



Call for Concept Notes

Support to strengthen research and communication skills of Lao civil society organisations

About the CEGGA programme

The Programme “Citizen Engagement for Good Governance, Accountability and Rule of Law” (CEGGA) seeks to contribute to increased citizens’ engagement in national development, through the promotion of good governance, human rights and the rule of law in Lao PDR, as laid out in the Government’s policies and strategies. The programme is implemented by GIZ in close collaboration with the Lao Government and jointly funded by the European Union, Germany and Switzerland.

CEGGA cooperates with MoHA in pursuit of the specific objective to improve the environment and operational capacity for civil society engagement for sustainable development and good governance. This includes support to the capacity development of Lao CSOs to better contribute their knowledge to sectoral policy discussions at the national and regional level.

Context and rationale for research skills support to CSOs

The Lao PDR is steadily progressing toward its Sustainable Development Goals with a focus on leaving no one behind. Because they work closely with under-served communities throughout the country, Lao CSOs play an essential role in that effort, bringing resources, expertise, and the voices of the communities they serve into the national development work.

Many CSOs are interested to participate in policy discussions forums such as sector working group meetings or the ASEAN Peoples’ Forum – but they often struggle with transforming their practical knowledge and experiences into solid information addressing specific policy questions on the agenda. CSOs know that reliable evidence is required for identifying goals, measuring growth, and creating transparency – but they often express that they face challenges in conducting effective research due largely to a lack of experience and training.

A short survey conducted by CEGGA identified that few CSOs are confident in their abilities to conduct research. For example, less than a fourth of the 47 CSO managers who responded to the survey believed that the personnel at their CSO could design a questionnaire and conduct one-on-one interviews. Even higher challenges were seen in more abstract tasks like research design, data analysis and the presentation of findings.

Addressing these capacity gaps – through skills development measures and the promotion of partnerships between CSOs and research institutions – will make research more meaningful and beneficial to the CSOs, their government partners, and the communities they serve.



Proposed scope for research skills support through CEGGA

CEGGA aims to provide funding support for a 12-month training programme for 10-20 CSO personnel with existing experience in research projects. The trainings shall be modular and tailored to each individual's needs. The trainings should be complemented by mentoring support to help the participants carry out a practice phase through small research projects to cement their new knowledge.

The training modules shall address the major components of a research project:

- Conceptualizing and designing a research project based on a problem or question;
- Designing or selecting appropriate research tools such as surveys or group discussions;
- Implementing or Analysing the information to create meaningful and helpful findings;
- and creating policy or project recommendations based on the research findings.

The trainers and mentors should be highly qualified local experts, ideally from local research institutions such as the National University of Laos, to help foster relationships between CSOs and academia, that may be translated into longer-term partnerships.

The participants shall increase their capacity in research and become resources for their own NPAs and those within their network. Following the completion of the training programme, the participants shall showcase their research results as well as personal learning journeys through a sharing workshop with relevant stakeholders.

Invitation to submit Concept Notes

The CEGGA programme is looking for an implementing partner organisation to lead on the conceptualisation and implementation of the research skills support with a maximum budget of up to 250,000 EUR and an implementation timeframe of indicatively 01-12/2021.

The organisation should have an established presence in Lao PDR and demonstrated experience supporting the capacity development of Lao CSOs. Activities will be implemented under the umbrella of the CEGGA programme, i.e. without the need for an additional MoU.

Interested organisations are invited to submit a concept note outlining their proposed approach. The concept note should express at least the following:

- A draft concept for the provision of training (incl. key contents or a process for defining said content) as well as guided practice periods (incl. provisions for backstopping / mentoring);
- Proposed implementation partners, especially trainers; or a process for identifying them;
- Proposed number of CSO participants, a process for identifying them, and arrangements (such as stipends) for enabling their participation as necessary;
- Synergies with other interventions, as applicable;
- The organisation's relevant capacity and experience to carry out the programme;
- A rough timeline and budget (only top budget lines), up to a 250,000 Euro maximum;

The concept notes should ideally be between three and six pages long.



Next steps

- 1) Please submit your Concept Note to GIZ by **25 November 2020**. Submissions shall be made in softcopy to Alexander.Neubauer@giz.de. There is no template.
- 2) MoHA and GIZ will jointly review received concept notes, may choose to invite shortlisted candidates for brief discussions to clarify open questions, and will make a selection decision by tentatively 07 December 2020.
- 3) GIZ will then coordinate further with the selected organisation for the proposal development / finalisation and contracting processes. Formal contract signing between GIZ and the selected organisation is expected to take place in January 2021; implementation is expected to start as soon as possible.
- 4) Throughout the implementation period, the selected organisation will be directly responsible for the implementation of activities including coordination with the target group and relevant implementation partners; liaison with MoHA (e.g. on implementation progress) will be channelled through GIZ as necessary.