

**District Event Narrative and access to Government programs.
(Semi-structured [group] interview guide).**

The purpose of this interview is to 1) identify the shocks that have affected the district during the last ten years, 2) explore which shocks are of future concern, 3) outline the availability of government - and to some extent non-governmental – programs/projects in the district.

Depending on the availability of district officials, the interviews can be carried out as a group interview with representatives from the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Health and Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare. If that is not logistically possible, at least one interview should be held with a representative from agriculture and one from the health sector. The District Agriculture Extension workers, veterinarians or others with knowledge about the challenges in agriculture in the district (preferably during the last ten years) should be invited. The health sector should be represented by persons working in public health related programs if possible.

When inviting the district officials ask them to bring copies you can keep of the Annual Report from the District Hospital, Annual reports from the Agriculture Department and Social Welfare and Labor.

We need help from the central government in identifying names of district officials in the selected districts.

Tools to bring: Large chart and map of district.

The guide is divided into four sections:

PART 1: District profile

PART 2: Community Event Calendar

PART 3: Community risk sharing and government programs

PART 4: District concerns

Instruction to interviewers in [Remember.....]

Suggestions on probing in [*Probe...*]

PART 1. District profile

1. What are the principal livelihoods in this district?
2. Which are the different ethnic groups living in the district? Which groups do not speak Lao? Have any families officially had their ethnic background changed? If yes, who decided to change it? What are the criteria? Were the families informed? What were their reactions?

PART 2. Community Event Calendar

3. Has the district changed over the past ten years? If yes, what are the positive changes? What are the negative changes? *[New sources of income, more or less families live here, new or broken infrastructure, health related illnesses and injuries, social problems, relocation, other]*. Is the district better off or worse off now?

[See list of shocks in Annex A]: [On large chart or on map - list all mentioned events and when they occurred (year and month(s) if recalled and communities most affected. How many communities were affected? Which type of community was in particular hard hit by this event? *[Urban, rural, type of cultivation, location, ethnic grouping, poor/better off]* How did it cause harm to them?

4. Which of the shocks had the worst impact on the communities? Which of the shocks had the worst impact on the poorest communities?
5. How did the communities manage the shocks?
6. After these events, have some of the communities changed behavior in order to reduce the possibility for it happening again in the future? Or to reduce the impact on the households if it happened again? If yes, in what ways? *[Probe – crop diversification, insurance schemes, credit and savings groups, rituals, reciprocal gift giving, migration, increased contact with the government, other]*.

PART 3. Community risk sharing and government programs

7. When [Refer back to the shocks that had happened and ask this question 7 for at least three types of shocks] happened in this district what was your role? [Attempt to get response from all sectors who are participating in the focus group and ask if other agencies/organizations supported in other ways]
8. Go through the list and mark what services are provided by each. Mark the names of the programs. Which communities/"kumbans" have been covered? Are the benefits

fairly distributed? If no, what are the problems? [Ask officials to mark on the district map which communities are targeted by which programs].

9. When comparing the experienced shocks and the programs available – what are the major gaps? Do you see areas where the sectors you represent could support the households in a different way?

Box with prompting questions on Programs available in the district.

- Are there any food security related programs working in this district? If yes, who runs the program? What services do they provide? Who is benefiting? What is the estimated coverage rate? Are the benefits fairly distributed? If no, what are the problems?
- Which government health facilities are available? How would you describe the quality of services provided? What are the costs involved in using these services?
- Are there any private health facilities available in the district? How would you describe the quality of services provided? What are the costs involved in using these services?
- Are there any religious or charitable or non-governmental facilities available in the district? How would you describe the quality of services provided? What are the costs involved in using these services?
- Are any health insurance schemes working in this district? If yes, who runs the scheme? What does it offer? Who have benefited from it? How do you enroll? What benefits have members received and how useful are the benefits to them?
- Is there any scholarship programs offered to children in this district? If yes: Who runs the programs? Who is eligible for these scholarships? How many children are currently benefiting from the program? Are the benefits fairly distributed? If no, what are the problems?
- Is the “Land Title project” implemented in this district? Do you have problems of unequal division of land during divorce?

10. What are the different sources of credit in the district? What are the interest rates and other conditions attached to the loans? [Mark on map where the different sources reach communities.]

PART 4. District and community concerns

11. What are the negative changes people are most concerned about in this district?
Please explain some of the reasons for this concern? Do the concerns differ between different communities? Between poor and better off communities? Between different ethnic groups?

12. In your opinion, are these in fact the most serious concerns for the population? If no, what are the negative changes that unfortunately could happen again?

The end.

Thank you very much.

ANNEX A. List of shocks

Box 1 Introduction to shocks/misfortunes.

We are trying to understand what type of misfortunes households/communities are facing. It can be misfortunes that affect the material well-being of the household, the health status of the family members, sense of safety in the household and the community, control over earnings and investments.

It can include but is not limited to:

Shocks in the household:

Serious illness, injury in traffic or in water or other injury, or death

Divorce, abandonment, or internal or extended family disputes

Fire

Violence against women or men

Natural and biological hazards:

Drought

Flooding, mudslide, storms

Frost, extreme cold, extreme heat

Earthquakes

Loss of livestock

Pest infestation, crop diseases

Fire

Economic shocks:

Unexpected decline in prices or demand for commodities that you sell

Unexpected increase in prices or shortages of key inputs/services you use

Unexpected increase in prices of food/other essential commodities consumed

Unexpected job loss

Impossible to find work/day labor

Non-payment or delay in payment of income

Socio-political shocks:

Crime (robbery, theft)

Ethnic or religious conflict

Political conflict

Confiscation of property

Forced resettlement