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# Urbanization in Laos PDR

# Background of urbanization in Lao PDR

- **Urbanization rate:** Laos is experiencing a high urbanization rate of 4-5 percent per annum. Poverty is also driving people from rural areas to city
- **Population increase:** 1,020,000 people (or 20 per cent of the population live in urban areas, while 4.1million (or 80 percent) living in the rural areas pose a potential urban population increase.
- **Economic:** Although agriculture remains the largest contributor to the country's GDP, the urban sector is playing an increasingly important role in the growth of the economy

# Challenges in urbanization

- High urbanization adds pressure on local authorities to provide basic infrastructure.
- Urban poverty: in Vientiane, the incidence of poverty was estimated at 12.2 percent. (poor drainage and sanitation and poor housing )
- Urbanization increased pressure on the local environment. (unreasonable land use and unaware conservation of forest, air pollution, solid waste etc)
- High population growth need more resources for development.

# Solutions for obstacles in urbanization

1. Sustainable and reasonable planning such as green building design for urbanization in Laos should be made.
2. Improved technology for urban development .For example, wind-tenc windturbine, rainwater harvesting facilities and design , battery driven bikes, solar roofing system.
3. Enhanced cooperation and strong alliances with partners, JICA and Fukuoka Habitat Institute for instance.

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