

2022 Meeting with Chairs and Co-chairs of Sector Working Groups

Meeting Minutes

Date and time: 16 November, 2022, 08:30 hrs -12:00 hrs



Venue: Second floor meeting room, Muong Thanh Hotel, Vientiane

The 2022 Meeting with Chairs and Co-chairs of Sector Working Groups Meeting was chaired by the H.E. Mme. Phonevanh Outhavong, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Planning and Investment and the Co-Chair, Ms. Sara Sekkenes, UN Resident Coordinator.

The objective of the meeting was to discuss recommendations of the SWG review conducted in 2022 and explore ways forward to improve the functioning of the SWGs based on experiences available.

1. Background

The Round Table Meeting is an inclusive forum for discussing and exchanging views on the implementation progress of the National Socio-Economic Development Plan (NSEDP) between the Government and development partners. Taking place every five years, High-Level Round Table Meetings (HL-RTMs) guide the design and implementation of the country's NSEDPs. RoundTable Implementation Meetings (RTIMs) are held every year to take stock of progress made in the past year and set joint priorities for the coming year.^[1] The process includes 10 Sector Working Groups (SWGs), brought together under a chairs and co-chairs structure (national leads and international support to the leads).

2. Objective

The meeting of the Chair and Co-Chairs of the Sector Working Groups aimed to discuss recommendations of the SWG review conducted in 2022 and explore ways forward to improve the functioning of the SWGs based on experiences available. The participants of the meeting included representatives of organizations Chairing and Co-Chairing the SWGs. This included Government and development partners (including bilateral, multi-laterals).

3. Opening remarks

The opening remarks were delivered by H.E. Mme. Phonevanh Outhavong, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Planning and Investment.

In the opening remarks, H.E. Mme. Phonevanh Outhavong, expressed an honor to convene the important meeting of Chairs and Co-Chairs of the sector working groups. The chair acknowledges the efforts of the government to carefully applied approach to ensure continuous development of our country together with expressed appreciation the supports of all development partners and stakeholders at all level during the difficulties impacted from Covid-19. Following up on the last year HighLevel Round Table Meeting, the Chairs and Co-Chairs meeting today is a platform and an opportunity that we would collectively hear more from the representatives from Chairs and Co-Chairs of Sector Working Groups to brief each other on great important work of all Sector Working Groups and Sub-Sector Working Groups in light of the review of VDCAP and SWG mechanism. The chairs stressed that Lao PDR has managed to make great progresses in various national development agenda which we would discuss at the Round Table Implementation Meeting within the framework of the 9th NSEDP.

Remarks from Ms. Sara Sekkenes, UN Resident Coordinator.

Ms. Sekkenes as a Co-Chair of the meeting raised points that in preparation for the upcoming Roundtable Implementation Meeting, rather than the regular round of updates from the groups on what has been achieved in the past year, today meeting would open the opportunity for us to engage in a frank, open exchange on how we could maximize the effectiveness of development cooperation through an accurate report and review of the processes. The meeting of Chairs and Co-Chairs of the sector working groups would provide an accurate review and perspective on what is seen as working well under the, areas that have been raised as potentially benefitting from strengthening, and ideas on possible ways ahead. The Co-Chair encouraged all stakeholders to active engagement and constructive engagement in the discussion session during the meeting and to continued engagement in ongoing national efforts to strengthen development coordination going forward.

This was followed by two technical presentations. These included:

Presentation 1: VDCAP implementation and way forward

The first presentation was delivered by Mr. Vanpheng Sengmanothong, Deputy Director General, Department of International Cooperation, Ministry of Planning and Investment. The presentation aimed to inform participants on the VDCAP implementation. This included a history and timeline of VDCAP implementation. Moreover, the eight guiding principles of effective development cooperation for VDCAP were presented, including:

1. Host government ownership of development priorities and plans
2. Alignment
3. Harmonization and simplification
4. Inclusive partnership for development results
5. Transparency, Predictability and Mutual accountability
6. Domestic Resource Mobilization
7. South-South cooperation, Granular cooperation and knowledge sharing
8. Business as a partner in development

The presentation concluded with the key action areas and indicators of the VDCAP Action Plan and highlighted the mid-term review of the VDCAP implementation.

Presentation 2: Recommendations from the SWG review

The presentation was delivered by Mme. Sisomboun Ounavong, Director General, Department of International Cooperation, Ministry of Planning and Investment. The presentation introduced the Sector Working Groups as part of the national aid architecture. The presentation highlighted the background and timeline of the sector working groups. The presentation stated the nine key recommendations made in the independent review of the SWG report, and ended with the three potentials to be considered for the next step.

Summary of statements and discussion

The discussion segment of the meeting included key statements by Development Partners and Government representatives. Participants reflected on the points highlighted in the technical presentations including the recommendations made in the independent review of the SWGs carried out in 2022. The following summarizes some of these discussion points:

Representative of the world bank, Mr. Alex Kramer

The representative expressed the appreciate for the technical presentations to ensure that the SWGs serve the purpose of promoting the development of Lao PDR. To help arrangement of SWGs to be the most productive, he highlighted three words from Mme Sisomboun presentation that include the “Critical” in the situation, “Constructive” suggestion on how we can progress, and “Revitalization” of the SWGs.

He referred based on world bank experiences and his personal experiences of coordinator of many countries that the effective SWGs should have three main places. Firstly, it is a place - where we can exchange view, for example, where the government representative can explain their plan and priorities while the development partners can respond, provide advices, so the consensus can be reach on priorities. Secondly, it is a forum as a place where the government representative can express their needs or demand for cooperation and the development partner can express their supplies; where demand and supplies can be interacted. Third is a place, as a micro-level for a day to day operational aspects are discussed, resolved, etc.

He also suggested four words for constructive suggestion to make the effective progress of SWGs:

- Decentralize – in line with recommendation number five of the independent review. It should be sector ministries level and their development partners who agree the ToR for the SWGs. It could be simply and should not try to standardize the terms of references. ToR should be detailed bottom up, on the bases of demand.
- Reconfigure – look at areas of topics of discussion on exactly what we need. For example, there is lots of cooperation going on in the field of energy which is not covered by any working groups, and the situation of energy is closely linked to macro-economic, climate change. Unfortunately, we do not have the forum for that. On the other hands, there is a group that has a board coverage such as Macro-economic working group which has the meeting that is not realistic when the meeting of 40 people discussed on monetary and exchange rate policy. It would be more interested to discuss on fiscal policy, fiscal allocation, and public revenue because it is closely linked to the 6th Principle of VDCAP on the mobilization of public resource.
- De-formalize – moving the meeting to “ambience” atmosphere where it could be a substantive discussion among different participants. The meetings could be smaller with maximum 20 participants who are not necessary to be vice ministers or head of agency, but a junior or technical officer. He suggested that the meeting could be held in the government meeting room or development partner offices to give everybody to sense of working group to be a working group.
- Operationalize – it is about the agenda. If the agenda is only based on the presentation, it is unlikely to reach two-way discussion to meet the decision. It is a good practice that all items of agenda include questions to stimulate dialogue for results of productive discussions.

Representative of EU, Mr. Vincent Vire

The representative acknowledge the two presentations are useful to inform the discussion, and realized that there is something that is not working 100% and we need to improve it. As per the discussion with the Europe Team in the previous days, we got comments that are similar to the suggestion shared last year, and we hope that some recommendations could be taken in action. There are eight points the representative mentioned:

1. SWG should meet not once before the RTM. It needs to commit Chair and Co-chairs to meet much more regularly. A Good example is an education SWG which the executive level has

meetings twice a year and with a lot of working group meetings. It is a good practice to have development partners meet every month to build cooperation and coordination.

2. Flexibility of ToR. For example, there should be a rotation of development partner co-chairs. The ten SWGs established in 2006. The representative agrees with the representative of the work bank that we should have the flexibility for creating new groups.

3. There is a need for more responsibility for Co-Chairs by providing some technical assistance and financial support for the SWGs. A good example is from the EU co-Chairs of an education SWG that provided a local consultant supporting the SWGs Secretariat to prepare the agenda, circulate the documents, prepare the minutes, etc. Development partners as co-chairs have to commit more

4. The report of the first nine months of the 9th NSEDP report would be very useful if this could be in digitalizing to inform the discussion of SWGs.

5. ODAMIS is a digitalized database. The system is not user-friendly. It should be made sure to be working so that DPs and each sector can share information and coordinate, etc.

6. Transparency principle – The government must share the information as much as possible. It has been heard that the IMF report is not published so DPs and the private sector perceived a negative signal. Government has to commit to full transparency in such an important document.

7. Length of the MOU of NGO projects' approval is too long such as one to two years. The approval process should be a maximum of 6 months. The long length of approval contribute to the delays for NSEDP, and again it sends a negative signal to decision-makers in donor countries to allocate resources. And, it seems that Lao PDR doesn't need that money to support the development process. This is very much ODA effectiveness.

8. Domestic resource mobilization principle – This is a support point of the macroeconomic working group. Government should support domestic revenue collection and accelerate reforms to improve responsiveness and quality investment. Investment and export revenue is a more sustainable revenue source than aid.

Representative of Germany Embassy, Dr. Christina Seeberg-Elverfeldt

The representative supported previous speakers and emphasized three more points:

1. Content of SWG – SWGs are a fantastic tool to coordinate DPs with the country to see if the work progress has been made in respect of the 9th NSEDP. Currently, the SWGs meeting is operating in a 'procedural' way which is fine and understandable to prepare for the RTIM, but there is a need for the improvement and technical exchange of ideas, the purpose of the SWGs meeting, and concepts. One of her experiences is the sector of Natural Resources and Environment. The sub-sector working groups serve as very good tools for exchanging technical levels

2. Flexibility – It is not only about co-chairing rotation, but also looking for new important topics for the country. For example, Energy is a topic that has been raised several times to include in the system of discussion of SWGs.
3. Roadmap as a way forward. It is great to put a date for the RTIM at the beginning of the year or in advance of setting the dates for the meeting. It is very difficult to manage the meeting on short notice. She suggested that planning jointly and taking responsibility of co-chairs for working jointly on fruitful exchanges will serve all members of the meetings.

Representative of USAID, Mr. Michael Ronning

The representative mentioned the US government's support toward GOL efforts to implement NSEDP across many sectors. Several points need to be considered:

1. SWGs need to take a hard look at what is necessary to support the Government of Laos regarding the global economic challenges and climate change.
2. Commending the Government and the development partners for the action taken. Including the financing strategy and plans and recent MOFA-facilitated dialogue with INGOs, SWGs, and the RTM. All of these are creating momentum to address the challenges ahead.
3. A relevant concept to consider is focusing on progress beyond the program. We should focus more on the progress and the details of that program. The consequence of not briefly concentrating on the improvement is losing sight of the Government's plan to advance the country's progress.
4. Each SWG should have its tailored way of operating and coordinating. There is 'no one size fits all.'
5. Experience in Health SWG from COVID-19 quick response, including the outstanding cooperation between the government sectors and the development partners. Moreover, the lesson learned on expediting resources and moving things forward expeditiously.
6. As co-chair of the UXO sector working group with Govt and UNDP, NRA, and others involved, some efficient things that work well in this group are pre-meetings /preparations. Preparation is key to affecting sector working group pre-meetings between the leadership, not just the sub-sector technical folks. Moreover, ensuring support through the government counterparts, in this case, the NRA, is essential.
7. Inclusivity: ensuring that everyone who has a stake in the working group has an opportunity to participate or to get the information that they might need. Moreover, access to information is the key. For example, digitizing SWG minutes to NRA websites that everyone can access.
8. Considering the link between the UXO UXO SWG to SSWGs, the connection between them should inform each other. For example, the high-level sector working group could ask specific questions of the sub-sector working group to create better dialogue and coordination.

Representative of Australia Embassy, Mr. Dan Heldon

The representative added several points:

1. SWG needs to be in the same direction to get the best result in helping GOL achieve its objectives. The best outcomes will be made when the DPs work closely with the GOL.
2. Regarding technical support, a critical mass of work needs to be encountered in the Energy sector. Harness all the efforts toward helping Laos's government achieve its objective in the Energy Sector.
3. The Co-Chair must be accountable to the group members. We should have a clear mandate for our purpose. We need to ensure the group's viability, capacity, and effectiveness. Moreover, group members should be active participants and be more innovative with approaches.

Representative of UNDP, Ms. Ricarda Ringer,

The representative reflected on the term of Inclusivity and several TOR of SWGs do refer of private sector and civil society participation. But, it seems that there is unequal across sectors that the SWGs need to re-consider in the next step since the proactive development solutions require many actors involvement beyond development partners and the government.

As co-chair of governance sector working group, in the meeting it has been said that there is a preference to start from mapping what is happening what's happening in order to decide what to focus on going forward in the future.

Representative of Japan Embassy, Mr. Koga Toshimishi

The representative acknowledges the chair and co-chair for organizing this meeting to improve the work of SWGs. He agreed with the points mentioned by colleagues on what should be improved to enhance the effectiveness and productivity of the RTIM. The representative on behalf of the ambassador join the meeting as a co-chair of the infrastructure sector working group and health sector working group and felt the representatives from the local government are active and the documents have been well prepared.

Even there is no reach to concrete outcome yet. Japan plays a contribution to the health sector through JICA experts for the preparation of SWG with WHO co-chair and continuous exchange of views in the infrastructure working group to improve the working method.

The representative emphasized information sharing in terms of which donor provides which kind of assistance and doing a mapping. He required the meeting to discuss more how to get a tangible outcome in the information sharing on assistance across the SWGs.

There's a need to increase predictability for the meeting because there is notice that information on organizing SWG is usually short notice. The representative required the summary of the SWGs meeting to be prepared and circulated with other sectors.

He ended that ownership is the key to the operationalization of the SWGs. Thus, he mentioned that the Pro-active role of development partners is welcome, but we should not undermine the discussions from the representatives of the Lao Government.

Representative of WHO, Ms. Yu Lee

The representative agreed with the points made by the development partners. She mentioned several points in supporting the ministry of health for the health sector working group.

1. Expectation from SWP - During the COVID-19 pandemic, over the past 2 to 3 years, have experienced depression from partners to see their involvement in participating through the government lead coordination mechanism.
2. Project-based coordination vs. Government coordination. – need to be integrated. The health sector is facing a donor transition from GAVI and Global Fund. Many partners from the global level want to see How DP coordination can be integrated into the Government's coordination mechanism.
3. Technical-level discussions are essential to support the SWG policy dialogue, which requires the support of small-group meetings at the technical level to discuss in-depth key issues and priorities. These can be reported to SWG and higher levels for senior management decisions.
4. RTM – important to reveal each sector's progress and coordinate across sectors in terms of priorities to improve the implementation of the 9th NSEDP and to secure co-financing commitment. The Government of Lao PDR makes this commitment. At the same time, there are competing priorities/budget allocations across the sectors, including health, education, and other sectors. This round table meeting can be the platform to discuss through preparations /internal discussion among relevant line ministries, Government, and development partners to understand the situation and discuss cross-cutting and cross-sectoral areas.

Representative of ADB, Mr Good mans

The representative of ADB supported previous suggestions from colleagues. He put one sentence that there is a need o re-collaborate for productive results and efficiency manners.

The Country Director of ADB welcomes the review and assessment of SWGs and, agrees that SWGs have provided input to advancing the development discussion for the annual RTIM. However, macro SWG have met only once a year right before the annual RTIM. The representative

emphasized the needs for each sector working group to revisit their respected function. There is a need to consider a mismatch since some of the SWGs might not play well on the sector identification. We agree to have a revisit of the TOR of the Chairs and co-Chairs to maximize the supports of the co-Chair.

Moreover, The representative suggested that more informal groups should have been invited as participants. For examples, the gender network led by the UNFPA, EU and ADB is the informal group meeting that has multiple participants from lines of government and several societies. We also would like to encourage private sector participation to discuss issues of investment plans and policy issue for business development. We encourage more frequent policy dialogues with the government.

The ADB encourage full time GOL officials to work with SWG secretariats to prepare for the annual meeting plan such as contents, agenda, invitation and meeting to ensure that the SWGs may carry the necessary function more effectively

Last but not least, He suggested that Chair and co-Chair lead the secretariat of the groups to develop sector development frameworks with clear outlines for good outcomes and impacts, resources and measurable goal indicators in line with NSEDP, SDGs and LDC graduation spheres. This is to ensure the good monitoring and evaluation sector progress that contributes to effective planning and efficient implementation process on the purposes.

H.E Dr Sanong Thongsana Vice Minister, Chair of Health Health SWG

The vice minister agreed with comments from other speakers to improve the capacity of the process of the annual RTIM and agreed that the government should encourage more the contribution of private sectors and civil society organizations in the national development. The vice minister reported the progress of the working group and the challenges:

1. The health sector received support at technical levels from Japan and WHO. He emphasized that both the proactive of the co-chairs and the ownership is very important for the development process.
2. The meeting of the health sector working groups was held by our ministry and the co-chair from the Japan embassy, JICA, and WHO to reflect the progress of the working group concerning the report of the 13th high-level RTIM in 2021. The contents of the meeting were prepared to report in this year's RTIM.
3. Regarding the instruction of PM, the health sub-sector working groups were reformed by changing from 6 sub-SWGs to 5 sub-SWGs to increase the effectiveness of the working coordination and reach the 11 indicators for sustainable development set out by the national assembly.
4. The 9th-month sector progress reports were done at the sector level through various consultations such as the use of digitalization to support the working in the health sectors and

the strategy to handle the covid 19 pandemic for 2022, and the better service for maternal and child health.

5. The challenges are the impacts of covid 19 on the SWGs meeting, and on providing good services in the center and local hospitals. Moreover, the budget was limited and cut down for the health sector.

H.E Mr. Padermphone Sonthany Vice Minister, Chair of UXO SWG

The vice minister agreed with the two previous presenters from the ministry of planning and investment and other commenters. Here, he mentioned several points, including:

1. Typically, in his sector, the Executive SWG meetings will be held two times a year. One session has already started, and another will be held soon.
2. In each meeting, there is participation from the co-chairs' support (UNDP and US in the case of UXO SWG), the development partners. The conference mainly focuses on the DPs and SDG 18, which focus on the UXO roles.
3. SWG review and need the participation of various types of stakeholders. The process of MOU in terms of time and continuous.
4. There are several conferences from Regular technical working groups, especially the four groups. Each meeting is essential to facilitate the work of SWG. From each discussion, our justice act and policy have been improved. However, there is still room to develop in terms of cooperation and human development.

H.E Mr. Thongphat Vongmany Vice Minister, Chair of Agriculture and rural Development SWG.

The vice minister praised the chairs and co-chairs for holding this valuable meeting. Several points should be considered in the SWGs, including the positive outcomes and improvement.

1. SWGs need to continue their capacity to adapt to an uncertain situation. On behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and as chair of agriculture and rural development, several challenges, especially food security, are an immediate priority / global priority given the conditions of climate change.
2. SWG is crucial to the development of the agriculture sector. Some of the issues that need attention – include climate change, green growth, research, innovation and technology, and focusing on clean agricultural activities, organic and environmentally friendly.
3. SWG needs to be robust and more dynamic – looking forward to revitalizing the sector in terms of cooperation and coordination.
4. There is a need for the involvement of the private sector in agriculture development.
5. Vice Minister attended the Food System Dialogue in Rome and discussed with various private sectors for their investment in agriculture in Laos.

6. The ministry of agriculture and forestry will continue the monitoring and accountability of SWGs.

H.E Mr. Phouvong Luangxaysana Vice Minister, Chair of Natural resource and Environment SWG

The vice minister agreed with the comments from the representative of the world bank for making better changes for a more productive implementation of the RTIM process. He expressed gratitude toward the DIC/MPI for being the national secretariat to take care of every process of the annual RTIM together with other development partners and thanks to donors to support the development of Lao PDR.

The vice minister stated that since the process of RTIM in Laos was established, the Ministry of Natural resource and Environment has worked closely with all development partners and realized the importance of the SWGs as a platform for consultation, discussion, and information sharing for development cooperation. To improve the process. For RTIM to get fruitful results, the vice minister shared the suggestion that the meeting minutes and RTIM reports need to be made from each sector. He mentioned that the pre-consultation meeting, especially at the technical level, needs to be prepared in advance and more regularly. The vice minister ended with the proposal to the national secretariat for RTIM for well advance notice at least two months before the meetings.

H.E Mr. Sirioudong Soundara Vice Minister, Chair of Education and Sports SWG

The vice minister expressed gratitude to the meeting organizers and thanked the co-chair of the education working group from the EU and Australia for their support and cooperation. The vice minister reported that there are meetings at the administration level in the sub-SWGs twice a year and at the technical level 4 times a year to ensure the work progress.

The vice minister mentioned the importance of the science and technology sector in the Ministry of Education and Sports. Every year 1% of the government investment is provided to support the work in science and technology. The social science area plays a role to study the policies and strategies for social-economic development, while the natural science plays a role in innovation in human capital, products, etc

H.E Mr. Nisith Keopanya Vice Minister, Chair of Governance SWG

The vice minister agreed with all comments to improve the work implementation of SWGs. He briefly presented the importance of national administration in human rights and the core of cooperation.

Closing remarks

Prior to the closing remarks, concluding remarks were delivered by Ms. Sara Sekkenes, UN Resident Coordinator. Ms. Sekkenes expressed gratitude to all development partners, ambassadors, vice ministers, and all participants for joining the meeting and being willing to engage in a constructive discussion process for the development cooperation in Lao PDR. The review of SWGs and the principles for practical development cooperation set out in VDCAP presented by MPI colleagues provided fruitful thoughts. However, from the comments of development partners, vice ministers, and all participants from the chairs and co-chairs, there still needs to be prioritized to revisit any framework and ask questions about whether there are ways that the structure could be more efficient and effective and reach 100% potential. She proposed a practical roadmap for early 2023 on how to update the SWGs in the RTIM through a consultative process to continue the discussion. This would include the formation of a specific task force that represents from government, development partners, civil society, and the private sector to put forward a detailed development proposal through this SWGs group of chairs and co-chairs with the formality of restructuring, upgrading, and bringing more flexibility, but also anticipation to the work of SWGs and the chairs' accountability the implementation of the NECDP as to move ahead. Ms. Sara hopes that she could be in the position to reflect the today's conversation and inform the proactive development cooperation in Lao PDR during the Global Effective Development Cooperation Submit this coming December in Geneva. She ended with the statement that effective development cooperation needs to evolve with time and changes on the ground.

This was followed by closing remarks from the H.E. Mme. Phonevanh Outhavong, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Planning and Investment.

H.E. Mme Phonevanh, the chair of the meeting acknowledges useful suggestions from development partners and all participants to make better improvements in the work implementation of SWGs. She emphasized the need to work closely together with development partners and expressed gratitude for the cooperation and supports from all donors and development partners during the covid 19 pandemic. The chair admitted that the covid 19 has undermined fiscal space and recognized the need to work closely with the Ministry of Finance and development partners to mobilize domestic resources including resources for investment in the human capital and health sector. The chair supports the ideas of working more flexibly and did take note of all comments and suggestions to systematically report the results of today's meeting to the national steering committee and the Lao government for further guidance for effective implementation of the NSEDP and other agendas. By the end, the Chair highlighted that the date for the RTIM will be changed to January 2023 to allow time for preparation and to accommodate priorities around the National Assembly sessions.

1. Annexes

Annex 1: Agenda

2022 Meeting with Chairs and Co-chairs of Sector Working Groups

Muong Thanh Luxury Vientiane Hotel, Luang Prabang Room, 3rd Floor
16 November 2022, between 09:00 – 12:00 hrs

Zoom link:

<https://undp.zoom.us/j/87434330894?pwd=TFpLazJXRHpyRnlreFNhMCtmYzdoZz09>

(Meeting ID: 874 3433 0894, Passcode: 604826)

AGENDA

08:30 – 09:00	Registration
09:00 – 09:10	Opening remarks <i>H.E. Mme. Phonevanh Outhavong, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Planning and Investment</i>
09:10 – 09:20	Remarks <i>Ms. Sara Sekkenes, UN Resident Coordinator</i>
09:20 – 09:35	Presentation: VDCAP implementation and way forward <i>Mr. Vanpheng Sengmanothong, Deputy Director General, Department of International Cooperation, Ministry of Planning and Investment</i>
09:35 – 10:00	Presentation: Recommendations from the SWG review <i>Mme. Sisomboun Ounavong, Director General, Department of International Cooperation, Ministry of Planning and Investment</i>
10:00 – 10:30	Coffee Break
10:30 – 11:40	Discussion <i>Chairs and Co-chairs of the SWGs are invited to reflect on the presentations and share experience on what has worked well and highlight what can be done to make SWGs work better. This is followed by an open discussion.</i>
11:40 – 11:50	Remarks <i>Ms. Sara Sekkenes, UN Resident Coordinator</i>
11:50 – 12:00	Closing Remarks <i>H.E. Mme. Phonevanh Outhavong, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Planning and Investment</i>
12.00 – 13.00	Lunch

Annex 2: List of participants

Annex 3: Presentation 1: VDCAP implementation and way forward

Annex 4: Presentation 2: Recommendations from the SWG review