



Our target group is the poor population in rural areas of the mountainous provinces of Luang Namtha, Sayabouri, and Bokeo. Because the population in the target areas is comprised of great ethnic diversity (e.g. Khmu, Akha, Lao, Hmong), the programme approach takes cultural identity as well as gender and age-specific characteristics into account.



The **Lao-German Programme on Integrated Rural Development in Mountainous Areas of Northern Lao PDR (RDMA)** applies a multi-level programme approach to policy, planning, and implementation. Local experiences and lessons learnt are used at the national level to further policy development, sector strategies, and harmonise donor activities.

**Our goal** is to assist the Lao Government in achieving the national development goals based on the Millennium Development Goals and formulated in the National Growth and Poverty Eradication Strategy and the National Socio-Economic Development Plan, specifically their targets to:

- Eradicate rural poverty
- Stabilise shifting cultivation
- Eradicate poppy cultivation and eliminate drug abuse

**Our aim** is to support people in northern Laos to make sustainable and effective improvements in their living conditions and resources by promoting rural development and supporting institutions and groups to assume the responsibility of fostering regional development.

**Our work** focuses on three thematic areas:

- Natural Resource Management and Local and Regional Economic Development
- Social Development
- Institutional Development

## Rural Development in Mountainous Areas of Northern Lao PDR

Lao-German Cooperation

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) GmbH

- German Technical Cooperation -

Rural Development in Mountainous Areas of Northern Lao PDR

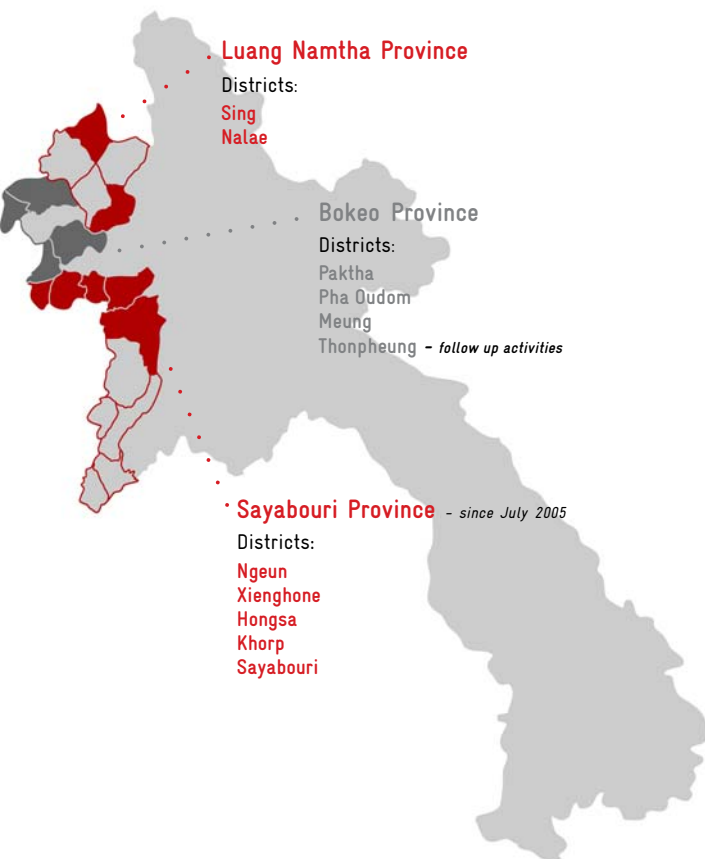
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RDMA currently operates in more than 300 villages in 11 districts structurally afflicted with poverty and food insecurity.





## Natural Resource Management and Economic Development

Most rural villages depend on natural resources which makes sustainable natural resource management a key to successful rural development.

Our initiatives to promote **sustainable natural resource management** include:

- Introduction of Improved Participatory Land Use Planning
- Promotion of integrated and market-oriented farming systems
- Support to agricultural value chains
- Support to socially and ecologically sensitive rubber cultivation
- Encouraging integrated farming methods through extension and microfinance support

The overall strategy of **local and regional economic development** is to increase income and food sufficiency for poor, food-insecure households.

Our support includes:

- Introduction of village-based microfinance schemes including the establishment of Village Banks
- Facilitation and support of Public-Private Partnerships
- Support to Trade Networks
- Application of Participatory Appraisal of Competitive Advantage to identify opportunities and critical bottlenecks hindering local economic development

## Social Development

Social development is a fundamental goal of the RDMA programme.

RDMA's **health** strategy supports initiatives that strengthen the local healthcare delivery system by:

- Promoting health and hygiene
- Support for establishing clean water supplies
- Support to the Drug Revolving Fund
- Promoting development oriented drug control
- Capacity building to improve the efficiency of healthcare delivery by district health staff and village-based health volunteers

Village-based health volunteers include Traditional Birth Attendants, Village Health Volunteers, and Village Health Committees.

Our support to non-formal **education** focuses on reducing adult illiteracy among ethnic communities; in particular girls aged 15 to 20.

Besides capacity building initiatives focused on teachers, we help develop educational infrastructure.

## Institutional Development

### Human capacity building

Our main focus is building the capacity of our partners. Human resources are limited in rural areas of Laos, so one of RDMA's central tasks is to work with local networks to increase the capacity of communities to direct their own development.

### Policy advice

The Department for International Cooperation in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, IFAD, and GTZ have jointly established a Policy Advisory Unit at the national level. Advice from the Policy Advisory Unit is intended to support the development of Lao Government strategies on rural development, optimise resource use, and focus impact on poverty eradication.

### Area-based planning

RDMA supports the development of Socio-Economic District Development Plans which are a major component of the planning system in Laos.

The programme also supports the formulation of Village Development Plans which define the development goals for individual villages and outline the activities and budgets needed to reach them.

RDMA applies **Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation** as an integral part of its programme components and as an important follow-up to its activities.

RDMA provides services in **Information Management, Knowledge Management, Networking, and Communication** including:

- Databases and freely accessible programme library
- Knowledge centre to support ongoing activities
- Timely information to RDMA staff and partners

## Partners

RDMA is implemented with contributions from the Lao Government (e.g. staff, offices), and technical assistance from GTZ and DED, and with IFAD loans for rural livelihood improvement in Sayaboury.

In addition, RDMA works with a number of committed partners in various fields of development support.



Government of the Lao PDR



German Development Service (DED)  
[www.ded.de](http://www.ded.de)



Institute for Project Planning (IP)  
[www.ip-consult.de](http://www.ip-consult.de)



International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)  
[www.ifad.org](http://www.ifad.org)



Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau - Development Bank (KfW) and GITEC  
[www.kfw.de](http://www.kfw.de) and [www.gitec-consult.de](http://www.gitec-consult.de)



United Nations World Food Program (WFP)  
[www.wfp.org](http://www.wfp.org)



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