

STRENGTHENING THE ROUND TABLE PROCESS FOR THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE 7TH NSEDP/MDGS

PROJECT ID: 00078226

Project Description

The Round Table Process (RTP) is the national mechanism for enhancing mutual understanding and development coordination between the Government of Lao PDR and Development Partners for the achievement of Lao PDR's development goals as outlined in the 7th National Socio-Economic Development Plan (NSEDP). Over the past decades, the RTP has evolved into an increasingly effective process for substantive dialogue, helping to develop common understandings on the country's development priorities and further increase aid effectiveness.



The 2013 High-Level Round Table Meeting in Vientiane, Lao PDR. Photo: Valter Ziantoni/ UNDP Lao PDR

In addition to the Round Table Meetings (RTMs), which have traditionally taken place every three years and which have a

Project Summary:

- Duration: 2011 – 2015
- Geographic coverage: Vientiane Capital
- Focus Area: Poverty Reduction
- Project officer: Ms. Silavanh Vongphosy
- Implementing Partners: Department of International Cooperation, Ministry of Planning and Investment
- Websites:
 - <https://www.rtm.org.la>

major focus on presenting new national development strategies and key policy interventions for support by Development Partners, a range of related consultations have come to play an important role within the overall RTP. These include annual Round Table Implementation Meetings or RTIMs (in years between full RTMs), which annually review the progress of NSEDP implementation, consolidate lessons learned and work to achieve consensus recommendations for accelerating progress. The Provincial Consultations, which provides a platform for linking the national and local level discussion on critical development issues and specific challenges faced at local dimension. The Sector and Thematic Working Groups formed in June 2005 have become the primary locus of coordination at the sector and thematic levels between Government and development partners. Such Sector and Thematic Working Groups now bring together Government, development partners including the Civil Society in ten key areas: Health; Education; Infrastructure; Agriculture and Rural Development, Natural Resource Management and Environment; Governance; Macro-Economics; Trade and Private Sector Development; Mine Action (UXO); and Illicit Drug Control.

Main Objectives and Outcomes

The main objective of this component is to further strengthen the capacity of the Government to lead the effective mobilization and coordination of the Official Development Assistance (ODA) for the achievement of the goals of NSEDP, especially the MDGs and advancing the country towards graduation from LDC status by 2020. This will involve further strengthening the capacity of the Department of International Cooperation (DIC) at MPI in helping the Government lead and facilitate the effective mobilization and coordination of ODA provided by the country's growing number of Development Partners and with the global trend on development cooperation and effectiveness.

Results and Achievements to Date

The RTP project has provided high quality technical supports, as well as financial supports to the Department of International Cooperation (DIC), MPI to ensure successful organization of the results-oriented Round Table mechanism and its related meetings regarding national development priorities and promoting development effectiveness. There are some significant achievements from the project's implementation since June of 2011 to particularly the 2013 High-level Round Table Meeting as following:

- The RTP became more consultative and through the regular discussions and consultations among relevant stakeholders, including Development Partners, Line Ministries and Sector Working Groups. For example, the roadmap for HL RTM was discussed and consulted with both DPs and LMs at the RTP retreat held in February 2013.
- The coordination between SWGs and DIC/MPI, as well as among the SWGs has been improved and became more effective in providing information, reporting and involving in the discussions during the preparation processes of HL RTM. This has been a result from a regular update through the secretariat email communication and through the chair and co-chair of Sector Working Group meetings.
- The Government, particularly the DIC/MPI has gained more experiences and increased capacities in preparing HL RTM and managing high quality constructive dialogue and cooperation with DPs on national development in Lao PDR. This was significantly proved from the quality improvement of analyzed report, review of national development in Lao PDR, and successful 11th HL RTM held on 19-21 November 2013 with the high quality of substantive documentation and reports available for the public through RTP website.

Funding:

- Total Project Budget: US\$ 4,847,350
- Donors:
 - UNDP: US\$ 2,486,135
 - Government of Luxembourg: US\$ 638,863
- Unfunded Budget (Funding Gap): US\$ 1,722,352
- Delivery in previous fiscal year (2013): US\$ 870,342.25

- The RTP has continued to evolve and increasingly inclusive For Civil Society Organisations both international and local were actively participating in the RTIM/RTM meetings and its associated activities including the provincial consultation held in Luang Namtha Province in June 2013.
- The RTP became the mechanism and platform for the the Government and VDCAP Secretariat to enhance the aid effectiveness and make progress on the Vientiane Declaration on Aid Effectiveness (a localized version of the Paris Declaration) and its Country Action Plan (VDCAP). Particularly, the VDCAP was revised to capture key principles of the global development effectiveness forum such as from the Busan.
- The web-based ODA database (Aid Management Platform) was successfully implemented and launched the public interface in November 2013. The functioning of the AMP has helped to improve the availability and accessibility of ODA information, which has significantly strengthened coordination, management, monitoring, and reporting of ODA in Lao PDR.

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