

Community Participation and Communication Support Programme

Scaling-up Community Radio in Lao PDR



Description

The programme will support the wider civil society in Lao PDR through supporting community organisations and helping to scale up community media, strengthening understanding of the equality of women and men and enhancing a positive and non discriminatory portrayal of women. It will also develop local capacity to sustain community media in the longer term. As a result, communities will enjoy better access to information and bottom-up communication channels, allowing them to take informed decisions, express their views, share knowledge and validate their cultures and traditions. Furthermore the programme will support the sustainability of community organisations especially community media organisations. The programme approach has been adopted along the lines of Vientiane Declaration on Aid Effectiveness to ensure better coordination and harmonisation of civil society initiatives in Lao PDR. The purpose is to deepen government - civil society partnership in the line of Accra Agenda for Action, to achieve the MDGs.

Main Objectives and Activities in 2011

The main objective for 2011 is to scale-up community media into new district in Lao PDR by using the lessons learned from the Khoun community radio pilot. It is expected that by the end of 2011, female and male volunteer broadcasters in one new district (Nong Het, Xieng Khouang Province) will be able to broadcast and manage a temporary radio and village speakers, and exchange and coordinate programmes under the guidance of a community radio 'Champion'. It is also expected that by the end of 2011 the main building blocks have been formalized for one new CR in Dachuang district in Sekong province (station board, manager, vision, bylaws, rules, budget admin) and the station is fully equipped and functioning with a broadcasting permit and a station feedback loop is institutionalized. The two already existing community radios in Khoun district, Xieng Khouang Province and Thateng district in Sekong Province are expected to submit their application for registration as community radio association by the end of 2011 and they have a sustainable partnership strategy, board and management in place. Trainings for new female and male volunteers are organised in each station and Khoun and Thateng are expected to provide peer support for other community radios in the country. The programme will also aim to publish practical manuals for the use of community radios and develop a website to share on-line knowledge products. It is also expected that by the end of 2011 pool of community media trainers/facilitators have been trained and strategic plan for community radios has been developed. The programme will also support the design of a monitoring and evaluation system for community media and help to raise awareness of community media among the public and government officials.

Agreement signed with Government

<http://www.undplao.org/whatwedo/programmesdemgov.php#CPCSP>

Duration

Ongoing: February 2011 – December 2014 (4 years)

Location

Vientiane, Xieng Khouang Province & Sekong Province

Budget

Total budget: USD 1,600,000
2011 budget: USD 372,350

Partners

Implementing Partner Ministry of Information and Culture (MoIC)
Responsible Parties: Departments of Information and Culture in Xieng Khouang and Sekong
Other Partners: UNDP, Oxfam Novib

Contributing donor(s)

UNDP core: USD 400,000
Oxfam Novib USD 400,000 (2011-2012)

Delivery

Expenditure from project start date till end of last fiscal year:
N/A

Funding Shortfall

USD 800,000

Key Results, Reports and Publications to date

N/A

Thematic Area

Corporate Thematic Area: Democratic Governance

UNDAF Outcome: Outcome 3.1: Greater individual and community participation in, and contribution to, public policy, local development and nation building

Millennium Development Goal

Goal 1-7: through improved governance and multidirectional information flow about policy and development issues between and within local communities and government

Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women (and ethnic minorities)

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