

CRED Baseline Survey Report

Luang Prabang Province (Luang Prabang, Nan and Phonxay Districts)

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Executive Summary

The CRED baseline survey in Luang Prabang Province was conducted in 2023 across nine villages in Luang Prabang, Nan, and Phonxay districts, covering 1,220 households. The survey combines village-level data from interviews with village authorities and a separate household survey used to generate household resilience and well-being scores. The findings establish a baseline for programme design and future monitoring under CRED.

The surveyed villages comprise an ethnically diverse population with average household sizes typical of rural northern Lao PDR. Most villages are administratively combined villages, implying dispersed settlement patterns that affect service delivery and community engagement. Access to basic services is mixed: education and electricity coverage are generally high, while seasonal road access and limited piped water systems constrain mobility, market access, and water security.

Livelihoods remain strongly agriculture-based, with rice farming central to food security and diversified crop–livestock systems across villages. Non-farm income sources, including wage labor, government employment, and small-scale trade, play a complementary role. Market access is largely intermediary-driven, with limited direct linkages to companies or structured value chains, constraining income growth and bargaining power.

Communities report widespread exposure to climate-related hazards, particularly drought, floods, landslides, and pest or disease outbreaks. All villages report recent disasters affecting households and infrastructure, with impacts varying by location. While most villages have DRR plans, preparedness measures remain limited and responses are largely reactive.

Household resilience scores show moderate strengths in agrobiodiversity, income, and access to services, alongside significant gaps in market engagement, access to productive resources, and productivity. Gender equity and disaster preparedness score at mid-levels, indicating partial progress.

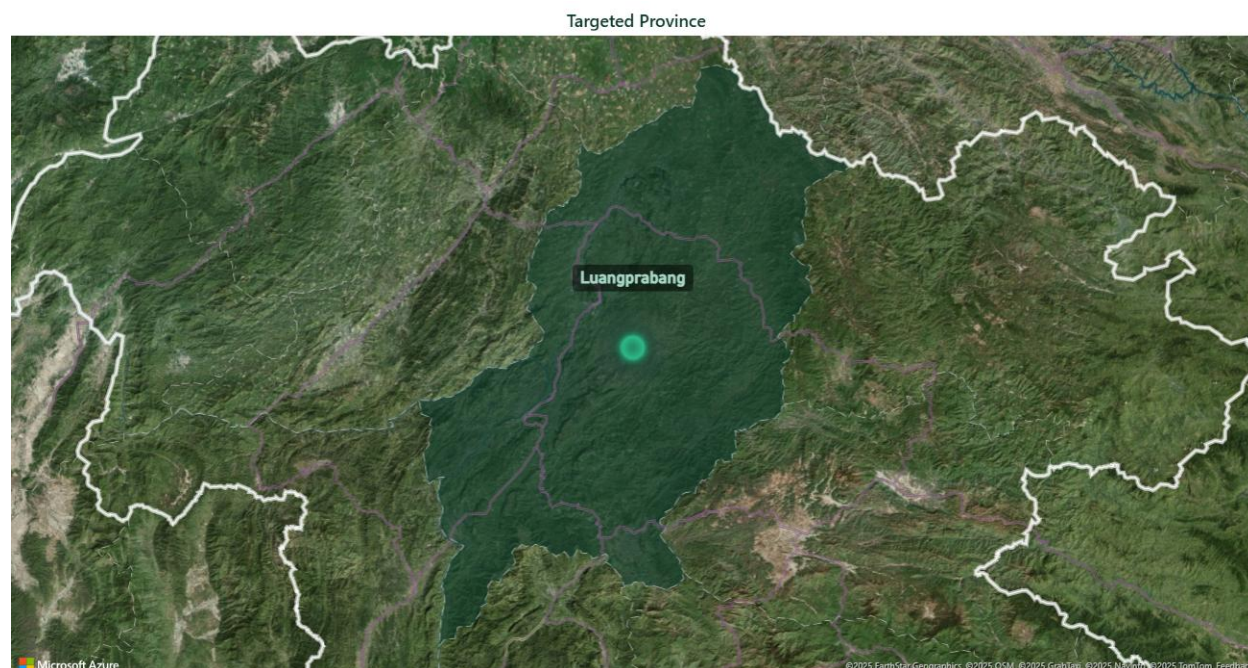
Overall, the baseline highlights that CRED interventions in Luang Prabang Province should focus on strengthening productive capacity and market integration, improving climate and disaster preparedness, addressing key infrastructure constraints, and promoting inclusive participation, particularly of women, to build more resilient and sustainable livelihoods.

1. Coverage and Survey Scope

The CRED baseline survey in Luang Prabang Province was conducted in 2023 across nine villages in Luang Prabang, Phonxay, and Nan districts, covering 1,220 households. Most findings in this report are based on village-level data collected through structured interviews with village authorities and community representatives, reflecting aggregated community conditions rather than individual households.

Section 18 (Household Resilience and Well-being Scores) is based on a separate household survey and presents self-reported household-level data. Household coverage varies by district, with Phonxay accounting for the largest share of surveyed households, followed by Nan and Luang Prabang districts, which has implications for outreach and implementation planning under the CRED programme.

Figure 1 Targeted districts under the CRED baseline survey in Luangprabang Province (2023)



Methodological Note and Limitations

This baseline report uses two data sources: (i) village-level interviews with village authorities and community representatives, providing aggregated information on livelihoods, infrastructure, institutions, markets, and disaster exposure; and (ii) a household survey used only in Section 18 to capture self-reported resilience and well-being.

Village-level data provide a general picture of community conditions but may hide differences between households, while household-level data offer more detail but are not representative. The findings therefore serve as indicative baseline information for comparison, learning, and monitoring rather than precise measurement.

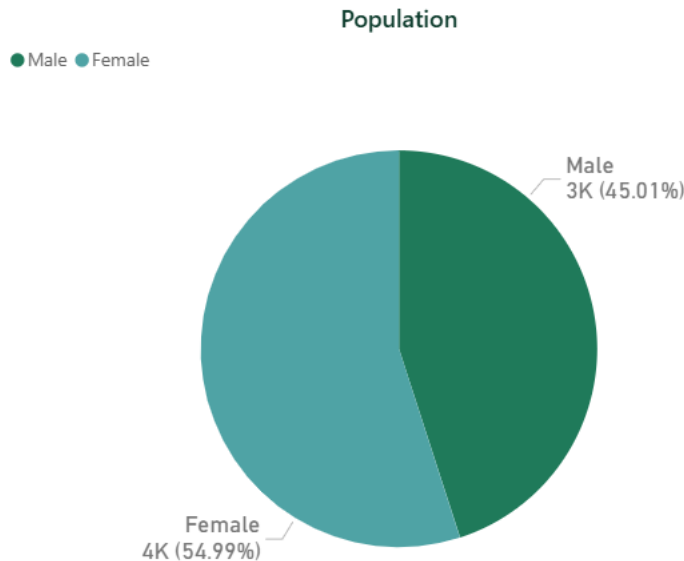
2. Population Structure

The surveyed villages in Luang Prabang Province report a total population of 6,801 people, comprising approximately 3,060 males (45.0%) and 3,740 females (55.0%) (Figure 2). The population structure is therefore broadly balanced, with a moderately higher proportion of females.

Population figures are based on aggregated village-level data reported by village authorities during the CRED baseline survey. Differences between male and female population totals may reflect normal demographic variation, migration patterns, or reporting practices at village level, and do not indicate structural demographic imbalance.

When considered alongside the total number of households covered (1,220 households), the data indicate an average household size of approximately 5.6 persons per household, which is consistent with rural settlement patterns in northern Lao PDR. Larger household sizes may imply higher dependency ratios and increased sensitivity to livelihood and climate-related shocks, which is relevant for resilience-focused programming under CRED.

Figure 2 Population by gender in surveyed villages, Luang Prabang Province (CRED Baseline Survey, 2023)



3. Village Structure and Administrative Configuration

3.1 Single vs. Combined Villages

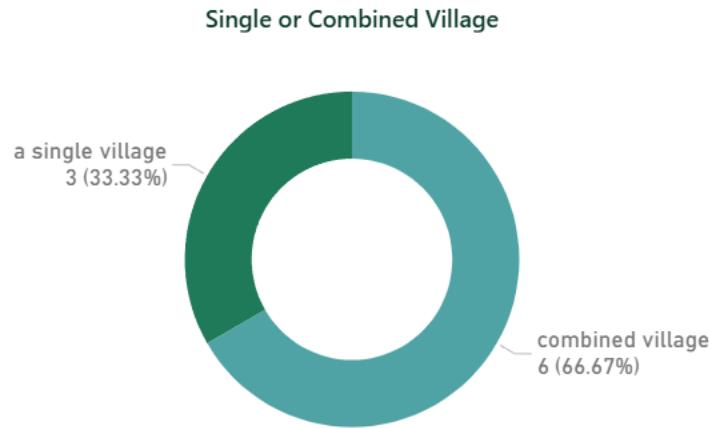
Of the 9 villages covered by the CRED baseline survey in Luang Prabang Province, 6 villages (66.7%) are administratively classified as combined villages, while 3 villages (33.3%) are classified as single villages (Figure 3).

Combined villages consist of multiple sub-settlements administered under a single village authority. This structure implies that households are often geographically dispersed across different hamlets or settlement clusters within the same administrative unit.

The predominance of combined villages has practical implications for CRED implementation. In such contexts, programme activities, information dissemination, and community engagement may require additional coordination to ensure that interventions reach all sub-settlements rather than only the village

centre. Combined village structures may also influence participation in village meetings and access to services, particularly for households located farther from administrative centres.

Figure 3 Distribution of single and combined villages, Luang Prabang Province (CRED Baseline Survey, 2023)



3.2 Access to Basic Infrastructure and Services

3.2.1 Access to Roads, Education, Electricity, and Water

Village-level baseline data indicate uneven access to basic infrastructure and services across the surveyed villages in Luang Prabang Province, with notable variation between districts and villages (Table 2).

Road access is mixed. Five of the nine surveyed villages report year-round road accessibility, while four villages (Houaypaknao, Nalin, Pakuang, and Heudgoy) report that roads are not accessible all year, indicating seasonal constraints. These limitations are likely to affect mobility, access to markets and services, and emergency response, particularly during the rainy season.

Education services are consistently available at village level. All surveyed villages report the presence of at least a primary school, and one village (Longnyad, Phonxay District) reports having both a primary and secondary school. No village reports the absence of basic education facilities.

Electricity access is generally high across the province. Most villages report near-universal household coverage, with several villages indicating 100% access. However, one village (Heudgoy) reports no household access to electricity, representing a significant service gap at baseline. In addition, Pakuang village reports lower coverage (84.96%), indicating uneven access within the province.

Piped water supply systems remain limited. Only two villages (Thinxom and Longnyad) report having a piped water supply, while all other villages rely on non-piped sources. This pattern indicates that domestic water access across most surveyed villages remains dependent on alternative water sources, with implications for water reliability and climate resilience.

Figure 4 Access to basic infrastructure and services by village, Luang Prabang Province (CRED Baseline Survey, 2023).

District	Village	Road Accessible All Year	School in Village	Electricity Available	% Households with Electricity	Piped Water Supply
Luang Prabang	Naoun	Yes	Primary School	Yes	100.00%	No
Luang Prabang	Nongheo	Yes	Primary School	Yes	100.00%	No
Luang Prabang	Thinxom	Yes	Primary School	Yes	92.68%	Yes
Nam	Houaypaknao	No	Primary School	Yes	100.00%	No
Nam	Nalin	No	Primary School	Yes	100.00%	No
Nam	Pakuang	No	Primary School	Yes	84.96%	No
Phonxay	Heudgoy	No	Primary School	No	0.00%	No
Phonxay	Longnyad	Yes	Primary & Secondary School	Yes	100.00%	Yes
Phonxay	Nambor	Yes	Primary School	Yes	100.00%	No

Note: Information is based on administrative data reported by village authorities during the CRED baseline survey.

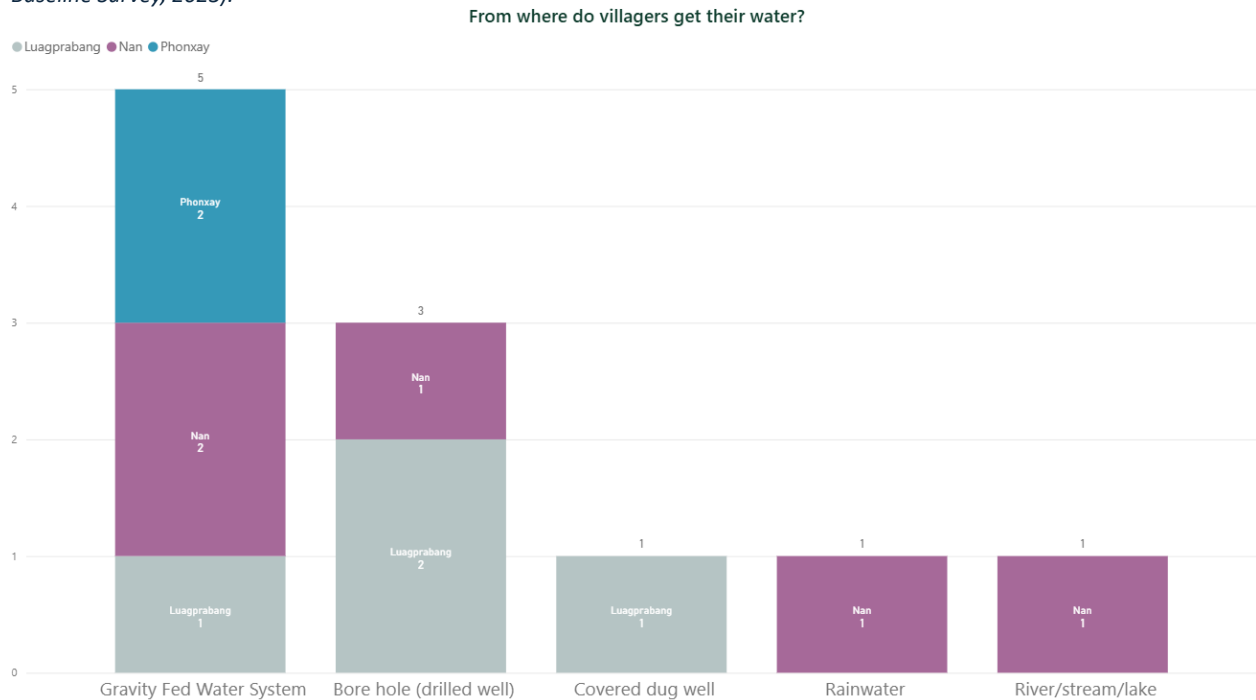
3.2.2 Alternative Water Sources Used by Villages

Households in Luang Prabang Province rely on a diverse mix of water sources for domestic use, reflecting both infrastructure availability and local environmental conditions (Figure 4).

The gravity-fed water system is the most commonly reported source across the surveyed villages and districts. It is used in all three districts and represents the backbone of village-level water access. Boreholes (drilled wells) are also reported in several villages, particularly in Luang Prabang and Nam districts, suggesting supplementary infrastructure where gravity-fed systems are insufficient or seasonal.

Additional sources are used in specific locations. Covered dug wells are reported in a limited number of villages, while rainwater collection and river, stream, or lake water are reported only in selected villages, primarily in Nam District. The continued use of surface water and rainwater indicates that households often combine multiple water sources to meet daily needs.

Figure 5 Alternative water sources used by villages in the absence of piped water supply, by district, Luang Prabang Province (CRED Baseline Survey, 2023).



3.2.3 Drinking Water Sources and Water Supply

Patterns of drinking water access differ from general domestic water use and show a stronger reliance on purchased water and managed systems (Figure 5).

Across all three districts, bottled water purchased from vendors is commonly reported as a drinking water source. In Luang Prabang and Nam districts, bottled water is frequently combined with trucked water supplied by vendors, indicating dependence on external suppliers for safe drinking water.

In Phonxay District, households report a greater reliance on gravity-fed water systems for drinking water, alongside bottled water. This suggests some variation in perceived water quality or system reliability between districts.

The use of trucked and bottled water highlights concerns related to water safety and quality, as well as the limited coverage of piped water systems identified in Section 3.2.1. Dependence on purchased drinking water may also increase household expenditure and vulnerability during periods of disruption or climate-related stress.

Figure 6 : Drinking water sources by district, Luangprabang Province (CRED Baseline Survey, 2023)



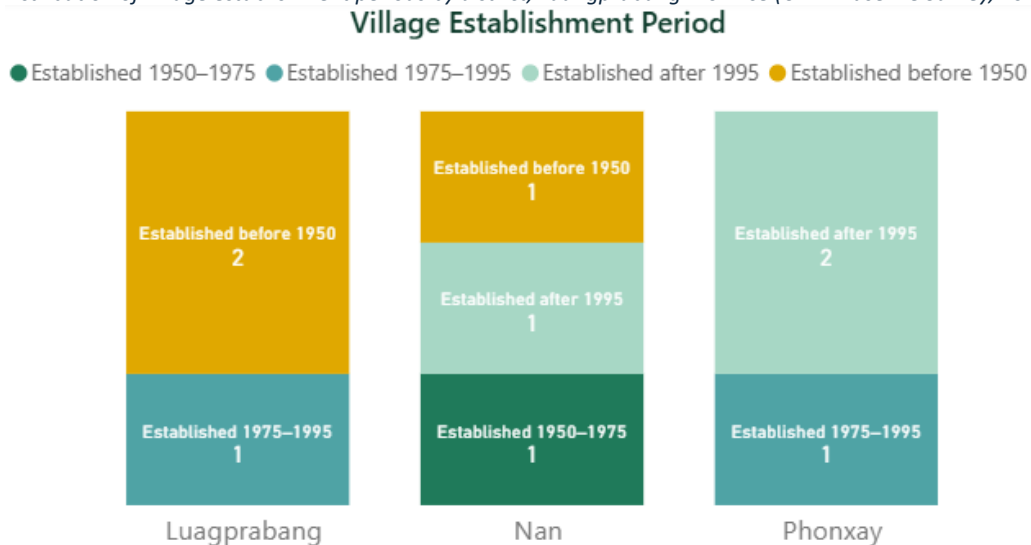
4. Village Establishment Period

The surveyed villages in Luang Prabang Province were established across different historical periods, reflecting a mix of long-established settlements and more recent village formations (Figure 7).

Out of the nine surveyed villages, three villages were established before 1950, indicating long-standing settlements with deep historical roots. Three villages were established during the period 1950–1975, while three villages were established after 1995. Only one village falls within the 1975–1995 establishment period.

This distribution suggests that the surveyed villages do not belong to a single settlement wave but rather reflect multiple phases of village formation over time. Older villages may benefit from more established social structures and land-use arrangements, while more recently established villages may face different challenges related to infrastructure development, land tenure consolidation, or service provision.

Figure 7 Distribution of village establishment periods by district, Luangprabang Province (CRED Baseline Survey, 2023).



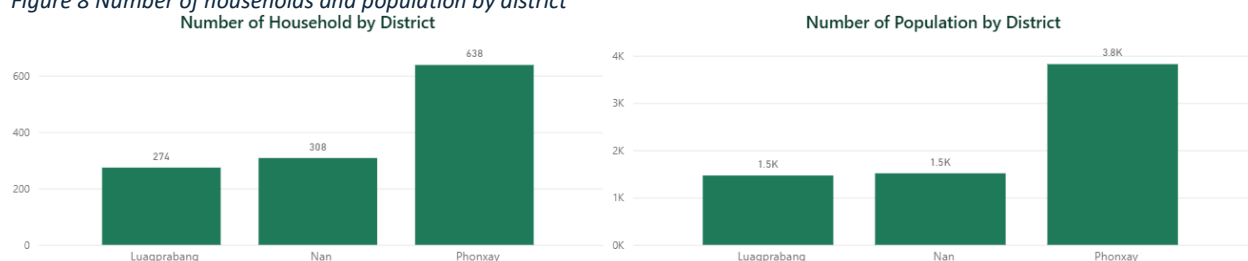
5. Household Distribution by District and Village

The CREd baseline survey in Luang Prabang Province covers 1,220 households across three districts (Figure 8). Phonxay District accounts for the largest share, with 638 households, followed by Nan District (308 households) and Luang Prabang District (274 households).

Population distribution follows the same pattern. Phonxay District reports the largest population (approximately 3,800 people), while Luang Prabang and Nan districts each report populations of around 1,500 people (Figure 8). This alignment indicates broadly comparable household sizes across districts at baseline.

Average household size ranges from approximately 4.9 persons per household in Nan District to around 6.0 in Phonxay District, remaining within the typical range for rural northern Lao PDR.

Figure 8 Number of households and population by district
Number of Household by District



6. Household Economic Categorization

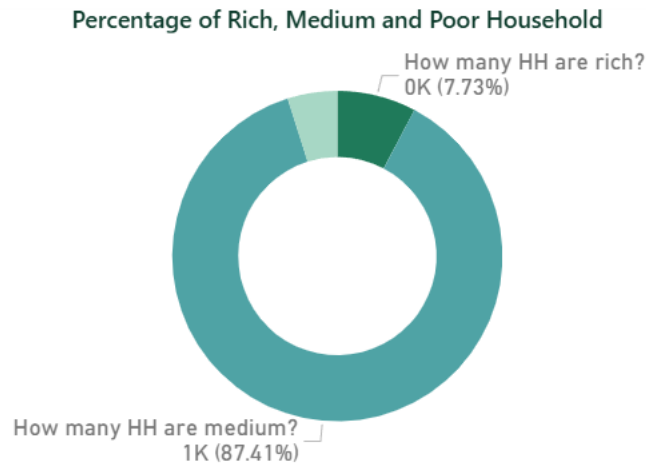
6.1 Household Economic Profile

Village-level baseline data indicate that the majority of households in the surveyed villages of Luang Prabang Province are classified as medium (Figure 9). Medium households account for 87.6% of all households with reported economic categorization data, while rich households represent 7.8%. The remaining households fall into the poor category, accounting for a small share of the total.

This distribution suggests a largely homogeneous economic profile at baseline, with most households clustered in the medium category and limited polarization between rich and poor households. While this indicates the absence of widespread extreme poverty among villages with reported data, it also implies that many households remain potentially vulnerable to shocks, including climate variability, health events, or market disruptions.

Economic categorization data were not reported for Thinxom village and are therefore excluded from village-level and aggregated economic category analysis. As this classification is based on aggregated village-level reporting, it reflects community-level perceptions rather than detailed household income or consumption data. The results should be interpreted as an indicative baseline reference for programme targeting and monitoring under the CREd programme.

Figure 9 Percentage distribution of rich, medium, and poor households (n = 1,090), Luangprabang Province (CRED Baseline Survey, 2023)



6.2 District-Level Comparison of Household Economic Categories

Clear differences in household economic composition are observed across districts (Figure 10), based on villages with reported economic categorization data.

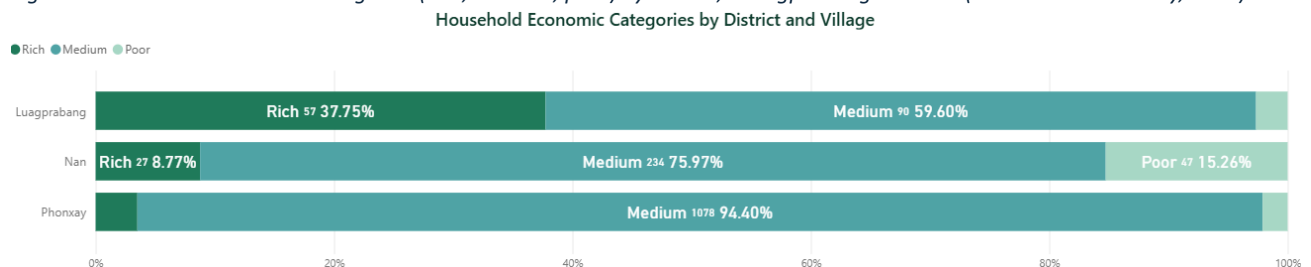
Phonxay District is highly homogeneous, with 94.4% of households classified as medium and only marginal shares of rich and poor households. This indicates broadly similar livelihood conditions across surveyed villages at baseline.

Nan District shows greater variation. While medium households remain the majority (76.0%), a notable share of households is classified as poor (15.3%), alongside a smaller proportion of rich households. This suggests comparatively higher vulnerability within parts of the district.

In contrast, Luang Prabang District displays greater economic differentiation. Medium households account for 59.6%, while a substantial share is classified as rich (37.8%), and only a small proportion falls into the poor category. This points to relatively stronger economic conditions compared to the other surveyed districts.

Economic categorization data were not reported for Thinxom village and are therefore excluded from village-level and district-level comparisons. District patterns should be interpreted accordingly as indicative baseline conditions.

Figure 10 Household economic categories (rich, medium, poor) by district, Luangprabang Province (CRED Baseline Survey, 2023).



7. Livelihood Activities and Place of Work

7.1 Main and Secondary Livelihood Activities by Village

Agriculture remains the core livelihood across all surveyed villages in Luang Prabang Province, with households commonly engaging in multiple livelihood activities (Table 7).

Rice farming is consistently reported as a main occupation in almost all villages across the three districts, confirming its central role in household food security. Cash crops, maize (corn), and vegetable gardening are widely reported as secondary activities, and in several villages as main occupations, indicating diversified farming systems rather than single-crop specialization.

Alongside agriculture, non-farm income sources play an important complementary role. Government employment is frequently reported as a main occupation across villages in all three districts, reflecting the importance of salaried public-sector jobs where available. Hired labor and wage work are reported as both main and secondary activities, particularly in Phonxay District, suggesting greater reliance on labor-based income in some locations.

Trading activities are present across districts, reported as a main occupation in selected villages and as a secondary activity in others, pointing to small-scale, locally oriented commerce. Private employment and factory work appear in a limited number of villages, mainly as secondary activities, indicating some linkage to non-agricultural labor markets.

Labour migration, including work outside the village or abroad, is reported mainly as a secondary livelihood strategy.

Figure 11 Main and secondary occupations by village in Luang Prabang province
Household Occupation

District Occupation	Luangprabang			Nan			Phonxay		
	Naoun	Nonghoe	Thinxom	Houaypaknao	Nalin	Pakuang	Heugdoy	Longnyad	Nambor
Factory				Secondary			Main		Secondary
Cash crop	Secondary	Main	Secondary	Main	Main	Main		Main	Secondary
Corn	Secondary	Secondary	Secondary	Main			Secondary		
Garden(Vegetable)	Secondary	Secondary	Secondary	Main	Secondary	Secondary	Secondary	Main	Main
Go to abroad		Main	Secondary	Main			Main	Secondary	Main
Government officer	Main		Main		Main	Main	Main	Main	Main
Hired labourer/worker	Secondary	Secondary	Main	Secondary				Secondary	Main
Migrant labourer and back to home town because of COVID							Secondary		
Private employee			Main						
Rice	Main		Main	Main	Main	Main	Main	Main	Main
Trader	Main	Secondary	Secondary	Secondary	Secondary	Secondary	Secondary	Main	Secondary
Worker	Secondary		Main						

Note: “Main” and “Secondary” indicate dominant and supplementary livelihood activities as reported at village level by village authorities. The table does not represent the proportion of households engaged in each activity, and the presence of an activity does not imply that it involves a large share of households

7.2 Livelihood Activities and Place of Work

Village-level baseline data indicate that livelihood activities in Luang Prabang Province are carried out across multiple geographic scales, including within villages, within districts, in other provinces, and outside the country.

Village- and district-based activities dominate agricultural livelihoods. Farming activities such as rice cultivation, cash crops, maize, and vegetable gardening are largely undertaken within the village or district, reflecting locally based production systems. Trading activities are similarly concentrated within villages and nearby district markets.

Government employment is mainly located at district or provincial centers, indicating regular commuting or posting outside the immediate village area. Private employment, factory work, and wage labor are reported primarily outside the village, often in district centers or other provinces, reflecting engagement with broader labor markets.

Labor migration, including work in other provinces and cross-border employment, is reported across villages. Migration is generally described as a temporary or secondary livelihood strategy, rather than a permanent shift away from agriculture.

7.3 Farming System Composition

Village-level baseline data indicate that farming systems in Luang Prabang Province are mixed crop–livestock systems, with considerable variation between villages and districts (Table 8).

Cropping systems

Rice cultivation is widely practiced across all districts and remains a central component of household food production. Maize (corn) is also common, particularly in Luang Prabang and Nan districts, where it is reported by a large share of villages, reflecting its role as both a food and cash crop. Job's tears is an important crop in several villages, especially in Nan District, where it is reported by a high proportion of households, indicating a stronger orientation toward commercial upland cropping.

Cassava and soybean are present in a smaller number of villages and typically at lower coverage, suggesting more localized or supplementary production rather than province-wide specialization.

Livestock systems

Livestock keeping is widespread across surveyed villages. Poultry is the most commonly reported livestock type, with very high coverage in most villages, indicating its importance for both household consumption and small-scale income. Pigs and goats are also common, particularly in Phonxay and Nan districts, reflecting diversified small livestock systems.

Cattle and buffalo ownership varies more markedly by village. Buffalo and cattle are reported at higher levels in several villages in Phonxay District, indicating a stronger role for large livestock in these areas, potentially linked to land availability and grazing conditions. Fish production is reported only in a limited number of villages and at low levels, suggesting it plays a minor role in overall farming systems

Figure 12 Crop and livestock activities by village (% of households)

Category	Crops					Livestock						
	District	Cassava	Corn	Job's tear	Rice	Soil bean	Buffalo	Cow	Fish	Goat	Pig	Poultry
Luangprabang												
Naoun		100%		10%		0%	24%		7%	7%	100%	
Nonghoe		86%		46%		84%	6%	6%	4%	9%	100%	
Thinxom		33%		66%	7%	5%	2%		2%		93%	
Nan												
Houaypaknao		8%		10%		13%	42%		4%		73%	
Nalin	35%			51%	100%	3%	7%		4%	12%	100%	
Pakuang	15%	43%		92%	50%	1%	23%		0%	39%	92%	
Phonxay												
Heugdoy		65%		32%		5%	52%		5%	63%	63%	
Longnyad		2%		16%		2%	2%		0%	2%	0%	
Nambor		0%		12%		6%	97%	3%	3%	7%	66%	

Note: Percentages indicate the share of households reporting engagement in each activity at village level and do not represent production volume or income contribution.

8. Key Household Assets

Responses to the open-ended question on farmers’ most valuable assets consistently highlight productive land and fixed assets as the core foundations of rural livelihoods.

Across villages, agricultural land including production land, paddy land, and cultivation land—is cited as the most important assets. Secure access to land is perceived as essential for food production, income generation, and long-term livelihood stability. In several responses, both production land and residential/construction land are mentioned together, underscoring the dual importance of land for livelihoods and housing.

Housing assets, particularly permanent houses, are also frequently reported as key assets, reflecting their role in household security and well-being. In addition, livestock, especially large animals such as cattle and buffalo, are commonly identified as valuable assets, indicating their importance as productive assets, savings, and coping mechanisms in times of shock.

Vehicles and transport assets (such as cars, trucks, and agricultural transport equipment) are mentioned in multiple villages. These assets are linked to market access, mobility, and the ability to transport agricultural produce and inputs.

9. Sources of Agricultural Knowledge and Learning

Farmers in Luang Prabang Province access agricultural and livestock information through a combination of formal extension services and informal learning channels, with variation across villages and districts.

Agricultural information and extension

Across most villages, farmers report that agricultural information is primarily obtained through district and village extension officers, including staff from agriculture and forestry offices. In several villages, farmers also report learning through practical experience, peer learning, and observation of other farmers, indicating a strong reliance on informal knowledge exchange alongside formal advice.

Examples of agricultural information received include guidance on crop production techniques, pest and disease management, land preparation, and crop selection. However, the level of detail and regularity of information varies, suggesting uneven extension coverage across villages.

Livestock information and extension

Livestock-related information is reported to be accessed mainly through district-level livestock officers and village-based animal health workers, where available. In some villages, farmers rely heavily on self-learning and experience, particularly for day-to-day animal care.

Examples of livestock extension include advice on animal health, vaccination, disease prevention, and basic feeding practices. In several villages, livestock extension is described as limited or irregular, indicating gaps in access to systematic support services.

9.1 Ongoing Development Projects at Village Level

Range of development projects are currently being implemented across the surveyed villages in Luang Prabang Province, with variation in sectoral focus between districts (Table 9).

Agriculture-focused projects are the most reported and are present in the majority of villages across all three districts. This reflects continued investment in agricultural production, extension, and livelihood support as a central development priority.

Education and health projects are also widely reported and appear consistently across villages, indicating relatively broad coverage of basic social sector interventions at community level.

Livelihood and nutrition-related projects are reported in several villages but with more uneven distribution. Livelihood projects are present in selected villages in Luang Prabang and Phonxay districts, while nutrition-focused interventions are reported mainly in Nan and Phonxay districts, suggesting targeted programming rather than province-wide coverage.

A small number of villages report other types of projects, indicating the presence of additional interventions that fall outside the main sectors captured in the table.

Figure 13 Projects operating in the village

What project are going on in this village?

District	Agriculture	Education	Health	Livelihood	Nutrition	Other
Luangprabang						
Naoun	Agriculture	Education	Health			
Nonghoe	Agriculture	Education	Health	Livelihood	Nutrition	
Thinxom	Agriculture	Education	Health	Livelihood		Other
Nan						
Houaypaknao	Agriculture	Education	Health		Nutrition	
Nalin	Agriculture	Education	Health		Nutrition	
Pakuang	Agriculture	Education	Health		Nutrition	
Phonxay						
Heugdoy		Education	Health	Livelihood	Nutrition	
Longnyad		Education	Health			
Nambor	Agriculture	Education	Health		Nutrition	

10. Local Economy, Market Access and Trading Conditions

10.1 Products Available and Trading Arrangements

Farmers in Luang Prabang Province rely predominantly on intermediary-based marketing channels for the sale of agricultural and livestock products, with limited direct market access.

Across all districts, middlemen are the most reported buyers for a wide range of products, including rice, maize, Job’s tears, cassava, livestock, vegetables, and fruit. Middlemen operate both at village level and across districts, providing aggregation and transport services but also shaping price formation and farmers’ bargaining power.

In several villages, particularly in Nan and Phonxay districts, village collectors play an important role for selected products such as vegetables, fruit, and specific crops. These collectors often act as the first point of sale, aggregating produce locally before onward sale to traders or middlemen.

Company buyers are reported only in a limited number of cases and for specific commodities (for example coffee), indicating that direct contractual or company-based market linkages remain limited at baseline. This suggests that most farmers continue to sell through informal or semi-formal channels rather than structured value-chain arrangements.

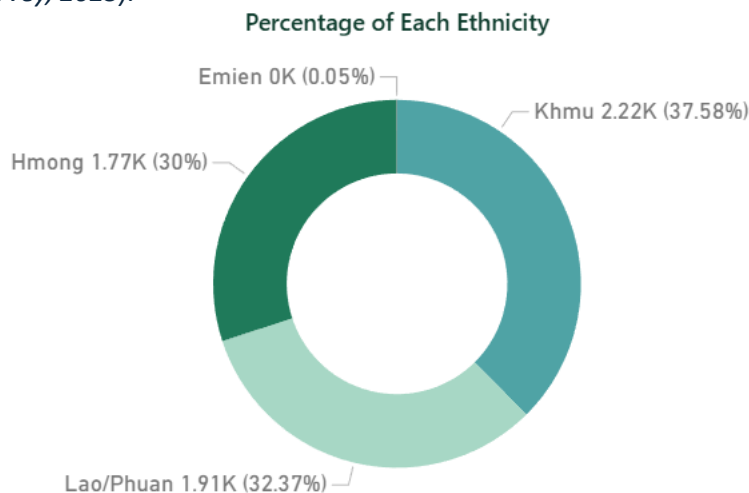
11. Ethnic Composition

11.1 Ethnic Composition at Province Level

The population of the surveyed villages in Luang Prabang Province is ethnically diverse, with four main ethnic groups represented (Figure 11).

The Khmu constitute the largest share of the population, accounting for approximately 37.6% of residents. This is followed by Lao/Phuan, who represent 32.4%, and Hmong, accounting for 30.0% of the population. A very small proportion of the population belongs to Emien, representing less than 1%.

Figure 14 Percentage distribution of ethnic groups among households surveyed, Luang Prabang Province (CRED Baseline Survey, 2023).



11.2 Ethnic Composition at Village Level

Village-level baseline data show that ethnic diversity is a common feature across the surveyed areas in Luang Prabang Province (Figures 12 and 13).

All three surveyed districts are ethnically mixed. Luang Prabang District includes Khmu, Lao/Phuan, and Hmong communities. Nan District shows the widest range of ethnic groups, with Khmu, Lao/Phuan, Hmong, and a small Emien presence. Phonxay District also demonstrates high ethnic diversity, with strong representation of Khmu, Hmong, and Lao/Phuan across villages.

At village level, most surveyed villages comprise two or more ethnic groups. Nalin (Nan), Longnyad and Nambor (Phonxay) report three ethnic groups, while Houaypaknao (Nan) is the only village reporting a single ethnic group.

Figure 15 Number of ethnic groups reported per village (village-level presence), Luangprabang Province (CREd Baseline Survey, 2023).

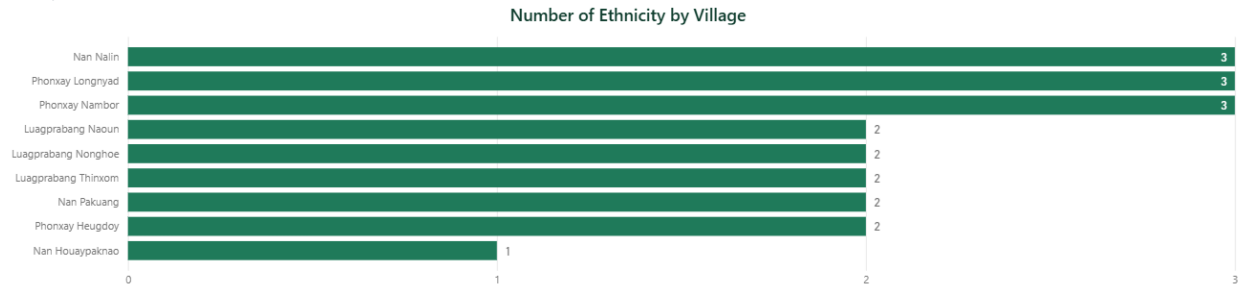
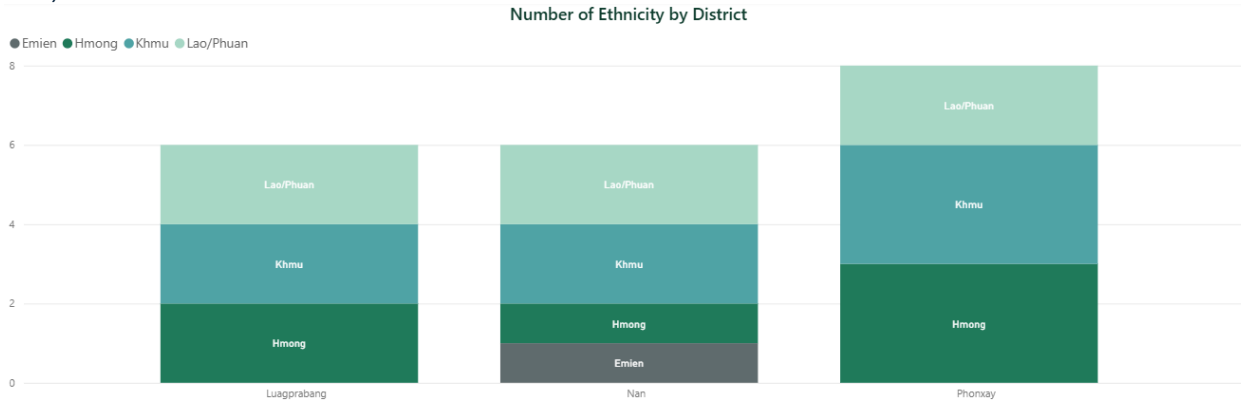


Figure 16 Number of ethnic groups reported per district (village-level presence), Luang Prabang Province (CREd Baseline Survey, 2023).



12. Village Institutions and Local Governance Structures

Village-level baseline data show that community organisations are present in all surveyed villages, though membership size and composition vary by village and organisation type.

Women’s participation in community organisations is uneven. While some organisations report female members, others report very low or no female participation, and representation of female-headed households is minimal. This indicates that women remain underrepresented in formal community structures at baseline.

At household level, decisions on what to produce and sell are most reported as being made jointly by husbands and wives, with fewer cases of decisions led solely by husbands or wives, however, the data reflects reported arrangements rather than actual decision-making power, which may vary by decision type and household context.

13. Local Economic Activities and Business Environment

13.1 Business Activities at Village Level

Most reported businesses are small-scale service and trade activities, with wholesale and retail trade being the most common business type across districts. Repairs of motor vehicles and motorcycles is also reported in several villages, reflecting demand for basic transport-related services.

A small number of social and service-oriented businesses are present, including health centers, pharmacies, post offices, and private schools, indicating basic service provision at village or nearby levels rather than commercial clustering.

Agriculture-related businesses (agriculture, forestry, and fishing) and drinking water factories are reported in a limited number of villages, mainly in Phonxay District, suggesting localized economic activity rather than widespread Agri-processing. Other business types—such as transportation, mining, entertainment, and financial services—are reported only sporadically.

Figure 17 Business Activities Operating at Village Level

Type of Business	Luang Prabang	Nan	Phonxay	Total
Accommodation and food service activities	1	-	1	2
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	-	-	1	1
Drinking water factory	-	-	2	2
Electricity, gas and air conditioning supply	1	1	-	2
Entertainment and relaxation	-	-	1	1
Financial and insurance activities	-	-	1	1
Health centre	-	-	1	1
Mining	-	-	1	1
Pharmacy	-	-	1	1
Post office	-	-	1	1
Private school	-	-	1	1
Repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	1	1	2	4
Transportation	-	-	1	1
Wholesale and retail trade	2	2	3	7
Total	5	3	18	26

13.2 Infrastructure Constraints Affecting Business Development

Infrastructure constraints affecting business development are present across all surveyed districts in Luang Prabang Province, with variation in the type and frequency of reported constraints.

The most commonly reported constraints relate to storage facilities and road conditions, followed by telephone services and transport conditions. Nan District reports the highest number of infrastructure-related constraints overall, particularly in relation to roads, storage, and transport. Phonxay District reports fewer total constraints but still identifies road access and transport conditions as limiting factors. Luang Prabang District also reports constraints related to storage and telecommunications.

13.3 Community Responses to These Problems

Communities are actively taking steps to address infrastructure and service-related constraints, primarily through self-help measures and collective action, though capacity and resources remain limited.

Reported actions include basic road maintenance, such as community labor contributions to improve or maintain village access roads, and collective efforts to improve storage facilities or protect agricultural produce. Some villages report engaging with local authorities to request support for road improvement, transport services, or communication infrastructure.

In several cases, communities indicate that responses are constrained by limited financial resources and technical capacity, resulting in temporary or partial solutions rather than permanent improvements. Villages also report relying on mutual support and informal coordination when responding to infrastructure-related challenges.

14. Land Use Planning and NTFP Management

Village-level baseline data show that all surveyed villages across Luang Prabang, Nan, and Phonxay districts report having a community land use plan in place (Table 14). This indicates that land use planning has been formally introduced across the surveyed areas.

Communities report being actively involved in the development of their land use plans. Involvement typically includes participation in village meetings, consultations with village authorities, and coordination with district technical staff during planning and zoning processes. This suggests that land use plans are developed through participatory processes, rather than imposed externally.

In addition, all surveyed villages report having an NTFP (Non-Timber Forest Product) management plan. This reflects a shared recognition of the importance of forest and NTFP resources for livelihoods and local resource management.

15. Climate Change Awareness, Hazards, and Disaster Impacts

15.1 Awareness of Climate Change

All surveyed villages have heard about climate change, indicating widespread awareness across districts. Most villages also report that climate change is affecting their community, though perceptions vary by location.

Villages that report impacts commonly describe changes in rainfall patterns, increased drought conditions, and negative effects on agricultural production, including crop performance and pest pressures. In Phonxay District, two villages report awareness of climate change but do not perceive clear local impacts at present, suggesting differences in exposure, recent experience, or interpretation of climate-related changes.

15.2 Types of Hazards Experienced

communities in Luang Prabang Province are exposed to multiple climate-related hazards, with drought being the most consistently reported risk across all districts (Table 15).

In addition to drought, several villages report exposure to flooding and landslides, particularly in areas with steep terrain and during periods of heavy rainfall. Pest and disease outbreaks affecting crops and livestock are also widely reported and often occur alongside climatic stresses, compounding impacts on agricultural livelihoods.

Hazard exposure varies by village and district. Some villages report experiencing multiple hazards, while others identify one or two dominant risks.

Figure 18 Types of Hazards Experienced by Village (Past Years)

District	Village	Drought	Flood	Landslide	Pest / disease outbreak
Luang Prabang	Naoun	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Nonghoe	✓	–	–	✓
	Thinxom	✓	–	–	✓
Nan	Houaypaknao	✓	–	–	✓
	Nalin	✓	✓	✓	–
	Pakuang	✓	–	✓	–
Phonxay	Heugdoy	✓	–	✓	✓
	Longnyad	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Nambor	–	✓	✓	✓

15.3 Occurrence of Disasters and Affected Households (Past Three Years)

All surveyed villages report recent disasters affecting both households and village infrastructure. The scale of impact varies considerably, ranging from fewer than 10 households in some villages to nearly 100 households in the most affected locations.

Phonxay District records the highest reported impacts, with several villages indicating that recent disasters affected more households than in previous years, suggesting increasing exposure or vulnerability. Luang Prabang District shows mixed impacts, with some villages reporting higher damage than in previous years and others reporting stable levels. Nan District reports generally lower numbers of affected households, although some villages note increasing impacts compared to past years.

Across all districts, responses remain largely reactive, relying on community labor and short-term repairs. Village authorities and local government are consistently identified as the main sources of support, with limited involvement from other external actors.

15.4 Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Planning and Institutional Capacity

All surveyed villages except Naoun (Luang Prabang District) report having a Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) plan, with establishment dates ranging from the early 2000s to recent years. This indicates broad coverage of formal DRR planning at village level across the surveyed districts.

Where DRR plans and committees exist, reported activities focus mainly on basic preparedness and response actions, such as awareness raising, coordination within the village, and small-scale preventive measures. These actions are largely reactive and limited in scope, reflecting constrained technical and financial capacity.

16. Perceived Changes Over Time and Well-being Trends

Village-level responses indicate that most villagers perceive notable improvements compared to earlier generations, particularly in terms of infrastructure, access to services, and overall living conditions. Respondents commonly mention better roads, housing quality, electricity, education, and access to information, which were limited or absent in the past.

Livelihoods are also perceived to have diversified over time, with greater access to markets, paid work, and agricultural inputs compared to when villagers were younger.

At the same time, villagers highlight new challenges accompanying these changes, including higher living costs, increased exposure to climate-related risks, and pressures on natural resources. Some respondents note that while income opportunities have improved, economic vulnerability remains, particularly for households dependent on agriculture.

17. Perceived Major Problems

Village-level baseline data indicate that health and animal health issues are the most reported problems across all surveyed districts, affecting both household well-being and livestock-based livelihoods. These issues are reported more frequently than security concerns.

Phonxay District records the highest concentration of reported problems, followed by Nan District, while Luang Prabang District reports fewer overall issues. Robbery and security-related concerns are reported less frequently but are present across districts.

18. Household Resilience and Well-being Scores

18.1 Overview of CRED Household Score Dimensions

The CRED household resilience and well-being scores are composite baseline indicators derived from the household survey to capture key dimensions of livelihood resilience and vulnerability. The framework covers nine dimensions: income; access to services and information; agrobiodiversity; community self-reliance; gender equity; disaster exposure and preparedness; access to productive resources; productivity; and market engagement.

The scores provide a comparative snapshot of household resilience across dimensions and establish a baseline reference for programme prioritization, learning, and future monitoring under the CRED programme. They are intended to highlight relative strengths and constraints rather than to measure absolute welfare levels.

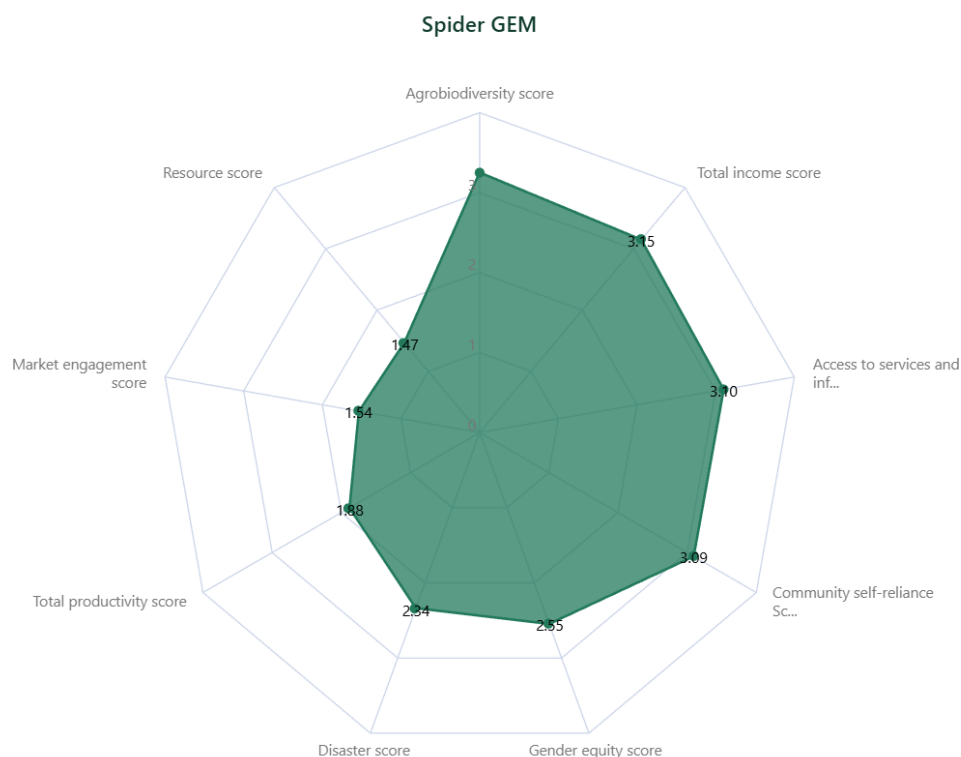
18.2 Results: Average Scores by Dimension

Baseline results show clear variation across resilience dimensions (Figure 20). Relatively higher average scores are observed for agrobiodiversity (≈ 3.4), access to services and information (3.25), and income (3.07). These results suggest diversified livelihood systems and moderate access to basic services and information among surveyed households.

Community self-reliance (2.99) and gender equity (2.68) fall around the mid-range, indicating partial collective capacity and shared household decision-making, alongside remaining gaps. The disaster score (2.64) reflects continued exposure to climate and hazard risks combined with limited preparedness.

By contrast, access to productive resources (1.34), market engagement (1.80), and productivity (2.08) record the lowest scores. These dimensions point to structural constraints affecting households' ability to translate livelihood activities into sustained income and resilience gains.

Figure 19 Average household resilience and well-being scores by dimension (CRED Household Survey, baseline).



18.3 Interpretation: Strengths, Gaps, and Implications for CRED

The resilience profile indicates moderately stable livelihood foundations alongside significant structural constraints. Households report diversified agricultural activities, some access to services and information, and a degree of community cohesion. These strengths provide important entry points for behavior change, collective action, and institutional strengthening under CRED.

At the same time, very low scores for market engagement, productivity, and access to productive resources highlight systemic barriers limiting income growth despite widespread livelihood participation. Weak market linkages, limited asset access, and low production efficiency remain key constraints. The disaster dimension further confirms ongoing exposure to climate and hazard risks with insufficient preparedness capacity.

Overall, the baseline suggests that CRED interventions will need to go beyond livelihood participation and focus on strengthening productive capacity, market integration, and shock preparedness to translate existing strengths into more resilient and sustainable outcomes

19. Key Baseline Implications for CRED

The CRED baseline in Luang Prabang Province highlights a context of moderately stable livelihoods combined with persistent structural vulnerabilities, particularly in relation to markets, productive capacity, and climate risks. While most villages demonstrate basic service access, diversified farming systems, and

community cohesion, these strengths are not yet translating into sustained resilience gains for all households.

Livelihoods remain highly agriculture-dependent, with rice farming at the core of household food security and income. Although crop and livestock diversification is evident, low productivity, limited access to productive resources, and weak market engagement constrain households' ability to increase incomes and buffer shocks. Intermediary-dominated marketing systems further limit bargaining power and value capture by farmers.

Infrastructure and service gaps, including seasonal road access, limited storage facilities, uneven electricity coverage, and restricted access to piped water, continue to affect market access, service delivery, and disaster response. Community responses to these constraints are largely self-organized and short-term, indicating strong local initiative but limited capacity for durable solutions.

Climate and disaster risks are widespread and recurrent, with drought, floods, landslides, and pest or disease outbreaks reported across villages. While most villages have DRR plans and committees in place, preparedness measures remain limited in scope, and responses are predominantly reactive. The absence of a DRR plan in Naoun village highlights uneven institutional coverage.

Social inclusion patterns present mixed signals. Household decision-making is commonly reported as joint between husbands and wives, suggesting progress toward shared responsibility. However, women's participation in formal village organizations remains low, indicating a gap between household-level practices and institutional representation.

The household resilience and well-being scores reinforce these findings. Relatively higher scores for agrobiodiversity, income, and access to services point to existing foundations on which CRED can build. In contrast, very low scores for market engagement, access to productive resources, and productivity identify priority bottlenecks for programme intervention.

Overall, the baseline suggests that CRED implementation in Luang Prabang Province should prioritize:

- strengthening productive capacity and market integration,
- improving shock preparedness and climate resilience,
- addressing infrastructure and service constraints that limit economic opportunities, and
- promoting inclusive participation, particularly of women, in village institutions.

Addressing these interconnected constraints will be critical for translating existing livelihood strengths into more resilient, inclusive, and sustainable outcomes over the programme period.