

People's Participation Working Group (PPWG)

Activity Plan 2008 - 2010

June 2008

Introduction

Since the establishment of PPWG in 1999, various changes in Vietnam have offered new opportunities for the PPWG to play a different role in sharing information and experiences on people's participation, civil society development and in relation to policy making. In response to the broad range of changes the PPWG has developed a new strategy for the period 2008 – 2010. As part of the process of developing a strategy the PPWG has also prepared this overall activity plan for the period 2008 to 2010. Please read the separate PPWG Strategy Paper 2008 – 2010 for more information.

1. OBJECTIVES & KEY ACTIVITIES 2008 - 2010

Based on the three selected strategic directions, the following set of objectives, outputs and key activities have been developed. However, given Vietnam's rapidly changing environment, the PPWG will maintain its flexibility to adapt and respond to new arising issues during the strategy's implementation. This strategy should therefore not be seen as a static document. The PPWG is a working group in progress that will respond to opportunities as they arise. An important parameter for selecting the outputs and key activities has been that an organisation has made a commitment to take the lead on a particular issue.

1.1. Overall Goal

By 2010, an enabling environment for enhancing people's participation will be actively supported by PPWG, which will result in improved contributions by civil society to development and poverty reduction processes in Vietnam.

1.2. Objectives & Key Activities

The three objectives corresponding to the three identified strategic directions are outlined below, with outputs and activities relating to each of the objectives for the period 2008-2010.

Objective 1: The PPWG acts as a platform for the exchange of information, knowledge and experiences for the benefits of its members

For this objective to be achieved, it will be essential that PPWG concentrates its efforts on successfully creating a mechanism enable the SC to tap into and encourage its members to share information, knowledge, experiences and resources that have impacts on people's participation and civil society development.

The PPWG will also continue to build on its accumulated strengths to select the most important and interesting opportunities for its members to share and exchange information and knowledge in areas relevant for, and based on the needs of, its members in promoting people's participation in Vietnam. This includes the new Grassroots Democracy Ordinance, the current government "socialisation" policy of public services delivery, and the government's draft strategy on Anti-corruption 2010-2020, as well as other interesting issues to be identified.

Outputs	Key Activities
1.1. Mechanism is in place for the SC to tap into and encourage its members to share information, knowledge, experiences and resources.	1.1.1 Conduct thematic trainings/exchange forums based on members' needs linked to objective 3 (policy advocacy).
1.2. Increase PPWG visibility and expand the number of active members in PPWG, especially national NGOs and mass organisations.	1.2.1. Increase number of NGOs and agencies receiving PPWG news and benefiting from PPWG's activities
1.3. Policy briefs, discussion papers, background notes are prepared and disseminated	1.3.1. Prepare communication and activities in English and Vietnamese.
	1.3.2. Share information with media and MOHA.

Objective 2: PPWG promotes thematic dialogue amongst key stakeholders at different levels

The PPWG seeks to enable open dialogue amongst INGO and Vietnamese NGOs and important stakeholders from government, mass organisations, academia and donors, and to foster discussions on relevant issues related to people's participation and civil society development and other specific themes and issues selected by the group.

Promotion of thematic dialogue continues to play an essential part of the work of the PPWG. In the past, many thematic meetings were organised that received positive feedback from members and other stakeholders. The PPWG will continue organising these events but will try to further reach out to include more key stakeholders (VNGOs, mass organisations, networks, etc.) who have an interest in, and influence on, the issue of people's participation. From 2008, extra efforts will be made to attract the active participation of more stakeholders in order to diversify and expand our current membership base and truly make PPWG open to all with an interest in the group's activities. (see also Objective 1, output 2)

Outputs	Key Activities
2.1 SC makes clear and strategic choices on thematic and sectoral issues for dialogues.	2.1.1. Members choose themes that have the most potential relevance to their needs.
2.2 PPWG facilitates dialogues with different stakeholders, including VNGOs, CSOs, mass organisations and government agencies in Hanoi and other regions.	2.1.2. Prepare and implement an action plan to carry out dialogues on identified topics.

Objective 3: PPWG's links to policy development

PPWG pro-actively seeks opportunities to bring value-added inputs to decision-making processes affecting policies and initiatives relating to people's participation, grassroots democracy and civil society development.

While acknowledging the opportunities for enhancing people's participation, PPWG also recognises the challenges that exist in the current socio-political environment. The new aid modalities such as direct budget support, the new Decree on Collaborative Groups, and the limited mechanisms for bottom up/participatory approaches in planning are only a few examples of current development trends with unclear incentives for inclusive participation.

PPWG will continue acting as an important venue for stakeholders, especially key government institutions, mass organisations and Vietnamese NGOs, for open dialogue and improved understanding, towards contributing to facilitating positive changes in policies and programmes that have impacts on people's participation, grassroots democracy and civil society.

Outputs	Key Activities
3.1. Share knowledge and provide substantive inputs to policy platforms, and participate in dialogues with different stakeholders.	3.1.1. Members make contributions to Policy Forums, e.g. CG Meeting, Anti -Corruption Dialogue etc.
3.2. Enhanced contributions to policy-making platforms.	3.2.1. Produce Biannual report for submission to CG with input from NGOs.
3.3. Two case studies or papers prepared	3.2.2. Document two successful cases of successful linkages to policy-making processes.

1.4. Inputs & Budgets

In recent years, the different PPWG activities have been funded on an ad hoc basis by the different members of the Steering Committee (former Core Group) and other key stakeholders. This way of raising funds will continue when suitable to scope and extent of the activity, however this way of funding needs to be combined with longer term funding matching sets of activities that stretch over one or several months. To be able to carry out and fund the elaborated sets of activities developed in relation to the new strategy the PPWG will rely on long term support of key donors.

Objective 1 The PPWG acts as a platform for the exchange of information, knowledge and experiences for the benefits of its members:			
Output	Activities	Input	Required Resources
Mechanism is in place for the SC to tap into and encourage its members to share information, knowledge, experiences and resources	1. Conduct thematic trainings/exchange forums based on members' needs and linked to objective 3 (policy advocacy)	- Meeting rooms of PPWG members	- Facilitators/speakers
Increase PPWG visibility and expand active members of PPWG, especially national NGOs and mass organisations	2. Increase number of NGOs, agencies receiving PPWG news 3. Prepare communication and activities in ENG and VN 4. Share information with media and MOHA	- NGO Resource Centre Communication Specialist - PPWG members	- Resources identified on a case-by-case basis
Objective 2 PPWG promotes thematic dialogues amongst key stakeholders at different levels:			
Output	Activities	Input	Required Resources

2.1 SC makes clear and strategic choices on thematic and sectoral issues for dialogues	2.1.1. Members choose themes that have the most potential relevance to their needs	PPWG members	- Resources identified on a case-by-case basis
2.2. PPWG facilitates dialogues with different stakeholders, including VNGOs, CSOs, mass organisations and government agencies in Hanoi and other regions	2.1.2. Prepare and implement an action plan to carry out dialogues on identified topics	PPWG members	- Resources identified on a case-by-case basis
Objective 3 PPWG's links to policy development:			
Output	Activities	Input	Required Resources
1. Share knowledge and provide substantial inputs to policy platforms, and participate in dialogues with different stakeholders	1. Members make contributions to Policy Forums - CG, AC Dialogue etc.	PPWG members	- Resources identified on a case-by-case basis
2. Enhance contributions to policy-making platforms	2.1. Produce Biannual report for submission to CG Meeting with input from NGOs	PPWG members	- PPWG SC
	2.2. Document two successful cases of successful linkages to policy making processes	PPWG members	- Independent consultant