



PRF MISSION
 Support and establish sustainable local capacity, procedures and systems that are aligned with the Government of Lao PDR's decentralization policy and poverty reduction targets.

PRF OBJECTIVE
 Improve access to and utilization of basic infrastructures and services in priority poor communities, sustainably through socially inclusive community and locally focused development processes.

PRF I, implemented 2002 to 2011, had a successful track record in delivering services in remote areas quickly and at scale.

PRF II supported the bottom-up planning process and, by its close in 2016, had provided block grants to more than 1,400 rural communities in 44 poor districts of 10 provinces to improve critical infrastructure identified by the villagers themselves.

PRF III will encourage even more active participation by all community members in the planning and decision-making process.



POVERTY REDUCTION FUND

EMPOWERING POOR COMMUNITIES

Since its inception in 2002, the Lao Poverty Reduction Fund (PRF) has empowered communities in the poorest, most remote districts of Lao PDR to work together and improve their access to infrastructure and services. With a budget of over US\$ 110 million, PRF has been one of Lao PDR's largest multi-sectoral programs focused on rural poverty reduction.

With support from the World Bank, the Swiss Agency for International Development and the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, PRF pioneered and refined an innovative participatory approach tailored to the Lao context.

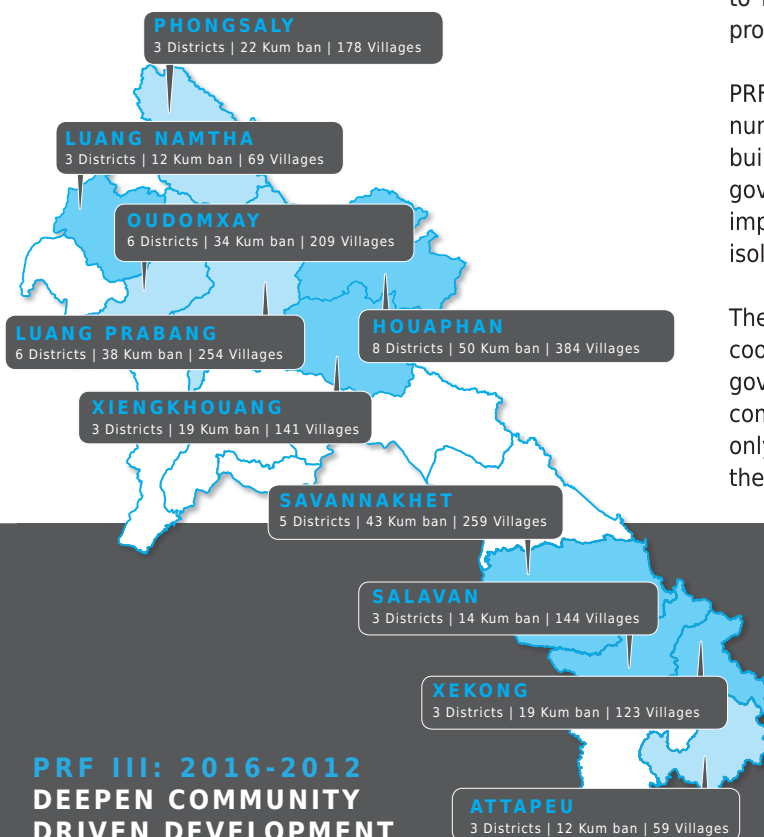
development needs, and engages and benefits all community members, especially the poorest, most marginalized and women.

New roads and bridges provided isolated communities with better access to markets, and the benefits of communication and access to new information and government services.

New schools and health centers opened children's opportunities to learn and aspire to a healthier, more productive future. Improvements to irrigation, and training in new techniques increased agricultural outputs and their value. Convenient access to clean water both contributed to healthier lives and meant more time available for other productive activities.

PRF's critical achievement, however, is more than in the number of bridges, water points, schools and health centers built, or kilometers of road improved. It was in helping local government and community members work together to improve the lives of hundreds of thousands of poor people in isolated rural communities.

The participatory community development process facilitated cooperation and coordination between villagers, local governments, and donor agencies. Combined, they built a community's confidence and commitment - evidenced not only by their participation, but their willingness to contribute their limited resources to the greater good.



PRF III: 2016-2012 DEEPEN COMMUNITY DRIVEN DEVELOPMENT

In order to attain higher levels of active participation of vulnerable groups, Deepen CDD, which started under PRF II, will be mainstreamed under PRF III to all PRF villages:

- More participatory planning tools, engaging the community in household poverty ranking targeting and monitoring benefits.
- Additional female kum ban facilitators hired.
- People in hamlets outside village centers can actively participate in the village visioning process.

Swiss Agency for International Development

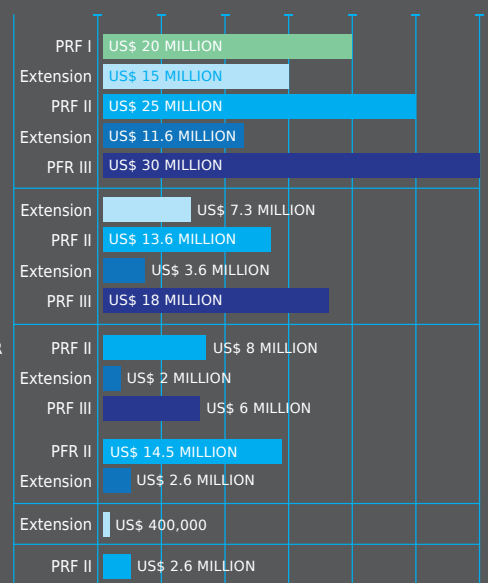
Government of Lao PDR

Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery

Japanese Social Development Fund

IDA (World Bank)



PRF FUNDING

PRF I (2002-2008)	US\$ 20 MILLION	Extension (2008-2010)	US\$ 22.7 MILLION
PRF II (2011-2016)	US\$ 63.7 MILLION	Extension	US\$ 19.6 MILLION
PRF III	US\$ 54 MILLION		

PRF I

- 3,179** Sub-projects
- >250,000** People benefitted per year
- 2,000** Villages benefitted
- 56** Bridges
- >3,000km** Rural roads
- 156** Irrigation schemes
- 669** Water supply points
- 65** Health dispensaries
- 616** Schools

PRF II

- 1,931** Sub-projects
- \$196,834** Total average budget allocation per kum ban
- >320,000** People with improved access to water
- 451** Schools built or rehabilitated
- >1,400km** Roads rehabilitated
- 134** Agriculture, forestry and energy sub-projects
- 78** Health sub-projects
- 100%** Evidence of Village Visioning Meetings
- 67%** More likely access to protected water source
- 95%** Environmental & social safeguard compliance



Life is easier with this new pump. With the old hand pump, it took 10 minutes to fill each bucket, now it just takes 2 minutes. I must still carry the buckets all the way to my house, but at least I am not away from my baby for as long.

MRS AH LEO, VILLAGER





School

was the priority for our village. We needed more classrooms. Before, there were 65 children in one room. Now we have 25 per class. Before, we had 1 table for 4 pupils, now it is 2 children to a desk. Ten members of our community helped build the new classrooms. Everyone in the village is happy because the children want to go to school now.

MR KAMMA DONGOEXE, VILLAGE HEADMAN



Before, the tables were made of bamboo and they used to cut my bum. I didn't want to come to school but now I like it here. Our class is so pretty. My sister comes with me now - she is in the new kindergarten.

NOI SISOURATH, STUDENT



BEFORE

AFTER

Before the construction of these new living quarters, the two nurses and I used to sleep in the medical centre at night, together with the patients. In these communities, women do not give birth at home - in the past, they went to the forest, but now they stay overnight at the medical centre, which has 6 beds. We have about 4 to 7 births per month, with more than 10 in July and August. So it was a difficult way to live. And the male doctor used to stay in a village 20km away. Now we all stay on the property, each in our own room.

MRS THIPA KONE, MIDWIFE



ສຸກສາລາ

ປ້ອງກັນລັດຖະບານ			
ຄະນະພັດທະນາຊຸມນະນຳ ແລະ ຈັບສັງຄວາມພາຍາກ ຊຶ່ງສູນພາກ ກອງທຶນທາງຜ່ອນຄວາມທຸກຍາກ (ທລຍ)			
ຊື່ໂຄງການນັ້ນ: ກໍ່ສ້າງເຮືອນພັດທະນາ	ກຸ່ມບ້ານ: 4	ເມືອງ: ບອງ	ແຂວງ: ສະຫວັນນະເທດ
ທີ່ຕັ້ງບ້ານ: ນາກອງ	ກຸ່ມບ້ານ: 4	ວັນຕົກສະເໜີ: 02/04/2015	
ວັນຕົກສະເໜີກຳລັງ: 02/10/2015		ວັນຕົກສະເໜີ: 25/02/2015	ຄ່າ: 250,000,000 ຕື້
ຄວາມມູນຄ່າສະໂອງການບັດທິດີ: 1		ວັນຕົກສະເໜີ: 25/02/2015	ຄ່າ: 3,721,767 ຕື້
ວັນຕົກສະເໜີ: 25/02/2015			
ການປະກອບສ່ວນສະໂອງມູນຄ່າ: 1			

PRF III: COMMUNITY BUDGETING AND DECISION-MAKING

An average annual budget allocation of US\$44,000 was provided to PRF III target kum bans, for a total average investment amount per kum ban of US\$130,000 over three years with sub-projects financed and implemented on an annual basis. Sub-project priorities were selected at the village level by all community members who then elected their village representatives (consisting of elected villagers including women and ethnic groups). PRF district staff, district local government and sector officials provided technical validation of proposals made at the kum ban level. The final decision for sub-project financing was made at the kum ban level by the PRF kum ban committee based on transparent criteria and process.