

**The 16<sup>th</sup> ASEAN & Japan High Level Officials Meeting  
on Caring Societies**

**Poverty Reduction and Empowerment  
of Children in Lao PDR**

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# Presentation Outline

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1. The 8<sup>th</sup> National Social–Economic Development Plan
2. Economic Growth and Poverty Reduction
3. Social Protection and Child Assistance
4. Labour Protection for Youth Workers



# 1. The 8<sup>th</sup> National Socio-Economic Development Plan (the 8<sup>th</sup> NSED plan)

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## ■ Roles of central and local gov' t on Poverty Reduction

Some priorities set in the 8<sup>th</sup> NSED, the National Growth and Poverty Eradication Strategy (NGPES) illustrates the roles of government to work on:

- Transition to a more market-based economy, the system of decision-making must be more community-based, transparent and accountable.
  - Introduction of wide-ranging public administration reforms to create an effective, efficient and low-cost public administration, together with the necessary institutional and legal framework.
  - Strengthening the capacity of the government at all levels (provinces, districts and villages/communities) to better fulfil its vital role.
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# The 8<sup>th</sup> National Socio-Economic Development Plan (Cont.)

One significant part of the 8<sup>th</sup> NSED (2016-2020) sets directions for poverty reduction; improving human resource capacity by enhancing workforce skills; and rooting solidarity in the society with social development focus on two main outcomes:

1. Social protection benefits to all people, especially the poor and those working in the informal economy and to disseminate the Law on Social Security to the target audience,
2. The development of human resources, poverty reduction and universal access to quality education and health services,



## 2. Economic Growth and Poverty Reduction

**The poverty reduction is one of the 18 main topics of the 8<sup>th</sup> NSED**

- The economy has been growing steadily for the past couple of decades with the average GDP growth of 7-8% per year;
- The average GDP per capita is at USD 2,400/person in 2017;
- Investment in various infrastructures and hydro-power dams as well as in fund incentive sector like bank;
- The poverty rates of urban areas are approximately 10% and rural areas are at 23% in 2015;
- Low educated and rural area people are identified to be the most poverty-stricken and the government is actively working to manage and resolve this issue;
- The government has set up a poverty-reduction fund and is mainly used for the overall development in the poorest districts. ( Defined 25 districts in 2015)



### 3. Social Protection and Children Assistance

- The government sets up the Social Security Fund as the social security scheme for both public and private employees while the self-employee and individual can join the fund in a voluntary basis; the main coverage is public workers and some main private enterprises.
- Community-based Health Insurance Fund with Free Healthcare Policy for children under the age of five and the poor people.
- New introduced a compulsory education laws for at least the children have to complete the lower secondary school (14 years).



### **3. Social Protection and Children Assistance (cont)**

- Set up the street children helping centres, and availability of SOS schools and villages in the northern, central and southern part for orphan children;
- Endorse the Prime Minister Decree on National Health Insurance as integrated component to the existing healthcare system and expand long-term health care services for all.



## 4. Youth Workers Protection .

- Lao PDR has Ratified ILO Convention no. 138 and 182;
- Based on Lao Labour law with Setting the minimum age of children with 14 years, but workers from 12 up to 14 years of age can perform light work;
- Introduced Minister Decisions regarding light and hazardous work for young workers;
- Set up and implement the National Action Plan on Prevention and Elimination of Child Labour 2014-2020;
- Conduct a survey on child Labour in 2010 and aim to eliminate of the worst forms of child labour in 2020.





**Thank you for kind attention**

