

ChildFund  
Laos

# ANNUAL REPORT

2023-2024





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.

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## A MESSAGE FROM THE COUNTRY DIRECTOR

As we reflect on the past year, I am deeply proud of the steps ChildFund in Laos has made in our mission to empower children, youth and communities.

This year, we have witnessed remarkable progress in advancing educational opportunities, improving health outcomes, fostering resilience, participation, life skills and leadership among the children and youth we serve.

Our dedicated teams and partners have worked tirelessly to implement innovative programs that address the unique challenges faced by children, youth, and communities.

The success of these efforts is a testament to the unwavering support of our donors, government, local CSO counterparts, staff, and local communities. Your belief in our mission has made a tangible difference in many lives.

As we look to the future, we remain committed to making positive impacts and ensuring that every child and youth in Laos has the opportunity to thrive. Thank you for your continued support and dedication. Together, we are building a brighter future for the next generation.

VILASAI THAMMAVONG  
COUNTRY DIRECTOR



  
**37,428**  
**PEOPLE REACHED**

  
**26,376**

**CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE REACHED**

  
**8**

**IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS**

**2**  
**SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL  
 LEARNING PROJECTS**

**2**  
**HEALTH  
 PROJECTS**

**2**  
**EDUCATION  
 PROJECTS**

**OUR  
 IMPACT**

**SOCIAL AND  
 EMOTIONAL LEARNING**



## A Journey of Youth Empowerment

The Ready for Life Project plays a crucial role in shaping the future of young people by providing them with essential skills and experiences. Through roles such as youth trainers and volunteers, participants gain valuable insights into leadership, teamwork, and adaptability.

After joining the Lao Children’s Forum in 2020, Namwan became involved in the Ready for Life Project as a youth trainer, leading multiple peer-to-peer activities, including life skills training, at her school. This role helped her develop practical skills in professional settings, manage stress, and build confidence. Through her volunteer work, she refined her abilities and clarified her personal goals.

Namwan hopes that “Lao youth will have a space where they can pursue their passions and build careers that help them live better lives. When we love what we do, we give it our best effort, enjoy the process, and the results are always positive.”

Namwan’s journey illustrates the profound impact of the Ready for Life Project. It doesn’t just prepare youth for the future—it transforms their lives, turning potential into meaningful action. Through these programs, young people like Namwan become empowered leaders, equipped to make a real difference in their communities and beyond.

The Ready for Life Project is making a real difference, providing young individuals with the tools they need to succeed and contribute positively to their communities.

“

Lao youth will have a space where they can pursue their passions.

Namwan, Youth Trainer





# SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL LEARNING



## How Santisouk became a Young Climate Advocate

When supported with the right tools and knowledge, children and youth can become unstoppable agents of change. In Laos, youth leaders like Santisouk, a 14-year-old from Nongniew Lower Secondary School, are taking bold strides to combat climate change and protect their communities.

Santisouk's transformative journey from a shy child to an advocate for climate action began at the Lao Children's Forum 2023 in Luang Prabang. He blossomed through engaging in Child and Youth Empowerment for Climate Change Action Project, where he learned new life skills and about the impacts of climate change.

His favourite training sessions were on the impact of greenhouse gases and ignited a passion for advocating for improved waste management and climate action.

Now, Santisouk channels his skills into creating impactful climate advocacy videos and leading waste management initiatives at his school. Most recently, he's spearheaded better recycling practices, transforming an unsightly waste dump into a productive and thriving vegetable garden.

From a hesitant student to a proactive leader, Santisouk's story showcases the profound impact of equipping youth with essential skills and knowledge. His dedication to educating others and his active role in climate action illustrates the incredible change that young people can inspire in their communities.

# 945

CHILDREN REACHED THROUGH OUR EDUCATION PROJECTS.

# EDUCATION

## Enhancing Learning Environments

Children in rural Laos often face barriers to education, such as lengthy travel distances, overcrowded classrooms, and inadequate facilities. The Gender and Language Education for Ethnic Students' Empowerment (GLEESE) Project addressed these challenges by constructing five new, fully furnished school buildings in Houaphanh Province.

Maiphouan's school was previously housed in a dilapidated building with no windows, a leaking roof and muddy floor, which made it near impossible to study.

To help improve the learning environment for children like Maiphouan, ChildFund in Laos with support from ChildFund Korea and Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) upgraded the school.

Now featuring a modern facility with four classrooms and a newly repurposed dormitory, Maiphouan and her friends are enjoying learning in a cleaner, safer and more comfortable environment: "I love the new building, especially the concrete floors. There's no more dust, so we can breathe fresh air."

The transformation of the school has significantly improved the learning environment and increased student enrolment from 70-80 to 115 students, including 72 from ethnic minority groups like the Hmong.

Nouanthong, the school director, also praised the project for adding gender-sensitive and universally designed toilets, a library, and new classroom furniture.

He said, "The improvements have greatly motivated our students and significantly enhanced their enthusiasm for learning."

The GLEESE Project has created a safer, more comfortable learning environment, bridged the education gap, and promoted equal opportunities for all children.



“ I love the new building. There is no more dust, so we can breathe fresh air.

Maiphouan, Student



## Empowering Laos' Children with Financial Wisdom

In 2022, ChildFund Laos, supported by the Prudence Foundation, launched the Child Life Skills Empowerment Project.

Through the project, the Cha-Ching program was introduced in 100 schools across three provinces to enhance financial literacy among primary school students. The curriculum focuses on four financial concepts (earning, saving, spending and donating) to help children make informed decisions about their money and resources.

Khambang, a teacher at a Primary School in Houaphanh province, noted a positive change in students' behaviour since the program's introduction. "Before, they spent all their money without thinking. Now, they save, spend wisely, and even donate," she said.

Phommalin, a 10-year-old student, shared, "I learned to save and spend wisely. I now compare prices and save in my piggy bank."

Similarly, Dok Ngern, aged nine, has started helping her parents harvest vegetables to save for an electric bike.

Through the Cha-Ching program, students like Dok Ngern and Phommalin are empowered to set goals and take actionable steps towards achieving them, fostering financial literacy and a sense of responsibility from an early age. The program's impact extends to families. One parent reported that their child now saves more and spends less, and even asked to go to the bank to deposit their savings.

"One day, a parent came to school and told me they were very proud of their child and the Cha-Ching program. Their child no longer asks for unnecessary items or pressures them to buy things like before. When he has money, he either doesn't spend it or spends very little, choosing to save more instead. When his piggy bank is full, he asks his parents to take him to the bank to deposit his savings," said Khambang.

The Cha-Ching program is fostering a new generation of financially literate and responsible individuals, creating a brighter, more secure future for the children of Laos.



“

I learned to save and spend wisely. I now compare prices and save in my piggy bank.

Phommalin, 10-year-old







## Transformation through Community Support

Thum Malasone, a 30-year-old mother of three from Houaphanh Province, has seen her life change through the Integrated Nutrition for Growth IN4G project.

By engaging in initiatives like Social Behaviour Change Communications (SBCC) on nutrition, Village Savings and Loans Groups (VSLG), and Agricultural and Village Farmer Nutrition School (FNS) Training, Thum has gained valuable knowledge that has improved her family's health and nutrition.

"I've learned the importance of a varied diet and the six essential food groups," Thum says. "I now cook nutritious meals and manage my time better, which has reduced my workload and allowed me more rest."

Thum proudly breastfeeds her youngest child exclusively for the first six months and follows with nutritious meals like boiled rice with eggs and vegetables. Her efforts have resulted in a healthy, vaccinated son.

She values the ongoing support from village-level volunteers and hopes the project will continue, emphasising the need for community education on childcare. Thum's journey highlights the impact of community support and education, showcasing her as a leader and inspiration in her village.



## 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:



- Community Association for Salvation and Environment (CASE) • DMAS Centre • Humanity Inclusion • Lao Rugby Federation (LRF) • Maeying Houamjai Phathana (MHP) • Ministry of Education and Sports (MoES) • 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)

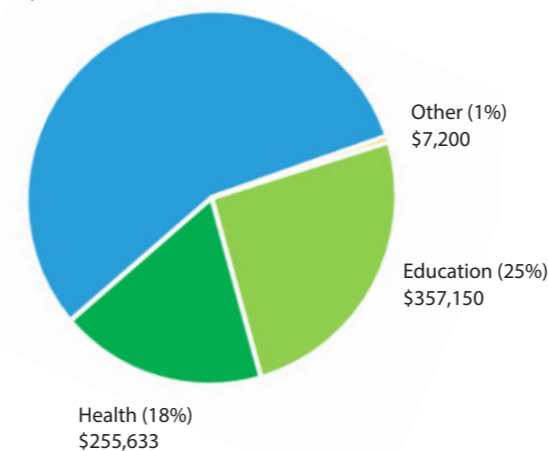
## Financial report for year ended 30 June 2024

REVENUE	FY 23-24 (USD)	FY 22-23 (USD)
Donations	392,728	320,475
Grants	1,317,610	2,197,625
Other income	0	0
Total income	1,710,338	2,518,100

EXPENDITURE	FY 23-24 (USD)	FY 22-23 (USD)
Program and projects	1,410,592	2,351,176
Program support	110,790	44,015
Accountability and administration	206,291	151,825
Total expenditure	1,727,673	2,547,016

PROGRAM EXPENDITURE FY 23-24 (USD)

Child Protection (56%)  
\$790,609





**BECAUSE  
EVERY CHILD  
NEEDS A  
CHILDHOOD**

[www.childfund.org.au](http://www.childfund.org.au)