GOVERNANCE AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION REFORM: STRENGTHENING THE LEGAL AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR EFFECTIVE PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION (GPAR SLIFEPA)

Project ID: 00081934

Project Description

The Governance and Public Administration Reform: Strengthening the Legal and Institutional Framework for Effective Public Administration Project is being implemented in alignment with other projects of the National GPAR Programme. The GPAR SLIFEPA Project enables the Ministry of Home Affairs to put more effective public administration into place across the respective tiers of government whilst ensuring the rights of individuals regarding the administrative system of Lao PDR.

![Image](image-url)

MoHA officials learning about ‘Effective Communication on Legislation’, Vientiane.
Photo: UNDP Lao PDR/ Vilasak Southisane

Project Summary:

- Duration: July 2014 – June 2017
- Geographic coverage: Vientiane Capital
- Focus area: Governance
- Implementing Partners: Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA)

Main Objectives and Outcomes

The overall objective of this project is to strengthen the legal and institutional frameworks for effective public administration, nationally and locally as well as to improve public administration service delivery.

The desired results include the instalment of new and/or revised legal and institutional provisions, in line with contemporary regional (ASEAN) and international principles and practices in administrative law. These provisions will provide the legal basis for more efficient and effective public administration and service delivery in Lao PDR.

This project forms an integral part of the wider National Governance Programme and will contribute to the implementation of the programme approach managed and administered by the Ministry of Home Affairs.
This project supports the second objective of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, according to which, by 2015, ‘the poor and vulnerable benefit from the improved delivery of public services, an effective protection of their rights and greater participation in transparent decision making.’

This overarching project goal is supported by four specific objectives.

1. Support for drafting public administration laws, decrees and regulations to promote effectiveness, transparency and citizen accountability.
2. Support to define inter-governmental relations (mandates, functions and budgets) for transparency and accountability.
3. Assist communication, dissemination and dialogue with citizens on laws and regulations related to public administration.
4. Develop new frameworks and systems for assessing service quality and re-engineer administrative processes.

**Results and Achievements to Date**

In the second year of the project life cycle, the project has yielded results in strengthening the capacity of the Ministry of Home Affairs staff to initiate and develop draft laws and regulations in compliance with legal requirements and procedures. Improvement in capacity is measured against an initial capacity assessment of the Ministry of Home Affairs staff.

Achievements have also been made in increasing effectiveness, transparency and citizen accountability through the revision of the Law on Local Administration and promotion of policy on inter-governmental relations.

For example, increased inter-governmental relations has resulted in the drafting of a revised Law on Local Administration. This has been achieved by project support to develop relationships and communications channels between different organisations, including the Provincial Government, National Assembly, the Provincial People’s Court, Provincial Public Prosecutor and Civil Society Organizations.

A series of workshops have been held to report on the results and lessons learned from the pilot implementation of Sam Sang1 under the Ministry of Home Affairs. The report identified barriers to good public administration encountered by different provinces and districts. Recommendations for improving the implementation of Sam Sang were proposed as a result of issues identified.

The recommendations include: simplify various legal documents issued by MOHA, continue training of village authorities on their roles and functions and improve coordination with other party committees and departments, especially in relation to appointment, transfer and removal of staff.

An initial outreach communication plan was drafted to spread information about the project to the wider public through newspapers, newsletters, websites and social media. This communications plan will be refined and then implemented through late 2015 and early 2016. Through several consultations on frameworks and systems for assessing service quality and re-engineering administrative processes, the Ministry of Home Affairs has made initial progress in agreeing and finalising the terms of reference to bring in international technical advice on the One-Door-Service-Centre. The recruitment process started in early October.

**Funding:**

- Project budget: USD 1,500,000
- Donors:
  - UNDP USD 120,000
  - EU USD 1,380,000
- Delivery (2014): USD 68,278

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1 Sam Sang or 3 Builds (Build 1: Provinces as Strategic Units, Build 2: Districts as Enhanced Capacity Units, and Build 3: Villages as Development Units.)
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