



LAO PDR

**RAPID QUALITATIVE LIVELIHOODS ASSESSMENT
IN SAVANNAKHET, ATTAPHEU AND LUANG PRABANG PROVINCES
FOR PREPARATION OF NEW LAO PDR PRRO**

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Final Report
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Ban Kang Luang, a resettled village in Vilabuly district (Savannakhet province)

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Abbreviations and Acronyms

ADB	Asian Development Bank
CFSVA	Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Analysis
ECHO	European Commission Humanitarian Aid Office
FFT	Food For Training
FFW	Food For Work
GDP	Gross Domestic Production
GoL	Government of Lao PDR
HQ	Head Quarters
Lao PDR	Lao People's Democratic Republic
MCH	Mother and Child Health
MCN	Mother and Child Nutrition
NBCA	National Biodiversity Conservation Areas
NSEDP	Sixth National Socio-Economic Development Plan
NTFP	Non-Timber Forest Products
ODB	WFP Regional Bureau for Asia, Bangkok
PRRO	Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation
RQLA	Rapid Qualitative Livelihood Assessment
SEDS	Socio-Economic Development Strategy
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
UXO	Unexploded Ordinances
WFP	World Food Programme
WFP CO	World Food Programme Country Office

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Executive Summary

The rapid qualitative livelihood assessment (RQLA) was carried out from August 3-15 in 11 villages covered by three provinces (Savannaketh, Attapeu and Luang Prabang) of Lao PDR. The RQLA was aimed at assessing the effects of resettlement on the livelihoods of affected population groups and consequently on their food security situation in order to inform the design of the new PRRO activities.

The resettlement process is primarily initiated according to the government plan for resettlement in Lao PDR. Community or village decision-making to move follows voluntarily with the hope or promise to access low land, basic services (health, water and sanitation, education and roads), and markets or join relatives. However, in many instances these promises are not met. In general, the resettlement process remains dynamic as communities sometimes move to set up a new village and sometimes to join a host community. Not all households from a resettled village move at the same time and not to the same destination. As a result, beneficiary targeting based on village characteristics may become a challenge for WFP operations.

Compared to original villages and remote villages, access to basic services has improved for resettled villages, with health centers and schools being closer than before. However, it is difficult to assess the impact on concerned population, despite recent progress in providing schools, water pumps, health volunteers and medical kits to resettled villages. The quality of school buildings remains poor in both non-resettled and resettled villages, with the potential negative impact on school attendance. All the villages have to pay for medical services and will go to health centers only when they have money to pay for medicines and transport costs. The water sources (piped and hand pump) remain insufficient in some villages due to population pressure. In general, the lack of toilet facilities in the villages has not improved with the resettlement. Overall, the patterns of diseases remain the same, with diarrhea and malaria being the main diseases for all visited villages. Despite a slight improvement in the frequency of serious illnesses, resettled communities remain (reportedly) vulnerable to malaria when farming in the uplands. In the North, resettled villagers have become more vulnerable to malaria from moving down to warmer climates, though use of mosquito nets have offset this somewhat. Lack of knowledge of food conservation and consumption habits, drinking unclean water from open water sources and lack of hygiene seem to be the main drivers for diarrhea. The team feels that there is a link between these health and sanitation issues and the high child malnutrition rates that Laos is facing. Although a proper nutritional survey would need to verify this, it would be appropriate at this stage to pilot interventions that address this lack of knowledge and facilities.

Resettled villages are experiencing changes in their livelihood conditions in order to meet their needs of food and non-food items (medicines, education, clothes, etc.). Upland shifting cultivation and animal rearing remain the primary sources of employment in all the villages. Resettled villages continue to farm upland when they are located near their previous upland areas. Insufficient lowland areas and constraints on expansion of lowland were expressed as concerns for resettled villages. As most resettled villages are facing declining rice production, there are attempts to compensate for this with growing new crops such as maize, commercial trees and vegetables and raising more livestock. However, most villages lack skills both in lowland farming and basic veterinary skills. Recent shocks such as drought (in 2004), flood (in 2005) and frequent insect invasion and animal diseases are seen as putting the sustainability of livelihoods at risk with potential increase of household vulnerability in terms of food security.

Although, these villages are increasingly getting involved in market-based income generating activities to compensate for the reduction in rice production, the seasonal changes of access to food have not changed. The most difficult time of the year to access food remains the end of the dry season (March-May). During the pre-harvest season (June-October) villagers have better access to food sources from the forests and the rivers. It may seem that access to protein-rich food is more of a problem than access to energy per se, although a proper survey on food consumption will need to verify this. Those with less access to wild food products than before, especially those located far from their original upland fields, tend to rely more on casual labor during this period and buy more food products (rice) on markets.

Casual labor has become a more important part of the income sources than before, especially for resettled villages. Non-farm activities offer some employment opportunities and cash income but they are less preferred than permanent activities because they are considered by resettled villagers as low-paying, temporary and risky.

With access to roads, the frequency of transactions with traders has increased both for resettled villages and non-resettled villages but the market chain remains one of a primary market (from farmer to consumers or trader). Access to market places remains low because of distance and transportation costs. Furthermore, the understanding of the dynamics of markets is still low in villages with access to roads while it is lacking in remote villages, resulting in a general sentiment of frustration in trade relationships. Most of the villages reported that their transactions are done in cash or in kind. In a few cases, access to credit was available based on kinship, implying that resettled households are at a risk of becoming more vulnerable to food insecurity, in the absence of purchasing power.

Based on the findings of the RQLA, recommendations are made below, suggesting WFP intervention wherever possible.

In order to improve beneficiary targeting:

- Relocation should be considered a potential shock in its early stages. The effect on the food security situation will have to be assessed shortly after the relocation, not during the transition period (2-3 years after) when households are adjusting their livelihoods.
- Village level targeting should remain the main targeting mechanism for WFP, but where a small group of households have joined a larger more established group, the smaller group should be considered separately.
- When FFW creates assets that accrue to individual households, household level targeting could be pilot-tested. Community defined criteria should be applied.

As a means to support human development for sustainable livelihoods:

- Improve schooling conditions through provision of adequate school buildings in order to prevent a decline in the quality of education. As a short term intervention, WFP could expand its school feeding activities in order to maintain or increase school attendance, in both resettled and non-resettled villages.
- Improve accessibility to primary health care services through provision of health centers in village clusters and reduction of the cost of medicines.
- Continue efforts to provide adequate water and sanitation facilities in all villages.
- Further assess the nutrition conditions of households in order to consider Maternal and Child Health or Nutrition (MCH/MCN) options, indispensable for preventing deterioration of livelihoods and assets. In the short to medium term, WFP could seek partnerships for pilot-testing Food for Training (FFT) activities with subjects such as nutrition, feeding practices, health, water and sanitation.
- Although rice will remain the main commodity for the new PRRO, it could be pilot-tested to provide more protein-rich food for mothers and children participating in the FFT

In order to improve livelihoods for better food availability:

- Continue assistance to land expansion (especially paddy land), considering UXO decontamination as part of the assistance package. WFP can increasingly be involved in this process through its FFW schemes.
- In combination with land expansion, improve skills in lowland and paddy land farming through provision of training of both staff and beneficiaries. Partnership can be sought by WFP in order to support training events through FFT.
- Develop water management facilities (irrigation and drainage systems) in order to reduce vulnerability to unexpected weather changes such as drought and floods. Partnership can be sought by WFP in order to support projects through FFW.

- Continued effort to provide all season roads and most importantly to develop market places in village clusters is seen as a means of improving market knowledge of villagers in the context of their changing livelihood conditions toward market-oriented activities.

In order to improve livelihoods for better food accessibility:

- Improve basic skills for animal rearing through provision of training in order to prevent animal diseases and sustain income sources. Partnership can be sought by WFP in order to support training events through FFT. However, continued GoL support is required to ensure sustainability through provision of veterinary services.
- Provide training on market development, including the basics of supply and demand, competition, price dynamics, production costs, product quality and contractual arrangements with traders. WFP FFT activities recommended above can therefore incorporate the dimension of market opportunities in order to support market-oriented livelihoods and income sources.

Capacity building of CO staff and Partners in order to be able to implement new activities:

- Set up a training program of WFP/CO staff (followed by partners) in planning and implementing new types of activities such as MCN, MCH, and FFT. It is expected that the training events will also: i) sensitize on the benefits and disadvantages of resettlement (including its determining factors, ethnic diversity and gender issues) and: ii) expose staff and partners to alternative development solutions.
- Plan the budget cost of this capacity building component in the upcoming PRRO.

Introduction

During the last five years (2001-2005), the GDP grew on average at about 6.3 percent per annum in Lao PDR, about 0.4 percentage point higher than the average growth rate in the previous five-year period (1996-2000)¹. The GNI per capita stood at US\$ 390 in 2004, and approximately one third of the population is below the national poverty line. The majority of the population relies on subsistence agriculture. The value of production in the agriculture sector has increased on average by 3.5 percent per year on the same period, with an increasing performance of commercial production due to the use of high-yield/high-productivity crops and livestock. Food production reached 2.65 million Mt in 2005, resulting in an average annual per capita availability of approximately 465 kg. However, food production and availability vary across the regions. While the low land areas along the river Mekong are food surplus in general, the low land in other areas are comfortable producers and upland are deficit producers.

Despite the overall positive developments, recent assessments have concluded that while the country is steadily moving towards poverty eradication, the processes directing this strategy are weakening the capacity of vulnerable population groups to sustain their livelihoods². For the food insecure and poor households, the effects of policy induced and climatic shocks combine in many ways to generate substantial negative livelihood impacts that require a major transition in production systems. The causes of food insecurity in Laos are many and complex, ranging from site-specific agro-ecological issues, flooding, drought, and extensive unexploded ordinances (UXO) contamination, to accelerated implementation of certain government policies, including village consolidation and resettlement, ban on shifting cultivation and opium eradication³. The agro-ecological and cultural diversity of Laos makes it difficult to attribute food insecurity to one single factor.

While the above-mentioned assessments have highlighted the effects of opium eradication, other studies have shed light on the effect of natural hazards such as flash floods and droughts. What is missing is a focused assessment of the effects on the food security of people affected by resettlement/relocation, especially in the areas where WFP plan to expand. The current rapid assessment intends to bridge this gap by looking specifically at the livelihood activities of households and community that have recently undergone resettlement and their link with the food security situation of affected population. The report is expected to provide inputs and recommendations for the formulation process of the new PRRO.

Chapter 1: Objectives and Methodology

1.1 Objectives of the Assessment

The overall objective of the rapid assessment was to assess the effects of resettlement on the livelihoods of affected population groups and consequently on their food security situation in order to inform decision making on activities in the new PRRO.

Specific objectives are:

- Describe the livelihood and food security changes that have occurred among resettled/relocated villagers, including description of previous livelihoods systems and potential new livelihoods opportunities after resettlement.

¹ Lao PDR (2006): *Sixth National Socio Economic Development Plan (2006-2010)*, Committee for Planning and Investment, Vientiane, January.

² WFP/Laos (2006): *Needs Assessment and Modality Design – WFP Assistance to ex-opium producers*, May. Baird I. G. and B. Shoemaker (2005): *Aiding or Abetting? Internal Resettlement and International Aid Agencies in the Lao PDR*, Probe International, August.

Alton C. and H. Rattanavong (2004): *Livelihoods Study*, UNDP/ECHO Service Delivery and Resettlement, Options for Development Planning Lao/03/A01, Final Report.

³ These UXOs are remaining from the Vietnam War.

- Provide estimates of what proportion of resettled villagers are in need of food assistance, and for how long.
- Give guidance on what type of assistance will be of most help to resettled villages
- Give guidance on issues and questions to include in the household survey and key informant interview components of the upcoming CFSVA.

1.2 Assessment Methodology

The methodology of this study consists of a rapid assessment of the mechanisms of the resettlement/relocation process in Laos by inquiring into their impact on the resources, opportunities, constraints and challenges in terms of food security of affected households and community, compared to non-affected population. Assuming a broad definition of livelihoods as the means, activities, entitlements and assets by which individuals make a living⁴, the approach is based on village and household livelihood changes, including: i) income sources such as labor, crop production and livestock, and; ii) their basic needs (difficulties and priorities) in terms of food availability (including on markets), education and health.

A purposive sampling approach was utilized to select 12 villages, 4 in each of the three provinces Savannakhet, Attapeu (both in the South) and Luang Prabang (in the North). These three districts were selected according to their vulnerability situation (WFP/Lao 2005, GoL Lao PDR 2006)⁵ and the extent of planned resettlement. Consultations with WFP field staff helped to identify possible assessment villages. The criteria for village selection were physical accessibility combined with whether the village was an original or relocated village and distance from a major road. In each province, 1 village from remote areas (without road access), 2 recently relocated villages (last 3 years with access to road), and 1 non-resettled village (with access to road) were selected⁶. The basic assumption behind this selection is to capture possible changes of livelihood characteristics (inputs, activities and outcomes) from more subsistence-oriented to more market-oriented activities.

Two teams of three people each conducted the field survey from August 5 to 12. After a three-day joint data collection in the first four villages to establish a common approach, the two groups headed separately to North and South for the rest of the field trip, accompanied by a staff from the provincial and district planning offices. The primary data was complimented by available secondary data. Field analysis was conducted every day between team members to interpret and summarize data collected.

The basis of the assessment was primary data and information collected through rapid rural appraisal techniques, using semi-structured questionnaire to interview key informant and focus groups at village level. Key informants were those with special knowledge of livelihood activities, village history and administration, trading and transportation such as the head of village, village elders, health and education sector workers, etc. In order to identify the participants of the focus group discussions, villagers were asked to categorize themselves in three layers (better-off, comfortable and worse-off). In each layer two households were then identified. Both the husband and the spouse or the representatives of each of them were selected to join the group of discussants. Each focus group was comprised of all three layers (i.e. about 6 discussants per group on average) separating women from men. The assessment emphasized the village level in order to understand better how livelihoods fit into the larger context of resettlement/relocation and related facility constraints such as basic services, land allocation, assistance and development programs. In addition, the villages generally function as unified entities

⁴ Chambers R. and G. R. Conway (1991): *Sustainable Rural livelihoods, Practical Concepts for the 21st Century*. IDS Discussion Paper 296. Sussex, IDS, December.

⁵ WFP identified these districts among the most vulnerable to food insecurity according to the District Vulnerability Analysis Update – 2005. In addition, they are also listed among the poorest priority districts in the National Growth and Poverty Eradication Plan of 2005.

⁶ Villages resettled in late 1970s and early 1980s are in the category of non-resettled villages, assuming that they have adjusted to their resettlement environment after almost three decades. Although their current situation may be worth considering for support, the changes in their conditions can hardly be interpreted over such a long memory of the village history.

within which the livelihood systems operate and it is at the village level that the government targets its intervention with the construction of infrastructure and public services.

Detailed information on assessment sites and village level findings are presented in annexes 2 and 4.

1.3 Limitations

Given the short duration of the assessment and consequently the non-probability sampling method, the results may be considered preliminary. The study does not include extensive discussion on livelihoods systems in general but focuses on the objectives shaped by relevant issues arising from the findings of the PRRO evaluation mission of July 2006. Time constraints made it also difficult to choose a random sampling approach, as the results of the assessment are expected to fill in the draft PRRO, due early October.

The scope of the study is limited to four villages in each of the three provinces. Because of the limited opportunity for fieldwork in August - being the monsoon season when many roads are impassable - it was difficult to reach remote villages and even some relocated villages, due to either impassable rivers/streams or bad conditions/lack of roads. One remote village was not accessible in Phouvong district and no alternative could be found for its replacement as the other villages were even less accessible.

The selection of focus group participants was sometimes difficult to implement. For instance, in Ban Houay Pien in Luang Prabang Province, the village was very inaccessible so a government official was sent to select the participants and accompany them to the district center. In this case the procedures for selecting participants were not adhered to and focus groups were merged in one in order to catch up time lost traveling. As a result, gender differences may not have been covered sufficiently.

Mixing different living conditions ("better off", "comfortable", "worse off") together in the focus groups may also have influenced the participation, especially of those in the "worse off" situation. However, given that the majority of households were categorized by communities as "worse off", this bias is minimized.

Finally, the team was assisted by government field officers in order to ease communication with interviewees. However, their presence may have restricted the villagers in freely expressing their opinions.

Chapter 2: Policies, Instruments and Process of Village Resettlement

Different studies examined the issue of resettlement in Lao PDR under the angle of internal resettlement (Baird and Shoemaker 2005, Alton and Rattanavong 2004). Resettlement is defined broadly as the movement of communities or villages from one location to another over an extended period of time, generally from high to lower elevations and nearby roads. The resettlement policies are generally justified by the GoL's poverty reduction and rural development strategies. The current Socio-Economic Development Strategy (SEDS, 2001-2010) lays out a strategy to promote access to agriculture and forest technology, markets through roads and information improvement, social services, human resource development and financial resources. The SEDS fits into the objectives of the Sixth National Socio-Economic Development Plan (NSED 2006-2010). Among them are rehabilitation and construction of infrastructure (e.g. irrigation systems, roads, markets and electricity), provision and effective use of basic social services (such as education, healthcare, safe water and sanitation), support for food security and protection against unforeseen calamities such as natural disasters. Policies implemented within this framework support the internal resettlement process through different instruments. These policies and instruments are briefly described in the next two sections. The third section presents the conditions and changes of circumstances that led to the resettlement of a certain number of villages, compared to original villages.

2.1 Resettlement Policies

Usually, the GoL's internal resettlement process is justified as a top priority for the poverty eradication strategy. Within this framework, the motivations for internal resettlement are divided into five main categories such as eradication/reduction of shifting cultivation, opium eradication, security concerns, access and service delivery and the decentralization policy.

The eradication/reduction of shifting cultivation policy begun in the early 1980s with the view that shifting cultivation or swidden agriculture is an unproductive agricultural system and an inefficient use of natural resources, which should be replaced with lowland wet rice agriculture. In 1994, the GoL's declared a goal of eliminating swidden cultivation by the year 2000. Since 1996, the GoL has seen the eradication of shifting cultivation as a means to provide individuals an opportunity to earn a better living by moving them to the lowlands where they could obtain paddy land, hence prevent deforestation, soil degradation and erosion in upland. In the past five years, the GoL reported that over 1.09 million ha of arable land and 3.6 million ha of forestry land were allocated to 7,125 villages composed of 419,250 households, to reduce the practice of shifting cultivation while ensuring sedentary highland and lowland cultivation to reduce poverty (NSED 2006-2010). As a result, the shifting cultivation area declined from 118,900 ha in 2001 to 29,400 ha in 2005, mainly in the Northern Provinces (26,800 ha) with the remainder in the Southern Provinces (2,600 ha). The number of farm families practicing shifting cultivation is reported to have decreased from 174,036 in 2000 to 32,790 in 2005. However, the eradication of shifting cultivation policy is constrained by the availability of potential paddy land and other potential land for sedentary cultivation either by the original villages of the upland/highlands or in potential relocation sites on valley floors, raising concerns about food security.

In 2001, the GoL set a goal of eradicating poppy by 2005 with intensive donor support. By the end of 2004/05, a number of areas were officially declared to be free from opium production by the GoL⁷. About 19,000 ha of opium fields were destroyed and nearly 30,000 ha of shifting cultivation fields were converted into industrial tree plantation areas. This policy has led to the resettlement of many poppy-growing communities (mainly Hmong and Akha) from the uplands. However, the success of poppy eradication is extremely dependent on the availability of land for paddy rice cultivation because of the importance of opium cultivation in upland/highland livelihood systems. Some limited new paddy land has been opened but it is insufficient because of the time and effort needed in testing viable high value alternatives and the skills of upland farmers. Coupled with this are the difficulties in marketing these alternatives including quality, pricing, timing and transportation (Folkard, 2006).

Security is no longer an explicit factor for most resettlement, except in some areas and with regard to some ethnic minorities. It often plays a role in the decision to resettle but it is usually combined with other factors.

The Government's interest in establishing sedentary livelihood systems in the uplands and concentrating scattered settlements near basic services are part of the objectives of the Sixth National Socio-Economic Development Plan (NSED 2006-2010). Among them are rehabilitation and construction of infrastructure (e.g. irrigation systems, roads, markets and electricity), provision and effective use of basic social services (such as education, healthcare, safe water and sanitation), support for food security and protection against unforeseen calamities such as natural disasters. This policy has long been seen by the central government as the most cost-effective way of making development services available to scattered and remote communities that would otherwise not be reached with the limited resources available in Lao PDR. Criticisms (Baird and Shoemaker 2005, Alton and Rattanavong 2004), mention that this policy fails to appreciate the existing livelihood base in remote communities and underestimate the difficulty in creating new livelihoods for those resettled. They also mention the tendency to neglect

⁷ Concerned provinces are Oudomxay, Luang Namtha, Bokeo, Vientiane, Phongsaly, Huaphan, Xiengkhuang, Xayaboury and Bolikhamxay

the issue of the availability of adequate land for farming, grazing livestock and forestry resources as important livelihood activities which may be lost when people are resettled.

Two other programs affecting villages are the decentralization policy and the regulations on aquatic and wildlife management. The decentralization policy promulgated in 2000 is regarded as a key step in involving the grassroots level. Villages are responsible for devising revenue collection plans and gathering data on how to categorize the socio-economic status of families e.g. well-off, self-sufficient and worse-off. District officials are required to provide support to the villages in this planning and budgeting process. And finally, the aquatic and wild life management regulations promulgated in 2003 have significant implications for upland village livelihood systems and their food security (of which much is derived from the forest). These regulations define how, what and when villagers can legally harvest wildlife and fish for food from National Biodiversity Conservation Areas (NBCA).

2.2 Instruments of the Resettlement

Three important instruments are usually used for community or households resettlement in Lao PDR.

Firstly, the focal sites which concentrate large numbers of ethnic minority families into selected areas so that they can be provided with the development assistance in an efficient and cost-effective manner. Focal sites were first initiated in the early 1990s and remain as a major component of the GoL's rural development strategy. In general, they are infrastructure-oriented (roads, schools, health clinics, irrigation, market facilities, etc.).

Secondly, the village consolidation mechanism which combines scattered smaller settlements by resettling people into larger permanent villages so that they can be more easily administrated by the GoL. Although village consolidation has been ongoing since the 1970s, efforts to promote this resettlement instrument have intensified with the GoL's poverty reduction strategy.

Finally, land and forest allocation had the goal of achieving a better land-use planning and to improve the management of natural resources. This initiative started in 1990 with pilot projects supported by donors. In 1994, it became a nationwide policy with the promulgation of the Decree No186 regarding land and forest allocation. The land and forest allocation policy placed severe restrictions on swidden and upland agriculture, raising concerns about its implications in terms of food shortages. These restrictions are seen as a major factor obliging upland farmers to follow government recommendations to resettle into the lowlands or along the roads.

In the next section, an attempt is made to describe the conditions and changes of circumstances that led to the resettlement of a certain number of villages, surveyed by the assessment team.

2.3 Motivations of Resettlement and Migration Patterns of Resettled Villages

There is no clear distinction between voluntary resettlement and government resettlement plan. All assessed villages indicated the local government resettlement plan as the initial motivation to move. However the decision-making process to move is defined as voluntary by all of them, except Makieng in Phouvong district. Some families adopted a prudent decision-making (over about two decades), observing the living conditions of their relatives and predecessors before joining recently. However, the presence of government staff during all interviews may have restricted the villagers in freely expressing their opinions on this matter.

The most frequent motivating factor expressed by villagers (regardless of the year of resettlement) is access to basic services near roads, implying a concern about the lack of basic services in the original settlements. The second factor was the prospect of receiving paddy land. When households have migrated to their current settlements, the most frequent problem encountered is land availability or expansion. As receiving paddy land was one of the villagers' main expectations, in some cases the early settlers acquired insufficient land (both in size and quality) for all households. In Savannakhet province,

the village assessment indicates that new settlers joining their relatives resettled long years ago are those who have not been allocated any land so far. In contrast, the three villages of Phouvong district (Attapeu province) reported that they have enough land but they don't have the means for expansion.

Although post-resettlement out-migration has not been a serious issue for most villages visited, the resettlement process itself remains dynamic, implying that tracking resettled communities or households for operational targeting may become a challenge. Only few numbers of households moved back to their original settlements or to another village. Reportedly, 3 households (HH) of Na Longmai (Nong district) moved back to their original village because of lack of land, poverty and illness and 5 others preferred to resettle in another village instead of joining their relatives in Ban Kan Luang. Given that most of the assessment villages reported the same disease patterns (mainly diarrhea and malaria) as before with a better access to health services in time to avoid cases beyond treatment, health problems can be seen as a lesser reason of moving out compared to lack of land and poverty. In the North (Phonxay district), the issue is less out-migration than the dynamic nature of the government resettlement process. For instance, some villages such as Ban Houay Pien, being merged within the remote areas are planned to be resettled further. It is worth mentioning that in this case a Khmu village (Lao Theung) had been resettled into a Hmong (Lao Soung) village, complicating matters further. Sometimes not all households in the village move at the same time, with parts of the village remaining in the original site. As a result, program targeting at village level may be easier than household level targeting, but in some cases it may not capture those resettled villages which are in the process of being resettled to another location. Furthermore, it may miss out those households joining less vulnerable villages, especially if ethnic compositions mean that intra-village safety-net mechanisms may not be well established. Therefore, it is critical that the targeting exercise be relatively flexible to take account of these specific cases.

Chapter 3: Access to Basic Services

As indicated above, the hope of attaining basic services is among the chief motivations for GoL to plan resettlement with household's decision to migrate. This chapter assesses the extent to which the delivery of these services has affected livelihoods.

3.1 Education Facilities

In general, access to education has improved for resettled villages, especially concerning grade 3-5. Many of the resettled villages reported having only grade 1 and 2 before relocation, and now most of them have access up to grade 5. However, this does not apply to all, as some have not been able to establish proper school buildings in the new location. Teachers are paid by the government, but some villages reported they voluntarily contribute with 300-350 kg of rice per year for the teacher. In addition they sometimes built a house for the teacher.

School attendance seems to have increased for both girls and boys after resettlement, although boys still remain the preferred choice if parents cannot afford to enroll all children in school. Schooling facilities were poor in most of the visited villages, except where donors such as ADB had funded new school buildings.

The extent to which the quality of education has changed as a result of the resettlement could not be assessed because it was not the intention of this assessment and such an assessment could not be done because of the holidays. However, the lack of proper school materials and many students of different grades per teacher and in the same classroom indicate that the quality of education may be a cause of concern after resettlement in some instances. Ta-Oum villagers indicate they have presently less grades than before resettlement and less space in school as the village meeting hall is combined with class rooms. Grade 4 and 5 students are supposed to attend school in the district center or nearby villages. Reportedly, the attendance rate is declining because of the poor schooling conditions and the lack of incentives to attend higher grades outside of the village.

3.2 Health Care Services

Most resettled villages have moved closer to health facilities. Few have proper health services in their village. The most common situation was a village with a health volunteer and a medical kit available, but if anything more than basic treatment was required one would have to go to the nearest health centre which would normally be in the district centre. Even if health centres now were closer, the fact that these services were charged for remained a major obstacle for most villagers. Although distance and difficult transportation, especially during the rainy season, could make it difficult to reach proper health care before, it is questionable to what extent these services still are really available to the resettled villagers. Most reported that they would go to the health centers only if they had money to pay for the required medicines or treatment. The positive effect of being physically closer to health centers may be offset by the high financial cost of accessing these services, compared to normal levels of cash incomes.

3.3 Water and Sanitation

All resettled villages visited have improved access to water through pumps or gravity feeder systems. These have sometimes been provided by the government, but more often by externally funded projects. However, in villages where resettled households joined a host community, there are reports of population pressure on the water sources. For instance, Makieng village in Attapeu Province explained that although they had 3 water pumps in their new location, this was not enough to cover the needs of all in the village. For these villages, open water sources like rivers and ponds continue to cover some of their water needs. Most villagers were aware of the need to boil water for drinking, but those that have to walk long distances to cultivate their upland farms reported difficulties in adhering to this when going to farm there. So although safer water has been provided in many of the resettled villages, the fact that new land close to the village has not been made available forces some villagers to still utilize unsafe drinking water when tending to old farming land.

Provision of proper toilet facilities has clearly not been equally prioritized. The lack of toilets is more or less the same in resettled villages as in remote ones. Most villagers use the forest as toilet. With increasing population density this is clearly a potential health hazard that could also threaten children's nutritional status.

3.4 Patterns of Diseases

Diarrhea and malaria are the main diseases for all visited villages. In the South, resettled villagers reported a decrease in malaria cases, and this was attributed to higher usage of mosquito nets. Upland farming, however, still exposed them to mosquitoes, especially when long distances forced them to spend the nights close to their upland fields. In the North, resettled villagers have become more vulnerable to malaria from moving down in the valleys to warmer climates. Although this probably caused increased problems for most resettled villages in the early stages of the relocation, the introduction of cheap mosquito nets seems to have offset this somewhat. Many villages reported having to buy mosquito nets for around 8,000 kip per net, offered to them by the local health authorities. In some places, poor households can get an exemption from the village head and receive the net for free, but it is unsure how widespread this practice is. In any case, malaria still remains a serious threat to people's wellbeing in rural Laos.

Diarrhea is another serious problem that especially threatens children's healthy growth. Although some villages said they had received more information on the importance of water and sanitation, it is clear that lack of knowledge on these issues is a major problem for food security in a majority of the villages visited. This is also sometimes compounded by the lack of clean water and sanitation facilities. Another major cause of diarrhea seems to be consumption of unhygienic food. This seems to be partly a knowledge problem and partly a storage problem. Although some villagers made clear links between these practices and diarrhea, others seemed less aware of the importance of these factors in preventing this disease. No major difference between resettled and non-resettled villages was uncovered.

Other health problems that villagers mentioned included coughs, stomach pains, headaches and fever. In some villages both women and men (and sometimes even children) were smoking frequently. The team did not have sufficient opportunity to follow up on this, but it is not unlikely that this sometimes is used as pain killers against other health problem. In addition women were complaining about problems linked to pregnancies. Mainly due to high health care costs, very often all of these problems are not remedied.

To sum up this section, the team feel that the linkage between health and sanitation on the one hand and nutrition and food security on the other is strong. There is clearly a need to look deeper into these linkages. At the same time there seems to be sufficient evidence available to justify piloting food-based interventions that address both the lack of knowledge on nutrition, health and sanitation, and also on providing basic water and sanitation facilities where this is lacking.

Chapter 4: Livelihood Activities and Access to Food

It can be difficult describing general livelihoods trends in a country with approximately 50 recognized ethnic groups and equally many ways of living. The country is also geographically diverse, making certain activities that are the mainstay of people in some areas, impossible in others. However, certain general characteristics from the 11 villages visited in the 3 Provinces can be found.

4.1 Agriculture

Upland shifting cultivation of rice remains the main livelihood activity of most villages, especially in Savannakhet and Luang Prabang. In Savannakhet the reasons for not doing paddy land production were a combination of lack land of paddy land cultivation, lack of skills for paddy land cultivation, and lack of UXO clearance. This applied to all villages visited. In Luang Prabang, there was basically no flat land available on which to do paddy land cultivation.

For resettled villages without new access to paddy land, the distance to their old location becomes important to determine the degree to which they are able to maintain their upland rice production. Most resettled villages have faced a substantial decrease in their rice production after resettlement. Those villages that have been resettled within walking distance to their old land continue to grow upland rice in these locations. However, due to the distance to these fields, they are not able to clear, plant, and maintain as large an area as before. In addition, some villagers complain of a declining production due to a combination of increased population (due to merging of villages) and land degradation (this could be due to competing demands for forest land from conservation measurements and logging). The government policy on reducing shifting cultivation may also have limited village access to sufficient land. Interestingly, both resettled and non-resettled villages referred to this problem. Some well established villages might also be facing the consequences of population concentration on access to and sustainable use of nearby land. In any case, the result is a substantial decline in access to rice from own production.

It is not clear to what extent the process of allocating land to new settlers or expanding land can be slowed down by the UXO cleaning process. In Savannakhet province the villages (except Na Longmai) mentioned the UXO contamination as a difficulty. Hence the slow pace of UXO clearance may be a reason of delays in cultivable paddy land allocation. In Attapeu Province paddy rice production has almost taken over as the main mode of production of rice and recently resettled villages (Makieng and Ta-Oum) indicated that UXO is not a difficulty. However, there are indications that villagers can minimize the issue of UXO contamination in order to get support for paddy land expansion⁸. Paddy land expansion in a UXO contaminated area that has not been cleared is illegal, it might therefore be

⁸ Makieng is a beneficiary of WFP food for work assistance to paddy land expansion. During a site visit of a road construction project of WFP/IFAD nearby Makieng, IFAD field supervisor told the assessment team that the road was built within a 10-meter breadth cleared from UXO. Meanwhile, UXO Lao presented a sensitization movie the day before in the neighboring village, implying that this area is not totally free of UXO. Given that UXO are not designed to explode on handling, villagers may have learnt to live with them, minimizing the threats to their life.

beneficial for villages to label their land UXO free in order to be able to expand and provide rice for their families. To the extent possible, it may be worth considering support to UXO decontamination as part of the package of assistance to land expansion.

To compensate for the decline in rice production, some villages had started growing maize as a secondary crop. This was mostly for sale in order to raise money to purchase rice. A few villages had started experimenting with growing commercial trees as a long-term income source, some with project support, and others on their own initiative. So far, none had received any outputs from these initiatives. Most villages also plant vegetables (and some fruits), for the most part in kitchen gardens. This was normally for own consumption, but some small-scale sales were also reported.

4.2 Livestock

All villages have animal rearing as a key livelihood activity and income source. This is the case for both non-resettled and resettled villages, and for resettled villages it was the case before resettlement as well as after. With declining rice production, animal rearing has become more important for food security, not as a source of food, but as a source of income to purchase rice. Most resettled villages report a higher reliance on sales of livestock, yet at the same time there are reports of higher exposure to animal diseases after relocation. Lack of veterinary skills seems to be a major factor, as no village reported having access to such services. One village in Attapeu Province, Ta-Oum, had 50 buffaloes in a buffalo bank set up by the government, yet they still had no access to veterinary services. In addition, the relocation to warmer climates may also have played a part, especially for relocated villages in Luang Prabang.

The animals that the visited villages held were mainly buffaloes and cows, in addition to smaller animals like pigs and poultry. Reportedly, animal diseases (epidemic) have caused major losses of poultry (chicken) during the last two years.

4.3 Non-farm activities

The forest continues to play an important role in the livelihoods of the surveyed villages. All are engaged in collection of Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs), although this activity has been made more difficult for the villages that have been relocated the farthest. Most of the resettled villages have reduced their collection of NTFPs due to the increased distance to the forest and/or the increasing population relying on the same resources, but those that have resettled close to their original village have managed to sustain this activity better than other resettled villages. However, the traditional collection of some of the NTFP resources has been made more difficult as government policies have banned certain activities, such as hunting. Many villages (especially in the North) reported having their guns taken away from them. Due to the sensitive nature of this question, it was impossible to gauge to what extent villagers were reverting to more traditional hunting techniques.

Most of the NTFPs are for own consumption, but increasingly villagers are reporting collecting NTFPs in order to sell and make an income. In Luang Prabang, all visited villages were collecting bark from a special type of tree for making paper. In Savannaketh province, some villages reported that they occasionally collect a type of bark sold to Vietnamese traders for making natural colors. Other things collected for sale include bamboo shoot and vegetables. In general, however, it is safe to say that most of the NTFP-based activities provide very little income compared to the time it takes to collect and prepare the products. However, more high value illicit activities might provide higher incomes, but the current forms of interview did not allow investigating these activities.

Other non-farm activities included scrap metal collection, making handicraft and weaving for women. Everyone reported decline in scrap metal collection, but again, this might be due to the villagers' knowledge that such activities are not condoned by the government. The weaving is mostly for own use, but some products get sold. Anyhow, both these activities are low value and provide little return for the hard (and sometimes dangerous) labor required. There was little difference discovered between resettled

and non-resettled villages in engagement in non-farm activities. What seemed to be more important in determining such activities were the distance to marketing opportunities for the products and whether or not any projects were promoting specific activities in the area?

Casual labor is another form of non-farm activity that villagers increasingly engage in. This will be covered in the section 5.3 related to labor opportunities below.

4.4 Access to food

Using their livelihood activities to stratify their wealth situation between rich, medium and poor household, four common criteria were identified by villagers as follows: rice sufficiency, area of paddy land planted, number of buffaloes and cows owned and availability of cash to buy medicines. The most common combination of criteria was rice sufficiency/paddy land with buffaloes/cow. In a normal year, households with sufficient rice for own consumption year round or 2-3 ha of paddy land, 5 buffaloes or 6-7 cows and enough cash to pay medicines year round are generally qualified by surveyed villages as better-off. Those with enough rice for own consumption within 8-10 months or 1-2 ha of paddy land and 3-5 buffaloes are considered comfortable. Finally households with just enough paddy land or rice to cover up 4 months of own consumption and almost no buffaloes are identified as worse-off. This finding will require further analysis in the upcoming CFSVA in order to come up with targeting criteria at household level.

It is difficult to read off the food insecurity situation of a village based on its resettlement history alone. However it remains clear that for most villages, the early stage of the resettlement is an initial shock that reduces food security, partly due to the loss of assets that the move itself brings about and partly due to the time it takes to adjust ones livelihoods activity portfolio when some old activities are taken away. Overtime, it was found that resettled villages are no more using coping mechanisms as they are adjusting by progressively changing their livelihoods. The level of support from government and other actors in facilitating and accelerating this transition is vital. However, as we have seen, in most cases villagers have received little more than broken promises, except in villages visited in Attapeu province. These villages received substantial support both from government and donors and were resettled within a 2-3 km perimeter from Phouvong district center. As a result, paddy land cultivation and kitchen gardening have almost taken over upland farming within a two-year time frame after resettlement.

In order to give a rough description of the changes that have taken place in terms of access to food, women in the village were asked to draw up a seasonal calendar in terms of major food groups that they consumed, and the major changes in case of relocation. Rice availability from own production has clearly gone down after resettlement. Some villages that used to be rice sufficient throughout the year, are now reporting having rice from their field only for about 6 months of the year. However, resettled villages are increasingly getting involved in market-based income generating activities to compensate for this reduced availability. Some villages resettled near the district center of Phouvong are successful in this.

There is very little consumption of meat products among all villages. Even poultry is normally consumed no more than once a month. Some animal protein is available to these villages through different forest products, such as small birds, rodents, frogs, insects, etc. As we have seen, resettled villages, and also host villages with increased population are facing a decline in the access to forest resources, especially when they are resettled far from their original villages. This reduction of available animal protein sources may be equally important in terms of food security as the decline in own-produced rice. However, further assessment of the dietary situation could be undertaken under the forthcoming CFSVA in combination with the results of the MICS (?).

For many villagers, fish from rivers or ponds are a major source of protein. However, resettlement inevitably means higher population density and therefore more competition for the same river resources. Although most villages reported the same, or even more, access to fish after resettlement, there are signs that the merging of villages could mean less access to fish resources for both resettled and host or

neighboring villages. Some villages also mention that the access to fish is seasonal, with less access during the dry season.

This seasonality is reflected in the visited villages own estimation of the hardest time of the year in terms of access to food. Most villages reported the end of the dry season, from March to May, as the most difficult time of the year to access sufficient food. Although the composition of their food basket does not change significantly during this period, accessing to the same food items (especially rice) requires more efforts. This is the time of the year when their rice stocks starts finishing, and at the same time the long dry season means that there are both less resources available in the forest and in the rivers. In addition, since this is normally before the agricultural season begins, there is less casual labor available. Put together, this means that this is the period when there is a special need to monitor the food security situation and when food for work interventions on non-farm activities are particularly suited. This is the time when households are most food insecure and also when food for work activities will not compete with the agricultural season.

Chapter 5: Changing Markets Opportunities

This chapter presents how access to roads has contributed to market opportunities for the changing livelihoods observed after a village is resettled.

5.1 Village Access to Road and Markets

With access to road, the frequency of transactions with traders has increased both for resettled villages and non-resettled ones. Traders/collectors can now easily visit the villages both to buy and sell. Both resettled villages and non-resettled villages also reported that the frequency of contact with traders/collectors has increased with access to roads. Currently, traders visit villages on a daily basis to sell products. However, contacts with collectors and intermediaries are seasonal depending on the production cycles. In general, the frequency of visits is reduced in wet season because of the planting season and reduced access of secondary and tertiary roads.

Access to market places and opportunities remains low because of distance and transportation cost. The assessment villages of Savannakhet and Luang Prabang appeared to be far from market places. The average distant separating Savannakhet villages to market places is 4 hours of walk (one way), the nearest village being Dongnasan at about 12 km from Nong market (district center). In Luang Prabang, the visited villages (Houay Maha, Ban Houay Syoua) are 2 hours away from the nearest market place at district center but the roads are almost impassable during rainy season. Although individuals can travel to market centers, the transportation cost for a round trip (10000 Kip or a day of walk) is reported to be too high in Savannakhet assessment villages, as compared to the small quantities sold and hence the low incomes generated from sales. For instance, villagers of Ban Kang Luang reported that the long travel distance to Vilabuly district market (20 km) is sometimes cause of distress sales on the market place because they cannot afford to return back with their products. Houay Maha villagers participate now in a regular year-round market about 2 hours away every 10 days. Overall, Savannakhet villages (Na Longmai, Soankangkah, Ban Kan Luang) showed less interest in taking advantage of market opportunities, as opposed to those of Phouvong district (Attapeu province) which have access to both roads and the district market center of Phouvong located at 2-3 km from each village visited.

5.2 Village Participation and Dependency on Markets of Products

The understanding of the dynamics of markets is lacking in remote villages and still low in villages with access to road, resulting in a general sentiment of frustration in their trade relationships. Villagers complain about the low purchase prices offered by traders and collectors and the high prices that they pay to get food or non-food products. Soankangkah, a non-resettled village that was recently reached by the road (in February 2006), proved to be particularly un-aware of information on prices, demand and supply, suggesting that the impact of road access is not immediate.

The market participation (in terms of purchases, sales and variety) of the villages that are located nearby a market place is higher than the others. All the resettled villages reported that they sell more animals (cows, buffalos, chickens and pigs) and handicrafts (baskets, mats and kitchen tools). In addition to these products, villages resettled near the district market center of Phouvong (e.g. Makieng, Ta-Oum, Vang Ngan in Attapeu province) indicated that they sell more vegetables than before both from their kitchen gardens and from forest. They can sell from door to door or expose vegetables on the side of the main road in the district center. Being close to the demand, they can avoid losses as fresh vegetables cannot last long.

Table 1: Indicative Market Prices of Selected Vegetables and Fish Sold by Small Traders and Farmers

Products	Unit	Price/Unit (in Kip)
A- Sold by Traders		
Rice	1 Kg	4,500
Fresh chilli	1 Kg	8,000
Dried chilli	1 Kg	20,000
Cauliflower	1 Kg	2,000
B- Sold by Farmers (Women)		
Bamboo shoot (collected from forest)	1 Kg (1 piece=1.5 kg)	2,000
Fresh mushroom (collected from forest)	1 Kg (1 plate=0.5 kg)	14,000
Wild onion leaves (collected from forest)	1 Kg (1 plastic bag=0.5 kg)	10,000
Catfish or Tilapia (collected from streams)	1 Kg	16,000

Source: Data collected on different market places during the field visits

Market dependency of villages has increased but the market chain remains one of a primary market. All the concerned villages reported that they sell more and buy more either since their resettlement near the road or since the road construction reached the village. With the resettlement they buy more food items (mainly rice) because they have less access to sufficient quality paddy land for own production, less access to substitutes such as wild food products or because of the impact of recent shocks (drought in 2004, flood in 2005, plant diseases related to frequent insects/pests diseases). They also buy more non-food items (medicines, clothes) because of the availability of these products in their neighbourhood. Although some retail shops are emerging in some villages, there are no rice retailers so far, implying that they are more dependent on traders, especially when the village is far from the district market center.

All the assessment villages reported that their transactions are all done in cash or in kind. There is no use of credit in their trade relationships. They only borrow rice from their relatives and reimburse in kind or through exchange of labour. As their participation to markets (selling products or casual labour force) is induced by the primary goal of buying food, clothes and medicines, the lack of use of credit implies that villagers avoid as much as possible transactions that may increase their vulnerability. From an operation perspective, the absence of credit in transactions suggests the importance of minimizing payment delays during the implementation course of projects, when villagers participate as labour force.

In general, the increased dependency on markets is related to the changing livelihood conditions. Income sources have diversified and increased because resettled villages sell more quantity and variety. However, some villages (especially in Luang Prabang province) mentioned that they have no more savings as opposed to before resettlement, implying that alternatives livelihood are not providing enough money yet. As a result, access to food requires more income generating activities such as animal sales and casual labour. In connection with food security, the priorities are more market-oriented for women (commercial vegetable gardening, running small shops in the village), and men (fish ponds, raising chicken and ducks), though men are more interested in direct access to food (paddy land expansion, buffalo for land cultivation). However, all the assessment villages expressed the lack of market knowledge and basic trade skills as weaknesses. It is therefore advisable to improve villagers' knowledge of market dynamics. This includes the fundamentals of supply, demand, competition, and cost of production, seasonal price fluctuations, quality and contractual agreements.

5.3 Labor Market Opportunities in the Neighborhood of the Villages

Casual labor has become a more important part of income sources of resettled villagers than before. In all the assessment villages, the existing demand is for unskilled labor, mostly as agricultural labor (bush cleaning, paddy land maintaining or land fencing) for neighbors. The practice of agricultural casual labor or labor exchange is common in wet season, mainly during the lean season to meet household food needs. According to Vang Ngan villagers, they can receive cash (5,000 kip/day with meal) or kind (5 kg of paddy rice/day). In value terms, 5 kg of paddy (i.e. about 3 kg of rice) are currently equivalent to about 13,500 kip, far above the payment in cash.

Non-farm activities offer some employment opportunities and cash income but are less preferred than permanent agricultural activities because they are considered by resettled villages as low paying, temporary and risky. During the field visits, reported unskilled daily wage rates ranged from 10,000 kip in Ta-Oum (Phouvong district) to 25,000 Kip in Ban Kan Luang (Vilabuly district). Villagers of Ban Kan Luang expressed difficulties in finding permanent employment in a mining company (Gold Mine) operating nearby the village. Reportedly, this company requests a medical check-up in order to hire villagers. It offers a limited number of 10 posts allocated to the whole village on a rotation basis each month in order to avoid conflict and jealousy between villagers. With a daily wage rate of 25,000 kip villagers would prefer working with the company if the employment were permanent. Villagers of Ta-Oum and Vang Ngan (Phouvong district) indicated that they could work as construction workers (to carry sand and bricks) in the district center but the wage rate (10,000-20,000 kip/day) is considered too low. As a result, villagers give priority to their farms and work as labor only to supplement their cash needs.

In general, the lack of skills put villagers at a disadvantage in both finding and keeping employment opportunities in non-farm activities such as mining, logging and road and house construction. The low daily wage rates of unskilled labor both in the agriculture sector and non-farm activities are confined in a range of 10,000-25,000 Kip/day. As a result, there is a lack of incentives to find new job opportunities. From an operational perspective, this could imply that higher wage rates paid on program activities would support the dynamic of the labor market. However, the short-term nature of these activities makes it uncertain that such higher rates (or their equivalent in kind) will reflect demand and supply on labor market. Keeping daily wage rates close to the labor market clearing rate may therefore reduce potential distortions because they can be relatively self-targeting without losing their interest, especially if wages are paid in kind.

Chapter 6: Summary of Findings and Recommendations

6.1 Summary of Findings

Resettlement patterns

Households or community movement to new settlement is primarily motivated by government plan for resettlement in Lao PDR. However the decision-making to move is classified by most villages as voluntary with the hope or promise to access low land, access basic services (health, education, roads), join relatives and access to markets. In both Luang Prabang and Savannakhet government promises had not been met. The resettlement process itself remains dynamic, implying that tracking resettled communities or households for operational targeting may become a challenge.

Access to services

Education: Compared to original villages, access to school has improved for resettled villages, especially for Grade 3-5 and school attendance has improved consequently for both girls and boys. Despite recent progress made both by GoL and ADB in providing new schools, the quality of school buildings is still poor in both non-resettled and resettled villages, with the potential negative impact on school attendance.

Health: Most resettled villages have moved closer to health facilities than before. They all have a health volunteer and most of them have a medical kit. Regardless of being resettled or not, all the villages have to pay for medical services and will go to health centers only when they have money to pay for medicines and transport costs.

Water and sanitation: All resettled villages visited have improved access to water through pumps or gravity feeder systems as opposed to remote villages. However, these water sources remain insufficient in some villages due to population pressure. As a result, villagers continue to use open water sources such as streams for cooking and drinking. Most of the villagers were aware of the necessity of boiling water for drinking but they don't take such precautions in their upland fields where they drink water from streams and wells. In general, the lack of toilet facilities in the villages has not improved with the resettlement.

Patterns of disease: Diarrhea and malaria are the main diseases for all visited villages. In the South, resettled villagers reported improved malaria situation due to preventive services such as increased sensitization and use of mosquito nets, but they were still vulnerable when farming in the uplands. In the North, resettled villagers have become more vulnerable to malaria from moving down to warmer climates, but mosquito nets have offset this somewhat. The frequency of serious illnesses for resettled villagers has decreased with increased access to health services. However, most visited villagers are not enough aware of hygiene. Lack of knowledge of food conservation and consumption habits, drinking unclean water from open water sources and lack of hygiene seem to be the main drivers for diarrhea. Some villages had received information and made a clear link, while others ignore these linkages.

Livelihoods

Agriculture: Upland shifting cultivation remains the main livelihood activity for resettled villages. They continue to farm upland when they are resettled near their previous upland areas. Insufficient lowland areas and constraints on expansion of lowland were expressed as concerns for resettled villages. As most resettled villages are facing declining rice production, there are attempts to compensate this with growing new crops such as maize, commercial trees and vegetables. However, most villages lack skills in lowland farming.

Livestock: All villages have animal rearing as a key livelihood activity and income source. Animal diseases remain a major problem for all villages. Lack of veterinary skills seems to be a common factor, but in the north, resettlement to warmer climates may also have caused problems.

Other non-farm activities: Villagers that did not resettle too far away from their original site continue to collect NTFPs. For others, this activity has decreased. Most of the NTFPs are for own consumption, but villagers are increasingly selling these products along with handicraft because of increased access to market places. Collection of scrap metal seems to have decreased over the last years.

Implication in terms of access to food: Resettled villages are experiencing changes in their livelihood conditions in order to meet their needs of food and non-food items (medicines, education, clothes, etc.). Although, these villages are increasingly getting involved in market-based income generating activities to compensate for the reduction in rice production, the seasonal changes of access to food have not changed. The most difficult time of the year to access food remains the end of the dry season (March-May). During the pre-harvest season (June-October) villagers have better access to food sources from the forests and the rivers. Those with less access to wild food products than before, especially those located far from their original upland fields, tend to rely more on casual labor during this period.

Market opportunities

Market of products: With access to roads, the frequency of transactions with traders has increased both for resettled villages and non-resettled villages. However, access to market places remains low because of distance and transportation costs. Furthermore, the understanding of the dynamics of markets is still

low in villages with access to roads while it is lacking in remote villages, resulting in a general sentiment of frustration in trade relationships. The market participation (in terms of purchases, sales, and variety) of the villages resettled nearby a market place is higher than the others. In general, the market dependency of the villages has increased with access to roads but the market chain remains one of a primary market (from farmer to consumers or trader). Most of the villages reported that their transactions are done in cash or in kind.

In the absence of credit mechanisms, it is important to minimizing payment delays during the implementation course of projects, in order to avoid an increase of household vulnerability. The team also feels that the lack of market places at village level will make it difficult to conduct extensive key informant survey on market-related issues during the upcoming CFSVA.

Labor market: Casual labor has become a more important part of the income sources than before, especially for resettled villages. Non-farm activities offer some employment and cash income opportunities, but they are less preferred than permanent activities because they are considered by resettled villagers as low-paying, temporary and risky. During the field visits, unskilled labor wage rates ranged from 10,000-25,000 kip/day. For agriculture labor, payment in kind is higher than payment in cash, in equivalent value terms. In general, the lack of skills puts villagers at a disadvantage in both finding and keeping employment opportunities in non-farm activities such as mining, logging, and road and house construction.

6.2 Recommendations

Based on the above mentioned findings the following recommendations are suggested:

Targeting

- For many villages, relocation is one of many potential factors that temporarily affect their food security negatively. Relocation should therefore be considered as a potential shock in its early stages. The effect on the food security situation will have to be assessed shortly after the relocation, not during the transition period (2-3 years after) when households are adjusting their livelihoods.
- Given the complexity of the resettlement patterns, village level targeting may hide pockets of food insecurity. In cases where smaller villages have joined bigger and long-established villages, the new group should be considered separately.
- For FFW activities were the assets created benefit individual households, it could be pilot-tested to target at household level. Possible criteria identified by villagers include rice sufficiency, area of land owned, number of buffalo and cows owned and availability of cash to buy medicines.

Basic services

- *Education:* As a medium term action, an improvement of schooling conditions through school building is required to prevent a decline in the quality of education. In the short term, WFP could support to maintain or increase school attendance, through continuing its school feeding activities in both resettled and non-resettled villages.
- *Health:* Further effort to improve accessibility to primary health care services is needed both by building health centers near village clusters and reducing the cost of medicines.
- *Water and sanitation:* Access to sufficient water pumps and toilets facilities remain a critical need in all villages.
- *Diseases:* There is a clear need to further assess the nutrition conditions of households. The ultimate goal would be to consider some solutions to child malnutrition and more awareness of hygiene in all the villages. WFP could explore MCH/MCN activities based upon an in-depth nutrition assessment. In the short to medium term, WFP could seek partnerships for pilot-testing Food for Training (FFT) activities with subjects such as nutrition, feeding practices, health, water and sanitation.

- Although rice will remain the main commodity for the new PRRO, it could be pilot-tested to provide more protein-rich food for mothers and children participating in the FFT on nutrition.

Livelihoods

- A better access to adequate land is the top priority of villagers. Among other solutions, continuing efforts in land expansion (especially paddy land), including UXO decontamination, is seen as necessary and WFP can increasingly be involved in this process through its FFW schemes.
- Water management facilities (irrigation and drainage) are needed to reduce vulnerability to unexpected weather changes such as drought and floods.
- Training (both for staff and beneficiaries) is recommended to be combined with land expansion in order to improve skills in lowland and paddy land farming. WFP FFT schemes can be combined with FFW activities.
- It is also recommended to provide training on basic skills for animal rearing in order to support agriculture, prevent animal diseases and sustain income sources. FFT activities can be expanded to this domain.
- Continued GoL support is needed for plant diseases treatment and to provide veterinary services.

Market opportunities

- Continued effort to provide all season roads (especially in the North) and most importantly to develop market places in village clusters is seen as a means of improving market knowledge of villagers in the context of their changing livelihood conditions toward market-oriented activities.
- Training on market development, including the basics of supply and demand, competition, price dynamics, production costs, product quality and contractual arrangements with traders should be provided to support market-oriented livelihoods. WFP FFT activities recommended above can incorporate such a market dimension.

It is worth noting that some of these recommendations will require seeking new partnership in order to be implemented by WFP. A training program starting by WFP CO own staff, followed by its direct partners in Government in planning and implementing new types of activities which they have not done before (e.g. MCN, FFT) is advisable, assuming that the resulting cost will be planned in the upcoming PRRO. These training events should also include; i) a sensitization dimension on the benefits and disadvantages of resettlement (including its determining factors, ethnic diversity and gender issues) and; ii) exposure of staff and partners to alternative development solutions.

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Annexes

Annex 1: Assessment Team Members

Study coordination, data collection, analysis and report writing	Issa Sanogo (Mr.), Regional Emergency Assessment Officer, WFP/ODB, Bangkok (Assessment Team Leader)
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Data collection	Anke Kampschreur (Ms), Intern, WFP/Lao PDR (Team Member)
Data collection	Peter Cermak (Mr.), Intern, WFP/Lao PDR (Team Member)

Annex 2: Map of Assessment Sites

Annex 3: Key Informant Interview Guide

Topic 1: Relocation and Migration Patterns

- 1.1 Village history, ethnic composition then and now, relocation process, key events, etc.
- 1.2 Does the villagers here speak the same language as most other people in the area?
- 1.3 What are the main economic, social and geographical differences between the current and the previous location?
- 1.4 What were the main reasons for your relocation? Is it part of the government plan for relocation within this district? (Rank by order of importance)
- 1.5 Are there anyone left in your old location? If yes, are they planning to move?
- 1.6 Are there people moving in this current location? Who are they? What are the reasons for moving in? (Rank by order of importance)
- 1.7 Are there people moving out of this current location? Who are they? What are the reasons for moving out? (Rank by order of importance)

Topic 2: Livelihood Activities

Overall Livelihood Situation

- 2.1 What are the main livelihoods activities currently practiced in this village? Can you rank them in order of importance (in terms of outputs for consumption, sales, etc) for the households)?
- 2.2 What are the major changes in the current livelihood activities compared to before relocation? Explain the main reasons of these changes. (Rank by order of importance)
- 2.3 What are the main outputs of the current activities?
- 2.4 What are the main constraining factors in undertaking these activities? (Rank by order of importance)
- 2.5 Are there any specific skills or inputs needed to the different activities that some or most households lack? (Rank by order of importance). Did they also lack these in the previous site?

Agriculture and Livestock

- 2.6 What are the main crops and livestock that your village is growing?
- 2.7 What do the prospects for the current harvest look like?
- 2.8 What crops and livestock did you grow in your old site?
- 2.9 If the current main crops and livestock are different from what was grown on your old site, why is it so?

Other Non-Food Activities

- 2.10 Are you currently using NTFPs from the forest? If so, what are you using and for what purpose?
- 2.11 How far do you normally have to go to access these resources from your current location?
- 2.12 Were you using such resources in your previous location as well? If so, to what extent?
- 2.13 What are the major changes in terms of access and usage of NTFPs after your relocation?

Topic 3: Access to Basic Services

- 3.1 Distance to primary school, now and before
- 3.2 What proportion of the children is in school, now and before?
- 3.3 If any change in school attendance, what are the main reasons for this?
- 3.4 Distance to health centre, now and before
- 3.5 Can everyone who needs it use the health centre if they need it?
- 3.6 If not, what are the main reasons for people not being able to access the health centre?
- 3.7 Has there been any major change in terms of illnesses after the relocation? Main diseases encountered now compared to before relocation
- 3.8 What are the main drinking water sources in the village? Now and in previous location?
- 3.9 How many of the households have access to safe drinking water?

Topic 4: Food Markets and Labour Opportunities

- 4.1 How the physical access to markets is now compared to before relocation? Explain the reasons of changes.
- 4.2 How households depend on markets (what food do they buy? What products do they sell? What arrangements do they make with traders, middlemen, brokers, ...) now compared to before relocation? Explain the reasons of changes.

- 4.3 How is the availability of food (in terms of quantity) on markets now compared to before relocation? Explain the reasons of changes.
- 4.4 In which months of the year food prices are high, low? Why? Any difference compared to before relocation?
- 4.5 How is the availability of labor opportunities now compared to before relocation? Explain the reasons of changes.
- 4.6 How unskilled wages evolve now compared to before relocation? Explain the reasons of changes.
- 4.7 In which months of the year job opportunities are rare? Why? Any difference compared to before relocation?
- 4.8 In which months of the year wage rates are high, low? Why? Any difference compared to before relocation?

Topic 5: Main Difficulties, Shocks and Access to Food

- 5.1 What are the major shocks you are facing currently compared to before relocation?
- 5.2 What are the main causes of lack of food in your current location?
- 5.3 Are these causes different from before relocation? If yes, explain.
- 5.4 In which months of the year do you feel that lack of food is a problem? Why? Any difference compared to before relocation?
- 5.5 What kind of food do you eat during periods of food scarcity? During periods of food abundance? Any difference in these eating habits from before relocation?
- 5.6 Are there families in the village that are in much worse food security situation than others at the moment? If so, how many and why?
- 5.7 What are people doing to solve the issue of lack of food? Are these actions/behaviours different from before relocation?
- 5.8 Will actions taken by households to face lack of food help them to solve their food needs? For how long?

Topic 6: Current Assistance and Response Priorities

- 6.1 Currently, are there any assistance provided to your community? If so, what type and from who?
- 6.2 What do you think should be the priority for any assistance to the village? Why? (Rank by order of importance)

Annex 4: Individual Village Level Findings

1. Na Longmai (Savannakhet province, Nong District)

Date	05/08/06
Province	Savannakhet
District	Nong
Village	Na Longmai
Note taker	All

Topic	Comments	
Relocation and migration patterns, village history	Before <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School in the village, up to grade 5 • School not compulsory, parents decide • No access to health centre • Water from pond, have to carry • Limited access to road 	After <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 25 hh relocated in 1986 according to District plan from Na Longkao • 6 hh relocated 2 years ago, voluntary. • All are same ethnic group, Mangkong. • Mainly men speak Lao • Old reasons of moving: district plan, transport support, promise to access land but not all fulfilled • Some hh wanted to move back but had no resources to move again • New reasons: access to paddy land, join relatives, access to services, access to market (traders) • 3 hh moved back to previous location, due to illness and poverty
Access to basic services : schools, health centres, drinking water	Before <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School in the village, up to grade 5 • School not compulsory, parents decide • No access to health centre • Water from pond, have to carry • Limited access to road 	After <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School in the village, up to grade 5, compulsory • Health centre 3 km away, but have to pay for services • Have village health volunteer • They only go to health center if they have money • Disease patterns the same, although improved a little with access to water. • Worse in the rainy season • Now installed ground water pump (3) • But still problem since spending lot of time in the upland • All season access to road • No access to electricity
Livelihoods , including agriculture, forest products, income sources	Before <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upland farming, rice sufficient • Livestock • Little access to NTFP, but mostly for own consumption • Collect scrap metal, can't find anymore, this is a task for women • Weaving for own consumption • Handicraft, a bit for sale 	After <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upland farming, rice for 4 months, less land, less quality land • Livestock rearing for sale • Some time borrow livestock, and share outcome with the owners. This is risky if livestock dies, then loses trust. • Little access to NTFP, want to sell, but not enough access • Want to do commercial tree plantation, but too long-term, need immediate outputs • Internal exchange of labour, paid in kind (not extensive) • Weaving for own consumption, don't want to sell, too low prices

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All women can do weaving • Handicrafts; sell baskets some times, but not extensively • Currently, number of livestock used by village to classify poor vs. richer household
Markets opportunities for products and labor	<p>Before</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No access to markets • Traders come to buy • They sold livestock (but less than now) • They bought clothes, salt, etc, but not rice. • No labour opportunities 	<p>After</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No market in their village, closest is 4 hours one way. Takes one day, 5000 kip one way. • Traders come to buy from them. • They sell, animal, like cows, chicken, goats, buffalo; handicrafts; • They buy rice and other food items; • No labour opportunities, spend time farming, so no time; had not been involved in any projects in the area; • Not much aware of situation in the surrounding villages • Not really looking for market opportunities, lack of knowledge of market opportunities
Access to food	<p>Before</p>	<p>After</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rice is sufficient from November to February, 4 months per year. Price for rice is highest in August. • Rest of the year, relying on sale of livestock or helping neighbors in exchange of rice. • Collect food from forest the whole year. • Hunt all year round. Women say they have little access to wildlife and fish as opposed to before. Men say they had access year-round. Not regular meat consumption. • Women: April-May little food, reason: end of dry season, so little food to collect. • Men: Feb-March little food, reason: land preparation for upland, no time to collect food. • Overall, access to wild food (meat, fish, vegetables) is limited than before
Main difficulties, shocks and coping	<p>Before</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No road, transportation difficult • No health center • No proper water source • Less access to markets, although traders still came 	<p>After</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to quality land • Main health problems are diarrhea and malaria • No sanitation facilities, use the forest • Shocks: animal diseases, weather-related shocks, • UXO not a big problem anymore • Changes are not really coping, but more livelihoods changes
Current assistance, and priorities	<p>Before</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No assistance 	<p>After</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some assistance in moving, transport, construction and roofing • Water pump from the government • Dam for animal drinking • A bit of seeds, but not sufficient and only once • Currently, not getting any assistance • Government has promised to provide land

		<p>according to the Land Allocation programme, but so far no land given to the village</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • So far, they do not have any land titles • Pilot project on commercial tree planting, 5 hh are included. Belgian Technical Cooperation • Men: could not prioritize • Women want rice, land and material for weaving
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2. Soangkangkah (Savannakhet province, Nong district):

Date	06/08/06
Province	Savannakhet
District	Nong
Village	Soangkangkah
Note taker	All

Topic	Comments
Relocation and migration patterns, village history	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Established remote village, but now with new road (finished this July) • 37 households with 218 people • Ethnic group is Mangkong • 5 hh moved into the village long time ago, reason: lack of land for upland cultivation • 7 hh moved out to the main road, but kept their upland farm. • Some men speak Lao, women do not speak Lao • Selection criteria for FGD: Land animal and rice whole year, 10 months and then 4 months for the poorest.
Access to basic services : schools, health centers, drinking water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The road, which ends in the village, was finished this July. The BTC project built the road, but no labor available for the villagers. • A school was built in the village this year, part of the BTC project. • They pay the teacher with rice. They do not know of the government pay the teacher. All children go to the school • They have a health volunteer and a medical kit, but no health centre in the village. 2 hours walk to nearest health centers. Volunteer was trained. • They have to pay for medicines and they collect money for replenishment for medical kits. • Health problems: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Diarrhea (given reasons: spoiled food, in upland water from river) ○ Malaria ○ Cough (lot of villagers were smoking) ○ Red eye ○ Stomach pain • Kids looked unhealthy, and some were clearly malnourished. • Adults were also very thin, and very short, clearly nutritional problems in the village • Use forest for toilet, but there is a new toilet in the school • Water source is mostly ponds (almost dry in April/May), although they have a new pump at the school. • All new services provided through BTC.
Livelihoods , including agriculture, forest products, income sources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only upland for cultivation, no paddy land • Livestock rearing, a Lao trader comes once a week to buy animals. • Forest products, vegetables, hunting (shared between all villagers when successful), mostly for own consumption • Scrap metal, sell to Vietnamese traders • Handicraft • They used to plant cucumber and watermelons, but wild animals destroyed harvest. • They also sell dried bamboo shoots during rainy season, for 15000 kip per kg. • Women weave in Jan-Feb for own consumption. They get money from chicken to buy

	cotton.
Markets opportunities for products and labor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 hours of walk to nearest market, do not use it much. 5000 kip one way. Gets 500 kip per cucumber, so no incentive to sell. • They have access to the market, but they lack purchasing power. They are badly integrated into the market. • Not much knowledge about the market. • The BTC project never asked and the villagers for labor, but the villagers were also not interested in working. They want to work on their upland, not for salaries.
Access to food	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rice available from September to February from own production • Fish from May to September. Water dry out • Meat all year. Eat chicken when they die. • Vegetables all year • Have kitchen garden in November • Lack of food is in April at the peak of the dry season. • Rice price is highest in August • In August, they give rice porridge to kids, and adults eat bamboo soup.
Main difficulties, shocks and coping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Want to do paddy: lack of skills for farming/knowledge on technics, UXO, and weather changes • Animal rearing: lack of skills, animal disease/epidemic • Weaving: lack of material, lack of tools, bad quality cotton, lack of capital
Current assistance, and priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UXO awareness provided • BTC only assistance provided • Priorities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ PADDY LAND ○ Water for irrigation ○ Skilled labor to teach them farming techniques (extension services) ○ Animal rearing: need more skills, and veterinarian services ○ Weaving: access to material/tools

3. Dongnasan (Savannakhet province, Nong district):

Date	06/08/06
Province	Savannkhet
District	Nong
Village	Dongnasan
Note taker	

Topic	Comments
Relocation and migration patterns, village history	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Settled since 1980. Volunteered to move according to government plan. They came from 3 different villages. • 46 hh with 267 people, 125 females. • Mix of Lao Theun and Lao lom (5 hh) • All men speak Lao, about 50 % of women
Access to basic services: schools, health centres, drinking water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They have a health center, one doctor and two nurses • Major problems: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Malaria, but improving due to more information ○ Flu ○ Diarrhea, not so much anymore • They pay for medicine, but not for doctor • Health center is close, so easier to treat early • No toilets • Use ground water, but not in uplands. • They have primary school, grade 5 • 6 people at secondary school • Attendance in primary has gone up
Livelihoods, including agriculture, forest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus on upland • 5 hh have paddy land given from BTC project, but still not clear about ownership. Haven't started planted yet.

products, income sources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Animal rearing, mostly buffalo and cows. • Fish pond from bomb crater, all year round • Work as casual labourers for neighbours, 20000 kip per day (women), and 2-3 kg of rice/15000/10000+lunch per day (men) • Making wood (casual labour) (men) 25000 per day per two people. • Weaving for women only for own consumption (des-april) • Collecting scrap metal. Do not look for it, but if they find it they will sell • Collecting bark for natural colour. Can only do collectively for 5 days per year. 5000 kip per kg (women and men). One-off source of income • Also collect bamboo, vegetable from forest • Collect rotin for making furniture for own consumption • Hunt small animals, and frogs and insects for own consumption
Markets opportunities for products and labor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have access to market. They go to district market, but also have shop in the village. • Can buy rice and other items on credit in shop, if necessary. No interest charged. If no money, can reimburse in kind or with labour. But price will be high in lean season. • Vietnamese traders come to buy scrap metal and animals infrequently. • They sell colour to Vietnamese traders. • They depend more on market for rice. • They rarely sell fish. • They don't know about other market opportunities that they could exploit. • They did casual labour about once every month. • No skills to exploit for labour, only know about upland farming
Access to food	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rice available from Oct to Feb. • Fish available all year • August is the most food deficient month. Eat less rice, and more bamboo. • They eat chicken when they die.
Main difficulties, shocks and coping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of capital to raise animals. They need capital to raise their own animals, as they are raising for others. • Quality of upland • Paddy land has been allocated, but not cleared of UXOs yet. • Need skills
Current assistance, and priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BTC irrigation canal, + 2 fish ponds, school building, school furniture, school material • Priorities: paddy land skills, irrigation, buffaloes, veterinary services/knowledge

4. Ban Kang Luang (Savannakhet province, Vilabuly district):

Date	07/08/06
Province	Savannakhet
District	Vilabouly
Village	Ban Kan Luang
Note taker	

Topic	Comments	
Relocation and migration patterns, village history	Before <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Original village named Ban kao, 4 km away • The original village was isolated during rainy season, on the other side of the river (Sekok) • Their relatives moved 25 years go 	After <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relocated in February this year • According to district plan, but voluntary • They learned about advantages from other relatives • 12 hh (52 people, 38 women) moved and joined bigger village of relatives. • Did not get any support during the relocation process. • They were not given any new land • They wanted to be close to services • 5 hh went to another place.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They were mostly Lao Lom (Poh thai), so all speak lao. • Few of them were literate.
<p>Access to basic services: schools, health centres, drinking water</p>	<p>Before</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same school, but children could not access the school. • No access to health center, especially in the rainy season • No toilets • Water from the river • No electricity 	<p>After</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have one primary school, up to grade 4. All children will go to school, when it starts again. • 3 teachers from government • They have health volunteer in village, district health center 20 km away (Vilabouly). • District provided malaria net, but they have to pay. Compulsory to buy and use. • Main diseases: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Malaria, less than before due to nets, but still get it in the forest, mostly from Jun-Sep. ○ Diarrhea (most in dry season, hot weather) ○ Some skin problems observed • No toilets • One well, provided by Poverty Reduction Fund • Village have electricity, but not their houses yet • In general, there is very low health and sanitary facilities.
<p>Livelihoods, including agriculture, forest products, income sources</p>	<p>Before</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as now • Collected scrap metal, not so much now. 	<p>After</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upland rice, in old location (not UXO cleared) • Garden by river (chili, eggplant, corn) • Grow tobacco for own consumption, sell if extra • Collect forest products, mushrooms, bamboo shoots, green leaves, insects and frogs • Hunting wild animals, wild pigs • Animal rearing for sale, main income source • Fishing for own consumption • Women do same activities, but have different roles. • Women plant cotton • Work for gold mining company
<p>Markets opportunities for products and labor</p>	<p>Before</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the last two year, trader also came there, but very infrequently. More power to the trader. • During rainy season, no trader 	<p>After</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nearest market is 20 km away, but traders come regularly. • Little shop in village, but no rice there. • They sell more now, and more often • They sell food to the gold company • When they go to the market, they have to sell at whatever price, because they have already incurred transport costs • They buy rice and salt from traders • They have to buy bulk, sometimes difficult to get the money for this • Then they will borrow rice from neighbours • All transactions are done in cash

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No retailer in the village • Rotation practice on work for Gold Mine. Have to complete medical check-up, and then 10 people get a job each month. They want to work more, but the arrangement is that the work should be shared • They get 25000 kip per day. • This opportunity is not sustainable, so they try to fit it into the agricultural season. If more steady secure, they would leave the upland cultivation • Rubber plantation gives some work, but very infrequently (only 3 days per time, once every blue moon) • Overall, they are relatively more integrated to the market, buy and sell more, and they are doing piecemeal jobs. However, they lack skills and awareness of market opportunities.
Main difficulties , shocks and coping	Before <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UXO in upland, same as now 	After <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No paddy land • No steady jobs • They lack skills for paddy land • They need more upland • If steady jobs, they would prefer this to more paddy land
Access to food		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rice available from December to June • Normally they will have food to eat, they are food secure as before because they still have full access to their old sources of food
Current assistance , and priorities	Before	After <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They got ground well from PRF • They got rice, free food distribution, once in 1998 • They want steady jobs and/or paddy land • They want to plant commercial trees for more long term security

5. Makieng (Attapeu province, Phouvong district):

Date	09/08/06
Province	Attapeu
District	Phouvong
Village	Makieng
Note taker	Issa and Joy

Topic	Comments	
Relocation and migration patterns, village history	Before <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initially 75 hh in original village Makieng 	After <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 61 hh relocated in February 2005 from old Makieng (37 Km away) • 338 people of which 183 female • All are brouw, known also as Lavai. • Mainly men speak Lao • Motivation to move: compulsory district plan, access to basic services • Other hh don't want to move because old village located nearby the valley with 6 ha of paddy land + at least 1ha/hh of upland • No upland anymore but 21 ha paddy land

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current paddy land not sufficient but possibility of expansion up to 2-3 ha/hh.
<p>Access to basic services: schools, health centres, drinking water</p>	<p>Before</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No access to main road • School in the village, up to grade 3 but low attendance because of farm activities • Health centre was 8 h of walk • Diseases: bronchitis, lung disease, diarrhea, malaria • The only water source was river 	<p>After</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Located on a secondary road (not easily accessible in rainy season) and main road located at 2 km • School in the village, up to grade 2. 3 teachers. Attendance has increased because school in the village. Students can attend school in next village at 1 km and above grade 4 school is accessible in district center at 2 km. • Health centre 2 km away, but have to pay for services • Have village health volunteer but no medical kits • They only go to health center if they have money • Diseases: diarrhea, malaria, and cough. They link diarrhea to malaria or drinking water and malaria to infection in fields despite the use of nets at home. They don't link cough to smoking, though most of them smoke, including kids and women. • 3 water pumps available but apparently not enough because some people still defer to streams • Overall, the frequency of illness remains the same, although access to health center is easier. And access to basic services has improved, making them happier than before.
<p>Livelihoods, including agriculture, forest products, income sources</p>	<p>Before</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upland farming and few low land • Livestock rearing • Collect NTFP (rotten, mushroom and other wild vegetables) • Fishing and hunting • Limited casual labor opportunities • Source of incomes: sale of animal, NTFP such as rotten to Vietnamese traders, sale of chili, mats, baskets 	<p>After</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low land paddy • Kitchen garden (cucumber, corn, cassava, sweet potato) • Casual labor, cleaning farms (16 HH involved from June to October) • Livestock rearing • Handicraft (baskets, mats,) • Women and men share the same livelihood activities but women were less talkative during the FGD • Main income sources: sale of animals (chicken and pigs), handicraft (baskets, mats sticky rice boxes), vegetables and casual labor. • Main changes in livelihoods: moved from more upland shifting cultivation to more paddy land cultivation; use buffalo (28) for cultivating, less access to wild food and more expenditures on food. • Currently, sufficiency in rice used by village to classify poor vs. richer household
<p>Markets opportunities for products and labor</p>	<p>Before</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No access to markets (1 day walk) • Traders used to buy rotten from February to June and sell only in dry season 	<p>After</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Market place in progress in district center. 2 km from village. Villagers can also sell to urban consumers or expose on the main road side in the district center. Frequency of sales has increased

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bought little rice. • No use of credit neither to buy nor to sell. • No labor opportunities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traders sell but don't buy • No use of credit neither to buy nor to sell • Income sources are higher than before as they sell more ; • Expenditures have increased more as they buy more rice and other food items than before • Prices have increased due to more demand and dependence on markets • Main changes in market conditions: Easier to supply demand as physical access to customers has improved. Village is more dependent on markets as frequency of purchases and sales has increased. Frequency of sales has increased because of existing demand from district center; Purchasing power has decreased compared to before due to price increase; All the transactions continue to be in cash only • More labor opportunities (fencing and bush cleaning). These activities occupy villagers during the post-harvest spare time.
Access to Food and seasonal calendar	<p>Before</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rice was sufficient but lean season reduced in lean season (June-Sept). Rice price is higher from July-Oct. Lack of rice compensated with more wild food such as taro and yam. September is the peak of lack of rice. They eat only taro and yam • Fish available all year because located near the river • Lack of meat in April-May • Vegetables available all year. • Periods of scarcity of meat are managed collecting more insects, crabs, frogs • Lack of vegetables compensated by bamboo shoots 	<p>After</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of rice from June-September. Rice price is higher from July-Oct. Cope with more casual labor work, mix rice with wild food such as taro or with cassava and corn. September is the peak of lack of rice. Drought in 2005 has increased rice insufficiency. • Access to fish reduced because no more closed to the river. Tendency to replace it with fermented fish • Access to meat has decreased compared to before • Access to vegetables has decreased due to drought, and remoteness from wild vegetables • In general more efforts required to guarantee access to food than before and coping mechanisms for access to food are more constraining due to population density in new location and remoteness from areas of abundant forest resources
Main difficulties, shocks and coping	<p>Before</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No road, transportation difficult • No health center • No proper water source • Less access to markets, although traders still came • Health problems are diarrhea and malaria • UXO was no more a problem nor does it now 	<p>After</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Insufficient rice • More pressure on edible forest resources in new location • Face more losses of animals (thefts) • Health problems are diarrhea and malaria • Insufficient access to drinking water • Insufficient buffalo for land cultivation • Shocks: animal diseases, weather-related shocks, • Lack of purchasing power • In general difficulties have remain the same than before but access to food requires more efforts, given the changing livelihood conditions

Current assistance, and priorities	Before <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No assistance 	After <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WFP/FFW for paddy land expansion (6 ha in 2005 and 15 ha in 2006) • 3 Water pumps from ADRA in 2005 • 10 Mt of rice from District administration to support resettlement • 700 Kg in 2006 from Department of Labor and social welfare • School built by ADB in 2006 • Agriculture/farming tools from District administration (320 pieces) in 2005 • Zinc roofs (25/hh) from District administration in 2005 • Priorities of women: commercial vegetable farming, running small shops in the village • Priorities for men: fish ponds for sale, paddy land expansion, buffalo for land cultivation, raising chicken and ducks.
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6. Ta-Oum (Attapeu province, Phouvong district):

Date	09/08/06
Province	Attapeu
District	Phouvong
Village	Ta-Oum
Note taker	Issa and Joy

Topic	Comments	
Relocation and migration patterns, village history	Before <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The name of the old village is Ta-Oum • Located in the valley near the mountains • Land availability: 1-2 ha of upland rice per hh 	After <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50 hh relocated in January 2003 from Ta-Oum (60 km away). Current number of HH is 55 due to new hh created by young villagers getting married • 304 people of which 130 female • All are brouw (known as Lavai). • 50% of both women and men can read and write Lao. Many of them studied up to grade 5 • Motivation to move: moved from old village according to district plan but encouraged by government assistance and access to basic services • Since they moved no short term migration observed • Land availability: about 42 ha of paddy land allocated (0.75 ha/hh on average). Land allocated per hh was decided by the government according to the number of active labor per hh. • Expansion of paddy land is possible up to 1 ha/hh on average
Access to basic services: schools, health centres, drinking water	Before <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No access to main road • School in the village, up to grade 5. High attendance. • No health centre and no health volunteer • The only water source was river 	After <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reachable by secondary road (accessible in rainy season) connected to main road and district center at 3 km • School in the village, up to grade 3. Four teachers assigned and paid by the government. • Less grade because located nearby district

		<p>center, less students and less space in school (village meeting hall combined with class rooms)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grade 4 and 5 students are enrolled in district center • Attendance has decreased because of the poor schooling conditions (lack of space and bad quality of construction). In addition, students don't like being enrolled in neighboring villages and they are influenced by access to TV in other villages. • Health centre at 3 km in district center, but visit only if they have money to pay for services • Have 2 village health volunteer but no medical kits • Diseases: diarrhea, malaria, and cough, stomachaches, headaches. They link diarrhea to eating spicy dishes. They don't link cough to smoking, though most of them smoke, including women. • 2 water pumps available • 40 basic latrines available • Overall, the frequency of illness remains the same, although access to health center is easier. Access to basic services has improved compared to before.
<p>Livelihoods, including agriculture, forest products, income sources</p>	<p>Before</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upland farming • Animal rearing (chicken and pigs) • Collect NTFP (rotten, bamboo and rotten shoots for own consumption, dry fruits from forest • Fishing and hunting • Plant chili, ginger and onion leaves for sale and tobacco mainly for own consumption • Rice alcohol for sale and consumption • Handicraft (bamboo mats, baskets, rotten chairs, fans, knives) for sale • Source of incomes: sales of chicken and pigs, chili, rotten made handicrafts, rice alcohol, dry wild fruits 	<p>After</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low land paddy • Handicraft (baskets, mats, sticky rice boxes, kitchen tools, rotten chairs, knives for sale and own consumption). 8 hh involved. • Collect illegally and sell wood for construction • Plant vegetables (chili, ginger, and onion leaves) for sale and tobacco mainly for own consumption • Collect NTFP such as bamboo and rotten shoots for own consumption and sale • Animal rearing (chicken, pigs) for sale and consumption • Produce rice alcohol for sale and consumption • Women and men share the same livelihood activities and women play an essential role in the livelihood system. Women were more talkative during the FGD and during the KI interview men would consult women first. • Main income sources: sales of animals (chicken and pigs), handicraft (baskets, bamboo mats, rotten chairs, sticky rice boxes), chili, rice alcohol. • Main changes in livelihoods: moved from upland shifting cultivation to permanent paddy land cultivation; rice sufficiency has decreased because of low quality of soil and floods; use buffalo (50) for

		<p>cultivating;, less access to forest resources such as dry fruits. Before, incomes were low as well as expenditures, with some savings. Now incomes from livelihood activities have increased as well as expenditures and no more savings.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently, sufficiency in rice and being able to afford medicines costs the year round are used by village to classify poor vs. richer household
Markets opportunities for food and labor	<p>Before</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very limited access to market of products because too far • No ambulant traders visiting • Have to walk long distances (1 day) and rarely to sell limited quantities of chicken, pigs, chili, rotten made handicrafts, rice alcohol, and dry wild fruits. This would allow them to buy clothes, mosquito nets, salt, cooking materials and medicines. In the absence of visiting ambulant traders, sales were done mainly among villagers. • No use of credit neither to buy nor to sell • No labor opportunities (including casual labor) 	<p>After</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Market place is in district center at 3 km. Can sell directly to urban consumers and display products on the road side of the district center, also. • Ambulant traders visiting everyday for sale and frequency of buying has increased • Income sources are higher than before as they sell more ; • Expenditures have increased more as they buy more rice, vegetables and tobacco and other non-food items than before • No use of credit neither to buy nor to sell • Prices have increased due to more demand and dependence on markets • Main changes in market conditions: Easier to supply demand as physical access to customers has improved. The village is more dependent on market of products as frequency of buying and selling has increased. Frequency of selling has increased because of existing demand from district center; Purchasing power has decreased compared to before due to price increase; there is no trade arrangement between villagers and customers or traders so far. All the transactions continue to be in cash • Existing labor opportunities (e.g. in construction) are not attractive because of low unskilled wage rate offered (10,000 kip/day).
Access to Food and seasonal calendar	<p>Before</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rice sufficient from November to March. Borrow rice from neighbors in lean season (June-Sept). Reimburse their loan in kind in October (new harvest). Rice price is higher from July-September (220,000 Kip/50kg). Lack of rice compensated with more wild food collected from forest. Aug-September is the peak of lack of rice. They cope with eating wild taro, yam and vegetables • Fish available from August to October • Meat available all year as they can access to frogs, insects, etc. as substitutes during periods of 	<p>After</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Main changes from before: food access demands more efforts because they buy more rice to compensate the lack of rice. • Means of coping are reduced than before as access to forest and river to collect wild foods such as bamboo shoots and vegetables, fish, insects and crabs has reduced. Meanwhile, purchasing power has decreased.

	scarcity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vegetables available all year but less from March to May. Lack of vegetables compensated by bamboo shoots 	
Main difficulties, shocks and coping	Before <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No road, transportation difficult • No health center • No proper water source • Almost no access to markets, as no traders would visit • Health problems were diarrhea and malaria • Animal diseases • UXO was no more a problem nor does it now 	After <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Insufficient rice • Low quality of soil • Insufficient and inappropriate schooling conditions leading to a decline of school attendance compared to before • Health problems (diarrhea, malaria and cough) • Insufficient cash to buy medicines • Shocks: Unexpected weather changes (droughts and floods), animal diseases (reportedly, 3 buffalos and many chicken and pigs died this year), • Lack of livelihood alternatives to reduce dependency on weather • Lack of skills/knowledge to raise animals and prevent reduce animal diseases • Coping mechanisms for access to food are more constraining due to remoteness from forest resources and the changing livelihood conditions
Current assistance, and priorities	Before <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No assistance 	After <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WFP/FFW for paddy land expansion (17 Mt in 2004) • Free food distribution in 2003, by WFP • 40 latrines in 2006, from Red Cross • 2 Water pumps from ADRA in 2004 • Buffalo bank from the government in 2003 • Agriculture and farming tools (120 pieces) from the government in 2003 • 3 Mt of rice from District Labor and social welfare • Teak seeds (for pilot-testing) from District authorities in 2006 • Zinc roofs (20/hh) from government in 2003 • Priorities: water management facilities for agriculture (irrigation and drainage), fish raising, vegetable gardening, small rice mill for women, raising chicken and ducks.

7. Vang Ngan (Attapeu province, Phouvong district):

Date	11/08/06
Province	Attapeu
District	Phouvong
Village	Vang Ngan
Note taker	Issa and Joy

Topic	Comments
Relocation and migration patterns, village history	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moved in 1980-1982 due to GoL ban of slash and burn practices in upland . 2 hh moved in to join relatives and no out-migration so far. • 148 hh now, up from 20 originally because of the combination of 5 villages in 1981-1982

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 876 people of which 432 females • This village is composed of Brow (Lavai) ethnic group. However: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 80% male can read, write and speak Lao language ○ 60% of female read, write and speak. ○ Literacy rate was 30 before resettlement • Village located at 2 km from district center
Access to basic services : schools, health centres, drinking water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School: School in the village up to grade 5. Six teachers assigned and paid by the government. Villagers provide little rice but not often. School building is rather incomplete and not convenient as all the students learn together. Literacy for both adults and young people is high (80% of men and 60% of women are said to be able to read and write Lao). 30 girls and 10 boys have completed secondary school and 28 youngsters are in the army. • Health services: health center is in district center (2 km in Phouvong) but they have to pay medicines. They have one health volunteer with medical kits but were told to hand over to district health center. • Water and sanitation: they have 6 water pumps but feel that population pressure is an issue. • Diseases: main diseases are malaria, diarrhea, and flu. Most of the villagers smoke. Villagers link their health problems (especially diarrhea) to lack of enough water and sanitation facilities and eating habits (raw fish, meat, dead buffalo).
Livelihoods , including agriculture, forest products, income sources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agriculture: low land paddy for the majority of the hh, kitchen garden (chili, corn, cassava, banana, cucumber, pumpkin, eggplant). They also plant fruits (mango, lemon, tamarin). They have concerns about lack of labor force. Have a buffalo bank (7 heads) but not sufficient. Another concern is weather changes. • Livestock rearing: buffalo, pigs, chicken, cows,) • Non-farm activities: Limited access to NTFP, make handicraft (baskets, mats, kitchen tools), process planks • Income sources: sale of animals, paddy rice, handicraft, vegetables, fruits and casual labor. • Wealth ranking criteria: better-off have at least 3ha of paddy, 5 buffalos, 6-7 cows and enough cash, comfortable hh have 1-2 ha of paddy, 3-5 buffalos and worse-off have no paddy land, no buffalos.
Access to Food and seasonal calendar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In general the village is not food insecure. though July-August is the period in which some 10 to 20 hh would reduce their consumption to two meals, except children. However recent shocks are raising their concern about food insecurity. They faced shocks during the last years (flood in 2005 and drought in 2004, and pest diseases every year).Rice: Des-May
Food markets and labour opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • District center located at 2 km. Motorable road built through WFP FFW project in 2001 but in bad condition during rainy season • Villagers are relatively well integrated to markets: Easy physical access to markets and know price information but they are price taker because of the great number of suppliers from villages closed to the district center. • Their market participation is relatively high with a variety of products for sale (pig, cows, buffaloes, paddy rice, baskets, kitchen tools, vegetables, etc). • Their income sources are diversified and spend more on non-food products (clothes, MSG, fish, salt, meat) than food items. • Labor opportunities (casual labor) exist mainly in construction sector but they are not interested because of low wage rates (10000-20000 kip). They also practice labor exchange with neighbors (5 kg paddy/day or 5000 kip/day if in cash, both with meal). Other opportunities are in logging companies but they are not skilled to cut trees. They prefer permanent works. They expressed lack of skills as a constraint to get better job. • In construction
Main difficulties , shocks and coping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of labor force (not enough animals) to expand land • Bad road conditions due to use of roads by logging trucks • Lack of cash/income generating activities • Frequent shocks (drought in 2004, flood in 2005, pest disease every year) • Plant, animal and human diseases (lack of cash to buy medicines) • Assistance projects of NCA not completed, especially the school building

Current assistance, and priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No current assistance. • Priorities: school building, road rehabilitation, latrines, more buffalo for paddy land cultivation, health center • Women added rice mill and more water pumps.
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8. Houay Maha (Luang Prabang, Phonxay district)

Date	10/08/06
Province	Luang Prabang
District	Phonxai
Village	Houay Maha
Note taker	Stein and Won

Topic	Comments	
Relocation and migration patterns, village history	<p>Before</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The advantages of the old location was access to good upland • Got no assistance when moving, although they were promised roof materials • 43 hh still left in the old place, these are now slowly starting to move down 	<p>After</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They moved to new location in 2004/2004 from Ban Patu (3 hours away) • Ethnic group: Mong (Lao Soon) • They joined a group of Kamu who relocated to this location in 1986 • They communicate in Lao • Population is 54 hh in total, 410 people, 34 Mong hh • 100 % speak Lao, women (they claimed 70-80 %) less than half • 2 hh moved out to rear animal this year. • Reasons to move: part of government plan, lacked access to water in old place, had to stop opium in old place, and no proper school in old place
Access to basic services : schools, health centres, drinking water	<p>Before</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water from pond in dry season, sharing with animals • Some had open rainfed wells during rainy season. • No health facilities at all, nearest hospital the same • They had grade 5 school in old location, but the building got damaged, and then they rebuilt new school, but only up to grade 2. • Attendance used to be less due to lower interest and need to assist parents in the fields 	<p>After</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They 4 water sources, piped water from the mountain • The water source was provided in 1997 by EU. It is a whole year source. • They boil water before drinking • They have health volunteer, but no medical kit. Nearest hospital is in Phonxai town, about 10 km away • Major health diseases: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Diarrhea (same level as before), sources mentioned included unsafe water and bad fruits. ○ Malaria (higher level than before, due to warmer climate in new location, thus more mosquitos) Everyone has mosquito nets, it is compulsory to buy a net at 8000 kip. ○ Respiratory diseases ○ Flu ○ Women were complaining about stomach pains related to birth control interventions • Have to pay for medical services • The school is located in a neighbouring village about 20 min walk away. Up to grade 5

<p>Livelihoods, including agriculture, forest products, income sources</p>	<p>Before</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They did some scrap metal collection before, but not more to find now • They cultivated opium before, but have stopped due to new law 	<p>After</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Main livelihoods are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Upland rice cultivation (have less now, but still rely on the same upland areas) ○ Maize product (new product) ○ NTFPs (bark for paper to sell was new activity) Also food for own consumption. Less hunting now due to ban. The government took the guns. ○ Animal rearing (have less animals now, more illness) ○ Weaving (for women) • Pilot project from SIDA on planting commercial trees (for rubber). Started in 2004/05 as a response to the opium ban. • Now they grow cassava, new crop. • No access to paddy land, due to hilly terrain. • Land degradation is becoming a problem, less time for fallow, more pressure on the land • They felt they had less work burden now, but also less outputs
<p>Access to Food and seasonal calendar</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rice available from November to July. Only lack for 3 months. Before, rice sufficient all year. • Fish: can catch fish in May-June when water is low • Meat: they rarely eat meat, but had plenty of poultry. • They don't eat frog and insects from the ground • Cassava: eat from May to Aug • Vegetables from kitchen gardens: from Oct to Feb • Vegetables from forest: whole year • Banana: once in every three to four months • Fruits: children eat mango and tamarind • Bamboo shoots from Jul-Aug • When little food, eat bamboo soup • Low on food in Mar-May • When they have little food, they only have one meal a day. • Rice price is high in August. Price is now 3800 kip/kg
<p>Food markets and labour opportunities</p>	<p>Before</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trader used to come once every week during the dry season. No-one came during rainy season • They used to sell animals 	<p>After</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No market in the village, but regular market every 10 days about 2 hours walking away. • They have to pay 2000 kip one way to go to the market • Traders from LB will come to the market • If they don't have anything to sell, they will rather wait for the trader to come to their place • They sell: Forest products, like paper and plants, and maize-like product for beer

		<p>brewing (at the market), and animals (in their village)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They buy: Rice, school materials, clothes • Now they sell more and they buy more, so higher interaction, but complain about not having enough money to buy all the products • No job opportunities close to the village • There is an irrigation project nearby, but only labour opportunities for people from LB district. • They were not very interested in working. Also think that the project will not be interesting in hiring them • In this ethnic group, women work more on the land than men.
Main difficulties , shocks and coping	Before	<p>After</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They wanted a bridge to be able to cross the river in rainy season • They also wanted more rice assistance • They needed capital to buy animals • They don't have paddy land
Current assistance , and priorities	Before	<p>After</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They received rice from WFP in 2003/2004 (we saw the bag...) • Priorities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A bridge to facilitate easier access to their uplands during rainy season ○ Rice assistance ○ Capital to buy animals for rearing

9. Ban Houay Syoua (Luang Prabang, Phonxay district)

Date	11/08/06
Province	Luang Prabang
District	Phonxai
Village	Ban Houay Syoua
Note taker	Stein and Won

Topic	Comments
Relocation and migration patterns, village history	<p>Before</p> <p>After</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resettled in 2003 from three villages (Mukhlahan (3 hours walking away), Huoay Pot (2 hours), Houay Syoua (upland, different) (3 hours) • 86 hh, with 673 people, and 313 female • All are Kamu ethnic group, part of Lao Theung. • 70-80 % of men can speak Lao, Less than third of the women • They moved due to government plan and they also wanted to be closer to the road. • Government said they would reimburse housing costs, but not done so far. • Government bought housing land for them from the neighbouring village for 500,000 kip. • There is no-one left in the old villages. All

		<p>households agreed to move</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 hh moved in this year, from further down. They moved to be close to relatives • 2 hh moved out this year, to be close to relatives in the uplands.
<p>Access to basic services: schools, health centres, drinking water</p>	<p>Before</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No road access • Had school for grade 1-2 • Had to go to Ban Sobtje for grade 3-5 • No health volunteer or kit, and still had to go to neighbouring village • No toilets, used forest. • Water from the river 	<p>After</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They have a road, but not accessible during parts of the rainy season • They built the road themselves, and they plan to continue improving the road. • Have a school for grade 1-2. They pay 350 kg of rice per year to the teacher, 3kg per hh. • Up to grade 5 in neighbouring village (Ban Sobtje) • They study in Lao language • Some villagers said that if they can't afford school cost for all children, they will prioritize the boys • Confusing information on school attendance, but they concluded that grade 1-2 Attendance was higher, and grade 3-5 attendance lower. They said that they were poorer now, but conflicting information • They have health volunteer and a medical kit. • Have to pay for health services in the neighbouring village where there is a health centre. • Major health problems: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Malaria ○ Diarrhea ○ Pregnancy-related problems • Malaria increased, due to warmer climate now, but now people sleep under nets, so this is improving. These costs 8000, if poor, they will get for free. • 67 hh have traditional pit toilets, built by themselves but advice from hospital. The remaining hh did not want to build • 6 water pipes from the river upstream, from Lao Red Cross (Aus), built in May this year. • Most hh boil drinking water. Some also boiled when going to the upland
<p>Livelihoods, including agriculture, forest products, income sources</p>	<p>Before</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upland • Animal rearing • NTFPs • Weaving (part of a EU project, stopped when the project stopped) • Did not grow opium, but many addicts in the village. They bought from Lao soung 	<p>After</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upland cultivation – same as before • Maize – new activity, for sale • Animal rearing, less than before (?) • NTFPs – Same level as before (for sale. Also every day collection for own consumption • Tobacco for own consumption • Opium – now EU project for addicts and for damaging Lao Soung production • Reason for opium consumption was either do limit health pains or just interest in drugs • Very little scrap metal collection

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No possibility for paddy land cultivation in the area
Access to Food and seasonal calendar		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rice sufficient from Des-May (used to be all year round) • Meat: 2-3 times per year • Chicken: 5-6 times per year • Fish: Dec-Jun • Vegetables: whole year • Bamboo shoot: Jul-Aug • Frog: Jul-Aug • Insects: Aug-Oct • Birds/rodents: whole year • Food deficiency: Jan-Feb • Only own production of rice have changed
Food markets and labour opportunities	Before	<p>After</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They had a shop in the village, but no rice available • They now sell Maize, sometimes to traders and sometimes at the market in Luang Prabang. • They sell NTFPs for paper at the market • They sell animals to neighbouring villages • Traders give lower prices, but they have to cover transport costs when going to the market. • They buy rice in the neighbouring village, where they can buy on credit, but have to pay double in rice back. • Terms of payment sometimes depending on the relationship with the shop owner. • They mostly buy hh commodities like salt, MSG, soap, etc. • They sell more items in the new location, but the trade in the same commodities. For instance, they sell more farm products and animals • Now that they are closer to the shop, they feel that they are buying more things. • Some men work in the army, but they don't send any money back • No-one works in Luang Prabang
Main difficulties, shocks and coping	Before	<p>After</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low quality land • Distance to land • Drought • No school materials, furniture • Need assistance for road construction • Need labour opportunities
Current assistance, and priorities	Before	<p>After</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Red Cross – clothes in 2004 • Water pump – RC May 2006 • Rice – WFP 2003 and Jul 2006, 30 kg per head • Rice – from Government, 5 tonnes for village, due to problem with malaria (?) • 45,000,000 kip from relieve of opium addiction from EU in Sep 2003

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priorities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Money for animals ○ New school ○ All year road ○ Bridge over river
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10. Ban Houay Pien (Luang Prabang, Phonxay district)

Date	12/08/06
Province	Luang Prabang
District	Phonxai
Village	Ban Houay Pien
Note taker	Stein and Won

Topic	Comments	
Relocation and migration patterns, village history	Before	<p>After</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Settled in 1967 • 62 hh, with 397 people and 186 females • Contains two ethnic groups <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Kamu – Lao Theung (43 hh), moved in 2000, no-one left in original village, moved according to gov. plan from 2 km away), did not get any support in moving. Also wanted to get better access to school and water ○ Mong – Lao Soung (19 hh) • There is some intermarriage among the two groups • Lao soung can speak Theung, so they can communicate with each other • Government want to move them further down, but they do not want to move. They only wanted better access to water in their current location. They now have better access to water (see below) • 6 hh moved in this year due to government plan • 3 hh moved out to Vientiane Province in order to get work • There has been no conflict due to the merging of the two groups... (but there are some opium issues that we did not really uncover)
Access to basic services : schools, health centres, drinking water	Before	<p>After</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They are 9 km (2 hours walk) away from the main road and district capital. • They have built a road to their village by themselves, with only technical advice from the district government. This took 2 years to build. • The road is not accessible by car during

		<p>rainy season</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They have grade 1-2 in their village. The teacher gets a salary from the government, but they also provide 350 kg of rice per year (10 kg/hh), and they built a house for the teacher • The teaching is in Lao language • Grade 3-5 is in the district capital. Some go back and forth, others have to rent a house for 100.000 kip per year. About 2/3 of boys and 1/3 of girls go to district school • Grade 1-2, all children are in school, their parents want this • All men can speak Lao and about half of the women • About 30 % of all can read/write • They got assistance from the EU for roof materials for the school • There is no health centre in the village, but they have a health volunteer and a medical kit. • The closest health centre is in the district • They have to pay for health services • Major health problems include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Flu ○ Cough ○ Skin diseases ○ Diarrhea (decreased due to more information on boiling water and disposing of bad food) ○ Malaria (decreased due to nets, all had to pay, poor can get for free) • Women specific: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Pain in stomach ○ Pregnancy-related problems ○ Irregular periods ○ General tiredness ○ No specific reproductive health assistance provided • All hh have toilets. They got them this year from CESVI. The toilets are flushed with water • They have 5 water pumps through a gravity feeder system. Also from CESVI. Before they had to carry water from the river (done by children and women)
Livelihoods, including agriculture, forest	Before	<p>After</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upland cultivation (production gone down – less land, more people. Now

products, income sources		<p>also plant maize (new crop), and trees for paper</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Animal rearing – increased • NTFPs – Bark for paper for sale and different foods for own consumption and some for sale) • Handicraft – Own consumption • Kitchen garden – Own consumption • Tobacco (own consumption) • Opium (stopped last year) (for sale and own consumption) • No scrap metal, no paddy • Less rice is now available, partly due to population pressure • The new secondary crops not sufficient to compensate reduction in rice production • Some work as soldiers for two years, but no one goes to work elsewhere
Access to Food and seasonal calendar		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rice: Dec-Jun • Cassava: Jul-Aug • Maize: Sep-Oct • Meat: some years no meat, normally 2-3 times a year • Chicken: 5-10 times per year • Small wildlife: 2-3 years per year (women) • Fish: 4-5 times per year • Frog : no • Insect: no • Vegetable, kitchen or forest: whole year • Bamboo: July • Crabs, shrimps: Nov-May • Lack of food: Mar-Apr
Food markets and labour opportunities	Before	<p>After</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No shop in the village • They have to come to the district for market exchanges • One trader comes appr. 2-3 times a year, depending on the availability of products • They sell: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Bark from trees for paper (2-3 times per year; normally about 50 kg, price 3,000 kip/kg, price higher on the market than from the trader) ○ Last year they sold buffaloes and cows, but not this year (to trader) ○ Maize (at market) ○ Small animals (at market) ○ Some sell a bit of surplus rice

		<p>(at market)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They buy (in the shop): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Rice, salt, msg, clothes, petrol for lighting, soap, etc. • They can not get any credit, have to pay with cash. Although people who are relatives of the shop owner can use credit with no interest. • Price of rice is highest in August: 4,500 kip/kg • First they said that no-one is working for money, but then... • Some work for others in the village, sometimes for cash and sometimes for rice. • Those who work are those that lack food/rice. The employers are not rich, but have some more rice • The piece work is paid by task, not by time required for the task • Wages change according to the season.
Main difficulties , shocks and coping	Before	<p>After</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Main constraints are: • rice insufficiency • Difficult road access • Far to school
Current assistance , and priorities	Before	<p>After</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EU project for school material 1999, CESVI for toilet and water, 2005 • Priorities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Rice ◦ Whole year road access ◦ School up to grade 5 ◦ Capital to buy animals ◦ Fish ponds ◦ Roof for meeting place • Young men preferred to work if they had the choice. They have seen that their parents have to toil hard, yet still have not enough rice.

11. Ban Pak Vie (Luang Prabang, Phonxai district)

Date	12/08/06
Province	Luang Prabang
District	Phonxai
Village	Ban Pak Vie
Note taker	

Topic	Comments
Relocation and migration patterns, village history	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Original village of 4th generation • 406 people and 203 females • This village contains all 3 ethnic groups: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Lao Lom (23 hh)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Lao Theung (4 hh) Arrived in 1976, and they came voluntary to work and got married ○ Lao Soung (28 hh) Came in 1996 as part of the government plan. Some still left if the original village. They were moved to stop opium cultivation from 4 hours walking away. ● They use Lao for intra-village communication ● 1 hh moved in this year, came back to stay with parents ● 4 hh moved out, 2 to be traders in Luang Prabang, 2 to stay with relatives in Pak Ou
Access to basic services : schools, health centres, drinking water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● They are located on the road about 500 m from the district centre ● They have primary school grade 1-3 ● Grade 4-5 in the district ● They built the school themselves, with no assistance ● Very few attend secondary school ● 1 teacher from Luang Prabang, she stays in the district. She gets salary from government, but they contribute 300 kg/year (7-8 kg/hh) ● No health centre, but very close to district hospital ● They can get services on credit, but they have to pay for all services ● Major diseases: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Pain in stomach ○ Fever ○ A little Malaria ○ Body aches from hard work ○ Some diarrhea but not much – they now boil water and do not eat spoiled food ● They get water from the river, they do not have any pumps ● They do not have any toilets. They used to have pit toilets, but floods damaged these
Livelihoods , including agriculture, forest products, income sources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Upland ● Animal rearing ● NTFPs (very little) ● Labour, piece meal work like building school ● Sawing ● Kitchen garden for sale ● Weaving for own consumption ● The major change in livelihoods is the decrease in upland cultivation per hh due to increased population and land degradation ● 5 hh have paddy land, but small pieces ● Animal rearing has gone down, due to less grazing land ● NTFPs have decreased ● The Lao loom cultivate maize because the yields are better than for rice ● Lao Soon plant commercial trees with no assistance ● Lao soon used to plant opium, but not anymore
Access to Food and seasonal calendar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Rice: Des-May ● Cassava (lao soon): May-Oct ● Meat: 2-3 times per year ● Chicken: 3-4 times per year ● Frog: Jun-Jul ● Crabs, shrimps: whole year ● Fish: whole year ● Vegetables, garden: Jan –Mar ● Vegetables, forest: May-Jul ● Bamboo shoot: Jul-Nov ● Mushroom: May-Jun ● Insects: Aug-Sep ● Lack of food: Apr-May ● Price of Rice: 4,200 kip/kg this month
Food markets and labour opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● There is a shop in the village, sells petrol and hh commodities ● They normally use the market in Phonxai district centre

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They sell animals, maize at the market, and firewood and bamboo shoot, green leaf vegetables to other people in the village. • They buy: rice, msg, salt, clothes, petrol for lighting • They can buy on credit, but with interest • They some times labour for richer hh. Men sometimes do sawing and they get 4-5,000 kip per meter covered. • Women sell cucumbers and vegetables as well • The market only opened 2 years ago • The Lao Soon now have less land, because they now have to share the land • There are no job opportunities in the area, but two people work at the district centre
Main difficulties, shocks and coping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rice insufficiency • No money • Dirty water • No toilets, spread of diseases • No medical kit • No water for paddy land • Death of animals
Current assistance, and priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No assistance • Priorities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Rice ○ Water pump ○ Toilet ○ Capital for animals ○ Electricity ○ Capital for weaving ○ Roof material for village meeting hall ○ They want skills for farming and animal rearing ○ They want skills for planting commercial trees, dress making, cocking, weaving.