and sub-national levels in Lao PDR, especially with Ministries such as Public Works and Transport (MPWT), Natural Resources and Environment (MoNRE), and Health (MoH), and its departments at the national and provincial levels. UN-Habitat has also extensive experience working with the provincial Lao water supply enterprise, Nam Papa State-Owned Enterprise (NPSE), in most provinces of Lao PDR.</p>
	Communication and advocacy capacity	Through Knowledge Management, GIS and Urbanisation Experts, which have undertaken research in various topics and produced position papers, guidelines, case studies, brochures and flyers, among other communication and advocacy pieces.
	Project and program implementation capacity	As described above, the Lao CO has experts in-country (architects, engineers, urban planners, GIS experts, and management experts) and receives technical and managerial support from experienced professionals at the Regional Office in Asia and the Pacific (ROAP), and HQ. Strong partnerships with local stakeholders mentioned above, and grassroots organizations (such as Lao Women's Union and Lao Youth Union), ease implementation and improve sustainability of projects and programmes.
	M & E capacity	<p>Since UN-Habitat in Laos is mostly project-based, project monitoring is conducted on a periodic basis by staff and consultants, as outlined under each project document and agreed with donors.</p> <p>End of project evaluation is carried out, in most cases, by external evaluation experts.</p>
Operational business model		Representative or country office
New or innovative modality		UN-Habitat is a project-based office, and thus mobilizes resources from various sources. UN-Habitat's main donors include Government of Japan, Adaptation Fund (AF), GC), Nordic Climate Fund (NCF), MPTF, Urban Basic Services Trust Fund (UBSTF/UNDP), Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, EU and German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). This modality can help capture funds from multilateral entities, favouring collaborative projects and programmes with other agencies.
Participation in outcomes and outputs		<p>Outcomes: People's Wellbeing; Inclusive Prosperity; Governance and rule of law; Environment, climate change, and resilience</p> <p>Joint outputs: Protection; WASH; Shelter (Lead); Planning and financing for the SDGs; Urban Development (Lead); Gender equality, women's empowerment, and human rights; Public administration reform and data driven governance; Green growth; Natural resources management; Resilience</p>
Conclusions of the configuration discussions		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) UN-Habitat will focus its engagement within the CF structure on the agency's core mandate (shelter, urban development, and the environment). Although most of its staff is project-bound, the agency is gradually increasing its coordination capacity. 2) UN-Habitat's strategic direction is going to be defined in the CPD, which coincides with the duration of the CF and will help to plan technical and financial capacities ahead. 3) In order to streamline efforts and avoid double reporting the CF coordination mechanism foresees only a single joint output on urbanisation.

UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

Agency-specific assessment for planned contributions to the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework

Relevance of the UN entity to the UNSDCF		<p>UNHCR is mandated by the UNGA to identify and protect stateless people and to prevent and reduce statelessness. UNHCR fulfils its mandate by working with governments, other UN agencies and civil society to address the problem. In relation to the prevention of statelessness, UNHCR is heavily invested in supporting states to strengthen civil registration practices. This is evidenced, for example, by UNHCR's engagement with the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC) and its recent study on Legal Identity of All Women and Children in ASEAN, which Lao PDR actively participated in.</p> <p>Throughout the CF UNHCR is committed to contributing to Outcome 3, Governance and Rule of Law. It will do this by support the efforts of Lao PDR to strengthen law, policy and public administration related to civil registration and vital statistics and the application of relevant procedures in Lao PDR. This will be with a view to promoting the inclusion of all on Lao PDR territory, particularly those at risk of being left behind. UNHCR will provide the Lao PDR authorities with support to build the capacity of officials involved with applying civil registration procedures, both at the central and grass roots level. With UNHCR support training materials will be developed and capacity building activities undertaken to strengthen capacity and stimulate the roles and responsibilities of civil registration officials. This work will, inter alia, take into consideration recommendations made in the recent ACWC study on Legal Identity of All Women and Children in ASEAN. Where of interest, UNHCR will also support the Lao PDR authorities in making use of the Bali Process Civil Registration Assessment Toolkit prepared by the Regional Support Office of the Bali Process.</p> <p>Where possible, UNHCR will support Lao PDR in surveying populations, especially those that might be considered hard to reach, to ensure that they have access to legal status and civil registration and vital statistics procedures.</p>
Residual programme commitments (CPD or similar)		See above
Technical Capacities	Thematic policy expertise	Civil registration, nationality procedures, training, capacity building
	Expertise in international norms and standards	Civil registration, international normative frameworks related to statelessness (including the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness)
Functional Capacities	Advisory capacity for policy formulation and implementation	In relation to the development of law and policy related to civil registration and vital statistics.
	Capacity to connect and engage in networks and partnerships	Including the ACWC Commission on Women and Children, the Regional Support Office of the Bali Process (in relation to the Bali Process Civil Registration Assessment Toolkit), UNESCAP (in relation to the "Get everyone in the picture" regional initiative and CRVS Decade.
	Communication and advocacy capacity	Through UNHCR's engagement with civil registration and vital statistics initiatives, both as researchers, technical advisors and advocacy with States on respect to strengthening relevant standards and practices.
	Project and program implementation capacity	UNHCR does not currently have capacity to directly implement projects and programmes in Lao PDR as it is not present in the country. It does however have capacity to support the Lao PDR authorities and other partners in implementing projects through financial support and technical guidance. Further, UNHCR would be able to hire consultants to undertake work in Lao PDR.
	M & E capacity	UNHCR would be able to hire consultants to carry out project monitoring on a periodic basis. End of project evaluation can be carried out by external experts.
Operational business model		Through a regional, sub-regional, multi-country office or headquarters

New or innovative modality	<p>UNHCR will be able to mobilize learning and expertise gained from its decades of work on statelessness carried out under its international mandate, as well as its high level of engagement and support to regional processes relating to the strengthening of civil registration and vital statistics procedures, including with ASEAN, UNESCAP and the Bali Process. Further, it will seek to utilize the support through these fora and of the wide range of international donors it works closely with.</p>
Participation in outcomes and outputs	<p>Outcomes: Governance and rule of law</p> <p>Joint outputs: Public administration reform and data driven governance</p>
Conclusions of the configuration discussions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) UNHCR has limited financial and technical resources available for Lao PDR, which requires a strategic engagement to demonstrate the agency's added value. 2) UNHCR has the opportunity to shape other joint outputs by participating in the POG or outcome groups to save resources. 3) The RCO is fully committed to support UNHCR's ambitions to participate in the CF coordination mechanisms and to elevate UNHCR's expertise in protecting stateless people and improving civil registration.

UN Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF)

Agency-specific assessment for planned contributions to the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework

Relevance of the UN entity to the UNSDCF		<p>UNICEF is mandated by the UNGA to advocate for the protection of children's rights, to help meet their basic needs and to expand their opportunities to reach their full potential. UNICEF is guided by the Convention on the Rights of the Child and strives to establish children's rights as enduring ethical principles and international standards of behaviour towards children. UNICEF's work in Lao PDR started in 1973 and since then, UNICEF has worked with the government through a series of country programmes of cooperation to address children's needs and uphold their rights.</p> <p>In the CF 2022 – 2026 UNICEF will be contributing to all four Outcomes, through its upcoming country programme of cooperation 2022 – 2026 through all the available types of engagement, including but not limited to technical assistance, leveraging of domestic and international funds, and provision of procurement services. UNICEF will draw upon a wide range of global, regional and in-country expertise and has a wide network of international and regional partners which can be mobilized to provide cutting edge expertise.</p>
Residual programme commitments (CPD or similar)		<p>UNICEF programming is fully aligned with the CF. However, some activities related to possible innovation and ad hoc projects might not fall within the scope of the CF. In addition, UNICEF work in the case of emergency might not fall under the CF.</p>
Technical Capacities	Thematic policy expertise	<p>UNICEF has a strong technical expertise in various sectors spanning health, nutrition, education, child protection, WASH, social policy, communication, and advocacy.</p> <p>UNICEF is a lead UN agency for Education, Child Protection, Nutrition, WASH, and strongly support the Health and Social Protection sectors, with in-country experts as well as strong technical back stopping from its regional office and HQ enabling it to provide technical guidance and expertise on all of these sectors.</p> <p>Other main areas of technical excellency include planning, coordination and budgeting in the various social sectors as well as monitoring and evaluation of these including the development of information systems.</p>
	Expertise in international norms and standards	<p>UNICEF has a mandate to safeguard the rights of all children in all settings. This mandate is rooted in the CRC which is aligned to the UDHR. UNICEF has strong expertise in child rights monitoring and reporting of CRC and its Optional Protocols (sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography; involvement of children in armed conflict). UNICEF also has expertise and knowhow on related human rights normative frameworks including the CEDAW, CRPD as well as its own Core Commitments for Children (CCCs). UNICEF has been supporting the GoL PDR in reviewing and preparing reports to the HRC, UPR, CEDAW and CRPD and implementing the recommendations.</p> <p>UNICEF's work is also aimed at supporting Lao PDR meet its commitment to children's rights in the context of implementing the SDGs. As the global custodian for children in the SDGs, UNICEF works with the GoL, partners and other UN agencies to help ensure the goals deliver results for and with every child.</p>
Functional Capacities	Advisory capacity for policy formulation and implementation	<p>UNICEF has advisory and technical capacity to support policy, strategy and guideline development/ refinement, planning and implementation, evidence generation and data management to guide policy, investment and technical decisions. Here are some examples of UNICEF advisory capacity for policy formulation:</p> <p>UNICEF Child Protection has strong capacity and multiple experiences of formulating the legal and policy framework, national standards and guidelines as well as strategic planning and costing. (i.e., National Vision towards Child Protection System Strengthening, National Strategy for Social Service Workforce Development, National Plan of Action on Child Protection System Strengthening, NPA on VAC, NPA on Mothers and Children, Policy on Alternative Care, etc.)</p> <p>UNICEF has the strongest capacity of all partners in Lao PDR for nutrition policy formulation and implementation which includes very strong capacity and proven experiences of supporting the GoL in formulating legal and policy frameworks, national standards and guidelines as well as strategic planning and costing for nutrition including legislation on salt iodization and promotion of breastmilk substitutes; development of national standards and guideline for salt iodization, micronutrient supplementation, integrated management of acute malnutrition and more as well as the development of the national nutrition strategy, the national plan of action for nutrition for 2016-2020 (NPAN I) including costing and for 2021-25 (NPAN II), the planning and costing of nutrition components of the RMNCAH action plan in addition to also a range of analytical work to support the development of these including the cost benefit analyses</p>

	<p>for investing in nutrition in Lao PDR, multiple deprivation analysis for stunting, economic pathways for impact of malnutrition, the midterm review of NPAN I and review of the NPAN I costing and more.</p> <p>UNICEF also has strong capacity and experience in WASH policy formulation and implementation, demonstrated in the support to Government in the development of the National Rural WASH Strategy and support for Ministerial engagement on an ongoing basis in the global Sanitation and Water for All (SWA) platform. UNICEF has also supported the Government in the development of numerous WASH strategies, standards and guidelines and continues to strengthen Government capacity to improve strategies through a process of piloting approaches in the field, analysing and documenting Outcomes and refining strategies and policies based on these lessons.</p>
Capacity to connect and engage in networks and partnerships	<p>UNICEF has strong and proven capacity to leverage partnerships, coordinate and foster networks at the international, regional and national levels. Below are some examples of UNICEF's ability and capacity to foster partnerships and to connect and engage in networks:</p> <p>On the health sector, UNICEF's partners include the EU, Australia, Ireland, Luxembourg, USA, World Bank, NGOs and national actors such as Lao Paediatric Association.</p> <p>UNICEF plays a leading role in Education Sector Coordination as Coordinating Agency for the Global Partnership for Education (GPE), co-chairs the Education Sector Working Group focal groups on ECE and general education. With regards to the CF structure, UNICEF leads outcome 1 and 2, together with UNFPA and ILO, respectively. The result groups constitute a network with governmental counterparts to improve coordination and to support an overall joint UN-Lao PDR strategic approach.</p> <p>UNICEF's Child Protection Programme in Lao PDR has a workplan with total of 11 Government partners working in Child Protection (MoLSW, LWU, LYU, MoJ, MoPS, Supreme Court, Prosecutor, NCAWMC, NUOL, MoHA, MICT) and also works with numerous CSO partners, private sector and development partners. Key Child Protection donors include Korea, Australia, USA and Japan. UNICEF closely works with the Government Committee of Protection and Assistance to Children at all levels, and the Juvenile Justice Coordination Committee. Regular support is offered by the Regional Office and the HQ for partnership networking in ASEAN and international level.</p> <p>UNICEF leads the development partners group for nutrition in Lao PDR as well as the SUN UN network in country and is together with WFP and others a partner supporting the GoL on the multisectoral coordination for nutrition in Lao PDR. UNICEF at regional and HQ level also leads or co-leads a range of networks and partnerships for nutrition globally including in its role as the lead agency for the Global Nutrition Cluster. UNICEF is the agency with the largest number of nutritionists in Lao PDR as well as globally and has the largest investment in nutrition interventions of all the UN agencies.</p> <p>In the WASH sector, UNICEF has led the re-establishment of the network of development partners in the country, bringing bilateral, multilateral, INGO and NGO partners together regularly. Currently UNICEF is working with GoL to establish a national platform to enable a collective dialogue between Government and partners.</p>
Communication and advocacy capacity	<p>It has extensive capacity in communication and advocacy partnering with government counterparts, donors, private sector and media as well as with young influencers and celebrities in improving lives of children in Lao PDR. UNICEF Lao PDR has solid experience in advocacy and communication work including physical and digital public advocacy events, media engagement, community mobilization and youth engagement activities to help achieve results for children through a wide range of actions from community level behavioral change to national advocacy aimed at policy development.</p>
Project and programme implementation capacity	<p>UNICEF has strong project and programme implementation capacity to support GoL and its partners to deliver on projects/programmes at national and sub-national levels.</p> <p>UNICEF has demonstrated an ability to work with GoL at all levels, from the village to the Parliament to enable all aspects of national programmes from proof of concept to implementation at scale in the various sectors and thematic areas that UNICEF works in.</p>

	<p>Monitoring and evaluation capacity</p> <p>UNICEF has a section covering monitoring and evaluation work of the country office. In addition, regional and global technical specialist provide technical expertise for the monitoring and evaluation work in the country office. UNICEF's programme monitoring and evaluation is based on the results and resources framework outlined in the programme of cooperation. Outcome indicators are monitored as possible through national administrative systems or surveys. Output indicators are assessed during reviews with implementing partners, benefiting from joint field visits and frequent communication and consultation.</p> <p>Being Lao's leading source of data on children, adolescents and women, UNICEF will work jointly with other UN agencies to monitor the progress of the CF and demonstrate its contribution.</p> <p>UNICEF has three major evaluations planned within the next framework (2022-2026), focused on specific projects in social protection (2022, with estimated cost 100,000 USD), maternal and child health and nutrition, including one country programme evaluation.</p>
Operational business model	Representative office
New or innovative modality	NA
Participation in outcomes and outputs	<p>Outcomes: People's Wellbeing (Lead); Inclusive Prosperity (Lead); Governance and rule of law; Environment, Climate Change, and Resilience</p> <p>Joint outputs: Protection (Lead); Health; Education (Lead); Food security and nutrition; WASH (Lead); Shelter; Planning and financing for the SDGs; Social protection; Rule of law and access to justice; Gender equality, women's empowerment, and human rights; Public administration reform and data driven governance; Natural resources management; Resilience</p>
Conclusions of the configuration discussions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) UNICEF takes a leading role in two outcomes, many joint outputs and offered to support the better integration of AFPs in the spirit of the One UN reform. 2) UNICEF is one of the larger agencies in Lao PDR in terms of financial and technical capacities. UNICEF offered to support in particular the quality of reporting and M & E of the MELG. 3) UNICEF highlighted capacity needs to strengthen its work on DRR and wants to partner with other agencies to improve the UNCT's DRR engagement.

UN Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO)

Agency-specific assessment for planned contributions to the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework

Relevance of the UN entity to the UNSDCF	<p>UNIDO's mandate is to promote and accelerate inclusive and sustainable industrial development (ISID) in Member States. ISID addresses all three dimensions of sustainable development: social equity, economic growth, and environmental protection. UNIDO meets the industrial development needs of its Member States through a variety of highly specialized and differentiated programmes, projects and services that promote social inclusion, economic competitiveness and environmental sustainability, as well as cross-cutting activities in the fields of industrial statistics, research and policy, and the promotion of knowledge networks and institutional partnerships.</p> <p>UNIDO's work is aligned along the following four strategic priorities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Creating shared prosperity - the industrial and economic policies need to be designed in an inclusive manner that distributes benefits in an inclusive way; 2) Advancing economic competitiveness - to ensure that all countries benefit from international trade and technological progress, especially through the implementation of modern industrial policies and compliance with international standards and norms; 3) Safeguarding the environment – to support green industries by building institutional and industrial sector capacity related to resource efficiency and cleaner production technologies, and by improving waste management; 4) Strengthening knowledge and institutions – to support advancing the technical, policy and normative knowledge base and strengthening the institutional capacity for ISID. <p>UNIDO will support the CF through Technical cooperation; Analytical and research functions and policy advisory services; Normative functions and standards-related activities; and Convening function and partnerships. UNIDO's Country Office will be the main focal point and support the deliver on the commitments within the Cooperation Framework.</p> <p>UNIDO will actively contribute to Outcomes 2 and 4 of the CF, with support on other Outcomes and cross-cutting areas in partnership with other UN agencies.</p>
Residual programme commitments (CPD or similar)	<p>Ongoing/pipeline UNIDO projects in Lao PDR:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PCB Management and Disposal at the Energy Sector in Lao PDR - To facilitate the implementation of the Stockholm Convention on POPs in respect of sound management of PCBs and PCB-containing equipment and wastes including development of specific legislations, implementation of environmentally sound management practices, inventory, testing, labelling of at least 1000 electric equipment and disposal /decontamination of 250 tonnes of PCB-containing equipment and wastes. (Budget: USD 1.4 Million; Scheduled to complete at end of 2021) - Reduction of GHG Emissions in the Industrial Sector through Pelletization Technology - To reduce GHG emission in Lao PDR's industries by promoting the production and usage of industrial grade solid biofuel for thermal energy generation - Based on the following strategy. (Budget: USD 1.26 Million; Scheduled to complete at end of 2021) - Regional Project: Demonstration of BAT and BEP in open burning activities in response to the Stockholm Convention on POPs - To create resource efficient waste management systems to reduce U-POPs emissions through the introduction BAT/BEP in open burning sources. (Scheduled to complete at end of 2021) - Piloting innovative financing for climate adaptation technologies in medium-sized cities – To increase the resilience of the cities by adopting climate change adaption solutions through improved capital expenditure planning and innovative private financing mechanisms. (pipeline; duration 3 years, budget GEF \$0.67 mil + Co-finance \$2.3 mil) - Techno-Park in Lao PDR – UNIDO ITPO Korea - To construct a park which will be the focal point of the Digital Technology industry; To improve and develop digital literacy and IT/ICT/Digital Technology skills; To foster business matchmaking, especially among startups, SMEs; and To foster entrepreneurship and creation of jobs for highly qualified specialists in the Digital Technology industrial sectors. (pipeline; duration 5 years, budget: \$6 mil) - Private Financing Advisory Network (PFAN) Program (Global; Lao PDR is eligible) - this Programme aims to bridge the gap between investors and entrepreneurs through the Private Financing Advisory Network (PFAN) that will be hosted by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and executed in collaboration with the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership (REEEP). (ongoing with remaining pool of fund for investment proposal of \$ 4.9 mil (2021) and future \$9.7 mil (2023)) - Developing a power to gas masterplan in Lao PDR – UNIDO and CTCN – Technical Assistance to produce a masterplan that will allow the relevant stakeholders to understand what steps are needed

		to be taken in order to operationalize power-to-gas technology on a commercial basis. (ongoing, duration 12 months, estimated budget \$ 0.2 mil by GCF readiness funding).
Technical Capacities	Thematic policy expertise	<p>UNIDO's thematic areas of expertise relevant for achievement of the results in the cooperation framework, as set out in the Medium Term Programmatic Framework (MTPF) for the period 2018-2021, are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Creating shared prosperity: Contributing to poverty eradication and inclusive growth, building productive capacities in an inclusive manner, and providing increased opportunities for all women and men as well as across social groups, including through partnerships with all relevant stakeholders involved in the industrialization process. - Advancing economic competitiveness: Advancing and sustaining rapid industrial growth, through: fostering of entrepreneurship; building of trade capacities in industries; fostering technology transfer, deployment and innovation; and application of modern industrial policies and compliance with global standards and norms. - Safeguarding the environment: Advancing environmentally responsible growth; building institutional capacities for greening industries through cleaner production technologies and resource efficiency methodologies; creating green industries, including in fields of waste management and recycling; supporting energy transitions; and implementing the various Multilateral Environmental Agreements. - Strengthening knowledges & institutions: enabling pillar of the MTPF aimed at integrating all services delivered by UNIDO across functions and thematic areas for the provision of long-term development results with focus on advancing technical, policy and normative knowledge base for ISID.
	Expertise in international norms and standards	<p>UNIDO has developed a comprehensive programme to help developing countries and economies in transition to overcome the shortcomings of their standards and conformity infrastructure. The services offered for specific issues include:</p> <p>Standards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establishment or strengthening of standardization bodies; - Harmonization of standards at the national and regional level; - Assistance to participation in regional and international standards-setting activities; - Assistance in developing product conformity mark schemes. <p>Metrology:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establishment or strengthening of laboratory capacities for legal and industrial metrology, in accordance with industrial and export requirements; - Assistance in laboratory networking and inter-laboratory comparisons; - Support to laboratory accreditation; <p>Product testing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establishment or strengthening of laboratory capacities, primarily for chemical and microbiological analysis, coupled with upgrading of specialist laboratories for industries with high export potential (such as food products); - Assistance in the harmonization of testing procedures, laboratory networking and inter-laboratory comparisons; - Support to laboratory accreditation. <p>Certification:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Developing national certification capability; - Pilot projects for capacity-building related to specific systems standards (ISO 9000, ISO 22000, ISO 14000 etc.). <p>Traceability:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Developing national capacity to comply with EU 'farm to fork' traceability laws; - Undertaking pilot projects to promote compliance with traceability laws. <p>Accreditation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establishment or strengthening of accreditation bodies. - Helping national accreditation bodies to obtain international recognition from IAF and ILAC through peer evaluations.
Fun	Advisory capacity for policy	Within UNIDO, the Research and Industrial Policy Advice Division as part of the Department of Policy Research and Statistics has long-lasting and demonstrated experience in assisting Member States to

formulation and implementation	<p>design and implement industrial strategies and accelerate inclusive and sustainable industrial development on the policy level.</p> <p>UNIDO distinguishes between 'industrial strategy', which provides the direction to where development should lead, and 'industrial policy', which comprises a set of policy measures and tools that enable a country to move towards specific strategic goals. The typical policy process, where UNIDO provides support, can be seen as a cycle and involves five distinct steps, the content of which is suggested by international best practices: (1) industrial diagnosis, (2) strategy design, (3) policy formulation, (4) policy implementation, and (5) monitoring and evaluation.</p>
Capacity to connect and engage in networks and partnerships	<p>UNIDO recognizes that stakeholder engagement and building solid partnerships are necessary to achieve development results across Technical cooperation; Analytical and research functions and policy advisory services; Normative functions and standards-related activities; and Convening function and partnerships. For example, UNIDO's convening role brings Member States, the private sector, civil society and other partners together in major Outcome-oriented events that serve to exchange and disseminate knowledge and information, facilitate partnerships, and forge common positions and plans of action for inclusive and sustainable industrial development.</p>
Communication and advocacy capacity	<p>UNIDO Country office could support with communication and advocacy activities, in consultation with UNIDO's Advocacy and Media Relations Division.</p>
Project and program implementation capacity	<p>UNIDO staff at the headquarters and in the Country Office will be responsible for project and programme implementation. At the Country Office, in addition to the 2 staff members, currently there are about 3 international consultants and 5 local consultants implementing projects. It is expected that at least one more international consultant and 3 more local consultants will be joining the field office for upcoming projects.</p>
M & E capacity	<p>In line with UNIDO's QA Framework, a theory of change and log frame provide the foundation for the M & E plan. These management tools are living documents that will be regularly reviewed during the course of individual projects, and will be amended as project strategies, priorities and monitoring requirements change. The M & E costs and budget is included under each project.</p>
Operational business model	<p>Representative or country office</p>
New or innovative modality	<p>UNIDO's Multi-stakeholder partnerships approach will play a key role in leveraging additional investment for the achievement of CF, including the mobilization of partners from Development Finance Institutions (DFIs), donor countries and the business sector.</p> <p>UNIDO's approach will also place a premium on South-South and triangular partnerships. In this context, UNIDO will build on established partnerships with regional organizations, such as ASEAN.</p>
Participation in outcomes and outputs	<p>Outcomes: Inclusive Prosperity; Environment, Climate Change, and Resilience</p> <p>Joint outputs: Private sector development, skills, and digitalization; Green growth</p>
Conclusions of the configuration discussions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) UNIDO is encouraged to explore opportunities to access technical capacities at regional and head quarter level in order to effectively and efficiently within the CF coordination mechanisms. 2) It is important to avoid dispersion of capacity to ensure meaningful engagement and precisely focus on UNIDO's value added, which lies in the areas of PSD, Skills Development and Digitalization (Techno-Park project) and Green Growth (climate finance, private finance, power to gas master-plan projects). 3) The development of an elaborated resource mobilisation strategy and the meaningful use of the CF coordination mechanisms will be key issues for UNIDO.

UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

Agency-specific assessment for planned contributions to the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework

Relevance of the UN entity to the UNSDCF		<p>UNODC's mission is to contribute to global peace and security, human rights and development by making the world safer from drugs, crime, corruption and terrorism.</p> <p>To support Lao PDR, UNODC plans to deliver programming contributing to several areas of the CF, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enhanced rule of law through programming directed towards reducing all forms of transnational organized crime (TNOC), drugs and illicit trafficking, money laundering, and corruption - Improved health through programming directed at enhancing the availability of evidence-based treatment for people who use drugs - Enhanced agricultural production and reduced poverty through sustainable development interventions in opium cultivating areas
Residual programme commitments (CPD or similar)		See above
Technical Capacities	Thematic policy expertise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - TNOC, including drugs and illicit trafficking - Drug use prevention and treatment - Environmental crime - Anti-Money Laundering and Anti-Corruption - Border Management - Agriculture and value chains
	Expertise in international norms and standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - International Drug Control Treaties - United Nations Convention against TOC and the Protocols Thereto - United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) - International conventions and protocols of terrorism-related treaties
Functional Capacities	Advisory capacity for policy formulation and implementation	<p>Under its mandate UNODC can provide support on advisory capacity formulation and implementation to address:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Drug problem - Organized crime - Corruption and Economic Crime - Terrorism - Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice
	Capacity to connect and engage in networks and partnerships	UNODC has a capacity to connect and engage with international cooperation and international actors related to drug problem, organized crime, corruption and economic crime, terrorism and crime prevention and criminal justice, such as The Mekong MOU on Drug Control and the ASEAN's Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime (SOMTC).
	Communication and advocacy capacity	Communications and advocacy related activities will be implemented through UNODC Programme Office in Lao PDR with the supports from UNODC Regional Office in Bangkok, Thailand.
	Project and program implementation capacity	On all areas mentioned above will be implemented by staff on the ground under supervision from programme managers and with supports from staff at the UNODC Regional Office, based in Bangkok, as well as those of UNODC Headquarter, based in Vienna, Austria.
	M & E capacity	<p>UNODC Regional Office for Southeast Asia and the Pacific (ROSEAP) in Bangkok in cooperation with its Programme Office in Laos continuously monitors the implementation of technical assistance in order to report on progress against UNODC programmes/outcomes/outputs in the country.</p> <p>All databases, directories, registers and reports are managed in a central web-hosted location. The centralised structure maximises the availability of information and allows UNODC ROSEAP to do assessments and quality reporting at project, office, country and regional level. All report requirements are monitored to ensure that all stakeholders are timely informed of progress against agreed indicators.</p>
Operational business model		Separate liaison or project office.

New or innovative modality	NA
Participation in outcomes and outputs	<p>Outcomes: People's Wellbeing; Governance and rule of law</p> <p>Joint outputs: Health; Food security and nutrition; Rule of law and access to justice; Trans-national organized crime (Lead)</p>
Conclusions of the configuration discussions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) UNODC, as a highly specialised agency, focuses its engagement on its core mandate and is the natural lead for the TNOC joint output. 2) UNODC can profit from coordination mechanisms and partnerships in the areas of health and agricultural production. 3) UNODC has the opportunity to shape other joint outputs if required by participating in the POG or outcome groups to save resources. 4) The project office in Lao PDR receives additional staff capacity in 2022 tentatively.

UN Office for Project Services (UNOPS)

Agency-specific assessment for planned contributions to the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework

Relevance of the UN entity to the UNSDCF

As a UN agency with a particular strength and capacity in the design and implementation of resilient infrastructure (networked and non-networked), procurement services and project management, UNOPS also recognises the critical role it can play as an agent of change at the strategic level as the planning of infrastructure and its implementation is cross-sectorial with the potential of creating a backbone for future sustainable growth.

Infrastructure remains a key development priority for governments around the world and is a core element of the SDGs with infrastructure impacting the achievement of 92% of all SDG targets. Infrastructure is critical for enabling governments to achieve sustainable development Outcomes by stimulating economic progress, reducing inequality gaps, promoting equitable societies and enhancing environmental sustainability. Both networked and non-networked infrastructure have the capacity to connect those excluded from the formal economy and enhance lives and livelihoods.

The ambition of the Cambodia Multi Country Office which covers the geographic sub-region comprised of Cambodia, Lao PDR, the Philippines and Vietnam, is to move towards more long-term programming, position itself as a thought leader on infrastructure and services, and further enhance project management and support services. In order to deliver on its MCO mission: "The Asia Region will help people live better lives through innovative and practical solutions in sustainable and resilient infrastructure, health services, environment and climate resilience and efficient HR, procurement, project and programme management," and based on the proven track record of the MCO particular expertise in these areas, demand from partners (both Governments and Donors), and needs in the covered geographical area, the following two strategic objectives have been formulated:

Strategic Objective 1: Programming for resilient infrastructure and services reinforced;

Strategic Objective 2: Implementation for impact strengthened through the provision of efficient project management and support services.

The SDGs that come into particular focus while carrying out the strategic objectives are: • SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being; • SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation; • SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy; • SDG 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure; • SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities; • SDG 13: Climate Action. The implementation of these objectives and their associated impacts on the SDG will be manifest in the four Outcome areas outputs of the newly drafted CF. At this time, UNOPS is committed to directly contribute to Outcomes 1 and 3 while it is also very well positioned to contribute significantly to Outcomes 2 and 4 as pipeline projects continue to develop and are concretized.

People's well-being (9th NSEDP Outcome 2), UNOPS will continue to contribute in a substantial way through its on-going projects with the MoH in multiple areas: health fund management, government capacity strengthening through provision of strategic visioning and planning, design and implementation of key pieces of networked and non-networked hospital infrastructure while also while providing a range of transactional services, such as most recently, the procurement of COVID-19 emergency equipment, vehicles and supplies.

Governance and rule of law (9th NSEDP Outcome 6), UNOPS will continue to contribute in a substantial way through its on-going project with the MoF through the Department of Customs (DoC) to enhance the Lao PDR's capability to improve border security, including interdicting contraband drugs and wildlife, human trafficking across international borders and combating transnational crime, including financial crimes and investigation. The activities UNOPS is engaged in includes management of capacity building through extensive DoC trainings throughout the country, the design and construction of three new warehouse facilities along the Mekong River and a new Training Centre in Vientiane.

Outcome 2 and 4 - Inclusive prosperity and CC and Environment (9th NSEDP Outcomes 1-3-5) UNOPS will continue to pursue projects that lean on its core strength in infrastructure planning. The floods of 2010 and 2013 brought much hardship to communities along the Mekong River. Building stronger national and local capacity to prepare for, and respond to, these crises is therefore a foundational activity in improving the resilience of communities, and mitigating the impact of future disasters or shocks. UNOPS aims to partner with other organizations to build national and local capacity for disaster preparedness and resilience. It also aims to strengthen coordination between humanitarian and development actors in this programming area. The project concept includes three components: 1) disaster preparedness training, 2) procurement of response equipment 3) community activities including site specific physical infrastructure.

Residual programme commitments (CPD or similar)		All current and future work with which UNOPS is engaged is and will be informed by the Cambodia MCO Transitional Strategy and Plan 2019-2021 and the Lao PDR - CF 2021-2026 which in turn is aligned in large part with the Lao PDR 9th NSEDP 2016-2020.
Technical Capacities	Thematic policy expertise	Design (Architecture and Engineering), Planning and Implementation in the areas of: • Health infrastructure: hospitals and laboratories; • Justice buildings including detention centers; • Infrastructure Fund / financial architecture to foster infrastructure investments including Public Private Partnerships; • Urban, peri-urban and rural infrastructures, services and housing • WASH Procurement services in the following sectors: • Equipment (soft and hardware); • Medicines; • Health supply chain (last mile for national coverage)
	Expertise in international norms and standards	International Building Code (IBC), IFC Performance Standards, New Urban Agenda, Paris Agreement, Sustainable Development Goals.
Functional Capacities	Advisory capacity for policy formulation and implementation	The office has been providing advisory services in the infrastructure sector to other development partners, such as the Government of the Russian Federation and KOICA, procurement support and advisory services to different line ministries of the Royal Government of Cambodia. Tourism and Health infrastructure are sectors where the MCO, particularly in Lao PDR has the capacity and desire to be more active.
	Capacity to connect and engage in networks and partnerships	UNOPS in Lao PDR has the capacity to connect and engage with international, national and regional actors and networks. As an example, the Cambodia MCO which includes project work in Lao PDR provides grant management support to the Regional Artemisinin resistance Initiative (RAI) aimed at eliminating multi-drug resistant malaria, and the regional TB control Program. UNOPS is growing its in-country presence and has been developing partnerships at national and sub-national levels in Lao PDR with ministries such as the MoH, MoF through Department of Customs projects, MoPWT and MoICT.
	Communication and advocacy capacity	See above
	Project and program implementation capacity	One of UNOPS' core strengths is implementation of programmes and projects. UNOPS Lao PDR has local experts and consultants in-country and also draws from the multi-country office (Cambodia MCO) and more widely to the Asia Region to support larger projects. UNOPS also has LTAs and Global Retainers to provide pre-vetted international engineering, architectural, planning and other subject expert support where required.
	M & E capacity	UNOPS projects are monitored throughout the project life cycle by staff and consultants, as outlined under each project agreement.
Operational business model		Separate liaison or project office; Through regional, sub-regional, multi-country office or headquarters
New or innovative modality		<p>UNOPS Lao PDR, through the framework developed at the MCO level, can use the Capacity Assessment Tool for Infrastructure (CAT-I) light in its infrastructure work, with the support of the Regional Infrastructure Advisor. CAT-I light will help assess and identify the gaps in government capacity (at national, regional and municipal levels) to effectively plan, deliver and manage sustainable, resilient and inclusive infrastructure systems. Based on the results of the CAT-I light assessments, the MCO will be able to refine targeted and country specific infrastructure strategies and work plans, identify and mobilize additional highly specialized resources (leveraging the Technical Support Fund for example) and position UNOPS as a partner in resilient infrastructure and service.</p> <p>The use of the CAT I light methodology will enable UNOPS to support MCO countries develop longer term infrastructure strategies and move towards more long-term programming in this area of intervention. This will translate into High-level Advice to Governments on: • Policies, better practices in infrastructure and capacity development for application of international standards; • Evidence-based infrastructure; • Urban planning</p> <p>One of the UNOPS recognized strengths is in the area of Project implementation, Management & Planning. UNOPS Lao PDR will maintain and further improve on these through helping partners improve their efficiency through: • "Back-on-Track ("BoT")" modality; • E-health /e-justice / e-procurement; • Financial Management Services</p>

	<p>More specifically on Financial Management Services UNOPS provides: •Help to monitor health programmes on the ground (e.g. Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria) • Services to execute small grant programmes in support of the Global Environment Facility and the UN Development Programme • management of global multi-donor funds, such as the Stop TB Partnership and Roll Back Malaria Partnership, in support of the eradication of infectious diseases across the world •Disbursement and supervise grants in a variety of contexts, including peace and security • Ensuring funds are spent in a transparent and efficient manner, in line with partners' objectives.</p> <p>UNOPS Lao PDR will continue providing high quality Procurement services to government directly or through partners in the following sectors: •Equipment (soft and hardware); • Medicines; • Health supply chain (last mile for national coverage).</p>
Participation in outcomes and outputs	<p>Outcomes: People's wellbeing; Governance and rule of law; Environment, climate change, and resilience</p> <p>Joint outputs: Health; Trans-national organized crime; Resilience</p>
Conclusions of the configuration discussions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) UNOPS' expertise in procurement would be highly appreciated in the Operations Management Team. 2) Due to UNOPS' project based funding and broad engagement across three outcomes of the CF, it is important to maintain a strategic direction and close collaboration with other UN agencies. 3) UNOPS is encouraged to shape other joint outputs if required by participating in the POG or outcome groups due to limited coordination resources in country.

UN Volunteers (UNV)

Agency-specific assessment for planned contributions to the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework

Relevance of the UN entity to the UNSDCF		<p>UNV does not implement stand-alone programmes and projects but supports UN AFPs by leveraging the power of volunteerism and contributions of volunteers. UNV supports the mobilization of volunteers with different professional expertise and skills, and facilitates engaging local volunteers/volunteer involving organizations for people-led and sustainable development solutions. UNV provides volunteer advisory services in policy and programme formulation and related knowledge and evidence generation.</p> <p>Based on the discussion with UN RCO on 20 May 2021, UNV will take part in the strategic programming to ensure a systematic placement of volunteers within UN agencies' development programmes and projects. UNV will support Outcome 3, specifically the output 3.1 (Civic space and participation) where UNV can bring added advocacy value promoting volunteerism, people participation, youth engagement, people-led community development and environmental protection, as well as climate action. UNV will continue supporting mobilization of volunteers and integrating volunteerism in other outcomes and outputs.</p>
Residual programme commitments		See above
Technical Capacities	Thematic policy expertise	Volunteer advisory services for the integration of volunteerism into the development programs/projects.
	Expertise in international norms and standards	NA
Functional Capacities	Advisory capacity for policy formulation and implementation	Volunteer advisory services for policy formulation on volunteerism and integration of volunteerism into the development programs/projects.
	Capacity to connect and engage in networks and partnerships	Through Fully Funding programme, UNV supports AFPs to benefit from fully funded UN Volunteers by governments, private sector and/or universities. UNV also facilitates member states and other partners in networking and partnering for knowledge exchange and experience sharing related to promoting volunteerism. Especially, UNV's contributions in facilitating South-South Cooperation through volunteering has been well recognized.
	Communication and advocacy capacity	UNV, as a UN entity mandated to promote volunteerism and mobilize volunteers, has been leading regular communication campaigns and advocacy initiatives at the national, regional and global level. UNV, in addition to regular advocacy and promotion of volunteerism, leads International Volunteer Day (5 December 2021) every year at the national, regional and global level, facilitating government, UN and other partners to come together and recognize the contributions of volunteering and volunteers.
	M & E	NA
Operational business model		Representative of country office.
New or innovative modality		UNV can support UNCT and UN entities to create special initiatives to mobilize UN Volunteers for critical and emerging needs to tackle development and humanitarian needs in the country, regional and global level. Examples include UNICEF Youth Advocates programme; UNFPA Young Innovators programme; UNV-UNDP Talent programme for People with Disabilities; WHO Africa Women Health Champions; UNW Young Women Leaders Initiative, etc.
Participation in outcomes and outputs		<p>Outcome: Governance and the Rule of Law</p> <p>Joint Output: Civic space and participation</p>
Conclusions of the configuration discussions		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) UNV as one of the smallest agencies in country needs to pool its resources and to focus on one outcome and one joint output only. 2) UNV has the possibility to shape the CF implementation as a member of the POG. 3) UNV is encouraged to explore opportunities to increase its technical capacities in a cost-efficient way (e.g., national UNV position) and to collaborate with partners in and outside the UN to increase its footprint in Lao PDR.

World Food Programme (WFP)

Agency-specific assessment for planned contributions to the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework

Relevance of the UN entity to the UNSDCF		<p>Having established a presence in Lao PDR in 1975, the WFP is supporting GoL vision of “a prosperous country, with a healthy population, free from food insecurity, malnutrition and poverty”.</p> <p>Poverty levels have dropped from 46% in 1993 to 18.3% in 2019, and while food insecurity and malnutrition have also declined, stunting continues to affect one in three children, and 20% of the population remain food insecure. Anaemia rates also remain high, while wasting has even increased between 2011 and 2017. In addition, there is an increasing trend around obesity and overweight, presenting the threat of a triple burden of malnutrition. The quality of healthcare and education also remain significant challenges, with the vast majority of students not meeting minimum standards for reading, writing and math. The country remains vulnerable to the effects of climate change, with increasing frequency and scale of natural disasters.</p> <p>Over the years WFP has been able to positively contribute to the Government’s efforts to enhance food security and nutrition. Through its new country strategic plan (CSP), WFP will continue direct implementation of programmes, leveraging its deep field experience, while increasing national and local capacity strengthening initiatives, in line with the CF. WFP’s support to the GoL in achieving food and nutrition security will be based on four strategic Outcomes, aligned to Outcomes 1, 2 and 4 under the CF.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strategic Outcome 1 (“School children in vulnerable areas have improved food security, nutrition, and learning results through a sustainable National School Meals Programme (NSMP) by 2026.”) is aligned to Outcome 2 of the NSEDP and Outcome 1 (People’s Wellbeing) and 2 (Inclusive Prosperity) of the CF. - Strategic Outcome 2 (“Vulnerable groups, in particular women and girls of reproductive age, children under five, and school-aged children, at risk of any form of malnutrition, have improved nutrition Outcomes in line with national targets, by 2026.”) is aligned to Outcome 2 of the NSEDP and Outcome 1 of the CF. - Strategic Outcome 3 (“Vulnerable people in disaster-affected or at-risk areas have enhanced food and nutrition security all year round and increased capacities to mitigate and manage risks associated with climate and other shocks by 2026.”) is aligned to Outcomes 3 and 4 of the NSEDP and Outcomes 2 and 4 (Environment, Climate Change, and Resilience) of the CF. - Strategic Outcome 4 (“Crisis-affected populations in Lao PDR are able to meet their food, nutrition, and other essential needs during and after disasters.”) is aligned to Outcome 4 of the NSEDP and Outcome 1 of the CF.
Residual programme commitments (CPD or similar)		WFP’s country strategic planning cycle is in sync with that of the CF, with the new country strategic plan (CSP) spanning the period 2022-2026. There are thus no residual programme commitments and resources outside the scope of the cooperation framework.
Technical Capacities	Thematic policy expertise	WFP’s country strategic planning cycle is in sync with that of the CF, with the new country strategic plan (CSP) spanning the period 2022-2026. There are thus no residual programme commitments and resources outside the scope of the cooperation framework.
	Expertise in international norms and standards	NA
Functional Capacities	Advisory capacity for policy formulation and implementation	<p>Including in areas such as food and nutrition security, school health and nutrition (including school feeding), nutrition-sensitive agriculture, agriculture and rural development, disaster risk reduction and emergency preparedness and response.</p> <p>In addition to experts in-country, WFP can draw on its wide global network of experts, including in the Regional Bureau in Bangkok and Headquarters. WFP can also leverage its deep and extensive field presence to link on-the-ground experience and evidence with policy.</p>
	Capacity to connect and engage in networks and partnerships	<p>WFP has the capacity to connect and engage in networks and partnerships with international and national actors.</p> <p>As a trusted partner of the GoL, WFP works closely with the MPI, MAF, MoES, MoH, MoLSW, MoNRE and the National Agriculture and Forestry Research Institute (NAFRI). In addition, WFP engages closely with mass organizations including the Lao Front for National Development and LWU.</p> <p>WFP works closely with UN agencies including FAO and IFAD as members of the Rome-Based Agencies (RBAs) and UNICEF, connects partners through its role as Chair of the Food Security Cluster and Cash</p>

		Working Group, and as the host of the SUN Business Network. WFP also has links to regional networks through its Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific.
	Communication and advocacy capacity	Through its technical expertise in topical areas such as food and nutrition security, through its global expertise in areas including vulnerability analysis and mapping, through its close ties to national ministries as well as rural communities, and through various research conducted on issues such as school feeding and nutrition. WFP has produced numerous communication products in recent years, including COVID messaging in ethnic languages, cookbooks, booklet of locally available nutrient-dense crops, storybooks and more.
	Project and program implementation capacity	WFP operates directly and through implementing partners in approximately 2,000 villages in Lao PDR at any given time. Current staffing is around 150 staff, with 3 field offices in Pakse, Oudomxai and Phong-saly and staff in approximately 50 districts across 14 provinces and Vientiane Capital.
	M & E capacity	Monitoring will be based on a monitoring, review and evaluation plan and includes all WFP activities. WFP will also employ innovative methods including the increased use of digital platforms (e.g., the school meals app, which is integrated into the government system to facilitate mobile monitoring). Evaluations are implemented using independent external evaluation companies. Planned evaluations include a country strategic plan evaluation in 2025/2026 (\$250,000), an several evaluations of the school feeding programme (in 2021, 2023 and 2025) (total est. \$470,000).
	Operational business model	Representative office.
	New or innovative modality	Use of monitoring app (currently for school meals programme); Community capacity assessment tool.
	Participation in outcomes and outputs	Outcomes: People's Wellbeing; Inclusive Prosperity; Environment, climate change, and resilience Joint outputs: Education; Food security and nutrition; WASH; Social protection; Private sector development, skills, and digitalization; Green growth; Natural resources management; Resilience
	Conclusions of the configuration discussions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) WFP's work in Lao PDR has many intersections with other agencies' engagements (e.g., nutrition and food security, education, rural development, environment and digitalisation), which make co-operation necessary to create synergies and avoid duplicative efforts. 2) WFP wants to use the coordination mechanism under the CF in a time efficient manner to save its resources. 3) WFP offered to take the co-lead of the POG in its initial year with the aim to organise and conduct the meetings efficiently and effectively.

World Health Organization (WHO)

Agency-specific assessment for planned contributions to the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework

<p>Relevance of the UN entity to the UNSDCF</p>	<p>WHO is a specialized United Nations Agency for health with mandates to support Member States to achieve universal health coverage (UHC) (SDG 3) and other health-related SDGs. WHO aims to ensure that a billion more people have UHC, to protect a billion more people from health emergencies, and to provide a further billion people with better health and well-being under the 13th General Programme of Work 2019-2023.</p> <p>The WHO Office in Lao PDR has built a strong partnership with the GoL since 1962. Based on a strong trust relationship, the WHO Representative Office has supported the MoH in strengthening the national health system and achieving MDGs targets by 2015 and health-related SDGs by 2030.</p> <p>According to the Lao PDR-WHO Country Cooperation Strategy 2017-2021, WHO Office's support has focused on five strategic priorities: resilient health system towards universal health coverage; effective delivery of essential public health programmes; enhance health security; effective policy dialogue and advocacy; and active partner in the Greater Mekong Subregion and ASEAN. These priorities are aligned with the 8th Health Sector Development Plan (HSDP) of the MoH 2016-2020 and ultimately health priorities of the 8th NESDP.</p> <p>WHO is committed to continue our technical support in strengthening the national health system according to the country context and coordinating with partners to achieve the common goals in alignment with the third phase of the Health Sector Reform Strategy, the 9th HSDP 2021-2025 and 9th NESDP. It will contribute to achieving the four Outcomes of the CF.</p> <p>People's well-being - WHO will provide technical support for strengthening the resilience and sustainability of the health system, while improving the provision of efficient, quality, affordable, accessible and equitable health services based on data-informed policies across all health programs. Further, as a co-chair of Sector Working Group, WHO will support the MoH in coordinating with partners effectively. It will contribute to the Outcome, specifically improving equitable access and ability to use quality, sustainable and resilient health, nutrition and WASH services.</p> <p>Inclusive prosperity - WHO will continue to provide technical support for improving sustainable health financing in the context of donor transition, the COVID-19 pandemic as well as other health emergencies and implementation of the National Health Insurance Scheme as part of broader the government's social protection scheme.</p> <p>Governance and rule of law - Across all health programs, WHO will support the MoH in strengthening governance and accountability to improve implementation and monitoring and evaluation capacity and incorporating human rights standards.</p> <p>Environment, climate change and resilience - WHO is committed to support the government to improve the government's capacity for health adaptation in the context of climate change and build climate resilient health system, specifically climate resilient WASH systems in the most vulnerable healthcare facilities in Lao PDR. It is critical to achieving a goal to protect the communities with high risk of floods and storms and provide health services without interruption during climate/weather events. Further, to build resilience, based on lessons from the previous outbreaks, disasters and the COVID-19 pandemic, WHO will support improving resilient health system to respond to public health emergencies effectively and engaging with the communities to build resilience at the community level.</p>				
<p>Residual programme commitments (CPD or similar)</p>	<p>WHO's program has been guided by the WHO 13th General Programme of Work 2019-2023, For the Future Towards the Healthiest and Safest Region- a vision for WHO work with Member States and partners in the Western Pacific of WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific, the Lao PDR-WHO Country Cooperation Strategy 2017-2021 and the Lao PDR- UNPF 2017-2021. Thus, WHO does not have any residual programme commitments and all programs are aligned with the CF.</p>				
<p>Technical Capacities</p>	<table> <tr> <td data-bbox="256 1612 451 1770"> <p>Thematic policy expertise</p> </td><td data-bbox="459 1612 1445 1770"> <p>Health systems strengthening, health financing, health information system, human resources for health, medicines regulation, communicable and non-communicable diseases, Reproductive, Maternal, New-born, Child and Adolescent Health (RMNCAH), immunization, environmental health, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), health security, public health surveillance, outbreak response, development of healthy public policy, public health emergencies.</p> </td></tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="256 1780 451 1894"> <p>Expertise in international norms and standards</p> </td><td data-bbox="459 1780 1445 1894"> <p>WHO is a UN agency specialized in health, producing international norms, standards and guidelines related to health. WHO Representative Office in Lao PDR has expertise in international norms and standards related to health across all thematic areas mentioned above (e.g., International Health Regulations; International Classification of Diseases; and WHO essential medicines list).</p> </td></tr> </table>	<p>Thematic policy expertise</p>	<p>Health systems strengthening, health financing, health information system, human resources for health, medicines regulation, communicable and non-communicable diseases, Reproductive, Maternal, New-born, Child and Adolescent Health (RMNCAH), immunization, environmental health, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), health security, public health surveillance, outbreak response, development of healthy public policy, public health emergencies.</p>	<p>Expertise in international norms and standards</p>	<p>WHO is a UN agency specialized in health, producing international norms, standards and guidelines related to health. WHO Representative Office in Lao PDR has expertise in international norms and standards related to health across all thematic areas mentioned above (e.g., International Health Regulations; International Classification of Diseases; and WHO essential medicines list).</p>
<p>Thematic policy expertise</p>	<p>Health systems strengthening, health financing, health information system, human resources for health, medicines regulation, communicable and non-communicable diseases, Reproductive, Maternal, New-born, Child and Adolescent Health (RMNCAH), immunization, environmental health, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), health security, public health surveillance, outbreak response, development of healthy public policy, public health emergencies.</p>				
<p>Expertise in international norms and standards</p>	<p>WHO is a UN agency specialized in health, producing international norms, standards and guidelines related to health. WHO Representative Office in Lao PDR has expertise in international norms and standards related to health across all thematic areas mentioned above (e.g., International Health Regulations; International Classification of Diseases; and WHO essential medicines list).</p>				

Functional Capacities	Advisory capacity for policy formulation and implementation	WHO office has technical capacity to support the Ministry of Health in developing and implementing policies, strategies and plans on health across all programs: health systems including health financing, human resources for health, medicines, information system, communicable and non-communicable diseases, RMNCAH and immunization. Based on strong trust and close collaboration relationship with the MoH, WHO has been a key partner in supporting development of health policies and strategies.
	Capacity to connect and engage in networks and partnerships	WHO office has worked closely with international and national actors through various networks and partnerships. We have worked closely with all key health partners at the global, regional and country levels, including WB, ADB, Global Fund, GAVI, Asia eHealth Information Network and various international NGOs to support the MoH. At the moment, there are also active engagement with international actors for the SDG Global Action Plan, specifically the signatory agencies in the sustainable financing accelerator and primary health care accelerator groups. WHO's main counterpart in the government is the MoH. To support areas which require multi-sectoral action and collaboration, we have worked with other Ministries such as MoHAs, MoTPW and MoF through MoH and all national health centres under MoH. Further, we worked with a national research institute, the Lao Tropical and Public Health Institute, and Mass Organizations like LWU and LYU.
	Communication and advocacy capacity	WHO has capacity for communication for health (C4D) including advocacy. WHO has worked closely with MoH, specifically the Center of Communication and Education for Health (CCEH), to support C4D at central and subnational levels. Through technical support for all programs, WHO has supported MoH in advocating key issues in the health sector and beyond.
	Project and program implementation capacity	WHO has a dedicated team working on program management. All programs have planned and implemented their activities based on agreed priorities with the MoH.
	M & E capacity	WHO has a team led one dedicated technical officer for health information system who is supporting monitoring and evaluation of health programs and overall health information system through the government's health information platform, District Health Information System 2 (DHIS-2).
Operational business model		Representative office
New or innovative modality		In the context of donor transition such as GAVI and Global Fund and the COVID-19 pandemic, WHO is providing support to improvement of efficiency through integrated service delivery modalities across programs in close collaboration with relevant UN partners and donors. Further, WHO has supported the MoH on innovative approaches (e.g. tablet-based monitoring system for COVID-19 immunization as part of multi-source surveillance and engagement with the private sector) during the pandemic and will continue providing such support for the MoH to take innovative approaches within the next CF timeline.
Participation in outcomes and outputs		Outcomes: People's wellbeing; Inclusive prosperity; governance and rule of law (Lead); environment, climate change, and resilience Joint outputs: Health (Lead); WASH; planning and financing for the SDGs; social protection; public administration reform and data driven governance; green growth, resilience
Conclusions of the configuration discussions		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) WHO are among the largest UN agencies in Laos in terms of financial and technical capacities and plays a leading role in outcome one on People's Wellbeing and outcome three on Governance. 2) Due to WHO's technical capacity in Lao PDR, the agency is well positioned to act as an integrator in the area of health and its intersections (e.g., with UNAIDS, UN-Habitat, UNFPA, UNOPS, etc.). 3) WHO is encouraged to engage in the MELG, OMT and UNCG as its contributions could considerably strengthen the groups.