

ANNUAL REPORT

2016 – 2017

ChildFund Laos is the representative office of ChildFund Australia – an independent and non-religious 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 more than 9 million children and families in over 50 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 with children, their communities, local organisations and governments to create lasting change, respond to humanitarian emergencies and promote children's rights. Projects are implemented in Xieng Khouang and Huaphanh Provinces, some of the country's poorest regions with significantly high unexploded ordnance contamination, as well as the Vientiane Municipality.

With a focus on improving access to quality education and upholding child rights, ChildFund Laos aims to improve access to education, water, sanitation and hygiene, mother and child health, food security and nutrition, while providing opportunities for children and youth to participate in local decision-making.

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FROM THE COUNTRY DIRECTOR



This report marks one year since the launch of ChildFund Laos' 2016 – 2020 Strategic Plan. In 2017, we worked hard to promote the rights and wellbeing of children in Xiengkhouang, Huaphanh and Vientiane areas through a number of projects in schools and communities. We worked in partnership with individuals, families, groups, government bodies, and local and international organisations.

As we are entering the mid-term Country Strategic Plan next year, we will continue to collaborate with our partners at all levels and ensure children continue to benefit from our programs.

Poverty and inequality-related challenges around the country remain, and we will require a healthy, educated and skilled population to meet these challenges. ChildFund Laos' programs are reaching children in need and providing access to education, clean water, sanitation, good nutrition, and protection. We are also focused on increasing children's participation and ensuring they have a say on issues that affect them.

Our engagement with children and youth remains strong, and our education programs

have been extended to reach more children. We look forward to making an impact to improve literacy in Huaphanh.

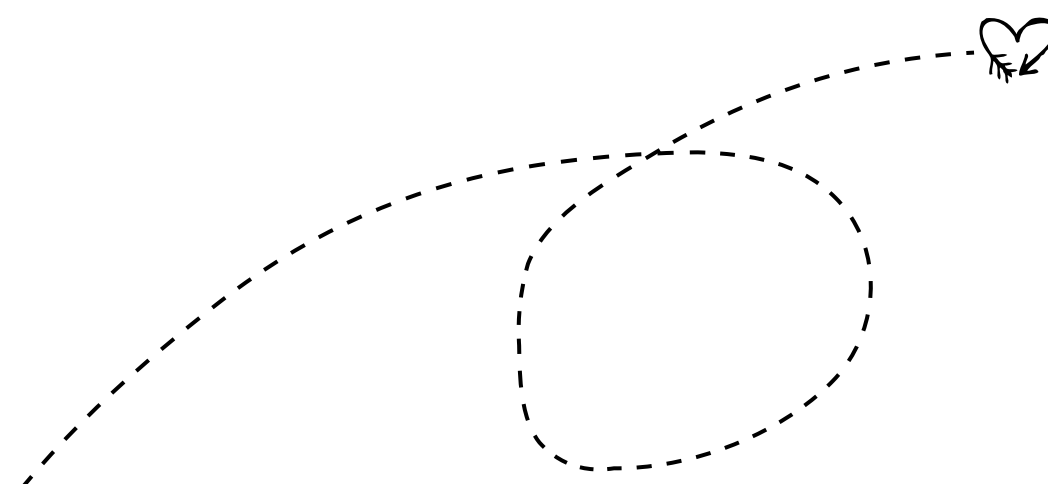
We have also begun the initial impact study of our first program area, Nonghet. Notably, the levels of engagement in programs for children in the area has been great, meaning our work is making a difference to children who have previously felt disengaged from community decision making.

We will continue our efforts to contribute to a high standard of implementation and management of programs, and will aim to increase the participation of children and their families across Laos.

I extend my appreciation to our generous donors and partners for their ongoing support to safeguard the wellbeing of children. To achieve our overarching aims for children in the coming years, we will continue working with our partners, including children. We will reinforce children's best interests through open discussion, open spaces and open actions, so as to influence positive changes which will lead to meaningful progress in Laos.

Yours sincerely,

Keoamphone Souvannaphoum
Country Director
ChildFund Laos





I AM SAFE

THE BRIGHT SIDE OF RAINY DAYS

In Nonghet district, Global Community Youth Ambassadors have recently built rainwater jars – giving them a new, low-cost way to not only collect water, but store it and have it accessible during the dry seasons.

These large cement vessels have a capacity of 2,000 litres. Connected to the roof, the jars collect fresh rainwater which can be used for drinking and cooking.

Children and their families can now access a reliable water source from two rainwater jars at a village primary school, where nine-year-old Oudai is a student. Providing enough water for drinking purposes means children no longer need to carry daily supplies from home, which was particularly heavy work for younger children.

The jars also make it easy for the school's sanitation facilities to be kept spick and span. Oudai says: "I feel very happy. The jars are not only beautiful, but they are also very useful."



I AM EDUCATED

THE LANGUAGE OF LEARNING

Nonghet is one of the poorest districts in Xieng Khouang province. Here, the majority of the population are from ethnic minority groups, and are often excluded from development opportunities.

To improve basic literacy and numeracy levels for the new generation, ChildFund Laos is working with local communities and government bodies to give every child in this district the opportunity to attend a school that has proper infrastructure and is easily accessible.

For 12-year-old Meethor, access to education not only means literacy and numeracy, but a new passion for languages.

"I have a big dream that I would like to go on to further education at university, where I could major in my favourite subject – Lao language," she says. "I would like to teach Lao language so I can bring all my knowledge and experience and transfer it to the children in my community. I can educate the students to be people who have great knowledge and abilities."

CHILDREN LEAD THE WAY

Student Ford is making sure his fellow classmates know how to make their voices heard as part of his role as leader of a ChildFund-supported media group at his school.

The group is part of ChildFund's Safeguarding Children through Participation in School Life initiative, which encourages children's involvement in decisions that affect them.

As the head of his media group, Ford guides younger students in public speaking and news reporting activities. He has also learnt to produce videos and will soon pass these skills onto other students in his group.

"After I attended the activities, I felt good and proud of myself because I now have more confidence in expressing my own ideas," says Ford.

"I also improved my leadership skills, and my school results are getting better. It has helped me to understand my emotions and given me skills in public speaking, which I can use to be a presenter at activities at my school."



I AM HEARD



CREATING OPPORTUNITIES

Mother-of-two Mai lives in small village in Nonghet. Traditionally, economic opportunities for women in Mai's area have been limited to farming; however, a ChildFund-supported training program just for women is helping to solve this problem.

Thanks to specialist training, Mai has learnt how to weave

Lao skirts, which she sells to help pay for her children's educational needs and provide better for their future.

"Our family income is a lot higher now, thanks to the skills I've learnt from the vocational training conducted by ChildFund. Being able to weave garments has really enabled me to provide more for my children."



I HAVE A FUTURE



CHILDFUND PASS IT BACK TACKLES INEQUALITY

In November, ChildFund Pass It Back coach May ran a tag rugby session for young people in her village. Her newfound confidence was on full display, as children laughed and smiled as May and her fellow coach guided them through basic rugby sessions and mini-games.

May also administered first aid to children who had minor cuts and bruises, and talked to players about their passing technique. She has become a popular coach, with some of her players walking for 4km just to attend a session.

It has been an extremely rewarding experience for May, one of many girls who has been introduced to rugby through ChildFund Pass It Back.

"The biggest change in myself has been that I feel more brave, more confident in my abilities and more willing to have new experiences," May says.

This is a key objective of the ChildFund Pass It Back program, which has been set up in communities in Asia where there are significant challenges in regards to poverty and inequality.

The program has an integrated rugby and life skills curriculum that uses the natural appeal of sport to teach children vital skills that will help them reach their full potential.

Children and youth are introduced to the game by using ChildFund Pass It Back Tag Rugby. They learn the skills of the game, join teams, participate in local, regional and

international tournaments and may even have the opportunity to progress to the sport's higher levels.

They are also introduced to a structured personal development curriculum where they learn about leadership, problem-solving, gender equity, conflict resolution and planning for the future. Participants are encouraged to become peer group leaders and influential role models in their communities.

May says the program is showing girls throughout Laos that they have a right to be heard.

"The most rewarding thing about ChildFund Pass It Back is the chance to learn and do things I never imagined I could," she says.

COLLABORATING TO ACHIEVE CHANGE

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



KOICA • Asia Rugby • Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade • European Union • Lao Rugby Federation • Vientiane Youth Center • FLAMES • NORMAILAKSY • Plan Laos • The Rhodes Family • Save the Children • Coffey International • UNICEF • Women Win • World Vision Laos • The Asia Foundation

ChildFund Laos would also like to thank the Lao Government for their support.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Financial report for year ended 30 June 2017

INCOME STATEMENT	2017 (US\$)	2016 (US\$)
Income	2,547,858	1,874,798
Expenditure	2,519,661	1,873,052
Excess of income over expenditure	28,197	1,746

BALANCE SHEET	30 JUNE 2017 (US\$)	30 JUNE 2016 (US\$)
Total assets	658,098	379,753
Total liabilities	512,515	262,367
Net assets	145,583	117,386

**BECAUSE
EVERY CHILD
NEEDS A
CHILDHOOD**

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