



CHILD PROTECTION

World Vision's mission is to improve the lives of children and keeping children safe lies at the heart of this. Children in Lao PDR face a number of risks including the threat of being trafficked to neighboring countries to work in inhumane conditions. Children are also at risk from the sex industry - as tourism grows in Lao PDR so does the demand for sex workers. In addition, there is still a large numbers of unexploded ordinances (UXOs) found in the country with approximately 25 per cent of villages in Laos still being contaminated with UXOs. The following summarizes our main activities in this area in 2013.

Worked with Mines Advisory Group (MAG) and target communities to support the clearance of UXO contaminated land. World Vision works in 3 districts with village volunteers to raise community awareness about UXOs and its prevention. The project supports affected communities with livelihood programmes by introducing new cultivation techniques and investing in equipment that can be used by farmers to process their harvest. Training was provided to communities to help them process and market their products.





Supported children's activities to promote fun and meaningful child participation. World Vision reached more than 4,550 children through children's activities which focused on promoting child rights and child protection in an environment conducive for learning and play. Children were encouraged to give their voice and participate in decisions that affect their lives. The activities benefited more than 15,722 children in our target areas. In addition, 50 children were invited to participate in District Integrated Management Committee meetings and advocate for improvement of child well-being. Moreover, 200 children joined Children's Day celebrations, which led to 12 representatives being chosen for World Vision's first ever Children's Council. During the Children's Council, the young people raised their voices to many stakeholders including World Vision staff, government counterparts from village level to National level, and representative from many international organizations in Laos. This input allowed World Vision Lao PDR to continuously use children's voices as part of decision making. In response, World Vision initiated many new projects that support more children to improve their well-being.

Worked with at risk communities to raise awareness of the issues of human trafficking. Technical support was provided to re-integrate trafficking victims into communities by providing counseling services, vocational training, and advice on establishing small businesses. In 2013, World Vision provided reintegration services to 66 young women and men. In addition, support was also provided to young people from Luang Prabang, Savannakhet, and Saravane provinces to attend the Regional Youth Forum in Thailand to share their experiences around human trafficking and to develop community prevention tools around trafficking. At this event, youth formed regional networks to prevent human trafficking. World Vision and national partners also advocated for ending human trafficking and child sex tourism.

