

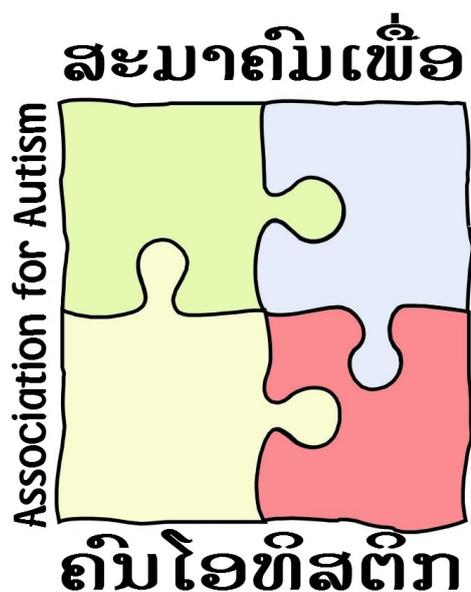


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Development Strategy and Action Plan 2012 – 2020



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1. Introduction

This paper is the first effort of the newly established Association for Autism to analyse the current situation of persons with autism in Lao PDR and to develop subsequently its development strategy and action plan for the upcoming years. In a sense this paper marks the final point of the process of establishing the Association for Autism. AfA was officially registered by the Ministry of Home Affairs decision No. 136/MoHA dated 15.03.2012 as a non-profit organization under Prime Ministers Decree 115. According to its charta full AfA membership is reserved to parents and guardians of persons with autism. Supporting membership is open to all persons and institutions interested in providing support in the field of autism.

The first strategy of AfA describes the current situation of autism in Lao PDR and provides the fundamental guidelines for as well as a detailed plan of activities of the association for the upcoming years until 2020. In this endeavor the strategy builds on the objectives and fields of activities as defined by the Charta of AfA, endorsed by MoHA. As AfA as an Association of parents and guardians of persons with autism would not be able to tackle all the necessary tasks on its own most of the proposed strategic lines of action and activities are to be implemented in close cooperation with a number of different stakeholders. As part on the Disabled Peoples organization's Network in Lao PDR AfA seeks support and cooperation within this network. Close cooperation with the main government institutions is of highest importance for achieving progress in advocacy for persons with autism as well as for the best possible medical treatment and therapy and education. So AfA addresses Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare (MLSW), especially the secretariat of the National Committee for Disabled People (NCDP), for promoting the rights of persons with autism. It refers to Ministry of Health (MoH) in connection with proper diagnosis and necessary medical implications for persons with autism. AfA stretches out to Ministry of Education and Sports (MoES) when it comes to access to education and therapy for persons with autism. Without this network of cooperation the tasks and objectives put together in this strategy can't be successfully tackled. Therefore also the process of elaborating this strategy and action plan was one of a collective effort of all above mentioned institutions.

All this would not have been possible without the generous support provided by AusAID and CRS. The elaboration of this strategy is one initial part of the agreed upon project, but at the same time it provides the foundation for the majority of other activities planned within the AusAID-CRS-AfA-project for the years 2012-2014. That the strategy and action stretches well beyond this time frame underlines the importance of a successful implementation of the project because only success during the first two years can build the basis for further activities.

Last but not least the strategy would not remain an abstract dream without the participation of parents/guardians of persons with autism during the elaboration of the document, but much more during the implementation of the defined tasks and activities. A vibrant association lives by and through the active participation of its members. Only active engagement of our members guarantees the promotion of the rights of some of the weaker members of human society – persons with autism.

The draft of the strategy has been widely discussed within AfA, with relevant government agencies, organization of persons with disabilities, and development

partners. The most important step in this consultation process was a stakeholder workshop held on 29. November 2012. Finally the Strategy and Action Plan 2012-2020 was unanimously adopted by the Annual Assembly of AfA on 19. December 2012. We would like to thank all parties involved in the elaboration of this strategy and action. Special thanks to AusAID and CRS for the support and to LDPA for the very valid contributions. We acknowledge that formulating and agreeing upon a strategy and action plan is a very important but finally just a first step. Much more important will be the successful implementation of the activities in order to achieve the quite ambitious targets. In this sense we would like to link our thanks to all relevant stakeholders with the request for further commitment and support for the sake of persons with autism in Lao PDR.

2. Executive Summary

This strategy defines major directions of development of the Association for Autism from 2012 until 2020. In this regard seven fields of action have been described. For each of these fields of action the action plan provides a number of most important activities with a estimated budget. Only in very

1. Strengthen AfA

AfA as a new institution needs a sound organizational and financial basis in order to be able to fulfill its mandate. This field of action includes the qualification of AfA bodies especially of board members and office staff, the expansion of its membership basis as well as the establishment of branches in the main centers of Lao PDR. Ensure the financial resources and a transparent financial management are parts of this area as well.

2. Disseminate knowledge and raise awareness about autism

Due to the widespread ignorance about autism and other development disorders awareness raising is seen as the precondition for any successful intervention in this field. Target groups are relevant government agencies, but the general public as well. The final objective in this field of action is the development of a definition of autism which allows to determine the magnitude of the problem.

3. Qualifying parents and guardians

As parents and guardians are the key persons for the development of and care for persons with autism they should be able to understand what autism is and how to deal with the problem. They should also know the rights of persons with disabilities. Only by joint efforts of public services, special services provided by AfA and contribution of the parents the situation of persons with autism may improve.

4. Providing services to persons with autism

One major task of AfA is to provide quality services to persons with autism especially in the field of education and therapy. The aim of those services is to improve the live conditions of persons with autism and to enable them to better

participate in the society. This includes preparation of participation in inclusive education schemes, vocational training and adequate decent work.

5. Cooperating with experts in the medical field

A proper diagnosis is precondition to any successful intervention. The qualification of experts in this field is therefore as important as a proper definition of autism for practical application in Lao PDR.

6. Supporting formation of experts in special education

Delivery of quality services to persons with autism requires qualified personal especially in the field of special education. In a situation of general lack of experts AfA proposes therefore activities aiming at solving the problem in short, mid and long term. This requires additional inputs from concerned authorities as well as form development partners.

7. Cooperating at regional and international levels

AfA is an active member of the ASEAN Autism Network and cooperates with a wide range of organisations and individuals all over the world supporting the cause of AfA. This cooperation is fundamental for exchange of experience, training of Lao experts and well as for financial support to AfA's activities.

3. Current situation

In order to be able to define our objectives and goals we should be clear about our current situation. Once the starting point is fixed properly we are able to look forward and can set objectives and define the path to achieve our objectives.

Official data about persons with disabilities list just five different "types of disabilities", namely Visually handicapped, Deaf/dumb, Arm/leg handicapped, Multiple handicapped and Others.¹ So one can guess that the large group of development disorders, mental and intellectual disabilities figures under "others". This group counts according to official data for a total of 5.954 persons (2005). A check in cooperation with LDPA in 2011 revealed that none of the children with autism known to AfA was registered with local authorities as disabled.

Since recently the phenomenon of autism was not known in Laos but – of course – persons with autism did exist. They were looked at as slowly developing, strange and in most severe cases stupid kids and adults. As modern medicine was not qualified to deal with autism and conventional treatment with pills and injections could not produce any substantial result most parents referred to traditional way of healing – shamans and pagodas. In many cases persons with autism are stigmatized, isolated from the society and in most severe cases kept in inhuman conditions. Also families caring for their members with autism are facing stigmatization and repudiation, and – in order to escape this situation – try to hide their relatives with autism.

As Autism Spectrum Disorders are not defined in any way it is also difficult to estimate the number of persons affected by the disorder. Internationally definitions differ

¹Data on Disability Statistics in Lao PDR, MPI, November 2011

substantially and so does prevalence. A very broad definition of the spectrum in the USA or Republic of Korea results in a high prevalence of one in less than 100 children. Such an approach would mean that more than 60.000 persons in Laos (or more than the total number of persons with disabilities in official statistics) could be diagnosed with autism. More conservative approaches as in neighboring Thailand and Vietnam still provide a prevalence ranging between one in 250 to one in 1.000 children, which would result in 6.000 to 24.000 persons with autism in Laos. In any case real the disability affects a relatively large group of inhabitants. The task is to identify these persons and to provide appropriate support to them and their families.

If we look at the current picture under the angle of a very quick and general SWOT analysis, we come to the following findings:

The situation started to change when some parents went to neighboring countries for diagnosis. So the understanding of autism was brought back to Laos as well. A group of these parents started to actively disseminate information about autism and organized education and therapy for their children. This group became the nucleus of AfA. Also foreign development partners – under the general topic of support to persons with disabilities – began to offer support for the special area of autism. Without the support of CRS and AusAID this strategy would not have evolved.

This can be called the **strength** of the current situation.

On the other hand here is no definition of autism. In general autism (as well as other development disorders) is general understood as mental or intellectual illness. So far medical staff is not qualified to properly diagnose autism. As there are no qualified teachers in special education in general (except for short time training) there are also no experts especially in the field of autism.

General knowledge about autism is very limited if not totally missing. Prejudices are widespread as is social stigmatization of both persons with autism and their parents.

This can be seen as **weakness** in the current situation.

Strength and weakness alike are opening a huge field of **opportunities** in order to raise awareness, disseminate knowledge, qualify medical and educational staff and so on. On the other side some major **threads** may hinder the capitalization on opportunities. The main thread is lack of finance, as most of the opportunities need substantial budgets in order to become strengths. Therefore the strategy and action plan should pay special attention to the financial implications. A second thread results from unclear definitions and legal implications for different types of disabilities. This may leave autism without the required attention and support. Another thread is that due to internal problems AfA disintegrates or just stops operations.

4. Association for Autism

A group of parents of children with autism started to regularly get together in order to search for opportunities for education and therapy for their children since 2003 in form of an informal self-help group. They jointly organized a number of awareness raising and training events and got interested in formalizing their cooperation. In June 2009 by private initiative of some members of the self-help group the Vientiane Autism Center

started providing education to children with ASD. After the Prime Minister's Decree 115 on Non-Profit Associations came into force in 2010 the self-help group started working on the formal steps to register as a NPA. A mobilizing committee was founded and approved by PACSA with letter 35/PACSA-OF dated 14.02.2011. The committee was guiding the work on drafting the Charta of the Lao Autism Association and preparing for the general assembly and the election of the board. Temporary registration was granted on 05.09.2011 by the Ministry of Home Affairs (letter no. 36/HA). The general assembly of the Lao Autism Association was held on 24.9.2011 in Vientiane. The assembly passed the Charta, elected a board of 5 members, a control commission of 3 members and adopted the regulation of the AfA Scholarship Fund for support to families with children with autism and lower income. Following the recommendations made by the Ministry of Home Affairs the Charta was further edited and the name of the organization changed to Association for Autism (AfA). On 15.03.2012 the Ministry of Home Affairs approved Charta, board and control commission and issued the official registration of Association for Autism as NPA by Decision No. 136/HA.

The association has currently 28 full and 2 supporting members from 4 provinces and Vientiane Capital and is running the Vientiane Autism Center. Currently VAC serves 22 children and employs 13 teachers.

Thanks to support from AusAID through Catholic Relief Services (CRS) aiming at institutional strengthening and inclusive education AfA could set up its permanent office headed by the Secretary of AfA and equipped with two more staff.

5. Objectives of AfA

The general, overarching objective AfA is formulated as vision:

Persons with autism can live a fulfilling life in an understanding environment.

In order to achieve this very challenging and rewarding objective the Association for Autism is going to implement its mission:

Represent the interests of persons with autism by promoting their rights and improving their access to appropriate support services.

In accordance with this mission AfA follows five main objectives as laid down in its Charta:

- *Supporting, promoting and educating persons with ASD including their guardians,*
- *Promoting, supporting and disseminating knowledge about autism,*
 - *Research and educate professionals in the field of autism,*
 - *Promote the exchange of experiences and enhancing cooperation among members and relevant parties in an appropriate manner,*
- *Mobilise domestic and international financial sources for the support of persons with autism.*

These objectives are also reflected in this strategy as they provide for the guiding lines for the development of AfA and its activities. The strategy thereby defines specific objectives in each of those fields. The identification of main methods in order to achieve the goals and objectives is part of this description.

The strategy is accompanied by a detailed action plan explicitly listing measures and activities in each of the mentioned areas further elaborated by a timeframe, responsibilities and an appropriate budget. As from the current point of view the financing of quite a number of measures and activities is not secured one of the main tasks for AfA will be fund raising in order to make sure that the planned activities can be implemented as scheduled.

6. Major fields of activities

6.1. Strengthen AfA

Objective: Association for Autism is well established, financially sound and properly functioning NPA. AfA has a strong headquarter in Vientiane and branches in the main urban centers of Lao PDR.

Strengthening of AfA has many different aspects. It means to insure the preconditions for an efficient work of the association in order achieve the objectives of the organization. Therefore AfA needs a dedicated board, well qualified staff and active and supportive members. As an association of parents/guardians of persons with autism AfA ensures that decision making about the rights and perspectives of persons with autism remains with those affected with the disorder. On the other hand AfA encourages all supports to actively contribute to the cause of AfA by engaging as supporting members.

Strengthening AfA also means a sound financial basis combined with strict and transparent financial management. One major concern for AfA – as for the majority of NPAs in general – is thereby fund raising. In this connection AfA will focus on mobilization of domestic support as this way seems to be the first choice in order to achieve financial sustainability based on a higher attention to concerns of persons with disabilities in the Lao society. Strengthening of AfA further means expanding its membership basis in Vientiane and – as AfA is registered as a nationwide operating association - to establish branches in other parts of the country. On the way to provincial chapters AfA envisages first to establish branches in the main urban centers like Pakse, Savannakhet and Luang Prabang step by step assuming responsibility for all parts of the country. In these efforts AfA will closely cooperate with provincial authorities.

6.2. Disseminate knowledge and raise awareness about autism

Objective: Autism is known to main relevant players in the Lao society; it is acknowledged by the respective government institutions. A definition is accepted by the authorities.

In order to raise public awareness it is necessary to first provide knowledge about autism to relevant stakeholders. This includes especially the relevant ministries like Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare, Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education

and Sports. The final aim is to submit a draft definition of autism to respective authorities to adopt as national standard.

Information will be also provided to the large public in order to raise awareness but also with the aim to identify persons with autism as potential clients for services of AfA and their parents/guardians as members for AfA. One objective is to support as many persons with autism as possible. Awareness raising has a special dimension in providing support to qualifying teachers at pre-school and primary school levels with the aim to identify probable cases of development disorders for further proper medical diagnosis and respective education and therapy interventions later on. AfA defines as final objective in this part of awareness raising activities the creation of possibilities for early childhood interventions as these form of intervention promises the highest level of success.

The other main objective of awareness raising activities is securing a sufficient level of financing for activities related to autism. This may be Government budget as well as private donations and international development projects. In any case it is clear that the cost of appropriate education and therapy for persons with autism can't be provided by the parents/guardians alone.

As main modes of delivery meetings with relevant players, visits to the VAC, media coverage of autism and autism related activities, printed and internet based information material with special focus to this target groups will be used. Special occasion like WAAD, public discussions, information campaigns on the general topic of disabilities and other will be used. Cooperation with projects and other initiatives in this area is essential for success.

6.3. Empowering parents and guardians

Objective: Parents and guardians of persons with autism understand the implications of autism better and actively participate in education and therapy efforts for their children with autism.

For persons with autism parents or guardians are the main reference persons throughout their life. This can't be replaced by therapists or educators which are only able to play a supporting role. Therefore one of the major roles of AfA is to provide parents/guardians with the necessary knowledge and skills to contribute the best possible to enable their children to live a fulfilled live. For this reason AfA helps parents/guardians to enlarge their knowledge about autism as well as about therapy and education approaches.

6.4. Providing services to persons with autism

Objective: The services of VAC are provided in a sustainable and qualified manner. The possibilities for establishing similar centers in other cities of Lao PDR have been studied. Additional services in vocational training are being offered.

The provision of education and therapy services for children with autism remains a major issue for AfA. The ultimate goal of these efforts is to enable persons with autism to join mainstream education and employment to the highest achievable grade. Therefore services of AfA will be always kept at the highest possible level compared to international standards and new developments in education and therapy. Special attention will be paid to inclusive education schemes which will be implemented in close cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Sports. In this field the 2011 adopted National Policy on Inclusive Education and National Strategy and Action Plan on Inclusive Education 2011-2015 will be used as references and source of support. Vientiane Autism Center (VAC) will expand its international links to education and research institutions and serve as center of excellence in Lao PDR.

As the first group of children with autism will reach the respective age the extension of services into vocational training becomes a new necessity. In this connection VAC will prepare for the start of vocational training activities and will also become active in assuring employment.

Parallel to this development in Vientiane the establishment of service centers in other cities will be pursued in accordance with the real requirements in these cities. The Scholarship Fund will be maintained and expanded in order to allow families which can't afford the full fees to access services. This is closely connected with fund raising activities under point 6.2.

6.5. Cooperating with experts in the medical field

Objective: Autism can be diagnosed in selected medical institutions in Lao PDR.

So far persons with autism have been diagnosed properly abroad only. Therefore it is one of the aims of AfA to support the creation of medical institutions in Lao PDR able to diagnose autism as well as other development disorders. In order to achieve this goal AfA will cooperate with Ministry of Public Health with the aim to identify the best ways and methods. AfA will establish close contacts with qualified medical personal and cooperate in identifying best therapy approaches for each individual case. AfA will also support contacts of Lao medical experts with respective research and education institutions in the region.

6.6. Supporting formation of experts in special education

Objective: Lao experts for autism have been qualified and the formation of teachers in special education especially for autism and other development disorders in Lao PDR is possible.

Until now AfA relies on the knowledge of graduated teachers in special education from abroad. A number of Lao teachers have been trained on the job and participated in several short term courses. In order to establish a systematic qualification of experts in special education AfA will closely cooperate with MoES and related institution abroad, especially in Thailand, with the aim to qualify bachelor and master level teachers in special education abroad and to install an additional curriculum for special education as subject of choice in teacher training institution in Lao PDR. AfA through its VAC supports the qualification of experts also by accepting students for internships and practical work. In order to overcome short term shortages AfA will continue to train teachers on the job as well as by short term training courses with support from foreign experts. AfA cooperates with the Ministry of Education and Sports in order to establish a medium term training on special education in Lao PDR.

6.7. Cooperating at national, regional and international levels

Objective: AfA dynamically contributes to the Lao DPO network, is an active member of AAN and participates in international cooperation.

Cooperation with other DPOs within the Lao DPO network, coordinated by LDPA, is one major channel to raise awareness for autism. The network is essential for the exchange of experiences among DPOs as well as for identifying needs for support of DPOs and for the coordination of respective support activities. One platform for coordination with donors and iNGOs in Lao PDR is the Lao Disability Forum where AfA also contributes actively. As a founding member of AAN AfA participates actively in this ASEAN wide network. Building on the very successful cooperation with autism related institutions in Thailand AfA pursues this close relationships especially with the Autistic Thai Association, the Khun Poom Foundation and the Special Education Centers in Thailand at a regular and long term basis. Therefore AfA aims to sign cooperation agreements with the major Thai partners. AfA also tries to use connections with autism organization worldwide for exchange of experiences and mobilization of support.

7. Action Plan for the period 2012 until 2020

7.1. Strengthen AfA

Activity	Expected outcome	Indicator	Time line	Budget	Responsible
7.1.1 Regular training of board members and AfA secretary	Board members have higher competencies in NPA management as well as in autism related matters		ongoing	15.000 USD (5.840 USD)	Board member training (Budget CRS)
7.1.2 Regular training of office staff	Professional management of AfA office secured	No substantial remarks form Control Committee and audits	Ongoing	6.000 USD	Secretary
7.1.3 Membership development	Based on data about autism access to persons with autism is achieved and new members are recruited	2014 – 100 members 2017 –500 members 2020 – 1.000 members	Ongoing	25.000 USD	President, Board member membership
7.1.4 AfA branches	An Autism roadshow to all major urban centers has been implemented. Branches of AfA in major urban centers have been set up and are working properly (including staffing); outreach to provinces is secured	2014 – two branches 2017 – five branches 2020 – eight branches	Ongoing	200.000 USD	President
7.1.5 New AfA headquarter	AfA has installed a new headquarter in Vientiane	2017	2017	250.000 USD	President
TOTAL BUDGET secured				496.000 USD 5.840 USD	CRS

7.2. Disseminate knowledge and raise awareness about autism

Activity	Expected outcome	Indicator	Time line	Budget	Responsible
7.2.1 Poster “Signs of Autism” in Lao language printed and distributed in respective government institutions and in schools	Basic knowledge about autism and its signs disseminated among respective government institutions and selected schools.	At least 20 persons referring to the posters contacted AfA for advice (source: reports of AfA office)	Production: August – September 2012 Use: starting September 2012	6.104 USD	AfA Secretary Budget CRS

7.2.2 Regular forum on autism	Knowledge about and interest for autism related issues among relevant stakeholders increased	Forum known and accepted by target group	February 2013	10.000 USD (3.300 USD)	Board member PR Budget CRS
7.2.3 WAAD celebration each year	WAAD celebration is getting bigger attention every year and becomes a fixed event in Vientiane social calendar	Number of supporter and support from donors increases (baseline 2012, source. Reports of AfA)	02. April each year	10.650 USD (2013-2014)	President Budget CRS
7.2.4 Definition of Autism submitted	Autism is defined as a development disorder with responsible authorities latest by 2016	Draft submitted (2013), Decision made	2013 (draft)	200 USD	President
7.2.5 Charta of Rights of Persons with Autism promoted	The Charta of Rights of Persons with Autism has been made widely public to policy decision makers	Meeting of NA intersession or NA Social Committee on issues of Autism	2014	1.000 USD	President
7.2.6 Brochures of AfA updated regularly	Information about Autism in Lao language at most actual level is available	Print of brochures at least once per year	ongoing	3.000 USD	Board member PR
7.2.7 Internet presence of AfA translated into Lao language and updated regularly	Current information about AfA activities in the internet is permanently updated and presented in a professional manner	Number of responds to internet presence is increasing	ongoing	5.000 USD	Board member PR
TOTAL				35.954 USD	
secured				20.054 USD	CRS

7.3. Qualifying parents and guardians

Activity	Expected outcome	Indicator	Time line	Budget	Responsible
7.3.1 Creation of a consultancy unit	Preparation of praxis-oriented material in Lao language	Unit established and material published	06/2013	1.000 USD	Vice-President/ Director VAC
7.3.2 Regular training and exchange of experiences of parents/guardians	Better understanding and acceptance of the main role of parents/guardians in caring for persons with autism	Participation of parents in IEP	ongoing	5.000 USD	Vice-President/ Director VAC
7.3.3 Exchange of experience at regional level (AAN)	More active participation of parents/guardians			15.000 USD (6.280 USD)	President Budget CRS

7.3.4Regular provision of news and hints for dealing with children with autism (web based and printed brochures)	Higher qualification of parents/guardians in different real-life situations	Positive feedback from parents/guardians and contribution of own experiences	ongoing	30.000 USD	
TOTAL secured				51.000 USD 6.280 USD	CRS

7.4. Providing services to persons with autism

Activity	Expected outcome	Indicator	Time line	Budget	Responsible
7.4.1Expanding VAC to a capacity of at least 50 children	Better response to real needs in education for children with autism	50 children at VAC	2017	150.000 USD	Vice-President/ Director VAC
7.4.2Establishing vocational training facilities in Vientiane	Offering vocational training to the respective age group		2014	50.000 USD	Vice-President/ Director VAC
7.4.3Providing a dormitory at VAC	Access for children with autism from surrounding areas possible	20 places at dormitory available	2018	150.000 USD	Vice-President/ Director VAC
7.4.4Creating employment for persons with autism in a “protected workshop” scheme	Jobs for persons with autism available	At least 15 persons with autism employed	2017	200.000 USD	President
7.4.5Establishing new autism centers in major towns	Expanding services to other parts of the country	2 centers by 2018 4 centers by 2020		1.000.000 USD	
TOTAL secured				1.550.000 USD 0	

7.5. Cooperating with experts in the medical field

Activity	Expected outcome	Indicator	Time line	Budget	Responsible
7.5.1Submitting proposal for definition of Autism	Basis for proper assessment of number of persons with autism	Draft definition submitted	2013	500 USD	President cooperation with MoH

7.5.2 Disseminate knowledge about autism among medical staff in different provinces and districts	Medical doctors are able to transfer parents and guardians to experts	Medical staff trained	Until 2017 – 7 provinces Until 2020 – 17 provinces	50.000 USD	President cooperation with MoH
7.5.2 At least two child psychiatrist qualified	Proper diagnosis in Laos possible	Experts trained	2019		President cooperation with MoH
7.5.3 Child psychiatry ward in one major hospital established	Proper diagnosis in Laos possible	Ward established	2019	100.000 USD	President cooperation with MoH
7.5.4					
TOTAL				150.500 USD	0

7.6. Supporting formation of experts in special education

Activity	Expected outcome	Indicator	Time line	Budget	Responsible
7.6.1 Further qualification of teachers at VAC	Teachers better qualified	Assessment	2012	30.000 USD (7.740 USD)	Director VAC Budget CRS
7.6.2 Supporting the establishment of medium term training in special education at TTCs	Regular qualification of experts in special education (under-graduate specialization at TTCs)	Course established by MoES; At least 50 students until 2020	2013	100.000 USD	Director VAC cooperation with MoES
7.6.3 Selection and enrolment of Lao students at Thai Universities for bachelor or master courses in special education	Graduated Lao experts in special education	Enrolment figures; At least 20 until 2020	Starting 2013	150.000 USD	Director VAC
7.6.4 Receiving interns in special education at VAC	Preparation for and praxis oriented implementation of training in special education	Number of interns at VAC; Totally 50 until 2020	Starting 2012		
7.6.5 Inclusive education scheme in Vientiane well established				(6.550 USD)	Budget CRS

7.6.6 Develop handbook on inclusive education for further dissemination	Handbook used for autism and other development disorders purposes	Number of children in inclusive educations schemes increasing (source: MoES)		(5.000 USD)	Budget CRS
TOTAL secured				<i>291.550 USD</i> 11.550 USD	CRS

7.7. Cooperating at national, regional and international levels

Activity	Expected outcome	Indicator	Time line	Budget	Responsible
7.7.1 Participate actively in DPO network and Lao Disability Forum	National networking contributes to awareness raising and protection of rights of PwA	Number of initiatives proposed to DPOn / LDF	Ongoing		
7.7.2 Participate in and benefit from AAN (joining in meetings, congresses, activities; upload news to AAN website)	International exchange of experiences increases awareness and knowledge	2 nd congress 04/2013 Brunei, Initiate two activities to support CLMV	Ongoing	See 7.3.3 <i>2.000 USD</i>	
7.7.3 Formalizing cooperation with Thai institutions - Autistic Thai Association - Special Education Center Region 9 - KKU/Autism Research Institute	Support to AfA / VAC for identified areas as fixed in working plans	Cooperation agreements signed, Working plans agreed	06/2013	<i>3.000 USD</i>	
7.7.4 Establish and maintain regular contact with other autism initiatives				<i>1.000 USD</i>	
TOTAL secured				<i>6.000 USD</i> 0	