STRENGTHENING EFFECTIVE MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF PROGRESS TOWARDS NSEDP/MDGS VIA LAOINFO

Project ID: 00078227

Project Description
An effective and reliable database is crucial for monitoring the implementation of national socio-economic plans and progress towards the MDGs and other national policies. To ensure that data is used to inform policy decisions and bring about better development results, both users and producers of data need to work together. In Lao PDR management and accessibility of data collected through administrative reporting systems, surveys and censuses needs to be improved. Data must be tailored to the needs of users and the wider public. It needs to be widely understood and used by governments and legislators in policy making and planning, and by the public to advocate for policies.

Project Summary:
- Duration: June 2011 – December 2015
- Geographic coverage: Vientiane Capital
- Focus Area: Poverty Reduction
- Implementing Partners: Lao Statistic Bureau, Ministry of Planning and Investment
- Websites: Website:
  - http://www.lsb.gov.la
  - http://www.laoinfo.gov.la

Main Objectives and Outcomes
The main objectives are to support evidence-based reporting, planning and decision-making at the national and sub-national levels to support the implementation of the NSEDP/MDGs. This involves the establishment of a monitoring framework and associated indicators for the NSEDP, and the creation of a network for data exchange between key producers and the LSB. The project will prepare statistical literacy manual for data users to enhance their ability to read and interpret statistics and enhance their capacity to use statistical data to promote evidence-based planning and decision-making.

Result and Achievements to Date
LaoInfo portal was successfully established to enhance data accessibility and promote evidence based planning. The website consolidates data on national socio-economic indicators, and makes it readily available for planning, monitoring and advocacy purposes. The database contains over 500 indicators from a variety of data sources; including the 3rd MDG Progress Report, 2005 Census, Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey and the Lao Reproductive Health Survey and indicators from recent survey e.g. Lao Social Indicator Survey (LSIS).
To improving Statistical Utilization for MDG and NSEDP monitoring at the local level, LSB has investigated and identified issues, gaps, and challenges in order to support the improvement of the statistical system at the local level. The results will be provided to Department of Planning (DOP)/MPI as inputs for drafting 7th NSEDP monitoring framework.

Through a series of capacity building measures, e.g. trainings and hand on exercises on DevInfo/LaoInfo operation, LSB LaoInfo focal points have been equipped with the capability to manage the LaoInfo database and are able to train government officials from different line ministries and provinces on using data from LaoInfo for data exchange, as well as evidence based planning and decision making.

First statistical literacy guideline for data users has successfully prepared to promote the use of official statistics and enhance data users read and interpret statistics.

**Funding:**
- Total Project Budget: US$1,299,500
- Donors: UNDP: US$ 828,495
- Unfunded Budget (Funding Gap): US$ 471,005
- Delivery in previous fiscal year (2013): US$ 140,053.81

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