



World Vision



LAO PDR

LAO PDR  
IMPACT  
REPORT  
IMPACT

Our National Impact Report 2021

## 2021 was a challenging but rewarding year for our team at World Vision in Lao PDR.

We drew learnings from our ongoing programs to strengthen and launch our 2022-26 Country strategy while continuing to support communities and the most vulnerable children, the driving force behind our work. Our programs to improve nutrition and education outcomes demonstrated strong impact and we were proud to join several national campaigns, including re-opening of schools, promotion of breastfeeding and ending violence against women and children, in addition to sharing our research highlighting the impact COVID-19 has had on the children of Lao PDR. We continued to build on our Child Protection programming, rolling out our family unity and positive parenting model, and strengthening our community reporting systems.

COVID-19 provided both obstacles and opportunities, all of which were addressed

in a positive way, showcasing the mindset and values of our staff. Our teams supported the Government's COVID-19 plan of action through multiple ways, including partnering with the World Food Programme to provide essential food to returning migrants in Government Quarantine centers in southern Laos. We were responsive to direct requests for provision of vital Personal Protective Equipments (PPE), materials and hand washing stations to both health facilities and communities. We supported community COVID-19 prevention messaging and vaccination campaigns ensuring remote rural villages were not only vaccinated but also equipped with knowledge, skills, and the equipment they required to protect themselves. We supported access to safe water and sanitation across 14 districts. Flexibility, efficiency and innovation were key to our 2021 programs and ensured that program goals were met across the board.

Building partnerships and strengthening collaborations are key to making a change in

the lives of the most vulnerable children and World Vision remains committed to working alongside communities as they shape the future of their children. We will continue to partner to further address food insecurity, build resilience to disasters and climate change, empower healthy gender and family relations, and ensure a family environment where children can thrive and grow. Where they receive good nutrition, nurturing care and protection, support to complete their education, and most importantly, fulfill their dreams.

I thank our staff, partners and most importantly the communities in which we work, it is your dedication that brings change to the lives of children across Laos, allowing them to dream brightly and have hope for their future.

**Roslyn Hanson Gabriel,**  
Country Program Director


# Impact Report 2021 – Foreword





**Every 60 seconds...**

... a family gets water  
... a hungry child is fed  
... a family receives the tools  
to overcome poverty.



Because of our community-focused solutions, for every child supported, four more children benefit, too.



## We are **World Vision**

At World Vision, we are driven by our desire to ensure that every boy and girl has what they need to grow in mind, body and spirit. Our more than 37,000 staff work hard to empower children to live lives filled with joy, become all that they were created to be and to go further than they could ever have imagined.

Guided by more than 70 years of experience and expertise, our dedicated staff employ proven, effective development and relief practices to empower communities to become self-sufficient and bring real, lasting change.

As a leading global partner, we labour alongside supporters, stakeholders, families and communities to transform lives and bring hope and, as a result, all our lives are enriched. Together, with our partners have positively impacted the lives of more than **125,520 vulnerable children in Lao PDR**, and 200 million vulnerable children around the world.

We are privileged to serve and work to see relationships restored and communities transformed. And, we humbly acknowledge that without the goodness of God and the generosity of donors, we would not be able to do what we do.

# Overview of Lao PDR priority sectors

## Child Protection

World Vision recognises that vulnerability of children is very high in Lao PDR. A report released by UNICEF in 2018, Measuring Progress on Child Wellbeing in Lao PDR, reported that approximately 70% of children aged below 18 in Lao PDR experience at least two form of deprivation, with consequences for lifelong productive and social participation, 50% of children are suffering from three or more deprivations at the same time, and only 12% of children experience no deprivation at all. 25% of Lao mothers/caregivers of children aged 1-14 believe that physical punishment is necessary and a high prevalence of child marriage is observed with one in three women aged 20-49 married before they reach the age of 18, with 7% married before age of 15.

## Nutrition & Health

High needs are observed in maternal and child health with high rates of malnutrition observed in children under 5 years (Stunting 33%, Wasting 9% and underweight 21%)<sup>1</sup>, a Maternal Mortality ratio of 185.0, and Adolescent Birth Rate of 65.4 – all the highest prevalence in the East Asia region.

<sup>1</sup> World Development Indicator - World Bank (2017)

<sup>2</sup> What makes a good school? - UNICEF (2021)

## Education

In Education, the mean years of school is 5.3 years and the low spending in education is reflected in low education quality and learning. While the average student spends over 10.8 years in school, he/she learns the equivalent of only 6.4 years during that period. Student comprehensive learning outcomes are concerning with on average, only one in three Grade 3 students meeting literacy standards<sup>2</sup> and nearly 40% of children under the age of 5 - a crucial period for neural development - having no access to early learning opportunities.

## Food Security & Livelihood

While agriculture is the main source of livelihood in Laos, food security remains challenging, especially for districts affected by unexploded ordnance (UXOs), with more than 2 million tons dropped between 1964 and 1973 with 30% failing to detonate. The impact of these on poverty is clear, with 42 of the 46 poorest districts affected by UXOs.

## Climate Change

Laos is also vulnerable to climate changes. In recent years, the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events has increased with damaging floods along the Mekong River. In 2020, Laos rated 9.1/10 with physical exposure to floods and 6/10 in the lack of coping capacity dimension<sup>3</sup>.

## Social Inclusion

Laos' extreme diversity in ethnicity and geography is another challenge to development. The vulnerability of children increases when living in inaccessible areas (with no road access year-round). This impacts health services and education coverages. Poor infrastructure and government services in remote and mountainous areas continue to place ethnically diverse communities at disadvantage.

<sup>3</sup> Disaster Management reference handbook Lao PDR (2021)







## Child **well-being**

Building a better future for the most vulnerable children of Lao PDR is the driving energy that animates our staff. In alignment with Our Promise and with the 9<sup>th</sup> Five-Year National Socio-Economic Development Plan of the Government of Lao PDR and the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals, we contribute to the following child well-being objectives (CWBO):

- **CWBO2:** Increase in children who have positive and peaceful relationships in their families and communities;
- **CWBO5:** Increase in children who are well-nourished (ages 0-5);
- **CWBO7:** Increase in primary school children who can read;

Through these three objectives we aim to address the issues of malnutrition, unequal access to quality education, child protection and family relationships by implementing proven project models directly with communities.

At the national level, World Vision continues to extend its strategic engagements within technical working groups, using these key platforms to let the most vulnerable children's voices be heard. To further advocate for the future of children, we partner with the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education and Sports, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Lao Women's Union and ensure that our counterparts' capacities are built at the grassroots.

Last year, we took part in the national consortium on Child Marriage and Adolescent Pregnancy Research led by the National Commission for the advancement of Women, Mother and Children (NCAWNMC) and the Lao Statistical Bureau. The study's findings will be used to develop a National Plan of Action and the Government's response to the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women reports. World Vision is playing a key role in this research, and will keep putting children's well-being at the center of its commitment.



29,000+  
people,

including

4,600+  
children,

supported with food in the COVID-19 state  
Quarantine Centers, in partnership with  
the World Food Programme



and  
24,000  
more people

directly supported  
through our COVID  
response budget  
reallocation



5,000+  
children

supported with  
home study materials  
during the closure  
of schools



400  
community  
health workers

trained to raise awareness  
on COVID-19 prevention



94,000  
copies of IEC materials

printed and distributed to communities, health  
facilities and Quarantine Centres to support  
COVID-19 prevention and awareness raising



USD 59,000  
of Cash Programming



benefiting  
directly to



1,690 households

## Going back home: a migrant child returning to Lao PDR during COVID-19

Four-year-old Fasai was born in Xayphouthong District, Savannakhet Province. Despite her young age, Fasai is already very talented and enjoys Lao traditional dancing. A trait that she discovered on her own, falling in love with Lao culture and traditions. However, when Fasai was two years old, her parents moved to Thailand to look for better opportunities, find jobs that support the whole family, and hope to save up for Fasai's future education. The young girl likes to learn independently, and her parents felt encouraged to work hard and make sure Fasai can have a bright future. While living with her parents in Thailand for two years, Fasai would always find books to read, colour, draw and sometimes play Lao traditional songs to learn how to dance, sing and learn about Lao traditions and culture.

This was until COVID-19 disrupted the whole world, including South East Asia and highly infected Thailand. During those critical times that brought economies on edge, Fasai's parents decided to come back to Laos and her mother, judging the situation was safer in Laos than in Thailand. In the meantime, her father decided to stay in Thailand to work and earn the income that supports the family and to save up for Fasai's education. This tearful separation led Fasai and her mother to reach a state quarantine center in Savannakhet Province on their way back to their hometown.

A 21-day stay in the facility to avoid transmission to rural communities once the migrants arrive back to their hometown. During her stay, Fasai had no problem accessing food. World Vision teams and volunteers provided three meals to her, and all migrants gathered in the center every day. Thanks to the project supported by the World Food Programme, the little girl and her mother didn't have to worry about what they would eat the next day, giving them more time to think about the future, the reunion with her relatives.

Fasai can think about her plans to go back to school, make new friends, and listen to new teachers.



# Our National Impact 2021

Data collected from World Vision Lao PDR Programs for the period of October 2020 – September 2021

179,314  
children including

**125,520**  
**most vulnerable children\***  
**were served and benefitted in programs**  
**relevant to their needs.**



\* World Vision defines Most Vulnerable Children as children whose quality of life and ability to fulfill their potential is most affected by extreme deprivation and violations of their rights. These children often live in catastrophic situations and relationships characterized by violence, abuse, neglect, exploitation, exclusion, and discrimination.



3,074  
**children**  
directly participated  
in our child protection  
activities in 2021.

**And over**

9,900  
**individuals**

mobilized during child protection activities  
through the It Takes World campaign,  
to end violence against children



**It takes a world**  
to end violence against children



68,656  
**parents  
and caregivers**

received nutrition and infectious  
disease awareness and counselling  
from more than

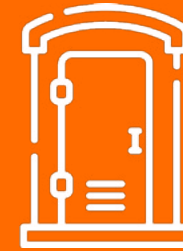
350 **health  
volunteers**

10,751  
**people**

have a new  
and sustainable  
access to



**clean  
water**  
close to their  
home



2,657  
**toilets**

were built by  
families with our  
technical support to  
improve sanitation and  
hygiene practices of rural  
communities

13,578  
**villagers**



from remote areas  
have now access  
to basic financial services  
in their communities with  
new village

**Saving Groups**



1,282  
**farmers**

improved their cropping  
and rearing techniques,  
including with the support  
of our partner AVSF through  
the Accelerating Healthy  
Agriculture and Nutrition  
Project

309  
**health workers**

trained to prevent, manage  
and/or treat selected  
illnesses/diseases  
linked to under-  
nutrition, supporting  
the strengthening of



191  
**health facilities**

## Impact story



## Free from malnutrition: a new life begins for 2-year-old Ladda

Ladda is a survivor. She didn't experience war or natural disasters. She was not forced to move from her hometown. She was not infected with COVID-19. Yet she survived another scourge. A more silent, unfortunately more ordinary killer operating all over the world. Aged fourteen months, Ladda was 61cm tall and weighed just 3.8kg. This made her significantly thinner than other children with the right height for age.

**“If we didn't do anything at that time,  
she would have died”**

says Lammone, a health professional at the Atsaphone district health office.

In August 2020 during their quarterly visit supported by the AHAN project, the health professional of the outreach clinic found Ladda exhausted, feverish, and irritable. Her mid-upper arm circumference (MUAC) measurement indicated a severe case of malnutrition. The little girl never had the chance to know her biological parents, who divorced before she was born. After delivery, her mother left the newborn with her sister - Ladda's aunt - Khampheng. Aunt Khampheng and her husband became Ladda's foster parents and have been a loving and caring family who consider the baby as their own child.

However, the absence of her mother's breastmilk added to common poor feeding practices and insufficient access to diversified food in rural communities of Atsaphone district, resulted in Ladda becoming severely acutely malnourished with complications. A situation requiring immediate hospital management and treatment.

The AHAN Project directly supported Ladda's journey to recovery. The project staff drove her to the district hospital and monitored her status with health workers. After two days with slow improvement, Ladda was referred to Savannakhet Provincial hospital - a bigger health facility with specialist care. Being put on therapeutic nutrition foods and having her medical complications treated, Ladda steadily

recovered as her weight increased by 2kg. While Ladda was recovering at the hospital, health workers of her community attended the Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition (IMAM) training organised by the AHAN Project as part of its health system strengthening component. She then became a case study for Lammone, the health professional who first identified her condition. The new graduate from the IMAM training saw much more than a case study in Ladda: she viewed her as a symbol of hope and resistance against malnutrition for her community. To support the infant's long-term recovery, AHAN invited Khampheng (Ladda's aunt) to participate in the Mothers' Nutrition group activity.

Alongside pregnant women and young mothers of the village, the 41-year-old woman discovered what good nutrition means for the health of Ladda and how to cook nutritious food that will support her growth. Khampheng is thankful for the support of the project to help Ladda to be healthier:

**“I will raise her to become a strong child and have a good future ahead, and use the knowledge I learnt from the activities.”**

The brave little girl already loves the rich rice porridge with ivy gourd and water spinach that her adoptive mother cooks. In addition to the 1,000L water tank, water kettle and energy-saving cook stove provided by World Vision, Khampheng and her husband will soon receive training and materials to practice home gardening, allowing the rice cultivators to diversify their access to nutritious food.

Since the IMAM training, Lammone feels less and less anxious monitoring the growth of Ladda. The MUAC measurement tool only shows green value every time she visits the little girl's village. It's already been few months since Ladda didn't need the peanut flavored ready-to-use therapeutic food (RUTF) to treat severe malnutrition. Now 27 months old, she is 74.2cm tall and weighs 7.9kg. Ladda thrives and shows signs of normal growth: now able to walk, she likes to play with her neighbors. The little girl can now start enjoying a new life, with loving and supportive parents.

Like Ladda, over 6,300 Lao children under five years old and their family benefitted from the AHAN Project's intervention, and can dream about a brighter future, free from malnutrition.



## Education



9,624  
**girls and boys**  
(3-18 years old)

participated in our education enhancement and support programs, including



1,458 **students**  
who have improved their reading proficiency

158  
**students**

supported through education assistance to transition to secondary school, with



98%  
**children**  
still studying the next school year

262  
**teachers**

from the Lao Ministry of Education and Sports were trained to conduct classes following the Unlock Literacy project model and supported with teaching materials



## Cross-cutting

10,417  
**mothers**

reduced their workload by receiving energy saving stoves, water tanks and push carts, leading to more gender equality and harmonious relationships in couples



772  
**children with disability**  
were supported by our programs



21  
**ethnic groups**  
participating in our projects' activities




6,333  
**individuals**  
were sensitized on Disaster Risk Reduction

7 **research pieces**

conducted throughout our various programs





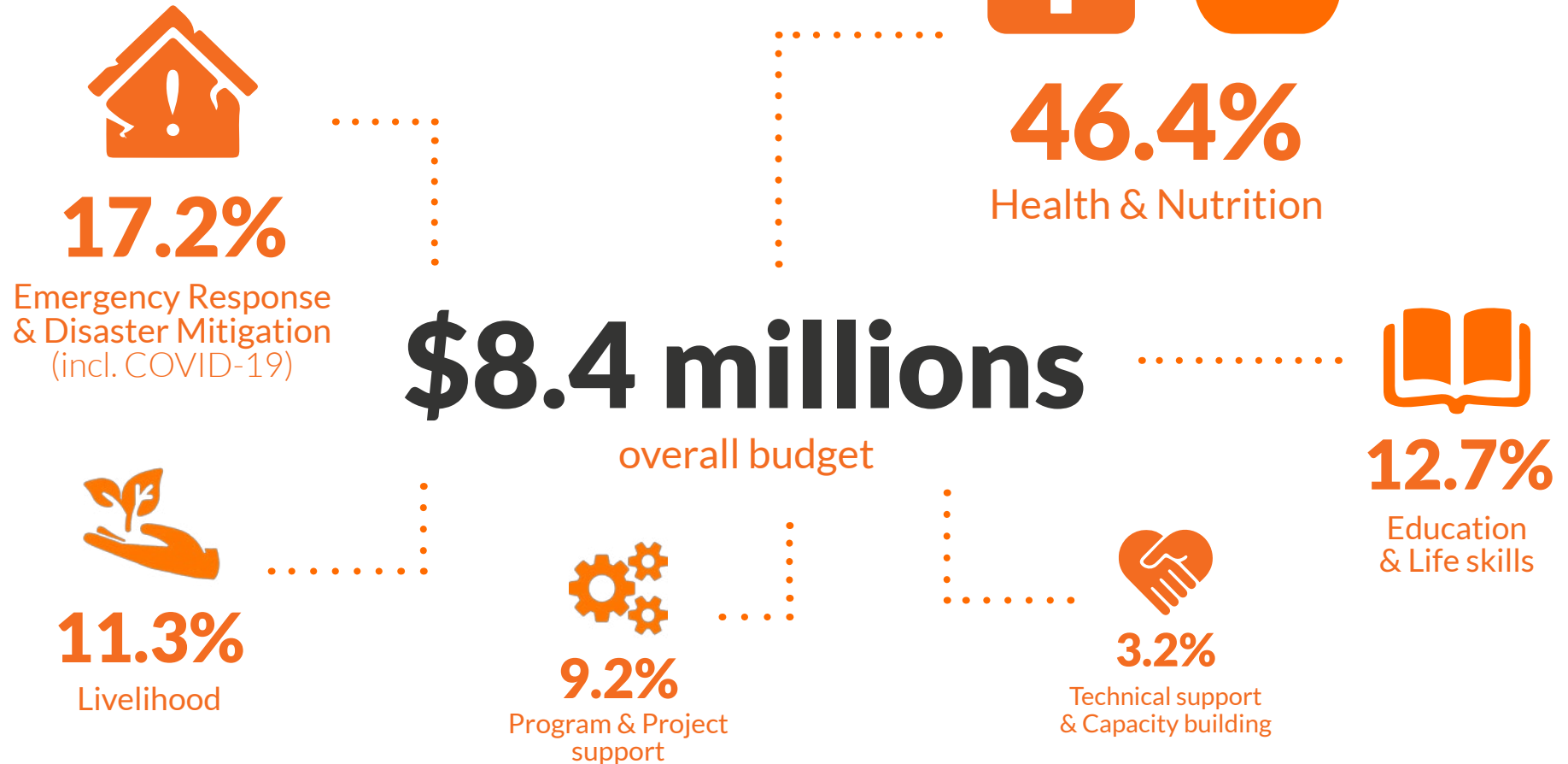


"I love being a teacher. My dream is to see the students, especially in rural areas, reach their potential and have a good future."  
says Teacher Souksamai

Souksamai and her students from Grades 3 and 4 are now able to study in good conditions, transitioning from a classroom made of bamboo walls destroyed by floods to a new, strong building built with the support of World Vision Singapore.

# Financial Summary

Total annual expenditure in 2021 and percentage by category



Our work is made possible thanks to the valuable grants by international funds, governments, and corporations all over the world.

For the positive results achieved in FY21, our deep appreciation goes to the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), British Embassy Vientiane, European Civil-protection Humanitarian Operations (ECHO), Electricité de France (EDF), European Union, Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, New-Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, World Food Programme, and other private funds from Australia, Canada, Japan, Korea, Taiwan, Singapore and the USA.

# Our target areas



World Vision International (WVI) operates across 23 districts in seven provinces of Lao PDR:

- Luang Prabang in the north;
- Khammouane and Vientiane Capital in central zone;
- Savannakhet, Saravane, Attapeu and Champasack in the south.

WVI is strategically making decisions on our footprint based on evidence of the Most Vulnerable Children's presence, and where most and highest needs are.



Hope, Joy, and Justice  
**For ALL Children**



At **World Vision**, we are driven by our desire to ensure that every boy and girl has what they need to grow in mind, body and spirit. Our more than 37,000 staff work hard to empower children to live lives filled with joy, become all that they were created to be and to go further than they could ever have imagined.

Our vision for every child is life in all its fullness.  
**Our prayer for heart is the will to make it so.**