

GPAR Saravane Project

**Towards Good Governance and Quality Service Delivery:
Saravane Governance and Public Administration Reform and Decentralized Service
Delivery Project**
Project ID: 00043575/00032148

Project Description

The Saravane Governance and Public Administration Reform and Decentralized Service Delivery Project (GPAR Saravane) sets out to address a complex set of issues all linked, in one way or another, to improved governance and public administration, more coherent decentralization and more effective delivery at local level of appropriate public goods and services.

The project addresses several key issues reflected in United National Development Assistance Framework, notably the need to build institutional and administrative capacity in Lao PDR, where “.. institutional structures and administrative management capacity .. remain weak.” The UNDAF also notes that “..there is a need to develop effective, transparent and accountable operational mechanisms and procedures at all levels .. of the Government.”

Main Objectives and Activities in 2010

The GPAR Saravane Project aims to improve the delivery of public goods and services in Saravane Province. It will input national policy making units on public administration reform, decentralization and poverty reduction. It is a pilot policy project clearly assisting the Government of Lao PDR in the effort to implement its overall governance reform agenda with an overall goal of improved delivery of public goods and services in Saravane Province. The main activities include

- Establishment and application of inclusive and pro-poor planning and budgeting of local public service delivery ;
- Establishment and application of transparent and effective procedures of for sustainable production/delivery of public services;
- Improvement of financing and financial management of local public service provision;
- Rationalizing and resizing the provincial and district administrative organizations on the basis of clearly defined mandates;
- Improvement of HRM procedures and practices (and selected individual capacities);
- Informing national policies on Saravane experiences of decentralization, public administration reform and poverty reduction

Project Document

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

Key Results, Reports and Publications to date

- Continuation of participatory planning process including women participation at provincial, district and village levels, particularly the implementation of DDF investment projects in 6 districts
- Continuation establishment of one door service center (ODS) in the Office of the Governor, Saravane Province under the effort of establishing a model office with the support from GPAR Saravane (waiting for staffing)
- ODS established for Provincial Land Management Office has been implemented successfully and expansion is made to establish another center in Lakhonpheng district
- Implementation of Personnel Information Management System (PIMPS) according to central guidance
- Review of job description and civil servants' performance appraisal with support from PACSA
- Complete workshops on reviewing of decentralization and public administration reform at provincial level , especially dissemination of Government policy on decentralization and PAR
- Endorsement of introduction of organizational structure and functions of the Office of the Governor and districts

Duration

April 2005 – September 2010 (5 years+)

Location

Saravane Province (Southern Part of Laos)

Project budget

Total budget: USD 3,448,040
2010 budget: USD 693,793

Project Partners

Implementing Partner: Office of Governor;
Saravane Province

Contributing donor(s)

UNDP: USD 542,630
UNCDF: USD 2,269,410
EU: USD 636,000 (Euro 500,00)

Project Delivery

Estimated till December 2010: USD3,458,868

Funding Shortfall

None

- Village management training on Law on Local Administration for village heads to improve their office management and administration skills
- In collaboration with Gender Empowerment for Poverty Reduction (GEPR) project conducting Gender Aware Beneficiary Assessment in two pilot districts: Saravane and Ta Oy to assess women participation in development. Study Report is being finalized.
- Several small scale infrastructures have been constructed as a result of DDF implementation in 8 districts (84 District Investment Projects)
- The DDF financial management and budget execution procedures has been developed and piloted in Saravane, and scaled up in Sekong, Xiengkhouang, Oudomxay and Houaphanh provinces under GPAR SBSB
- Capacity building project and financial management for provincial and district authorities through DDF planning budgeting processes.
- Support training on poverty survey module to improve the knowledge and skills on statistics and data collection for district officials
- The study on mechanisms for citizen feedback/complaints was carried out by the Enterprise Development Consultant (EDC) and project support team and provincial line departments in Ta Oy and Saravane Districts. Focus had been made on Education and public health services and the result of Citizen Report Cards (CRC) survey reflected the points of view of villagers on the strengths and weaknesses of the public service delivery.
- Development of and training on internal audit manuals for financial officers from 8 districts
- Conducting a baseline study on public expenditure management and public financial management and data collection on provincial revenue sources in 5 districts
- Dissemination of government policy on decentralization and public administration reform and Prime Minister's decrees and government regulations for district authorities
- Legal framework and action plan for the implementation of PM's order #05 on the district administration structural reform was approved by OoG and implementation started. Overall assessment showed that district authorities devoted all their efforts to implement PMO nos. 39 and 5. It was shown that in some merged offices (i.e. Depts. of finance and planning & investments), the organization structure, roles and responsibilities as well as the TORs of civil servants were clearly defined/ developed.
- Post Mid-term evaluation as part of the GPAR Output & outcome evaluation was completed by the independent consultancy mission in Q3 2009
- Continuation of the development of Communication Strategy and tools
- Conduct Kumban Training on Socio - Economic Development planning for communities

Thematic Area

Corporate Thematic Area: Democratic Governance

UNDAF Outcome 3.3: Increased efficiency, effectiveness, transparency, and accountability of the public administration at both central and local levels.

UNCP/CPAP Outcomes:

Outcome 8: Increased efficiency, effectiveness, transparency and accountability of the public administration at both central and local levels. Output 8.2: Strengthened capacities of provincial and district administration for decentralized planning, management and public service delivery.

Millennium Development Goal

Goals 1-7, through improved governance and accountable use of public resources. Governance and public administration is a cross-cutting theme that supports the provision of public goods and services to country citizens. If all citizens equally and transparently benefit from government services, their livelihood opportunities will improve.

Contact

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