RECOMMENDATIONS

Inclusive and sustainable development depends on strong collaborations and synergies across all sectors and partners. Education can be an important means of reducing inequality, but it cannot be seen as the sole solution.

Sound policies need to be resourced with adequate and predictable funding for implementation.

Provide flexible learning pathways through the integration of formal and non-formal education and training where necessary. For education to be transformative, ‘education as usual’ will not suffice.

Develop whole-school approaches that promote environmental teaching, learning, planning and operations by bringing attention to the ties between the environment, economy and culture.

Target marginalized groups who are consistently left behind by adequately redistributing existing resources and ramping up funds to improve access to and retention in good quality education.

Ensure that public resources are distributed equitably, including amenities and good quality teachers, so as to promote social inclusion and reduce inequity resulting from education disparity.

Develop knowledge exchange programmes to learn from successful integrated policies involving education.
Facts & Figures

Lao PDR has a population of almost 7 million, and is considered a lower middle income country.

Over 3 million children in Lao PDR are of school age.

The youth literacy rate has reached 84% according to the latest estimates.

86% of primary school pupils in Lao PDR achieve at least minimum proficiency in reading and in maths.

A majority of schools in Lao PDR (74%) provide education on HIV.

Just 5% of children under 5 have more than 2 books at home.

67% of the richest, but 10% of the poorest attend pre-primary school.

Less than half of pre-primary teachers are qualified, despite 91% of them being trained.

A quarter of 15 to 19-year-olds are currently married, with a potentially negative impact on education.

In Salavan province, young people go to school for an average of 4 years - half of the national average.

There is 98% of female teachers in primary school.

10% to 15% of boys and girls aged 13 to 15 experience school-related gender-based violence.

Half of all schools in Lao PDR don't have safe drinking water and sanitation.

The poorest 20 to 24 year-olds attain 3 years of education - compared to 13 for the richest.

390,000 children are out of primary and secondary school.

School completion rates in Lao PDR:

The higher the grade, the lower the completion rate

Only 1% of the poorest women in Lao PDR complete secondary education.

The amount spent on education per child doubled from US$10 in 2003, to US$20 in 2014.

In 2014, the Lao government reached the recommended benchmark of spending at least 15% of its budget on education.

All facts and figures were extracted from the Global Education Monitoring Report 2016.