



# DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGE FOR DEVELOPMENT LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC 2030







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# Foreword

I am pleased that the study “Lao 2030 – Demographic Change: Opportunities for Development” was delivered as requested by the Ministry of Planning and Investment (MPI) to foster a people centered, demographic guide to planning and policy decisions for the 9th National Social Economic Development Plan (NSED) formulation process. The study is in line with the leaving no one behind SDG vision and commitments of the Lao Government to ICPD25.

The study shows that Laos is at the cusp of a potential for realising a demographic dividend: accelerated economic growth within one generation when a country has more people of working age than dependents, if those in the working age are educated, skilled, empowered and employed. *Thus, the urgency to invest in youth and adolescents who will join the working age group now to 2030.* Using this analysis, informed decisions can be made on use of limited resources to accelerate socio-economic development.

Laos PDR’s ambition to graduate from a least developed country can be realised per the anticipated timeline if planning and budgeting decisions commensurate with the population projections are made. The analysis focuses particularly on the demographic impact on key sectors such as Health, Education and the Labor Market, as the key determinants for facilitating the realisation of a demographic dividend.

The study was completed in the “new normal” of the COVID-19 pandemic, with much of the work done virtually. It was initiated at the request of the Ministry of Planning and Investment to provide a solid analysis of demographic context for the 9th NSED. Led by the Center for Development Policy Research (CDR), MPI, the Laos Statistics Bureau and other line Ministries contributed to deliver these findings.

I thank the lead researcher Dr. Youssef Courbage from the Institut National d’Études Démographiques, who brought his experience and skills to the task. Special thanks go to the CDR team led by Dr. Sitthiroth Rasphone, Director General of CDR and the UNFPA team in Lao as well as in the UNFPA Asia Pacific Regional Office (APRO).

This analysis will serve as a foundational piece for the UN system’s support to the next UN cooperation framework as well as help development partners

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