

# CHILD FUND LAOS ANNUAL REPORT 2013-14



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 the developing world.

ChildFund Australia is a member of the ChildFund Alliance – a global network of 12 organisations which assists more than 15 million children and families in 58 countries.

ChildFund began work in Laos in 2010, implementing community development programs in Xieng Khouang Province, one of the poorest areas in the country. ChildFund has a strong focus on improving access to quality education, and is expanding its work to include pre-primary education to ensure that children get the best possible start in life.

In partnership with communities, ChildFund has established projects to improve water, sanitation and hygiene, mother and child health, food security and nutrition, as well as opportunities for children and youth to participate in local decision-making. ChildFund has a strong focus on protection, child rights and developing life-skills through tools including sport and multimedia. ChildFund Laos has also recently begun work in Vientiane, the capital, in response to the increasing risks facing children in urban areas.

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**Front and back cover:** Children playing at an annual Children's Day celebrations in Nonghet.

# From the country director

**ChildFund's work in Laos has resulted in significant improvements to the lives of more than 36,380 children and their families over the past year.**



Chris at a school handover ceremony

This year, as always, has been one of challenges overcome and one of positive change for children in ChildFund's partner communities. During 2013-14, ChildFund Laos expanded its programs and is now partnering with more people than ever before.

In July 2013, ChildFund began working in Vientiane, Laos' capital city. Working with the Ministry of Education and Sport, ChildFund is helping to promote and improve physical and arts education in schools as part of a balanced, high quality education for children. Expanding our work to Vientiane is giving the organisation the opportunity to better understand and engage with the challenges of both rural and urban children in Laos. We will continue to progress this work in the next financial year.

Our work with our 12 partner villages in Nonghet District, Xieng Khouang Province continues to grow. Education remains a strong feature of our work, and in the last year three primary schools and one early childhood development centre were constructed and handed-over to community members. ChildFund's commitment to provide teacher training is also giving children better access to quality child-centred education.



Over 1,500 children participated in our sports for development project this year

ChildFund Laos' community voices program continues to help amplify the voices of children, village members and local leaders to empower them to create positive change in their own communities.

Health remains another feature of our work. This has included the construction of a new maternal and child health centre, and over 370 latrines. There are now disaster profiles and community action plans in place in all 12 villages, with the process inclusive of children.

During the past financial year, ChildFund Laos has focused on deepening our partnerships with other international non-governmental organisations, local organisations and the Lao government to effect change. In September 2013, ChildFund Laos worked in coordination with Plan Laos and the government to respond to

flash flooding in Ouxdomxay Province. By working together, we were able to increase our impact, with ChildFund's emergency efforts helping more than 1,700 people.

On behalf of ChildFund Laos and our partner villages, I would like to thank all of our supporters who are helping to create lasting and meaningful change for children every day. We look forward to another successful year with your support.

**Chris Mastaglio**  
ChildFund Laos Country Director

# 2013-14 Highlights

## EDUCATION



**THREE PRIMARY SCHOOLS AND ONE EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT CENTRE** were constructed



**874 STUDENTS** received emergency school supplies and uniforms, and **54 TEACHERS** received teaching aids



**17 LONG-TERM TEACHER TRAINING SCHOLARSHIPS** were provided by ChildFund



**TWO SCHOOLS OF QUALITY** (a Lao Government standard) training courses were organised for teachers from **12 SCHOOLS**



ChildFund Laos conducted physical education and art education awareness campaigns in **SIX SCHOOLS FROM THREE COMMUNITIES**



A new primary school in Nonghet

## HEALTH



**ONE MOTHER AND CHILD HEALTH CENTRE** was constructed and **FOUR HEALTH CENTRES** were renovated benefitting over **14,800 PEOPLE**



**11 DISTRICT HOSPITAL STAFF** were trained on family planning



**18 FAMILY PLANNING AWARENESS SESSIONS** were conducted in **12 COMMUNITIES**, reaching over **1,010 COMMUNITY MEMBERS**



**23 TRAINED BIRTH ATTENDANTS FROM 12 COMMUNITIES** received training



**TWO AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS** were launched on the new maternal and child health referral system so patients receive the specialised care they need



**9,760 MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS** were distributed



Children affected by flooding received new school bags

## CHILD RIGHTS



**ONE CHILDREN'S HALL** was constructed for children's activities, such as child clubs



**OVER 1,500 CHILDREN AND YOUTH** attended ChildFund's sports for development activities



**ONE CHILDREN'S DAY EVENT** was held to promote child rights

During the 2013-14 financial year, ChildFund Laos implemented a range of projects aimed at improving the lives of children and their families in Nonghet District, Xieng Khouang Province and Xaythany and Pakngeum Districts, Vientiane Municipality. ChildFund also provided emergency support in Ouxdomxay Province.

## WATER AND SANITATION



**376 LATRINES** were constructed with ChildFund's support



**1,155 COMMUNITY MEMBERS** received training on latrine management



**242 FAMILIES** received emergency clean water kits, hygiene kits and hygiene education



Children drawing community hazard maps



Celebrating Children's Day in Nonghet

## LIVELIHOODS



**48,267 M<sup>2</sup> OF LAND** was cleared of unexploded bombs for **12 FAMILIES IN ONE VILLAGE**



**10 LIVESTOCK MANAGEMENT TRAINING SESSIONS** were conducted in **12 COMMUNITIES**



**481 PEOPLE** were provided with access to improved agricultural technologies



**160 PEOPLE** participated in a ChildFund-supported learning exchange on disaster risk reduction and emergencies



Community action plans were completed in **12 COMMUNITIES, REACHING OVER 1,060 PEOPLE**

# Clearing bombs in Laos

**An unexploded bomb clearance exercise managed by ChildFund means 12 families in northern Laos can finally farm their land without fear.**



Mai standing where a bomb was removed from her land



A clearance team at work in Dindam

Among the mountains of northern Laos lies a small rural village near the Vietnamese border. Dindam village is made up of small wooden homes clustered together along the highway leading to Vietnam. The area's close proximity to the border meant it was heavily bombed during the Vietnam War. Many bombs failed to detonate and remain live and dangerous today.

Like many communities in this region, the main livelihood of families in Din Dam is agricultural production. Cultivating the land exposes families to an increased risk of unexploded bombs (UXOs) on a daily basis.

Laos is the most bombed country per capita in the world. More than 270 million cluster munitions were dropped on Laos during the war. Every year UXOs in Laos still claim around 300 new casualties, 40 per cent of whom are children.

In Dindam the scars of a UXO accident remain fresh. 10 years ago, two children were killed and three others from the same family severely injured whilst farming their plot of land.

"I find new bombs in this land every year. When someone sees one, we need to mark it and tell the kids not to go close to the mark. We would inform the village authorities but no-one ever

came to destroy them. I was worried because they came from the war and I didn't know if they could still explode or not," says Mai, a resident of Dindam village.

Mai has two children and has been working on her plot of land for more than 20 years, planting rice and corn for her family's consumption and tubers to feed their pigs.

"They are dangerous for people, for the environment and for animals. I am afraid young children who don't know the danger will dig the land and touch them when playing in the fields. I am also afraid when slashing the fields because bombs can be everywhere," she adds.

In June 2014, ChildFund supported the clearance of 48,267 m<sup>2</sup> of farming land in Dindam. 16 cluster munitions – the main form of UXOs in Laos – were found and removed.

Now, Mai and 11 other families in Dindam have access to more available farming land and no longer have to worry about the risk of unexploded bombs each day they work.

No, aged 12 years, helps her parents grow corn on their land and says she now feels safe: "I used to see bombs when using a shovel to dig the land. I felt

afraid because there are many bombs and it was not safe. I was afraid for my family when they worked in the fields.

"The company found and destroyed six units and now I am sure there are no more bombs in our fields. I feel safe because they cleared and destroyed them all," says No.

**"I USED TO SEE BOMBS WHEN USING A SHOVEL TO DIG THE LAND. I FELT AFRAID BECAUSE THERE ARE MANY BOMBS AND IT WAS NOT SAFE."**

The UXO contamination in Laos not only poses physical and psychological risks to children and families, but it is also one of the key factors limiting the country's long-term development. Land that is considered dangerous cannot be farmed, nor can it be used for vital infrastructure, such as schools and hospitals.

ChildFund Laos is working with the Mines Advisory Group (MAG) and other organisations to clear land in Xieng Khouang province as part of their livelihood and food security enhancement project. This project is benefitting over 5,800 people in 12 villages and is helping to increase community capacity for improving and scaling up livelihoods opportunities to support the well-being of children.

# Collaborate to achieve change



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

- Abundant Water
- Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
- CARE
- Electriciens Sans Frontières
- Gender Development Association
- Lao Biodiversity Association
- Lao Rugby Federation
- Plan Laos
- Save the Children
- Sports Matters
- UNICEF
- World Vision Laos.



Australian Government  
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

A special mention to the Honourable Tim Fischer AC, the former Deputy Prime Minister of Australia and ChildFund Australia envoy, who lent his voice to ChildFund Australia's Laos UXO campaign in 2014.



*ChildFund Laos would also like to thank our Lao Government partners for their support.*

## Financial report

Financial Report For Year Ended 30 June 2014

Income Statement	2014 (US\$)	2013 (US\$)
Income	1,765,077	1,585,356
Expenditure	1,728,373	1,567,667
Excess of Income over Expenditure	36,704	17,689

Balance Sheet	30 June 2014 (US\$)	30 June 2013 (US\$)
Total assets	366,975	271,008
Total liabilities	253,251	193,988
Net assets	113,724	77,020

