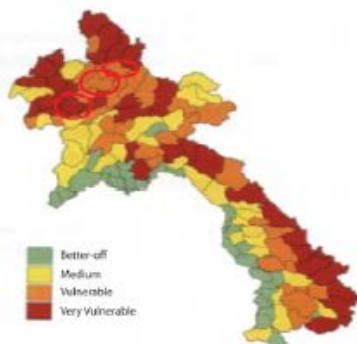


## Vulnerability to Poverty in Lao PDR



The direct beneficiaries in 3 districts, Hoon, La and Xay will include, at a minimum:

- 786 drug users (248 opium and 538 ATS) to receive community based treatment and rehabilitation; public awareness campaigns designed to prevent new users taking drugs.
- 150 villagers to receive training in community development and basic agro-processing so as to act as trainers and long-term multipliers.
- 2,000 former ATS and opium users/farmers trained directly by the PMC.
- 100 persons to develop 20 community plant nurseries to contribute to sustainable raw material supply base.
- 500 former drug and opium farmers/users to develop marketing networks and groups.

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## Social and Economic Rehabilitation Of former Opium Poppy-Growing Communities

Alternative Livelihood Development

Oudomxay Province  
Lao PDR



UNITED NATIONS  
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT  
ORGANIZATION



GOVERNMENT OF LAO PDR



UNITED NATIONS OFFICE  
ON DRUGS AND CRIME



### DRUG CONTROL OBJECTIVE

The reduction of the dependency on illicit drugs by means of assisting farmers in securing sustainable livelihoods, as well as an enabling environment for sustained opium elimination. This is to be accomplished through mainstreaming of the National Growth and Poverty Eradication Strategy (NGPES) and the promotion of rural enterprise development combined with the introduction of appropriate technology.

### IMMEDIATE OBJECTIVE

The immediate objective is to provide drug and opium users, their dependants and the wider community in three districts of Oudomxay Province in the Northern Lao PDR with community-based treatment and income generation opportunities emphasizing an integrated alternative development approach linking social, technical and economic aspects.

To contribute to an economically viable alternative development the project is focusing on:

- Treatment and rehabilitation of opium addicts,
- Community organization and the provision of vocational training,
- Rural enterprise development,
- Marketing and sustainability of services provided.

The project, which is financed by the UN-Trust Fund for Human Security (UNTFHS), uses an integrated approach to promote minimum living standards within communities while eliminating poverty and drug dependency.

The broad human security issues that will be addressed by the project at the community level include the following:

- Opening access to 6 of 20 remote villages
- Reintroducing indigenous crops and technology to diversify dependence on upland rice production that relies on slash and burn techniques
- Initiating networking to help ethnically diverse populations overcome cultural and physical isolation
- Providing education and proper training to improve the future economic opportunities for a growing young population
- Introducing accurate allotment to address diminishing agricultural land availability
- Improving literacy level, especially among ethnic groups and women
- Building adequate clean water supplies
- Instructing sustainable forest resource management
- Teaching and informing on marketing strategies
- Training on value-added agro-based processing
- Treating and rehabilitating former substance abusers
- Evoking awareness on ATS issues

The project activities have been jointly developed and will be jointly implemented by UNIDO and UNODC in three phases over a period of three years.

### Phase 1 focusing on achieving the following objectives:

- To rehabilitate opium addicts and involve them in income generating activities
- To establish a Productivity and Marketing Centre (PMC)
- To strengthen and train Village Productivity Groups (VPG) to contribute to rural economies
- To organize communities to manage the social development of their villages

### Phase 2 focusing on the following objectives:

- To enhance the coverage and operation of the social services
- To improve or construct basic infrastructure

### Phase 3 focusing on:

- To improve market access of VPG/PMC products
- To sustain income generation activities of VPG/PMC

### ACHIEVEMENTS AND MILESTONES:

Since the project inauguration workshop in March 2007, UNIDO and UNODC, in close cooperation with the Lao Government, as well as Provincial and District authorities, have accomplished the following:

- Carried out a series of participatory rural assessments to:
  - Identify the urgent needs of village communities
  - Analyse the production potentials of villages
- Set up village workshops to:
  - Introduce potential activities
  - Integrate local initiatives
  - Establish Village Productivity Groups
- Met and exchanged ideas with local traders to:
  - Identify marketing networks and value-chains
  - Select appropriate agro-based products
  - Secure future cooperation for the project and villages