

# **VOLUME 2 – CHAPTER 9 SCHEDULING AND FINANCING**

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## **9 SCHEDULING AND FINANCING**

The SDP presents a detailed schedule and budget for the resettlement of ethnic minorities on the Nakai Plateau (Chapter 19). Aspects that are important from an ethnic minority perspective, and that have been incorporated into the overall approach to resettlement planning, include the following.

### **9.1 SOCIAL AND ETHNIC MINORITY ISSUES IN RELATION TO IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE**

All relevant social and ethnic minority concerns relating to scheduling and implementation have been incorporated into the SDP. The most important concerns are highlighted below. The general approach to planning has been one of establishing an effective, long-term relationship between government agencies and the Project, on the one hand, and affected communities, local organizations and ethnic minorities, on the other.

Institutional strengthening and training for both resettlers (villagers participating in the demonstration farms and pilot village resettlement) and for government agencies (RMU, DRWGs and VRCs) have been central elements from the start of project planning and will continue throughout the project construction period and during the first years of operation. This includes awareness about the needs of the different ethnic groups for planners, culturally sensitive approaches to consultations for the implementing agencies involved and involvement of ethnic minorities in decision-making process and new institutional arrangements.

The ethnic minorities on the Nakai Plateau have been part of an extensive consultation process in order to elicit their concerns and viewpoints as well as to obtain feedback on various aspects of resettlement planning and this will continue with a focus on the needs of specific communities and ethnic groups within these communities during the implementation.

Ethnic groups will be consulted on proposed village relocation sites, plot locations for individual households and layout of fields and livelihood elements, paying attention to belief systems, cultural practices, kinship support networks and differences in design criteria. This is being done at present for the Pilot Village relocation (see Appendix J). Choice of village sites will be finalised during the consultation process, starting in November 2004.

Ethnic groups will participate in the clearing of land, construction of houses and other infrastructure activities and be given ample time and support to relocate, including for carrying out all necessary communal and household rituals – this is being done at present for the Pilot Village relocation (see Appendix J). House construction will commence for the new village of Nam Pan, Sophene, Sopma, Sop Hia, Nongbouakham, Bouama, Phonsavang and Sapon at the commencement of the 2005 dry season. The rest of the Plateau villages will start house construction one year later. The basic steps and order for relocation is:

- Topographic survey
- Finalisation of village site location through consultation
- Village layout design
- UXO Survey and clearance
- Land clearing
- Marking of plots and land titling
- Village house construction and construction of public buildings
- Installation of technical aspects concurrent with house construction for roads, electricity supply, domestic water and sanitation, and irrigation

Culturally sensitive assistance will be provided for assessing livelihood options, forestry management and income support procedures so that ethnic groups can make informed choices regarding their future livelihoods and changes to traditional practices.

Many of the features of the planning such as the livelihood models, house designs, village layouts, infrastructure improvements are derived in part from the consultation process and the feedback given by the ethnic groups on the Plateau. This process will continue to ensure that the different ethnic groups are able to voice their particular concerns during the resettlement process.

Various forms of technical assistance covering all aspects of the livelihood restoration process are integrated into relocation activities. International and Lao TA for agricultural extension and livestock have already started for the pilot village and will expand considerably in 2005. Since the reservoir will not be inundated until 2009 and training programmes will commence in 2008 onwards.

Monitoring by the affected ethnic groups on the Nakai Plateau will involve members of the communities themselves (Village Facilitators) in addition to elected leaders and members of government organizations – this is to ensure that all minorities are involved. Village Facilitators have been active in the consultation process since August 2004.

## **9.2 SOCIAL AND ETHNIC MINORITY ISSUES IN RELATION TO BUDGET**

A number of key features of the budget in the RAP represent the concerns and considerations of social conditions and ethnic minorities on the Nakai Plateau. The allotted resettlement budget of over US\$ 20,000 per household is high by national and international standards as is the goal of nearly tripling existing incomes to around US\$ 1,200 per annum based on average household per village. The budget covers all livelihood and infrastructure aspects as detailed in Chapter 19. Key elements of the relocation, community development and livelihood restoration include (references to budget items given in brackets):

- Family house, toilet, granary, electric wiring and water supply for each household based on the number of residents (house size depending on the number of residents) and designs in consultations with future owners so as to include any architectural details of the different ethnic groups on the Plateau as is evident already in how the Pilot Village houses have been constructed (Item G3);
- Funds for land clearing, fencing, tools, fertilizers and equipment for resettler families to create a sense of belonging to the new resettlement site (Item G1 – Clearance of Village Sites);
- Relocation costs, including transportation, labour and for necessary relocation rituals for the village as a whole (territorial spirits) and for households (spirit ritual for each ethnic group) included in disturbance allowance (Item G2 – Organise Villagers for Relocation and T6 – Support Relocation);
- All community structures, including clinics, schools and tree nurseries – again designed with consideration of the ethnic groups’ beliefs and interests (Items H7 – Community Buildings);
- Electricity supply, ponds, water supply and roads for each resettler village to ensure higher standards of health, better livelihood opportunities and market access (Items H1-6 – Design and Construction of Infrastructure and Equipment);
- Forestry Management Program and Reservoir Management and Fisheries Development Program that takes into consideration existing practices and attitudes to natural resource allocation, including the weaknesses and strengths of the different ethnic groups (Item F2 – Training Resettlers);
- Livelihood Improvement Program that involves a culturally and ethnically sensitive approach to instructing resettlers in the new and improved aspects of the livelihood options, including consultations involving trainers familiar with the social and cultural needs of the different ethnic groups (Budget items in P – Agricultural Development Programme, Q1 – TA for Agricultural Development Programme, R6 – Fisheries Training and T for technical assistance, training, extension and various support programmes);
- Community development and income generation support, including skills, training and income support programs that are suitable for the different ethnic groups on the Plateau in terms of existing skills, needs and information that has been and will be obtained during consultations (Items

F2 and T8 – Income Generation Activities, T9 – Village Savings and Loans Facilities and T11 – Income Support and Support to Vulnerable Households);

- Health Program that is designed to address potential problems caused by the project (introduction of diseases from lowland areas), incorporating existing traditional health practices among the ethnic groups with modern techniques in a culturally sensitive manner (Budget Items N for Regional Health Programme and U for Resettlement Health Programme).
- Education programme supporting the establishment of nurseries, primary schools and non-formal education programmes (Item T10 – Education Programme)
- Training and support for Village Resettlement/Development Committees and Mass Organisations, including the Lao Women's Union, Youth Organisation and LNFC (Items T1 – Training of VRDCs and T7 – Support to Community Organisations)
- Monitoring and data collection of resettlers (Item T2 – Population and Citizen Management)

Support for social development as well as technical input in terms of infrastructure, equipment and buildings is extensive and covers all areas of social concern. Since livelihoods are similar among all ethnic groups on the Plateau, differences will only emerge while accessing options and consulting with communities and individual households during actual implementation.

Funds will be available for cultural aspects of relocation, including rituals for moving from one location to the other, for entering new dwellings and for arranging houses according to clans and kinship ties. This is the ongoing practice for the Theun Duane Demonstration Farm (Appendix I) and is presently being carried out for the Pilot Village relocation (Appendix J).

Particular issues related to ethnic minorities include the following key items:

- External Monitoring (Item A – External Monitoring) for ongoing monitoring and evaluation of the different ethnic groups and their performance during the livelihood restoration and relocation process.
- Ethnic Minority Advisor for the RMU (part-time), possibly seconded from the Institute of Cultural Resource or Department of Ethnic Affairs from April 2005 (Item F15.1b in the Social Cultural Unit)
- Training in Ethnic Minorities Awareness for RMU, DRWGs and RO staff as well as local GoL organisations involved in resettlement (b\I F11.2)
- Training and support for the Lao National Front for Construction (Responsible for Ethnic Issues), including basic training in relation to project needs, investigation of new data and development of strategies, and advocacy to ensure village elders and traditional organisations have role in the resettlement process (Item T7)
- Awareness and cultural sensitivity training for medical staff in provincial and district health institutions (b\I N).
- Training of Village Health Volunteers (VHV) with preference given to traditional health practitioners (b\I N).
- Funding for research by the Traditional Medical Research Centre (TMRC) to carry out Part II of Traditional Health Practices Survey in 2005 (b\I N).
- Funding for recommendations as a result of Part II Survey by TMRC, including possibly a herbarium on the Nakai Plateau or the inclusion of traditional medicines in the Village Drug Revolving Fund (VDRF) (b\I N).
- Cultural and spiritual heritage issues, including Physical and Cultural Resources Survey (see EAMP Budget),
- Provisions for vulnerable ethnic minority households and communities, expected to include additional measures for Vietic groups in Sop Hia and small hamlets and villages along the central portions of the Nakai Plateau (Sop Phene, Sop Ma, Kengngao and Hatkhampan and possibly other households (Item T11 – Income Support and Support to Vulnerable Households)

A key staff component in relation ensuring compliance with ethnic minorities safeguard policies is the Community Consultation and Ethnic Development Team covered by the NTPC budget. There is funding for an international Technical Manager full-time from 2005 to 2007, two senior Lao Technical Assistants (one male and one female), one senior TA responsible for socio-economic monitoring and one database expert. This staff will be supporting and working directly with the Junior Lao staff under the RMU at each village on the Nakai Plateau.

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