



Minutes of the Meeting

Local Programme Appraisal Committee Meeting for the Civil Society Support Programme

Date: 3 June, 2011 at 10:00-12:00

Venue: PACSA Meeting Room, Vientiane

Opening:

Dr. Khammoune Viphongxay, Vice Chairperson PACSA:

- CSO play key role in security and development of country, education, health, environment, culture, traditions, poverty reduction;
- All agencies, ministries to understand role, rights and duties of civil society;
- 2009 decree promulgation, yet low awareness and many different views on the role and legal framework; Awareness raising and dissemination is very important;
- Decree on Foundations has been approved in 2011. Support needed to finalise other legal documents related to the Decree;
- Limited capacities and understanding of civil society. Support needed from DPs;
- Awareness raising of public and better understanding of civil servants in central and local levels on civil society required;
- Support to MOFA to implement and disseminate PM Decree 013 on INGOs also part of the Programme;
- Purpose of this meeting is to appraise the programme in order to launch the activities next month.

Mr. Minh Pham, Resident Representative UNDP:

- Greater understanding of civil society in Lao during recent years;
- Beyond mass organizations to a wider understanding of the role of CSO; recognised as a critical pillar for Poverty Reduction, MDGs and LDC graduation;
- Natural division on labour, UNDP supporting enabling environment;
- Other partners encouraged to join the effort;
- Commitment captured of PACSA and MOFA captured in the ProDoc; extensively consulted with partners and stakeholders over the past 2 years;
- Emergence of NPAs is a critical juncture of development of Lao PDR.

Presentation:

Presentation on new CSO Programme by Mr. Ampha Simmasone, Deputy Director General, PACSA Annex 2



Discussion:

Dr. Khammoune, PACSA:

- The programme will concentrate on capacity development of the two departments in PACSA and MOFA and on coordinating civil society initiatives in Lao PDR;
- Many reviews and consultations have already been undertaken, now is the time for final feedback before the ProDoc will be sent to the government for approval and signature. This is happening during an important time since government structure is being re-shuffled; New NA members were elected and the first session of the 7th legislation will be organised in June 2011; new members of government will establish the board and launch the Programme July 1st;
- Overlaps with other Programmes need to be avoided; other initiatives will need to be in line with the CSS programme;

Mr. Khampha Keomanichanh, NPA Network:

- How can NPAs be supported, how can they access donor funding;
- Meetings between NPAs and PACSA should be organised through the programme;
- Public should be more aware of the achievements of NPAs; NPAs should get certificate of merit, this would inspire work of NPAs;
- Requirements for NPAs must be clear;
- Will NPAs be included in the programme board?

Mme. Sousada Phoummasach, Support to an Effective Lao National Assembly (SELNA) Joint Programme:

- Congratulations for the Phase I achievements: Decree on Associations;
- Phase II focus on technical field to implement the Decree;
- New 7th NA has been recently elected; propose building awareness for NA members on civil society in order for the new members to understand the importance of NPAs work;
- Capacity Development can be done jointly with SELNA;
- Intersession Programme to be used as a forum, line ministries are also included;
- Hot line very important, good experience at NA;
- Look closely at real interest of some CSOs since some may not have good intentions;

Dr. Khammoune, PACSA:

- Happy to collaborate with SELNA/NA, awareness raising is one of the objectives of the programme

Prof. Dr. Sayamang Vongsack, Lao Front for National Construction (LFNC):

- Previously (before NPA Decree 2009) NPAs under supervision of LFNC and different ministries;
- Document and presentation very clear; clear objectives, outputs and activities;
- Training needs assessment needs to be conducted; NPAs should also be trained; survey needs assessment of NPAs should be conducted; training needs assessment should be conducted, training curricula, hand books should be developed;
- Harmonization: only MOFA and PACSA mentioned in the prodoc; other department and institutions should also be included;



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- Percentage of international and national technical advisor should be presented;
- Training: staff from provincial and district level also need training;
- Recruit more staff (PACSA) at the local – provincial and district levels, in order to be able to register NPAs more efficiently; Currently LFNC staff are assisting PACSA at the local level to register NPAs.

Mr Inpone Senekhampty, EU Delegation:

- NPA registration, PACSA is the lead organizations;
- INGO registration MOFA is the lead organization;
- However, other ministries are also involved in the registration process;
- Thus, meeting with other line ministries also required.

Ms. Rio Pals, INGO network:

- Happy to see that the programme is starting soon and there is a joint effort to support the enabling environment for CSOs;
- What is the level of involvement of INGOs and NPAs in reviewing the decree in question; to make them more feasible for CSOs;
- NPA guidelines development, can NPAs be part?
- Output 3: Are existing mechanisms of coordination (INGO & NPA networks) taken into account?
- ODA database, link between ODA database and registration data base?

Mr. Remy Duiven, Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC):

- Capacity of PACSA and MOFA to interact with CSO needs to be enhanced;
- Programme idea was initially very broad – currently well targeted and complementary to what other actors will do;
- SDC has interest in supporting this Programme but also support to CSOs directly;
- This targets the enabling environment for CSOs; INGOs will support NPAs directly;
- SDC support is limited to the first output/PACSA;
- Does the programme have an intention to analyze the implementation of the decree?
- Results orientation and targets/broad objectives, link to registration of NPAs is not obvious, link needs to be made clearer;
- Are DPs included in the Programme Board?
- Output 3: Interaction between NPAs and government included?

Ms. Gretchen Kunze, The Asia Foundation (TAF):

- Others activities are also ongoing i.e. EC request for proposals, TAF, CORD, INGO network also provide inputs;
- Provide more opportunities to link, meet and comment;

Mr. Morakot Vongxay, Department of International Cooperation (DIC), Ministry of Planning and Investment:

- Budget comment, 1.3 m total, 0.4 + 0.6 = 1 m only, what is happening to gap?
- Some activities are similar, could be merged Target 1.5 and 2.2 to avoid duplications;
- management arrangements, PACSA and MOFA on mutual agreement, clear job description for the board, define each level; MPI should be in the board;
- How many people are involved in administration;



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- Expert TA, Advisor? Short and or long term needed?
- Page 30, why are there different salary scales for drivers and admin officers?
- P. 62 'project' should be changed to 'programme';
- P. 62, reference to Khoun Radio should be deleted;
- Start 1st July, need to be submitted early for approval;
- NIM project will provide policy advice to the new staff in the programme;

Dr. Khammoune, PACSA:

- Advisor shared with the Community Participation and Communication Support Programme in 25/75 basis (75% CSSP). Therefore reference to Khoun Radio on p. 62.

Mr. Sengkeo Phouangpadith, INGO Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs:

- Page 14, decree No 13 (new number, should be changed), before official signature;
- Budget: propose page 23 matrix, cost of TA has increased from previous versions – less budget for activities;
- Amount allocated for advisor, can it be revised again?
- Page 59: should promote Lao language, should be Lao/English
- Page 65: IT software communication skills, should have programmer skills (CTA)
- Reply to MPI comment: overlap of activities may seem (1.5 & 2.2), but separate degrees so cannot be merged.
- Reply to LNFC comment: we can work together on coordination.

Mr. Morakot, DIC:

- One or two IPs? Who will sign the Annual Work Plan?

Mr. Ampha Simmasone, Deputy Director General, PACSA:

- responding to questions: Will consider all of them;
- NPA & INGO involvement is not forgotten even though it is not identified separately in the Prodoc; they will be always invited to meetings regarding Decrees and Guidelines; We will try to make sure that this is reflected in the Prodoc;
- NA representative's comments regarding training and awareness raising of NA members is appreciated; Programme will link with NA and SELNA Programme;
- Programme Board – level of seniority will be determined;
- Agree with LNFC comments – training to understand the role of CSOs in the provincial level required; CSS programme will coordinate with LNFC through the coordination mechanism;
- Other ministries are also involved in the programme, however PACSA and MOFA are the leading Agents;
- International TA is to support in revising the decrees;
- Agree with MPI comments; Prodoc will be revised accordingly;
- MOFA's comment on TA expenses – difficult to reduce;
- Comments from international colleagues will be taken into consideration;

Ms. Kyoko Yokosuka, UNDP:

- Prodoc developed together with PACSA and MOFA;



- Programme Board p.47 – standard design of UNDP PB; Programme beneficiaries will be added to the board; PB can work more as a coordination mechanism, serving beyond this Programme – providing a forum of discussion (as suggested by TAF);
- Resource gap is not too high (300,000); UNDP is confident that necessary resources will be mobilized;
- The implementing partner of this Programme is PACSA; MOFA will work closely with PACSA;

Mr. Dirk Wagener, UNDP:

- Division of labour INGO = Capacity Development for NPAs, UNDP and others (also INGOs) concentrate on enabling environment;
- Even with enabling environment we cannot address all needs but there are other partners such as TAF and CORD;
- Cost of TA will be shared between two programmes; only 75% will be charged to the CSS Programme, thus budget has been minimized, TA cost is very low as compared to other projects;
- Reply to DIC comment: Only one admin officer and one driver; cost is shared between different components of the programme; Also national Capacity Development officer included in the programme design.

Closing Remarks:

Mr. Minh Pham, RR, UNDP:


- Programme has a focus on PACSA and MOFA, natural division of labour and providing a coordination forum for civil society initiatives;
- Discussion on how to work with INGOs a NPAs on policy advise and research will be increased through the Programme.

Dr. Khammoune, PACSA:

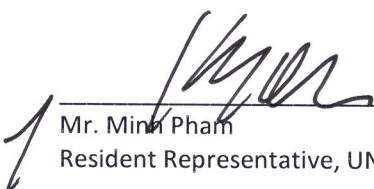
- Thanks to all for useful comment – they will considered and the prodoc will be finalized for signature by 1 July, 2011 in order to launch the programme;
- TAF has also expressed interest to work with PACSA – further discussions are required in order to avoid duplication;
- Poverty reduction in Laos requires an increased number of CSOs and enhanced capacity of them to work towards the goals set in the NSED.

The programme was endorsed/approved in principle by all participants. The final Programme Document – after incorporation of all comments and suggestions received during the LPAC - shall be submitted for governance clearance and subsequent signature immediately.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:00



Dr. Khammoune Viphongxay
Vice Chairperson, PACSA



Mr. Minh Pham
Resident Representative, UNDP 20/June/2011

Annex 1: List of Participants

Annex 2: Presentation on CSS Programme