

ChildFund
Laos

ANNUAL REPORT

2022-2023



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

ChildFund Australia is a member of the ChildFund Alliance – a global network of 11 organisations which assists almost 36 million children and their families in 70 countries. ChildFund Australia is a registered charity, a member of the Australian Council for International Development, and fully accredited by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, which manages the Australian Government’s overseas aid program.

ChildFund began working in Laos in 2010 and works in partnership to create community and systems change which enables vulnerable children and young people, in all their diversity, to assert and realise their rights. Projects are implemented in the capital of Vientiane, as well as in Huaphanh and Xiengkouang provinces, some of the country’s poorest regions with significantly high unexploded ordnance contamination. Projects are also implemented in Sayabouly and Savannakhet provinces.

With a focus on upholding child rights and improving access to quality education, ChildFund in Laos also prioritises projects which focus on child nutrition, sexual reproductive health and rights, media literacy and job readiness.

ChildFund in Laos

Street address: House No. 598, Unit26, Saphanthong Village, Sisattanak District, Vientiane Capital, Lao PDR
Phone: +856 (0) 21 412 966
Email: info@childfund.org.la

ChildFund Australia

Address: Level 8, 162 Goulburn St, Surry Hills NSW 2010
Phone: 1800 023 600
Email: info@childfund.org.au
Website: www.childfund.org.au

Authors: Soudaphone Sixomxeun and Lyxay Phothisut
Editors & designers: Rita Mu and Emily Freedman
Photography: Soudaphone Sixomxeun and Lyxay Phothisut



A MESSAGE FROM THE COUNTRY DIRECTOR

As we look back on another impactful year at ChildFund in Laos, we are delighted and honoured to share that our commitment to empowering children and youth in Laos has brought about positive changes in our communities.

Through our work in promoting critical thinking, advocacy for children’s rights, gender equality, disability and social inclusion, and leadership development, we are equipping the next generation with essential life skills to navigate a rapidly changing world.

We have also prioritised the well-being of children by improving healthcare accessibility, promoting good nutrition, and emphasising hygiene and cleanliness. Our efforts have been successful in cultivating a flourishing childhood for many children in Laos.

We recognise that comprehensive growth requires tackling challenges at their origins, which is why we have partnered closely with respected governments, local civil society organisations, and fellow organisations to promote sustainable change.

To our donors, partners, and dedicated ChildFund teams, we extend our heartfelt

thanks for collaborating with us on this impactful journey.

Your support has enabled us to shape a safe, inclusive and healthy future for children and young people in Laos, leaving no one behind.

We encourage you to join us in our mission to empower children and youth in Laos. Together, we can create a brighter future for the next generation.

VILASAI THAMMAVONG
COUNTRY DIRECTOR





48,654
PEOPLE REACHED



38,480
CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE REACHED



13
IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

3

**SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL
LEARNING PROJECTS**

3

**EDUCATION
PROJECTS**

1
**HEALTH
PROJECT**



**OUR
IMPACT**



HEALTH

Clean water for a better quality of life

Living in a remote village in Laos with few resources and facilities, Kankham, 12, (pictured below) spent a lot of his childhood collecting water from a river far from home. He would walk two hours a day to help his mother, Khonejai, fetch water for drinking and cleaning. Together, they carried three buckets, a total of 25L, back home.

A few years ago, Kankham became very sick with diarrhoea after drinking unsafe water from the river. "We had to walk 8kms to the hospital," Khonejai said. "It was a hard time for the family."

11,998

**PEOPLE REACHED THROUGH
OUR HEALTH PROJECTS.**

ChildFund in Laos worked with Government partners to build a gravity-fed water system to help improve children's health and wellbeing. More than 400 people in the community have benefited from this new system, which collects water from the river, stores it in a tank, and connects it through plumbing to 88 houses.

Now, Kankham and his family have access to clean water from the comfort of their own home. He is healthier and safer and can get back to doing the things he loves. "I have more time in the morning to enjoy breakfast and get ready for school," Kankham said. "After class, I have free time to play football with my friends."

The water system has improved Kankham's life and the overall health and wellbeing of the entire village. As part of the project, community members are also learning about the importance of using a filter to purify the water before consumption.



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I have more time
in the morning to
enjoy breakfast and
get ready for school.

Kankham, 12



Libraries helping children to develop literacy skills

In Laos, school children from ethnic minority groups are learning to speak and read the Lao language and develop their literacy skills.

ChildFund in Laos together with government partners have built 10 libraries in schools in Sop Bao and Xamneua districts, in Houaphanh Province, to help improve literacy rates and boost school attendance. These libraries are not just a place for children to learn and read but also support children to dream big for the future.

The libraries have become community hubs. Children from all walks of life come to the library to read, learn, and explore the world around them. For many children, the libraries are their only way to access books and learning resources. Minta, a

Grade 8 student, said her library had improved her ability to read Lao. "I enjoy reading stories about peace, harmony and the environment," Minta said. "I go to the reading room about twice a week."

"I like reading books with a large group of friends. We take turns reading funny stories."

The library has helped Minta develop her Lao literacy skills and imagine a world full of possibilities. "I would love to see more libraries so that my friends can read fun books together and improve their language and reading skills," Minta said.

7,909

CHILDREN REACHED THROUGH OUR EDUCATION PROJECTS.

Young people raise their voices for change

Each year on International Youth Day on 12 August, young people across Laos come together to advocate on the issues that impact them the most.

In 2022, ChildFund in Laos worked with the Lao Youth Union, UNFPA, and other partners, to organise the Celebration of International Youth Day Conference. The two-day event provided a safe space for young people to speak on topics such as reproductive health, discrimination, equality, children's rights, and climate change.

Kou, 21, (pictured right), a ChildFund in Laos youth volunteer from Vientiane, was excited to get involved. "Youth participation is very important to me because it makes today's young people," he said. "It can help us with self-development, learn life skills, develop a positive attitude, and demonstrate our creativity."

During a panel discussion at the conference, dozens of young people shared their thoughts about creating a safer world for themselves and their communities. They advocated for more opportunities to express their abilities in whatever field they chose, without fear or discrimination. They also talked about how they wanted communities and leaders to be more open-minded and respectful to all cultures and people.

Khamkik, 20, a ChildFund in Laos youth volunteer from the Sayabouly Province, said: "It is important that young people have a platform to discuss and voice their thoughts on how to solve the challenges we are now experiencing, such as limiting young people and excluding LGBTQ+ individuals from society."

By working together, young people can lead the way in building a culture of tolerance and brighter future for all.



“

Youth participation is very important to me because it makes today's young people stronger.

Kou, 21

SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL LEARNING

28,747

CHILDREN REACHED THROUGH OUR SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL LEARNING PROJECTS.

Changing attitudes to help girls access an education

Thirteen-year-old Songkarn (pictured below and right, wearing white) lives in a remote village in Houaphanh Province, in northern Laos, and is part of the Lu Mien ethnic minority group. In her community, outdated and harmful views on gender have long prevented many girls from pursuing an education.

San, one father in the community, shared that gender inequalities were deeply rooted in their history and culture. "For Lu Mien people, especially for women, if guests are coming to the house, the wife must stand as a servant and cannot sit and eat together with her husband and guests," he said.

Women were expected to take on most of the domestic work, and their voice and participation in both private and public life carried less weight. Young girls were expected to stay home and help with family chores, while boys could go to school.

ChildFund in Laos and local partners worked with communities in Houaphanh Province to change harmful gender views, promote gender equality, and support girls to go to school.

At Songkarn's primary school, ChildFund helped to create dedicated groups for students to learn about how their gender and other identities impacted their place in society, to think critically about social issues around them, and to engage in discussions on gender and society in their families, schools, and communities. "I went to the gender club at my school and I learnt that we are all equal," Songkarn said.

ChildFund also helped to organise similar workshops for parents and youth-led community festivals promoting the value of educating girls. "After learning more about gender and how it impacts our community, we now strongly encourage all our children to attend school, regardless of gender," San said. "I want my sons and my daughters to feel free to attend school and choose their own path when they grow up."



“

I went to the gender club at my school and I learnt that we are all equal.

Songkarn, 13



SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL LEARNING



Youth get ready for life in a digital world

Child protection work goes beyond ensuring the rights and welfare of children, it also involves educating them on online safety. The Ready for Life project recognised this critical consideration, providing training activities in six provinces across Laos to equip children and youth with the necessary skills to be safe online.

The project helped to transform the online safety lessons from the National Guideline into a course with peer-to-peer activities. The course was created with an aim to prevent the abuse and exploitation of children online.

Phouthdavanh, 14, from Sayabouly Province, volunteered to become a youth trainer on online safety. Through the course, Phouthdavanh gained knowledge on how to encourage young individuals to think critically and take necessary measures to protect their personal information.

She also learnt what safe social media practices look like.

“Safe internet usage skills are crucial for young people, as the internet can have both positive and negative effects. I take the initiative to protect myself and my friends by avoiding sharing too much personal information online,” Phouthdavanh said.

The peer-to-peer activities have empowered 320 youth trainers who can now transform their knowledge about online safety to over 47,000 of their peers in seven provinces across Laos. The Ready for Life project also provides young people with life skills learning.



THANK YOU & FINANCIALS

COLLABORATING TO ACHIEVE CHANGE

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



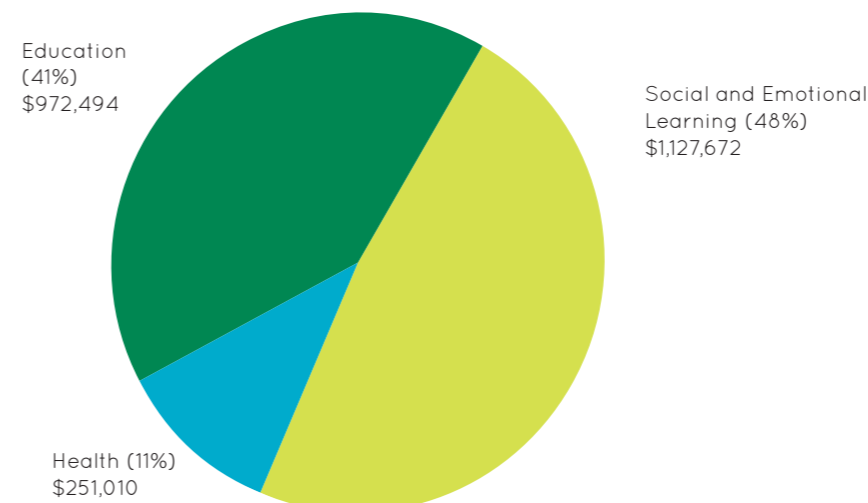
- Aid Children with Disability Association (ACDA) • Community Association for Salvation and Environment (CASE)
- Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI) • Lao Rugby Federation (LRF) • Lao Cyber Emergency Response Team (LaoCERT) • Life Skills Development Association (LSDA) • Ministry of Education and Sports (MoES) • Ministry of Health (MOH) • Ministry of Post and Telecommunications • Prudence Foundation • The Commission for the Advancement of Women and Mothers and Children at Provincial and District levels (CAWMC) • The National Commission for the Advancement of Women and Mothers and Children (NCAWMC) • UNFPA • UNICEF

Financial report for year ended 30 June 2023

REVENUE	FY 21-22 (USD)	FY 22-23 (USD)
Donations	161,024	320,475
Grants	2,056,764	2,197,625
Other income	2,829	0
Total income	2,220,617	2,518,100

EXPENDITURE	FY 21-22 (USD)	FY 22-23 (USD)
Program and projects	2,081,532	2,351,176
Program support	52,532	44,015
Accountability and administration	119,691	151,825
Total expenditure	2,253,755	2,547,016

PROGRAM EXPENDITURE FY 22-23 (USD)



**BECAUSE
EVERY CHILD
NEEDS A
CHILDHOOD**

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