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USAID LAOS ENERGY SECURITY

USAID Laos Energy Security, a five-year activity funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), supports the Government of Laos' efforts to improve the planning, policies, and performance of the Lao energy sector.

Among the poorest countries in Southeast Asia, the Government of Laos views the country's energy sector as a key driver of its economic growth. Development of the abundant hydro generation potential of the Mekong River and its tributaries, coupled with significant investment in transmission and distribution, has resulted in a 95% electrification rate for its citizens. It is also part of the national strategy to become the "Battery of Southeast Asia."

Laos Energy Security is a part of the US Government's initiative: "Enhancing Development and Growth through Energy" (ASIA EDGE). ASIA EDGE supports expanded access to energy, promotes greater diversity in sources of energy generation, enhances regional energy trade and integration of energy markets, and strengthens energy security throughout the Indo-Pacific region.

IMPROVE ENERGY SECTOR PLANNING

USAID supports the Ministry of Energy and Mines (MEM) to improve planning for energy generation and distribution, hydro resource development, and modeling of energy systems. Improving MEM's planning capacity supports the Government of Laos' objectives to increase renewable energy use and promote sustainable economic development.

STRENGTHEN THE POLICY, LEGAL, AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORK OF THE ENERGY SECTOR

USAID engages MEM to strengthen its power sector policy and regulatory capacity. Laos Energy Security is supporting MEM’s development and implementation of a clear legal, institutional, and regulatory framework that will promote responsible and sustainable energy sector development. The tools and capacity developed by USAID will help Laos enforce its energy-related policies, laws, and regulations.

IMPROVE PERFORMANCE OF STATE-OWNED UTILITY

USAID partners with Électricité du Lao (EdL) and EdL-Generation (EdL-Gen) – the two largest enterprises controlling and managing electricity generation and distribution in Laos – to improve their technical and financial operations. These state-owned utilities are heavily in debt and continue to struggle with technical deficiencies and commercial losses. USAID is helping to identify and mitigate the contractual and operational challenges they face in order to increase their financial viability.

ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES

- Increased capacity of MEM and EDL staff in a wide range of areas, including power sector planning, demand forecasting, renewable energy development, hydrological analysis, tariff structure design, and procurement best practices
- Enable the development of at least 25 MW of solar generation capacity
- Facilitate the extension or rehabilitation of electricity transmission and distribution lines

PARTNERS: USAID partners with NUMARK Associates to provide overall technical assistance and institutional capacity development. Laos Energy Security also includes a competitive program to provide grants to support the project objectives, prioritizing grants to Lao firms and organizations.

For more information, visit: [usaid.gov/laos](https://www.usaid.gov/laos) or contact: info Laos@usaid.gov