Lao National Commission for the Advancement of Women

Gender Mainstreaming Policies in Lao PDR

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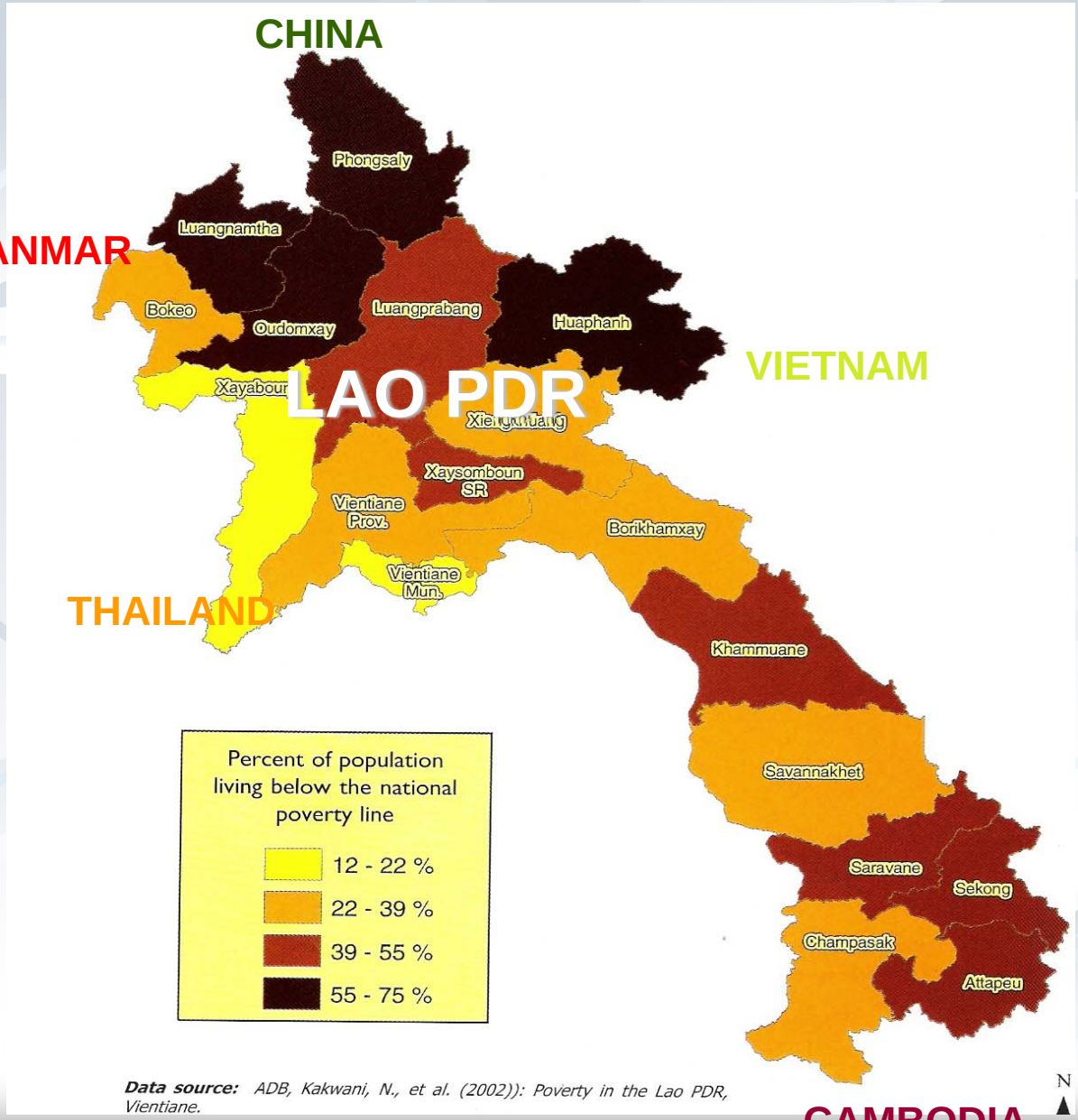
General Information of Lao PDR

Geographic Information

Lao People Democratic Republic (Lao PDR) is a landlocked country. It has its borders with these following countries: China in the North; Myanmar in the NorthEast; Thailand in the West, Cambodia in the South and Vietnam in the East.

Lao People's Democratic Republic



Data source: *ADB, Kakwani, N., et al. (2002)): Poverty in the Lao PDR, Vientiane.*

- **The uniqueness of Lao PDR is that from North to South there has a Mekong River running through the country with 1,900 km long.**
- **Area: 236.800 sq km and 70% of the Land are Plateau and High Mountains.**
- **17 provinces (16 provinces and Vientiane Capital); comprises of 141 Districts & 10.522 villages (2005).**
- **Population: 5.6 million people; in which 50.2% are women.**
- **Religion: Buddhism.**
- **Official Language: Lao Language**

Lao Culture

People living in remote area

Job Description:

I worked at the department of external relation and planning, my responsibilities are coordinating and sharing information with gender focal point of development partner, international organization and others NGOs, making workplan in each quarter of LaoNCAW project, assisting manager for collecting data on the status of women in all areas for the preparation and drafting CEDAW Report and Assisting manager for collecting data collection of participatory evaluation for LaoNCAW Project.

Major policies on promotion of gender equalities

- The Government of Lao PDR has made promotion of gender equality a priority
- LaoNCAW has a plan consists of five programmes, as follows :

  - Improve women's participation in implementation of the National Growth and Poverty Eradication Strategy
  - Promote opportunities for women and girls to be equal with men and boys in education and other fields
  - Improve health care services for women
  - Increase the number of women in leading positions at all levels
  - Strengthen the capacity of national organizations concerned with protection of women and promotion of their advancement.

The Major gender problems as follows:

- Lack of knowledge on concept of gender
- Lack of human capacity to effective carry out gender mainstreaming with in programs and through training exercise
- Lack of budget to support the gender mainstreaming process

Skill and knowledge gained from this seminar

The skill and knowledge that I gained from this seminar also from others participants are **:** Identified issue/problems related to how to strengthen and build capacity for LaoNCAW regards on mainstreaming gender have improved

Action Plan on Mainstreaming Gender

1. **Project Title:** Capacity Building Programme on Gender Mainstreaming for Management Sub-Commission for the Advancement of Women (Sub-CAWs)
2. **Project Objective**: Strengthen Capacity of Middle Management level of SubCAWs to implement gender mainstreaming policies.
3. **Project Site**: The Secretariat Office of National Commission for the Advancement of Women.

Action Plan on Mainstreaming Gender (Con't)

4. **Project Duration:** 1 year (March 2010 to February 2011).

5. **Implementing body:** Lao National Commission for the Advancement of Women (LaoNCAW).

6. **Target Group:** Head of Division for Advancement of Women in 3 Ministries (Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education and Ministry of Planning and Investment), 2 Provinces (Vientiane Province and Xiengkhuang Province)

Action Plan on Mainstreaming Gender (Con't)

7. Activities:

- Setting up office
- Conduct workshop on office management, basic Gender Mainstreaming technique, Gender Responsive Project Cycle Management
- Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation project.

Action Plan on Mainstreaming Gender (Con't)

8. Output

- The head of Divisions for the Advancement of Women in three ministries and two provinces improve their knowledge of gender mainstreaming and office management
- Middle level management of Sub-CAWs can effectively develop action plan linking activities of the National Strategy with their sector plans.
- Middle level management can effectively monitor and evaluate sectoral programs

Thank you

DOMO ARIGATO GOZAIMASU