



World Vision

Annual Report 2013

EDUCATION

Education is central to ending the cycle of poverty. It is identified as a key focus area in the Lao Government's National Social Economic Development and Poverty Eradication Strategy. Education is not only a powerful tool in providing improved job and income earning opportunities, but it also improves health and social well-being outcomes. While Lao PDR is making steady progress in increasing net enrolment of primary school age children, grade repetition and dropout rates are high. The following summarises our main activities in education in 2013.

Trained 672 teachers and 160 school directors on new learning approaches to improve the quality of education and learning environment. Emphasis was made on implementing a student centred approach and promoting active participation of parents in their children's education, and equipping students with both academic and livelihood skills. Teachers were also provided with knowledge on how to use locally available materials to support teaching and learning activities while ensuring that learning is a joyful experience. In addition, World Vision piloted the "School of Quality" model in 10 schools and is documenting best practices to support scaling up in the coming years.





Improved school infrastructure by constructing 23 new schools and renovating 37 existing ones. World Vision also supported necessary items – furniture, blackboards, teacher’s manuals, student uniforms, textbooks, notebooks, and pens to support new learning techniques and approaches. Significant achievement was made in increasing school attendance. A recent evaluation showed that in some target villages the improvements in school infrastructure and its environment led to a significant increase in enrolment.



Provided training to 903 members of the village education development committees (VEDCs) to promote the value of education. The training focused on enhancing the community roles in supporting education for all and lifelong learning. After training, the committees identified vulnerable children from poor families using village mapping, kept watch and monitored these children closely, and encouraged them to stay at school. Through this initiative parents are able to see the value of keeping their children in school and dropout rates have decreased. In 2013, 1,515 children in our target villages returned to school after dropping out.

Improved early childhood outcomes by educating more than 7,000 women of reproductive age. Topics included family planning, pre and post natal care, and breastfeeding.

New skills are also learned around play and stimulation for children, especially how to keep babies occupied and stimulated while the mother and fathers are working. ECCD activities also include training on how to prevent accidents from happening by creating a safer environment within the community.

