

Gender Rights Are our Rights

Gender Empowerment for Poverty Reduction

Description

Gender equality is necessary for poverty reduction. It is a pre-condition for sustainable development, good governance and peace. Gender equality is also an end itself, grounded in justice and human rights and consistent with the principals, conventions and decrees of the government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR). Despite these policies, mechanisms, strategies and decrees, poverty and gender inequality remains. A major constraint to achieving gender equality and poverty reduction in Lao PDR is limited capacity in the country (human resources, gender awareness, attitudes/behaviour and gender analysis skills). There is also the lack of precise and accurate data, especially sex-disaggregated statistics and relevant gender information.

To help address these issues, UNDP in collaboration with the Lao Women's Union (LWU) have implemented the Gender Empowerment for Poverty Reduction initiative. The long-term development objective of this UNDP support is to achieve gender equality for poverty reduction in Lao PDR. The desired long term impact is to improve the lives of women and men living in poverty, especially those in the poorest districts and among marginalized groups. The medium term goal is to create a more conducive environment and mechanisms for the Government to implement gender-sensitive development for poverty alleviation. The short-term goal is to build gender equality advocacy, planning and resource allocation skills within Lao Women's Union (LWU), National Commission for Advancement of Women (NCAW), Ministry of Planning and Investment (MPI), the National Assembly, and Sector Working Groups, in support of decision-making processes, policy formulations and planning forums.

Main Objectives and Activities

Main Objectives

Three objectives of UNDP support on gender empowerment for poverty reduction are:

- Strengthened capacity of select central and provincial Government actors to effectively mainstream gender equality for poverty reduction into policies, planning, and development activities
- Increased gender equality in participatory planning in select provinces, districts, and villages, local decision-making, resource allocation, and development activities
- Formulation of strategic tools for pro-poor gender sensitive planning, policy formulation and resource allocation and strengthened capacity of GRID (Gender Resource Information and Development) Centres of the Lao Women's Union as a gender mainstreaming

Main Activities in 2009

- Conducting a study on Gender Based Violence in Laos.
- Developing the National Action Plan on Domestic Violence Prevention
- Organizing training to increase awareness and capacity of LWU and Lao NCAW Secretariat on gender budgeting
- Strengthening the gender training network of 96 GRID trainers through providing refresher courses
- Producing gender mainstreaming toolkit for local planning
- Review of the use of sex-disaggregated data

Duration

01 August 2006 to 31 July 2009 (4 years)

Location

National level

Budget

Total budget: USD408,509

Current year budget: : USD150,000

Partners

Implementing Partner: Lao Women's Union (LWU)

Contributing donor(s)

UNDP Resource – USD 408,509

SDC through SNV – Technical Assistance

Delivery

USD408,509

Funding Shortfall

Key Results, Reports and Publications

- Organized gender mainstreaming training for members of National Assembly
- Undertook a gender-aware beneficiary assessment which provided information on gender roles in key decision making processes in collaboration with the Governance Public Administration Reform project in Saravane Province.
- Review of the participatory planning manual of the Ministry of Planning and Investment from a gender lens was conducted in 2008. Recommendations have been provided on how to ensure gender equality in the planning process
- Gender trainer network of 96 gender trainers across line ministries to strengthen advocacy and mainstreaming within line ministries has been revived. The trainers were provided refresher courses to ensure that they are up-to-date with knowledge on gender development, especially on issues such as gender budgeting.
- The gender mainstreaming toolkit for planners at the local level has been developed
- Final draft report on gender based violence produced

Thematic Area

Corporate Thematic Area: Poverty Reduction & MDGs

UNDAF Outcome: outcome 1, By 2011, the livelihoods of poor, vulnerable and food insecure populations are enhanced through sustainable development (within MDG framework)

CP outcome 1.5: Enabled environment for growth with equity;

CP output 3.1: Greater people's and community participation in and contribution to public policy, local development and nation building and;

CP output 3.3: Increased efficiency, effectiveness, transparency, and accountability of the public administration at both central and local levels

Millennium Development Goal

Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger.

Goal 3: Gender Equality and Women Empowerment

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