



LAO PDR IMPACT REPORT

Our National Impact Report 2024

World Vision International Lao-P.D.R

World Vision is a Christian relief, development and advocacy organisation dedicated to working with children, families, and their communities to reach their full potential by tackling the root causes of poverty and injustice. World Vision serves all people, regardless of religion, race, ethnicity, or gender.

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Cover photo: A child holds a duck, highlighting the importance of small-scale livestock in supporting family nutrition and livelihoods in rural communities.

Photo: Khamphot Somphanthabansouk/World Vision.

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NATIONAL DIRECTOR'S FOREWORD

Another year of working towards a world where children live life in its fullness. We look back at Fiscal Year 2024 with grateful hearts for all the commitment and hard work of our staff and for the trust and cooperation from the Government of Lao PDR, from the World Vision Partnership across the globe, and the communities, youth, and civil society who worked with us during the year. We are thankful for the inspiring changes that we have witnessed in the lives of children, families, and communities we serve – households who have seen improvements in their children's health status and their food security, households who now have access to clean water and sanitation facilities, schools that have improved learning environments and children who learn with joy and look towards better future. We are thankful for the lessons we have learned and capacities we have gained as we faced on-going challenges in delivering on our mission and on reaching the most remote locations and the most vulnerable in the country.

Our operations in Laos spanned in 155 villages, 35 Districts, in 8 provinces of the country directly reaching over 242,000 individuals through our work on Building Sustainable Livelihoods, Health and Nutrition, Education, WASH, DRR, Promotion of harmonious families, Protection and Safeguarding and Emergency Response. We have expanded partnerships with civil society groups in the country and in our region. We have consistently promoted children and youth's active engagement from having their own micro projects in their villages to getting them seen and heard on matters that affect their



lives. We heard the voices of children, from the villages to the ASEAN community, calling our attention to urgently address the challenges of global warming, environmental degradation, and loss of biodiversity.

We are proud to share with you the story of our year through this report, and bring you with us as we look forward to the years ahead. Please join us in praying that God may continuously bless the children of Laos and bless World Vision and our partners so that we may be able to continue to serve and promote joy, justice and hope with boldness and humility in Lao PDR.

WE ARE WORLD VISION

At World Vision, our mission is to create a world where every child—girl or boy—can thrive in body, mind, and spirit. We envision a future where children grow up healthy, receive lifelong education, are nurtured and protected, and know the love of God and those around them. Our focus is on reaching the most vulnerable, no matter their circumstances or the hardships they face, empowering them to rise above poverty and experience life in all its fullness.

World Vision proudly marks 74 years of dedicated service to children and communities in need. With a legacy spanning more than seven decades, we bring deep experience and unwavering commitment to our mission. Our global team of over 34,000 staff operates across nearly 100 countries and regions, working hand-in-hand with governments, civil society, faith-based organizations, businesses, academia, donors, and volunteers. Together, we design and deliver impactful programs that foster lasting transformation in the lives of those we serve.

We started to operate in Laos in 1968, primarily to provide relief assistance to those affected by the Indochina War until 1975. After reopening in 1991, we resumed work on improving the lives of Laos' most vulnerable children, especially those living in rural and remote areas, through development, relief, and advocacy programmes. In 2024, together with our partners, we have positively impacted the lives of 44,251 children and their families in Laos, improving their access to nutrition, clean water and sanitation, health services, quality education, and sustainable livelihoods.



WE ARE

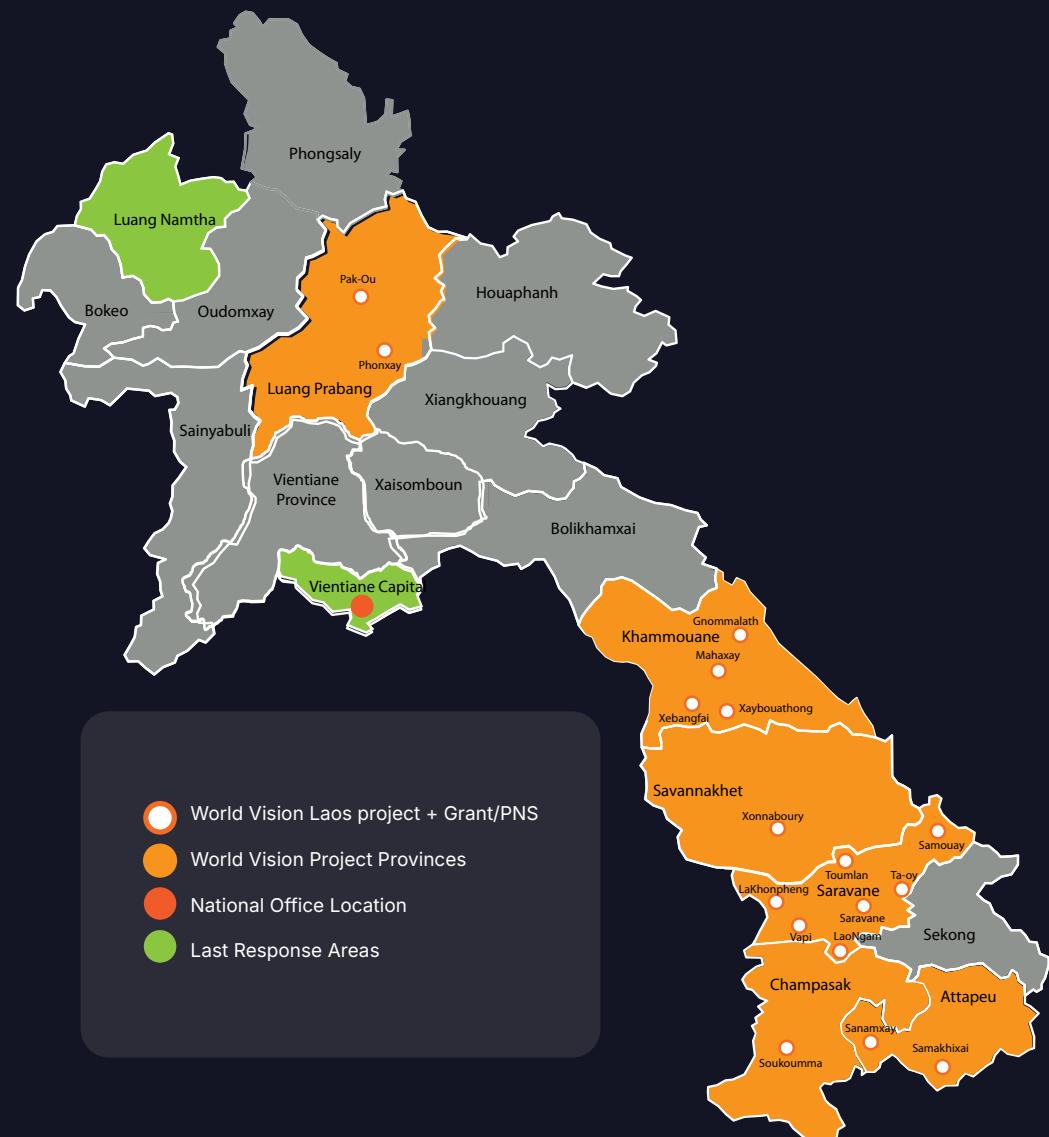


WORLD VISION



WORLD VISION INTERNATIONAL LAO-PDR IN A GLANCE

Programs in
155 villages in 7 provinces
130 staff members
242,747 people reached
44,251 children reached
1,183 most vulnerable
children reached
Budget for 2024 – \$5.3M





3,659 farmers
trained in nutrition-sensitive or climate-smart agriculture



6,732 children
took part in child protection activities



6,245 families
have new or improved access to clean water



22,464 people, including 5,397 children,
received emergency assistance (during floods in Luangnamtha Province & Vientiane Capital)



2,523 children
empowered through education programmes

INTEGRATED HEALTH & NUTRITION

From the moment of conception to a child's second birthday, an extraordinary transformation unfolds. During this critical period, a child's brain, body, and immune system develop at a rapid pace, laying the foundation for lifelong health and potential. These first 1000 days – often called the "Window of Opportunity", are especially sensitive to nutrition. Adequate nourishment during pregnancy and infancy isn't just beneficial—it's essential. Without it, children face risks that can last a lifetime: stunted physical growth, impaired cognitive development, weakened immunity, and increased vulnerability to disease and even mortality. Investing in optimal nutrition during this critical phase doesn't just support healthy development—it protects a child's future.

Despite encouraging economic growth since the early 2000s, Laos has one of the highest rates of child undernutrition. The country also has the highest under-five child mortality rate in Southeast Asia, with nearly half of the deaths linked to malnutrition. Approximately one in three children is stunted (33%), one in five is underweight (24%), and one in ten is wasted (11%). High rates of undernutrition persist in the 18–23-month age group, which indicates suboptimal nutrition in the early years of life.

World Vision is dedicated to reducing undernutrition in Laos by implementing a comprehensive, community-based approach that addresses the root causes of malnutrition. Our integrated programmes focus on improving health, nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), food security, livelihoods, and disaster risk reduction in rural

areas where vulnerabilities are greatest - especially for pregnant women, children under-five and caregivers. Our integrated programme aims to:

- Improve access to healthcare services.
- Improve the dietary and care practices of caregivers of children under five, including promoting exclusive breastfeeding until six months.
- Improve families' nutrition and food security through the availability of sufficient, safe, and diverse food year-round.
- Reduce the incidence of water, sanitation, and hygiene-related diseases linked to malnutrition (e.g., diarrhoea).
- Improve household access to basic sanitation and hygiene facilities.

In the fiscal year of 2024, World Vision spent USD2,611,218 on health, nutrition, livelihood, agriculture, and food security projects in Laos across five provinces of Huaphan, Luangprabang, Khammouane, Salavan and Champasak. Our work was made possible with support from community sponsorships and private funds through World Vision fundraising offices in Australia, Canada, Singapore, Taiwan and U.S., as well as grants from The Australian NGO Cooperation Program, New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, European Union, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), UNICEF and the World Food Programme (WFP).

HIGHLIGHT: Samoui Nutrition Action Project (SNAP)

Now in its fourth year, the Samoui Nutrition Action Project (SNAP) continues to build momentum, deepening its impact across Samoui District, Salavan Province. SNAP is a five-year project supported by the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade and World Vision New Zealand. Despite earlier challenges, the project has reached a total of 10,496 people, including 5,047 girls and boys. Notable achievements we accomplished in 2024:

- Constructed water systems in eight villages and equipped 162 families with materials and training to build household latrines, improving access to clean water and sanitation.
- Provided 221 families with seeds and tools to start home gardening and 329 families with support to raise small animals, giving these families sustainable, nutritious, and diversified meals.
- Successfully completed the 41 greenhouses, which were previously initiated, allowing families to extend their growing season, increase their food production, and improve year-round access to fresh produce.
- Completed capacity building on key program interventions, including training Master Trainers in Maternal & Child Health Monitoring and Community Change strategies for implementation partners. Refresher trainings on the Go Baby Go model were also delivered to Village Health Volunteers and Caregiver Groups, equipping them to better support families with age-appropriate, nurturing care for young children.
- Expanded Saving for Nutrition to 19 groups across 6 villages, engaging 500 members with total savings reaching over 142 million kip (USD 6,781); loans were primarily used to support agriculture, small businesses, and health needs, and all groups have entered a second savings cycle following successful profit distribution.

While much progress has been made, it has not come without difficulties. Samoui district faces a complex web of challenges. Prolonged rainy seasons disrupt infrastructure projects like water and latrine construction. The local reliance on cassava farming for income is unsustainable, as it yields insufficient returns to purchase enough rice and degrades soil quality, reducing productivity of other crops. This has led to increased slash-and-burn practices, accelerating deforestation and worsening climate impacts such as drought and low water levels. Additionally, economic strain from inflation forces many villagers—especially young men—to migrate for work, leaving families vulnerable and contributing to persistent child malnutrition.



Highlight: Sustainable Agriculture for Nutrition (SUAN)

The SUAN project began gaining momentum following the completion of its design phase, launching a series of preparation activities that are essential for the implementation of the project. Set in 3 Districts in Salavan Province, the project aims to improve rural households' health, nutrition, and food security, especially for women and children under five, through sustainable, nutrition-sensitive, and climate-smart agriculture. The SUAN project is funded by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and jointly led by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Australia Aid, and World Vision. Empowered by local communities, here's what we achieved in 2024:

- Established and trained 36 producer groups with small-scale farmers and vulnerable households in small animal raising, nutrition-sensitive climate-smart agriculture, and community gardens.
- Strengthened village-level animal health services by equipping 36 Village Veterinary Workers with skills in treatment, vaccination, and disease control.
- Formed 18 nutrition groups led by 36 Village Health Volunteers and 36 Lao Women's Union members, delivering sessions to 450 caregivers and community members.
- Launched nine Village Water Sanitation Management Committees to lead Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene initiatives in their communities.
- Equipped provincial and district project teams with skills in Community Change using the Social Behaviour Change module, enabling Lao Women's Union leaders to guide ongoing implementation and training.







**3,773
pregnant women,
mothers and
caregivers**

received counselling and
improved their awareness about
health and nutrition



**3,493
community
health
volunteers**

received training, equipment,
and materials to support targeted families

**2,629
families**



gained access to basic financial
services



**3,659
farmers**

received training in nutrition-
sensitive or climate-smart
agriculture



**135
health facilities**

received support

Nurturing Change: Edew's Journey to Raising Healthier Children

Life in Edew's village can be challenging. Traditional beliefs and practices around child-rearing have led to malnutrition in many families, as children are often introduced to water or solids too early, resulting in weaker immune systems and stunted growth. Additionally, strong beliefs in traditional gender roles mean that men are rarely involved in child-rearing or household chores, leaving women to carry most of these responsibilities. Edew was no stranger to these challenges. When her first child was born, villagers advised her to introduce water early and to leave the baby in the care of others while she worked in the fields. But Edew chose a different path, one that has profoundly shaped her family's future.

Through the Go-Baby-Go program under the Samoui Nutrition Action Project, supported by World Vision and New Zealand MFAT, Edew learned key lessons in child nutrition and care. Guided by health professionals, she adopted best practices in breastfeeding, hygiene, and feeding. Seeing the difference in children's health, she committed to the training. "Because I follow what I've learned, my children are strong and healthy," she said.

Edew's family received support to raise catfish, gaining a new source of food and income. With fresh vegetables and fish nearby, they enjoy year-round nutrition. Her husband, Gutaeng, shares farming and childcare duties, leading to healthier, happier children. Inspired by him, more men are stepping up as fathers and partners. Since Go Baby Go began, fathers reading to their children rose from 17% in 2022 to 71% in 2024; storytelling from 23% to 82%; and playtime from 37% to 89%. The program is helping fathers become more actively involved in child-rearing.

Edew's story is one of hope and change for her family and over 100 others in the GBG program. Through SNAP, families are learning childcare practices that build lifelong health and resilience. "We're proud to see our children healthy, growing, and always cheerful," said Edew and Gutaeng. With continued support, families like theirs are creating lasting legacies of well-being.



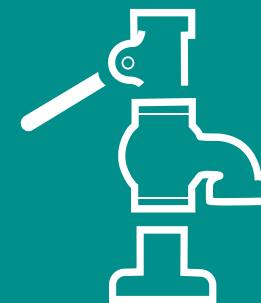
WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE

Water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) are essential components of World Vision's Integrated Health & Nutrition Programme in Laos, playing a critical role in improving overall community well-being. Our approach prioritizes the expansion of access to clean and safe drinking water, constructing and maintaining basic sanitation infrastructure such as latrines and handwashing stations, and promoting hygiene education to encourage consistent handwashing with soap. We also aim to reduce open defecation practices through community-led total sanitation initiatives, while also working to reduce the prevalence of WASH-related illnesses—including diarrheal diseases, parasitic infections, and skin conditions—particularly among children under five and vulnerable households in the areas we serve.

In fiscal year 2024, World Vision invested USD298,507 in WASH projects, significantly improving the lives of communities in Luang Prabang, Khammouane, Savannakhet, Saravane, and Attapeu provinces. The projects were funded by World Vision fundraising offices in the USA, Canada, Korea, Taiwan, Australia and The Australian NGO Cooperation Program and New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Our close collaboration with the Department of Environmental Health and Rural Water Supply (Namsaat) at the central, provincial, and district levels has also been critical to this success, from preparing framework and guidelines for carrying out WASH projects to building capacity, project implementation, and quality monitoring.

**6,254
families**

received new or improved
access to clean water

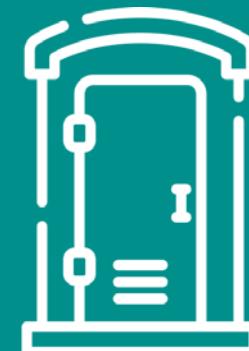


**51
water**

boreholes
constructed

**5,123
families**

in rural areas received
new or improved access to
basic sanitation



Clean Water, Bright Futures: A Better Life for Khanpi

Lalor Village is located on a mountaintop along the Vietnam border. The area experiences rainfall almost all year round, keeping the weather cool throughout the year. It is a remote village, and the roads to get there are quite difficult, especially during the rainy season. Because of this isolation, people living in this area face many challenges in their daily lives, such as a lack of clean water, no electricity, and no phone signal.

Ms. Khanpi, 26 years old, has one daughter. She is a farmer, and she has 5 members living in the house, including her husband, mother, father, and daughter. Her family is one of those facing challenges in their community, located in Samoui District. Ms. Khanpi is cheerful, friendly, and full of energy in her work. She is also a capable and talented person. She is the only woman in the village who has completed vocational education, and she wants to improve the community where she lives. Because of this, Khanpi has become an inspiration to women and children in her community.

She is also one of the people who benefited from the SNAP Project's water system. Khanpi said, "Before, our village faced many difficulties, such as accessing clean water. It wasn't easy. The women and children had to fetch water from the stream, which was about 3–5 kilometers away from the village. We had to collect water 5–6 times a day to have enough for household use. Drinking unclean water that had not been filtered or boiled, along with open defecation, led to various diseases and malnutrition in children. Also, marrying, having children at a young age, and living with traditional beliefs and misunderstandings made things more difficult."

The SNAP project staff works closely with the government offices and relevant development partners to provide knowledge about hygiene and sanitation, teaching how to prepare nutritious meals, proper child-rearing methods, and the importance of delaying marriage and childbirth to the community. "Now, I can see that my family and community have changed for the better in many ways. with access to clean water and better hygiene, our children are healthier, and malnutrition has nearly disappeared."



CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate change is reshaping the lives of communities around the world, disrupting ecosystems, economies, and daily routines. Rising temperatures, erratic weather patterns, and more frequent natural disasters—such as floods, droughts, and wildfires—threaten homes, livelihoods, and food security. Vulnerable populations, especially those in low-income or rural areas, often bear the brunt of these impacts, facing limited access to resources and support systems.

The effects of climate change are especially pronounced in Laos. In recent years, the country has experienced increasingly severe climate-related hazards—from prolonged droughts and record-breaking heatwaves to annual flooding and landslides along the Mekong River basin. In April 2024, temperatures soared to 43.2°C, damaging crops and straining water supplies, especially in rural areas where over 70% of the population depends on agriculture. Slash-and-burn farming practices contribute to widespread forest fires, releasing harmful emissions and worsening air pollution. These environmental pressures affect vulnerable groups more severely, particularly children, who face heightened risks to health, education, and food security.

World Vision Laos is at the forefront of implementing solutions to mitigate these risks and build resilience - empowering communities through sustainable solutions to climate-induced challenges. The goals of our climate resilient programming includes:

- Reducing vulnerability to climate-related risks through adaptive measures.

- Promoting sustainable agricultural practices to enhance food security.
- Advocating for policies that prioritize climate resilience in development planning.
- Encouraging community-driven climate actions with an emphasis on inclusivity and equity.

"Love Our Earth, Keep Thatluang Clean" Campaign

The Thatluang Festival campaign themed "Love Our Earth, Keep Thatluang Clean," built on the momentum of the 2023 "It Starts with Me" initiative, continuing a collaborative partnership between World Vision, Dharma Mobility Association, Medtha Tham, CECC, and Green Vientiane. As Laos' most sacred Buddhist celebration, the Thatluang Festival draws thousands to Vientiane each year—but leaves behind an enormous trail of garbage that contributes to the city's daily 600-ton waste load. This year's campaign aimed to raise awareness about climate change, shift behaviours toward environmental respect, and encourage more effective management of trash within the festival. Students from three Vientiane schools participated in climate education sessions, a drawing contest themed "Love Our Earth and the Nature," and a creative dress-making activity using recycled materials. In addition, the festival booths offered interactive games, Q&A sessions, and photo opportunities to engage visitors in eco-friendly practices. The campaign also supported local garbage collectors with education on climate impacts and hygiene, reinforcing the message that protecting the beauty of the temple begins with each of us.

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Love Our Earth, Keep That Luang Clean

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With the coodination of

World Vision

ຮັກໂລກຂອງພວກເຮົາ, ຮົວມໃຈກັນ

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From Crisis to Resilience: Local Farmers Rise Against Climate Challenges

Climate change is no longer a distant threat—it's happening now. And children are bearing the brunt of its impact. Their rights to shelter, food, education, and protection are under siege. Worst of all, climate change is stealing their future. "In recent years, my family and our entire community have struggled with declining crop yields. Insects devastated our rice fields, and as a result, our harvests dropped significantly. The income we relied on from farming shrank, and the rice we produced wasn't enough to feed our families throughout the year," shared 36-year-old Mr. Suthid.

In response, World Vision, in partnership with the Local Government of Phonexay District, has spent the past 12 months conducting Community-Based Disaster Risk Reduction (CBDRR) training across 13 target villages. Disasters—whether triggered by human activity or climate change—can strike without warning. But with proactive measures, we can reduce their impact and protect vulnerable communities. "I think, if we continue to cut down the trees and destroy

the forests, our children's future will face more challenges than us now. We need to project our future by reducing the cutting down of trees or destroying the forest, especially where the sources of water are very important, because we live in a higher location, and it is very challenging to get clean water." Says Mr. Suthid, 36.

World Vision teams worked together with local government partners to strengthen community resilience through disaster risk reduction and climate adaptation initiatives. CBDRR is designed to save lives, alleviate suffering, and empower communities to face future challenges. Over the past year, we've trained 39 Village Disaster Management Committees (VDMCs), equipping them with the tools and knowledge to prepare for emergencies. "I'm grateful for the opportunity to learn how to manage disaster risks. Now, we can identify vulnerable areas in our village and respond effectively in emergencies. Together, we're building a safer, more resilient future—starting with the communities most at risk." Mr. Suthid shared.



World Vision



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EDUCATION

One of World Vision's enduring aspirations is for all children to be educated for life—from birth through adolescence—empowered to learn, grow, and thrive. When children are nurtured in environments that support literacy, emotional resilience, critical thinking, and self-expression, they are better equipped to reach their full potential and break free from the cycle of poverty through lifelong learning.

In 2024, the Lao government continued to prioritize education equity, efficiency, and quality, as outlined in the 9th National Socio-Economic Development Plan. However, Laos still faces significant challenges in educational outcomes. While students spend an average of 10.8 years in school, they acquire learning equivalent to only 6.4 years. Alarmingly, just one in three Grade 3 students meet national literacy benchmarks.

Several persistent factors contribute to these low learning levels. Many ethnic minority children enter school without prior exposure to the Lao language, creating early barriers to comprehension and engagement. Also, nearly 40% of children under five—during the most critical window for brain development—still lack access to early learning opportunities. Additionally, teacher shortages, limited pedagogical training, and under-resourced monitoring systems continue to hinder progress. The impact of economic pressures and reduced public financing for education—now just 2% of GDP, down from its 2013 peak—has further strained the system.

World Vision in Laos seeks to enable families, communities, and schools to provide nurturing care using playful and effective pedagogy to improve the teaching and learning quality and outcomes for Lao children so they will have functional literacy skills after five years of primary education, paving the way to a brighter future. Our education programme aims to:

- Equip teachers with child-centred methodologies to make learning effective and fun for children.
- Empower parents and caregivers to support their children's learning at home.
- Engage and train community volunteers to host community-based reading groups.
- Support communities in creating learning materials for children that reflect their experiences, traditions, and values.
- Equip schools with facilities and infrastructure that promote a healthy and safe environment for children.
- Strengthen and support the local education governance system.

In the fiscal year of 2024, World Vision spent USD1,215,279 on education and life skill projects in Laos. Our work and achievements were made possible by community sponsorship, private funds through World Vision fundraising offices in Australia, Japan, and Taiwan, and a grant from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan.

Highlight: Improve Learning Outcomes for Early Education and Primary School Children (iSTUDY)

Building on the momentum of its launch in March 2023, the iSTUDY project continued to strengthen inclusive education and literacy development in Toomlarn District. Throughout 2024, with support from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Japan and World Vision Japan, the project was able to reach its target development of 20 primary schools and eight early childhood education centres, focusing on children with disabilities and those most at risk of being left behind. During this period, 16 district and school-level trainers participated in a Training of Trainers session to deepen their capacity in inclusive teaching. Schools received printed manuals and digital learning kits to support early education reading instruction. Infrastructure upgrades—including improved water systems, sanitation facilities, and accessibility ramps—were completed in several schools to create safer and more inclusive learning environments. The project also increased its engagement with the community, enabling youth volunteers and caregivers to participate in awareness sessions on child protection and disability inclusion.

Highlight: Sanamxay Education Project

The Sanamxay Education project continued building on last year's successful pilot of the Early Childhood Education programming in Laos—where children in Sanamxay District showed marked improvements across all developmental domains through the use of the International Development and Early Learning Assessment (IDELA). Funded by World Vision Taiwan, the project expanded its focus to early-grade literacy and inclusive education across 20 schools in the district. Thirteen reading corners were established and equipped with books and learning materials, while 32 teachers and 12 community reading volunteers applied the Unlock Literacy model to strengthen reading instruction. The project also made infrastructure upgrades in seven schools to improve hygiene and safety. These efforts built on the foundation laid by last year's ECE programming, reinforces the continuation of learning from early childhood through primary school and reaching over 5,000 children and families in Sanamxay District.



**2,523
girls and boys**

participated in our education programmes

**19 schools and
27 handwash stations**

constructed or renovated



**133
teachers and
volunteers**

received training and
bimonthly supportive supervision

Kanthong's Dream: Growing Readers, Growing Hope

"I am very happy to be part of the Village Reading Group. My dream is to ensure that children in my community have access to quality education and improve their learning skills," says Kanthong, a 23-year-old. One of the 20 new Community Reading Group Volunteers, including four women, had this in mind when she decided to get involved with World Vision to help improve the reading skills of struggling primary students from grades one to three in her village.

Kanthong grew up in a rural community of Savannakhet Province. Her parents are farmers, and Kanthong is the second child of the family's five children. Kanthong didn't complete her high school education due to her parents' lack of financial resources and inability to support the education expenses. She dropped her studies in grade nine of high school and helped her parents by working on the farm. "After dropping out of school, I started helping my parents work on the farm, gardening, whatever I could do to earn an income I was happy to do because I wanted to earn money to support my family," said Kanthong.

Despite the anticipated end of her education, Kanthong wanted to keep learning and joined World Vision programmes in Xonnabuly district in 2023. She was selected by the community members, and her own passion decided to volunteer to lead the Reading Group of her village and help the primary school students in her community after school. After receiving the training to build her capacity as a volunteer, Kanthong started to master her new role: "I have gained knowledge and become more confident to lead the reading group in my community, focusing on knowledge of the alphabet, pronunciation, and vocabulary," she said.

The community reading group is part of the Unlock Literacy project model, a World Vision International evidence-based approach aiming at improving reading skills by working closely with education authorities, teachers, communities, parents, and children. Along with teachers and volunteers training, World Vision provided new equipment and books to 20 schools to create a positive environment for reading. This community-based approach has proven successful, with the percentage of Grade 3 students participating in the community reading group significantly increasing their reading skills.

With the new volunteering experience she gained, Kantkhong is now dreaming bigger for her future: "I conduct reading group activities for one hour, three times a week, with 20 members in the group. After we started these activities, I noticed positive changes; the children became more confident and significantly improved their reading skills." Kanthong says.



ປິດເລື່ອງທີ 2
ທ້າວ ປຶ້ງກີ ຊອກເກີນ

WELCOME to YOUNG MINDS CAMP

We inspire minds, nurture hearts and grow impact

CAMP

World Vision
CAMP



8th ASEAN Children's Forum

The 8th ASEAN Children's Forum, held from August 19–21, 2024, in Vientiane, Lao PDR, brought more than 100 participants, including child delegates from all ten ASEAN Member States and Timor-Leste. Under the theme "Children-led Climate Change Actions Towards a Resilient ASEAN Community," the event, which takes place every two years, provided a platform for children to voice their concerns and propose solutions to the climate crisis. The event was hosted with support from UNICEF, CRC Asia, World Vision, and the ASEAN Secretariat.

Throughout the three-day event, delegates engaged in interactive workshops, creative presentations, and intergenerational dialogues with representatives from the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC) and the ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Social Welfare and Development (SOMSWD). Discussions centered on the intersection of climate change and children's rights, with a focus on food security, migration, education, and child protection. Delegates emphasized the need for educational continuity and community-based resilience strategies, calling for stronger collaboration between families, schools, and governments to safeguard children during climate-related disasters.

The Forum culminated in the presentation of a Children's Declaration on Climate Action, outlining recommendations for ASEAN leaders and relevant stakeholders. This declaration reflects the collective commitment of young delegates to advocate for climate-responsive policies and practices across the region. As Lao leaders reaffirmed their dedication to advancing children's rights and participation, the Forum reinforced the critical role of children as active contributors to ASEAN's vision of a resilient and inclusive community—while showcasing Lao PDR's leadership in promoting youth-led climate action during its ASEAN Chairmanship.



STRENGTHENED FAMILIES

As the saying goes, "It takes a village to raise a child." Growing up in a safe and nurturing environment, harmonious family relationships, and positive values play important roles in children's future and development.

According to a 2018 UNICEF report, approximately 70% of Lao children below 18 experience at least two forms of deprivation, with consequences on lifelong productive and social participation; 50% of children suffer from three or more deprivation, and only 12% experience no deprivation at all. 25% of Lao mothers and caregivers of children aged one to 14 believe that physical punishment is necessary. Studies with women aged 20-49 also show a high prevalence of child marriages, where 33% are married before they reach 18, and 7% are married before the age of 15.

World Vision seeks to protect children from all forms of harm and to build a safe and nurturing environment that promotes the right of every girl and boy to safely and meaningfully participate in matters that affect their well-being. In the communities that we work in, we partner with local stakeholders to:

- Promote positive and peaceful relations between children and their families and communities.
- Encourage community collaboration to improve services that support children's health and education.

In the fiscal year 2024, World Vision spent USD498,456 on projects to strengthen families and protect children in Laos. Our work and achievements were made possible with the support of World Vision Taiwan and World Vision U.S.

Highlight: Celebrating Families

In 2024, World Vision facilitated a Training of Trainers (TOT) on the Celebrating Families module for 50 faith leaders, including 20 representatives from Buddhist communities, 18 from the Lao Evangelical Church, and 12 from the Lao Catholic Church. Following the TOT, each faith group provided training to churches and temples within their respective networks, expanding the reach of the program. In addition, World Vision implemented Celebrating Families-inspired training and community activities in 10 villages across Soukhouma District, Champasak Province, and in six area programs in Khammouane, Luangprabang, and Attapeu. These efforts were part of the Samaki Project—meaning "harmony" in Lao—supported by World Vision US, which aims to strengthen family relationships and foster safe, nurturing environments for children. Altogether, 28,857 individuals—including parents, caregivers, children, youth, faith leaders, government partners, and World Vision staff—actively participated in these transformative trainings.



**7,839
children**

directly participated in
child protection campaign



**6,732
children**

participated in child protection activities







A Journey Toward Harmony: Champathong's Story

Ms. Champathong, 25, lives in Mahaxay District, Khammouane Province, Laos, with her husband and their two children—six-year-old Kongkham and two-year-old Lammany. Married for five years, the couple once faced deep-rooted challenges related to gender roles and family dynamics. Their children lacked emotional warmth and consistent protection, and the pressures of society only intensified these struggles.

In many parts of Laos, traditional norms often limit open communication and shared responsibilities within families. But change began when World Vision introduced its Celebrating Families project—an initiative designed to foster safe, nurturing environments where children can thrive, and families can grow together in love and understanding. “We partnered with local stakeholders to promote peaceful relationships between children, families, and communities,” explains Teaunechai Xayaboun, Faith and Development Coordinator. “Our goal is to strengthen services that support children’s health and education, while encouraging collaboration and mutual respect.” As part of the project, World Vision conducted a Training of Trainers (TOT) session for 39 participants, followed by community-based activities in ten villages in Soukhouma District, Champasak Province, and six Area Programs across Khammouane and Luang Prabang. These efforts focused on engaging faith leaders and families to raise awareness about child protection and the importance of healthy family relationships.

For Champathong, the impact was life changing. “Before, my husband never helped with cooking. He worked hard on the farm and provided for us financially, but we didn’t share responsibilities at home,” she recalls. Through the training, Champathong and her husband learned to communicate more openly and make decisions together. They began practicing non-violent parenting and supporting each other in daily tasks. **“Now, we talk things through before making decisions. My husband helps feed the poultry while I cook. We understand each other better, and our children feel more loved and secure,”** she says with a smile. “Thank you for bringing this training to our community. It has truly transformed our family.”

In addition to the Celebrating Family activity, the Mahaxay Area Program supported the community through initiatives in nutrition, maternal and child health, home gardening, livestock raising, and clean water systems—helping to improve the overall well-being of children and their families.

HUMANITARIAN & EMERGENCY AFFAIRS

Climate change has emerged as one of the most powerful drivers of poverty in our time. While its effects are felt globally, children—especially girls and boys from the most vulnerable communities—are impacted the most, despite contributing the least to the crisis. To safeguard their future, it is essential to empower these children and their communities with the tools, knowledge, and support needed to build resilience against climate-related disasters and long-term environmental challenges.

Laos is particularly vulnerable to climate change, with projections of a 2-3-degree Celsius rise by 2050 and a 10-30% increase in rainfall. In recent years, the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events has increased, leading to devastating floods along the Mekong River. In 2020, Laos was rated 9.1/10 for physical exposure to floods and 6/10 for lack of coping capacity.

In addition to responding to urgent needs in the aftermath of disasters and helping communities rebuild their lives, World Vision actively implements disaster risk reduction initiatives to help communities build their resilience and preparedness for future crises.

HIGHLIGHT: Typhoon Yagi Response

Following Typhoon Yagi's landfall in Laos in early September 2024, World Vision launched relief efforts in response to the severe flooding and landslides that devastated central and northern regions of the

country. Although more than 16 provinces were affected, our support focused on the hardest-hit areas, including Luangnamtha Province—where nearly 20,000 people across 37 villages were impacted and 450 hectares of rice fields were destroyed—and two low-lying districts in Vientiane Capital, where floodwaters caused extensive damage to homes and roads.

To meet urgent needs, World Vision distributed essential relief supplies, including cooking sets, hygiene kits, mosquito nets, and water pumps. In collaboration with our partners, we reached and supported 22,463 individuals, among them 11,817 women, 8,634 children, and 86 people with disabilities.

This USD375,778 response was supported by Japan Platform (USD183,449), World Vision US (USD40,000), World Vision Japan (USD15,000), ECHO (USD127,329), and World Vision Laos' National Emergency Preparedness Response Fund. We coordinated this emergency response with Interfaith Group Leaders, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at the national level, the Ministry of Health, Center of Namsaat, Luangnamtha Provincial Disaster Management Authorities, and the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare in Luangnamtha District.





From Despair to Hope

How the Manichanh's Family Found Support After Typhoon Yagi

In September 2024, severe flooding and landslides devastated communities across Laos. When Typhoon Yagi hit, remote villages like Thongchai Tai were cut off, leaving families stranded without shelter or essentials.

Ms. Manichanh, a 28-year-old mother of a newborn, lost everything in the flood—household items, farming tools, even her tractor. **"The water came so fast, we couldn't save anything,"** she said.

World Vision responded swiftly, launching an emergency Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) initiative across 36 villages. Over 22,400 people received hygiene kits and health services. Families like Ms. Manichanh's also received kitchen sets and household items, bringing immediate relief. **"These things help us with daily needs and make life a bit easier,"** she shared.

The response went beyond emergency aid—focusing on disease prevention, healthcare access, and long-term resilience. In Poungh Village, Mr. Phoum, 60, expressed gratitude: "We lost everything. It feels like starting life over again. Thank you for coming."

World Vision extended support beyond its usual areas, ensuring help reached those most in need—with compassion, transparency, and commitment to lasting impact.



22,464 individuals

including **5,397** children, were supported with basic needs assistance during the Typhoon Yagi Flood Response



100,000 people

sensitized on disaster risk reduction



World Vision

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

We are truly grateful to our partners, donors, and World Vision fundraising offices, who have enabled us to bring sustainable development and hope to many vulnerable children and

Total revenue in 2024:

\$5.2M

84% yield to programming

(The proportion of revenue spent on programming work that directly impacts vulnerable children's lives, including advocacy, campaigning, and technical support.)



Expenditure by category

(All amounts in US dollars)



Health & Nutrition
\$2,611,218 (50%)



Water, Sanitation & Hygiene
\$298,507 (6%)



Livelihood, Agriculture & Food Security
\$604,356 (12%)



Education & Life Skills
\$1,215,279 (23%)



Strengthened Families
\$498,456 (10%)



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 34,000 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, life in all its fullness.
Our prayer for every heart, the will to make it so.**
