



2016 Round Table Implementation Meeting (2016 RTIM)

Concept and Roadmap

Prepared by Department of International Cooperation
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I. Introduction – the National Development Agenda

With the success of the 12th High Level Round Table Meeting (HL RTM) organised on 27th November 2015, 2016 represents an important year of transition for Lao PDR:

- From the 7th National Socio-Economic Development Plan (NSEDP) to approval and commencement of implementation of the 8th NSEDP (2016-2020).
- From the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to the Results Framework of the 2030 development agenda (Sustainable Development Goals – SDGs).

The SDGs are “universally applicable, taking into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development and respecting national policies and priorities. With regard to the targets, they are defined as aspirational and global, with each government setting its own national targets guided by the global level of ambition but taking into account national circumstances. Therefore, 2016 has been an important year for the Government of Lao PDR to decide on which targets which should be incorporated into the national planning processes, policies and strategies.

In this regard, 8th NSEDP (2016-2020) comes at a pivotal time. It will drive graduation from LDC status, complete Lao PDR’s unfinished MDGs and deliver early progress on the SDGs. The 8th NSEDP was formulated through a consultative process, and the Government of Lao PDR has adopted a results and outcome based approach to its national development plan for the first time. Significant efforts have been made to integrate the SDGs into the fabric of the plan, including its major programmes and monitoring framework.

Given the scope and scale of the 2030 development agenda both at the global and national levels, partnerships that secure a broad range of development results need to be more diverse and inclusive than ever before. The role of the private sector and of civil society will be vital alongside those of governments and development partners.

Realising the importance of greater partnership, the ‘Vientiane Declaration on Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation’ helps to break the mould of the traditional donor-recipient approach. It seeks to build a more diverse partnership, which can also expand the envelope of resources available for development. The core provisions of the Vientiane Declaration are aligned with elements of the new SDG 16 on building peaceful and inclusive societies and with SDG 17 on partnerships.

II. Aims, Objectives & Over-arching Theme of the 2016 Round Table Implementation Meeting

Overall aim:

The Round Table Implementation Meeting (RTIM) will be organised on 24th & 25th November 2016 with the overall aim of shifting the development dialogue onto implementation mechanisms, capacities and resources to assure local development impact.

The over-arching theme of the 2016 RTIM is:

“Accelerating implementation of the 8th National Socio-Economic Development Plan (2016 -2020) for the LDC graduation and the achievement of SDGs”.

Specific Objectives:

1. Enable a brief overview of implementation progress across the 3 outcome areas of the 8th NSEDP.
2. Focus on a few priority sectors within the 8th NSEDP and highlight constructive insights or impediments to implementation for early lessons learned.
3. Further mutual understanding among all national and international partners of the steps necessary to translate national and sectoral policies and plans into provincial and district development operations and results.
4. Consult on and approve the Vientiane Declaration - Country Action Plan (2016 – 2025) (VDCAP) through which the ‘Vientiane Declaration on Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation’ will be monitored and reported.

III. Proposed Focus Areas for the 2016 RTIM

The 2016 RTIM will deliberately focus on development impact and lessons learned in terms of implementation, in particular at the provincial level. Representatives from national and provincial authorities and development partners from across the provinces will take part in the discussions to gauge how the national development agenda is being implemented and gain insights into what is working, what needs adjustment and identify challenges or bottlenecks that need to be overcome.

Suggested Focus Areas of the RTIM Agenda:

Reflecting upon the recommendations of the RTP retreat held on 6 April 2016, the structure of the agenda and content of the discussions will be based around the following principles and focus areas with a strong bias towards learning early lessons from implementation experiences:

Overarching issues

1. **Overall progress update of key achievements and challenges** arising from implementation of the 8th NSEDP at the national, sectoral or provincial levels. Summary reports will be prepared as part of the Background Document by each of the Sector Working Groups (SWGs) to demonstrate progress based on RTM follow up matrix.
2. **Effective Partnerships as the Cross Cutting Theme:** Since the core component of the Vientiane Declaration II is that of diversifying the development partnership, partnerships will feature as our core cross-cutting issue of this years’ RTIM. In particular, there will be a focus on operational partnerships with the private sector, civil society and ASEAN/regional partnerships.

Special attention

1. **Progress made in integrating the SDGs** into the national development agenda, monitoring and statistical frameworks, including into Provincial Development Plans. The SDG segment also provides an opportunity to see what progress the 8th NSEDP has had on the ground within a selection of the SDGs.
2. **Implementation progress concerning the Food & Nutrition Security (FNS)** programme, given the centrality of FNS to LDC graduation. Learning from national and local partnership convergence pilots, approaches and mechanisms

will be important to enable nationwide roll-out, outreach to remote communities and local engagement strategies.

3. **Implementing ‘green growth’, climate change and disaster preparedness strategies** at the national and provincial level. This will entail the identification of private sector partners at the forefront of implementing green growth in Lao PDR, and an update on the line of actions that are being pursued by the Government and partners on climate change and disaster preparedness.
4. **Presentation, consultation and approval of the Vientiane Declaration II Country Action Plan** (including update on the revision of the Prime Minister Decree. No 75 on ODA management). VDCAP II is intended as a strategic monitoring tool to oversee and gauge progress of concerning implementation of the Vientiane Declaration adopted during the 12th HL RTM (November 2015).

In summary, the RTIM will be coherent arrangement of preparatory workshops, site visits and policy consultations on issues that are among the top priorities of the National Development Agenda – all with a strong orientation towards implementation. Learning from provincial experience of what works and why, as well as what requires more attention will be extremely helpful for the acceleration of implementation. Thereby the RTIM will be designed to ensure:

- A focus on priorities, rather than a comprehensive stock-taking across all sectors;
- A strong focus on effect i.e. what is actually being achieved through implementation at provincial and local levels (e.g. SDG & FNS localization, operationalisation and impact);
- Looking at mechanisms and approaches that work (SWGs, inter-ministerial committees, inter-departmental committees at the local level, the role of peoples provincial assemblies, the role of the District Development Fund etc);
- Resources and capacities (financing, knowhow and technologies) practically, which capabilities have enabled development impact locally; and
- How and where partnership arrangements with private sector, civil society and ASEAN/regional DPs are managing to deliver sustainable development gains.

IV. RTIM Format & Agenda

Suggested Format of the 2016 RTIM

The RTIM will consist of two parts over two consecutive days (24th – Thursday and 25th – Friday November 2015).

Part 1 - (Day 1, Thursday 24 November 2016 – Panel discussions and field visits)

A series of sector-based panel discussions that will then be animated by related field visits. These will kick off on the morning of 24th November and run in parallel on four priority areas. Each priority area will be followed directly by a range of Field Visits to respective projects sites in Vientiane Province. Panel discussions, which also seek to integrate partnerships as the cross-cutting theme, will take place on the following priority areas:

- Integrating the SDGs in to National and Local Planning & Results Frameworks, including field visits to where SDG impact is already having effect.

- Implementation progress concerning the Food & Nutrition Security (FNS) programme, demonstrated by field visits to live examples of project implementation activity.
- Implementing ‘green growth’, climate change and disaster preparedness strategies at the national and provincial level, including visits to relevant project sites that show tangible implementation progress.
- Presentation, consultation and approval of the Vientiane Declaration II Country Action Plan (including update on the revision of the Prime Minister Decree. No 75 on ODA management). Example of partnerships with ASEAN/regional development partners, private sector, INGOs and NPAs will be visited.

Pre-consultation prior to the panel discussions on the four areas will be organised in Vientiane Capital at least two or three weeks before the RTIM itself.

Field visits are integral to the RTIM and will be identified to demonstrate concrete examples of work in progress where implementation is advanced and where there are local actors can discuss their implementation challenges, approaches and results. Discussions can be directed towards what has been critical to success, lessons learned, mechanisms and processes, together with resources and capacities that have enabled real impact on the ground. Partnerships with private sector, civil society and ASEAN/regional development partners are a core cross cutting theme that can be demonstrated, in particular, illustrating any “South-South” knowledge and skills transfers that have taken place, the adoption of technologies and other lessons moving forward that can accelerate implementation, as per the RTIM main theme. .

Overnight accommodation will be provided in Vientiane Province (Please refer to the 2016 RTIM Logic Note for more information).

Part 2 - (Day 2, Friday 25 November 2016 – RTIM Policy Implementation Dialogue)

An 8th NSEDP ‘Policy Implementation Dialogue’ with a draft agenda outlined below will provide a formal opportunity at Minister/Ambassador level to co-host a series of panel-led presentations and discussions building on and outlining the policy implications arising from Year 1 implementation progress (for more detailed agenda items, please refer to the RTIM Draft Agenda enclosed). Briefly, the RTIM includes:

- Opening Remarks (20 mins)
- Overall progress to date, including priority follow up from 2015 HLRTM (20mins)
- Panel 1 & Discussion. Integrating the SDGs (60 mins)
- Panel 2 & Discussion: Implementation Food & Nutrition Security (60 mins)
- Lunch (1 hour)
- Panel 3 & Discussion: Implementing ‘green growth’, climate change and disaster preparedness (60 mins)
- Panel 4 & Discussion: Vientiane Declaration II Country Action Plan (40 mins)
- Recommendations, Summing Up and Official Closing Remarks (20 mins)

Day 3 – 2016 RTIM Development Partner Debriefing with the Prime Minister (Date to be confirmed at later stage)

V. Key preparatory activities and consultations leading up to the 2016 RTIM

Please note following information is documented to highlight key events and activities leading up to the 2016 RTIM only.

2016 Timeframe	Key activities leading up to the 2016 RTIM
January	<p>1.1 Development of the 2016 RTIM Concept/Roadmap</p> <p>1.2 Development of the 2016 RTIM Retreat Concept Note</p> <p>1.3 Development of a concept note for a formulation of a Country Action Plan to implement of the Vientiane Declaration on Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (VDII 2016-2020) (VDCAP II Concept Note)</p> <p>1.4 Requesting Development Partners to participate in the 2nd Global Survey – monitoring the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (DIC/MPI letter dated 22nd January 2016)</p> <p>1.5 Distribution of the 12th High Level Round Table Meeting Report and its follow up actions</p> <p>1.6 Finalisation of the Term of Reference (TOR) for the Round Table Process Review as part of the review of the UNDP supported programme to Ministry of Planning and Investment (The MPI Programme)</p> <p>1.7 Meetings of Sector Working Groups (A consolidated Calendar of Events will be created to ensure coordinated among SWGs on their meetings)</p>
February	<p>2.1 Organisation of a technical workshop on the 2nd Global Survey</p> <p>2.2 A meeting of the VDCAP Secretariat to finalise the VDCAP II Concept Note</p> <p>2.3 Organisation of a technical workshop with the Core Team to draft the actual VDCAP II</p> <p>2.4 “Meet the Press” to disseminate the outcome of the 12th High Level Round Table Meeting, and to brief the media and public about the Vientiane Declaration on Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation and the Sustainable Development Goals</p> <p>2.5 Development of a concept note for a revision of the Prime Minister Decree No. 75 on the ODA Management and its implementation strategy</p> <p>2.6 Preparation for commencement of The MPI programme/RTP review</p> <p>2.7 Meetings of Sector Working Groups (A consolidated Calendar of Events will be created to ensure coordinated among SWGs on their meetings)</p>
March	<p>3.1 1st March 2016 - Submission of inputs from DPs on the 2nd Global Survey (18 points covering 3 indicators - responding to questionnaire sent out by the Government on 22nd January 2016)</p> <p>3.2 Consultation and finalisation of the Lao Country Report for the 2nd Global Survey – Monitoring the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (Submission to the UNDP-OECD Global Team)</p> <p>3.3 Drafting process - a revision of the Prime Minister Decree No. 75 on the ODA Management and its implementation strategy</p>

2016 Timeframe	Key activities leading up to the 2016 RTIM
	<p>3.4 Preparation of a zero draft of the actual VDCAP II and its monitoring framework</p> <p>3.5 Preparation for the RTP assessment and review</p> <p>3.6 Preparation of the Development Finance and Aid Assessment (DFAA) Report</p> <p>3.7 Meetings of Sector Working Groups (A consolidated Calendar of Events will be created to ensure coordinated among SWGs on their meetings)</p>
April	<p>4.1 Update on follow up actions for the implementation of the 12th HL RTM key discussion points</p> <p>4.2 Organisation of the 2016 RTIM Retreat including SWG reflection exercise</p> <p>4.3 Drafting process - a revision of the Prime Minister Decree No. 75 on the ODA Management and its implementation strategy</p> <p>4.4 Consolidation of comments and feedbacks on the zero draft of the VDCAP II</p> <p>4.5 Meetings of Sector Working Groups (A consolidated Calendar of Events will be created to ensure coordinated among SWGs on their meetings)</p>
May	<p>5.1 Organisation of a core team technical workshop to revise the zero draft of the VDCAP II based on comments/feedback received and come up with a first draft VDCAP II to be shared with chairs and co-chairs of SWGs and other stakeholders</p> <p>5.2 Update on follow up actions for the implementation of the 12th HL RTM key discussion points</p> <p>5.3 1st consultation on the first draft of a revised PM Decree 75</p> <p>5.4 Carrying out a series of consultations and discussions with provincial authorities for the 2016 RTIM to be organised in a province</p> <p>5.5 Meetings of Sector Working Groups (A consolidated Calendar of Events will be created to ensure coordinated among SWGs on their meetings)</p>
June	<p>6.1 Availability of the VDCAP Zero Draft and consolidation of comments and feedbacks</p> <p>6.2 Finalisation of the MPI programmen/RTP review report</p> <p>6.3 Firming up the 2016 RTIM agenda items</p> <p>6.4 The 2016 RTIM preparation update</p> <p>6.5 Update on follow up actions for the implementation of the 12th HL RTM key discussion points</p> <p>6.6 Preparation of six month Foreign Aid Report (2015-2016)</p> <p>6.7 Finalisation of the Development Finance and Aid Assessment (DFAA) report</p>

2016 Timeframe	Key activities leading up to the 2016 RTIM
	<p>6.8 Meetings of Sector Working Groups (A consolidated Calendar of Events will be created to ensure coordinated among SWGs on their meetings)</p> <p>6.9 Meeting of the National Steering Committee for the Round Table Process in Lao PDR</p> <p>6.10 Meeting of Chairs and Co-Chairs of Sector Working Groups</p>
July	<p>7.1 Organisation of a core team technical workshop to revise the zero draft of the VDCAP II based on comments/feedback received and come up with a first draft VDCAP II to be shared with chairs and co-chairs of SWGs and other stakeholders</p> <p>7.2 Formulation of the next five year UNDP supported programme to Ministry of Planning and Investment and Ministry of Foreign Affairs</p> <p>7.3 Finalisation of follow up actions for the implementation of the 12th HL RTM key discussion points</p> <p>7.4 Circulation of the 2016 RTIM Guidance Note</p> <p>7.5 Preparation of annual report on the implementation of the 8th NSEDP (2015-2016) and the 2016 RTIM Background Document</p> <p>7.6 Internal government consultation on the draft of a revised PM Decree 75</p> <p>7.7 SWG individual meeting to ensure common understanding about the 2016 RTIM</p> <p>7.8 Meetings of Sector Working Groups (A consolidated Calendar of Events will be created to ensure coordinated among SWGs on their meetings)</p>
August	<p>8.1 Availability of the VDCAP First Draft and consolidation of comments and feedbacks</p> <p>8.2 A formulation mission of a programme of UNDP support to MPI and MOFA for the next five year (2017-2021)</p> <p>8.3 Revision/preparation of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 2016 RTIM Concept/Roadmap • RTIM Guidance Note • Logistic Note • Invitation Package • Follow up actions of the 12th HL RTM recommendations/discussion points and • Pre-consultation Concept Notes <p>8.4 Internal government consultation on the draft of a revised PM Decree 75</p> <p>8.5 Preparation of Lao Country Profile/Report on Global Monitoring Survey – Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation</p> <p>8.6 Preparation of Lao case study on linking finance to development results – a case study to be presented during the 2nd Global Second High Level Meeting (Ministerial Level) of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation – Nairobi Kenya.</p> <p>8.7 National conference on preparation for SDG implementation</p>

2016 Timeframe	Key activities leading up to the 2016 RTIM
	8.8 Meetings of Sector Working Groups
September	<p>9.1 Organisation of a core team technical workshop to revise the second draft of the VDCAP II based on comments/feedback received and come up with a second draft VDCAP II to be shared with chairs and co-chairs of SWGs and other stakeholders</p> <p>9.2 VDCAP Secretariat Meeting to consult and agree on VDCAP Second Draft before sharing with wider stakeholders for further comments</p> <p>9.3 5th National Human Development Report (NHDR) – editing and final revision</p> <p>9.4 Government internal consultations on the development of the SDG roadmap and strategy</p> <p>9.5 Informing all partners on final confirmation on date, venue and related key information on the 2016 RTIM</p> <p>9.6 Consultations with relevant line ministries and international stakeholders for finalisation of the 2016 RTIM pre-consultation concept notes and their preparation</p> <p>9.7 International government consultations on a revision of the PM Decree 75 and a development of development cooperation strategy</p> <p>9.8 13th - 26th September, 71st session of UNGA, New York</p> <p>9.9 Carrying out a series of consultations and discussions with provincial authorities for the 2016 RTIM to be organised in a province</p> <p>9.10 A series of individual meetings with Sector Working Group Secretariats to brief about the RTIM and create common understanding on preparatory activities and expectations</p>
October	<p>10.1 2016 RTIM invitation package sent out</p> <p>10.2 Availability of the VDCAP Second Draft and consolidation of comment and feedbacks</p> <p>10.3 Availability of draft programme of UNDP support to MPI and MOFA (2017-2021)</p> <p>10.4 Production of six month Foreign Aid Report (2015-2016) and preparation of draft annual Foreign Aid Report (2015-2016)</p> <p>10.5 Submission of sectoral progress reports by SWGs</p> <p>10.6 Availability of the draft revised PM Decree No.75</p> <p>10.7 2016 RTIM pre-consultations</p> <p>10.8 A series of individual meetings with Sector Working Group Secretariats to brief about the RTIM and create common understanding on preparatory activities and expectations</p> <p>10.9 Sector Working Groups meetings</p> <p>10.10 “2016 RTIM Meet the Press”</p>

2016 Timeframe	Key activities leading up to the 2016 RTIM
November	<p>11.1 Availability of the VDCAP final draft for approval at the RTIM</p> <p>11.2 Meeting of the National Steering Committee on the Round Table Process</p> <p>11.3 2016 RTIM pre-consultations</p> <p>11.4 Availability of the annual report on the implementation of the 8th NSEDP (2015-2016) and the 2016 RTIM Background Document</p> <p>11.5 Meeting of Chairs and Co-Chairs of Sector Working Groups</p> <p>11.6 Availability of all other related substantive documents for the 2016 RTIM</p> <p>11.7 Meetings of Sector Working Groups</p> <p>11.8 24th and 25th November – 2016 RTIM organised in Vientiane Province (Approximately - Two hours from the Vientiane Capital). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 24th November – Panel discussions and field visits • 25th November – Actual RTIM (Policy Implementation Dialogue) </p> <p>11.9 Debriefing with the Prime Minister of Lao PDR on the outcomes of the 2016 RTIM</p> <p>11.10 28th November to 1st December, Second High Level Meeting (Ministerial Level) of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation – Nairobi Kenya.</p>
December	<p>12.1 28th November to 1st December, Second High Level Meeting (Ministerial Level) of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation – Nairobi Kenya.</p> <p>12.2 Production of the 2016 RTIM report</p> <p>12.3 Preparation for a follow up of the 2016 RTIM</p> <p>12.4 Signing Ceremony of the UNDP support programme to MPI/MOFA (2017-2021) as a 2016 RTIM side event</p> <p>12.5 Arrangements for the implementation of the UNDP support programme (2017-2021)</p>