



World Vision

LAO PDR

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IMPACT

REPORT

IMPACT

Our National Impact Report 2022





World Vision is a Christian relief, development and advocacy organisation dedicated to working with children, families, and their communities to reach their full potential by tackling the root causes of poverty and injustice. World Vision serves all people, regardless of religion, race, ethnicity, or gender.

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Cover photo: A young girl enjoys accessing clean water from the new borehole built by World Vision in a community of Phonexay district, Luang Prabang. Photo: Ammala Thomisith/World Vision.

Comments and inquiries are welcome. Information on use of material in this report in training, research or programme design, implementation or evaluation would be appreciated.

National Director's

Foreword

2022 was another challenging year for children globally and here in the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

In many areas of the globe, children continue to bear the impact of poverty, natural disasters, and social and economic upheavals exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The situation of children in Laos has become more difficult. While the country witnessed progresses over the past decades, it was still featuring alarming rates in malnutrition, access to quality education and literacy, prevalence of children engaged in labour hazardous for their health, or early child marriage and pregnancies before COVID-19. As the third Lao Social Indicator Survey is ongoing and its results highly anticipated, we can expect the situation to have worsened post-COVID, and with the ongoing economic crisis.

World Vision remains committed to working for the fullness of life for children in Laos, in partnership with the Lao PDR Government and the Lao society. In 2022 we strived to deliver with agility and to maintain the quality of programmes and services in a setting fraught with limitations and risks due to the pandemic and the resulting economic fallouts.

We reached over 350,000 boys and girls and their families, and directly impacted changes in the lives of 142,601 of them. We take pride in

the programmes that we have pursued during the year and emerging results in the locations where we work – the integrated approach to address stunting malnutrition, Go Baby Go, and Unlock Literacy programmes promoting early childhood development and improved quality of education in primary school years, the work on nutrition-sensitive and climate-smart agriculture have proven to be efficient ways to address the challenges faced by the most vulnerable in Laos. We worked together with other development players, including the World Food Programme with whom we supported 70,000 individuals through food for assets and rehabilitation of community facilities in areas prone to seasonal floods, and turning a page of modern history with the end of COVID-19 quarantine centers in Savannakhet and Saravane.

2022 was also the final year of the Accelerating Healthy Agriculture and Nutrition project (AHAN) supported by the European Union's Partnership for Improved Nutrition in Lao PDR. AHAN supported over 124 communities of Savannakhet, Saravane and Attapeu provinces to improve the nutrition of mothers and children significantly. The final evaluation showed that stunting rates in the three Southern Provinces covered went down from 46.8% to 29.3%. Underweight rates reduced from 34% to 26.8%. And, household food security levels increased from 11.7 to 70.2%. All these despite the pandemic affecting the country.

I would like to thank and celebrate the 140 staff of World Vision and our volunteers in the national office in Vientiane and in the programme offices in Luang Prabang, Khammouane, Saravane, Savannakhet, Champasack, and Attapeu who make it possible even through the roughest of times and places. They continue to inspire us finding solutions to the issues we face internally in the organisation and in the environment where we work and deliver to the best of our abilities. I also want to thank Roslyn Gabriel and Liz Satow, my predecessors, as well as our Regional Leadership Team, who have laid the foundations and who continue to remain our allies and pillars in pursuing our mission to bring hope, joy, and justice for the children here in Laos.

Edelweiss F. Silan, National Director



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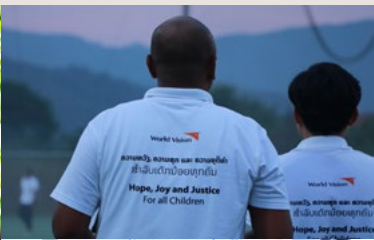
World Vision
LAO PDR



ARE



WORLD



VISION



We are **World Vision**

Our focus is on helping the most vulnerable girls and boys overcome poverty so they can experience fullness of life now and in the future. Inspired by our core values, our work reaches children no matter their background or the dangerous places in which they live.

We are driven by our desire to ensure that every girl and boy has what they need to grow in mind, body, and spirit. Every day, our 35,000 staff and tens of thousands of volunteers across the world work hard to empower children to live lives filled with joy, and go further than they could ever have imagined.

Guided by more than 70 years of experience and expertise, our dedicated staff employ proven and effective development, relief and advocacy practices to empower communities to become self-sufficient and bring real, lasting change.

As a leading global partner, we labour alongside supporters, stakeholders, families and communities to transform lives and bring hope so that all our lives are enriched.

Together with our partners, we reached **359,139 people in Lao PDR** (app. 5% of Lao population), **including 139,038 boys and girls**, and impacted over 200 million vulnerable children around the world in 2022.

**Our work reaches children
no matter their background
or the dangerous places in
which they live.**



Overview of Lao PDR priority sectors

Child Protection

World Vision recognises that vulnerability of children is very high in Lao PDR. A report released by UNICEF in 2018, Measuring Progress on Child Wellbeing in Lao PDR, reported that approximately 70% of children aged below 18 in Lao PDR experience at least two form of deprivation, with consequences for lifelong productive and social participation, 50% of children are suffering from three or more deprivations at the same time, and only 12% of children experience no deprivation at all. 25% of Lao mothers/caregivers of children aged 1-14 believe that physical punishment is necessary and a high prevalence of child marriage is observed with one in three women aged 20-49 married before they reach the age of 18, with 7% married before age of 15.

Nutrition & Health

High needs are observed in maternal and child health with high rates of malnutrition observed in children under 5 years (Stunting 33%, Wasting 9% and underweight 21%)¹, a Maternal Mortality ratio of 185.0, and Adolescent Birth Rate of 65.4 – all the highest prevalence in the East Asia region.

Education

In Education, the mean years of school is 5.3 years and the low spending in education is reflected in low education quality and learning. While the average student spends over 10.8 years in school, he/she learns the equivalent of only 6.4 years during that period. Student comprehensive learning outcomes are concerning with on average, only one in three Grade 3 students meeting literacy standards² and nearly 40% of children under the age of 5 - a crucial period for neural development - having no access to early learning opportunities.

Food Security & Livelihood

While agriculture is the main source of livelihood in Laos, food security remains challenging, especially for districts affected by unexploded ordnance (UXOs), with more than 2 million tons dropped between 1964 and 1973 with 30% failing to detonate. The impact of these on poverty is clear, with 42 of the 46 poorest districts affected by UXOs.

¹ World Development Indicator - World Bank (2017)

² What makes a good school? - UNICEF (2021)

Climate Change

Laos is also vulnerable to climate changes. In recent years, the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events has increased with damaging floods along the Mekong River. In 2020, Laos rated 9.1/10 with physical exposure to floods and 6/10 in the lack of coping capacity dimension³.

Social Inclusion

Laos' extreme diversity in ethnicity and geography is another challenge to development. The vulnerability of children increases when living in inaccessible areas (with no road access year-round). This impacts health services and education coverages. Poor infrastructure and government services in remote and mountainous areas continue to place ethnically diverse communities at disadvantage.

³ Disaster Management reference handbook Lao PDR (2021)



Our Work, **reaching the most vulnerable in Laos**



Children and their families need access to **clean water, sanitation, and hygiene** (WASH) to thrive. In 2022, we reached 15,194 people with access to clean water and 784 people with access to household sanitation.



Good health and nutrition empower children. Our work promotes positive child development and well-being, **prevents child death, reduces illness, and improves nutrition**. We support over 649 Community Health Workers in 6 provinces, providing timely counselling on healthy behaviours and building bridges to improved health and nutrition services. Our integrated approach enables 10,935 pregnant women, mothers, caregivers and service providers to protect, advocate for, and improve the health and nutrition of children where we work.



Every child has a right to quality, safe, inclusive, and transformative education that empowers them for life. Despite the pandemic and unprecedented disruption to learning, our whole-child approaches reached over 139,000 children including over 460 children with disabilities in Laos. Our work enabled families, communities, and schools to provide nurturing care with playful and effective pedagogy. For instance, 91% of teachers trained by iREAD are applying their new teaching skills, reducing the drop out to 1%.



World Vision works with parents in communities to **increase and diversify their income sources and enhance agricultural productivity** in the wake of changing climatic conditions. In 2022, more than 2,500 smallholder farmers have been trained in improved and sustainable agricultural and Natural Resource Management techniques. In addition, over 3,000 women and men continued to make regular savings in the community-based Savings for Transformation groups.





World Vision partners with families, faith leaders, and communities **to ensure children thrive emotionally, physically, and spiritually.** Our faith-based approaches are designed to address the physical as well as spiritual root causes of child vulnerability. In 2022, we worked with 415 faith leaders across Laos to build more supportive and loving families and communities where children can thrive.

World Vision works with local child protection groups led by the Government of Lao PDR **to better protect girls and boys** from abuse, neglect, exploitation, and other forms of violence like child marriage and child labour. Our signature Child Protection and Advocacy models address the root cause of violence against children in communities. We work with local people to strengthen protective services and transform harmful attitudes and behaviours.



Tha Konesouvanhkhham, coordinator of the AHAN Project in Toumlarn district, Saravane province, is initiating the plantation of fruit trees in the new communal garden in one of the 23 villages supported by World Vision. Photo: Nicolas Charlassier/World Vision



359,139
girls, boys and adults
were reached through interventions
relevant to their needs.



including

141,829
directly participating in our programmes



4,843
children
directly participated
in our child protection
activities in 2022.

And over

9,900
individuals

mobilized during child protection activities
through the It Takes World campaign,
to end violence against children



It takes a world
to end violence against children



10,935
pregnant women,
mothers and
caregivers

received nutrition and infectious
disease awareness and counselling
from more than

649 health
volunteers

3,726
households
have a new
and sustainable
access to



clean
water
close to their
home



786
toilets

were built by
families with our
technical support to
improve sanitation and
hygiene practices of rural
communities

3,094
households



from remote areas
have now access
to basic financial services
in their communities with
new village

Saving Groups



2,519
farmers

improved their cropping and
rearing techniques,
and apply nutrition-
sensitive and climate-smart
agriculture practices.

114
health workers

trained to prevent, manage
and/or treat selected
illnesses/diseases
linked to under-
nutrition, supporting
the strengthening of



66
health facilities

Our Stories



THE POWER READING: A BRIGHTER FUTURE FOR KAM IN LAOS

"I read storybooks every day at school and bring at least three books per week home. Sometimes I read to friends and help them to read. We are very happy and we love reading together",

says 11-year-old Kam.

Living with her grandmother, the young girl supported by the iREAD project blossomed, from a shy and introvert pupil to an outspoken and inspiring reading champion, helping her friends overcome the barriers linked to literacy in rural communities of Laos.

With more self-confidence and a supportive environment to grow, Kam is ready for a brighter future. She is the perfect example of World Vision's community-focused solution, with other children benefiting from her new talent.

MORE GENDER EQUALITY MEANS BETTER NUTRITION FOR RURAL WOMEN AND THEIR CHILDREN

With the Accelerating Healthy Agriculture and Nutrition (AHAN) Project, the European Union, together with World Vision, is creating enabling conditions for a more equitable future for women in Savannakhet, Saravane, and Attapeu provinces. The project which started in 2018, has run a series of awareness-raising activities, gender-sensitive training, and provided resources to vulnerable families and their communities to spark this social behaviour change.



"In the past, my husband didn't help me much, but now he does. It's very convenient for me when he carries the firewood or the water with the pushcart. Our life is getting better now", says Ms. Thin (picture above).

With over 25,000 labour saving devices distributed and 4,000 community people sensitized to gender equality, AHAN has triggered significant changes in behaviours within households that are meant to be sustained, with the activities implemented hand in hand with the local representatives of the Lao Women's Union.

CLEAN WATER BRINGS LIFE IN ALL ITS FULLNESS FOR CHILDREN IN RURAL LAO PDR

For generations, accessing water gave a hard time to the rural communities of Xebangfai district, Khammouane Province. Children and women walking kilometres to collect water, carrying the heavy buckets filled up with muddy, unclean water from the stream, and repeating it all over again, few times a day, was part of the families' regular burden.

This hardship ended in 2021, when World Vision constructed new water systems in the most remote areas of Xebangfai district, with the support of EDF Foundation.

"Now I can have time to play with my friends and learn. I love it.", says 9-year-old Adai (picture below).

With the construction of a community water system in his village, life changed for 9-year-old Adai and his friends, and the 3,396 souls supported by World Vision in Xebangfai district. No more dangerous raids to fetch for water, and more time enjoy fullness of life!



Full stories on www.wvi.org/Laos

Education



5,075

girls and boys
(3-18 years old)

participated in our education enhancement and support programmes

120
students

supported through education assistance to transition to secondary school, with



98%
children

still studying the next school year

178
teachers
& volunteers



from the Lao Ministry of Education and Sports were trained to conduct classes following the Unlock Literacy project model and supported with teaching materials

Child Rights & Equity



1,662

people with
disability

were supported by our programmes

415
faith leaders



actively involved in
our programmes for children



737
households

empowered with Community-Change plans to address harmful practices

we contributed to

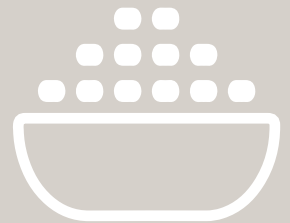
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national
policies changes
for children

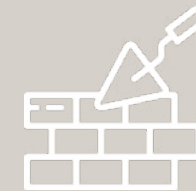


Humanitarian & Emergency Affairs

37,000+
individuals



supported with food in the COVID-19 state Quarantine Centers, in partnership with the World Food Programme



33,000+
individuals

from areas prone to flood supported with rehabilitation of community assets in exchange of food (Food for Assets) with the World Food Programme



51
communities

were sensitized on
Disaster Risk Reduction

Financial summary

Deepening our commitment to the **most vulnerable girls and boys.**

Thanks to the partnerships established with our donors and support offices, we were able to make a difference in the lives of the most vulnerable children in Laos.

Total revenue in 2022:

\$9.11M

86% yield to programming

(The proportion of revenue spent on programming work that has a direct impact on vulnerable children's lives, including advocacy, campaigning, and technical support.)



Total expenditure by category

(all amounts in US dollars)



Integrated Health & Nutrition
\$6.7 million (75%)



Education & Life Skills
\$1.9 million (20%)



Food Assistance
\$0.3 million (3%)



Programme & Project Management
\$0.2 million (2%)

Programme implementation by province



Our work is made possible thanks to the valuable grants by international funds, governments, and corporations all over the world.

For the positive results achieved in FY22, our deep appreciation goes to the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), British Embassy Vientiane, Electricité de France (EDF), European Union, Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, New-Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, World Food Programme, and other private funds from Australia, Canada, Japan, Korea, Taiwan, Singapore and the USA.



At **World Vision**, we are driven by our desire to ensure that every boy and girl has what they need to grow in mind, body and spirit. Our more than 37,000 staff work hard to empower children to live lives filled with joy, become all that they were created to be and to go further than they could ever have imagined.

Our vision for every child, life in all its fullness.
Our prayer for every heart, the will to make it so.

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