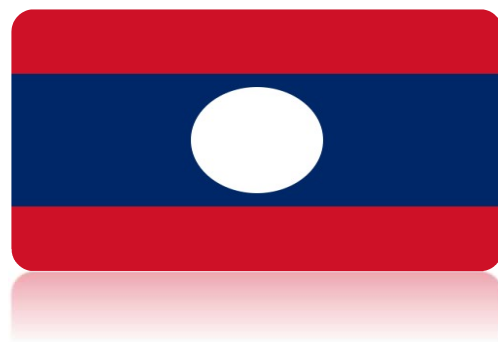




The Lao Country Report

The 19th High Level Meeting

Illicit Drug Sector Working Group/Mini-Dublin Group

Vientiane, 8 November 2024

**Presented By
Drugs Control And Supervision Bureau (LCDC)**

Presentation Outline

Overview of Drug Situation

Contribution from IDSWG Countries

Policy and Legislation

Measures Taken on Drug Control

Challenges

Future Direction



I. Overview of Drugs Situation

- ▶ Lao PDR becomes as a transit route for drug trafficking as well as precursor chemical in the sub-region unavoidably. The drug trafficking through Lao PDR has been increasing with higher frequency and volume.
- ▶ Northwest border still being the main gateway of drug flow to Lao PDR, while border in the East, West and South of the country has been increasingly used for drug outflow.
- ▶ Methamphetamine tablet (ATS) remains the main drugs of abuse, while the number of opium users remain almost stable.



II. Contribution and donation from IDSWG

As part of the Round Table Mechanism, the Illicit Drug Sector Working Group and the Mini-Dublin Working Group. Lao PDR has supported from IDSWG countries in fields of drug control cooperation, these contribution support and assist the Lao Government in implementing the comprehensive national drug control plan and the National Agenda for Drug and Precursor Chemical Control 2021-2023, and 2024-2025.

- In recent years, Vietnamese government has supported the construction of drug treatment and rehabilitation center in Vientiane province and the training courses on capacity building for Lao police officers.
- Chinese government has supported the 57 Chinese companies and state-owned enterprises to implement the Alternative Development Projects on crop substitution of opium poppy cultivation, the Joint Remote Sensing and Monitoring of Opium Poppy Cultivation in Northern Provinces of Laos, the training courses on capacity building for Lao police officers and other assistances

- Thai government has supported the construction of drug check points, VANMAI Coffee Cooperative of Laoz49, the training courses on capacity building for Lao police officers, vehicles and other assistances
- Korean government has supported the project strengthening Drug Control Capability in Lao PDR and the training courses on capacity building for Lao police officers.
- USA also supported the AD project in Huaphanh Province and other areas
- Luxemburg supported the AD project in Huaphanh Province
- UNODC has supported and assisted the implementation of the AD projects and other areas
- Other IDSWG Countries have supported and contributed to drug control works

On this behalf of the Drugs Control and Supervision **Bureau (LCDC)**. I would like to express my sincere thanks to IDSWG countries for your continue support and assistance to drug control activities in Lao PDR over the past years and beyond.

III. Policy and Legislation

In response, the Government of the Lao PDR prioritized the fight against drug trafficking and drug abuse, and instructed line sectors, local administrations, and the public to focus on the successful implementation of national legislative strategies against drugs such as the Law on Narcotics and the **National Agenda for Drug and Precursor Chemical Control 2021-2023** and extended to the end of 2025

- ❑ In August 2021, Lao Government had also amended Law on Drugs in 12 articles.
- ❑ Issued decrees and orders to be controlled new drug issues and other New Psychoactive Substances (NPS)

Achievement of National Agenda Implementation

- 2021-2023, Lao law enforcement agencies have made achievement in suppressing drug trafficking throughout the country with 11,558 cases, the total number of drug-related arrests were 17,074 offenders (1,913 females), including 346 foreigners.

The National Agenda for Drug and Precursor Chemical Control 2024-2025

The 6th Ordinary Session of the National Assembly, Series IX on 31 October to 21 November 2023 agreed to the government's proposal to extend the time of implementation the national agenda for Drug and Precursor Chemical Control until the end of 2025.

The NADPCC 2024-2025 will focus on the following:

1. Program re-education and dissemination of legal information and adverse consequences due to drug abuse.

2. Program of the formulation and improvement on drug law and regulation.

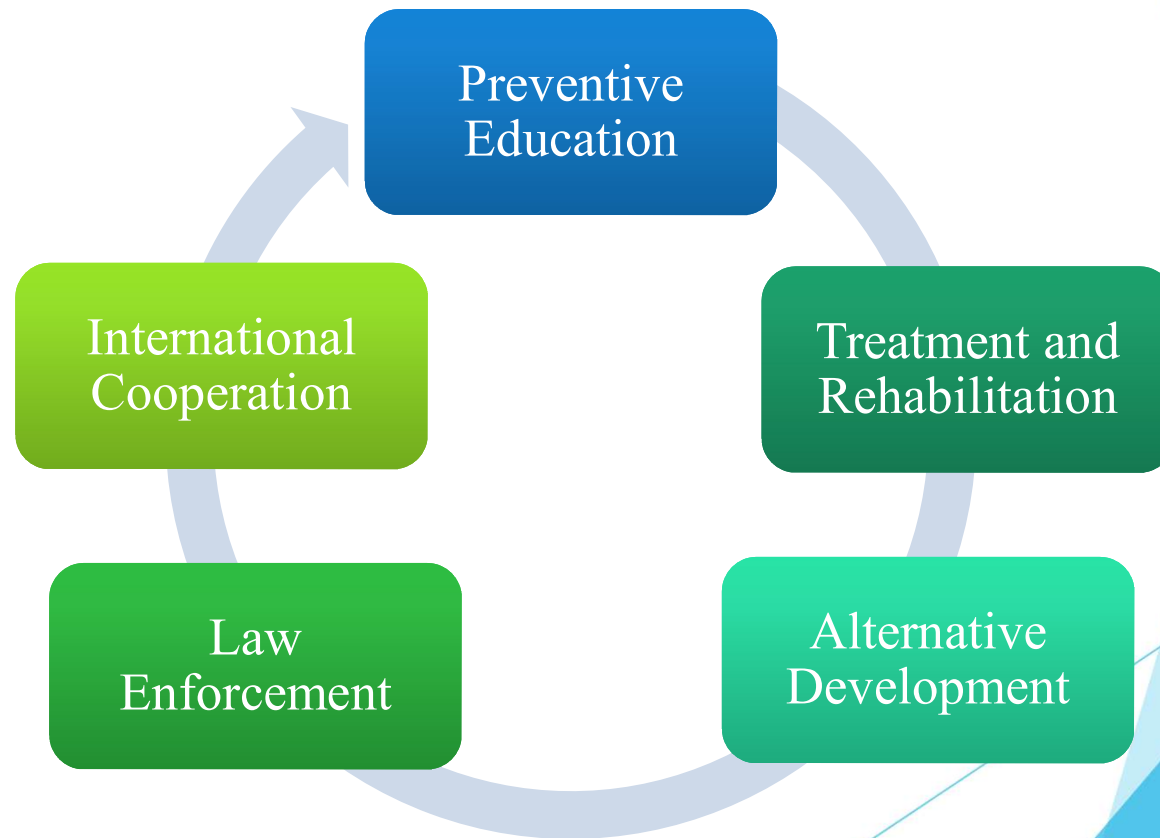
3. Program on data collection, law enforcement.

4. Enhance supervision for implementing Drug Control program.

5. Streamlining the organization for Drug control at Central and Local level.

6. International cooperation program.

IV. Measures taken on Drug Control



Preventive Education

- Our Drug Control Agencies have worked actively towards drug prevention by means of drug education and anti-drug campaign to raise drug awareness in society, primarily among the youth population, of the negative impact and danger of drugs;
- In 2024, we have raised the drug awareness campaign 93 times, 11,907 participants (including 5,274 females) in colleges, schools, villages and along the borders



Treatment and Rehabilitation

We have also given support to the victims of drug addiction in their treatment and rehabilitation both psychologically and physically, in different settings such as centers, community-based and vocational, helping ill-fated drug addicts re-become good citizens and re-entry into normal social life.

- In 2024, 5,132 persons have treated in 14 Drug Treatment and Rehabilitation Centers over the country, 2,513 persons recovered and returned back to their communities and 2,619 persons are under treatment in the Treatment Centers
- Estimated the high-risk people to be drug used about 75,000 persons in Laos;
- Estimated an annually treatment and rehabilitation 3,000-4,000 users of different types of drug;
- Government established 14 Drug Treatment and Rehabilitation Centers over the country with standard, non standard;
- Government cooperated with UNODC established 28 unit on Community Based Treatment (CBT).

Drug Treatment and Rehabilitation



➤ Handicraft Training



➤ Vocational Training



➤ Certify the Certificate



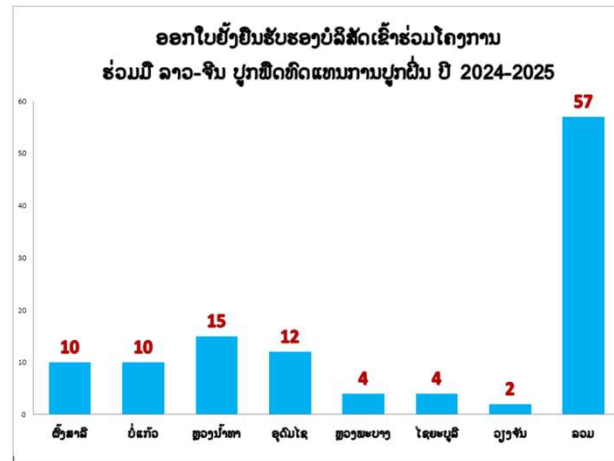
In 2024, We have also strived for establishing families, villages, educational institutions, firms, and other organization become drug-free places, currently there are 3,222 villages and 9,163 schools.



Alternative Development

- To maintain and fulfill the promise declared to the world on 14 February 2006 that Lao PDR had eliminated opium poppy cultivation on entire territory, to help poor families in remote areas to find legal and sustainable means of living, instead of growing illicit crops; thus improving their lives step by step.
- Up to now, AD Projects were implemented in central and northern provinces of Lao PDR , comprises of Lao-China and Lao-UNODC AD projects.

1. Lao-china Alternative Development Projects:

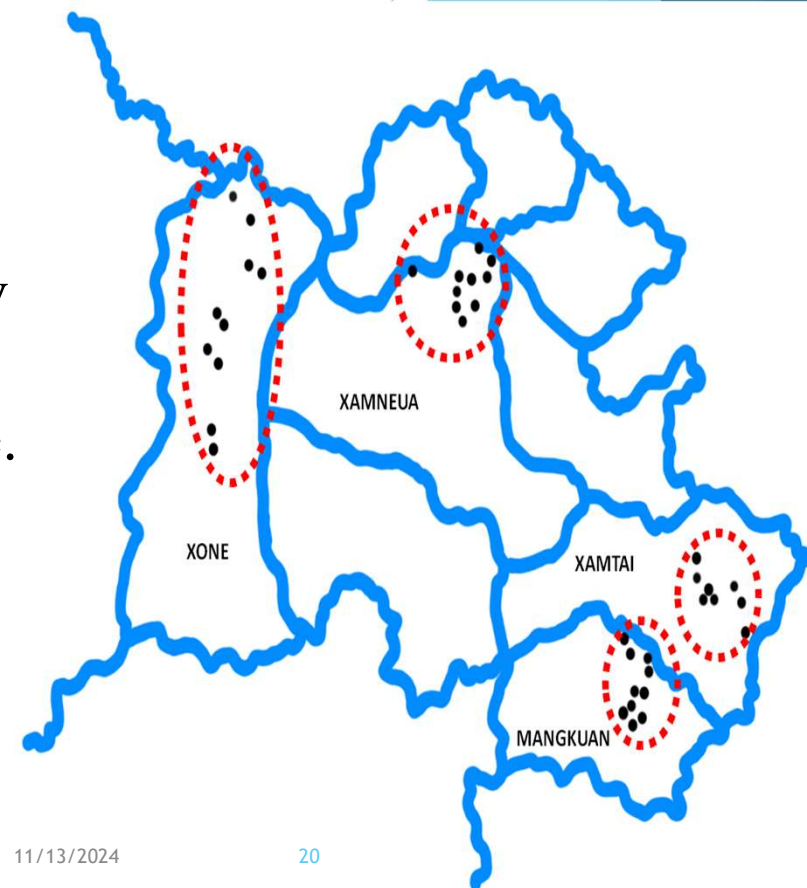


- After, opium poppy cultivation in Laos was officially declared significantly eliminated on the 14 February 2006 by the government of Lao PDR. The government of Laos and China has discussed to encourage Chinese companies and state-owned enterprises to implement AD project in northern parts of Laos.
- So far, there are 57 companies that have invested in planting opium substitutes in 7 provinces, namely: Phongsali, Bokeo, Luang Namtha, Oudomxay, Luang Prabang, Xayabuli and Vientiane Province.
- Promoting people to produce in 45 cities, 1,440 villages, with beneficiaries and participating in 58,185 households.



2. Alternative Development Project in Houaphan Province

1. Laoz49 Project in Houaphan Province has been funded by United States, Luxemburg, Germany and Japan through implemented by UNODC.
2. 38 villages, 4 districts in Huaphanh province.
3. The project started in June 2016 with 3 phases project revision : phase 1 (2016-2018); phase 2 (2018-2020), phase 3 (2021-2023) and extend to 2027.



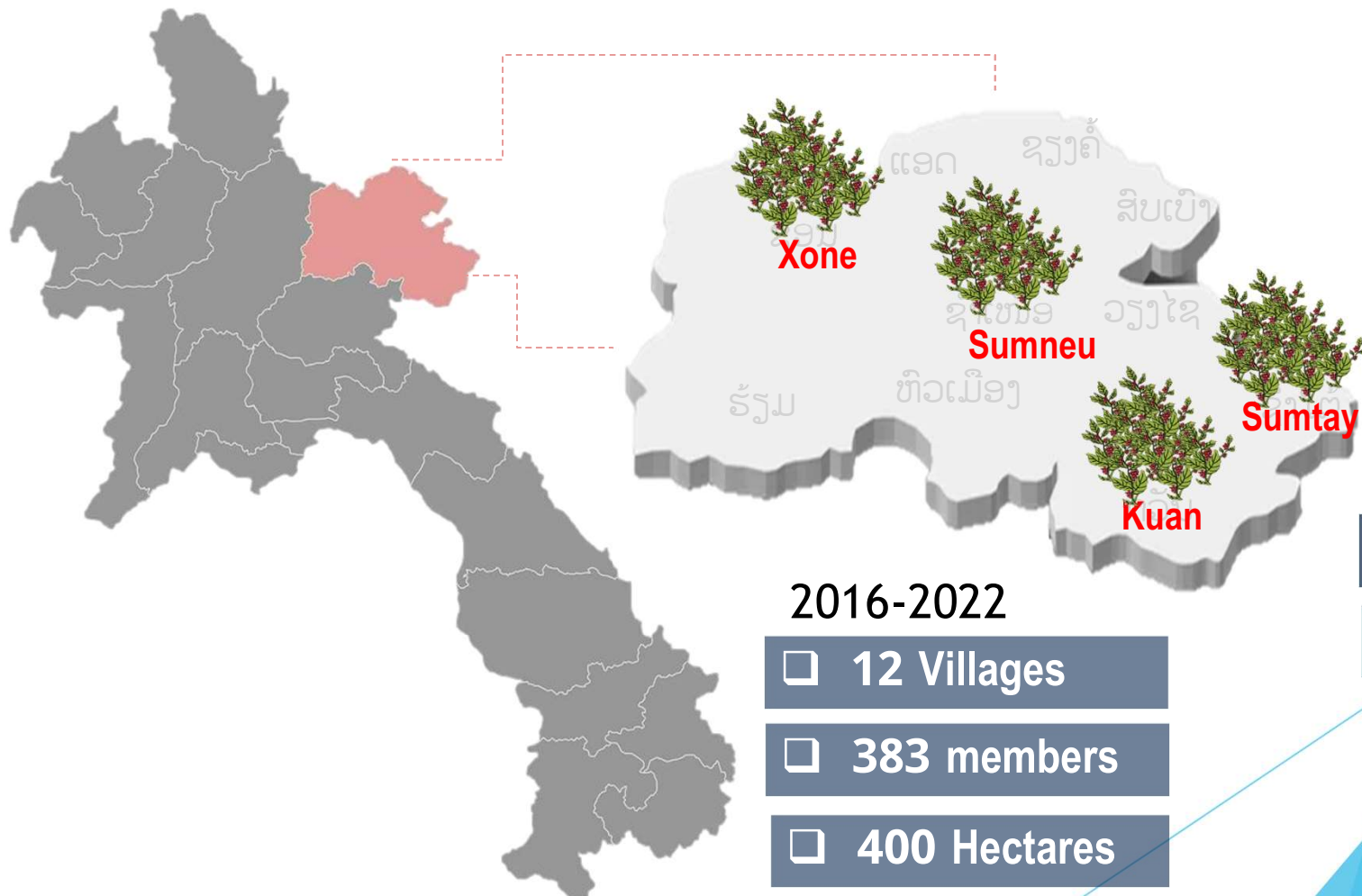
Alternative Development: LAOZ49 Project in Houaphan Province

Initial Programme activities:

1. Support of agriculture and livestock.
2. Promotion of handicraft.
3. Drug treatment.
4. Micro-credit.
5. Strengthening capacity of local authority.



Location of Coffee Plantations



2016-2022

- ❑ 12 Villages
- ❑ 383 members
- ❑ 400 Hectares

2023-2024

- ❑ 20 Villages
- ❑ 800 members
- ❑ 800 Hectares of Coffee Plantations



Long-term commercial agreement was signed with the French coffee roaster Malongo. (2021-2025)



Export Year	Containers	Quality (Kg)
2021	01	19,200
2022	02	38,400
2023	03	57,600
2024	06	115,200

Law Enforcement

- 9 months of 2024 , Lao law enforcement agencies have made achievement in suppressing drug trafficking throughout the country with 2,978 cases, the total number of drug-related arrests was 4,544 offenders (439 females), including 167 foreigners (14 females)

Border Liaison Offices (BLOs)

- Border Liaison Offices (BLOs) at check-points with neighboring countries to assure the security of the international border against illicit drug trafficking and smuggling.
- The 25 BLOs
 - 2 BLO with China,
 - 2 BLO with Myanmar,
 - 5 BLOs with Vietnam,
 - 2 BLOs with Cambodia
 - 14 BLOs with Thailand.



Set up Check points along major routes

- Na Bo Ta Kai check point, Oudomxay Province
- Na Luang check point, Luang Namtha Province
- Kiw Lom check point, Bokeo Province
- Namkeuang Check point, Bokeo Province
- Thaphabath Checkpoint, Borikhamxay Province



International Cooperation

- ▶ Narcotics are common problem for the world over and for our region. Lao PDR alone cannot effectively fight against drugs. Therefore, establishing international contact and cooperation for controlling and addressing drug problems is an empirical necessity. Exchanging data and information, mutually exchange lessons learned, establishing drug control agencies at border points, controlling import/export of drugs, precursors, and drug processing equipment, genuinely carry out obligations as dictated by treaties, agreements and memorandum of understanding to which Lao PDR is party, all of these we must consciously and actively carry out.



International Cooperation

- 3 UN Conventions 1961, 1971, 1988
- ASEAN Cooperation on Drug Matters
- MOU 1993 among 6 GMS countries and UNODC
- Bilateral Agreement with 14 countries
- Safe Mekong Cooperation of 6 GMS Countries.
- Lane Xang-Mekong Cooperation

Safe Mekong Coordination Center

The Safe Mekong Operation Plan on Drug Control among six countries : Cambodia, China, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam.

- ❖ Promote cooperation on drug control among 6 countries.
- ❖ Promote drug situation and information exchange.
- ❖ Promote capacity building in drug control.
- ❖ Promote mutual support on drug control.
- ❖ And other as needed



V. Challenges

1. Lao PDR still uses as the transit routes for drugs and precursors trafficking.
2. Lack of human resources to NPS.
3. Lack of equipments, vehicles and budgets

VI. Future Direction

1. Implement the National Agenda for Drug and Precursor Chemical Control 2024-2025.
2. Promote bilateral, multilateral, regional and international cooperations on drug control
3. Implement the SMCC Project on drug control with member states
4. Support the ASEAN Work Plan on Securing Communities Against Illicit Drugs 2016 – 2025

**Thank you very much for
your kind attention**

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