

## Restore Hope, Build a Future

LAO-TRA-RHB-P03



Vientiane, Laos



Economic Empowerment

Total Budget

\$60,000

Project Timeline

MAR 21

FEB 23



### Overview

Our partner assists the poor, disadvantaged and broken people of Laos, with particular emphasis on those addicted to drugs. Three facilities operate in the surrounds of the capital Vientiane, one of which is the Women and Children's Centre, set up to provide a nurturing environment for both women and children. This project supported women addicted to drugs through rehabilitation and vocational training. Our component of the project was to continue to provide local Lao staff salaries and operating costs, while encouraging the centre to gradually become more sustainable. Many of the local staff have experienced rehabilitation themselves so understand the challenges and are committed to the cause.

### Objectives



Rehabilitation and restoration

### Impact

There are currently three female drug addicts and one victim of domestic abuse living at the centre. These women have received rehabilitation, counselling and care for emotional trauma. Best counselling practices and a loving environment are giving these women hope for the future.



Loving and nurturing place for kids

Four youth, an orphan and three other children from disadvantaged rural communities live at the centre. They are able to attend school regularly and have the support and guidance from the staff to grow and learn in a safe environment.



Vocational training for women

The pandemic and leadership turnover caused disruptions to vocational skill training. The new directors have expertise in raising animals and crops and Kham is an experienced tailor with a market for her products so vocational training at the centre is back on track.



Sustainability projects

There have been challenges setting up an aquapond for catfish and frogs and the coop has been moved to the back of the property to prevent theft of chickens. However, the vegetable garden is now well established and this is impacting the amount of food needing to be purchased.



### Life change

- Young women, restored from drug addiction and mental health conditions, have renewed hope for their future, ready to enter the workforce with newly acquired life and relational skills.
- Women are better equipped through vocational training to provide and care for their children.
- Orphans and disadvantaged youth have a safe place to grow and learn.



## Napeur's Story

I come from a northern province of Laos. My family got caught up in using meth amphetamines which also led to us trafficking it which destroyed my family. My husband is in jail and my two daughters are in institutional care.

I ended up at this centre and it has changed my life. I am now free of drugs and I am growing in an environment of love and acceptance. It was so hard at first but now I enjoy the duties at the centre and I am benefitting from the counselling. I have broken the cycle of addiction and I hope to become a source of inspiration and hope for others in my situation.



**Community meal sharing at the centre**

## Thong's Story

Thong is a member of the Lentern people group in northern Laos on the border of China. She married a Chinese man and moved to China. She lived in an abusive environment for many years and finally moved back to Laos. This created considerable mental and emotional harm and Thong was found alone, sitting in darkness and despair, depressed and with no hope for the future. Since arriving at the centre, Thong has been given the correct medication and is undergoing trauma informed counselling. She is making progress and has started coming out of her shell. She is participating in activities and becoming integrated in the community. Thong now has a glimmer in her eyes - the light of hope for the future.

