

CHILDFUND LAOS ANNUAL REPORT 2014-15



ChildFund Laos is the representative office of ChildFund Australia – an independent and non-religious international development organisation that works to reduce poverty for children in the developing world.

ChildFund Australia is a member of the ChildFund Alliance – a global network of 12 organisations which assists more than 15 million children and families in 58 countries.

ChildFund began work in Laos in 2010, implementing community development programs in Xieng Khouang Province, one of the poorest areas in the country. ChildFund has a strong focus on improving access to quality education, and is expanding its work to include pre-primary education to ensure that children get the best possible start in life.

In partnership with communities, ChildFund has established projects to improve water, sanitation and hygiene, mother and child health, food security and nutrition, as well as opportunities for children and youth to participate in local decision-making. ChildFund has a strong focus on protection, child rights and developing life-skills through tools including sport and multimedia. In FY14-15 ChildFund Laos has expanded projects in Xieng Khouang with multi-sector intervention and in Vientiane on safeguarding and also concluded one project on physical and art education, in response to the increasing risks facing children in urban areas.

ChildFund Laos

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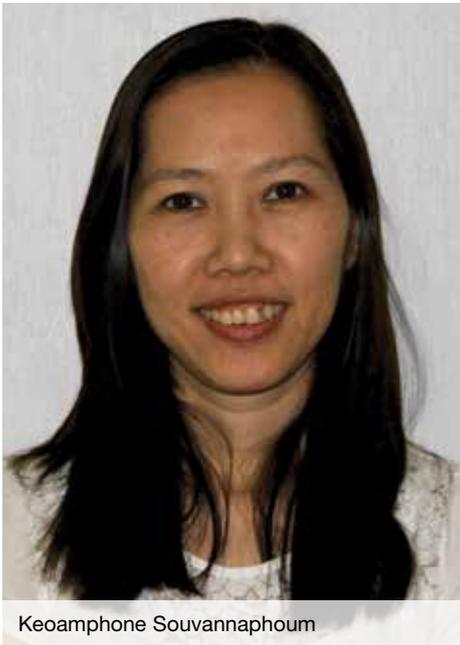
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Front and back cover: Children playing at the new preschool opening celebration in Nonghet.

From the country director

ChildFund's work in Laos has resulted in significant improvements to the lives of more than 30,124 children and their families over the past year.



Keoamphone Souvannaphoum

Another 12 months have passed and ChildFund Laos has entered its 6th year, expanding its geographical coverage. In 2015, we strengthened our focus on integrated development to address the complex factors causing poverty, building on our strengths in education and participation.

As we conclude the year, some highlights include enhancing the capacity of communities to manage their own projects, improving teachers' active classroom methods, and promoting healthy practices leading to positive behavior change in communities. All of these highlights result in improved lives for children.

This year, ChildFund Laos secured a new six-year agreement with the Government of the Lao PDR to work in Nonghet district, Xieng Khouang province. We also concluded our first project in the capital of Vientiane, responding to the increasing risks we see for children in urban areas.

Our programs have reached approximately 30,124 people, of which 40 per cent are children. On our journey,



Youth from Xieng Khouang and Vientiane take part in the Pass It Back program

we have worked towards developing better inclusion strategies for marginalised groups, evident through our increased engagement of girls, women and people with disabilities.

We also launched our first regional sport for development program, Pass It Back, which uses rugby to equip children and young people in a dynamic Asia to overcome challenges, inspire positive social change and 'pass it back' to their communities. By the end of this financial year, 34 coaches from Laos had been trained to deliver rugby and life-skills in their communities.

In 2015, we completed our four-year strategic plan. We are looking forward to reflecting, refining and focusing on our key strengths, in order to support the needs of children and families in our new country strategy.

The achievements of 2014 would not have been possible without the efforts and support of our staff, partners and supporters.

As we move forward, we will ensure that we continue to reach out to more marginalised groups, commit to the development of our staff and strengthen our partnerships with local partners, government and communities to make positive improvements in the lives of children in Laos.

Keoamphone Souvannaphoum
ChildFund Laos
Acting Country Director

2014-15 Highlights

The new pre-school built by ChildFund in Namkongoua village



EDUCATION



TWO EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT CENTRES were constructed



EIGHT TEACHER TRAINING WORKSHOPS were organised for teachers from 12 schools



84 PEOPLE from a **VILLAGE EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE** were trained to strengthen linkages between villages, district and provincial duty bearers from 12 villages



93 STUDENTS are now enrolled in the new Early Childhood Education Centre built by ChildFund



138 TEACHERS were trained in child-friendly teaching methods

HEALTH



3,823 MOTHERS AND CHILDREN accessed the new Mother and Child Health (MCH) centre, an annual increase of 88%



1,243 PEOPLE used the family planning service, an annual increase of 149%.



1,219 MOTHERS used the antenatal service, an annual increase of 52%



152 MOTHERS gave birth at the centre, an annual increase of 58%



Mothers attending the antenatal clinic at the health centre



ChildFund has provided an infant incubator

NUTRITION



NUTRITION initiatives have been launched in Nonghet district



6,000 NUTRITION POSTERS were printed and other equipment distributed to two healthcentres.

During the 2014-15 fiscal year, ChildFund Laos implemented 12 projects to improve the lives of children and their families in Nonghet District, Xieng Khouang Province and two districts in the Vientiane municipality



Kids taking part in sports for development activities

WATER AND SANITATION



THREE GRAVITY-FED SYSTEMS were provided to access safe water and sanitation



4,584 PEOPLE took part in community-led total sanitation training



306 CHILDREN were involved in hygiene awareness-raising sessions and campaigns



32 COMMUNITY members from village committees were trained in water management



27 COMMUNITIES benefited from a 36% increase in the number of safe latrines

CHILD RIGHTS AND PARTICIPATION



The community voices program reached 6,024 children through the creation of **29 YOUTH GROUPS** and **27 CHILD CLUBS**



34 YOUTH achieved Bronze certification as rugby coaches for the Pass It Back sports for development program



1,376 CHILDREN aged 11-16 took part in Pass it Back as players, 50% of whom were girls



27 GLOBAL COMMUNITY VILLAGE AMBASSADORS have been appointed, to represent their villages connected with Australian supporters.



Children taking part in Global Community activities have learnt **VIDEO PRODUCTION SKILLS** and increased their understanding of child rights



The Lao Global Community ambassadors meet visitors from Australia

LIVELIHOODS



Livelihood and food security projects have focused on the provision of **TECHNICAL SUPPORT** as well as the promotion of **GENDER EQUITY**



SEVEN LIVELIHOOD GROUPS have been established with women making up 87% of the total membership



12,948 M² OF LAND was cleared of unexploded bombs for **24 FAMILIES** in three villages.



350 CHICKENS, 61 PIGS AND 45 DUCKS were provided to **74 FAMILIES** in **9 VILLAGES** to encourage and establish the women's livestock group.



Disaster risk reduction activities were implemented in **12 COMMUNITIES** reaching over **11,069 PEOPLE**

Meeting the healthcare needs of mothers and newborns in rural communities



A mother-to-be has a regular pre-natal check up at the health centre



Lor with her 6-month-old daughter

With the support from the Australian Government and the Give a Little Love Foundation, ChildFund Laos built and opened a new Mother and Child Health Centre (MCH) in July 2014. Serviced by four doctors, two of whom are female, the centre also employs five female nurses. Since opening its doors, the centre averages around eight consultations daily, mostly for antenatal care and family planning.

Lor is one of the first mothers to gave birth at the health centre. This delivery was very special to her since it was her first experience in a hospital environment, attended by medical staff. Previously, Lor had given birth at home, despite the fact that she lives just five kilometres from the hospital, on the main road.

She explains: “I never gave birth at the hospital before. I had my four children at home with my mother-in-law and older women from the village assisting.

“During delivery at home, I just sat on a wooden chair or a bed and after delivery I had a strong backache. At

home, there is no specific equipment for delivery; it is very tiring.”

When she was pregnant with her fifth child, she wasn’t afraid but it had been eight years since delivering her last child. For that reason, Lor decided to have pre and post natal care at the district hospital, so if problems arose, and doctor would be available.

“When I started feeling pain, I went to the hospital. As soon as I arrived, the nurse examined me and encouraged me to wait. Just before the delivery, I felt secure because the doctor was there and made me feel confident everything would go well.

“In the room, there was a special bed and many instruments that made it easier to deliver the baby. I thought the pain was reduced thanks to the delivery bed. At home, delivery is very tiring and it takes weeks to recover,” explains Lor.

“One day after delivering my baby at hospital I felt strong already. I am very happy with the service at the hospital, especially the way I was welcomed,

cared for and how my delivery was monitored. The doctor kept asking me ‘Do you feel pain? How long between each contraction? Is the baby moving as usual?’ and he always checked my blood pressure” she added.

The monthly statistics of the hospital confirm the number of patients has increased since the service opened, with local women attracted by the improved services available, including the new building, modern equipment and qualified staff. The average number of births at the hospital is now 15 per month compared to 10 in 2012.

The previously poor quality of facilities, as well as a lack of trust, had prevented many women from giving birth at the district hospital. Stories like Lor’s will be shared and hopefully encourage more women to use the health centre.

In the meantime, ChildFund will support the local community in maintaining the quality of care provided, to ensure the future sustainability of this vital health service.

Collaborate to achieve change



Thank you to our ChildFund Alliance partners who have supported ChildFund Laos child-focused development programs:



ChildFund Laos would also like to thank our Lao Government partners for their support.

Finally, thank you to the following organisations whose generous support and assistance is vital to the work of ChildFund Laos:

- Asian Rugby Football Union • Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade • Electriciens Sans Frontières • Give a Little Love Foundation • Lao Biodiversity Association • Lao Rugby Federation • Plan Laos • Louie Psaroulis • RDP • The Rhodes Family • Save the Children • James Sheffield • Soap4life • Marcelo Ulvert • UNICEF • Women Win • World Vision Laos



Australian Government
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Financial report

Financial Report For Year Ended 30 June 2015

Income Statement	2015 (US\$)	2014 (US\$)
Income	1,802,848	1,765,077
Expenditure	1,800,930	1,728,373
Excess of Income over Expenditure	1,918	36,704

Balance Sheet	30 June 2015 (US\$)	30 June 2014 (US\$)
Total assets	341,695	295,862
Total liabilities	226,055	182,140
Net assets	115,640	113,722

