

PARTNER
COUNTRY QUESTIONNAIRE



PAGE 4: B.1) ABOUT YOU

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| Q1: COUNTRY | LAO DPR |
| Q2: ABOUT YOU | |
| Name: | PHOUVIENG |
| Position: | PHONGSA |
| Ministry / Organization: | MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE OF LAOS |
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| Phone Number: | 85621413916 |
| Q3: CONSULTATION (Other ministries/agencies consulted in preparing this questionnaire reply) : | <i>Respondent skipped this question</i> |

PAGE 6: C.2.) YOUR GOVERNMENT'S AID-FOR-TRADE PRIORITIES

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| Q4: Do you have Aid-for-Trade priorities? | Yes |
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PAGE 7: C.2.) YOUR GOVERNMENT'S AID-FOR-TRADE PRIORITIES

Q5: Please indicate your Aid-for-Trade priorities Below are listed the most common priority areas grouped according to broad Aid-for-Trade categories. Please rank the top 5 priority areas among the 12 listed .(1 being the most important)

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| Trade policy analysis, negotiations and implementation | 1 |
| Trade facilitation | 3 |
| Competitiveness | 4 |
| Connecting to value chains | 5 |
| Regional integration | 2 |

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Q6: Additional information.

Respondent skipped this question

PAGE 8: C.2) YOUR GOVERNMENT'S AID FOR TRADE PRIORITIES

Q7: Have your Aid-for-Trade priorities changed since 2012?

No

PAGE 9: C.2) YOUR GOVERNMENT'S AID FOR TRADE PRIORITIES

Q8: What are the top 3 drivers of these changes? (Please choose no more than 3 options)

Respondent skipped this question

Q9: Additional information.

Respondent skipped this question

Q10: Have these changes been reflected in your national development strategy?

Respondent skipped this question

Q11: Have these changes been reflected in your dialogue with development partners?

Respondent skipped this question

Q12: Is trade facilitation reflected as a priority in your national or regional development policy?

Respondent skipped this question

PAGE 10: C.2.) YOUR GOVERNMENT'S AID-FOR-TRADE PRIORITIES

Q13: In which existing policy document(s) can trade facilitation be found as a priority? (You may tick more than one box)

Respondent skipped this question

Q14: Additional information.

Respondent skipped this question

PAGE 11: C.2.) YOUR GOVERNMENT'S AID-FOR-TRADE PRIORITIES

Q15: Is trade facilitation included in new draft policy documents currently being updated and formulated?

Respondent skipped this question

PAGE 12: C.2.) YOUR GOVERNMENT'S AID-FOR-TRADE PRIORITIES

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| Q16: Please indicate in which new draft policy documents, currently being updated or formulated, trade facilitation is included: | <i>Respondent skipped this question</i> |
| Q17: Additional information. | <i>Respondent skipped this question</i> |

PAGE 14: D.1) TRADE COSTS

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| Q18: How important are trade costs for the competitiveness of your exports? | Important |
| Q19: Additional information. | <i>Respondent skipped this question</i> |
| Q20: Do your national policies address the issue of trade costs for exports? | Yes |

PAGE 15: D.1) TRADE COSTS

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| Q21: Which document(s) address(es) the issue of trade costs for exports ? | National development strategy, National trade strategy, Sector specific strategies (e.g. agriculture, etc.) |
| Q22: Additional information. | <i>Respondent skipped this question</i> |

PAGE 16: D.1) TRADE COSTS

| | |
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| Q23: How important are trade costs for access to imports? | Moderately important |
| Q24: Additional information. | <i>Respondent skipped this question</i> |

PAGE 17: D.1) TRADE COSTS

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| Q25: Do national policies address the issue of trade costs for imports? | Yes |
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PAGE 18: D.1) TRADE COSTS

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| Q26: Which document(s) address(es) the issue of trade costs for imports? | National development strategy, National trade strategy, Sector specific strategies (e.g. agriculture, etc.) |
| Q27: Additional information. | <i>Respondent skipped this question</i> |

PAGE 19: D.1) TRADE COSTS

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|---|---|
| Q28: What are the most important sources of trade costs for the export of merchandise goods? (You may choose more than 1 option) | Border procedures (trade facilitation), Tariffs, fees and other charges, Non-Tariff Measures (including standards), Transport infrastructure, Network infrastructure (ICT, power, telecoms) |
| Q29: Additional information. | <i>Respondent skipped this question</i> |

PAGE 20: D.1) TRADE COSTS

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| Q30: What are the most important sources of trade costs for the export of services? (You may choose more than 1 option) | Transport infrastructure (e.g. for tourism), Non-recognition of professional qualifications, Low levels of skills in service sectors |
| Q31: Additional information. | <i>Respondent skipped this question</i> |

PAGE 21: D.1) TRADE COSTS

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| Q32: In which regional markets to which you export merchandise goods and services do you face the highest trade costs? (Please select no more than 5 regions) | Unsure |
|--|--------|

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Q33: Indicate your home region.

Respondent skipped this question

PAGE 22: D.1) TRADE COSTS

Q34: FOR MERCHANDISE GOODS: For the markets which you have identified as the highest cost, why are trade costs high? (You may choose more than 1 option)

Unsure

Q35: Additional information.

Respondent skipped this question

Q36: FOR SERVICES: For the markets which you have identified as the highest costs, why are trade costs high? (You may choose more than 1 options)

Unsure

Q37: Additional information.

Respondent skipped this question

PAGE 23: D.1) TRADE COSTS

Q38: How have your trade costs evolved over the past 5 years ?

Unsure

Q39: Additional information.

Respondent skipped this question

PAGE 24: D.1) TRADE COSTS

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|---|---|
| <p>Q40: Does your Government use any of the following sources to address the issue of trade costs? (You may choose more than 1 option)</p> | <p>Research with private sector, Research by government, Research by national academic institution, Research by donor funded project, World Bank Doing Business Index, World Bank Logistic Performance Index, World Customs Organizations Time Release Study , World Economic Forum Global Competitiveness Report</p> |
| <p>Q41: Additional information.</p> | <p><i>Respondent skipped this question</i></p> |
| <p>Q42: Do you validate the results? (You may tick more than 1 box)</p> | <p>Yes, dialogue with private sector, Yes, dialogue with government</p> |
| <p>Q43: Additional information.</p> | <p><i>Respondent skipped this question</i></p> |

PAGE 26: E.1) REDUCING TRADE COSTS

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| <p>Q44: Is your government taking national action to reduce trade costs?</p> | <p>Yes</p> |
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PAGE 27: E.1) REDUCING TRADE COSTS

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| <p>Q45: What national action is your government is taking ?(You may tick more than 1 box)</p> | <p>National government initiatives, Joint public-private sector initiatives, Private sector initiatives, Initiatives supported by development partners, Initiatives supported by non-governmental organizations</p> |
| <p>Q46: Additional information.</p> | <p><i>Respondent skipped this question</i></p> |

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Q47: In which areas have national actions been undertaken or are on-going? (You may tick more than one box)

Border procedures (trade facilitation),
Tariffs, fees and other charges,
Non-Tariff Measures (including standards),
Network infrastructure (ICT, power, telecoms),
Transport infrastructure,
Access to trade finance,
Network infrastructure (ICT, power, telecoms),
Transport infrastructure (e.g. for tourism),
Reforms of national regulatory frameworks for services
,
Negotiations with trading partners on access for service suppliers

PAGE 28: E.1) REDUCING TRADE COSTS

Q48: Is your government engaged in regional actions to reduce trade costs?

Yes

PAGE 29: E.1) REDUCING TRADE COSTS

Q49: Please specify (You may tick more than 1 box)

Regional economic community,
Free trade agreements, Corridor initiatives,
Joint public-private sector initiatives,
Private sector initiatives,
Initiatives supported by development partners,
Initiatives supported by non-governmental organizations

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Q50: In which areas have regional actions been undertaken or are on-going? (You may tick more than 1 box)

Border procedures (trade facilitation),
Tariffs, fees and other charges,
Non-Tariff Measures (including standards),
Network infrastructure (ICT, power, telecoms),
Transport infrastructure,
Access to trade finance,
Network infrastructure (ICT, power, telecoms),
Transport infrastructure (e.g. for tourism),
Reforms of national regulatory frameworks for services
,
Negotiations with trading partners on access for service suppliers

Q51: Additional information.

Respondent skipped this question

PAGE 30: E.1) REDUCING TRADE COSTS

Q52: Is external support aligned with your national and regional needs to reduce trade costs ?

Yes

Q53: Additional information.

Respondent skipped this question

PAGE 31: E.1) REDUCING TRADE COSTS

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| Q54: How is external support aligned with your needs?(You may tick more than 1 box) | External support is aligned with national priorities to reduce trade costs , Dialogue with donors has resulted in attention to the issue of trade costs , Dialogue with South-South partners has resulted in attention to the issue of trade costs , Improved dialogue with the private sector has resulted in this being prioritized , Improved dialogue with regional partners has resulted in this being prioritized |
| Q55: Additional information. | <i>Respondent skipped this question</i> |

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|--|---|
| Q56: Why is external support not aligned with your needs?(You may tick more than 1 box) | <i>Respondent skipped this question</i> |
| Q57: Additional information. | <i>Respondent skipped this question</i> |

PAGE 34: F.1) TRADE FACILITATION AGREEMENT

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|--|--------|
| Q58: What impact would implementation of the Trade Facilitation Agreement, when adopted, have on the evolution of your trade costs? | Unsure |
| Q59: Additional information. | |
| There is not any feasibility study determining the actual figure. | |

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Q60: In which regions would the implementation of the Trade Facilitation Agreement, when adopted, have the biggest impact on the trade costs you face ? (Please choose no more than 5 options)

Western Europe, Central and Eastern Europe,
Developed Asia, Central Asia, East Asia,
South Asia

Q61: Additional information.

Respondent skipped this question

PAGE 36: F.1) TRADE FACILITATION AGREEMENT

Q62: Do you plan to seek Aid-for-Trade support to help implement the Trade Facilitation Agreement, when adopted ?

Yes, after TFA adoption

Q63: Have you undertaken a Trade Facilitation Needs Assessment?

Yes

PAGE 37: F.1) TRADE FACILITATION AGREEMENT

Q64: Please specify the organization(s) involved in and year(s) of each needs assessment.

| | |
|------------|------|
| WTO | 2013 |
| World Bank | 2013 |

PAGE 38: F.1) TRADE FACILITATION AGREEMENT

Q65: Do you plan to request a new Trade Facilitation Needs Assessment or an update of an existing assessment?

Yes

Q66: Please specify why.

Since the assessment has been carried out only at the Central Level, thus there is a need to conduct at provincial level to ensure the confirmation.

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Q67: Where might you need support to implement the Trade Facilitation Agreement, when adopted? (You may tick more than 1 box)

To prepare category A, B, C notifications,
To support scheduling of commitments,
To support implementation of specific TFA provisions

PAGE 40: F.1) TRADE FACILITATION AGREEMENT

Q68: What difficulties do you face, or do you expect to face, in securing Aid-for-Trade support to help implement the Trade Facilitation Agreement, when adopted ? (You may tick more than 1 box)

Differing priorities of in-country donors ,
Problems accessing external funds

PAGE 41: F.1) TRADE FACILITATION AGREEMENT

Q69: Which disciplines of the Trade Facilitation Agreement, when adopted, will prove the hardest to implement and where Aid-for-Trade support should be focused?(You may tick more than 1 box)

Publication and availability of information,
Advance rulings, Appeal and review procedures,
Border agency cooperation,
Movement of goods intended for import under customs control
,
Formalities connected with importation, exportation and transit

Q70: Additional information.

Respondent skipped this question

PAGE 43: G.1) IMPACT: REDUCING TRADE COSTS AND INCLUSIVE, SUSTAINABLE GROWTH

Q71: What have been the key factors in achieving successful reductions in trade costs? (Please choose no more than 5 options)

Private sector engagement and commitment,
Alignment of projects with private sector priorities
,
Funding from development partners,
Alignment of donor support with national priorities
,
Sustained engagement of development partners

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Q72: Additional information.

Respondent skipped this question

PAGE 44: G.1) IMPACT: REDUCING TRADE COSTS AND INCLUSIVE, SUSTAINABLE GROWTH

Q73: What outputs have been achieved by actions taken to reduce trade costs? (Please choose no more than 5 options)

Updated customs legislation,
New or updated transport infrastructure (roads, bridges, etc.)
,
Creation of electronic single windows,
Creation of trade facilitation committees,
Creation of dialogue with private sector

Q74: Additional information.

Respondent skipped this question

PAGE 45: G.1) IMPACT: REDUCING TRADE COSTS AND INCLUSIVE, SUSTAINABLE GROWTH

Q75: What outcomes have been achieved by actions taken to reduce trade costs? (Please choose no more than 5 options)

Reduction in border clearance times,
Reduction in informal payments,
Increase in traffic flows through border posts,
Increase in export volumes,
Increase in import volumes

Q76: Additional information.

Respondent skipped this question

PAGE 46: G.1) IMPACT: REDUCING TRADE COSTS AND INCLUSIVE, SUSTAINABLE GROWTH

Q77: What impacts have been achieved by actions taken to reduce trade costs? (Please choose no more than 5 options)

Increase in foreign direct investment,
Increase in domestic private sector investment,
Fall in poverty

Q78: Additional information.

Respondent skipped this question

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PAGE 47: G.1) IMPACT: REDUCING TRADE COSTS AND INCLUSIVE, SUSTAINABLE GROWTH

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| Q79: Which types of actions have achieved the most positive results in reducing trade costs for goods and services? (Please choose no more than 7 options) | Customs reform, Tariff reforms, Upgrading transport infrastructure, Upgrading network infrastructure, Improving access to trade finance |
| Q80: Additional information. | <i>Respondent skipped this question</i> |

PAGE 48: G.1) IMPACT: REDUCING TRADE COSTS AND INCLUSIVE, SUSTAINABLE GROWTH

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|--|---|
| Q81: What contribution can reducing trade costs make to the target of inclusive, sustainable growth? (Please choose no more than 7 options) | Increase in exports, Foreign direct investment, Domestic private sector investment, Increase in imports, Reduction in poverty |
| Q82: Additional information. | <i>Respondent skipped this question</i> |

PAGE 50: H.1) IMPACT OF THE AID FOR TRADE INITIATIVE

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| Q83: Has the alignment of Aid-for-Trade support to your national needs and priorities changed since the launch of the Aid-for-Trade Initiative in 2005? | Improved |
|--|----------|

PAGE 51: H.1) IMPACT OF THE AID FOR TRADE INITIATIVE

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| Q84: If it has improved, please specify why.(You may tick more than one box) | Better dialogue with donors, Better dialogue with South-South partners, Better dialogue with the private sector, Better dialogue with regional partners |
|---|--|

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Q85: Why has the alignment declined?(You may tick more than 1 box)

Respondent skipped this question

Q86: Additional information.

Respondent skipped this question

PAGE 53: H.1) IMPACT OF THE AID FOR TRADE INITIATIVE

Q87: What impact has the Aid-for-Trade Initiative had since it was launched in 2005?(You may tick more than 1 box)

Increase in resources available for trade development
,
More attention to trade issues in development ,
More priority given by national authorities to trade issues in national development planning
,
More priority given by regional authorities to trade issues in development planning
,
More priority given by donors to trade issues in national development planning
,
More priority given by private sector to trade issues
,
More priority given by NGOs to trade issues

Q88: Additional information.

Respondent skipped this question

PAGE 54: H.1) IMPACT OF THE AID FOR TRADE INITIATIVE

Q89: What potential future contribution could the Enhanced Integrated Framework for LDCs make to the post-2015 development agenda? (Please choose no more than 5 options)

Mainstreaming of trade issues in national policy ,
Engaging the private sector in national trade and development policy planning
,
Coherence in trade and development policy,
Catalyst for Aid-for-Trade flows ,
Contribution to inclusive, sustainable growth

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Q90: Additional information.

Respondent skipped this question

Q91: What potential future contribution could the Aid-for-Trade Initiative make to the post-2015 development agenda? (Please choose a maximum of 5 options)

Contribution of financing for development,

Contribution to improving the business and regulatory environment

,

Ensuring continued attention to trade issues in development

,

Engaging the private sector in development issues

,

Making a contribution to economic growth and poverty eradication through inclusive, sustainable development

Q92: Additional information.

Respondent skipped this question

Q93: How in your view could the Aid-for-Trade Initiative be improved?

Respondent skipped this question

PAGE 55: H.1) IMPACT OF THE AID FOR TRADE INITIATIVE

Q94: Additional information on "Reducing trade costs and inclusive, sustainable growth". If there is anything you would like to add on the topic of "Reducing trade costs for inclusive, sustainable growth", which you feel has not been covered in this questionnaire, please use this box.

Respondent skipped this question