



Our vision: a global community, free from poverty, where children are protected and have the opportunity to reach their full potential.

Our mission: to work in partnership with children and their communities to create lasting and meaningful change by supporting long-term community development and promoting children's rights

ANNUAL REPORT 2012-13

COUNTRY DIRECTOR overview

It is an honour to share with you some of the positive changes that have happened in our partner communities over the last year - change inspired by your support, as well as the strong commitment of the Lao Government, staff and our community partners.

Poverty in Laos, along with the rest of the world is changing. Although the country boasts an impressive recent economic growth rate, this growth does not always filter down to the rural and remote communities in which we work. In addition, this growth is also presenting new risks for children in urban areas, which has seen ChildFund's work begin in and around the capital.

ChildFund is working across three program areas: improving quality and access to education; supporting stronger community voices by improving child protection, child rights and children's opportunity to engage in decision-making that affects them; building community strengths around health, water and sanitation, food security, nutrition and reducing risks to disasters.

These program make tangible changes in the lives



of children and their communities and your support ensures that the long-term engagement required to make sustainable, positive change is possible.

Over the next year we will continue to grow our work, improve the quality of what we do and ensure that children remain our key focus and have opportunities to ensure they can reach their full potential.

On behalf of ChildFund Laos and our partners at all levels, I would like to sincerely thank you for your support and wish you the best for 2014.

Chris Mastaglio
ChildFund Laos Country Director

FINANCIAL report

INCOME STATEMENT	2013 (US\$)	2012 (US\$)
Income	1,585,356	1,045,215
Expenditure	1,584,813	1,046,352
Operating surplus/(deficit)	543	(1,137)

BALANCE SHEET	2013 (US\$)	2012 (US\$)
Total assets	271,008	238,366
Total liabilities	269,534	237,435
Net assets	1,474	931

CHILDFUND Laos

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 Australia is a registered charity and is fully accredited by the Department of Foreign Affairs and

Trade which manages the Australian Government's overseas aid program.

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, including pre-primary education to ensure that children get the best possible start in life.

In partnership with communities, ChildFund has also established

projects to improve water, sanitation and hygiene, mother and child health, food security and nutrition and to provide 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.

ChildFund Laos has recently begun work in Vientiane, the capital, in response to the increasing risks facing children in urban areas.

PROGRAM achievements

ChildFund Laos is working to build long-term solutions in four key areas of need for the people of Nonghet: education, healthcare, livelihoods and food security and water and sanitation

In the past year, ChildFund Laos programs have benefitted nearly 40,000 people from 11 villages in Nonghet district and five schools in Vientiane, which means 18,376 children have received support.



Five primary schools were built and six schools were renovated. ChildFund also provided teacher training and learning materials which gave more than 2,000 children better access to education this year.



ChildFund supported renovations to the Nonghet District Hospital and two community health centres. New medical equipment was provided and community healthcare workers trained on ante and postnatal care.



This year ChildFund supported the completion of seven new water supply systems. We also trained 335 people in latrine construction who have built more than 200 household latrines to improve sanitation.



ChildFund organised Children's Day events in 12 villages which attracted nearly 2,500 children. We also provided 52 bicycles for children living in four villages and 11 sport kits to 11 villages.



SPORT FOR development

ChildFund Laos has teamed up with Sports Matters and the Lao Rugby Federation on a project that incorporates sport and play for over 5,000 children and youth in rural Laos

The role of sport is often overlooked in development, but ChildFund views it as a high-quality, low-cost tool that can be used to promote child protection, rights and participation in a fun way for kids, while also providing educational and health benefits.

The lack of appropriate play and sporting facilities and services was identified by children in Nonghet, and is strongly linked with wider issues of healthy living and the negative effect of drug, tobacco and alcohol use.

The project began by introducing 52 youth to sport and play for the first time and subsequently training them as youth leaders. Apart from learning how to lead sport and play sessions in their village, they also learned how to use sport as a tool to encourage young people to speak up about issues of importance to them.

The project has been particularly successful in getting

girls involved in organised sport. In March, over 120 girls from 10 ChildFund-supported villages in Nonghet district gathered at a local high school for a tag rugby tournament to celebrate International Women's Day. Coaches from the Lao Rugby Federation and youth leaders worked together to coordinate the tournament.

Rallying under the slogans of "I am a girl, I can play!" and "I am a girl, I am strong!" in the three local languages of Lao, H'mong and Khmu, these young girls and women showed tenacity and heart in their first competition. Participants also learned valuable lessons including sportsmanship, respect for opponents, communication, teamwork and conflict resolution.

The competition marked the first time these young women had represented their villages in any type of formal sports tournament, leaving each participant and village with much to be proud of. After a long day, where 10 teams competed in 25 matches, Houayzouang village took home victory!

Following a shared meal and awards ceremony, each village was given the materials to make a banner with their own slogan reflecting the role of sport in empowering girls and women in their villages.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thank you to the following organisations and individuals whose generous support and assistance is vital to the work of ChildFund Laos

Sport Matters • Lao Rugby Federation • Lao Biodiversity Association • Plan International • Save the Children • Australian Government Overseas Aid Program • MAG • Handicap International • Gender Development Association • the Learning House for Development • the INGO Network.

