CBMS Proposal: LAO PDR

“Expansion of CBMS coverage and Monitoring the Impacts of Global Financial Crisis and Economic Crisis on Poverty”
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CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Capacity on assessment and monitoring poverty is extremely needed for Lao PDR, especially the monitoring skill of poverty in local level. Through the previous implementing phase of CBMS, government staffs from Sepone districts, Toomlane district and in 24 villages were trained with the technique, real practice on the data collection. Moreover, data from the last project is very helpful in village planning in their own locality. Because high poverty level still exist in the country, according to Richter, Weide & Souksavath, poverty rate of Lao PDR is 33.5 in year 2002; however due to unavailability of data source on poverty there is no later figure of poverty using in the planning process.

On the other hand, Economic growth of Lao PDR is slightly declined since 2007. In 2006, the growth rate is 8.3% and down to 7.9% (DoS & MPI, 2007), the trend seems to decrease in 2008. Government of Lao PDR has tried to maintain the stable growth; therefore more investments are promoted; especially the foreign and private investment with an expectation the economy will grow and meet the target 7.9% in fiscal year 2008-2009 (DoP & MOI, 2008). Government requires all investment which accounted about 30% of GDP in order to keep the satisfied growth of economy. There is a concern that the impacts from the global financial and economic crisis may hit the developing countries and including the low income country like Lao PDR.

Although the majority of Lao economy has based on agriculture sector; however service sector and other foreign and private investment has also played an important role in gaining the value added and directly raising Lao economy. Because Lao PDR is one of the low income countries, therefore this project consist of two components (1) institutional and expand coverage of CBMS and (2) monitor the impacts of global financial and economic crisis. The project is subjected to build capacity on poverty monitoring skills and expand coverage of the project, and according to hot issue such as financial and economic crisis. The project has objective also to capture and monitor the impacts of financial and economic crisis that may affect the economy and poverty of household and community level.
1.2 Problem Statement

Lao PDR has experienced with the food and fuel price crisis in 2008, the sock has given suffer to population which clearly see the consequence of the sock by the high rate of Consumer Price Index during the threatening. The fuel price was highest in July 2008 then two month later the food price got its top in September.

**Figure1. Fuel and rice price**

![Fuel and rice price graph](image)

Source: Department of Statistics

The storm seems to be stronger when the global financial and economics has emerged, the sock had collapsed many monetary institution in the US, this event has threatened many industrial in Europe, Asia and America. The sock has also continued to hit the developing countries and the low income countries. Toward this situation, it makes many concerns to consider about the country like Lao PDR where some of development still base on the foreign aid, foreign investment. Therefore it is likely to be affected by this sock. Although economic growth is gradually increased from 2003, since 2005 the growth rate seems to be slow down. This trend is the down turn of Lao economy and it may be not good if the effects from the global financial crisis arrive.
1.3 Rationale

In response to the order of the Prime Minister, number 09/PM and 13/PM launched in 2007 and 2008 on the building of the developing village group, the project provide socio-economic development data for the local government where they can use it to evaluate their launched planning. The result of the project is very useful for their later year planning and budgeting process. In term of evaluate the progress in achieving the millennium development goal or MDGs, this project has also provided the data that they could use to assess the level of their own local area poverty. The project, also foresees the impacts of the global and financial crisis that may affect the Lao economy; especially the social welfare of people in villages or community. Therefore the timely preparation is needed for the government which will be able to eliminate the severe effects to the moderate effects and under control. The policy that will cope and prevent the impacts will be also provided to the policy makers and all governments agencies.

Source: Department of Statistics, discussion paper
1.4 Objectives

1.4.1 Overall Objective

The overall objective of this project is to continue and expand building capacity of the local government in terms of data collection, summary, use the data and report the data. Another objective is monitor the impacts of global financial crisis and economic crisis on economy, and find out the policy that could prevent and cope with the impacts for both micro and macro economy.

1.4.2 Specific Objective

- To revise tool and adopt new indicators for addressing impacts of financial and economic crisis. CBMS questionnaire will be revise since village book has revised its indicators, and adopting a new set of indicators that use for monitoring the impact of global financial and economic crisis as well as;
- To have a training, workshop and meeting. After tool been ready the training is required for educating enumerator and makes understanding among project team member. Before the beginning the project, consultation meeting will be also implemented as to approve the tool and discus about the project plan;
- To do field work, this activity refers to data collection and also the supervision of the central and provincial staffs, the method of data collection is agreed to use the census method “all household are interviewed”
- To make data entry and data analysis. Data entry needs a package of software (Microsoft Access) therefore the data entry tool from the previous phase will have to be revised again and add the part of monitoring the impacts of financial crisis. Data analysis activity will be done after all data has been transferred into the system
- To make research writing and report. In order to prove the finding from the field work, economic data from macro will have to be collected. After that the report been written by the central and provincial team with cooperation from district and community.
- To dissemination. This activity will consist of local and national dissemination, for the local level it will be done after all data are tabulation of the first phase, then in the follow up phase first result will be disseminated in the national dissemination workshop.
1.5 Lesson learn

**Skills of enumerators/ data collectors:** Limitation of skills & qualification of data collector from previous data collection is a major issue, it is however for this expansion phase, project has increased in terms of contents and issues relating to the impacts of global financial and economic crisis. Therefore, staffs from higher administrative level should be more involved in order to avoid bias that might occur due to the level of perception regarding the scope, definition and technique on data collection;

**Duration of the training and training design:** length of the training of the enumerators should be appropriately fit to the volume of task and skills of data collectors, contents should include the broad pictures of the project how will the data be used in terms of policy application and planning or budgeting. It is good to keep the practice session for this kind of training where data collectors could test applying knowledge gained from the training to real data collection. The training should also allocate a half day after the practice to discus and resolve the outstanding issues.

1.6 Expected outputs

- Revised data collection and processing tools;
- Final design of CBMS methodology as a tool for monitoring poverty and for monitoring the impact of the global financial crisis on poverty;
- Training modules ( e.g. training of enumerators using the revised questionnaire, training on data processing, training on the use of CBMS data;
- Update the CBMS database or village statistics data bank in local level. The government has tried to build a data bank in the village through village book; recently more accurate data has been added into the data bank of village that is the output of the CBMS project.
- Poverty profiles for the selected project area using the data gathered from the survey;
- A research paper on the impact of the global financial crisis on poverty and the necessary policies and programs to mitigate the impact of the poor in Lao PDR;
- A documentation of the proceedings of the consultation meetings and dissemination activities conducted in relation to the project;
- Final project report containing a technical report on the details of all project activities and a detailed project financial report;
• Capacity of the local level (Province, district & village), the capacity has been strengthened through various activities of the project such as the way of handling the task or the project, skills in data collection, processing, validation & editing, analysis and well as the way of making research and how to indicate the problems to the policy makers.
CHAPTER II
LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Transmission Channel

Understanding about impacts of global financial crisis to poverty is very important for government to and it is needed for government to find out the way to cope and to prevent the impacts. According to World Bank, the paths that carry the impacts to household level could be drawing as a vertical line; from macro to micro level. There are four channels that send the impact to poverty of household as following:

2.1.1. Through international trade

Most of the countries; especially the low income countries gain fund from exporting goods to sell in foreign countries (International Monetary Fund, 2009); however if international trade is reduced it is of course giving effects to the goods producers because entrepreneurs gain profits from their own products by exporting or selling in the country. Goods are depending on the demand of the clients, if the customers are affecting by the economic down turn; it is certainly slow down their needs on some kind of good. Customers in the third word have to revise their expenditure plan again; they must save money and fund for their more necessary purposes and cut off the expenditure on the luxurious goods flowers, luxurious cars and so on.

Export of cropper has been affected by the low demand on it by the importing countries,

2.1.2. Through Foreign Direct Investment

According to the IMF, the FDI inflow of the Low-Income Countries will sharply fall by 20 percent in 2009 from 2008. Since the FDI has played a key role in job making and supporting the macro and micro economy, if the FDI falls down it means that many people will become unemployed. These things put more stress to the Government and many people
will suffer with lacking income. Low FDI may affect to the demand of the producer and directly affecting to the employment level to fall down.

\textbf{2.1.3. Through Remittance}

Economic crisis has direct effect to remittance, many migrant worker are unemployed when the factories, enterprises and so on in industrial countries like USA, Japan, Singapore have been collapsed caused by the crisis. Unemployment made workers been in vulnerable situation, and therefore the remittance is cut down. According to the World Bank 2008, falling in remittance will affect both macro economy stability and the welfare of the households. Household; especially in Lao PDR have the relatives or cousins living in USA, Canada so on, sometime they depend on the money sent from these countries to help them. It is a pity that the source of how much remittance is sent per year is unavailable

\textbf{2.1.4. Through Asset Value}

With consequence to the recession of the global economy, the value of asset held by household is lower. Since the assets are non labor income generator, generally households could base on the fixed asset when the situation of income is severe. In the same time, the asset is down therefore the stress will be double to the household.

\textbf{2.2 Impact on households}

According to Rodal U. Mendoza 2008, debt is the first issue to be discussed, since household need to maintain the stable status of income level during the shock; poor household may borrow money from other household or financial unit. Such response to the crisis may increase the debt level and might consequence impact to the household in the long run if household could not come over the status of low income. Nutrition status of household; especially on the children is very important and vulnerable to be hit by the crisis (Sakiko Fukuda-Parr, 2008), household tend to consume less according to the monthly reduced income, household might smooth their expenditure on the supplemented food and turn to
enjoy limited variety of food which inverse affects their health and make them go beyond their nutrition status.

Most poor households are more likely to send their children to have additional job, the purpose is to help their household to gain income to fulfill basic need, and the procedure may affect the school attendance rate of children (Rodal U. Mendoza, 2008). On the other hand, in terms of health care, household may limit access to health care service in order to save money for other needed purposes in household, this strategy might hit household in terms of chronic disease and loading the burdens to women who will take care when ones stay ill in the house instead of hospital or health care centre.

In addition, the consequence of the crisis may force the household to sell their asset such as the livestock, in some developing countries some kind of livestock still be used to help in agricultural activity. If such livestock have been sold, the agricultural production might be affected and might reduce in the volume of the rice production. These common impacts are crucial and needed to be eliminated from the communities or villages of all countries; especially the developing countries where local or rural development is the key element of food development.

2.3 Coping mechanism

The coping strategy that household generally use in facing with the shock, the coping mechanism might vary from country to country; however the coping strategy may or may not be effective. In response, to fight with reduced income due to the job loss, household might limit their expenditure on food, travelling, clothe, electricity, gas, communication as well as the recreation activities. To make more income, household member has to work more than one job or even children have to work after schooling, in some sever case household have to withdraw their children from school to work. Some household might limit the health care seeking in order to maintain stable of consumption, some may sell their assets in order to gain income for their household.
2.4 Conceptual Framework

The concept of the study will emphasize on the household expenditure consumption, the hypothesis will see how the related independent variables associating with household expenditure consumption and other additional dependent variables. Household expenditure consumption is determined as the poverty indicators for this study and determined as dependent variable.

Figure 3. Conceptual Framework

Source: WB
2.5 Hypotheses

Village profile
Household characteristics
Income sources
Reduce remittance
Reduce labor income
Job loss
Limitation to employment
Access to credit

has no relationship

(Expenditure consumption)
Poverty

Health
Nutrition
Education of children
Employment
Income
CHAPTER III
DATA AND METHODOLOGY

3.1 Data Source

Community base monitoring system (CBMS) is used as the source of data for this finding and monitoring; Lao PDR has implemented CBMS since 2004 over 24 villages of Sepone and Toomlane District; however this phase the coverage of the project will be expanded. CBMS is the subset of village statistics book which the aggregated data from CBMS shall be fulfilling the need of village book or reporting system.

According to decree 140/PM, local government as well as the central government expected reporting system from grass root or villages would be able to capture the progress of the Socio-economic Development Plan and monitor the poverty of the local. Government has attempted to improve and support the framework by developing a tool as brief as possible which is a user friendly and try to allocate fund from national budget to enable data collection and reporting.

For fiscal year 2008-2009, the governor of Savannakhet province has allocated 30 million kip or equivalent to 3,538 USD to innovate village book implementing for all districts of the provinces; it is however insufficient for fully data collecting. For Saravanh province, in response to CBMS the provincial office has proposed the budget from the Governor office in order to support the process of data reporting from village through village book. Village book is to be called as “Community Base Monitoring System” in the long run; the process however needs some time to make CBMS familiar with local and central Governor in terms of useful data and more scientific. CBMS has been defined as one component in strategic plan of National statistics system.
3.2 Sample

3.2.1 Sample size for CBMS project

In order to support the district level estimate of poverty, number of villages are randomly selected, 30 percent of whole villages in district is defined as the sample villages. In Toomlan district, the sample size is 11 village cover 1,183 households from total 37 villages. In Sepon, the sample size 26 villages; however base on the limited budget the we accept 20 village and cover 2,051 households. The total sample size for this study is 31 villages and covers 3,134 households.

Table 1. Number of sample village

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Districts</th>
<th>Number of total villages</th>
<th>Number of sample villages</th>
<th>Number of household in sample villages</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Seponse</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>2,051</td>
<td>10,710</td>
<td>5,120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toomlan</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>1,183</td>
<td>7,398</td>
<td>3,731</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td><strong>125</strong></td>
<td><strong>31</strong></td>
<td><strong>3,134</strong></td>
<td><strong>19,394</strong></td>
<td><strong>9,590</strong></td>
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3.2.1 The sentinel sites for monitoring the impacts of GFC

The sentinel site is proposed to be Dansavan village, Sonemixay village and Phonemuang village because these villages are located in urban and on the border area. Most of villagers involve in the business and they are more likely to be affected by the impacts of global financial crisis. The total household is 638 households.

3.2 Structure of local administration and the reporting system in Lao PDR

According to the Prime minister’s Decree number 01/PM, Village is the implementing unit, and village chief is designated to collect data for their own planning and feeding back to the district level. The unit will coordinate with the planning office and Governor Office in district level.
Reporting system of data is run through each level of administrative; data from CBMS project will play a key role in supporting village statistics book. Data from the project is needed for the planning and budgeting process for local development. Data gathered in village, then been reported and fed back to the district planning office and Governor Office, the data then reporting upper and up to the Ministry of Planning and Investment or Government.

**Figure 4: Structure of the Local Government and Reporting System in Lao PDR**

![Diagram showing the structure of the Local Government and Reporting System in Lao PDR](image-url)
### 3.5 Questionnaire

Questionnaire for community base monitoring system or CBMS is revised in terms of consistency with village book; there are 3 set of questionnaire. There are two set of household questionnaires (CBMS questionnaire and questionnaire for capturing the impacts of the financial and economic crisis), and the village profile questionnaire.

**Household questionnaire (Annex 1):**

1. **CBMS household questionnaire has 11 modules as following:**
   1) Demographic data
   2) Occupations
   3) Household characteristics (Housing, sanitation and water)
   4) Agriculture (Planting and livestock)
   5) Industrial activities
   6) Education (Literacy & Illiteracy)
   7) Health (Mosquito net use and Number of illness )
   8) Poverty (Multi dimensions)
   9) Income
   10) Expenditure for consumption
   11) Consumption of own produced goods

One more set of questionnaire is to capture the impacts of global financial crisis and Economic Crisis

2. **Questionnaire of the global financial and economic crisis. There are three main areas as following: please see Annex 5. The list of household indicators and questions for monitoring the impact of global financial crisis.**

1. Indicators for capturing the outcome of the crisis
   a) Returning oversea workers
   b) Diminishing remittance
c) Reduced labor income
d) Job loss
e) Reduce access to health service
f) Limited access to employment programs
g) Asset loss
h) Lack of access to credit

2. Indicators for tracking impact of the crisis
   a) Health and nutrition
   b) Education
   c) Income
   d) Employment
e) Peace and order

3. Indicators for coping mechanism
   a) Nutrition
   b) Health
   c) Education
d) Asset and transfers
e) Employment
   f) Expenditure (clothes and consumer durables, electricity, water and fuel, transportation, communication)
g) Leisure and recreation

**Community or village questionnaire (Annex 2 and 6):** Village profile or community questionnaire consist of 3 sections,

- Public service (electricity, health centre, etc)
- Education (school, students, teachers)
- Criminal case occurred in villages
3.6. Pre-test of the tool (questionnaire & manual)

The test of the tool or the questionnaire will be done after all tools are in place, this activity will be undertaken by defining one village and select about 10 households and then interview with all questions in the developed questionnaire. The purpose is to make sure whether the tool is validated and ready for real data collection, and then the tool may be revised.

3.7 Training for supervisors and enumerators

Two trainings are planned for the first round of data collection. Training for the supervisors is planned to hold in central level. Provincial and district team members shall be called to Vientiane capital for training on the concepts of the project as well as the implementation of the project activities and the data collection. Central team members are trainers and facilitate training for the first training in central level.

The second training is planned to organize in the local level such as Sepone District and Toomlan district respectively. Assigned village enumerators are nominated and participate in the enumeration training. The training will emphasize on the definition of each questions and the patterns of skipping. The training will cover the one day practice before all enumerators carry out the real data collection.

3.8 Data collection

Data collection method is agreed to use the census method “all households are to be interviewed” and face to face interview. The duration of data collection is approximately one month over 10 working days including supervision and primary check of the data in the forms. Additional function of supervisor and the enumeration is to make the checking of data in the form before delivery to the data entry station. The project will assign the supervisors who will assist and check the quality of data to each data collection site. The supervisor will be the provincial and district project staffs, the mandate is not only observation but to assist the enumerators in data collection and validate of all filled forms. The project covers two rounds of data collection, the first round is set to late October to early November of 2009, and the second round will be the same period in the following year.
3.9 Data entry

According to the facilities and capacity of district is less so the data entry is to be implemented in the province level, a package of data entry software will be revised and install in the provincial office, 5 staffs from districts office will be assigned as the data entry operators. IT staffs from central will assist in terms of techniques and how to use the software to check the results.

3.10 Data validation and editing

First stage of data validation is done during the field work; the task will be undertaken by the assigned supervisors in each data collection sites. The process has been defined as to allow the data collectors finishing their tasks, then the supervisor make validation on the form again, the mistakes and recommendation done feed back to the data collectors. Doing that they could see their fault and know how to manage the found mistake, the response he/she may go and confirm with the household again with the raised issues.

Second stage is done when data file after joining together, the CBMS team from central office will collaborate with the provincial and district team in sharing the testing of the results in the provincial level. It is to verify the raw data which just been entered into the system. The process is to run across the variables and compare the results among them, the team from province and district is to consider and explain with some strange or bias results. Making sure, all issues have been clear before the miss data is edited or revised. After the validation is approved, the team then comes up with the output data set which is ready for the data analysis process.

Third stage, the preliminary result from data analysis will be shared in the technical meeting in each district where village head are involves. In this meeting, the stakeholders and concerned agencies in district level are invited; the feedback and comments will be taken into account for improving the result more relevant to the real situation.
3.11 Data Analysis

According to the lacking of IT facilities in district and village level, data analysis is done in provincial level under the major participation of district staffs, the task will have a closed collaboration of the team in provincial and central level; the main measure that the team will undertake is the poverty measurement. Expenditure consumption is agreed to use as the welfare indicator in measuring poverty, the poverty line is derived from the result of the Lao Expenditure and Consumption Survey (LECS) which is undertaken every 5 years. And apart from that, the multiple dimensions of poverty where rice, housing, clothe, capacity to afford children’s education and health are used as the variables is also considered as one component for one aspect in the study.

For second components of data analysis, the global financial crisis impacts are testing, the household expenditure consumption is defined as the dependent variable. It is very interesting to see that during the shock or after the shock of the crisis how the defined independent variables such as diminishing remittance, reduced labor income, job loss, reduce access to health service, limited access to employment programs, asset loss, lack of access to credit associate with the household and community welfare.

More interests are to demonstrate the situation of population by different aspects in terms of nutrition, health, income, education and employment. The task is to test whether the defined independent variables are negatively or positively associated to the additional dependent variables such as nutrition status, health access, income, education and employment. In addition the second component of study, the coping mechanism of people is also analyzed; the purpose is to see the response of the people and community in coping with the sock of the crisis.

In order to make a conclusion to each model of study, the multivariate analysis or (Multiple regression model and binary logistic regression model) are used to test the association between variables. By using this tool, the policy makers or any data users easily understand about which variables are affecting more or less with comparing to the provided theories.
3.12 Organization and team member

The project will recruit 10 staff, Dr. Samaychanh Boupha, Director General of Department of Statistics will act as Project Director (PD), Mrs. Phonesaly Souksavath, and Deputy Director General of Department of Statistics will act as the Project Manager (PM). The project will consists of 2 units; Mrs. Souchalith Norkeo will act as an accountant in Financial Unit, while Research Unit will have Mr. Vilon Viphongxay act as the research team leader, Mr. Phetsavanh Boutla and Ms. Phuangmala Rasasy are researchers.

In provincial and District level, there are two staffs from each province act as the focal point of the project and as the staffs of the project. In Savannakhet province, there will be Mr. Keokhonsy Thongchankham and Mr. Bounlam Dan Uthai while in Saravan province; Mr. Khamking Keosouphanh and Mr. Somchit Phadtoula are officer incharge. Annex 3 is the CV of the proposed staff.
Figure 5: Chart of project organization

Project Director:
Dr. Samaychanh Boupha,
Director General of DoS

Project manager:
Mrs. Phonesaly Souksavath,
Deputy Director General of DoS

Financial Unit:
Mrs. Souchalith Norkeo,
accountant

Research Unit:
Mr. Vilon Viphongxay, research team leader
Mr. Phetsavanh Boutlasy, researcher
Mrs. Phuangmala Rasasy, researcher

Provincial/District: Savannakhet Team
Members:
Mr. Keokhonsy Thongchankham,
researcher
Mr. Bounlam Dan Uthai, researcher

Provincial/District: Saravan Team
Members:
Mr. Khamking Keosouphanh, researcher
Mr. Somchit Phadtoula, researcher
Mandate of CBMS teams

Central team:

- Coordinate with provincial team members to implement the project;
- Provide consultancy, provide guideline on the project implementation to provincial local team and improving the tool
- Organize the Training of Trainer for local team, testing data collection instruments, develop the data entry software;
- Provide guideline and consultancy to local team in data entry, data processing and data analysis;
- Provide guideline and consultancy on the report writing and dissemination of the results
- Summary and develop the full paper of the results and report to the high ranking staff in the ministry level;
- Take spot supervision on the field work;
- Follow up the implementation of the project with the local team on each period of time, follow the progress report and summary for reporting to the management level in ministry and PEP-network Office or CBMS Network Leader

Provincial team member:

- Coordinate with central and district team member to implement the project;
- Provide consultancy, provide guideline on the project implementation to district team members;
- Organize the Training for enumerators, take full time supervision in data collection;
- Involve in data entry, data processing and data analysis;
- Assist the district team member in organizing the technical meeting and feedback on the results of data analysis;
- Involve on the report writing and dissemination of the results
- Summary and develop the paper of the results and report to the high ranking staff in the provincial level;
- Follow up the implementation of the project with the district team member on each period of time, prepare progress report and report CBMS central team
**District team member:**

- Coordinate with provincial and village enumerators to implement the project activities;
- Provide consultancy, provide guideline on the data collection to village enumerators;
- Take full time supervision in data collection, validate, edit the filled forms before hand over to data entry station;
- Involve in data entry, data processing and data analysis;
- Collaborate with provincial team member in organizing the technical meeting and feedback on the results of data analysis;
- Involve on the report writing and dissemination of the results
- Summary and develop the paper of the results and report to the high ranking staff in the district level;
- Follow up the implementation of the project with the village enumerators on each period of time, prepare progress report and report provincial team members.
3.13 Limitation of the Study

Most of Lao population base on agriculture products and more likely to consume their own products such as rice, vegetable and poultry, even though some of them may employ, but most of them are seasonal employee, only when they are free from agriculture work. Therefore, the impact of the global financial crisis may not be significant. On the other hand, the data on employment is not regular collected; only from population census which has a long interval. Similarly to GDP, because GDP calculation is one a year, therefore it is very difficult to assess the impacts of the global financial crisis for Lao PDR compare to those countries which have quarterly GDP and other economic data are in place.
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