



Australian Government

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Annual Report Template

Australian Development Research Awards Scheme

2012 Funding Round

Purpose: The aim of this template is to provide the Australian Government and research teams with a systematic way to collect data on individual ADRAS research projects. The data will be used by the Australian Government in aggregate to monitor the ADRAS program as a whole. Reporting includes a mix of metrics, case studies and narrative and can be tailored to suit individual projects as they progress.

Agreement Number	201200937
Project Title Please restate the working title as specified on the Australian Aid website at: http://aid.dfat.gov.au/research/Pages/adras-awards-2012.aspx	Improving access to social and economic services for people with disability (Laos)
Administering Organisation	Curtin University
Principal Investigator	s 47 F(1)
Total Australian Aid funding received during reporting year (AUDS)	\$161, 333 for the period 2013-14

1. What are the aims and objectives of the research? *Limit 150 words.*

The aim of this project is to identify and contribute empirical evidence of barriers and facilitators to social and economic participation and development for people with disabilities in Laos. The project will work with Lao organisations (government, DPOs, INGOs, NGOs) to improve their information about people living with disability, and work with relevant Lao government ministries to develop disability-inclusive development policies and programs to ensure social and economic participation for Lao people with disability.

The project objectives are:

- To work with key stakeholders in Laos to identify barriers and facilitators to social and economic participation for people with disabilities
 - To build capacity of local stakeholders in research, monitoring and evaluation, and good practice for disability-inclusive development
 - To share research findings, which will support relevant ministries and DPOs' work in designing and implementing disability-inclusive development policies and programs.
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2. Please outline the progress made towards achieving the research objectives during the reporting period? Limit 500 words.

Four members of the research team s 47 F(1) met at the Communications Workshop in Canberra in May 2013 as a means of networking with other researchers and engaging with the ADRAS expectations. Four members of the research team s 47 F(1) s 47 F(1) met for three days in Perth in June 2013 to begin designing the research project in detail. Team members met face to face and via teleconference regularly until September.

Following Australian Aid's recommended changes to the research proposal in 2013 and the Laos field visit by the project team early 2014, significant changes have been made to the research design (see Attachment X). This has included a review of the survey tools originally thought to be relevant and which have now been found to be inappropriate.

Objective 1: - To work with key stakeholders in Laos to identify barriers and facilitators to social and economic participation for people with disabilities

Network maps and contact details of DPOs and INGOs were compiled with the assistance of a WHO disability consultant s 47 F(1). A systematic scoping review of both formal and informal literature to identify current research into facilitators and barriers to services for people with disability in Laos was completed. This highlighted concerns about prevalence data, based on issues of conceptualisation of disability; evidence of a partial evaluation of a long running inclusive education project; relatively little interest in CBR (community based rehabilitation); and there was little reporting of the lived experience of people with disability, which is important in planning inclusive services.

Three members of the research team s 47 F(1) and research consultant, s 47 F(1) s 47 F(1) visited Vientiane and met with the local team member s 47 F(1) and key stakeholders in February 2014. These discussions verified what was found through the literature review. There are a number of localised related projects which vary in size and scope (eg. SCF Inclusive Education project, CBR in Champasak province), but very little integration of services for people with disability at this point. There is potential for this project to work with the National Coordination Committee to improve integration. This visit helped to establish personal and working relationships with potential partners. The team were able to learn how to decipher some local political, procedural and environmental factors.

The LDPA has agreed to work with us as an implementing partner following the approval of the Lao PDR government. This organisation has extensive networks throughout the country, holds a key advocacy role for people with disabilities, and co-chairs the National Coordination Committee.

Objective 2: - To build capacity of local stakeholders in research, monitoring and evaluation, and good practice for disability-inclusive development

Progress on Objective 2 has understandably been limited. We have added s 47 F(1) to the research team. s 47 F(1) held an earlier ADRAS grant looking at Disability and Stigma in VietNam. His survey design and analysis skills add strength to the team. We have now added s 47 F(1) to the team. Her human rights research experience will add to the capacity of the team, and help to make up lost time. As soon as an MOU with the government and implementing partners is signed, in-country capacity-building will commence. Work plans are currently being developed following discussions with potential partners. An application for ethics will be submitted to Curtin University's HREC following finalisation at in-country meetings with partners in June 2014. We will recruit research assistants through the LDPA, and provide training for data collection. The Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare requested training in monitoring and evaluation. This is planned for November 2014.

Objective 3: - To share research findings, which will support relevant ministries' and DPOs' work in designing and implementing disability-inclusive development policies and programs.

At the meetings with key stakeholders in Laos we shared our findings from the systematic literature search. The discussions that followed highlighted the challenges faced by the National Coordination Committee.

Three Ministries hold responsibility for different services relevant to disability-inclusive development, but there is little integration of services or planning at present. We will ask to present our research and join discussions on disability-inclusive development at the National Disability Forum in 2014 and 2015. We will continue to produce written material about relevant issues and findings. We will offer technical support for M&E plans following the training workshops, and promote discussion at the National Coordination committee which leads to integration of services and disability-inclusive development.



3. What activities have been undertaken to engage key stakeholders in the research?

Table 1: Engagement of external individual / groups / networks

External Individuals / Groups / Networks per Theme			
External Individual / Group / Network engaged ¹	Duration of engagement ²	What / how did engaged group contribute? ³	Changes to relationships/networks ⁴
Communications Workshop in Canberra (ADRAS Research team)	One day May 2013	Information about how to work with Australian Aid. Networking with other ADRAS disability research projects	Clear lines of communication. Ongoing links with other research projects
Director of National Coordination Office for PWDs and Elder Persons - s 47 F(1)	Two meetings September 2013 (new)	s 47 F(1) made contact with s 47 F(1) to determine interest in the project	s 47 F(1) indicated he was interested and invited s 47 F(1) to attend a National Coordination meeting. Minutes from the meeting confirmed the changing state of play for PWD in Laos
3rd UNESCO-APEID Meeting on Entrepreneurship Education	Kuala Lumpur Malaysia December 2013 (new) UNESCO-APEID Meeting on Entrepreneurship Education was a 3-day event (10-12 December)	Networking with Lao and regional researchers, government, and intergovernmental organisations	Launch of UNESCO EE-Net (entrepreneurship education network). s 47 F(1) had discussions with UNESCO-APEID with regards to establishing a special interest group to facilitate vocational and employment pathways for people with disability through entrepreneurship education.
2014 Ratchasuda International Conference on Disability Inclusive ASEAN Perspectives on Rights and Quality of Life of	Bangkok Thailand February 20-21 2014 (new).	Presented findings of this project's scoping review. Networking with practitioners, disability advocates and educators Dissemination	Ongoing communication and network-building in the region

¹ *Engaged:* State the name of the organisation / institution / group / network and any relevant individual or key contact personnel involved

² *Duration of engagement:* State whether the engagement is 'new' i.e. commenced during the ADRAS project or 'existing' and include the years of engagement e.g. 2009, 2010, 2011

³ *Contribution of engaged group:* Classify the contribution according to which stage in your research project the engagement has occurred. For example: Design; Implementation/fieldwork; report writing; review. Consideration of findings/recommendations; Communication / dissemination

⁴ *Change:* Outcomes in terms of changes in engagement – relationships / structures, networks including creation of new networks; formalizing relationships e.g. through MoUs;

<p>Persons with Disability</p>			
<p>Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare – Director-General s 47 F(1) Deputy Director Secretariat for National Committee for People with a Disability and Elderly s 47 F(1) Acting Director to National Coordination Office for PWDs and Elder persons - s 47 F(1) and 3 staff members from University of Health Sciences</p>	<p>One large meeting at MOLSW (February 2014) - new Two meetings with s 47 F(1) and s 47 F(1) (Technical Advisor to MOLSW) (February 2014)</p>	<p>Discussion of research proposal. Request for more material to be presented later that week. The second meeting was cancelled as the government officials were called to a party meeting. Although the National Coordinating Committee for PWDs sits within this Ministry, indications are that this Ministry is resource-poor and risk-averse.</p>	<p>s 47 F(1) would appreciate the support the project would offer. Other alternatives are the Ministry for Education and Ministry for Health. One clear request was for capacity building of Ministry staff in monitoring and evaluation. Another suggestion from the DFAT Office in Vientiane was the National University of Laos. I will follow up on that if there is still no outcome from MOLSW</p>
<p>s 22 1(a)(ii) Australian Aid, DFAT Vientiane</p>	<p>Two meetings (February 2014)</p>	<p>Information about current issues and projects in disability sector. Facilitated introductions to more key stakeholders. Provided names of interpreters.</p>	<p>Very helpful and informative. Ongoing communication and links to other key officers in DFAT and in the disability sector in Laos</p>
<p>Handicap International s 47 F(1) and s 47 F(1)</p>	<p>One meeting (February 2014)</p>	<p>Information about HI's current priorities and their various disability-inclusive projects. We provided a copy of the scoping review paper</p>	<p>HI has played a significant role in disability-inclusive development in Laos. We will maintain contact as project gets further underway, and continue to exchange findings from respective projects</p>
<p>Lao Disabled People's Association(LDPA) s 47 F(1) Deputy President ; s 47 F(1) Training and Development Advisor, Australian volunteer; and introductions to s 47 F(1)</p>	<p>One meeting (February 2014)</p>	<p>Discussion about project. Introduction to the work, knowledge and aspirations of LDPA</p>	<p>Ongoing email and phone contact. Working towards relationship as key implementing partner</p>

s 47 F(1) Executive President of the LDPA)			
Centre for Medical Rehabilitation – Director General s 47 F(1) (Director of CBR), ands 47 F(1) (blind teacher of blind children)	One meeting (February 2014)	Discussion about project and current projects of CMR, including CBR	Ongoing email contact with introductions to other key players in rehabilitation field. Will maintain contact as project progresses. Helpful, given disability-inclusive CBR maybe a theme for the project
Save the Children International	One meeting (February 2014)	Information about inclusive education schools projects and development of ongoing school infrastructure	Will identify the member of staff engaged in the 16-year inclusive education projects commenced in 1992. Useful as this ADRAS project can focus on extending on the achievements of the SCF inclusive education project
Laos-Australia Institutes 47 F(1) Manager TNR & HRD)	One meeting (February 2014)	Information about human resource development and scholarships for further education. Working with the National University of Laos and Vientiane College	Will maintain contact as capacity building activities start up
s 22 1(a)(ii) DFAT Laos	Phone calls and email exchanges	Trouble shooting. Introductions to useful contacts and alternative pathways	Extending networks, finding alternative pathways when necessary. Introduction to National University of Laos as possible alternative for MOU

4. What knowledge outputs or research communications have resulted from the project so far? How have these been used to achieve the research objectives?
 Please provide the Australian Government with copies of these outputs with this progress report.

Table 1: Knowledge Outputs

Type of output	Title/description of output	Published Y/N?	Source	
Literature review / scoping study	Overview of the literature about disability in Lao PDR related to the inclusive-development agenda		Internal	
Tool / guide / testing of tool				
Conference paper/poster/presentation	Facilitating disability inclusive development in Lao PDR	Presented at Ratchasuda conference	External	
Academic paper (journal article/working paper/book chapter/monograph)	Facilitating disability inclusive development in Lao PDR by improving access to social and economic services: a scoping review of contexts and concepts	Accepted for publication in peer-reviewed conference proceedings	External – shared paper with INGO and other colleagues in Laos	
Policy document (Policy brief/research brief /recommendations /seminar)				
Project evaluation				
Website/social media/traditional media				
			No of total outputs:	3

Table 2: Methods of Communication

Communication per Knowledge Output				
Target Audience	Knowledge output	Communication Method ⁵	Audience Reached ⁶	Response ⁷
Registrants of the Ratchasuda International Conference on Disability 2014	Peer-reviewed paper outlining scoping review on disability in Lao	Oral presentation	Over 150 academics and people with disability from the ASEAN region	Paper accepted for publication in peer-reviewed conference proceedings.

⁵ *Communication Method*: General statement of method e.g. publication, social media, seminar, meeting, conference, teaching, course etc.
⁶ *Audience Reached*: Specify level as well as estimate proportion of intended target audience reached, where possible. Include gender breakdown
⁷ *Response*: Qualitative assessment of response or sign of attention paid to the communication by the target audience E.g. expressions of interest; requests for more information; active participation and engagement; provision of comments or feedback. May include negative responses.

Inclusive ASEAN Perspectives on Rights and Quality of Life of Persons with Disability			including Indonesia, Laos, Myanmar, Philippines, Vietnam, Thailand	Ongoing exchange with conference participants
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Attendance and participation at this conference helped meet Objectives 1 and 3. s 47 F(1) (Deputy Director General, ASEAN) presented a challenging paper on the inclusive ASEAN perspective on human rights and quality of life for persons with disabilities. Among the presenters were academics, practitioners, advocates, researchers and policy makers, many of whom were people with disabilities. They presented on their work in the ASEAN region and were interested in our presentation about the situation in Laos.

5. What activities have been undertaken to expand the capacity of the researchers, particularly those in developing countries, and other professionals to undertake research and use research findings.

Table 1: Internal capacity building

Target	Data per Theme				
	Audience ⁸	Competency ⁹	What was done***	Sustainability ¹⁰	Formal recognition/ qualification ¹¹
Staff	Research Assistants	Literature review			
Students					
Organisational					

We have provided training to research assistants in conducting systematic literature searches. We have reviewed a variety of research instruments and developed data collection tools, which are now ready for discussion with Lao partners, and then submission to the Ethics committees.

⁸ Audience: May encompass a range of staff, students, government/program workers, researchers, entities, organizations, contractors and peak bodies.

⁹ Competency (of capacity building): May include areas such as interest / engagement in policy issue; design / undertake relevant studies (lit review, policy analysis, regulatory analysis etc); analyse results, interpret and prepare reports; communicate / disseminate & engage with policy makers; build networks/relationships/partnerships; provide training/build capacity in others; leadership and management.

¹⁰ Sustainability: This may include ability to contextualise to country situations, synthesise information, apply lessons learned in Australia or overseas to new contexts, integration of courses/training into core business, applying lessons learned into new leadership roles, the continuation of program(s), use of tool(s) as a routine device to inform local and broader policy action

¹¹ Formal recognition/qualification: Completion of training course; Master/Doctorate/other qualification

6. Did your research progress as planned? If not, why not? Limit 500 words.

Overall, the project is progressing well. It was clear from the start that the project would require ongoing flexible and responsive approaches. Early on, the ADRAS research committee suggested some re-conceptualisation of the project, and requested a focus on barriers and facilitators of disability-inclusive development (rather than measurement and classification of disability) as well as an emphasis on in-country capacity-building. This important change of direction was challenging for one team member whose earlier Lao research was UXO-related. It is now clear that this research project ought not to focus on the prevalence of disability, nor should the primary focus necessarily be in areas with high prevalence rates of UXO-injuries.

Further, a number of recent and significant achievements in disability in Laos have been identified including the government's ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disability (UNCRPD) in 2009. This, along with a number of other positive advancements such as the well-established nature of the LDPA and the recognition that disability is far more encompassing than the impact of UXO, all support the change of direction. The LDPA is the important peak DPO body which has over 20,000 people with disability as members. It also now represents a broad range of other DPOs and provides the voice of lived experience for the blind, the deaf, and women with disability as well as people with autism, intellectual disability and cerebral palsy.

When the project stalled for a few months as this member of the research team was unable to work with the revised research plan, the remainder of the research team picked up extra work to make up ground. We have now appointed two experienced researchers to join the team, and this will allow us to make up lost time. The team visit to Laos has provided essential information and new contacts. As well, it was possible to meet our Lao research partner again, and start building stronger relationships with key stakeholders. It may be possible that our Lao partner is not interested in continuing to work with the project as her relationship was with s 47 F(1) and disability is not her area of interest. I will check this out in June. There are strong indications that the National University of Laos may be an interested partner. I will follow up this lead from the DFAT office in Vientiane.

To summarise:

1. The project plan was revised following ADRAS research committee review. This has made it a stronger and more relevant project
2. A change in team membership. One team member has left. s 47 F(1) has been engaged as a research consultant. s 47 F(1) was a previous ADRAS holder on a project about disability and stigma in VietNam. s 47 F(1) has now also joined the team
3. Information has been disseminated through a published paper, through meetings with local stakeholders
4. Further development and refinement of project plan following visit to Laos
5. A revised research plan has been prepared and is attached
6. Potential partners have been identified and ongoing discussions are underway
7. Capacity-building activities have been identified
8. Preparation for Monitoring and Evaluation workshops is underway
9. An MOU is being prepared
10. Implementing partner (LDPA) has been identified and is, in principle, keen to work on the project
11. Local research collaborations are being further investigated
12. Budget has been reviewed. Due to the changes, less than expected was expended in 2013-14. Therefore, more will be expended in 2014-15 than is outlined in the current budget. Only the distribution has changed while the total expenditure remains the same.

7. Were you required to obtain ethics approval before conducting this research? If YES then please attach evidence of approval to this report. If evidence has already been provided please state this below.

Following the signing of MOUs and discussion of data collection sites and tools with the government partner and implementing partner, an application for HREC approval will be submitted by the end of June 2014

8. Financial Snapshot

Please provide a final financial snapshot of your budget and expenditure for the project below. This snapshot is in addition to the financial acquittal statement required with this report.

The financial acquittal statement should include your expenditure of grant monies for the reporting period and be signed by an appropriate delegate from your accounts/finance office. The financial acquittal statement should be on your institution's letterhead as there is no related DFAT template.

Budget Allocations (A\$) – As per proposal

	1 st Year	2 nd Year	3 rd Year	Total
Researcher/s Salary	\$83 698			
Field Work Costs	\$24 000			
Travel and Related Costs	\$10 259			
Insurances				
Knowledge Transfer Activities	\$3 500			
Capacity Development Activities	\$39 876			
Total Australian Aid Funds Received				
Interest Earned on Australian Aid Funds				
Total Income from Australian Aid	\$161 333			

Total Expenditure (A\$)

	1 st Year	2 nd Year	3 rd Year	Total
Researcher/s Salary	\$96449.69			
Field Work Costs	\$6930.26			
Travel and Related Costs	\$6246.82			
Knowledge Transfer Activities				
Capacity Development Activities	\$7702.62			
Insurances				
Total Australian Aid Funds Expensed	\$117378.39			

Total Australian Aid Funds Un-expensed: \$43954.61

9. Certification

I certify that all the details contained in this progress report are true and that all research partners and co-investigators agree that this report is an accurate representation of the project's progress so far.

Signed, s 47 F(1)

s 47 F(1)

Date 26.05.2014