



**Government of Lao People's Democratic Republic**

**United Nations Lao PDR**

**Programme ID 00069660  
SUPPORT TO AN EFFECTIVE LAO  
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (SELNA)**

**ANNUAL PROGRAMME REPORT  
(APR)**

**Reporting period: January to December 2011**

## I. PROGRAMME INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

<b>Programme number and title:</b>	00069660 UN Joint Programme on Support to an Effective Lao National Assembly or SELNA
<b>Implementing Partner:</b>	National Assembly of Lao PDR
<b>Responsible Parties (if applicable):</b>	National Assembly Cabinet, Departments and Committees
<b>Donors:</b>	UN Partner Agencies (UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNIFEM, UNAIDS, UNODC) European Commission, German Government, and the Singapore Government

Project Starting date		Project completion date	
Originally planned	Actual	Originally planned	Current estimate
01/01/2009	01/01/2009	31/12/2012	31/12/2012

<b>Period covered by this report:</b>	January to December 2011
<b>Date of annual review:</b>	23 March 2012

Total Budget	Original Budget (US\$)	Latest Signed Revision (US\$)
	4,125,000	2,911,461

Resources	Donor	Amount
	UNDP	1,213,012
	UN WOMEN	100,000
	UNICEF	90,000
	UNFPA	50,000
	UNODC	10,000
	UNAIDS	73,449
	EC	1,375,000

Summary of expenditure for period covered by this report	Amount (US\$)	
	2011 Approved Budget (based on revised project document)	US\$ 760,407
	2011 Available Budget	US\$ 518,516.32
	2011 Total expenditure (From Pre-Final CDR)	US\$ 518,516.32

## II. PURPOSE

The Constitution of Lao PDR, adopted in 1991 and amended in 2003, designates the National Assembly as the highest organ of the State, vested with representative, legislative and oversight functions. As such, the National Assembly has a pivotal role in the national policy with wide ranging duties and responsibilities. The capacity of the National Assembly to fulfil its constitutional mandate has increased over the years. Despite these significant achievements, the NA is still a young institution.

Since the late-1990s, UN agencies have provided technical support to the National Assembly. In 2007 the National Assembly undertook a strategic assessment of its own development priorities for the period 2008-2020. The findings were developed by the National Assembly into a concept note for coordinated international development cooperation. The United Nations responded to this request by proposing a Joint Programme of support to the National Assembly. The Joint Programme approach presents a unified work plan and budget, which coordinates inputs from all development partners under a common management arrangement. It seeks to increase aid effectiveness by improving coordination in the delivery of resources, while avoiding duplication and gaps. It also supports national ownership by explicitly aligning development assistance to national priorities.

The programme seeks to strengthen the capacities of the National Assembly and its staff to improve the quality of services provided to parliamentarians and their constituents, as well as building the capacities of MPs to exercise the oversight function and to influence policy making in order to enable this institution to fully contribute to a truly participatory and representative democracy.

As a foundation for legislative appraisal and oversight functions, the programme provides Members and technical staff in committee departments with improved knowledge and awareness of relevant sectoral issues. Key activities include awareness-raising workshops on national and international policy and development issues, assisting Committees to access national and international expertise, gender sensitization, harnessing internet technology to promote information exchange between Members dispersed across the country, and establishing an induction programme for new members.

To increase representation of its citizens, the Programme seeks to provide capacity building for Members and Staff of Constituency offices on their representative role; promote public access to the National Assembly building; strengthen the processing, monitoring and reporting of public petitions; and strengthen the processing, monitoring and reporting of public complaints.

Parliamentary services will be strengthened to ensure that that National Assembly is able to efficiently and effectively discharge its political responsibilities. Capacity gaps in the office of the National Assembly will identified and addressed through the introduction of a performance-based human resource development system, and the establishment of annual training plans. Information services will be strengthened through the development of ICT infrastructure and skills, as well as through improvements in existing research, reference and archiving facilities, and through development of the parliamentary library. Finally, training and other capacity building related to planning, coordination, monitoring and reporting will be delivered to National Assembly staff members acting as focal points for programme activities in each department.

The National Assembly as Implementing Partner is responsible and accountable for managing the programme, including the monitoring and evaluation of programme interventions, achieving programme outputs, and for the effective use of donor resources.

The Programme contributes to UNDAF Outcome 3: “By 2011, strengthened capacities of public and private institutions to fulfil their duties and greater people’s participation in governance and advocacy for the promotion of human rights in conformity with the Millennium Declaration.”

The Programme contributes to the achievement of all MDGs through strengthening the legislative, representative and oversight functions of parliament – functions that help ensure necessary legislation is put in place, adequate budgets are allocated, and government agencies take necessary actions to realize MDG targets. Additionally, the Programme specifically supports the achievement of MDG 3 (Gender Equality) and the associated Indicator 12 (proportion of seats held by women in National Parliament) through gender awareness activities with Members and specific activities with female Members.

The National Assembly performs an important role in approving the NSEDP, monitoring its implementation, approving related state budget allocations and putting in place supporting legislation. Towards this end, the Programme organises capacity-building workshops with Members to enable them to effectively engage in dialogue on development issues and to monitor Government implementation of the NSEDP.

### III. PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE AND RESULTS

#### 1. Contribution to the strategic goals

##### **Outcome: Enhanced parliamentary capacity for exercising legislative, oversight and representative duties.**

##### **Progress towards achieving outcome:**

Since 2009, capacity development to improve legislative functions has contributed in the increase of legislative activities of the National Assembly, as shown by the increasing number of laws drafted and adopted, from an average of from 3-5 laws in the 6<sup>th</sup> legislature to 5-8 laws in the 7<sup>th</sup> legislature. Legislative session days per year have also steadily increased during the period 2006-2011. Due to on-going reorganization in 2011, NA Committees have taken on an enhanced role and are becoming more active in reviewing, appraising and contributing to draft legislation, with a system of ad-hoc committees established for each draft law. NA Committees conducted regular meetings with line ministries wherein ministers are required to report on the status of the draft laws and other issues. Major NA capacity development workshops such as intersession programmes and law review seminars were good venues to review the draft laws and discuss other priority development issues. Further, the NA organized more public consultations with constituencies to orient and get feedback from them on draft and adopted laws. Comments and feedback are presented and incorporated into the draft laws, which are deliberated during NA sessions.

The role of the NA in law review has significantly improved and the bills passed are substantially amended from the original drafts prepared by the line ministries. A total of 92 laws were adopted as of December 2011. During the inaugural session of the 7th legislature, the law on taxation was amended. For the next five years, the National Assembly planned to approve a total of 90 laws, which includes 48 laws to be elaborated, and 42 laws to be amended.

The National Assembly has conducted a successful election on 30 April 2011. There was a 99.6% voter turnout (out of 3.2M registered voters) at more than 6,300 polling stations throughout the nation's 17 constituencies. Of the 190 candidates, 132 were elected as the Members of the National Assembly. Out of the 132 elected Members, 90 are new parliamentarians, making 68% of the total NA Membership. Only 33 out of the 47 women parliamentarians were elected, which is 25% of the total NA Membership. The highest position in the National Assembly is held by a female parliamentarian and there are 8 female parliamentarians holding positions as Presidents and Vice Presidents of Committees and other senior level positions in Committees and Departments. Overall, the Lao National Assembly continues to have one of the highest numbers of female parliamentarians in the Southeast Asian region.

Petitions from citizens are now better handled especially during NA sessions. The NA is being capacitated to become an efficient mediator on a number of issues of public interests. The NA tries to improve its petition system by improving its mechanisms, capacities and structure. In 2011, a total of 446 petitions were received while a total of 172 calls were received through the hotline system during NA sessions. However, operation of all-year round NA hotline is still being considered given limitations in resources and staff. Public access to laws has been sustained and the NA circulates, with SELNA support, all laws immediately after their promulgation. Copies of the laws are provided to line ministries, provinces, districts and NA constituencies' offices. Laws in Lao and English versions are available online through the NA website. The NA is also working hard to improve the public's understanding of its roles and activities. Only 70% of NA plenary sessions proceedings are being broadcasted by TV and radio. Media coverage of 4 Committee meetings and activities are featured in major newspapers and NA radio as well. In 2011, a weekly one-hour NA radio has started broadcasting nationwide.

Upgrading the parliamentary support services, which include the secretariat, human resources, IT system, research, media, and library systems, are crucial to the National Assembly's long-term future. Most of the NA staff have improved their knowledge and skills in coordination, desk-research, note-taking, protocol, and reporting techniques etc. Selected senior staff are currently taking intensive language courses to improve their English skills. The NA also regularly conducts orientation programs for incoming NA staff and IT programs for NA Members and staff.

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Annual outputs and indicators	Key activities completed during reporting period	Expenditures <sup>1</sup> (estimates)	Progress towards achieving outputs and targets achieved against indicators	Reasons if progress below target and response strategies
<b>Output 1. Members of the NA and Committee Departments have the necessary skills and capacities to review policy, legislative and budgetary issues and more effectively oversee their implementation.</b>				
<b>1.1. Members and Committee Department staff have improved knowledge and awareness of relevant sectoral and technical issues</b>				
<p><b>1.1.1.</b> Awareness-raising activities for Members and Committees on topical sectoral and policy issues</p> <p><b>Target:</b> Members and staff have increased knowledge and awareness of sectoral and policy issues.</p> <p><b>Indicators:</b> - 80% of Members and 80% of Committee Department Staff. participate in at least one awareness-raising workshop every year by 2012 - 75% of participants report that workshops were relevant and provided useful information.</p> <p><b>Baselines:</b> Legislative sessions are only 30 working days each year; pre-session workshops of 2-3 days were conducted in previous NA</p>	<p>1.1.1a Intersession Programme</p> <p>The NA organized an intersession programme for Members and Staff from 7-10 November in Electricity Camp, Thalat. A total of 180 Members and Staff including resource speakers, representatives of line ministries and observers participated in the 4 day programme. Around 82 out of 132 Members which is almost 70% of the NA Members participated in this important event.</p> <p>Intersession programme are specifically designed for all Members of the National Assembly to raise their awareness on important developmental issues to equip them to play a key role in promoting and achieving the MDGs in Lao PDR. The theme and focus of the intersession programme in November 2011 focused on the progress and challenges in achieving the MDGs and the role of the National Assembly. Further, special topic were included in the agenda such as the impacts of recent floodings, quality of education and reforms in remote villages, as well as briefing orientation from NA Committees on pending legislations to be deliberated during the 2<sup>nd</sup> NA Ordinary Session, as requested by the NA President, H.E. Mdm. Pany Yathothou,.</p>	<p>Output 1 expenditures US\$ 255,070.01</p>	<p>Output 1.1.1</p> <p>At least 80% of NA Members and Staff participated in at least one awareness raising workshop on relevant development issues. One major capacity development activity that involved all NA Members and Staff is the intersession programmes. Intersession programmes have capacitated NA Members to discuss policies and scrutinise legislations and bills effectively and in more detail in order to prepare them for the next NA sessions. This activity also strengthened the role of National Assembly Committees in terms of legislative appraisal and oversight in order to promote their involvement in the legislative drafting process at an earlier stage. Furthermore, the intersession programmes provided a good venue for government agencies, UN agencies, development partners and other stakeholders to engage and interact with National Assembly Members. Overtime, it is expected that intersession programmes will become part of the</p>	<p>ACHIEVED</p>

<sup>1</sup> Figures are tentative until Financial Report is submitted

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<p>project and was organized 2-3 days before an NA session, giving limited time for NA Members to fully analyze issues.</p>	<p>An internal briefing by H.E. Mr. Alounkeo Kittikhoune, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs was provided to Members of the National Assembly on the progress and results of the UN General Assembly Meeting in September 2011 in New York and latest updates on the ratification process of the pending international conventions. Topics discussed were very timely and important especially now that the National Assembly is setting its legislative priorities for the 7th Legislature.</p> <p>A knowledge fair/booth was organized during the intersession where various UN Agencies, GIZ and LINK-Rights (NGO) displayed and disseminated their knowledge products to all participants. Publications, programme and project briefs, posters, DVD/CD copies and other relevant information materials were provided to Members and Staff of the National Assembly during the Intersession Programme.</p>		<p>National Assembly's regular function, leading to four ordinary sessions per year.</p> <p>Aside from intersession programmes, individual Committees have implemented awareness raising workshops focusing on their own sectoral area. In 2011, the NA Economic, Planning and Finance Committee organized three workshops on budget appraisal and oversight, which involved all NA Members and staff including staff from the 17 constituency offices. A final handbook on "State Budget and the Role of Parliament" was drafted and disseminated among NA Members to serve as resource document in support of their oversight role of government budgets and programs.</p>	
	<p>1.1.1b1 Economic Law Review Conference</p> <p>An Economic Law Review Conference was organized by the NA Economic, Planning and Finance Committee from 29-30 March 2011 at the Lao Plaza Hotel, Vientiane Capital. A total of 85 participants including parliamentarians and NA staff participated in the conference and discussed national and legislative priorities and plans on economic matters. Important topics presented and discussed by international and national experts from line ministries and the international development community included an overview of the issues and challenges of the 7<sup>th</sup> NSEDP, legislative priorities in the areas of Finance and Economy (i.e. taxation,</p>		<p>Further, 80-90% of workshop participants reported that these workshops were relevant and provided useful information to help them perform better their legislative functions.</p> <p>Over the years, the NA has increasingly recognized the importance of improving its access to national and international expertise to deepen their understanding of developmental issues and improve legislative capacities. More locally-based resource speakers and experts are being sourced from government agencies; academia and international experts are</p>	<p>ACHIEVED</p>

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	<p>state budget, state asset management, insurance, customs, banking and securities markets, WTO accession, and ASEAN economic blueprint commitments among others); and legislative priorities in Natural Resources Management (i.e. mining, energy, water, land and forest sector among others).</p> <p>Workshop recommendations on these topics are expected to improve understanding to guide NA Members and Staff in prioritizing important legislations to be carried out in the next legislature to address national development priorities. This conference was also co-supported by the USAID/LUNA-Lao project.</p>		<p>able to provide global perspectives or analysis on relevant issues. The aim is to help provide the legislature with better information, which can help support them in their law making and appraisal responsibilities. By using increasing numbers of local experts will, over time help to develop and sustain local capacity development in Lao.</p>	
	<p>1.1.1.b2 Workshops on Budget structure and procedures and the Role of the National Assembly for NA Members, Staff and constituency offices(with a session on gender budgeting)</p> <p>The NA Economy, Planning and Finance Committee conducted two workshops on “Budget Structure and Procedures and the Role of the National Assembly” from 3-5 August in Luang Prabang and 25-26 August in Thakhek. Gender budgeting was also included as one of the session topics. Members of the Committee and Staff from the National Assembly, constituency offices and provincial administration participated in the workshops, wherein a total of 74 participants attended in Luang Prabang while 115 participants took part in the Thakhek workshop. Government representatives and resource speakers were at vice-minister level. The workshops were co-supported by GIZ.</p>			<p>ACHIEVED</p>



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	<p>In the Luang Prabang workshop, an expert from UN Women presented the topic on gender budgeting and how parliamentarians can contribute effectively in achieving the MDGs. As a follow-up, the National Assembly will conduct further workshops on this topic since they find it very useful to enhance their knowledge in budget oversight.</p> <p>According to the workshop evaluation, the majority of the participants stated that the workshops increased their understanding about the state budget, budget procedures and the roles of the National Assembly.</p> <p>The manual on “State budget and Parliament – Handbook for members and staff of the National Assembly of the Lao PDR”, drafted with a support from the SELNA CIM Expert/Parliamentary Expert assigned to the EPF Committee, has been circulated as a reference document for NA Members during the workshops.</p>			
	<p>1.1.1.b3 Economic law review workshop on taxation, customs, telecommunications and SMEs</p> <p>The NA Economic, Finance and Planning Committee, in collaboration with the World Bank, USAID LUNA and SELNA, organized an economic law review workshop from 10-12 October 2011 at Don Chan Palace, Vientiane Capital. Around 60 participants attended composed of Members of the EPFC, representatives of the Law Committee, Ethnic Committee and Social Committee, staff of the National Assembly, representatives of the respective Ministries/Agencies, State Audit</p>			<p>ACHIEVED</p>

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	<p>Institution, and the Lao Chamber of Commerce.</p> <p>This workshop aimed to prepare the EFPC in its review of pending economic legislation to be reviewed in the next NA ordinary session. These included laws on taxation, development of Small &amp; Medium sized Enterprises (SMEs), telecommunications and customs and addressing regulation mechanisms and monitoring or oversight of government programs. The workshop was instrumental in providing a good opportunity for Members of the National Assembly to deliberate about these issues with representatives of the government and other experts. This enabled the Parliamentarians to deepen their understanding to guide them in improving the legislation in the future.</p>			
<p><b>1.1.2.</b> Committees and Departments have increased access to national expertise</p> <p><b>Target:</b> Committees and departments have increased access to national &amp; international expertise.</p> <p><b>Indicators:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 8 analytical papers drafted by 2012</li> <li>- 12 internships of 2 months each completed</li> <li>- 16 Members and 16 staff participate in international exchange visits</li> </ul>	<p>1.1.2.b Internship programme at the NA for Lao university students/graduates</p> <p>Four graduate students completed their 12 months internship programme with the NA Mass Media Department and IT Unit.</p>		<p>Output 1.1.2</p> <p>4 graduates completed their 12 month internship program with NA Mas Media Department and IT Unit. The internship program provided an opportunity for students to gain valuable working experience within a unique institution the Lao PDR National Assembly.</p>	<p>ACHIEVED</p>
	<p>1.1.2.c Learning Exchange with South Korean Legal Research Institute</p> <p>The NA Law Committee participated in a study mission on legal affairs with the Korean Legislative Studies Institute of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea from 22-25 August 2011 in Seoul, South Korea. A total of 7 NA participants led by Dr. Davone Vangvichith, President of the NA Law Committee took part in this important mission.</p>		<p>Due to pressure on the budget, only one international exchange visit was organized in 2011 with the NA Law Committee. This has fostered closer partnerships and cooperation with the South Korean Parliament especially in organizing future exchange visits focusing on sharing experiences in legislative best</p>	<p>ACHIEVED</p>

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<p>- 4 staff complete month-long in international training attachments</p> <p><b>Baselines:</b> Limited opportunities for exchange visits and long-term training for NA Members and Staff; limited access of students/graduates to work with NA.</p>	<p>The study program aimed at upgrading the secretariat skills of the NA Law Committee Staff on legal affairs such as law-making and amendment; oversight of law enforcement; law interpretation; and law dissemination. Participants of the study program are expected to adopt these skills and knowledge in their work functions as secretariat especially in this 7<sup>th</sup> Legislature, when the NA plans to draft 48 laws and 42 amendments in the next 5 years.</p> <p>As a follow-up, the South Korean Legal Institute Director plans to visit Laos and make a presentation on legal affairs for NA Members during the Intersession Programme in March 2012.</p>		<p>practices. Such collaborations help build and enhance the capacity of a legislative body to fulfill its key role.</p>	
<p><b>1.1.4.</b> Members elected to the VII Legislature are rapidly operational</p> <p><b>Target:</b> Members elected to the VII Legislature are rapidly operational.</p> <p><b>Indicators:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- All female NA candidates trained on campaigning techniques during 2011.</li> <li>- All newly elected Members receive Orientation training in 2011 and 80% of participants report it to be beneficial.</li> <li>- All elected members receive a new-Member's</li> </ul>	<p>1.1.4 a1 Workshops for Members and staff on topical development-related issues- Training of Women Candidates on Campaigning Techniques and the Role of the National Assembly in Gender Equality</p> <p>The NA Cabinet organized a Training of Women Candidates from 28-29 March 2011 at ICTC, KM 5, Vientiane Capital. This two day training for women candidates running for the 7<sup>th</sup> legislature aimed at increasing female representation in parliament by providing critical support to all female candidates running for seat in the 2011 elections. Female candidates were also trained in campaigning techniques to enable them to compete more effectively. All 47 female candidates participated in this important training. An expert from UN Women provided a presentation on best practices and advice on campaigning techniques in the Philippines.</p>		<p>During the period leading up to the April 2011 elections, the NA organized two day training for women candidates aimed at increasing women's representation in parliament. The training was designed to help support and prepare the female candidates running for election in the 2011 elections. Given the timing of the training special focus was made about the best practices in campaigning with the aim of helping the women to compete more effectively.</p> <p>Female candidates were provided with the opportunity to better understand the role of women in parliaments, to promote equal opportunity policy and legislation, and to help enhance a more gender sensitive approach in law-making and governmental scrutiny. This training</p>	<p>ACHIEVED</p>

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<p>Handbook in 2011.</p> <p><b>Baselines:</b> Unavailability of new Members' handbook; limited capacity development for new Members upon assumption to office; 68% of total membership of the 7th Legislature are new Members (2011 data).</p>	<p>There is a total of 190 candidates, out of which 47 are women, running for a total of 132 seats nationwide.</p>		<p>was also a form of affirmative action to improve female candidates campaigning techniques and skills to ensure a strong representation of women in the NA. But on a broader canvas to help contribute to the furtherance of women's empowerment in Lao PDR.</p>	
	<p>1.1.4 a2 Induction Training Programme for Members' of the VII legislature (elected in 2011)</p> <p>The National Assembly organized a two-day Induction Training Programme for 87 new NA Members from 18-19 August 2011 at the Lao-ITECC Main Conference Hall, Vientiane Capital. About 68% of the total NA Membership or 90 out of 132 seats are new Members or are considered first time parliamentarians. The new parliamentarians were briefed about important topics geared to help improve their understanding and knowledge about their key legislative, oversight, and representational roles. Seasoned NA Members served as key trainers, speakers and in effect, mentors during the two day training.</p> <p>The NA also invited a Member of the German Bundestag, Mdm. Elisabeth Winkelmeier-Becker, to provide her insights and experiences as a parliamentarian in Germany, which was well-received by the participants.</p>		<p>The National Assembly elections were conducted successfully in 30 April 2011 with a registered 99.6% voters' turnout. 132 out of 190 candidates were voted for seats in the National Assembly. Among those elected, 68% are first-time parliamentarians. Although only 33 women were elected as NA Members or 25% of the NA membership, which is lower than the targeted number of women Members, 30% of the total Membership there are encouraging signs that the support provided helped improve the odds for women to move into politics.</p> <p>Almost 99% of new members received orientation training on the role of NA and their responsibilities as parliamentarians. Based on the workshop evaluation, 95% found the training program very useful but too short. They requested a longer, more intensive orientation to be organized in the future. Overall, there was good feedback from participants about the presentations and topics covered. Most Members found the presentation on the representative role</p>	<p>ACHIEVED</p>

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			extremely useful and planned to adopt the best practices and ideas when visiting and working in their constituencies.	
<b>1.2. The National Assembly's capacity for formal and substantive involvement in law making and monitoring is improved and procedurally institutionalised.</b>				
<p><b>1.2.3 Assist the Committees in drafting and/or reviewing legislation on specific topics.</b></p> <p><b>Target:</b> Committees are enabled to undertake detailed appraisals of draft laws and law amendments.</p> <p><b>Indicators:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 4 authoritative assessments of proposed legislation are produced by Committee Departments each year.</li> <li>- 4 audits completed of existing policy/legislation by 2012.</li> </ul> <p><b>Baselines:</b> Law making procedures needs to be institutionalized; Improvements in monitoring techniques of draft laws and amendments within NA; Limited capacities of NA</p>	<p>1.2.3 a On-desk support by CIM experts to Committees in drafting/ reviewing bills</p> <p>The CIM expert/Parliamentary Advisor assigned to the NA Cultural &amp; Social Affairs I Committee provided technical and advisory assistance as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preparation of the 5-Year Work plan of the Social and Cultural Affairs Committee.</li> <li>• Assisted members of the Women's Parliamentary Caucus in their presentations at the AIPA Seminar on "Accelerating the Achievements of MDG5 -Role of Women Parliamentarians" in Phnom Penh, Cambodia from 9-12 March 2011.</li> <li>• Assisted NA members of the Social &amp; Cultural Affairs Committee in the presentations during the World Bank's Conference on East Asia Development (CEAD) 2011 in Singapore from 21-22 March.</li> <li>• Supported drafting a proposal submitted by the LAPPD of the National Assembly to the UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women. The proposal aimed to support the process of development and enforcement of a Lao legislation to combat</li> </ul>		<p>Output 1.2.3</p> <p>The National Assembly conducted several law review workshops, which consisted of in-depth reviews of laws and amendments to be passed during the NA sessions. The role of the NA in law review has significantly improved and the bills passed were substantially amended from the original drafts that were prepared by the line ministries. Over 19 laws were adopted and amended since 2009. For each of the 19 laws, assessment reports to include main recommendations and relevant issues are produced in the law review seminars. Public consultations on drafts laws are being institutionalized as part of law making and appraisal process.</p> <p>Draft law on laws is currently pending with the Ministry of Justice and will be deliberated in the 3<sup>rd</sup> National Assembly Session in 2012. The draft law on laws outlined key procedures and mechanisms in law making and appraisal between the NA and Executive branch.</p>	ACHIEVED

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<p>Committees to undertake impact analyses and policy review.</p>	<p>gender-based violence, as well as support the Lao Assembly Members to play an important advocacy role drawing attention to GBV in the 7<sup>th</sup> Legislature.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assisted the development of a roadmap and next steps on monitoring HIV/AIDS legislation and development of the proposed GBV/DV legislation.</li> <li>• Assisted in the development of a Terms of Reference and concept note on Legal Review Assessment of the Lao Legislation on Gender Based Violence.</li> <li>• Assisted in organizing the LAPPD elections from 1-2 September, Thalat, Vientiane Province,</li> <li>• Assisted in the submission of an expression of interest (EoI) submitted by the National Assembly for the Global Fund on HIV/AIDS.</li> <li>• Coordinated the drafting of a handbook on HIV/AIDS for parliamentarians.</li> <li>• Provided technical assistance in preparing briefing and presentation materials for Prof. Dr. Phonthep Pholsena, President of Social-Cultural Affairs Committee and President of the Lao Association of Parliamentarians on Population and Development for his participation in the conference entitled “Parliamentarians’ Capacity Building Project on Accountability and Aid implementation for Population and Development issues” Part III last 25-27 September 2011 in Tokyo, Japan</li> </ul> <p>The CIM expert/Parliamentary Advisor assigned to the NA Economic, Finance and Planning Committee provided technical and advisory assistance on the</p>		<p>To support 2 NA Committees in its appraisal and monitoring of legislations, two CIM Experts/ Parliamentary Advisors provided advisory and technical assistance to the NA Socio-Cultural Affairs Committee and the NA Economic Affairs Committee. CIM Experts were able to provide updated information and good practices based on their experience and knowledge.</p> <p>Further, the Socio-Cultural Committee is currently conducting a legal assessment of Lao legislation on the proposed Gender Based Violence and Domestic Violence law for Lao PDR, which eventually could lead to the drafting of draft law on Gender-Based Violence and Domestic Violence in 2012. An assessment report will be completed by the UN Women international expert in March 2012.</p>	
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	<p>following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drafted a report about the Economic Law Review Conference conducted in March 2011 and other additional activities related to this field.</li> <li>• Reviewed the amended Tax Law, particularly on the administration of excise taxes on imported goods.</li> <li>• Organized two workshops on Budget Oversight and the Role of the NA for the EPF Committee.</li> <li>• Assisted in organizing the workshop on taxations, customs, telecommunications and SMEs.</li> <li>• Finalized the resource manual about the State Budget and Parliaments.</li> </ul> <p>The CIM Expert (Mr. Dirk Diedrichs) assigned to the Economic, Planning and Finance Committee has completed his contract as Parliamentary Advisor last 15 October 2011. Recruitment of another CIM Expert to replace Mr. Diedrichs is still ongoing.</p>			
	<p>1.2.3.b Law Review Seminars</p> <p>The NA Law Committee organized a 3-day Law Review Seminar in Bolikhamxay Province from 13-15 October 2011. A total of 140 participants including 57 NA Members participated in this seminar to review 3 amended laws and 1 new law namely, law on lawyers, law on hygiene, disease prevention and health promotion, law on drugs and medical equipment, and law on national library.</p> <p>Regular review of the draft laws aimed to prepare</p>			<p>ACHIEVED</p>

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	<p>NA Members and Staff for the intensive review and debate during NA plenary sessions. At the seminar, NA Members and Staff received comments and recommendations about how to improve draft laws from representatives of line ministries and other experts. NA Members from 17 constituency offices also organized public consultations at constituency level and with local officials to discuss the laws and receive feedback, which is then forwarded to the concerned sub-committees responsible for the law. Comments and recommendations from the public consultations are analyzed and considered when drafting or amending laws to be deliberated in NA plenary sessions.</p>			
<p><b>1.2.4 Assist the Committees to scrutinize policy and monitor the implementation and enforcement of legislation (including secondary legislation).</b></p> <p><b>Target:</b> Strengthened oversight of policy effectiveness and law implementation/enforcement.</p> <p><b>Indicators:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- NA Standing Committee approves a strategy for strengthened oversight by 2012</li> </ul>	<p>1.2.4.d Assist Committees in monitoring the implementation of legislation</p> <p>The NA Cultural &amp; Social Affairs Committee organized a knowledge exchange with UNAIDS, UNFPA, and CHAS to discuss future cooperation as well as design a roadmap about the implementation and enforcement of the HIV/AIDS law. As a result of this activity, a 5-year work plan was developed by CSA Committee, which included a comprehensive review of the HIV/AIDS law to be undertaken during 2012.</p> <p>The finalization of the HIV/AIDs handbook for parliamentarians is still pending awaiting CHAS inputs to the handbook. It is anticipated that the draft handbook will be finalized and disseminated by Q1 2012. Further, the NA submitted an expression of interest (Eol) to the Global Fund to</p>		<p>Output 1.2.4</p> <p>On the legal assessment of the proposed GBV/DV legislation, this is the first step towards helping the National Assembly to develop its capacities and establishing a formal mechanism to assess new and amended laws to ensure compliance with gender equality and women's human rights standards enshrined in CEDAW to which the Lao PDR Government is signatory. An assessment report by an international expert will be completed by March 2012.</p> <p>To assist the NA in its monitoring and advocacy of the HIV/AIDS law, a roadmap was drafted by the SCSA Committee together with line ministries to serve as</p>	<p>ACHIEVED</p>



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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- NA adopts procedures for monitoring the implementation of secondary legislation by 2012.</li> <li>- Assessment of the implementation and enforcement of 4 pieces of legislation by 2012.</li> <li>- 2 Committee inquiries on policy effectiveness and law implementation are completed each year, 2009-2012.</li> <li>- Assessment of 3 laws for gender equity by 2012.</li> </ul> <p><b>Baselines:</b> No regular procedures on oversight and monitoring of secondary legislation; concerned sectors can submit reports to NA regarding status/impact of legislation; ad hoc committees are formed to investigate urgent legislative issues.</p>	<p>combat HIV/AIDS, which was in principle, approved for funding. However, further development of this activity has been deferred due to budget constraints within the Global Fund on HIV/AIDS. The funding is expected to resume by 2013/2014 and will be implemented over a 4 year period.</p> <p>Further, Hon. Prof. Davone Vangvichitch, NA Law Committee and Hon. Prof. Phonethep Pholsena, NA Social &amp; Cultural Affairs Committee, and Dr. Chansy Phimphachanh, Center for HIV/AIDS and STI (CHAS) participated in a Regional Dialogue Conference on HIV/AIDS in Bangkok, Thailand from 16-17 February 2011 to present Lao PDR's experiences in drafting the HIV/AIDS law and also to share experiences from other countries about the issues associated with possible legal frameworks and rights-based approaches associated with the HIV response for Lao PDR.</p> <p>As regards the proposed GBV/DV legislation, an international legal expert is currently reviewing the existing laws on the proposed GBV/DV and has met and consulted with relevant stakeholders regarding the law. The consultant is expected to complete her assessment on the proposed GBV/DV law by March 2012.</p> <p>Law on laws drafted by the Ministry of Justice with assistance from the National Assembly and various line ministries and stakeholders is still pending for adoption by the National Assembly. The draft law on laws aims to provide guidance to both Executive and Legislative in law making and promulgation of legal normative statutes and regulations and for submitting laws to the Government and the</p>		<p>guide towards the implementation and monitoring of the HIV/AIDS law in Lao PDR.</p> <p>The draft law on laws, which was finalized in 2011 by the Ministry of Justice which is awaiting adoption by the National Assembly, will set the normative standards and processes, which will guide NA Members in law making, appraisal and oversight.</p>	
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	National Assembly.			
<b>1.3 The National Assembly's capacity for budgetary appraisal and oversight is substantially enhanced.</b>				
<p><b>1.3.1 Evaluate the budget process and establish procedures for full involvement of the National Assembly at every stage.</b></p> <p><b>Target:</b> Procedures for improved Legislative - Executive coordination throughout the budget process.</p> <p><b>Indicators:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Statutes are in place by 2012 providing a better involvement of the legislature in the budget process and described in a handbook."</li> <li>- Internal procedures are in place by 2012 concerning the internal procedures for budget review and described in a handbook.</li> <li>- The NA reviews and comments on annual reports from the State Audit Office by 2011.</li> </ul> <p><b>Baselines:</b> Budget</p>	<p>1.3.1.a Identify options for greater NA involvement in the budgetary process - analysis, consultations and report</p> <p>A handbook on State Budget and Parliament, which includes options for greater NA involvement in the budgetary processes, was finalized o further guide the NA in their oversight function especially in reviewing and monitoring of government programs and budgets. Presentations about the content of the handbook was provided by the CIM Expert/Parliamentary Advisor during the two budget workshops (please refer to 1.1.1.b). Further, the President of the EPFC plans to consider some recommendations in the presentation such as improvements in the Committee's functions and staffing. This handbook was also presented in Lao and disseminated to all NA Members.</p> <p>A lecture was organised in Vientiane on February 3 with a Member of the German Bundestag (Dr. Koepelin) on techniques and procedures to strengthen the cooperation between the National Assembly and the Government to improve the capacities of the legislative body in its oversight role about allocating the national budget in all areas of development. This meeting was attended by 70 participants from the National Assembly, Line Ministries and partner organizations to learn about international [and specifically German] best practice</p>		<p>Output 1.3.1</p> <p>Handbook on State Budget and the Role of the National Assembly has outlined proposed guidelines and coordinating mechanisms between Legislative and Executive branches about budget appraisal and monitoring of the State Budget, which is considered by the National Assembly. This handbook also emphasized the involvement of the NA in all stages of the budget planning, approval until appraisal.</p> <p>Capacity development workshops to improve capacities of the NA Economic Affairs Committee including its Members and Staff about budget appraisal and monitoring were provided and the handbook served as a training tool to orient participants on the budget process and their roles. Further, the capacities of constituency staff are were also improved thanks to their inclusion in the capacity development workshops organized by the EPF Committees with SELNA support.</p>	ACHIEVED

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<p>instruments are not fully developed from the Ministry of Finance</p>	<p>in legislative/executive partnership.</p> <p>1.3.1.c Draft instructions for NA Members and Staff about budgetary procedures incorporating relevant laws, resolutions of the Standing Committee and procedural practices.</p> <p>A handbook on “State Budget and Parliament for Members and Staff of the National Assembly of the Lao PDR” was drafted and deliberated upon by the Economy, Planning and Finance Department and was disseminated amongst Members of the NA.</p>			<p>ACHIEVED</p>
<p><b>1.3.3 On-desk support on budget oversight.</b></p> <p><b>Target:</b> Committee for Economics, Planning &amp; Finance is active in scrutinizing the state budget and monitoring its implementation.</p> <p><b>Indicators:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Increase in number of written queries on the draft budgets sent for clarification to Executive</li> <li>- Annual budget monitoring reports produced by 2012</li> </ul> <p><b>Baselines:</b> No guidelines or regular reporting on budget queries submitted to the Executive.</p>	<p>1.3.3.a On-desk support and mentoring to the Economics, Planning &amp; Finance Committee in reviewing annual State budget</p> <p>The CIM Expert/Parliamentary Advisor provided on desk-support and mentoring especially in organizing two major economic workshops on “Budget structure and procedure – Role of the National Assembly” for Members and staff of the EPF Committee and constituency offices. Please refer to 1.1.1.b.2 for additional details.</p>		<p>Output 1.3.3</p> <p>A handbook on State Budget and the Role of Parliament was drafted with support from the CIM Expert/Parliamentary Advisor for the use of the EPF Committee and its Members in annual budget monitoring. Guidelines on budget queries are outlined in the handbook, which would assist the Committee in their budget oversight and appraisal.</p> <p>The CIM Expert has recently completed his assignment as Parliamentary Advisor to the EPF Committee on 15 October 2011. Recruitment of this post is ongoing.</p>	<p>ACHIEVED</p>

<b>1.4 The National Assembly is consulted in preparations for accession to international treaties and actively monitors their implementation.</b>				
<p><b>1.4.1 Establish systems and procedures for tracking preparations for accession to international treaties and conventions.</b></p> <p><b>Target:</b> Procedures and mechanisms for monitoring international treaty commitments established and institutionalized.</p> <p><b>Indicators:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Quarterly working group meetings with participation from legislature, executive and judiciary to review treaty agenda take place, 2008-2009.</li> <li>- A monitoring system is established to track international treaties and conventions under review, and the accession process by 2009.</li> <li>- Detailed annual reports are presented to the Standing Committee on conventions/treaties pending negotiation, accession and ratification.</li> </ul>	<p>1.4.1.a Working group meetings (including representatives of the NA and the Executive) to review the agenda for signing, ratifying and acceding to international conventions and treaties</p> <p>Series of meetings were convened between the SELNA and International Law Project to plan and discuss the inclusion of a whole day session on international convention and treaties during the November Intersession Programme. However, regular working group meeting every quarter has yet to be convened by the International Law Project in 2012.</p>		<p>Output 1.4.1</p> <p>Due to time pressures in both the NA and the Executive, the Intersession events provided the forum for debates and discussions to discuss international issues including the status and monitoring of new treaties and conventions. Since most of the NA Members are present in these events, they too were briefed on developments about international treaties and conventions as they relate to Lao PDR. .</p>	<p>PARTIALLY ACHIEVED</p> <p>The International Law Project has yet to convene working group meetings between NA representatives and the Executive. Working group meeting are deferred to 2012 due to the 2011 Elections. .</p>

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<p><b>Baselines:</b> Unclear coordination mechanisms among concerned government agencies involving only a few government agencies and sectors; monitoring system has yet to be established.</p>				
<p><b>1.4.2 Review the consistency of national legislation with ratified international treaties and conventions.</b></p> <p><b>Target:</b> The National Assembly scrutinizes the implementation of international treaty commitments.</p> <p><b>Indicators:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Recommendations are submitted by the NA to the Executive for alignments &amp; transpositions relating to 2 international treaties or conventions by 2012.</li> </ul> <p><b>Baselines:</b> In-depth scrutiny of international treaties is currently being undertaken by national government; recommendations from the Executive is sent to NA for</p>	<p>1.4.2a Seminars to review the implementation of selected international conventions and treaties for MNAs and Dept. Staff</p> <p>A special session focusing on the ratified international treaties was organized during the November Intersession Programme (please refer to 1.1.1a). A briefing was provided by H.E. Mr. Alounkeo Kittkhoun, Vice Minister of Ministry of Foreign Affairs to Members of the National Assembly on the progress and results of the General Assembly Meeting and latest updates on the ratification process of the pending international conventions.</p> <p>Several presentations to address the ratification of international treaties were provided during the intersession programme such as assessment methods on the implementation of international treaties and conventions, UN convention on Drugs and Crime and role of parliamentarians, countering money laundering and terrorism financing, and human trafficking.</p>		<p>Output 1.4.2</p> <p>The National Assembly is updated on the results of UN high level meeting attended by the Government and the status of the ratification and enforcement of international treaties and conventions. The growing interest and awareness of the NA on the relevance of international treaties is an important step towards improving the Assembly's ability to look at strategic matters and towards achieving national development goals set out in the NSEDP.</p> <p>The NA has been involved in the initial steps towards the adoption of a new, more transparent law-making procedure (law on laws), which is expected to foster people's participation in law making. This new law is expected to be adopted in 2012.</p>	<p>ACHIEVED</p>
	<p>1.4.2b Review the consistency of national legislation with relevant treaties and conventions ratified or</p>			<p>ACHIEVED</p>

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endorsement	<p>signed, pending accession in one selected area</p> <p>The Economic Law Review Conference held 29-30 March 2011 (please refer to 1.1.2b) has reviewed issues and concerns in the implementation of the 7<sup>th</sup> NSEDP and identified legislative priorities including a main discussion on the WTO accession of Lao PDR in the near future.</p> <p>Further, the National Assembly has elaborated the drafting of a new law on lawyers, to replace the current 1996 decree. This new law is expected to improve public access to justice, and the independence of lawyers. A concept note prepared by the Senior Technical Advisor on international conventions pertaining to access to justice (ICCPR, GATS etc.), and recommendations for amendments to the initial draft from the Ministry of Justice have been presented and discussed in several workshops, organised by the Ministry of Justice with the participation of the National Assembly.</p>			
<p><b>2.1 Members of the NA function as a two-way interface between the citizens and the government, and actively interact with civil society on policy and development issues.</b></p>				
<p><b>2.1.1 Members have improved capacity for public representation.</b></p> <p><b>Target:</b> Constituency-based members and staff have improved capacity for public representation.</p> <p><b>Indicators:</b> -An instruction manual for</p>	<p>2.1.1.a Strengthening of constituency office staff</p> <p>Some NA Members and staff from 17 constituency offices participated in several capacity development programs being organized by the National Assembly as well as important consultations and meetings. They were included in SELNA activities such as: Intersession Programme (Act. 1.1.1. a); Workshops on Budget structure and procedures and the Role of the National Assembly (Act. 1.1.1. b2); training for constituency-based Members and Staff on</p>	<p>Output 2 expenditures US\$ 76,692.12</p>	<p>Output 2.1.1</p> <p>Increasingly, their capacities are being enhanced not only on representative duties but also about sectoral issues and legislative work for them to better explain and elaborate issues and laws to constituents. increasing the role of those offices to promote an environment of accountability and transparency among NA Members based in constituency</p>	<p>PARTIALLY ACHIEVED</p> <p>Proposed capacity development for constituency offices were deferred to 2012 due to the busy schedule of NA (elections and reorganization).</p>

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<p>Members on public representation and advocacy is produced and disseminated. - Xx Members and xx constituency office staff are exposed to practical techniques for public representation.</p> <p><b>Baselines:</b> Limited capacities on public representation and consultation skills of NA Members and Staff at constituency offices.</p>	<p>receiving, handling, reporting and monitoring petition and complaints (Act. 2.2.1.a); Performance Assessment Workshop and Training Orientation for incoming NA Staff (Act. 3.1.1.a); and Review Workshop of senior level and organizational department's mandates (Act. 3.1.1.b).</p> <p>Training for constituency-based Members and Staff on receiving, handling, reporting and monitoring petition and complaints (Act. 2.2.1.a) focused on establishing reporting and monitoring procedures for transmitting constituents' interests from the constituency offices to the National Assembly and vice versa.</p> <p>NA Members and Staff were also trained in budget appraisal and monitoring since the EPF Committee see their increasing role in monitoring and oversight of local budgets and programs especially in there-establishment of the local councils in the next legislature (8<sup>th</sup> legislature).</p>		<p>offices.</p> <p>Improving the role and capacities of the 17 constituency offices will facilitate access of citizens especially those living in remote areas to the National Assembly laws and programs. Therefore, inclusion of Members and Staff of 17 constituency offices in all capacity development programs and important consultations organized by the NA has been emphasized as a priority in the 7<sup>th</sup> Legislature.</p> <p>In 2012, SELNA will support NA Members to conduct regular consultations with the constituents during these field visits in order to solicit their inputs on draft laws and orient them on NA programs and law.</p>	
<p><b>2.1.2 Public hearings, field visits and other forums for consultation and interaction between Members and constituents.</b></p> <p><b>Target:</b> Increased opportunities for interaction between members and their constituents.</p> <p><b>Indicators:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 4 constituency consultations conducted on policy/legislation each</li> </ul>	<p>2.1.2.a Conduct outreach activities to promote HIV/AIDS law in Savannakhet province covering Sepon and Vilabouly districts</p> <p>Deferred to early 2012 due to busy schedule of the NA and Sepon Mining. The NA Cabinet has agreed that the NA Ethnic Affairs Committee will be implementing this activity in 2012.</p>		<p>Output 2.1.2</p> <p>Not implemented in 2011.</p>	<p>NOT ACHIEVED</p> <p>Postponed to early next year due to busy schedule of Sepon Mining and NA. It was postponed several times due to the conflicting schedules of NA (i.e campaigns, elections, intersession programme, induction training and current NA</p>

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<p>year, 2009-2012.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Outreach activities in 2 provinces per year by Members to advocate on key development issues, 2008-2012.</li> </ul> <p><b>Baselines:</b> Limited opportunities for NA members to conduct public consultations and interactions with constituents' esp. in remote, rural areas; Little or no understanding of the public on the NA roles and programs.</p>				restructuring)
<p><b>2.2.1 Capacity development for processing, monitoring and reporting public petitions and management of hotline system.</b></p> <p><b>Target:</b> An efficient system for receiving, processing, monitoring and reporting on petitions to the National Assembly.</p> <p><b>Indicators:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Data on petitions processed by the National Assembly is compiled and published by 2010.</li> <li>- Quarterly consultative meetings to follow-up on petitions are held, beginning</li> </ul>	<p>2.2.1.a Training for constituency-based Members and Staff on receiving, handling, reporting and monitoring petition and complaints.</p> <p>The NA People's Petitions Department organized a training workshop for constituency-based Members and Staff on receiving, handling, reporting and monitoring petition and complaints between 9-12 August 2011 in Thalat, Vientiane Province for 8 Northern provinces (Phonsaly, Xiengkhouang, LuangPrabang, Bokeo, LuangNamphtha, Xayaboury, Huaphan, and Oudumxay). A total of 48 participants (with 14 female participants) participated composed of representatives from each Committee/Department of the NA, and constituency office staff from the 8 provinces.</p> <p>Another training workshop for constituency-based Members and Staff on receiving, handling, reporting and monitoring petition and complaints was</p>		<p>Output 2.2.1</p> <p>Most NA Members and staff are new and are currently getting used to their new NA roles and responsibilities therefore it is crucial to orient them on the importance and process of petitions. The importance of this is petitions can provide a vital link to understand the issues and concerns of the public. It is clear that the petitions received by the NA from citizens are better handled and the public has a growing awareness of the role of NA as an efficient mediator on a number of issues of public interests. In 2011 alone, there were 446 petitions received by the NA. During the inaugural and 2<sup>nd</sup> sessions, a total of 172 calls were received. Most of the issues raised during petitions and hotlines range from land</p>	ACHIEVED



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<p>2009. - The Petitions Department is upgraded to a Committee by 2012. <b>Baselines:</b> No established system on petition management; lack of resources and capacities to operate all year round hotline; average of 241 complaints/ petitions received in 2009; NA hotline is only open during NA session, twice a year.</p>	<p>organized last 28 November to 1 December 2011 in Bolikhamxay Province for Central and Southern provinces. A total of 50 participants including representatives from each Committee/Department of the NA, and constituency office staff have participated in the workshop.</p> <p>Main topics of the workshop focused on the legal framework on petitions and complaints management. But also the role of the NA and constituency offices in improving the handling and addressing of people’s petitions and complaints. Another important topic discussed was the guidelines and process of nationality and citizenship in Lao PDR as compared to other countries (USA, Australia and Germany). There were a number of complaints and petitions raised in the NA about the issue of nationality and citizenship. The outcome was that the Ministry of Justice plans to issue a decree in 2012 about nationality and citizenship to clarify the matter.</p>		<p>issues, security concerns, employment etc.</p> <p>Most petitions received by the NA are documented, sorted and then forwarded to the respective government agencies for their response and action. Ongoing consultations between the NA, the Ministry of Justice, the Supreme Court and the People’s Prosecutor on how to improve their coordination to enable petitions to be processed in a more efficient way. Also operation of all-year round NA hotline is still being considered given the limitations in resources and staff.</p>	
	<p>2.1.2.c Initiate quarterly consultative meetings between NA, the Executive and the Judiciary to monitor progress in resolving petitions submitted to the NA</p> <p>Deferred to 2012 due to the busy schedule of the NA.</p>			<p>NOT ACHIEVED</p> <p>Deferred to 2012 due to the busy schedule of the NA such as the recent campaigns, elections and now, the current NA organizational restructuring.</p>

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<b>2.3. Laws are publicly debated and expeditiously made accessible to the public.</b>				
<p><b>2.3.2 New and amended laws made publicly available</b></p>	<p>2.3.2.a1 Dissemination workshop on the 49 Ethnic Group NA Resolution</p>		<p>Output 2.3.2</p> <p>Public access to laws has been sustained, and the NA circulates, with SELNA support, all laws immediately after their promulgation. Copies of the laws are provided to line ministries, provinces, districts and NA constituencies' offices. Laws in Lao and English versions are available online through the NA website.</p> <p>There are 17 laws that were translated into English however; proofreading of these laws will be conducted in early 2012 by a legal team from Singapore. Once proofread, these laws will be published and circulated to all stakeholders.</p> <p>Increased number of public consultations and seminars conducted by the NA to brief constituencies about the objectives and use of the laws that were passed in each NA session. Also NA weekly radio programs and outreach missions by NA Members, targeting constituencies at rural, remote areas, promoted laws that were adopted during the NA sessions.</p>	<p>ACHIEVED</p>
<p><b>Target:</b> New and amended laws are made publicly available.</p>	<p>The NA Ethnic Affairs Committee organized a dissemination workshop on the 49 Ethnic Group NA Resolution between 9-11 February 2011 in Thalat, Vientiane Province. A total of 69 participants (13 female participants) from 6 provinces: Vientiane Capital, Savannakhet, Khammouan, Bolikhamxay, Xayaboury and LuangPrabang participated in the knowledge-sharing workshop.</p>			
<p><b>Indicators:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- All laws are translated into English and posted on the NA website within one year of being adopted by the NA.</li> <li>- 5000 sets of user-friendly law summaries covering in three sectors are produced and disseminated annually, 2009-2012.</li> <li>- An official gazette is launched by 2010.</li> <li>-</li> </ul>	<p>Participants included provincial and local officials from the Lao Front for National Construction, Lao Women Union, Information and Cultural Division, NA constituency offices; Education Division, and Personnel Division. Further, elders from each ethnic group from the 6 provinces were also invited to participate in the discussion. From the workshop, the participants were informed on the NA resolution regarding the classification of ethnic groups including their culture, history, names and number of ethnic groups in Lao PDR.</p>			
<p><b>Baselines:</b> In 2008, 65 laws were translated into English and proofread; No NA official gazette.</p>	<p>Some participants expressed their concerns about implementation the policy since the topic of ethnicity is still a sensitive, religious issue that have an impact on human rights of the individual and community.</p>			

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	<p>2.3.2.a2 Law dissemination seminars with constituencies of Vientiane Province on 10 laws (lawyers, national library, drugs and medical equipment, hygiene &amp; health, mining, insurance, SMEs, intellectual property, taxation, telecoms)</p> <p>Deferred to 2012 due to the busy schedule of NA.</p>			<p><b>NOT ACHIEVED</b></p> <p>Deferred to 2012 due to the busy schedule of NA because of NA ordinary sessions and ongoing reorganization.</p>
<p><b>2.4. Enhance public awareness of the NA, its role, functions and proceedings.</b></p>				
<p><b>2.4.1 Develop and implement a comprehensive public relations / communication strategy for the National Assembly</b></p> <p><b>Target:</b> Improved public understanding of the National Assembly's role and functions.</p> <p><b>Indicators:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- General public have improved awareness of the work of the National Assembly (baseline to be established).</li> <li>- Increased number of visitors to the public gallery during sessions (baseline to be established).</li> <li>- Members visit [xx] primary schools in xx province each year, 2008-2012.</li> </ul>	<p>2.4.1.a Design and implement a public relations strategy for the National Assembly</p> <p>The NA expanded its use of media by utilizing other platforms in promoting the role and programs of NA such as radio programs, press releases, conduct of "open days", in-country media missions in provinces and strengthening of the mass media department staff at NA and its constituency offices.</p>		<p>Output 2.4.1</p> <p>The NA is working hard to improve the public's understanding of its roles and activities. Media broadcasts through TV and radio of NA sessions are being improved and coordinated with radio stations nationwide in order to reach a much wider audience in provinces and districts including bans. A weekly radio program on the NA is being aired to update the public on the NA legislations and programs.</p>	<p>ACHIEVED</p>
	<p>2.4.1.b Develop communications material on the role and function of the National Assembly.</p> <p>The NA booklet is already in its final stages of completion but will be presented after the NA Inaugural session since there is a need to update the new set of NA Members. The NA booklet is currently being edited by UNDP with assistance from the NA Magazine Unit. Proposed launching of the booklet is scheduled for early 2012.</p>		<p>Only 70% NA sessions and debates were broadcasted live on TV and radio, including session when ministers are questioned. Further, some NA sessions are open to the public and supported student visits during these sessions.</p>	<p>PARTIALLY ACHIEVED</p> <p>The NA booklet has been delayed due to the need to update the new set of Members and other relevant information. There is a need for NA to review the final draft prepared by UNDP Public Information Unit.</p> <p>Preparation of a booklet to promote the understanding of</p>

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<p>- Constituency office open days are held in [xx] provinces per year, 2009-2012.</p> <p><b>Baselines: In 2008, 300</b> visitors/students during per NA sessions; Limited access of the public to NA sessions, limited information materials are disseminated to the public.</p>				<p>Lao laws in support of MDG achievement is deferred next year due to the busy schedule of NA SCA Committee and Parliamentary Advisor who are assigned to develop this document.</p>
	<p>2.4.1.c Develop a handbook for parliamentarians on HIV and AIDS</p> <p>The finalization of the handbook for parliamentarians on HIV/AIDS has been deferred due to request from Center for HIV/AIDS and STI for an official request from the NA for their expert inputs. Section on the role of parliamentarians in addressing HIV/AIDs has been completed and will be translated into Lao. While CHAS (Center for HIV/AIDS and STI (CHAS) is assigned to share its expert knowledge on HIV/AIDS, risks, symptoms and stigmatization</p>			<p>PARTIALLY ACHIEVED</p> <p>The finalization of the handbook for parliamentarians on HIV/AIDS has been deferred to early 2012 pending submission of an official letter from the NA to request the Center for HIV/AIDS and STI (CHAS) for their expert inputs.</p>
	<p>2.4.1.d1 Annual open days and student visits to the National Assembly during plenary sessions</p> <p>The NA organized two “open-day” visits for law students and faculty from Vientiane Capital to observe the Na inaugural session between 15-24 June 2011 and 2<sup>nd</sup> NA Ordinary Session from 07-21 December 2011. Around 600 students and faculty observed the NA plenary discussions and also had the opportunity to meet with NA Members.</p>			<p>ACHIEVED</p>

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	<p>2.4.1 d2 Orientation Seminar for students on the NA and EU</p> <p>Conducted an orientation seminar on the NA and EU for 300 law students and faculty on 30 March 2011 at the Vientiane Law College. Presentations included: (1) Role of the NA and State in promoting the “rule of law”; (2) NA foreign affairs policy and role of NA and international forums; and (3) EU-Lao relation and cooperation. EU Head of Delegation, Mr. Henry Prankerd was invited to give a presentation on the latter.</p>			<p>ACHIEVED</p>
<p><b>2.4.2 Training on parliament media relations, reporting on parliamentary affairs, protocol issues and organization of press conferences.</b></p> <p><b>Target:</b> Broadcasts of key legislative proceedings are institutionalized.</p> <p><b>Indicators:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- At least 3 hours of live TV and radio broadcast per day during each NA plenary session, starting in 2009.</li> <li>- Media coverage of at least 2 committee meetings per year, 2010-2012.</li> </ul> <p><b>Baselines:</b> Only opening and closing programs of NA sessions are broadcasted on TV and radio; In remote,</p>	<p>2.4.2.b Initiate TV, radio and newspaper coverage of NA Sessions and Committee hearings</p> <p>During the inaugural and 2<sup>nd</sup> sessions, the NA broadcasted 70% of its proceedings through TV and radio. Further, newspaper coverage of the NA sessions are featured daily during the course of the sessions.</p>		<p>Output 2.4.2</p> <p>Public and media interest on the NA activities and plans are quite evident in the number of media coverage in TV, radio and print especially during the NA sessions and Committee hearings.</p> <p>Only 70% NA sessions and debates were broadcasted live on TV and radio, including session when ministers are questioned. Further, some NA sessions are open to the public and supported student visits during these sessions.</p>	<p>ACHIEVED</p>

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rural areas, no access to radio broadcasts on NA programs and events.				
<p><b>2.4.3 Training on parliament media relations, reporting on parliamentary affairs, protocol issues and organization of press conferences.</b></p> <p><b>Target:</b> Improved national capacity for media reporting on parliamentary affairs.</p> <p><b>Indicators:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 20 NA staff and are trained in parliamentary media relations by each year, starting 2009.</li> </ul> <p><b>Baselines:</b> Limited capacities for media reporting within NA staff.</p>	<p>2.4.3 b In-country media training for NA staff</p> <p>The NA Mass Media Dept. (formerly NA Magazine Unit) organized a media training event in support of the upcoming NA campaign and elections. This was held from 23-25 March 2011 in Thalat, Vientiane Province and was attended by 60 participants mostly NA media and information staff from Central office and constituency offices.</p>		<p>Output 2.4.3</p> <p>The capacities of the NA Mass Media Dept. staff as well as constituency offices staff have been substantially improved as evidenced by the quality of media reports and broadcasts featured in TV, radio and print to inform the public regarding NA campaigns and elections in 2011.</p>	ACHIEVED
<b>3.1. Capacity gaps in the NA secretariat are identified and addressed</b>				
<p><b>3.1.1 Develop and implement a performance based human resource development system.</b></p> <p><b>Target:</b> A performance-based HR management/development system is established.</p> <p><b>Indicators:</b></p>	<p>3.1.1a NA Performance Assessment Workshop and Training Orientation for incoming NA Staff (for Central &amp; Southern Provinces)</p> <p>The NA Cabinet organized two Performance Assessment Workshops and Training Orientation for incoming NA Staff after the NA elections. The NA Cabinet together with Committee and Department staff, and staff from constituency offices assessed their performance in serving the 6<sup>th</sup> legislature including their challenges and achievements. A</p>	<p>Output 3 expenditures US\$ 101,617.34</p>	<p>Output 3.1.1</p> <p>Significant upgrading of knowledge and skills on parliamentary support services, to include coordination, desk research, note-taking, protocol, and reporting techniques were observed among NA Staff especially when they provide secretariat support to NA Members during NA sessions and high level meetings with government. Senior level</p>	ACHIEVED

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<p>- Job descriptions for all NA staff in Vientiane are revised and approved by 2009.</p> <p>- Annual organisational training plans are developed, starting from 2010.</p> <p><b>Baselines:</b> NA Secretariat needs upgrading of new skills and understanding of their roles; Unclear job descriptions among Heads of Offices and Departments</p>	<p>representative from PACSA also made a presentation on the organizational development and job descriptions to assist the NA in its current restructuring plans.</p> <p>For the workshop targeting the northern provinces, this was held from 18-20 May 2011 wherein a total of 64 participants (24 female participants) attended the planning workshop and orientation. While the central and southern provinces, the workshop was held last 28-30 September 2011 in Bolikhamxay Province. A total of 60 participants attended the review and planning workshop and orientation.</p> <p>An orientation program for incoming staff was also conducted to familiarize them with the workings of the NA and their roles and responsibilities in supporting the legislature. .</p>		<p>staff have better capacities and job descriptions are being revised to take on bigger responsibilities and functions.</p> <p>Support was given to the organizational restructuring of NA Committees and Departments after the Inaugural Session of the 7<sup>th</sup> Legislature, which contributed to its smooth transition and effective implementation. Committees and Departments now have approved mandates and each is now headed by Presidents and Vice Presidents. Senior level positions were also filled to support each Committee and the Departments.</p>	
	<p>3.1.1.b Intensive language course on English for selected NA staff</p> <p>Continuing education of selected senior staff to improve their English language skills at the Vientiane College for 4 selected senior staff. Two NA staff have deferred their English courses until next year due to their current masters' workload and work assignments.</p> <p>The NA plans to submit a proposal by next year to the Singapore Embassy on its plans to conduct intensive English lessons for its NA Members and Staff. The Singapore Embassy has initially expressed its support to this undertaking.</p>			<p>ACHIEVED</p>

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<p><b>3.1.2 Assess the administrative and financial needs of the Secretariat, including review of organization chart.</b></p> <p><b>Target:</b> The Office of the National Assembly has a clear understanding of organizational development needs.</p> <p><b>Indicators:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Organisational resource gaps are identified during 2010.</li> <li>- The National Assembly's organizational chart is reviewed and revisions are recommended by end of 2011.</li> <li>-</li> </ul> <p><b>Baselines:</b> The NA has currently 4 Departments under the NA Cabinet and 6 Committee/Departments; Unclear office mandates, action plans and overlapping concerns among Committees and Departments; Changes in organizational structure and staffing every legislature.</p>	<p>3.1.2c Review Workshop of senior level and organizational department's ToRs; including rules of procedures</p> <p>The NA Cabinet organized an Assessment and Planning Workshop for senior level officers and staff from 4-8 July 2011 in Savannakhet Province to review and amend the terms of reference and job descriptions of senior level officers including office mandates and rules of procedures of each Committee/Department.</p> <p>A total of 93 participants (with 20 female participants) composed of senior staff from the 17 provinces and NA central office. This activity was co-sponsored with the NA.</p>		<p>Output 3.1.2</p> <p>Established guidelines in reporting and coordination within NA Committees and Departments; and between NA central office and the 17 constituency offices. Each Committee and Department have approved office mandates and job descriptions for senior level positions, which define the scope and functions of each structure and staff to better support NA Members and the institution.</p>	<p>ACHIEVED</p>



<b>3.2 The Office of the National Assembly provides improved information services.</b>				
<p><b>3.2.1 Design and implement a comprehensive ICT development plan at the national and provincial levels of the National Assembly.</b></p> <p><b>Target:</b> Information technology services are strengthened.</p> <p><b>Indicators:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- An ICT development plan is drafted in 2009 and revised in 2011.</li> <li>- An intranet is established in 2009 and receiving frequent traffic by 2011.</li> <li>- IT equipment is upgraded in the office of the National Assembly and all Committee Departments by 2011.</li> <li>- Annual IT training is delivered to all constituency offices and departments from 2009.</li> <li>-</li> </ul> <p><b>Baselines:</b> Limited access to computers and internet due to lack of computers. Paper remains the main support for info sharing and decision making.</p>	<p>3.2.1.c Conduct an on-site IT training for NA Members and staff and constituency offices in 5 provinces</p> <p>Conducted IT trainings in 5 provinces - Champassak, Sekong, Attapeu, Oudumxay and Xayaboury Provinces from 12 July – 2 September 2011 in Q3 and from 14-25 November 2011 in Q4. Around 20-30 participants from each province, which include NA Members, staff from constituency offices, and staff from the Governor’s office. They were trained on basic IT skills, use of email, internet and NA intranet.</p>		<p>Output 3.2.1</p> <p>Improved capacities of NA Members and constituency office staff in 5 provinces to use ICT in their daily work. However, the limited availability of computers and internet especially in constituency offices might cause some challenges in sustaining the newly acquired skills.</p>	<p>ACHIEVED</p>

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<p><b>3.2.2 Develop database in support of the election and scrutiny over legislation implementation</b></p> <p><b>Target:</b> Research, reference and archiving services are strengthened.</p> <p><b>Indicators:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 20 staff participate in training on research skills each year, 2009-2012.</li> <li>- The NA Cabinet adopts recommendations for strengthening research, reference and archiving capacity by 2010.</li> <li>- The research team augmented by a team of 2 archivists</li> <li>-</li> </ul> <p><b>Baselines:</b> Limited staff training for NA staff on research and reference services.</p>	<p>3.2.2d Set up 2 databases to assist follow up of elections and secondary legislation adoption; Conduct training of staff in the department</p> <p>The NA Information Department requested 3 prospective bidders to re-present their proposals for this activity. However, their submissions exceeded the available budget. There was a recommendation from the NA to implement a phased approach to the activity. The first phase based upon the available budget and phase two would require further resource mobilization efforts directed towards SELNA or others donors..</p>		<p>Not implemented in 2011.</p>	<p>NOT ACHIEVED</p> <p>Postponed to 2011 due to failure of bidding. Bidders submitted quotations which exceeded the budget.</p>
<p><b>3.2.3 Technical and material support to parliamentary library services.</b></p> <p><b>Target:</b> The parliamentary library provides a high quality information service.</p> <p><b>Indicators:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A library service strategy</li> </ul>	<p>3.2.3.b Translate documents about parliamentary best practice and disseminate to Members and staff through print, Internet and Intranet as appropriate.</p> <p>Translated relevant documents as requested by NA Members and Staff in support of their work and functions such as presentation materials, policy statements, correspondences etc.</p>		<p>Output 3.2.3</p> <p>Important documents drafted by SELNA advisors and other international experts, were translated as easy reference materials for NA Members and Staff to assist them in their parliamentary work. Most of these documents relate to best practices, presentations and policy briefers on parliamentary practices.</p>	<p>ACHIEVED</p>

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<p>is produced by end of 2009.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Library usage (measured in person-hours) increases by 50 percent between 2009 and 2012.</li> <li>- Annual library development plans are drafted, starting 2010 (based on results of user-surveys).</li> <li>-</li> </ul> <p><b>Baselines:</b> Around 10% of NA Members and Staff utilized library facilities and books; Limited number of updated books and publications; Few important documents in Lao/English were translated into English/Lao</p>			<p>Further, library usage by NA Members and Staff has steadily increased since 2009. The NA library provided updated and quality information and publications for the use of NA Members and Staff in law making and appraisal.</p>	
<p><b>3.3 Programme monitoring and coordination capacity is strengthened</b></p>				
<p><b>3.3.1 Regular planning and review meetings are held to monitor programme delivery</b></p> <p>Target: Regular planning and review meetings are held to monitor programme delivery.</p> <p><b>Indicators:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Monthly &amp; quarterly planning and</li> </ul>	<p>3.3.1.a Monthly planning and review meetings</p> <p>Conducted 12 monthly SELNA-UNDP Project Meetings in 2011. Minutes of the meeting were approved, followed up and filed.</p>		<p>Output 3.1.1</p> <p>Planning and review meetings with the NA, partner UN Agencies, donor agencies and other stakeholders were conducted on a regular and coordinated basis wherein substantive inputs and quality discussions are discussed to ensure smooth programme delivery and issues were addressed appropriately.</p>	<p>ACHIEVED</p>
	<p>3.3.1.b Quarterly planning and review meetings</p> <p>Three Programme Assurance Group meetings were organized in 2011 while another PAG meeting was organized in January 2012. The quarterly meeting among partner UN agencies discussed and endorsed progress and work plan.</p>			<p>ACHIEVED</p>

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<p>coordination meetings take place and the agreed quorum is achieved.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Programme Board/Steering Committee Meetings are held twice each year 2009-2012.</li> <li>- Programme review meetings held once per year 2009-2012.</li> <li>-</li> </ul> <p><b>Baselines:</b> Project Steering Committees composed of Implementing Agency, Donor Agency and UNDP met to review progress and issues twice a year; UN Partner agencies are not members of PAG and PB Meetings</p>	<p>3.3.1.b Programme Board meetings</p> <p>A Programme Board meeting was organized June 2011 while the next PB meeting is expected to be conducted by 23 March 2012. The 2<sup>nd</sup> PB Meeting was deferred to early 2012 due to the busy schedule of NA and UN Agencies.</p> <p>The PB meeting reviewed and made strategic recommendations about the directions of the joint programme. Results and challenges including annual work plans were presented and endorsed by the PB Members, which are composed of NA, UN Partners Agencies, and other donors such as EU, Singapore Embassy and German Embassy.</p>			<p>ACHIEVED</p>
<p><b>3.3.3 Monitoring and evaluation of programme delivery and outcomes</b></p> <p><b>Target:</b> Monitoring and evaluation mechanisms are established.</p> <p><b>Indicators:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Baseline monitoring data established.</li> <li>- Mid-term review conducted in 2011</li> <li>- Final evaluation conducted</li> </ul>	<p>3.3.3.a Annual Review Meeting</p> <p>Organized an Annual Review Meeting of 2010 on 14 February 2011 at Lane Xang Hotel, Vientiane Capital. In attendance were NA Members, Heads of UN agencies, EU, Ambassadors and Representatives of Embassies and International Organizations and line ministries. The ARM reviewed the 2nd year of implementation of the SELNA Joint Programme and its challenges and lessons learned. Further, it presented and discussed planned activities, key strategic areas and recommendations for 2011.</p> <p>The next SELNA Annual Review for 2011 is planned</p>		<p>Regular monitoring and reporting by SELNA to UNDP and other donors on financial and technical progress. Reporting system within SELNA is being enhanced and reporting responsibilities are being shared by the SELNA Team.</p> <p>The NA also participated actively in various review meetings and evaluation missions, which assessed the programme performance, challenges and lessons learned towards improving the programme implementation of SELNA.</p>	<p>ACHIEVED</p>

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<p>in 2021 <b>Baselines:</b> No baselines available at the start of the project; Results-based monitoring and evaluation system is yet to be established</p>	<p>on the 23 March 2012 along with the Programme Board meeting.</p>			
	<p>3.3.3.d Management, monitoring and reporting activities.</p> <p>A Mid-Term Review of the SELNA Joint Programme was conducted by an independent consulted (Mr. Carl de Faria) last April 2011. Recommendations from the MTE Report were presented in the June PB Meeting in July 2011. Further, UNDP and SELNA signed on the management response to the Mid-Term Report recommendations which was circulated to partner UN agencies and donors for their information.</p> <p>Also UNDP and SELNA have finalized revisions to the programme document including the results framework and 4 year work plan budget based on MTR recommendations. The EU contribution agreement is also being revised by UNDP. Final documents will be sent to EU for their approval.</p> <p>Recently, the NA participated in an EU Results Oriented Monitoring (ROM) mission by an independent consultant (Ms. Tara Bui) from 7-14 November 2011. The consultant consulted with senior officials of NA Committees and Departments and has conducted a field visit to constituency office in Vientiane Province. The EU ROM mission aimed to assess the current performance, challenges and lessons learned of projects supported by EU. A two page ROM report was shared with SELNA and managing agent in 2011 however, the final response will be sent to EU by early 2012.</p>			<p>ACHIEVED</p>

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<b>4.1 A programme support team effectively manages and coordinates assistance to the National Assembly.</b>				
<p><b>4.1.1 Programme staff and technical advisory support.</b></p> <p><b>Target:</b> A programme support team is operational.</p> <p><b>Indicators:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- All staff positions filled up.</li> <li>- Plans for gradual phase out of PIU are approved and ready for implementation by 2012.</li> <li>- Programme quarterly work plans, budget plans and progress reports are submitted on schedule.</li> </ul> <p><b>Baselines:</b> SELNA JP is being managed by contractual/project staff; NA Secretariat are unable to perform PIU responsibilities.</p>	<p>4.1.1.z Programme salaries (technical and administrative)</p> <p>As of 31 December 2011, the SELNA Programme Team has the following staff complement: 1 National Programme Director, 1 Senior Programme Coordinator, 1 Parliamentary Advisor, 1 Management &amp; Monitoring Specialist, 1 Finance Officer, 1 Administrative Officer, 2 Office Assistants and 2 Drivers.</p> <p>The Chief Technical Advisor has resigned last 30 May 2011 while the Parliamentary Advisor assigned to the EPF Committee has completed his contract last 15 October 2011. Replacement for the Chief Technical Advisor is expected to arrive by early January 2012. However, recruitment for the CIM Expert/Parliamentary Advisor for the Economic, Finance and Planning Committee is still on-going. The post of Communications Specialist has yet to be filled up.</p>	<p>Output 4 expenditures US\$ 85,136.90</p>	<p>Output 4.1.1</p> <p>Technical and program support was provided by SELNA programme team to the Office of the National Assembly, UNDP, UN Partner Agencies and other stakeholders.</p> <p>Two senior technical posts at SELNA are currently vacant – Chief Technical Advisor and CIM Expert/Parliamentary Advisor for the EPF Committee. Also the position of Communications Specialist has been vacant since June 2010. Recruitment for the CIM Expert is still ongoing while the new CTA is expected to be on board by early 2012. For the Communication Specialist post, some of the functions were absorbed by UNDP Public Information Unit and SELNA Management &amp; Monitoring Specialist.</p>	<p>ACHIEVED</p>
	<p>4.1.2 z Programme administration costs</p> <p>Regular operational and administrative support provided to implement work plan activities. Operational costs are kept within the monthly budgetary allocation.</p>		<p>Output 4.1.2</p> <p>Received one audit finding for 2010 programme implementations. Also spot check exercises were conducted wherein SELNA received positive results and minimal recommendations. Audit and spot check recommendations are regularly updated and complied with.</p>	<p>ACHIEVED</p>
	<p>4.1.3 a Equipment and IT</p> <p>Purchased one laptop, one desktop and fax machine for the use of programme staff.</p>		<p>Output 4.1.3</p> <p>The programme has complied with the procurement plan for 2011.</p>	<p>ACHIEVED</p>
<p><b>TOTAL PROGRAMME EXPENDITURES FOR 2011</b></p>		<p><b>US\$ 518,516.32</b></p>		

## 2. Update on implementation of the Vientiane Declaration and its Action Plan

### 1. National ownership

The SELNA programme document of the National Assembly has been guided by the principles of the Vientiane Declaration. **National ownership** has been facilitated by supporting the National Assembly in formulating a 'Strategy and Action Plan', which outlines institutional goals to the year 2020. This programme is the first of its kind in Lao PDR wherein several UN agencies (UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNIFEM, UNODC and UNAIDS) are jointly committed to support and "deliver as one" the key outcomes and outputs indicated in the project document. This document has served as a key reference point during discussions with various UN and other international agencies on further support to the National Assembly beyond 2008. In this way, it has been ensured that international development partner's goals are **aligned** to those of the National Assembly.

The National Assembly strives to ensure national ownership in its implementation of the SELNA Programme by incorporating results-based principles in planning, management and reporting to donors. In all of its activities, SELNA Programme ensures that NA focal points, concerned government agencies and UN Agencies are involved at the earliest stage of planning until evaluation of the activity. Further, follow through activities and action plans are incorporated after the implementation of each activity to ensure sustainability and achievement of results.

Further, the NA through SELNA, has coordinated with various donor agencies and line ministries in the implementation of some activities i.e. intersession programme, law review seminars and economic review workshops. This enables the NA to benefit from additional financial contributions to conduct these activities, while avoiding duplication and overlapping, based on the principles of the Paris and Vientiane Declarations for Aid effectiveness.

### 3. Update on partnerships

In 2011, the NA through SELNA collaborated with various partners in the implementation of work plan activities:

This involved coordination and cooperation among UN Partner Agencies (UNAIDS, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNIFEM, UNODC) in the implementation of the work plan activities by providing technical/funding support and IEC materials during important activities. Further, continued support was provided by the EU, Government of Germany and other donors.

The successful conduct of the Intersession Programme was made possible through technical support from UN Partner Agencies including FAO, WFP and WHO. Various government agencies such as Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Planning and Investments, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education and Sports, Ministry of Public Health, Department of Forestry also participated as resource speakers on topics requested by the NA. Further, resource speakers and experts from EFI FLEGT Asia Programme, Lao National Wood Industry Association, and GIZ also participated in the intersession programme. The International Law Project also supported Day 4 session on international treaties and provided presentations on this topic. Further, LINK-Rights (NGO), UN and GIZ have set-up knowledge booths during the intersession and disseminated information materials to participants.

For the Economic Law Review Conference, the NA has partnered with USAID- funded project in the Ministry of Industry and Commerce (LUNA) and various donor agencies such as World Bank, AusAID, SUFORD Project, DFDL Mekong and Mekong River Commission. Several line agencies such as Ministry of Planning and Investments, Ministry of Industry and Commerce, Ministry of Energy and

Mines and National Land Management Authority among others. SELNA and LUNA have coordinated their support in the preparation of a new “law on laws”. The World Bank Institute assisted in the deliberation with the NA EPF Committee on the handbook on State Budget and Parliament.

Further, the World Bank and USAID Luna Project are supporting the NA EPF Committee and SELNA in the conduct of the economic workshop on October 2011. GIZ has partnered with NA in co-sponsoring two workshops on State Budget Procedures and the Role of the Parliament in August 2011 in Luang Prabang and Thakhek.

In the development of a handbook for parliamentarians on HIV and AIDS, UNAIDS and CHAS were engaged as resource experts in finalizing this important tool guide for parliamentarians to address HIV/AIDS issues. The NA was able to access funding on advocacy and monitoring HIV/AIDS implementation. Project document and logframe are currently being developed by the Task Force on HIV/AIDS on R11 Lao PDR and will be submitted to the Global Fund by end December 2011 (*Note: this activity has been deferred to 2012*).

UN Women Regional Office in Bangkok has been approached by the SELNA team and agreed to provide additional in-kind support on the following: (1) Training of female candidates running for seat in the 7<sup>th</sup> legislature (28-29 March); and (2) Conduct a gender responsive review of Lao legislation for the proposed gender-based violence/domestic violence legislation. Development of the Terms of Reference and concept note on GBV/DV was made possible with the technical assistance from UN Women Regional Office in Bangkok.

The NA also partnered with the German Parliament by requesting Members of the German Bundestag to serve as key resource speakers on two occasions (Dr. Koepellin on budget oversight and Mdm. Elisabeth Becker-Winkemeier on induction training for new Members). The German parliamentarians presented their insights and experience as parliamentarians and the role of parliaments.

The NA Law Committee participated in a study mission on legal affairs with the Korean Legislative Studies Institute of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea from 22-25 August 2011 in Seoul, South Korea. A total of 7 NA participants led by Dr. Davone Vangvichith, President of the NA Law Committee took part in this important mission.

Further, a delegation from the Japan Diet/Members of Parliament visited Lao PDR from 1-3 September 2011 to deepen their understanding on the role of Lao parliamentarians in addressing Maternal and Child Health issues and UNFPA’s supported projects. The visit from Japan Diet delegation is expected to effectively influence Japan’s ODA policy towards attainment of the MDGs 4 & 5 especially on Maternal Child Health issues.

The SELNA also provided technical support to the conduct of the LAPPD elections from 1-3 September 2011 in Thalat, Vientiane Capital.

As a continuing strategy, the NA through SELNA will encourage more partnerships and linkages with government agencies and provincial offices in the implementation of its key project activities in particular, capacity development activities.



#### 4. Update on gender mainstreaming

Gender and gender related activities including integration of gender dimensions into project activities, including workshops and seminars were implemented. Specific gender-related activities in 2011 were as follows:

1. Participation of NA Members in the Regional Dialogue Conference on HIV/AIDS in Bangkok, Thailand from 16-17 February 2011.
2. Training of female candidates for the 7<sup>th</sup> legislature on effective campaigning techniques last 28-29 March 2011.
3. Conduct of a gender responsive review of Lao legislation for the proposed gender-based violence/domestic violence legislation from November 2011 to January 2012.
4. Development of a handbook for parliamentarians on HIV/AIDS.
5. Study visit of Japan Diet/Members of Parliament from 1-3 September 2011 on the role of parliamentarians in addressing Maternal and Child Health issues.
6. Participation of the NA Lao delegation in the WHO Conference Workshop on the Prevention of Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Against Women organized by WHO/WPRO from 18-20 July 2011 in Manila, Philippines.
7. Presentation on Gender equality and Women Empowerment and other gender related issues i.e. maternal and child health care, food security and nutrition, youth issues during the Intersession programme last 7-11 November 2011.

#### 5. Update on audit recommendations

The SELNA Programme has undertaken an annual audit for its 2010 programme activities last May 2011. Based on the 2011 audit conducted by Ernst & Young, there was only one audit finding and recommendation, which is considered medium risk. There were no serious or adverse audit findings. Further, the SELNA programme has participated in two spot check exercises conducted by UNDP and DIC. Spot check exercises serve as pre-audit activities, which assess the technical and financial operations of the programme based on NIM guidelines and recommend necessary action/s to minimize risks and possible audit finding/s.

The SELNA Programme regularly submits updates its audit action plan including updates on the spot check recommendations to UNDP every quarter. Target completion for the audit recommendations is by end of the 2011. In summary, SELNA is in compliance in the implementation of the audit and spot check recommendations.

#### 6. List main challenges and issues (if any) faced during reporting period

Challenge/Issue	Response
Planned SELNA activities were postponed due to unavailability and busy schedule of NA Members and Committees due to NA campaigns, elections and then restructuring of its Committees and Departments for the 7 <sup>th</sup> Legislature.	Develop workplans based on the needs and requirements of the NA. Support should be provided in advance to help NA in proper planning and implementation of major activities.
Limited funding availability has limited the number and coverage of activities to be implemented this 2011. Due to issues concerning EU contribution agreement, delays	The current project document will be revised to reflect realistic activities based on actual available funds before the 2011 instalment can be requested from EU.

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are expected in receiving the full EU payment this year.	However, UNDP has committed to advance half of the funds (to be reimbursed later) to fill in funding gaps in 2011. UNDP and SELNA have revised the project document and EU contribution agreement to reflect the actual funds available and MTR recommendations. Revised project document is expected to be endorsed in the next PB Meeting.
Two senior technical posts at SELNA are currently vacant – Chief Technical Advisor and CIM Expert/Parliamentary Advisor for the EPF Committee. Also the position of Communications Specialist has been vacant since June 2010.	Excellent team support and cooperation in sharing the tasks left by vacated senior posts. Further, recruitment for the CIM Expert is still ongoing while the new CTA is expected to be on board by early 2012. For the Communication Specialist post, some of functions for this post have been absorbed by UNDP PIU and SELNA Management & Monitoring Specialist.
Pending transfer of project management responsibilities to the NA Secretariat due to the ongoing restructuring of the NA this year.	Develop a transition/phase out plan for SELNA by third quarter of 2012. Further capacity development programs and coaching and mentoring activities will be intensified and rolled out for selected NA staff during 2012 to assist them in the smooth transfer of the PIU responsibilities in the NA structures.
SELNA Joint Programme has one year of programme implementation and is expected to be completed by December 2012.	Plan ahead for the next SELNA Phase 2 to ensure smooth transition and continued support to the NA. There is one proposal for the next phase to establish a Legislative Resource and Training Center for the NA.

### 7. Rating on progress towards results

<b>Output:[From table 1. Contribution to Strategic Goals]</b>		
Output 1: Members of the NA and Committee Departments have the necessary skills and capacities to review policy, legislative and budgetary issues and more effectively oversee their implementation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Positive change
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Negative change
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unchanged
Output 2: The National Assembly effectively and accurately represents constituents' interests, needs and expectations.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Positive change
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Negative change
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unchanged
Output 3: The National Assembly has Upgraded Parliamentary Support Services	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Positive change
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Negative change
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unchanged
Outcome 4: Technical Assistance and Programme Support Services operational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Positive change
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Negative change
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unchanged

#### IV. ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES WHICH CONTRIBUTE TO THE OUTCOME AND/OR OUTPUTS

1. Participation of NA Members in the Regional Dialogue Conference on HIV/AIDS in Bangkok, Thailand from 16-17 February 2011
2. Study visit of Japan Diet/Members of Parliament from 1-3 September 2011 on the role of parliamentarians in addressing Maternal and Child Health issues.
3. Technical support to the conduct of the LAPPD elections from 1-3 September 2011 in Thalat, Vientiane Capital.
4. EU Results oriented mission by an independent consultant (Ms. Tara Bui) from 14-18 November 2011.
5. Participation of NA Lao delegation to the WHO Conference Workshop on the Prevention of Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Against Women organized by WHO/WPRO from 18-20 July 2011 in Manila, Philippines.

#### V. FUTURE WORK PLAN

##### **1. What are the priority actions planned for the following year to overcome constraints, build on achievements and partnership, and use of the lessons learned during the previous year?**

In 2012, there are several important activities that the programme has to take into consideration to overcome challenges, build on gains, and use of lessons learned during the previous year.

One, SELNA JP should continue to support NA on capacity development of new Members and Staff. More than 68% of the total NA Membership are first-time parliamentarians and require appropriate support for them to perform their duties effectively. Further, it should also build capacities of NA staff and its constituency offices by improving internal procedures and systems in Committees, Departments and constituency offices.

There is a need to encourage more inter-government partnerships and linkages in order to increase accountability and ownership as well as improve relations and partnerships between Executive and Legislative branches. Given the funding constraints in 2011, government and line ministries were tapped to co-support activities such as law review seminars and intersession programmes as well as serve as resource speakers and experts in these activities.

Gains and accomplishments of the NA should have more visibility with the donor community, media and the public by intensifying its advocacy and media partnerships. This in return can attract more partnerships and linkages as well as gain strong public support on the plans and initiatives of the NA. There is need to seize the opportunity and maximize NA Sessions and other major conferences.

Further, there is a need to devise a SELNA resource mobilization and partnership strategy for the next phase. Given that the programme completion is drawing near, SELNA needs to plan ahead and develop a proposal for the next phase.

In addition, the SELNA programme should develop by early 2012 an exit strategy/plan for the transfer of PIU responsibilities to NA to ensure smooth transition to the next phase. This should be carefully planned, to consider the capacity gaps at NA, and decisions on the proposed structure should be mutually agreed upon by both parties. Also the next SELNA proposal should ensure that commitments are fully secured and there are no funding gaps.

**2. List major adjustments in the strategies, targets or key outcomes and outputs planned.**

In the implementation of the 2011workplan, here were some adjustments in the strategies on how to enhance project implementation and maximize benefits and gains from activities:

1. Given the increasing complexity and cross-cutting nature of several activities and partnerships proposed by the NA and SELNA in particular, development and monitoring of recent laws, it is highly recommended to set up and agree on coordination mechanisms among NA, SELNA, UN Agencies and line ministries to avoid duplication of efforts and maximize expertise and competencies of each sector to contribute in quality legislations and enforcement procedures.

2. Due to budget constraints, there is a need to carefully budget and closely monitor expenditures of each activity. Availability of budgets should be ensured first before activities are planned to avoid postponements or delays. Further, regular monitoring of SELNA available resources should be reported to NA and UN agencies in order for them to carefully plan and prioritize outputs and activities based on budget availability.

3. Encourage more inter-government partnerships and linkages in order to increase accountability and ownership. Local experts from government agencies are also a good source of information and expertise for MNAs when they are drafting and reviewing bills and laws. Also given the current budget constraints, it is more practical and logical to use local experts from government agencies in workshops especially during NA Intersession Programmes.

**3. Estimated total budget required for the following year (based on 2012 Draft Annual Work Plan):**

**US\$ 874,305**

Resources	Donor	Amount
	UNDP	798,773
	Incl. Core Resources	135,000
	Incl. European Union (2010 & 2011 payments)	640,390
	Incl. UNDP 30000 (EC carry overfunds)	23,383
	UNAIDS	50,574
	UNICEF	9,000
	UNWOMEN	57,180
	UNODC	6,500
	Other commitments (to be implemented in coordination with JP)	
	German Govt 2 x TA	
	Singapore Govt \$35,000 (proofreading of laws by NUS team)	
<b>Total available budget in USD</b>		<b>922,027</b>

**VI. ANNEXES**

1. Annex 1: Combined Delivery Report (final delivery report will be attached later)
2. Annex 2: Draft Annual Work Plan for following year
3. Annex 3: Monitoring Schedule (including scheduled mandatory evaluations)
4. Annex 4: Project Risk Log
5. Annex 5: Project Issues Log
6. Annex 6: Lessons learned log
7. Annex 7: Updated Audit follow up action plan

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