



The Joint CLEAR-SDC Project Inception and Work Planning Workshop
Launching the SDC-Supported Component of the Community Livelihood Enhancement and Resilience (CLEAR) Project
Organized during 30-31/07/2026, in Vientiane Capital, Lao PDR

The Community Livelihood Enhancement and Resilience (CLEAR) Project is scheduled for implementing from 2024 to 2028 and targets 450 poor villages in 14 poor districts across 7 provinces (Phongsaly, Oudomxay, Houaphan, Xiengkhouang, Savannakhet, Salavan and Sekong). In the second half of 2025, the Government of Switzerland provided an additional financing 8.1 million as the grant to the CLEAR Project through the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) in order to support the implementation of activities in 80 target villages across 6 districts (Nhot Ou, Phongsaly, Pakbeng, Nga, Nonghet and Phoukoud) in 3 provinces (Phongsaly, Oudomxay and Xiengkhouang). The selection of target villages is basing on spatial analysis and natural disaster risk assessment conducted by UNOSAT using satellite imagery and remote sensing data. The analysis applies criteria such as proximity or shared village boundaries, similar landscapes, common catchments, shared use of rivers and roads, similar livelihoods, and comparable local contexts. The implementation of the CLEAR-SDC additional financing follows a multi-stakeholder participatory approach involving both government agencies and international organizations that provide technical services and support. The approach aims to establish development model sites through a cluster-village modality.

To initiate the implementation of activities under the CLEAR-SDC Project's additional financing in collaboration with its technical partners, the CLEAR Project organized a joint CLEAR-SDC Project Inception and Work Planning Workshop on 30-31 July 2026 in Vientiane Capital. The workshop aimed to jointly develop an implementation plan and establish effective mechanisms for coordination and collaboration among the project's technical partners. The workshop chaired by Mr. Anosack Phengthimmavong, Deputy-General Director of Rural Development and Poverty Reduction Department, Ministry of Agriculture and Environment (MAE). It brought together representatives from a range of government as relevant departments of MAE, donor (SDC) and the World Bank (WB) Country Office in Lao PDR; UNOSAT; the International Centre for Environmental Management (icem); the International Water Management Institute (IWMI); and the CLEAR Project team at both central and district levels.

This workshop marked an important event to launch the joint implementation of activities under the CLEAR-SDC Project additional financing in collaboration with its technical partners and to allow the partners be aware of the progress made in the target villages of batch-1 and batch-2 and to see the overall project workplan from 2024 2028 and the plans of SDC additional financing presented by Vongpaphane Manivong (PhD), Acting-Executive Director of Poverty Reduction Fund (PRF) and the Representatives of SDC. The workshop also provided an opportunity for the partners to present their technical service delivery plans, creation of a model site and frankly sharing their experiences and lessons learnt to create a unified understanding to go in the same direction and share their contributions to achieve the common goals of the project set. The main activities includes: Climate Resilience Landscape Planning (CRLP), sub-projects of engineering as a Green Climate Resilience Infrastructure (Green CRI), water management (Blue CRI), agricultural extension (Grey CRI), building capacity on Community-based Climate-Smart Agriculture (CBCSA), Climate Resilient Eco-Agriculture Technical Exchange (CREATE) and marketing and Block Grant for community development in the form of group of the village for food production and income-generating activities.

