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CREDIT No. 2674-LA
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LAO PDR - HEALTH SYS. / MALARIA CTRL
A - PROJECT PREPARATION DOCUMENTS

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1582194

R1999-325 Other #: 1 Box # 151273B
Health System Reform and Malaria Control Project - Laos - P004200 -
Credit 2674 - Project Preparation Documents


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WBG Archives

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

A
CR 2674 LA
RBB

DATE: October 18, 1990

TO: B. Funck, Laos Country Economist, AS2CO

FROM: W. De Geyndt, ASTPH 

EXTENSION: 81209

SUBJECT: PDR LAO - Five Year Investment Plan 1991-95 - HEALTH SECTOR

Upon your request I worked with Mr. Graeme Teale, Team Leader of the Australian Contractor, during my stay in Laos October 2-12, 1990. I reviewed and redrafted part of the text prepared by the team relating to the health sector and I prepared the attached five year investment plan.

cc: B. Babson, AS2PH; S. Teravaninthorn, AS2CO

PDR LAO - FIVE YEAR INVESTMENT PLAN 1991-95

HEALTH SECTOR

1. Health Manpower Development: (i) improve the quality of training of all health workers through changing the curriculum to fit the health needs of the population, introducing new teaching methods, training trainers, rehabilitating educational facilities, and replacing and adding teaching materials and equipment; (ii) retrain and provide continuing education to all categories of health personnel; and (iii) improve working conditions to achieve better geographical distribution, retention of staff and increased productivity.

Estimated Investment: US\$5.0 million

2. Infrastructure: (i) strengthen the physical and functional capacity of the provincial and district hospitals to prevent, diagnose and treat disease; (ii) construct housing to attract and retain qualified staff; (iii) provide logistics support to districts to implement priority preventive health programs: vaccination, control of diarrheal diseases, maternal and child health services including birth spacing, acute respiratory infections, health education and community participation; and (iv) develop the administrative and financial systems for recovering part of the cost of the services received by the population.

Estimated Investment: US\$10.0 million

3. Rural Water Supply and Sanitation: (i) provide technical assistance to the provinces, districts and villages to investigate groundwater resources; (ii) procure the required materials (handpumps, pipes, etc); (iii) train communities to maintain the water supply systems; (iv) provide sanitary latrines and health education for their proper use; and (v) arrange for disposal of human and animal waste.

Estimated Investment: US\$10.0 million

4. Essential Drugs: (i) adopt and enforce the use of an essential drugs list including vaccines, contraceptive supplies and biological products; (ii) establish the logistical network to procure, store, distribute and make available essential drugs to the whole population; (iii) promote the production and use of traditional drugs; and (iv) set up the administrative and financial systems to create revolving funds or other mechanisms to recover the cost of drugs provided.

Estimated Investment: US\$15.0 million

5. Malaria Control: the provision of equipment, vehicles, drugs, pesticides, technical assistance, operating cost, inservice training, educational materials, and information systems to control malaria which is the country's number one disease, as well as other parasitic diseases (dengue hemorrhagic fever, schistosomiasis and river flukes).

Estimated Investment: US\$ 10.0 million

6. Vientiane Municipality Emergency Medical Services: (i) rehabilitate and expand the physical space at Mahosot hospital for the reception and immediate treatment of trauma patients, burn patients and other medical and surgical emergencies; (ii) replace existing equipment and add new equipment; (iii) procure medical supplies and drugs; (iv) procure ambulances and communications equipment; (v) provide inservice training and continuing education for emergency personnel; and (vi) prepare health education campaigns on injury prevention with emphasis on burns and vehicle-related accidents.

Estimated Investment: US\$ 2.5 million

7. Total estimated investment for the six programs:

US\$52.5 million

October 9, 1990
W. De Geyndt

THE WORLD BANK/INTERNATIONAL FINANCE CORPORATION
OFFICE MEMORANDUM

A
CR 2674 LA

DATE: January 30, 1990

TO: Mr. Khalid Ikram, Chief, AS2CO

FROM: Bernard Funck, Economist, AS2CO

EXTENSION: 7-8034

SUBJECT: LAO PDR: Poverty Focus

1. Until recently, our dialogue with the Laotian government on poverty issues was limited by its refusal to use IDA resources for social projects. This reluctance was overcome as we were able to use these resources as a catalytic element to mobilize grant co-financing. Consequently, our involvement in the social sectors is expanding rapidly. A Living Standards Measurement Survey, financed by UNDP, is under preparation. It will help assess the impact of the current structural adjustment process on the poor and lay the statistical groundwork for our future interventions. It is envisaged that this would lead to a comprehensive Basic Needs Strategy Paper. In the meantime, a Health Sector Survey is being finalized. It will lead to a First Health Project scheduled for FY92. A General Education Project is also under preparation for FY93. Finally, the Upland Agriculture Project, which was approved this fiscal year, is targeted at increasing the productivity level of the poorest segments of the rural population.

File: BF

Document: memo, poverty focus, 1/30/90

THE WORLD BANK/INTERNATIONAL FINANCE CORPORATION
OFFICE MEMORANDUM

A
CR 2674 LA
BOB

Date: June 21, 1989

To: Mr. Bradley Babson, Chief, AS2PH

From: Bernhard H. Liese, PHRHN; Kathleen di Tullio, AS2CO;
Willy De Geyndt, ASTPH

Extension: 33224

Subject: Laos Health Development Project, Sector Work and
Preparation Mission - Back-to-Office Report

1. In accordance with Terms of Reference, the mission visited Laos between June 1-10, 1989, to assist the Government of Laos, in preparing the first health development project and to undertake a PHN sector review. While in Laos, the mission worked with the Ministry of Health, United Nations Organization and bilateral agencies as required. It undertook also some limited field travel outside Vientiane. The attached Aide Memoire was discussed and agreed upon with the MOH and the Central Bank.

Sector Work

2. The mission collected sufficient sector information to draft a sector memorandum. It also reached agreement with the Government on the importance of a sector analysis in the formulation of a sector development strategy. In this context, UNDP offered to convene a donor's meeting on health (possibly in connection with education and agriculture) in Spring 1990. The sector memorandum would serve as a basic reference document for this meeting allowing MOH and donors to place potential assistance into a comprehensive framework. The mission agreed with the Government that the first draft of the sector report would be sent to MOH in September/October 1989, and that a subsequent mission would discuss and revise the sector memorandum as required. The final document could then be available for the UNDP-sponsored roundtable in the Spring.

Project Preparation

3. The mission reached final agreement on project components and particularly on the selection of provinces for the project as well as on the degree to which the upgrading of the medical school would be considered. The agreed project objectives would be:

- to reduce the prevalence of communicable and infectious diseases which are the priority health problem in the country;
- to strengthen the provincial health system; and
- to improve the quality and the public health orientation of medical training.

4. The specific project components would be:

- strengthening of malaria and dengue control programs country-wide;
- provincial health services development in the three provinces -- Champassack, Savannakhet and Luang Prabang -- including the development of management systems to support district health services, and upgrading the provincial hospital and training school, and
- the preparation of a master plan for the gradual expansion and quality improvement of the faculty of medicine, the school of public health, and other allied health educational programs.

5. Terms of reference for a feasibility study to precede preparation of the master plan have been drafted and agreed upon. It was agreed as well that the Bank will make special efforts to find suitable consultants to undertake such a feasibility study before project appraisal. The subsequent development of a master plan will then be financed by the project itself. The actual implementation of the civil works and the training foreseen by the master plan, could be financed thereafter as a separate project if, as can be expected, the costs are substantial. We hope to discuss this matter further during the donors meeting referred to above.

6. Project preparation will be undertaken by MOH's planning unit and by the provinces concerned with the help of a long-term consultant. A first draft of a proposed malaria control program was prepared while the mission was in the field.

7. The tentative estimated project costs are in the order of US\$10-\$15M. In the wrap-up meeting, the mission was informed by Mr. Sisavat Sisane, the Governor of the Central Bank, that the Laos Government accords priority to the project, and would borrow US\$5.0M IDA for this project.

8. The timetable for project processing is as follows:

November 1989	Preparation Mission (visit to Provinces)
January/February 1990	Preparation Review Mission
July 1990	Preappraisal Mission
November 1990	Appraisal Mission

9. The mission would like to put on record that the cooperation received by the UNDP, WHO and UNICEF offices has been excellent. Furthermore, the Ministry of Health made every effort to facilitate the work of the mission and to provide as many data as are available. The work with the Ministry of Health showed, however, the severe budgetary limitations, equipment shortcomings, and lack of qualified professional staff.

Next Steps

10. A draft sector review will be completed over the summer. We have also made arrangements for a full-time consultant to be hired under the French consultant trust fund to assist MOH in project preparation between November 1989 to February 1990. No further action is required at the present time.

Attachment

cc: Messrs/Mmes. Kaji, Cleave, Leipziger (AS2DR), Ikram, Di Tullio, Bonnel (AS2CO), Klaus (AS2PH), ter Weele (ASTPH), Davis (ASTEN), Correia da Silva (LEG), Champion (LOA), Resident Mission, Asia Files, Division Files

BHL:ck

AIDE MEMOIRE

A World Bank health mission consisting of Dr. B. Liese, Mr. W. De Geyndt and Ms K. di Tullio visited Lao People's Democratic Republic from June 1 to 10. The mission objectives were twofold (i) to prepare jointly with the Government a brief health sector overview and (ii) to reach agreement on the content and the timetable for the preparation of an IDA assisted health project. The mission met with officials of the Ministry of Health, the State Bank of Lao, the Faculty of Medicine, UNDP, UNICEF, WHO and Non-Governmental organizations. The Mission wishes to express its gratitude for the courtesies extended and the assistance provided which facilitated the work of the Mission.

Sector Overview: The mission collected and analyzed relevant health sector data and will prepare after its return to Washington a "Sector overview report". This report will be completed by Oct. 1989 and sent to the Government for comment. The objective of this report would be to further the Bank's understanding of the Sector, and to provide the Government with a comprehensive description and analysis of the sectoral opportunities and constraints. Such a document will also provide the basis for discussion of a health sector development strategy and place potential assistance needs into a comprehensive sectoral framework.

Project Preparation: The mission reached agreement on the objectives and components of the proposed project and the time-table for its preparation.

The project objectives would be :

- to reduce the prevalence of communicable and infectious diseases which are the priority health problems in the country through country wide strengthening of the Malaria and Dengue Control Programme.
- to strengthen the provincial health system (in three Mekong Provinces) by improving health administration, training and the provincial hospital, in order to provide the administrative support to the district level.
- to improve the quality and the public health orientation of Medical training by upgrading and rehabilitating the Faculty of Medicine and School of Public Health.

The project components would be :

- (i) Strengthening Malaria + Dengue Control Programme country wide (Institute of Malaria).
- (ii) Provincial Health Services Development (in three Mekong Provinces Champassack, Savannakhet and Luang Prabang) including upgrading of the provincial hospital, administrative offices, training School, and inservice training.
- (iii) Preparation of a Master plan for the rehabilitation and upgrading of the Faculty of Medicine including sketch drawings for new construction, proposals for rehabilitation, curriculum development, and development of a field training programme.

Project preparation would be undertaken by MOH's planning unit and by the provinces concerned with the help of consultants. (The Bank intends to make available a full time consultant experienced in preparing IDA assisted projects for 3-4 months Nov. 89 - February '90).

Terms of Reference for a feasibility study to upgrade the faculty of Medicine have been drafted and agreed upon and efforts will be made by the Bank to find specialized consultants and financing to undertake such a study before project appraisal. The development of the master plan would then be financed by the project. The actual implementation of the civil works etc., foreseen by the master plan could be financed thereafter as a separate project if - as can be expected - the cost are substantial.

The tentative estimated project cost would be in the order of 10-15 Mil. US. (excluding the implementation of the master plan) of which about 3-5 Million US would constitute IDA funds with the remainder cofinancing on a grant basis.

The timetable for project processing is as follows :

Nov. 89	Preparation Mission (visit to Provinces)
Jan./Feb. 90	Preparation Review Mission
June/July 90	Preappraisal Mission
Nov. 90	Appraisal Mission

Vientiane, 8 June 1989

.AS2CO
DINFO

BB
A
CR 2674 LA

-SUBJECT: LAO RDP: PREPARATION DU PROJET DEVELOPPEMENT DE SANTE
-FILENAME: KD
-DRAFTEE: K. DI TULLIO:LT, SR, COUNTRY OFFICER, AS2CO,
-EXT: 7-8034
-AUTHORIZED BY: K. IKRAM, CHIEF, AS2CO
-CW AND CC: MR. B. LIESE, PRRHN
-CC: MESSRS./MMES. FOGLE, BABSON, AS2PH, DE GEYNDT, LA4CO

715 4305 =

-BANQUE D'ETAT DU LAOS
-VIENTIANE, LAO RDP
-ATTENTION M. SISAVATH SISANE, PREMIER VICE PRESIDENT

715 4306 =

-UNDEVPRO
-PNUD (COPIE)
-VIENTIANE, LAO RDP
-ATTENTION MELLE. CARROLL CARTER LONG, REPRESENTANT RESIDENT
CABLE1
-MINISTERE DE LA SANTE (COPIE)
-VIENTIANE, LAO RDP
-ATTENTION S. E. PROFESSEUR VANNARETH RAJPHO, VICE MINISTRE
BT

WASHINGTON, DC - 26-MAY-89

CONFIRMONS ARRIVEE MISSION SANTE LE 1 JUIN, VOL 690 THAI.
AURIEZ-VOUS L'AMABILITE DE NOUS RECEVOIR A L'AEROPORT ET DE
RESERVER TROIS APPARTEMENTS A L'HOTEL LANE XANG. EN CE QUI
CONCERNE NOTRE VISITE EN PROVINCE, NOTRE PREFERENCE IRAIT A LA
REGION DU NORD. AU COURS DE LA DERNIERE MISSION SANTE, NOUS
AVONS DISCUTE AVEC LE DIRECTEUR KHAMPHOU D'UNE VISITE EVENTUELLE
A LUANG PRABANG ET DUMONSAY. NEANMOINS, NOUS SOMMES OUVERTS A
TOUTE AUTRE SUGGESTION. SALUTATIONS DISTINGUEES, BERNARD LIESE,
SPECIALISTE DE LA SANTE PUBLIQUE, DIVISION POPULATION, SANTE ET
NUTRITION, DEPARTEMENT POPULATION ET RESSOURCES HUMAINES, BANQUE
MONDIALE.

FILE: FUNCK

DOCUMENT: TEL LIESE, 5/26/89

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OINFO

-SUBJECT: LAO RDP: PREPARATION DU PROJET DEVELOPPEMENT DE SANTE
-FROM: NAME: KD
-DRAFTEE: K. DI TULLIO:LT, SR. COUNTRY OFFICER, AS2CO,
-EXT: 7-8034
-AUTHORIZED BY: K. IKRAM, CHIEF, AS2CO
-CW AND CC: MR. B. LIESE, PHRHN
-CC: MESSRS./MMES. FOGLE, BABSON, AS2PH, DE GEYNDT, LA4CO

715 4305 =
-BANQUE D'ETAT DU LAOS
-VIENTIANE, LAO RDP
-ATTENTION M. SISAVATH SISANE, PREMIER VICE PRESIDENT

715 4306 =
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-ATTENTION MELLE. CARROLL CARTER LONG, REPRESENTANT RESIDENT
CABLE1
-MINISTERE DE LA SANTE (COPIE)
-VIENTIANE, LAO RDP
-ATTENTION S. E. PROFESSEUR VANNARETH RAJPHO, VICE MINISTRE
BT

WASHINGTON, DC - 26-MAY-89

CONFIRMONS ARRIVEE MISSION SANTE LE 1 JUIN, VOL 690 THAI.
AU CAS OÙ VOUS L'AMABILITE DE NOUS RECEVOIR A L'AEROPORT ET DE
RECEVOIR TROIS APPARTEMENTS A L'HOTEL LANE XANG. EN CE QUI
CONCERNE NOTRE VISITE EN PROVINCE, NOTRE PREFERENCE IRAIT A LA
REGION DU NORD. AU COURS DE LA DERNIERE MISSION SANTE, NOUS
AVONS DISCUTE AVEC LE DIRECTEUR KHAMPHIOU D'UNE VISITE EVENTUELLE
A LUANG PRABANG ET OUMOMSAY. NEANMOINS, NOUS SOMMES OUVERTS A
TOUTE AUTRE SUGGESTION. SALUTATIONS DISTINGUEES, BERNARD LIESE,
SPECIALISTE DE LA SANTE PUBLIQUE, DIVISION POPULATION, SANTE ET
NUTRITION, DEPARTEMENT POPULATION ET RESSOURCES HUMAINES, BANQUE
MONDIALE.

FILE: FUNCK
DOCUMENT: TEL LIESE, 5/26/89

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

A
CR 2674 LA

DATE: May 26, 1989

TO: Kathleen A. Di Tullio, Sr. Country Officer, AS2CO

FROM: Khalid Ikram, Chief, AS2CO 

EXTENSION: 7-2591

SUBJECT: LAO PDR: Health Development Project and Education Reform
Terms of Reference

1. You will visit Laos from about June 1 to June 22, 1989. You will join the Health Development Project preparation mission, led by Dr. B. Liese (PHRHN). (Terms of reference issued separately on May 26, 1989). Following this mission, you will join Mr. André Salmon for preliminary discussions on the reform of education (terms of reference issued separately on May 16, 1989).

2. You will also meet with the Ministry of Economy, Plan and Finance to discuss preparation of the tables and other data requirements for the September 1989 economic mission on the public investment review.

cc: Messrs./Mmes. Kaji, Cleave, Leipziger (AS2DR); Verspoor (PHREE);
ter Weele, Andonyadis (ASTPH); Babson, Klaus, Chang (AS2PH);
Correia da Silva (LEGAS); Champion (LOAAS); Annez (AS2TH);
Funck (AS2CO)

^{AD}
KDiTullio:lt

File: KD

Document: tor mission, health/education

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OINFO

-SUBJECT: LAO PDR: PREPARATION OF HEALTH DEVELOPMENT PROJECT ✓
-FILENAME: KD
-DRAFTEE: K. DI TULLIO, SR. COUNTRY OFFICER, AS2CO EXT: 7-4685
-AUTHORIZED BY: K. IKRAM, CHIEF, AS2CO
-CW AND CC: \\
-CC: MESSRS. B. LIESE (PHRM); B. BABSON, K. FOGLE (AS2PH);
-W. DE GEYNDT (LA4CO)

715 4305 =

-BANQUE D'ETAT DU LAOS
-VIENTIANE, LAO RDP
-ATTENTION M. SISAVATH SISANE, PREMIER VICE PRESIDENT
CABLE1

-MINISTERE DE LA SANTE (COPIE)
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-ATTENTION S. E. PROFESSEUR VANNARETH RAJPHO, VICE MINISTRE

715 4306 =

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-VIENTIANE, LAO RDP
-ATTENTION MELLE. CARROLL CARTER LONG, REPRESENTANT RESIDENT
BT

WASHINGTON, DC - 18-MAY-89

REFERENCE NOTRE TELEX DU 10 MAI, 1989, CONCERNANT PREPARATION DU
PROJET DANS LE SECTEUR SANTE. ETANT DONNE QUE LA MISSION DEVRAIT
PARTIR D'ICI LE 27 MAI, VOUS SERAIS RECONNAISSANTE NOUS TELEXER
AU PLUS TOT POSSIBLE VOTRE CONFIRMATION DES DATES PROPOSEES POUR
LA VISITE DU 1ER AU 10 JUIN. MERCI. SALUTATIONS DISTINGUEES,
K. DI TULLIO, SR. COUNTRY OPERATIONS OFFICER, DIVISION DES
OPERATIONS PAR PAYS, DEPARTEMENT GEOGRAPHIQUE 2, BUREAU REGIONAL
ASIE, BANQUE MONDIALE.

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AAB: FTCCMAC2

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AS2CO
INFO

SUBJECT: LAO PDR: PREPARATION OF HEALTH DEVELOPMENT PROJECT
FROM: NAME: KD
DRAFFLEE: K. DI TULLIO, SR. COUNTRY OFFICER, AS2CO EXT: 7-4685
AUTHORIZED BY: K. IKRAM, CHIEF, AS2CO
CW AND CC: \ 
CC: MESSRS. B. LIESE (PHRHN); B. BABSON, K. FOGLE (AS2PH);
W. DE GEYNDT (LA4CO)

15 4305 =
-BANQUE D'ETAT DU LAOS
-VIENTIANE, LAO RDP
-ATTENTION M. SISAVATH SISANE, PREMIER VICE PRESIDENT
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-ATTENTION S. E. PROFESSEUR VANNARETH RAJPHO, VICE MINISTRE
15 4306 =
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-ATTENTION MELLE. CARROLL CARTER LONG, REPRESENTANT RESIDENT

BT
WASHINGTON, DC - 18-MAY-89
REFERENCE NOTRE TELEX DU 10 MAI, 1989, CONCERNANT PREPARATION DU
PROJET DANS LE SECTEUR SANTE. ETANT DONNE QUE LA MISSION DEVRAIT
PARTIR D'ICI LE 27 MAI, VOUS SERAIS RECONNAISSANTE NOUS TELEXER
AU PLUS TOT POSSIBLE VOTRE CONFIRMATION DES DATES PROPOSEES POUR
LA VISITE DU 1ER AU 10 JUIN. MERCI. SALUTATIONS DISTINGUEES,
K. DI TULLIO,, SR. COUNTRY OPERATIONS OFFICER, DIVISION DES
OPERATIONS PAR PAYS, DEPARTEMENT GEOGRAPHIQUE 2, BUREAU REGIONAL
ASIE, BANQUE MONDIALE.

TELEX TO SISAVATH, 5/18/89



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File Title Health System Reform and Malaria Control Project - Laos - P004200 - Credit 2674 - Project Preparation Documents		Barcode No. 1582194		
Document Date 10 May, 1989	Document Type Incoming wire			
Correspondents / Participants Mr. Sisavath Sisane, Ms. Carroll Carter Long, Mr. Soulignong Nhouyvanisvong, Professor Vannareth Rajpho				
Subject / Title Preparation Projet Secteur Sante				
Exception(s) Personal Information				
Additional Comments		The item(s) identified above has/have been removed in accordance with The World Bank Policy on Access to Information or other disclosure policies of the World Bank Group.		
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-SUBJECT: LAO PDR: ECONOMIC AND HEALTH MISSIONS

-FILENAME: KD

-DRAFTEE: KATHLEEN A. DI TULLIO, COUNTRY ECONOMIST EXT: 7-4685

-AUTHORIZED BY: NORMAN HICKS, ACTING CHIEF, AS2CO

715 4319 =

-AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY

-VIENTIANE, LAO PDR

BT

WASHINGTON, DC - 30-JUN-88

FOR ATTENTION OF AMBASSADOR JACKSON. WORLD BANK ECONOMIC MISSION
AND HEALTH MISSION VISITING VIENTIANE JULY 11. WILL CONTACT
EMBASSY TO ARRANGE MEETING TO DISCUSS IDA LENDING PROGRAM. BEST
REGARDS, KATHLEEN A. DI TULLIO, COUNTRY OFFICER, COUNTRY
OPERATIONS DIVISION, COUNTRY DEPARTMENT 2, INTBAFRAD.

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Record Removal Notice

File Title Health System Reform and Malaria Control Project - Laos - P004200 - Credit 2674 - Project Preparation Documents		Barcode No. 1582194		
Document Date 14 June, 1988	Document Type Incoming wire			
Correspondents / Participants Mr. Sisavath Sisane, Ms. Carroll Carter Long, Mr. Soulignong Nhouyvanisvong, Professor Vannareth Rajpho, Somphavan Inthavong				
Subject / Title Health Development Project				
Exception(s) Personal Information				
Additional Comments		The item(s) identified above has/have been removed in accordance with The World Bank Policy on Access to Information or other disclosure policies of the World Bank Group.		
		<table border="1"><tr><td>Withdrawn by Tonya Ceesay</td><td>Date 3/27/2018</td></tr></table>	Withdrawn by Tonya Ceesay	Date 3/27/2018
Withdrawn by Tonya Ceesay	Date 3/27/2018			

BB

A
CR 2674 LA

WORLD BANK/INTERNATIONAL FINANCE CORPORATION
OFFICE MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 21, 1988
TO: Mr. Bradley O. Babson, AS2PH
FROM: Bernhard H. Liese, PHRHN
EXTENSION: 33224
SUBJECT: LAOS: Health Sector Reconnaissance Mission -
Back-to-Office Report

1. From February 13 through 20, I visited the Laos People's Democratic Republic to explore the possibilities for IDA assistance in the health sector. The mission was a follow-up of earlier discussions between the Government and the Bank's Economic Mission which had indicated the Government's interest for IDA assistance in the sector. While in Laos, I met with officials of the Ministry of Health, the State Bank of Laos, the State Planning Committee, the Faculty of Medicine, UNDP, UNICEF, WHO, and a variety of non-governmental organizations and bilateral donors. Also, I visited health facilities in and around Vientiane and in the district of Xaythani. An Aide Memoire outlining the major agreements reached, is attached.

The Health Sector

2. The Laos People's Democratic Republic is a demographically young nation with an estimated population of 3.9 million, of which about 1.7 million are below the age of 15. The estimated average annual population growth rate is 2.9 percent. Although the Government is committed to social development, the health situation and the development of the health system in the country is very unsatisfactory. The infant mortality rate is presently estimated at about 117 per 1,000 population which is broadly comparable to Sahelian countries in West Africa, but which is very high by Asian standards. Mortality surveys show peak infant mortality rates in rural areas as high as 290 per 1,000. Of greatest concern is the fact that the infant mortality rate has, over the last 25 years, only very gradually declined. This is in stark contrast to all other countries in the region, and even to West African situations. Part of this phenomenon can be attributed to the political instability in Laos throughout the 1960s and early 1970s, which hampered all aspects of social development, but part of it must be attributed to the very poor condition of the existing health system. In addition to the typical childhood immunizable diseases, diarrheal and respiratory infections account for much of morbidity. The two major problem diseases are malaria, which is rampant, and dengue hemorrhagic fever.

For the past three years epidemics of dengue fever at the beginning of the rainy season have been claiming increasingly high death tolls.

3. Despite very serious efforts since 1975 to improve the health services system -- particularly with an accelerated program of manpower training -- the health network is still embryonic and shows serious problems of quality and efficiency. The absence of well-qualified personnel is still a major impediment. More importantly, the lack of drugs, equipment, operating costs, and the poor physical status of health facilities are severe constraints.

4. The Ministry of Health (MOH), which has responsibility for overall health policy and executive authority for the health facilities in and around Vientiane, is a relatively weak institution with a byzantine organizational structure. The health system of the province is partially autonomous, financed out of provincial budgets or revenues and relying only for technical support and drug supply on the center. Thus, MOH's ability to control and direct the health system in the provinces is relatively limited.

5. The poor health status of the population and the low efficiency and capacity of the health system reflect the general under-development and impoverished state of the country. But it reflects as well the very serious under-financing of the health sector in particular over the past decade. Since 1982, development expenditures for the sector have declined from 4.6 percent to presently 2.6 percent of total development expenditures. During the 1981-85 plan period, allocation of investment expenditures to the health sector was about 5 percent. What is even more disconcerting is that for the second five-year development plan, (1986-90) planned investment expenditure for the health sector will only amount to 3.3 percent of total development expenditure, partially due to a drop in donor assistance.

6. Donor assistance from non-socialist countries has amounted to about US\$1.8 M per annum on average over the last five years, split about half-and-half between technical assistance and capital assistance. Although there have been a large number of foreign-assisted projects in the health sector, the average size of each project has been very small, causing severe administrative overload on MOH to follow these up.

Proposed Areas for IDA Assistance

7. Against this background, a number of possible avenues and priority areas for IDA assistance were discussed. These include inter alia, (a) assistance for health manpower development (upgrading of the Faculty of Medicine in Vientiane is the first priority of the Ministry of Health), (b) development of the health system and infrastructure in selected provinces, and (c) strengthening the malaria and dengue fever control programs. Given the large needs in the health sector and the modest level of domestic resources and

external assistance presently available to the sector, there is no shortage of possible projects.

Agreements Reached

8. To place possible IDA assistance into a more comprehensive framework and in order to stimulate MOH to articulate a policy framework for the health sector, it was felt that it would be helpful to MOH if the Bank undertakes a brief health sector analysis before a definite decision on investment. This proposal was strongly supported by the Planning Committee and Ministry of Health, as well as by the donor representatives. The latter felt that such a study would not only serve analytical purposes and guide the Bank's sector investment decisions, but allow as well for a broader and more concerted donor effort to attract additional resources to the health sector.

9. Agreement was therefore reached with the Government to proceed with some sector work (possibly in May/June) which would be followed by project preparation in the Fall of 1988.

Recommendation

10. Since the Country Economic Memorandum is just being updated, it seems to be advisable to undertake the proposed sector work in the context of the CEM. It is therefore proposed to prepare a CEM annex on health which could be used for subsequent donor discussions in Vientiane. A possible timetable for this work could be as follows:

Sector Work for CEM:	May 1988
First Draft Report to the Govt.:	June 1988
Final Report:	September 1988
Project Identification/Preparation Mission:	October 1988

Attachment

cc: Messrs. Karaosmanoglu (ASIUP); Kaji, Leipziger (AS2DR); Ikram, Bonnel (AS2CO); ter Weele, Scheyer (ASTPH); Correia da Silva (LEGAS); Phung (LOAAS); Jamison, Berg, Measham (PHR)

Mmes: Hamilton (PHRDR); di Tullio (AS2CO); Schaeffer (ASIVP); Fogle (AS2PH)

BHLiese:ck

AIDE MEMOIRE

World Bank Health Mission

A World Bank health mission (Dr. Bernhard Liese) visited Lao People's Democratic Republic, from February 13 through 20, 1988. The objective of the mission was to follow up on earlier discussions between the Government and the Bank Economic mission (November 1987) and to explore possibilities for IDA assistance in the health sector. The mission met with officials of the Ministry of Health, the State Bank of Laos, the State Planning Committee, the Faculty of Medicine, UNDP, UNICEF, WHO and several non-governmental organizations. It also visited various health facilities in Vientiane and in the district of Xaythani.

During the mission, a number of priority areas for possible IDA assistance were discussed. These included assistance for health manpower development, particularly upgrading of the Faculty of Medicine; development of the health system and infrastructure in selected provinces; and support to the malaria control program, as well as other areas.

Given the large needs in the health sector and the modest level of domestic resources and external assistance presently available to the sector, it was agreed that an IDA credit would be used to attract additional grant funds to the sector (along the lines of the Education project presently under preparation). To place the potential assistance needs into a more comprehensive sectoral framework, it was agreed that the next World Bank mission would be a sector/identification mission. This mission would analyse the health sector needs and opportunities more systematically and provide a report to Government. It would also identify specific components which are given high priority by Government for inclusion into a project.

A tentative timetable would be as follows:

- May 1988 - Sector Mission
- September 1988 - Draft Health Sector Report to Government
- October 1988 - Project Preparation Mission and establishment of a timetable for Project Appraisal and Negotiations

To facilitate the work of the next mission, MOH has kindly agreed to prepare and assemble relevant background documentation before its arrival.

The mission wishes to express its gratitude for the courtesies extended and the assistance provided which greatly facilitated the work.

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-SUBJECT: HEALTH DEVELOPMENT PROJECT
-FILENAME: KD
-DRAFTER: NATHLEEN A. DI TULLIO:LT EXT: 7-4885
-AUTHORIZED BY: KHALID (KRAN) CHIEF, 85200
-CW AND CC: X
-CC: MR. B. BABSON, 852PH

IBRDMAN

-INTERPRAD

-MANILA, PHILIPPINES

-ATTENTION MR. ROLANDO R. ARRIVILLAGA, RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE
BT

WASHINGTON, DC - 4-FEB-86

WOULD YOU PLEASE PASS ON FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO MR. BERNARD LIESE,
STAFF MEMBER STAYING AT THE PHILIPPINES PLAZA HOTEL QUOTE TODAY
RECEIVED TELEX FROM UNDP/VIETIAME. YOUR PROPOSED MISSION DATES
ARE CONVENIENT. VISA NOT YET ISSUED BUT UNDP ASSISTING. SUGGEST
YOU CONTACT KARL JECHOUTEK, RMB BANGKOK TO REQUEST THEY INQUIRE
AT LAO EMBASSY, BANGKOK ABOUT ARRIVAL OF VISA. BEST REGARDS,
NATHLEEN A. DI TULLIO, COUNTRY OFFICER, COUNTRY OPERATIONS
DIVISION, COUNTRY DEPARTMENT 2, ASIA REGION UNQUOTE.

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-SUBJECT: HEALTH DEVELOPMENT PROJECT
-FILENAME: KD
-DRAFTEE: KATHLEEN A. DI TULLIO:LT
-AUTHORIZED BY: KHALID IKRAM, CHIEF, AS2CO EXT: 7-4685
-CW AND CC: \
-CC: MR. B. BABSON, AS2PH

IBRDMAN
-INTBAFRAD
-MANILA, PHILIPPINES
-ATTENTION MR. ROLANDO R. ARRIVILLAGA, RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE

BT

WASHINGTON, DC - 4-FEB-88

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cc: Babson
B. Liese

Lily -

Please telex Mr. Liese in

Phil: pzins at WB Office.

// Today received telex from UNDP/Vientiane.

VR Proposed mission dates are convenient.

Visa not yet issued but UNDP Karl Jenschky assisting. Suggest you contact RMB

Bangkok ~~are~~ to request ~~their checking~~ they ^{inquire} ~~contact~~ at LAO EMBASSY Bangkok about arrival of visa. Best regards

J. Tullio

cc Babson

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WDIAL
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OINFO

-SUBJECT: HEALTH DEVELOPMENT PROJECT
 -FILENAME: KDT
 -DRAFTEE: KATHLEEN A. DI TULLIO EXT: 7-4685
 -AUTHORIZED BY: RICHARD DE SILVA, ACTING CHIEF, AS2CO
 -CW AND CC:
 -CC: MR. BERNARD LIESE, PRRHN

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-UNDP
-VIENTIANE, LAO PDR

BT
WASHINGTON, DC - 28-JAN-88
FOR MS. CARROLL LONG, RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE. RE. PROPOSED
HEALTH MISSION OF MR. BERNARD LIESE, FROM FEBRUARY 13 TO 23
TO VIENTIANE. WE WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR OFFICE CONTACTING
VICE MINISTER VANNARETH RAJPHO TO INQUIRE IF PROPOSED DATES OF
BANK MISSION ARE CONVENIENT. IF MISSION APPROVED, MR. LIESE
PLANS TO TELEX UNDP, WHO, AND UNICEF TO REQUEST MEETINGS TO
DISCUSS HEALTH ISSUES AND PROGRAMS. YOUR ASSISTANCE IN SPEEDING
MINHEALTH RESPONSE AND IN OBTAINING VISA IS GREATLY APPRECIATED.
BEST REGARDS, K. A. DI TULLIO, COUNTRY OFFICER/ECONOMIST, COUNTRY
OPERATIONS DIVISION, COUNTRY DEPARTMENT 2 ASIA REGION, INTBAFRAD.

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-SUBJECT: HEALTH DEVELOPMENT PROJECT
-FILENAME: KDT
-DRAFTEE: KATHLEEN A. DI TULLIO (KAD) EXT: 7-4685
-AUTHORIZED BY: RICHARD DE SILVA, ACTING CHIEF, AS2CO
-CW AND CC:
-CC: MR. BERNARD LIESE, PHRHN

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-UNDP
-VIENTIANE, LAO PDR

BT

WASHINGTON, DC - 27-JAN-88

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BEST REGARDS, K. A. DI TULLIO, COUNTRY OFFICER/ECONOMIST, COUNTRY
OPERATIONS DIVISION, COUNTRY DEPARTMENT 2 ASIA REGION, INTBAFRAD.

BERNARD



Record Removal Notice

File Title Health System Reform and Malaria Control Project - Laos - P004200 - Credit 2674 - Project Preparation Documents		Barcode No. 1582194		
Document Date 15 January, 1988	Document Type Incoming wire			
Correspondents / Participants Mr. Sisavath Sisane, Ms. Carroll Carter Long, Mr. Soulignong Nhouyvanisvong, Professor Vannareth Rajpho, Somphavan Inthavong				
Subject / Title Health Development Project				
Exception(s) Personal Information				
Additional Comments		<p>The item(s) identified above has/have been removed in accordance with The World Bank Policy on Access to Information or other disclosure policies of the World Bank Group.</p> <table border="1"><tr><td>Withdrawn by Tonya Ceesay</td><td>Date 3/27/2018</td></tr></table>	Withdrawn by Tonya Ceesay	Date 3/27/2018
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