

## CASE IN LAO PDR

## Sharing lessons learned



### PROJECT:

#### Improvement of Driver Licensing System in Lao People's Democratic Republic

The project was launched to address the rising number of road traffic fatalities in Lao PDR, where weak driver training and licensing systems were contributing to unsafe roads. Rapid growth in vehicle ownership had increased pressure on the country's road system. Many new drivers received little or no formal training, and driver testing standards were outdated. This made roads less safe for everyone, especially young and inexperienced drivers.

*The project aligns closely with the UN Road Safety Fund's priorities of strengthening national institutions and improving enforcement systems in countries with a high burden of road deaths.*

The UNRSF supported this initiative because it addressed a major gap in Lao PDR's road safety system, the absence of a modern, standardised driver training framework. By helping to reform policies, update regulations, and introduce new technologies, the project built lasting capacity for safer, more professional driver education nationwide.



### WHAT WORKED?

The project addressed critical gaps through new curriculum, streamlined regulations, and access to digital knowledge, including:

- ✓ **New driving licence training curriculum**
- ✓ **Updated licensing regulations**
- ✓ **Digital tools for learning and testing**
- ✓ **Capacity building and Training of Trainers (ToT)**

### WHAT WERE THE RESULTS?

#### 1. Adoption of revised curriculum and regulations

- Development and government approval of eight new driver training courses covering all vehicle categories.
- Drafting and approval of new regulations to guide driver education and testing.

#### 2. Two innovative digital tools were also introduced:

- Dot Smart App, a free mobile and web-based learning tool that allows users to study traffic rules, take practice tests and schedule their driving exams.
- The E-Driving system, an automated testing platform that uses GPS and cameras to score driving tests objectively.

#### 3. Strengthened institutional capacity

- 200 Department of Transport staff completed Training of Trainers sessions, building the capacity to operate and promote the revised curriculum, updated regulations, and new digital tools.





## NEW DRIVING LICENCE TRAINING CURRICULUM

- A modern driver training curriculum was developed to replace the outdated framework. It includes eight courses, six newly created and two updated, to cover all vehicle categories that previously lacked formal training. The curriculum was modelled partly on Thailand's approach and integrates principles from key UN road safety conventions.
- It was successfully piloted in Savannakhet Province and formally approved by the Ministry of Public Works and Transport (MPWT). The Ministry expressed its intention to scale and expand it nationwide subject to available financing.



## UPDATED LICENSING REGULATIONS

- The project helped revise existing licensing regulations to improve procedures for issuing and renewing driving licences across all vehicle categories.
- Four new policy documents were produced, detailing the updated rules and guidelines. These were approved by the government and are now in effect nationwide, improving transparency and consistency in the licensing process.





### DIGITAL TOOLS FOR LEARNING AND TESTING

To support the digitalisation of public services, two new tools were developed: the Dot Smart App and the E-Driving system.

- The Dot Smart App is a free mobile and web-based platform where users can learn traffic rules, take online courses, practise theory test questions, schedule exams, view results, and receive updates from the licensing authority.
- The E-Driving system is an automated testing platform equipped with GPS, cameras, and sensors to assess driving performance objectively. It offers both practice and official test modes and was successfully piloted in Savannakhet Province. The MPWT now plans to expand it to other provinces and vehicle categories.

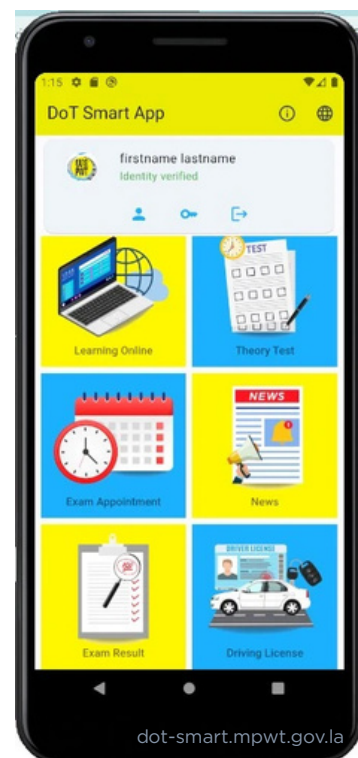


[dot-smart.mpwt.gov.la](http://dot-smart.mpwt.gov.la)



### CAPACITY BUILDING AND TRAINING

- Training of Trainers (ToT) workshops were organised for staff from the Department of Transport, including personnel from vehicle and driving licence units and driving schools in several provinces. These sessions strengthened their ability to use and promote the new curriculum, digital tools, and licensing regulations, helping embed the new systems into the national licensing process.





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### LESSONS LEARNED FOR SCALING AND REPLICATION

#### SUCCESSSES

- The project successfully addressed long-standing gaps in driver training and licensing by creating a modern, inclusive, and digital system. It showed how focused UN support can strengthen government institutions and create frameworks for sustainable improvement.
- Strong collaboration and consistent government engagement were central to these achievements. Close alignment with national priorities ensured ownership, smooth implementation, and long-term integration into national systems. The project directly supported the 2021–2030 National Road Safety Strategy and its 2020–2025 Action Plan, while also advancing the government’s wider digitalisation agenda.

#### CHALLENGES & MITIGATION STRATEGIES

- **Sustainability and scale-up:** Continued support from the Ministry of Public Works and Transport (MPWT) is essential to maintain momentum and roll out the new system nationwide.
- **Mitigation:** Future projects should include a clear post-pilot plan to guide implementation and ensure long-term financial sustainability.
- **Inclusion gaps:** The project design did not fully integrate gender equality, human rights, or disability inclusion, limiting its reach to all vulnerable road users.
- **Mitigation:** Future initiatives should embed these priorities from the start, ensuring that road safety systems are inclusive and benefit everyone equally.



AUGUST 13, 2024

The Ministry of Transport has improved the driver's license issuance system through the website and mobile app, allowing everyone to access information more conveniently.

The Department of Transport, Ministry of Public Works and Transport has received a grant from the United Nations Road Safety Fund (UNRSF), under the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Europe...

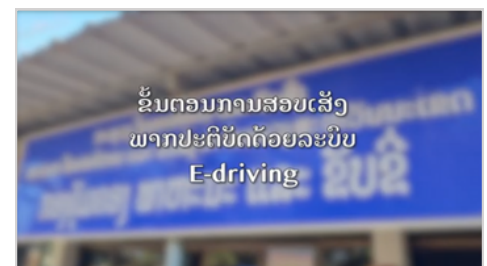


AUGUST 13, 2024

Organize a seminar on the system/procedure for issuing driving licenses in the Lao PDR, January 9-19, 2024

Between January 9-19, 2024, which is divided into 3 generations: Generation 1, January 9-11, 2024, Generation 2, January 15-17, 2024, Generation 3, January 17-19, 2024. Seminar organization, system/procedure, issuance of certificates...

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AUGUST 13, 2024

Practical exam procedure with E-Driving system

The E-Driving system is a system that assists in practical driving tests by using an electronic system to determine the scores for the various positions used in the test and deduct points for errors that actually occur during the test.

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