

Creating Strong Communities



Champassak Province, Laos



Economic Empower

Total Budget

\$130,000

Project Timeline

JUL 18

JUN 22



Overview

Our partners are working to identify and confront core issues that create socio-economic poverty and to reduce risks of trafficking and unsafe migration. There is a general sense of despair and hopelessness due to poverty, seasonal food and water insecurity, illiteracy and low awareness of the risks of leaving family. Economic opportunities are limited in this culture that often excludes women and youth from family and community decisions and activities. This integrated development program enhanced food security and economic viability for the poorest families, provided vocational training, improved the health status of the community and strengthened community-based leadership and participation.

Objectives

Impact



Latrine and water system construction

Altogether, 172 households built latrines next to their homes (exceeding the plan at the beginning of the project) and each village constructed a water system. One village received certification as a "clean village" by the provincial authorities.



Health Education Sessions

A total of 15 health, hygiene and sanitation educational sessions were conducted, usually in the evening when people returned to the village from the fields. Assessments showed that health knowledge increased significantly.



Training and support of committees

Working with district authorities was extremely effective. Capacity and confidence grew in the people responsible for water and sanitation and for the trainers from the health centres, an asset that will be built for future projects.



Monitoring, follow-up & evaluation

The community played a vital role, contributing to costs and labour, participating in committees and maintenance trainings. Follow-up with each village showed that this leads to a greater sense of ownership and encourages behavioural change.



Life change

- 90% of villagers have changed their habits and are now drinking treated water and 50% have fitted water filters in their homes. This is healthier, more convenient, eco-friendly and reduces labour time collecting water.
- Intense education about sanitation and hygiene means that more than 80% of villagers are utilising toilets on a daily basis. This has led to a decrease in water-borne diseases and increased health and productivity.



Ms Chanthavilay's Story

Ms Chanthavilay was one of the youth to receive a Vocational Education Training grant in beauty care. The timing of the grant was crucial because the farming her father and two brothers did before Covid-19 became scarce during the pandemic. Upon completing her 3-month VET course, Ms Chanthavilay received a business start-up kit, attended a Business Planning and Proposal Development training and was able to start her own business in March. Becoming a beautician is a dream come true but helping to meet the daily needs of her family, providing food and a steady income has given everyone hope for the future.



Unsafe migration and protection awareness training for the whole community

Ms Pheng's Story

At 72 years old, Ms Pheng is still the head of her household, taking care of the needs of her family. There are eight members living together, including her two children, four grandchildren and her 80-year-old husband with visual, hearing and orthopaedic impairments. "I am so happy to be given a water filter. We now have clean water to drink, especially for my grandchildren and husband who often got sick because of unclean water," she said. Previously, the family used groundwater from the borehole and boiled it. During the dry season, groundwater is murky and sandy but they didn't have a choice not to drink it because they didn't have enough money to buy distilled or purified water.

