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| Fact Sheet 06/2012**National Assembly Joint Programme****Support to an Effective Lao National Assembly Joint Programme (SELNA)****Programme ID: 00069660** | http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/en/drip.html |
| **Programme Description** The objective of SELNA is to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of the National Assembly of the Lao PDR. This four-year joint programme of six UN Agencies and other development partners will support the National Assembly to further strengthen its legislative, oversight and representational capacity through initiatives targeted for assembly members, the committees, their support staff, and the assembly secretariat.The programme also integrates support to the government of Lao PDR to develop national policies and legislation for the establishment of local councils as sub-national representative institutions.The programme has three main components:1. Strengthen and enhance the capacity of the parliamentarians and committees to exercise their law making and oversight responsibilities.
2. Increase opportunities for interaction between National Assembly members and their constituents; improve access to proceedings of parliament, draft legislation and laws; improve the process of petitions with the aim of upgrading the current petitions department to a NA committee vested with ombudsman-like functions; expand the National Assembly hotline service.
3. Strengthen Parliamentary Support Services, and enable the Office of the National Assembly to deliver effective services to the parliament, the committees and its members and build internal parliamentary management and financial structures for improved sustainability.
4. Technical and Programme Support Unit operational in line with the Vientiane Declaration of Aid Effectiveness. The Programme Implementation Unit is going to be integrated in the NA Secretariat.
 | **Duration**January 2009 – December 2012 (4 years) |
| **Location**National Assembly, Vientiane, Lao PDR |
| **Budget**Total budget: USD 2,911,4612012 budget: USD 874,305 |
| **Partners**Implementing Partner: National AssemblyOther Partners: UN Agencies (UNODC, UNICEF, UN Women, UNFPA, UNAIDS, UNDP), European Commission, Government of Singapore and Government of Germany**Contributing Donors:**European Union USD 1,375,000UNDP USD 1,213,012UNODC USD 10,000UNFPA USD 50,000UNICEF USD 90,000UN Women USD 100,000UNAIDS USD 73,449Other commitments:German Government: 2 Technical Advisors for National Assembly CommitteesSingapore government: USD 35,000**Delivery**Jan 2009 – Jul 2012: USD 2,341,660**Funding Shortfall**N/A |
| **Main Objectives and Activities in 2012*** **Outcome 1: Enhanced parliamentary capacity for exercising legislative, oversight and representative duties**. Organise awareness-raising activities for Members and Committees on topical, sectoral and policy issues; assist the NA Committees in drafting and/or reviewing legislation on specific topics; revise the NA Budget Handbook to update the information contained therein. The Handbook is a useful resource document for the legislators and NA staffers; supported the National Assembly to get involved in the development of a national policy on land and land use in Lao PDR. Also supported the enhancement of the oversight functions by seeking to better define the relationships between the NA, Ministry of Finance and State Audit Organization.
* **Outcome 2: The NA effectively and accurately represents constituents’ interests, needs and expectations** Capacity building for processing, monitoring and reporting public petitions, capacity development for the National Assembly hotline by processing submissions, reporting and follow-up. Organise field visits for consultation and interaction between members and constituents about key topical issues such as HIV/AIDS, poverty reduction efforts, gender issues, UXO, ethnic affairs, environmental issues and overall economic development matters.
* **Outcome 3: The NA has upgraded parliamentary support services** Facilitate access to national and international expertise, and parliamentary best practices, by providing training for senior NA staff in the Australian Parliament, student internship programs at NA; international study exchanges to Belgium and South Korea; establish systems for tracking preparations for accession to international treaties and conventions by working group meeting to review the agenda for signing; brief members and staff on foreign affairs issues and spending decisions by the executive, ratify and accede conventions and treaties; disseminate laws to NA constituency offices, the executive, the judiciary, mass media and civil society organisations; organise trainings on parliament-media relations, reporting on parliamentary affairs, protocol issues and press conferences; complete the implementation of the comprehensive NA ICT development plan at the Provincial levels of the National Assembly; provide capacity development for research, reference and archive services; technical and material support to parliamentary library services.
* **Outcome 4: Technical Assistance and programme Support Services operational** Plan and review meetings; conduct a final evaluation mission to review the achievements of the Programme and look at the possible scope of any future iteration of legislative strengthening support requested by the NA; transfer the Programme Implementation Unit functions into the NA structures before the end of December 2012.

**Agreement signed with Government**<http://www.undplao.org/whatwedo/programmesdemgov.php#NA> |
| **Key Results, Reports and Publications to date*** The number of laws drafted and adopted increased from an average of 3-5 laws in the 6th legislature to 5-8 laws in the 7th legislature. Legislative session days per year have also steadily increased during the period 2006-2011.
* 33 out of 132 parliamentarians are women (and 47 out of the 190 initial candidates), which is 25% of the total NA Membership. Overall, the Lao National Assembly continues to have one of the highest numbers of female parliamentarians in the Southeast Asian region.
* The position of the National Assembly President (the highest position in the NA) is occupied by a female parliamentarian and there are 8 female parliamentarians holding positions as Presidents and Vice Presidents of Committees and other senior level positions in Committees and Departments.
* More transparent new law-making procedure or the “law on lawmaking” was adopted, which fosters people’s participation in the law making process.
* The project team developed a handbook on State Budget and Parliament, titled “Handbook for Members and Staff of the National Assembly of the Lao PDR.”
* Published Annual Progress Reports for 2009, 2010 & 2011
* Established and organized regular NA Intersession events which precede the twice yearly main NA Ordinary Sessions
* Creation of the National Assembly Hotline
* Supported the enhancement and improvements in the capacity of National Assembly Members to review laws and debate policies
* Increased National Assembly’s budgetary oversight functions by providing access to international best practices
* Increased interaction between National Assembly members and citizens. Petitions and complaints from citizens are now better handled especially during NA sessions. In 2011, a total of 446 petitions were received while a total of 172 calls were received through the hotline system during NA sessions.
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| **Thematic Area**Corporate Thematic Area: Democratic GovernanceCross-cutting theme: genderUNDAF Outcome 2: By 2015, the poor and vulnerable benefit from the improved delivery of public services and effective protection of their rights and greater participation in transparent decision making. UNDAF Outcome 10: By 2015, people in the Lao PDR benefit from policies and programmes which more effectively promote gender equality and increased participation and representation of women in formal and informal decision making. CP Outcome 3.2: Increased and more equitable access to justice and strengthened rule of law**Millennium Development Goals**Goals 1-9: as a cross-cutting issue strengthened governance and in particular improved oversight of the Executive is expected to contribute to the achievement of all MDGs**Contact**Programme Officers (Managing Agent UNDP): Ms. Anne-Lise Chatelain, UNDP Governance Unit, UNDP Lao PDR, Lane Xang Avenue , P.O Box 345, Vientiane, Lao PDR. Ph. 856 21 26 7749, Email: anne-lise.chatelain@undp.orgMs. Sudha Gooty, Head of Governance Unit / Assistant Resident Representative, UNDP Lao PDR, Lane Xang Avenue, P.O Box 345, Vientiane, Lao PDR Ph. 856 (21) 267 777, direct: 267 720, 856 (20) 55555336, Email: sudha.gooty@undp.orgNational Programme Management Director: Mme Sousada Phoummasack, Director General, National Assembly**,** That Luang Square, P. O Box 622, Vientiane Capital. Ph. 021 41 6234, 021 41 7067; fax: 416 235. E-mail: sousada@na.gov.la |
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