

ASSA RECOGNITION AWARDS

CATEGORY :	Innovation Recognition Award
ORGANISATION :	Lao Social Security Organization (LSSO)
CONTACTPERSON:	Ms. ThianthongKeoboua Deputy Head of Planning and Cooperation Division Email: nssflao@nssf.gov.la , thsati@yahoo.com ,
NAME OFPROJECT:	Launch of special unemployment benefit during Covid-19
OBJECTIVEAND NATUREOF PROJECT:	To compensate loss of income for insured workers who are affected by COVID-19
WHY ITSHOULD BERECOGNISED:	This special unemployment benefit is introduced during and after the pandemic of COVID-19 with a purpose of helping temporary unemployed workers due to COVID-19 by adapting some qualifying conditions that assort to the situation of affected workers.
SUMMARY OFTHE PROJECT:	The pandemic of COVID-19 has been the global and regional issue that affected social-economic around the world. Although Lao PDR has a small number of infected virus but the impact of its pandemic is spread to all sectors within the country. Insured workers are amongst the effected people who lose income due to the lockdown orders and temporary suspension of business. In response to COVID-19, Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare of Lao PDR has issued the agreement No. 1682/MLSW dated 10 June 2020 in order to support income security for those insured workers affected by the crisis starting from 01 May 2020. The agreement also advised the Lao Social Security Organization (LSSO) to allow employers and voluntary insured persons in postpone or suspended the payment of social security contributions. The provision of special policy includes: 1. Special unemployment benefit: to insured workers who are temporary or partial unemployment due to COVID-19 crisis. The benefit equals to 60% of the averaged insured earning during the last 6 months, payable for number of days through the temporary unemployment period but not more than the maximum period of each duration based upon contributions specified by the law. 2. Postpone or suspended the payment of contributions during 3 months (from April to June 2020): Companies or Enterprises that have temporarily suspension of their business but still paying wages to their employees can postpone the payment of contributions to social security fund as follow: ▪ Contributions of April 2020 can postpone to pay in September 2020 ▪ Contributions of May 2020 can postpone to pay in October 2020 ▪ And contributions of June 2020 postpone to pay in November 2020

	- Companies or Enterprises that have temporarily stop business and not paying wages to employees can suspend their payment of contributions during the COVID-19 crisis; - Voluntary insured persons can also postpone their payment of contributions in the same duration as the employer mentioned above.
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