

# Follow-up Emergency Food Security Assessment

## LAOS



### June 2011

Data collected in  
January 2011



**World Food Programme**

# Follow-Up Emergency Food Security Assessment

June 2011



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In particular, CARE Laos and World Vision Laos were key partners for the assessment and their expertise and resource mobilization were critical contributions to its quality.

The Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare (MLSW) and the Provincial Agriculture and Forestry Office (PAFO) provided support to the assessment, including secondment of their staff and facilitation of village visits and district selection.

The Team offers sincere gratitude to the households and individuals who willingly spared their time to participate in the household and key informant interviews.

## Executive Summary

- As recommended by the Crop and Food Security Mission (CFSAM) report, a follow-up assessment was carried out by WFP in cooperation with CARE Laos and World Vision in late January 2011. The main objective was to identify the number of people in need of food assistance after the recent shocks such as the poor rainfall and flash floods during the year 2010.
- With the support of local authorities, the assessment team conducted the survey in five provinces: Attapeu, Khammouane, Sekong, Saravane and Savannakhet. The districts were selected based on the recommendations of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare as well as the recommendations of the CFSAM.
- It was found that in lowland farming districts such as in Vapy, Khongxedone and Lakhonepheng districts, the losses in rice production were most significant; however, farmers' ability to cope with the food insecurity situation was greater. These districts are not deemed to need food assistance.
- Other districts, mainly located in the central and southern highlands, seemed to be more vulnerable. They had lost or sold their livestock already and their opportunities for casual labour were generally less than those of lowland households. In some cases, they had already started to reduce the number of meals, which shows the fragility of the situation. Tropical Storm Ketsana and floods were a major factor, in addition to the limited physical access of the remote villages to markets. These districts were deemed to need food assistance.
- The team identified a total of 111,918 people, in central and southern highlands, that will become food insecure starting from the end of April.
- It is recommended to pursue food distributions in the most vulnerable districts in central and southern Highlands, to avoid a serious deterioration of the situation during the main lean season.

## 1. Introduction and Background

In November 2010, a Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission (CFSAM) was jointly conducted by FAO, WFP and the Ministry of Agriculture. Following an official request by the Government of Laos to measure the impact of the poor rainfall on the rice harvest in 2010, the assessment set out to provide a global picture of the rice production, stocks, commerce and household vulnerability in the whole country.

The situation was particularly concerning because of the poor rainfall that followed several other shocks in the previous years, including:

*September 2009* – Tropical Storm Ketsana hit southern areas of the Lao PDR, causing extensive damage to property and infrastructure. The storm resulted in wind damage as well as flash flooding in the upland mountainous areas and severe flooding in riverine areas along the Sekong and Mekong Rivers. Attapeu, Saravane, Savannakhet and Sekong provinces bore the brunt of the Tropical Storm.

*June 2010* - High levels of wasting were documented in the affected provinces, showing evidence that the nutritional problems reported require short term and long term interventions.

Malnutrition rates were described as “alarming” in Attapeu province and “serious” in Saravane and Savannakhet provinces (*Nutritional Assessment in 2008-2009, Flood and Typhoon Ketsana, Provinces of Lao PDR*, June 2010, Ministry of Health, UNICEF), and resulted in an additional humanitarian response in mid 2010 by UNICEF, WFP and WHO.

*May to October 2010* – Poor rainfall was recorded in Laos overall; however, the southern provinces were affected most. Considering that farmers had already lost most of their seed stocks because of Ketsana, there were not enough seeds available to cope with the need for repeated transplantation of seedlings, due to poor rains.

*October 2010* – Flash floods caused by Tropical Depression “Megi” were reported in Khammouane and Savannakhet provinces. Along the Xe Bangfai and Xe Banghiang rivers some 18 districts or 280 villages were affected, equivalent to 14,057 households (75,248 persons), according to the MSLW as reported at the IASC meeting, December 2010.

Given this series of shocks, the CFSAM’s recommended WFP to provide a follow-up analysis to identify geographic pockets with high food insecurity and provide more specific numbers of affected people. Thus, in collaboration with the Government of Laos and two partners (World Vision Laos and CARE Laos), WFP conducted a Follow-up Emergency Food Security Assessment (FEFSA) in five provinces in the central and southern part of the Democratic People’s Republic of Lao (Lao PDR) in January – February 2011.

The main objective of this assessment was to identify what areas and how many people are facing food insecurity.

To make these determinations, this report focuses on food access issues and analyses the different sources of food. In this way, it tries to provide a picture of vulnerability during the period until the next harvest.

## **2. Methodology**

### **2.1 General**

This assessment should be seen as a complementary component of the CFSAM. The present assessment entails a review of secondary information, key informant interviews, and primary data collection at the field level. Prior to the field work, the core assessment team reviewed previous assessments and relevant reports and consulted with WFP Sub-offices and NGOs on the development of the situation.

The provinces covered were Khammouane, Savannakhet, Saravane, Sekong and Attapeu, based on the CFSAM and in consultation with World Vision and CARE. Both organizations met with WFP prior to the assessment and discussed target areas and anticipated needs. The districts were selected according to the type and severity of shocks reported in 2010, based on secondary data research and recommendations of Government partners and NGOs. All villages were randomly selected based on lists that were generated for this purpose, to ensure a good representation. Finally households were also randomly selected using systematic sampling methods such as village walks through respecting a certain interval.

### **2.2 Team composition and training**

Given the recent experience of the CFSAM and the institutional expertise of WFP staff during Typhoon Ketsana and the following rapid assessments, no extensive training was necessary on this occasion. However, Government counterparts and NGO colleagues were systematically provided with training on questionnaires, instructions on interviewing techniques and general guidance before the field work. Further, questionnaires were sent to WFP Sub-offices prior to the team's arrival for local staff to comment on and familiarize themselves with the new tools.

The team members were from WFP, CARE, World Vision and the Department of Labour and Social Welfare. In the first week, three teams were deployed in the three provinces of Saravane, Sekong and Attapeu. In the second week, two teams moved on to Khammouane and Savannakhet, while some staff returned to the Vientiane Country Office.

## **2.3 Assessment tools**

Three key assessment tools were used for this rapid assessment: household questionnaires, focus group discussions and key informant interviews. The main tool used was a household questionnaire. The modules covered household demographics, livelihoods and income, expenditures, coping strategies and assistance. The interview was conducted with to the head of each household covered in the assessment.

The assessment process usually started with a focus group discussion, including men and women, and a key informant interview was conducted in parallel (mostly with the Village Head or a District Officer). The topics discussed were: village history, livelihoods, rice sufficiency, food consumption and sources, market prices, problems in the village, coping strategies and assistance.

The team used a daily wrap-up form to summarize all the qualitative data.

Each team was equipped with GPS devices to locate the surveyed villages.

## **2.4 Limitations**

As in most assessments, time constraints and access represented major obstacles.

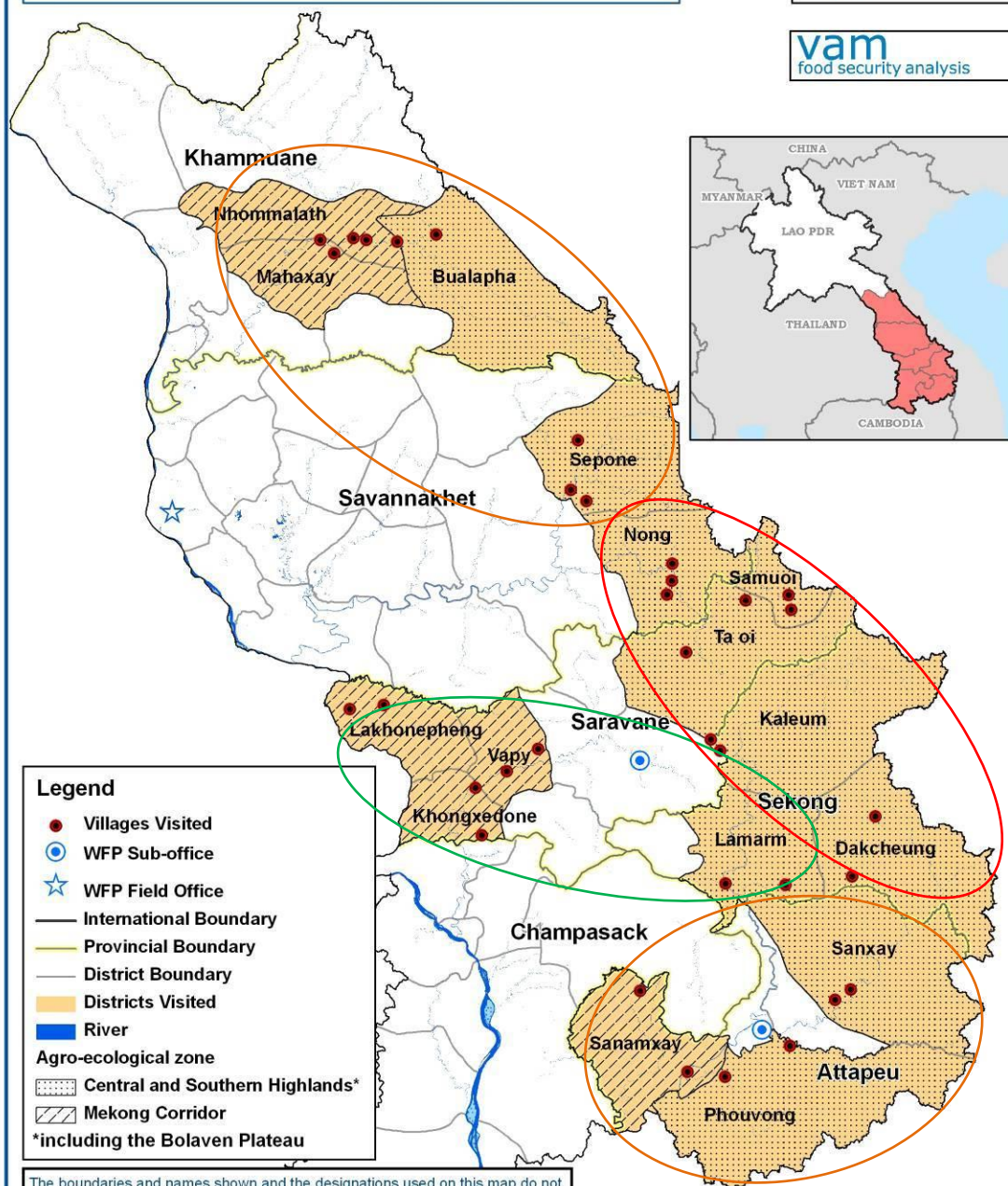
Benefiting from the recent CFSAM experience and extensive secondary data, the objective was to follow-up on the previous situation described by the CFSAM and to visit more numerous and more remote villages. The assessment team put a lot of effort in achieving this and travelled sometimes more than three hours from the District capital to reach the different target villages. The team also had to stay overnight in a village when necessary. To maximize resources, WFP mobilized staff from the northern provinces but also partnered with CARE in the province of Attapeu and with World Vision Laos in Khammouane and Savannakhet. Thus some enumerators had little experience, and despite attending the training, and the questionnaire being provided in Lao, many questions could have been misinterpreted or misunderstood by the enumerator as well as by the interviewee. This was particularly true when the team visited villages with large ethnic communities where only the most educated would speak Lao. This points out the fundamental need to have the questionnaire field-tested and ensure that translators with knowledge of ethnic languages are available.



# Emergency Food Security Assessment, Districts and Villages visited, 2011



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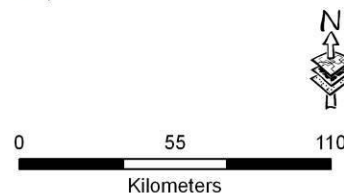


The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Spatial Reference: Geographic Coordinate System WGS 1984.

Sources:  
Swiss National Centre of Competence in Research (NCCR) North-South, Department of Statistics, National Geographic Department, Department of Forestry, Vientiane.

Map produced by VAM Unit, WFP Lao PDR, February 2011.



### 3. Main findings

#### 3.1 Overview

The assessment identified 4 different groups of districts that can be categorized by the occurrence and impact of shocks. The report will repeatedly refer to these groups described below:

	Districts	Province	Agro-ecology	Shock	Impact on livelihoods	Capacity to recover
<b>Group 1</b>	Lakhonepeng, Khongxedone, Vapy, Lamarm	Saravane, Sekong	Lowland	Drought	Moderate	Good
<b>Group 2</b>	Boualapha, Mahaxay, Gnommalath, Sepone	Khammouane, Savannakhet	Upland/ Lowland	Flash floods	Severe	Poor
<b>Group 3</b>	Ta Oi, Sam Oi, Kaleum, Dakcheung, Nong	Saravane, Sekong, Savannakhet	Upland	Drought, Ketsana	Severe	Poor
<b>Group 4</b>	Sanxay, Sanamxay, Phouvong	Attapeu	Upland/ Lowland	Drought, Ketsana	Severe	Moderate

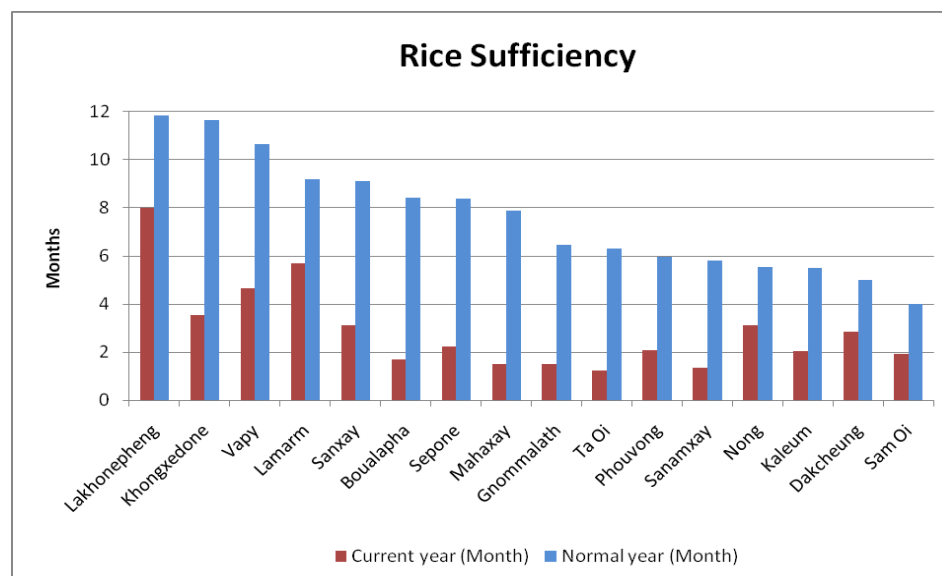
The findings point to the need to intervene in areas where the impact of the shocks was severe and capacity to recover was poor or moderate (Group 2, 3 and 4).

These findings are based on a detailed analysis of food access. The assessment looked at the various sources of food for households: own production, market purchase, borrowing and food aid.

## 3.2 Own Production

An initial understanding of the food security situation can be gained through the rice self-sufficiency forecasts.

The first group of districts (Group 1: Lakhonepeng, Khongxedone and Vapy in Saravane and Lamam in Sekong), as clearly shown in the graph below usually have high productivity and have suffered substantial losses in the lowland areas in 2010. This is believed to be attributable to poor rainfall and the high dependence of lowland cultivation on precipitation. However, their rice sufficiency remains the highest of the sample.



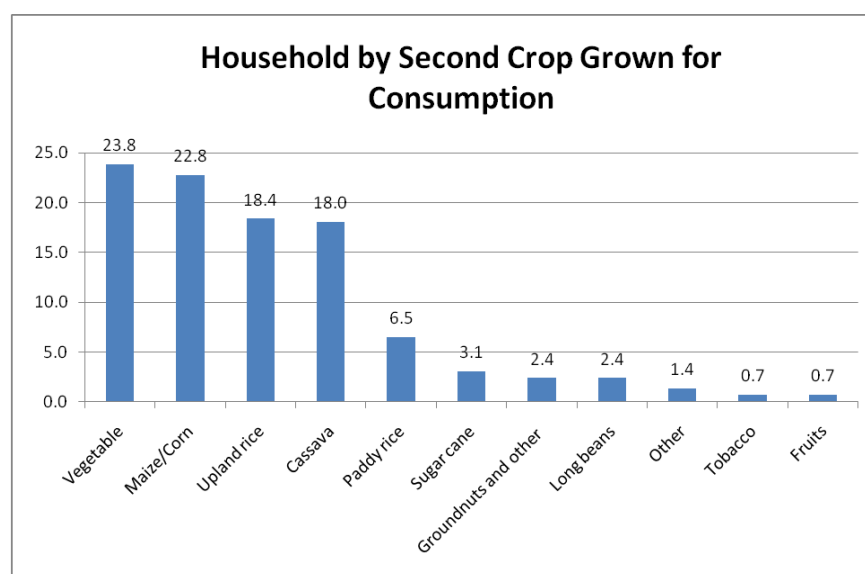
The next group ( Group 2, scattered: Boualapha, Mahaxay, Gnommalath in Khammouane and Sepone in Savannakhet) was, according to rainfall data, less affected by a lack of precipitation (see Annex 1) but major damage here was caused by devastating flash floods during October 2010. These areas are usually quite productive but the 2010 harvest was reduced by 70 percent on average. Here the rice sufficiency remains below two months on average and is a clear indicator of the severity of the flash floods.

The third group that can be identified as composed of typically upland districts (Ta Oi, Sam Oi, Kaleum, Dakcheung and Nong). These districts usually have smaller yields and a lower rice sufficiency (average five months). However, for 2010, farmers estimate that they only have rice for two months on the average. According to calculations based on households' harvest and household size, the most vulnerable group has rice sufficiency for three months. The data shows that their average rice

sufficiency is slightly better than that of the previous group. These districts were the first ones to be hit by Ketsana at its full strength in 2009 and therefore were already quite vulnerable.

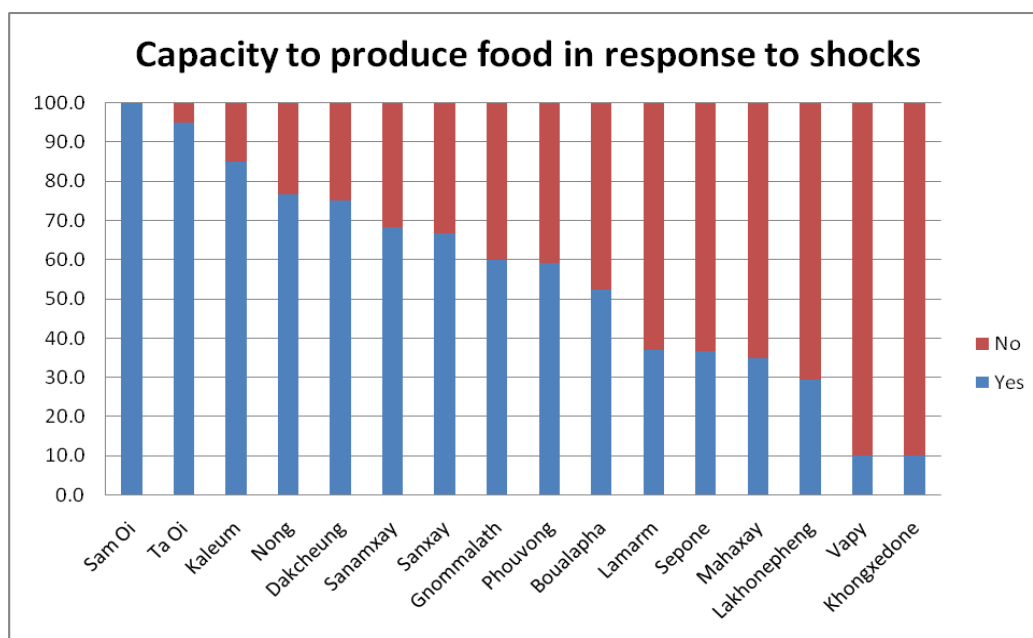
The last group is represented by the province of Attapeu (Sanxay, Phouvong and Sanamxay Districts) with mixed findings and mixed agro-ecological patterns. But in general, Attapeu was also highly affected by Ketsana in 2009 and also experienced heavy losses resulting in a poor rice sufficiency.

Logically when the main occupation remains rice farming, rice production is the first staple food produced for consumption (61% lowland rice and 32 % upland rice). The second crop grown for consumption showed greater diversity. Vegetables grown around the house were the first food item followed by maize/corn. Here vegetables are mainly lettuce, cucumber and leafy vegetables, which are usually only eaten in small amounts. Fruits are rarely grown in the villages. Hence, the diet remains undiversified and is largely composed of starch and contains no vitamins.



Although maize is usually grown for feed and sold to neighboring countries, it seems that a significant share of the maize is actually sweet corn and is eaten as a snack. The graph also shows a high rate of cassava cultivation, which potentially translates to a situation of rice shortage as cassava is usually only eaten in times of difficulty.

The following graph demonstrates that upland farmers are capable of growing different crops around their rice fields, which will be used as complementary food during the lean season. Typically cassava and sweet corn, but also vegetables will be used as substitutes.



The graph clearly shows that upland districts have greater capacities to diversify; however because yields are mostly poor, the amounts produced are very small and rarely compensate the energy requirements.

### 3.3 Market purchase

If own production is not sufficient, then smallholders can purchase from markets. In this case, it is important to analyze both their income levels and the food prices. Income can be generated by casual labour, cash crops or sale of assets.

Rice farming is often complemented by casual labour. If yields are bad, farmers spend more time and earn more money from casual labour than from rice farming. Thus, the assessment tried to capture the income generated by the different activities. The chosen activities were rice farming and casual labour as they are the most time-consuming activities (compared to vegetable gardens for instance). The income from rice farming was calculated based on the household total production and market value. The income from casual labour was calculated based on the wages in rubber plantations as this was the main occupation reported. The table below shows that the estimated income is significantly higher for casual labour than for rice farming.

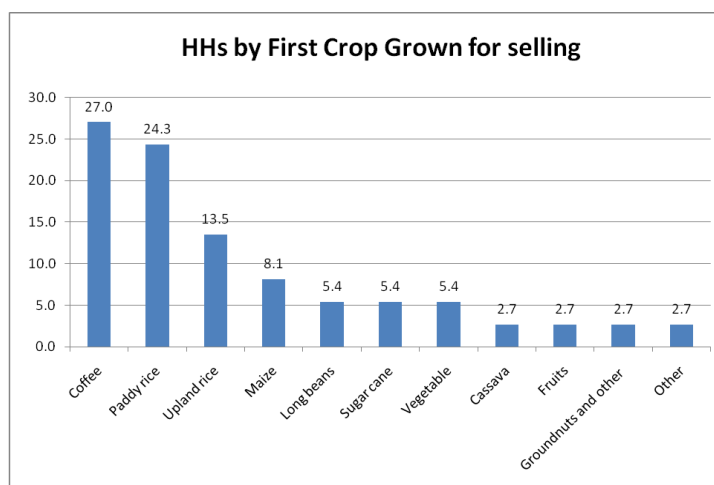
Income from rice farming vs. casual labour			
	Lowland Rice	Upland Rice	Casual labour
Income (kip/year) if first activity	1,794,965	951,542	7,000,000
Income (kip/year) if second activity	600,000	442,750	2,096,923
Income (kip/year) if third activity	480,000	300,000	1,191,486

If casual labour is the first activity, farmers can earn up to 7 million kip a year, whereas rice farming would only generate almost 2 million kip for lowland cultivation and 1 million for upland cultivation.

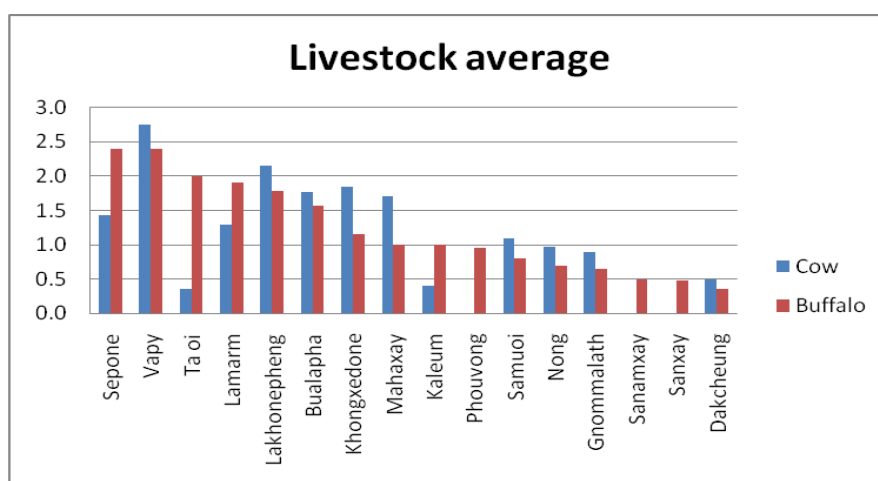
Here, one should remember that harvests in 2010 were particularly bad and this consequently reduced the income from rice. Further, in forecasting a bad harvest, farmers probably spent more time being engaged in casual labour than usual.

When it comes to food purchase, it seems easier for lowland districts to buy food as they have better physical access to markets.

In terms of cash crops, as four of the assessed provinces are surrounding the Bolaven plateau, a region famous for its coffee, coffee was the first crop planted for selling. Most of it is sold in Champassak or traders come to the village and trade it for money or rice. As an example, in Sanamxay District, Attapeu Province, villagers harvest coffee for three years. They collect the beans in January, dry them and sell their harvest at the end of January in Paksong District, Champassak Province. These villagers reported that they could earn from 500,000 to 5,000,000 kip per year depending on the size of the land plot. However, the poor rainfall in 2010 not only affected rice plantation but also coffee and the last harvest was mediocre.



In rural areas of Laos, buffaloes and livestock in general are a common investment and are used as capital to sell during difficult times. During the assessment many households had sold all their livestock already to get income and buy food. This was typical in Attapeu (Group 4) as well as in upland districts in Sekong (Group3). The risk here is that such households will not be able to buy new cattle in the coming years and they have lost a valuable asset to liquidate in times of food scarcity.



In conclusion, whereas upland districts have sold most of their cattle, lowland districts will have less difficulty in coping with food shortages and decreases in harvests as a result of their increased capital and better access to markets.

This is further supported by data on expenditure patterns: in the four upland districts, Ta Oi, Sam Oi, Kaleum and Dakcheung (Group 3) together with Boualapha (Group 2), people spent less than 100,000 kip per person (food, clothing, medical care, furnishing, celebrations and livelihood inputs) during the month preceding the assessment. The average expenditure per capita is 141,395 kip during that same month.

On average, 44 percent of the expenditure is spent on food and rice purchases account for the largest share. 56 percent of the expenditure is spent on non-food items and here livelihood inputs represent the largest share, followed by medical expenses and clothing. According to the group discussions livelihood inputs expenses were high mainly because of the need to purchase agricultural inputs.

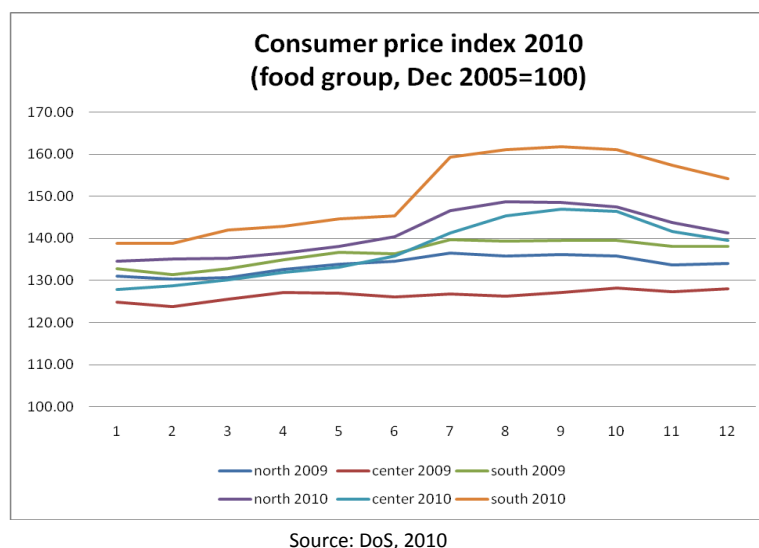
Farmers were also asked if they noticed a difference in their expenditure for food and every day products compared to the previous year. A majority (65%) farmers answered that they had spent “more” and “much more” than the year before. This probably has two main reasons: first of all, prices of rice in 2010 were particularly high and remained so in January 2011. Secondly, because of the poor

harvest, it was reported in the focus group discussion that farmers started to buy rice much earlier than usual.

This can be backed up by the calculation of the consumer price index(CPI). The CPI measures the level of prices that consumers are facing and expresses the cost of a basket of goods relative to its cost in a base period. The Department of Statistics of the Ministry of Planning and Investment releases monthly data providing prices of different products. Here the graph only considers food items giving the main staples the most important weight.

Although the normal evolution of the CPI is to increase, there was an abnormal jump during the year 2010 and this has been particularly strong in the southern provinces. The graph below shows clearly that the rise started at the beginning of the lean season.

This is translated in a significant inflationary trend for food items, impacting the purchasing power of smallholders namely in the south.



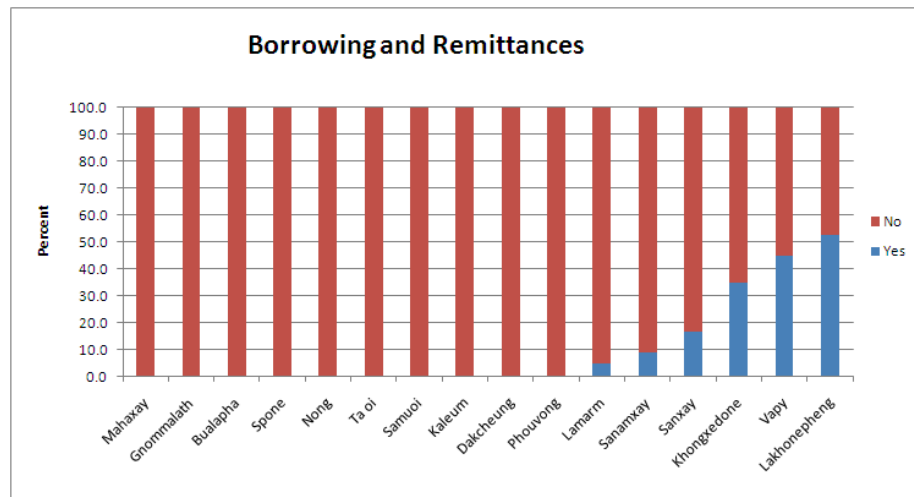
### 3.4 Borrowing and remittances

When farmers run out of money, the first source of cash they have is friends and relatives. In fact in 55 percent of the cases farmers rely in the first place on their friends and relatives. It was also found that often there are no existing village funds and that farmers can only rarely access bank loans.

The assessment was also intended to determine how far remittances were contributing to household income. During the interview farmers were asked if they had family outside the country or outside the province from whom they received money. It was found that in western Saravane (Lakhonepeng, Khonexedone, Vapy in Group 1) some of the family members often go to work in Thailand. In Attapeu



(Group 4) province, in the districts of Sanxay and Sanamxay, it is common that relatives travel to Phouvong district and work as casual labour in rubber fields.



The amount sent back to the families varies from 500,000 to 1,500,000 kip and can be sent even several times a year.

This alternative source of income will guarantee a minimum level of earnings and allow them to buy food in times of food scarcity.

### 3.5 Food aid

Finally farmers in need may be able to obtain food aid. In 2010 WFP distributed 10,758 mt of food to 235,006 people all over the country.

Province	Food distributed (mT)		Caseload
	Rice	Canned Fish	
Saravane	1,783.14	5.00	22,613
Sekong	1,445.56	2.00	20,950
Attapeu	2,632.46	/	58,291
Savannakhet	1,348	/	29,487
<b>Total</b>	<b>7209.16</b>	<b>7.00</b>	<b>131,341</b>

As shown by the table above, WFP was already focusing on the southern provinces (Saravane, Sekong, Attapeu, Savannakhet) in 2010, considering the impact of Ketsana. However, these contributions would not last through 2010.

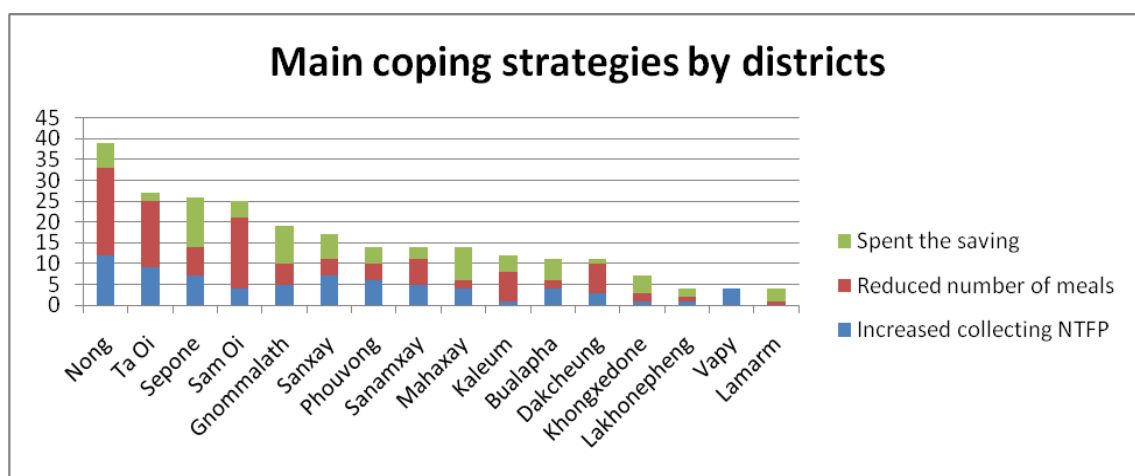
### 3.6 Coping Strategies

Before all food stocks are depleted and before food aid is being distributed, households have different strategies they resort to, to prevent food scarcity. As discussed above, the most popular activity is the practice of casual labour, which can be explained by the farmers' forecast of a bad harvest and the intention to make savings. In Attapeu, many farmers work in rubber fields and are employed to weed the fields. They earn between 20,000 and 30,000 kip a day.

Further, friends and relatives are the first source to borrow money but they are also the first source to borrow rice. This actually represents one of the main coping strategies and the first kind of safety net among villagers. In fact, this has been particularly important for the last harvest in the south. As the yields were quite low after Ketsana in 2009, even farmers that had a good yield in 2010, had to pay back in-kind all the food borrowed during the lean season 2010. Until now it is still unclear under what terms this is practiced – for instance whether farmers have to pay interest or not, or if debts can easily be annulled.

The lack of food can also be compensated for by collecting natural food resources provided by the forest such non-timber forest products (NTFP).

Nevertheless, as shown in the graph below, a significant share of smallholders has already started to reduce the number of meals. This group will be highly vulnerable during the lean season as they are already facing food shortage. Also they will have no resources to buy food in the future, as some have spent their savings already.



#### 4. Number of affected people and priority areas

Per the recommendations of the CFSAM, five provinces that were most affected by shocks in 2010 were included in this assessment, with the objective to identify the number of people in need of food assistance. Based on an analysis of the findings, it is estimated that 111,918 people are food insecure and will need food assistance.

For this forecast, four criteria were utilized:

- Rice sufficiency as a proxy for own production
- Estimated income as a proxy for market purchase and borrowing
- Livestock possession as a proxy for sales of assets (component of market purchase)
- Reduction of number of meals as a proxy for coping strategies

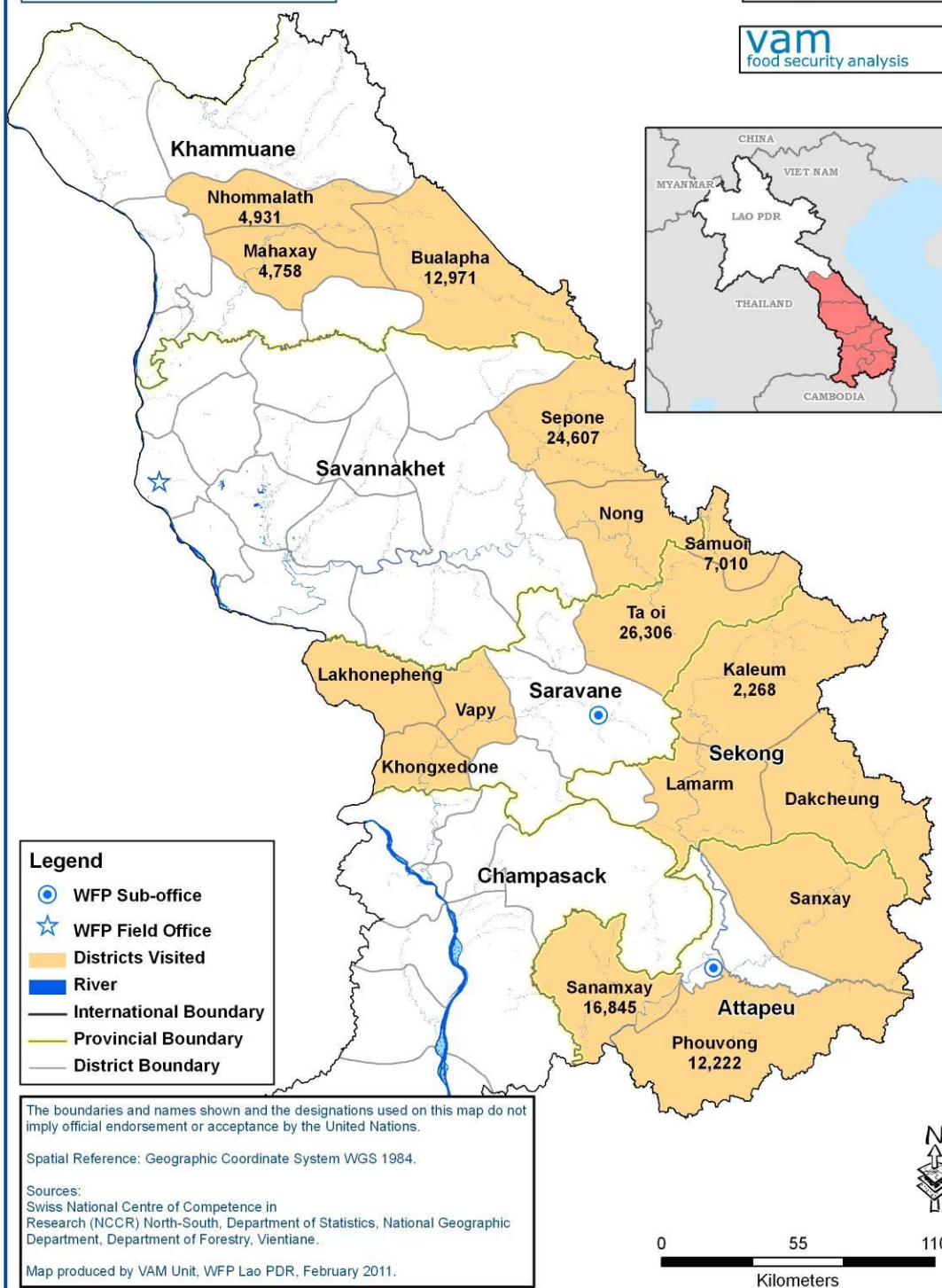
Priority was given to districts with less than three months of rice and a monthly per capita income below 192,000 kip (National poverty line) and that had no livestock and already started reducing the number of meals. The final indicator is based on the combination of the four different criteria. The most people are found in Saravane and Attapeu.

Province	People in need of food assistance
Attapeu	29 067
Khammouane	22 660
Saravane	33 316
Savannakhet	24 607
Sekong	2 268
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>111 918</b>

# Affected Population EFSA, 2011



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Beyond the number of people in need of food assistance, the assessment tried to identify the areas with high vulnerability considering the recent shocks. The table below summarizes the food security situation and the proposed response areas.

	<b>Districts</b>	<b>Province</b>	<b>Agro-ecology</b>	<b>Shock</b>	<b>Impact on livelihoods</b>	<b>Capacity to recover</b>	<b>Response Areas</b>
<b>Group 1</b>	Lakhonepeng, Khongxedone, Vapy, Lamarm	Saravane, Sekong	Lowland	Drought	Moderate	Good	None
<b>Group 2</b>	Boualapha, Mahaxay, Gnommalath, Sepone	Khammouane, Savannakhet	Upland/ Lowland	Flash floods	Severe	Poor	Boualapha, Mahaxay, Gnommalath, Sepone
<b>Group 3</b>	Ta Oi, Sam Oi, Kaleum, Dakcheung, Nong	Saravane, Sekong, Savannakhet	Upland	Drought, Ketsana	Severe	Poor	Ta Oi, Sam Oi, Kaleum
<b>Group 4</b>	Sanxay, Sanamxay, Phouvong	Attapeu	Upland/ Lowland	Drought, Ketsana	Severe	Moderate	Sanamxay, Phouvong

It is not expected that the districts in Group 1 will have significant challenges during the lean season; instead the food assistance response should concentrate on Groups 2, 3 and 4. It is important to note that a few districts from Group 3 (e.g. Dakcheung and Nong) and Group 4 (e.g. Sanxay) have not been recommended for food assistance at the time of the assessment. However, the situation in these areas should be monitored closely to see if there is a deterioration and a need for a response.

In conclusion, there is a general trend showing, that the most resilient districts are the ones located in lowland areas and while the more vulnerable districts are typically located in mountainous areas.

## 5. Conclusions and Recommendations

The assessment confirms that the households were heavily affected by the different shocks in 2010 and that the accumulation of these after Tropical Storm Ketsana puts them in a highly vulnerable position.

Although the preliminary reports were warning that lowland areas endured heavy losses throughout the country, it is believed that those farmers are also capable of coping better with the situation and that farmers in less accessible areas will suffer more. In fact, lowland farmers in absolute terms may have experienced more substantial losses in their rice production; yet these are also often surplus producers and mostly have enough rice to eat until the next harvest. On the other hand, upland farmers usually have a much shorter rice sufficiency and even a slight decrease in production can be much more harmful.

In the light of these findings confirming the impact of the shocks on food security, it is recommended that:

- Upland areas are targeted for food aid responses. The low rice sufficiency will make these communities food insecure soon in the year starting April, even before the main lean season.

Considering that many households in these communities have already sold their assets, the capacity for recovery is low and the need for food will increase with time.

- The districts of high priority are Boualapha, Gnommlatah, Kaleum, Mahaxay, Phouvoung, Sam Oi, Sanamxay, Sepone and Ta Oi.
- The districts of secondary priority are Dakcheung, Nong and Sanxay.
- The recommendation of food aid here takes into consideration the fact that food access is an issue and markets may not be functioning particularly well. The distribution of cash, given that the food prices are already high, might increase prices even more.
- Further, as seed stocks have largely been emptied, the provision of livelihoods inputs (including seeds) would be useful.
- Finally, nutrition will also be at stake, and to avoid wasting, food distributions should start as soon as possible lasting three to six months.

It is clear that the situation will be evolving between now and the harvest season, and this calls for field level monitoring to ensure appropriate and timely measures are taken. Monitoring prices of the main food commodities, household consumption patterns and coping strategies represent the main tools for this purpose.

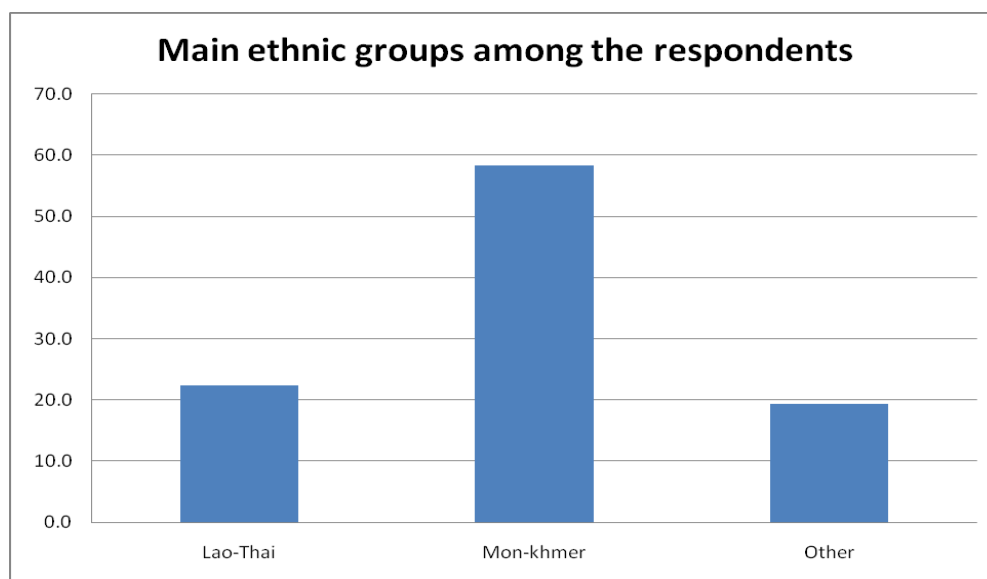
## 6. ANNEXES

### ANNEX 1: Sample description

The survey covered 345 households in 34 villages, accounting for 2,319 people.

The average household size was 6.7 persons. According to the findings, the average household in the sample is headed by 45 years old married men. Almost 50 percent of these heads of households had not gone to school at all and 42 percent had finished only primary school. It seems that since the last national census, the household size has slightly increased but that other characteristics remain the same and correspond to the national average (National Statistics Center, 2005).

In the south and south-centre, the sample shows that, Mon-Khmer is the main ethnicity and only 22.9 percent are Lao-Thai. The Lao-Thai were mainly found in Saravane in the districts of Vapy, Khonexedong and Lakhonepeng. The rest of the population is divided into various sub-groups that are not categorized by the Lao Government. They were largely composed of the “Brao” in Attapeu Province and the “Ka Leung” in Khammouane Province. This confirms the fact that ethnic minorities are mostly found in remote upland areas, here mostly along the border with Vietnam.



ANNEX 2: Rainfall

Year	Luangprabang	Vientiane. Capital	Savannakhet	Pakse
1980	1 559.5	2 291.4	1 635.6	1 524.5
1985	1 093.4	1 253.5	1 205.1	2 545.2
1990	1 641.6	1 552.1	1 713.5	1 704.0
1995	1 616.9	2 019.8	1 342.3	1 647.5
1996	1 601.0	1 756.0	1 938.0	2 193.0
1997	1 180.0	1 629.6	1 335.2	2 604.4
1998	1 163.7	1 477.4	1 080.4	1 733.5
1999	1 352.6	2 170.7	2 357.1	2 446.6
2000	1 486.7	1 499.8	1 557.8	2 598.4
2001	1 795.0	1 659.0	1 919.9	2 348.6
2002	1 601.8	1 846.7	1 982.0	2 478.0
2003	1 399.0	1 481.0	1 492.3	2 029.1
2004	1 472.7	1 629.6	396.7	1 977.9
2005	1 435.0	1 667.8	1 768.2	1 956.1
2006	1 205.6	1 930.3	1 398.7	2 694.5
2007	1 295.0	1 667.5	1 444.7	1 967.5
2008	1 708.7	2 201.6	1 565.7	1 907.6
2009	1 259.4	1 482.8	1 294.9	2 209.6
2010	1 368.6	1 794.2	1 658.9	1 464.3

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Source : Department of Meteorology and Hydrology, Water Resources and Environment Administration



## ANNEX 2: Questionnaire

### SECTION 1. HOUSEHOLD LIVELIHOODS /INCOME

EMERGENCY FOOD SECURITY ASSESSMENT: LAO PDR 2011			
<b>0.1</b>	Date:  __ __  /  __ __  / 2011 <i>Day    Month</i>		
<b>0.2</b>	Province _____ District _____ Village _____ House no: __ __		
<b>0.3</b>	Who is the head of the household: male or female? <b>(Circle)</b>  1 = Male  2 = Female	<b>0.4</b>	What is the age of the household head?   __ __  years
<b>0.5</b>	How many persons (in <b>total</b> ) live in your household?  __ __		
<b>0.6</b>	What is the education level of the head of household?  __   1 = No Schooling;    2 = Primary School;    3 = Secondary School    4 = Vocational School 5 = Tertiary/University/College    6 = Other, specify _____		
<b>0.7</b>	Marital status of household head     __   1= Married          2 = Cohabiting          3 = Divorced/ Separated          4 = Widowed          5 = Never married		
<b>0.8</b>	Which sub-ethnic group does your household belong to?  _____	What main ethnic group does your household belong to?   __	1 = Lao-Tai  2 = Austro-Asiatic  3 = Sino-Tibetan  4 = Hmong-Mien
<b>1.1 What are your household's main livelihoods activities? (List up to three activities in order of importance)</b>			
First     __ __ , Annual income _____/Kip	1 = Paddy farmer		7 = Trade
Second     __ __ , Annual income _____/Kip	2 = Upland farmer		8 = Official/employee
Third     __ __ , Annual income _____/Kip	3 = Cash crop farmers (e.g. rubber, coffee, etc.)		9 = Livestock rearing
	4 = Casual labor		10 = Vegetable/crop garden
	5 = Hunting		11 = Handicraft/artisan
	6 = Fishing		12 = Other, specify _____

<b>1.2 What main crops does your household produce to eat and sell?</b>					
	For Consumption	For Sale			
First	_ _	_ _	01 = Paddy rice	09 = Mulberry tree	
Second	_ _	_ _	02 = Upland rice	10 = Sugar cane	
Third	_ _	_ _	03 = Maize	11 = Vegetables	
Fourth	_ _	_ _	04 = Long beans	12 = Fruits	
			05 = Cassava	13 = Tobacco	
			06 = Jobs tear	14 = Groundnuts and other nuts/seeds	
			07 = Sesame	15 = Other, specify_____	
			08 = Cardamom		
<b>1.3 Does your household have access to land? to plots? upland, lowland, and irrigated to grow crops? What is the size? Please fill in information in the tables below</b>					
<b>Low land rice production</b>		<b>Upland rice production</b>		<b>Irrigated rice production</b>	
<b>1.3.1</b> Do you have access to land? 1 = Yes 2 = No (Skip to question <b>1.3.9</b> )  <b>1.3.2</b> Total area available _____ hectares  <b>1.3.3</b> Area cultivated last year _____ hectares  *If cultivated land lost, what percentage? _____% of total  <b>1.3.4</b> Was the area cultivated last year smaller, same or larger than year before? <b>(circle)</b>  1 = Smaller 2 = Same size 3 = Larger		<b>1.3.9</b> Do you have access to land? 1 = Yes 2 = No (Skip to question <b>1.3.17</b> )  <b>1.3.10</b> Total area available _____ hectares  <b>1.3.11</b> Area cultivated last year _____ hectares  *If cultivated land lost, what percentage? _____% of total  <b>1.3.12</b> Was the area cultivated last year smaller, same or larger than the year before? <b>(circle)</b>  1 = Smaller 2 = Same size 3 = Larger		<b>1.3.17</b> Do you have access to land? 1 = Yes 2 = No (Skip to question <b>1.4</b> )  <b>1.3.18</b> Total area available _____ hectares  <b>1.3.19</b> Area cultivated this year _____ hectares  *If cultivated land lost, what percentage? _____% of total  <b>1.3.20</b> Was the area cultivated this year smaller, same or larger than last year? <b>(circle)</b>  1 = Smaller 2 = Same size 3 = Larger	
<b>1.3.5</b> If the area cultivated was lower last year, explain.		<b>1.3.13</b> If the area cultivated was lower last year, explains.		<b>1.3.21</b> If the area cultivated was lower this year, explain.	

<b>1.3.6</b> When did you plant rice last year? _____  What was the timing compared to usual? <b>(circle)</b>  1 = Earlier      2 = Same time      3 = Later	<b>1.3.14</b> When did you plant rice this year? _____  What was the timing compared to usual? <b>(circle)</b>  1 = Earlier      2 = Same time      3 = Later	<b>1.3.22</b> When did you plant rice this year? _____  What was the timing compared to usual? <b>(circle)</b>  1 = Earlier      2 = Same time      3 = Later
<b>1.3.7</b> How much rice did you harvest? _____ kg	<b>1.3.15</b> How much rice do you harvest? _____ kg	<b>1.3.23</b> How much rice do you expect harvest? _____ kg
<b>1.3.8</b> How does this compare with production the year before? <b>(circle)</b>  1 = lower      2 = similar      3 = higher  *If lower than the year year, what is the main reason?	<b>1.3.16</b> How does this compare with production the year before? <b>(circle)</b>  1 = lower      2 = similar      3 = higher  *If lower than last year, what is the main reason?	<b>1.3.24</b> How does this compare with production last year ? <b>(circle)</b>  1 = lower      2 = similar      3 = higher  *If lower than last year, what is the main reason?
<b>1.4</b> How long do you expect your harvest to last? _____ months		
<b>1.5</b> How long does your harvest usually last? _____ months		
<b>1.6</b> If harvest lasts less than 12 months, will you produce any other food for the months where you have no rice?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, <input type="checkbox"/> No	
<b>1.7</b> For the months in which you do not have food will you be able to purchase, collect or borrow food?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, <input type="checkbox"/> No	
<b>1.8</b> Do you own any farm animals? 1 = Yes      2 = No (Skip to section 2)  If Yes, which farm animals? (state number where applicable, and write 00 if not owned) <i><b>(DO NOT READ THE FOLLOWING LIST TO THE RESPONDENT!)</b></i>		
	<b>Livestock</b>	<b>Number</b>
1	Cows / Bullocks	_ _ _
2	Buffaloes	_ _ _
3	Goats/sheep	_ _ _
4	Poultry (Chickens/Ducks/geese)	_ _ _
5	Horses	_ _ _
6	Pigs	_ _ _
7	Others, specify _____	_ _ _

## SECTION 2 – EXPENDITURE

<b>Read: “In the Past <u>MONTH</u>, how much money did you spend on the following items or services?</b>  <b>(If goods were exchanged, please give value in Kip).9</b>		<b>a. Did you spend ?</b> in past one month  01 = YES  02 = NO  <i>(if NO, go to next item)</i>	<b>b. Estimated cash expenditure during the past one month (Kip)</b>  <i>(write “-” if no expenditure).</i>	<b>c. Estimated credit expenditure during the past one month (Kip)</b>  <i>(write “-” if no expenditure)</i>
2.1	Rice	_	_ _ _ . _ _ _	_ _ _ . _ _ _
2.2	Corn	_	_ _ _ . _ _ _	_ _ _ . _ _ _
2.3	Wheat and other cereals/products (bread, biscuits, instant noodles)	_	_ _ _ . _ _ _	_ _ _ . _ _ _
2.4	Roots and tubers (such as cassava, potatoes, sweet potatoes (camote), gabi)	_	_ _ _ . _ _ _	_ _ _ . _ _ _
2.5	Pulses (beans, lentils, groundnuts)	_	_ _ _ . _ _ _	_ _ _ . _ _ _
2.6	Fruits	_	_ _ _ . _ _ _	_ _ _ . _ _ _
2.7	Vegetables, chili	_	_ _ _ . _ _ _	_ _ _ . _ _ _
2.8	Milk and milk products	_	_ _ _ . _ _ _	_ _ _ . _ _ _
2.9	Eggs	_	_ _ _ . _ _ _	_ _ _ . _ _ _
2.10	Meat and meat products (chicken, beef, pork, other meats)	_	_ _ _ . _ _ _	_ _ _ . _ _ _
2.11	Fish and marine products	_	_ _ _ . _ _ _	_ _ _ . _ _ _
2.12	Coffee, cocoa and tea	_	_ _ _ . _ _ _	_ _ _ . _ _ _
2.13	Sugar / salt / msg	_	_ _ _ . _ _ _	_ _ _ . _ _ _
2.14	Butter / cooking oil / margarine	_	_ _ _ . _ _ _	_ _ _ . _ _ _
2.15	Non-alcoholic beverages	_	_ _ _ . _ _ _	_ _ _ . _ _ _

2.16	Tobacco / betel nut	_	_ _ _ . _ _ _	_ _ _ . _ _ _
2.17	Alcoholic beverages	_	_ _ _ . _ _ _	_ _ _ . _ _ _
2.18	Household supplies ( <i>laundry soap / matches / brooms / batteries / etc.</i> )	_	_ _ _ . _ _ _	_ _ _ . _ _ _
2.19	Toilet articles ( <i>soap, shampoo, etc.</i> )	_	_ _ _ . _ _ _	_ _ _ . _ _ _
2.20	Transportation	_	_ _ _ . _ _ _	_ _ _ . _ _ _
2.21	Cooking fuel,	_	_ _ _ . _ _ _	_ _ _ . _ _ _
2.22	Electricity and water	_	_ _ _ . _ _ _	_ _ _ . _ _ _
2.23	Communication / mobile phone load	_	_ _ _ . _ _ _	_ _ _ . _ _ _
2.24	Candle / gasoline (for lighting)	_	_ _ _ . _ _ _	_ _ _ . _ _ _
<p><b>2.25</b> Was the total amount spent (in 2.1 to 2.24) more or less than in the same time last year?</p> <p>01 = more, 02 = much more ; 03 = same ; 05 = less; 04 = much less <b>(circle only one)</b></p> <p>In the past <b>one month</b>, how much money did you spend (in Kip) on each of the following?</p> <p><b>(Use the following table, write 0 if no expenditure)</b></p>				
2.26	Clothing, shoes and other wear		_ _ _ . _ _ _	_ _ _ . _ _ _
2.27	Education ( <i>school fees/uniforms/supplies</i> )		_ _ _ . _ _ _	_ _ _ . _ _ _
2.28	Medical care		_ _ _ . _ _ _	_ _ _ . _ _ _
2.29	Furnishing and household equipment ( <i>such as household utensils, accessories, household linen, mosquito nets</i> )		_ _ _ . _ _ _	_ _ _ . _ _ _
2.30	Celebrations, social events, funerals, weddings		_ _ _ . _ _ _	_ _ _ . _ _ _
2.31	Livelihood inputs (e.g. tractor, truck, computer, fishing net,...)		_ _ _ . _ _ _	_ _ _ . _ _ _
2.32	<p>If your household is in need of financial credit, what sources would be available to you?</p> <p><b>(Circle all that apply)</b></p>		<p>01. Relatives / friends</p> <p>02. Charities / NGOs</p> <p>03. Local lender / pawn shop</p> <p>04 Bank</p> <p>05. Village fund</p>	

		06. No place to borrow 07. Other, specify _____	
<b>2.33</b>	Do you have any family members / relatives / friends working abroad?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes , <input type="checkbox"/> No	If no skip
<b>2.34</b>	Have they sent you any money?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes , <input type="checkbox"/> No	If no skip
<b>2.35</b>	How often do they send it?	<input type="checkbox"/> Once a year, <input type="checkbox"/> twice a year, <input type="checkbox"/> three or more times a year	
<b>2.36</b>	How much did they send the last time?	_ _ ,  _ _ _ ,  _   _ _  Kip	

### SECTION 3. COPING STRATEGY

<b>In the past 1 month, Did your household face a food shortage // any food shortages?</b>		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes (Please select any action below if you applied) <input type="checkbox"/> No (Skip to Section 8)
<input type="checkbox"/> 1. Spent the savings	<input type="checkbox"/> 11. Sent children to live with relatives or others	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2. Sold out household assets (cooking utensils, jewelry etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/> 12. Sold crop(s) before harvest	
<input type="checkbox"/> 3. Sold productive assets (land, agricultural tools, seeds or other input, machinery)	<input type="checkbox"/> 13. Casual labor	
<input type="checkbox"/> 4. Sale or consumption of livestock	<input type="checkbox"/> 14. Increased collecting NTFP, hunting or fishing	
<input type="checkbox"/> 5. Rented out land	<input type="checkbox"/> 15. Reduced expenditure on health and education	
<input type="checkbox"/> 6. Purchased food on credit	<input type="checkbox"/> 16. Relied on emergency support (Specify from who)	
<input type="checkbox"/> 7. Borrowed food	_____	
<input type="checkbox"/> 8. Borrowed money	<input type="checkbox"/> 17. Restricted consumption by adults in order for small children to eat	
<input type="checkbox"/> 9. Requested food from relatives or others	<input type="checkbox"/> 18. Reduced number of meals eaten in a day	
<input type="checkbox"/> 10. Some hh members migrated	<input type="checkbox"/> 19. Other, Specify _____	

**SECTION 4. ASSISTANCE**

<b>4.1</b>	Did any member of your household receive food aid during the shock(s) in the last 12 months?	01 = Yes	02 = No	If No → <b>4.2</b>
<b>4.1a</b>	If YES, please specify the type of program and the number of beneficiaries in your household.  (circle all that apply and specify number of beneficiaries in the last column)	01	General food distribution (FFR)	_ _
		02	School feeding	_ _
		03	Food for work/for assets	_ _
		04	Others, specify _____	_ _
<b>4.2</b>	Did any member of your household receive non-food aid during the shock(s) in the last 12 months?	01 = Yes	2 = No	NO → <b>Section 4.3</b>
<b>4.2a</b>	What type of assistance?  (Circle all that apply)	01	Money allowances / loans	
		02	Education (fees, books, uniforms)	
		03	Medical services (hygiene promotion / immunization, etc)	
		04	Construction material, building	
		05	Agricultural assistance (tools / seeds)	
		06	Others, specify _____	
<b>4.3</b>	From your HH's point of view, what are the priority needs in terms of assistance?			
	First priority .....			
	Second priority.....			
	Third priority.....			





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