Combined Project Information Documents / Integrated Safeguards Datasheet (PID/ISDS)
BASIC INFORMATION

A. Basic Project Data

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Project ID</th>
<th>Project Name</th>
<th>Parent Project ID (if any)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lao People's Democratic Republic</td>
<td>P167601</td>
<td>Lao People’s Democratic Republic Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Project</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Estimated Appraisal Date</th>
<th>Estimated Board Date</th>
<th>Practice Area (Lead)</th>
</tr>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Financing Instrument</th>
<th>Borrower(s)</th>
<th>Implementing Agency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Investment Project Financing</td>
<td>Lao People's Democratic Republic</td>
<td>Ministry of Home Affairs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Proposed Development Objective(s)

To improve coverage of civil registration of vital events, particularly births and deaths in Lao PDR, with the establishment of a functional electronic civil management information system.

Components

- Component 1: Strengthening the provision and use of civil registration services
- Component 2: Monitoring and Impact evaluation
- Component 3: Project management

PROJECT FINANCING DATA (US$, Millions)

**SUMMARY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Project Cost</th>
<th>20.00</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Financing</td>
<td>20.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of which IBRD/IDA</td>
<td>20.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financing Gap</td>
<td>0.00</td>
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</table>

**DETAILS**

World Bank Group Financing

- International Development Association (IDA) | 20.00 |
B. Introduction and Context

Country Context

1. The Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR) is a landlocked country in the middle of Southeast Asia. China borders Lao PDR to the north; Cambodia, Thailand, and Vietnam to the south and southeast; and Myanmar to the west. Lao PDR's population is estimated at 6.9 million. It has the lowest population density in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) community, with much of the land in mountainous areas, which are uncultivated. Lao PDR is endowed with natural resources, including forests, wildlife, water (the 1,700-kilometer Mekong River is the second most diverse watershed in fish biodiversity in the world), and mineral resources. It is administratively divided into northern, central, and southern regions and further into 17 provinces plus Vientiane Capital, 148 districts and 8,459 villages. Although two-thirds of the population live in rural areas, the urban population increased by 40 percent between 2005 and 2015.

2. Lao PDR is a lower-middle-income country, with a gross national income per capita of US$2,270 in 2017 and is one of the fastest-growing economies in the ASEAN community, with average gross domestic product growth of approximately eight percent per year since 2000. The poverty rate decreased from 46 percent in 1992 to 34 percent in 2002-03 to 23 percent in 2012-13, but 80 percent of the population lived on less than US$5.50 a day in 2011 purchasing power parity dollars, compared with less than 20 percent in Thailand and less than 40 percent in Vietnam. Lao PDR is slowly transitioning from a rural, agrarian economy to one based primarily on mining and tourism. Access to basic services such as education, health, and infrastructure has improved, and more than 90 percent of the households have electricity; 43 percent of the villages have 4G internet access, and the coverage is increasing steadily.

3. The 8th National Socio-Economic Development Plan (NSEDP) (2016-2020) outlines the country's development aspirations. The government of Lao PDR aims to: graduate from the least-developed country status by 2020; consolidate its international integration, especially within the context of the ASEAN economic community; and take concrete steps toward industrialization and modernization to improve its people’s well-being. In this context, the 8th NSEDP underlines the importance of improving registration of vital events (including birth, death, marriage, divorce, and migration) to provide timely and accurate data to improve planning and monitoring of development programs at the national and provincial levels.

C. Proposed Development Objective(s)
Development Objective(s) (From PAD)
To improve coverage of civil registration of vital events, particularly births and deaths in Lao PDR, with the establishment of a functional electronic civil management information system

Key Results
4. The four PDO-level results indicators are:
   (a) National birth registration coverage (Percentage);
   (b) Birth registration coverage in rural districts (Percentage);
   (c) Birth registration coverage in the bottom 20 percent districts (Percentage); and
   (d) National death registration coverage (Percentage).

D. Project Description

5. The proposed Project has three components.

6. Component 1: Strengthening provision and use of civil registration services (US$ 16.3 million). Component 1 of the proposed Project has two subcomponents: (1a) strengthening the provision of civil registration services; and (1b) generating demand for civil registration services and citizen engagement.

7. Subcomponent 1a: Strengthening the provision of civil registration services (US$ 15.3 million). The proposed activities for strengthening the provision of civil registration services include: (i) disseminating the 2018 Family Registration Law (FRL); (ii) establishing a Civil Management Information System (CMIS); (iii) introducing approaches to boost birth registration; (iv) introducing approaches to boost death registration and medical certification of cause of death; (v) improving marriage, divorce, and migration registration; (vi) capacity building of appropriate personnel; and (vii) providing supportive supervision.

8. Subcomponent 1b: Generating demand for civil registration services and citizen engagement (US$1.0 million). Lack of awareness about registration of vital events, particularly in rural areas, has been identified as a major bottleneck. Accordingly, MOHA will recruit an international adviser during Project preparation to work closely with MOHA DCM and Ministry of Information, Culture, and Tourism's Department of Mass Media to design and implement a social and behavior change communication (SBCC) program to improve the registration of birth, death, marriage, divorce, and migration in Lao PDR.

9. Component 2: Monitoring and Impact evaluation (US$1.0 million). The monitoring and evaluation of the Project will entail process evaluation (monitoring of implementation progress), monitoring of the results framework, and impact evaluation. Process evaluation will be employed as a tool for learning during implementation; semi-annual, and annual Progress Reports will be developed and disseminated to stakeholders, and data will be used to make informed decisions and take appropriate corrective action during Project implementation. In addition, data will be collected to monitor the Results Framework. An impact evaluation of the combined SBCC program and CMIS will employ quantitative and qualitative methods. Impact evaluation baseline and endline data will be collected.

10. Component 3: Project management (US$2.7 million). A National Program Coordination Office (NPCO) will be formed and staffed with MOHA personnel and consultants to manage the implementation of the Project.
capacity of MOHA staff will be enhanced with a combination of on-the-job training and short courses. The Project will also support the renovation of office space and the provision of office furniture and equipment for Project personnel and consultants. Additionally, MOHA has designated a conference room in the existing MOHA building, which will be equipped for training of staff from central, Provincial and District levels. Some operating expenses of the NPCO will also be covered by the Project.

E. Implementation

Institutional and Implementation Arrangements

11. MOHA will be responsible for the implementation of the Project. Although MOHA Department of Citizen Management (DCM) was only established in 2011, its capacity has improved in recent years. However, it does not have prior experience working on World Bank Group (WBG) or other multilateral Development Partner (DP) projects. Accordingly, consultants have been recruited during Project preparation to complement and help enhance both technical and fiduciary capacity of MOHA staff to implement the Project. The institutional and implementation arrangement for the Project is presented in Table 1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Role</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 – MOHA Secretariat coordinating eight line ministries</td>
<td>Coordinates civil registration and vital statistics activities of these line ministries, provides updates on Project implementation progress, liaises with DPs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 - NPCO</td>
<td>Holds weekly meetings to review implementation progress, resolve problems, and plan accordingly; provides monthly progress report to Vice Minister of Home Affairs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 - Technical teams</td>
<td>Implement specific Project subcomponents</td>
</tr>
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</table>

F. Project location and Salient physical characteristics relevant to the safeguard analysis (if known)

While the project itself is nation-wide, the planned renovation of office space will only be limited to partitioning, painting and extending of space at the existing MOHA compound. Procurement of additional equipment will include computers plus multifunction (scan, print, copy) laser printers, furniture for the office and training room, and vehicles for MOHA. The project activities are expected to benefit all communities including rural populations, ethnic minority communities, and those in hard to reach mountainous areas.
### G. Environmental and Social Safeguards Specialists on the Team

Viengkeo Phetnavongxay, Environmental Specialist  
Wasittee Udchachone, Environmental Specialist  
Alkadevi Morarji Patel, Social Specialist

### SAFEGUARD POLICIES THAT MIGHT APPLY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Safeguard Policies</th>
<th>Triggered?</th>
<th>Explanation (Optional)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Environmental Assessment OP/BP 4.01</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>The project is rated as Category B as it will finance under Component 3 renovation of an office space, provision of office furniture and equipment for project personnel and consultants at the existing MOHA compound. The renovation of office space will be limited to partitioning, and painting. Minor environmental effects expected during office renovation are related to civil work activities conducted for office renovation include air pollution caused by dust generated from cleaning of old walls, noise, construction wastes disposal and potentially lack of or inconsistent use of personal protective equipment. No additional environmental assessment is needed. The risks under the proposed renovation civil work are expected to be minor, localized and short term, and therefore can be adequately managed through implementation of an Environmental Code of Practice (ECOPs) and good construction management practices. ECOP is suggested because the exact activity and location are known. The ECOP has been prepared and disclosed on the MOHA’s website on 10 October 2019.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Performance Standards for Private Sector Activities OP/BP 4.03</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Project does not entail involvement private sector and use of WB PS.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Natural Habitats OP/BP 4.04</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Project will not affect natural habitats.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forests OP/BP 4.36</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Project will not affect forests.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pest Management OP 4.09</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Project does not entail pest management.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Cultural Resources OP/BP 4.11</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Project’s interior refurbishment will not affect PCR.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indigenous Peoples OP/BP 4.10</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Policy OP/BP 4.10 on Indigenous Peoples has been triggered. The amended FRL has been translated.</td>
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</table>
from Lao language to other local languages (such as Hmong, Khmu, and Sino-Tibetan) and English, and will be disseminated widely to government agencies (at national, Provincial and District levels) and the public via various channels including workshops, national and local TV and radio, brochures, flyers, booklets, posters, and Facebook page. Any potential risk that ethnic groups may be excluded from birth and family registration and any benefits resulting from being registered will also be addressed through project design. Such measures include an grievance management system, as well as specially adapted Project activities such as the development of a communication strategy based on an audience analysis targeted towards ethnic groups, an impact evaluation that disaggregates results by ethnic groups, and the translation of relevant documents (such as the 2018 FRL) into all key ethnic minority languages.

Involuntary Resettlement OP/BP 4.12  No  The project will not finance civil works that might result in land acquisition or resettlement.

Safety of Dams OP/BP 4.37  No  Project does not entail dams.

Projects on International Waterways OP/BP 7.50  No  Project will not affect international waterways.

Projects in Disputed Areas OP/BP 7.60  No  Project is not in disputed area.

### KEY SAFEGUARD POLICY ISSUES AND THEIR MANAGEMENT

#### A. Summary of Key Safeguard Issues

1. Describe any safeguard issues and impacts associated with the proposed project. Identify and describe any potential large scale, significant and/or irreversible impacts:

   Environmental and social effect is expected to be minor, the project is categorized as Category B and two World Bank safeguard policies, the Environmental Assessment OP/BP 4.01 and Indigenous Peoples OP/BP 4.10 are triggered.

   The project will finance under Component 3 renovation of an office space, provision of office furniture and equipment for project personnel and consultants at the existing MOHA compound. Minor environmental effects expected during office renovation are related to civil work activities conducted for office renovation include air pollution caused by dust generated from cleaning of old walls, noise, construction wastes disposal and potentially lack of or inconsistent use of personal protective equipment. These risks are minor, localized and short term, and therefore can be adequately managed through implementation of an Environmental Code of Practice (ECOPs), which will be included in a renovation works Bidding document and contract, and good construction management practices.
The social risk is considered moderate. The financing of this Project will not result in activities that will acquire land, restrict access or result in involuntary resettlement nor adversely impact ethnic minority communities. The Project has the potential to benefit all ethnic groups since civil registration, by helping to establish legal identity, provides access to key social services such as health, education, social welfare, and financial services. There are no large scale, significant and/or irreversible social impacts.

2. Describe any potential indirect and/or long term impacts due to anticipated future activities in the project area:
There are no potential indirect or long-term social and environmental impacts from the project activities.

3. Describe any project alternatives (if relevant) considered to help avoid or minimize adverse impacts.
Any potential risk that ethnic groups may be excluded from birth and family registration and any benefits resulting from being registered will also be addressed through Project design. Such measures include an adapted grievance management system, as well as specially adapted Project activities such as the development of a communication strategy based on an audience analysis targeted towards ethnic groups, an impact evaluation that disaggregates results by ethnic groups, and the translation of relevant documents (such as the 2018 Family Registration Law) into all key ethnic minority languages.

4. Describe measures taken by the borrower to address safeguard policy issues. Provide an assessment of borrower capacity to plan and implement the measures described.
The MOHA has prepared an Environmental Code of Practice (ECOPs) which will be used to manage minor impacts from office renovations. The ECOPs consists set of best practices that would be applied during the project implementation. It outline responsibility of concerned parties including the MOHA and contractor in implementing, monitoring and reporting implementation of the ECOPs. To ensure effective implementation, the ECOPs will be included in renovation works bidding document and contract. The borrower’s institutional capacity for implementation of safeguard policies requirement is low, and therefore, the WB team will work with client to ensure sufficient capacity at MOHA for adequately managing the risks of the Project.

5. Identify the key stakeholders and describe the mechanisms for consultation and disclosure on safeguard policies, with an emphasis on potentially affected people.
The draft ECOP was disclosed on the MOHA website on 10 October 2019. This was presented and discussed with related parties and subsequently revised and will be redisclosed on the MOHA website and the World Bank’s public website prior to project appraisal.

B. Disclosure Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Environmental Assessment/Audit/Management Plan/Other</th>
<th>Date of receipt by the Bank</th>
<th>Date of submission for disclosure</th>
<th>For category A projects, date of distributing the Executive Summary of the EA to the Executive Directors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

"In country" Disclosure
Indigenous Peoples Development Plan/Framework

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date of receipt by the Bank</th>
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"In country" Disclosure

C. Compliance Monitoring Indicators at the Corporate Level (to be filled in when the ISDS is finalized by the project decision meeting)

OP/BP/GP 4.01 - Environment Assessment

Does the project require a stand-alone EA (including EMP) report?
Yes

If yes, then did the Regional Environment Unit or Practice Manager (PM) review and approve the EA report?
Yes

Are the cost and the accountabilities for the EMP incorporated in the credit/loan?
Yes

OP/BP 4.10 - Indigenous Peoples

Has a separate Indigenous Peoples Plan/Planning Framework (as appropriate) been prepared in consultation with affected Indigenous Peoples?
NA

The World Bank Policy on Disclosure of Information

Have relevant safeguard policies documents been sent to the World Bank for disclosure?
Yes

Have relevant documents been disclosed in-country in a public place in a form and language that are understandable and accessible to project-affected groups and local NGOs?
Yes
All Safeguard Policies

Have satisfactory calendar, budget and clear institutional responsibilities been prepared for the implementation of measures related to safeguard policies?
Yes

Have costs related to safeguard policy measures been included in the project cost?
Yes

Does the Monitoring and Evaluation system of the project include the monitoring of safeguard impacts and measures related to safeguard policies?
Yes

Have satisfactory implementation arrangements been agreed with the borrower and the same been adequately reflected in the project legal documents?
Yes

CONTACT POINT

World Bank
Samuel Lantei Mills
Senior Health Specialist

Borrower/Client/Recipient
Lao People’s Democratic Republic

Implementing Agencies
Ministry of Home Affairs
Mrs Kommalay Vilaphanh
Director General of Citizen Management Department
vkommaly@gmail.com
FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

The World Bank
1818 H Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20433
Telephone: (202) 473-1000

APPROVAL

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Task Team Leader(s):</th>
<th>Samuel Lantei Mills</th>
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**Approved By**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Safeguards Advisor:</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Practice Manager/Manager:</td>
<td>28-Oct-2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Country Director:</td>
<td>04-Nov-2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enis Baris</td>
<td></td>
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