

VOLUME 2 – CHAPTER 17

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY STRENGTHENING

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17 SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY STRENGTHENING

17.1 INTRODUCTION

Resettlement of villages on the Nakai Plateau has the potential to cause significant social, psychological and physiological stress that may have adverse effects on social, cultural and family structures. These include:

- Risks of adverse impacts associated with actual relocation processes and potential community discord;
- Risk of impoverishment relating to difficulties in adapting to a new livelihood system and resource base;
- Potential exploitation by others during and subsequently to relocation; and
- Possible conflicts within or between communities or with government agencies over access to resources.
- Risk of deepening existing gender inequities, women's labour burdens, and the socio-economic strains on the most vulnerable households;
- Risk of resettlement interventions resulting in community being dependent on the Project rather than a sustainable, community-led, and community-owned development.

Certain measures already have and will continue to be taken to mitigate these adverse effects. Most important in this respect, is the ongoing participatory consultation process that has actively involved villagers in decision-making, and keeping them well informed at all times. According to a number of recent anthropological studies on resettlement, the 'familiar, is an essential aspect in minimizing possible negative consequences in relocating populations.

Because the distance involved in moving the villages on the Nakai Plateau is not great, and because it involves relocation within a familiar habitat and usually within traditional and administrative village boundaries, the psychological and socio-cultural stress issues should be more manageable. Most villagers have shown a willingness to relocate to new sites and are attracted by the prospect of an improved lifestyle. Certain measures will be taken to avoid the possible adverse effects on social structure and cohesion due to the social, psychological and socio-cultural demands of relocation. Villagers will be involved not only in the decision making process but will be kept well informed at all times by means of PCPD visits as described in Chapter 4.

In addition, Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) techniques have been used to familiarize village leaders and the community at large with the Project and to solicit their opinions and expectations. Many aspects, such as house design, conducting ritual procedures involved in moving houses and villages, and village layout have already been incorporated into resettlement planning. The villagers will be involved in deciding actual site locations and the sites of house plots and gardens and this should contribute significantly to reducing any possible psychological and social stress related to the relocation. PRA techniques are outlined as part of PCPD in Chapter 4 and are presently being employed for the Pilot Village Relocation program.

In the longer term, there are also a number of positive social effects that will ensure that the displaced population derives benefits directly from the Project, and these aim to improve the present poor conditions on the Plateau. Significant benefits will accrue to villagers as a result of improved living conditions and improved economic welfare of households and communities due to additional educational opportunities, improved health conditions and employment opportunities, and the enhanced livelihood options for resettled villagers. Additional benefits include:

1. Improved transportation in the form of roads to each new village site. This will allow villagers' access to markets and opportunities for work outside the village proper.
2. Enhanced water based transportation systems on the Reservoir.
3. Improved housing for the villagers who decide to opt for a new house. It is predicted that most will prefer the new houses since the majority of houses in the area are constructed of bamboo and

are in poor condition. Those who decide to keep their present structures will be provided with support to relocate at the new village sites.

4. Every village will have better access to schools and health services. Most villages at present do not have schools which function and none have good access to health facilities.
5. Opportunities to learn new skills to improve agricultural production, which should result in greater food security in the form of produce (field-crops, rice and livestock) and income generated from the sale of fish and timber.
6. Improved services (water, electricity, health, and education) which will make a significant difference in day to day living. This will be especially noticeable in the domestic sphere that is the prime concern of women.
7. Opportunities for gender and social equity will improve as women and other vulnerable community members gain new or increased access to education, technical training, financial resources, decision-making opportunities, and leadership positions.

17.2 STRENGTHENING OF COMMUNITY INSTITUTIONS

Probably the biggest current weakness in existing communities is a general lack of self-reliance. Villagers are not used to making decisions about their own future, managing common resources, or taking joint action to improve their welfare. Nor have villagers in the past had access to training on participatory development and decentralized community management. Most villages do not even have basic administrative equipment and facilities. The ongoing PCPD and the participatory methods used to date for planning the relocation process are already having dramatic effects in this respect. By women and men participating equally in planning and decision-making, local capacity is being raised, new skills are being learned, gender and social equities are improving, and villagers are beginning to see the benefits of cooperation. The advances already made in this respect, will greatly assist in reducing the potential risks of social upheaval and community dysfunction associated with relocation.

In many cases, existing community structures can be moved directly with the relocation, as community composition will not change. In these instances, village heads, development committees, women's groups, traditional support systems, etc. can continue to function as before.

In resettlement villages involving the consolidation of more than one community, some adjustment will be necessary, and this will be supported by the RMU, with NTPC TA assistance for organizing community discussions, village meetings, fair and open elections, etc. In consolidated resettlement villages, existing support systems and kinship groups will be largely maintained by allowing individual families choice in house location and who their neighbours will be. The development of a single, cohesive and harmonious community will be facilitated by the provision of physical infrastructure such as a meeting hall where community meetings and informal gatherings can take place, schools where children will make new friends and parents will meet, and markets where all members of the community will meet and talk.

All resettlement villages will need to make joint decisions about the management of community resources in the resettlement area. This will require new community groups, structures and institutions to be established, developed and strengthened. Herein lies a change opportunity to empower women and other vulnerable individuals by including them in community management and leadership. These management systems will be required at two levels. First, at the village community level, there will be working committees for village resettlement, village forestry, village fisheries and reservoir management, irrigation water use, women's savings groups and other functions such as production or marketing support. Second, at the level of the entire resettlement area there is a need for inter-community decisions mainly on reservoir management and community forestry. These various institutions are essential to ensure the successful resettlement of villages into new locations and livelihood systems.

17.2.1 Village Administration, Resettlement and Development

All resettlement villages will become officially recognized administration units and have the rights, powers and responsibilities that go with this. The traditional Village Administration Committee (VAC) will continue to consist of the elected Village Chief, in charge of overall village affairs, and his/her appointed deputies, responsible for finance/tax and socio-cultural affairs, respectively. In addition, formally each

village also has a Village Grievance Committee (*san kai kia*), Council of Elders (*thau khun*) or Lao Front (*nieu bom*), Village Militia (*khon hong*), Women's Union (*sabaphan mae nying*) and the Youth Organization (*sao num*). However, as discussed in 14.6, the roles and make-up of these groups can be overlapping, unclear to the citizenry, and largely dominated by a small group of male elites.

These structures and positions, where they already exist, will be transferred with the relocation. However, at the suggestion of RMU and the Gender Workshop, all village units (Village Grievance Committee, the Council of Elders / Lao Front, and the Youth Organization) will be urged to improve women's participation and opportunities for leadership. In cases where new resettlement villages are created by the consolidation of two or more existing villages, new elections (which are normally held every 2 years, anyway) will be held to make these appointments.

During the transitional resettlement period, the current village administration of 2-3 persons will be expanded to 5 to 7 persons, including at least three women, and termed the Village Resettlement Committee (VRC). The VRC will represent the community on relocation issues and lead the numerous resettlement tasks. At the same time, the VRC will broaden citizen's representation and improve the gender balance during the critical decision-making of resettlement.

As resettlement efforts proceed, ad hoc committees will be formed to focus on:

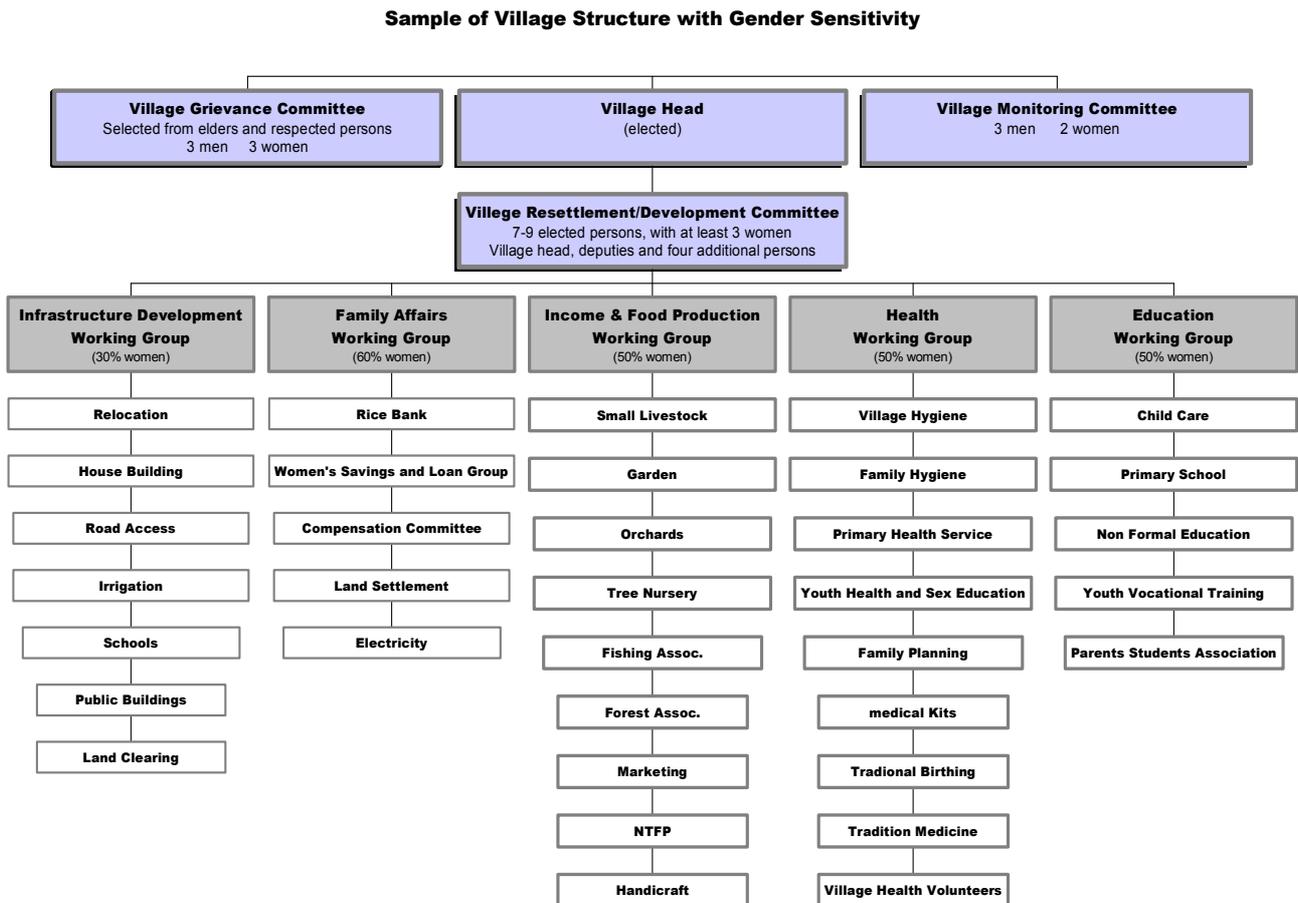
- Infrastructure Development (relocation and construction of village structures, road access, land clearance, water and electricity operations),
- Family Affairs (relocation allowances, nutrition, rice banks, women's savings groups), household crisis support groups,
- Income Production (marketing, small livestock raising, gardens, orchards, fish-raising, tree nursery, forest association),
- Health (village hygiene, family hygiene, revolving medical kits, youth health and sex education, family planning, primary health care),
- Education (childcare centre, primary school, youth vocational training, adult non-formal education (NFE) linked to all of the above.

Following the transitional resettlement period, the VRC will most likely transform into the Village Development Committee (VDC) and assume both administration and development tasks. Through the expansion of the VDC structure, the village administration can institutionalise the nationally promoted processes for decentralized management, democratic governance, and participatory development.

The exact make-up of the VRC / VDC will likely vary according to village circumstances and size. Eventually, some villages may choose to set up local elections for setting up the VRC / VDC structures, as is being done elsewhere in the Lao PDR. To ensure gender equity, it is best if at least 30% of village VRC / VDC positions are reserved for women. Typically, members of the VRC / VDC might come from the village administration, the LWU, the LYU, the Lao National Front for Construction (includes elders), and various coordinators of ad hoc activities.

Figure 17-1 is a draft diagram of how Nong Boua's institutional structure may emerge, based upon discussions with Nong Boua pilot village in late 2004. The intense efforts needed for resettlement and then development require broader active participation in the VRC / VDC and the potential working sub-committees. The aim is to diversify leadership, decentralize decision-making and management responsibilities, and encourage increase gender balance in the leadership and on the new working committees (see Section 17.5 for discussion on leadership and management training for women).

Figure 17-1: Sample of Village Structure with Gender Sensitivity



In the case of the NT2 Resettlement Areas, the villagers’ livelihoods will be based on the utilisation of an unusually large number of community and area shared resources. This will require the development of both VDCs as well as area-wide resource management bodies, especially for:

- reservoir fishers;
- resettlement area forestry;
- irrigation; and
- drawdown zone grazing and agriculture.

The successful evolution of both the VDCs and the area-wide management bodies will require substantial institutional development and capacity building. To assist the RMU and district staff in promoting these aspects within village and area institutions, an Institutional Advisor will train staff in leadership training, decentralized management, participatory planning, gender and ethnic sensitivity in personnel management and good governance processes.

17.2.2 Reservoir and Fisheries Management

Although the NT2 reservoir will be a valuable resource for resettled families, it will be used for a number of potentially competing and conflicting purposes by a wide variety of stakeholders. These multiple uses include power-generation, transport, conservation, fishing, tourism, agriculture (drawdown area) and other recreational and income related purposes. In order to manage these diverse functions, a Reservoir Management Coordination Authority (RMCA), comprising representatives of all the major stakeholders, will be established to formulate policy and take all major decisions in regard to reservoir management. The RMCA will reserve at least 30% of the positions on this body for women stakeholders, and will ensure that indigenous ethnic groups impacted by the reservoir are well represented on the RMCA.

It is essential that the diverse need of all resettlement villagers are fully represented in decisions taken by the RMA. To achieve this, a Village Reservoir Management Association (VRMA) will be formed at the Resettlement Area level. It will be comprised of members of all village groups or committees formed to ensure sustainable and effective management of livelihood activities, which rely on the reservoir or its resources. To ensure both ethnic and gender representation, the GoL will seek to appoint to the VRMA at least one man and one woman from each impacted ethnic group, with at least one person coming from each impacted village. (See Table 3-3 Ethnicity of Male and Female Heads of Household on the Nakai Plateau by Village.) This Association will represent the combined interests of all resettlement villages in regard to reservoir management decisions by the RMA. For the VRMA to effectively represent member interests, which in some instances may be at variance to the interests of possibly more influential groups, it will require significant capacity building and support. The RO and RMU, and the Institutional Advisor will assist in the initial institutional capacity building for the RMCA and VRMA, to ensure good management and gender and ethnic balance.

At the village level, groups with interests in the reservoir and its resources will most likely be formed into Village Fisheries and Reservoir Management Committees (VFRMC), established to promote reservoir-based activities within the community, including fishing, drawdown-area grazing, recession cropping, duck raising, and transport and tourism-related activities. The VFRMCs will thus represent village interests at the level of the entire resettlement area in regard to reservoir management through the VRMA. As both men and women have been impacted equally by the reservoir construction and will likely be involved in the fishery vocation, the VFRMCs will strive for a 50-50-gender balance.

The various institutions and diverse groups with an interest in reservoir management will need to be linked and organized if they are to effectively cooperate in the best interests of all reservoir stakeholders, and a representation of these possible links and groups possible is presented in Figure 17-2.

17.2.3 Nakai Plateau Community Forestry

Under PM Decree 193, resettlement villages have been given the sole rights to the management and utilization of the forest resources in the resettlement area. To ensure their productive and sustainable management the Nakai Plateau Village Forestry Association (NPVFA) has been established. The NPVFA will be controlled on behalf of an assembly of resettlement member families through their elected village representatives. Both men and women rely heavily on forest products. Therefore, the representation on the NPVFA will aim for a 50-50-gender balance with the ethnic make-up reflecting the impacted area.

Professional management and technical staff will be hired to run the day-to-day business of the association. The staffing pattern of the NPVFA will strive for a 50-50-gender balance on management, with women filling at least 30% of senior management positions and 30% of forest technician positions. Indigenous peoples of the area will be given priority for filling these positions and receiving training. In the early years of operation, the RMU, RO and Provincial and District Forestry Offices will provide NPVFA with intensive technical support, including the periodic support of an Institutional Advisor for building management capacity. Following capacity development, NPVFA's main functions will centre on making policy decisions in regard to the conduct of forest inventory and replanting programs, formulating sustainable management policies, developing appropriate operational plans and managing the processing and marketing of timber and wood products. A full description of the resettlement community commercial forestry program, the organizational and management structures, and the responsibilities of the NPVFA are provided in Chapter 23, and illustrated below in Figure 17-3 (extracted from Chapter 23).

At the village level, Village Forestry Committees (VFC) will be established to promote village forestry-based activities and represent village interests in regard to the management of the plateau forestry program through the NPVFA. It is anticipated that VFCs will become involved in issues related to commercial forestry business, NTFP management, forest grazing, etc. on behalf of their village. VFCs will receive technical and management training prior to resettlement and during the first few years of commercial operation of the community forestry program. As women manage and market most of the NTFPs and are responsible for family economics, the representation on the VFCs will strive for 50 – 50 gender balances.

Figure 17-2: Possible Organizational Linkages between Reservoir Stakeholders

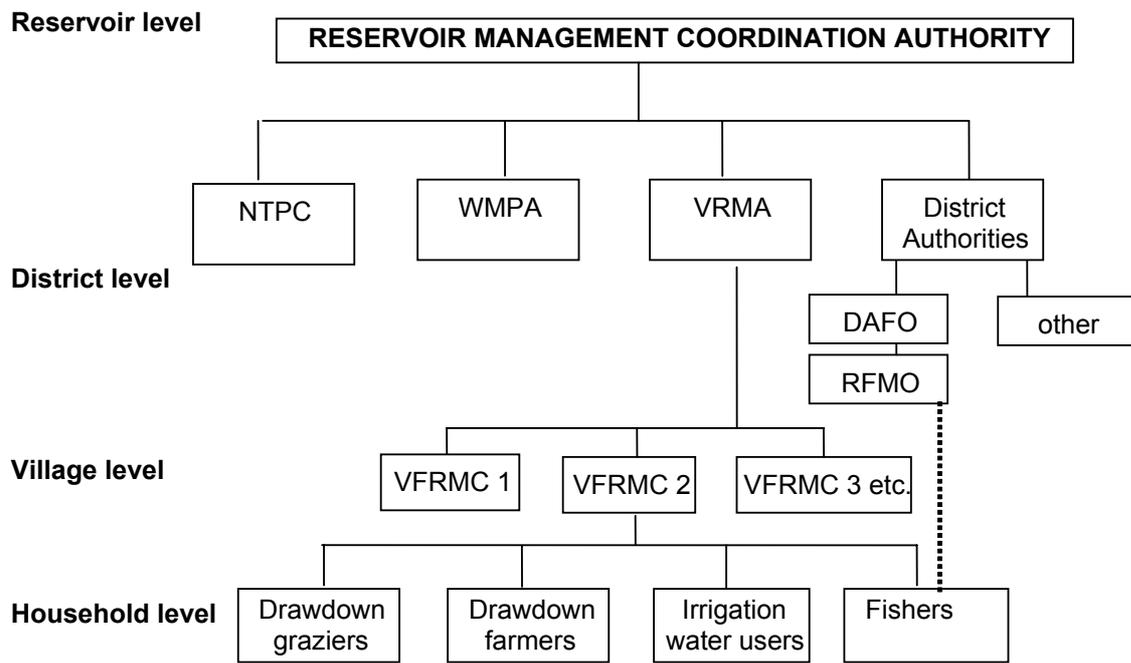
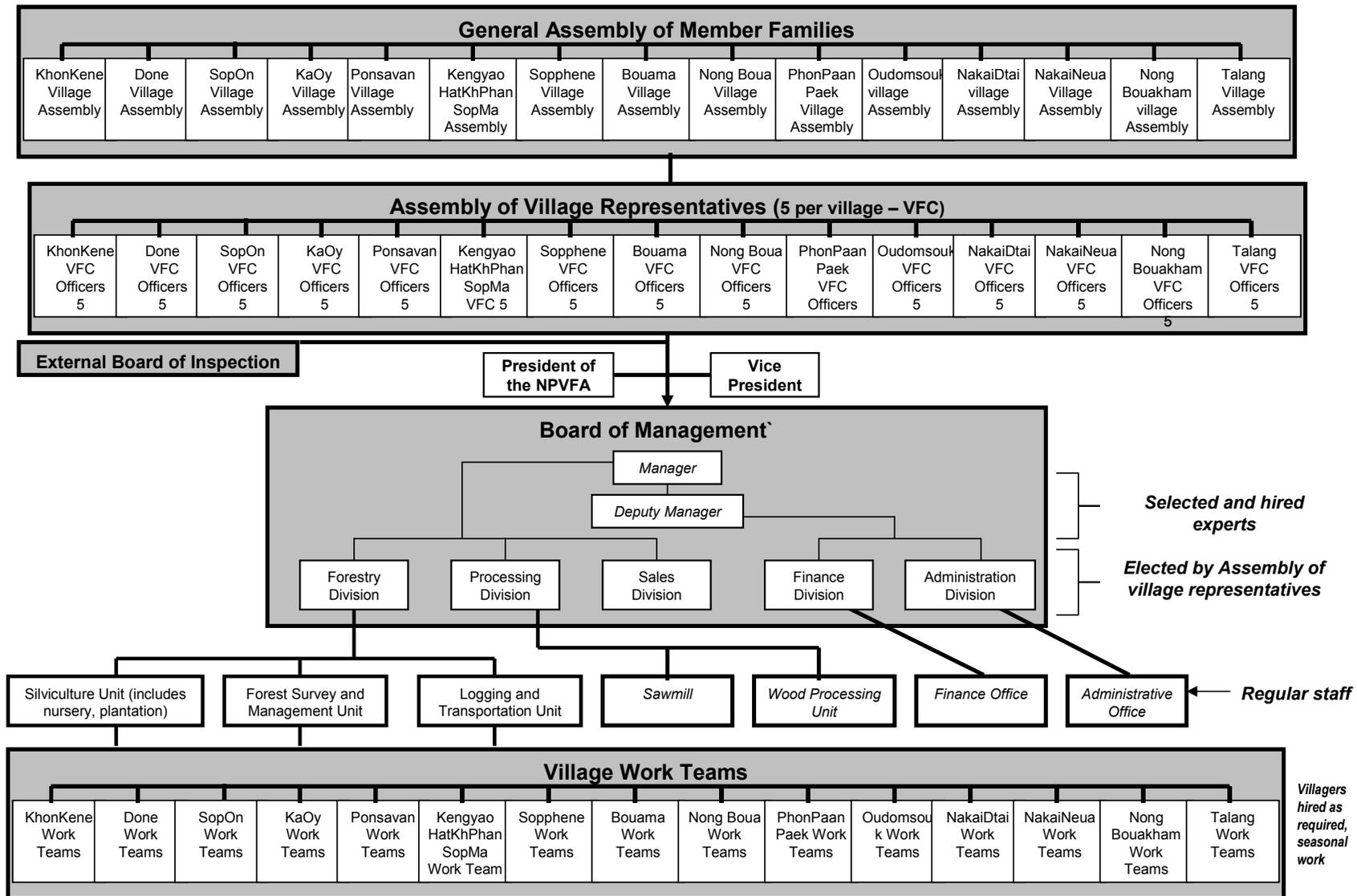


Figure 17-3: Organisation Chart of Nakai Plateau Village Forestry Association (NPVFA)



17.2.4 Water Users Groups

Each resettlement village will have a Water User Group (WUG), which will be responsible for the management, maintenance and repair of the system and for ensuring timely, efficient and equitable water distribution according to user needs. They will also deal with user complaints and investigate reported cases of water theft or other abuses of the system. The WUG will also represent the village at the reservoir level in instances where issues may arise relating to the drawing (pumping) of waters from the NT2 reservoir for use in village irrigation systems. The WUGs will receive technical and management training and support during the early years of resettlement and irrigation system operation and management. The WUG will strive for a 50 – 50 gender balance in participation and in leadership. National assessments by both the National Irrigation Department and the National Water and Environment Health Program have shown that women’s participation in WUGs produces excellent results on maintenance and sustainability of the water systems.¹

17.2.5 Community Savings and Loans Groups

Women in all resettlement villages will be introduced to community savings and loans schemes as a women-empowering institutional mechanism to assist in the transition to a market economy. In the past, women have controlled household finances, mainly through barter. For many resettling households, the proposed new livelihood activities will be their first experience with managing money. This change brings positive and negative opportunities and consequences. The availability of cash opens up the chance to pay for labour-reducing devices; vehicles, utilities, medical care and schooling needs, as well as stimulates new problems of debt, gambling, alcohol-abuse, and prostitution. It is critical to maintain women in the forefront of household financial management by giving them access and control over the small savings loan groups (*orm sap*). In this way women can develop basic money and marketing skills, learn the benefits of saving and investment, and have access to reasonable credit for production and family emergencies.

17.2.6 Other Groups

Other community support institutions will be established according to local conditions and perceived needs of the villagers. These might include women’s groups to promote the social and economic interests of women, production groups through which producers of a common commodity can provide technical and material support to other members, marketing groups for the joint marketing of produce (for example fish, NTFPs, etc.), village school committees to support and guide education according to community needs and aspirations, household crisis support and other groups, as necessary.

17.3 LABOUR ISSUES

At the family level, each family will have to decide how to best utilize their labour resources. In rural Lao families, both the male and female family heads are fully involved in food production and preparation, income generation, childcare, and household maintenance. Children may also be involved to varying degrees, depending on age, time spent at school etc. Older, post-school aged children who have not yet married to form their own family usually contribute just as much labour as family heads. Care of younger children, house building and tool making or repair are the major non-income or food generating activities undertaken.

The resettlement plans offer a range of livelihood options that will challenge resettlers, in that the type of labour skills required are relatively new, and in that they will have to choose which activities best suit their current or potential future skills and availability. In addition, the transition period during the construction and operation of the NT2 Project will have significant impacts on the labour demand for skilled and non-skilled workers, which should increase dramatically during the 3 to 4 year construction period. There will be additional opportunities in the service sector during this time, some of which may carry into the long term.

¹ Assessment on Use and Sustainability of Rural Water Supply and Sanitation, National Centre for Environmental Health and Water Supply, 2003.

17.3.1 Farm and Household Labour and Time Division

The division of labour and time spent on farm and household tasks can vary dramatically from village to village, depending on local cultural and gender habits, environmental conditions, and tasks needed. For example, Brou men and women share equitably childcare and food preparation tasks; thus, decisions or training on such activities should involve both. Another example is the time women spend on collecting thatch for roofs, which can vary from one day to one month per annum, depending on the village location to the source. Having resettled homes with tin roofs will certainly lower women's labour for the short-term—in some villages substantially. However, eventually the tin roofs will need replacement, requiring cash incomes, which could intensify women's labour once again.

Village information about labour division and time serves several purposes:

1. Guides training and resources toward those persons traditionally involved in the tasks.
2. Fosters gender-sensitive awareness and development practices.
3. Highlights where to reduce tedious, labour intensive chores (hulling rice by hand, fetching water, fuel wood and NTFPs, carrying goods on the back) in order to increase time for production, especially for women.
4. Provides a critical gender monitoring and evaluation tools.

Prior to resettlement, within each village the RMU / RO will select 6 to 9 families (poor, average and better-off) to track their labour division and work time spent on common daily and seasonal chores. Using the same families each time, the process is repeated every two years to analyse how labour duties and time are increasing or decreasing. Lao staff will need training on labour and time data collection and analysis, and on how to use the information for planning, training assessments and monitoring (See Appendix N for sample of Farm and Household Labour Division and Time Profile, form adapted from *Women in Development in the Lao PDR*, ADB, 1996.)

17.3.2 Construction Labour Opportunities

High expectations for employment as non-skilled labourers have been expressed during many of the consultations with villagers. Many welcome and support the Project hoping to acquire positions during the construction phase. Some villagers are familiar with wage labour since logging companies have employed a small number of villagers over the years. In a rural economy that is in the process of being monetised, employment opportunities are seen as a potential means of quickly improving one's standard of living.

As explained in Chapter 3, the Lao Labour Law provides for priority being given to Lao over foreign workers, provided that the quantity and quality of the labour force is comparable. There are also provisions for training, and the stipulation that the supervision of recruitment procedures be the responsibility of a nominated GOL agency. One responsibility of the nominated agency is to prepare and implement a Lao Labour Preference Plan before recruitment for the Project commences.

An estimated 3,000-4,000 semi or un-skilled workers will be required during the peak construction period, although these will be distributed over the three main construction areas (Nakai Dam, Plateau and downstream (Gnommalat) areas. On the assumption that about 800 semi and unskilled workers are required on the Plateau during the main years of construction, about 373 of these could be filled by resettlers. The remaining labour – mainly semi skilled and skilled – will be recruited from outside the area. It is in the interests of the construction contractors to employ local men and women, not only for the possible savings in not having to provide accommodation and facilities for outside workers but also to establish good relations with the local communities. The number of full time positions in the operational phase that could be taken by resettlers could range from 20 to 50 (on the Plateau only).

Not all able-bodied resettlers will want employment on the Project due to unfamiliarity with this type of work and other priorities, not least building one's house and developing one's farm plot. Experience from the Nam Theun Hinboun Hydropower Project indicates that there will be high interest initially, but, being unfamiliar with a disciplined work routine and the hard work, many will opt for the flexibility of selling agricultural produce or engaging in other service sector activities that can be combined with the agricultural cycle and social priorities. It is expected that families along the road with more diversified

economies (not solely dependent on agriculture) and with a generally higher percentage of lowland families who are literate and more experienced in working as labourers will find employment during the construction period.

It is possible that employment during the construction period might reduce the time spent on developing other aspects of the new livelihood options in terms of available labour input. This aspect will be monitored, and action taken accordingly to encourage families to balance their short and long term labour inputs and income potential.

17.3.3 Livelihood Development and Long-term Non-farm Labour

During resettlement site preparation, the resettlers will be encouraged to contribute their own labour on a remunerated basis in order to create familiarity with the new site, to foster responsibility and attachment through the establishment of a new home, and to provide a source of transitional income. It is important for resettlers that the process of relocation is a gradual one, allowing social, psychological and cultural adjustment to their new surroundings. Labour requirements for the development of new farmlands to full production are outlined in Chapters 19 and 25. It is estimated that approximately 750 person-days (250 labour days over a three-year period) of labour will be provided by each resettlement household as paid project labour, at the rate of about 2/3 average daily wage, and usually paid in rice. If it is paid for in cash, it will be paid into a village bank. This labour, and its income component, is incorporated into the development model of the livelihoods of the resettlers.

It is difficult to estimate the number of households that will derive a portion of their incomes from off-farm employment but the integrated livelihood scenarios presented in Table 16-4 is presenting a calculation of figures.

The SDP, with assistance from the LYU and NGOs, will provide in 2005-2006 short-term vocational training in non-farm activities for young female and male adults (15 to 35 years) within key construction and resettlement areas. Such courses will prepare local youth for semi-skilled job opportunities in transport, construction, vehicle repairs, marketing, and retail food preparation and in professional skills in office operations, bookkeeping and computer operations.

17.4 POVERTY

A survey of the 1998 economic situation on the Plateau reveals that the average income per household is only US \$450, compared to the Lao poverty line set at US\$ 837 in 1997/98. The target family income for resettled households is initially this National Poverty Line, with a longer term target of raising average village income to the national average for rural areas.

17.4.1 Multi-dimensional Aspects of Poverty

The World Bank's Report on Poverty Alleviation through Agricultural Projects (Economic Development Institute, WB) states that poverty is "multi-dimensional" and involves more than focusing on income levels. Poverty alleviation also involves health, education and access to resources to improve the standard of living, the so-called "human development index." Part of the resettlement plan for the Nakai Plateau involves providing improved infrastructure (roads), health care (dispensaries and access to medicine and medical advice), schools and other social facilities such as domestic water and electricity.

A recent study undertaken by the Asian Development Bank (ADB), titled Participatory Poverty Assessment in Lao PDR (June 2001) confirms this multidimensional aspect by means of an extensive assessment of the whole country using participatory methodologies. The main findings of this report reveal that poverty is measured by villagers in terms of absence of rice sufficiency (food security) and the number of livestock (a source of cash income). Other signifiers are availability of arable land (shortened fallow cycles), water supplies, poor health facilities and lack of labour. These conclusions mirror in many respects the situation on the Nakai Plateau and confirm the importance of sustainable livelihood systems of the SDP strategy.

17.4.2 Poverty and Resettlement

The present social situation on the Plateau is poor with high mortality rates, a lack of proper medical facilities, few schools that operate and only logging tracks and trails as a means of getting to towns where there are markets and medical help. The resource base is deteriorating due to increased population pressure and unsustainable use of natural resources and previous logging activities on the Plateau.

All villages acknowledge a gradual decrease in forest resources (damar resin, rattan and edible roots) and declining yields of rice. The underlying problem is a lack of money and skills to overcome the difficulties caused by the poor soils, flooding and a shortened cycle of fallow period for swidden fields. In the case of the Nakai Plateau, the balance between the human population and available natural resources, including rainfed rice production, cannot be sustained in its present form.

For the population on the Plateau to improve its standard of living, new means of livelihood must be found, regardless of the NT2 Project. Resettlement includes a significant addition to existing livelihood systems through the addition of increased fisheries, forestry, and employment opportunities. Even though these are not completely ‘new’ livelihood systems, there are nevertheless new elements and variations of existing livelihood systems. Hence, training and management will be required in order to make these systems work.

In addition to dealing with general income and quality-of-life poverty issues, the SDP attempts to explicitly identify particularly vulnerable groups such as female-headed households, the elderly and the poorest of the poor. The intention is to provide all Potentially Vulnerable Households (PVH) with additional support. Monitoring systems have been designed to identify PVH groups, provide special assistance and to track their progress in regard to poverty alleviation objectives.

The approach, implementation strategy and monitoring considerations for resettlement, livelihood improvements and service improvements conform to World Bank Operational Directive 4.15 on Poverty Reduction. The SDP confirms to government policy concerning poverty reduction, “promoting growth that makes efficient use of labour” and “enabling the poor to respond to opportunities to improve their well-being” through the livelihood proposals in Chapters 22-25, and a detailed consultation process and incorporation of concerns as outlined in Chapter 4.

17.5 MEASURES FOR POTENTIALLY VULNERABLE GROUPS

17.5.1 Definition and Criteria for Vulnerability

Vulnerability is a multi-dimensional concept that needs to be defined within the specific contexts in order to be meaningful and useful for project planning purposes. In the context of the NT2 Project, and in particular for resettlers of the Nakai Plateau, vulnerability refers to households and communities that may have considerable difficulties in participating in the resettlement process and livelihood development due to serious lacks of required skills, resources, experience and organisation. It should be understood that the resettlement plan assumes that all groups will face challenges in developing new, viable communities, but that vulnerable groups face considerable problems in addition to the adjustment to new sites and transition to different livelihood systems, and thus require additional measures to ensure they too become project beneficiaries.

Potentially vulnerable groups can be divided into three main levels:

1. Potentially vulnerable households (PVHs) – socio-economic criteria
2. Potentially vulnerable communities – resource, organisation and leadership criteria
3. Potentially vulnerable ethnic groups – cultural criteria

Specific measures to deal with vulnerability are integrated into the resettlement plan and the following section explains in details these measures.

17.5.2 Potentially Vulnerable Households (PVHs)

Potentially vulnerable households consist of household that are disadvantaged in terms of being able to participate in preparation for relocation, actual relocation and the establishment of the new livelihood system. Categories may include (see Chapter 2, Section 2.2.6 and Table 2-5):

- Male-headed households over 60 as of 2003 – 102 PVHs
- Female-headed households (not widow) – 33 PVHs
- Widow as household head) – 48 PVHs
- Single person households – 36 PVHs
- Household head under 16 years of age - none
- Households with handicapped members – 28 PVHs

The 1998 census of household on the Nakai Plateau estimated that 23 percent of the resettler population might be vulnerable or qualifies for additional assistance according to the above PVH categories. The Lao poverty line regarding income levels is not used as a criterion since almost all households would then qualify as vulnerable, and hence ‘vulnerability’ would not be a useful category for analysis or the design of additional mitigation measures. There are a total of 272 PVHs on the Nakai Plateau. However, it should be pointed out that in some cases, households might have been included in two categories. In addition, it should also be noted that many would not be vulnerable despite these categories. Elderly male-headed households often have ample labour and are part of extended families. This may also be the case for female-headed households, widows and households with handicapped members. The 36 single households recorded represent truly vulnerable households, such as an elderly widow or widower but would also include young men about to marry and start families or recently divorced men, both types representing transitional household arrangements.

All of the categories listed above, except for the last category, concern the potential problem of an insufficient number of able-bodied working aged male household members. For an average household of four members or less, less than two is considered insufficient, for a household of 5-8 members, 3 less than three is considered insufficient and for a household of more than 8 persons, less than four is considered insufficient. For households with handicapped members, additional measures might be required to compensate for the loss of manpower that is needed for caring for these family members.

Comparing family wealth in a village can also determine PVH status. However, in this case, the criteria for determining well-off, average and disadvantaged families are highly relative to local context. In one village people might determine that ownership of two buffaloes (a local savings indicator) would be a criteria for well-off status, while in a neighbouring village that figure might rise to ten or more buffaloes. Thus, it is best if each village can set its own wealth and poverty indicators.

Appendix O provides a sample Process for Wealth – Poverty Ranking, which uses a participatory process to identify PVHs. Criteria can include house, land and production assets, annual food security, and inherited items – whatever the local population deems valuable.

17.5.3 Potentially Vulnerable Communities

Potential vulnerable communities might consist of a number of small villages on the Nakai Plateau under the following criteria:

- Highly dependent on natural resources, are only partially integrated into market economic activities and lack basic services and infrastructure
- Limited knowledge of more advanced agricultural production techniques or have only recently taken up sedentary agriculture
- Poor resource base and are considerably below the Lao poverty level
- Small communities or hamlets that require consolidation with other villages

Potential vulnerable communities include (see Chapter 3):

- Vietic communities in Sop Hia (see next section)
- Sop Phene on the Nam Theun
- Hamlets of Sop Ma, Hat Khamphan and Keng Gnao along the Nam Theun
- Ka Oy in the NPA but probable relocation on the Nakai Plateau

17.5.4 Potentially Vulnerable Ethnic Groups

The Vietic groups on the Nakai Plateau can be classified as vulnerable for a number of reasons, including:

- Small communities and limited social network and regional support systems linking them to other villages and communities
- A limited or poor knowledge of the Lao language
- Different beliefs, kinship structure, social organisation and value systems in relation to the majority groups – often suffering from stigma and misunderstood by outsiders
- Highly dependent on natural resources, are only partially integrated into market economic activities and lack basic services and infrastructure
- Limited knowledge of more advanced agricultural production techniques or have only recently taken up sedentary agriculture
- Poor resource base and are considerably below the Lao poverty level
- Weak leadership, a lack of functioning village institutions or a lack of political representation on the district and provincial organisations

Some of these categories overlap with issues raised in chapter 17 but in the case of small ethnic groups, such as the Vietic, they are compounded with cultural differences and value systems that are dissimilar from majority ethnic groups. In many ways, this combination makes the Vietic ‘doubly vulnerable’ to the proposed changes and development strategies, and in need of modified approaches and additional measures and assistance. Culturally sensitive consultations will play a key role in ensuring that the Vietic become project beneficiaries.

The following communities may be covered under the concept of ‘vulnerable’ depending on how they adjust to new sites and livelihood opportunities:

- Ahoé (16 families) located mostly in the villages of Ban Sop Hia, Ban Talang and Nakai Tai
- Phong (12 families) located mostly in Ban Sop Hia
- Salang and Melang groups (ca. 4 families) that are recent arrivals from the Nam Sot and are now located in various villages

There could be some under-reporting of Vietic groups since some have married into other ethnic groups while others may have identified themselves as ‘Lao Loum’.

17.5.5 Measures for Assisting Vulnerable Groups

Mitigation for vulnerable groups can be divided into preparatory, transitional and stability phases of the resettlement process. The table below outlines potential mitigation for each phase of the Project.

Table 17-1: Mitigation for Vulnerable Groups

Vulnerable Groups	Preparatory Measures	Transitional Measures	Stability Measures
PVHs lacking sufficient able-bodied male workers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Budget allocation to cover costs of additional labour needs during site preparation and house construction Household-based consultations and discussions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Budget allocation to cover costs of additional labour needs during livelihood development Continued separate consultations and discussions Assessment and specific training for household needs in relation to livelihood options Additional rice supplement (440 kilo/year per HH) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Higher dividends from community forestry Continue specific training and monitoring as required at a household level
Female-headed PVH (including widows)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gender-sensitive consultations with female household head Capacity building measures for LWU to assist in consultation process 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued separate consultations and discussions with households Specific training to include education (literacy), income generation schemes and leadership training Additional rice supplement (440 kilo/year per HH) if required 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Higher dividends from community forestry if required Continue gender-specific training and monitoring at a household level
PVHs with handicapped members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Budget allocation to cover costs of additional labour needs during site preparation and house construction (Chapter 20) Household-based consultations and discussions with these PVHs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Budget allocation to cover costs of additional labour needs during livelihood development Continued separate consultations and discussions with households Specific training for handicapped members – e.g. craft production Additional rice supplement (440 kilo/year per HH) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Higher dividends from community forestry Continue specific training and monitoring as required at a household level
Vulnerable communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More intensive and more frequent consultations with small communities as part of consolidation process Additional capacity building measures for strengthening local institutions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assessment and specific training for communities in relation to livelihood options Additional rice supplement (440 kilo/year per HH) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue specific training and monitoring as required
Vietic groups on the Nakai Plateau	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Targeted consultations with Vietic groups only More intensive and more frequent consultations Sensitivity to language and cultural concerns Capacity building measures for strengthening local institutions to ensure participation in decision-making for Vietic representatives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring by ethnic group – specific ethnic indicators for Vietic groups (see Monitoring Plan) Assessment and specific training for communities in relation to livelihood options Additional rice supplement (440 kilo/year per HH) Recruitment and training of local teachers or teachers' assistants from Vietic communities Specific programmes aimed at indigenous medicine and potential use 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue specific training for Vietic Groups as required Continued 'ethnic-specific' monitoring

17.6 GENDER

Gender roles – the social, political and economic interactions between men and women – can vary greatly, depending on traditions, culture, education and the level of development exposure in the area. Especially in the ethnically diverse NT2 communities, generalizing about gender can mislead development actions. For example, among the Brou men often do more cooking tasks than women and share childcare tasks; therefore, training on food preparation and childcare will need to be offered to both men and women. In this situation, generalizations about women tending to “light household” matters and men to the “heavy field” activities are misleading. (See the discussion on labour division in Section 17.3.)

In the past, men in the NT2 affected areas held practically all positions of authority and undertook most of external activities, while women controlled household finances and cash spending. However, in today’s reality the gender lines of control are opening: women are becoming heads of villages and development committees, and men and women are making household decisions together.

It is true that compared to men, women in the PA communities tend to have less exposure to the outside world, less education, and less leisure time due to their high reproductive rates and limited access to labour saving devices. Nonetheless, women are more economically active than men, especially concerning trade and walking considerable distances to local markets.

While women have ideas and concerns that differ from men, they are often reluctant to express their opinions publicly. Until recently, public debate was largely the prerogative of male villagers. Since the 1990’s, the government and the Lao Women’s Union have advocated for women to speak up, especially during participatory development activities. This is clearly building women’s public confidence.

There is a clear division of labour based on gender on the Plateau and in the surrounding project areas, and this reflects the position of women in Lao society in general. It appears that men hold practically all positions of authority, undertake most of the activities that bring them into contact with other communities outside the village as well as doing all the heavy work. Women are much more household and village oriented both occupationally and socially, and thus have more limited exposure to the outside world than men. This makes them particularly vulnerable to resettlement into a new location. Female mobility appears to be restricted by the realities of frequent pregnancies, nursing and minding children, and being responsible for housework and kitchen gardens. Even so, women are more economically active than men when it comes to buying and selling and many walk a considerable distance to local markets to trade for rice. In general, women are in charge of the household economy and control family cash spending.

While women have ideas and concerns that differ from men, they are reluctant to express their opinions, partly because women themselves view decision making as the prerogative of male villagers and partly because they fear being ridiculed. Lack of female education and organization further reduces their ability, or their own perceptions of their ability, to take part in community decision-making.

Few girls receive more than a minimal amount of formal education, if any at all. National statistics show significantly lower female enrolment rates in highland schools than in lowland schools (Country Report on Women in the Economic Development of the Lao PDR, 1996). This is probably only of relative validity in the project area since literacy rates are low for both sexes. Girls take responsibility for minding younger children and other household chores at an early age. Female education is not considered important because most girls will marry young, bear children and remain responsible mainly for household tasks that are not viewed as requiring formal learning. Thus, the existing limited educational opportunities are reserved largely for boys because they are expected to deal with the outside world and increasingly need to acquire skills to procure employment and deal with outside authorities.

Given the women’s constraints in terms of mobility and educational opportunities, and women’s cultural hesitancy to use public power and decision-making, all women villagers will be targeted during the resettlement. The SDP will support annual one-day women’s leadership and confidence building sessions.

17.6.1 Gender Resettlement Strategy

The following Gender Resettlement Strategy follows closely the GoL decrees and policies urging increased gender equity and opportunities for women and girls and the ADB and WB safeguard policies on Gender and Development, Indigenous Peoples, Involuntary Resettlement stated in Chapter 3.

Two complementary approaches are recommended for the Gender Resettlement Strategy:

1. The equity approach (sometimes called “mainstreaming”) aims to improve women’s opportunities and powers in relation to men’s, especially concerning planning, decision-making, training, and access to resources;
2. The anti-poverty approach concerns special activities for women with the objective of offering socio-economic stimulations for disadvantaged women and their families.

Both strategic approaches give women more control over their own time, money and resources by opening up new socio-economic and decision-making opportunities. At the same time, both approaches must be mindful about reducing women’s workloads in order for them to take advantage of new opportunities.

Many gender actions are placed within specific texts on clean water, labour, education, literacy training, health, and poverty. In addition, the following strategies and actions are recommended to promote gender sensitive development.

1. Collecting Gender Disaggregated Data

For the most part, the SDP has begun to disaggregate its baseline data separately by gender and by ethnic group. Particularly for monitoring Potentially Vulnerable Families, girls school attendance, women receiving training and job opportunities, women nominated for working groups and decision-making positions, gender disaggregated data becomes essential.

Concerning disaggregated data, three gender concerns need further attention and clarification. First, when recording family land and household assets, gender ownership should be carefully recorded. Often household and farming land and assets belonged equally to male and female heads of household. However, in some cases only one spouse owns through inheritance the land or the assets. Depending on the ethnic group, a man or a woman in the Lao PDR can inherit land and valuable goods. To assume both spouses own the land or assets together could create tensions and legal problems. Therefore, recorders will need first to ask both the husband and the wife who is the original owner of the land or asset. If ownership is with one person, he / she has the option to share or not to share the land and assets with a spouse.² In this way, a gender-sensitive approach for both men and women is achieved.

Second, when listing household decision-makers, it is preferable to refer to “heads of household”. In this way, the two lead persons, usually the husband and the wife, are both recognized equally for land registration, compensation and decision-making. Traditionally, in most ethnic groups in the Lao PDR, women usually hold authority over socio-economic decisions and men over political ones. Thus, especially when encouraging socio-economic development, women’s roles can be significant, though less obvious to outsiders.

Third, gender labour division among the various ethnic groups, particularly on the Nakai Plateau, show some significant variations, which could redirect the details of certain development activities. For example, men share cooking and childcare responsibilities with women and consequently both men and women would benefit from training on food preparation and preservation, and on childcare. Therefore, it is essential to collect and analyse gender-disaggregated data on labour division in each village, and set detailed planning implementation accordingly.

² See the 1997 Land Law, SEMFOP, Volume 2, Annex 4.8. The World Bank took note in the mid-1990’s during the initial land titling process in Vientiane when some women landowners unknowingly lost sole power over their land. Thus, the Land Law currently recognizes the name(s) on land certificates or other land documents.

Recommendations:

- Train and monitor all staff and technical experts on the reasons for collecting and analysing gender disaggregated data and the use of gender-sensitive terminology.
- Ensure that land and assets surveys and registration, particularly the compensation cases in the Gnommalat Reservoir and Channel Area, recognize the rights of original single owners, regardless of sex.
- Collect and analyse an indicative gender labour profile for each village and ensure action plans correspond accordingly.

2. Setting Gender-Balance Targets for Community Supported Activities

Each resettlement and development activity in the SDP will set a Gender Balance Target (GBT) to ensure the involvement of women. This will include training, job opportunities and selection of villagers for working groups.

Recommendations:

- Give each activity a GBT within detailed plans, by making a specific column.
- Ensure that all technicians, advisors and RMU / RO staff are instructed about the GBTs.
- Monitor compliance of the GBTs.

3. Opening Leadership Opportunities for Village Women.

Women are under-represented on all decision-making bodies, as traditionally only one Women's Union representative would be appointed. All LWU village representatives in the Nakai Plateau want the leadership opportunities opened to more women.

Recommendations:

- Urge the addition of women to the Village Resettlement Committee / Village Development Committee.
- Provide leadership and confidence-building training for village women.

4. Monitoring Gender Concerns, especially about Women's Labour Burdens

Improved access to clean water, electricity, schools, childcare and roads will certainly lighten women's daily burdens. New job opportunities for women in forestry, marketing produce and raising small livestock should increase food security and money earned. However, there is a strong risk that proposed livelihood changes could increase women's workloads, as well, causing additional burden and greater stress. The gender dis-aggregated monitoring system for labour will enable any trends of this nature to be identified and amelioration measures taken.

Recommendation:

- Train all monitoring teams on Gender Awareness and Monitoring.

5. Increasing access to Family Planning and Health Care Services

The greater availability of close medical facilities and services on family planning, pre- and post-natal care, hygiene and on the elderly will reduce women's labour substantially. Awareness raising and the provision of family planning advice will be undertaken in all resettlement villages in conjunction with LWU. Special attention is needed immediately on HIV-AIDS, SDIs and other infectious diseases (see Chapters 5 and 44).

6. Increasing Women and Girls' Access to Education and Literacy

The introduction of more schools will allow more children between the ages of 6 and 15 to attend. This will relieve mothers of some of the childcare burden and allow them more time for income generation activities. Convenient access to schooling is also expected to lead to greater opportunities for girls. Coupled with the provision of nursery schools, which will reduce the burden of care for younger siblings,

this is expected to lead to higher female school attendance rates. These will be monitored, and awareness raising and counselling will be undertaken with recalcitrant families (see Section 17.7 below).

7. Improving Clean Water Access

The introduction of convenient domestic water supplies in resettlement villages will have a positive impact on all members of the community, but especially women and children. Hygiene standards and consequently health will improve and the time-consuming burden of carrying water, usually an activity of women and young girls, will be significantly reduced.

Recommendation:

- Ensure that women have significant representation on Water User Groups and Water Maintenance Groups.

8. Improving Transportation

Reducing the need to carry goods on backs and over long distances has special importance for women since they make most of the trips to the market to purchase food and supplies and to sell agricultural and forest products. Again this will improve women's economic earning power, most of which goes directly to caring for the needs of the family.

Recommendation:

- Assist women in obtaining pushcarts and other inexpensive carrying methods.

9. Setting up Women's Savings and Loan Groups

Internal mini-savings and loan groups among women have become popular in the Lao PDR. As Nakai Plateau women gain access to cash incomes and create savings and loan systems, they gain prestige and new learning about money. Money earned by women usually goes towards family improvement.

Recommendations:

- Conduct a study tour to various S&L groups in nearby areas.
- Seek the expertise of an INGO experienced on S&L systems.

Finally, it is essential to foster the role of the Lao Women's Union (LWU) in ensuring women are equal beneficiaries of the development of the Nakai Plateau. A representative already exists in each village, although how active they are varies considerably. These representatives need to be mobilized and trained to guide development on the village level. The LWU will play a key role in pre- and post-relocation activities in such areas as vegetable gardens, health care and other aspects of livelihood training. At the same time, it is important not to assign every women-related task to the LWU, but rather to seek out and train GoL women technicians, who too often overlooked and relegated to office tasks, much to their dismay.

17.7 EDUCATION

Under the SDP, three types of educational support are envisaged: (i) nursery and crèche-type facilities, (ii) primary and secondary schooling, and (iii) adult education and vocational training.

17.7.1 Nursery Education

Nursery facilities will be provided in every resettlement village to improve the welfare of infants and to relieve their parents of the task of childcare during the day at busy times.

Infant education and the development of early life skills in an appropriate environment is now known to be critical in determining later development potential. It is important that toddlers and infants interact with their own age group during the critical period of developing inter-personal communication skills. Currently, many plateau infants are denied this opportunity as they are cared for by older siblings, elderly relatives or left to their own devices in a small field-hut, while their parents work on their swiddens.

It is therefore proposed to establish nursery facilities, either as part of the village primary school or independently in each resettlement village. Nursery arrangements will also include some form of crèche facilities for the very young, managed by the village women's group, with the assistance and support of the LWU. The crèche and nursery facility will be equipped (through SDP funding) with such items as educational toys, bedding and mosquito-nets for afternoon naps, first-aid kits, support for school-lunch and other essentials. Young mothers will be trained in basic nursery teaching and management techniques, who could then continue to supervise the infants on a rotational basis after SDP support ends.

By means of the village nursery/crèche facilities, not only will resettled infants be provided with an appropriate environment for early development, but their parents will have time to undertake other livelihood tasks during the day. The expected result being that they will be more likely to provide additional 'quality-time' with their young family in the evenings when they are free from other worries and responsibilities.

17.7.2 Primary and Secondary Schooling

In many villages on the Nakai Plateau, schools are not functioning properly due to the lack of adequate facilities, the difficulties of recruiting properly qualified teachers and the low salaries offered. Attendance rates are generally low, particularly among girls of school-age, and only about a third of the population have any schooling at all. Although, in theory, every official village should have its own school, in some villages, primary schools have not operated at all for a number of years. There are some notable exceptions to the general rule, in particular the comparatively large schools in Oudomsouk and Nakai Neua villages, demonstrating that, with proper facilities and qualified staff, a good education can be offered as a 'Basic-Right' to all children.

17.7.2.1 Primary Schools

Under the SDP, a primary school will be constructed, equipped and staffed with qualified teachers in every resettlement village. Where possible, teachers will be recruited from the District and the resettlement villagers themselves. This will be made facilitated by the adult education programs and the improved secondary schooling to be provided under the SDP, which will raise local capacity levels. These teachers will be more in touch with local culture and the future livelihood needs of their pupils and are more likely to remain in their positions. Scholarships for appropriate candidates from the resettled population for further education and teacher-training will be considered as a means of supporting this longer-term goal.

The attendance of school-age children, particularly girls, will be closely monitored so that problems of natural or enforced truancy can be identified early, and ameliorative measures and support provided. Awareness-raising programs for parents on the importance of schooling will be conducted and community involvement in each village school will be encouraged by holding parent-teacher meetings, and through the formation of village school committees. The role of these committees, very much like a board of community school governors, will be to offer support to the village school, provide feedback from the community, and give guidance on educational concerns and the needs of the community in regard to schooling. Dependent on the wishes of resettled villagers, consideration will be given to integrating the proposed village meeting halls with the school building, thus providing a number of potential advantages:

- Promoting stronger links between the community and the school and making it a center for community activities.
- Providing the school with additional facilities that can be used periodically, as required.
- Providing a location for information dissemination and awareness programs through notices, posters, etc. with access to school children and the general public alike.
- Savings in both school and meeting hall construction costs.

Involving village schools in community development initiatives has proved extremely successful in other parts of the Lao PDR and across the region. The village school is a valuable community resource, it usually has the best educated members of the community as teachers, it has adequate buildings and land resources, and most importantly, it provides a direct communication channel to virtually every household in the village, through the school children themselves. School-based livelihood development activities have the potential, not only to provide a valuable community service, but also to teach the school children necessary future livelihood skills, often more locally-appropriate than literacy and numeracy skills. Under

the SDP, adequate facilities and land areas will be provided for a variety of school-based livelihood development programs. These might include agriculture trials and demonstrations to test new crops or improved varieties, testing and comparing different composting techniques to encourage the use of organic fertilizer, IPM trials to develop pesticide-free crop protection measures, etc.

17.7.2.2 Secondary Schooling

The resettlement needs for secondary education are more difficult to assess than for primary schooling. Only four percent of the resettlement population have any secondary schooling at all, and the numbers attending high-school, college and university are negligible. It is the intention of the SDP to improve this situation by the provision of improved access to secondary schooling.

Further surveys and studies will be conducted to obtain information on future required needs, existing secondary school facilities, and the potential to either expand or improvement of existing facilities and/or by the establishment of new schools.

Based on the outcome of these studies, access to and the quality of secondary education opportunities for the younger generation of the resettled population will be improved. In addition, steps will be taken to ensure that the type of secondary education offered will be made more relevant to the new livelihood needs and employment opportunities for resettled school-leavers. The aim is to view the current school-age population as the future teachers, nurses, agricultural extension agents, vets, community forestry management staff, etc. who will serve the livelihood needs of the resettled population. In this respect, the school-based livelihood development program proposed for primary schools has added relevance and importance, and will be modified and implemented at the secondary school level as well.

17.7.3 Adult Education and Vocational Training

Formal education levels in adults are even lower than they are for the young age groups. This poses a considerable risk for the resettlement process as a whole, as many of the adults making the key decisions on behalf of their families and communities have had little or no schooling and may be illiterate and lack basic numeracy skills. Compared to an average of 31 percent of the entire resettlement population having had some formal education, only 7 percent of household heads have had any education at all.

It is for this very reason that the SDP has adopted a participatory planning approach from the outset. Although the approach has enabled people of any educational level to participate, it has made the planning process a slow one. Nevertheless, the participatory approaches and tools used have had a capacity development effect on the participants involved. The result is that key decision makers in the resettlement population now have a much better understanding of the issues involved and have developed many new skills for analyzing information and making appropriate decisions. This participatory approach will continue throughout the entire resettlement period and is expected to lead to further, ongoing capacity development.

17.7.3.1 Adult literacy

Education support to the adult population will include a program to raise literacy and numeracy levels in the general population, by providing training in reading, writing and basic arithmetic to all adults who are interested. This will begin with an awareness-raising program emphasizing the importance of these basic skills in the new livelihood systems that resettlement will bring, and explaining the type(s) of training on offer. One possible option that is being considered is to use the school-based community development program approach described in the preceding section on Primary Schools. Under this scenario, school children would be asked to repeat some of their lessons with parents in the evening. Appropriate books, teaching aids and specially modified materials would be developed and used for such a program. This approach has a number of potential advantages:

- Adults are more likely to be receptive to informal training in their own homes compared to formal courses with their peers where they may be embarrassed of making mistakes in public.
- Lessons learned by schoolchildren during the day will be reinforced by additional exercises in the evening.
- It would help to promote family unity and harmony by bringing households together for a common task in the evenings.

- It would reduce costs and allow lessons to occur at a time of the day when people are free from routine livelihood activities.

Some of the community group activities described in Section 17.2.1 will also contribute to raising literacy and numeracy levels in the resettled adult population. For example the training provided and the skills developed under the proposed village savings and loans program is expected to add significantly to arithmetic and simple accounting ability.

Women have expressed desires to attend adult education classes in the evenings. However, they would prefer separate time from men, as they sometimes are very shy about studying with men. Also, if men and women alternate days for learning, childcare is not a problem.

17.7.3.2 Livelihood training

A range of livelihood focused training courses are planned under the SDP in support of the livelihood options provided to resettlers. In general, orientation and training will be provided to all, based on their interest. For the major economic activities (i.e. agriculture, livestock, forestry and fishing) training will be provided at village level as many villagers are likely to embark on these. Also training in savings and credit will be provided to all interested villagers.

For more specific activities (e.g. weaving, wickerwork, food processing, mechanics), where there is a limited market for the product, villagers will have to select, which field they will focus on taking into consideration the amount of support given to each village as well as the market.

Table 17-2 presents examples of the type of training courses that might be offered to community specialists under each general livelihood type. Emphasis will be placed on the integration of training activities across different livelihood components. For example, non-farm carpentry training will be offered to make best use of the timber produced by the forestry livelihood option; plumbing and electrician training will be provided to facilitate local repair and maintenance; and non-farm fish processing training will be offered to increase the value of fish caught from the reservoir.

Table 17-2: Indicative Training Courses to be Offered in Support of Livelihood Options.

	Crop production	Community forestry	Fisheries	Livestock	Non-farm work
Training offered	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Irrigated paddy • Rice variety testing • Post harvest mgt. • Vegetable production • Fruit tree growing • Fruit tree grafting • Field crops • IPM • Soil nutrient management • Compost production • Sericulture 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forest inventory • Business management • Enrichment planting • Plantation management • Wood processing • Sustainable NTFP management • NTFP processing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reservoir fishing techniques • Fishing gear repair and maintenance • Boat-building and repair • Fingerling raising • Fish catch monitoring • Fish processing • Fish marketing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Animal health • Livestock feed • Artificial insemination • Vaccination • Forage production • Grazing mgt. • Pig breeding • Pig fattening • Poultry production • Livestock marketing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food processing • Shop keeping • Accounting • Weaving • Sewing/tailoring • Electrician • Plumbing • Motor mechanics/ Motorcycle repair • Blacksmith work • Carpentry • Charcoal production • Business mgt. • Savings and loans • Micro-credit • Nursery /childcare

17.8 CULTURAL HERITAGE

17.8.1 Archaeological, Cultural and Historical Aspects

There are no known archaeological or historical sites in the area to be flooded by the NT2 reservoir. No evidence of prehistoric human habitation and no stone implements or other indications of Paleolithic or Neolithic habitation have been found. A detailed Physical Cultural Resources Survey will be carried out in 2004 to confirm these initial findings and make any additional recommendations.

Due to the mobility of the population on the Plateau and the disruption caused by war and invasion, there are very few items of archaeological or historical importance. There are several temples constructed of wood, stupas made of stone or concrete, gravesites and the remains of the foundations of a hunting lodge built by a Lao viceroy and located near the present location of Ban Nakai Tai.

In the case of village temples and stupas, adequate measures will be taken for their transportation to new village sites or new buildings of at least a similar quality and value is constructed. The present temples at the villages of Ban Done, Ban Khone Khen and Ban Boua Ma are not in good condition, and it is expected that these villages opt for new buildings. Stupas and other religious structures such as spirit houses (simple structures made of bamboo and thatch) for village spirits (*phi muang*, *phi thiem* and *phi man*) may be moved by the villagers themselves. There are local rituals and procedures for moving such objects and adjustments to schedules such as the selection of an auspicious day for commencing the relocation that will be made. The allowance of US\$ 15 per person during relocation includes the costs of rituals (sacrifice of small pig or chicken and jars of rice wine for celebrations for the spirits) when leaving the old village and entering the new one. Similar measures and ritual observances may be necessary regarding appeasing spirits of deceased relatives at gravesites, although this does not seem to be the practice among the majority of the villages on the Plateau. Consultations with villagers and ritual experts revealed that it is not necessary to remove bones from gravesites as long as the correct rituals are performed. Measures will be taken not to locate new houses near gravesites or any other spiritually important locations such as places where spirits are believed to reside.

Measures will be taken to avoid locating houses close to the foundations of the old hunting lodge, on which a school is now located. This site will not be inundated by the reservoir.

The same measures will be taken for all project construction lands, including campsites, access roads, spoil tiles and quarries.

17.8.2 Cultural and Religious Property Recovery and Relocation

Recovery and relocation of the few moveable archaeological and historical artefacts from the Ban Nakai Tai area and other communities (e.g. Buddha images) will be completed in conjunction with provincial and district Culture and Information Offices. Consultations and negotiations will be carried out to determine culturally acceptable relocation to nominated sites. The historical artefacts near Ban Nakai Tai may not have to be moved but can be integrated into the new village in the immediate vicinity.

According to villagers in consultation meetings, it will not be necessary to relocate village cemeteries, on the condition that appeasement rituals for relocation of village spirits (*phi muang*) are held. The villagers have indicated that all items that may be regarded as ‘cultural property’ will be easily incorporated in the move with their other belongings. This includes small Buddha statues that are kept in the local temples or in houses.

Appropriate protective and/or salvage measures will be adopted if any archaeologically significant properties are uncovered during the NT2 Project construction phase.

17.9 SCHEDULE OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Table 17-3 below presents the main activities of the Community Development Program.

Table 17-3: Timetable of the Main Activities of the Community Development Program.

Activity	2004			2005			2006			2007			2008			2009			2010														
	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT - NAKAI PLATEAU																																	
1 Village Resettlement/Development Committees																																	
1.1 Establish VRC in each village																																	
1.2 Build Village Resettlement Office and Consultation Centre																																	
1.3 Develop VRC roles in Census and data management																																	
1.4 Training in Management of Village Res. Office																																	
1.5 Training in report writing, etc																																	
1.6 Consultations with village re resettlement plans																																	
1.7 Consultations with village re Development Plans																																	
1.8 NTPC/GOL supervise and monitor CD activities																																	
1.9 Quarterly meetings of Village Resettlement Committees																																	
1.10 Quarterly meetings of Village Development Committees																																	
2 Population Management																																	
2.1 Initial Census & Asset Inventory (1998)	ALREADY																																
2.2 Second Population Census (2003)	ALREADY																																
2.3 Final (pre-relocation) Census and Assets Inventory																																	
2.4 NTPC assist GOL in managing statistics, monitoring population change																																	
2.5 Make family registration books																																	
2.6 Make and issue citizen cards																																	
3 Resettlement Site Location Consultations																																	
3.1 Consultation for all Villages																																	
3.2 Confirmation Consultation, Group 1 Villages																																	
3.3 Confirmation Consultation, Group 2 Villages																																	
4 Livelihoods Options Consultations																																	
4.1 Consultation for all Villages																																	
4.2 Confirmation Consultation, Group 1 Villages																																	
4.3 Confirmation Consultation, Group 2 Villages																																	
4.4 Post Reservoir Consultations, all Villages																																	
5 Cultural and Spiritual Heritage Mitigation																																	
5.1 Physical Cultural Resources Survey - See EAMP																																	
5.2 Confirm Physical and Spiritual Culture Heritage Plans																																	
5.3 Draft Final Village CSH Plans																																	
5.4 Implement C & S H Plans: Group 1 Villages																																	
5.5 Implement C & S H Plans: Group 2 Villages																																	
6 Support to the Relocation Process																																	
6.1 Provide assistance during relocation: Group 1 villages																																	
6.2 Provide assistance during relocation: Group 2 villages																																	
7 Support to Community Groups																																	
7.1 Strengthening of Womens' groups and gender issues																																	
> Improve the structure and role of Village Women's Group																																	
> Outreach to all women re. the "3 G's" and of Gender (workshops, study tours etc)																																	
> Outreach to all women re the "3 Cleans"	as required																																
> Coordinate with Health Department re. mother & child health, family planning, breast feeding																																	
> Training in food preparation and nutrition																																	
> Study tour to review experience in savings groups																																	

