

## CARE International in Lao PDR

We seek a world of hope, tolerance and social justice, where poverty have been overcome and people live in dignity and security.



# COVID-19 Response in Lao PDR, Luang Namtha province

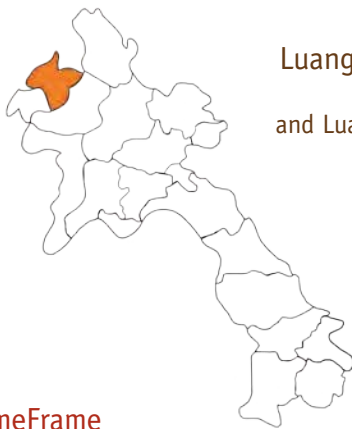


CARE Laos handed over the hygiene and Nutrition kits to the district hospitals and families in 5 districts in Luang Namtha Province.

## BACKGROUND

Laos has been affected by COVID-19 since early 2020 where the impacts were not only resulted in health but also by secondary social and economic impacts on the populations throughout the countries especially marginalised populations. There has been effort to support the economic recovery in the country by various stakeholders in collaboration with government of Laos; however, there is a concern that recovery efforts will prioritise the formal economy and job creation with an unconscious bias towards traditionally male-dominated sectors of the economy and reduced prioritisation of children's education (especially girls) in times of household financial stress. The project has been developed to complement the overall GoL COVID-19 response as well as leveraging consortium members' current COVID-19 response programming. Activities are focused on four broad outcome areas: Health and Nutrition; Education; Livelihoods and Violence against Children. Health and Nutrition, Education and Livelihoods activities have a focus on response – addressing immediate needs as a result of COVID-19 impacts (including socio-economic impacts of lockdown measures), as well as recovery, to ensure that households and communities come out of this crisis with improved resilience.

## AT A GLIMPSE



**Location**  
Luang Namtha Province  
(Long, Sing  
and Luang Namtha Districts)

**TimeFrame**  
July 2020 - September 2021

**Beneficiaries**  
4201 people ( 3056 women, 215 men, 460 girls, and 440 boys) in 3 districts of Luang Namtha

**Partners**  
All: National Labour and Social Welfare Office, Education and Sports Department and Labour and Social Welfare Office. CARE: Provincial and District Health Offices, Plan: ChildFund, Provincial and District Education and Sports Departments. Save the Children: Provincial and District Labour and Social Welfare Offices.

## OBJECTIVES

The overall objectives is to strengthen the capacity of communities affected by COVID-19 in the 4 provinces to respond to the impacts of COVID-19 through emergency and recovery support

## DONOR

Australia Humanitarian Partnership (AHP)



## OUTCOMES

- Marginalised women and girls in remote ethnic communities are accessing Health, Nutrition, Psychosocial, and GBV awareness integrated services
- Marginalized women are better able to withstand the long term economic shocks of emergencies through more informed decisions and more accessible finances

## IMPACTS

- 807 women are VSLA members in 21 villages who gained financial autonomy, gained knowledge to make financial decisions
- 132 women VSLA members can access to Loans during covid time through support of the groups
- 2,000 women benefits from Nutrition kits and hygiene kits including their newborns, and young children
- 40 frontline workers ( 22 women, 18 men) who are Lao women's Union, and Health staff whose capacity have strengthened on psychosocial support, Gender based violence services, and Gender Equality issues
- 88 community members are trained on Community Dialogue tools (CDT) that are participatory tools to discuss Gender based violence in the community

**The Results from the Final Evaluation** shows that the overall goal of women's empowerment and supporting women's ability to face the challenges secondary to emergencies and financial shocks was successful, however, there should be continued support in the area of capacity building to ensure these changes continue and are sustainable. The impact of the training on GBV and psychosocial support in addition to the VSLA groups is clearly evident and suggests that these interventions are constructive in building the capacity of communities to face future economic shocks while also empowering women.

### Voice from the Community

*"If there is someone who is a victim of violence, she can go to the village leadership for help, such as the LWU representative or the village chief. But before going to the village, she would probably talk to her relatives first. In the past, maybe there were many women who would not dare to tell anyone or ask for help if they were experiencing violence, but now there has been a big change, and there's only a few women who wouldn't ask for help." (Female training participant from Luang Namtha Province)*

*"The important thing is that the savings group program has been established in the village and it encourages women to be able to save more money and use money in an efficient way. I'm also proud of my daughter-in-law ...she saves money and recommends to our family to save more money....This is a important change for our family."*

Remote ethnic communities received hygiene kits and nutrition kits to improve their lives.



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