Country card

Laos
General data of the country

a. General Data

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Laos</th>
<th>Neighboring country (Cambodia)</th>
<th>France</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population</td>
<td>7.275.556</td>
<td>16.718.971</td>
<td>67.391.582</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IHDI</td>
<td>0.61</td>
<td>0.59</td>
<td>0.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maternal mortality</td>
<td></td>
<td>185</td>
<td>160</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender Development Index</td>
<td></td>
<td>0.927</td>
<td>0.922</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population under HCR mandate</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>368.352</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INFORM index</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4.7</td>
<td>2.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fragile State Index</td>
<td>76.86</td>
<td>80.31</td>
<td>30.48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GINI Index</td>
<td>36.4</td>
<td></td>
<td>31.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Social Protection</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>ADB</td>
<td>31.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

b. Humanitarian law instruments ratified by the country

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Humanitarian law instruments</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mine Ban Treaty</td>
<td>Not joined</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Convention on Cluster Munitions</td>
<td>18/03/2009</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

c. Geopolitical analysis

1. Social/cultural/demographic elements

Laos, like most of Southeast Asia, is an area of conflict of interests between Western powers and larger continental powers, like China. Traditional Western influence and Chinese influence are in a regular tug of war for the socio-political and economic direction of the country. Unlike its neighbours: Thailand, Cambodia, Myanmar, Vietnam, and China; Laos is a landlocked country.

2. Political Context

In Laos there is a socialist, one-party political system. This single political party is called the Lao People's Revolutionary Party (LPRP). The current head of state is President Bounnhang Vorachith who also is LPRP general secretary; making him the de facto leader of Laos. The head of government is Prime Minister Thongloun Sisoulith Government policies are determined by the party through the all-powerful nine-member Politburo of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party and the 49-member Central Committee. Important government decisions are then vetted by the Council of Ministers. The further evolution and embodiment of socialism remains a major political priority for the country's development.

3. Economic Elements

The economy of Laos is predominantly agrarian with 72% of the total cultivated area being dedicated to rice and 80 percent of the population involved in subsistence farming. Most of the provinces that are deficit in rice are surplus maize producers. Other important economic crops include coffee, sugarcane, cassava, sweet potato and industrial tree crops (such as rubber, eucalyptus and acacia). Copper, gold, and tin mining are also significant industries. According to the International Council on Mining and Metals, as of 2011, the mining sector has accounted for 12% of government revenues and 10% of national income with 80% of foreign direct investment. Mining exports contributed 45% of the total exports of the country. The country’s power production network enables the export of electricity to neighboring countries. Tourism is a growing sector, especially in and around Luang Prabang with a jump in tourists from 2.5 million in 2010 to 4.2 million in 2016.
HI Team and intervention areas

The HI Laos program has 110 staff members.
Summary of HI presence in the country

In Laos, HI performed an exploratory mission in 1983, and then officially launched in 1985 an orthopedic project with 7 disabled workers trained to build prostheses workshops in the village of NongKhiao. This was the start of a long collaboration with the Government and some local partners.

HI started operating in Laos in 1996 to carry out a national Unexploded Explosive Ordnance (UXO) impact survey that is still a reference for clearance operators in the country. Following the survey, technical assistance was provided to the national clearance operator UXO Lao in Savannakhet and Khamouane (from 2004) Provinces until 2006. A study on the psychosocial impact of UXO for child survivors and families was conducted in 2002-2003.

In 2006 HI became a recognized independent clearance operator.
# Overview on ongoing projects

Sectors of services where HI conducts projects and focus on beneficiaries and operational partnerships

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Main sector of intervention</th>
<th>Objective of the project in this sector</th>
<th>Main activities</th>
<th>Beneficiaries</th>
<th>Final beneficiaries</th>
<th>Partners</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Dates of beginning and end of projects and donors funding it</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Prevention and Health       | - Develop national screening tool for integration into essential package of activities  
- Support the development of government child development centers for children with delays and impairment  
- To strengthen an integrated health system to tackle and reduce HIV, TB and Malaria disease burden at the village level in Savannakhet province | Early childhood screening/detection and intervention  
Awareness and training  
Research  
- Research  
- Publications  
- Implementation of intervention model | 10,000 new-borns and children screened (at least 40% female).  
1120 community members, 15157 females receiving integrated MHEP and 12.173 HH receiving MHEP | 700 children (at least 40% female) receive stimulation / rehabilitation services.  
The project will support 28,616 direct beneficiaries and 52,732 indirect | Ministry of Health (MoH), National Children’s Hospital  
MOH, communicable disease department, IRD, Chias | Vientiane Capital  
Savanakhet Province, Phine District | From 2020-07-01 to 2023-06-30 |
| HIV, TB and Malaria         |                                        |                |              |                    |          |          |                                                          |
| Support to rehabilitation sector | -design a model intervention on HIV, TB and Malaria for women, children and adolescents through households visit  
-evaluate the strategy and share data about HIV, TB and malaria prevention, screening and management | -Training Village health workers  
-testing and adequate treatment | Support improved management of rehabilitation service centers  
Continue professional development for physiotherapists  
Support implementation and monitoring of National Rehabilitation Action Plan | 31 staff of the CMR and 63 staff of PRCs will benefit from awareness on national regab strategy  
25 PT will benefit from continuing professional development | 5,000 patients visiting rehabilitation centers, their families and their communities. | Ministry of Health (MoH), Center for Medical Rehabilitation (CMR) | Vientiane Capital, Xieng Khouang, Savannakhet, Champasack and Luang Prabang | From 2018-08-01 to 2022-12-31 |

| Inclusive education (Learn to Read) | The overarching goal of Learn to Read is to improve reading skills for all children in pre-primary level through second grade, with a particular focus on non-Lao-speaking children and children with disabilities. | Improved Lao reading ability of pre-primary and first- and second-grade students with a special focus on non-Lao speakers and vulnerable students  
Improved classroom instruction through enhanced teacher competencies and | Learn to Read proposes to improve the reading readiness of children in pre-primary classrooms and the reading skills of primary school students in 1,040 schools, reaching at least 50,000 children in 16 of the most disadvantaged | Across the five full years of the activity, Learn to Read will reach an estimated 65,000 children through direct implementation and support to other development partners | Ministry of Education and Sports, Save the Children and Room to Read | Attapeu, Champasak, Xiengkhouang and Vientiane provinces | From 2018-08-15 to 2023-05-14 |
### Inclusive Education

**Sowing the Seeds of Inclusive Education**

- **Target**: Building the capacity of CSOs to increase their presence and impact in Champasak and Huaphan provinces of Laos

- **Resources to meet needs of target children**
  - Strengthened community engagement to create a conducive learning environment for improved reading skills, particularly for non-Lao-speaking and vulnerable communities

- **Districts in four target provinces**

- **Project aim**
  - To contribute to improving access to quality inclusive education for the most marginalized children in Champasak and Huaphan provinces by reinforcing the capacity of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), educators, Provincial Education and Sports Service (PESS) and District of Education and Sports Bureau (DESB) through the support of communities and parents.

- **Target groups**
  - 200 children (screened)
  - 10 AFA and IDA staff
  - 20 principals from target schools
  - 20 students from the Teacher Training Colleges
  - 75 parents (including 50% women)
  - 30 local medical staff

- **Consulted stakeholders**
  - MOE, AFA and IDA

- **baseline**
  - Champasak and Houaphan province

- **Timeline**
  - From 2020-04-01 to 2024-03-31

### Support to DPOs/local inclusion

**The goal of the WEI-HI program is to improve and sustain the independent living and**

- **Three main components**
  - Health, Economic Empowerment, and Stakeholder Engagement.

- **The ultimate target group is women, men, girls and boys with disabilities, and their**

- **Baseline and timeline**
  - Consulted stakeholders include: MoH-CMR, MoLSW, MoES, NCDE, Xieng
  - In Phase 1 of the program, from 2017 to 2020, the
  - From 2017-11-01 to 2022-07-31
| Disability mainstreaming & inclusion | Functional ability of persons with disabilities, regardless of factors such as age, sex, gender expression, ethnic origin, cause of impairment, or indigenous status, and their households in Lao PDR. | Households, with a focus on UXO victims, victims of war and conflict and persons with disabilities with mobility limitations. The program will also focus on communities and the public to engage their support in helping persons with disabilities achieve their full potential. | Khouang and Savannakhet Provincial Government, TVET, UNDP/UNFPA, WHO, SDC, GIZ, LDPA, COPE, QLA, CBM, CRS, SNV, FMT, University of Arizona, University of Melbourne-Nossal Institute, University of Queensland, World Vision, ADDP, AAR, AIESIC, Cord | Program will be implemented in Xieng Khouang, Savannakhet, and Vientiane Capital. In Phase 2 of the program, from 2020 to 2022, based on program results in Phase 1, the Program will consider expansion to Houaphan and Khammouane provinces |

1. Develop the skills of VTE based HI and government partners for facilitation of Early Childhood Development (ECD) & Impairment Screening
2. Conduct a Childhood Development and Impairment Screening | Provision of technical support to SCI PHC team, provincial and district health teams and communities in LuangPrabang Province to increase awareness about disability, promote disability inclusion and build skills for planning and implementing actions to increase access to health services for persons with disabilities | SCI PHC team, provincial and district health teams and communities in LuangPrabang Province | Luang Prabang Province | 2016 01-06 to 31 05 2021. | SCI |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Disability rights and policy</th>
<th>To ensure an appropriate and comprehensive response to the needs of survivors of mine and explosive remnants of war, persons with disabilities and other vulnerable people, in situation of conflict,</th>
<th>Capacity building of DPOs and NCDE/MLSW</th>
<th>Persons with disabilities, DPOs and NCDE/MLSW</th>
<th>National Committee for Disabled People and the Elderly (NCDE) within Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare</th>
<th>Vientiane ; National Policy</th>
<th>2021 01-06 -2022 31-05</th>
<th>MOFA Norway 8</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Workshop for district and health center MNCH health staff in Nan district 3. Conduct follow up monitoring for integration of ECD and impairment screening into routine work and provide Refresher Training &amp; Health Center Screening Follow up in Nan District</td>
<td>disabilities, with a specific focus on children with disabilities.</td>
<td>4. Conduct a 2 day disability legislation dissemination workshop for multisector department staff in Nan district</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mine action</td>
<td>To reduce the humanitarian and socio-economic risk posed by Explosive Remnant Weapons (ERW) on rural livelihood in Houaphan Province and Phonsaly Province</td>
<td>Survey &amp; Clearance of Dangerous Areas Risk Education and implementation of Community Risk Management Strategy; Data collection on Persons with disabilities (PwDs) and relevant follow-up services (first-aid, Psychosocial support, medical referral...)</td>
<td>18,365 people from 44 villages in Houamouang District Maikhoa district in Phonsaly Province in 2022.</td>
<td>Houaphan Province population (289,393 people) Phonsaly Province</td>
<td>GRET, Oxfam, LDPA, National Regulatory Authorities (NRA), UXO Lao, Provincial and District Departments of Labor and Social Welfare, NCDE, Education and Sports and BNDA, Houphane Province; Houamoung District Northeast Laos Phonsaly province, Maikhoa District</td>
<td>From 2018-01-01 to 2023 31-08 (EU 2018 till May 2021 and BUZA from September 2020 to August 2023.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Donors