

Protected and Resilient Children



World Vision aims 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 neighbouring countries to work in inhumane conditions. The existence of large numbers of unexploded ordinances (UXOs) also poses a risk to children.

WHAT WE DO

To prevent children from abuse, neglect, exploitation and other forms of violence, World Vision works with government authorities and community leaders to raise awareness on unsafe migration, domestic violence and trafficking and to encourage safe behaviors. Our activities focus on:

Protecting Children from Unexploded Ordinances (UXOs):

- Educating communities about UXOs. Volunteers are trained on how to identify and report UXOs and keep their communities safe.
- Integrating a UXO Action Project, together with MAG Lao, to clearing land of UXOs in target villages. Clearance leads to increased land productivity and better farming.

Anti-trafficking and Child programme:

- Protect victims of human trafficking by supporting victim identification, cross-border repatriation, community based (re)integration and empowering them through a victim internal network.
- Preventing children who are vulnerable from trafficking, from being sexually exploited and abused in the tourist industry. Set up and train community based child protection networks, educating families and youth.

Promoting child rights/Children Clubs:

- Establishing children's club focusing on educating children about child rights, improving life skills and creating a space where children can talk about protection issues in an environment where they feel safe.



FAST FACTS

- Lao PDR is primarily a source country for trafficking into urban areas and other countries, where they often work in abusive conditions in services and sex industries, factories, agriculture and fishing.
- 72% of the trafficking victims are girls between 12 to 18 years old.
- 76% of Lao children aged 2 to 14 are subject to at least one form of psychological aggression or physical punishment from an adult in their household.
- Every week around the country, a bomb is discovered and accidentally explodes. More than 40% of the victims of these explosions are children.

OUR ACHIEVEMENTS IN FY14

21 children's clubs are now facilitated enabling learning about children's rights and safety through a 'Friends Help Friends' approach.

Child protection and prevention of child exploitation has been taught to 279 children, 176 Child Protection Network members, 500 + police staff and 151 key government staff.

UXO clearance was also successful in expanding 414 hectares of usable area for agriculture and destroyed 2,120 UXO items

PARTNERING WITH COMMUNITIES FOR CHILDREN

Yaok was 9 years old when he lost his leg after an old UXO blew up. To help the boy recover, World Vision worked with the government to help him regain his health and learn to walk again.

Two years after the explosion, Yaok is now 11 and goes to school every day – where he studies in Grade 3. He now is able to walk confidently with a prosthetic leg. He runs, plays and is able to help his family with the day to day chores.



Khamsieng (name changed to protect her identity) received help from the government and was put in touch with World Vision's anti human trafficking project. The project helped her to return to her village and reunite with her family. She was also offered training and World Vision helped her find a job.
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CHILD – SAFE NETWORKS BRING KHAMSIENG HOME

When Khamsieng was 15, an employment broker came to her Laos village with promises of a good job in Thailand. She crossed the border with great ambitions to make life better and earn money to send to her family, but the situation was very different from the promise when she arrived.

In Thailand, Khamsieng was imprisoned by her job for eight years, trapped as a maid in an abusive household and expected to work in a rubber plantation for only USD 70 a year.

When she became seriously ill, Khamsieng made the life-threatening decision to escape. Upon reaching the border in Laos, local authorities referred her to World Vision's anti human-trafficking project. In collaboration with local child-safe networks, she was returned to her village, reunited with her family, and referred to work in a local guesthouse where she safely earns enough money to be able to help her parents.

**Khamsieng's name is changed for her protection.*

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