



The case of Laos

Regional workshop on
Joint Programming for Asia

28-29 April 2015, Yangon, Myanmar

Context

- ▶ **Large donor presence (traditional + non-traditional)**
 - ▶ Donor Coordination via Round Table process
- ▶ **Limited MS presence, but proportionally large development programmes**
- ▶ 3 EU MS resident missions
 - ▶ (in total 5 with bilateral portfolio + EU Del)
- ▶ Participation of 8 MS + EU Del + CH
- ▶ Low politicisation factor
- ▶ Missions focus mostly on Development Cooperation
- ▶ Strong coordination with HoMs



Current JP

- ▶ Joint EU Transition Strategy 2014-2015:
 - ▶ Joint EU (European Commission and the Member States) response in support of the Lao Government's 7th National Socio-Economic Development Plan (NSED) 2011-2015
 - ▶ Aligned to the national planning cycle to cover the period 2014-2015



Current sectors of intervention

Sector	BE	DE	DK	EUD	FI	FR	HU	IE	LU	NL	UK	DPs per sector
Education		x		X					x		x	3
Health			x			x			x			3
Agriculture and Rural Development		X		X	x	X	Loan	x	x			7
Natural Resource Management and Environment	x	X		Th	x					x	x	6
Macro-economics												1
Trade and Private Sector Development		X		x		Loans		x				4
Infrastructure		x				Loans						1-2
Governance		X	x	X	x	X			X			3
UXO Mine Action		Th		x				x			x	
Sectors per DP	1	3-5	2	3	3	3	1	3	3		3	



Joint initiatives in the Governance sector

- ▶ 4 year programme designed jointly by EU, DE and CH:
 - ▶ overall objective of increasing citizens' engagement in national development of the Lao PDR.
- ▶ Financial contribution:
 - ▶ EU 5.5 MEUR, CH 5 MEUR and DE 3.5 MEUR
- ▶ Expertise:
 - ▶ Justice → EU
 - ▶ National Assembly → DE
 - ▶ Civil Society → CH



Joint initiatives in the Governance sector

- ▶ Pool Funded and implemented by a MS agency: GiZ
- ▶ The programme will establish
 - ▶ A steering committee comprising the three donors
 - ▶ An advisory board open to all European DPs engaged in the sector
- ➔ Aiming for common positions and leverage vis à vis the Government
- ▶ Represents a significant component of the JP in Laos
- ▶ Will contribute to the realisation of the EU Roadmap for Engagement with Civil Society



EU Joint Programming 2016-2020

- ▶ 2014-2015 Joint EU Transition Strategy will be followed by
 - ➔ fully-fledged EU Joint Programming covering the period 2016-2020, aligned with the next Lao PDR national development plan (8th NSEDP)
 - ➔ likely to focus on a reduced set of sectors



EU JP 2016-2020 – continued

- ▶ Common interest on phasing towards a single programming process, aiming for:
 - ▶ no duplication
 - ▶ less transaction costs.
- ▶ Could potentially be considered as the bilateral programming document (European Commission and the Member States).
 - ➔ This will require it meets the relevant quality requirements of those involved.



EU JP 2016-2020 – continued

- ▶ The Joint Programming document will be composed of two parts:
 - ▶ Country analysis:
 - ▶ Ongoing JP **analytical studies** to contribute to the country analysis:
 - PEA update (EU Del)
 - Social Media (CH)
 - Youth (DE)
 - Civil Society Mapping (EU Del)
 - ▶ the strategy document: spells out the strategy and (high level) objectives for the sectors of interventions for the EU (Delegation + MS).
 - ▶ Main sectors could have a joint sector intervention framework.
 - ▶ The EU will annex a more in depth and detailed intervention framework related to EU's 3 priority sectors: Education, Governance and Sustainable Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Security.



JP: Lessons learnt

- ▶ Need for flexibility and hence to consider various scenarios.
 - ▶ Joint and inclusive process.
 - ▶ Importance of ensuring consultations with the Government early on in the process.
 - ▶ Implementation and JP including division of labour are becoming more and more interlinked processes.
 - ▶ Strong involvement of EU MS is crucial.
 - ▶ From Division of Labour to joint implementation (when and where possible) → e.g. Governance sector
 - ▶ Aid effectiveness principles as guidance.
 - ▶ Cohesive strategy increases visibility and leverage of EU (EC+MS) development cooperation and common messaging.
-



Next steps for JP 2016-2020

- ▶ *Joint sector assessment, some joint response, consultations (GoL, DPs, CSO and Private Sector).*
- ▶ ***Endorsement of the EU JP by December 2015.***
- ▶ ***Clear distribution of responsibilities between EU Delegation and EU MS (and EU-alike)***
- ▶ **Probable outcome:**
 - ▶ one EU JP Document (+ possibly donor profiles)
 - ▶ additional specific results framework (for EU Del)



Challenges

- ▶ How to effectively engage the government in the consultation process while ensuring their interest?
- ▶ Which level of Gov endorsement to aim for?
- ▶ Lack of enabling environment for effective involvement of civil society.
- ▶ Systematic gap of ~two years between the launch of the strategy and the operational rollout.
- ▶ How to achieve an increasing replacement of bilateral strategies under JP?
- ▶ Phasing towards a more joint results-oriented approach.



Thank you

