



ANNUAL REPORT

2021 – 2022

ChildFund in Laos is the representative office of ChildFund Australia – an independent international development organisation that works to reduce poverty for children in developing communities.

ChildFund Australia is a member of the ChildFund Alliance – a global network of 11 organisations which assists almost 23 million children and their families in 70 countries. ChildFund Australia is a registered charity, a member of the Australian Council for International Development, and fully accredited by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade which manages the Australian Government's overseas aid program.

ChildFund began working in Laos in 2010 and works in partnership to create community and systems change which enables vulnerable children and young people, in all their diversity, to assert and realise their rights. Projects are implemented in the capital of Vientiane, as well as Huaphanh and Xiengkouang Province, some of the country's poorest regions with significantly high unexploded ordnance contamination.

With a focus on upholding child rights and improving access to quality education, ChildFund in Laos also prioritises projects which focus on child nutrition, sexual reproductive health and rights, media literacy and job readiness.

ChildFund in Laos

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The future of a nation is in the hands of its children and young people.

By investing in children and young people, we can shape the future for generations to come. It isn't an abstract concept; it is something that can be measured and quantified.

A child's development is not just about future children – it's about all children, now and in the future. By fostering critical thinking skills in children, we help them learn to make responsible decisions for themselves and for those around them.

This helps them grow into responsible global citizens. Promoting life skills development through ChildFund in Laos programs, is essential to supporting Lao children and youth to develop critical decision-making skills.

These same programs ensure that children and youth are aware of children's rights, child protection initiatives, gender equality, health services, reproductive health and safe internet use. By learning about these topics, they improve their leadership skills, psycho-social skills and other critical life skills that help them plan their future.

The children's rights movement has a long history of advocating for promoting the participation of children and young people in society and including their voices in decision making processes.

ChildFund in Laos is proud to be a part of the child rights movement and to support children from diverse backgrounds in achieving their highest potential. This includes children living in remote parts of the country, those from ethnic minorities, children living with a disability, young people who identify as part of the LGBTQIA community and children belonging to other marginalised groups.

At ChildFund, we want all children to have equal opportunities to child protection, education, health care, empowerment, and other areas critical to their well-being

and rights. We know that many children have been facing additional challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic – these challenges are magnified for children and young people from minority ethnic groups or those living with a disability.

We are proud to work alongside with government partners, local associations, local and international organisations, children and youth leaders/volunteers who are committed to ensuring that everyone has the equal and fair opportunities to be protected, participate, grow and act for a better future for all without leaving anyone behind.


Vilasai

Vilasai Thammavong

Acting Country Director – Programs
ChildFund in Laos

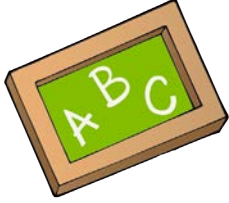


Mattipob Douangmyxay

Acting Country Director - Operations
ChildFund in Laos

2022 IN NUMBERS

**4 EDUCATION
PROJECTS**



1,652 CHILDREN REACHED

**2 SOCIAL AND
EMOTIONAL
LEARNING PROJECTS**



10,739 CHILDREN REACHED

**2 HEALTH
PROJECTS**



521 CHILDREN REACHED

**80
TEACHERS**



TRAINED TO BETTER
SUPPORT CHILDREN
AND YOUNG PEOPLE

19

**PEOPLE
WITH
DISABILITY**



SUPPORTED THROUGH
OUR PROGRAMS

WE WANT EVERY CHILD TO SAY

I AM
EDUCATED

I HAVE A
FUTURE

I
CONTRIBUTE

I AM
SAFE





FEATURE STORY: I HAVE A FUTURE KON CAN NOW GO TO SCHOOL

Nine-year-old Kon (pictured below) lives in a remote village in Laos, only accessible by winding dirt roads through mountainous terrain. Kon lives with a physical disability that makes walking difficult.

When he was 18 months old, his parents noticed he wasn't walking like the other children his age. A doctor told them that a bone in his ankle had not developed properly and wouldn't be able to support his weight to walk. The only solution was surgery, but his parents couldn't afford it.



Kon's parents are both farmers and often leave the house at dawn and return home at sunset. Sometimes they stay in the field overnight if it is too late to travel home.

With his parents busy working to provide the necessities for the family and Kon's inability to

walk, this has meant Kon hasn't been able to go to school.

While his friends are at school, Kon stays at home to care for his younger brother and sister, often doing housework like laundry and cleaning. However, Kon doesn't let his disability keep him from living and making the most out of his life. Much like other children his age, he has plenty of energy and is playful.

In January, Kon received a walking aid from ChildFund in Laos. He learned how to use the walking aid through various warm-up exercises and techniques. Local partner Aid for Children with Disability (ACDA) checks in on his progress every two months.

This walking aid now means Kon can go to school on his own. He was excited to start first grade and was particularly looking forward to learning mathematics. "I like mathematics because it's useful," he said. "It's something I'm good at. I already use it whenever I buy food at the store, and it is something I can use every day."

With the help of his friends and family, Kon's mobility has significantly improved in a short time. "I don't get tired at all using the walking aid. I'm always very, very happy whenever I use it."



I AM EDUCATED

INCLUSIVE EDUCATION BUILDING LITERACY SKILLS

Inclusive education is a significant area of focus for ChildFund in Laos. Every child, regardless of gender, socioeconomic status, ethnicity, or disability has the right to access quality education.

With many of our projects operating in Northern Laos, where there is a high population of diverse minorities where Lao is their second language, we are working to improve learning

outcomes for these bilingual children by improving their Lao language skills.

To improve Lao literacy skills for children, ChildFund focuses on improving teachers' knowledge, skills, and resources. Teachers are trained to support ethnic students who are learning Lao for the first time. They organise weekly Lao literacy classes, including creative writing activities.

ChildFund in Laos also built child-friendly educational facilities for all students, including libraries filled with reading materials. This will provide children with more opportunities to develop their literacy skills and to enjoy reading.

Supporting children and young people to improve their Lao language skills can help them reach and complete a higher level of education.



I CONTRIBUTE

CINDY IS LEADING HER PEERS

For the past four years, Cindy, age 18 (pictured right with other conference attendees), has been a part of ChildFund in Laos' Ready for Life project, which provides young people with the knowledge and skills to become leaders in their communities.

Today, Cindy is a trainer for the project, passing on her leadership skills to her peers. In 2019, she was selected to take part in the Association of Southeast Asian Nation (ASEAN) Children's Summit, and after this experience, she decided to continue to work with ChildFund in Laos.

"I enjoyed being a youth trainer and representative from my school and did a lot of activities with my fellow team members," she said "When I first applied to be a youth trainer, I just wanted to try something new and have fun with my friends. But after taking part, I learned that the knowledge I have is valuable. I realised that I could help many others."

Cindy has been to many forums, regularly speaking and advocating for the rights of children in her community. Through these opportunities, she has been able to develop

her confidence and leadership skills. She has become a community role model, inspiring her peers to challenge themselves and take part in the project.



I AM SAFE

IMPROVING WATER HEALTH IN RURAL LAOS

In rural and remote parts of Laos, many children are sent to collect water for the household from nearby streams and rivers. But for one mother, Khamdee (pictured right with her daughter), she knows how dangerous and difficult this trip can be and will not allow her children to make the journey. Instead, she and her husband make the trip.

"Carrying water all the way back home is heavy," she said. "The stream is in the lowlands, about four kilometres away from my home. Sometimes we must walk eight kilometres to get enough water. My husband and I must carry two 18L barrels each twice a day."

ChildFund in Laos worked across the Huaphanh Province to ensure that children and young people can access safe, clean water in their homes. ChildFund partnered with local authorities to rebuild the water tank and create a plumbing system in one village, so that every household could have access to safe, running water at any time of day.

Khamdee said: "To have running water available in our homes is amazing. I can cook, do our laundry, bathe, and have clean and safe drinking water to give to my children anytime."

Each household now pays for how much water they use, and these funds are then used to maintain the water tank and plumbing system, to ensure it is sustainable.



I HAVE A FUTURE

YOUNG PEOPLE ARE LEADING AT A NATIONAL YOUTH FORUM

The National Lao Children's Forum is an opportunity for children and young people to come together and learn how to become active, responsible, and contributing members of their community.

ChildFund in Laos has been supporting children and young people from diverse backgrounds to attend the annual forum for many years.

Yervang Xiapao (pictured left with other conference attendees) from the Xaysomboun Province, supported by ChildFund, said: "It was an opportunity for me to help other children in my community, as there are still many children in my province who do not prioritise their education. By attending the event, I was able to share what I've learned with my friends in my neighbourhood."

By joining the National Lao Children's Forum, participants walked away with skills and confidence on how to address the challenges they and their peers faced.

Saisingkham from Luangprabang Province said: "I am a shy child. I'm usually afraid of speaking up and do not think I can change the society that I live in or the things that affect my life. But after attending the Lao Children's Forum, I felt that everyone was important, and I want all the children to bring their talents to develop society."



Two young people reading together in the Houaphanh Province.



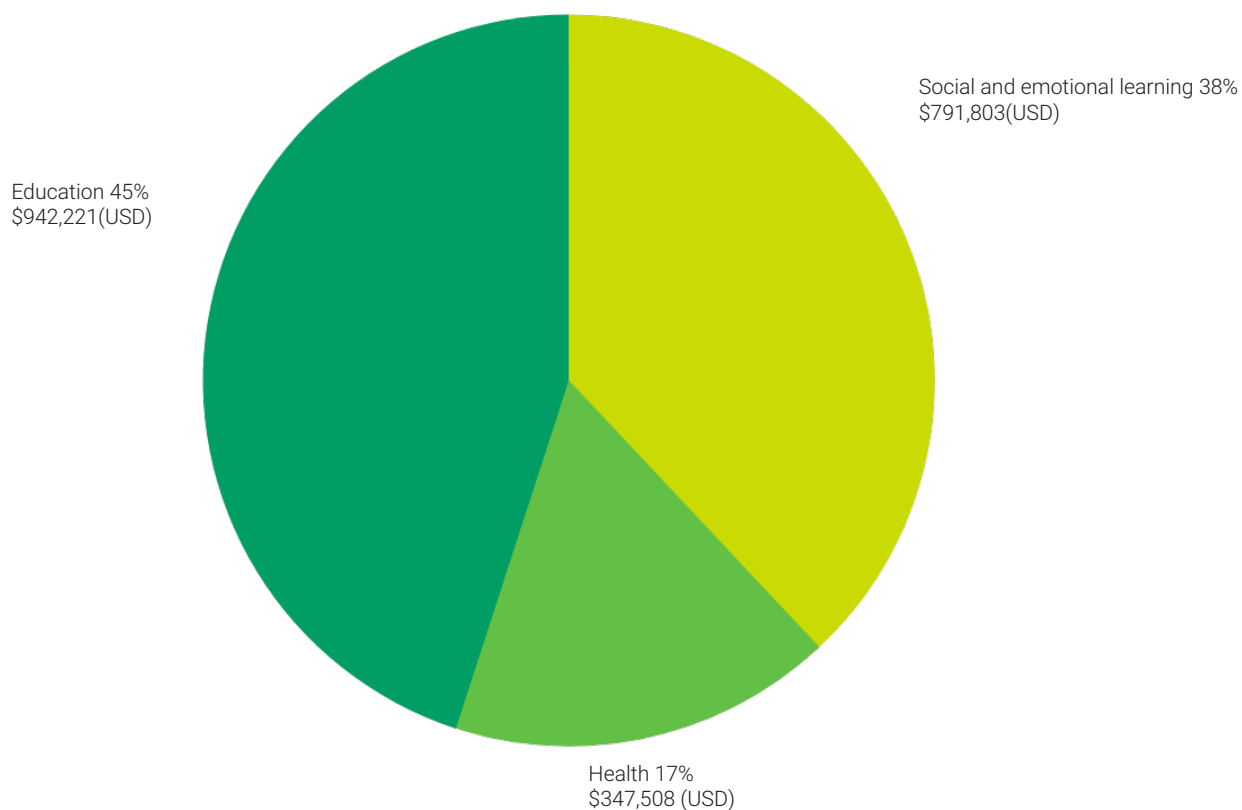
FINANCIAL REPORT

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

REVENUE	FY21 (USD)	FY22 (USD)
Donations	278,506	161,024
Grants	1,327,115	2,056,764
Other income	12,696	2,829
Total revenue	1,618,317	2,220,617

EXPENDITURE	FY21 (USD)	FY22 (USD)
Program and projects	1,379,520	2,081,532
Program support	140,891	52,532
Accountability and administration	98,490	119,691
Total expenditure	1,618,901	2,253,755

PROGRAM EXPENDITURE FY2022 (USD)



COLLABORATING TO ACHIEVE CHANGE

Thank you to the following organisations and individuals whose generous support and assistance is vital to the work of ChildFund in Laos:



Aid Children with Disability Association (ACDA) • Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade • CARE International • Comité de coopération avec le Laos (CCL) • Facebook Singapore • Gender Development Association (GDA) • Global Shapers • Lao Rugby Federation (LRF) • Lao Cyber Emergency Response Team (LaoCERT) • Life Skills Development Association (LSDA) • Ministry of Education and Sports (MoES) • Ministry of Health (MOH) • Ministry of Post and Telecommunications • Plan International • Save the Children International • The National Commission for the Advancement of Women and Mothers and Children (NCAWMC), Provincial and District CAWMC • UNICEF • UNFPA • Unilever





**BECAUSE
EVERY CHILD
NEEDS A
CHILDHOOD**

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