

## Summary of situation evaluation for Lao PDR POPs

Question	Answer	Comments/Possible Solutions
Which Ministry/Department(s) is/are involved in managing toxic chemicals?	Multiple, but feed-back mechanism remains weak	Requires clear delineation of mandates and stronger coordination and synergy.
Which Ministry/Department(s) is/are involved in managing the selected hot spot?	Involves both national and local agencies, as well as communities, but their synergy remains weak	Requires stronger coordination and synergy, as well as public participation and public accountability.
What chemical-specific legislation/regulations are in place in the country?	Comprehensive legislation to regulate POPs does not exist. A number of general laws and regulations exist to address some aspects of POPs, especially pesticides.	Law and policy development
Is enforcement of regulations (if they exist) undertaken as necessary?	Severely constrained by capacity; lack of laws; financial and human resources constraints; and prevailing poverty.	Technical and financial support, capacity building, socio and economic development.
What relevant industry (ies) use toxic chemical?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Agriculture;</li> <li>▪ Industry (energy);</li> <li>▪ Public health;</li> <li>▪ Waste management.</li> </ul>	Awareness, guidelines, codes of practice and standards, and BAT/BEP.
Are there research institutes that are undertaking relevant research/investigations?	ERI/WREA, MOH, MOME	Financial and technical assistance to encourage POPs research and development
What level of understanding exists in government and industry about the hazards the chemical poses?	Low. Only those involved in POPs activities are aware of POPs hazards.	
What level of awareness exists among workers and the public concerning toxic chemicals?	Extremely low. Training and awareness campaigns have been limited.	
What related technical infrastructure exists (e.g. information on quantities produced/ generated, imported, in use)?	Extremely limited – poor knowledge base, lack of qualified labs and staff.	
Existing programs for monitoring releases and environmental and human health impacts.	Few	
Are there any 'bottlenecks' in the management of toxic chemicals nationally and/or locally?	Numerous limitations, including a lack of awareness, limited capacity and financial resources.	Good environmental governance.
Are there cases of accidents, poisonings, contamination, etc. involving toxic chemicals, and routinely reported to the relevant authorities?	No mechanism for reporting chemical accidents, and no differentiation between chemical incidents and other types of accidents	