



**ANNUAL  
REPORT**

2017 - 2018

ChildFund 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 more than 14 million children and their families in over 60 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 and local institutions 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 upholding child rights and improving access to quality education, ChildFund Laos also prioritises projects which focus on child nutrition, sexual reproductive health and rights, media literacy and job readiness.

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**Photography:** ChildFund staff

**Front cover:** Children from Nonghet District, Xieng Khouang Province, Laos

## FROM THE COUNTRY DIRECTOR



This year ChildFund Laos continued to promote the rights and wellbeing of children, through strong commitments to increasing children's access to education and health, and children's participation and development in communities. Our programs

have become more focused on strengthening children's access to quality education and health, and ensuring children participate in the decision-making process on issues that affect them.

This year we celebrated the launch of the first National Children's Forum, an event that marked a critical step for Laos in its progression towards upholding the principles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The forum, which will be held annually, was the first event in Laos where children could fully participate and have a voice on a variety of community issues.

More children and young people in Laos now have the confidence to voice the key issues they face, such as a lack of access to opportunities and the exposure to violence. They also now have the skills to work together and with their communities to address these issues. There is an increasing number of children and young people who shine in

their engagement in these areas, and have taken on leadership roles in their schools and communities.

Moving into the new financial year, we look forward to creating more safe spaces for children, and increasing children and youth's participation in their communities.

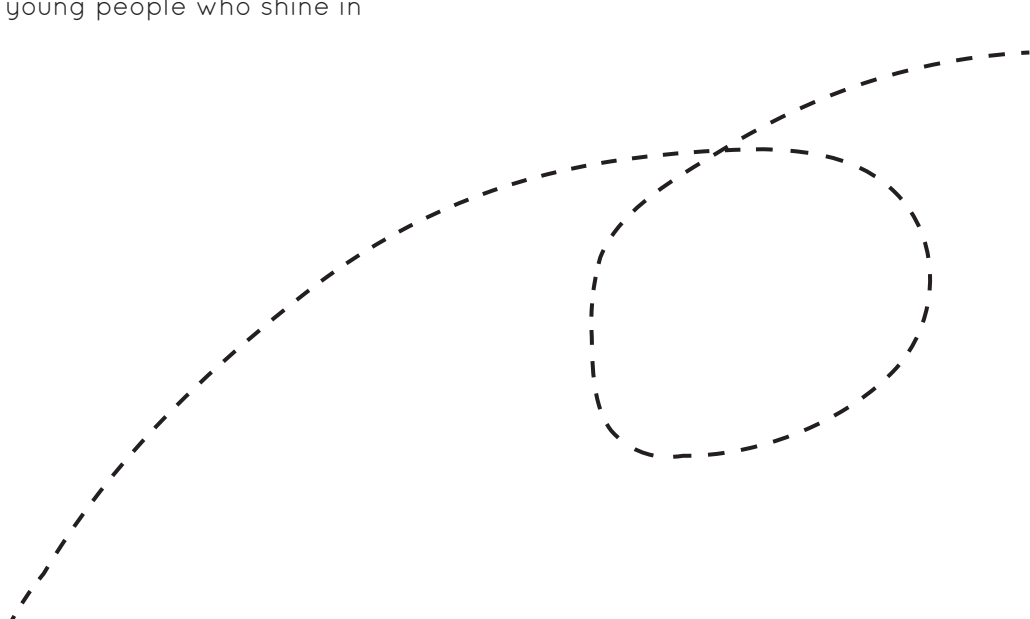
It's because of the support of many people that these inspiring changes are possible. I would like to express a heartfelt thank you to our generous donors and partners for their ongoing support in helping us extend the reach of our programs and helping to protect the rights of children.

We will continue to implement projects with high levels of commitment and high standards of accountability. We look forward to achieving even more positive and meaningful change for Lao children and families in the new year.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Keo' followed by a stylized flourish.

**Keoamphone Souvannaphoum**  
Country Director  
ChildFund Laos





**I AM  
SAFE**



## THE PRECIOUS GIFT OF WATER

The lack of infrastructure in communities in remote, mountainous areas of Nonghet District, in northeast Laos, means children need to walk long distances to access water for drinking and cleaning.

Twelve-year-old Kaotar (above) used to walk almost two hours, several times a week, to collect water from a natural spring. She would get up at 5am to collect the water so she could get to school on time. On the weekends she would sleep near the spring

and have to wake up at around 3am to beat the morning crowds.

“Ever since I can remember, my village has had trouble finding water to use for our daily living activities,” Kaotar says. “We could only bring enough water at a time for one or two days, and we had to share it with others in the village.

“Another problem was that we didn’t have enough storage for the water we collected.”

The task was even more challenging during winter, when the temperature would drop to as low as 2 degrees.

With the help of donors, ChildFund Laos is installing water tanks in communities in Nonghet so children such as Kaotar and their families no longer have to endure the cold, early hours, and long distances to access water.

Kaotar says the water tank in her community is a “precious gift”.

“It’s like having the water spring that we always imagined,” she says.



**I AM  
EDUCATED**

## REMOTE SCHOOLS BUILDING STRONG FOUNDATIONS

ChildFund Laos has built an early childhood school in Homsai village in remote eastern Laos, helping prepare more than 30 children to enter primary education.

Six-year-old Maithao and her three-year-old sister Pahoia Moue (left) are two of the students at the new school, which has provided the sisters with the opportunity to build strong foundations in literacy and numeracy, develop new skills, and play.

Before it was built they would go to the family farm and help their parents pull weeds, and grow rice and corn. Sometimes they stayed on the farm for several days before returning home.

“I love going to school,” Maithao says. “I am very happy. I can play in the playground, with the toys and my friends, and I can learn.”

## SPORTING CONFIDENCE

For the past two years, 16-year-old Souksakorn has been a ChildFund Pass It Back rugby coach in her village in Nonghet District. The experience has changed her as a person.

Before she became a rugby coach, says Souksakorn, she was shy and had little confidence when she spoke to people.

But after participating in a ChildFund Pass It Back training camp in Vientiane – where she learnt how to be a leader and learnt life skills such as how to be healthy and plan for the future – Souksakorn now speaks confidently and with ease. She is also more adaptable, and able to connect with many different people.

The positive effects of Souksakorn's training have reached the players she teaches. Her players are more resilient, on and off the field, and are also more confident in voicing their opinions and speaking out about the issues that affect them in their communities.



I AM HEARD

## CHILDREN SPEAK UP AT FIRST NATIONAL FORUM

The first National Children's Forum was held in Vientiane in May and provided a space for children to voice their needs on a variety of issues, including violence and abuse, and share the key challenges they faced in their communities.

Ninety child representatives across three provinces attended the three-day event, which ChildFund Laos helped facilitate.

The representatives at the forum learnt about their rights, participated in role plays and used art to express their views. They revealed children in Laos lacked opportunities and resources, such as online safety and sexual and reproductive health information, to help them identify and reduce the risks of violence.

Fifteen-year-old Meeckham says the forum was eye-opening and a



good opportunity to connect with her peers. "I feel very fortunate to be able to attend the First Children's Forum event," she says. "It gave me the chance to exchange experiences with friends from different schools and to express my talents and aspirations to help my friends and society develop."

I AM HEARD



# I HAVE A FUTURE



## DIGITAL CHAMPIONS CREATING OPPORTUNITIES

Toubelor (above) has more challenges to overcome than your average 18-year-old. The teen from rural Nonghet District lost the use of his legs as a child and is confined to a wheelchair. Toubelor's disability has prevented him from going to school and he has had to learn basic skills such as reading and writing at home.

Recently, though, Toubelor has been able to expand his skills and shine as one of ChildFund's Digital Champions

— youth volunteers who learn media literacy skills and teach them to their peers, ensuring children and youth in their communities are able to use the internet and social media safely and effectively.

Before taking part in the project, Toubelor felt isolated and ashamed of his disability. His mother said he felt hopeless and his frustration with his situation made him quick-tempered. Toubelor even wanted to take his own life. But since becoming a

Digital Champion, things have been different.

"Since joining the project, Toubelor's attitude has completely changed," his mother says.

"I feel extremely proud to see my son participating like this. He has travelled to new places and learnt a lot of new skills. I hope he has more opportunities to learn in the future."

THANK YOU

## 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:



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

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

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## FINANCIAL REPORT

Financial report for year ended 30 June 2018

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME	2018 (US\$)	2017 (US\$)
Income	2,729,266	2,547,858
Expenditure	2,717,402	2,519,661
Total Comprehensive Income	11,864	28,197

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION	30 JUNE 2018 (US\$)	30 JUNE 2017 (US\$)
Total Assets	682,595	658,098
Total Liabilities	525,148	512,515
Net Assets	157,447	145,583

**BECAUSE  
EVERY CHILD  
NEEDS A  
CHILDHOOD**

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