



Challenges of urban development in  
**Lao People's  
Democratic Republic**

Presented by  
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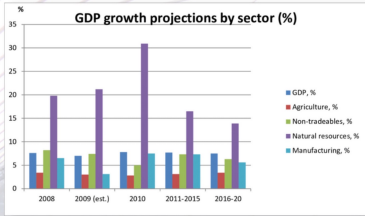


A scenic landscape in Laos featuring a river, lush greenery, and mountains. The foreground shows a calm river reflecting the surrounding greenery. The middle ground is dominated by dense tropical forest with several palm trees. In the background, a range of jagged, forested mountains rises against a clear blue sky. A small cluster of traditional wooden houses is visible on the riverbank.

# Overview

Challenges of urban development in Lao People's Democratic Republic

# What LaoPDR are Facing?



- Laos PDR GDP ranks currently at 112th Global.
- Started to become one of the fast growing economy.



## Sector Assessment

- Rural areas are in need to be reconstructed and developing their infrastructure for future development.

## Urban Development



- Has a small market in rural area.
- Need to improved rural area infrastructure for the future growth.

## Environmental Problems

- Minimal rules and law there will be insufficient resources allocation.
- Create a gap between the rich and the poor and negative land used.



## Population Issue

- Has a problem with income distribution.
- About 25% are living in rural area.

# Strategies For Developing Cities

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## Development Plans

- Improvement of transportation and infrastructure
- Allow farmers in rural areas to have access to the market and sell their agricultural product to the market



## Significant Investments

- Many small cities have seen major changes in their urban settings and living situations
- Additional upgrades are needed to keep up with urban expansion and to capitalize on prior investments.

## Special Economic Zone

- Aimed to create a city to be a center of industry
- Requires Infrastructure and resources to help develop in the future and expand the market



A young girl with dark hair is peering over the rim of a large, weathered white bucket. She has a curious expression. The bucket is outdoors, surrounded by bamboo structures and other buckets, suggesting a rural or informal settlement environment. A dark green rectangular box is overlaid on the left side of the image, containing white text.

# Key Issues and Challenges

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# Identification of Key Issues and Challenges

## Urban Planning

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- Importance in creating balanced local and regional development.
- Lack of ownership of the plans and overlapping / unclear responsibilities which slow down the planning process.



## Land Management

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- System is slow and inefficient therefore there's many agencies looking at similar areas
- Lot of confusion which causes management to become inefficient



## Employment & income opportunities

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- The country must be able to employ more workers in order to fulfil its growing state.
- Experiences underemployment (Low Productivity)
- Links back to educational problems



# Identification of Key Issues and Challenges

## Housing policy

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- Rapid population growth results in increase demand for low-cost housing
- Causes slums and squatter settlements in major urban areas.



## Water supply & Sanitation

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- 67% are access to safe water.
- 45% of urban household access piped water.
- Most residents in small villages rely on shallow wells, ponds.
- Urban and Rural sanitation are poor.



## Roads & Transport

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- Only 14% of roads are sealed
- Other roads are mostly made of gravel and soil which causes dusty during the dry seasons and muddy during the wet season.





# Government strategies

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# STRATEGY

National Socio-Economic  
Development Plan

National Urban  
Sector Strategy

# OBJECTIVE

- Economic development & poverty reduction
- Environment improvement
- Improved governance
- Infrastructure development

- Develop all urban areas
- Strengthen the capacity of urban management
- Create favorable conditions for civil society
- Preserve and expand cultural

# Infrastructure Plans and Strategies

## Sanitation

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- pit latrines are being replaced with septic systems
- More investment in septic systems
- Combined drainage systems, and sludge tankers.



## Water supply

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- Goals are to assist faster economic growth and more equitable development.
- Encourages economic development in minor towns water supply systems to meet up with rising demand.



## Roads & Transport

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- Raise the overall coverage of sealed roads in urban areas to 46% by 2020



# Lesson Learned



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Understanding the issues / difficulties and possible actions that act as potential solutions.

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Useful information that can be used to help prevent these problems / difficulties.

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Reflect on the issue and view it as potential case studies.





# Conclusion

**Currently facing with several issues.**

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- Urban planning & Land management
- Employment issues
- Water supply & sanitation
- Roads & Transport
- Housing

**Government & Citizens are part in fixing issues.**

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- Most of solution correlate to the concept of encouraging everybody to take part in fixing and reducing issues.

**All improvements require huge time and money.**

- Laos PDR must take careful steps and decision making in implementing these changes.
- Cautious analysis and assessment should be made before making changes.