

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 2010

An *Access to Justice Survey and Study* took place at the end of 2009 and will be finalized in mid 2010 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, maintain mobile legal aid clinic as well as conduct Public Legal Education. 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

- Drafting a Law on Lawyer for the legal profession
- Legal Aid has opened the first legal aid clinic for the Vientiane region
- A mobile Legal Aid clinic attends villages in the Vientiane region
- Regular legal, professional conduct and English language trainings delivered for lawyers and interns
- Drafting a Law on Lawyers and a 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 2011 (3 years)

Location

Vientiane Capital

Budget

Total budget: USD 664,000

2010 budget: USD 169,000

Partners

Implementing Partner: Lao Bar Association

Other Partners: The Asia Foundation, European Commission (EC) and AusAID

Contributing donor(s)

UNDP : USD 664,000

Delivery

2008: USD 192,126

2009: USD 302,874

Funding Shortfall

None

