

Joint SDG Fund

Joint Programme Final Narrative Report

PORTFOLIO ON INTEGRATED POLICY AND LNOB

Cover page

Date of Report: **25 August 2022**

Programme title, Number and Country
Country: Lao PDR Joint Programme (JP) title: Leaving no one behind: Establishing the basis for social protection floors in Lao PDR MPTF Office Project Reference Number¹: 00128527

Programme Duration
Start date² (day/month/year): 1 January 2020 Original End date³ (day/month/year): 31 December 2021 Actual End date⁴ (day/month/year): 30 June 2022 Have agencies operationally closed the Programme in its system? Yes Expected financial closure date⁵: 30 September 2022

Participating Organizations / Partners
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¹ The MPTF Office Project Reference Number is the same number as the one on the Notification message. It is also referred to as "Project ID" on the project's factsheet page on the [MPTF Office GATEWAY](#).

² The start date is the date inserted in the original ProDoc submitted and approved by the Joint SDG Fund.

³ As per approval of the original project document by the relevant decision-making body/Steering Committee.

⁴ If there has been an extension, then the revised, approved end date should be reflected here. If there has been no extension approved, then the current end date is the same as the original end date. The end date is the same as the operational closure date which is when all activities for which a Participating Organization is responsible under an approved MPTF / JP have been completed. As per the MOU, agencies are to notify the MPTF Office when a programme completes its operational activities. Please see [MPTF Office Closure Guidelines](#).

⁵ Financial Closure requires the return of unspent balances and submission of the [Certified Final Financial Statement and Report](#).

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Programme Budget (US\$)

Total Budget (as per Programme Document, without co-funding): USD 2,000,000

Agency/Other Contributions/Co-funding (if applicable): USD 1,073,892

Joint SDG Fund Contribution⁶ and co-funding breakdown, by recipient organization:

Agency/others	Joint SDG Fund contribution	Co-funding	DFAT	Total
ILO	816,539	114,000	134,200	1,064,739
UNICEF	833,460	60,000	699,260	1,592,720
UNCDF	350,000	66,432	0	416,432
Total	2,000,000	240,432	833,460	3,073,892

⁶ Joint SDG Fund Contribution is the amount transferred to the Participating UN Organizations – see [MPTF Office GATEWAY](#).

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Executive summary

Despite significant challenges during the implementation period, the UNJP in Lao PDR achieved its planned key results and made significant contributions to the development of the nascent social protection system in the country. Most notably, the JP provided continuous support to the Government of Lao PDR as it developed and adopted PM Decree No.655 (dated 9 Dec 2021) that established a high-level National Social Protection Commission (NSPC)—at the Central and Provincial levels—and determined its roles, responsibilities, structure, principles and working approach, which would aid the NSPC in its primary responsibility of implementing the National Social Protection Strategy on a sustainable and ongoing basis. The JP also finalised key documents which will support the NSPC in fulfilling its duties, incl. the Strategy’s implementation roadmap; a monitoring tool for the Strategy harmonised with SDG Target 1.3 reporting; cost projections of the Strategy’s ‘social welfare’ pillar; a strategy and plan for social protection financing in Lao PDR, and recommendations to improve the Chart of Accounts for disaggregated social protection reporting, among others. These documents were officially submitted to the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare (MoLSW) in their capacity as the NSPC’s Technical Secretariat. In this way, the JP significantly contributed to the process of establishing the foundations for building a national social protection system and achieved Outcome 1 on enhancing Government planning, managerial and implementation capacity (including leadership and coordination) to implement the National Social Protection Strategy.

As part of efforts to practically test and demonstrate the viability of social protection in the Lao context, the JP implemented a social welfare pilot in three districts of southern Lao PDR. Under this, 2,596 households with pregnant women, new mothers and children were enrolled in the Mother and Early Childhood Grant (MECG) pilot, of whom 2,072 included children under 12 months of age. Of the total, 1,100 were from Sanamxay district in Attapeu province, 372 from Phouvong district also in Attapeu province, and 1,124 from Nong district in Savannakhet province—the three districts with the highest poverty rates in Lao PDR. The pilot uses a geographical targeting and unconditional approach, due to the high poverty rates in the country and weak rural infrastructure. The project reviewed the beneficiaries’ health records and found that the grant had a positive impact on take-up of antenatal care, postnatal care, and vaccination. In addition, the project trained 100 national, provincial and district officers and raised awareness among 125 village heads and women’s organisations, in addition to developing the MIS and operational systems, with the objective of engendering ownership and gradually building the foundations for social welfare programmes in the future. In this way, the JP achieved Outcome 2 on at least 2,000 pregnant women and children benefitting from a new integrated package of welfare services, including the MECG, early childhood wellbeing services and support for birth registration.

Result 1: By the end of the JP, enhance government planning, managerial and implementation capacities (including leadership and co-ordination) to implement the National Social Protection Strategy (NSPS).
Estimated rate of completion as of 30 June 2022: 100%

Result 2: By the end of the JP, contribute to ensuring that social protection funding is on-budget and designing a mechanism whereby additional sources of finance are mobilized and blended with public sector budget allocations to ensure sustainability of the NSPS.
Estimated rate of completion as of 30 June 2022: 100%

Result 3: By the end of the JP, at least 2,000 pregnant women and children aged 0-12 months are benefitting from a new integrated welfare package consisting of the MECG, early childhood wellbeing services and support for birth registration.
Estimated rate of completion as of 30 June 2022: 100%

1. Overall progress and priority, cross-cutting issues

1.1. Context and the overall approach

Ensuring an adaptive and strategic JP

- At the onset of the COVID-19 crisis, the UNCT in Lao PDR—under the RCO’s leadership—responded by preparing a joint policy note entitled, “[Developing a shock-responsive national social protection system to respond to the COVID-19 crisis](#)” and submitted it to the Government. The note promotes a system-building approach and its recommendations were aligned with the National Social Protection Strategy and the JP. A news article “[Turning crisis into opportunity](#)” was developed.
- Additional funding of AUD 1.1 million for the JP was secured from the Government of Australia, which reduced its bilateral interventions and opted to go for a joint and integrated approach. This allowed the JP to expand the scope of its Outcome 2 from delivering the MECG to 1,400 beneficiaries in 2 pilot districts to delivering it to at least 2,000 beneficiaries in 3 districts.
- Following the adoption of the [National Social Protection Strategy](#) through PM Decree No.224 (dated 1 Apr 2020) and its public inauguration in Sep 2020, the government requested for a stronger orientation of some JP activities towards the implementation of the Strategy. For example, capacity building workshops on ‘basic social protection concepts’ were redesigned to include a ‘how to implement the Strategy at the local level’ objective.

Link with UNDAF/ UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework

- The JP is strongly aligned with and in support of the Lao PDR–UN Partnership Framework (UNPF) 2017-21. Through the MECG pilot, the JP contributes to the UNPF’s results on “more people have access to social protection benefits, in particular vulnerable groups” (UNPF outcome 2) as well as “people enjoy improved access to quality health services, and water, sanitation and hygiene” (UNPF outcome 5) and “most vulnerable people benefit from improved food security and nutrition” (UNPF outcome 6). Moreover, through its strong support to the government to implement its National Social Protection Strategy, the JP partially contributes to the UNPF’s aspiration to support the government in “institutions and policies at national and local level support the delivery of quality services that better respond to people’s needs” (UNPF outcome 7).
- With the transition from the UNPF, in early 2022, to the newly established Lao PDR–UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2022-26 the JP maintained its strong alignment. Through support to the government to strengthen institutional capacities and to design and pilot the MECG in the poorest districts, the JP contributes towards achieving Output 2.3—Social Protection, which states the objective that “by 2026, people, especially the most vulnerable and marginalised, will benefit from more inclusive, and resilient, transformative, and sustainable socio-economic opportunities to reduce poverty and inequalities” (UNSDCF Strategic Priority 2—Inclusive Prosperity).
- The JP contributed to the UNCT’s development of the Joint Work Plan (JWP) and Output Indicators for UNSDCF “Output 2.3–Social Protection”. The sub-outputs are strategically classified according to the National Social Protection Strategy’s pillars, ensuring that future interventions by UN agencies will continue the work done so far to implement the Strategy. Furthermore, one of the key actions of the JWP is the development of a draft UN position paper on social protection, defining the short, medium and long-term joint recommendations/areas of work in developing the national social protection system. The preparation of the UN position paper was informed by the work done as part of/experiences of this JP.

COVID-19 impact

- As mentioned above, the UNCT in Lao PDR—under the RCO’s leadership—responded to the onset of the COVID-19 crisis by preparing a joint policy note entitled, “[Developing a shock-responsive national social protection system to respond to the COVID-19 crisis](#)” and submitted it to the Government. The note promotes a system-building approach and its recommendations were aligned with the National Social Protection Strategy and the JP. In the Lao context of limited financial and institutional resources, rather than divert resources for temporary and ad hoc measures this approach is expected to build and

- solidify a shock-responsive system in the long run (by building the system around the MECG programme).
- During Q3-2020, the UNCT—including the JP—prepared the “[UN Lao PDR Socio-Economic Response Framework to COVID-19](#)” (SERF), which proposed critical social protection actions to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19 and corresponding prevention policies. The implementation of the MECG established the operational nucleus to at least partially ease the socio-economic impact of COVID-19 (prevention measure) on the most vulnerable in three of the poorest districts of Lao PDR.
 - In direct response to the COVID-19 crisis, the MECG programme design was adapted vertically, by providing an additional payment to pregnant women as part of the first transfer to cushion some of the impacts of the crisis. The pilot’s implementation was started remotely, to ensure beneficiary enrolment and delivery of cash transfers during this period of need.

1.2. Update on priority cross-cutting issues

UN Development System reform - UN coherence at the country level

- Under the leadership of the RC, the UNCT in Lao PDR came together to prepare a joint policy note for the Government entitled, “[Developing a shock-responsive national social protection system to respond to the COVID-19 crisis](#)”. The JP provided technical and financial assistance to the note development process. Specifically, the note promotes a system-building approach, in keeping with the National Social Protection Strategy 2021-2025 and the JP. It proposes a ‘leave no one behind’ approach and nine recommendations to respond to the health and socioeconomic crises. One of the main recommendations is to reach poor and affected households through an expansion of the MECG programme, the latter being an integral part of the UNJP and the 2025 Strategy. The UNCT policy note and its recommendations are expected to be used by the Government to expand social protection, thereby contributing to the establishment of long-term response measures to COVID-19 and other future crises.
- Furthermore, the JP contributed to the development of the Joint Work Plan and Output Indicators on social protection under the new Lao PDR–UNSDCF 2022-26. Specifically, the system-building approach of the JP as well as the principal objective of supporting the implementation of the National Social Protection Strategy were reflected in the development of the sub-outputs, activities and indicators. These two activities allowed the JP to extend its strategy and approach beyond the PUNOs and to the UNCT in Lao PDR.
- While each of the 3 PUNOs is responsible for different outputs under the JP, the agencies collaborated in several areas to produce joint outputs, thus bringing together their comparative advantages and specific areas of expertise on social protection design, institutional and implementation structures, financing and investments. ILO and UNCDF collaborated to support the government through preparation of a [report on improvement of the Chart of Accounts for disaggregated social protection reporting and alignment with international standards](#). ILO, UNICEF and UNCDF also collaborated on a new activity; to [assess the fiduciary risks and ‘value for money’ of various payment mechanisms for the MECG and other social cash transfers](#). ILO and UNICEF cooperated in the development of a [Training of Trainers \(TOT\) toolkit](#) and to implement the [first TOT workshop](#) to create a group of 26 new trainers.

Going beyond “business as usual” to produce catalytic results at scale

- The UNJP in Lao PDR provided continuous support to the Government of Lao PDR as it developed and adopted [PM Decree No.655](#) (9 Dec 2021) that established a high-level National Social Protection Commission—at the Central and Provincial levels—and determined its roles, responsibilities, structure, principles and working approach, which would aid the NSPC in its primary responsibility of implementing the National Social Protection Strategy. The JP developed and submitted key technical documents which will support the NSPC in fulfilling its duties. This was done through continuous discussion and by maintaining a good working relationship with the government, especially the MoLSW. It will help to ensure that the work done/outputs produced under the JP will play a crucial role in the national policymaking process.
- The inauguration, dissemination and training of national stakeholders on the National Social Protection Strategy as well as the preparation and submission to MoLSW of key supporting documents to the Strategy are essential steps towards building a national social protection system under the auspices of

a single ministry that carries the unique mandate for social protection in Lao PDR. This kind of nationally owned, system-building process takes time but has the potential to be far more sustainable, thereby accelerating progress towards Target 1.3.

- The MECG aims to establish links between a cash transfer and related services like early childhood wellbeing services, nutrition support, and support for birth registration. In this way, it can help to shift mindsets and beliefs from the idea of social welfare as a simple handout to an integrated welfare programme that “invests” in children and therefore, in nation-building. In the absence of any large-scale, nationally owned social welfare programme in Lao PDR, the MECG is setting up all the building blocks for its operation, including the MIS, monitoring and payment systems. It is expected to provide lessons and replicable experiences for the roll-out of other social protection programmes in future.
- Furthermore, many of the MECG operations and systems are harmonised with the cash transfer scheme for mothers and children being simultaneously piloted by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and the World Bank, but with two key differences in the design.
 - (i) While the World Bank-supported programme uses a means test to identify the poor, the MECG uses a geographical approach as it covers all pregnant women and new-born children in 3 of the poorest districts of Lao PDR. In a context of high rural poverty, the latter approach is expected to be more efficient in reaching the poor.
 - (ii) The World Bank-supported programme makes the transfer conditional on attendance of trainings, while the MECG provides encouragement and counselling to beneficiaries, without imposing punitive measures for failing to regularly comply with the conditions. In a context of limited human resource capacity and poor rural infrastructure, the latter approach is expected to result in greater effectiveness and efficiency.

It is also worth mentioning that in light of the government policy of using modern, digital payment mechanisms as far as possible, both programmes use a digital wallet to deliver the cash. It is hoped that the two pilots will allow the Government of Lao PDR to study the pilot mechanisms and consolidate the findings to identify the most suitable way forward.

- Building on the MECG operations and MIS, a child support grant to children living with disabilities was designed and will be piloted in Pek and Khoun districts in Xiengkhouang province. The results of this pilot will help make the case for investing in disability-inclusive social protection in Lao PDR.

SDG acceleration

- The adoption of [PM Decree No.655](#) on the establishment of a high-level National Social Protection Commission, dissemination of and training on the newly launched National Social Protection Strategy, as well as the preparation of supporting documents to implement the Strategy (such as the [implementation roadmap](#), [monitoring tool for the Strategy harmonised with SDG Target 1.3 reporting](#), [cost projections of the Strategy’s ‘social welfare’ pillar](#), and a national social protection financing strategy) are essential steps towards building a consolidated social protection system under the auspices of a single ministry—MoLSW—that carries the unique mandate for social protection in Lao PDR. The activities done/outputs produced under the JP primarily aim to ensure the effective and sustainable implementation of the Strategy. This accelerates the country’s progress towards SDG Target 1.3.
- The MECG pilot aims to establish links between a cash transfer and related services like early childhood wellbeing services, nutrition support, and support for birth registration. The pilot has been established and is delivering benefits in three districts. In this way, it accelerates progress towards SDG Targets 1.3, 2.2 and 16.9. The Government is now actively exploring avenues for how to secure additional resources, either domestic or external.
- The technical and policy advisory papers on [“A business plan for social protection financing in Lao PDR”](#) and [“Recommendations to improve the Chart of Accounts for disaggregated social protection reporting”](#) are key building blocks towards ensuring that social protection funding is on-budget and that additional traditional and non-traditional sources of finance are mobilized and blended with public sector budget allocations. This can help to ensure the sustainability of implementation of the National Social Protection Strategy, thereby accelerating progress towards SDG Target 17.3.

Policy integration and systems change

- The establishment of the high-level NSPC formally brings together the different ministries and institutions normally implementing social protection programmes but with no formal or regular means to coordinate or share information. In the immediate term, this is expected to facilitate the process of monitoring and reporting in the overall social protection field in Lao PDR. While different ministries and agencies collect data at the national, provincial and district levels, the data remains segregated with no consolidated picture emerging. The NSPC consists of members from the Ministries of Labour and Social Welfare, Health, Education and Sports, Agriculture and Forestry, and Finance—which are all implementing social protection measures, as well as members from the Ministries of Planning and Investment, Industry and Commerce, and Home Affairs, and employer and worker organisations—who play key roles in the design and implementation of social protection. The NSPC will have the mandate and responsibility on overall social protection reporting. In the long term, as the social protection system gradually develops in Lao PDR, the NSPC structure is expected to lead to greater coordination and collaboration in planning, design and implementation of social protection programmes, thereby reducing duplication and increasing overall effectiveness and efficiency.

Contribution to improvement of the situation of vulnerable groups

- 2,596 households with pregnant women, new mothers, and children below 12 months of age were enrolled in the MECG programme, comprising 524 pregnant women and 2,072 children (enrolled at the age of 0-6 months and receiving benefits till their first birthday), in the three target districts of Sanamxay, Phouvong and Nong. Of those enrolled, 1,410 have received cash transfers while efforts are ongoing by the government to pay the remaining beneficiaries. The delays are typical of a nascent programme and also resulted due to COVID-19 lockdown restrictions. Each beneficiary receives LAK 150,000 per month, paid once every two months. The project conducted loose monitoring visits, in the form of recording human-interest stories from the beneficiaries. The stories indicate that the cash has helped to increase household incomes and food intake, and promote regular visits to health centres. It has also promoted skilled birth delivery—this is also evidenced by the number of women who received additional transfers and parenting pacts as incentives to deliver at health facilities. In the long run, if/once the scheme reaches national saturation, almost 0.5 million mothers and children are expected to benefit.
- Although the MECG's eligibility criteria limit the coverage of the programme to pregnant women and children below 1 year of age, the Government of Lao PDR plans to use the pilot to provide an essential learning exercise to extend social welfare programmes to other vulnerable groups in future, especially children with disabilities.
- The programme eligibility group includes children with disabilities, though the disabilities are not expressly recorded in the MIS at this stage.
- Estimated number of individuals that were reached through JP efforts:
 - o Total number: total 2,596 women and children
 - o Percentage of women and girls: approximately 60% (1,560)

Mainstreaming Gender equality and women empowerment

- The MECG programme identifies pregnant women and children aged 0-12 months as the target group. Under the scheme, expectant and new mothers are the primary recipients of the cash grant and improved access to healthcare, nutrition and other services including child protection, psychosocial support and birth registration. By combining the cash grant with access to welfare services, the scheme's design explicitly aims at improving the position of women during this vulnerable period in their lifecycle and at improving poverty, health and nutrition outcomes. In this way, it supports women empowerment and gender equality.
- Given the MECG's focus on maternal and child health, maternal and child mortality are expected to be reduced by the programme.
- Estimated % of overall disbursed funds spent on Gender equality and Women empowerment: 52%

Human rights

- The JP integrated recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW Committee) and the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) for Lao PDR into core

MECG design elements and thereby ensured consistent implementation of these recommendations throughout the MECG. These include facilitating timely birth registrations of children especially in rural and remote areas, improving access to healthcare and promoting efforts to reduce the incidence of maternal and child mortality and malnutrition. In the long run, the MECG is expected to enhance service providers' (in social welfare, health, nutrition, etc.) abilities to provide adequate services to rightsholders.

Partnerships

- The UNJP in Lao PDR leveraged and/or implemented a range of partnerships with the government, development partners and other JPs in the region. It supported the Government of Lao PDR as it discussed and adopted [PM Decree No.655](#) that established a high-level National Social Protection Commission, with a dual Central and Provincial level structure. The NSPC's Technical Secretariat is based in MOLSW, while the members belong to various ministries and social partners. The JP maintained a close and effective working relationship with MoLSW and ultimately the NSPC, which will allow the UN system to support the government's plans of implementing the Strategy even beyond the duration of the JP.
- A precursor to the NSPC was the UNJP Advisory Committee, established on 30 September 2020 and consisting of a similar organisational structure. It has been playing an active leadership role in key discussions and decision-making processes.
- The MECG Programme Implementation Unit (PIU) ensured that district and provincial government entities and social and health workers at the grassroots level participated in consultations, meetings and trainings related to the MECG design and pilot.
- In collaboration with other JPs and UN agencies in the region, the UNJP in Lao PDR organised four regional exchange/peer-learning sessions with officials from the Government of Cambodia, Government of Thailand and UNICEF Myanmar and a study tour to the Philippines on the design, implementation and financing of their respective cash transfer programmes for mothers and children.
- The JP collaborated with the UNCT in Lao PDR on several occasions, such as the preparation of the joint [COVID-19 response policy note](#), preparation of the [SERF](#) particularly the UNFPA-ILO led pillar on "Protecting People and Social Cohesion and Community Resilience (including Food Security, Social Protection)", as well as social protection research and policy analysis conducted by various agencies.
- The Government of Australia provided co-financing for the up-scaling of the MECG pilot, thereby integrating its own work in this area with that of the UN.
- The JP coordinated with the World Bank, which is pilot testing a scheme similar to the MECG in the northern part of the country, to leverage on synergies in the cash payment process where possible and to ensure sustainability, scalability and ownership as well as to provide a range of experiences and lessons for the government.
- The JP has collaborated with the World Bank and IMF in developing a dedicated Chart of Accounts for social protection which can ensure that all social protection expenditures in Lao PDR are on-budget, therefore increasing transparency and accountability.

Mobilizing additional funding and/or financing

- Additional funding of AUD 1.1 million (approx. USD 800,000) for the JP was secured from the Government of Australia, which reduced its bilateral interventions stating that it would be more effective and efficient to go for a joint and integrated approach. This allowed the JP to expand the scope of its Outcome 2 from delivering the MECG cash benefit and welfare services to 1,400 beneficiaries in 2 pilot districts to delivering it to at least 2,000 beneficiaries in 3 districts. It is also expected to allow the Government of Lao PDR and the JP to collect more data from the longer, expanded pilot to inform the MECG and other social welfare programmes in future.
- The JP's contribution to the UNSDCF "Output 2.3-Social Protection" Joint Work Plan and Output Indicators, especially their alignment with the National Social Protection Strategy and the JP's system-building approach, is expected to continue the JP's work done so far to implement the Strategy.

Strategic meetings

Type of event	Yes	No	Description/Comments
Annual JP development partners'/donors' event	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	- The official launch event of the UNJP , held on 30 Sep 2020, saw the participation of the government, national partners as well as development partners. It was chaired by the Vice Minister of Labour and Social Welfare and the UN Resident Coordinator, and attended by Joint SDG Fund partners with a presence in Lao PDR—Germany, Switzerland and Luxembourg—as well as the Embassy of Australia. The event provided an opportunity to officially inaugurate Lao PDR's National Social Protection Strategy—Vision 2030, Goal 2025.
Final JP closing event	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	- The official closing event of the UNJP , held on 21 June 2022, was chaired by the Minister of Labour and Social Welfare, the UN Resident Coordinator and the Deputy Head of the Australian Mission. It saw the participation of government officials, development partners and eminent researchers from Lao PDR. The event provided an opportunity to review and present the project achievements, technical outputs, human interest stories and impact on beneficiaries, as well as to discuss a way forward for social protection system building and financing in Lao PDR.
Other strategic events	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	- The establishment and first meeting of the UNJP Advisory Committee was held on 30 September 2020 following the launch. The meeting included a presentation of the Strategy and the UNJP outcomes and work plan as well as how the latter help to implement the Strategy. It also included technical sessions to discuss the role of social protection in economic growth and recovery, MECG's role for Lao PDR, and financing of social protection. The meeting ended with an experience-sharing session on the implementation and financing of similar social protection measures in Cambodia. - The second meeting of the UNJP Advisory Committee was held on 5 Nov 2021 to review the UNJP's achievements till date, present the strategic documents produced under the JP (such as the Strategy's implementation roadmap and monitoring tool), and decide on what remains to be done under the JP and what needs to be done going forward. - As part of the official UNJP closing event, the Advisory Committee reviewed the achievements and outputs of the JP, in terms of processes, systems and technical reports. The Committee also discussed the need to expand social protection for low- and middle-income households to cope with the impacts of the current food and fuel crisis.

Innovation, learning and sharing

- The JP is designing a financing strategy for the National Social Protection Strategy, which will assess various options to mobilise financing for social protection both domestically and from external sources. The options include a National Social Protection Fund—as a first for the region—which integrates/blends different traditional and innovative financing sources and explores maximising the return on investment (ROI) through capital markets. The options also consider increasing contributory revenues through an assessment of the informal economy and expansion of coverage, exploring domestic resources from the private sector, integrating diverse and ad hoc donor interventions through a basket funding/pooled funding mechanism, among others. These options are in research and testing stage, and have the potential to eventually generate lessons beyond the Lao context.

- The MCEG pilot is a novelty for Lao PDR which does not have any large-scale, nationally owned, non-contributory cash transfers in place. The programme integrates an unconditional, geographically targeted approach reaching all eligible people in poor regions under the assumption that there is not much difference in poverty levels among households in rural areas and households often and easily move into and out of poverty. Behaviour Change Communication integrated into the programme is expected to gradually influence a shift in mindsets from 'social protection as a handout for the poor' to a 'rights-based' approach, both within the government as well as among the people.

2. Final Results

Overall progress

- All expected results achieved
- Majority of expected results achieved
- Only some expected results achieved

The expected results of the JP were achieved. Though there were earlier delays due to the national elections in 2021, continuous lockdowns and tightening of inter-provincial travel particularly affecting the organisation of workshops and implementation of the MECG pilot, the no-cost extension to June 2022 allowed the JP team to plan and implement all activities. Furthermore, the (system-building) nature of JP activities intrinsically meant that more time was needed for their implementation, and this will continue to require support even beyond the life of the JP.

Contribution to Fund's global results

⇒ **Contribution to Joint SDG Fund Outcome 1 (as per annual targets set by the JP)**

- ⇒ Integrated multi-sectoral policies to accelerate SDG achievement implemented with greater scope and scale

In terms of Indicator 1.1: integrated multi-sectoral policies that have accelerated SDG progress in scope, the JP piloted the MECG programme—an integrated cash benefit with welfare services including healthcare referrals, nutrition support, child registration support and counselling—in three districts of Lao PDR. The [MECG Design Document](#), [Operations Manual](#), [MIS User Manual](#), Cost Projections and [Remote Support Strategy for Registration](#) were all finalised, to guide the roll-out of trainings and field implementation. The MECG enrolled 2,596 beneficiary households in Sanamxay, Phouvong and Nong districts through a digital payment app/cash, while cash transfers were provided to 1,410 till date. The MECG scheme engendered ownership and commitment of the government by working with them in all technical decisions related to the pilot and conducting regional, peer-learning events with Thailand, Cambodia and Myanmar as well as a study tour to Philippines, where child grants are being implemented. The child grant and associated welfare services addresses several issues related to the 2030 Agenda such as social protection, gender, nutrition and health.

⇒ **Contribution to Joint SDG Fund Output 3 (as per annual targets set by the JP)**

- ⇒ Integrated policy solutions for accelerating SDG progress implemented

In terms of Indicator 3.1: innovative solutions that were tested, the MECG programme, comprising a cash benefit and related welfare services, was piloted. In terms of Indicator 3.2: integrated policy solutions that have been implemented with the national partners in lead, the integrated MECG programme was rolled out under the leadership of the Department of Social Welfare, MoLSW. In terms of Indicator 3.3: countries where national capacities to implement integrated, cross-sectoral SDG accelerators has been strengthened, the MECG rollout plan as well as the capacity building activities under the JP have contributed to strengthening national capacities.

JP Outputs and Outcomes

⇒ **Achievement of expected JP outputs**

Output 1.1. Members of the NSP Committee and other relevant national stakeholders better understand social protection-related topics and how programmes are designed

- The high-level National Social Protection Commission was set up on 9 December 2021 through [PM Decree No.655](#).
- The [Roadmap for the National Social Protection Strategy](#) was finalised as a “living document” and officially submitted to MoLSW for further discussion and planning by the NSPC.
- Following a request from the Government of Lao PDR, future capacity building workshops were redesigned to focus on the implementation of the National Social Protection Strategy at the provincial and district levels.

- One national and [three provincial capacity building workshops](#) on basic social protection and the National Social Protection Strategy were organised. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, these could only be organised in the 9 northern provinces.
- Three regional, peer-learning sessions on child grant implementation in Thailand, Cambodia and Myanmar and a study tour to Philippines to observe their child/family grant implementation were conducted.
- Due to the challenge of organising online trainings, the workplan was modified to include development of a [Training of Trainers toolkit](#). This was tested at a [TOT workshop in June 2022](#) that also built an initial community of 26 trainers from the government, civil society and development partners. It is expected that this community can conduct social protection trainings in provinces, districts, villages and communities in future.
- The UNJP was [officially launched on 30 September 2020](#) with the participation of 100 government officials, development partners and donors in Lao PDR.
- The UNJP was [officially closed on 21 June 2022](#) in an event chaired by the Minister of Labour and Social Welfare, UN Resident Coordinator and Australian Deputy Ambassador and with 70 participants. The event presented the achievements of the UNJP and preliminary impacts.
- A draft [UN position paper on social protection](#) was developed for further discussion within the UNSDCF's social protection output group.
- Periodic JP review and planning meetings were held, both online and in-person.

Output 1.2. Awareness and understanding of Government officials on the impact of social protection and domestic resource allocation is enhanced:

- The [Cost Plan of the National Social Protection Strategy's "Social Welfare" pillar](#) was finalised as a "living document" for future reference and planning by the government and development partners.
- Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the organisation of public events such as fairs and marathons was completely redesigned to an online Facebook and radio campaign consisting of live talk shows, broadcasting of key information and messages through posters and videos, quiz competitions and slogan contests.
- Research on the potential macroeconomic impacts of social protection was conducted by an eminent national researcher. The findings showed a positive impact of a nationally scaled-up version of the MEGC on GDP, poverty and inequality. The findings were disseminated through a [policy brief](#) and presented at two events and are planned to be used in future for advocacy purposes.

Output 1.3. NSPS M&E Framework developed and aligned with SDG 1.3 global measurement methodology

- The [M&E Tool for the National Social Protection Strategy, integrated with global reporting for SDG Target 1.3](#), was finalised as a "living document" and officially submitted to MoLSW for further discussion and planning by the NSPC.
- A [review of the MoLSW's existing database of indicators](#) was conducted with the objective of expanding or modifying the indicators to include the newly designed M&E Tool.
- Following the review, a technical workshop was held by MoLSW and with participation of all ministries and agencies working in the social protection sector in Lao PDR. The workshop reviewed the tool, its adaptability to their respective ministries' data collection processes, and discussed the way forward for collecting national consolidated data on social protection.

Output 1.4. Mechanisms for predictable public sector budget allocations and on-budget conduits for ODA earmarked budget support and IDA associated grants or loans are developed within the public financial management reform framework and introduction of the new public financial management information system

- An assessment of budgetary expenditures on social protection was completed, highlighting the narrowness of public funding on social protection and near to no financial support for social welfare. It also highlighted the very limited number of Chart of Accounts (CoA) codes in the public finance system to correctly allocate and report on social protection.
- New CoA codes and nomenclature for social protection expenditures were developed and discussed with the CoA Committee including line ministries.
- The MoLSW selected 13 CoA line item descriptions and submitted them to Ministry of Finance and CoA Committee for consideration.

- A joint [ILO-UNCDF report on improving the COA for disaggregated social protection reporting](#), with an explanation of international standards and a national assessment with contextualised recommendations, was produced.

Output 1.5. National Social Protection Fund (NSPF) proof of concept, development frameworks and implementation pathways formulated including NSPF capitalization plan to provide viability funding for the implementation of the National Social Protection Strategy

- Initial data mapping of social protection financing was done and a [Business plan for a National Social Protection Fund](#) to maximise the ROI for social security and health insurance was prepared.
- A capital markets assessment and government bonds-and-securities study was completed to ascertain the financial landscape to capitalise a potential social protection fund.
- A series of technical reports on [analysis of bonds and capitalization of a fund for social protection](#) were published.
- A [proposed financing strategy for the National Social Protection Strategy](#) was finalised as a working document to serve as a background to future discussions on financing in Lao PDR. Furthermore, a [background paper on a Social Welfare Funding Mechanism](#)—as contained in the Strategy—was drafted for future consultation with the government and development partners.

Output 2.1. Roadmap for the design and implementation of the MECG concluded

- The [feasibility study and design document](#) for piloting the MECG were finalised.
- The MECG [Operations User Manual](#) was finalised.
- The cost plan for the MECG implementation was developed.
- The institutional arrangement for the MECG implementation was completed; the Programme Management Unit (PMU) and Programme Implementation Unit (PIU) at the national, provincial and district levels were set up.
- A [fiduciary risk assessment and “value for money” study](#) on the different payment modalities and their suitability to the future implementation of the MECG as well as other social and emergency cash transfers was completed and presented to the Government and development partners. The study was [shared with relevant national and international partners](#) and is expected to be used as a background for future development of modern payment systems in the country.

Output 2.2. Management Information System (MIS) for the MECG designed

- The programme MIS design was validated.
- A [MIS user manual](#) was developed and is presently being used by the PMU and PIU.

Output 2.3. Institutions and different agents prepared for the MECG implementation

- Training on the MECG Operations Manual and the programme MIS were conducted in the pilot areas.
- Laptops, tablets, printers and PPE were procured and distributed.
- A communication strategy and activities (such as information brochures, key messages on the MECG registration card, radio jingles) were disseminated for greater outreach of the pilot programme.
- To increase understanding of the pilot's objectives, promote social welfare programmes, and foster ownership, training was organised for village heads and women's organisations.

Output 2.4. MECG piloted in at least one of the poorest districts

- 1,100 households with pregnant women, breastfeeding mothers and children were registered and enrolled into the programme MIS in Sanamxay district, Attapeu province.
- 372 households with pregnant women, breastfeeding mothers and children were registered and enrolled into the programme MIS in Phouvong district, Attapeu province.
- 1,124 households with pregnant women, breastfeeding mothers and children were registered and enrolled into the programme MIS in Nong district of Savannakhet province. These numbers comprise all recorded pregnant women and children in the three districts, following the programme's geographical targeting approach.
- Due to delays and uncertainties resulting from the second COVID-19 lockdown, approximately 70% of the registered households in the three districts are receiving the regular cash transfers, while the remaining who are not yet receiving regular payments are being reviewed and managed by the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare. Regular visits of Social Welfare Workers to families, using a “case management” approach, are being promoted so that linkages with healthcare, nutrition, early childhood development and referral services can be established.

Output 2.5. MECG M&E framework developed and being implemented

- UNICEF supported the MoLSW to develop and implement an M&E framework based on routine monitoring visits.
- In June, the Vice Minister of Labour and Social Welfare and Vice President of the National Assembly's Social and Cultural Commission made a [monitoring visit to Nong district](#) to observe the distribution process and directly interact with beneficiaries about their feedback and impact of the cash transfer on their well-being.
- 10 human interest stories have been developed and disseminated.

⇒ **Achievement of expected JP outcomes**

Outcome 1. Government planning, managerial and implementation capacity (including leadership and coordination) to implement the NSPS is enhanced.

- This was achieved through the participation of government officials in the development of key National Social Protection Strategy related documents as well as training and experience-sharing events.

Outcome 2. At least 2,000 pregnant women and children under 12 months are benefiting from a new integrated package of welfare services, including the new MCEG, early childhood wellbeing services and support for birth registration.

- This was achieved as 2,596 households with pregnant women, breastfeeding mothers and children below 12 months of age in three districts of southern Lao PDR have been registered in the MCEG pilot programme and efforts by the MoLSW are ongoing to extend the coverage to more beneficiaries as well as to expand the linkages with welfare services.

⇒ **Monitoring and data collection**

- The JP organised annual meetings of its Advisory Committee and regular (monthly or ad hoc based on need) meetings of its Secretariat. The Secretariat then briefed the Advisory Committee. The results framework was updated and shared with the Secretariat prior to every meeting as well as presented in the form of a PPT.
- The UNJP closing event involved a presentation of the final achievements and outputs as well as initial indications of impact.
- On the UN side, ILO as the lead agency coordinated the data collection and update of the results framework with UNCDF and UNICEF prior to every meeting and at the time of quarterly/annual JP reporting. These were checked and validated by RCO and MoLSW as the Committee chairs.
- The MCEG programme's monitoring framework consisted of data collection by healthcare professionals during antenatal and postnatal visits and phone calls with randomly selected beneficiaries. The MIS system was used to track beneficiary payments.

3. JP finalization and evaluation

Final JP evaluation and lessons learned

Date when the evaluation was launched (month/year): March 2022

Date when the evaluation report was approved (month/year): August 2022

The evaluation report is being finalised and will be submitted shortly, with details on the findings, lessons, and recommendations.

After the JP: follow-up and possibilities for sustainability of the impact and further scaling

- The UN system in Lao PDR will continue to engage with and provide technical support to the Government, particularly the newly-established NSPC and MoLSW. Furthermore, the MECG pilot will be extended for an additional few months as (i) the benefit costs for the next few months were transferred to MoLSW, and (ii) the additional Australian funding will support the pilot till October 2022. This will give time to prepare and make efforts to raise additional funds for social welfare as well as allow us to collect more data to improve the pilot and to generate lessons for the implementation of other social protection programmes in future. The PUNOs will also continue to engage with the Government, social partners and CSOs through other social protection projects under the UNSDCF to provide sustainability to the JP actions.
- The [PM Decree No. 655/PM](#) defines the roles, responsibilities, rights, organizational structure, principles and working approach of the Social Protection Commission at both Central and Provincial levels. It defines the main responsibilities as being to disseminate, monitor, promote, evaluate and report on the implementation of the National Social Protection Strategy. MoLSW, as the Technical Secretariat of the NSPC, plans to continue the provincial training and dissemination workshops—conducted in the 9 northern provinces in 2022 under the JP—in the remaining southern provinces in the coming months. MoLSW also plans to organise training on social protection financing and dissemination of the Strategy to members of the National Assembly and Provincial Assemblies, with the objective of committing or investing more domestic resources in social protection.
- The Strategy's [Implementation Roadmap](#) and [Monitoring Tool](#)—developed and submitted under the JP—are currently being discussed by the NSPC in a process led by MoLSW to integrate them into national plans and existing ministerial databases.
- One of the planned activities of the NSPC is to establish a Sector Working Group on social protection, aligned with similar sectoral groups in Lao PDR and as a part of the formal structure for development coordination within the country. The Group is planned to comprise Government and development partners, with the main responsibilities being to plan, finance and oversee social protection programmes in the country.
- The JP contributed to the UNSDCF 2022-26, especially Strategic Priority 2—Inclusive Prosperity: “by 2026, people, especially the most vulnerable and marginalised, will benefit from more inclusive, and resilient, transformative, and sustainable socio-economic opportunities to reduce poverty and inequalities” and Output 2.3—Social Protection. It did so through support to the government to strengthen institutional capacities and to design and pilot the MECG in the poorest districts.
- The UNSDCF Joint Work Plan and sub-outputs are strategically classified according to the National Social Protection Strategy’s pillars, ensuring that future interventions by UN agencies—either joint or individual—will continue the work done so far to implement the Strategy. As part of the Joint Work Plan, UN agencies engaged in social protection, led by JP partners, plan to organize a strategic roundtable discussion drawing on experiences and lessons from social protection implementation so far, reflecting on the current challenges and context, and identifying potential paths forward.

Annex 1: Consolidated Final Results

1.1. JP contribution to global Fund’s programmatic results

Global Impact: Progress towards SDGs

Select up to 3 SDG *indicators* that your Joint Programme primarily contributed to (in relation to SDG targets listed in your JP ProDoc)

SDG 1.3 Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable

SDG 2.2 By 2030, end all forms of malnutrition, including achieving, by 2025, the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under 5 years of age, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and older persons

SDG 17.3 Mobilize additional financial resources for developing countries from multiple sources

Global Outcome 1: Integrated multi-sectoral policies to accelerate SDG achievement implemented with greater scope and scale

Outcome indicators	Expected final target	Final result	Reasons for variance from target (if any)
1.1: Number of integrated multi-sectoral policies that accelerated SDG progress in terms of scope ⁷	0	1	As explained below*
<i>List the policies:</i> * The MECG programme provides a monthly cash transfer and welfare services such as health referrals, nutrition support, birth registration support, and counselling on parenting and childcare. The programme addresses several policy areas including social protection, gender, health and nutrition. It promotes greater scope of integrated multi-sectoral policies, rather than greater scale, in the pilot districts, which is expected to be scaled up to other provinces of the country in the years to come.			
1.2: Number of integrated multi-sectoral policies that accelerated SDG progress in terms of scale ⁸	1	0	As explained above*

Global Output 3: Integrated policy solutions for accelerating SDG progress implemented

Output indicators	Expected final target	Final result	Reasons for variance from target (if any)
3.1 Number of innovative solutions that were tested (disaggregated by % successful-unsuccessful)	1	1	
3.2: Number of integrated policy solutions that have been implemented with the national partners in lead	1	1	

Did your Joint Programme contribute to strengthening of national capacities to implement integrated, cross-sectoral SDG accelerators?

- Yes
 No

⁷Scope=substantive expansion: additional thematic areas/components added or mechanisms/systems replicated.

⁸Scale=geographical expansion: local solutions adopted at the regional and national level or a national solution adopted in one or more countries.

Explain briefly: The rollout of the MECG pilot included trainings at the national, provincial and district levels on the MECG operations as well as on Behaviour Change Communication, which contributed to implementing the integrated, cross-sectoral welfare package.

1.2. Results as per JP Programmatic Results Framework

Result / Indicators	Baseline	Expected Final target	Final Result	Reasons for variance from target (if any)
Outcome 1: Government planning, managerial and implementation capacity (including leadership and coordination) to implement the National Social Protection Strategy (NSPS) is enhanced				
Outcome indicator 1.1: Fully operational NSPC	No	Yes	Yes	
Output 1.1: Members of the NSP Committee and other relevant national stakeholders better understand social protection-related topics and how programs are designed				
Output indicator 1.1.1: No. of capacity building events organized	0	4	6	In addition to a national and 3 provincial workshops, a TOT and a training on management and advocacy were organised.
Output indicator 1.1.2: No. of participants in capacity building events (broken down by gender)	0	75 (at least 40 women)	208 (62 women)	
Output indicator 1.1.3: Adoption of a Roadmap on implementation of the NSPS	0	Roadmap to implement the NSPS is adopted	Roadmap to implement the NSPS was submitted to NSPC for adoption	The NSPC was set up recently, on 9 December 2021, and has held a first discussion on this and is expected to discuss further in the coming months.
Output 1.2: Awareness and understanding of Government officials on the impact of social protection and domestic resource allocation is enhanced				
Output indicator 1.2.1: Research on the role of SP in Lao PDR completed	0	1	1	
Output indicator 1.2.2: Gender-issues addressed in research	N/A	1	1	
Output indicator 1.2.3: Costed plan for the NSPS prepared	0	Costed plan for the NSPS published	Costed plan for the NSPS finalised	
Output indicator 1.2.4: Gender-issues addressed in the costed plan	N/A	1	1	
Output indicator 1.2.5: No. of public events organised	0	2	8	Due to the shifting all public events online, it was feasible (cheaper and realistic) to organise a greater number of

				events i.e., 4 live talk shows, 3 quiz competitions, 1 slogan competition.
Output 1.3: NSPS M&E Framework developed and aligned with SDG 1.3 global measurement methodology				
Output indicator 1.3.1: Adoption of the NSPS M&E Framework	0	1	1	NSPS and SDG1.3 Monitoring Tool was submitted to NSPC for further discussion and adoption.
Output 1.4: Mechanisms for predictable public sector budget allocations and on-budget conduits for ODA earmarked budget support and IDA associated grants or loans are developed within the PFMR framework and introduction of the new PFMIS				
Output indicator 1.4.1: No. of expenditure assignment codes adopted for social protection	0	3	13 CoA line item codes officially submitted to Ministry of Finance	
Output indicator 1.4.2: Medium-term expenditure forecast for NSPS	0	1	1	
Output indicator 1.4.3: Budget allocation for NSPS	N/A	Initial annual tranche (x% of GDP) to be determined 2020	New CoA codes developed for any additional budget allocations	
Output 1.5: National Social Protection Fund (NSPF) proof of concept, development frameworks and implementation pathways formulated incusing NSPF capitalization plan to provide viability funding for the implementation of the NSPS				
Output indicator 1.5.1: Adoption of a Business Plan for NSPF	N/A	Business Plan	Business plan officially submitted	
Output indicator 1.5.2: Adoption of a pathways report for NSPF establishment	N/A	n/a	Integrated into business plan	
Output indicator 1.5.3: Completion of debt financing study for NSPF	N/A	Report issued	Report issued	
Output indicator 1.5.4: Availability of draft legal documents for NSPF capitalization	N/A	Document set issued	0	This indicator was revised, as further technical discussions and agreements are needed within the government before the legal documents are drawn up.
Output indicator 1.5.5: Launch of NSPF prospectus	N/A	Document set issued and event organized	0	Prospectus drafted for the government's consideration, will be further developed only after internal government discussions and agreements.

Output indicator 1.5.6: Availability of the agreed Business Plan for NSPF	N/A	Business Plan agreed	Business Plan officially submitted	Business plan drafted for the government's consideration, will be further developed only after internal government discussions and agreements.
Outcome 2: At least 2,000 pregnant women and children under 12 months are benefiting from a new integrated package of welfare services, including the new MECG, early childhood wellbeing services and support for birth registration				
Outcome indicator 2.1: No. of children receiving cash grant in the targeted districts	0	2,000 children and/or pregnant women under 12 months received cash grant	2,596 pregnant women and children enrolled, and 1,410 received regular cash transfers.	About 54% of the 2,596 enrolled beneficiaries have received cash transfers, while efforts by the government are ongoing to pay the remaining 46%. The delays have mostly resulted from COVID-19 lockdowns and weak rural infrastructure.
Outcome indicator 2.2: No. of children with access to related social services	0	2,000 children and/or pregnant women under 12 months access related social services	2,596 pregnant women and children accessed health services	As the registration takes place at the health care centres, pregnant women and children access healthcare services during registration.
Output 2.1: Roadmap for the design and implementation of the MECG concluded				
Output indicator 2.1.1 MECG Modality assessment	No	Assessment undertaken	Assessment undertaken	
Output 2.2: Management Information System (MIS) for the MECG designed				
Output indicator 2.2.1: Operations Manual for the MECG available and approved	No	Yes	Yes	
Indicator 2.2.2: Proposal for the definition of the model of integration finalized	No	Yes	Yes	
Output 2.3: Institutions and different agents prepared for the implementation				
Output indicator 2.3.1: No. of staff trained at central and local level	0	100	225	In addition to 125 implementing staff, 100 health professionals, village heads and women's organisation members were trained.
Output 2.4: MECG piloted in at least one of the poorest districts				
Output indicator 2.4.1: No. of children registered	0	2,000	2,072	More households have enrolled in the pilot; i.e., 2,072 children aged 0-12 months and 524 pregnant women.
Output indicator 2.4.2: No. of children assessed for social welfare needs	0%	100%	100%	

Output 2.5: MECG M&E framework developed and being implemented				
Output indicator 2.5.1: M&E Framework for the MECG adopted and being implemented	No	Yes	Yes	A light monitoring framework developed, in light of nascence of the pilot and weak rural infrastructure. Regular monitoring visits conducted.
Output indicator 2.5.2: MECG evaluation	No	MECG evaluation is undertaken	Ongoing	Conducted as part of the JP's final, independent evaluation; the final report will be ready in August 2022.

Annex 2: Strategic documents

2.1. Contribution to social protection strategies, policies and legal frameworks

Strategic documents developed or adapted by JP

Title of the document	Date when finalized (MM/YY)	Focus on extending social protection coverage (Yes/No)	Focus on improved comprehensiveness of social protection benefits (Yes/No)	Focus on enhancing adequacy of social protection benefits (Yes/No)	Focus on improving governance, administration and/or implementation of social protection system (Yes/No)	Focus on cross-sectoral integration with healthcare, childcare, education, employment, food security, etc. (Yes/No)	Hyperlink
Roadmap for implementing the National Social Protection Strategy	Dec 2021	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	English, Lao
Report on Costing of the National Social Protection Strategy's Pillar 3: "Social Welfare"	Jan 2022	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	English, Lao
Monitoring Tool for the National Social Protection Strategy and SDG 1.3	Dec 2021	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	English, Lao
Brochure to disseminate the National Social Protection Strategy – Vision 2030, Goal 2025	Sep 2021	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	English, Lao
A business plan to finance the implementation of the National Social Protection Strategy	Oct 2021	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	English, Lao
Capitalising Social Protection in Lao PDR	Oct 2020	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	English, Lao
Report on Chart of Accounts for Disaggregated Social Protection Reporting	Feb 2022	No	No	No	Yes	No	English, Lao

Strategic documents for which JP provided contribution (but did not produce or lead in producing)

Title of the document	Date when finalized (MM/YY)	Focus on extending social protection coverage (Yes/No)	Focus on improved comprehensiveness of social protection benefits (Yes/No)	Focus on enhancing adequacy of social protection benefits (Yes/No)	Focus on improving governance, administration and/or implementation of social protection system (Yes/No)	Focus on cross-sectoral integration with healthcare, childcare, education, employment, food security, etc. (Yes/No)	Hyperlink
National Social Protection Strategy – Vision 2030, Goal 2025 * Finalised before the start of the JP, the JP contributed to its launch and dissemination	1 April 2020 (adopted)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	English, Lao
Prime Minister Decree No. 655 on Organization and Functions of Social Protection Commission	9 Dec 2021 (adopted)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	English, Lao

2.2. Focus on vulnerable populations

Strategic documents developed or adapted by JP

Title of the document	Date when finalized (MM/YY)	Focus on gender equality and women empowerment (Yes/No)	Focus on children (Yes/No)	Focus on youth (Yes/No)	Focus on older persons (Yes/No)	Focus on other group/s (List the group/s)	Focus on PwDs (Yes/No)	Included disaggregated data by disability - and whenever possible by age, gender and/or type of disability (Yes/No)	Hyperlink
MECG Programme Design	June 2021	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No	English
MECG Operations Manual	June 2021	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No	English
MECG MIS User Manual	June 2021	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No	English
Cost Projections of MECG	Aug 2020	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No	English

Strategic documents for which JP provided contribution (but did not produce or lead in producing)

Title of the document	Date when finalized (MM/YY)	Focus on gender equality and women empowerment (Yes/No)	Focus on children (Yes/No)	Focus on youth (Yes/No)	Focus on older persons (Yes/No)	Focus on other group/s (List the group/s)	Focus on PwDs (Yes/No)	Included disaggregated data by disability - and whenever possible by age, gender and/or type of disability (Yes/No)
N.A.								

Annex 3: Results questionnaire

- Complete online using the following link: <https://forms.office.com/r/DfvPvaGfsg>.

Annex 4: Final report on JP evaluation