

APPENDIX H

PROCESS FOR WEALTH RANKING IN VILLAGES

Poverty and wealth are relative. Each village according to its context, history and culture has criteria for determining what factors constitute poverty and wealth according to its context, history and culture.

A household, a social unit living under one roof, may have 1 or several families. Here it is important to recognize that one household may have a combination of better off, average and disadvantaged family units (parents and children). Thus, the distinction between household and families can be critical for identifying the most vulnerable, especially in multi-wife situations in the Lao PDR.

Setting the criteria (1.5 hours):

1. Invite village elders, committee members and anyone else around to decide what things that the people have in the village. (Make sure that at least 3-4 women are present.)
2. Using the attached list, ask the group what items or assets do people have in the village. Draw pictures where possible, so that illiterate people can understand the process.
3. On the list below, cross out items not appropriate, and add other items that are not on the list.
4. Make three signs “Poorest Families”, “Average Families” and “Better-off Families” and place them on the floor. Using color pens for each status is helpful.
5. Ask the entire group about each item. Ask the group to decide which things the poorest, average and well-off families usually have and how many. Whenever possible, for each item, set an average number of items for each poverty level.

Example: Do poor families have paddy or hai fields or both? Place under the sign “poorest families” the pictures that apply.

For rice sufficiency, ask:

How many months of rice does a poor family usually have?

How many months of rice does an average family usually have?

How many months of rice does a better-off family usually have?

Write the number of months on the picture of rice bags.

Determining Levels of Wealth for Each Family

The quickest and easiest method for determining in a village which the level of wealth / poverty of families fit is described below. For accuracy, this method allows each family to make its own decision about its status, not the village authorities.

- Gather all families into a general meeting.
- Present the criteria list set above, using pictures placed into three columns for Poorest (red paper), Average (yellow paper) and Better-off (blue paper).
- Ask if the villagers would like to change the criteria list in any way.
- Make the agreed upon changes by altering the pictures and the color in any way suggested.
- Ask each family to decide which column best represents its situation.
- Give a red, yellow or blue card to each family according to its decision.
- Ask the other villagers if they agree with the colors that the families have selected.
- Record in some way the names of the family heads and the family’s color.
- If a village map is available with each house, color the house according to the families within.

ພອມສຳລັບຈັດຕັ້ງເງື່ອນໄຂ ລະດັບຄວາມທຸກຈົນ ຂອງຄອບຄົວ ຢູ່ບ້ານ _____

Wealth Ranking Criteria for Families in _____ Village

ວັນທີ date _____

ຂັບສົມບັດ Wealth Items	ທຸກທີ່ສຸດ Poorest	ລະດັບກາງ Average	ລະດັບດີ Better-off
ເຂົ້າພໍກິນ/ ຕໍ່ປີ Months of Sufficient rice/ year			
ເຄື່ອງນຸ່ງຫົ່ມ Clothes			
ຜ້າຫົ່ມ Blanket			
ມ້າງ Mosquito net			
ນາ Paddy fields			
ໄຮ່ Upland fields			
ຄວາຍ Buffaloes			
ງົວ Cows			
ໝູແລະແປ້ Pigs and goats			
ສັດປີກ Poultry			
ເຮືອນ House			
ລົດຖີບ Bicycle			
ລໍ້ຢູ່ Push Cart			
ລົດຈັກ Motorbike			
ຄາດ, ໄຖ Plow			
ເດັກໄປໂຮງຮຽນ Children attend school			
ຈັກໃດດີນາໂມ Dynamo			
ເຄື່ອງມືລະດີ Antique things			
ລາຍຮັບເງິນ 80.000 ກີບ/ເດືອນ/ຄົນ Money 80,000 kip/ month/ pers.			
ແຮງງານສົມບູນ Adult labourers			
Tools for making handicrafts			