

Civil Society Support

Enhancing Government Partnership with Social Organisations for Poverty Reduction

Project Description

An active civil society is considered vital to an inclusive, sustainable development process. UNDP has a global policy of support to civil society, mainstreamed through all development activities. In Laos, civil society's ability to contribute to the development process has been constrained by unclear legal frameworks and a corresponding lack of support to the sector.

In 2007 UNDP, in response to a request from the Prime Minister's office, embarked on a programme of assistance to the Public Administration and Civil Service Authority (PACSA) to help drafting a legal framework for civil society in Laos. On 29 April 2009, the Prime Minister approved the *Decree on Associations*, drafted with support from UNDP through this project. This Decree provides the legal framework by which local associations will be able to interact with government and international partners, helping Laos in its effort to achieve the MDGs through creating more local solutions to poverty.

Currently UNDP is working closely with PACSA and other partners to support the implementation period for the Decree – through exposure to best practice in the field of NPA administration, cross-government coordination and workforce planning, PACSA will be supported in its role as administrator of the Decree. UNDP and PACSA are also planning for a second-phase project which will look beyond implementing the decree into a broader programme of support for civil society in Laos.

Main Objectives and Activities in 2009

1. Awareness raising about civil society amongst government and wider society
2. Research on civil society and mapping of CSO activities
3. Establishment of a platform for elected representatives to engage with civil society
4. Support to government in drafting the Decree on Not-For-Profit Associations (CSOs) and implementing guidelines

Agreement signed with Government

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

Key Results, Reports and Publications to date

- Awareness raised about civil society at the highest levels of government, through to local government, through conferences and workshops
- Decree has been finalized and signed by the Prime Minister. PACSA supported in preparation for implementing the decree, including drafting forms, guidelines and manuals on the decree.
- National Assembly members have met with civil society and are sensitized to its importance in poverty reduction

Thematic Area

Corporate Thematic Area: Democratic Governance

UNDAF Outcome: By 2011, strengthened capacities of public and private institutions to fulfill their duties and greater people's participation in governance and advocacy for the promotion of human rights in conformity with the Millennium Declaration

Millennium Development Goals

Goals # 1-7 – Civil Society, as affirmed through the 2008 Accra Agenda for Action, is crucial to poverty reduction efforts

Duration

June 2007 – December 2009

Location

Vientiane Capital

Budget

Total budget: USD 396,836.00

2009 budget: USD 160,000.00

Partners

Implementing Partner: Public Administration and Civil Service Authority

Other Partners: Concern Worldwide

Contributing donor(s)

UNDP: USD 356,836.00

Delivery

Expenditure from project start date till end of 2008: USD 100,255.00

Funding Shortfall

Funding Shortfall: N/A

throughout all of the MDGs. Government's engagement with civil society will help services be more responsive to needs; and will help in reaching the poorest and most remote people.

Contact

UNDP Programme Officer: Ms Sarah Ransom, sarah.ransom@undp.org; ph: +856 (0)21 267726

Project Manager: Mr Ampha Simmasone, Deputy Director General Department of Public Administration Development, Public Administration and Civil Service Authority, Primo Minister's Office

E-mail: pacs@laotel.com