

## SUPPORT TO ADVANCING HUMAN DEVELOPMENT THROUGH POLICY-INFORMING APPLIED RESEARCH ON HUMAN DEVELOPMENT ISSUES ESPECIALLY RELEVANT FOR ACHIEVING THE 7TH NSEDP/MDGS

Project ID: 00078228

### Project Description

The overall development goal of the NHDRs is to create a national dialogue that widens the development choices for sustainable and equitable growth. With the support of the Government of Lao PDR, the NHDR was introduced in the 1990s and integrated into the National Socio-Economic Development Plan (NSEDP) process of the country aiming to ensure quality growth of the country toward its 2020 vision.



Photo: UNDP Lao PDR/Poverty Reduction Unit

With the support of UNDP, Lao PDR has produced four National Human Development Reports (NHDRs) since 1998. The first NHDR was entitled the Lao PDR Report on National Human Development (1998), while the second was in 2002 on Advancing Rural Development, the third in 2006 on International Trade and Human Development, and the fourth in 2010 on Employment and Livelihoods.

### Project Summary:

- Duration: June 2011 – December 2015
- Geographic coverage: Vientiane Capital
- Focus Area: Poverty Reduction
- Implementing Partners: National Economic Research Institute, Ministry of Planning and Investment

The NHDRs have made a significant contribution to the national planning process, specially the fourth NHDR on Employment and Livelihoods, which provided important inputs into the drafting of the 7th National Socio-Economic Development Plan. Additionally, the third NHDR on International Trade and Human Development, helped to bring about an unprecedented policy discussion on natural resource based development.

Through the NHDR production process, national capacity for research and producing high quality analytical work has been strengthened. While the previous NHDRs was led by the Lao Statistics Bureau, the upcoming 5th NHDR process will be led by the National Economic Research Institute (NERI) which is a think-tank of the Ministry of Planning and Investment, Lao PDR.

The 5th NHDR will address the following:

- new targets for the existing MDGs after 2015;
- targets for the MDGs in terms of fulfillment of the Human Assets Index criteria for LDC graduation; and
- Other social indicators to be addressed in the 8th National Socio Economic Development Plan 2015-2020.

Through engaging the above-mentioned in this NHDR development process, it is expected that NERI's capacity to perform their research mandate will be significantly strengthened, and the capacity of young researchers at line ministries will also be engaged in the process. This in turn will contribute to the increasing of analysis quality to inform policy making and implementation strategies.

### ***Main Objectives and Outcomes***

The main objective of this project is to help further develop government capacity to undertake applied policy research on strategically-selected Human Development issues especially relevant to achieving the goals outlined in the NSEDP, particularly the MDGs and advancing progress towards the country's graduation from LDC status. Such policy-informing research will also help inform the formulation of annual NSEDP implementation plans, and eventually contribute to the formulation of the 8<sup>th</sup> NSEDP 2016-2020.

### ***Results and Achievements to Date***

To further enhance the public's understanding of Human Development (HD), particularly for policy makers and youth, an assessment on the possibility of introducing an HD course at the MPI training center and National University of Laos (NUoL) was conducted. Through this assessment, it was found that the two institutes have expressed great interest in adopting the course. As a result, the project have been working with National University of Laos (NUoL) to develop HD textbook to be used for HD course which will be piloted at NUoL in 2014/2015 academic year.

Innovative Approach to disseminate HD concept has been practiced for example drawing contest on HD (targeting youth); Media award on HD-related essays (open to journalists), in addition to that number of HD events, e.g A&Q, small lecture, were organized at different university and high school to raise youth awareness on HD and enhance their understanding on the importance of quality of growth besides quantity of growth.

In corporation with Department of Planning, the project organized series of workshops and trainings to enhance selected provincial and district planning officials on HD and mainstreaming HD concept into planning process.

The first national LDC graduation workshop was successfully organized to enhance policy makers' understandings on the graduation criterion, and its implications. The results and key discussions of the workshop have been used as inputs for revising Vision 2020 Strategy.

### ***Funding:***

- Total Project Budget: US\$1,809,700
- Donors: UNDP: US\$ 541,590
- Unfunded Budget (Funding Gap): US\$1,268,110
- Delivery in previous year (2013): US\$ 134,950.02

### **Contact Information:**

Ms. Latsany Phakdisoth, Programme Analyst, Poverty Reduction Unit, Tel: (+856 21) 267737; Fax: (+856 21) 267799 Email: [Latsany.phakdisoth@undp.org](mailto:Latsany.phakdisoth@undp.org)

Mr. Saykham Voladet, Head of Division, Component Manager, National Economic Research Institution (NERI); Tel: (+856 21) 254827; Fax: (+856 21) 254827; Email: [saykhamv@yahoo.com](mailto:saykhamv@yahoo.com)