

Norad project number:	GLO-04/268-115 (NCA Project ID 10354)
Name of your Organisation:	Norwegian Church Aid
Local Partner(s):	Lao Youth Union

ABOUT THE EVALUATION

Evaluation year:	2005
Conducted by:	Mr. Sompop Jantaraka and Ms. Pornthip Ratanakeree
Country:	Laos
Region:	South East Asia
Theme/DAC sector:	130.10

SUMMARY OF THE EVALUATION

Title of Evaluation Report:

External Evaluation Report: Prevention of Trafficking in Women and Children, Savannakhet province, Lao PDR, August 2005

Background:

In 2002, Savannakhet Provincial Youth Union and Norwegian Church Aid started a pilot project to initiate prevention of illegal labor migration from Xayphouthong district to Thailand. The initial purpose of the project was to give awareness on the risk of illegal migration to youth, to generate local income, network with other agencies addressing prevention of migration and capacity building on prevention of illegal migration and human trafficking for province and district coordinators. After a review in 2003 both parties agreed to continue the programme activities by establishing of a 3-year plan (2003-2005) to combat trafficking through prevention of migration. In 2004 the project expanded to another district, Atsaphoutong, which is located further away from the Mekong river and the Thai border.

Purpose/ Objective:

- To assess achievement, appropriateness of the project's approaches, strategies and the impact of the project on difference levels in relation to the stated objectives of the project, taking an organizational setting, capacity building, sustainability and management perspectives into consideration
- Formulation of recommendations for the future direction for NCA program in prevention of human trafficking in Savannakhet as well as in Lao PDR

Methodology:

- Review of reports and papers prepared by the project : project proposal, MOU 2003-2005, Survey on Labor migration in Xaiphouthong and Atsaputong , Project agreement 2005, Annual report 2002, 2003, 2004
- Meet and discuss with NCA staff (Lao Country representative, country coordinator and project coordinator)
- Meet and interview with Lao Youth Union Savannakhet, steering committee both province and district
- Visit to 6 target villages in Xaiphouthong and Atsaputong
- Sharing discussion meeting with the project committees, target groups and representatives from communities; monks, elderly persons
- Interview non-target group of the project's activities in the communities
- Observations

Key Findings and Recommendations:

- 1.) Human trafficking is a policy issues in Laos and the NCA project feeds into a government priority to combat illegal migration and human trafficking. Although the government's resources are limited, the outcome of the project is positive. The Government side assumes its responsibilities. Nevertheless, prevention of human trafficking is still in its infancy and approaches needs to be forked out for the Lao context. NCA should continue to support the project.
- 2.) NCA should continue to work with Lao Youth Union (LYU) it has an appropriate structure to reach young people at all levels (main target group of the project). These areas must be considered;
 - a) Assist LYU to thoroughly understand the Human Trafficking problems which Lao youth are facing. The project should also establish direct links with the Ministry of Social Welfare and Labor. Networking with other national, international organizations mandated to deal with trafficking problems must be given attention.
 - b) Assist LYU to set up an appropriate data system of young people in all aspects. The data should include both quantitative and qualitative information. Particular emphasis should be on problems they are facing now in connection to migration for work.
- 3.) Strategies used in the project which were found to be effective should be continued;
 - a) Awareness raising campaigns were successful, and should be continued. Materials produced through these campaigns should be systematically compiled and used in the next project phase.
 - b) Mobilization of local resources (natural, human) should become an integral part of all income generating activities. The efforts which had been done to improve the abilities of local human resources as well as building up more during the project activities are commendable. Therefore, they should be continued. Further assisting them to link between groups in order to gradually set up a systematic resource based.
 - c) Inter-disciplinary team approach received good response from all concerns and they have performed well. Program to further improve their knowledge and skills will help strengthen their capabilities. The area of improvement should includes:
 - knowledge on trafficking issues
 - facts and information directly concern the target population
 - skills of working processes, e.g. Group formation and group processes, leadership development, team building, etc.
- 4.) The project has not been able to reach the targeted population (high risk youth). Therefore, there is an immediate need to do so. An in depth survey to really get the clear view of the situation, is recommended. The project can choose one village as a case to better elaborate the plan and design its working approach.
- 5.) Reconsideration of operational plan must be done to enable the above point ;
 - a) In after class activities make special effort to find appropriate activities and reach out to secondary school students who will soon drop out of school and look for job.
 - b) In income generating activities, involving young people in the adult groups may not be of interest to them. Therefore, forming groups for young people themselves to conduct the activities they choose can be more appropriate / effective.

This means that the officials (LYU and NCA) need to have knowledge and skill in working with youth. Research, survey and/ or study trips where they have successful youth program are recommended.

- 6.) NCA needs to be better equipped to perform this highly demanding job. The number and capacity of the one exiting personnel is quite inadequate to cope with this complicate problems. Therefore NCA must consider increasing a number of staff as needed and improve their abilities.

Comments from Norwegian Church Aid (if any)

We are now in the process of discussing the findings and recommendations internally and with LYU.

External Evaluation Report

***Prevention of Trafficking in Women and Children
Savannakhet Province
Lao PDR***

Norwegian Church Aid

Submitted by

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Ms. Pornthip Ratakeree, Tea Coordinator

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Considerations

- Appropriateness of the message, methodology
- Target group

Findings

- (1) Project partners and villagers are all clear that the project wants to stop illegal migration
- (2) The village youth union play and active role in the awareness raising campaign program where experienced returnee has been involved and mobilized.
- (3) The campaign has also been conducted in another 4 more schools in the neighboring villages. Again they found the need to improve the campaign program with more and different technique and message. In area of data collection, the youth union in the village is seen to be active with their regular updated information.
- (4) All 6 villages admitted the reduction of illegal migration but there is a willingness in villages to go more legally by having passport. It remains unclear knowledge that passport and tourist visa are NOT legal papers for working in Thailand; and no comments were made about the documentation required for internal labour migration and registration).

(5)

Analysis

Recommendations

(3) After-Class Activities:

Strong

(1) There are many strong points and positive outcomes of this. Some of them, reported by villagers and youth, are detailed here:

Findings

There were 4 components for the evaluators to look into:

- a.) The **organizational management and operational function** of the project with the issue of suitability of partnership, ownership and accountability in relation to the sustainability of the project.
- b.) **Capacity building** for partner at all levels (province, district and villagers); appropriateness of the activities, target groups
- c.) Community response, with gender perspective, on **awareness raising campaign**; the appropriateness of the activities, target group leading to trafficking prevention
- d.) Community response, with gender perspective on **income generating activities**; whether the activities are compatible with current situation and considerate people at risk

A) The **organizational management and operational function** of the project with the issue of suitability of partnership, ownership and accountability in relation to the sustainability of the project.

Considerations

- Suitability of partners and partnership
- Ownership of the project at the village, district and provincial level
- Sustainability of the programme activities

Findings

1. The village youth union play and active role in the awareness raising campaign program where experienced returnee has been involved and mobilized.

2. The campaign has also been conducted in another 4 more schools in the neighboring villages. Again they found the need to improve the campaign program with more and different technique and message. In area of data collection, the youth union in the village is seen to be active with their regular updated information.
3. The 2 district coordinator clearly demonstrated their affection, devotion and interest in target villages.
4. See that partners take awareness raising messages and income generating /production group knowledge to other villages
5. Especially in the district, the learning process of PLANNING (yearly plan) seems new, much appreciated and useful and beginning to be applied in other work. Perhaps more could be done to support this learning
6. There is a clear interested in increasing knowledge through study-tours, visiting other projects. For example, the schools that had a teacher/students visit Don Khoi were very active and creative; and though the other schools (who visited local examples of after-class programmes) reported being very different (and much improved) from how they used to be,

Analysis

- Considering the context, LYU is the most suitable partner, yet it is a pity that the organisation itself is not more youth-oriented or comprised of young people. LYU does not seem very youthful (at provincial or district level) and targeting youth seems to be a challenge in this work.
 - Youth participation at ALL levels (as project partners, as members of production groups, as speakers at the evaluation meetings) is very low
 -
- (1) The district interdisciplinary team and cooperation between different levels of project implementers is both good and productive. The multi-disciplinary team (cross-departmental) seems good: dividing and supporting project work b departments that are responsible for such activities anyways (e.g. district agriculture office for training in vaccinations) builds sustainability and enhances responsible local departments' skills and villagers' access to them
 - (2)

(3) Recommendations

- (4) District staff suggested that they do (and would like project support materials to be available for) extending aspects of project work to non-target villages (e.g. awareness raising, skills they've picked up in agriculture, etc.)

Lao Youth Union Partnership:

- The district counterparts (Mr. Dokkeo and Mr. X) were excellent project workers
 - interested in and fond of the villages they worked in, know roles and names of villagers, know and have good relations with line-departments (agriculture, etc.)
- Increased contact between villagers and government departments is good for networking

- Decrease cutting school
- Change teachers' approach
- Decrease numbers who sneak out of school early
- Increase enthusiasm
- One case of a drop-out/migration returnee returning to school because of this
- Increases children's confidence
- A source of materials for awareness raising activities (e.g. the songs and stories generated by b. Lienxay students and teachers)
- Reduces "vela vang" (free/empty time) – a risk factor for young and old people alike
- The availability of books for reading and the encouragement of reading is wonderful – and many villages report wanting more! (*see recommendations*)

(2) Boys and girls seem to particularly enjoy sports, literature and culture

(3) Those who visited Don Khoi school were clearly REALLY inspired and empowered to act in their own villages

Weaker

(1) activities neither target nor necessarily appeal to older youth (upper secondary students)

(2) most villages don't have upper secondary schools, and so they are also not targeted by the after school activities because they don't happen at *their* school. Can "after school activities" targeted at these older youth be arranged for them in their home villages?

Weakness

(1) It remains unclear that knowledge that passport and tourist visa are NOT legal papers for working in Thailand; and no comments were made about the documentation required for internal labour migration and registration (*see recommendations section*)

(2) The assumption that the point of encouraging/preferring legal migration because it is *potentially* (but not necessarily) SAFER seems to be missing – is the project's focus illegal migration OR trafficking?

D) Community response, with gender perspective on **income generating activities**; whether the activities are compatible with current situation and considerate people at risk

Considerations

Findings

Analysis

1. On the target groups: youth are not effectively targeted. Women's participation in all levels of the project except for production groups that are associated with "women's work" and (in some villages) savings group is disproportionately low.

2. Though they raise incomes and increase activity in the villages, the volume of money that these activities raise does not compete with the "wealth" of returnees and

options from migration. Though these activities are successful and beneficial in and of themselves, it is not clear that they are a substitute for migration.

Recommendations

Strong

- (1) All of the production groups reported increasing the well-being of their members (with the exception of the furniture group in b. Naphan, who were having difficulties with quality, markets and had very few members).
- (2) All of the members expressed pride in their work and achievements, encouraged by positive attention from project partners
- (3) In some villages, it was clear that members of the groups were community-minded – sharing their vaccination skills with families that are not members, etc.
- (4) The village that is short on water (b. Phongna) does not do mushroom growing or veggie growing, and villagers report that this is linked to the lack of water for doing so. This demonstrates that attention is paid to local contexts
- (5) That NCA has worked to find markets for the production groups adds to sustainability (the groups produce not just because they know how to, or the project encourages them to, but because they have a clear market for their products). Maintaining and building villages' networks to sellers, buyers and markets helps ensure on-going benefits of project initiatives and makes them independent of the project itself (a great achievement!)
- (6) It is clear that the initial trainings were able to start with activities that villagers already do, enhance their skills and increase their knowledge, and ultimately increase their production and income. This is reflected in the comments of the villagers during the evaluation during all village visits, the reports on increased production and comments on previous approaches; and the desire for more learning opportunities.
- (7) Some villages have requested assistance/study tours/guidance in taking the “next step” – i.e. can do chicken raising, how about chicken breeding? Can make indigo dye and fabric and do the dying, how about growing indigo? This suggests that they are committed to these activities and that they are interested in personal and “professional” development

Weaker

- (8) Very few members of production groups were young people; some young people expressed disinterest in the particular activities (and some of the older people reported young people's disinterest) e.g. indigo work makes young women's hands black and they don't want to do in (suggested gloves, still low interest); don't want to raise chickens or farm, want to do something else (*see recommendations section*)
- (9) ***PT's point about competition and feelings of lesser in one of the villages***
- (10)

Savings Groups

Strong

- (1) not money given (a hand-out from outsiders) but peoples' own personal savings. This really contributes to ownership, responsibility and management of project funds (we can see in comparison with the ILO-IPEC/TICW projects where seed money was loaned to villages, villagers really reported that this was one aspect of the project that they liked best, but we can see from the way that the money has been managed and is

not being returned that it is considered a hand-out and that it has undermined the sustainability of the village development funds in some targets)

- (2) encourages a mind-set of planning and savings
- (3) availability of loans reduces need to sell capital, borrow at high interest rates or seek “urgent money” in the case of a medical emergency or other big expenditure. Though it is possible that migration will play a role in paying back the fund in some cases, it is likely that this will not be a “snap” migration which seems to imply greater risks. [This point has direct links to trafficking prevention outcomes.](#)

Weak

- (1) very few youth members (*see recommendations*) – one village has two approximately 10-year old members who save their “candy money” could this example be encouraged in others?
- (2) sometimes regulations may be too strict (non-members some paces cannot borrow; others can if have capital to put down against the loan)

Production Groups:

Strong

- (1) Relative to this objective, we saw that income generating activities matched and enhanced activities and knowledge already in the communities (chicken raising, weaving, dying)
- (2) The weaving, natural dying and (in some villages) making of clothes for local and market sale was very impressive.

Weaker

- (1) Not really weaker, but missing is the transmission of this knowledge and talent and pride to younger people (who themselves are interested in different things and perhaps it would be inappropriate/unsustainable to push them towards these activities if they are disinterested). Perhaps these activities could be integrated with the after-school activities as they may appeal more to the children and younger teenagers and could build inter-generational linkages (*see recommendations*)
- (2)

Ban Don Hwai

** The unity within the village has potential to be in risk through the competing of the existing groups activities in the village. Relationship between groups found to be in competition Women group member who run weaving and preservation project found to be more relax and easy going while in the village saving group looks more proud of the increasing number of member and amount of money gained. It is observed through the humble presentation of the school teacher when presenting her school activity **“We run a small project and earn very little which has nothing to be compared with the saving group”**. The village youth union whom we were informed later that he actively carried out the program has not well prepared for presenting at the meeting. Furniture group with its

member from the elderly group seem to be marginalized as the products has less attractive to the market and the idea of the village committee is to stop the activity.

** The village youth union play and active role in the awareness raising campaign program where experienced returnee has been involved and mobilized. The campaign has also been conducted in another 4 more schools in the neighboring villages. Again they found the need to improve the campaign program with more and different technique and message. In area of data collection, the youth union in the village is seen to be active with their regular updated information.

NaPhan

** In area of migration, the process of leaving the village has moved from organizing by broker into assisting by those experienced friends in the villages.

The villagers do agree that by existing income generating activities, these are not promising to help reducing the migration to Thailand. The reasons for these are that there are not attractive to teen ages. Suggestions are upon desert/ cooking, sewing and more on sport activity

Income generation activirty especially weaving group, beside earning more income the villagers are proud that this activity help them to regain their traditional knowledge and skill. The group members all have their traditional shirt while some men are that their traditional practice are returned and reserved. Some women said that their daughter took part in the weaving process which they think that their daughther will learn .foresee that these traditional skill has been tran They said that their daughter will gradually learn from the and these are things that they forsee tha

October 2005

Executive summary:

Evaluation objectives:

- To assess achievement, appropriateness of the project's approaches, strategies and the impact of the project on difference levels in relation to the stated objectives of the project, taking an organizational setting, capacity building, sustainability and management perspectives into consideration
- Formulation of recommendations for the future direction for NCA program in prevention of human trafficking in Savanhnakhet as well as in Lao PDR

There were four aspects that the evaluator looked into:

- a) The organizational management and operational function of the project with the issue of suitability of partnership, ownership and accountability in relation to the sustainability of the project.
- b) Capacity building for partner at all levels (province, district and villagers); appropriateness of the activities, target groups
- c) Community response, with gender perspective, on awareness raising campaign; the appropriateness of the activities, target group leading to trafficking prevention
- d) Community response, with gender perspective on income generating activities; whether the activities are compatible with current situation and considerate people at risk

Main findings and Recommendations:

- 1.) Trafficking in Human being (THB) has been put into a national policy of Lao PDR whereas many arrangements are being put in place. It is very punctual that this project has been carried out with well taken actions of the government agencies in Savanhnakhet. Through government's limited resources, the outcome of the project implementation has proved to be well accomplished. This seems to be a very clear image of, "Duty Barer", Lao government policies and tasks based on MOU and other agreements that have been rectified. Given this, and the fact that It is still in an early stage in which proper approaches for the Lao context are required to ensure accountability to the people, the project should be definitely continued with NCA support.
- 2.) Continue to work with Lao Youth Union (LYU) as main partner since LYU has appropriate structure to reach young people at all levels (main target of the project). These areas must be considered;
 - a) Help LYU to thoroughly understand the Human Trafficking problems in which Laos youths are facing. Direct linkage between LYU and Ministry of Social Welfare and Labor is necessary. Networking with other national, international organizations mandated to deal with trafficking problems must be done to become more effective.
 - b) Assist LYU to set up an appropriate data system on young people in all aspects. The data should include both quantitative and qualitative information. Particular emphasis should be on problems they are facing now in connection to migration for work.

- 3.) Strategies used in the project which were found to be effective should be continued;
- a) Awareness raising campaigns were successful, and should be continued. Materials produced through these campaigns should be systematically compiled and reused in the next project phase.
 - b) Mobilization of local resources (natural, human) should become an integral part of all income generating activities. The efforts which had been done to improve the abilities of local human resources as well as building up more during the project activities are commendable. Therefore, they should be continued. Further assisting them to link between groups in order to gradually set up a systematic resource based.
 - c) Inter-disciplinary team approach received good response from all concerns and they have performed well. Program to further improve their knowledge and skills will help strengthen their capabilities. The area of improvement should includes:
 - knowledge on trafficking issues
 - facts and information directly concern the target population
 - skills of working processes, e.g. Group formation and group processes, leadership development, team building, etc.
- 4.) Since the project has not been able to reach the targeted population (high risk youth). Therefore, there is an immediate need to do so. An in depth survey to really get the clear view of the situation, especially target at YOUTH is highly recommended. The project can choose one village as a case to better elaborate the plan and design its working approach
- 5.) Reconsideration of operational plan must be done to enable the above point ;
- a) In after class activities make special effort to find appropriate activities and reach out to secondary school students who will soon drop out of school and look for job.
 - b) In income generating activities, involving young people in the adult groups may not be of interest to them. Therefore, forming groups for young people themselves to conduct the activities they choose can be more appropriate / effective.

This means that the officials (LYU and NCA) need to have knowledge and skill in working with youth. Research, survey and/ or study trips where they have successful youth program are recommended.

- 6.) NCA needs to be better equipped to perform this highly demanding job. The number and capacity of the one exiting personnel is quite inadequate to cope with this complicate problems. Therefore NCA must consider increasing a number of staff as needed and improve their abilities.
- 7.) Make special efforts to assist all concerns in the project to realize the values of Laos Culture. Development project building up on cultural strengths are sounder. The human trafficking problems have been trickled by the capitalistic values to look at money as the key to solve all problems. Therefore helping people to take hold of their own precious cultural values must be done. It will be difficult to deal with intangible mind process. But there are ways to tackle and it is worth the effort. Laos would have plenty of resource persons e.g. respected elderly, religious leaders. What may help are the plentiful examples of economics oriented projects that failed.

2. Findings and recommendations of the project implementation

2.1 The organizational management and operational function of the project with the issue of suitability of partnership, ownership and accountability in relation to the sustainability of the project.

Consideration 2.1.1. Suitability of partners and partnership ***Findings:***

- LYU is the most suitable organization to manage the project according to its mandates which deal with all aspects concerning youths.
- The central government has not designated LYU as responsible for anti-trafficking work. This lack of “clear authorization” from the central government makes it difficult for LYU to take leading roles in the issue.
- Both provincial and district LYU officers are not familiar with trafficking prevention issue focused by the project. Further more, they seem to have little understanding of young people and their aspirations in general.
- The project operation was carefully carried out through existing mechanism set up Province and District steering committees comprised of official from 6 different departments¹“interdisciplinary teams” were formed in an adhoc basis to manage the program implementation of the project. The setting can be seen as the test out or the learning process for the Savanakhet province.
- Even though an adhoc inter-disciplinary team was set up to manage the program implementation but there was neither clear guidelines to help them function effectively nor the full acknowledgement of LYU. The committees was not fully confidence with the given roles and responsibilities. Nonetheless, the committee performed well according to their technical expertise but is still weak in their campaign and advocacy skills.
- Partners at both province and districts expressed that NCA’s policy framework is in line with national policy to prevent trafficking. NCA has intervened at the right time.

Assessment: Considering the mandate, LYU is, for the time being, the most suitable partner. But there actual work is more with adult rather than focusing on Youth. There is a need to re-focus their operational plan to include more young people in the organization will also enhance their work as mandated. The set up of inter-disciplinary team as a steering committee proved the right approach.

Consideration 2.1.2 Ownership of the project at the village, district and provincial level ***Findings:***

- Steering committees of both district has high interest in the project. They understand the goal and work hard to reach the objective of the project.
- The two district LYU coordinators clearly demonstrated their interest, devotion in the work. They work well with both target villagers and the inter-disciplinary team.
- The Village committees are able to get the village Lao Youth Union to work in the awareness raising campaign program, data collection and updating information.

But they did not involve Village Youth Union in the management of village organization itself.

- Concerning the trafficking problem, the committees are unable to effectively give full assistance to villagers due to the lack of clear and timely information from the central government e.g. traveling with passport is entitled to legal migration.
- The inter-disciplinary team comprises of specialists from different disciplines have performed their duties quite well at the district and village level.
- In Atsaphangthong District, the district education and agriculture chiefs said that the activities promoted in this project match with the emphasis of their departments; e.g. developing learning materials, fish raising and vaccinating program for livestock. Through working with this project, they have also achieved their departmental policy and mandate.
- Through the experiences gained from working in the 6 target villages, both inter-disciplinary teams stated that they are impressed with the value of the activities that the project created. Therefore, they take up this issue with the villagers wherever they visited.
- The village LYU at Don Wai has covered his awareness raising activity in 4 schools in other villages. The after-class activity was found to be very successful and will be extended into more villages, not necessary the project target.
- We see in 4 villages that are very well in mobilizing indigenous knowledge (IK) and resource persons within the villages e.g. monks, returnees, teachers and elderly groups
- In 4 of 6 villages, we witness strong village committees where village management are well function except Ban Pongna and Ban Don Wai. In most strong communities, the mobilizing of indigenous knowledge and available resources persons are high.
- Under the “practicing - reflecting” process which the project employed, the LYU of Savanakhet has shown their ability to learn from the process. They gained much confidence on the issue and have particularly demonstrated a genuine effort to cope with the issue to “PROTECT” its people.
- Education sector are quite encouraged by the project. They are ready to move further with other activities to create more positive impact to the issue e.g; integrating of trafficking and vocational training in the local section of the school curriculum.
- The teachers response very well to the idea of conducting research to find out the interest and need of the youth.

Assessment: Though there are positive indications that the project fits with current government initiatives. Different roles the project partners play are consistent with their given broader responsibilities, yet they often rely on the NCA as the moving force behind the project.

Consideration 2.1.3 Sustainability of the program activities

Findings:

- Each member of the “inter-disciplinary team” show good expertise of their own disciplines as well as the ability to work as a team. Moreover, the project supports helped fill up the needed resources which allow them to better function.
- Provincial LYU has shown its commitment to youth and women. They have given a room at provincial office to become the Provincial Vocational Center for Youth. The provincial LYU is a responsible agency to operate the center. The services planned include; computer lesson, sewing lesson for PLWD, HIV/AIDS

counseling and display of handicrafts. This center will also serve as training to improve marketing skill to the target villagers.

- What seem to be the obstacle of long term sustainability is that YOUTH themselves have not been seen as active member of the whole process.

Assessment: The long term sustainability would only be possible when Youth themselves are actively involve at accepting ideas in planning and operating of the project.

Recommendations

- 1.) Though the project is a “test run” while the operational setting at national is in the process, the project result can be shared with the government in order to enhance the national considerations. NCA together with provincial LYU should play an active role to advocate its work (operation and working approach) through the THEME GROUP ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING. The aim is to allocate “lesson learn” for government to consider while setting up their national and operational plan; the possibility and potential to put it into most practical.
- 2.) There are potential to expand the project experiences, but it should be done carefully and slowly because the current management structure has a limit. Capacity building program for all concerns should be continue with emphasis on facilitation skills especially for the district inter-disciplinary teams
- 3.) NCA should continue to give support and expand positive outcomes such as, inter-disciplinary team, awareness raising campaign program and Provincial Vocational Center for Youth.
- 4.) Special effort has to be made in order to get active involvement of young people at all levels.
- 5.) Conduct research in the villages to identify target groups, risk groups and their movement. Find out more about them eg; attitude concern ways of life, career interest, value. The history of migration in the village/family is also important to look into. These will ensure the quality of the project when expand to other villages.
- 6.) Through its network in development in Laos PDR, NCA should do more coordinating and networking with other international organizations which have skills and resources useful for the project such as school building (JICA), vocational training (DED, and advocacy (ILO-IPEC).
- 7.) Mobilizing resources from private sector within the country, nationally and locally are to be considered. Fund raising within province where private sector plays key role in provincial economic is an option for the province to assess. Scholarship fund program of the National Chamber of Commerce is most possible to explore.
- 8.) The following criteria should be considered when assess community strengths;
 - Ability to cooperation and coordination within groups and with groups in the community (relations)
 - Ability to mobilize resource (human, natural and IK)
 - Ability to do networking with wider groups
 - Capacity to be Self-reliance/ self-sufficient capacity

2.2 Capacity building for partner at all levels (province, district and villager); appropriateness of the activities, target groups

Consideration 2.2.1 Training (study trip, meetings)

Findings

- We clearly see that knowledge and skill of government partners are gained from working in this project.
- Both provincial and district do appreciate clarity of yearly plan work and working procedure. They are able to apply their skills in their own work.
- There is evidence of the improved skill in reporting. The report contains more analysis messages in 2004.
- In terms of village-level training, women have regained their indigenous knowledge and skill whereas new things are (1) marketing (2) women's access to market (self-access).
- Training help improve knowledge and skills on the activities they have been doing. There were new ideas gained from field trips. Many groups were formed to start up the activities right after the trip visits.
- There are increasing numbers of resource persons within the village especially in area of agriculture; livestock vaccinators, mushroom growers and fish raising farmers.
- Those who visited Don Khoi school were inspired, they came back and started up their own activities right way
- Teachers acknowledge their increasing knowledge and skill gained through study-tours, visiting other projects.
- Technical know-how and moral support through regular visit from the district and province should continue for the villagers to move further on their activities.

Assessment:

- It is very clear that study trips were very effective learning method with resulted in a very good practice in the middle age group. The reason was it was not a mere observations of the activities presented during the trip. But rather it was the opportunity of the participants to have in depth discussion about the project including; rationale, management practice, interaction among members and the actual work itself.

Consideration 2.2. 2 Networking and mobilizing

Findings.

- Member of inter-disciplinary teams are locally mobilized and they cooperated well between the 2 levels (province and district)
- Village leaders clearly demonstrated their ability to cooperate and coordinate (village leaders, Buddhist monks, teachers, returnee and village youth union)
- Ban Lianxai, Nakham, Napaksong and Na Phan proved to have high potential to move the community activities further but need more confidence. There are indications of such abilities; the presence of both primary and secondary schools and community's ability to mobilize resource persons (teacher and students)
- The primary school teacher at B Napaksong was asked by middle school teacher to share her experience in "after class activities". This has demonstrated the community's capacity in management and realizes the need to network, share and teach.
- Good examples of "after class activities" is the drama performance at 4 events Village Authorities and student themselves would like and willing to expand to other villages.

Assessment:

Though the ability of province and district, as well as villagers have been demonstrated but it should be strengthened further. It is noted that villagers are more dynamic and skillful in this ability.

Consideration 2.2 3 Participation Findings

- The total number of villagers participated in the village meetings during this evaluation is 129 villagers, 45 (36%) are women. 4 boys and 6 girls are present.
- Ban Don Wai and Pongna show less unity and happiness within the group. They have more fore coming problems (HIV/AIDS and drug addicts) to encounter but the villagers seem rather passive and inactive to tackle these problems.
- *Women's participation in the project activities* is still limited to the traditional women work like weaving, food preservation etc. While their involvement in the untraditional women works like village management is quite small except accounting and some financial task.
- The provincial MPS representative (female) observed that women have fewer opportunities, especially in study tour activities.
- Youth participation at **ALL** levels; as project partners, as members of production groups, as speakers at the evaluation meetings, is very low.
- Village Youth union is very active in awareness raising campaign and in quantitative data collection of the village migration. Yet their role as part of the village organizational setting is very low.
- Buddhism has taken an important role in the village, temples are utilized as a meeting place, an abbot at Ban Naphan has an advisor role to the saving group while another experienced monk on trafficking played an active role in awareness campaign.
- Teachers also played a very important role to support and motivate their students. In Ban LieanXai, the teacher has composed 17 songs for his students in which he will use Lao traditional music instrument.
- In Ban Lieanxai, students are very confident and proud of their skills. They are community minded and show high commitment toward the village activities.
- In Na Phan, we found that the villagers are very proud of their Village bank which has helped them to be able to avoid using "money lender"

Assessment:

- There were good opportunities in "after class activities" which allow more involvement of youth and women.
- Women have gained more confidence through working together in the income generating activities. With this confidence, they should be encouraged to take up other non-tradition women tasks such as village management e.g. leadership, training and planning etc.

Recommendations

1. Youth need assessment should be conducted before further the next program planning. The assessment should notify their attitude, knowledge, ideas of young people, activities that appealed to them, etc. The target group should be specific; primary, secondary, drop out, graduated, unemployed etc

2. School activities has proved to have high potential to develop improve leadership and ,management skill among students involved but the activities have not been conducted with the higher risk groups which is secondary school students. Therefore, this should receive a high priority in the next step. Ban Dong Hen should naturally be a good place, since it is the biggest district secondary school.
3. In connecting to the above recommendation, there are needs to strengthen the teacher's capacities to be able to expand the work effectively particularly life skill training.
4. Though the production groups have economic growth as an objective, it should be emphasized that more important should be given to social development capacities. The ability to work together as a group is an important aspect where trust, caring , good relationship, voluntary spirit etc are necessary quality for such ability. Other social abilities are leadership, facilitation, mobilization of resources etc.
5. Greater mobilizing of resources should be done; human, natural, funding, know-how and network within and inter villages locally and cross border.
6. Integration of indigenous knowledge into existing community activities. These knowledge can usually be found among elderly group, monks and may be few traditional practitioners remained.
7. Continue strengthen capacity of partner both province and district on project management. Coordination with NCA itself should be seen as "on the job training" to improve skill on planning, coordination, supervision and reporting.
8. Continue providing training both knowledge and skill for villagers to provide more depth on the activities they are doing eg. from fish raising to fish breeding and from mushroom growing to producing mushroom media. Make sure that Youth are given priority.
9. Good relationship with villagers through regular visit from the government official should be continued as it serves as the key motivation technique to villagers. The villagers of B. Donwai stated this as important to them
10. Youth should be considered as part of the village setting. They should have a role to play today, otherwise there will be nobody to replace this generation and they have to start from scratch
11. Make effort to network more with others organizations and institutions.

2.3 Community response with gender perspective on awareness raising campaign, looking at the appropriateness of the activities leading to trafficking prevention.

Consideration: 2.3.1 Appropriateness of the message and methodologies used

Findings

- Project partners (province and district) understand the project's objectives well but they can not comprehend the complexity of migration problem as a whole. Therefore, they can not provide accurate information was commonly held (i.e. that a passport with a tourist visa is "legal") even differentiate between THB and illegal migration
- Villagers are more aware of dangers and risks of migrating, resulting in decreasing illegal migration to Thailand. Therefore, they are now acquired passport with tourist visa thinking it is legal. They seem to be proud that they take this step without realizing the problem of incorrect type of visa. However the officials, during the evaluation taken place, have made the effort to improve their understanding and explained about the activities the activities

- they can do and can not do in the migrated countries which have a limits according to the different categories of visa.
- Due to this lack of total comprehension of the complexity of the problem. The officials choose to communicate to the people by giving negative implication of the migration. This scare information has scared the villagers and hence preventing them from sharing the valuable experiences (both negative and positive) they have had. Yet this is a clear sense that the family's children going to Thailand is "regular" and "beneficial"
 - However, the provincial clearly stated that the project campaign on trafficking has helped them to be able to better cope with the problem. Therefore they are able to give the implications that can occur in migration with broader perspective.
 - The provincial LYU found their great success that the awareness raising has been timely carried out to fight against new attitude derived from returnees who came with the convincing message to friends and other community members.
 - After class activities are found to be very effective and have decreased students being absent from school, boys and girls seem to particularly enjoy sports, literature and culture. Teacher learned new approach and students spend their leisure time usefully. But these activities are not attractive enough to the older Youth.
 - In the future they can be a good resource on awareness raising campaign activities. e.g. the songs and stories generated by Ban Lienxay students and teachers. Books available at school library found to be useful. Villagers and teachers seem to be appreciated and express the pleasure to receive more.
 - The particular campaign has also been conducted in another four neighboring villages schools out side of the project. It received good response and request for more.
 - There is still a big problem which villagers have been facing and the project campaign seem to be blind and has not addressed it at all. This is a problem of the inability to find information about the "**lost cases**".

Assessment:

The approaches seem effective especially the "after-class activities". The official show sincere interest and tried hard to perform the work expected from them. But the project is new and the issue may not have been properly/ thoroughly assessed. Therefore, lots more efforts need to be done on the part of NCA and official to improve campaign messages and ensure reaching the highest risk group.

Recommendations:

1. Reassess the issue thoroughly, clearly organize information received, and then design campaign message which addresses the complexity of the issue. Employed available expertise and other resources of other organizations / institutions
2. Make sure that the project staff are kept up to date with any changes concerning the project, such as revised and/or new migration law and regulations
3. Returnees should be encourage to take greater involved in the campaign where their direct experiences could be shared. Put greater effort to alert the people about the campaign so that the message reach more people such as bill board at the village meeting place, house to house visit by volunteers.

4. Stories/poems/drawings by young people who have been involved in “After class activities” and/ or campaign should be systematically compiled. These materials can be appropriately reused later. It would benefit the communities to continue working with this group as they grow up. Supports and encouragement should be given to assist their creativities, and continue to improve skills they have learned. This will help them to be more service minded, responsible member of the communities.
5. In connect to the point above concerning compilation of the project material (Stories/poems and songs).) and to be in line with what district had proposed, These materials should be present to other organizations such as provincial and district radio broadcasting office, ILO-IPEC/TICW forthcoming media project and encourage them to use whenever appropriate to extend aspects of project work to non-target villages. The children singers them self and / or records of their own voice should be used to create greater impact.
6. More importantly, the whole experiences and materials should be extended directly and operate with highest risk group in secondary school who has been neglected
7. The competent of project staff must be built up to tackle problems concerning “LOST CASES”. They should reach out to the organizations and its networks specialized in this area to obtain necessary information eg DEPDC. More effort should be made to gain cooperation from the government who would surely have the updated information

2.4 Community response, with gender perspective on income generating activities; whether the activities are compatible with current situation and considerate people at risk

Consideration 2.4.1 Target group

Findings

- Less than 50% of the families in the village have membership in the income generating activities.
- The activities are varies between men and women, women groups picked up dying & weaving, food preservation and mushroom while men groups are picked up chicken raising, fish raising. Village Saving is an activity that both men and women are members. During the discussion in the evaluation, value seems to be given to “EARNING MONEY” In one presentation of a school teacher she humbly said about her school project that *“Our project is small and earn very little which can not be compared with the saving group”*.
- The income generating activities are based on the existing skill of group members who are in the middle age.
- Most income generating groups do not have young people as member. The rest have few young members. It is clear that the project activities are not of interest to the young and there is very little effort to raise their interest. Eg young women said indigo dye dirty their hands, raising chicken are dusty and smelly etc

Assessment:

The project is able to include only few young people as a group member simply because the majority of them have already migrated for work outside. Women's participation in all levels of the project except for production groups are associated with "women's work"

Consideration 2.4.2 Appropriateness of the activities**Findings**

- The weaving group, besides earning more income, women are proud that this activity helps them to regain and reserve their traditional knowledge and skills. The group members all have their traditional blouse. But the pride of the traditional dress does not seem to be appreciated by the young.
- Furniture group with its member from the elderly group found to be not successful because the products are more difficult to market. Village committee suggested to stop their activity
- The unity within the village of Donwai is at risk through the competition between the existing groups activities in the village. Relationships between are deteriorating.
- There was no money given as seed money to the saving group. It was all peoples' own personal savings. This really contributes to ownership, responsibility and management of project funds.
- Availability of loans from saving group reduces the need to borrow at high interest rates or seek "urgent money" in the case of a medical emergency or other big expenditure.
- Relative to this objective (appropriateness of the activities), we saw that income generating activities matched and enhanced activities and knowledge already in the communities (chicken raising, weaving, dying)

Assessment:

Though most activities seem to be appropriate to the village context, resources and markets, it is possible that some of the selected activities may not be suitable for the young people.

Consideration 2.4.3 Increasing of income**Findings**

- All income generating activities did increase income for families and even help reduced family's debts.
- These activities not only help increased income, they have also contributed to developed skill concern the activities. Many of them became valuable resource persons for own communities and neighboring villages e.g. village bank, Village Livestock volunteer (VLV), crafts, weaving etc.
- It is not clear that the positive outcome of these income generating activities contribute to the reduction of Youth out-migration. The villagers do confirm that by existing income generating activities, these are not promising to help reducing the migration to Thailand
- They are able to find good market both locally and at the capital cities. This ensures the continuation of the activities/ income. The markets in the capital city are adhoc and heavily assist by NCA, therefore, this responsibility has to be gradually transferred.

Assessment:

The activities do increase incomes, and the efforts of NCA in terms of marketing are key to this. Though they raise incomes and increase activity in the villages, the volume of money that these activities raise does not compete with the “wealth” of returnees and options from migration. Though these activities are successful and beneficial in and of themselves, it is not clear that they are a substitute for migration. Though the income generating groups are not directly targeted to the youth who identified as a prime group of this project, it is not indicate that the project has fail. The clear out come of the income generating groups resulted with experienced and qualified resource persons (both in technical and management), capital (village saving or village bank) in the communities. Moreover, trust and confidence between village and district are gained which help improve its relationship and that open dialogue regarding migration and trafficking will be more factual.

Recommendations

12. Continue facilitating and continue to give technical support to the existing income generation groups and gradually increase focus on trafficking issue.
13. Continue supporting technical know-how and to improved skill. Higher technical skills should be introduced so that they become more and more “professional” e.g. from raising fish to fish breeder, from mushroom grower to selling mushroom media, from poultry raising to selling chicks, from dying yarn using indigo to growing indigo plant for own used.
14. Leadership development should be introduced shortly. Various areas of leadership should be strengthened with particular emphasis on the trafficking issue. This issue should, wherever possible, always be integrated into the discussion.
15. Some activities can be considered introducing as “after school activities” such as weaving, chicken raising, vegetable garden
16. In all income generating groups, marketing knowledge and skill should be strengthened in accordance with their products while NCA gradually lessen their roles
17. “MONEY doesn’t help solved all problems but the ability to manage the existing resources and satisfy with the simple .The capitalist value (which come from outside) which put much emphasis on economic status should be often questioned. While traditional value of Laos society which holistically give value to the simple life with good relationship, employed existing resources should be emphasized. This will hopefully reduce the desire to migrate for money.
18. There is a need to conduct survey to find out needs and interest of the young people (the real target). Result of this survey can be used to revise and redesign the project to be more appropriate to the real target; returnees, secondary and primary students, drop out school students, graduated students and unemployed youth.
19. More active role of the provincial office and provincial private sector should be encouraged to gradually take up the market role now played by NCA.

20. The youth vocational training center should be encouraged to serve as a link between the production groups and buyers as well as become marketing information center.

3. Conclusion

LYU as the partner organization offer adequate structure to serve the purpose of the project during the first stage. The project was able to carry out the operation planned. The operational function and its management are workable and can be expanded with careful consideration. Quite surprising fact with the organization and the project operation is that youth themselves are not involved but very few. There is also a serious lack of information concerning youth to continue the work. Hence an immediate need for LYU to conduct study to learn more about young people, find out their needs, interest, aspiration and problems they are facing. LYU personnel structure itself may probably be strengthened by increasing younger staff. Cooperating and networking with other concerns organizations at all levels are necessary, particularly those with good experiences, knowledge and skills on trafficking issues.

Capability building seems to show good results. The LYU officials, the interdisciplinary team members said they have gained knowledge and skills from working with the project. They feel more confidence and obtained wider perspective of the work (content and processes) rather than only their disciplinary. The indepth study trip technique, the introduction of activities based on their indigenous knowledge and existing skills proved useful. The whole work process have strengthened leadership ability among group members and even the existing natural leaders. They realized the important of networking in the development process. Mobilization of local resources were done well. Same as the above point, participation from youth themselves are seriously missing particularly when they themselves are the main target. Following from the thorough study to have more information concerning youth, special effort must be made to encourage and involve youth in the project. The experiences gained by those involved are not a loss. It will be useful to the future work plan.

Awareness raising campaign, to a certain extent, was satisfied by all involved. Lots have been learned. Systematic compilation of materials produced can be done for further use in future campaign. These materials can be presented to concern organizations for wider use and to encourage other youth to become involve. What is clear to be a big problem is the complexity of the human trafficking issues. It seems NCA as well as LYU staff are unable to comprehend this highly interwoven complex problems. There is another immediate need to learn from those individual and organizations who are expertise in this.

Income generating projects are moving well. The activities are mostly based on their existing skills. They were able to increase income and even paid back their debt. Saving activity, in particular, was well received. Capital created through this activity has been helpful to them in many ways. However, the pride of being able to earn more income seems to have let the capitalistic value interfere into the holistic self-sufficient way of life which has been so well lived. Even if this is a normal symptom happened to any closed societies being opened up. It might be worth making full effort to take a hold of this misguided value. Examples can be drawn from the failure of so many projects which put emphasis only on economic activity. That approach may have increased income, but lacking ability to manage and integrate this benefit to other aspects of life. Thus, it failed to bring about peaceful life.

Annex 1

Recommendations for Advocacy at different level in Lao PDR.

1. Policy level:

Public awareness raising through mass media: local and national newspapers, radio and television, video and movies, etc about Child Rights, Women Rights and campaigning against Sexual Exploitation.

- Push to change or eliminate all businesses related to using children's or women's bodies for sex exploitation.
- Control media who print materials involving pornography
- Integrate topics in the national education curriculum, to develop the right attitude, values and understanding about sexual abuse, violence against women and children, prostitution, human trafficking.

2. Upholding dignity at the institutional level:

- Government agency personnel
- Teachers have to be good role models for the community.
- Monks who are respected by the people must not be involved in corruption, receiving dirty money.
- Family values must be strengthened and families must be able to protect their members.
- Village wisdom must be used to fight off evil influences.
- Organisations and social workers must take action in any movement effectively, with the strongest commitment and dedication possible.
- University academics can take a role to build good knowledge of social issues, concerning children, women, violence, trafficking, etc., by providing research, seminars, group workshops, publications etc.

3. Social level:

- Business should support the good society and bring back good consumers, culture and products without pollution.
- Entertainers, stars, singers, artists can create work that reflects the dark side of society opens the secrets or can show tragedies through performances.
- Media groups, newspapers, tv, radio, VCD and DVD must create products with good, right attitude on gender, racism, discrimination and must show concern about human dignity
- Tourists should not be allowed to be the destroyers of children, women, culture and nature.

4. Community and village level:

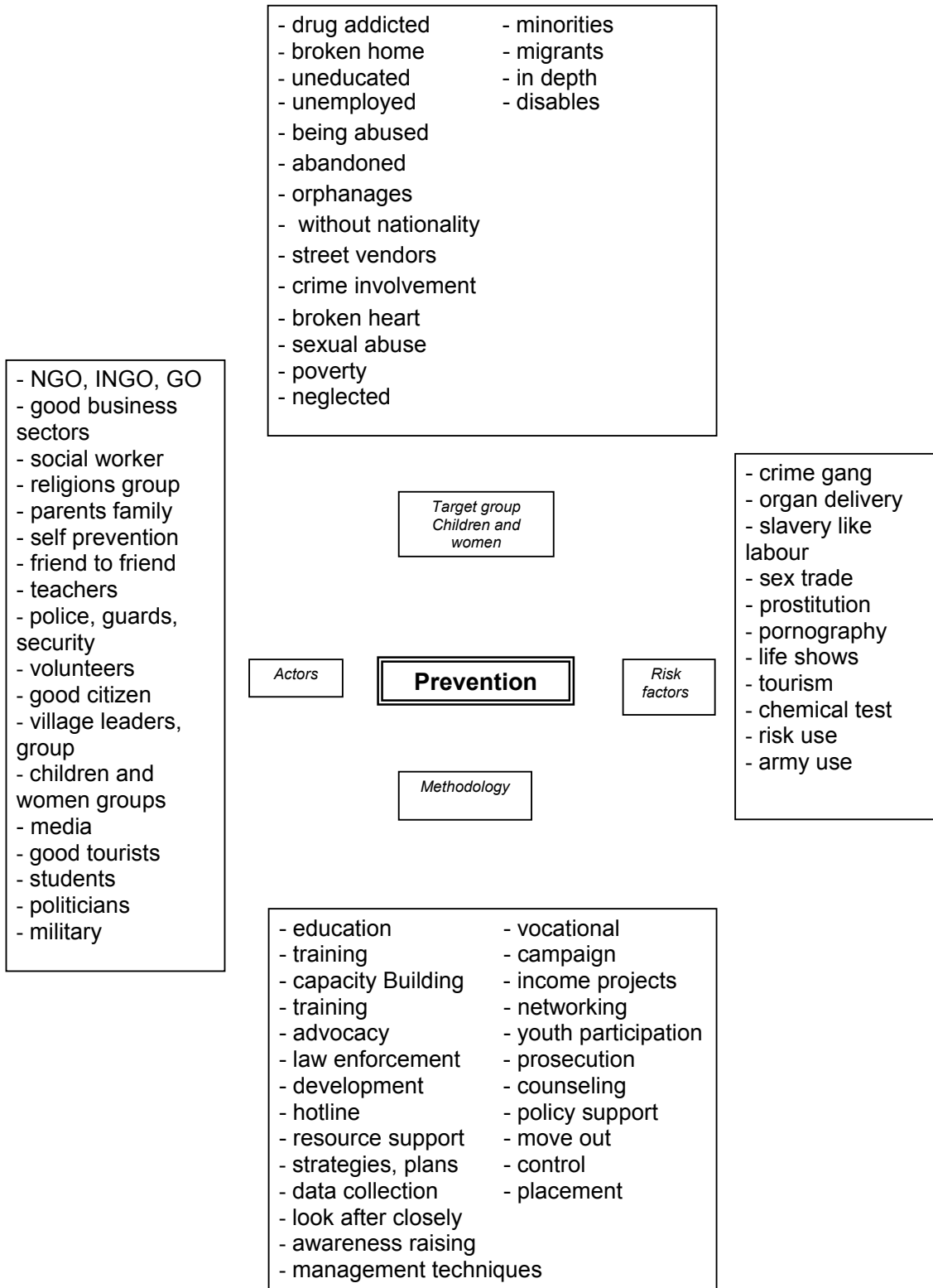
- Leaders must be elected by and for people
- Leaders must be clear about no discrimination against women, ethnic groups, etc.
- Villages, communities must be cleaned out of dirty business, dangerous activities, exploitation activities like gang mafia, pedophiles, pimps, rapists, middle men etc.
- Old wisdom should be integrated in any development programme
- All changes that will effect people need to be voted for by the people, before taken into action in local villages, especially changes related to children's and women's life and safety.

- Villages should be built to be the best place for safety and give opportunities to live, to play, to rest, to work, to learn, to develop higher moral dignity and peace for everyone

5. *Individual level:*

- Respect children and women, accept them to be in decisions or leader teams
- Never do violation against any one, even the poor and weak
- Show responsibility for the family
- Keep away from bad behavior, drug abuse, gambling, drinking, bad sexual behavior, involvement in the sex industry.
- Work hard, save money for future needs, necessary needs
- Participate in and support public charity work and activities
- Keep an open mind and heart for learning and knowledge about the world
- Keep clean anywhere, anytime
- Protect the environment, nature and public properties
- Take responsibility and be a good resident to your land
- Practice religion and believes
- Don't hurt or kill any animals
- Be a sharing, caring, giving human being. Donate to the poor, the weak and disabled
- Be a part of peace

Annex 2



Annex 3

Priorities for prevention needed (directly for individual) are:

1. *Problem details*; clear information, reality of situation of case
2. *Reaching out to case*; good relations, trust, understanding, participation, willingness
3. *Acknowledgment* for the next step, from key figures (case, parents, teachers, etc) in order to make right decision under pressure situation (most of at risk cases are faced with hard condition)
4. *Clear communication*; promises, agreement, appointments shouldn't be broken at all
5. *Time is a sensitive issue*; the longer it takes to take action, the harder it gets to prevent situations from happening. Keep in mind that if you take more time it might be too late
6. *Long term planning*; get through the whole process and plan for each case, if not everything is possible you have to make choices.
7. Beware of *unexpected situations* that happen in the case. Get ready to use emergency policies if they are suddenly needed.
8. *Make clear identifications* about; situations, events, persons, gang crimes, factors, roots, causes, violations and safety reasons.
9. *Decision making* should be beneficial to the case and should consider human rights regulations

Annex 4

Considerations for NCA on prevention of trafficking in Laos

Experience contribution to the trip:

1. Materialism and humanism: Don't start with funding alone
2. Development on different levels: Thailand case, difficulties for poor to survive because there's no place for them in society.
3. Local wisdom: culture, ways of life as a social capital with a sustainable development concept.
4. Information is power: Data collecting, research and case studies are worth more than funds.
5. Situation of trafficking abroad: Thailand example, case study and at risk places.
6. Health concerns: Development begins with good health for the family, reducing risk habits, like smoking, drinking, gambling, violence etc.
7. Introducing Vegetarian way of life: Pointing out today's health problems that should be considered
8. Reminders of today's consumer society: In every day life people should use, buy, eat, wear, drink first (basic needs), before spending any income on other products. E.g. how many people buy and wear clothes made by local weaving groups? Why not?
9. Don't forget the young generations: The youth is the future of the village, they need to have a role to play today, otherwise one day there will be nobody to replace us and they have to start from scratch again.