

PROTECTING CHILDREN IN LAOS

LUANG PRABANG AND SAYABOULY PROVINCES, LAOS

Laos has experienced fast-paced social and economic changes in recent years, putting new pressures on communities. More than 23% of people are living below the poverty line¹ and the safety and development of many children are impacted by this disadvantage.² An increase in migration and child trafficking are leading to more homelessness, exploitation and abuse for children across the country.

Yet child protection is everyone's business, and we've been working with communities and the Laos Government to keep more children safe in this rapidly changing context.

We've been building child protection networks in small villages and regional towns to help create a stronger local response to child safety. We've been raising awareness about a national law that upholds child rights – The Protection of the Rights and Interests of the Child – among adults and children. And we've been helping children find their voice on these issues.

¹ Asian Development Bank
² UNICEF




1. BUILDING NETWORKS



Established
60 CHILD PROTECTION NETWORKS.

These are village networks that can respond to issues that put children in danger. The networks are made up of village leaders, teachers, health workers, women and children.

2. TRAINING THE LEADERS



Provided training to
50 GOVERNMENT WORKERS AND TEACHERS.

They learned about managing individual cases, and then shared their knowledge with the members of village networks.

3. INCLUDING CHILDREN



Supported
750+ CHILDREN
to be heard.

Children voiced their concerns and learned more about child rights, especially their right to live free from violence, abuse and discrimination.

4. LEADING THE WAY



Developed a
CHILD PROTECTION
training manual.

This manual will help guide how village networks apply child protection procedures. It will also support the introduction of child protection in more provinces.



30 COMMUNITIES

now have a stronger understanding of how to keep their children safe.



The Laos Government will introduce this child protection model in

18 PROVINCES.

OUR PARTNERS

This project was supported by the Government of Laos's Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, and Ministry of Education and Sport; Child Protection Networks; Child Protection and Assistance Committees; Friends International; National Commission for Mother and Child; and Lao Disabled People's Association.

WHO FUNDED THE PROJECT?

The 'Strengthening Child Protection Systems to Keep Children Safe in Laos' program was funded by the Australian Government. Through the government's overseas aid program, Australians are providing children and families in Laos and around the world with the chance to achieve a brighter future. Find out more about how Australian Aid is changing lives at www.dfat.gov.au/aid/who-we-work-with/ngos/ancp/

