Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry



POVERTY REDUCTION FUND ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

(January – December 2021)

PRF aims to develop and implement innovative community driven activities, enabling rural households to improve their livelihoods, well-being and nutrition through group-based activities.

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ABBREVIATIONS

ADS	Agricultural Development Strategy
AFN	Agricultural Development Strategy Agriculture for Nutrition
AL	Agriculture for Nutrition Agriculture for Livelihood
AWPB	
	Annual Work Plan and Budget
CD	Community Development
CDD	Community Driven Development
CF	Community Facilitator
CFA	Community Force Account
CMS	Community Managed Sub-Projects
CLTS	Community-Lead Total Sanitation
CQS	Consultant Qualification Selection
DAFO	District Agriculture and Forestry Office
Deepen CDD	Deepen Community Driven Development
DNO	District Nutrition Officer
DPO	District Planning Office
DRDC	Department of Rural Development and Cooperative
DRM	Disaster Risks Management
DS	Direct Selection
DSEDP	District Social Economic Development Plan
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EM	Energy and Mine
ESF	Environment Safeguard Framework
ESS	Environmental and Social Safeguard Specialist
FB	Facebook
FEE	Final External Evaluation
FIP	Family Investment Plan
FRM	Feedback and Resolution Mechanism
FNG	Farmer Nutrition Group
GESI	Gender Equality and Social Inclusion
GOL	Government of Lao
GIS	Geography Information System
GPAR	Governance Public Administration Reform
HGNDP	Health Governance and Community-Driven Development Project
НН	Household(s)
HR	Human Resource
HNG	Home Nutrition Garden
IE	Internal Evaluation
IEC	Information, Education, Communication
IGA	Income Generating Activities
IFAD	International Fund for Agriculture Development
IFR	Interim Un-Audited Financial Report
KBF	Kum Ban Facilitator
KDPs	Kum Ban Development Plans
IXDI 9	

KPIs	Key Performance Indicators
LAK	Lao LAK (Lao Currency)
IC	Individual Consultant
IDA	International Development Agency
LBD	Luangprabang Buffalo Diary
LFN	Lao Farmer Network
LN	Livelihood and Nutrition
LWU	Lao Women Union
LYG	Livelihood Young Graduate
LYU	Lao Youth Union
MAF	Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
MDD	Minimum Dietary Diversity
MIP	Micro Investment Plan
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MIS	Management Information System
MNS	Minutes
MoF	Ministry of Finance
MPI	Ministry of Planning and Investment
MTR	Mid-Term Review
MTS	Multimedia & Technology Solution Sole Limited
NCD	Nutrition and Community Development
NCX	New Chip Xeng (Motorbike Dealer Company)
NGPES	National Growth and Poverty Eradication Strategy
NCRDPE	National Committee for Rural Development and Poverty Eradication
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
NPL	Non-Performance Loan
NSEDP	National Socio-Economic Development Plan
NRDS	National Rural Development Strategy
NYG	Nutrition Young Graduate
ODF	Open Defecation Free
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
PAFO	Provincial Agriculture and Forestry Office
PDO	Project Development Objective
PG	Producer Group
PGG	Producer Group Grant
PRF	Poverty Reduction Fund
PRF I	Poverty Reduction Fund Project I (2003 – 2011)
PRF II	Poverty Reduction Fund Project II (2012 – 2016)
PRF III	Poverty Reduction Fund Project III (2017 – 2019)
PRF III AF	Poverty Reduction Fund Project III Additional Financing (2020-2024)
POM	Project Operational Manual
PPM	Participatory Planning Manual
PM	Prime Minister
PMT	Project Management Team
QA	Quality Control
X.*	T Common

QAA	Quality Assurance Advisor
RMG	Road Maintenance Group
RRPM	Reduction Rural Poverty and Malnutrition Project
SDA	Sub-Project Damage Assessment
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SBCC	Social Behavior Community Change
SDC	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
SHGs	Self Help Groups
SHP	Strategic Healthcare Program
#SP	Number of sub-projects
STEP	Systematic Tracking of Exchanges in Procurement
SWSSHP	Scaling-up Water-supply, Sanitation and Hygiene Project
TOT	Training of Trainers
VDP	Village Development Plan
VFRC	Village Feedback and Resolution Committee
VO	Village Organization
VHV	Village Health Volunteer
VIT	Village Implementation Team
VMC	Village Multipurpose Center/ Village Mediation Committee
VSMC	Village SHG Management Committee
WB	World Bank
YG	Young Graduates

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report highlights the achievements and challenges faced under the implementation of the Poverty Reduction Fund (PRF) during January-December 2021 and the workplan in 2022. It includes the overall progress of works in the four provinces (Phongsaly, Oudomxay, Xiengkhouang, and Huaphanh) under PRF III Additional Financing (2020-2024) and also the progress of works in those six provinces (Luangnamtha, Luangprabang, Savannakhet, Saravanh, Sekong, and Attapeu) under PRF III Extension (2020-2021) funded by SDC and GoL.

During PRF III (2017-2019), there are 1,169 sub-projects had been implemented and benefited to 578,018 population (49.2% women, and 82.9% ethnicity) in 955 villages of 43 districts in 10 provinces. During the PRF III extension in the six provinces, there are 289 sub-projects, where 236 sub-projects were completed in 2020 (178 of SDC and 58 of GOL under LAK 13 billion). Almost 53 SPs (the last GoL co-financing of, LAK 13 billion) were completed by December 2021, and only a few SPs will be completed by January 2022. All SPs under PRF III Extension could be utilized by 167,229 beneficiaries including women (49% of the total number of beneficiaries) and 155,323 are from small ethnic groups (92% which is 22% higher than the target) in 285 villages in 23 districts of 6 provinces.

By applying CFA for all 178 SPs under SDC funding in 2020, Through the CFA approach over 284 skilled labourers from the villages where received sub-projects (average 2 villagers per village) received vocational training at Provincial or District Vocational School and those people had become village contractors to construct the sub-projects that PRF support, and also other projects in their community, and they can continue the work after ending PRF in their communities.

By December 2021, PRF has monitored the status of all all CFA's construction and skilled labourers after completing the work with PRF. From June to December 2021, it is found that there are 163 out of 284 skilled labourers (57%) continued working on contruction which increased 9% compared to the last reported number of 138 out of 284 skilled labourers (49%) in the semi-annual report 2021.

Due to the positive outcomes of CFA based the final evaluation in 2020, where CFA approach which has been provided as the optimal suit for a poor community to raise their living quality and benefit to all communities, particularly the poor families to get the opportunity to work and earn income; therefore, this approach would apply to all sub-projects implementation under PRF III AF. In early 2021, the CFA guideline has been updated and incorporated lessons learned from the previous implementation of sub-projects. This updated CFA guideline has also been applied for sub-projects to be financed under the new PRF III AF, for the first batch village will be implemented in the first quarter of 2022 and the second batch village will be implemented by the end of 2023.

The progress of work in the four provinces under PRF III AF, due to the impact of COVID-19 outbreaks caused the delay of activities in component1 (Community Development Grants), particularly the Village Development Plan (VDP) in the 231 villages (1st Batch), the survey and design just completed by the end of 2021, at least 173 sub-projects, including village road rehabilitation, small bridges, irrigation systems, the roof for agriculture markets, etc. The list of sub-projects will be submitted to donors for approval by January 2022, and the implementation will start in the first quarter of 2022 by applying Community Force Account and Road Maintenance Group methods

For the livelihood work, all activities of SHGs are positively in progress in 2021. The livelihood activities are being implemented in 229 out of 231 villages (99.13%), due to these 2 villages being classified as not poor and exceeding criteria according to Decree 348 and the villagers agreed not to join livelihood activities under PRF. As of December 2021, a total of 971 SHGs had been established (84%) with more than 11,733 members, while 10,879 are female (93%) and ethnic is 7,071 (60%) and about 58 % are from poor and poorest families.

In addition, a total of 1,339 VSMC have been set up who were selected to work for the Village Selfhelped Group Management Committees (VSMCs), of which 1,082 are women (81% which is 16% higher than the target), and 58% are ethnic who have been assigned clear roles and responsibilities for leading SHGs and performance financial management including bookkeeping and accounting system.

In December 2021, the total savings are US\$ 203,298 (86.6% increased by comparing with the last six months report), which consists of 671 SHG members who have taken the saving loans with a total of LAK 771,919,000 (US\$ 83,904). A total of LAK 13,481,393,000 (US\$ 1,465,369) seed grants, which consisted of 484 groups in 119 villages received seed grants with a total of 4,120 members already taken loans of US\$ 849,205 from Seed grant.

In addition, all 4 trainings of modules such as Module 1 "What is Poverty, Reasons of Poverty, Impact of Poverty, Vicious Cycles of Poverty and How to come out of Poverty, Module 2 "SHG and Group Management", Module 3 "Roles and Responsibilities of VSMC members and maintaining the Bookkeeping and Accounting systems of SHGs" and Module 4 "Livelihood Activities, Family Investment Plan (FIP) and Micro Investment Plan (MIP)" have been successfully provided to 1,339 VSMC as well as 229 villages have been open their bank accounts for receiving seed grants from PRF. At present, the VSMC teams are working on Family Investment Plan (FIP) and seed grant loans are taken by each member for livelihood activities such as animal raisings, cropping, etc.

In addition, the VSMC members will mainly focus on monitoring the outcome of livelihood by activities, including the credit, repayment, dividend from SHG interest, and income from livelihood activities in livestock and farming. All data is being recorded and much data of livelihood activities have been inserted in the new MIS system systematically which can be accessed by all the stakeholders.

Farmer Nutrition Groups (FNGs), despite the Covid-19 pandemic, various activities have been implemented and progressed by comparing with the last six months report, including the meeting and training to target groups. The MIS system of FNG had been developed which would capture key data to have appeared in an online system. There are 249 FNGs in 231 villages with a total of 9,928 direct and indirect members from 5,632 households including 1,216 pregnant women; 844 lactating mothers, and 3,557 children 6-23 months, 3,466 mothers of 6-23 months, and 845 child-aged 0-5 months.

By looking at the budget of FNG cooking has been completely transferred to 12 districts, 4 provinces with a total of LAK 1,050,042,000 to be implemented in 231 villages, an average of about LAK 4,500,000 per village. As of December 2021, all 231 villages have been implementing FNG meetings and FNG cooking activities as regular 1 time per week. There are 6,353 FNG meetings between April-December 2021 in which FNG members could produce 4,4 tons of pre-mix for their cooking activities and there is also community contribution to meals up to 20%. Furthermore, there is a total of 371

kilograms of pre-mix that FNG members take home which comforts mothers to save their cooking time for their children. Since signing a contract with the Lao Farmer Network and Click in November 2021, the training on Home Nutrition Garden (HNG) and Multi-media Peer Learning (MMPL) has been conducted for DAFO, YGs, and HNG members at 4 Provinces, different video on nutrition will be made by community VDO team and will be shared in the Facebook application where people can easily access. The contract to support the activities of HNG and MMPL was signed in late 2021 and the implementation has been carried out until October 2022.

As proposed during the mission in December 2021, before sketching out the AWPB for phase-2-villages the mission team advises to systematically (i) review phase-1 village roll-out and (ii) strengthen the HR set up to ensure the quality of work. This is already in the workplan of PRF that would be discussed and prepared.

Nutrition Convergence Meeting on the WB multi-sector nutrition convergence (MSNCA). During this reporting period, PRF attended different meetings led by MPI (quarterly, six-month, and annual meetings) under the Nutrition Convergence, where all convergence project task teams (RRPM, HGNDP/HANSA, SWSSHP, and PRF), PMUs, and MPI Coordinators update the implementation status of each project. In general, the nutrition convergence meetings discussed coordination and how to get to work together in the same geography in those 12 districts in the 4 target provinces, agreed on indicators that each project should provide for convergence, target villages and data use. The convergence meeting at the local levels (province and district) was also organized. This is important to ensure that local authority understands the work and role of each project in the same areas and also to avoid overlap work. The PRF team developed an SBCC strategy for the nutrition activities. The team also reviewed the service contracts with LFN, Click and LBD are not overwhelmed by frequent LBD and negotiated follow-up contract with the volume of data collection.

Status of Road Maintenance Group (RMG), this activity will also implement in PRFIII AF, by applying the lessons learned from PRFIII. The internal assessment (Savannakhet and Saravanh provinces in March-April 2021) confirmed that the RMG has provided many advantages for the community, it can benefit women for income which help their family's living condition better, while women do not have to work on heavy machinery for the road maintenance work and the access roads to their community get improved in a good condition. However, the sustainability of RMG should be continued by key sectors likes DPWT, which should do the following activities: 1) Organizational Structure of the RMG and activities, 2) to Continue Road Management, and 3) the Coordination between the village office and the District Public works and Transport Office (DPWTO). This will be a helpful plan for both the village organization (VO) and the concerned sectors to have close coordination and monitoring to manage PRF's work in the communities.

The grievances are a part of PRF's feedback, which is importantly integrated and recorded into the MIS, which is used to assess the perspective of beneficiaries to the project. Different training about this work had organized for local staff. As a result, the number of feedbacks has largely increased by comparing with the last report from 324 feedbacks in June 2021 to 1463 feedbacks in December 2021. Different types of feedbacks entered into the MIS system, including requesting funds & technical support (718), compliment/praise to PRF (316), request for more information (94), complaint (17), proposes (286), and others (32). Most complaints had been addressed according to agreed procedures. A large number of requesting for the fund and technical support, particularly in those six provinces uncovered by PRF III AF, where villagers and also local authorities requested to

GoL through the work of PRF to find the budget to continue PRF work in their villages, and some also requested supported materials for COVID-19 prevention (detail in section 2.2.23).

Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI): For 2021, the Gender aspect has been mainstreamed in all PRF's activities such as village planning, implementation, operation, and maintenance. PRF has re-set up the GESI Focal Point staff (in October 2021) with roles and responsibilities to help in developing the strategy to promote the work on GESI and the PRF team started to review and update the gender action plan which meets a requirement. For example, a total of 215 staff which included 95 females (44.19%) which is 14.19% higher than target and higher than previous years, while 37.70% of the total staff are from ethnic minority groups which are 14,47% higher than 2020, for village SHG management committee or VSMC in which 81% are women who lead the community and over 50% of women involved in decision making, etc.

Environmental and Social Safeguards review were conducted for the PRFIII sub-projects in the 6 provinces by the SDC-funded Environmental and Social Safeguards Specialist (ESSS), and a technical quality review was conducted by the SDC Quality Assurance Advisor (QAA). The Environmental and Social Safeguards documents include Safeguard Checklist, DRM, and UXO Clearance Certificates for all SPs, identifying potential issues and seeking further details as required.

To ensure the safeness of work, the PRF also coordinated with the National Regulatory Authority (NRA) on the process for obtaining a UXO clearance certificate even if the subprojects are small and focusing on rehabilitating and improving existing infrastructures for all 10 provinces. During this reporting period, the PRF obtained documents related to UXO clearance from UXO-Laos, a government-owned company to conduct a UXO survey and clearance. PRF will work closely in 7 districts having UXO and the other 5 districts having no existing UXO in the 4 Provinces.

The construction of the 53 Government-funded sub-projects in the 6 Provinces has been reviewed by the ESS and QAA Consultants (SDC Funded) to ensure all sub-projects comply with the guidelines stated in the Environmental and Social Safeguard Framework (ESMF) and all sub-projects have been reviewed through the review of the list of sub-projects vis-à-vis the Safeguard Checklist and results of discussion to ensure the safeness of each type of sub-projects, finding issues during reviewing documents, mitigation measurement, and planning for action to cope with issues found.

Training and Capacity Building: In 2021, despite the lockdown as the impact of the COVID-19 outbreaks, through the new normal of working, the pieces of training had been delivered, by using online tools including Zoom, Webex, MS team, and Whatsapp. Numerous trainings aimed to build the capacity of the project staff and the community members in different areas, such as technical pieces of training, facilitation skills to VIT, and training on village planning to the community, O&M training in the six provinces uncovered by PRF, etc. The institution-building training are including the four modules of SHG training and three module VSMC training, project management training on MIS and M&E work and financial management, nutrition, etc. The mission (December 2021) recommended developing short training modules for each of the livelihood activities, which should include 5-10 minutes short videos on best practices and technologies from among the model farmers/model households and organize video shows during the training program with proper facilitation for easier adoption.

Financial Status: 99% for the IDA credit 5827-LA equivalent 100% due to the conversion exchange rate from XDR to US\$ has fully been disbursed. For IDA credit 65060 the disbursement ratio reached 19% of the total budget PRF III AF. For the Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation (SDC)

disbursement rate reached 98%, and for the COVID-19 project (funded by SDC) disbursement rate reached 100%, and the Government co-financing contribution reached 73%. As of December 2020, PRF has received an approval US\$ 1.6 Million (or LAK 13 Billion) of the last commitment of the GoL's co-funding to PRF III for implementing 53 sub-projects, 21 districts, 6 Provinces, and SDC has supported US\$ 395,200 for the sub-projects management costs. As of December 2021, the payment request is now being in the final process with MoFA. And all requested documents of payment will be in progress from January to March 2022.

Monitoring and Evaluation work, the PRF III AF, compared with the last mission (June 2021), the M&E system had been developed and provided different data and information through the reports and meeting's presentation to the Government, donors, and development partners including the convergence projects. By the end of November 2021, the admin part is completed (admin.prfmis.org), the last works to decide data appearing in the online system (prfmis.org), as to be completed by January 2022. Furthermore, the team had focused on strengthening some indicators' definitions and methodology, while some indicators might require some specific studies. In addition, the team also provide the TOT on M&E for provincial staff to support the work at the local levels, while at the district we proposed to review the feasibility of strengthening the district level M&E as well as YGs.

COVID-19 Pandemic Prevention Project and COVID-19 impacts in 2021: During this reporting period, PRF has completed the implementation of the COVID-19 Pandemic Prevention Project, a total of US\$ 500,000 funded by SDC. Even this project had been implemented in a short period (less than 9 months), the project could come out with positive results, at least the poor people in the remote areas covered (900 villages) by PRF could access basic information to protect themselves from the Covid-19 and other viruses which might occur in their villages. It could support the GoL's effort to reduce epidemiological risks in the rural areas at least 992 villages (454,572 people) to save lives through awareness-raising, at the targeted villages on how to protect themselves from COVID-19 and any eventual communicable diseases; and transmission of other viruses. In addition, at least 3,082 Village Health Volunteers (VHVs) have learned how to produce simple masks that can use in their communities. Students and teachers in 92 schools have acknowledged the measures and methods to protect and prevent themselves from the serious pandemic as Covid-19. These people can also utilize their knowledge and skill in other villages nearby their communities.

Status of the Final External Evaluation (FEE) of the Poverty Reduction Fund III, in August 2021, PRF signed a contract with a firm to work on this evaluation, and the first draft report was presented on 16 December 2021, some comments and suggestions were provided by PRF, World Bank, and SDC, where the final report will be done and shared with PRF by February 2022. In brief, the FEE team has shed light on General Assessment, Relevance, Coherence, Effectiveness, Efficiency, Impact, and Sustainability as well as converging of the Recommendations and Lessons Learned. This information and lessons learned will be applied for future work on rural development in Laos (see the final report of this evaluation).

During the Supervision Mission in December 2021, a brainstorming session about the next steps of PRF was organized with the representative of MAF, the PRF ED committee, WB TTLs, SDC representative, and WB consultant to initiate discussions on aspects of a potential new project - Community Livelihoods Enhancement and Resilience Program (CLEAR). The discussion focused on the need for any new project to conform to the World Bank's emerging Country Partnership Framework and contribute to achieving the objectives of the Lao Government's 9th NSEDP (2021-

2025), the 20-year Vision (2021-2040), 10-year Strategy (2021-2030), and Agricultural Development Strategy to 2025 and Vision to 2030 (ADS). This would bring together the lessons learned from PRF-AF and previous PRF operations, as well as another successful rural development project in Lao PDR. That would be discussed among GoL and development partners including donors for an up-scaling and reinvention of PRF's rural development operations.

Key activities in 2022

In the six provinces under the PRF III extension

- □ To complete all activities in those six provinces, including the implementation of 53 subprojects under the last batch of the GoL's contribution to 53 villages of 21 districts, through a cost-extension of the PRF III operations funded by SDC. Together with training on operation and maintenance to community and local authority before handing over to concerned sectors.
- □ Continue working with concerned sectors to get approval for organizing the PRF's Board Meeting to discuss the progress work of PRF through 18 years of PRF and plan for future, also discuss the handover of the work to all six provinces uncovered by PRFIII AF.

In the four provinces under PRFIII AF

- □ For the Livelihood: It is important to work closely on the ground to monitor YGs to conduct the in-house evaluation of all SHGs in the 1st batch village before moving the work to the 2nd Batch village, and also to plan to set up at least 25 PGs in 2022.
- □ For Nutrition convergence, PRF continues coordinating with all convergence projects, particularly, the MIS data sharing, planning integration, SBCC, etc. through the meeting and joining working at national, provincial, and district levels. Including the key area to further harmonize interventions at the community level, which is the alignment of communication and behavior change managed between PRF and other convergence projects.
- □ Focus on the implementation of all sub-projects in 4 provinces under PRF III AF by applying the CFA approach; together with planning for the second batch village.
- □ By the second half of 2022, PRF plans to start working in the 2nd batch of the Livelihood and Nutrition activity implementation in 234 villages in 2022. Some keywords to do include the project orientation, preparation of livelihood and nutrition activities, village development plan, etc.
- □ Other works: Continue discussing with key stakeholders on a potential new project: the Community Livelihood Enhancement and Resilience Program (CLEAR), which would be the need for any new project to conform to the World Bank's emerging Country Partnership Framework and contribute to achieving the objectives of the Lao Government's 9th NSEDP, 10-years Strategy (2021-2030), and the 20-year Vision (2021-2040). By considering the lessons learned of PRF and other development projects in Lao PDR.

CHAPTER I: PROJECT BACKGROUND

The PRF III Additional Financing (AF) Project has been built on the successful experience of the PRF II and PRF III Phases. Its objective has been to improve access to services for poor communities and to create stronger links between the local government service provision and the aspirations of villagers. During 2020-2024, called the PRF III AF period, this project development objective remains relevant. However, to capture the increased emphasis on livelihood and nutritional outcomes, The Project's objective has been revised to, "improve access to community prioritized basic services, as well as to support the production and consumption of nutritious foods in the Project's targeted poor communities".

In 4 northern Provinces, The PRF III AF will achieve the new livelihood and nutrition elements of the revised objective by i) providing capacity-building assistance to form, nurture, and strengthen Self Help Groups (SHG) and Producers' Groups (PG); giving seed capital, technical assistance, to engage them in nutrition-sensitive agriculture which will improve the production and productivity of crops, livestock, and non-farm activities for household consumption and sale to improve their livelihood and income; and ii) forming and strengthening groups of pregnant women and mothers with children under 2 years old to grow diverse and nutritious foods in their gardens, year-round, and to process and cook food for their own and their children's consumption.

Fund Sources

The PRF III AF has a total envelope of US\$ 22,500,000 over a 4 year-implementation (2020-2023). While the main implementation period will be through the end of 2023, some financial work/audits will continue until mid-2024. SDC has supported US\$ 5,400,000 for the PRF III extension (2020-2021) as well as providing the SDC Additional Funding of US\$ 500,000 for the COVID-19 Prevention activity, and of US\$ 395,200 for the management cost of the 53 sub-projects under the PRF III's Extension.

Table 1: Total budgets for PRF III Extension and PRF Additional Financing (2020-2024)

Source of Fund	PRF III's Extension in FY 2020-2021 (US\$)	PRF III AF Original Budget (US\$)
International Development Association		
(IDA), as the credit amount	-	22,500,000
Switzerland: Swiss Agency for		
Development and Cooperation (SDC)	5,400,000	-
SDC Additional funding for COVID-19		-
prevention outreach) ¹	500,000	
SDC Additional Fund for PRF III		
Extension	395,200	
Government of Lao PDR 2020*	1,625,000	-
Government of Lao PDR 2021*	1,625,000	-
Total (US\$)	9,545,200	22,500,000

*Note: Excluding community contributions and also village management cost.

Source: PRF Financial and Administration Division

The project's structure consists of four components, including Component 1: Community Development Sub-Grants, CFA approach will be applied to all sub-projects under donors' funding (28%); Component 2: Local and Community Development Capacity Building (5%); Component 3: Project Management (13%); and Component 4: Nutrition Enhancing Livelihood Development (54%) which are key project activities for this period.

¹ Detailed progress on the implementation of Additional funding for the COVID-19 prevention has been reported in a separate report.

The selection of PRF III AF target locations was prepared by each target district. As a principle, adjustments were made, so the PRF III AF could continue to operate in the same geographical areas (10 of the 12 districts to be targeted under the PRF III AF were covered by PRFIII). This built on the institutional capacity already established, and further developed the capacity of local communities and government authorities to collaborate for local socio-economic development in partnership.

For the selection of targeted villages of PRF III AF, the villages were selected based on one criterion – they are in the 12 nutrition convergence districts and not covered by the AFN project, there is a total of 481 villages (the actual number is 465 villages) which will operate activities in two phases, one at the beginning and the second one after the second evaluation mid-line survey.

For the total villages that will receive sub-project, funding only one time in the period of PRF III AF, there are 361 out of 481 villages² (75%), the criteria of selection will base on the followings:

- 1. Percentage of poor households
- 2. No physical resettlement/consolidation of other villages to this village in the last and the next 4 years

The PRF III Extension (2020-2021), which had been operating in those 6 provinces (Louangnamtha, Louanprabang, Savannakhet, Saravanh, Sekong, and Attapeu), funded by SDC and GOL's cofinancing of PRFIII. In 2020, all key works had continued from previous PRF's structure and activities, including sub-project implementation (*including RMG, DRM, etc*), local & community capacity building, and project management cost. For sub-project selection, the existing KDP of PRF III was used and CFA had been applied to all sub-projects under SDC's funding in this Cycle XVII. The budget ceiling had been reduced to about US\$ 14,500 to allow the implementation of more small-scale sub-projects by the community themselves, in line with the CFA approach. The work had completed and contributed to beneficiaries in 232 villages in 23 districts of 6 provinces.

In 2021, due to the last batch of the GOL co-financing of LAK 13 Billion (out of the total committed LAK 48 Billion) which will support 53 sub-projects, in 21 districts in the 6 provinces, the PRF III will be extended until the end of June 2022, to ensure a smooth and effective implementation. The PRF operational costs (monitoring activities) for these government-funded sub-projects will be covered by SDC through additional funding of US\$ 395,200. During this reporting period, PRF had worked with the local government and also reported to PRF Administrative Board about the ending of PRF, for more details will be discussed in the next board meeting when the chairman approves an appropriate date of the meeting.

CHAPTER II: ACHIEVEMENT AGAINST RESULTS FRAMEWORK 2.1 Overall Progress of work of Component 1

The core programs of PRF III (2017-2020), PRFIII Extension (2020-2022), and PRF III AF (2020-2024) include basic infrastructure improvement, capacity building, and livelihood and nutrition. During 2017-2021, PRF could achieve its Project Development Objective (PDO), through the Improve the access to and utilization of basic infrastructure and services for poor communities in a sustainable manner through inclusive community and local development processes. Where people in

²The number of villages may change, depending on the district development plan (village consolidation or other). For 2021, the actual number has 231 out of 465 villages (not 481), the number of villages was reduced due to the consolidation of village administration, Hydro Power Construction

all targeted villages involved in VDPs, 1,458 sub-projects related to basic infrastructure improvement, including the new construction and renovation (rural road improvement, water supply, irrigation, dispensary, etc.) had been implemented and utilized to more than 537,000 direct beneficiaries in 1,074 Out of 1820 villages of 43 district in 10 provinces, where over 90% of women involved in decision making and 84% of beneficiaries are from ethnicity. In addition, the supporting of those basic infrastructures could help to reduce the traveling time of beneficiaries to access basic service, for example, % of Reduced time from village to dispensaries (87.12%), schools (83.90%), safe water resources (82.0%), and road travel from village to Kum Ban center (52.30%).

Table 2: Sub-project by sector and budget PRF III and PRF III Extension 2017-2021, unit LAK

	PRF III (2017-2019)			P	PRFIII Extension (2)	020-2021)
Sectors	#SPs	PRF Budget	Com. Cont	#SPs	PRF Budget	Com. Contr.
Agriculture &	96	16,748,418,051	2,082,025,355	77	16,467,320,643	1,191,137,451
Forestry						
Education sector	435	100,787,057,872	7,317,735,963	61	9,513,968,640	565,453,549
Health sector	28	6,552,370,759	464,211,395		895,754,000	40,795,180
				5		
PWT sector	283	76,151,699,791	3,830,438,665	80	12,877,846,604	730,890,492
Water & Sanitation	12	42,089,441,183	4,733,596,924	66	8,385,132,993	592,568,726
Energy and Mind	15	3,973,946,250	71,760,000			
Total	1,169	246,302,933,906	18,499,768,302	289	48,140,022,880	3,120,845,398

Source: Monitoring and Evaluation Division, December 2021

* Com. Contr.: Community contribution, which counted 7.34% compared with total PRF supporting budget. To ensure the sustainability of SPs, the community is directly involved in the implementation of the sub-project, to encourage community participation and a sense of ownership, communities are encouraged to contribute in-kind resources to sub-projects in the form of both labor and materials based on local availability. On the other hand, the community also contributes to the implementation indirectly in terms of management and supervision of contractors as well as the operation and maintenance of the infrastructure sub-projects and livelihood activities in line with agreed procedures.

During the PRFIII extension (2020-2021), we had faced difficulty with the COVID-19 pandemic situation causing the delay of the sub-project implementation of Cycle XVII in 2020. However, PRF has followed up and supervised the activities regularly with the district team by having weekly and monthly meetings for consulting and reporting the implementation and finding a solution for problems encountered together. As a result, in June 2021, all 236 sub-projects (178 of SDC and 58 of GOL) had been completed and benefited all target villages.

In 2021, the last batch of the GOL co-financing of LAK 13 Billion to implement 53 sub-projects in 21 districts, 6 provinces; and in parallel, the SDC fund will support the management cost. By the end of 2021, most sub-projects have been implemented and 90% completed, only a few of them will be completed by February 2022. Then, the team will focus on the operation and maintenance before handing it over to the community and concerned sector at each target district.

The progress of work in the four provinces under PRFIII AF, due to the impact of COVID-19 outbreaks caused the delay of activities in component1 (Community Development Grants), particularly the Village Development Plan (VDP) in the 231 villages (1st Batch), the survey and design just completed by the end of 2021, at least 173 sub-projects, including village road rehabilitation, small bridges, irrigation systems, the roof for agriculture markets, etc. The list of sub-projects will be submitted to the donor for approval by January 2022, with at least 85,003 direct

beneficiaries; 42,279 women equivalent to 50%, and 88% are ethnic. The implementation will start in the first quarter of 2022 by applying Community Force Account and Road Maintenance Group methods.

2.2. Achievement Against Results Framework

During the project period of PRF III Extension and PRF III AF (2020-2024), there are 9 PDO's indicators including two new indicators of PRF III AF and 18 IRIs which included 6 new indicators of PRF III AF (see Annex 1), while of them already completed in the period of PRF III Extension and most of them continue in the PRFIII AF. Those indicators have been measured and identified for the success and achievement of this project. the achievement against the resulting framework in 2021 can highlight below:

A. Project Development Objectives (PDO)

2.2.1 Direct project beneficiaries

As mentioned in the project agreement (PRFII and PRFIII) PRF has counted the beneficiaries as the whole village's population that received sub-project/infrastructure supported by PRF, because during the village development planning all villagers involved in decision making to choose the top prioritized sub-project that would benefit to their community.

In 2021, there is no new construction supported by PRF in those 4 provinces under PRF III AF, so, we counted number beneficiaries only of the 53 sub-projects under the GOL co-financing of the PRF III are being supported in 53 villages, 21 districts, 6 provinces, reaching a total of 29,814 beneficiaries; 14,590 (49%) are females and 88% are from small ethnics.

The target beneficiary in the last year of PRF III AF (2024) is 876,700 people, which is counted the accumulated data from PRFII in 2012 because over 80% of total villages in PRFIII are the same villages as PRFII. In 2021, a total of 889,302 beneficiaries, which is 1.4% higher than the target, see in the table below:

Table 3 Total Beneficiaries including female and ethnicity of PRF III and PRF III AF

Indicator	Baseline	Achievement 2021	Yearly Target	End Target	% Achieved
1) Direct project beneficiaries	690,000 ³	889,302	-	876,700	101.4%
2) Female beneficiaries (%)	50%	49.1%	50%	50%	98.2%
3) Ethnic beneficiaries (%)	70%	85.1%	70%	70%	121.6%

Source: PRF Monitoring and Evaluation Division 2021

Remark: To ensure the duplicated counting, PRF used the village ID code to check

In addition, during this reporting period, the definition of this indicator was discussed, since the beneficiaries from SHG or nutrition might different from infrastructure, while some villages that received infrastructure, SHG, PGs, and FNGs that we can be counted total population. In 2021, since there is no new construction in the PRF III AF's coverage, thus, we can only count based on the

³ The endline target of PRF III's beneficiaries is 690,000 while the end target of the PRF III AF is 876,700.

number of beneficiaries at the villages received SHGs and FNGs, while the beneficiaries of PRF III's villages, we can estimate the number of at least 173 SPs in 173 villages in 2022, for the as detailed in the table below:

Table 4 Number of beneficiaries in PRFIII AF 2021

Beneficiaries	Total	Phongsaly	Oudomxay	Huaphanh	Xiengkhuang
PG	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Infrastructure (4 Provinces)	69,918	21,442	5,135	21,583	21,758
SHG	11,733	4,406	998	3,180	3,149
Nutrition	9,928	2,827	1,032	2,942	3,127
Total	91,886	28,804	7,165	27,792	28,125

Source: PRF Monitoring and Evaluation Division, December 2021

In addition, accumulate beneficiaries of PRF, particularly from PRF III AF, that we can check only new villages that have never received any support from previous PRF. For the two new target districts, including Boun-Tai in Phongsaly Province and Kham in Xientkhoung Province, all target villages will be the new target beneficiaries that PRF will clarify during the period of AF.

2.2.2 Female beneficiaries (Percentage)

By using the communitive number of female beneficiaries (2017-2021) in table 3, which is 49.1% which is a bit lower than target 50%, it depends on the proportion of the population in those target villages. While the percentage of women in those 4 provinces under PRFIII AF, we can justify by project activities as table below:

Beneficiaries	Total	Phongsaly	Oudomxay	Huaphanh	Xiengkhuang
PG	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Infrastructure (4 Provinces)	34,229	10,705	2,707	10,491	10,326
SHG	10,879	3,940	994	3,003	2,942
Nutrition	7,833	2,249	817	2,301	2,466
Total	53,189	16,973	4,518	15,882	15,816

2.2.3 Ethnic beneficiaries (Percentage)

As above, using the communitive number of ethnic beneficiaries (2017-2021) in Table 3, it is 85.1% which is 15.1% higher than the target. Just for 2021, in those six provinces that received 53 SPs under GoL co-financing, in which all villages are located in remote areas where the majority of the population is comprised of ethnic groups. In 2021, the total number of ethnic beneficiaries is 26,123 people equivalent to 88 % which is 18% exceeded the targeted indicator (70%).

While the percentage of ethnic beneficiaries under PRF III AF's coverage, we can justify by project activities as the table below:

Beneficiaries	Total	Phongsaly	Oudomxay	Huaphanh	Xiengkhuang
PG	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Infrastructure (4 Provinces)	37,052	16,202	5,135	12,382	3,333
SHG	7,071	3,151	682	1,449	1,789
Nutrition	4,268	1,392	496	1,046	1,334
Total	48,607	20,829	6,313	14,918	6,547

So far, PRF has supported the poor community in target areas to improve basic infrastructure that villagers can easily access basic services. For example, the improved quality of public facilities such as dispensaries, water supply, road, and schools and dispensaries could help to travel time from village to dispensaries, schools, safe water resources, and road travel from village to Kum Ban center or production areas, they can save the time to do other activities related to their living condition. These also captured in 4 PDOs indicators as detailed below:

2.2.4 % Reduction in time to access a health facility (Percentage)

The health facility is not financed in the period of PRF III AF, so, to measure this indicator we based on the 9 new dispensaries constructed in the period of PRF III and PRF III Extension (2017-2021), which is used to classify the percentage changed in the estimated walking time in minutes to access the nearest health facility before the PRF infrastructure investment was operational and afterward, as estimated by a focus group of male and female village members. Since there was no dispensary construction in 2021. As mentioned in 2020, this indicator can use the same number as 2020, which confirmed that the time to access health service can be reduced by 88% which is 8% higher than the target of PRF III (80%). From the 2022 report, we will not calculate this indicator.

2.2.5 % Reduction in time to access safe water sources (Percentage)

Same as mentioned before, household water supply is not supported in the period of PRF III AF. Therefore, this indicator can use the accumulated data of PRF III and PRF III AF (2017-2021). This indicator is used the % Reduction in time to access safe water sources. In terms of the percentage change in the estimated walking time (minute) to access the nearest safe water source, we used a total of 450 water SPs to measure this indicator, it found that 82.1% of time reduced before and after providing these water SPs in their villages, which is 2% exceeding the target (80%). We will not this indicator in the period of PRF III AF.

2.2.6 % Reduction in travel time from the village center to Kumban center due to road improvements (Percentage)

The rural road is still valid in the period of PRF III AF since there is no new road SPs in the AF's coverage; therefore, to measure the percentage change in the estimated motorcycle time in terms of minutes from the village center to the kum ban center before the PRF infrastructure investment was operational and afterward. During the year 2017-2021, we used 234 road sub-projects that PRF supported, the result shows that the villagers can reduce 52.30 % of the time, which is 12.3% higher than the target of PRF III (40%). This indicator will be measured again in 2022 when all sub-projects under AF are implemented and utilized by beneficiaries in each target village. This measurement will base on the time travel from village to production areas as the goal of AF.

2.2.7 % Reduction in time to access improved schools (Percentage)

The school facility is not financed in the period of PRF III AF. As mentioned in the last report, we used a total of 16 new schools constructed in the period of PRF III. We found that the children in target villagers could reduce 83.9% of the time go to school, which is 3.9% higher than the target of PRF III (80%). In our observation, education is still being the priority for rural development, particularly in those target areas of PRF, as shown in table 1 that is the highest number of SPs and also investment during the period of PRF III as well as PRF III Extension. From 2022, this indicator will not be reported in PRF III AF.

2.2.8 % increase in children aged 6–23 months from Farmer Nutrition Group (FNG) households consuming foods from four or more recommended food groups.

We expected to get the result from the Convergence Impact Evaluation. Thus, PRF will work with the Convergence team to find out the result of the baseline survey conducted in 2020, mid-term survey (2022), and final survey (2024), the percentage of children aged 6-23 months old, from Farmer Nutrition Group households who are reported to have consumed at least four out of the 9 food groups (using a classification of food groups based on international recommendations) during the 24 hours preceding the time of interview out of the number of children 6-23 months from households that are beneficiaries of the FNG activities. The baseline shows 37.5% and the final target is 40%, this indicator will be reported during the next round of the survey.

2.2.9 Kilograms of animal meat produced (number)

By the end of 2021, numerous livelihood activities are increasingly implemented in the 1st batch villages, 4,031 members have taken the loan for animal raising, including the pig, chicken, duck, goat, and fish raisings, which we can use to calculate the kilogram of animal that SHG members can produce in each year or each loan is taken. By the end of 2021, the members who took the loan started to sell their animal, while the average weight depends on the type of animal, as detailed in the table below:

Table 5: Kilogram of meats produce in 2021

No	Activities	Member	Budget	#Animal	Kg/animal	Total Kgs	Average
			(LAK)				LAK
1	Pig raising	1,902	4,274,534,000	5	25	219,625	2,247,389.06
2	Chicken	1,286	2,316,369,000	144	2	308,993	1,801,220.06
	raising						
3	Goat raising	449	998,650,000	6	20	65,320	2,224,164.81
4	Duck raising	254	418,258,000	132	2	53,713	1,646,685.04
5	Fish raising	140	319,700,000	639,400	0.34	211,775	2,283,571.43
	Total	4,031	8,327,511,000	639,687	-	859,426	2,065,867
	Kgs of meat	-	-	-	-	312,360	
	PRF III						

Source: PRF MIS Database, December 2021

The achievement against the target can see in the table below, which is 56% in 2021, the number may increase when members already sell their products and release the fund to other SHG members in early 2022.

Indicator	Baseline	Achievement 2021	Yearly Target2021	End Target	% Achieved
# Kgs of animal meat produced	527,219	1,171,786	2,108,877	5,454,540	56%

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic which caused the delay of the livelihood activity implementation for animal raisings in the villages. In 2021, the target 2,108,877 kg of meat should be produced, we used the accumulative number from PRF III which is 312,360 Kgs and PRF III AF which is 859,426 kg, so a total of 1,171,786 kg of meat that SHG members could produce up to the end of 2021, which is only 56% to reach the target. The team is still following up on the loan taken by SHG members that would proceed in early 2022, it is possible to reach the target by 2024. In addition, many target villages already have existing animal raising activities, they utilized their lesson from PRF for the livelihood work.

B. Intermediate Results Indicators (IRIs) Component 1: Community Development Sub-grants

2.2.10. % of total project value contributed by the community

During the preparation of PRFIII AF, it seemed that the target 10% of community contribution is beyond the capacity of poor communities, thus, it was agreed that communities are still encouraged to contribute their resources, but a target will no longer be applied. Since this is important to encourage community participation and a sense of ownership, communities are encouraged to contribute to sub-projects in the form of both labor and materials based on local availability. During the period of PRF III and PRF III Extension (2017-2021), there are 1,458 SPs had been implemented in 43 districts of 10 provinces, where 1,169 SPs in PRF III (2017-2019) and 289 SPs in PRF III Extension (2020-2021) the community contribution reached 7.34% compared with total cost funded by PRF, for contribution by sector can see in the table below.

Table 6 community contribution during 2017-2021 (Unit, LAK)

Sectors	#SPs	PRF Budget (LAK)	Com. Contr. (LAK)
Agriculture and Forestry sector	173	33,215,738,694	3,273,162,806
Education sector	496	110,301,026,512	7,883,189,512
Energy and Mind	15	3,973,946,250	71,760,000
Health sector	33	7,448,124,759	505,006,575
PWT sector	363	89,029,546,395	4,561,329,157
Water & Sanitation	378	50,474,574,176	5,326,165,650
Grand Total	1,458	294,442,956,786	21,620,613,700
% Community Contribution			7.34%

Source: PRF Monitoring and Evaluation_December 2021

Notice: For the PRF AF, this indicator will not be counted because there is no target, we will apply the CFA approach to all SPs implementation, where villagers who are involved in each activity fully benefit from each SP.

2.2.11. % sub-project activities of high technical quality (Percentage).

During the project life of PRF III and Extension period, For this indicator, we based on the Technical, Utilization, and Beneficiary Satisfaction Assessment conducted in 2018, thirty-six sub-projects were randomly-selected, reported that 92% (which is 7% exceeded the target value, 85%) of the infrastructures were considered to be in good condition, with the remaining 8% being rated fair as confirmed by the consultant team.

Indicator	Baseline	Achievement	Yearly Target	End of Project Target	% Achieved
% sub-project activities of high technical quality	85%	92%	-	85%	108%

In addition, in 2019, the PRF team had cooperated with University engineer students to conduct the quality control of PRF sub-projects in 2018, 71 out of 335 sub-projects were used in the evaluation, the result of inspection shows that 87.33% is high quality, while 12.67% is good quality, where is 100% meeting construction standard. As proposed by the donor mission in late 2021, it would be nice to have a more in-depth explanation of results and analysis, which would be discussed and agreed upon before proceeding with this work again. Otherwise, the assessment would proceed in those 4 provinces under PRF III AF.

2.2.12 PRF-built infrastructure of a functioning quality (Percentage).

By December 2021, we followed non-functioning sub-projects damaged by the aging construction and natural disaster for rehabilitation. A total of 3,169 sub-projects out of 3,335 sub-projects constructed from 2012-2020 (1,930 SPs from PRF II and 1,405 SPs from PRF III and PRF III Extension in 2020, for 53 SPs under GoL in 2021 are not yet in this assessment) are considered to be functional and in good condition. We found that 166 sub-projects were considered as not fully functioning, where 148 sub-projects (89%) of broken sub-projects have been repaired and re-used, only 12 sub-projects had been operated in a period then they had been broken and unusable; only 4 unusable sub-projects (community local markets) after the completion. However, those have been proposed to use as the village meeting hall and other village's activity instead. The reason behind sub-projects that are not functioning is due to the time used and the occurrence of disasters beyond the capacity of the community to repair. Therefore, this indicator currently reaches 95% (against the target of 80%, exceeding the target of 15%). (see Annex 2)

Indicator	Baseline	Achievement 2021	Yearly Target	End of Project Target	% Achieved
The PRF-built					
infrastructure of a	80%	95%	80%	80%	118.8%
functioning quality					

2.2.13 Sub-Project activities implemented by type (number).

From the year 2017-2021, the total of implemented subprojects is 1,458 which is comprised of 6 categories. As the figures shown in the table below, the education sector is the first priority requested

by the community covered by 496 SPs (35%), followed by the water and sanitation sector covered by the majority of 378 SPs (25.9%); Public Works and Transport (PWT) sector with 363 SPs (24.9%); as the third follows; 173 SPs are relevant to Agriculture and Forestry, while the health sector had 2% and the only 1% of the Energy and Mining implemented, since last three sectors were mostly provided by Government and other development projects thus the proportion in the PRF's support lower than education, water and PWT sectors. The detail in the table below:

Table 7: Number of sub-projects by sector 2017-2021

		PRF III	PRFIII		
		(2017-	Extension		
Rank	Sectors	2019)	(2020-2021)	Total	Percent
1	Education sector	435	61	496	34.0%
2	Water & Sanitation	312	66	378	25.9%
3	PWT sector	283	80	363	24.9%
4	Agriculture and Forestry sector	96	77	173	11.9%
5	Health sector	28	5	33	2.3%
6	Energy and Mine	15	-	15	1.0%
	Grand Total	1169	289	1458	100.0%

Source: PRF Monitoring and Evaluation Division, December 2021

By looking at the target based on the resulting framework, we used accumulated numbers from PRF II (2012-2016) as the baseline data of PRFIII, PRF III (2017-2019), PRF III Extension (2020-2021), and PRF III AF from 2022-2024 when all SPs will have been implemented. So, to measure this indicator, we can base it on the total number from 2012 up to 2021 which is 3,388 SPs which reached 98.48% against a target in 2024 (3,440 SPs).

Indicator	Baseline 2019	Achievement 2021	Yearly Target	End of Project Target 2024	% Achieved
Sub-Project activities implemented	2,800	3,388	-	3,440	98.48%

2.2.14 VIT members that are female (Percentage).

Gender equality remains a priority in the sub-project implementation for PRF. Therefore, this indicator is a new addition of the PRF III AF (2020-2024) which represents the percentage of females involved in the important role of the VIT management team. In 2020, there were 236 sub-projects with 2106 VITs; 713 females (33.9%). In June 2021, the implementation of the 53 sub-projects under the GOL fund, 477 VIT members are appointed, 159 are females (33.3%). On average, 33.8% of VIT members are females which is 2.8% higher than the target (31%). However, the final target should have at least 40% of the women should be involved in the VIT while in the year 2024 we expect to reach the target in those 12 districts in 4 provinces covered by PRF III AF.

Indicator	Baseline	Achievement	Yearly	End of Project	%
		2021	Target	Target 2024	Achieved
					2021

% VIT members					
that are female	31%	34%	-	40%	84.9%

By comparing with the end target, this indicator can reach 84.9%, the number of women involved in VIT would be higher in the PRF III AF areas because the member of VSMCs who will also work for VIT many of them would be women. Thus, all sub-projects will get approved and implemented. This can update in the mid-year report 2022 (July 2022). (see Annex 3)

2.2.15 Number of women selected for RMGs who earn an income, as 8% of the number of poor households in the village (Percentage).

The indicator indicates the data on the number of women earning an income comes from household surveys at baseline and end line. The Impacts of Road Maintenance Group (RMG), based on the final impact evaluation of this program shows that it significantly increased women's engagement in paid work, their earnings, and household income. Notably, the increase in household income was a large fraction of the wage payments made under the RMG program about 16 % compared with their previous, which suggests that it did not displace other income sources, but complemented them to raise household welfare (Road Maintenance Impact Assessment report, World Bank, 2020).

Indicator	Baseline	Achievement	End of Project Target	% Achieved
Number of women selected for RMGs who earn an income	8%	16%	16%	100%

In addition, during the donor super mission by the end of 2021. It was observed that the road maintenance groups' impact evaluation did not exactly evaluate this indicator of the results framework. The value reported in the results framework is the likelihood of working in paid work by 16 percentage points. This indicator could be calculated by the project. It is the proportion of all the women that have been selected for road and maintenance who earned an income out of the total number of poor households for all the villages. As shown in the table below, we got random check some villages that received RMG in PRFIII, which is 20.4% in average that women become RMG member by comparing with total poor HHs in the villages.

Table 8 Sample the Number of poor women in RMG vs total poor HHs in the village

Province	Poor HH	Poor HH Woman	Poor HH Woman RMG	Percent
Luangprabang	324	88	67	20.7%
Luangnamtha	138	23	40	29.0%
Saravanh	178	56	18	10.1%
Savannakhet	465	185	101	21.7%
Sekong	34	9	6	17.6%
Attapue	10	3	2	20.0%

Grand Total	1149	364	234	20.4%
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Source: Data collected by PRF M&E team at Provincial levels, December 2021.

2.2.16 Percentage increase in irrigated areas (Hectares).

This indicator indicates the percentage increase in the area of land that is irrigated for agriculture or fisheries production as a result of subproject infrastructure investments. We used a total of 61 irrigation systems (supported during 2017-2021) to consider the impact, we found out that those supporting sub-projects have provided a positive impact on agricultural activities, the hectares irrigated were increased by 48.4% compared between before and after supporting the irrigation system provided which 98.87% compared with the target (50%). For more information to support this indicator, we also added some questionnaires to the Final External Evaluation that would provide some additional information for this indicator.

Indicator	Baseline	Achievement 2021	Yearly Target	End of Project Target	% Achieved
Percentage increase in irrigated areas	-	48.4%	50%	50%	98.87%

Remark: To ensure the quality of data, the PRF team worked with DAFO to collect data and certified by district local authority

Component 2: Local and Community Development Capacity Building (6 indicators)

2.2.17 Households in PRF beneficiary villages voting for village priorities (Percentage).

This indicator represents % of households in PRF's beneficiary villages voting for village priorities. We based on the number of representatives from households (HHs) who participated in VDP. During the PRF III Extension 2020-2021, there were 24,212 (92%) out of 26,333 HHs participated in voting for the village priorities which is 17% exceeded the target (75%). In PRF III (2017-2019), there were 76, 412 (87.8%) out of 87,021 households participated in voting for the village priorities, which is 12.8 % higher than the target, as detailed in the table below:

Table 9: HHs participated in village priorities

Province	PRFIII 20	017-2019)	PRFIII Extension 2020-2021		# HHS Accumulate 2017-2021		Percen
	HH Participant	Total HHs	HH Participant	Total HHs	HH Participants	Total HHs	t
	S		S				
Attapeu	3,980	5,414	2,924	3,597	6,904	9,011	76.6%
Huaphanh	11,829	12,808	-	-	1,829	12,808	92.4%
Luangnamtha	3,299	3,852	1,775	1,971	5,074	5,823	87.1%
Luangpraban	12,410	3,215	6,299	6,664	18,709	19,879	94.1%
g							
Oudomxay	13,285	5,704	-	-	13,285	15,704	84.6%
Phongsaly	4,156	4,991	-	-	4,156	4,991	83.3%
Saravane	5,673	6,835	3,678	3,928	9,351	10,763	86.9%
Savannakhet	13,966	4,596	7,655	7,854	21,621	22,450	96.3%

Sekong	3,603	4,587	1,881	2,319	5,484	6,906	79.4%
Xiengkhuang	4,211	5,019	-	-	4,211	5,019	83.9%
Grand Total	76,412	7,021	24,212	26,333	100,624	113,354	-
Achievemen	-	87.8%	-	91.9%	-	88.8%	-
t							
Target	-	75.0%	-	75%	-	75%	-
Exceed	-	12.8%	-	17%	-	13.8%	-

Source: PRF Monitoring and Evaluation Division, December 2021

To measure the achievement against the target, we used the accumulated number of HHs involved in VDP from 2017 to 2021 in comparing with total HHs in the target villages that received at least one sub-project.

Indicator	Baseline	Achievement	End of Project Target	% Achieved
% PRF beneficiary villages voting for village priorities	75%	88.8%	75%	118%

For the PRFIII AF, we will also use the same approach as previous PRFs, which will get the data after all SPs under AF will have been approved then we can get back to look at the village data with participation during the VDP. This would be able to report in semi-annual 2022.

2.2.18 % of PRF Kum ban participating in the DSEDP process, promoting PRF village development plans/VIP (Percentage).

We use the data of PRF III (2017-2019), the PRF team evaluated the data of all 43 districts of PRF III, an average of 80.6% of KDP priorities were included in the DSEDPs which is 5.6%, exceeding the target (75%). This indicator is completed in the PRF III period and will not measure in PRFIII AF.

Indicator	Baseline	Achievement (2019)	End of Project Target (2019)	% Achieved (2019)
% of PRF Kum ban participating in the DSEDP process	50%	80.06%	75%	107%

Remark: VDP or KDP is the key work of community-driven development, it requires strong support from the concerned ministry, especially the Ministry of Planning and Investment (MPI) and the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF), to have coordinated and single planning that gathers the priority also from village level and integrates to district planning where each development partners can refer to and use in their planning.

2.2.19 Households in PRF beneficiary villages satisfied with the participatory planning process supported by PRF III (Percentage).

Based on the Technical, Utilization, and Beneficiary Satisfaction Assessment 2018 assessing various aspects of the beneficiary's satisfaction towards the support they have received from the PRF and the

Government. 36 villages that had benefited from PRF III sub-projects were sampled covering various types of infrastructure. This study shows that 95% of the interviewed groups were fully satisfied with the planning process and its results, with only 5% of the interviewed groups indicating that they were marginally satisfied, which is 15% exceeded the target value (80%) of this year.

Furthermore, we also expect to get more information to support this indicator after the final external evaluation of PRF III (2017-2021). In addition, we can also get information to reflect this indicator through the PRF's FRM, where communities shared and provided feedback about PRF in their community.

Indicator	Baseline	Achievement	Yearly Target	End of Project Target	% Achieved
PRF beneficiary villages satisfied with the participatory planning process supported by PRF III	75%	95%	-	80%	118.8%

2.2.20 PRF III sub-project prioritized by women (Percentage).

During the planning process, priorities come from both women and men who discuss their needs in two separate groups. In PRF III (2017-2019), the total of 1,169 sub-projects where 1,092 SPs were involved by women (93%) which is 3% exceeded the target (90%). Duration of the PRF III Extension (2020-2021), a total of 276 out of 289 sub-projects were involved by women which is equivalent to 96% and is 6% exceeded the target indicator (90%). For the four provinces under AF, we will continue the same approach of the VDP system under the former FRF, where the priorities are selected by separate groups of males and females, where 3 out of 5 village priorities should come from a female group.

In 2021, the achievement against target indicator, we can use the accumulated data from 2017 to 2021, in which women had involved in the selection of all SPs that PRF had support during this period, which is 1368 out of 1458 SPs, which is 93.8%., which 3.8% exceed the target.

Indicator	Baseline	Achievement 2021	Yearly Target	End of Project Target	% Achieved
Sub-project prioritized by women	90%	93.8%	90%	90%	104.3%

2.2.21 PRF III sub-projects prioritized by ethnic group (Percentage)

Ethnic groups are the main priorities in the process of VDP and PRF has provided an opportunity for all ethnic groups in the target villages to raise their voices in planning. This indicator is based on the number of ethnic groups that participated in the VDP in each target village that received at least a sub-project from PRF. During this reporting period, there is no new construction in AF areas. Thus, we measured this indicator based on the proportion of ethnic participants compared with total

participants during PRF III and PRF III Extension (table below), and next report we will use the data of those 4 provinces under PRF III AF to measure this indicator.

Table 10: Participation of ethnic groups in planning village priorities

	•	sin groups in p		Extension		
	PRFIII 2017-2019		PRFIII 2017-2019 2020-2021		# 2017-2021	
Province	Total Participants	Ethnic participants	Total Participants	Ethnic participants	Total Participants	Ethnic participants
Attapeu	4,575	4,326	2,165	2,009	6,740	6,335
Huaphanh	15,515	8,200			15,515	8,200
Luangnamtha	3,803	3,769	2,368	2,368	6,171	6,137
Luangprabang	13,258	11,506	6,118	5,339	19,376	16,845
Oudomxay	15,274	14,538			15,274	14,538
Phongsaly	4,793	4,676			4,793	4,676
Saravane	11,259	9,538	4150	3950	15,409	13,488
Savannakhet	18,870	16,677	9457	7059	28,327	23,736
Sekong	3,987	3,847	1219	1156	5,206	5,003
Xiengkhuang	4,625	3,943			4,625	3,943
Grand Total	95,959	81,020	25,477	21,881	121,436	102,901
Achievement		84.0%		85.9%		84.7%
Target	_	70.0%	_	70%	_	70%
Exceed		14.0%		15.9%		15%

Source: PRF Monitoring and Evaluation Division, December 2021

In 2020-2021, there was a total of 21,881ethnics (out of 25,477 ethnics) involved in the sub-project priorities covered by 85.9% which is 15.9% higher than the target (70%).

To measure this indicator against the final target, we can use the accumulated number of participants from 2017-2021, in which 102,901 out of 121,436 participants from the ethnic group, which is 84.7% where 14.7% exceed the target (70%).

Indicator	Baseline	Achievement 2021	Yearly Target	End of Project Target	% Achieved
% SPs prioritized by ethnic group	70%	84.7%	70%	70%	121.05%

2.2.22 Communities able to plan, implement and monitor their activities (Number).

During PRFIII Extension (2020-2021), there were 285 communities/villages (where 288 sub-projects were located, including the 53 SPs under GoL funding) were identified to be able to plan, implement and monitor their VDP. Before implementation, several pieces of training will be provided for VIT

members to ensure that they can manage and supervise the sub-projects implementation by themselves. In addition, training of O&M will also be provided for an appointed O&M village unit which will be able to support the community in the O&M tasks for their sub-projects.

To count this indicator, we also used the accumulated number of the village that received at least one sub-project from 2012 up to 2019, which is 1,695 villages, while in PRF III extension, we found only 37 villages out of 285 villages that are new villages that received support during this period. Thus this indicator can count as 1732 villages (1,695+37), which is 99.8% against the final target in 2024.

Indicator	Baseline	Achievement	Yearly Target	End of Project Target	% Achieved
Communities able to plan, implement and monitor their activities	1450	1732	-	1,736	99.8%

Notice: The next report will also capture the data of PRFIII AF, by checking the new villages that have never received any supporting by PRF before 2022.

Component 3: Project Management

2.2.23 Registered grievances that are addressed according to agreed procedures (Percentage)

To ensure that the feedback from communities has been responded to, PRF has developed the FRM system to capture all information by using an electronic form (of feedback through the online application by using tablets, feedback box to the project-specific number, and others. In October 2021, PRF (M&E team) has provided training enter information of feedback to the system and how to categorize the feedback in each type, by using the tablet for collecting data in the field for 100 YGs as well as PRF staff at Provincial and District levels with the total of 16 staff in 4 Provinces.

As the outcomes of this training, PRF has received different feedbacks we received through Feedback derives from the villagers of the target villages, VITs, participants of the meetings organized in the local community. The number of feedbacks has largely increased by comparing with the last report from 324 feedbacks in June 2021 to 1463 feedbacks in December 2021. Different types of feedbacks entered into the MIS system, including requesting funds & technical support (718), compliment/praised to PRF (316), some proposed by villagers (286), request for more information (94), complaint (17), and others (32). Most complaints had been addressed according to agreed procedures.

		PRFIII		
Type of feedbacks	PRFIII AF	Extension	Total	%
Complaint	8	9	17	1.2%
Compliment	141	175	316	21.6%
Need more information	62	32	94	6.4%
Propose	222	64	286	19.5%
Request for fund	155	563	718	49.1%
Others	31	1	32	2.2%
Grand Total	619	844	1463	100.0%

Note: For the feedback in the other category section are about other proposals that are not concerned with PRF work at the local level, such as the conflict among the village themselves, the suggestion for other support beyond legible supporting activities, etc. However, the feedback will be rechecked with local people and updated again in the next report.

Additional information: Mostly, the feedback links to the fund request from villagers as well as the local authority including the request of the provincial Governor, particularly, in those 6 provinces uncovered by PRF III AF, to request further support from PRF, due to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic created several issues related to poverty, unemployment caused of migration from Thailand and big cities in Laos. Therefore, all feedback and requests for the fund should be discussed with the Government, particularly, in the next PRF board meeting.

For the four provinces under PRF III AF, we should discuss among the convergence projects that work in the same target villages, especially, between PRF and RDPM, where the villagers compared about the incentive provided by PRF is lower than RDPM, then villagers in some villages do not want to involve cooking session of FNGs supported by PRF; thus, this is requested among project leaders to find appropriate solutions.

This indicator can be measured based on the number of complaints in 2021 and the number that have already been resolved according to agreed procedures, only 17 complaints were found in 2021, all of those are not the big issues that could be resolved at local levels.

Indicator	Baseline	Achievement	Yearly Target	End of Project Target	% Achieved
Registered grievances that are addressed according to agreed procedures	90%	100%	90%	90%	111%

Component 4: Nutrition Enhancing Livelihood Development.

2.2.24. Individuals using loans from SHGs (Number).

This indicator shows the number of SHG members who took at least one loan upon approval of the PRF III AF Project. By the end of 2021, there are 5,178 individuals using loans from SHG under the PRF AF support and also from their savings (1058 members). By using an accumulated number of individual loans from the last year, PRF III is 15,138 members, which is only 68.8% against the target.

Indicator	Baseline	Achievement	Yearly Target	End of Project Target	% Achieved
Individuals using loans from SHGs	9,962	15,140	22,000	34,000	68.8%

Indicator	Overall Achievement	Phongsaly	Oudomxay	Huaphanh	Xiengkhuang
	5,177	967	347	2,732	1,131

Notice: To reach the target for the year 2022, at least 22,000 members should take loans. Therefore, the PRF team, especially YGs, has to work hard to encourage the SHG members to take loans. Those loans are used for activities such as raising poultry, pigs, goats, and fish.

2.2.25. %VSMC members that are female (Percentage).

This is a new indicator of PRFIII AF, the VSMC has an important role to be involved in supporting and supervising the SHG's activities as well as supporting and managing the deposit account for FNG's food subsidy, too. In 2021, VSMC has been set up in 229 villages (out of 231 villages for the first batch) with a total of 1,339 VSMC members, 1,082 females (81%) which is 16% higher than the target (65%). Each VSMC's structure is included 5 leadership positions appointed such as a Chairperson and four vice-chairs. (see Annex 5)

Indicator	Baseline	Achievement	Yearly Target	End of Project Target	% Achieved
	-	81%	-	65%	124.6%
Indicator	Overall Achievement	Phongsaly	Oudomxay	Huaphanh	Xiengkhuang
Total	1,339	473	114	399	353
Women VSMC	1,082	375	113	319	275
%	81%	79%	99%	80%	78%

2.2.26. Number of Farmer Nutrition Group member households (Number).

By December 2021, the nutrition work has continuously been expended its implementation to the target villages. In this indicator, we counted the number of HHs who participated in FNG's activities including cooking sessions, home garden, and Multi-media peer learning. There are 249 FNGs in 231 villages with a total of 9,928 direct and indirect members from 5,632 households including 1,216 pregnant women; 844 lactating mothers, and 3,557 children 6-23 months, 3,466 mothers of 6-23 months, and 845 child-aged 0-5 months. Those members are from 7,590 HHs which is 390 HHs higher than the yearly target (7,200), which is 53.07% compared to the final target in 2024 (14,300).

Indicator	Baseline	Achievement	Yearly Target	End of Project Target	% Achieved
Number of Farmer Nutrition Group member households	-	7,590	7,200	14,300	53.07%
Indicator	Overall Achievement	Phongsaly	Oudomxay	Huaphanh	Xiengkhuang

7,590	2,231	793	2,255	2,311
,,0,0	_,	, , ,	_,	-,

2.2.27. SHG members who take at least two loans (Percentage).

According to PAD 3134 of PRF III AF, this is a new indicator that informs the percentage of total SHG members who have borrowed at least twice from the SHG. This measurement does not require full repayment of the second loan, only the taking of the loan. Based on the data of PRF III, the number of SHG members who took loans at least twice is 5,716 out of 10,085 members which is 56.6%. By December 2021, in the period of PRF III AF, there is not yet a report on the number of two loans takers, but we are still following up on the existing SHGs from PRF III at Sone and Huanmeuang districts in Huaphanh province which is 556 members who took at least two loans in 2021, then we counted with last number 5,716+556 = 6272 which is 62% by comparing 10,085 members in PRFIII. This indicator is challenging to reach the target of 80% which would be discussed and adapted based on the actual situation.

Indicator	Baseline	Achievement	Yearly Target	End of Project Target	% Achieved
SHG members who take at least two loans	-	62%	35%	80%	77.5%

CHAPTER III: PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENTS BY COMPONENT

COMPONENT 1: SUB-GRANTS AND PLANNING

In 2021, PRF is scaling up the implementation of the 12 districts, 4 northern provinces under the PRF III Additional Financing (US\$ 22.5 million) which the main objective is "To improve access to prioritized basic services, as well as to support the production and consumption of nutritious foods in the Project's targeted poor communities" which covered 28% of the budget supported.

While the 6 Provinces under the PRF III extension supported by the last batch un the GOL's cofinancing of PRFIII (LAK 13 billion) and SDC's additional fund of US\$ 395,200 for community management costs for 53 sub-projects implementation, which will be ended by June 2022.

3.1.1 Community Development and Planning

In December 2021, the planning process of 231 target villages under the PRF III AF was completely implemented. The VDPs of the target villages were made after the set-up of SHGs and VSMC was completed since the main emphasis of sub-projects is focusing on supporting the livelihood links nutrition activities, and CFA is used for small-scale infrastructure implementation. TOT on VDP was provided for concerned government sectors and PRF staff using the Planning guideline/method followed by a participatory planning manual from MPI. The process of the VDP and District Coordination and Planning Meeting was completely done between July to October 2021. There are at least 173 sub-projects selected and approved by district authorities and concerned sectors in the

District Coordination and Planning Meeting. While the implementation of 53 sub-projects in the 6 Provinces covered by the GOL co-financing is used in the form of contractors for its construction.

3.1.2 Engineering works (CFA, RMG, DRM)

3.1.2.1. Community Force Account (CFA)

The impact of Community Force Account (CFA) which is considered one of the successful stories under PRF, though community participation. In the past, most sub-projects under PRF were carried out by contractors hired by the Village Implementation Teams (VITs). The contractors were responsible for the construction of the entire sub-project, while the communities were only involved in providing the community contribution in both kinds and labour, and in making the payments to the contractor. Here the community is involved directly in the construction of the sub-projects in their villages, by providing their labour, which in return they received a daily wage. In some sub-project cases, only material had to be sub-contracted to local suppliers, as they are not available in the villages. In the case of more complex sub-projects, some critical activities may also be sub-contracted to local owner machine.

During 2020-2021, a total of 178 sub-projects covered by the SDC's funding has applied the implementation with the CFA approach, and the sub-projects are emphasized on small-scale constructions and some are for repairing and rehabilitation, using the CFA approach, by the end of June 2021 all 178 projects have been completed. From a practical point of assessment, the use of CFA is an important work to support rural development and poverty alleviation with sustainability because the two selected skilled labourers in the village receive sub-projects on construction or renovation. They were trained from vocational schools in the province that gives knowledge, and skills of construction that will enable them to continue as small contractor based in the villages after ending the project. In addition, to create opportunities for poor families to have jobs to generate income from being a community worker/labour during the sub-project construction. In general, all the incomes belong to the community truly, including the gain of the construction, facilitation, a stable occupation, income to the family, which benefits both directly and indirectly, and ownership follow the three built (San sang) of the government.

As stated by the World Bank Country Manager for the Lao PDR (Alex Kremer), October 17th in the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, or End Poverty Day, by applying the CFA, using the community-based construction and repair of local infrastructure. This not only allows people to earn more money for their labour, but also means people take more pride in and better care of rural infrastructure. Better infrastructure, improved incomes for the poorest, and new knowledge on food intake all managed through community-run platforms give an important lifeline to families during the pandemic and beyond. Therefore, for the GoL meeting or PRF Board Meeting, it is important to consider and promote this approach and apply it to rural development nationwide.

Based on the experiences of using CFA in the 6 provinces, the lessons learned of CFA have been brought for discussion and revision and the CFA manual has been revised accordingly to be applied in the implementation of the sub-projects in the 4 provinces covered by PRF III AF. In addition, this approach also includes in the brainstorming session about any new development project to conform to the World Bank's emerging Country Partnership Framework and Contribute to achieving the Lao Government 9th NSEDP (2021-2025) and 10-year Strategy including SDG (2021-2030).

3.1.2.2. Road Maintenance Group (RMG)

After handing over the RMG work to the local authority. In 2020, under SDC financial support, PRF continued the activities under the Road Maintenance Group (RMG) work, covered 6 Provinces (in Non-PRF-AF Provinces), 20 Districts, 37 road sub-projects, with a total of 48 RMGs by using the remaining fund from SDC that have been established, and 204 women from poor families are members to maintain the total of 193.5 km, with a total US\$ 146,024.41 and ended in January 2021. To ensure the sustainability of RMG, thus this work was handed over to communities and concerned sectors based on the given agreement such as 1) Organizational Structure of the RMG and activities, 2) To continue Road Management, and 3) The Coordination between the village office and the district Public works and Transport Office (DPWTO). This will be a helpful plan for both the village organization and the concerned sectors to have close coordination and monitoring to manage PRF work in the communities.

In addition, PRF has organized the workshop on reviewing and updating the RMG and CFA manual in March 2021 participated by the 6 Provinces. After the workshop, many comments have been shared based on the real lessons learned. As a result, the RMG and CFA Manuals have been revised and updated accordingly. So far both manuals have been done an are ready to print out.

The internal followed up of RMG work had been made in Savannakhet and Saravanh province, which confirmed that the RMG has provided many advantages for the community as it can connect women for income which help their family's living condition better while women do not have to work on heavy machinery for the road maintenance work and the access roads to their community get improved in a good condition. In some cases, the husband or son in family members were helping women RMG members with the road maintenance in case of sickness or unhealthy or big removing of the landslide. In addition, an average of 18.5% of poor women had become members of RMG and earned income (compared with poor households in the target villages in those two provinces). It shows that RMG has been an important alternative income during the pandemic for the families.

PRF's Management team visited Laxieng village at TaOy district (Saravanh) which is an ethnic village, and met with a member of RMG, who expressed that since becoming a member of the RMG, she could earn additional income to use for her family, including food consumption and some for chicken raising, for the long term she would sell to the market but she still requests for technical training on chicken raising if PRF or other development partners could provide. In brief, the RMG program significantly increased women's engagement in paid work, earnings, and household income. Notably, an increase in household income was a large fraction of the wage payments made under the RMG program, which suggests that it did not displace other income sources but complemented them to raise household welfare.

In general, there is a comparison of the villages with RMG and the ones without the RMG, it is found that the access road of the villages with RMG is much better road conditions or villagers to travel for trading, to hospital, to the production areas. In addition, the village organization and authorities have ownership to mobilize and manage the villagers in the community to involve in RMG work, too.

3.1.2.3. Disaster Risk Management (DRM)

PRF has developed a manual, guideline, and various forms to work on the DRM, especially the construction of subprojects at a safe location and low impact to infrastructures. The DRM assessment form has been developed and trained for all staff in 10 provinces. At the beginning of 2020, PRF

hired a consultant to review the manual and guidelines, the manual was reviewed and developed into two guidelines, and one of them was Disaster Risk Management and Emergency Management System (EMS). The two guidelines were applied and trained to all staff at 10 provinces, the EMS was a useful tool to use at the village level for the emergency report to the center especially for bush fires and fast floods. At the end of 2020, World Bank hired other consultants to review and improve the manual and add the livelihood security part into the manual, four new posters for the community and VDO.

During the survey and design period, the engineers will evaluate and mitigate the risk of the disaster impacts to the subprojects, and avoid the impact when designing the subprojects. To build capacity for district staff in 4 provinces, the PRF center will establish the districts and provincial team as focal points at each district, and report emergency cases. If PRF has sufficient budgets, the DRM team will also be set up at the village level for the emergency team and provide training on the DRM for the community. (see Annex 6)

3.1.3. Quality Control (QC)

In the 6 provinces uncovered PRFIII AF, to ensure the quality of the subprojects, SDC hired the two consultants to work with PRF, a Quality Assurance Advisor (QAA), and an Environmental and Social Safeguards Specialist (ESSS) to monitor sub-project implementation and advise on improving procedures and quality. Based on existing quality control and ES Safeguards manuals, checklists were developed for sub-project design to be filled by the implementation teams at the village level. The Quality Control (QC) of the sub-projects will be certified by 4 layers, for example, firstly the teacher at vocational school visit the construction site and on the job training and follow up during implementation, secondly, the VIT and community do the daily inspection, thirdly PRF Engineering staff will monitor in two times per week, fourthly the district authority visits for two times of implementation in beginning and before handing over the subproject to the community.

During this reporting period, QC forms have been applied for 53 sub-projects covered by the GOL fund in the 6 Provinces checked by PRF staff, and VITs through the Quality Assurance System which included Quality Assurance Data Collection, Informing all PRF staff, problem protection methodology, and problem impaction analysis to ensure all sub-projects construction meet the PRF and sector Quality Standard.

COMPONENT 2: LOCAL AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CAPACITY BUILDING

Training and capacity building are prioritized areas for the project to build the capacity of the project staff and the community members. In 2021, The project has organized numerous training programs on institution building, technical training including TOT, facilitation skills, and community development in a systematic and sequenced manner to develop skills of the staff to facilitate appropriate participatory processes during project implementation, which have been conducted in different levels through online application and face to face meetings in the coverage of AF, and PRF III extension. To ensure the quality of training, the donor mission in December 2021 recommended PRF to develop short training modules for each livelihood activity, which should include 5-10 minutes short videos on best practices and technologies from among the model farmers/model households and organize video-shows during the training program with proper facilitation for easier adoption. In addition, the Pre-training and Post-training Forms had been developed and used in some training by using the Google online form to evaluate the outcome of training (see Annex 20). This will also apply the form to use in 2022 and the less of PRF III AF, more detail can highlight as below:

For the 6 Provinces under PRF III extension

- During this reporting period, we also followed up on the status of all 284 skilled labourers under CFA's approach supported by PRF, which included 17 labourers (6%) who migrated from big cities in Lao PDR and neighboring countries. In June 2021, after completing the construction under CFA supported by PRF, 138 out of 284 skilled labourers (49%) continued working on construction within villages and also villages nearby, which indicated those people become human resources, and contributed to their community development, they can be trainers to other villagers. In addition, they can earn income and increase job opportunities for the poor families in those targeted villages. The income-earning can use for food consumption, and some funds can use for animal raising such as poultry, which leads to improving living conditions.
- To ensure the sustainability of all 236 sub-projects (Cycle XVII) which are located in 232 villages, 23 districts in 6 provinces, before handing over to communities and local authority, the training of O&M was provided for all O&M committees with a total of 9,674 participants; 3,873 are females (40%) and 7,578 are ethnics (78%). These people will help to follow up the work and take lead in maintenance when those buildings/infrastructures are broken.
- The training for COVID-19 protection was carried out which aims to support the GoL's effort to reduce epidemiological risks in the rural areas to save lives through awareness-raising, at the targeted villages on how to protect themselves from COVID-19 and any eventual communicable diseases; and transmission of other viruses. This was also conducted in the 10 provinces covered by PRF III in 2021. During this reporting period, the follow-up of the COVID-19 prevention related-activities was undertaken.
- In December 2021, the majority progress of 53 sub-projects implementation in the 6 Provinces has been done over 60% and all will be completed in early 2022. The number of people attending O&M training in those 53 SPs will be done in the next quarter of 2022 and will be mentioned in the next report.

• For the 4 Provinces under the PRF III AF (see Annex 7)

- TOT for 4 provinces on Village Development Plan method and DRM to concerned sectors, and PRF staff including YGs.
- Training on the COVID-19 prevention in 248 villages of 4 provinces with a total of 17,644 participants; 10,904 are females (62%) and 62 % are ethnics.
- During the last quarter of 2020 and the early first quarter of 2021, Module 4 Training has been conducted for Livelihood and Nutrition YGs in target districts. The training was defined for 10 days which covered 5 topics of agriculture and 5 topics of livestock and veterinary and FIP. The training was conducted in a manner of exchange experiences among YGs and trainers from the Northern Regional Agriculture Extension Center and DAFO.
- The refreshing of Modules 3 (Training for SHGs on Fund management, accounting, and financial system) was also conducted based on questions and requests from YGs. It was planned that the training on Module 4 to SHG members be conducted in 2nd Quarter 2021, nevertheless, it was interrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic across the country. PRF Staff will find another solution for conducting such training of Module 4 in the districts, and villages that are not classified as hazardous zone or "the Red Zone⁴"
- During the formation and performance of SHGs, YGs have been conducting training of Module 1 and Module 2 fortnightly meetings each month. So far, more than 8 times fortnightly meetings have been conducted and exceeded 6 times of ceiling before assessment for loan eligibility, and

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⁴ Red Zone is high Pandemic of COVID 19

- more than 90% of members attended their SHG fortnightly meeting. Module 3 of training has been gradually introduced to SHG members during SHG meetings for their understanding and for admission of the objective of establishment of SHG Scheme Savings, Core 5 principle of SHG Management, and benefits from being membership.
- The selected 1,339 Village Self-helped Group Management Committees (VSMCs) have been on board for functioning and received training of Module 3 "Roles and Responsibilities and maintaining the Bookkeeping and Accounting systems of SHG Scheme Saving". After Module 3 training was completed, 229 villages have been able to open their bank accounts for receiving seed grants from PRF. In addition, the VSMC will not only manage seed grants for SHG members but also help to manage cash flow for FNG's activities. This means that VSMC will work closely with FNG committees in terms of financial management for FNG activities especially the cooking session for those 3 nutrition groups.
- Module 4 on FIP and Livelihood training have been planned to conduct in April 2021, but unfortunately, there was an interruption by a second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic and then spread over the country which caused the lockdown from April 2021 until now. So far, the only training proposal and budgets from each target district have been submitted to the PRF Central Office for further financial support. It is expected that once GoL announces unlock down and permission for traveling, and implementing outdoor activities, the District PRF Team together with technical staff from concerned DAFOs will then conduct the technical training of 5 Livelihood topics to VSMC and SHG members.
- Training on basic nutrition and cooking method for YGs.
- Provided the village orientation on nutrition.
- Training on Financial management for financial staff in 4 northern provinces (Phongsaly, Oudomxay, Houaphanh, and Xieng Khouang) on 23-26 February 2021 in Vang Vieng district, Vientiane province with a total of 25 participants, 11 females.
- Training on family investment plan for PRF staff at district and village level and staff from the District Agriculture and Forestry Office.
- Training on Infrastructure Sub-Projects Survey and Design Techniques; Bio-Engineering Application; Environmental and Social Safeguards; Disaster Risk Management; Feedback and Resolution Mechanism for PRF staff at Provincial and District levels from Engineering Division staff of PRF Vientiane Capital. (see Annex 8)

Table 11: Number of training, meeting and field visits 2021 (Capacity Building)

Division/unit	Training, Meeting, field visiting	Date	Main objectives and outcomes	Participants	Females	Ethnic
Livelihood	1,593	2021	Livelihood Orientation, 4 module pieces of trains for strengthening capacity to staff at all levels	106,721	75,847	89,056

M&E	43	2021	MIS Training	10,487	7,535	3,146
NCD	1,273	2021	Nutrition Orientation, basic nutiriton training	73,274	51,800	53,193
PMT	33	2021	Various meetings and training	7,617	5,755	4,715
TA	18	2021	Survey and Design SPs training,	20,282	18,282	5,451
FA	11	2021	Financial Management	274	107	208
Total	2,971	2021		218,655	159,326	155,769

COMPONENT 3: PROJECT MANAGEMENT

3.3.1 Finance and Administration

3.3.1.1 Government contribution

During the three years of PRF III (2017-2019), the Government co-funding reached only LAK 22 billion out of LAK 48 billion full amount agreed, to implement only 78 sub-projects. The remaining budget of the GOL co-financing (LAK 26 Billion) was approved during the extension period covering the period from January 2020 to June 2021. Later on, LAK 13 Billion was approved in late 2020 for 58 sub-projects. Finally, in 2021, the amount of the last batch of LAK 13 Billion was approved by the Government for the implementation of 53 sub-projects that support only the sub-projects construction in the 6 provinces. All activities' implementation of the PRF III co-financing shall be completed in December 2021, and the PRF's operational costs for the 53 sub-projects implementation will be supported by SDC. In conclusion, the Government has completely contributed the full amount of LAK 48 billion as agreed in the PRF III.

3.3.1.2 Budgeting

As per the agreement, the PRF has submitted to the donors the work plan and related budget for the PRF III AF fiscal year 2021 for a total budget of US\$ 9,027,166.

The first draft of the Annual Budget and Work Plan for FY2021 has been submitted to the World Bank since last December 2020 in a total budget: US\$ 7,746,959 and allocated in the 4 different project components as follows:

Component1: Community Development Grants

Component2: Local & Community Development Capacity building

Component3: Project Managements

Component4: Nutrition Enhancing Livelihood Developments

3.3.1.3 External Audits

The PRF Financial Audit of PRFIII and PRF III AF for the fiscal year 2020 (January 1 - December 31, 2020) was conducted during February - March 2021, with a report that already submits to the donors in June 2021, the Financial Audit and Management Letter have been submited to the donors on 16 June 2021 without any key finding issues from the auditor. For the PRF Financial Audit of PRF III, and PRF III AF for the fiscal year 2021 (January 1 - December 31, 2021) will be conducted during February - March 2022.

3.3.1.4 Disbursement

As of December 31, 2021, the disbursement ratio reached 99% for the IDA credit 5827-LA equivalent 100% due to the conversion exchange rate from XDR to US\$. For IDA credit 65060 the disbursement ratio reached 21% of the total budget PRFIII AF. For the Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation (SDC) disbursement rate reached 99% and SDC additional USD 395,200 was received in December 2021 and the disbursement rate reached 0% during the reporting period. For SDC COVID-19 disbursement rate reached 100% and the Government co-financing contribution reached 84%.

Table 12: PRF III Disbursement (as of December 31, 2021)

Fund Source	Total Budget Allocated (US\$ million)	Disbursement as of December 31, 2021	Disbursement (Percentage)
WB (IDA credit 5827)	30,000,000	29,712,975	99%
WB (IDA credit 65060)	22,500,000	4,731,945	21%
SDC Fund	18,000,000	17,744,024	99%
SDC Additional Fund	395,200	-	0%
SDC COVID19	500,000	500,000	100%
GOL Fund	6,000,000	5,023,050	84%
TOTAL:	77,395,200	57,711,994	<u>75%</u>

Source: PRF FA Division, December 2021

During the reporting period, the PRF has preceded withdrawal application (SOE "statement of expenditure) from the donors for a "total amount of US\$ 29,712,975 from IDA credit 5827; US\$ 4,731,945 from IDA credit 65060; US\$ 17,744,024 from SDC & US\$ 500,000 from SDC COVID19 and US\$ 5,023,050 from Government contribution).

Table 13: Summary of fund received and disbursed as of December 31, 2021 (US\$)

Fund Source	Fund Received FY 2017-2021	Expenditure FY 2017-2021	Percentage of expenditures
WB (IDA credit 5827)	29,712,975	29,712,975	100%
WB (IDA credit 65060)	5,901,955	4,731,945	80%
SDC Fund	17,975,000	17,744,024	99%
SDC COVID19	500,000	500,000	100%

GOL Fund	5,023,050	5,023,050	100%
TOTAL:	<u>59,112,980</u>	<u>57,711,994</u>	<u>98%</u>

Source: PRF FA Division, December 2021

During the reporting period (January-December 2021), PRF has spent US\$ 4,959,264 including US\$ 497,435 to support sub-projects and village planning (17%); US\$ 457,00 was disbursed for the capacity building (100%); US\$ 1,289,225 was used for project management activities (74%); and US\$ 2,715,605 supported Livelihood and Nutrition activities (70%).

Table 14: PRF AF's expenditures by component (January - December 2021) in US\$

Description of Component	Budget for 2021	Expenditures to December 31, 2021	Remaining Balance
Component 1: Community			
Development Grants	2,951,072	497,435	2,453,637
Component 2: Local & Community			
Development Capacity building	457,700	457,000	700
Component 3: Project Management	1,734,707	1,289,225	445,482
Component 4: Nutrition Enhancing			
Livelihood Development	3,883,687	2,715,605	1,168,082
TOTAL	9,027,166	4,959,264	4,067,901

Source: PRF FA Division, December 2021

3.3.2 Monitoring and Evaluation

During the period of PRFIII including PRFIII Extension, the Monitoring and Evaluation System has been developed, which be able to provide key information on where a policy, program, or project is at any time relative to respective targets and outcomes. As well as, in the period of PRFIII AF, a comprehensive monitoring and evaluation system has been set up to track whether the project is proceeding according to its principles and procedures and whether it is meeting its stated objectives. There are 3 key works of the M&E division, including 1). Ensure that the PRF MIS system/Form is functioning, 2). Performance Indicators/evaluations (both in-house and external evaluations) have been evaluated, and 3) Monitoring and Reporting to Government and donors on time.

In 2021, the M&E team could perform the work in good progress, in which the PRF team has provided adequate data in integrating key indicators for each component, including Component 4 – particularly regarding indicators on SHG performance as well as nutrition work. The work on MIS upgrading with the consultant is almost completed, just a few pieces of training should be provided for TOT, and a few works undernutrition section, which is expected to be completed by the end of January 2022. In addition, the M&E plan has been strengthened in collaboration with the World Bank team, including the definitions and methodology of the collect for each indicator under PRFIII AF. In addition, the structure of the progress report was also updated, which would capture data and information of those 4 provinces under PRFIII AF and 6 provinces under PRFIII extension.

The M&E team incorporated with the project management team to identify the roles and responsibilities of all staff (detailed M&E activities for each project staff/implementers from local to

national level, particularly at the provincial level who would help the M&E team to check data and work as M&E focal person at the provincial level. Next steps, the team will focus on training district staff to fulfill the work of M&E, particularly data checking, reporting, and MIS (February-March 2022).

At the national level, the M&E focal group has been set up, a representative of each division and unit involved in the group and do M&E work related to their activities. The project has already provided some training of staff on parts of the system that have been upgraded and online videos for training have been developed.

The Guideline for SHG Performance Appraisal including the initial and periodic Assessments (for VSMCs and YGs) has been developed and applied to all 4 provinces under PRFIII AF, by June 2022 the team expected to complete the SHGs performance assessment of the 1st Batch villages before moving activities to the second batch.

Furthermore, to ensure the impacts of training provided by the project or outside experts. The PRF team had developed a form, which will be used to evaluate the in-house quality of capacity building (post-training) and skills adoption of trainees. The form will be developed in google online form that we can share with all trainees after the training that they can provide feedback. For M&E team will follow up and assess the work with the quality of data and information that local staff entrance to the system. The progress of each can be highlighted as below:

3.3.2.1 Management Information System

To ensure the effectiveness and efficiency of a project, it is strongly required a good monitoring and evaluation system, related to a good combination of different factors, including a clear objective, good result-based budgeting, and good performance management. In 2021, the PRF team cooperated with the MIS firm to update the existing system of PRF III AF's MIS, with the following progress:

- ✓ MIS system improvement has been developed based on TOR, the work in admin part is completed (admin.prfmis.org), the last work to decide data appearing in the online system (prfmis.org), particularly the nutrition part, we have to agree on data and information to have appeared in the online system. (see Annex 9)
- ✓ Terms of reference of relevant staffs to reflect M&E tasks and responsibilities PRF has been completed, focal provincial staff to support M&E work in the district and village level.
- ✓ Revising some indicators of PRF III & PRF III AF and updated new report structure.
- ✓ Organized the sensitization and training of all concerned staff, national, provincial staff. Then they provide training to the district and village level.
 - ♣ Homepage: www.prfmis.org
 - ♣ Admin page: <u>www.admin.prfmis.org</u> were only used for data entry, can access with user name and password only.
 - **♣**The system can capture data of 6 works:
 - 1. Data of infrastructure/planning
 - 2. Data of Livelihood (SHGs)
 - 3. Data of Farmer Nutrition Groups (see Annex 17)
 - 4. Data of DRM (when a disaster occurs each year)
 - 5. Data of Capacity building
 - 6. Data of Feedback from the community (Complaint, request, propose, complement, etc.)

The M&E team has provided different pieces of training (regarding M&E tasks and MIS system with the form use, data collection, and data entry to the system, including the data of FRMs) to key staff who made data entry, including YGs, district and provincial staff for data checking and approving. The outcome of training can be proved through the numerous data entered into the MIS system and we can report to the mission in December 2021.

In the coming step, PRF will focus on MIS system upgrading completion based on the advice from the Mission, develop and adopt tools to assess the quality of capacity building (post-training) and skills adoption by beneficiaries (particularly, avoid double counting of beneficiaries), identifying evaluations for the life of the project and also enhancing M&E manual as well as finalizing M&E plan. (see Annex 18)

3.3.2.2 Reporting System

During this reporting period, PRF had developed both English and Lao versions of the report, the Lao version is submitted to GoL, while the English version is shared with donors and other development partners. For the English version, to ensure that key data of PRF III AF are captured in the report, thus, the English report structure has been adapted, and also the Lao report structure which captures key data of the project's activities. The training on the report was also provided to PRF staff at the national, provincial, and district levels. Particularly, the report on the activities of livelihood and nutrition that are being implemented continuously; therefore, it is very necessary to update those activities in the report on time, captured all key points, and problems encountered/challenges through the channels of the MIS system, and a written report. Through the discussion with the district staff, it is agreed that all reports of work will be shared with the central in monthly basis.

While in the 6 provinces, the progress report of the 53 sub-projects implementation has been reported by M&E staff by weekly and monthly, and all data is updated in the system regularly.

3.3.2.3 Other works/evaluation

In 2021, PRF has hired the Final External Evaluation (FEE) team for evaluating the Poverty Reduction Fund III. The objective of this Final External Evaluation is to evaluate PRF III's results and achievements, based on the project's relevance, coherence, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability, and impact according to OECD/DAC criteria, and draw the main lessons learned. The evaluation would bring to light the main factors that have contributed to the success or failure of the project activities and assess the sustainability potential of results and impacts beyond the project duration.

PRF signed a contract with a firm to work on this evaluation in August 2021 and the first draft report was presented on 16 December 2021, some comments and suggestions were provided by PRF, World Bank, and SDC, where the final report has been done and shared with PRF by February 2022. In brief, the FEE team has shed light on General Assessment, Relevance, Coherence, Effectiveness, Efficiency, Impact, Sustainability as well as converging of the Recommendations and Lessons Learned. This information and lessons learned will be applied for future work of rural development in Laos (see the final report of this evaluation). The findings of the FEE will be very useful lessons

learned for PRF to move forwards, especially in a new project strategy PRF is planning to propose for the supported fund with other donors (see the final report of FEE).

3.3.2.4 Challenges and Solutions of PRFIII AF's M&E

Challenges	Impacts	Solutions	Solutions Status
No key staff to work for monitoring and evaluation at provincial and district levels	Difficulties to assign the key work to local staff who understands M&S work, including internal evaluation, data verification and validation, indicator, and reporting skill	 Discuss with the project director and PMT to assign the work to provincial staff At the district level we should assign the head of the district to do the M&E role At the National level we set up the data supporting committee, supervised by ED committee 	Implemented during September- October 2021. In early 2022, will focus on district staff
Information/definition for some achievement indicators that are not provided clearly	Difficult to accurately provide required data that reflect the resulting framework	 Discuss with donors to finalize the definition of each indicator Conduct indicator training for all staff 	Done during October 2021
Mixing the progress report between 4 PRF III AF and 6 PRF III extension provinces, that hard to combine & analyze	It is hard to get together all information related to PRFIII AF and PRFIII Extension	 Discuss with WB Consultant to provide the suggestion for a new template of the report Provide training to key staff 	Done in October 2021 But should also get agreed with SDC before the next report finalizing

3.3.3 Procurement

In 2021, PRF has put more attention on the project's implementation in the 4 Provinces. Many activities need more facilitation in terms of various supplies, vehicles, and others. During this period, the Procurement Unit had accomplished the following activities:

A. Procurement of goods, works and non-consulting services at the Central Office.

- Completed the procurement of 2 pick-up trucks for which the contract was signed on the 4th November 2021 with Lao Toyota Service Company Limited and the vehicles were received in late December 2021;
- Completed the procurement of 100 motorbikes provided to PRF Young Graduate staff for which the contract was signed on 15th December 2021 with NCX Company Limited (New Chip Xeng) and the motorbikes will be received in January 2022;

- Completed the selection process of consulting service for Goat Dairy through the Direction Selection (DS) procurement method for which the contract was signed on the 31st August 2021 with Naxao Dairy Farm Company Limited;
- Completed the procurement process of non-consulting service for Home Nutrition Garden Contract through Direct Selection (DS) procurement method for which the contract was signed on the 1st November 2021 with Click Agriculture and Rural Development Company Limited (Lao Farmer Network);
- Completed the procurement process of non-consulting service for Multi-Media Nutrition Peer Learning Contract through Direct Selection (DS) procurement method for which the contract was signed on the 1st November 2021 with Click Agriculture and Rural Development Company Limited;
- Completed the World Bank Post Review in January 2021 for contracts awarded during the period of the 1st February 2020 31st December 2020.

B. Procurement of consulting services at the Central Office

- 1. Completed the selection process of consulting service under SDC funded for the Final External Evaluation of PRF III (FEE) through Consultants Qualification Selection (CQS) procurement method for which the contract was signed on 26th August 2021 with the FEE team;
- 2. Completed the selection process of consulting service for Online Management Information System (MIS) Improvement through the Direction Selection (DS) procurement method for which the contract was signed on 23 August 2021 with Multimedia & Technology Solution Sole Limited (MTS);
- 3. Completed the procurement process of consulting services for External Financial Audit under PRF III AF through the Direct Selection (DS) procurement method for which the contract was signed on 22nd November 2021 with Ernst & Young Lao Co., Limited;
- 4. Completed the procurement process for selection of project staff for the Central Office, Provinces and Districts, and young graduates, for which most of the positions required as specified in the Project's structure;
- 5. Conduct the Procurement Process of consulting service for Designer for Development of Cookbooks through Individual Consultant Selection (IC) procurement method for which the contract is expected to be signed by the end of January 2022.

C. Sub-projects - implemented by Village Procurement Team

• Completed the procurement process of the 53 Sub-Projects under GOL and SDC funded for 6 Provinces (Luang Prabang, Luang Namtha, Savannakhet, Salavan, Sekong, and Attapeu) which all the sub-projects contracts have been signed from September to October 2021.

3.3.4 Human Resources/Staffing

In 2021, a total of 215 positions have been recruited, of which 25 positions at the Central Office, 35 districts under 10 targeted Provinces. Currently, female staff reaches 44.19 %, which is higher than the target of about 14.19% while ethnic group staffs show 37.70 % of the total staff. Of course, women and ethnic groups are always encouraged to apply for PRF positions.

Table 15: Number of staff in all levels (2021)

Number of the PRF Fund staff in all levels				
Provinces	All Total	Female	Ethnic	Ethnic (Female)
PRF Central Office	25	5	2	0
Houaphan	46	20	7	2
Xiengkhoang	38	22	15	8
Oudomxay	13	7	3	2
Phongsaly	47	18	29	12
LuangNamtha	8	3	1	0
LuangPrabang	10	8	0	0
Savannakhet	9	6	0	0
Salavan	8	1	0	0
Sekong	6	2	0	0
Attapeu	5	3	1	1
Total	215	95	58	25
Proportion (%)	100%	44.19	37.70	43.10

Source: Human Resource Unit, PRF, December 2021

Regarding staff turnover recordings from January-December 2021, in the 4 Provinces, the percentage of change reached 11.98%, which is equivalent to 20 out of 167 staff including 72 women (43.11%).

PRF III AF staff at the district level report to the district coordinator, provincial assistant, Central level staff report to their head of division or unit, and the head of division reports to the executive director. The decentralized structure has provided effective and efficient assistance and services to communities in the planning and implementation of community-driven development and livelihood and nutrition activities.

While the 6 provinces is in the process to be closed, only key staff remain to summarize final work and many PRF staffs have ended their contract which indicated that the percentage of change reached to 56.8%, which is 63 out of 111 staff ended their contract and remaining of 48 staff including 23 women (47.9%). However, Since the PRF III AF was initiated following the operational structure, most tasks have been carried out locally at the village level. Supervision and oversight are mainly provided by central and district level officers and their government counterparts as needed, with a provincial coordinator and assistants at the provincial level to help and facilitate communication between the central and district offices. (see Annex 10).

COMPONENT 4: LIVELIHOOD AND NUTRITION

4.1. Livelihood

Since January 2021, more than 13.000 households were mobilized to form SHGs in 229 villages in 12 districts, a total of 972 SHGs (only 1 SHGs was inactive) were completely established in August (84% from planned 1,145 SHGs in 229 Villages) more than 11,733 members, while 10,879 are female (93%) and 60% are ethnics and about 58% are from poor and poorest families, they are active members (see Annex 4). Since January 2021, a total of 1,339 villagers were selected and trained to work for the Village Self-helped Group Management Committees (VSMCs), of which 1,082 are women (81%), who have been assigned clear roles and responsibilities for leading SHGs and

performance of financial management including bookkeeping and accounting system. Through the year 2021, a total of 1,339 VSMCs were on board for receiving training on 4 Modules to perform their responsibilities of accounting and bookkeeping, technical supervision to SHG members, livelihood activities, and FIP development. All VSMCs in 229 villages opened their bank accounts for receiving seed grants from PRF. Before access to loan from the Seed Grants, 3 Modules (M1.2 and M4) of Training including three-days technical training on Livestock and Crop Cultivation were conducted in 229 villages for 11,733 SHG members. More than 90% of SHG regularly and actively participated in their fortnightly meetings and saved money at least 6 times as the conditions prior access to loan from seed grants. As of December 2021, PRF could fundamentally achieve and even exceeded some indicators such as female SHG members, female VSMC, and ethnic SHG members but poor members still have not yet been achieved. This indicates that poverty in target villages was declined or the poor have been not identified themselves and did not express to become members of SHG. (see Annex 16)

4.1.1 SHG Saving and loan taken

Since the establishment of SHG in December 2020 until June 2021, SHG members in 229 villages have actively participated in the group's activities such as attending a regular meeting, savings, and lending. The total savings increased from US\$ 108,936.85 in June to US\$ 203,298 by December 2021, the average savings per member increased from US\$ 9.14 to USD 16.00. The size of monthly savings is US\$ 1.35/person/month compared to a minimum size of saving US\$ 0.58/person/month.

The savings were lent to the most needed members for emergency cases and livelihood activities such as child education, treatment, rice consumption, and others. More than 800 members have taken loans for over USD 100,000 and the USD 7,000 of principal loan from savings have been repaid (The repayment rate will be increased during the first quarter of 2022). Most of the activity loans from savings were emergency including medical treatments, traveling to the hospital (47.8%), education for children (27.1%), harvest cost (11.4%), rice for consumption (11.1%) and other. Since mobilization for SHG formation to SHG Operating, the members well understood the objective of saving and inter lending as well as being membership and their benefit which resulted to motivate many villagers to become SHG members in 1st Batch village. The lessons learned from implementation from the first batch, which could be withdrawn and replicated in the 2nd batch such as the issues of shortening period of VSMC selection and Opening Bank Account and mobilization on MIP for budgeting on the Seed Grants etc.

Table 16 Loan taken from SHG Savings

	Activities	Activities	#Member	Loan USD	% Loan
Rank	Emergency Loans	542	51.3%	37,566	34.8%
1	Treatment and hospitalization	259	47.8%	14,286	38.0%
2	Education fee	147	27.1%	7,285	19.4%
3	Harvest	62	11.4%	11,241	29.9%
4	Rice for consumption	60	11.1%	3,119	4.4%
4	Other (funeral, fix machine, motor)	14	2.6%	1,636	4.4%
Rank	Livelihood Activities	515	48.7%	70,301	65.2%
1	Pig raising	141	27.4%	25,395	36.1%

2	Weaving	133	25.8%	12,108	17.2%
3	Poultry	103	20.0%	14,744	21.0%
4	Maize	49	9.5%	3,669	5.2%
5	Pretty vending	30	5.8%	5,503	7.8%
6	Goat raising	17	3.3%	4,586	6.5%
7	Fruit tree	13	2.5%	545	0.8%
8	Small business	11	2.1%	1,192	1.7%
9	Duck raising	6	1.2%	611	0.9%
10	Fish raising	5	1.0%	815	1.2%
11	Buy grass seeds	3	0.6%	306	0.4%
12	Cropping (banana, cassava, vegetable)	4	0.8%	826	1.2%
	Total	1,057	100.0%	107,868	100.0%

Source: PRF MIS System, December 2021

4.1.2 SHG Lending/Number of loan taken

From June to December 2021, the total of seed grants of 1.3 million US\$ was transferred according to MIP of 971 SHGs which comprised of various livelihood activities. So far, VSMC could deliver loans of US\$ 849.205 to about 4,120 members (35.12% out of total 11,733 member) in 229 villages for investment in various types of livelihood activities as indicated in the table below.

Table 17 Loans from Seed Grants as of December 2021

Rank	Activities	#Member	% member	Loan in USD	% Loan
1	Pig raising	1,762	42.8%	410,656	48.4%
2	Chicken raising	988	24.0%	164,018	19.3%
3	Weaving	424	10.3%	71,239	8.4%
4	Goat raising	404	9.8%	93,961	11.1%
5	Duck raising	218	5.3%	33,526	3.9%
6	Fish raising	135	3.3%	31,767	3.7%
7	Maize cropping	76	1.8%	10,752	1.3%
8	Small trade	57	1.4%	25,092	3.0%
9	Ginger cropping	28	0.7%	3,139	0.4%
10	Fruit cropping	18	0.4%	3,312	0.4%
11	Vegetable cropping	10	0.2%	1,743	0.2%
		4,120	100.0%	849,205	100.0%

Source: PRF MIS System, December 2021

Since loan delivery to members from August to December 2021, the VSMC members have actively monitored the outputs of livelihood activities, including income-generating, savings, repayment of principal loans, and interests from SHG.

4.1.3 SHG member incomes and livelihood status

Since loan delivery was started only in August 2021, most of the livelihood activities have not yet generated income but only from small trading, weaving, and selling poultry products. As the trend of

shortage of pork since last year, SHG members have foreseen the opportunity on market demands would be higher than in the past, SHG members have invested and generated income more than 44%, followed by poultry 19.77% and 13.33% from small trading.

Table 18 SHG members' incomes and livelihood Status

No	Livelihood Activities	Total USD	Percentage
1	Poultry raising	12,466.88	19.77%
2	Pig raising	27,798.61	44.08%
3	Goat raising	6,200.06	9.83%
4	Fish pond	1,310.64	2.08%
5	Small trading	8,409.60	13.33%
6	Weaving	6,880.35	10.91%
	Total	63,066.14	100.00%

Source: PRF MIS System, December 2021

4.2 Nutrition

In PRF III AF, PRF aims significantly to improve dietary diversity in pregnant and lactating mothers and children aged 6-23 months remains a key nutrition objective. This is particularly about achieving adequate food production and consumption, emphasizing the first 1,000 days of life.

To realize the nutrition objective, 'Nutrition Enhancing Livelihood Development' utilizes five pathways linking agriculture and nutrition: 1) increasing access to and availability of nutritious food, 2) increasing agricultural income, 3) improving women's equality and women's time use, 4) creating demand for improved nutritious and diverse foods, and 5) establishing social accountability mechanisms on nutrition-sensitive agricultural service delivery at the village level.

4.2.1 Farmer Nutrition Group meeting and cooking demonstration.

One of the main activities of the Farmer Nutrition Group is the implementation of the FNG meetings and cooking demonstrations for direct beneficiaries such as pregnant women, lactating mothers, and children aged 6-23 months regularly in 12 target districts. As of December 2021, There are 249 FNGs in 231 villages with a total of 9,928 direct and indirect members from 5,632 households including 1,216 pregnant women; 844 lactating mothers, and 3,557 children 6-23 months; 3,466 mothers of 6-23 months; and 845 child-aged 0-5 months. (see Annex 11)

Since early 2021, the implementation of nutrition activities have faced some difficulties due to the continuity of the COVID-19 outbreak and the restriction of lockdown between districts, the villagers do not come out for their normal lives and the NYGs cannot work in the villages, so the FNG's data was delayed to be updated in May 2021. However, the data has become updated again between June to December 2021.

During this reporting period, the budget of supporting FNG cooking activities has been completely transferred to 12 districts, 4 provinces with a total of LAK 1,050,042,000 (US\$ 97,506) to be

implemented in 231 villages, an average of about LAK 4,500,000 (US\$ 418) per village. As of December 2021, all 231 villages have been implementing FNG meetings and cooking demonstration activities as regular 1 time per week. There are 6,353 FNG meetings between April-December 2021 in which FNG members could produce 4 tons of pre-mix for their cooking activities and there is also community contribution to meals up to 20%. Furthermore, there is a total of 371 kilograms of pre-mix that FNG members take home which comforts mothers to save their cooking time for their children. Since signing a contract with the Lao Farmer Network and Click in November 2021, the training on Home Nutrition Garden (HNG and Multi-media Peer Learning (MMPL) has been conducted for DAFO, YGs and HNG members in 4 Provinces, different videos on nutrition will be made by community VDO team and will be shared in the Facebook application where people can easily access.

Due to the lockdown during the Covid-19 pendemic, as of December 2021, there were 46 FNGs (20%) of the 249 FNGs unable to implement their FNG activities regularly (especially target of villages in Khua, Mai district, Phongsaly Province, and Houamuang district Houaphanh Province) were locked down. However, the FNGs have continued pre-mix cooking for their children at home as usual instead.

Table 19 Data from the FNG's Record Book

No	Data from the FNG's record book	Results
1	FNG meeting & cooking demonstration	6,353
2	# FNG member attending the meeting & cooking demonstration	250,878
3	Pregnant Women	33,859
4	Lactating Mothers	24,881
5	Children 0-5 months	24,865
6	Children 6-23 months	89,003
7	Mothers C6-23 and other caretakers	88,362
8	Total cost meals for mothers (LAK)	260,149,057
9	Community contributed for mothers meals (LAK)	86,869,776
10	PRF contributed for mothers meals (LAK)	173,279,282
11	Total cost meals for children (LAK)	314,649,186
12	Community contributed for mothers meals (LAK)	19,014,151
13	PRF contributed for mothers meals (LAK)	295,635,034
14	Premix produced for FNG (kg)	4,396
15	Premix for take home (kg)	371
16	# of telling story and conversation	6,142
17	# of video showed / watched	1,911

4.2.2 Home Nutrition Garden (HNG).

Since an agreement with the Lao Farmer Network (LFN) on HNG to promote maternal and child nutrition was signed on the 1st November 2021; the training has been completely conducted for the

village model farmers, NDOs and YGs, and DAFO staff in two districts, Oudomxay Province such as La and Namor districts, Oudomxay Provinces with the total of 73 participants, 57 women, 39 ethnics. Those trainees will become model families for the FNG members in the target villages. In addition, the main purpose of HNG focuses on promoting 18 nutrient-dense crops, containing Vit C, Vit A, iron, and phytonutrients and it is easily grown and do not need special land requirements. HNG activities will be very useful to support the FNGs' cooking demonstration which will reduce some expenses of buying vegetables in the market as well as FNG members will have various organic vegetables grown by themselves to consume. Furthermore, the activities of HNG lessons will be a good model and train other villagers to do their small gardening at their homes.

4.2.2 Multi-media Peer Learning (MMPL).

Video creation training activities for village volunteers have completely been provided for 20 villages in 2 districts (La and Namor), Oudomxay Province by a consultant firm (CLICK). As of December 2021, the training on video has completely been conducted in 20 villages participated by 69 people, 60 women, 35 ethnics. The trained village volunteers will help to do a village-led video production process to capture and disseminate success stories related to nutrition and local villagers will feature in the videos, which will use culturally appropriate ways of storytelling, and local languages. A video platform of the success stories will be developed, uploaded, and disseminated through WhatsApp, FB, VIMEO, or downloadable from the cloud or an SD card). The activity of MMPL will lead to better behavior change communication for FNG members and villagers on mother and child nutrition practices for cooking nutrient food for their children.

4.2.3 Goat Dairy.

The objective for PRF investing in goat dairy is to support the nutrition target of the project which is to increase dietary diversity in child feeds for children 6-23 months of age. Adding dairy to a child feed would mean to increase the Minimum Dietary Diversity (MDD) score by using indigenous goat dairy of existing animals in PRF target villages would help village women to save money as buying commercial non-sweetened milk is not affordable regularly in particular among poor families. Commercial non-sweetened milk is also not available in many target areas. In this way, milking existing indigenous goat dairy would strengthen the village food system without further depleting natural resources (land, water, etc.) but maximizing the usage of existing animal resources.

In 2021, goat milk is one option to promote children's food because the nutritional value and the amount of milk produced between buffalo milk and goat's milk are not much different. In addition, goats are also common in rural areas, the cost of raising goats is not high comparing to animal dairy between buffaloes, cows, and goats. The activity of goat milk raising is launching in two pilot districts (Namor District, Oudomxay Province, and Kham district, Xiengkhouang Province) supervised by a contractor firm (Luangprabang Buffalo Dairy). So far, model villages have been identified in two districts. As of December 2021, several activities have been started to implement as follows: (1) Model Pilot Project in Oudomxay province which enables to create goat milk family model in 2 villages (Pangsa and Namxae villages), with a total of 7 families with a total of 74 heads of goats. (2) Model project for raising and milking goats in Kham District, Xiengkhouang Province, which could

create model family members in 3 villages (Maikokhai, Yumchong and Huad Villages) including 9 families with a total of 113 heads of goats.

The model families' members have received technical support from LBD on goat care and milking of domestic goats. They are ready to produce goat's milk for their children premix produced, and consumption. (see Annex 12)

4.2.4 Community Development

In March 2021, Training of Trainers (ToT) on Village Development Plan (VDP) was held in 4 provinces. Participants include GoL's concerned sector such as the District Planning and Investment Office, the District of Agriculture and Forestry Office, the District Labor and Social Welfare Office, and PRF district staff from 12 districts.

The VDP has been implemented in 231 villages under the PRF III AF using the Planning guideline/method followed by a participatory planning manual (PPM) from MPI. VDPs of the target villages were made after the set-up of SHGs and VSMC was completed since the main emphasis of sub-projects is focusing on supporting the livelihood links nutrition activities, and CFA is used for a small scale infrastructure implementation.

The process of the VDP and District Coordination Meeting was done between July to October 2021. In the 4 provinces, there are at least 173 sub-projects selected and approved by district authorities and concerned sectors in the District Coordination and Planning Meeting. As of December 2021, the sub-projects survey activity has been done and all sub-project design activities will be completed in early 2022.

CHAPTER IV: SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

4.1. Social and Environmental Safeguard Information

Safeguards policies are **essential tools to prevent and mitigate undue harm to people and their environment** in the development process. During project implementation, safeguards should help define measures and processes to effectively manage risks and enhance positive impacts. During this reporting period, PRF provided training on the environmental, social safeguard, and DRM impact assessment in the survey and design and all the forms which will be filled during the survey and which would be attached to all sub-project proposals under PRF III AF as well as PRF III Extension. In general, there is no serious case occurring in the implementation, thus, in 2021, the overall performance on the safeguards continues to be satisfactory as feedback by the donor mission.

4.1.1. Social Safeguards Information

Under the PRF AF in the 4 provinces (Phongsaly, Oudomxay, Houaphanh, and Xiengkhuang), at least 173 sub-projects will be implemented. PRF has used the social safeguard as a key tool, particularly the Environmental and Social Safegaurd Screening Checklist to identify impacts to subprojects and mitigating measures for the subprojects in the target villages. The training on the social safeguard management framework (focus on compensation policy) has been provided to PRF's engineering staff in case of infrastructure activities that would require land acquisition or affected structures.

There are 3 villages including Phearsu, Jamae, and Hadngam will be affected by the dam hydropower construction in Bountai district, Phongsaly Province. These three villages have received assistance under the PRF's nutrition and livelihood improvement activities only.

During this reporting period, the survey and design of infrastructure activities are in progress and it will be completed in January or February 2022. Therefore, information related to compensation is not available yet. However, the information of the social safeguard impact can be summarized below:

Table 20 Compensation and Resettlement, Social Safeguard (4 Provinces)
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No	Descriptions	Number	Remark
1	Total target Province	4	
2	Total target District	12	
3	# Target Village in phase 1	231	
4	# Village Resettlement in target village phase 1 (in the list of GOL Plan)	3	*In Bountai district *Plan to move after HPC *Not received for the activity
5	# Sub-Projects	173	In the process of survey-design
6	# Village beneficiaries	173	
7	# Household beneficiaries		
8	# Population beneficiaries	107,344	_

No	Descriptions	Number	Remark
9	# Female beneficiaries	52,469	
10	# Sub-project effected to Personal Property or Land (SP)	0	
11	# HHs were affected	307	
12	# Personal land were affected (m2)	0	
13	# Personal property were affected (#tree)	0	
14	# HHs affected < 5% compared to their holding land	0	
15	# HHs were affected <5% is voluntary contributed	0	
16	# HHs were affected <5% that they got compensated	0	
17	# HH affected > 5% compared to their land and have compensated	0	
18	# HH affected > 5% and got compensated	307	*Under GoL's management and responsibilty

In addition, PRF has raised the importance of social safeguard activities for the sub-projects through data form collection and followed by the suggestions from the mission of December 2021 such as (i) a careful review of the design is made and consideration of alternative engineering designs is given to minimize land acquisition impacts and (ii) additional consultation are conducted including with specific groups e.g. women's groups for sub-project gravity fed water systems and water user groups, to ensure that beneficiaries have fully participated in the consultations and understand the long-term benefits of the project and reconfirm their ranking of the preferred infrastructure project.

Table 21: Summary of the sub-projects impact affecting households, assets, and land in 2021 (6 Provinces)

No	Descriptions	Number	Remark
1	Total target District	21	
2	# Target Kum Ban in the 21 Districts	51	
3	# Village in targeted Kum Ban	53	
4	# Village Resettlement in target Kum Ban (in the list of GOL Plan) ⁵	0	
5	# Of total approved Sub-Projects in DSEDP	53	
6	# Sub-Projects	53	
7	# Of village beneficiaries	53	
8	# Of ethnic village beneficiaries	50	
9	# Household beneficiaries	4,447	
10	# Population beneficiaries	29,814	
11	# Female beneficiaries	14,590	
12	# Ethnic beneficiaries	26,123	
13	# Sub-project effected to Personal Property or Land (SP)	-	

No	Descriptions	Number	Remark
14	# HHs were affected	30	
15	# Personal land was affected (m2)	1	
16	# Personal property (teak tree) were affected (#tree)	-	
17	# HHs affected < 5% compared to their holding land	30	
18	# HHs were affected < 5% is voluntary contributed	30	
19	# HH affected > 5% compared to their land and have compensated	ı	
20	# HH affected > 5% and got compensated	ı	

Sources: Community Engineer Division, June 2020

Remark: During this reporting period, there are 30 households affected less than 5% compared to their holding land, and all affected households were voluntarily contributed which all sub-projects benefited their community. (see Annex 19)

4.1.2. Environmental Safeguards Monitoring

In 2021, the last grant of the GoL co-financing of PRF III was approved with a total of LAK 13 Billion to implement 53 sub-projects. SDC has supported the additional fund for the PRF operational costs for the implementation until the completion by the end of 2021 with a total of US\$ 395,200. In the meantime, SDC and the mandated ESSS and QAA consultants asked for reviewing the quality control of the design and the safeguard, DRM, and UXO clearance before starting the construction. The assessment forms of Environmental and Social Safeguard, DRM, and UXO clearance were collected from the field and submitted to SDC and consultants to review for approval.

After they reviewed these designs, BOQ, and safeguard documents, the consultants recommended modification of some design details to ensure greater reliability and recommended reviewing the community contribution in a few projects where it is more than the 10% allowed in PRF. The consultants also checked and reviewed the UXO clearance certificates issued by the National Regulaory Authority (NRA) for sub-projects construction, particularly for construction of bridges that required excavation and digging. During the construction, the contractors ensured compliance to safeguard implementation, monitoring and reporting, thus this safeguard compliance related to the Environmental Code of Practice (ECOP) were incorporated in the bidding documents and signed contracts. All the recommended design modifications were implemented by PRF Engineering teams and issues identified in safeguards were addressed.

Prior to implementation of the the 53 sub-projects under GOL's funding both technical engineering review and Environmental and Social Safeguards reviewed were conducted by the SDC's Environmental and Social Safeguards Specialist and the Quality Assurance Advisor. Compliance to Environmental and Social Safeguards include accomplishment of Safeguard Checklist, DRM, and obtaining of UXO Clearance Certificates from NRA.

4.2. Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI)

During the implementation of PRF III (2017-2021), PRF remains to promote the gender action plan as an important key priority involved in the project's implementation. It has been applied in various PRF's activities such as planning, implementation, operation and maintenance, RMG, SHGs, VSMC,

and FNGs. In the 4 provinces, particularly in the nutrition and livelihood activities, Gender and ethnic aspects have become the main involvement of the activities such as FNG's meeting and Cooking demonstration which most of the women including pregnant women, lactating mothers, and children aged 6-23 months are fully involved and benefited from implementing activities as well as in livelihood work through the SHG initiative that strongly encourages women participation. In the 6 provinces, VIT female members also take part in the sub-projects construction, as well as monitoring the gender action plan, the project has mainstreamed gender in the design, planning, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of the activities supported by the project, which reality target setting in each year.

In December 2021, the operational structure of PRF III has 215 in total staff which included 95 females (44.19%) which is 14.19% higher than target while 43.10 % of the total staff are from ethnic minority groups which are 19.97% higher than 2020.

In addition, it shows that women have been involved in various activities such as female beneficiaries only, of the 53 sub-projects under the GOL co-financing of the PRF III implemented in 53 villages, 21 districts, 6 provinces, reaching a total of 14,590 (49%) of 29,814 beneficiaries, and 88% are from small ethnics. By using the commutative number of female beneficiaries (2017-2021) in the 4 Provinces reached to 49.1% and the total number of ethnic beneficiaries is 26,123 people equivalent to 88% which is 18% exceeded the targeted indicator (70%).

In the implementation of the 53 subprojects under the GOL fund, 477 VIT members are appointed, 159 are females (33.3%). On average, 33.8% of VIT members are females which is 2.8% higher than the target (31%). However, the final target should have at least 40% of the women should be involved in the VIT in the year 2024. While By the commutative number of female beneficiaries (2017-2021) in the 4 provinces, of which is 57.89% are women which are 7.89% higher than the target 50%.

The Road Maintenance Group (RMG) work, covered 6 Provinces (in Non-PRF-AF Provinces), 20 Districts, 37 road sub-projects, with a total of 48 RMGs including 204 women from poor families are members and all members are women.

As of December 2021, a total of 971 SHGs had been established (84%) with more than 11,739 members, while 10,883 are female (93%) and ethnic is 7,071 (60%). In addition, a total of 1,339 VSMC have been set up, of which 1,082 are women (81% which is 16% higher than the target), and 58% are ethnic. Besides, in the nutrition work, the FNG members are women 7833 (78.90%) out of 9928 FNG members.

In conclusion, PRF has significantly succeeded and supported the involvement of women and ethnic in all activities and benefited them both directly and indirectly. However, as PRF still lacks having a key specialist who will be the main person to mobilize and encourage the activity of GESI in all aspects for better effectiveness in all PRF III's targeted coverage, particularly in the 4 Provinces. (see Annex 13)

4.3. Information Education and Communication (IEC)

IECs is considered as an important work for disseminating the PRF's activities implementation which included various information dissemination through different methods such as supporting news for many other newspapers, National Radio, Facebook, and in the PRF's website. In addition, it is also disseminated through brochures, magazines, calendars, technical manuals for other training, posters, videos of the PRF's implementation, and other short video clips of the community training to upload to the PRF's website.

During the year 2021, PRF has focused on producing various tools and information for disseminating news to the masses as follows:

- Video clips to prevent diseases
- Training on Poultry Disease Prevention and Animal Feeding (Samtai and Kuan Districts, Houaphanh Province)
- Video clip of the management work of the VSMC in Nakhua Village, Muang Mai District, Phongsaly Province
- Video slideshow of achievements in the implementation of 17 years of work
- Model family video clip as the title of generating income (Mr. Bounthavy family, Homkong village, Huamuang district, Huaphan Province)
- COVID-19 Prevention Song (Lao and Khmu ethnic language)
- Ledger Book
- Cash Book
- Savings and Monitoring Book
- Loan and Repayment Book
- Monthly Balance Sheet
- Monthly Income Report Book
- Passbook
- SHG Meeting Record Book
- VSMC Meeting Book

4.4. Donor missions, cooperation and partnerships

In June 2021, due to the restriction of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Virtual Mission of the implementation support for the Poverty Reduction Fund III AF project was conducted by the World Bank. The main objectives of the mission are to work with the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, in particular, the Poverty Reduction Fund team to:

- Review the progress to date on the activities of the project including the status of the agreed actions from the last implementation support mission in November 2020;
- Assess the fiduciary, and environments, and social safeguards performance of the project;
- Assess the key achievements and factors, and agree on an action plan to ensure smooth implementation of project activities;
- Discuss the implementation and collaboration with the Ministry of Planning and Investment and the World Bank-financed Nutrition Convergence projects and
- Introduce the new Co-Task Team Leader.

During the mission, the PRF team (Key staff from the Division and Unit) presented the implementation progress of the PRF III extension in 6 provinces covered by SDC and PRF III AF under the World Bank fund in 4 provinces. All the implementation progress of components 1 to 4 have been reported. In addition, there is also the Presentation and discussion on the COVID-19 impact

of returning migrant workers and the meeting on collaboration and cooperation on WB financed nutrition projects. The mission was pleased with the overall early implementation of the PRF III AF as the PRF team managed to overcome delays due to the pandemic situation and the project continues to be on track to reach its project development objectives.

One important agenda was on 18 June 2021, the mission team was very pleased to have an opportunity to meet with H.E. Dr. Phet Phomphiphack, the Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, and his team to discuss the status of PRF III as well as present the initial findings of the literature review on the impact of COVID19 on returning migrant workers and their host communities. Furthermore, the Minister also expressed his satisfaction with the positive progress of the PRF program as a priority of MAF's agricultural development plan and that the GoL agreed to continue to support PRF, and requested donors considering to continue supporting the six provinces uncovered by PRFIIIAF, particularly, the remote areas along with border parts with neighboring countries. In addition, the China-Laos railway which will be completed by the end of 2021, would suggest supporting those districts along the railways that they can access to loan/credit to do their livelihood activities for trading (export), this would be an important perspective to earn income and benefit from the railway. Last but not least, the minister expressed his appreciation for the World Bank's support for additional research to examine conditions at the village level, especially among returning migrant workers due to the COVID-19 situation in remote areas and among ethnic groups. Learning the results of the research will be useful for addressing the impacts of the pandemic on rural poor communities and households including those labor migrants from neighboring countries.

In early December 2021 the Implementation Support Mission (ISM) for the Poverty Reduction Fund III (PRF III) was conducted remotely due to the still restriction of travel during the COVID-19 outbreak in Laos. This is the second mission meeting closely with the WB to monitor the progress of the PRF's implementation and have supervision by the WB team. The main objectives of the mission were to review the progress: (a) Adjustments made to PRF implementation to address the challenges posed by COVID- 19; (b) Livelihood and nutrition activities, including the rolling out of behavior change communication interventions; (c) Strengthening the project's Monitoring and Evaluation systems; (d) PRF III activities contributing to the World Bank-financed Nutrition Convergence Initiative (NCI) under the leadership of the Ministry of Planning and Investment; and (e) Assess the fiduciary and environmental and social safeguards performance of the project. On 3rd December 2021 the Mission discussed the progress of PRF III Extention, a second extension of PRF III until June 2022, to support the implementation of the last batch of government, was concluded between SDC and the Ministry of Finance in November 2021. The SDC additional support finances the operational costs of PRF, and of the Village Implementation Team, in order to ensure good quality implementation of these last 53 sub-projects by local private companies, in line with PRF' standard. The phasing out of PRF III in the 6 provinces, shall be a key priority during the 6 month extensions.

In addition, the mission was very pleased to have an opportunity to meet with H.E. Dr. Phet Phomphiphack and his team on December 10 during the wrap-up meeting to discuss overall progress with the implementation of PRF III as well as a potential follow-on operational engagement drawing on the PRF III platform (Community Livelihoods Enhancement and Resilience Program – CLEAR). (see Annex 14)

About the partnership with a multi-sector nutrition convergence program financed by the World Bank, PRF attended different meetings (quarterly and semi-meetings) under the Nutrition Convergence, where all convergence project task teams (RRPM, HGNDP/HANSA, SWSSHP, and PRF), PMUs, and MPI Coordinators to update the implementation status of each project and harmonize the implementation plans together to avoid duplicated work in the same target areas and try to link data in the same page in term of developed convergence coordination and SBCC delivery guidelines, communication tools, MIS tools, same data code and household code that all project can use, and other tools developed up to date equally accessible for GOL and project task teams, and also suggested to have convergence meeting in each level frequently (national, provincial and district levels).

In addition, PRF also coordinates closely with MAF and other government line Ministries, in particular with the MPI to strengthen the work coordination of exchanging information and aligning the implementation with the government development plan. During a meeting with the Department of Rural Department and Cooperatives (DRDC) at MAF and the Department of International Cooperation of MPI, several points were agreed that the coordination mechanism for community and District level work would need to be enhanced. During the upcoming quarterly (July or August 2021 as planned), the PRF will propose to i) develop joint district and village work plans (online and in paper format), and ii) a web page featuring meeting minutes and an option to download all convergence manuals for easy reference, etc.

One of the most important issues that have been raised with the MAF is to organize the PRF Board Meeting as soon as possible as PRF Board Meeting has not been organized for two years, so many PRF work issues and activity plans need to be revised and set up the obvious action plan for PRF III AF.

CHAPTER V: CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED IN PRF III EXTENSION AND PRF III AF

5.1 Key Challenges

5.1.1 Challenges of PRF III and PRF III Extension

During this reporting period, the COVID-19 outbreaks in the big cities and also in rural areas of Lao PDR including some coverage areas of PRF, which caused some activities could not be proceeded according to the schedule, including the implementation of 53 SPs (under the last batch of GoL funding in PRFIII) that should be completed by December 2021, in the actual work, the construction would be completed by February 2022, and then the team would focus on the O&M training and preparing to hand over activities to the local authority.

By the end of 2021, PRF will finish all works in those six provinces (uncovered by PRF III AF) that PRF already reported to the local authority and the PRF Board, which should be discussed in the next PRF Board Meeting. The district and provincial Governors/authority sent the official letter to the Minister of MAF to continue the work of PRF at their provinces or proposed new project that can apply experiences of PRF. In addition, the feedback from villagers in all target provinces also requested continued support. If not, it would be a key challenge for the rural development of Lao PDR, through the increasingly high poverty and development gap between urban and rural areas of Lao PDR. In this difficult situation, the budget of the GoL to support rural development work is limited. Therefore, it would suggest having external support for both budgeting and technical aspects.

Next, the PRF CFA model may be only applicable to PRF financial policies but it is not applicable in the current financial policies of the Lao policy. Even though PRF has implemented the CFA projects in many villages, arguing that this approach that can be applied across rural Laos is also questionable due to different local contexts need specific attention and assistance, it is suggested discuss among policymakers in Lao PDR or propose to introduce in the rural development plan, which proposed the decentralized approval and disbursement processes (direct allocated budget for poor communities) and devolving responsibilities to communities, ensure that poor community is fully benefited from the project activities.

One of the key findings of FEE indicated that the GoL still has only limited Human Resources and the provincial and district levels would be overstretched to support PRF entirely due to lack of manpower. Harmonizing the development plan between PRF and the Government is considered to be a key challenge for the implementation of PRF since there are different approaches and time scales, where GoL may or may not be able to deploy the required resources for the villagers at precise timelines as would be intended by PRF. At ground level, however, RMG, Village Administration Committee (VAC) have a good chance, to remain operational after the project although this is less likely with RMG. Scaling up is more challenging because, between others, limitations in funding and human resource that GoL could or would provide. However, PRF will usefully utilize good experience and lessons learned of PRF CDD, CFA approach as well as RMG and DRM for adaptation in the follow-up the CLEAR Project.

5.1.2. Challenges of PRF III Additional Financing

In 2021, in those 4 Nutrition Convergence Provinces had also faced difficulties caused by the COVID-19 outbreaks, many district and villages announced for the lockdown, PRF team could not access to some target villages, with the delay of activities in Component 1, particularly the survey-design thus the construction of SPs postponed to the first quarter of 2022. The component 4, Despite the difficulties placed on its work by COVID-19, the PRF continues to support people in poorer districts through savings and loan groups, and initiatives to support the National Nutrition Strategy.

On the other hand, the coordination among the projects funded by World Bank is considered to be a challenge. One of the issues is about the incentive provided by each project at a different rate, if lower rate, causing that villagers in some villages did not want to involve some PRF's activities for example the cooking session. This is important that each project should work together and find a solution for future implementation. Furthermore, it is suggested to improve the coordination mechanism, work plan, and data among Nutrition convergence projects, this is important to ensure the quality of work and avoid any overlap works in the same villages.

Challenges of Nutrition

- ✓ Some recipes have no or limited ingredients of local productively that should be adapted and find a potential resource that available in village or district nearby.
- ✓ FNG meetings and cooking demonstrations held twice per week are very difficult, especially during the agriculture production season. According to the feedback from beneficiaries through FRM, many villages proposed to reduce the frequency of joining cooking times. Therefore, it is planned to organize at least (1-2 times/month for the first few months, then 4-5 times/month later).

- ✓ Mini-Projector is not suitable for daytime use, it is proposed to conduct an impact evaluation of this equipment, before applying for this work in the second batch village.
- ✓ The DNOs & NYGs lack knowledge & experience on M&C nutrition that we should focus on training to concerned staff with post-training evaluation in place.
- ✓ The high number of NYG turnover, which affected the nutrition implementation at the village level, should monitor the situation and plan for future recruitment.
- ✓ Coordination with other convergent projects requires increased effort (working together at the village level, district Quarterly meeting, using the same data) and for better sharing SBCC, cooking with using innovative, peer to peer learning approach.

Challenges of the Livelihood

- ✓ Lack of experienced Staff: District PRF Officers and YGS should focus on training, learning by doing.
- ✓ Currently Holding Qualification of PRF's Staff vs ToR's Requirement.
- ✓ Willingness vs Forced Performances.
- ✓ Ambitious Targets to achieve vs Available Resources that we are not able to reach the target, but we can clarify it.
- ✓ Enthusiasm vs Reluctances of Communities to change.
- ✓ Seed Grants vs Free Money that we have to explain and make sure that all members understand.
- ✓ Literacy and Numeracy for bookkeeping and accounting that takes time to understand.
- ✓ Income vs Subsistence should have a look at the capacity of VSMC and also support from the concerned sector at the district level.
- ✓ Survival vs Commercial Attitudes.

5.2 Exiting Strategy

According to the Exit Strategy Plan, which has been prepared since 2020 but PRF still extended its activities until 2021, by using the last batch of GoL for PRF got approved and village administration cost funded by SDC. If there is no available budget, by June 2022 we have to close all activities in the six provinces which already been informed and reported to the local authority and also PRF Board, since they are the key decision-makers to decide what to do in those provinces if without PRF, which should be a key discussion topic in the next PRF Board Meeting. As expressed by the Vice Provincial Governor of Sekong province (A meeting of phasing out PRF in Lamam district) that the concerned sectors at province or district should consider additional support both additional finance and key staff that can get to the villages to support the work, this is important to ensure that all infrastructures can use longer, in addition, the rural development work under PRF (community-based development) can be continued and used in future.

5.3 Sustainability

The sustainability of work has required the involvement of government and non-government organizations, innovative project implementation mechanisms, capacity building, and targeting of vulnerable groups are all instrumental in the success of rural development through community participation, which had a positive impact on individual and community well-being, on the provision of local government services, and in reducing poverty. Additionally, the capacity of the local

community is essential to successful rural development under PRF, thus, capacity is more than simply resources, it also includes motivation and commitment, which in turn, require appropriate incentives at all levels. To ensure sustainability following suggestions to handle:

- ✓ To have a serious consultation meeting with the Lao government bodies regarding the roles and responsibilities of PRF in rural development. There is a need of having permanent institutional and financial assistance from the Lao government to fully apply the CFA approach;
- ✓ Integrate financial policies for small-scale projects between the PRF and the Lao government. The policy should be connected and interchangeable. Otherwise, the PRF CFA and SHG models are meaningless and cannot be practical after ending financial support from donors.
- ✓ MAF to collaborate with Financial Institutions of GoL such as Nayobay Bank, Agricultural Promotion Bank, etc. to boost investment of small agriculture-livestock producer groups across PRF's districts and villages.

According to the finding of FEE in 2021, we can highlight the following suggestions for the sustainability of PRF:

5.3.1 Legal:

Relevant national policy is in place to allow sustained PRF activities, and PRF approaches/ modalities are mostly in line with and adopted by national policies such as DSEDP and PSEDP. PRF aimed at contributing to the GoL national policy NGPES 2000-2020. Subsequently, the PRF has become an important development project that contributes to SDG 1 and has a big outreach through the country (in particular in 10 provinces).

It is consistent with the donor's assistance policy to allow further funding (e.g. the World Bank's Operational Policy on "the protection of indigenous people interests and environmental safeguard").

5.3.2. Institutional and Social:

MAF, (through its Department of Rural Development and Cooperatives (DRDC)) could continue the PRF program. There is no indication, however that MAF has sufficient capacity and mechanism in place to continue to coordinate with other line ministries/sectors, nor is there a mechanism in place at the MAF level to ensure research and advocacy for necessary funding besides requesting budget from MoF. The harmonization between the government system and legal framework and CFA, VDPs/VDFs, will increase their chance of sustainability although there is little chance for local or GoL financing.

5.3.3. Technical:

The sustainability of PRF approaches/modalities to be adopted and implemented by government agencies at the local community level is possible but requires dedication. It is very difficult to change from a process-oriented attitude and M&E to result-oriented ones.

PRF III has established enough technical support for the villagers by training them in O&M and establishing village infrastructure, the training is conducted in such a manner where the participants can implement the knowledge learned with no or minimal support from outside.

5.3.4. Financial:

Local communities' financial resources

The local communities contributed 7.4% of the cost of establishing village infrastructure and are also willing to contribute to their maintenance, however, the communities would require external support to do so. The districts are also willing to include the VDP approach in their DSEDP and have

requested provinces to look into the matter. Survey interviews with provincial authorities found out their wish to grant the district's request under the condition of an additional budget.

➤ GoL's financial resources

GoL is also contributing by mobilizing the government staff to help project implementation. The districts are capable of providing technical support to the VITs for the maintenance of existing SPs and construction of new ones, but they also lack the financial resources to do so. COVID-19 pandemic contributed to GoL financial difficulties to support many projects, thus, after project completion of PRF III the only hope is for further non-GoL funds to be provided. Without that, even conducting simple field visits involving travel costs and /or personal allowances (per diems) will not be possible. With this reality in mind, sustainability is likely to be only achieved at very local (community and household) levels.

> Foreign assistance

Since WB has recently indicated its intention to further extend its support to PRF, it is expected that the donor could continue to support PRF in their endeavor. GoL would need to have a clear direction on how it foresees its effort to poverty reduction in rural and remote areas in the coming years and need clear prioritization. Poverty reduction is multi-dimensional and the beneficiaries/target groups need to be engaged in their village development to ensure inclusive, efficient, and sustainable country development.

CHAPTER VI: PLANNED ACTIVITIES AND BUDGET in 2022

6.1. Finance and Administration plan for 2022

- Provide training on Finance and Procurement to communities especially VIT teams in the 4 Provinces.
- PRF staff refresher training for Provincial and District FA & Microfinance.
- Supporting Services (Staff performance review and renew contract).
- Equipment (procurement process).
- Works (office maintenance).
- Incremental Operating Costs.
- Preparation of the report of the Annual Budget and expenditure progress of 2022.
- Submission of Interim unaudited financial report (IFR) for the period (Oct-Dec 2021) to the WB by February 15, 2022. period (January March 2022) to the donors (WB) by May 15, 2022, period (April June 2022) to the donors (WB) by July 15, 2022; period (July September 2022) to the donors (WB) by November 15, 2022; and period (October December 2022) to the donors (WB) by February 15, 2023;
- PRF FA at the Central level plans to complete transfer the 3rd accountability meeting Cycle XVIII during January-February 2022.
- Follow up on completion of works, monitoring of quality and safeguards and final payment process to contractors for GOL sub-projects contribution of Cycle XVIII during January-March 2022 and 53 GOL sub-projects contribution of FY 2021.
- Preparation of the Annual budget and work plan of FY 2022-2023.
- Preparation the report of GOL SP of Cycle XVIII to Department of Rural Development and Cooperatives, MAF and MPI.
- Preparation the PRF III AF replenishment document for IDA 6506

- Preparation Financial statement and supporting documents for External audit and Donors inspection FY 2022 for PRF III + PRF III AF, SDC funding and COVID19 source.
- PRF FA/FM supervision to the target areas twice a year.
- Preparation of the closure of the 6 Provinces and District offices and hand over all activities to Local government.
- Prepare financial report for the PRF Board meeting in 2022. (see Annex 15)

6.2. Procurement and Human Resource

PROCUREMENT ACTIVITIES PLAN FOR THE NEXT YEAR 2022

- Conduct the bid opening for the remaining activities as mentioned in the PRF III Procurement Plan;
- Follow up with the Village Procurement Team to conduct the procurement process for the sub-projects under IDA funded for 4 provinces (Houaphan, Xiengkhouang, Phongsaly, Oudomxai).

6.3. Human Resource

• Conduct the Recruitment of 30 YGs positions (Nutrition and Livelihood) for the second batch of 234 new target villages in the 4 Provinces.

6.4. Monitoring and Evaluation

- Ensure that the MIS system is functioning, data validation and verification in new MIS system.
- Continue to provide M&E training for the PRF staff at national, provincial, & district levels including YGs, including M&E TOT training.
- Ensure that all key data entered into the system can report on time.
- Performance Assessment of SHGs in the 1st batch village with Livelihood team.
- Continue monitoring the MIS system with PRF staff at Provincial, district, and villages levels to ensure all data entry is properly correct and informative in the system and other people can access it easily.
- Work closely with the M&E focal point persons for M&E issues coordination in the PRF and provide refresh training for them in 2022.
- Follow up the implementation and the status of sub-project at district and Kumban with concerned sectors in the 6 provinces and the 4 provinces.
- Follow up the use of forms of PRF 3 AF relate to indicators and data collection to support some indicators.
- Training on the Feedback and Resolution Mechanism including assessment on FRM mechanism and report writing.
- Monitoring and Evaluation Capacity Building /Training/workshop/Convergence meeting and etc.

6.5. Agriculture and Livelihood work

Planning for 229 Villages

- Refreshing bookkeeping and accounting to LYGs.
- Refreshing Module 4 and Livelihood Activities.
- Selection CRP and Training on CRP ToT.
- Selection Potential SHG for upgrading to Professional Production Groups.
- Formation of 50 PGs based on selected livelihood activities in selected Villages.

♣ Planning for 234 villages

- Recruit and place 25 new LYG.
- Mobilize target villages to form SHG during Village Orientation Meeting.
- Form SHGs villages and form VSMC in 234 villages.
- Assess MIP for Seed Grants preparation during Village Development Meeting.
- Provide Technical Training of Livelihood Activities and Module 4.
- Seed Grants transferring to functioned bank accounts of VSMC.

6.6. Nutrition and Community Development plan for 2022

- Continue mobilizing contribution from FNG members to support cooking in the FNG meeting.
- Distribution of PRF SBCC strategy to the keys GoL sectors, MNCA, and Present in the PRF board meeting.
- To assess existing IEC materials, tools, and equipment for improvement prior to procurement for phase 2 target villages.
- Continue the FNG meeting & cooking demonstration in 249 FNGs of 231 villages.
- Continue organizing the training on HNG and community VDO in 228 villages by CLICK.
- Continue piloting on goat dairy by LBD in 5 villages (2 villages, Namor district, Oudomxay province, and 3 villages, Kham district, Xiengkhouang province.
- Conduct the home visit activity focus on M&C nutrition counseling.
- Village Quarterly Meeting (VQM) which special focus on nutrition and gender.
- Refresher/training on Mother and Children Nutrition for existing and new PRF's nutrition staff.
- Village Orientation Meeting in the PRF's target village phase 2.
- Formation of FNG in phase 2 target villages.
- Refresher/training on Mother and Children Nutrition for existing and new PRF's nutrition staff.
- Refresher/training on Social Safeguard.
- VDP meeting in phase 2 target villages.
- District Planning and Coordination Meeting.
- District Annual Evaluation Meeting of 2022.

6.7. Community Engineering and community development

For the 6 Provinces:

- To continue monitoring the progress of 53 sub-projects implementation in the 6 Provinces and other relating documents.
- Provide training on O&M for VITs.

- Inspect and advise on mitigation of social and environmental safeguard impact and other documents accuracy to ensure for an external audit.
- Prepare the reports of infrastructure for the meeting on handing over the sub-projects and close the PRF offices of the 23 districts in 6 provinces (both district and provincial meetings).

For the 4 Provinces:

- Provide the training on the CFA approach implementation for VITs and community training on ESS+FRM in the 4 Provinces.
- Provide the training on RMG and DRM.
- Follow up at least 173 sub-projects implementation.

Annexes 1-20

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Annex 1: Accumulated data of Result frameworks

						End Target YR9 (June 2024)			
Indicator Name Project Development Objectives (PDO)	Baseline	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	
Direct project beneficiaries (Number)-(Core)	567,762	680,000	687,000	690,000					876,700
Actual		777,596 ¹	810,621 ²	866,771	887,138	889,302 ³			
Female beneficiaries (Percentage)	53	50.00	50.00	50	50	50	50		50
Actual		50.00	49.32	49.46	49	49			
Ethnic Beneficiaries (Percentage)	70	70.00	70.00	70	70	70	70		70
Actual		84.004	80.005	82.91	94	88			
% reduction in time to access a health facility (Percentage)	-	-	-		80	80			80
Actual		-	-	87.12	88	88			
% reduction in time to access safe water sources (Percentage)	-	-	-		80	80			80
	-	-	-						

¹ Based on the number of population (81,933 people) in new villages that received PRF's support as total of 159 out of 340 villages in 2017 while 181 villages are received PRF II and PRF III's support.

² Based on the number of population (33,025 people) in new villages that just received PRF's support as total 65 villages out 326 villages where sub-project located in 2018, while the other 261 villages already received in PRF II.

³ We use the number 887,138 people in 2020 and we then added the number of 2,164 beneficiaries in 05 new villages that just received sub-projects in 2021

⁴ Based on the number of ethnic group members in the targeted villages were received sub-projects in 2017 per total population.

⁵ There are 168,308 people as direct beneficiaries and 134,585 are ethnic groups (134,585/168,308)=80%.

Actual				81.00	82	82		
% reduction in travel time from village center to kumban center due to road improvements (Percentage)	-	-	-		40	40		40
Actual		-	-	46.38	53.07	53.07		
% reduction in time to access improved schools (Percentage)	-	-	-		80	80		80
Actual		-	-	83.90	83.9	83.9		
Percentage increase in children 6-23 months old from Farmer Nutrition Group households consuming foods from four or more recommended food groups (Percentage)	-	-	-					40
Actual		-	-	-	-	-		
Kilograms of animal meat produced (Number)	-	-	-		527,219	2,108,877	5,454,540	5,454,54
Actual		-	-	312,360	-	335,663 ⁶		

Indicator Name	Baseline			Intermediate Targets					End Target
		2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	
% of total project value contributed by the community (Percentage)	11			10					Not reported during the PRF extension
									and AF period

⁶ We use the number of 312,360 kilograms of animal meat produced in 2019 plus with the number of 23,303 Kilograms of animal meat produced of 12 villages in one pilot district as in June 2021.

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Actual		7.79^{7}	7.598	7.52	-	-			
% of sub-project activities of high technical quality (Percentage)	85	-	-	85		85			85
Actual				92					
% of PRF built infrastructure in a functioning quality (Percentage)	80	80	80		80	80			80
Actual		-	97.4 ⁹	94.98	94.68 ¹⁰	95			
# of sub projects implemented (Number)	1,426	2,100	2,450	2,800					3,440
Actual		2,278	2,613	3,099	3,334	3,335			
% of Village Implementation Team		-	-						
(VIT) members that are female					31	31			40
(Percentage)									
Actual					33.85	33.3			
Number of women selected for Road		-	-						
Maintenance Groups who earn an				8	16	16			16
income, as a % of the number of poor				0	10	10			10
households in the village (Percentage)	_								
Actual					15.96	15.96 ¹¹			
Increase in hectares of irrigated area (Percentage)	-	-	-	0	50	50			50
Actual					49.70	49.70			
% HHs in PRF beneficiary villages		75	75						
voting for village priorities	60			75	75	75	75	75	75
(Percentage)									
Actual		85.2	87.0512	87.81	92	93			

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⁷This used annually cumulative numbers from 2016+2017.

⁸ Based on the suggestion of World Bank during M&E part on 18 June 2018, using cumulative data from 2016+2017+2018, the data may be updated in Annual Progress Report 2018.

⁹ Internal monitoring done by PRF district office and Kumban team in February 2018, there are 45 out of 1761 sub-projects are not functioning while 12 of them are poor quality. For the Technical Beneficiary Assessment conducted in May 2018, confirmed that 92% is high technical quality and 8% is fair, it is weak to justify this finding.

¹⁰ We follow up the total number of sub-projects from 2012-2021 with 3,335 sub-projects and there were 166 sub-projects not fully functioning which is 4.9%

¹¹ Overall, the program works as intended, increasing household welfare during the program. It increases women's earnings and improves household welfare. 18 Another perhaps more important indicator of impact that was captured by the impact evaluation was the percentage of household regular earners of income. This indicator increased from 2.16% at baseline to 14.4% at end line.

¹² Based on cumulative number of beneficiaries HHs from 2017+2018 participated for voting their village priorities.

% of PRF KBs participating in DSEDP process promoting PRF	75	70	75	75	75	75			75
KBPs and/or VDPs (Percentage)									
Actual		71.20 ¹³	83.0014	80.60	80.60	80.6			
% of households in PRF beneficiary villages satisfied with the participatory planning process supported by PRF III (Percentage)	75	-	-			80			80
Actual				95.00	95	95			
% of PRF III sub-project prioritized by women (Percentage)	91.00	90	90		90.00	90			90.00
Actual		93	91.97 ¹⁵	93.00	94.9	93			
% of PRF III sub-projects prioritized by ethnic group (Percentage)	70.00	70	70		70.00	70	70.00	70.00	70.00
Actual		80.02	85.33	84.91	88	80			
# of communities able to plan, implement and monitor their activities (Number)	1,124	1,400	1,450	1,450					1,736
Actual		1,508 ¹⁶	1,573 ¹⁷	1,695	1,727	1,732 ¹⁸			
% of registered grievances that are addressed according to agreed procedures (Percentage)	90	90	90		90	90	90	90	90
Actual		95 ¹⁹	98.18	98.97	100.00	100			
% of SHGs with NPLs 4% and below (Percentage)	60.00	70	70		60.00	70.00	70.00	70.00	70.00

¹³ We used the data of KBPs in annual DSEDP implementation plan in the pilot districts that tested for DSEDP, we based on data of Sepone district where there is 152 priorities and 114 are included in DSEDP, Samneua district in Huaphan, there are 93 priorities and 73 are added in DSEDP, Phonesay district in LuangPrabang there are 222 priorities and 143 are added in DSEDP, Beng district 40 priorities and in DSEDP 31. This Indictor = (114+73+143+31)/(152+93+222+40) =71.20%

¹⁴ In 2018, we used the KDPs data of 4 pilot districts, which updated data of 2018, as total of 5,347 sub-projects in the KDPs and 3,790 sub-projects included in district social development plans. it shows that there is different between districts which conducted DSEDP meeting and other districts without (that means 39 districts have no meeting on this issue).

¹⁵ This based on data of 348 sub-projects that entered to the system by June 7, 2017, as 87 sub-projects are prioritized by only women and 234 sub-projects are prioritized by both men and women, only man 28 sub-projects.

¹⁶ For this indicator we based on the number of villages have received at least one sub-project, as same as we calculated in PRF II, For PRF III, there are 348 sub-projects located in 340 villages, there are 181 villages received PRFII and PRF III, and there are 159 new villages that received supported by PRF III. Therefore, we have 1349+159=1508 villages.

¹⁷ In 2018, there are 335 sub-projects located in 326 villages and there are 56 new villages, so accumulated number is 1,508+65=1,573 villages.

¹⁸ We use the number of 05 new villages that just received sub-projects in 2021.

¹⁹ We based on data Grievances submitted through hotlines and FRM, as well as issues raise by community during the meeting.

Actual		-	88.7	-	-	-			
# of individuals using loans from SHGs (Number)	4,054	8,000	8,000				22,000		34,000
Actual		9,962	$9,962^{20}$	9,962	10,069	10,113			
% of Village Self-Help Group Management Committee (VSMC) members that are female (Percentage)	0.00					65			65
Actual				63	90.5	81			
Number of Farmer Nutrition Group member households (Number)	0.00				7,200	7,200			14,300
Actual					5,313	5,525			
Percentage of SHG members who take at least two loans (Percentage)	0.00				35.00	35.00	50.00	80.00	80.00
Actual				56.68 21		-			

Use the maximum number of members who took the loan from SHG to invest for livelihood activities.
 We use the number of people taking loans at least two times from SHG in 2019 which is 5,716 members compared to the total of 10,085 members

Annex 2: Number of unused/broken sub-projects resolved by each stakeholder

Table: Status of functioning basic infrastructure supported by PRF

Provinces	#sub-project	#of functioning sub-project	#of broken and repaired	#of broken and unusable SP	# Unusable SPs	#Requested for the budget to repair
Savannakhet	499	469	30			
Saravan	234	231	2			1
Xiengkhuang	240	209	31			
Phongsaly	193	189	4			
LuangNamtha	192	181	7	3		1
Houaphan	696	661	31	4		
Luangprabang	404	402	1	1		
Oudomxay	424	418	6			
Attapeu	195	179	11	1	4	
Sekong	258	230	25	3		
Grand Total	3335	3169	148	12	4	2
%			95	5%		

Source: Monitoring and Evaluation Division, June 2021

Remarks: By June 2021, as mentioned in last annual report 2020, to evaluate the community ownership, we can consider the villagers' involvement in operation and maintenance, where a total of 148 repaired sub-projects, in which 79 sub-projects about 53.4%, which have been repaired by the community, 27 sub-projects or 18.6% have been repaired by local government, while 16 sub-projects 10.8% have been repaired by company, and 15 sub-projects (10.1%) have been repaired by the Community and Local Government, and other 11 sub-projects 7.4%).

Annex 3: Responsibility of Village Implementation Team (VIT)

VIT	Roles and responsibilities			
VIT 01 (Finance team)	 Keep casebook and report expenditure Present financial statement Make payment to contractor and supplier as well as local skill and unskilled workers 			
VIT 02 (Procurement team)	 Sign contract with PRF Prepare bidding documents and award contracts with contractors/suppliers Direct recruitment of skilled/unskilled workers-recruitment guideline 			

VIT 03 (construction team)

- Support PRF in surveys, designs, and cost estimates
- Check quality and volumes of supplied materials
- Supervise works implementation
- Support the preparation of the Operation and Maintenance Plan
- Setting out tasks for unskilled workers and verifying completion
- Check quality and volumes of locally collected materials

Annex 4: Summary of FNG members; and Number of VSMC and Women position (2021)

> Table of summary of FNG members

				# Eligible	1	2	3	4	5	
Provinces/Districts	#Vill	#FNG	# HHs	FNG members (1+2+3)	# PW	# LM (C 0-5 m)	# Child 6-23 m	# Child (0-5 m)	# M (C6-23 m)	Total: 1+2+3+4+5
Huaphanh	66	70	1,559	1,588	297	282	1,009	281	952	2,821
Huameuang District	23	23	579	561	96	106	359	106	354	1,021
Kuane District	15	15	287	301	66	59	176	58	162	521
Sone District	4	4	118	120	22	22	76	22	74	216
Xamtay District	24	28	575	606	113	95	398	95	362	1,063
Oudomxay	19	20	579	575	145	103	327	103	324	1,002
La District	5	5	84	84	20	19	45	19	45	148
Namor District	14	15	495	491	125	84	282	84	279	854
Phongsaly	81	81	1,607	1,615	358	233	1,024	231	1,009	2,855
Boontai District	15	15	338	340	65	59	216	58	213	611
Khua District	27	27	446	450	92	99	259	99	255	804
May District	24	24	461	452	112	60	280	60	278	790
Samphanh District	15	15	362	373	89	15	269	14	263	650
Xiengkhuang	65	65	1,780	1,764	369	238	1,157	238	1,149	3,151
Kham District	29	29	736	724	158	83	483	82	475	1,281
Nonghed District	36	36	1,044	1,040	211	155	674	156	674	1,870
Grand Total	231	236	5,525	5,542	1,169	856	3,517	853	3,434	9,829

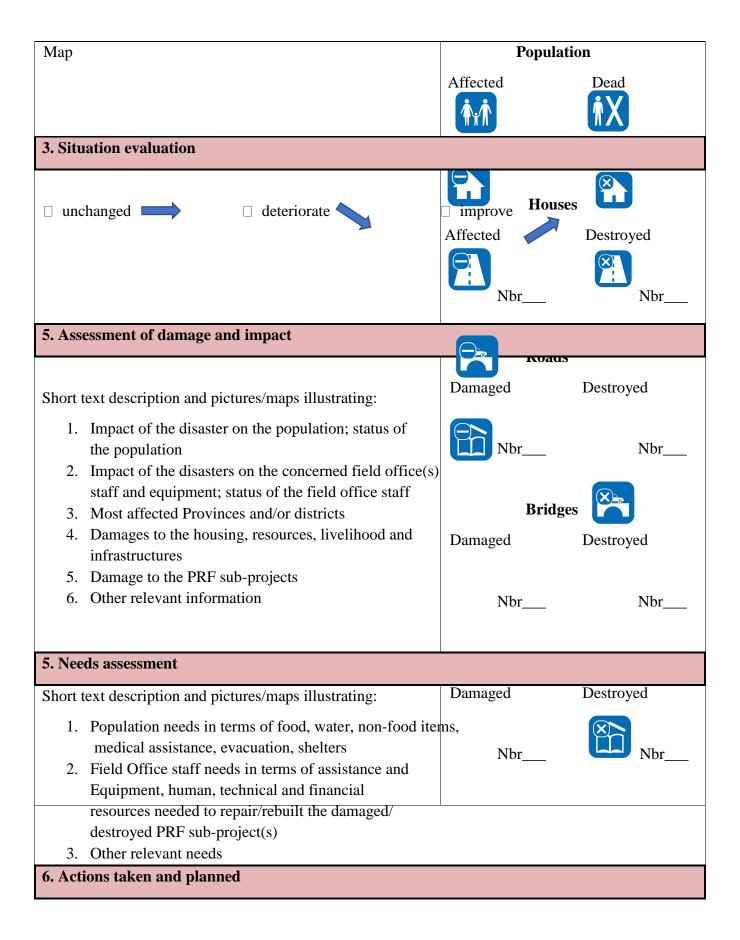
Remarks: PW = Pregnant women; LM = Lactating mother; HH = Households; C = Children

> Table of Number of VSMC and Women Position

Provinces/Districts	Sum of #Vill	Sum of #SHG	Sum of #SHG_Members	Sum of #VSMC	Sum of #Female VSMC	Percent (%)
Huaphanh	64	270	3,197	393	332	84%
Huameuang	22	105	1,146	132	126	95%
Kuane	15	58	779	97	49	51%
Sone	4	23	299	24	18	75%
Xamtay	23	84	973	140	139	99%
Oudomxay	19	95	998	114	113	99%
La	5	25	290	30	30	100%
Namor	14	70	708	84	83	99%
Phongsaly	81	344	4,517	490	367	75%
Boontai	15	77	957	90	42	47%
Khua	27	118	1,607	162	162	100%
May	24	78	1,002	157	82	52%
Samphanh	15	71	951	81	81	100%
Xiengkhuang	65	261	3,202	357	282	79%
Kham	29	131	1,673	145	141	97%
Nonghed	36	130	1,529	212	141	67%
Grand Total	229	970	11,914	1,354	1,094	81%

Annex 5: PRF activities with disaster impacted (using DRM Form)

1. Situation Report Origin	
District Field Office District:	Name:
☐ Province Field Office Province:	Name:
☐ EMS Operation Manager	Name:
Date:	Time:
2. Affected area and damage	
Indicate here:	
1. Name(s) of the Province(s) affected	
2. Name(s) of the District(s) affected	
3. Name(s) of the city, village(s) affected	
4. Type and location (if possible with the geograph sub-projects damaged	raphic coordinate) of the infrastructures and/or PRF
Type of Disaster or Hazard	
	*
Flood □ Landslide □ Storm □	Heavy Rain ☐ Wind ☐
Fire Earthquake	
1	0.1
Drought□ Insect infestation□ Epidemic□	Other _
Threat/Alert Level Green Yellow	□ <mark>Orange</mark> □ <mark>Red</mark>



Indicate (include maps and pictures):

- 1. What actions have been taken by PRF Headquarter, Province and District Field Office
- 2. What actions are considered by PRF
- 3. What actions have been taken by National and International responders
- 4. Where these actions took or will take place

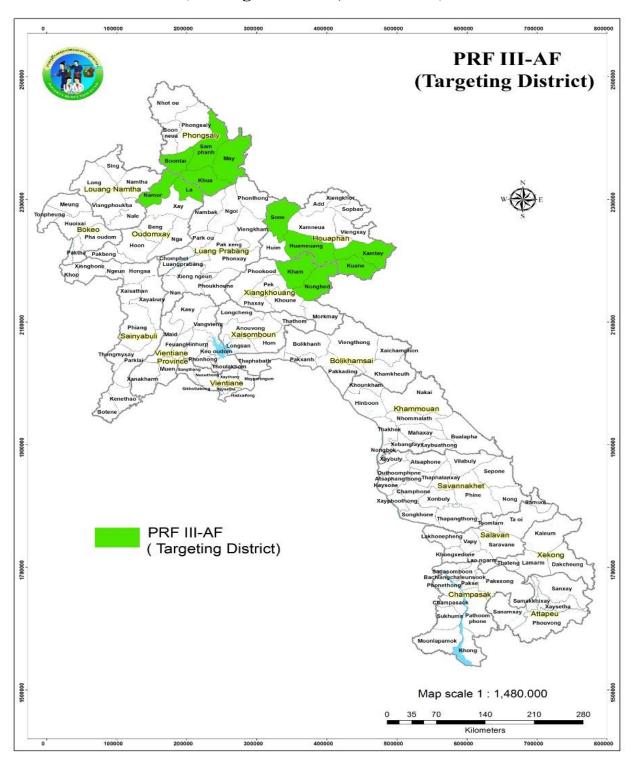
7. Forecast

Indicate (include maps):

- 1. Meteorological forecast
- 2. The expected situation evolution (unchanged, deteriorate, improve) for the population, infrastructure(s) and PRF sub-project(s)
- 3. If additional threat/danger can be expected

Source: PRF TA Division, December 2021

Annex 6: PRF III AF (12 Target Districts, 4 Provinces)



Annex 7: Summary of staff training conducted during Reporting Period

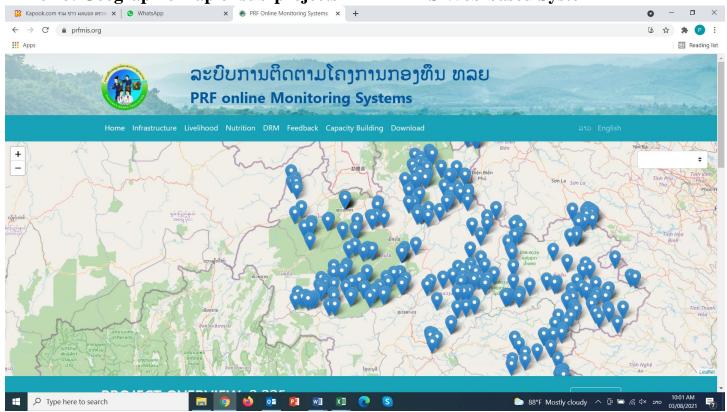
Divisions/Units	Name of the	Date	Main objective	Participa	Female
Divisions/ Cints	training course or workshop	Date	wiam objective	nt	remate
FA Division	Training on Financial Management for the PRF staff of the 4 northern provinces held at Vangvieng District, Vientiane Province	23-26 Feb 2021	To advise on financial aspects including summarizing the budget of the activities implementation for the 4 provinces	25	11
M&E	Field assessment for following up the sub-projects implementation (Cycle 17)of the PRF III in Savannakhet and Saravanh provinces	28 March-04 April 2021	-follow up the actual implementation compared to the indicators - To advise the participation in the FRM -To follow up other activities relevant to the M&E's work	13	0
M&E	Field assessment for following up the sub-projects implementation (Cycle 17)of the PRF III in Xiengkhuang provinces	28 March-05 April 2021	follow up the actual implementation compared to the indicators - To advise the participation in the FRM -To follow up other activities relevant to the M&E's work	16	8
PRF Central_ Capacity Building	Meeting on strengthening Capacity Building Issues with other Divisions and Units	25/6/2021	-To discuss about the capacity building matters in the PRF and set up the capacity building coordination committee and define the capacity building role and responsibilities of the committee	16	3
Livelihood (PRF Central)	Training on the family investment plan and advise on knowledge of setting up the production group for SHGs for the PRF staff at the district and village levels (organized in Kham district and Nonghed district,	24- 26/02/2021 at Nonghed and 27- 28/02/2021 at Kham district	-To provide the TOT for participants to family investment plan and advise on knowledge of setting up the production group for SHGs -To mobilize the concept of FIP - District and village level staff can lead SHG members to organize	41	21

	Vionalahuana		and dustion answer for		
	Xiengkhuang		production groups for		
	Provinces		various activities to		
			ensure food security and		
			create incentives for		
			group members to manage		
			inputs to generate income		
			for their families.		
Livelihood (1. Writing a plan for	4-15/2/2021	-District and village level	50	21
PRF Central)	family income-		staff who get rained can		
	generating activities		trainers and convey the		
	2. Additional		basic knowledge of		
	knowledge of SHG		setting up an activity		
	set up for activities		production group to SHG		
	of the production		members and be able to		
	groups for district		mobilize ideas for		
	and village level		initiative-based action		
	staff.		plans.		
	4 districts in		-District and village level		
	Houaphan Province		staff can lead SHG		
	(inclusing Khouan,		members to organize		
	Samtay, Sone and		production groups for		
	Houameung)		various activities to		
			ensure food security and		
			create incentives for		
			group members to manage		
			inputs to generate income		
			for their families.		
Nutrition (PRF	Organize nutrition	January 2021	-To disseminate the	52	11
Central)	coordination		objective of the nutrition	3 2	11
Contrary	meetings (with		work in PRF to other		
	participants from the		nutrition convergence		
	National Nutrition		projects to understand and		
	Center and related		give more support for the		
	departments of the		nutrition work of the PRF.		
	Ministry of Health,		numuon work of the FKI.		
	1				
	projects in a single				
	program involving				
	multi-sectoral,				
	relevant ministries				
	and central level				
Mantaldia (DDE	staff).	25/02/2021	As discuss with 1	20	0
Nutrition (PRF	Meeting with the	25/02/2021	-to discuss with each	20	8
Central)	district staff via		other and advise some		
	virtual meeting for		related work about		
	two times),	nutrition		
	TOT on VDP for the	March 2021	-participants can be	22	_
	district and PRF		facilitators for VDP		3
	staff at Kham and		process in the villages		
	Nonghed districts				

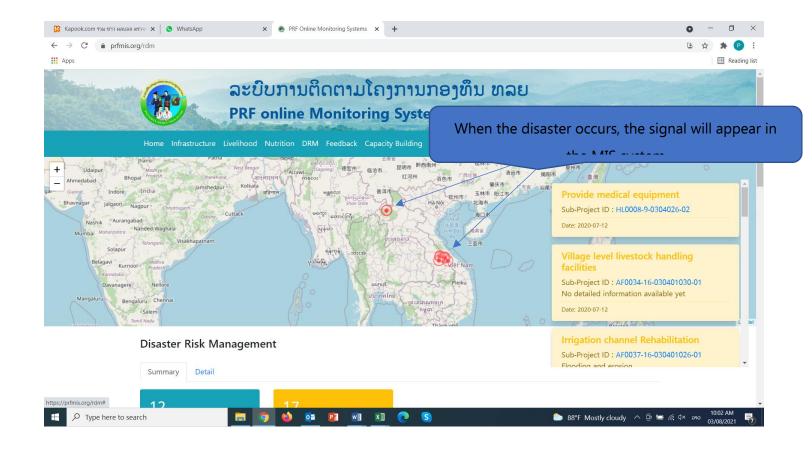
Xiengkhuang	Training on the	5 January – 3	-To provide the	2,598	2,214
	COVID-19 prevention in 29	February 2021	knowledge of the COVID-19 prevention		
	target villages in		such as how to make		
	Xiengkhuang		masks by themselves		
	province		,		
	Meeting on lesson	13/04/2021	To report on the	62	53
	learned of the		implementation of the		
	COVID-19 at Kham		COVID19 prevention in		
	districts		the target villages and		
			exchanging the lessons learned.		
	Field study visit for	2-6/2/2021	To exchange lessons	3	2
	exchanging lessons		learned of the		
	learned about CFA		implementation of the		
	and RMG in		CFA ad RMG for PRF		
	Saravanh Province	17 22/4/2021	staff from the 4 provinces	200	105
	Training on financial management for	17-22/4/2021 and 6-	-To ensure that the VSMCs are able to	208	185
	VSMC in 25 villages	14/5/2021	manage the financial		
	in Nonghed district	17/3/2021	aspects related with the		
			accountings of the SHGs'		
			activities		
Huaphan	Training of SHGs	March 2021	Module - 3 : Finance	36	18
	members module 3		Management, Books of		
	Training on nutrition	March 2021	Records and Book Keeping -To ensure that FNG	472	433
	and cooking for	Widicii 2021	members can do their	412	433
	FNGs		activity of cooking food		
			among their FNG		
Oudomxay	Training on the	January 2021	-To train the villagers in	2248	1257
	COVID-19		the target villages to know		
	prevention		how to prevent the		
			COVID19 and trained on		
			how to make masks in the community		
	Training of SHGs	March 2021	Module - 3 : Finance	351	283
	members module 3	1,141011 2021	Management, Books of	331	203
			Records and Book Keeping		
	Training on nutrition	March 2021	To sure that YGs can	36	32
	and cooking for		understand how to		
	district staff		organize the FNG meeting		
	Î	1	and cooking in the target		
			villages		
Phongsaly	Establishment of	January 2021	villages To set up the FNG and	68	58

	Training of the	January-	To train the villagers in	526	281
	COVID-19	February	the target villages to know		
	prevention	2021	how to prevent the		
			COVID19 and trained on		
			how to make masks in the		
			community		
	Training of SHGs	February 2021	Module - 3 : Finance	534	265
	members module 3		Management, Books of		
			Records and Book		
			Keeping		
	Training on nutrition	March 2021	To sure that FNG	259	209
	and cooking for		members can cook		
	FNGs		nutrient food		
Total				7,656	5,376

Annex 8: Geographic map of sub-projects in PRF MIS Web-based System



DRM Data/Information System



Annex 9: Staff turnover and new recruitment during the reporting period

ced %	Replaced	Reasons for leaving	Gender	Positions	
	Yes	Working for new position	Male	Capacity Building Officer	
8.33	No	Working for new position	Male	Deputy Executive Director	Centre
fice Total staff :	ational office T	Na			
2.17	Yes	Family reason	Male	YG Livelihood (Huameuang District)	Huaphan
han Total staff:	RF Huaphan T	P			
	Yes	Working for new position	Female	YG Livelihood (Khoua District)	
				ACT: 11 1/b (D. ())	
	Yes	Working for new position	Male	YG Livelihood (Bountai District)	
	Yes	Working for new position Family reason	Male Female	YG Livelihood (Samphan District)	
12.77					Phongsaly
12.77	Yes	Family reason	Female	YG Livelihood (Samphan District)	Phongsaly

Oudomxay	YG Livelihood (Namor)	Male	Working for new project	No	7.69		
	PRF Oudomxay To						
	YG Nutrition (Kham District)	Male	Working for new project	Yes			
Visualikanora	YG Livelihood (Nonghead District)	Male	Working for new project	Yes	10.53		
Xiengkhouang	District Nutrition (Kham District)	Male	Working for new position	Yes			
	YG Livelihood (Kham District)	Male	Working for new position	Yes			
			PRF X	iengkhouang T	otal staff: 38		
Grand Total:							
Average of Percent of change: %							

Annex 10: The Table of Animal Dairy Comparison for PRF III AF Activities Lessons learned from initial animal dairy trials at LP farm in Luang Prabang and HP village, Houapanh Province

	Buffalo	Cow	Goat
Location	Thailand and LBD Farm	Asia and LBD Farm	Asia and LBD farm
Nutritional value			
Nutritional value % 100 g of Milk – Research info	- Fat = 7.5 g - Protein = 4 g - Lactose = 13 grams * - Energy = 99 Kcal - Calcium = 191 mg *conflicting results on lactose, other research shows avg of 4.5	- Fat = 3.3 g - Protein = 3.3 g - Lactose = 11 grams * - Energy = 62 Kcal - Calcium = 112 mg *conflicting results on lactose, other research shows avg of 4.8	- Fat = 3.9 g - Protein = 3.4 g - Lactose = 11-12 grams * - Energy = 66 Kcal - Calcium = 118 mg *conflicting results on lactose, other research shows avg of 4.0
Nutritional value % 100 g of Milk – LBD Results Allergic potential (lactose)	- Fat = 4.96g - Protein = 5.19g - Lactose = 4.56g Medium	- Fat = 3.16g - Protein = 3.89g - Lactose = 5.83g High	- Fat = 3.8g - Protein = 4.9g - Lactose = 5.47g Low
Digestibility for children 1-3 years	Medium	Medium	Easy
Taste	Slightly stronger than cow but less than goat	Neutral	Strong
Smell	Neutral	Neutral	Strong
2. Production			
Cost of getting a baby calf/baby	1-2 Years old (3-4 Million Kip)	1-2 Years old (2-3 Million Kip)	3-5 Month got 500.000- 700.000 Kip(15-20 Kg)
Nutrition needs	10% of bodyweight	10% of bodyweight	10-15 % of bodyweight
Health risks/outbreaks	Low	Medium	Medium
Veterinary needs (and cost)	- FMD(2) = 25.600 Kip - HS(2)= 6.666 Kip	- FMD(2) = 25.600 Kip - HS(2)= 6.666 Kip	- FMD(2) = 25.000 Kip - Deworming(3)=36.000 Kip

Vitamin needs (and	 Deworming(3)= 36.000 Kip Vitamin(6)= 72.000 Kip Needle 13 x 300 Kip = 3.900 Kip Syringe 13 x 2.500 Kip = 32.500 Kip Cotton 1 Small bag = 5.000 Kip Alcohol 200 ml = 7.000 Kip Yes (cost 120.000 kip/ 100 ml 1	 Deworming(3)= 36.000 Kip Vitamin(6)= 72.000 Kip Needle 13 x 300 Kip = 3.900 Kip Syringe 13 x 2.500 Kip = 32.500 Kip Cotton 1 Small bag = 5.000 Kip Alcohol 200 ml = 7.000 Kip Yes (cost 120.000 kip/ 100 ml	 Bloat, Diarrhea=15.000 Kip/10 Tablet Eye infection= 14.000 Kip per 10g of one tube Needle 2 x 300 Kip = 600 Kip Syringe 2 x 2.500 Kip = 5.000 Kip Cotton 1 Small bag = 5.000 Kip Alcohol 200 ml = 7.000 Kip Only Mineral Block would be
cost)	bottle) - 10 ml/time x 6 = 72.000 kip	1 bottle) 10 ml/time x 6 = 72.000 kip	enough
Salt lick (and cost)	Yes , 150.000 Kip X 3= 450.000 Kip	Yes, 150.000 Kip x 3= 450.000 Kip	Yes, 150.000 Kip x2= 300.000 Kip
Total cost for			
Vitamins and Healthcare P/a	= 710.666 Kip	= 710.666 Kip	= 407.600 Kip
Need for grazing land (per animal per day) 1 hectare supports	4 adult buffalo	4-6 adult cows	10-15 adult goats
Need for water (per day)	20-35 litre of water per day	20-35 litre of water per day	4-5 litre of water per day
Total cost to raise 1 animal per year (in village setting) excl housing costs & value of any offspring)	= 4.710.666 Kip	= 3.710.666 Kip	= 1.107.600 Kip
Approx. Sale Price	10 – 12 million after 4 years	6.5 - 8 million after 3 years	1.2 million after 10 months
3.Milking	X7	X7 (11 (1 C 1 CC 1)	Y7 (11)
Enclosure (cost) Milking process	-After training the buffalo quickly form a habit of going to milking automatically. - Need to use quite firm hand movements to do the milking. - Buffalo generally stands still for the milking once trained. -After bringing to milking enclosure clean udder by using wet towels first to remove dust then use the new cloth to dry -Start milking into bucket	Yes (smaller than for buffalo) -After training the cow quickly form a habit of going to milking automatically. - Need to use quite firm hand movements to do the milking. - Cow generally stands still for the milking once trained. -After bringing to milking enclosure clean udder by using wet towels first to remove dust then use the new cloth to dry -Start milking into bucket	Yes (small) - Goats don't seem to remember training as well and each day seems almost a new experience to be milked. - Less physical effort required to milk however goats tend to move around during the milking more than buffalo or cows. -Cleaning the udder by using wet towels first to take out dust then used the dry cloth to clean -Start milking
Amount per milking	0.5–1.5 litre of milk per day	400-800 gm per day	150gm -300gm per day
Risks from uncooked milk	High	High	High
Disease risk	FMD & HS	FMD & HS	FMD

Milking equipment (cost)	-water bucket = 15.000 Kip -Smaller bowl = 10.000 Kip -Clothes = 5.000 Kip -Soap = 12.000 Kip -Haiter Bleach = 30.000 Kip - Milk container = 18.000 Kip - Sieve = 12.000 Kip Total = 102.000 kip	-water bucket = 15.000 Kip -Smaller bowl = 10.000 Kip -Clothes = 5.000 Kip -Soap = 12.000 Kip -Haiter Bleach = 30.000 Kip - Milk container = 18.000 Kip - Sieve = 12.000 Kip Total = 102.000 kip	-water bucket = 15.000 Kip -Smaller bowl = 10.000 Kip -Clothes = 5.000 Kip -Soap = 12.000 Kip -Haiter Bleach = 30.000 Kip - Milk container = 18.000 Kip - Sieve = 12.000 Kip Total= 102.000 kip
4.Productivity			
Babies per year	1 every 14 – 18 months	1 every 10-12months	On average 3 babies per year (main calving season March & Oct)
At what age can get pregnant	3-4 Year	2.5-3 Year	6-7 Month
Lactating period (month)	4-6 Month	3-4 Month	3 Month
Mortality rates (can we check with MAF?)	- Calf Morbidity and mortality rates: 42.6% - Buffalo Morbidity and Mortality rate: 7.4 % https://core.ac.uk/download/pdf/ 41238086.pdf - research in Asia	- Calf Morbidity and mortality rates: 42.6% - Buffalo Morbidity and Mortality rate: 7.4 % https://core.ac.uk/download/pd f/41238086.pdf - research in Asia	- The average mortality was 10.93% https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4774658/-Pakistan
Gender – time allocation	on and empowerment		
Workload production	1 hour per day average	1 hour per day average	1 hour per day average
Workload milking	15-20min	15-20min	15-20min
Ownership of animal Decision to sell animal	Men and women Men and women	Men and women Men and women	Men and Women Men and Women

Annex 11: Gender mainstream in PRF III (2017-2021)

No.	Description	Target	Result 2017	Result 2018	Result 2019	Result 2020	Result 2021	Source of data
1	Female Beneficiaries	50%	50.0%	49.4%	49.0%	49.2%	49%	MIS
2	Female Ethnic Beneficiaries	50%	50.0%	49.2%	49.1%	49.2%	49%	MIS
3	Ethnic Beneficiaries	70%	84.0%	80.1%	83.9%	88.2%	88%	MIS
4	Percent of women Kum ban facilitators (2 women in total 3 members)	60%	56.0%	60.5%	60.0%	60.3%	pending	CD/ME
5	Percent of Ethnic Kum ban facilitators	-	58.5%	61.9%	55.1%	1	pending	CD
6	Percent of female members in village implementation committee VIT)	-	33.6%	31.0%	36.0%	32.9%	33.3%	ME/MIS

7	Percent of the female participated village development plan (VDP)	-	54.1%	55%	56%	57%	pending	ME
8	Sub projects prioritized by ethnic group	70%	81.0%	85.0%	86.0%	90.0%	80%	MIS
9	Percent of sub projects prioritized by poor villages already funded	60%	88.0%	85.0%	85.0%	-	pending	MIS
10	Sub-projects prioritized by women already funded	1	25.0%	11.0%	6.7%	2.9%	pending	MIS
11	Sub-projects prioritized by both men and women already funded	90%	92.0%	92.0%	95.0%	94.9%	pending	MIS
12	Percent of SHG member are women	80%	85.5%	86.3%	87.2%	-	90.3%	MIS/LN
13	Percent of women members who received loans from SHG seed funds	60%	84.1%	80.4%	74.7%	-	95:%	LN
14	Percent of Poorer HH who received loans from SHG seed funds	60%	93.8%	90.0%	80.0%	-	58%	LN
15	Percent of women members in SHG committee (VSMC)	65%	54.6%	64.0%	63.5%	90.5%	81%	LN
16	Percent of women benefit in pilot of RMG	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	TA
17	Percent of PRF Female staffs	30	28.5%	29.0%	29.5%	37.4%	44.24%	HR
18	Percent of PRF ethnic staffs	-	23.2%	17.7%	21.6%	22.4%	26.73	HR

Source: Monitoring and Evaluation Division, PRF

Annex 12: Agreed Action Donor Mission 2021

	Action	Responsibility	Deadline
1	MIS upgradation and data entry of all the SHGs	M&E and	31 Oct 2021
		Livelihood team	
2	Rolling out of CRP drive	Livelihood team	30 Sept 2021
3	Providing Cashboxes and other accessories to SHGs for safe	Livelihood team	30 August 2021
	handling of cash		
4	Publishing newsletter on successful case studies	Livelihood team	30 October 2021
5	Pilot District and village calendars for better coordination of NC	PRF	August 2
	projects		
6	LFN and Click delivering trainings in MMPL/HNGs	LFN/Click	October 8
7	Lao Buffalo Dairy starts roll- out of "milking-cook-eat"	PRF/LBD	July 30
8	SBCC strategy on nutrition translated, launched and	PRF	August 13
	communication activities started		
9	Consultant hired to document recipes with pre-mix, fish powder and	PRF	July 16
	goat dairy for video series/cooking book		

	Action	Responsibility	Deadline
10	Pilot District and village calendars for better coordination of NC	PRF	August 2
	projects		
11	Nominate gender focal point	PRF	August 6
12	Review GAP	PRF	August 13
2	Financial Management and Procurement		
2.1	Complete procurement for the printing of the cooking book	PRFO	August 15, 2021
2.2	Complete procurement of pick-ups	PRFO	July 30, 2021
2.3	Complete procurement of Lao Buffalo Dairy Farm for Animal	PRFO	July 15, 2021
	Dairy		
2.4	Complete procurement of Click for Multi-media Peer Learning	PRFO	July 30, 2021
2.5	Complete procurement of LFNN for Home Nutrition Garden	PRFO	July 30, 2021
2.6	Ongoing support from the central PRF FM team to the districts	PRF	Ongoing
	FM team		
2.7	Regular documentation of expenditures incurred at least one	PRF	Ongoing
	withdrawal application every three months or on a monthly		
	basis to keep the Designated Account active.		
	basis to keep the Designated Account active.		
2.8	Submit IFR covering the period from April 1 to June 30, 2021	PRF	By August 15,
			2021
3	Monitoring and Evaluation		
3.1	Finalize M&E Road Map		July 30, 2021
3.2	Upgrade MIS system		Sept 20, 2021
3.3	Adoption of tools to assess quality of training and evaluate skills		Sept 20, 2021
	adoption		

Annex 13: The Detailed Annual Work Plan of all Divisions and Units from January - December 2021

	December 2021															
	PRFIII AF Annual Work Plan and Budget for FY2021															
				FY 2021								Annual				
Compo		Responsi		Q1			Q2			Q3			Q4		Budget	
nents	Activities	ble	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	FY2021	Remarks
Compone	ent 1: Community Development														2,839,072	
Grants																
1.1	Sub-grants (Infrastructures)														2,512,125	
1.2.03	Village Development Plan meeting	LIVE+NU T													23,850	
1.2.04	District Planning & Coordination Meeting	LIVE+NU T													13,200	
1.2.05	Sub-project survey and Re-design (481*73%=361 Villages)	PRF District Team													18,000	
1.2.06	Village Confirmation+Kick off meeting	PRF District Livelihood Team													12,033	
1.2.07	VIT training on finance and procurement +FRM	FA and Proc./TA													36,000	
1.2.08	Sub-project bidding (CFA Procedure)	Proc./TA													18,000	
	Study visit on implementation of CFA	TA + FA													25,000	
1.2.09	VIT training on Implementation + Community training on ESS+FRM	TA													18,050	
1.2.10	VIT training on Operation and Maintenance (O&M)	TA													12,033	
	Printing poster DRM														13,800	

1.2.11	All TA staff costs	TA+FA						121,980	
1.2.13	Community monitoring and evaluation supporting (internal evaluation for indicators)	M&E						15,000	Using the budget of 2020 to provide training to VSMC and FNGs on monitoring and evaluation work
Compone	ent 2: Local & Community							207,700	,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,
Developm	nent Capacity building								
	G to L TH								
2.1	Capacity building	EA DA						25,000	
2.1.01	PRF staff refresher training Finance & administration	FA/Micro- Finance						35,000	
2.1.01	TA/Procurement Training on CFA Procurement	Procuremen t Unit						6,500	
2.1.02	Coordination with concerned ministries	FA						28,000	
2.1.04	Monitoring and Evaluation Capacity Building /Training	M&E			 			10,000	
2.1.05	Training on VDP+Environemential and social safeguards+DRM+FRM	TA						26,200	
2.1.06	PRF Board Meeting	FA						35,000	
2.1.06	Community assessment/SHG & FNG performance training	M&E						10,000	
2.1.08	IEC Tools/Materials	FA						20,000	
2.1.09	Central Public Information	FA						2,000	
2.1.10	MIS Online Improvement and training (Form use&data checking)	M&E						10,000	YG and District team
2.2	Assessments and other consultants								
	Baseline survey (Convergence WB) PRFIII Impact Evaluation	M&E/WB PMT/ME/							
	End line survey (Convergence WB)	SDC PMT/WB							
2.2.1	- Other Consultant (If needed)/	PWII/WB						5,000	
2.3	SHG/FNG performance evaluation Community Implementation								
2.3.05	Supports FM Supervision mission/Internal	FA						20,000	
Compone	Control by FA team ent 3: Project Management							816,500	
3.1	Supporting Services	FA						493,500	
3.2	Equipment	FA						33,000	
3.3	Works	FA						8,000	
3.4	Incremental Operating Costs	FA						282,000	
	Staff Recruitment (Extension	HR							
	Contract, New Recruitment								
Compone	ent 4.1: Livelihood							2,865,556	
4.1.1	Institutional Building (IB)							52,306	
4.1.1.4	Procurement and Handing over the Inputs to SHGs	Proc+LIV E						42,088	
4.1.1.5	Procurement and Handing over the Inputs to VSMCs	Proc+LIV E						8,418	
4.1.1.6	Procurement of the Inputs to PGs	Proc+LIV E						1,800	
4.1.2	Capacity Building (CB) - Community Training							572,040	

	T == = = = = = = = = = = = = = = = = =	г							1 1 2 222	
4.1.2.2	IEC Materials for SHG members on	Proc+LIV							3,500	ļ
	Farm, Livestock & Non-Farm	Е								ļ
	training									
4.1.2.3	Training of SHG Leaders and Book	LIVE							28,620	
	Keeper on Module 1: Poverty									
	Analysis									
4.1.2.4	Training of SHG Leaders and Book	LIVE							28,620	
	Keeper on Module 2: SHG & Its									
	Management									
4.1.2.5	Training of SHG Leaders and Book	LIVE							28,620	
	Keeper on Module 3: Finance									
	Management & Book Keeping									
	Opening Bank Accounts for VSMC	LIVE+FA								
4.1.2.6	Training of SHG Leaders and Book	LIVE							28,620	
4.1.2.0	Keeper on Module 4: Livelihood, HIP	LIVE							20,020	
	& MIP and Assessment of FIP									
4.1.2.7	Training of SHG members on Module	LIVE							25,000	
4.1.2.7	1: Poverty Analysis	LIVE							23,000	
4.1.2.8		LIVE							25,000	
4.1.2.8	Training of SHG members on Module	LIVE							25,000	
4120	2: SHG & Its Management	1 1375				+		+	25 000	
4.1.2.9	Training of SHG members on Module	LIVE							25,000	
	3: Finance Management & Book									
41212	Keeping	T ***			_	-		+	07.000	
4.1.2.10	Training of SHG members on Module	LIVE							25,000	
	4: Livelihood techniques, HIP & MIP									
	Writing									
	Preparation of FIP and Submission to	LIVE							-	
	PRF for Seed Grants									
4.1.2.11	Training of VSMC members on	LIVE							43,300	
	Module 1: Objective of VSMC									
4.1.2.12	Training of VSMC members on	LIVE							43,300	ļ
	Module 2: Roles & Responsibilities									
	of VSMC									
4.1.2.13	Training of VSMC members on	LIVE							43,300	
	Module 3: Finance Management &									
	Book Keeping of VSMC									
	Potential SHG Assessment and	LIVE+							-	
	Establishment of PG	M&E								
4.1.2.14	Livelihood Training on Farm,	LIVE							164,160	
	Livestock & Non-Farm activities for									
	SHG Members									
4.1.2.16	Training of PG members on Module	LIVE							20.000	
	2: Value Chain] 20,000	
4.1.2.17	Training of PG members on Module	LIVE	 					+	20,000	
7.1.∠.1/	3: Quality Management	LIVE							20,000	
4.1.2.18	Training of PG members on Module	LIVE	\vdash					+	20,000	
7.1.2.10	4: Collective Procurement &	LIVE							20,000	
	Marketing									
4.1.3	Capacity Building (CB) - Staff		 			+		+	13,500	
7.1.3									15,500	
4122	Training Stoff Training on M1, DCs, M2,	1 1370	 	+	_	+	-+	+	 4.500	
4.1.3.3	Staff Training on M1: PGs; M2:	LIVE							4,500	
	Value Chains, M3: QM, and M4:									
	Collective Procurement and									
4120	Marketing	T 11 7 7 7			_	-		+	0.000	
4.1.3.8	Staff Training on Livelihood (Value	LIVE							9,000	
44.	Chain)							+	1 122 222	
4.1.4	Community Grants	LIVE							1,428,000	
4.1.4.1	Seed Grants to SHGs	LIVE							1,368,000	
4.1.4.2	Community Livelihood Invest Fund	LIVE							60,000	
	(CLIF) to Producers Groups									
4.1.5	Quarterly Monitoring								194,060	
4.1.5.1	District PRF-Livelihood Coordinator	LIVE							34,560	
4.1.5.2	YG at Kumban Level	LIVE							140,000	
7.1.3.4	1 G at Kullibali Level	LIVE							140,000	

4.1.5.3	Transport, per diem & accommodation for MAF+others staff for field visits	LIVE	ı				18,000	
4.1.5.4	Per diem and Transportation for DAFO staff	LIVE					1,500	
4.1.6	Staff & Equipments						605,650	
4.1.6	Livelihood staff costs and Insurance	LIVE					517,150	
4.1.6	Motobike for Livelihood YGs+Dist Livelihood coordinators+Dist (FA/Micro-finance)	Proc+LIV E	T				88,500	
4.2	Nutrition						1,018,132	
4.2.1	Farmer nutrition groups (FNG)						258,440	
4.2.1.5	Initial food subsidy (6month)	NCD					147,840	
4.2.1.12	Training A2 "maternal nutrition and maternal recipes" for GOL and PRF/YG,	NCD+NN C					4,000	
4.2.1.13	Training A3"fish powder and other food processing" for GOL and PRF/YG	NCD					4,000	
4.2.1.14	Training B1 "child nutrition, mill and premix" to villagers	NCD					11,550	
4.2.1.15	Training B2 "maternal nutrition and maternal recipes" to villagers	NCD						
4.2.1.16	Training B3" fish powder and other food processing" to villagers	NCD					11,550	
4.2.1.17	Designer for FNG cooking book	Pro+NCD					10,000	
4.2.1.19	M&E materials (e.g. homevisit sheet)	M&E+NC D					14,500	
4.2.1.22	Buffalo Dairy Technical Consultancy by LBDF	LBD					55,000	
4.2.2	Home Nutrition Gardens (HNG)						267,345	
4.2.2.2	Seed/seedling production for home nutrition garden (one per district)	LFN+NC D					2,700	
4.2.2.3	Pot for HNG (replace Shadehouses)	LFN+NC D					108,750	more details will be known after signing the contract with LFN.
4.2.2.4	Production of IEC materials (agricultural seasonal calendar and crop sheets)	LFN+NC D					4,770	
4.2.2.5	Training 1 on Pot gardening, living fence, and home garden/dissemination of seed	LFN+NC D					7,155	at village cluster level for 2 days- 3 people per village
4.2.2.6	Training 2 on integrated hai/dissemination of seed	LFN+NC D					7,155	at village cluster level for 2 days- 3 people per village
4.2.2.7	Training 3 on Refreshing training on home gardening	LFN+NC D					7,155	for 2 days- 1 person per village
4.2.2.12	Home Nutrition Garden Support contract (Direct Contract to LFN)	LFN+NC D					46,500	
4.2.2.13	Vegetable Seeds	LFN+NC D					83,160	
4.2.3	Multi-Media Peer Learning (MMPL)						44,620	
4.2.3.4	Multi-media Peer Learning Support contract (Direct contract, CLICK)	CLICK					40,000	

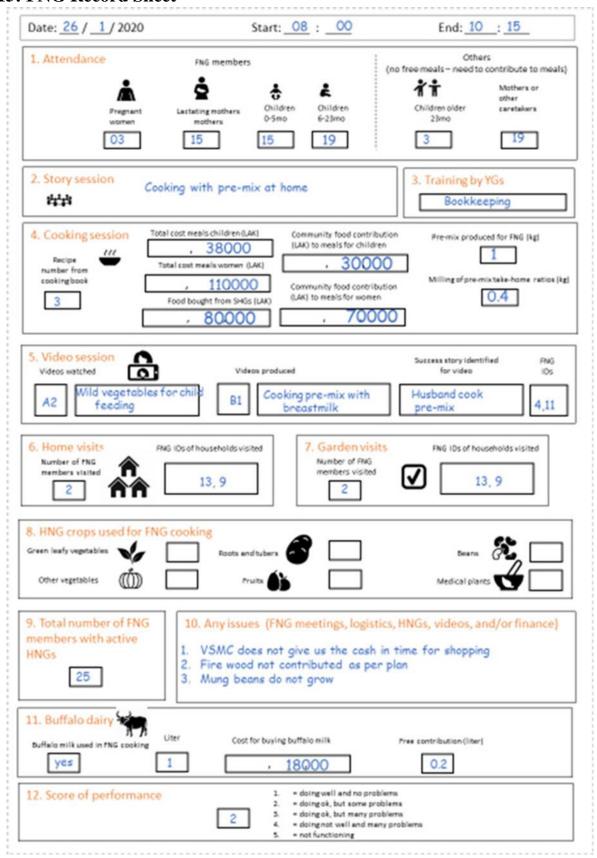
4.2.3.5	Phone credit (one time)	NCD						4,620	
4.2.4	Backstopping by MAF, MOH and DAFO/DHO and Quarterly Monitoring							63,667	
4.2.4.1	Transport, per diem &hotel for Gol staff for field visits	FA+NCD						2,000	
4.2.4.3	District NUT Officer	FA+NCD						9,333	
4.2.4.4	NUT YG at Kumban Level	FA+NCD						37,333	
4.2.4.5	Nutrition Central team	FA+NCD						15,000	
4.2.5	Staff & Equipments	NCD						384,060	
4.2.5	NCD staff costs and Insurance	NCD						316,560	
4.2.5	Motobike for NUT YGs	NCD						67,500	
	Grand Total							7,746,959	

Annex 14: Updated information of the Livelihood activities

SI. No.	Indicator (Or Activity)	Target till FY 21	Achievement till June 21	Progress Percentage
1	Number of Villages Entered	231	229	99.13%
2	Number of poor households mobilized to form SHGs	11550	11913	103.14%
3	Number of women SHG members	NA	10776	90.46%
4	Number of SHGs formed	1155	970	83.98%
5	Number of SHGs started Saving	NA	970	-
6	Number of SHGs eligible for inter-lending of saving fund	970	pending	-
7	Number of SHGs completed Module 1 training	NA	970	-
8	Number of SHGs completed Module 2 training	NA	947	-
9	Number of SHGs completed Module 3 training	NA	864	-
10	Number of SHGs completed Module 4 training	NA	18	-
11	Number of VSMC formed	231	229	99.13%
12	Number of SHG members part of VSMC	NA	1354	-
13	Total women members part of VSMC	NA	1094	-
14	Number of VSMC opened Bank Account	231	229	99.13%
15	Number of VSMCs completed Module 1 training	NA	1354	-
16	Number of VSMCs completed Module 2 training	NA	1354	-
17	Number of VSMCs completed Module 3 training	NA	1354	-
18	Number of SHGs eligible for FIP, MIP, & SHG Assessment	1,155	970	83.98%
19	Number of SHGs completed FIP	1,155	18	1.56%
20	Number of SHGs completed MIP	1,155	18	1.56%
21	Number of SHGs completed SHG Assessment	1,155	18	1.56%
22	Number of SHGs received Seed Grant	1,155	18	1.56%
23	Number of SHG members received Seed Grant	11,550	152	0.93%

24	Amount (US\$) of Seed Grant disbursed	1,300,000	20,326	1.56%
25	Amount of Saving mobilized in US\$	NA	94,518	
26	Amount of inter-lending in US\$	NA	19,017	-
27	Credit Deposit Ratio	2	0.42	-
28	Amount of repayment in US\$ (Loans from saving)	NA	-	-
29	Number PGs formed	50	-	-
30	Number of SHG members mobilized into PG	280	-	-
	How many types of Income Generation Activities taken up			
31	from seed grant of US\$ 20326 (107 loans)	NA	6	-
32	Out of 152, How many members into Chicken Raising	NA	38.00	17.11%
33	Out of 152, How many members into Pig Raising	NA	17.00	11.18%
34	Out of 152, How many members into Goat Raising	NA	51.00	33.55%
35	Out of 152, How many members into Corn Production	NA	pending	
36	Out of 152, How many members into Handicraft	NA	17.00	7.89%
37	Out of 152, How many members into Broom making	NA	pending	
38	Out of 152, How many members into Silk Worm	NA	pending	
39	Out of 152, How many members into Duck raising	NA	pending	
40	Out of 152, How many members into Fish farming	NA	17.00	7.89%
41	Out of 152, How many members into Frog farming	NA	pending	
42	Out of 152, How many members into Cassava Production	NA	pending	
43	Out of 152, How many members into Banana Production	NA	pending	
44	Out of 152, How many members into Mushroom	NA	pending	
45	Out of 152, How many members into Pretty Trade	NA	12.00	5.92%
46	Out of 152, How many members into Any other (specify)	NA	pending	
47	Out of 152, How many members into Any other (specify)	NA	pending	

Annex 15: FNG Record Sheet



Annex 16: Summary of the O&M Training's participants

Provinces	# of sub-projects	Sum of participants	Sum of female participants	Sum of ethnic
Attapeu	30	936	308	843
Luangnamtha	24	883	326	796
Luangprabang	54	3,807	1,754	2,853
Saravane	32	964	355	849
Savannakhet	64	2,304	797	1,541
Sekong	32	780	333	696
Grand Total	236	9,674	3,873	7,578
%			40%	78%

Annex 17: List of 53 sub-projects under the last Co-financing of GoL to PRFIII in 2021

Type of Sub-Projects	No. of Sub-Projects	Average of progress
Attapeu	4	100
Education sector	3	100
Water & Sanitation	1	100
Luangnamtha	8	100
Agriculture and Forestry sector	3	100
Education sector	3	100
PWT sector	1	100
Water & Sanitation	1	100
Luangprabang	9	100
Education sector	5	100
Health sector	1	100
PWT sector	3	100
Saravane	10	100
Agriculture and Forestry sector	3	100
Education sector	5	100
PWT sector	1	100
Water & Sanitation	1	100
Savannakhet	14	100
Agriculture and Forestry sector	1	100
Education sector	2	100
Health sector	1	100
PWT sector	9	100
Water & Sanitation	1	100
Sekong	8	100
Agriculture and Forestry sector	2	100
Education sector	1	100

Grand Total	53	100
Water & Sanitation	4	100
Energy and Mine	1	100