

PROJECT PLAN

BRAILLE NEWSLETTER

Project Summary

Organization: Lao Disabled People's Association

Country: Lao PDR

City: Vientiane Capital

Project: Braille Newsletter

Submitted To: Japan International Cooperation Agency (Jica)

Project Budget: USD\$ **22,400**

Budget Request: USD\$ **22,400**

Background of LDPA

The Lao Disabled People's Association is a non-government organization, constituted under the laws of the Lao People's Democratic Republic to promote the interests of all disabled people, regardless of race, tribe religion or gender.

The LDPA exists to promote equality of opportunity amongst all people with disabilities in the Lao PDR, especially through education of their rights and self-support. The association grew out of a self-help group initiated by a small group of disabled people who came together in 1990.

In July 2001 the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare approved the by-laws of the LDPA. The by-laws gave the right to elect committee members and conduct its activities throughout Lao PDR. This move effectively makes the LDPA a non-government organization. In collaboration with POWER International, a UK based charity, the LDPA began a strengthening that would encompass the disabled people of Lao in a unified organization advocating for their rights. As an outcome a 5 year strategic plan was initiated in 2001.

Existing LDPA Activities

LDPA now implements several activities for disabled people.

1. Disabilities Rights and Equality Trainings (DRET) are held in all provincial branches. The training is given to PWD and Government officials. It focuses on increasing awareness of the barriers PWD face in society, and PWD and Government representatives work out how to break these barriers so PWD can gain equal participation and inclusion in society.
2. LDPA has set up "Radio Listening Clubs" in provincial branches with an aim to advocate for the rights and equality of persons with disabilities in society. To promote equal participation, access to information, education and be a part of the development of Lao society.
3. Newsletters are sent to LDPA provincial branches by-monthly. Newsletters play an important role in raising awareness to family and society so they can understand more about disabilities and change their attitudes to be more positive.

Problem analysis

In Laos most of persons with visual impaired they are lack of information, because the school for the blind still can not support any information in Braille such as textbooks, newsletters, brochures and so on. My organization also has been trying hard to increase more opportunity for all persons with disabilities to have better access to services but we still can not archive this goal yet.

We usually send more than 2,000 of unit newsletters monthly to our members in 11 provinces but we do not have Braille Newsletter yet, So many members with visual impairment they request us to make Braille Newsletters to access information easily. But we still can not provide Braille newsletters due to lack of human resource and lack of support, as my idea I would like to increase our newsletters in Braille I would like to give them more opportunity to access to information because equal opportunity among all people is very important and this is also LDPA's Vision.

Especially persons with visual impaired who live in rural area they do not have opportunity to access to information, because some of them have difficulties to go out. They always have to ask other persons to read books, newspapers, and newsletters for them. And sometimes asking help from other persons is very difficult. However if we provide Braille Newsletters to them they can enjoy by themselves and in this way we can solve their problem and persons with visual impairments can access information.

Goal:

Persons with visual impairments can get information through Braille Newsletters.

Objective:

- To break the barrier that persons with visual impairments can not access information.
- To promote the equal opportunity for persons with visual impairments.
- To provide Braille training course to LDPA's staff
- To provide job opportunity to blind people
- To promote the right to information of the Blind
- To bring their full participation in the society.

Target Group:

- All members with visual impairments in 11 provinces. Between 15-30 years old.

Supporter:

- LDPA head quarter
- LDPA' Branches in 11 provinces
- Some International NGOs, such as World Vision, Handicap International Belgium.
- School for the blind attached to National Rehabilitation Centre (NRC)

Impact:

- My project will give more opportunity to blind people to have better access to information services.
- When they access to information through Braille Newsletters they will be able to learn a lot of things. And they might have possibility to find jobs later on.
- This project will change the idea and life of persons with visual impairments. And besides that the negative attitude of the society will be changed.

Project Activities

To product Braille newsletters according to LDPA's situation we do not have any Braille material like JAWS, Braille printer and we are also lack of human recourse that can operate JAWS and type Braille, So, we will conduct Braille training course to the project staff to learn Braille, so they can check and correct Braille newsletters.

We will corroborate with NRC school for the Blind to support us about Braille trainer and Braille production equipment like: Braille Printer, JAWS. The Braille newsletters will be produce at the end of every month and send to LDPA's branches in 11 provinces.

To increase the equal opportunity we need to provide job to persons with visual impairments who can operate JAWS and typing Braille newsletters. Because we needs advice from persons who are blind to work with this project they will know well what is the need of persons with visual impairments and they can understand persons with visual impairments more than any other persons. So, they will help this project to achieve the goal.

How to find project budget

To find the budget for my project, we will try to start fundraising through our Radio and TV program by producing short spots and short films to promote the rights of persons with disabilities for some NGOs to get donation like we have done before.

To submit this project to some international NGOs who are working to support about people with disabilities like: Handicap International Belgium (HIB), World Vision, World Bank, Au AID...

Timetable of the Project

1. January- May 2009:

- Preparation of budget plan to produce Braille newsletters
- Start fundraising and submit this project to some international NGOs to get donation.
- Corroborate with the school for the blinds (NRC) to implement this project and ask them to provide Braille trainer, Braille equipment.
- Correct the numbers of persons with visual impairments who need Braille newsletters through the Provincial Branch Secretary of every province.

2. June-August 2009:

- Human resources recruitment
- Conduct Braille training course to the project staff

3. September 2009:

- Produce the first Braille newsletters for persons with visual impairments

4. October 2009:

- Sending the first Braille newsletters to 11 provinces

5. November 2009- April 2010:

- Continue to produce and send

6. May 2010

- Make sure that persons with visual impairments receive Braille newsletters through asking questionnaires to each province

7. June-December 2010

- Continue to produce and send.
- Conduct interview to persons with visual impairments by the end of December 2010.

Human Recourses

No	Position	Responsibilities
01	Project Coordinator	Coordinate the project with all department and provincial branches.
02	Radio and TV producer	To provide Technical for supporting the project
03	Braille Typing	Provide Newsletters in Braille typing
04	Radio and TV announcer	Presenting on Radio and TV programs
05	Filming	Provide support to implementing all video filming activities for the project.
06	Braille Trainer	Provide Braille technical for the training.
07	Volunteer	Reading newsletters for typing in Braille.

Project Budget

No	Position	Unit	Month	Unit Price USD	Total USD
01	Project Coordinator	1	24	100	2400
02	Radio and TV producer	1	14	120	1680
03	Braille Typing	1	14	100	1400
04	Radio and TV announcer	1	14	120	1680
05	Filming	1	14	120	1680
06	Braille Trainer	1	3	100	300
07	Braille Newsletters Printing	800	14	0,5	5600
08	Braille Papers		14	500	7000
09	Travel cost to provinces	11 Pro	Dec 2010	120	1320
10	Office Running		24	30	720
11	Printing and copy cost		24	15	300
Total USD					22,400

Monitoring

- Though asking questionnaire to persons with visual impaired in each provinces.
- Conduct interview to each provinces.
Ex: Did you receive Braille newsletters every month? Did you have better access to information? How Braille newsletters have changed your life?

Evaluation

The LDPA is really into in empowering and promoting education of persons with visual impairments. Though there's still a great many of who persons with visual impaired lack information and do not have the opportunity to pursue their rights, especially in rural areas. But it is impossible for LDPA to complete this enormous work without support from other organizations. It will need the full assistance from government, NGOs, and donors who with Blind people will obtain access to equal opportunity to remove barrier and become an equal citizen of society.

Impact of this training course in Japan

During the training course in Japan I learn a lot of things from seeing and visiting many place, many workshops that running by persons with disabilities, especially we visited Japan Federation of the Blind, I saw that they provide a lot of information to people with visual impairments in Braille like: Braille newspapers, newsletters and textbooks... I am very impressed of those activities and I got an idea to write my project to provide Braille newsletters to our members who are blind. I also learn from Kentaro at Human Care, a lot how person with disability can live independently in the society. It is make me feel more confidences.