

## Enhancing Access to Justice

### Enhancing Access to Justice through Lao Bar Association (Phase II)

#### Description

The Enhancing Access to Justice through Lao Bar Association Phase II builds on the success and achievements of Phase I and focuses on strengthening the institutional capacity of the Lao Bar Association. While the programme takes a holistic approach aiming at enabling the Lao Bar Association to become a strengthened institution with greater knowledge and capacity, a particular focus is on enhancing access to justice for vulnerable and disadvantaged people and communities.

The main components of the initiative are institutional strengthening, capacity development, public legal education and access to justice through free legal services. Access is provided through free legal aid clinics including mobile clinics placed in some provinces

#### Main Objectives and Activities in 2009

An *Access to Justice Survey and Study* will take place in 2009 under the legal aid component of the project. The survey will provide information about the challenges encountered in accessing justice, especially among ethnic groups, the poor, women and children so that further activities to enhance their access can be planned.

Phase II will also support the Government of Lao PDR in drafting a Law on Lawyers and a Code of Conduct for the legal profession. This is necessary for the continued development and regulation of the legal profession and to provide quality legal services to all Laotians including the poor, vulnerable, and disadvantaged.

#### Agreement signed with Government

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

#### Key Results, Reports and Publications to date

- Legal Aid has opened the first legal aid clinic for the Vientiane region
- Drafting a Law on Lawyer and code of Conduct for the legal profession
- Provided Legal Education through Mass Media such as TV programmes, radio broadcasting, news paper articles, information dissemination on laws through outreach mobile aid clinic teams to various provinces

#### Thematic Area

Corporate Thematic Area: Democratic Governance

UNDAF Outcome: Increased and more equitable access to justice and strengthened rule of law

UNDP Country Programme Action Plan Outcome: Enhanced institutional capacity development of the legal sector to improve the application of the law in an impartial, effective and predicable manner, particularly for women, low-income households and vulnerable.

#### Millennium Development Goals

Goals 1-3: As a cross-cutting issue strengthened governance and in particular improved legal education and access to justice for all Lao People, particularly to vulnerable groups such as the poor, women and ethnic groups contributes to the achievement of all MDGs

#### Contact

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#### Duration

April 2008 to April 2010 (3 years)

#### Location

Vientiane Capital

#### Budget

Total budget: USD 1,260,561

2009 budget: USD 300,174.62

#### Partners

Implementing Partner: Lao Bar Association

Other Partners: UNDP, Asia Foundation,

European Commission (EC) and AusAID

#### Contributing donor(s)

UNDP : USD 600,000

#### Delivery

2008: USD 130,174.62

#### Funding Shortfall

None