



**ANNUAL
REPORT**

2018 - 2019

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 13 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 – and Vientiane Municipality.

With a focus on upholding child rights and improving access to quality education, ChildFund Laos also implements the award-winning ChildFund Pass It Back program and prioritises projects that focus on child nutrition, sexual reproductive health and rights, media literacy and job readiness.

ChildFund Laos

Street address: Naxay Village, Xaysetha District,
Vientiane Capital, Lao PDR
Phone: +856 (0) 21 412 966
Email: info@childfund.org.la

ChildFund Australia

Address: Level 8, 162 Goulburn Street,
Surry Hills NSW 2010
Phone: 1800 023 600
Email: info@childfund.org.au
Website: www.childfund.org.au

Editor: Bouakham Douangpanya
Photography: ChildFund staff
Front cover: Tik, age 9, Laos

FROM THE COUNTRY DIRECTOR



This year ChildFund Laos continues to promote the rights and wellbeing of children, through strong commitments to increasing children's access to education and healthcare. ChildFund Laos is also empowering children to participate in

the development of their communities.

Our programs have become more focused on reaching the most vulnerable children, including children with disability. We want children to be able to access diverse and quality learning environments, and have the opportunity to participate in decision-making processes 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 were able to fully participate and have a voice on a variety of community issues.

More children and young people in Laos now have the confidence to speak out on key issues they face in their communities, such as violence and other forms of harm, and a lack of access to opportunities. More children and youth are also able to work together to address these issues.

There is an increasing number of children and young people who are fulfilling their potential and who shine in their engagement in these areas. They are taking on leadership roles in their schools and communities.

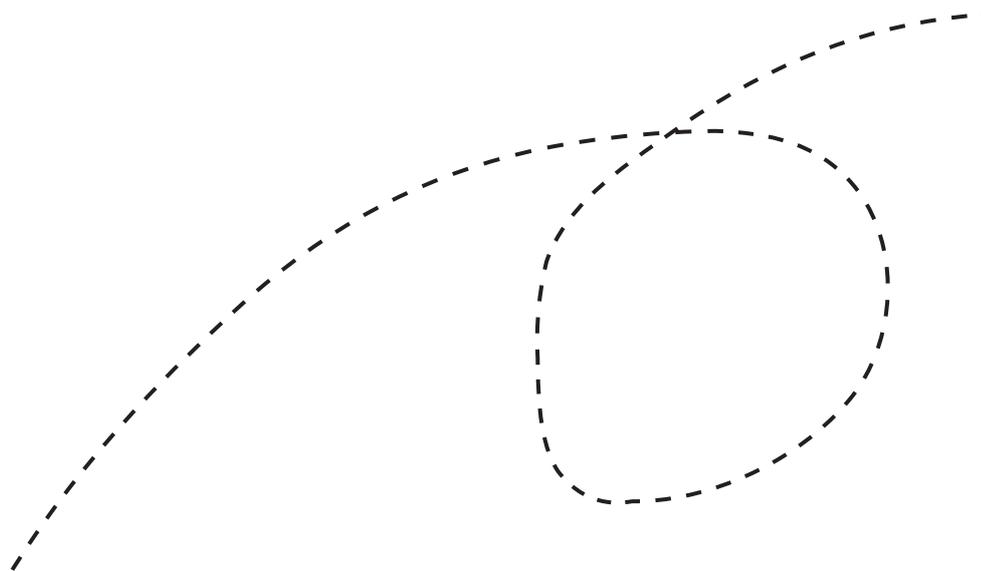
The change that we have been able to see in the lives of children and youth in Laos over the past year – and the years previously – has been possible because of the support of our donors and partners. This generosity has helped us extend the reach of our programs, ensuring more children can say: "I am safe, I am educated, I am heard, and I have a future."

In the coming year, we will continue our commitment to implementing projects with high standards of accountability to our donors and partners. We look forward to fulfilling our country strategic commitments and ensuring more children are safe, educated and have the opportunity to contribute to meaningful change in their communities.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Keoamphone Souvannaphoum'.

Keoamphone Souvannaphoum
Country Director
ChildFund Laos





I AM SAFE



HEALTH & HYGIENE GO HAND IN HAND

In Laos, many childhood illnesses and diseases can be prevented by ensuring children and families have access to clean water and adequate sanitation facilities, and practise better hygiene.

In a small ethnic minority community in north-east Laos, a group of Hmong children are learning about the importance of good hygiene.

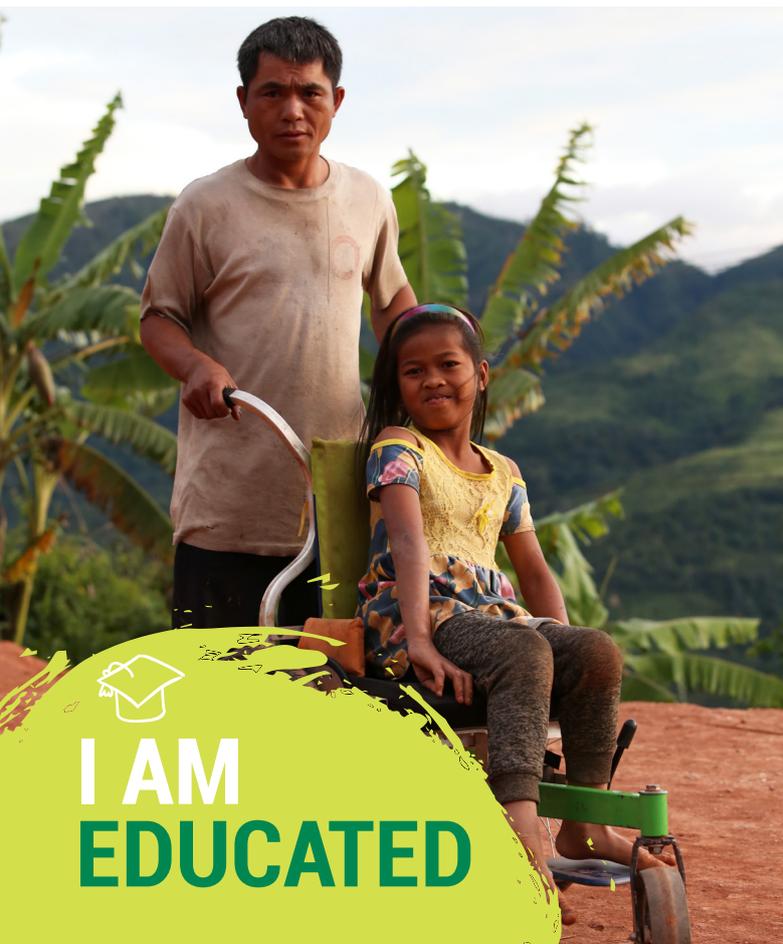
The children, aged between four and six, attend an early childhood education centre built with the help of ChildFund Laos. For many of the children, it is the first time that they are learning the Lao language, numbers and letters.

At this centre, they are also learning how to properly keep themselves clean.

One of the teachers at the school, Phetpawm, says practising good hygiene at home can be difficult for many of her students. "Some of them only get a bath a couple times a week, so we often give them a chance to bathe at school in the afternoons before they go home," she says.

Phetpawm says her students have enjoyed learning how to wash their hands, and the process is always fun. "Children love playing with water," she says.

Six-year-old Tou says: "I like that my hands are nice, white and clean after I wash them."



I AM EDUCATED

WHEELCHAIRS MAKING SCHOOL ACCESSIBLE FOR ALL

Children with disability are among the most vulnerable groups in their communities, especially if they live in remote and rural areas. They often face many challenges, including access to education because schools are far from their homes or do not have the facilities to support them.

Ten-year-old Mai (pictured left with her father) was born with paralysis in her legs and fingers. She has limited mobility, and for a long time was unable to go out and play with friends. Her father carried her to school but on days when he was busy, she missed her classes.

Mai's life changed when ChildFund Laos provided her with a wheelchair. "My family and I have been so happy since I got this wheelchair," she says. "Whenever my parents are busy, my brother can use this wheelchair to take me to school. I can now go to the toilet and have meals by myself and go out to play with friends.

"I will use this wheelchair to take myself to success in the future, especially through education, and I won't be a burden to my family."

CHILDREN AND YOUTH EXERCISE THEIR RIGHTS

ChildFund's sport for development program, ChildFund Pass It Back, is providing children and young people in disadvantaged communities in Laos, such as Lar, age 16, (pictured below with ball) the chance to play rugby for the first time.

The program is also teaching them about gender equality, how to stay healthy, leadership skills and important life skills such as how to plan for their future.

Participants, like Lar, are also developing the confidence they need to speak about issues that matter to them in their communities.

Lar says the ChildFund Pass It Back program taught her about her rights, and she now feels more empowered to try new things.

"Rugby has given me so much courage and motivation," she says.

"Before participating in ChildFund Pass It Back, I thought that men had more rights than women. But now,

I know more about gender equity – that women also have the same rights as men, and that women can do things just like men.

"I believe that women also have the right to speak out just like men."



I AM
HEARD

SUPPORTING HEALTHY CHILDHOODS

Many families in Laos depend on agriculture-based activities to feed their families, however the country's most disadvantaged communities do not have farms that are productive enough to provide a balanced diet.

This has contributed to the country recording some of the highest rates of malnutrition in Asia. As many as three-quarters of children in Laos are unable to reach their physical, intellectual and productive potential. They are underweight, wasting, or their growth is stunted.

Ounkeo is the head of the mother-child and nutrition department at Nonghet District Hospital, the main health centre in a region that has high rates of malnutrition.

In her 14 years at the hospital, Ounkeo has seen many cases of

children becoming sick and not developing properly because they were not receiving the food and nutrients they needed.

"I tell parents that their children should eat six groups of food but most of the children do not get this variety," Ounkeo says.

ChildFund Laos is helping to battle the high rates of malnutrition in northern Laos by training local Community Health Volunteers to monitor children's growth and to lead nutrition education sessions for families.

Parents and caregivers have also been provided with seeds and training on how to grow vegetable gardens at home with a variety of nutritious, local foods.



I HAVE A
FUTURE



I AM EDUCATED



LEARNING BEYOND BLACKBOARDS EXPANDING YOUNG MINDS

Sonepet (pictured above) has never let her disability get in the way of trying new things.

So when ChildFund Laos' Learning Beyond Blackboards project was introduced at her school in Laos, and opened up more opportunities for children to expand their minds and learning capabilities, Sonepet was eager to participate.

"I like all the activities I get to do in the project," the 15-year-old says. "They help me stay active and give me a chance to do something creative."

The project is helping schools in Laos to strengthen their physical education and arts curriculums, which are often overlooked by busy teachers who don't have the experience or the resources to teach them.

As part of the project, teachers have been conducting lessons such as volleyball, drawing and painting alongside maths and literacy classes. One of Sonepet's teachers Thongsai says she has noticed her students have been more motivated at school since taking part in a wider variety of classes.

"Since Learning Beyond Blackboards came to our school, the students have been coming to class more regularly and they have greater unity," she says.

"They're more supportive of each other than they used to be in the past."

For Sonepet, the Learning Beyond Blackboards activities have helped her develop her creative skills.

"I've learned to paint animals, fruit, and all kinds of things more beautifully than before," she says.

"It also helps me stay healthy because we play so many sports."

Her favourite activity? "Singing," she says. "When you're singing, you have to move your body along with the rhythm. You just start dancing along, and that's its own kind of exercise."

Participating in all the physical and creative activities has allowed Sonepet to defy some stereotypes.

She was born with a stunted right hand, but it has not stopped her from having fun and participating confidently in all her classes.

"Even though I have a disability, it doesn't mean I can't participate in the Learning Beyond Blackboards activities," Sonepet says.

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:



ສະຫະພາບ ເອີຣົບ
European Union

Aid Children with Disability Association • Asia Rugby • British Embassy in Vientiane • CARE International • CCL • Lao Rugby Federation • Life Skill Development Association • NCAWMC • Save the Children • STELLA • The Rhodes Family • UNICEF • Vientiane Youth Center for Health and Development • Wheelchair For Kids • Women Win

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

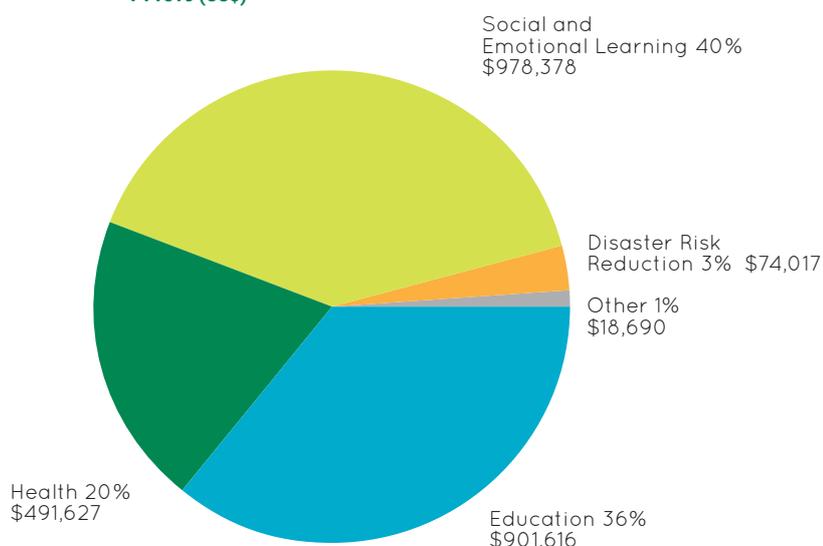
FINANCIAL REPORT

Financial report for year ended 30 June 2019

REVENUE	FY1819 (US\$)	FY1718 (US\$)
Donation	494,636	647,834
Grants	2,371,499	2,081,432
Total revenue	2,866,135	2,729,266

EXPENDITURE	FY1819 (US\$)	FY1718 (US\$)
Program and project	2,464,328	2,364,719
Program support	123,101	65,568
Accountability and administration	291,087	287,115
Total expenditure	2,878,516	2,717,402

PROGRAM AND PROJECT EXPENDITURE
FY1819 (US\$)



**BECAUSE
EVERY CHILD
NEEDS A
CHILDHOOD**

www.childfund.org.au