

NATIONAL GOVERNANCE AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION REFORM PROGRAMME SECRETARIAT SUPPORT PROJECT (GPAR NGPS)

Project ID: 00065088

Project Description

The overall objective of the National GPAR Programme Secretariat Support Project is to strengthen the capacity of public administration to deliver efficient, effective and accountable services to citizens through high level oversight and leadership, strategic management and support to all components of the national GPAR Programme in Lao PDR. This project is being implemented in alignment with other projects of the National GPAR Programme. The National GPAR Programme Secretariat enables the Ministry of Home Affairs to support the coordination and implementation of relevant components of the Strategic Plan on Governance (2011-2020) of the Government of Lao PDR.



MOHA and NGSAR staff presenting information materials during the High Level Round Table Meeting exhibition in Nov. 2013 at the National Convention Centre, Vientiane Capital. Photo: MOHA/NGPAR Lao PDR

Project Summary:

- Duration: 2012 - 2015
- Geographic coverage: Vientiane Capital
- Focus area: Governance
- Implementing Partner: Ministry of Home Affairs
- Website:
www.la.undp.org/content/laopdr/en/home/operations/projects/democratic_governance/National_GPAR.html

Main Objectives and Outcomes

The GPAR NGPS project is aligned with the United Nations Development Assistance Framework's second outcome, according to which *'by 2015, the poor and vulnerable benefit from the improved delivery of public services, an effective protection of their rights and greater participation in transparent decision making.'*

To achieve this UNDAF outcome, the project has three objectives:

Output 1: Develop and implement high level institutional mechanisms to provide oversight and coordination across the governance sector. These mechanisms are established to provide guidance on policies and strategies in the governance sector, ensuring alignment with national priorities and the effective implementation of respective activities of the Ministry of Home Affairs as well as the Strategic Plan on Governance.

A high level oversight and monitoring system will thus help to direct and shape governance reform in line with

the key governance priorities indicated in the 7th National Socio Economic Development Plan.

Output 2: Strengthen capacities of the Ministry of Home Affairs's to effectively coordinate and monitor the implementation of the GPAR Programme and related activities.

Output 3: Coordination of Development Partner assistance through the Governance Sector Working Group as well as through other channels and mechanisms, including resource mobilization to support programme implementation. While aiming to keep partners well informed of programme activities and achievements additional resources and any parallel support initiatives will be leveraged.

Results and Achievements to Date

Output 1: High level institutional mechanisms to provide oversight and coordination across the governance sector established.

Following the guidance on local government development from the Leading Committee on Governance, the concept note of a new phase of the Governance and Public Administration Reform was further developed and shared with Development Partners and other key stakeholders. The new phase is designed to broaden the approach from building the capacity of local administration to plan, finance and deliver block grants to create a more enabling local governance environment for sustained and equitable growth.

Output 2: Strengthening capacity of the Ministry of Home Affairs to effectively coordinate and monitor the implementation of the NPGAR programme and related activities.

Support training on ICT and Graphic design was provided to 14 staff members of the NPGAR Secretariat and the Ministry of Home Affairs staff. After the training, staff demonstrated they are able to apply new skills to develop and publish quality information materials such as department news, information flyers and general written communication. Support English Training is also ongoing for six Ministry of Home Affairs staff members.

A support seminar on statistics and planning matters was provided to the staff members of all 18 Provincial Offices of Home Affairs. In total, 74 staff participated, 15 of them female. At the end of the seminar, an agreement was reached on the format and contents of Ministry of Home Affairs statistic reports and reporting timeframes.

Output 3: Coordination of Development Partner assistance through the Governance Sector Working

Group and resource mobilisation to support programme implementation.

Through the Governance Sector Working Group coordination mechanism, the Secretariat was provided with a platform for discussion. As a result, agreed topics for discussion (presented as an annual work plan) for the sector as well as sub-sector working groups were approved. Several thematic topics were discussed, namely the Sam Sang (3 Builds: provinces as strategic units, districts as enhanced capacity units, and villages as development units) Project, sharing key findings from the District Development Fund study, the anti-corruption initiative, progress on Constitution amendment and the establishment of the Local Assembly amongst others.

Funding:

- Project budget: USD 1,195,000
- Donors:
 - Government (parallel) USD 10,000
 - UNDP USD 800,000
 - SDC USD 385,000
 - Oxfam USD 28,288
- Unfunded budget: None
- Delivery (2014): USD 247,624

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