

**STANDARD ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENT
FOR N-GPAR STRENGTHENING CAPACITY AND SERVICE
DELIVERY OF LOCAL ADMINISTRATIONS (SCSD) JOINT
PROGRAMME**

**Standard Administrative Arrangement
between
The Government of Switzerland represented by the Federal Department of
Foreign Affairs acting through the Swiss Agency for Development and
and
the United Nations Development Programme**

WHEREAS, Participating United Nations Organizations that have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (hereinafter referred to collectively as the “Participating UN Organizations”) have developed a **Strengthening Capacity and Service Delivery of Local Administrations (GPAR SCSD) Joint Programme** (hereinafter referred to as the “Joint Programme”) starting on **1 February 2012** and ending on **31 December 2015**, as may be amended from time to time, as part of their respective development cooperation with the Government of Lao PDR, as more fully described in the Joint Programme Document (hereinafter referred to as the “Joint Programme Document”), a copy of which is attached hereto as **ANNEX A**, and have agreed to establish a coordination mechanism (hereinafter referred to as the “Steering Committee”) to facilitate the effective and efficient collaboration between the Participating UN Organizations and the host Government for the implementation of the Joint Programme;

WHEREAS, the Participating UN Organizations have agreed that they should adopt a coordinated approach to collaboration with donors who wish to support the implementation of the Joint Programme and have developed a Joint Programme Document to use as the basis for mobilising resources for the Joint Programme, and have further agreed that they should offer donors the opportunity to contribute to the Joint Programme and receive reports on the Joint Programme through a single channel; and

WHEREAS, the Participating UN Organizations have appointed the **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)** (hereinafter referred to as the “Administrative Agent”) (which is also a Participating UN Organisation in connection with the Joint Programme) in a Memorandum of Understanding (hereinafter referred to as “MoU”) concluded between, the Administrative Agent and Participating UN Organizations on **22 February 2012**, to serve as their administrative interface between donors and the Participating UN Organizations for these purposes. To that end the Administrative Agent has established a separate ledger account under its financial regulations and rules for the receipt and administration of the funds received from donors who wish to provide financial support to the Joint Programme through the Administrative Agent (hereinafter referred to as the “Joint Programme Account”); and

WHEREAS, the **Government of Switzerland represented by the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs acting through the Swiss Agency for development and Cooperation** (hereinafter referred to as the “Donor”) wishes to provide financial support to the Joint Programme on the basis of the Joint Programme Document as part of its development cooperation with the Government of **Lao PDR** and wishes to do so through the Administrative Agent as proposed by the Participating UN Organizations.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Donor and the Administrative Agent (hereinafter referred to collectively as the “Participants”) hereby decide as follows:

Section I
Disbursement of Funds to the Administrative Agent
and the Joint Programme Account

1. The Donor decides to make a contribution of **US Dollar Four Million (USD 4,000,000)** and such further amounts as it may decide (hereinafter referred to as the “Contribution”) to support the Joint Programme. The Contribution will enable the Participating UN Organizations to support the Joint Programme in accordance with the Joint Programme Document, as amended from time to time in writing by the Steering Committee. The Donor authorizes the Administrative Agent to use the Contribution for the purposes of the Joint Programme and in accordance with this Standard Administrative Arrangement (hereinafter referred to as “Arrangement”). The Donor acknowledges that the Contribution will be co-mingled with other contributions to the Joint Programme Account and that it will not be separately identified or administered.

2. The Donor will deposit the Contribution by wire transfer, in accordance with the schedule of payments set out in ANNEX B to this Arrangement, in convertible currencies of unrestricted use, to the following account:

Name of Account:	UNDP Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office (USD) Account
Account Number:	790440309
Name of Bank:	JPMorgan Chase Bank International Agencies Banking
Address of Bank:	270 Park Avenue, 43rd Floor New York, New York 10017
SWIFT Code:	CHASUS33
ABA:	021000021
Reference:	JP SCSD Lao Account

3. When making a transfer to the Administrative Agent, the Donor will notify the Administrative Agent’s Treasury Operations at constance.chitanda@undp.org, with a copy to the MPTF Office’s Finance louise.moretta@undp.org, aamir.maqsood@undp.org, jacqueline.carbajal@undp.org and the MPTF Office at executivecoordinator.mdtfo@undp.org of the following: (a) the amount transferred, (b) the value date of the transfer; and (c) that the transfer is from **the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation** in respect of the Joint Programme in **Lao PDR** pursuant to this Arrangement. The Administrative Agent will promptly acknowledge receipt of funds in writing.

4. All financial accounts and statements will be expressed in United States dollars.

5. The US dollar value of a contribution-payment, if made in currencies other than United States dollars, will be determined by applying the United Nations operational rate of exchange in effect on the date of receipt of the Contribution. The Administrative Agent will not absorb gains or losses on currency exchanges. Such amounts will increase or decrease the funds available for disbursements to Participating UN Organizations.

6. The Joint Programme Account will be administered by the Administrative Agent in accordance with the regulations, rules, directives and procedures applicable to it, including those relating to interest. The Joint Programme Account will be subject exclusively to the internal and external auditing procedures laid down in the financial regulations, rules, directives and procedures applicable to the Administrative Agent.

7. The Administrative Agent will be entitled to allocate an administrative fee of one percent (1%) of the Contribution by the Donor, to cover the Administrative Agent's costs of performing the Administrative Agent's functions.

8. The Steering Committee may request any of the Participating UN Organizations, to perform additional tasks in support of the Joint Programme not related to the Administrative Agent functions detailed in Section I, Paragraph 2 of the Memorandum of Understanding and subject to the availability of funds. In this case, costs for such tasks will be decided in advance and with the approval of the Steering Committee be charged to the Joint Programme as direct costs.

Section II

Disbursement of Funds to the Participating UN Organizations and a Separate Ledger Account

1. The Administrative Agent will make disbursements from the Joint Programme Account in accordance with instructions from the Steering Committee, in line with the Joint Programme Document, as amended in writing from time to time by the Steering Committee. The disbursement to the Participating UN Organizations will consist of direct and indirect costs as set out in the Joint Programme budget.

2. Each Participating UN Organization will establish a separate ledger account under its financial regulations and rules for the receipt and administration of the funds disbursed to it from the Joint Programme Account. Each Participating UN Organization assumes full programmatic and financial accountability for the funds disbursed to them by the Administrative Agent. That separate ledger account will be administered by each Participating UN Organization in accordance with its own regulations, rules, directives and procedures, including those relating to interest. That separate ledger account will be subject exclusively to the internal and external auditing procedures laid down in the financial regulations, rules, directives and procedures applicable to the Participating UN Organization.

3. Where the balance in the Joint Programme Account on the date of a scheduled disbursement is insufficient to make that disbursement, the Administrative Agent will consult with the Steering Committee and make a disbursement, if any, in accordance with the Steering Committee's instructions.

Section III

Implementation of the Joint Programme

1. The implementation of the programmatic activities which the Donor assists in financing under this Arrangement will be the responsibility of the Participating UN Organizations and will be carried out by each Participating UN Organization in accordance with its own applicable regulations, rules, policies and procedures including relating to procurement. The Donor will not be directly responsible or liable for the activities of any person employed by the Participating UN Organizations or the Administrative Agent as a result of this Arrangement.

2. The Participating UN Organizations will carry out the activities for which they are responsible, in line with the budget contained in the Joint Programme Document, as amended from time to time by the Steering Committee in accordance with the regulations, rules, directives and procedures applicable to it. Accordingly, personnel will be engaged and administered, equipment, supplies and services purchased, and contracts entered into in accordance with the provisions of such regulations, rules, directives and procedures.

3. Indirect costs of the Participating UN Organizations recovered through programme support costs will be 7%. In accordance with the UN General Assembly resolution 62/208 (2007 Triennial Comprehensive Policy Review principle of full cost recovery), all other costs incurred by each Participating UN Organization in carrying out the activities for which it is responsible under the Joint Programme will be recovered as direct costs.

4. The Participating UN Organizations will commence and continue to conduct operations for the Joint Programme activities only upon receipt of disbursements as instructed by the Steering Committee.

5. The Participating UN Organizations will not make any commitments above the budgeted amounts in Joint Programme Document, as amended from time to time by the Steering Committee.

6. If unforeseen expenditures arise, the Steering Committee will submit, through the Administrative Agent, a supplementary budget to the Donor showing the further financing that will be necessary. If no such further financing is available, the activities to be carried out under the Joint Programme Document may be reduced or, if necessary, terminated by the Participating UN Organizations. In no event will the Participating UN Organizations assume any liability in excess of the funds transferred from the Joint Programme Account.

7. The Donor reserves the right to discontinue future contributions if reporting obligations are not met as set forth in this Arrangement; or if there are substantial deviations from agreed plans and budgets. If it is agreed among the Donor, the Administrative Agent and the concerned Participating UN Organization under the Arrangement that there is evidence of improper use of funds, the Participating UN Organization will use their best efforts, consistent with their regulations, rules, policies and procedures to recover any funds misused. The Participating UN Organization will, in consultation with the Steering Committee and the Administrative Agent, credit any funds so recovered to the Joint Programme Account or agree with the Steering Committee to use these funds for a purpose mutually agreed upon. Before withholding future contributions or requesting recovery of funds and credit to the Joint Programme Account, the Administrative Agent, the concerned Participating UN Organization and the Donor will consult with a view to promptly resolving the matter.

8. The Participants recognize that it is important to take all necessary precautions to avoid corrupt, fraudulent, collusive or coercive practices. To this end, as set out in the MoU between the Administrative Agent and Participating UN Organizations regarding the Operational Aspects of the N-GPAR Strengthening Capacity and Service Delivery of Local Administrations (SCSD) Joint Programme, each Participating UN Organization will maintain standards of conduct that govern the performance of its staff, including the prohibition of corrupt, fraudulent, collusive or coercive practices in connection with the award and administration of contracts, grants, or other benefits, as set forth in their Staff Regulations and Rules and the Financial Regulations and Rules, including regarding procurement.

Section IV **Equipment and Supplies**

1. On the termination or expiration of this Arrangement, the matter of ownership of equipment and supplies will be determined in accordance with the regulations, rules, directives and procedures applicable to such Participating UN Organization, including any agreement with the relevant host Government if applicable.

Section V **Reporting**

1. The Administrative Agent will provide the Donor and the Steering Committee with the following statements and reports, based on submissions provided to the Administrative Agent by each Participating UN Organization prepared in accordance with the accounting and reporting procedures applicable to it, as set forth in the Joint Programme Document:

- (a) Annual consolidated narrative progress reports, based on annual narrative progress reports received from Participating UN Organizations, to be

provided no later than five months (31 May) after the end of the calendar year;

- (b) Annual consolidated financial reports, based on annual financial statements and reports, to be received from the Participating UN Organizations, as of 31 December with respect to the funds disbursed to them from the Joint Programme Account, to be provided no later than five months (31 May) after the end of the calendar year;
- (c) Final consolidated narrative report, based on final narrative reports received from Participating UN Organizations after the completion of the activities in the Joint Programme Document and including the final year of the activities in the Joint Programme Document, to be provided no later than seven months (31 July) of the year following the financial closing of the Joint Programme. The final consolidated narrative report will contain a summary of the results and achievements compared to the goals and objectives of the Joint Programme.
- (d) Final consolidated financial report, based on certified final financial statements and final financial reports received from Participating UN Organizations after the completion of the activities in the Joint Programme Document and including the final year of the activities in the Joint Programme Document, to be provided no later than seven months (31 July) of the year following the financial closing of the Joint Programme.

2. The Administrative Agent will provide the Donor, Steering Committee and Participating UN Organizations with the following reports on its activities as Administrative Agent:

- (a) Certified annual financial statement ("Source and Use of Funds" as defined by UNDG guidelines) to be provided no later than five months (31 May) after the end of the calendar year; and
- (b) Certified final financial statement ("Source and Use of Funds") to be provided no later than seven months (31 July) of the year following the financial closing of the Joint Programme.

3. Consolidated reports and related documents will be posted on the websites of the UN in Lao PDR (www.unlao.org) and the Administrative Agent (<http://mptf.undp.org>).

Section VI

Monitoring and Evaluation

1. Monitoring and evaluation of the Joint Programme including, as necessary and appropriate, joint evaluation by the Participating UN Organizations, the Administrative

Agent, the Donor, the host Government (if applicable) and other partners will be undertaken in accordance with the Joint Programme Document.

2. The Donor, the Administrative Agent and the Participating UN Organizations will hold annual consultations as appropriate to review the status of the Joint Programme.

Section VII **Joint Communication**

1. Information given to the press, to the beneficiaries of the Joint Programme, all related publicity material, official notices, reports and publications, will acknowledge the role of the Government of Lao PDR, the donors, the Participating UN Organizations, the Administrative Agent and any other relevant entities.

2. The Administrative Agent in consultation with the Participating UN Organizations will ensure that decisions regarding the review and approval of the Joint Programme as well as periodic reports on the progress of implementation of the Joint Programme, associated external evaluations are posted, where appropriate, for public information on the websites of the UN in Lao PDR (www.unlao.org) and the Administrative Agent (<http://mptf.undp.org>). Such reports and documents may include Steering Committee approved programmes, fund level annual financial and progress reports and external evaluations, as appropriate.

Section VIII **Expiration, Modification and Termination**

1. The Administrative Agent will notify the Donor when it has received notice from all Participating UN Organizations that the activities for which they are responsible under the Joint Programme Document have been completed. The date of the last notification received from a Participating UN Organization will be deemed to be the date of expiration of this Arrangement, subject to the continuance in force of paragraph 4 below for the purposes therein stated.

2. This Arrangement may be modified only by written agreement between the Participants.

3. This Arrangement may be terminated by either Participant on thirty (30) days of a written notice to the other Participants, subject to the continuance in force of paragraph 4 below for the purpose therein stated.

4. Commitments assumed by the Donor and the Administrative Agent under this Arrangement will survive the expiration or termination of this Arrangement to the extent necessary to permit the orderly conclusion of activities, the withdrawal of personnel, funds and property, the settlement of accounts between the Participants hereto and the Participating UN Organizations and the settlement of contractual liabilities required in respect of any subcontractors, consultants or suppliers. Any balance remaining in the

Joint Programme Account or in the individual Participating UN Organizations' separate ledger accounts upon completion of the Joint Programme will be used for a purpose mutually agreed upon or returned to the donor(s) in proportion to their contribution to the Joint Programme as decided upon by the donor(s) and the Steering Committee.

Section IX **Notices**

1. Any action required or permitted to be taken under this Arrangement may be taken on behalf of the Donor, by the SDC Regional Director for the Mekong Region or his or her designated representative, and on behalf of the Administrative Agent, by the MPTF Office Executive Coordinator or his designated representative.
2. Any notice or request required or permitted to be given or made in this Arrangement will be in writing. Such notice or request will be deemed to be duly given or made when it will have been delivered by hand, mail, or any other agreed means of communication to the party to which it is required to be given or made, at such party's address specified below or at such other address as the party will have specified in writing to the party giving such notice or making such request.

For the Donor:

Name: Ruth Huber
Title: Regional Director, SDC Programme for the Mekong Region
Address: House No. 192/2, Sibounheuang Road, Ban Sibounheuang,
Chanthaboury District, Vientiane Capital, Lao PDR
Telephone: +856-21 251 794
Facsimile: +856-21 251 797
Electronic mail: ruth.huber@sdc.net

For the Administrative Agent:

Name: Bisrat Aklilu
Title: Executive Coordinator, MPTF Office, UNDP
Address: 730 3rd Avenue, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10017, USA
Telephone: +1 212 906 6880
Facsimile: +1 212 906 6990
Electronic mail: bisrat.aklilu@undp.org

Section X **Entry into Effect**

1. This Arrangement will come into effect upon signature thereof by the Participants and will continue in effect until it is expired or terminated.

Section XI
Settlement of Disputes

1. Any dispute arising out of the Donor's Contribution to the Joint Programme will be resolved amicably through dialogue among the Donor, the Administrative Agent and the concerned Participating UN Organization.

Section XII
Privileges and Immunities

1. Nothing in this Standard Administrative Arrangement will be deemed a waiver, express or implied, of any of the privileges and immunities of the United Nations, the Administrative Agent, or each Participating UN Organization.

ANNEX B

SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS

Schedule of Payments:

Amount:

15.03.2012

USD 1,000,000

01.03.2013

USD 1,100,000

01.03.2014

USD 1,100,000

01.03.2015

USD 800,000

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned, being duly authorized by the respective Participants, have signed the present Arrangement in English in two copies.

For the Donor:

Signature: 

Name: Ruth Huber

Title: Regional Director, SDC Programme for the Mekong Region

Place: Vientiane capital, Lao PDR

Date: 13 / 03 / 2012

For the Administrative Agent:

Signature: 

Name: ~~Bisrat Akli~~

Title: Executive Coordinator

Place: New York

Date: 13 March 2012

ANNEX A: Joint Programme Document

ANNEX B: Schedule of Payments