

Drug Demand Reduction and Poverty Alleviation
for Ethnic Minorities (DDRPAEM)
Long District, Luang Nam Tha

Evaluation of
Phase III

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Table of Contents

Table of Contents.....	i
Acknowledgments	iv
Map of Area	v
Glossary of Terms & Abbreviations	vi
Chapter 1: Background	1
1.1	Context 1
1.2	Background 2
1.3	Project Evolution 2
Chapter 2: Methods.....	4
2.1	General 4
2.1.2.....	Data and Information 4
2.1.3.....	Team 5
2.1.4.....	Schedule 5
2.2	Sample Villages 5
2.3.1.....	Demographics 5
2.3	Study Process 7
Chapter 3: Livelihoods Systems.....	8
3.1	Holistic Concept 8
3.2.....	Culture and Livelihoods 8
3.2.....	Food Security 9
Chapter 4: Food Security Findings.....	11
4.1	Rice Self-Sufficiency 11
4.2.1.....	Production and Consumption 11
4.2.2.....	NTFPs 13
4.2.3.....	Livestock 14
4.2.....	Cash Income 14
4.3.....	Marketing 16
4.4.....	Cash Income as Substitute for Opium 17
4.5.....	Land Resources 18
4.5.1.....	Forest/Upland Land and LUP/LA 18
4.5.2.....	20
4.6.....	Rubber Dream 20
4.7.....	Agricultural Extension 22
4.8.....	Food for Work (FFW) 23
4.9.....	Access Roads 23
4.10.....	Others 23
Chapter 5: CB-DAC - Community-Based Drug Abuse Control Findings.....	24
5.1	Background 25
5.2 Working Approach Applied During 2000-2004	26
5.3.....	Relapses 26
5.4 Village Drug Control Network.....	27
5.4 Drug Control Program Structure	28

Chapter 6: Education Findings	29
6.1	Education Services 29
6.2	Teacher Training and Curriculum 30
6.3	Cluster Approach Schools 30
6.4	Drop-Outs 32
6.5	Non Cluster Approach Schools 32
6.6	Non-Formal Education 33
6.7 People's Participation in Education	33
6.8 People's Attitude on Value of Education	33
6.9	Coordinating with other Donors Funding Education 34
Chapter 7: Health Findings.....	34
7.1	Health Services 34
7.1.1.....	VHVs and TBAs 35
7.1.2.....	Health Stations 35
7.1.2.....	Revolving Fund 36
Chapter 8: Gender Findings	36
Chapter 9: Conclusions and Recommendations.....	38
9.1	Agricultural and Livelihoods 38
9.1.1.....	Food Security 38
9.1.2.....	Possible Cash Opportunities 38
9.1.3.....	Natural Resources 40
9.1.4.....	Extension System 40
9.2 CB-DAC.....	42
9.3 Health Services	43
9.4	Education Recommendations 43
9.5	Overall Recommendations 44

Tables

Table 2.1: Evaluation Schedule (15 March–21 April).....	5
Table 2.2: Sample Villages by Category.....	5
Table 2.3: Demographics 2008	6
Table 2.4: Changes in Village HH Membership 2007	6
Table 2.5: Socio-Economic Status of HHs.....	7
Table 3.1: Akha Days.....	9
Table 3.2: Akha Months	9
Table 3.3: Livelihoods Activities	10
Table 4.1: Rice Self Sufficiency in 2007	12
Table 4.2: Calculated Rice Production 2007 & Consumption in 2008.....	12
Table 4.3: Reliance on Farm vs Nature [%]	13
Table 4.4: Cash Income by Source in Sample Villages	14
Table 4.5: Livestock in Sample Villages	15
Table 4.6: Livestock Sales in Sample Villages	15
Table 4.7: Cash Income 2007 vs Opium Income 2002	17
Table 4.8: Land Use & Crop Production	18
Table 4.9: Paddy Land Use.....	20
Table 4.10: Rubber in Sampled Villages	21
Table 5.1: CB-DAC Activities.....	24
Table 5.2: Current Addicts in Villages.....	27

Appendices

Appendix I: Electronic Files of DDRPAEM Data	48
Appendix 2: TOR.....	48
Appendix III: NCA DDRPAEM LOGFRAME	55
Appendix IV: Land Use & Crop Production 2006.....	59
Appendix V: CB-DAC	59
Appendix VI.1: DDRAPAEM expenditures 2005-2007.....	61
Appendix VII: References.....	62

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Map of Area

Glossary of Terms & Abbreviations

ACF	Action Contre le Faim
B	abbreviation for <i>Baan</i> – village
DAFO	District Agriculture & Forestry Office/PAFO/MAF
DAO	District Administration Office
DCO	District Commerce Office
DDRPAEM	Drug Demand Reduction and Poverty Alleviation for Ethnic Minorities (Phase III) Project
DEO	District Education Office
DLWU	District Lao Women's Union
DPHO	District Public Health Office
DPWO	District Public Works Office
EEME	Empowerment of the Ethnic Minorities through Education Project
GIS	geographic information system
GPS	global positioning system
GOL	Government of Lao PDR
GTZ	Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit Gmb (German Organization for Technical Assistance & Cooperation)
HHs	households
IICE	Institute for International Cooperation in Education
LADP	Long Alternative Development Project
LOGFRAME	logical framework of the Project
LNFC	Lao National Front for Construction
LNT	Luang Nam Tha
LUP/LA	land use planning/land allocation
MAF	Ministry of Agriculture & Forestry
M	abbreviation for <i>meuang</i> – district
masl	meters above (mean) sea level
NAFES	National Agriculture & Forestry Extension Service/MAF (at Huay Nyang)
NAFRI	National Agriculture & Forestry Research Institute/MAF (at Dong Dok)
<i>nai baan</i>	village headman
NEM	new economic mechanism
NFE	non-formal education
NR {number}	national road (major land communication arteries throughout the nation)
NTFPs	non-timber forest products
OJT	on-job-training
PAFO	Provincial Agriculture & Forestry Office/MAF
PCO	Provincial Commerce Office
PCF	Pestalozzi Children's Foundation

PLUP	participatory land use planning
ProDoc	Project Document
RRA	rapid rural appraisal (an extractive tool for outsiders to better plan monitor & evaluate)
SSI	semi-structured interviews
TBA	traditional birth attendant (midwife)
TO	tincture of opium
VDC	Village Development Council
VHV	village health volunteer
VVV	village veterinary volunteer
WFP	World Food Programme

Chapter 1: Background

1.1 Context

Meuang Long (district) in Luang Nam Tha province is one of a total of 47 originally designated poorest districts of Laos in 2002. To the west it borders with Burma along the Mekong River as the nation's geographical and political border. For years the district was isolated until about 2000 when NR17 was upgraded as an all-weather road. The new road has brought major changes to the previously very isolated district. M Long town lies at an elevation of about 530 meters above (mean) sea level (masl), with most of its villages located in even higher elevation highlands/uplands where they practice shifting cultivation as the primary mode of cultivation.

In general Northern Laos is characterized by high ethnic diversity, and M Long is no exception. M Long along with M Sing, its northern neighbor, both boast the highest concentration of Akha (about 65% of the total population) of the Tibeto-Burman (T-B) ethnolinguistic superstock in the world. Other T-B groups include: Lahu Shii (or Kui as outsiders refer to them), Lahu Naa (or Museu as outsiders refer to them); Hmong-Mien ethnolinguistic superstock groups include: Lu Mien, Lantène Yao and Hmong; and from the Tai-Kadai ethnolinguistic superstock groups are: Tai Khao, Tai Daeng, Tai Dam and Tai Leu.¹

All over the Lao PDR upland and highland communities are in the midst of an near earth-shattering transition of economic and social change. For centuries farm households and communities have mostly been oriented towards the subsistence end of a continuum which is totally subsistence at one end and totally commercial at the other end.

Traditionally these livelihood systems have been based on swidden or shifting cultivation systems.² Farm households have mostly produced for their own family consumption and religious ritual requirements, and any surplus of small quantities leftover was taken to town to either barter trade or sell. Thus, food security, especially rice self-sufficiency has long been one of the basic challenges of upland/highland farmers in M Long.

They have been (and still are) highly dependent on the forest for food and materials necessary for their lives and more recently increasingly for cash income. The forest, actually a euphemism for natural resources, has historically been their *safety net* or insurance policy, upon which people could rely in the case of natural, social, economic and institutional perturbations.

Previously opium poppy cultivation was very much a key component of their upland rice-based farming/livelihood systems, from which opium resin could be extracted mostly for sale

¹It must be made clear that these groups belong to the Tai-Kadai superstock as do the Thai of Thailand, but they are not to be confused by the spelling Thai nor by the culture since many of them are fairly different in social structure, culture, religion and language.

²These two terms better describe these systems since the term *slash and burn*, which is in fact also used by farmers in sedentary systems throughout the world. Instead of using machetes to slash, farmers use rotary brush cutters or bush hogs, and then they burn the residues. Farm households primarily practice what is known as rotational shifting cultivation, where villages are stationary and they rotate their fields in a cycle of so many years. This leaves the previously fields to lie fallow in order for the soils and biomass to regenerate. The longer the fallow periods – the better the yields and lower weed infestation.

and limited consumption for medicinal purposes, and in some cases more serious consumption by addicts. The cash income from the sale of opium would then be used for the purchase of rice, other foodstuffs, clothing, medicines, etc.

Within this context, economic development is taking place with villagers actively seeking (of their own volition) to acquire more cash income to purchase the ever more abundant consumer and production goods coming from China and Thailand such as: hand-tractors, small Chinese pick-ups, motorcycles, television sets with satellite dishes, electrical appliances, water pumps, etc.³ Jacques Lemoine (2002), the renowned French anthropologist with much research experience in Laos, has so ably stated that "development is a natural trend of the so-called subsistence economy but it is voluntarily restricted in order to keep the balance between vital social assets."⁴

1.2 Background

Cash income is derived from the sale of crop, animal and NTFP commodities, which have a much lower value than opium resin, surely much more perishable in storage and transport, and have a much less assured market. So this means is that these upland/highland households are trying to get more cash income, which in many ways it is increasingly difficult.

Throughout this search for the trappings of modernization, most of these Akha and Lahu Shii still consider themselves as traditional in the sense of still holding common cultural spiritual values, attitudes and customs. Thus, far they seem to be relying on their time-tested traditions against the forces of modernization. They want development on their own terms.

So, with the pulls of development and the desire for the trappings of modernization upland/highland peoples (including those in the Project target area) are undergoing a sort of cognitive dissonance. This is illustrated by the stresses now being felt in the area, such as the trafficking of young women, methamphetamines (ATS), relapses of opium addicts, HIV/AIDS threats to ecosystems due to population growth, increased efforts cut the forest to plant such crops as para rubber, decreasing stream flows, and declining soil fertility in shifting cultivation areas.

Farm households are confronted with enormous risks related to the vagaries of markets, price volatility, engaging in contractual arrangements with complete strangers.

1.3 Project Evolution

From 1993-2004 NCA was the executing agency for a tripartite project for the Lao Commission for Drug Control (LCDC)/United Nations Office for Drug and Crime (UNODC)/Norwegian Church Aid in M Long. Its objectives were: to reduce/eradicate opium poppy cultivation, to reduce opium addiction, and to improve of livelihoods systems alternatives, eg, education, health, water and sanitation.

Since 2002 NCA has considered it same Project with different phases. The first phase of the Project was called Drug Demand Reduction and Supply Reduction in Northwestern Laos;

³These are the trappings of modernization along with houses with cement posts, toilets, zinc roofs, cement floors, bicycles, and appliances.

⁴Jacques Lemoine undertook this ethnography on the development of a Kim Di Mun (Lantène Yao) village not far from M Long town.

and the second phase started in 2002-2005, referred to as the Long Alternative Development Project (LADP), was completed in December 2004 as the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs funding came to an end and implementation in the first and second phase target villages was completed.

Due to the relative short period for achieving objectives set forth in LADP and the precarious livelihood situation in the area after opium eradication took place in 2003/2004 and 2004/2005, NCA decided to allocate its own funding for another three-year project so it designed and implemented its Drug Demand Reduction and Poverty Alleviation for Ethnic Minorities (DDRPAEM) Project (Phase III) extending from 2005-2007.

The DDRPAEM Project officially re-targeted to the more remote subdistricts (*khet*) of Bouak Bo and Soploy, where its villages had gradually been expanded to under LADP: 1) nine villages in 2002; twelve more in 2003; and finally five more in 2004. These subdistricts used to be some of the highest opium producing areas in M Long and in the province of Luang Nam Tha. Also, there were fairly high rates of opium addiction amongst the local population. The target villages were quite poor -- mostly Akha (90%) and the rest Lahu Shii. These 26 target villages are located between 30-60 kilometers from the district town.

DDRPAEM Phase III development objective *was to ensure food security and improve family income for target villages.*⁵ The Phase III budget was significantly lower than in the other phases, and there was no expatriate chief technical advisor as in previous phases. In 2005 an HIV and AIDS awareness targeted the Akha population as a separate project with funding from a US based INGO and added to the totality of the NCA operation in M Long. In 2006 an education project with funding from INGOs in Switzerland and Norway was started working with schools in most of the 26 target villages. Although managed as separate projects, these projects were seen to contribute to the overall development of the livelihood in the Bouak Bo and Soploy areas. Evaluations of these two projects were conducted in November 2007 and February 2008 (see References).

DDRPAEM has been working actively to increase rice production through small-scale irrigation schemes, paddy land expansion, trying-out new seed varieties, and training of farmers. Alternative crops have been introduced to improve food security, crops, vegetables, fruit trees, and fish ponds -- also emphasizing nutrition. Alternative income sources, including cash crops, livestock, and NTFPs have been promoted. Land use planning (LUP) has been conducted in order to attempt a more rational use of resources and hopefully more sustainable use of land.

The Project has facilitated establishment of social infrastructure in the form of access roads for livelihoods, drug treatment, health and education services. A 63 kilometer dirt road was completed from the district town through these two subdistricts (*khet*) to Mekong River in the north, also with access roads to villages. Two sub-centers at Soploy (B Pha Ngua) and Bouak Bo (B Chamai) were constructed in each *khet* (cluster villages) with offices, staff houses, meeting rooms, store rooms, and a health station. Two cluster schools have been established, and teachers have been trained in child rights, management of cluster schools and multi-grade teaching. Villagers, as well as district staff, have been trained in agriculture as well as other sectors. In all target villages, village development committees (VDC) have been supported and trained.

⁵So the period of NCA Project implementation in M Long has now been a cumulative total of fourteen years.

By the end of 2005 opium cultivation had been drastically reduced, primarily due to the eradication campaign of the Lao Government, where many households producing opium had lost this high value source of income. Opium addiction has been reduced significantly, due to the methods of community based drug abuse control (CB-DAC), where village detoxification camps, with full support and participation from the total village, was the key element. All 26 project target villages, and a number of other villages in the district, have undergone detoxification with a relatively low level of relapses. In 2005 the number of opium addicts in M Long were reduced by more than 60 percent as compared to January 2002 (1,500 addicts). Presently in the target areas there are still around 60 addicts. New social threats to community well-being has emerged over the last 3-4 years and the Project has responded to the use of ATS (methamphetamines) by raising awareness on the risks and dangers related to use of ATS and other drugs.

In short, the key features of the Project strategy in Phase III have been partnership and approach. There is a three-way partnership in the Project between NCA, district government, and villages. The approach has stressed participatory planning, reporting and evaluation by the three actors. The key to this is the village level, where it all begins with a participatory village plan (PVP). Thus, a priority has been given to strengthening the village development committee (VDC). Concurrently, it has strengthened community leadership and management skills, meanwhile assisting them with their problem-solving skills. The result has been an attempt to undertake community participatory planning, monitoring and evaluation [PME].

At the same time district level organization, management and human resource development capacity is being strengthened through Project activities and processes.

Chapter 2: Methods

2.1 General

Thus purpose of this evaluation has been to assess to which extent the project has achieved its objectives and outputs and lead to the desired impacts. It will also assess the appropriateness, effectiveness and efficiency of the strategies and methods in the project, use of resources, the project organizational and management set up and the mode of cooperation with the partners (cf TOR in Appendix II).

It should be mentioned that this target area is a very dynamic situation. There have been Project interventions undertaken within a milieu of massive change in such remote districts, such as, M Long. So it is somewhat difficult to determine the affects of the Project. However, the evaluation team tried to discern the impacts of the Project in all the dimensions.

2.1.2 Data and Information

The Project has generated considerable reports including much secondary data as seen in the electronic references in Appendix I. The main types of data generated by the Project are from the two socio-economic surveys (2003 and 2007).

The primary data gathered by the team are both qualitative and quantitative data. The reliability of this data is as good as the memories of the respondents. In the case of the the Akha and Lahu villagers, the information obtained very much depended upon how well we could communicate our questions. However, this only illustrates the differences in world

views expressed in the Lao language versus world views and subsequent language of the Akha and Lahu villagers.

2.1.3 Team

The external evaluation team consisted of the following members:

- ! Dr Charles Alton, Team Leader
- ! Ms Pornthip Rattanakeree, Team Member
- ! Ms Ajaan Viengmala Vangmua, Team Member

2.1.4 Schedule

The timetable of the evaluation is illustrated in the Table 2.1 below.

Table 2.1: Evaluation Schedule (15 March–21 April)

Date	Item	Location
11-15 March	read documents and make preparations	Vientiane
16 March	travel to Huay Xai & M Long	Bokeo & M Long
17-29 March	field work	6 villages in target area
30 March - 1 April	data entry, analysis & preparation for presentation	M Long
2 April	presentation at Project office & travel to Huay Xai	M Long & Bokeo
3 April	travel to Vientiane & begin analysis & write-up	Vientiane
4 -9 April	analysis, write-up & preparation on oral presentation	Vientiane
10 April	oral report to NCA	Vientiane
11-21 April	final write-up	Vientiane

2.2 Sample Villages

In consultation with Project staff, especially Mr Khampheuane Kingsada, the outgoing NPD and veteran of six years, criteria were developed to select villages where the Project had intervened. Because of the time constraint it was determined that the team had time to sample only six villages or three in each khet (subdistrict or cluster). The selection criteria were according the extent, which they had been affected by Project interventions: 1) considerable transformation; 2) average transformation; and 3) minimal transformation. This cross section was by Project leadership considered as reasonably representative of all the target villages.

Table 2.2: Sample Villages by Category

	Most Affected	Mid-Level Affect	Least Affected
Bouak Bo	B Ai Saeng	B Phaa Ngua	B Mekong Tai
Soploy	B Chamai	B Saam Meuang Kao	B Chapii

2.3.1 Demographics

A brief overview of the demographics of the six sample villages can be seen in Tables 2.2-2.5 below. None of these were very big villages. Three of the villages B Ai Saeng, B Mekong Tai, and B Saam Meuang Kao have all been consolidated with other villages, however the data in the following tables only reflects each of these individual villages.⁶

Table 2.3: Demographics 2008

					Full	Time	Part
	Total	Total			Time	Healthy	Time
Village	HHs	Fam	Popl		Labor	[%]	Labor
Pha Ngua	60	75	163	368			
Ai Saeng	22	33	64	144	64		
Mekong Tai	41	51	109	259	80		
Chamai	52	67	163	322	104	80%	
Saam Meuang Kao	27	34	81	150	49		30
Chapii	36	40		220			

The data on numbers of people born and died are not very accurate, but that of in and out migration are probably fairly reliable. As we can see there is quite a bit of population movement. Most of this migration, whether in or out or recent or historically, is related to the attraction of livelihoods perceived opportunities elsewhere.

Chinese and the Keumin special autonomous zone in eastern Burma have been seen as a pulling factor for out-migration in exploring for possible job employment opportunities. There is evidence that young Akha girls have crossed into Myanmar and China.⁷ There have been two pull factors for this migration, eg, voluntary and being convinced by a middle person. This evaluation mission is too short to have much of a deep assessment on this issue.

It is unfortunate that the data on births and deaths is so unreliable since we would have liked to calculate natural population growth rates. We also would have liked to have examined child and mother morbidity and mortality.

Table 2.4: Changes in Village HH Membership 2007

			Mothers	Infants		
	Total	Died	Died	Migration		
Village	Born	Died	[<42 days]	[<1 yr]	In	Out
Pha Ngua		4		2	5	8
Ai Saeng	9	4	1	2	0	0
Mekong Tai	5	3		2	0	17
Chamai	6	4		1	2	7
Saam Meuang Kao	1	1			21	

⁶This consolidation later caused problems in trying to determine land use in the individual villages.

⁷In B Phaya Luang Kham Ping Neua, three women have been working in Soploy at B Keumin and regularly coming on and going. In B Phaya Luang Kham Ping Tai, two women have been working. At B Na Lung Pha Mai, one girl has returned with a negative experience. Two girls each from B Pha Ngua and B Somphan Kao and one each B Mekong Tai, B Cha Khamtaan, Chawat and B Donchai

			Mothers	Infants		
		Total	Died	Died	Migration	
Village	Born	Died	[<42 days]	[<1 yr]	In	Out
Chapii	13	10	0	2	0	7

The VDCs and the headman (*nai baan*) estimated the various household categories (better-off, mid-level, less well-off) of households in the village. On average for the six sample villages 24 percent of the households were better-off, 24 percent were mid-level, and 52 percent were less well-off. This latter figure is rather typical in these upland/highland areas.

If we examine poverty as villagers view it themselves, where they rank the poor as the bottom portion of the less well-off category. These are usually households who do not have adequate rice land to feed themselves, inadequate labor, little or no large livestock, and a rather temporary house. If we view the poverty households as a portion of the total it was 15.5 percent, or on the other hand as a portion of the less well-off households, it was 30.1 percent.

Table 2.5: Socio-Economic Status of HHs

	Total	Better-		Less	
		Off	Mid	Well-off	Poor**
Village	HHs	HHs	HHs	HHs	HHs
Pha Ngua	60	3	10	47	9
Ai Saeng	22	10	6	6	6
Mekong Tai	41	5	15	21	10
Chamai	52	10	7	35	8
Saam Meuang Kao	27	20		7	3
Chapii	36	10	19	7	1
Total	238	58	57	123	37
Total (%)	100.0%	24.4%	23.9%	51.7%	15.5%
Poor % of less well-off					30.1%

2.3 Study Process

Basically an rapid rural appraisal (RRA) type of study process was used in the evaluation with its accompanying techniques. The main one being that of a semi-structured interviews (SSI), which has been time tested by anthropologists. There were four main sources of primary data and information: villagers, village leadership, GOL staff, and NCA staff.

The team had a prior appointment with villagers. We first met with key village leaders, both formal and informal, including the village development committee (VDC), respected elders, the women's group, and others to gather initial village level data. We spoke about gender with the whole groups since we felt it is a crosscutting issue. After about an hour of overview information, we split up into focus groups to explore agricultural livelihoods, drug control, education, and health. Relevant village resource persons were involved with each of the focus groups.

The drug control, education, and health focus groups examined mostly qualitative process information. However, agricultural livelihoods focus group examined some quantitative data to try to estimate food security, ie, rice self-sufficiency and cash income of the village; and then qualitative information about the planning of activities.

GOL staff from the various district offices (eg, DAFO, DEO, DPHO, and DCDC) both in the Project and in their home offices were interviewed about Project activities, constraints and opportunities for GOL institutional sustainability of activities both in the coming Phase IV and afterwards.

Chapter 3: Livelihoods Systems

3.1 Holistic Concept

The village and the Project activities and processes will be viewed in this evaluation holistically under the concept of the livelihoods system used in the evaluation as illustrated by Figure 1 below. Since a livelihood system is all-encompassing, covering socio-cultural, including religious, economic and institutional factors; and bio-physical dimensions. All the Project components interact to improve livelihoods without reliance on opium. The intermediaries in the process are the VDCs, which work with GOL staff and NCA staff to undertake the participatory village plans (PVP), implement activities and then participatory monitoring and evaluation (PME).

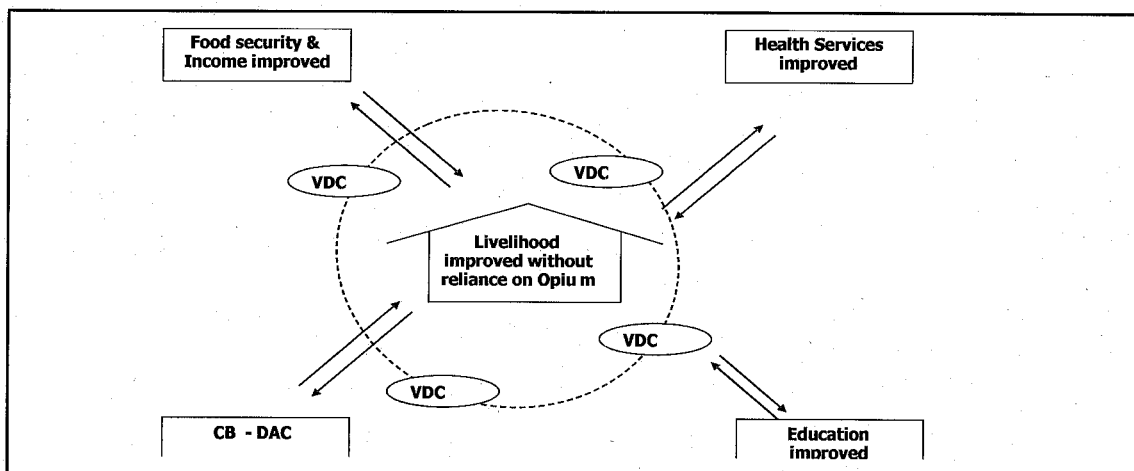


Figure 1: Livelihood System Diagram

3.2 Culture and Livelihoods

It almost goes without saying that culture and livelihoods are intricately related. The rice cycle and the utility it serves in satisfying a household's and community needs is a key event that determines all labor required, rituals and ceremonies, and various related customs. This is very obvious when one encounters any of these villages, be they Akha or Lahu Shii. And the Project and GOL staff must be cognizant of them as they assist in the planning, implementing and evaluating of activities.

We will present a brief overview of the Akha calendar as an illustration of the importance of these cultural events.

First of all, the Akha have a twelve day week. The days of the week are represented by various animals. There are various things which one can and cannot do (taboos) on the various days. We did not have time elicit many of them. For sure days four and eleven are rest days, and there certainly are other with taboos, depending upon such things as family or clan rituals, deaths, and other key life cycle events.

Akha years come in twelve year cycles, and supposedly there are two cycles in a longer 24-year cycle. These years are classified according to animal totems.

Table 3.1: Akha Days

Day	phonetic	English	Animal	Activities	Year
1	l	long	rhino		2000
2	s	sae	insect ?		2001
3	an	anong	type horse		2002
4	y	yaw		rest day; gather vegs OK	2003
5	miao	miao	monkey		2004
6	ra	ra	chicken		2005
7	khèu	khèu	dog		2006
8	leua	leua	pig		2007
9	ho	ho	rabbit		2008
10	nyoo	nyoo	buffalo		2009
11	halaa	halaa	tiger	rest day; can't gather firewood; no work in <i>hai</i>	2010
12	taya là	taya l	mule		2011

Akha months are basically lunar months with the first month beginning with the new moon in November. However, the new year is not celebrated until some auspicious day for each village in their third month, ie, January. Their fifth month is important since they burn the *hai* for the coming season, and they rebuild their village gates, both male and female. The swing festival, in months 9/10 (August/September) is also a very important social and community event since they perform a ritual for the village (location) spirit (*phii mone*) who influences their likelihood activities. Then they have the ritual in October for the rice spirit to influence a good harvest.

Outside of these the various families and clans perform rituals for their ancestors, referred to in Lao as *phii heuan*. These came come at any time of illness, deaths, marriage or other occasions.

Table 3.2: Akha Months

Month			
Akha	Lao	Intern'al	Activities
3	2	Jan	Akha new year
4	3	Feb	cut <i>hai</i>
5	4	Mar	burn <i>hai</i> ; kam baan (village gates – both male & female; <i>liang phii mone</i> , village spirit)

Month			Activities
Akha	Lao	Intern'al	
6	5	Apr	continue to burn <i>hai</i>
7	6	May	plant rice in <i>hai</i>
8	7	Jun	weeding
9	8	Jul	weeding
10	9	Aug	weeding
11	10	Sep	swing festival; exorcize phii out of village; paint faces; spear grasshoppers on village gate
12	11	Oct	new rice ritual; kill pig for rice spirit; harvest WS rice
1	12	Nov	harvest WS rice
2	1	Dec	begin search for next season's <i>hai</i>

The point here is that villagers definitely have calendars which are important in the cultures, ie, in their lives and livelihoods. These should be heeded when we plan interventions *for* communities rather than *with* communities.

3.2 Food Security

The food security objectives for the Project from the LOGFRAME as follows: 1) increased rice production; 2) increased production of nutritious food like vegetables, fruit, fish; and 3) income from cash crops, livestock raising, and selling of forest products, to ensure an economic situation for each family that can provide food and other basic needs.

The food security Project activities for Phase III are presented in Table 3.3 below with an indication of evidence of implementation from interviews conducted in sample villages.

Table 3.3: Livelihoods Activities

Activity	Rating	Comments
1. Follow up the land use planning done by LADP	4	at least this slowed down the cutting of the forest; in villages such as B Ai Saeng land use was returned to the customary users, which highly significant
2. Support villagers with constructing and improving irrigation facilities for paddy rice wherever there is a potential, and with paddy land expansion	4	
3. Train villagers in wet season and dry season lowland paddy farming techniques, including water management	4	dry season irrigation was impossible due to the lack of water
4. Assist the villagers in finding improved rice varieties for upland and lowland paddy	4	could have done more on upland varieties
5. Introduce and give training in household gardening for vegetables and fruit	4	
6. Support villagers in fish raising	4	problems with fish ponds holding water
7. Introduce and improve cash crops like maize, sesame, beans, ginger and other suitable crops for marketing and for feeding livestock	4	marketing problems with maize & ginger

Activity	Rating	Comments
8. Training in grafting and propagation techniques, and production of seedlings of fruit trees and timber trees	6	not sure of the extent use
9. Introduce and give training in soil and water saving techniques (terracing, contour planting, check dams), and support for construction	4	
10. Introduce and give training in sloping agricultural technology and improved soil management including composting	6	not sure of the extent use of soil management
11. Train capable farmers (men and women) in agriculture extension and veterinary work	4	
12. Train and support Village Veterinaries to provide vaccination and avoid livestock diseases	4	
13. Establish revolving funds to facilitate livestock vaccination	4	
14. Establish buffalo revolving fund in villages with lowland paddy and only a few buffaloes	4	very popular with farm households
15. Establish cattle revolving fund in villages with a high potential for cattle raising	4	very popular with farm households
16. Improve techniques for keeping and feeding livestock	4	needs more work
17. Encourage harvesting and marketing of non-timber forest products in a sustainable way	6	from information given not sure villagers were convinced
18. Give training and facilitate collection and production of dyeing products (indigo plant etc.) that is needed for silk production in Luang Nam Tha	?	not sure
19. Continue to develop model farmers in each village, and demonstration gardens in the 2 sub-centers	4	many of misunderstanding of model farmers real roles
20. Per diem and allowance to 5 agriculture district staff including 1 sector leader to work full time with agriculture matters	4	
21. Provide one Agriculture Office and 2 assistants	4	
22. Provide one Project Engineer and 2 short term assistants (5 months each)	4	

Rating: 4 – completed; 6 – partially completed; 0 – not done; ? – not sure

Chapter 4: Food Security Findings

As mentioned previously food security basically has two components in the case of farm households in upland/highland areas, such as the Project's target villages: 1) rice and consumption of other food stuffs produced on-farm or gathered in the forest; and 2) cash income earned from the sale of either farm-produced products or non-timber forest products (NTFPs). This cash income is used to purchase whatever food is necessary and the remainder is used for other basic minimum needs.

4.1 Rice Self-Sufficiency

4.2.1 Production and Consumption

As in virtually everywhere in rural Asia upland/highland farm households of the DDRPAEM sub-districts target villages in Soploy and Bouak Bo, rice self-sufficiency is foremost in the livelihoods production decisions – commonly known as *food (ie, rice first)*. For centuries these have been upland rice-based⁸ swidden farming/livelihood systems.

We asked the VDCs and respected elders about rice self-sufficiency in 2007. The responses can be seen in Table 4.1 below. On average 79 percent of the households are rice sufficient at least for nine months or greater. The range is from 48.1 percent in B Chamai to 100 percent in B Mekong Tai. This accomplishment is amazing in the context of uplands/highlands anywhere in the Lao PDR.

Table 4.1: Rice Self Sufficiency in 2007

Village	Total HHs	Households					Ratio
		Sufficient [months]					.9 mos/total
		<3	3-5	6-8	9-12	>12	
Pha Ngua	60			8	48	4	86.7%
Ai Saeng	22		1	6	3	12	68.2%
Mekong Tai	41				21	20	100.0%
Chamai	52			17	15	10	48.1%
Saam Meuang Kao	27		7			20	74.1%
Chapii	37				7	29	97.3%
Average							79.1%

As a check we calculated the consumption requirements against total rice production in the six villages. The continued importance of the contribution of upland rice production (88.4 %) to total rice production, where the upland rice contribution is less than 94 percent in only two of the six villages (see Table 4.2). Three of the Project activities were directly related to upland rice cultivation. Irrigated paddy land makes up an average of 11.6 percent of total rice production in these villages, and the Project undertook no less than four activities to increase paddy rice production. As we mentioned before this paddy land production has gone virtually nothing to the present area cultivated.

⁸Sometimes this is referred to a dry rice since it relies on rainfed water, as opposed to lowland banded paddy rice which has more control of rainfall or irrigation water.

Of the six sampled villages three have attained a calculated overall rice self-sufficiency⁹ and the other three are approaching it. B Chapii by far has the highest rice surplus with almost a ten month supply.¹⁰ At the other extreme is B Mekong Tai, which experiences an village 4.8 month deficit, the most of any of the sampled villages. The average surplus of the six villages is 9.1 tons, which is enough for 1.6 months consumption. This is highly significant progress.

This rice production increase was also verified by villagers as one of the key changes in their livelihoods systems in the past five years or so, which they attribute to the efforts of the Project.

Table 4.2: Calculated Rice Production 2007 & Consumption in 2008

	Total	Rice	WS		Total	Rice	Rice
	Popl	Req	Paddy	Upland	Prodn	S(D)	S/(D)
Village	[#]	[tons]	[tons]	[tons]	[tons]	[tons]	[mos]
Pha Ngua	368	129	36.0	108.0	144.0	15.2	1.4
			25.0%	75.0%	100.0%		
Al Saeng	144	50	2.2	61.2	63.4	13.0	3.1
			3.5%	96.5%	100.0%		
Mekong Tai	259	91	0.4	61.5	61.9	(28.7)	(3.8)
			0.6%	99.4%	100.0%		
Chamai	322	113	19.6	86.4	106.0	(6.7)	(0.7)
			18.5%	81.5%	100.0%		
Saam Meuang Kao	150	53	0.0	51.1	51.1	(1.4)	(0.3)
			0.0%	100.0%	100.0%		
Chapii	220	77	7.6	132.9	140.5	63.5	9.9
			5.4%	94.6%	100.0%		
<i>Average</i>	<i>243.8</i>	<i>85.3</i>	<i>11.0</i>	<i>83.5</i>	<i>94.5</i>	<i>9.1</i>	<i>1.6</i>
			11.6%	88.4%	100.0%		

Thus, the team without any reservations attributes these increases in production and rice self-sufficiency directly to the Project. Without the project these achievements would not have likely been disseminated to the peoples in the target area.

4.2.2 NTFPs

As for most farm households in the Lao PDR, and especially those in the uplands/highlands, the importance of non-timber forest products (NTFPs) must be emphasized for their contribution to diets.¹¹ From Table 4.3 below we see the averages of the six sample villages of sources of food produced on farm versus those gathered from nature, ie, the forest. We can see the changes from the year 2000 to the present. Meats are in the various forms of wildlife from larger and medium-sized animals (eg, deer, barking deer, wild bovines) to

⁹Rice consumption is assumed to be an average of 350 kg/person/year. This has been derived from a number studies both in Laos and NE Thailand and is the figure accepted by the MAF.

¹⁰As an illustration of the importance of upland rice production B Chapii relies on upland rice for 94.6 percent of its rice supply.

¹¹This has been scientifically documented in Sekong by Jutta Krahn (2005).

smaller animals (eg, squirrels, civets, monkeys), birds, snakes and amphibians. Wild vegetation is gathered according to the seasons, and it includes various types of wild herbs and leafy vegetables, roots and tubers, mushrooms, wild fruits and berries, and the myriad of bamboo, rattan and other types of shoots. The Project provided training on sustainable harvesting for both home consumption and sale.

Additionally, NTFPs have traditionally been a *safety net* for villagers in the case of poor rice harvests, ie, insufficient rice; other natural and family crises. They always can go to the forest to supplement their diets with fish, meat, and vegetables from nature's bounty in time of shortages and crises.

However, now that these normal food sources and safety nets are being jeopardized with growing population pressure, destruction of forests for whatever reason, and the opening of markets for NTFPs.

Table 4.3: Reliance on Farm vs Nature [%]

Village	Item	2000		2008	
		forest	farm	forest	farm
Pha Ngua	fish	90	10	0	0
	meat	90	10	20	80
	vegs	80	20	40	60
Ai Saeng	fish	100	0	0	100
	meat	90	10	20	80
	vegs	95	5	80	20
Mekong Tai	fish	100	0	100	0
	meat	90	10	90	10
	vegs	90	10	90	10
Chamai	fish	100	0	80	20
	meat	70	30	90	10
	vegs	50	50	50	50
Saam Meuang Kao	fish	100	0	100	0
	meat	70	30	80	20
	vegs	30	70	30	70
Chapii	fish	100	0	100	0
	meat	90	10	80	20
	vegs	90	10	90	10
<i>Overall Average</i>		<i>84.7</i>	<i>15.3</i>	<i>63.3</i>	<i>31.1</i>

4.2.3 Livestock

Traditionally small (poultry) and mid-sized (pigs and goats) livestock have been used for household consumption and for sacrifice in religious and livelihoods rituals. The Akha and Lahu Shii usually do not sacrifice cattle or buffalo for religious occasions, as do most Mon-Khmer ethnic groups – only for family or community events.

The Project has supported the establishment of animal funds by supplying funds for livestock purchase for a household, after which the mother had off-spring, the farm household would keep the calf (if female) or piglets and then pass it on to another household to rear and bear off-spring. The DAFO (funded by the Project) has regularly provided vaccination services through the village veterinary volunteers (VVs) twice a year in the target villages. They

were trained and provided with support. Villagers are extremely pleased with these activities to assist them in livestock rearing. However, it appears that poultry have not regularly been vaccinated – usually within five days of birth.

Because of problems with memory recall we are unsure exactly how much home consumption of farm-raised livestock has increased, but for sure it has increased. And this can be attributed directly to the Project's animal funds and support of veterinary services as mentioned above.

4.2 Cash Income

The advent of the new economic mechanism (NEM) in 1986 officially brought in the opening of markets at the national level, however, it was not until after 1990 that this began to occur in many locations, especially in mountainous areas.. In the Project target area it surely it did not occur until after the access main access road was cut into mountain sides in both of these two khets at the beginning of this century with assistance from NCA's previous phases.

On average the greatest source of cash income was NTFPs (49.9 %), of which wild tea (referred to as imperial tea) was predominant, followed by the sale of various bark products, broom straw (*dok khaem*), various types of rattan and bamboo shoots, mushrooms, etc (see Table 4.4 below). Secondly, the sale of livestock (35.4 %) brought considerable income to most villages. This mostly amounted to the sale of large animals (cattle and buffalo) and pigs. Thirdly was the sale of other crops, eg, corn, soybeans, ginger, garlic, and peanuts. Farmers cultivated corn and garlic at the promise of merchants to buy, but most were only disappointed after harvest when either they refused to buy or at ridiculously low prices.

Table 4.4: Cash Income by Source in Sample Villages

Item							Total	%
	Pha Ngua	Ai Saeng	Mekong Tai	Chamai	Sam Meuang Kao	Chapii	Income Kip	
Rice	5,100,000	1,000,000	0	4,500,000	2,250,000	0	12,850,000	0.9%
Other Crops	102,125,000	0	0	350,000	0	0	102,475,000	7.0%
Livestock	71,900,000	170,000,000	20,850,000	172,100,000	64,000,000	17,900,000	516,750,000	35.4%
NTFPs	18,000,000	7,500,000	1,038,000	102,000,000	581,000,000	11,500,000	721,038,000	49.4%
Handicrafts	0	700,000	0	1,000,000	51,700,000	0	53,400,000	3.7%
Other Sources	11,495,000	2,150,000	500,000	32,402,000	5,150,000	0	51,697,000	3.5%
Total	208,620,000	181,350,000	22,388,000	312,352,000	704,100,000	29,400,000	1,458,210,000	100.0%

The village incomes ranged from B Mekong Tai (Kip 22.4m) to B Saam Meuang Kao (Kip 704.1m) for an average of Kip 243m per village.

Livestock are becoming increasingly more important as sources of protein and income for households in the study villages. Reportedly these numbers of farm animals have increased in recent years (see Table 4.5 below). Of course, small (poultry)¹² and mid-sized (pigs and

¹²The chickens in this area are some of the most beautiful native chickens which we have ever seen.

goats) livestock have much higher turnover rates due to shorter gestations and provide regular cash income if they can sell them. All households raise poultry for mostly consumption and pigs for both consumption and sale. Usually it is the better-off and mid-level households who raise large livestock. These animals are mostly a form of wealth (capital) which can be liquidated¹³ when needed for marriages, illness, education, motorcycle or farm equipment purchases, and other needs. They still are not viewed as economic enterprises whereby a household can get regular income as in small and mid-sized livestock.

Table 4.5: Livestock in Sample Villages

village	fish ponds		buffalo		cattle		pigs		goats		poultry		horse		dogs	
	#	HHs	#	HHs	#	HHs	#	HHs	#	HHs	#	HHs	#	HHs	#	HHs
Pha Ngua	6	6	37	18	60	38	300	60			3,500	60	3	3		
Ai Saeng	6	6	13	8	49	21	128	22	34							
Mekong Tai	2	1	10	10	15	3	10	41	20	5	200	41	4	4	80	4
Chamai	1	1	70	23	151	14	400	52	50	15	1,000	52	2	1	200	52
Saam Meuang Kao	1	1	8	20	150	27	400	27	10	6	700	27				
Chapii	0	0	18	4	40	24	150	36	0		250	36				

Livestock sales details are seen in Table 4.6 below. These sales range from Kip 17.9m in B Chapii to Kip 172.1m in B Chamai. On average the sale of buffaloes amount to 42.6 percent of total livestock sales, followed by pigs (34.9%), cattle (12%), dogs (4.6%), poultry (3.7%), and goats (2.2%).

Table 4.6: Livestock Sales in Sample Villages

	B Pha Ngua		B Ai Saeng		B Mekong Tai		B Chamai		B Saam Meuang Kao		B Chapii		Grand Total	Total
	Qty	Income	Qty	Income	Qty	Income	Qty	Income	Qty	Income	Qty	Income		
	[#]	Kip	[#]	Kip	[#]	Kip	[#]	Kip	[#]	Kip	[#]	Kip	Kip	[%]
Buffalo	5	25,000,000	8	120,000,000	2	8,000,000	8	24,000,000	10	40,000,000	1	3,000,000	220,000,000	42.6
Cattle	10	20,000,000	80	12,000,000	2	3,000,000	12	15,600,000	6	9,000,000	2	2,400,000	62,000,000	12
Pig	30	21,000,000	100	30,000,000	10	8,000,000	150	105,000,000	15	9,000,000	15	7,500,000	180,500,000	34.9
Poultry	200	5,000,000	15	3,000,000	30	600,000	250	7,500,000	100	3,000,000			19,100,000	3.7
Goats					5	1,250,000	40	10,000,000					11,250,000	2.2
Dogs	10	900,000	50	5,000,000			100	10,000,000	20	3,000,000	50	5,000,000	23,900,000	4.6
		71,900,000		170,000,000		20,850,000		172,100,000		64,000,000		17,900,000	516750000	100

It should be mentioned, that the current practices of not fencing off the areas planted to para rubber, is a disincentive for large livestock rearing. It is reported that some villagers are

¹³They are seen as *insurance policies* so-to-speak. Naturally all other households desire to obtain large animals to rear.

selling off their large livestock because of problems with the destruction of rubber seedlings and their subsequent unfair compensation for the rubber seedlings.¹⁴

4.3 Marketing

The Project gave assistance in trying to get the private sector involved in the purchase of village commodities. It was mostly done at the informal level with no binding contracts.

The marketing of these commodities is done in basically two directions. For Khet Soploy most NTFPs, crops and limited livestock are transported up to the Mekong River and then board boats either up river to China or down river to Thailand. From Bouak Bo most goods (except for most NTFPs), including livestock and tea, are transported down to M Long or to M Sing. There are five mid-sized trucks owned by Akha people from the B Pha Ngua area, who collect mostly NTFPs mostly from the Soploy area, but on occasion do come down to around Khet Bouak Bo as far as Chamai or nearby. Regularly¹⁵ there are three or four different merchants from M Long and M Sing, who come up during the dry season (DS) to sell consumer goods up to the two khets: instant noodles, salt, MSG, sugar, clothing, soaps, and cigarettes. They even take orders of items to bring up. Then on their return trip they buy pigs, cattle and buffaloes to sell to slaughter houses (abattoirs) in M Long and M Sing.

We would like to emphasize tea production and sales as a promising commodity. Imperial tea, as it is referred to, now grows wild in many of the target villages. It is not certain whether this tea is indigenous to the area or whether it was introduced perhaps in the 18th century when many of the Akha and Lahu Shii migrated in through Burma – originally from southern China. Four of the sample villages sold tea in 2007 with B Saam Meuang Kao selling Kip 450m. A Chinese (Haw) company has set-up two small tea processing factories in 2007 in B Chamai and B Saam Meuang Kao. The factory is comprised of: a rolling machine, a frying (roasting) machine, a grading machine and a drying facility. While we are not sure of the amount of investment, we would estimate it under \$15,000 for the equipment and facilities in each small factory. At the time of our field visits these factories were not open since it was still off-season.

At least the factory in B Chamai has encouraged villagers to plant new tea seedlings, most of which are their own imperial tea, and others are Chinese varieties. It was assumed that the Chinese would purchase the tea later, but again farmers had not contracts.

Farm households received a farm gate price Kip 5,000/kg for raw imperial tea, which seems quite acceptable. However, at present there is a monopsony, ie, a single buyer for tea in the target villages, this of course makes farmers extremely vulnerable.

4.4 Cash Income as Substitute for Opium

When they cut our poppies, it was like cutting off our arms and legs!

Box 1: Village *nai baan* (headman) comment

¹⁴Elsewhere it is usually the responsibility of crop farmers to fence off their land. Of course here the Chinese company does not consider the traditional free grazing of livestock in this part of Laos.

¹⁵These traders make about two trips per month and stay 3-4 days per trip from late October through early May, depending upon the rains.

First of all, we want re-emphasize the previous importance of opium poppy cultivation and subsequent sale of opium resin in household's livelihoods systems, and they reportedly were in the state of shock with the sudden turn of events back in 2002 as the above quote indicates.

As previously mentioned the Project's development goal is to increase livelihoods without opium. Thus, it is not only economic forces have to be overcome but years (perhaps centuries) of cultural influence of opium poppy cultivation.

As we compare current cash incomes from alternatives with that of opium in the last year of cultivation in 2002. So we used the quantities reportedly produced in 2002 and valued it at current (2008) opium resin prices Kip 9m/kg (US\$ 1,034/kg). Of the six sampled villages only one, B Saam Meuang Kao is earns more than enough cash income to substitute for the sale of opium (see Table 4.7 below). Its 2007 alternative cash income earnings in 2007 were Kip 704.1m or about seven times that of opium, whereas the value of opium sold in 2002 was Kip 120.6m. Secondly, in B Chamai's current cash income is slightly less than that of 2002 opium earnings with the remaining four villages cash incomes range from one tenth to six tenths that of alternative 2007 income.

Table 4.7: Cash Income 2007 vs Opium Income 2002

	2008 Opium Prices		
	Cash	Opium 2002	
	Alternatives	Cash	
Villages	2007	(@2008 prices)	Difference
Pha Ngua	208,620,000	942,300,000	(733,680,000)
Ai Saeng	181,350,000	296,280,000	(114,930,000)
Mekong Tai	22,388,000	183,420,000	(161,032,000)
Chamai*	312,352,000	315,000,000	(2,648,000)
Sam Meuang Kao	704,100,000	110,700,000	593,400,000
Chapii*	29,400,000	180,000,000	(150,600,000)
Average	243,035,000	337,950,000	(94,915,000)

NB: * Study data based on recall of 2002 since no survey data available on these two villages.

Of course, this calculation does not take into account the fact that as households have become rice sufficient, and they need less cash income to buy rice for their consumption needs. Additionally they have more animals for consumption. Thus, their overall food security has increased.

4.5 Land Resources

It is very difficult to determine overall land use in the six studied target villages. Due to time constraints and the dearth of information at the village level, the actual amount of land in forests and for livestock grazing was difficult to determine. However, we could get a fairly accurate notion of the amount of land under rice cultivation and arrived as a seemingly decent estimate of upland used..

4.5.1 Forest/Upland Land and LUP/LA

As mentioned before, upland land use is most crucial to livelihoods. From the evaluation team's findings on average the six villages utilized an annual total of 87 hectares of upland for upland rice and other intercropped crops. Considering an average of eight year fallow period an average of 711 hectares of upland is used. For variation in the estimated size of these areas see Table 4.8 below. However, this differs from the Socio-Economic Survey of 2007, where there are discrepancies mostly seemingly related to upland rice (*hai*) area cultivated (see Appendix IV).¹⁶

Table 4.8: Land Use & Crop Production

2007	Upland Rice					Paddy Rice					Total
	WS0	Area	Prod	avg	total	total	WS0	Area	Prod	yield	
Village	[ha]	[t]	[t/h]	[#]	[yrs]	[ha]	[ha]	[t]	[t/ha]	[#]	[ha]
Pha Ngua	90	108	1.2	60	7	630	15	36	2.4	15	645
Al Saeng	42	61.2	1.5	22	7	294	2	2.2	1.1	22	296
Mekong Tai	123	61.5	0.5	41	9	1,107	1	0.4	0.4	1	1,108
Chamai	121	86.4	0.7	51	7	851	8	19.6	2.5	45	859
Saam Meuang	74	51.0	0.7	27	10	738	0	0	0.0	0	738
Chapii	72	132	1.8	37	9	648	1.67	7.6	4.6	4	650
Total	522	501	6.4	238	49.0	4,267	27.6	65.8	10.90	87	4,295
	12.2					99.4	0.6				100.0%
Average	87.1	83.5	1.1	39.7	8.2	711.3	4.6	11.0	1.8	14.5	715.9

Upland is sometimes referred to as *hai* in Laos, and it usually means land under shifting cultivation. Actually upland could also be hilly or mountainous land used for sedentary purposes, such as orchards for tree crops or as opium poppy cultivation used to be fairly sedentary. In fact, most of this land (99.4% of the area) in the six sample villages is upland which produces 88.4 percent of their rice.¹⁷ Many other field and horticultural crops are cultivated in the uplands, such as but not necessarily limited to: cassava, corn, millet, squash, pumpkin, melons, chillies, cucumbers, sesame, taro, man phao, and several types of flowers.

The upland rice yields on this land range from 0.7-1.8 tons/hectare. The shortest fallows are about six years and the longest about nine or ten years. Obviously the longer the fallow periods, the longer the soils have to regenerate nutrients and organic matter and thus

¹⁶Households and villages understate figures for fear of possible taxation. This is especially true with livestock and rice. It seems clear that they seemingly understated their upland area responses to the formal Project Socio-Economic Survey of 2007. However, the 2007 survey's upland rice yields were generally higher, and paddy rice yields were considerably higher than the evaluation's findings. These higher paddy yields are corroborated by yield sample surveys taken from 2004 -2006, which indicated paddy yields of over 4 t/ha (Khamphueane personal communication).

¹⁷Interestingly, the evaluation team findings and the Socio-Economic Survey 2007 virtually agree in the proportion of upland and paddy land to total land.

increase yields. It should be noted that all villages except for B Chapii have undergone the ordeal of land use planning and land allocation (LUP/LA)¹⁸ back in 2002 and those five villages all have shorter fallow periods – thus lower upland rice yields.

All five of these villages were not pleased with the LUP/LA process. It was through this LUP/LA that they were assigned only seven year fallows. They complained that they did not understand the overall process and cannot understand why they were not given the lands with better soils for their swiddens.¹⁹ They blame their low yields (and subsequent rice shortages) on those portions of the swidden cycle with low fertility. Normally they said they would have never chosen some of the land designated as agricultural production land due its low soil fertility.

Farmers thought that when they were asked by the DAFO to hang up the signs designating the various classes of forest, that the use of these lands would be negotiable. They, in fact feel no ownership of process, but rather feel that the district is imposing this on them unfairly. Of course, the fact that very few of these villagers understand much of the Lao language only exacerbates this process. They very much would like to have the whole issue reviewed and revised.

Traditionally villages have their own land and forest management systems. They talk about how they practiced shifting cultivation before LUP/LA in 2002. In B Chapii they speak about their own land use plan, where they zone agricultural production areas for the coming season and fence them off so that livestock cannot enter. If livestock do come encroach, the owner is fined (so-to-speak) by mutually agreed upon sanctions. In addition they dig fire breaks and again have sanctions against the spread of fires. Clearly, they have ownership.

We are not exactly sure how much forest exists or how much villagers use. The LUP/LA data was only marginally useful since three of the five villages had been consolidated (in theory if not in practice) and we could not disaggregate the data for the separate sample village.

However, as one drives through the countryside and observes the cutting of the swiddens, there seems to be an inordinate amount of land in either this year or last year's swiddens – at least along the roads. Villagers say they are only cultivating the land designated as agricultural production land. Of course, they would never have admitted that they were encroaching into the forest, and we had no way to verify or refute this.

4.5.2 Paddy Land

Due to Project activities new paddy land has been expanded from a total two hectares to about 150 hectares in the target area of 26 villages. This contribution is monumental in the attempt to create more stability in farm households livelihoods systems. All villages surveyed were extremely pleased with their paddy land additions.

In these six sample villages a total of 59.3 hectares of paddy land were constructed by the Project using FFW funds. In fact an estimated 27.7 hectares (46.7%) were actually used, however, there is yet another estimated 31.6 hectares (53.3%) which is lying unused (see

¹⁸Actually this LUP/LA process, developed and modified by the Department of Forestry (DOF) over the years, was originally supposed to take about three years to undertake and be accompanied by extension work. It was intended to be an iterative process and be periodically reviewed.

¹⁹Only parts of the total agricultural land designated for swiddens is considered by farmers as appropriate for their swidden cycles.

Table 4.9 below). Most of the unused land was in B Chapii, where four weirs and distribution systems have been constructed by the Project. Most of the reasons for the lack of full utilization relate to either soil permeability of the canals, in paddies themselves, or the mere lack of water impounded by their weirs. What these farmers fail understand is that all paddy soils require several years of tilling before they develop what agronomists refer to as a impermeable hardpan about 20-30 centimeters down in the subsoil. This is especially true in these low clay content mountain soils.

Table 4.9: Paddy Land Use

	WS07			unused paddy land	total paddy land	pos- sible paddy land
	prodn area		no padd HHs			
village	[ha]	[#]	HHs	[ha]	[ha]	[ha]
Pha Ngua	15	16	45	4	19	11
Al Saeng	2	4		8	10	??
Mekong Tai	1	1		2	3	??
Chamai	8	45	7	0	8	4
Saam Meuang Kao	0		27	2	2	??
Chapii	1.67	4	32	17.6	19.3	??
Total	27.67	70	111	31.6	59.3	15
	46.7			53.3%		

We tried to estimate how much additional paddy land could be opened and arrived at an additional 11 hectares in B Pha Ngua and 4 hectares in B Chamai by mostly constructing or repairing weirs or building a permanent concrete division box. In B Ai Saeng the problem was with the terraced paddies. There may be some possibility for terraced paddies B Mekong Tai and B Saam Meuang Kao.

4.6 Rubber Dream

At the present there is a rubber planting frenzy all over Luang Nam Tha province. So one should not expect anything much different in the DDRPAEM target area. Government officials, employees of Chinese rubber companies, and farmers themselves have been spreading the word. Of course, they do not report on anything other than the so-called success stories from Sip Song Phaen Na (Xishuangbanna)²⁰ which are myriad along with the Ban Hat Nyao experience. Of course, they only mention the benefits without mentioning the costs and risks entailed in either cultivation or marketing, especially the 8-9 years wait for returns in the future. Reportedly some unscrupulous officials have even been involved in coercing farmers to plant rubber, stating that if they do not, their land will be given to the Chinese Haw.²¹ All this confirms what Weiyi Shi (2008) reported about the Chinese merchants in LNT.

It appears that much of this rubber has been planted on land originally designated as forest land in an area where much of the land have very steep slopes. Of course, when rubber is planted the recently cleared soil is fairly bare and highly susceptible to erosion during the

²⁰These companies lure farmers with pictures of Sip Song Paan Na farmers driving around in new Toyota Vigos, new houses, and all the accompanying appliances.

²¹This ethnic group who particularly active in rubber in Luang Nam Tha.

first couple of wet seasons (WS).²² Had villagers requested to put this land into their food crops, it probably would have been denied them by DAFO and district officials.

Only two of the six sampled villages (B Pha Ngua and B Chamai) have planted rubber (see Table 4.10 below). What must be noticed is the elevation of the village and the fact that 900 meters above sea level (masl) is the absolute upper limit for the cultivation of rubber, keeping in mind that these measurements were made in the residential portion of the respective villages. The altitude of rubber land was not measured in B Pha Ngua, but it was probably under 900 meters, as was the land in B Chamai at a measured about 700 masl. However, the nursery in B Mekong Tai was planted at about 950 masl.

Table 4.10: Rubber in Sampled Villages

	village	rubber	
	altitude	area	HHs
Village	masl	[ha]	[#]
Pha Ngua	994	10.8	50
Ai Saeng	1,125	0	
Mekong Tai*	1,197	0	
Chamai	1,205	14.77	40
Saam Meuang Kao	1,316	0	
Chapii	572	0	

NB: village has planted a nursery

Thus far, rubber has not affected livelihoods too much. Most of the villages have cleared their own land, dug the holes, planted the seedlings and done the weeding by themselves for which it seems that they have mostly been paid, except for the weeding.

Villagers claim that the companies gave inadequate technical information and really did not train them properly, with the lack of any mention or payment, fertilization of the seedlings, lack of fence protection from free grazing livestock, lack of mention of replacement of seedlings which died in the first year, etc. This was confirmed in B Mekong Tai with the planting of the nursery. Villagers assumed that the companies had already checked the elevation of the planting sites.²³ In addition, farmers did not really seem to understand the details of their labor requirements once tapping is started. Farmers had little or no idea how they would sell their product and for the types of prices.

However, their contracts are highly suspect with little or no evidence of passing through provincial (PAFO) or district governments. The contract itself was vague, giving no mention of how the benefits would be divided between the farmers and the company.²⁴ The company stamp on the document was highly suspect since it had the PAFO name around the border, and the company name in the middle. There was no official stamp from the GOL at the national level, showing any agreement with the Chinese company nor any official stamp from either the province and/or district. Moreover, the village stamp with the thumb print of the *nai*

²²This occurred in LNT in 2006 after the tail of typhoon Phra Phii Yeun came in across southern China and north Viet Nam and many of these recently cleared mountain slopes had serious sheet erosion.

²³Usually the *nai baan* and/or VDC were elated to see our GPS and asked us to confirm the elevations of the sites.

²⁴This statement is based on the contract seen from B Chamai. Villagers said, that they were promised 70 percent at a meeting in the district, but then when it came to planting time the company related that it would be 30%/70%. However, again there was not mention of this in the so-called contract.

baan was signed below by the company.²⁵ The bottom line is that so-called contract seems to us to be completely illegal.

Moreover, villagers are hired by companies to do land clearing, digging of holes, and planting of saplings. For this they are given a wage. However, as in B Chamai disputes arose when the company did not pay after the work was completed. They had to protest for two different jobs they completed. On both they were cheated on their due wages.

4.7 Agricultural Extension

In general, the agricultural extension of livelihoods activities seemed to have been carried out adequately. The Project attempted to work with model farmers, but there were some problems with this because of expectations of the DAFO concerning model farmers and model villages. The young extension agents were quite highly motivated and were supported by the Project and the DAFO Agriculture Coordinator, who is full-time and housed at the Project office in M Long. The activities in the Project Document (ProDoc) were mostly carried out in a timely manner, and where there were problems, delays and cancellations they were documented in the monthly reports. Monthly overall Project meetings were held on or about the 25th of each month to discuss progress and solve implementation problems.

Agricultural extension activities were usually conducted in the Lao language with some translation into Akha. This is where the problem begins. As will be later more fully discussed about the PVP process, most villagers while discuss needs²⁶ and potential activities, which are finalized into an annual plan across all sectors (eg, agriculture, education, health and drugs). Notwithstanding, villagers do not really understand what has been finalized and written down on big sheets of newsprint, which are hung up in the *nai baan's* house. We queried them about this, and only a few fairly literate persons understood what had been planned.

The livestock vaccinations, animal funds, new varieties of seeds and seedlings were appreciated. Of course, the paddy land created was sorely needed and gratifying as was the accompanying irrigation facilities.

Outside of the Agriculture Coordinator, the DAFO seems to be very limitedly involved. However, they expressed the concern for sustainability and desire to be more active in planning and implementation in Phase IV.

4.8 Food for Work (FFW)

The food for work (FFW) given through the auspices of the World Food Program was tremendously popular amongst villagers. They not only needed the rice to supplement their diets, but also really appreciated the opportunity to increase either community or household capital. Activities paid for village labor, included: roads construction, paddy creation, building of weirs and canals for irrigation, fishponds, and water supply.

4.9 Access Roads

²⁵The *nai baan* related that he really did not understand what he was signing and only did it because he was told to sign.

²⁶As is often the case in development at all levels, they may confusing *wants*, which are many times given to them, with *needs*, for which they will be actively involved.

Through the provincial policy on border trading and improved road construction, this has obvious been seen as the main condition for great economical changes. There has been more communication and association from outsiders especially on local trading along the Laos-China and Laos-Myanmar border.

Road construction is one of the biggest accomplishments of the Project both in the eyes of villagers and in with our team. This has opened the area to markets, government services, and the outside world in general. The biggest liability now is the infrequent and inadequate maintenance.

The main road (60 km) was built in using funds from UNODC-supported project LADP Phase III of which about 13.8 kilometers was supported as food for work (FFW) by WFP. Between 1999 through 2004 WFP (through FFW) supported the construction of access roads to the target villages with total length of 100 kilometers. Again in 2005-2007 WFP (through FFW) supported the construction of 20 km access roads.

In 2007 the Project assisted DPWO/M Long to apply for Sida funds to upgrade the road the Soploy area, and it was confirmed that Lao -Swedish Road Sector Project III (Basic Access Component) has allocated funding amounting to Kip 1,448,000,000 for upgrading the main road up to Km 32. The bidding process is ongoing. The funds are already exceeding the ceiling amount for Sida support (US\$ 100,000) so it will not be able to get more funds. It can be expected that DPWO/M Long will ask NCA to assist in raising funds from other donors.

4.10 Others

Project expenditures have been made according to Appendix VI.1. Over the three year period food security received most of the funds at 33.4 percent; education was close behind at 30.6 percent, VDCs (14.3%), CB-DAC (13.5%), health (5.7%), and gender (2.4%).

Chapter 5: CB-DAC - Community-Based Drug Abuse Control Findings

Project Objective 2 is to continue Community Based Drug Abuse Control (CB-DAC), as LADP has done, all over Long District, including prevention of new illegal drugs like ATS.

Project expected outputs are:

1. To follow up the special needs of the earlier opium addicts in the target villages, and detoxification relapses.
2. To assist the District Government to provide CB-DAC activities in non-target villages with opium addicts
3. To prevent use of illegal drugs, esp. amphetamines

Project activities to achieve these outputs are listed in Table 5.1 below.

Table 5.1: CB-DAC Activities

Activity	Rating	Comments
1. Strengthen the village leadership in order to identify and control the drug problems	4	this has been greater in some villages than others
2. Support and extend the CB-DAC network between target villages with resource persons	4	Not well aware of involving the existing CB-DAC net work in the working process

Activity	Rating	Comments
3. Follow-up addicts and detoxification relapses	4	
4. Introduce CB-DAC activities in non-target villages with a drug problem, and carry out detoxification when they are ready for the process	4	Have been provided all over M. Long in sharing of target villages with EU Project
5. Follow up ex-addicts after detoxification, and provide re-detoxification to relapses who are motivated	4	Done for 2 times in PhaNgo and 1 in AiSang
6. Train teams and conduct awareness campaigns on the use of amphetamines and other illegal drugs in the whole district	4	Have been carried out all over M. Long
7. Identify suitable villagers and organize a drama group for drug campaigning, give training and necessary support	4	the evaluation team witnessed school skits at Bouak Bo School concerning life related issues
8. Update existing drug abuse curriculum for students, to focus more on ATS	4	Revision of existing curriculum done written document is on the way.
9. Train teachers and provide schools with information material to make the students aware of the danger of illegal drugs, esp. amphetamines	4	had been undertaken as witnessed by the schools' skits
10. Training, allowance and per diem to 4 district staff, one of them sector leader, to work full time with CB-DAC and drug awareness campaigns	4	all on-the-job at the Project office in M Long

Information and data for the findings were obtained from Project documents and by interviewing concerned people. None of written documents from DCDC were available during the visit of the evaluation team.

5.1 Background

CB-DAC strengthens community leadership by establishing participatory structures and institutions for enduring problem-solving in the fight against drug abuse, which is a long-term process involving all aspects (social, cultural and economic) of community life with the support of GOL services. Activities encourage the reduction in the consumption of opium by medical detoxification, physical and occupational rehabilitation, and prevention measures. Accompanying this is community development activities which promote alternative economy and occupations. Villagers participate in the planning and implementation of all activities and most of all have ownership.

During this Phase III (2005-2007), the Project continued CB-DAC throughout M Long, including sufficient follow-up of the previous detoxification efforts to assure less relapses, detoxification in the non-target villages in M Long and prevention of new illegal drugs, eg, ATS.

The good lessons learned on CB-DAC's application in the M. Long under the DDRP since 1997 have been well taken and considered as one of the successful components of the project. In 2002, the LADP managed to have its experiences and confidence gain from this working approach documented and published (Kongchi & Tuffin: 2002), and this approach has been actively carried through out the Project target villages with success until 2004. The CB-DAC network of which active ex-addicts were involved has played a dominant roles contributing to the successful of the program and the strong law enforcement measurement has also been used in parallel with the soft approach.

Due to successful opium cultivation eradication and detoxification during 2000-2004 of which both areas of opium cultivation and relapse rates were greatly reduced in the Project target areas. The program activities in the following phase (2005-2007) activities were emphasized in the non-target villages in M Long where NCA and EU shared its target villages for detoxification. While in the Project target villages, the awareness campaign on ATS and other illegal drugs used, improvement of school curriculum through developed IEC material on ATS, and teacher training were emphasized. The soft approach on law enforcement, Article 135, has been integrated in the awareness campaign during these days.

In late 2006, there was a sign of increasing relapses and opium cultivation in the area. A critical survey was carried out and found 230 relapses all over M Long with 63²⁷ were from the Project target villages. In Oct 2007, the detoxification carried out in 4 target villages.²⁸ Due to limited funds for the drug control component, two district staff were sent out for the village preparation in 10 days and continue with detoxification for another 4-10 days with no follow-up. Tincture of opium (TO)²⁹ was used to replace herbal medicine for detoxification. The Project provided medicines for two weeks after detoxification, but had no funds after this period. There was no treatment and medicine supplied during detoxification due to limited funds during this stage.

The impression from the new District Drug Coordinator of the present situation in M. Long was that the overall villagers are not get bore as the detoxification have been carried from many times and doesn't seem to achieve

5.2 Working Approach Applied During 2000-2004

In 2002, the detoxification organized in Bouak Bo area (Chamai and Saam Meuang Kao) have been reported successfully with low relapse.³⁰ It was carried out for 15 days after well preparation through 2-3 visits by district staff and an ex-addict from Huay Tu Mai. There have been many things happened during those visits, village meetings, individual addicts interviewed, physical check-ups, and discussions with addict's family members. During the 15 days of detoxification, addicts have been well cared for both physically by doctor and mentally by family members, villagers as a whole, and GOL staff. The ex-addict from Huay Tu Mai (village drug network) had also been with them and played great in moral support during the first week which is the most critical period in the detoxification process. The herbal medicine bought from Oudomxai was used together with other modern medicines for

²⁷Interviewed Mr Boulian,

²⁸B Pha Ngua, B Ai Saeng and mix with B Phaya Luang Khamping Neua and Tai.

²⁹Tincture of opium (TO) is a capsule mixed with 3% of opium and the rest is MCC. TO was recommended from LCDC through PCDC in Oct 2006.

³⁰Seventeen addicts attended detoxification with one relapse in Saam Meuang Kao while one out of 25 detoxified addicts relapsed in Chamai.

treatment. The regular three-month physical health check up was carried-out after detoxification along with some medicines provided.

Follow-ups have been carried out together with community and addict family members to ensure that addicts have received sufficient support both physically and mentally. The follow-ups included discussions with the village development committees and ex-addicts on possible future support for the ex-addicts. In the case of Ban Chamai, the villagers proposed cattle funds for ex-addicts, and the Project responded in the following year with four calves, which is now has grown to a total 13 animals. While in B Saam Meuang Kao five calves were supported which by the time of evaluation, they have been increased to 10 calves.

In late 2007, the village preparation was carried in brief, "it is to make an appointment to attend the detoxification" said one of the addicts in B Ai Saeng. Some cases has been given time for 7 days in advance and some is 15 days. The addict reported that the treatment was far more difference from what they experienced earlier; treatment, physical check up and moral and well care. TO was introduced with no to little explanation, medicine for treatment need to be bought as there was limitation of funding available. The time for this varies from place to place. It was carried out for 7 days in Pha Ngo, and at Ban Ai Saeng was for 5 days.

It is clearly seen that the CB-DAC process have been carried out in away that overlooked the readiness of the villagers and addicts. The great success for CB-DAC has given importance on the preparation before and following-up after detoxification. The time frame for village preparation can be varied from one village to another. The profile of each addict needs to be very well recorded prior detoxification to ensure proper treatment and relapse. It includes age, consumption dose and timing, physical health and the most important is to give them time to make own decision. The understanding of the community; VDC, spiritual leaders, traditional leaders and addict's family members, addict's neighbor needs to be place during the preparation period. The rehabilitation period of three months is very important to assure the relapse, the addicts need both physically and mentally supports.

5.3 Relapses

As there is no written document available, information only gain from interviewing with addict and district staff who are conducting the detoxification at Ban Mae Kong Nuer. In the case of Ban Chamai, the information received s got from the record book of the village responsible person.

Detoxification was carried once in two villages (Chamai and Chapee) in 2002 and found that 38 of 39 addicts (only five are women) have successfully quitted until the time the evaluation has taken place. The current name list of 37 addicts (Table 5.2) received during the evaluation from 6 villages³¹ shows that the attendance in the detoxification program is vary from 1-3 times during 2002-2007. None of the interviewed addicts staged that they attended the detoxification in 2005 and 2006 neither from interviewing the district staff concern but the third detoxification was carried out in late 2007. There is no accurate figure regarding relapse rate and addicts.

³¹ Pha Ngo 14, AiSaeng 3, Mae Kong Tai 8, Mekong Nua 9, Sam Sob 2, Sam Meuang Kao 15 .

Table 5.2: Current Addicts in Villages

Villages	Addicts	Number of attendance			
		0 Never	1 time	2 times	3 times
Pha Ngua	14	2	4	4	4
Ai Saeng	3	0	0	0	3
Mekong Tai	8	2	4	2	0
Mekong Neua	9	0	1	8	0
Sam Sob	2	0	0	2	0
Sam M Kao	1	0	0	0	1
Total	37	4	9	16	8

There are 8 addicts who attended for the third time, 16 for the second time with 9 have attended once and 4 have never attend. There are 37 addicts from Pha Ngo, Ai Seang and Sam Muang Kao who attended the third time detoxification (Oct 2007) and 18 were reported to be free from opium.

There is an interesting figure from Sam Muang Kao that 14 of 15 addicts participated in the detoxification during 2002-2004 are successfully stopped. Suggestions that systematic data record need to be compiled in a more structured manner.

The main cause for high relapse rate was put on the poor preparation and follow-up. All addicts regard "sickness" as the main cause for relapse to opium addiction. These illnesses are surely in the so-called big three of diseases, eg, upper respiratory, mosquito borne fevers, and gastro-intestinal. The village medical revolving fund supposed to be the primary accessible source in the village, over which the VHVs are in charge, have been fail to operated particular in Soploy area. The new dispensary in this area started in 2007 but provided irregular services. Another important factor which causes the relapse rate is due to the availability of opium. Fifteen addicts interviewed admitted that they cultivated in a small area for self-consumption nonetheless it is not enough to consume and they all have to buy. The cost for one saleung³² varies from for Kip 20,000-30,000 (US\$2.50-3.70). There is an evident that district authorities are reluctant to put strong measure on the law enforcement during the past two years.

5.4 Village Drug Control Network

The village drug network formed and actively involved in the CB-DAC process during 2000-2004 have been ignored from the working procedures carried out by the DCDC. This network of which three core ex-addicts was formed have not been involved in the last 3 years. This has also brought them an unclear situation if they still have a role to play in this process. From a discussion with the 2 out of 3 core network members, they expressed their concern that the Project should restart mobilizing this network in working together with the CB-DAC team. Their primary concern is that there is more resistance from the addicts as well as the opium growers in comparing with the last 4-5 years. They foresee that with today situation, the village preparation cannot be effective without closer cooperation with agencies concerning law enforcement.

³²One saleung is 2.78 grams and 360 saleung = 1 kilogram.

There is also 21 potential village resource persons³³ who are willing to be mobilized in strengthening the CB-DAC process, as being experienced addicts, they are really willing and engaged to help those addicts. Their direct experiences can be well communicated through their own language and culture which considered to be much more effective than non-ahka

Most visited ex-addicts are encouraged to be involved in the drug control and prevention process but most foresee that it should go together with the law enforcement measurement. They also suggested the most appropriate time to start with the village preparation is in June after the villagers finish with their upland rice planting. As for the target village is concern, the ex-addicts suggested to start with the big villages of which B Sam Sop, B Cha Khamtaan and B Pha Ngua are priority.

5.4 Drug Control Program Structure

Shortly after restructuring of DCDC it seems that district personnel, who have some experience and have received Project training are reshuffled out to other agencies and sometimes including the drug control coordinator. Thus, the DCDC has been begin anew. The new coordinator was seconded from the district based at the Project center in Long in September 2007. He is the only one who responsible for over all M Long in regards to drug issues. The main task is to coordinate with other departments in the district (education, health, administrative, police and LADP) to implement the activities. There has been no evidence of handing over and orientation of the new tasks from the previous coordinator who has been experienced with the Project for over 5 years. The new coordinator attended CB-DAC training organized by the Project once four years ago when he was working with education department, but he never had experience in the field. During the evaluation period, together with the three other district staff, the 10-day detoxification was carried out at B Mekong Tai, and this was his first time in the field with regard to CB-DAC.

There is also a limitation at the provincial level since PCDC has been struggling with only one person in place with limited funding. He admitted that the reshuffling of staff do have impact on the programme implementation. Nevertheless, great effort to combat with illicit drugs is remained strong under this limited resource. LCDC had, in Oct 2006, announced that TO are only recommended to used for detoxification with 10 days preparation and 10 days detoxification. This announcement has been well taken and that the previous approach has not been taken into account anymore.

Addicts who experienced three detoxification courses reflected that TO is easy to take, and it helps for a while after taking but feeling in needs again. As for the boiling herbal medicines, they are difficult to consume and caused lots of side effects but after two weeks they felt relieved after all. There has been difference in understanding of TOs. One GOL staff explained that TO can be used alone without any other medicines for treatment or vitamins. He understands that everything is included in TO. By this it can be seen that the clear understanding of TO used is still limited though there have been training provided by the PCDC on this issue.

³³There are 12 potential village drug network (resource persons) from B Chamai and 9 from B Saam Meuang Kao.

Chapter 6: Education Findings

Project Objective 4 is to improve the quality of education in the village schools, and enrol more students.

Table 6.1: Education Activities

Activity	Rating	Comments
1. Training courses for teachers in teaching methodology, 3 times	4	new teaching methods helps to motivate children to attend school
2. Schoolbooks for the students	4	
3. Extra-curriculum reading materials	4	maintaining cooperation with padec and should expand
4. Construction of 2 new schools and new classrooms where needed in existing schools, including blackboards and teacher desk	4	
5. Hydropower to 6 schools to facilitate non-formal education	4	capacity on maintenance could be gradually delegated
6. Supervision of teaching by District Education Office	4	monthly meeting and supervision visits help to motivate teachers
7. Establish and train 2 parents association, follow-up all parents associations at 21 existing school	4	very committed and dedicated in many villages; a few more are on the way
8. Scholarship to 18 ethnic students at Teachers College in Luang Nam Tha	4	lessons learned from ADRA by DEO
9. Allowance and travel cost (per diem) to 1 district education staff	4	
10. Salary and other personnel cost for Education Officer	4	

6.1 Education Services

At this phase (2005-2007), the education component activities have continued work based on the previous phase where emphasis was made on improved quality of education and access to educational services in the target area. Importance is given on providing building materials for school buildings and on improvement of teacher quality, which includes teaching methods, developing learning materials, and increasing school enrollment as well as opportunities for further education to ethnic students.

But with co-funding from PCF in 2006, the "Empowerment of the Ethnic Minorities through Education (EEME)" project has made impressive progress in education through improved teacher's skills and teaching methods. The mid-term review conducted in December 2007 shows remarkable work carried out, and by April 2008 the forthcoming report will be in place.

The EEME reports have touched upon the quality of practical techniques regarding teaching and learning methods and management. Thus, this evaluation will be of additional view on management with more focus on the context of participatory working approach with the community.

6.2 Teachers Training and Curriculum

The Project has had great success in improving teaching skills for teachers in the two cluster schools, which is a pilot model for future extension.³⁴ An effective monitoring system of the cluster schools is carried out through monthly meetings and regular supervision visits of the cluster school supervisor and education project coordinator. It is found very useful for the school teachers to be able to timely solve their problems both in teaching technique and school management.

Though these training inputs have focused on the local curriculum (20%) with participants from the two cluster school members, lessons learned have also been applied in the normal curriculum.

Teachers accepted that through the new training methodologies and with more attractive learning materials did catch more interest of children attending school. The parent associations have actively taken part in supporting teachers' basic living conditions and school management. In B Ai Sang, the teacher manages to have seven resource persons from the village to teach Lahu basketry and embroidery classes. These activities have brought an increasing involvement of villagers in school management and encourage the children to attend school.³⁵

The focus group discussion made in Chamai addressed that they observed that their children like going to school – many go to school very early and some children leave home before the rice is cooked.

Most teachers are young and have just graduated with the majority being Lao Loum from Luang Nam Tha. There are some Akha teachers, but the villagers prefer the Lao Loum teachers as having better ability to give Lao lessons, which are more efficient. It is also expected that teachers from outside has more experience to share and that their children have lots more to learn from.

6.3 Cluster Approach Schools

Currently there are eleven schools in the two administrative cluster villages development (sub-districts formerly referred to as *khet*), which receive intensive support (called the cluster approach by the Project and DEO, including the two core schools in Soploy (5) and Bouak Bo (6). Then there are an additional seven schools in Soploy and four schools in Bouak Bo which basic support of teachers training to upgrade skills, text books and writing materials.

In most of the target villages, the schools are operated as primary grades 1-3 with one teacher while the primary grades 4 and 5 are opened at the cluster schools. By 2008 first

³⁴There are two cluster schools: 1) Soploy area, of which 5 village schools are members; 2) Bouak Bo area, there are 6 schools as members. The national policy on education has opened 20 percent of local curriculum for culturally relevant issues, the two cluster schools were chosen as the pilot model in responding to this policy.

³⁵According to the government policy, one teacher is responsible for 30 students.

semester, secondary grade one will be started up at Soploy core cluster school where dormitories and other necessary learning materials will be supported by the Project. Though there has been training and regular on-job-training (OJT) by the pedagogical supervisor, the school teachers still have difficulty conducting a multi-grade teaching (three classes with one teacher (*hong khuob*). The needs are still high on how to manage multi-grade classes. The total enrollment in all 22 schools have steadily increased from 226 pupils in 2000 to 835 (383.2%) in 2008, of which girls have increased from 55 to 282 (563.6%). This is tremendously significant alone (see Figure 6.1).

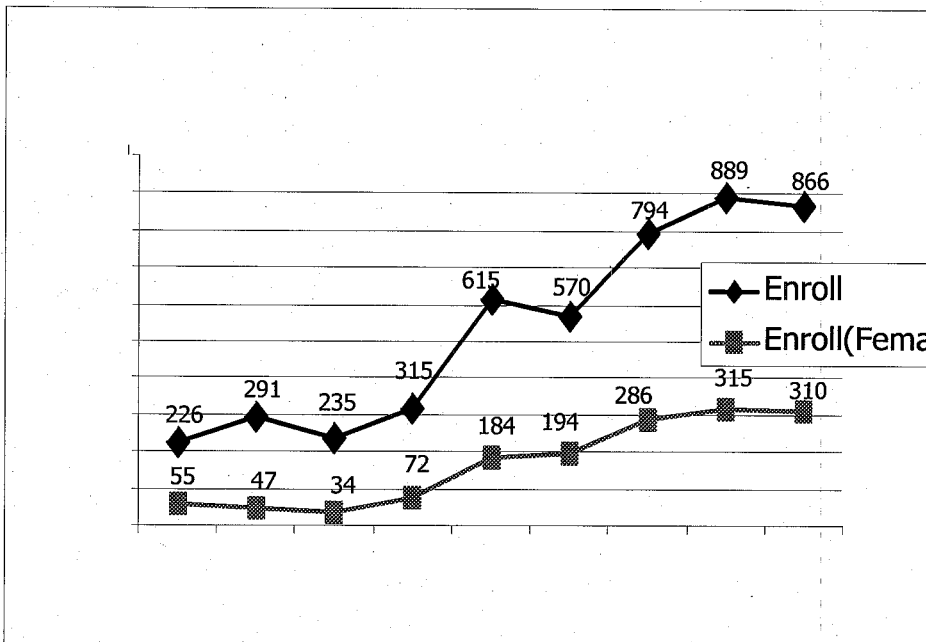


Figure 6.1: School Enrollment

Total students taking exams during this same period went from a total of 226 in 2000 to 835 (383.2%), and girls went from 55 in 2000 (369.5%) in 282 in 2008 (see Figure 6.2).

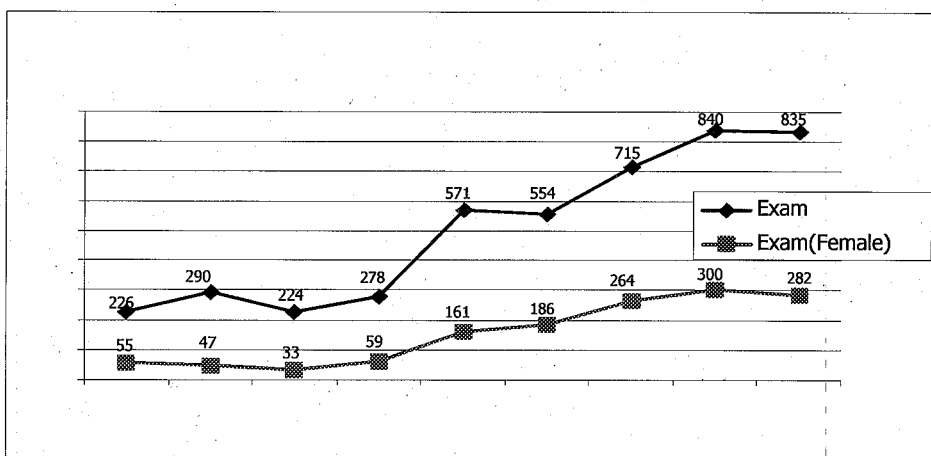


Figure 6.2: Students Taking Exams

Then the total students passing exams increased from 180 in 2000 to 614 (341.1%) and for girls 42 in 2000 to 282 in 2008 (671.4%) (See Figure 6.3).

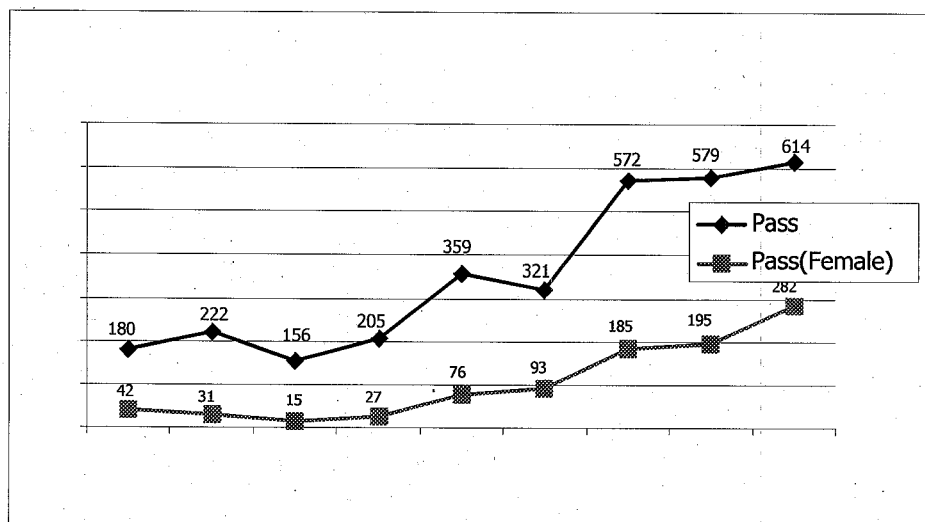


Figure 6.3: Students Passing Examinations

Another way to view this would be that of the total 226 students taking exams in 2000, 180 passed (79.6%), and in 2008 (73.5%). Forty-two out of 55 girls (76.4%) passed in 2000, and all 282 girls (100%) who took exams in 2008 passed. In summary we can see that education is improving for all, including girls slowly but surely.

6.4 Drop-Outs

The out-migration of villagers in target villages contributed to school drop-out rates in 2006. Data for 2007 is only for the first school semester. The rationale for drop-outs is mostly out-migration due to other economic opportunities related to the cessation of opium cultivation and since options for other cash crop cultivation are not assured. There is evidence for possible options for economical opportunity in other areas. See the case of B Kone Meuang.

The decreasing number of students passing the final examination can be explained by out-migration. Nevertheless, the main cause is due the improper timing for final examination which is in the third week of May. This time is the peak period for villagers in upland rice planting, the older children especially from primary grades 3 and up, which will be of used as supplementary family labor. This mandated timing for the final examination becomes a constraint, "but it is not possible to adjust as it is set as a national standard time frame for all over the country, said DEO staff.

6.5 Non Cluster Approach Schools

There are seven other schools in Soploy and four other schools in Bouak Bo which are supported with teachers training to upgrade their skills, text books and writing materials.

Given supported training opportunities and learning materials for teachers is of great advantage to improve education services. But the non-cluster schools teachers are seen to receive less attention from the pedagogical teacher and the principal. The supervision visits are systematically carried out through monthly meetings and village visits by a pedagogical superintendent as well as regular follow-up by the principal in the cluster schools. There pronounced feeling non-cluster schools of receiving fewer opportunities in self-improving capacities as well as less technical and moral support. The concept and strategies of the pilot model in the two cluster schools and its future plan to extend is not seen to be well communicated.

It is agreed by the district education officer that irregular and limited monitoring of non-cluster schools has contributed to the low profile of the teachers both in school management and in working together with community.

6.6 Non-Formal Education

As the Education Project Evaluation (IICE 2008) stated adults seem interested in non-formal education (NFE) if night classes are in central accessible part of the village. In addition the work loads of teachers are already excessive for their day time classes. Teachers also have to prepare daily lesson plans for the night classes in addition to teaching. Also, adult education night classes have better fit into the livelihood cycles of activities.

In order to tackle the illiteracy of the village development committee, this year the DEO will organize an improved intensive training course for the village headmen. The course will be attended with 25 participants at the time. It is expecting that the improved Lao language ability can be seen among village headmen by the end of the year.

6.7 People's Participation in Education

Through the concept and working approach draw from EEME project, there are more rooms for people (both women and men) to take part in managing the education program in their village school. Village education committees, which normally consist of 2-3 people in one village, play an important role in liaison between school and villagers. The village parent association is introduced with the aim to lay common understanding and its important role to support education for their children.

The study trip for village representative to other provinces had contributed significant impact to the improvement of education program. In the visited villages, a group of villager takes turn to help teachers and school activities such as preparation of supplementary food for students, being resource person in subject related to local subject (20% curriculum), prepare monthly rice ration for teacher.

6.8 People 's Attitude on Value of Education

The establishment of two cluster schools, where classes extended to primary 3-4 and future plan for secondary level helps the parents to foresee a possible brighter future for their children. They accepted their ability to pay for their children's education (rice and some cash). Unlike in the old days where further education was only available in M Long where only those wealthy families or those with relatives in M Long could send their children for

further studying. Moreover, most parents feel unconvinced reasons to have their children exposed to the complexity of social change in town of M Long.

In Chamai, the villagers used to discuss about migration to other area where economical activities may be of promising but the concern for future education of the children has withhold the discussion after the setting up of the cluster school in the village.

6.9 Coordinating with other Donors Funding Education

There have been many funding agencies to help improving the educational services in M Long, and some have been pretty well managed by the district education office (DEO).³⁶ The scholarship fund for girls, supported by ADRA was reported to be one of the most successful projects, as all graduated girls are now posted in 11 villages in Meuang Long. The district education officer expressed that good lessons learned from this activity are the screening process and systematic monitoring and follow-up of the project. ADRA coordinator paid regular visits to the children, who received scholarships, at the dormitories where they were accommodated during their further studies. The knowledge of the difficulties and frustrations of ethnic students in their new setting, which is their first time to be away from their own village society, the monitoring has been focused not only on subjects in the lessons but more on counseling and moral support. This has greatly helped the ethnic students to gradually cope with the new setting in a disciplinary manner. It was also found that there is little to no drop-outs. With this lesson learned, the scholarship fund of the project can be reexamined³⁷ and the DEO can improve policy guidelines for the most effective future scholarship fund program for Long district.

Schoolteachers and parent associations admitted that the children have been greatly motivated to go to school not only because of new teaching method of the teachers but also with supports on supplementary food, stationary, clothes and school uniforms from other organizations. Yet these supports without clear communication with the villagers about the aim, criteria for selection of the target villages, time frame of the supports had created questions and confusion in and between the villages. In particular, the amount of material and equipment support has also risen.

Though it is beyond the control over of the Project, but seeing it as the valuable resources contributing to the improvement of education program, the Project can play a coordination role to have these resources optimally utilized where communities are encouraged to take part in managing these resources. The Project can, at least, assures that communication between other donors and concerned target villages are in place.

³⁶For example, the following are: 1) EU – teachers training, school building and scholarship for Akha students; 2) ACF – school building, water supply, related material and equipment; 3) UNICEF – pre-school and vocational training; 4) UNESCO on NFE on eradication of illiteracy; 5) WFP – supplementary food and de-worming; 6) ADRA – HIV/AIDS awareness, girl education on child rights and scholarship for vocational training; and 7) ADB – providing clothing and school building.

³⁷ The scholarship fund provided from the LADP, which is less effective, since 10 out of 20 students have already dropped out

Chapter 7: Health Findings

7.1 Health Services

The aim of health sector during this Phase III (2005-2007) was to improve the accessibility of health services through strengthening of village-based services and the improvement of water and sanitation. The three year plan has put importance on improved health personnel skills at the village level, ensure the functioning of the existing revolving funds and assure that water supply and toilet are in place. The village health volunteers (VHV) and traditional birth attendants (TBA) are put as resource persons for preliminary health care services at the village level. The VHVs are equipped with medical revolving fund while the TBAs are equipped with a necessary birth delivery kit. ACF is in charge of improved water and sanitation through constructing of water supply systems and support necessary equipment for boiling drinking water.

7.1.1 VHVs and TBAs

Both VHVs and TBAs have received training but due to language barrier and insufficient follow up from the DPHO had resulted in the poor functioning of these health personnel, VHV in particular. The medical revolving fund is not function well in most of the villages. Almost of the medicines have expired due to improper care by VHVs, which can very well reflect the ineffective training provided and poor follow-up by concerned district and Project staff.

At the village level, there are two health resource persons who have been selected from the village and trained to provide preliminary health services, eg, the VHV and traditional midwife (TBA). The VHV's roles are to encourage the villagers on health awareness, which include household's sanitation through the constructing of water supply system, used of latrines and cleanliness in and out of HHs, malaria prevention through the used of mosquito net and provide basic medicines through the village medical fund. The VHVs received 1 training per year. While traditional midwives received training and equipped with necessary delivery kits and tools prior working for safe delivery, a refresher course was done every-other-year.

The traditional birth attendants (TBA) have been trained and equipped with necessary delivery kits of which some need to be refilled. Each TBA has shared what they have learnt at the village meeting and discussed the payment for each delivery. Each village has different rate vary from Kip 5000-15,000. In the case of Sam Muang, the TBA started to provide service 4 years ago but none used the service though the rate is Kip 5,000.³⁸

7.1.2 Health Stations

Two health stations (*suuk sala*) have been constructed in the Project area with the role of providing health services at the station – based and mobile health services in the target villages.³⁹ The mobile health services are to be carried out in every 3 months of which mother and child care (vaccination of both babies and mothers from 15-45 years) and supervision of VHV are included. The written monthly report of the health post is directly

³⁸ B Ai Seang – Kip 7,000, B Chamai – Kip 15,000, B Saam Meuang Kao – Kip 5,000.

³⁹ Fourteen target villages are under the service of Soploy health station while in Bouak Bo health station has its target of 19 villages.

submitted to the district health office at the monthly meeting. The health stations were equipped with necessary tools, material and medical supplies sufficient to provide the services. It also included personnel facilities, residences and motorcycles.

In Chamai, the health stations started in late 2002 with one staff, Ms Duangsona who worked for one week and in 2003 was replaced by a male staff, Mr Tongsi who has worked for 4 years. Mr Chai continued in 2007 for a month. The latest health staff working at the health station is Mr Kheu Cha.⁴⁰ Mr Somai started on 9 March 2008. The operations will start on 27 March after the kitchen at the health station is repaired.

The new health stations in Soploy started operating in October 2007 with two health staff in charged and was reduced to one staff after 5 months. At the time of this evaluation took place, a new replacement was on the way to be posted. The Project health coordinator (seconded from the district health office) paid a visit when activities are going on and to also ask for data and information.

Limited qualified health personnel is a problem leading to the poor functioning of the two health stations in the area. According to the health standard, the health stations should be equipped with 3 health staff but it is admitted that it has been far beyond the capacity of the DPHO Long to manage to have qualified staff in place.

7.1.2 Revolving Fund

A medical revolving fund was started by Ounkham, where 50 percent of profit was intended to go to the VHV, but it has not yet received. The cost of the fund is Kip 68,500 to refill the medicines chests. He informed the health coordinator, and the requested medicine was always responded to by DPHO. However, existing medicines many times expired. The VHVs were never trained on anti-biotics use and need to be trained on this topic.

The village medical revolving fund, for which basic medicines are supplied and used by the VHVs. The aim of this fund is to serve villagers with simple health problems and VHVs have been trained on how to diagnose before treatment with medicines. VHVs will receive 70 percent benefit from selling medicines. In order to refill the medicines that run out, VHVs submits a list of medicine needs and funds for the health station to ensure the availability and sufficiency of medicines in the villagers. It was found that 3 out 5 (B Ai Saeng, B Chamai and B Saam Meuang Kao) medical funds managed fairly well. The worse case has been found in B Pha Ngua where medicines have expired since 2006. They reported this many times, but they have been not been responded to since then. Of the three villages where the evaluation took place in Soploy area⁴¹ shared the same problems on expired medicines but the VHV in B Ai Saeng manage to buy the medicine themselves without going through the unreliable channel. There is very little to no follow-up on the medical revolving fund especially in Soploy area.

⁴⁰The 21 year old present headman's son just graduated after almost a 2½ year training course in Oudomxai later a three months internship at M Long hospital.

⁴¹ Pha Ngo, AiSang, Mae Kong Tai

Chapter 8: Gender Findings

Anthropologists are well aware that gender is determined by cultural norms governing the roles of males and females. However, for this situation to improve for women's roles both men and women have to explore new roles and arrive at new norms.

Gender has been a major issue for outsiders in Akha areas, as indeed it was when NCA came into the area in M Long. Women have been barely involved in either household or village decision-making. They have been severely burdened their work loads.

Project Objective 5 was to promote gender equity. The Project began to examine new roles for diagnostic purposes within a culturally sensitive context and in conjunction with the respective actors. Some of these gender activities are listed in Table 8.1 below.

Table 8.1: Gender Activities

Activity	Rating	Comments
1. Gender should be a cross cutting issue in all activities. Examples: increase the number of female students in formal and non-formal education, train female farmers as well as male, use women as well as men as resource persons, give counseling on gender issues to families with opium addicts who detoxify	4	there is evidence of all these examples
2. Gender awareness campaigns in target villages	4	women & men all villages felt gender sensitivity is much better than before the Project
3. Training and monitoring of savings and credit groups, and extending to more villages if feasible	4	not sure of the sustainability of these groups
4. Training of District Lao Women Union (DLWU) members and villages committees in savings and credit fund management	4	in the ADB-funded Nam Ngeum project the DLWU utilizes the membership to serve as the management of the funds
5. Promotion of women groups for income generation activities	4	undertaken but not sure of the sustainability of these IGA groups

The team chose not to discuss with women separately in separate groups as gender has been dealt with both women and men. Especially it has a lot to do with changing of men's attitude and behavior. There have been many indications that the villagers have picked up in regarding to gender.

From discussion the following practical changes that have been adopted:

1. women increasingly keep and control money;
2. increasingly men help in domestic work, taking of children and help feeding pigs and chicken and even in pounding rice;
3. some ritual practices, previously restricted from women's involvement, such as for the spirit (*phii mone*) of their livelihoods;
4. husband's increasingly view wife relations as a discussion partners;
5. women know that they have right in getting assets in case of divorce;
6. men learn that beating wife is not allowed; and

7. *sao-noum* (youth organization in Akha villages) learn that they can not offer their girls to visitors without consulting with them. It is the girls who have to make the final decision; girls learn that they can have a say if they have been offered. They can say "NO" if they don't want to sleep with the man they don't like.

From Chapter on Education we readily see that girls have progressed at higher rates than boys. The girls improved in passing exams in 2005 from 28.9 percent to 45.9 percent of total in 2008. This is quite significant, and stated progress for both boys and girls is *slow but sure*.

In general opium cultivation was more of a burden on women rather than men other than land clearing, of which the heavier work is done by men. Women and girls usually do the lion's share of work in planting, weeding and tapping of the resin. It seems as though men usually did the marketing of it.

Opium addiction negatively affects women more than men. Obviously women benefit from detoxification themselves if they are addicted, and they are about 10.8 percent of the addicts, and therefore are participants in the detoxification. Their relapse rates are much less than men. It was usually up to women to compensate for the loss of males (due to addiction) as a part of the labor force in livelihoods systems.

Chapter 9: Conclusions and Recommendations

9.1 Agricultural and Livelihoods

9.1.1 Food Security

1. Upland rice [*hai*] systems contribute the most to the household's livelihoods system's food security, and its performance needs to be improved both with rice and other crops.
 - 1.1 *Extension activities should be done through much more, which are aimed at farm household's real problems, obstacles and opportunities.*
 2. Paddy rice production stabilizes rice production since there is water control with irrigation.
 - 2.1 *First, the Project in conjunction with the DAFO (and perhaps PAFO) should review and reassess the technical, economic and social viability of paddy building and irrigation scheme construction in the target area. Based on the review findings, the following recommendations should be considered.*
 - 2.2 *Increased efforts should be made to expand paddy land whether it be lowland or terraced paddies.*
 - 2.3 *Paddy land already created in seriously under utilized, there needs to be a continued extension effort to assist farmers with little experience in paddy rice cultivation.*
 - 2.4 *Engineering assistance needs to be given to make these small schemes operable, by repair of the weirs and distribution systems.*
 - 2.5 *If paddy fields are rainfed, in years with low rainfall they can be planted to field crops with elevated beds to prevent water logging.*

3. NTFPs are important as a source of food and as a traditional *safety net* in case of natural disasters, personal crises, or other emergencies. Households could always go into the forest and rely on their *jungle supermarket*.

3.1 *NTFP management is absolutely necessary for sustainable use of forest foods, and extension efforts must be made to raise the awareness of villagers of the consequences of unsustainable practices.*

3.2 *Also, the district (especially DAFO) must be made aware of allowing companies to come in to cut down forests and in order to plant rubber.*

4. Livestock and fisheries increasingly becoming more important as protein sources.

4.1 *More extension efforts need to be made concerning animal health, husbandry and fish culture.*

9.1.2 Possible Cash Opportunities

5. NTFPs are presently the sample village's greatest source of cash income. Households have every incentive to gather as many NTFPs for the market as they can. They have a short-term view and harvest as much as they can, exhibiting what anthropologists refer to as the *image of the limited good* -- in other words if I don't get it, you will.

5.1 *Extension efforts to convince villagers that harvesting must be sustainable. If they build on the indigenous knowledge, which they already have of forest flora and fauna, it is fairly certain that **ownership** can be instilled in them -- not just the district restricting them.*

6. Livestock is currently the second greatest cash income generator in the area. Farm households are very interested in expanding livestock rearing, especially cattle, buffalo, pigs and goats. They can fairly easily sell them to itinerant traders who come up to the area during the DS. Farm households are motivated to raise more livestock. The substation at Bouak Bo has already successfully done on-station trials of ruzi, guinea, and stylo grasses.

6.1 *Continue to give more extension training, demonstrations, and activities concerning improved animal husbandry.*

6.2 *Large animal rearing should be disseminated as being an economic enterprise, for which there is regular income. This is best done through fattening and selling on a regular basis in order to have a steady cash flow.*

6.3 *Fattening of large animals will more than likely require some additional improved grass planting to supplement natural pastures. Many lessons learned can be learned from the PRONAE project in Sayabury and Xieng Khouang. Study tours for both extension agents and farmers should be sent to view these results.*

7. Poultry, especially chickens, are still dying off, especially chicks at a rate of about 80-90 percent. There seems to be little vaccination efforts for these poultry.

7.1 *Poultry vaccinations should also be given priority to reduce chick mortality.*

8. Field and horticultural crops do have possibilities, but special attention needs to be paid before disseminating extension information. It is also, the character of these commodities as being more perishable in storage and transport than say livestock. The Project must be wary of the technical agriculturalist's failing is to *make green things grow* and then worry about selling them later. This market emphasis will be detailed later in this chapter.

8.1 *Crops presently with physical yield potential are corn, garlic, ginger, peanuts, etc. If these are cultivated for more than consumption needs, markets should be sought and attempts to do possible contract farming if farmers are given a fair deal.*

9. Rubber must be examined and evaluated carefully. Its production will come in 7-8 years in the future and world market conditions are likely to change drastically.

9.1 *Extension agents and DAFO should utilize the new rubber extension manual being developed by NAFES and NAFRI. It clearly states that farmers (and extension agents) should consider all factors before making decisions.*

10. At very high opium prices opium poppy re-cultivation will surely occur if not already being cultivated surreptitiously.

10.1 *The Project and district (including the DAFO) must work extra hard at finding profitable economic alternatives while assuring farmers of receiving fair prices.*

11. NTFPs are really crucial to increased household income in the target area. But these are not free goods which can be used without limits. As mentioned previously there must be sustainable harvesting and management of NTFPs. It is especially true where these commodities now have a price tag.

11.1 *In other places in Laos NTFPs have been domesticated, such as: mulberry paper (po saa), galanga (hak kha), ginger, tea, etc. The Project should make attempts to domesticate some NTFPs, such as tea and others.*

11.2 *Again, there must be an extension effort to get villagers to internalize the risks of not conserving these resources themselves.*

9.1.3 Natural Resources

12. We have already spoken about specific upland and paddy land uses previously. Clearly there is no land use plan in which villagers really have participated or have any sense of ownership. They do not even understand the land categories used.

12.1 *It is highly recommended that the present LUP/LA process be reviewed and seriously revised. It is absolutely necessary to get real participation of communities and households. Thus, it is recommended that a participatory land use planning (PLUP) process. The Project should make every effort to assist villages and the DAFO in this process.*

12.2 *This should be a livelihoods-based not forest-based assessment where village ownership is a clear objective. Land and forest types must be designated of which households clearly understand and the community can manage.*

12.3 *Extension agents should be key facilitators with other DAFO staff in supportive roles.*

12.4 *Extension agents with assistance from experienced NAFES and NAFRI technicians should designate clear agroecological zones (AEZ) in each khet in order to be able to fit technologies to the various conditions, thus saving much time in the technology testing and dissemination process in similar zones.*

12.5 *The Project and DAFO may consider to begin the PLUP in B Chapii since they yet to have any land use planning. B Chapii uses their own plan, and it should be thoroughly studied and built upon as a pilot for PLUP. Also, the lessons learned from the other five villages should be taken advantage of in order to avoid weaknesses and build on strengths. Key issues are: village's boundary clarification; forest designation, agricultural land determination which takes into account of the most fertile existing areas with the best soils for the swidden rotations. Then the PLUPs can be done in the other villages.*

9.1.4 Extension System

13. The MAF has accepted the Lao extension approach (LEA) as the official standard for extension throughout the country. This has been developed and is continually being tested throughout the nation by the Lao Extension for Agriculture Project (LEAP) in selected districts throughout the country. It has been tried successfully in 2008 in M Vieng Phou Khaa in LNT.

13.2 *It is highly recommended for the DAFO and Project to consider adopting LEA for some or most of its extension activities, as appropriate. This will help the Project's extension activities to fit into the national system and serve as pilot for the M Long DAFO.*

14. The khet extension service centers [KESC], as NAFES at first referred to them or *kuum baan phattana* center are being stressed throughout the nation by MAF. The DAFO has a plan to establish them in all nine khets in M Long.

14.1 *This is a good opportunity for the Project to assist the district by providing the lessons learned from the two substations.*

15. Farm households are being bombarded with information and mis-information, which have been manifested by various market forces. Unscrupulous companies have enticed farmers with unreal promises.

15.1 *The Project, in close cooperation with provincial and district agencies, especially DAFO and PAFO, and DCO and PCO, must improve general market literacy of farm households. These activities would include (but not necessarily be limited) the preparation farmer extension materials; farmer training; and demonstrations concerning commercial production, marketing, quality, timing of production; use of market information, and decision-making.*

15.2 *Workshops should be held between farm production groups, GOL relevant agencies, and private sector (much like those of M Vieng Phou Khaa) before each season, wet season (WS) and dry season (DS).*

15.3 *The Project (perhaps in cooperation with other projects in LNT) should assist the province and district in the establishment of market information service. This would*

include the regular (at least biweekly) gathering of prices of key commodities in the five LNT districts. It would also be useful to include prices in China, Thailand and Myanmar if possible.

- 15.4 *There is an **urgent** need for increased awareness of the contracting process, first and foremost amongst farmers but also with GOL staff in PAFO, DAFO, PCO, and DCO only to name a few. GTZ is drafting a model contract, which should be considered by the Project to be used as an example. Training and workshops are needed. And there is much room for cooperation with other projects.*
16. *Extension mass media materials are known to be very effective in disseminating information. These could be bulletins, manuals, radio, TV, and video.*
- 16.1 *Media materials should be developed for the Project area must include pictures and cartoons since people are illiterate in the Lao language.*
- 16.2 *Radio, TV and video programs should be in the Lao, Akha (and perhaps other) languages could then be broadcast several times a week over the radio in M Long. Market information could also be included with current prices as a part of extension messages.*
17. *In concert with PLUP, agroecological zoning and other extension improvements a geographic information system (GIS) would be very useful for extension work more effective and efficient.*
- 17.1 *We recommend the establishment of a geographic information system (GIS) in the Project area. This will better allow for more systematic undertaking of on-farm trials, demonstrations, and other activities. It should help to avoid duplications and assist in the utilization of zoning.*

9.2 CB-DAC

18. *Organizational structure of CB-DAC has not been very effective.*
- 18.1 *There is a great need to review the organizational structure setting for the DCDC of which only one man has been charged in six months. The working group for drug control including interdisciplinary team from different agencies at the district need to be considered. The village drug network/ successful ex-addicts have to be seen in this structure. A clear mandate with concrete action and line of cooperation and coordination between DCDC office, working group on drug control as well as village drug network have to be identified and made clear to all concern.*
- 18.2 *There are issues, which need to be considered concerning the organizational setting, human resource development plan, national and provincial policies and strategies on drug control and prevention.*
19. *Policy guidelines and strategies of Luang Nam Tha province are not adequate to effectively combat illicit drugs.*
- 19.1 *These guidelines, strategies and enforcement need to be spelled out and integrated into Project activities. The Project should also be prepared to enhance its close cooperation*

with the district. This is to assure that Project implementation is carrying in a way that the PCDC and DCDC and concern district agencies are gradually gaining confidence to continue implementing the activities in the long run.

20. The CB-DAC concept and process have perhaps not been as effective as possible.

20.1 *The CB-DAC concept and process need to be reviewed and discussed among concerned agencies and villagers. The Project should take a leading role in drawing lessons learned from the previous phase and how to properly carry out the CB-DAC process, which fit into today's context. The revision should be done in a collective working group consisting of both district concerned agencies and village representatives. This revision should result in a clear framework for the next three years (2008-2010) with clear practical strategies. Moreover, clear tasks with concrete activities and action plans have to be reached to this end. A common monitoring and evaluation mechanism where all concerned beneficiaries have to be seriously discussed.*

21. Since village level drug activities are the most important and crucial, therefore extra effort should be made to make them more effective. In CB-DAC village preparation and the follow-up periods are essential.

21.1 *It is highly recommended that the ex-addicts should be mobilized in the process of village preparation and the follow-up. These resource persons should also be involved during the detoxification period for moral support and strengthening the role of the village. But the most important roles for these resource persons should be given in the village preparation and follow-up. It is again highly recommended that village network should be institutionalized as an important part of the organizational setting.*

22. CB-DAC is first introduced and applied in this Project, it will be of great used if the experiences and evolution of this process has been systematically recorded. Since this concept has been introduced in the second phase of DDR, there has been changes in staffing of which document and data have not been timely and systematically updated. The successful self- detoxification with the Project only support herbal medicine and TO is very interesting to follow up.

22.1 *It is recommended that the Project starts compiling all available data and establish a systematic data system on the CB-DAC work. It will become part of references to support institutionalize strengthening as well as to assess the appropriateness of this concept.*

9.3 Health Services

23. Health services problems of villagers are not clearly understood by them.

23.1 *These problems must be discussed with villagers and all partners in the health service system. They must not be considered only as part of the problem but also as part of the solution.*

24. The training curriculum for VHV and TBA are not as effective as possible.

24.1 *The training curriculum (contents, tech and methodology) for VHVs and TBAs should be improved that fit to the target group which have limited Lao language ability.*

25. The roles and responsibilities of concerned health personnel are not clear with a distinct line of command.

25.1 *Clear roles and responsibilities for health personnel both villagers, DPHO, and Project should be discussed and agreed upon by all actors. And a clear line of authority should be articulated.*

26. The current monitoring system is not clear to any of the actors.

26.1 *Establish a common and transparent monitoring system of which all concerns can be involved (villagers, village health staff and district health and Project coordinator).*

9.4 Education Recommendations

27. The cluster schools have been immensely successful in promoting educational development in the target area.

27.1 *The long-term view for improving education especially through the 2 cluster schools used as the pilot model needs to be well communicated within the district education office and teachers. This should include human resource development plan which reflects how the trained teachers will be mobilized into the extended villages. The plan should also consider a fair to equal opportunity for teachers to receive supports and training.*

28. Other donor involvement has been crucial for educational development.

28.1 *The Project in cooperation with the district education office should play an active role to coordination with existing and forthcoming donors in education. The aim is to assure the optimally used of available fund as well as fair distribution of resources into the entire target villages. Particular in the target village, the Project should be able to have a clear message to communicate with the villagers in case of unintended negative reaction from villagers and teachers occurred.*

29. Participation of villages in education has been the key to getting the community involved in education.

29.1 *Teachers the only personnel who are mostly based in the village, besides being responsible for teaching, should be given a role as overall community assistance. The village teachers are a resource person for both villagers and staff from all sectors. There are many cases that teachers can be of help like the medical revolving fund which many VHV are found illiterate, if they are informed. Training teachers on "working together with villagers" need to be considered.*

30. Most teachers in the target villages are young and many have just graduated and are employed for the first time. It is very common that being alone in the remote village can cause confusion and motivational problems. Support for both their work and living conditions need to be timely delivered.

30.1 *It is recommended that the DEO have improved its monitoring system regardless of whether they are cluster or non-cluster schools. Regular supervision, effective monthly meetings and rotation of the monthly meeting locations within the area, should be considered as a great help to these young teachers.*

31. There have been good lessons learned from working with other donors especially on scholarship funding to girls and ethnic children.

31.1 *The Project should utilize this experience in order to improve the Project's scholarship fund activity. At the same time, the District Education Office (DEO) should be in the position as a discussion partner to suggest best practices for the Project.*

9.5 Overall Recommendations

These recommendations are general in nature and both related to the Project and district offices involved in implementing the Project.

32. Planning is extremely important since it begins with the PVP and has been quite successful.

32.1 *Improvement of the Project planning system which assuring of the integration & ownership of district agencies concern is highly recommended to be considered. The planning process should be made in a way that district agencies see the Project's activities fit into the government plan, and concurrently both the Project and agencies concern share common responsibility for the success or failure of that plan. The shared ownership of activities needs to be reviewed to assure the ownership of the concerned agencies district and province.*

33. The GOL fiscal year (FY) extends from October of one year through September of the following year. If we really want to mesh with GOL agencies, we have to do this.

33.1 *It is highly recommended that the Project get into synch with the GOL fiscal year beginning with FY08 (October 08 – September 09).*

34. Roads were mentioned by all villages as one of the most important contributions of the Project.

34.1 *The roads network must have full participation of communities and relevant district offices to maintain them. The communications office must put proper funds into their maintenance budget earmarked for these roads beginning in FY09 (October 08 – September 09).*

35. The Project target area is comprised of mostly Akha peoples with some Lahu Shii. Very few of them speak the Lao language very well. These Tibeto-Burman cultures are very distinct with unique customs and rituals. Few outsiders speak their languages with any degree of fluency.

35.1 *All sectors must try to recruit and hire capable Akha for working in these and other Akha areas in M Long.*

- 35.2 *The Project should continue to support Akha (and Lahu) young people in furthering their education and training in order to return to help in the development of their home areas.*
- 35.3 *Akha and Lahu cultural orientation should be given to all Project and GOL staff working in the area.*
- 35.4 *Project activities must always be cognizant of villager's calendars which relate to their livelihoods and culture. If these are not heeded activities will never be very successful nor show much ownership.*
36. The are increasing number of Chinese companies in Luang Nam Tha concerning agriculture (eg, sugar cane, watermelon, rubber, bananas). These could be possible threats for: 1) unfair business practices cheating farmers; 2) human trafficking; 3) out-migration, and 4) increasing demands farm households on GOL district and provincial agencies to assist them.
- 36.1 *It is recommended that the Project take serious attention on this situation and undertake studies of how to best assist.*
37. Since field staff interacts with villagers on a daily basis, they need proper equipment and supplies to d their daily jobs.
- 37.1 *The team would like to wholeheartedly recommend the purchase of certain pieces of equipment to be located in each of the substations and perhaps at the Project office, eg, GPS, and laptop computer sets.*

Appendices

Appendix I: Electronic Files of DDRPAEM Data

The following files are a list of those files related to data. In fact, these files of tables are distillations of the raw data from the village level and focus group data.

Then also included on the CDs is the report and its appendices, along with pictures taken both by the team and by the Project for the cultural event in B Chamai.

Table I.1: Electronic Files of DDRPAEM Data

	File Name	Description	type
1	Village summary	summary of key data from 6 sample villages	xls
2	Rice self-sufficiency	key rice data from 6 sample villages: production, yields, improved production costs, imputed value of product, imputed profit	xls
3	Summary report of 26 target village profiles	comparison of 2003 and 2007 socio-economic surveys	xls
4	NCA DDRPAEM LOGFRAME Planning Matrix 0	revised Project LOGFRAME	doc
5	Activities of FFW from 1999 to 2008	food for work activities in Project	xls
6	NCA evaluation HIV AIDS STD 2008	evaluation report	doc
7			xls
8	Report on Dissemination of Investigation Report	investigation into gender discrimination allegations	doc
9	S-E survey 2007 Summary 26 target village profiles	summary from 2003 – 2007	doc
10	Pictures [3 districts]	pictures from the 3 districts during the study	jpeg
11	Final Report	report, tables & appendices	doc

Appendix 2: TOR

4. Background:

Long district of Luang Nam Tha is one of the 10 poorest districts of Laos. It is bordering Burma with the Mekong river being the geographical and political border. The district was very isolated until 2000 when the main road through the district was upgraded to be an all weather road. The new road has brought major changes to the previously very isolated district. Long district centre is at the elevation of 600 above the sea level, with most of the villages located in the uplands with shifting cultivation as the primary mode of cultivation.

Northern Laos is characterized by ethnic diversity and the districts of Long is no exception. The population consists of the Tibetan Burmese groups Akha (the largest group in the area),

Kui (sub group of Lahu) and Muser (Lahu), the Hmong ien groups Hmong , Yao and Lanten and the Tai-Dai groups of Tai Doi, Tai Khao, Thai Deng, Thai Dam and Thai Lue.

NCA was from 1993 - 2004 the executing agency for the tripartite project of Lao Commission for Drug Control/ United Nations Office for Drug and Crime / Norwegian Church Aid in Long district with the objectives of reducing/eradicating opium poppy cultivation, reducing opium addiction, and improving the livelihood including education, health, water & sanitation. The first and second phase of the project as called Drug Demand Reduction and Supply Reduction in Northwestern Laos. The third phase of the project which started in 2002 was named Long Alternative Development Project (LADP F81). The target villages from the first and second phase were then phased out and the project moved to the remote sub-districts (*khet* or kumban [cluster development villages]) of Bouak Bo and Soploy, with 9 villages from 2002, 12 more from 2003, and 5 more from 2004, to a total of 26 villages. The target are located 30-60 km from the district center. These sub-districts used to be some of the largest opium producing areas in Long and Luang Nam Tha, and there were high rates of opium addiction among the local population. The target villages are all ethnic minorities with around 90 % being Akha. The LADP ended in December 2004 when the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs funding came to an end. Due to the relative short period for achieving the objectives set forth in the LADP and the precarious livelihood situation in the area after the opium eradication that took place in 2003/2004 and 2004/2005, NCA decided to allocated own funding for another three year project then named

Drug Demand Reduction and Poverty Alleviation for Ethnic Minorities in Long District, Luang Nam Tha (DDR & PW) (2005-2007) building on the foundation laid down in the LADP. The budget was significantly lower with no expat chief technical advisor as in the previous phases. In 2005 an HIV and AIDS awareness project targeted the Akha population was set up as a separate project with funding from a US based INGO and added to the totality of the NCA operation in Long. In 2006 an education project with funding from INGOs in Switzerland and Norway was started benefitting most of the 26 target villages. Although managed as separated projects, these projects are seen to contribute to the overall development of the livelihood in the Bok Bo and Soploy areas. Evaluations of these projects were conducted in November 2007 and February 2008.

DDR & PW has been working actively to increase rice production through small scale irrigation schemes, paddy land extension, trying out seed varieties, training of farmers. Alternative crops have been introduced to improve nutrition and food security (fruit trees, fish ponds, vegetables) and as cash crops. Livestock and other income sources have been promoted and Land use planning has been conducted for sustainable use of the land available.

DDR & PW has also facilitated establishment of social infrastructure such as drug treatment, health and education services . A 63 km earth road was completed from the district center through these two sub-districts to Mekong river in the north, also with access roads to villages. Two sub-centers were constructed, one in each sub-district, with offices and staff houses, meeting rooms and stores, and one dispensary. Two cluster schools have been established and teachers have been trained in child rights, management of cluster schools and multigrade teaching. Villagers as well as district staff have been trained in agriculture as well as other sectors. In all target villages Village Development Committees (VDC) are established and trained.

By the end of 2005 opium cultivation was drastically reduced, primarily due to the eradication campaign of the Lao Government, and many households that produced opium for sale have lost this source of income. The opium addiction has been reduced significantly, due to the methods of Community Based Drug Abuse Control (CB-DAC), where village detoxification camps with full support and participation from the total village was the key element. All project target villages, and a number of other villages in the district, have undergone detoxification, with low level of relapses. The number of opium addicts in Long District were reduced by more than 60% compared to January 2002 (1500 addicts). Presently in the target areas there are still around 60 addicts. New social threats to community well being has emerged over the last 3-4 years and the project has responded to the use of ATS, methamphetamines by raising awareness on the risks and dangers related to use of ATS and other drugs.

Objectives

The aim of the evaluation is to assess to which extent the project has achieved its objectives and outputs and lead to the desired impacts. The evaluation will also assess the appropriateness, effectiveness and efficiency of the strategies and methods in the project, use of recourses, the project organizational and management set up and the mode of cooperation with the partners.

The evaluation will guide the extension of the project and further NCA Laos further learning.

5. Scope of Work

3.1 Scope

The evaluation team will review the achievements of the entire period of NCA operation in the Bouak Bo and Soploy subdistricts from 2002-2007, however, the main emphasis will be on the last project phase III from 2005-2007.

3.2 Target Areas

The geographical focus of the evaluation will be seven of the 27 target villages NCA target villages three (with possibly one more) in Bouak Bo and three in Soploy.

Table 1: Selected Sample Villages

	Villages	Ethnicity	Comments
Khet Bok Bo			
successful	B Bo Mai	Akha	
partly successful	B Cha Mai, B Sam Meuang Kao	Akha	substation
barely successful	B Cha Pii	Akha	
Khet Soploy			
successful	B Ai Saeng	Lahu Shii (Kui)	very poor @ 1 st ; indentured servants of Akha
partly successful	B Pha Ngua	Akha	substation
barely successful	B Mekong Tai	Akha	

3.3 Target groups and focus areas.

The project has been targeting ethnic minority communities and the poorest segment of the communities that is defined as opium addicts and their families.

3.4 Project strategies and methodologies

The project strategy has been integrated rural development focusing on food security, health, water and sanitation, drug demand reduction, education and capacity building on the community level. The evaluation should aim at tracing changes among the target groups when it comes to improvement of livelihoods focusing on the above mentioned areas and to what extent the target groups have been sufficiently involved in the planning, implementation and evaluation of the project activities. The evaluation should also aim at tracing changes when it comes to empowerment for women and improvement of gender relations, improved capacity, participation of the target groups and institutional changes at the community level and to what extent the project has contributed to this.

Partnership implementation

The project has been working with and through partners within the government structure and mass organizations as well as support services at the district and village levels. It has also worked in partnership with the World Food Program.

- ! Village level: Village Development Committee (VDC), Village Fund Committee, Village Committee for Control of Drug.
- ! District level: District Coordination Committee (DCC), mass organizations, Agriculture, Health, Education, Construction and Transport offices, District Committee for Control of Drug.

The evaluation should trace to what extent the partnership with government and mass organizations have contributed to the impact of the project when it comes to effectiveness and sustainability. To what extent the set up of DCC contributed to the impacts. The evaluation should also aim at tracing changes among partners when it comes to inclusive service delivery to villagers and own capacity. In both cases it should be considered to what extent the project has contributed to the changes on different levels in the target communities.

Approach

The project has used a participatory approach focusing very strongly on the target populations own contribution and participation in planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. The evaluation should aim at tracing the impact of the approach and methodology used in the project. To what extent has this contributed to stronger and more self-reliant communities enabled to a greater extent to influence their own development?

Planning, reporting and evaluation system

The project has used participatory village planning (PVP) and evaluation with the target population before developing activity plan for each year. The plan will be scrutinized by the project officers and then approved by the project manager and NCA for implementation. The project has set up monitoring and reporting system to follow up on project progress. The evaluation should aim at tracing the impact the system on the implementation of the project.

Organization and management

The project was staffed with a project manager, an office manager/accountant and a cashier to provide over all management and administrative support to the implementation of the activities. The implementation of the project activities was supported technically by district coordinators, 4 project officers (NCA staff) and 5 community development workers (NCA staff) . The evaluation should aim at assessing NCA and partners management and implementation capacity.

Summary (condensation) of above issues

1. Improvement of agricultural livelihoods
 - 1.1 extent benefits to beneficiaries
 - 1.2 health issues as related to livelihoods
 - 1.3 education as related to livelihoods
2. Community drug abuse control
 - 2.1 detoxification and rehabilitation
 - 2.2 community awareness and resilience to drugs including ATS
 - 2.3 links between detoxification poverty eradication
 - 2.4 detoxification and impact on situation of women and children
 - 2.5 relationships health and sanitation to opium addiction
 - 2.6 CB DAC and social capital formation/tool for empowerment
3. Institutional changes and impacts at the community level by Project
 - 3.1 extent to which communities are stronger, more self-reliant communities, and to which they can influence their own development
 - 3.2 improved capacity and participation of the beneficiaries
 - 3.3 empowerment for women and improvement of gender relations
 - 3.4 impact of Project approach and methodology on accomplishing the above
4. Institutional changes on NCA Project staff and GOL partners (eg, DCC, partnership with government and mass organizations)
 - 4.1 impacts on staff and government partners on Project management on implementation for inclusive service delivery to villagers and increased staff capacity
 - 4.2 management and organizing of both NCA and GOL staff
 - 4.3 impact of monitoring and reporting system on implementation progress
5. Methodology

The external evaluation team composing of 5 members will conduct an overall evaluation. The methodology and division of tasks and responsibilities will be discussed with the team leader.

Outline of tasks

Overall

1. Conduct interviews with key staff of NCA and LCDC - Vientiane level
2. Review of reports and documents prepared by the project including evaluation reports.
3. Field study in selected target villages in the project areas and interview target groups
4. Interviews with provincial and district authorities, NCA project staff and other relevant persons and institutions

5. Presentation of the findings to NCA team in Long and district and provincial authorities

Field [mostly using RRA techniques]

1. village level data – informants: VDC, *Chao kok Chao Lao*, respected elders [*naeo hom*], women's representatives [VLWU]
2. household focus groups, especially mid & lower socioeconomic level HHs
3. community drug effort

Composition of the team

The team will tentatively consist of the following members:

- ! Dr Charles Alton, Team Leader
- ! Ms Pornthip Rattanakeree, Team Member
- ! Ms Ajaan Viengmala, Team Member
- ! Mr , Luang Namtha PCDC
- ! Mr Douangdy or Mr Sounthone [as appropriate], PAFO/Luang Nam Tha

Time frame and Reporting

- ! desk study & planning 11-14 March 2008
- ! field study 19⁴² days from 15 March to 03 April 2008 (19 days, including 2 travel days)⁴³
- ! workshop/discussion – preliminary findings on 1 or 2 April 2008, in Long district
- ! submission of draft report on 10 or 11 April 2008
- ! final report will be submitted by 21 April 2008⁴⁴

Documents to be reviewed

NCA Country Program Plan 2005-2009

Project documents (2002-2004, 2005-2007)

Annual Narrative Report 2004

Annual Narrative Report 2005

Annual Report 2007

Semi annual report 2007

Midterm Evaluation Report LADP (2003)

Mid term review

Empowerment through Education for Ethnic Minorities, Nov 2007

Final Evaluation of the HIV/AIDS/STI prevention for Akha minority of M. Long and M. Sing (Feb 2008)

Baseline surveys 2003 and 2007

Audited Financial Statement 2004

Audited Financial Statement 2005

Audited Financial Statement 2006

CB DAC Handbook 2003

DVD documentary on CD DAC

Appendix 1.

NCA Code of Conduct

⁴²In discussions with Khampheuane, he recommended to extend field time by a couple of days or so.

⁴³Lao Aviation flights to Bokeo [Huay Xai] on Thursday, Saturday and Sunday [lv Vte 08:00 & lv Huay Xai 09:50].

⁴⁴This clearly would depend on when the deadline for the return comments after Pii Mai.

Appendix 2.
Map

Appendix III: NCA DDRPAEM LOGFRAME Planning Matrix

Development Goal	To improve the livelihood with food security for 26 ethnic minority villages in Bouak Bo and Soploy sub-districts in Long District. To detoxification opium addicts in Long District, and prevent the use of illegal drugs.				
Project Goal (Purpose)					
	Narrative Summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of Verification	Important Assumptions	
Objective 1	to ensure food security and improve family income for the target villages				
Expected Outputs	4. Increased rice production 5. Increased production of nutritious food like vegetables, fruit, fish 6. Income from cash crops, livestock raising, and selling of forest products, to ensure an economic situation for each family that can provide food and other basic needs				
Objective 2	to continue Community Based Drug Abuse Control (CB-DAC), as LADP has done, all over Long District, including prevention of new illegal drugs like ATS				
Expected Outputs					
Objective 3	to improve the health situation in the target villages				
Expected Outputs					
Objective 4	to improve the quality of education in the village schools, and enrol more students				
Expected Outputs					
Objective 5	to promote gender equity				
Expected Outputs					
Objective 6	to strengthen the Village Development Committees in each village, so that they are able to take responsibility for further development				
Expected Outputs					

Activities

	Narrative Summary	Activities
Objective 1	to ensure food security and improve family income for the target villages	
Expected Outputs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ! Increased rice production ! Increased production of nutritious food like vegetables, fruit, fish ! Income from cash crops, livestock raising, and selling of forest products, to ensure an economic situation for each family that can provide food and other basic needs 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Follow up the land use planning done by LADP 2. Support villagers with constructing and improving irrigation facilities for paddy rice wherever there is a potential, and with paddy land expansion 3. Train villagers in wet season and dry season lowland paddy farming techniques, including water management 4. Assist the villagers in finding improved rice varieties for upland and lowland paddy 5. Introduce and give training in household gardening for vegetables and fruit 6. Support villagers in fish raising 7. Introduce and improve cash crops like maize, sesame, beans, ginger and other suitable crops for marketing and for feeding livestock 8. Training in grafting and propagation techniques, and production of seedlings of fruit trees and timber trees 9. Introduce and give training in soil and water saving techniques (terracing, contour planting, check dams), and support for construction 10. Introduce and give training in sloping agricultural technology and improved soil management including composting 11. Train capable farmers (men and women) in agriculture extension and veterinary work 12. Train and support Village Veterinaries to provide vaccination and avoid livestock diseases 13. Establish revolving funds to facilitate livestock vaccination 14. Establish buffalo revolving fund in villages with lowland paddy and only a few buffaloes 15. Establish cattle revolving fund in villages with a high potential for cattle raising 16. Improve techniques for keeping and feeding livestock 17. Encourage harvesting and marketing of non-timber forest products in a sustainable way 18. Give training and facilitate collection and production of dyeing products (indigo plant etc.) that is needed for silk production in Luang Nam Tha 19. Continue to develop model farmers in each village, and demonstration gardens in the 2 sub-centers 20. Per diem and allowance to 5 agriculture district staff including 1 sector leader to work full time with agriculture matters 21. Provide one Agriculture Office and 2 assistants 22. Provide one Project Engineer and 2 short term assistants (5 months each)
Objective 2	to continue Community Based Drug Abuse Control (CB-DAC), as LADP has done, all over Long District, including prevention of new illegal drugs like ATS	

	Narrative Summary	Activities
Expected Outputs	<p>! To follow up the special needs of the earlier opium addicts in the target villages, and detoxification relapses.</p> <p>! To assist the District Government to provide CB-DAC activities in non-target villages with opium addicts</p> <p>! To prevent use of illegal drugs, esp. amphetamines</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Strengthen the village leadership in order to identify and control the drug problems 2. Support and extend the CB-DAC network between target villages with resource persons 3. Follow up addicts dadaist earlier, and detoxification relapses 4. Introduce CB-DAC activities in non-target villages with a drug problem, and carry out detoxification when they are ready for the process 5. Follow up ex-addicts after detoxification, and provide re-detoxification to relapses who are motivated 6. Train teams and conduct awareness campaigns on the use of amphetamines and other illegal drugs in the whole district 7. Identify suitable villagers and organize a drama group for drug campaigning, give training and necessary support 8. Update existing drug abuse curriculum for students, to focus more on ATS 9. Train teachers and provide schools with information material to make the students aware of the danger of illegal drugs, esp. amphetamines 10. Training, allowance and per diem to 4 district staff, one of them sector leader, to work full time with CB-DAC and drug awareness campaigns
Objective 3	to improve the health situation in the target villages	
Expected Outputs		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 11. Spring water construction in 4 villages, spring water repair in 7 villages 12. Training of Village Health Volunteers and midwives 13. Health check ups for women and children 14. Medicine revolving fund to 5 more villages 15. Information dissemination on STDs, esp. HIV-AIDS, with focus on prevention 16. Dipping of mosquito nets, extension of mosquito net revolving fund 17. Latrine construction, 125 latrines 18. Monitoring of revolving funds 19. Toilets to 5 more schools 20. Establish 2 model villages on health and hygiene 21. Emergency fund for outbreak of diseases 22. Allowance and travel cost (per diem) to 1 district health staff
Objective 4	to improve the quality of education in the village schools, and enrol more students	

	Narrative Summary	Activities
Expected Outputs		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Training courses for teachers in teaching methodology, 3 times 2. Schoolbooks for the students 3. Extra-curriculum reading materials 4. Construction of 2 new schools and new classrooms where needed in existing schools, including blackboards and teacher desk 5. Hydropower to 6 schools to facilitate non-formal education 6. Supervision of teaching by District Education Office 7. Establish and train 2 parents association, follow-up all parents associations at 21 existing school 8. Scholarship to 18 ethnic students at Teachers College in Luang Nam Tha 9. Allowance and travel cost (per diem) to 1 district education staff 10. Salary and other personnel cost for Education Officer
Objective 5 Expected Outputs	to promote gender equity	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Gender should be a cross cutting issue in all activities. Examples: increase the number of female students in formal and non-formal education, train female farmers as well as male, use women as well as men as resource persons, give counseling on gender issues to families with opium addicts who detoxify 2. Gender awareness campaigns in target villages 3. Training and monitoring of savings and credit groups, and extending to more villages if feasible 4. Training of District Lao Women Union members and villages committees in savings and credit fund management 5. Promotion of women groups for income generation activities
Objective 6	to strengthen the Village Development Committees in each village, so that they are able to take responsibility for further development	
Expected Outputs		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Competence building for VDCs in target villages in planning, leadership, community organizing 2. Study tours for VDC members to model villages 3. Identify and mobilize capable men and women to recruit as village volunteers 4. The project will use participatory working approaches to endure villages' contribution and feeling of ownership to activities

Appendix IV: Land Use & Crop Production 2006

2006	Upland Rice						Paddy Rice						Total
	WS0	Area [ha]	Prod [t]	avg yiel [t/h]	HHS [#]	total fallo [yrs]	total area [ha]	WS0 Area [ha]	Prod [t]	yield [t/ha]	HHS [#]	Area [ha]	
Pha Ngua	50.9	76.8	1.5	52	7	357	11.9	58.2	4.9	20	369		
AI Saeng	24.7	32.8	1.3	20	7	173	2.4	11.1	4.7	9	175		
Mekong Tai	60.8	59.1	1.0	36	9	548	2.47	3.86	1.6	5	550		
Chamai	84.9	104.	1.2	48	7	594	9.02	41.3	4.6	39	603		
Saam Meuang	40.1	57.7	1.4	21	10	401	2.09	7.15	3.4	6	403		
Chapii [Khamseen	33.5	62.7	1.9	35	9	302	5.7	27.2	4.8	18	307		
Total	393.	8.3	212.	49.0	2,374	33.6	149.	23.9	97.0	2,408.1			
Average	12.3	49.2	1.4	35.3	8.2	395.8	5.6	24.8	4.0	16.2	401.4		

Source: Socio-Economic Survey of 2007

Appendix V: CB-DAC (Experience on CB-DAC of B AI Saeng)

At first detoxification it was a village-based detoxification for 15 days, where 27 addicts (5 women) attended.

- Before detoxification there was data collection two times in one month to discuss with addicts and meeting with VDC by two staff.
- During detoxification many government staff, herbal medicine from Oudomxai and provided other medicines. Villagers were involved as care takers, suppliers of food, and construction of shelters.
- After detoxification health follow up 2 times in 3 months, including a health check-up and provision of medicine.

There are four addicts (all men) remaining.

At the second detoxification, it was a village-based detoxification for 8 days, with 8 addicts (all men).

- Before detoxification data collection amounted only to a brief yes and no. Fifteen days before detoxification the VDC informed by AS 1, but one addict said the investigation was made in one day and detoxification occurred on the next day.
- During detoxification one officer (Wongxai) was with them, Vikom (health) stayed at the project center. The addict's family brought food, and they were allowed to eat at home, where one addict was able to smoke at home and even bring opium from home to use center. Each addict

received 8 bags of the same herbal medicine, which was used for the first time and they boiled it themselves. No treatment and other medicines were received but had to be bought.

10. After detoxification there was no follow-up.

The third detoxification was based at B Pha Ngua for 7 days, where 8 addicts (2 women) attended.

11. Before detoxification data was collected (10 days) and detoxification began on the eleventh day.

12. During detoxification staff (Vikom, Bounkhum, Jai), used TO 4 pills/day – two each morning and evening. No other medicine was provided but was sold.

13. After detoxification there was no follow-up.

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Appendix VI.1: DDRAPAEM expenditures 2005-2007

Year	Food Security			CB-DAC			Health			Gender			VDC				Education			Grand Total	
	Crop S	Livestock	Trng	Total	Mng/Rehab	Trng	Total	Health	Trng	Total	Funds	Trng	Total	Capy Bldg	Trng	Total	Eqpt	Curriculum	Trng		Total
2005 (Kip m)	386.92	96.41	43.75	527.07	191.03	0.00	191.03	91.56	0.00	91.56	35.90	7.43	43.33	57.17	23.31	80.47	91.74	0.00	9.29	101.02	1,034.48
2005 (%)				51.0%			18.5%			8.9%			4.2%			7.8%				9.8%	100.0%
2005 (US\$ '000)	38.69	9.64	4.37	52.71	19.10	0.00	19.10	9.16	0.00	9.16	3.59	0.74	4.33	5.72	2.33	8.05	9.17	0.00	0.93	10.10	103.45
2006 (US\$ '000)	25.51	8.38	1.28	35.17	20.32	0.38	20.70	4.29	1.96	6.25	2.52	0.30	2.81	20.74	0.00	20.74	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	85.67
2006 (%)				41.1%			24.2%			7.3%			3.3%			24.2%				0.0%	100.0%
2007 (US\$ '000)	15.41	13.06	0.00	28.47	7.21	0.00	7.21	4.43	0.00	4.43	0.72	0.41	1.14	20.34	0.78	21.12	26.65	46.54	23.17	96.37	158.72
2007 (%)				17.9%			4.5%			2.8%			0.7%			13.3%				60.7%	100.0%
Total (US\$ '000)	79.61	31.08	5.66	116.35	46.63	0.38	47.01	17.87	1.96	19.83	6.83	1.45	8.28	46.80	3.11	49.90	35.82	46.54	24.10	106.47	347.84
Total (%)				33.4%			13.5%			5.7%			2.4%			14.3%				30.6%	100.0%

Appendix VIII: References

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