



Awareness raising on the danger of insecticides to villagers in Kham district, Xiengkhouang province by the Lao Disabled People's Association, 02/2021 Photo credit: ©GIZ/CEGGA

# Working better together for good governance

## Citizen Engagement for Good Governance, Accountability and Rule of Law (CEGGA II)

### Context

The Government of the Lao PDR is working towards strengthening good governance and promoting democratic principles. This includes implementing constitutional amendments, new laws and decrees. It is important to ensure that these achievements are put into practice and that citizens and civil society are aware of their rights and involved in the development process. This is where CEGGA comes in.

The initial phase (2017-2022) of CEGGA programme had been designed with broad and large-scales objectives, allowing for a variety of entry points for Team Europe partners' dialogue and cooperation with Lao PDR around human rights, rule of law, good governance, accountability and citizen engagement.

The CEGGA II (2022-2025) helps with two of the three main goals of the Team Europe (the European Joint Programme) Strategy for Laos: promoting good governance, human rights, and the rule of law; and supporting the Green Team Europe Initiative as a green catalyst by giving small grants to local Civil Society Organisations (CSOs); and showing off new ways of promoting good governance in the areas of the environment and sustainable management of natural resources, such as climate change and forestry.

### Objective

CEGGA aimed to increase citizen engagement in national development by improving civil society's enabling environment and operational capacities, strengthening parliamentary functions, and implement human rights obligations and the rule of law.

<b>Programme Title</b>	<b>Citizen Engagement for Good Governance Accountability and Rule of Law (CEGGA)</b>
<b>Commissioned by</b>	<b>Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and European Union (EU)</b>
<b>Programme Region</b>	<b>Luang Prabang, Khammouane (Provincial), and Vientiane Capital (National)</b>
<b>Leading Executing agencies</b>	<b>Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA), Ministry of Justice (MoJ), National Assembly (NA), Provincial Departments of Home Affairs, and of Justices, Provincial People's Assemblies (PPA), Lao Civil Society Coordination Committee (LCCC)</b>
<b>Duration</b>	<b>November 2022 – October 2025</b>

### Approach

Based on the achievement of the first phase, CEGGA II seeks to further improve citizen-state interaction for inclusive national development. This objective is pursued through three components at central and in two partner provinces, Khammouan and Luang Prabang.

- The dialogue between civil society organizations (CSOs) and state institutions has improved in quantity and quality. The Lao Civil Society Coordination Committee (LCCC), which is the key coordination network for Lao CSOs, is very supportive of CEGGA II's goal to get more CSOs involved in multi-stakeholder dialogue. This will make it easier for

CSOs to have meaningful conversations with government partners and get grant and capacity-strengthening support for development.

- The National Assembly and Provincial People's Assemblies apply citizen-oriented procedures. The National Assembly will increase the number of draft legislations that receive CEGGA II input on gender and social inclusion during NA-Ordinary sessions and apply the operational guide for post-legislative scrutiny to another NA legislative process.
- The access to justice for citizens has improved, as evidenced by the rise in the number of citizens receiving legal aid and the increased awareness among public officials, members of NA, and PPAs about the rules of law development methodologies in public administration as a fundamental principle for ensuring justice.

## Impact

With CEGGA support, average registration time for CSOs was reduced from 595 working days (2018) to 151 working days (2022). 7 CSO sector working groups were established and local communities in 200 villages across 15 provinces were reached by CSO-implemented measures.

Between 2017 and 2022, CEGGA supported the National Assembly and the Provincial People's Assembly (PPAs) with more than 180 capacity development activities achieving all 18 PPAs to become fully operational in their first legislature.

With CEGGA support, 60 teachers at the National Institute for Justice demonstrated improved practice-orientated teaching skills, 5,600 participants benefitted from interactive methods in support of Clinical Legal Education and a strategy on

gender-responsive village mediation was developed and rolled out by 59 trainers from all provinces.

## Gender Mainstreaming and Leave No One Behind

Building on the Lao PDR Gender Profile developed by the Lao Women's Union, in accordance with SDG 5, and in line with the European Partners' Gender Action Plan III – 2021-2025, CEGGA II aims at supporting female staff of its main partner institutions at national and subnational levels, including female ministry staff, female parliamentarians and female staff of CSOs in fulfilling their roles and mandates more confidently in order to have an equal say compared to their male colleagues in their respective institution or organisation.

With regard to the target group, the support to CSOs and the provision of grants will be based on their added value to gender equality, support to vulnerable groups (e.g., youth, people with disabilities, ethnic groups) and/or environment; PPAs' gender-responsiveness in following-through on citizen issues will be strengthened.

The formulation of CEGGA II has been guided by a rights-based approach and the principles of 'do no harm' and 'leaving no one behind', in line with the programme's focus on governance, rule of law and human rights. CEGGA II engages with citizens from a diversity of ethnicities, including those who are disproportionately affected by poverty and marginalization due to linguistic and other obstacles. The programme's promotion of inclusive policies and processes in the civil society, parliamentary and justice sectors will encourage and support state authorities and parliaments to tailor their approaches to better include and serve the needs of all citizens, whatever their ethnicity.



Promoting digital means to connect with underserved communities in Champasak Province. Photo credit: ©GIZ/Phoonsab

### About GIZ Laos

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