International Labour Organization

Social Protection Training Toolkit for Lao PDR

Comprising Training Manual and Learning Pack

Social Protection Training for Lao PDR

Module 1
Introduction to Social Protection

Activity 3: Mapping the risks and practical solutions in communities

	Procedure:	1. Ask the participants to sit in 6 groups. 2. Each participant is given a copy of Handout 2, featuring the scenario of a man with 4 children. 3. The facilitator identifies some of the risks faced by this family: poverty, need for healthcare, disability, need for education and childcare, crop failure. 4. Each participant spends 5 minutes reflecting on similar situations from their professional or personal lives.

Activity 3: Mapping the risks and practical solutions in communities

	Procedure:	5. Each group is assigned a different vulnerable family type. Using Handout 2 as a guide, each group is given 45 minutes to construct a scenario of what life is like for this family and to discuss the specific risks they would face. The group will record their results on a flipchart sheet. • The vulnerable family types will be assigned as follows: **Group 1:** Has a working family member who had an accident **Group 2:** Has a new-born child, a 6-year-old daughter with a cognitive disability, and a 12-year-old son **Group 3:** The father is a farmer from an ethnic minority **Group 4:** Working parents have migrated for work **Group 5:** A family who recently lost their breadwinner **Group 6:** Working daughter living with 2 dependent older parents

Activity 3: Mapping the risks and practical solutions in communities

	Procedure:	• Each group defines the family's characteristics, such as number of members, age, area of work, etc. Other than their specific vulnerabilities, the family should be typical of the training participants' region. • Each group identifies 5 possible risks faced by their family. • Each group maps practical coping mechanisms adopted by the family for the risks. • Each group presents in plenary.

Activity 3: Mapping the risks and practical solutions in communities

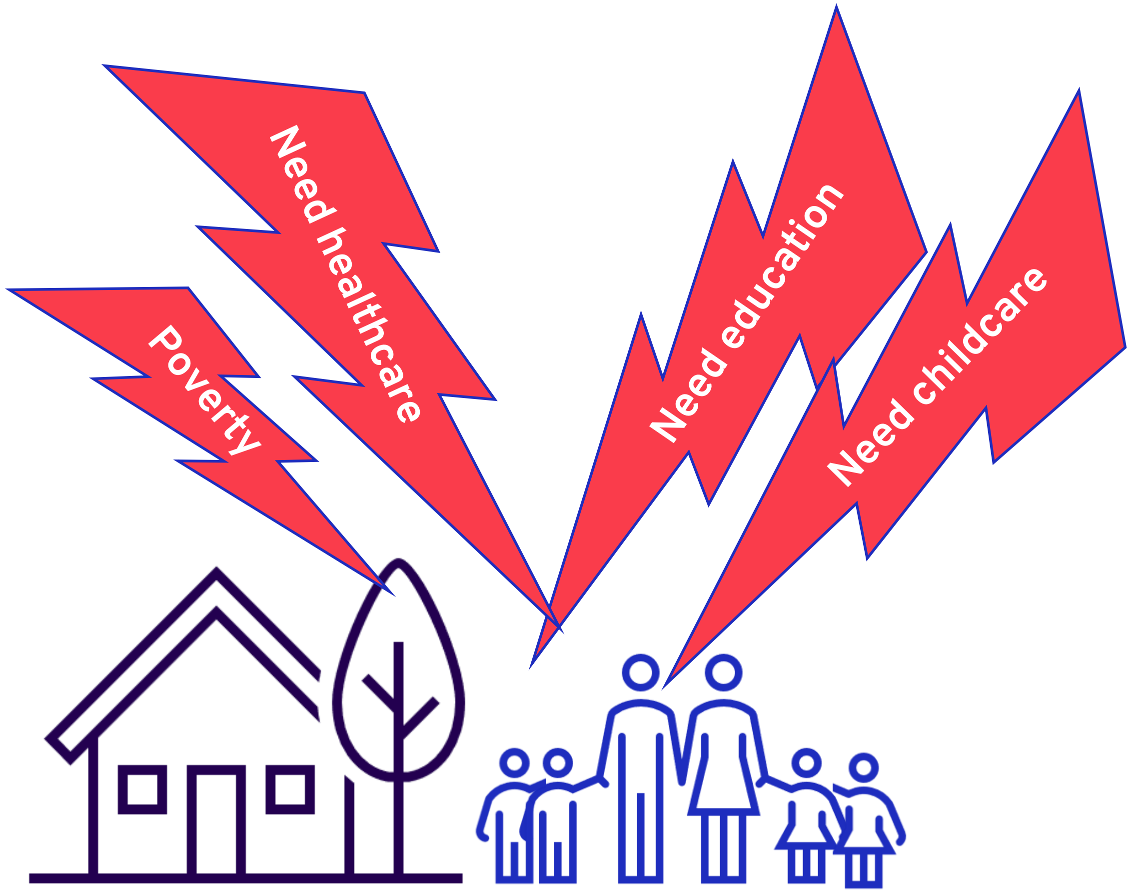
	Procedure:	7. In the plenary, discuss the following questions: • What are some of the differences between the risks and struggles of women and men? • What are some of the differences between the risks and struggles of people when they are young and when they are older? • How has the broader social, economic and political context impacted their individual life stories? • What are some of the strategies that women and men have developed to deal with the challenges facing them?

Session 1

Risks and coping mechanisms in communities

This session will explore the question of why social protection is so important to Lao People

Scenario

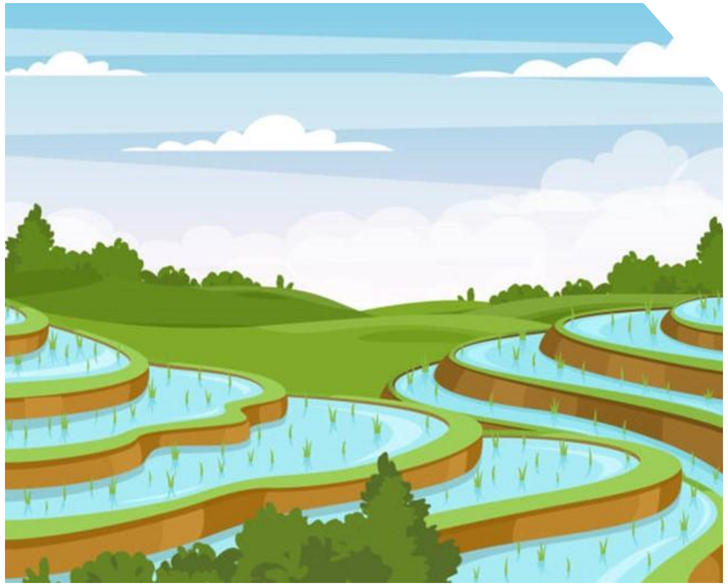


Scenario

A man lives with his wife and 4 children in a village. The children are aged 3, 5, 9 and 12. The youngest child is disabled. The man’s mother also lives with them. She is 65 years old and helps to take care of the children, but often falls sick and suffers from great pain. The village healer and midwife told the man that the grandmother and the 3-yaer-old child need to go to a provincial hospital, but he has no time or money to take them.

Scenario

Last year, there was heavy rainfall and the floods destroyed the crops. The family had no income and used all their savings to buy food.



Scenario

The 5-year-old and 9-year-old children go to school, but the oldest dropped out 3 years ago.

The parents hope to send all their children to school and maybe even university, so that they can get good jobs and leave the cycle of poverty.

Scenario

The man has never heard of the National Health Insurance (NHI) Scheme, which would entitle them to free healthcare. He has borrowed money from his brother who works in the city and is considering borrowing more from the village lender. He is also planning to start tea farming, but does not know how nor does he have the money to start.

Scenario

RISKS

Poverty

Need for healthcare

Disability

Need for education and childcare

Crop failure

COPING MECHANISMS

Used up savings

Borrowed money from family

Borrowing from the village lender?

Start a new, more lucrative job?

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Group activity

Group 1: Working family member who had an accident

Group 2: Has a new-born child, a 6-year-old daughter with a cognitive disability, and a 12-year-old son

Group 3: The father is a farmer from an ethnic minority

Group 4: Working parents have migrated for work

Group 5: A family who recently lost their breadwinner

Group 6: Working daughter living with two dependent older parents

Session 1

Risks and coping mechanisms in communities

Plenary

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Activity 3: Mapping the risks and practical solutions in communities

What are some of the differences between the risks and struggles of women and men?

What are some of the differences between the risks and struggles when they are young and when they are older?

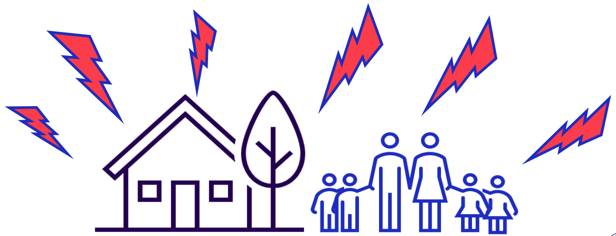
How has the broader social, economic and political context impacted their individual life stories?

What are some of the strategies that women and men have developed to deal with the challenges facing them?

Session 1: Learning points

- Causes of **poverty** and **insecurity** are often **related to stages in one's life cycle**.
- **Challenges** and **risks** in each stage of life also **impact one's broader social networks**.
- The types of challenges and vulnerabilities **vary across the life course.**

(Transform, 2017)



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Session 1: Learning points

Early Childhood

- Unsafe birth and no access to antenatal and postnatal care
- No immunization
- Stunting
- Reduced cognitive development

School age

- Child labour
- Unable to access or stay in school
- Poor home environment impacting on schooling
- Malnutrition
- Child abuse
- Loss of parent

Youth

- Inadequate skills
- Unemployment
- Inability to access training
- Alienation

Working age

- Unemployment and underemployment
- Cost of children
- Care of parents
- Debt
- Cost of dowry
- No childcare
- Gender discrimination
- Domestic violence

Old age

- Increasing frailty
- Inability to work
- No care from family
- Discrimination in labour force and access to credit

Disability and chronic illness

Covariate risks

Source: Development Pathways

Women’s specific risks and vulnerabilities across life stages

Life-cycle stage

Women’s risks and vulnerabilities

Young adulthood

- Health risks associated with childbearing and sexual activity
- Social norms and discrimination
- Employment insecurity due to pregnancy and childcare
- Divorce
- Lack of access to financial institutions and asset-building opportunities

Middle age

- Employment insecurity and decreased productivity due to child and elder care
- Financial and care costs of death and disease
- Social expenses of marriage of children, burials, and other ritual events

Old age

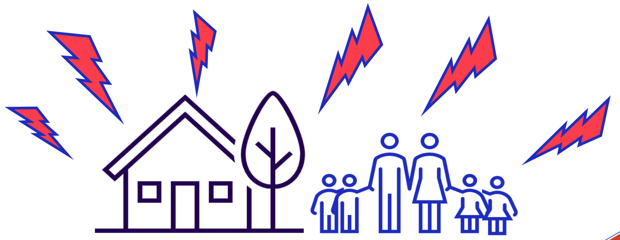
- Widowhood
- Loss of assets
- Risk of inadequate retirement income

Source: Lund and Srinivasan 2000.

To avoid sinking into poverty, vulnerable individuals or groups usually end up adopting coping strategies that are informal and negative:

- borrowing money
- drawing down savings
- reducing non-food consumption
- reducing food consumption
- delaying payment obligations
- selling assets
- buying essentials on credit
- foregoing medical treatment for themselves or family members
- pawning assets for cash
- some family members migrating
- selling assets
- removing children from school

Source: WIEGO 2020.



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