

## Strengthening Cohesive Communities

LAO-WCL-SCC-P02



Champassak Province Laos



Economic Empowerment

Year 2 Budget \$30,000

Project Timeline

FULLY FUNDED

JUL 22

JUN 25

### Overview

Our partner is addressing the root causes of socio-economic poverty while working to mitigate the risks of trafficking and unsafe migration. Many people in the community face despair and hopelessness due to poverty, water and food insecurity, illiteracy, and a lack of awareness about the dangers of leaving their families. Economic opportunities are scarce, and the culture often marginalises women and youth from family and community decision-making. In its fourth phase, this integrated development program is focused on improving access to clean water and healthcare, enhancing food security and economic prospects for the poorest families, offering vocational training, and promoting stronger community leadership and participation.

### Impact for July 2023 - June 2024

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#### Vulnerable families supported with toilet

construction materials, contributing to the district's goal of reaching zero open-defecation in the province.

Additionally, 55 water filters were given to the most vulnerable families to enable access to safe drinking water.



#### Village Health Volunteers (VHVs) were trained

on sanitation, nutrition, prevention of HIV/AIDS and other communicable diseases, first aid and basic life support. These trainings equipped the VHVs, together with community health nurses, to be empowered in responding to various health problems as well as to educating all community members on health and sanitation.

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637

#### Hygiene kits distributed to primary students

in 8 villages, together with education around handwashing and dental care. To ensure sustainability, 16 teachers from 8 primary schools were trained on safe sanitation practices, dental and oral care and prevention of communicable diseases such as malaria and dengue. In addition, hand washing stations were constructed and given to three primary schools.



#### Vulnerable households supported in business

12 households were trained in the basics of goat raising, from growing them and feeding them, to protecting them from diseases through regular vaccinations. 14 households were trained in chicken raising to harvest fresh eggs for consumption as well as for additional income.

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### Mr Sangaun's story

Mr Sangaun, a 47-year-old father of six, faced financial difficulties that prevented him from sending all his children to school. As a rice farmer, providing for his family was a challenge. In May 2024, our partner provided him with mushroom cultivation training and start-up materials, which allowed him to plant 2,006 bags of mushroom spawn. Within two months, he successfully harvested the mushrooms, earning significant yields. He sells them locally and at the market, using the income to support his family and save for his children's education. Mr Sangaun is grateful for the opportunity and hopes to share his success with others, ensuring a brighter future for his family and for his community.



Thank you for making a difference