

# World Education in the Lao PDR

*Supporting over 310,000 people throughout Laos*

**2016 IMPACT REPORT**

# Our Goal

World Education is dedicated to working through a participatory and multi-disciplinary approach to engage and empower communities, families, and individuals through programs in education, health, mine action, and economic development.

**World Education Laos' programs are designed to build capacity, promote self-sufficiency, and increase inclusion of all persons in Lao PDR.**

# Our Approach

- Building the capacity of local partners to ensure sustainability of the organizations and their activities
- Providing grants to local organizations
- Developing educational materials in conjunction with partners
- Creating linkages and access to services to support people's needs - whether those with disabilities, the rural poor, or people affected by UXO

# Our Work

Each of the nine provinces where World Education works in Laos remains heavily impacted by unexploded ordnance (UXO) from the Indochina War. Since 1992, World Education Laos has helped reduce the impact of these remnants of war by improving the quality and accessibility of health care services, increasing access to education, and promoting sustainable livelihoods for accident survivors and poor communities living in UXO contaminated areas.

Through its **UXO Education and Awareness Project**, World Education Laos has built the capacity of teachers, school principals, and pedagogical advisers to mitigate the risks posed by UXO; through its **Integrated Victims Assistance Project**, World Education Laos has developed new standards for the comprehensive treatment of disabilities due to UXO, including addressing the physical and psycho-social needs of survivors.

World Education Laos improves livelihoods, incomes, and economic resilience for families in rural areas and advocates to inform Government of Lao policy development in social protection. Through its **Resilient Livelihoods for the Poor Project**, World Education Laos helps the poorest households in communities establish livelihoods and plan towards their future by expanding access to savings and micro-enterprises.

World Education Laos is a key player in strengthening the disability sector in Laos. Through the **TEAM Project** and its partners, World Education has expanded economic empowerment opportunities to persons with disabilities through financial literacy and vocational training, and improved the availability of assistive technologies and access to medical and rehabilitation services.



# Education

The UXO Education and Awareness Project began in 1996 with a primary school curriculum that aimed to reduce injury and death from unexploded ordnance (UXO) by informing school-age children about protecting themselves and their peers from UXO. World Education Laos, partnering with the Ministry of Education and Sports (Department of Pre- and Primary Education), the Teacher Training Department, the Provincial Education Service, and the District Education Bureau, developed a comprehensive UXO curriculum which includes a teacher's guide, storybooks, songbooks, and posters for each grade (1-5).

Today, the UXO Education and Awareness Project facilitates Trainings of Trainers (TOTs) to teach in-service educators how to utilize the UXO awareness curriculum in their classrooms (grades 1-5). At eight Teacher Training Colleges (TTCs), World Education Laos trains professors about key UXO safety information that their students can take to any classroom after they graduate.



In tandem, a puppetry program engages children in high-UXO risk communities in developing puppet performances to bring the education about UXO out of the classroom and into the communities.

**The UXO Education and Awareness Project works in 42 districts across 9 provinces. The Project has:**

Trained over **1,080** teachers from **2,500** primary schools.

Educated **300,000** children and distributed **1,000** curriculum sets.

Established **74** puppetry troupes.



# Mine Action

## UXO Victims Assistance

World Education Laos supports UXO survivors through a two-pronged approach: the administration of the War Victims' Medical Fund (WVMF) and the activities of the Victim Assistance Support Team (VAST).

Nationwide, the WVMF supports survivors' emergency medical and transportation costs. In Xieng Khouang Province, VAST assesses survivors using a comprehensive psychosocial assessment form, evaluating their physical, social, and psychological needs to determine their overall mental health status. Through its Peer-to-Peer Support Program, VAST brings UXO survivors together to discuss their life experiences and share suggestions on how to cope with life after an accident: in 2016, VAST welcomed five new Peer-to-Peer Support Facilitators to their team who are UXO survivors themselves.

Based on assessed need, VAST facilitates survivors' access to a range of services, such as provincial hospitals, schools, and vocational training centers to help them improve their daily lives. VAST also provides counselling, conducting directed psycho-social interventions and sometimes referring high-level cases to the few mental health specialists in Laos.



### The Integrated UXO Victim Assistance Support Project has:

Supported more than **1,000** UXO survivors with their emergency medical costs through the War Victims Medical Fund.

Trained **350** Village Health Volunteers in first aid.

Fully assessed **215** UXO survivors.

Provided **370** UXO survivors with education support packages to attend school.

Trained **800** UXO survivors in financial literacy.

# Economic Development

68% of the Laos population live in rural areas, where subsistence farming remains the dominant livelihood for many families. The poverty rate in rural areas of Laos is 2.9 times that of urban areas, and one-third of the population in rural upland areas is still below the poverty line. World Education, in partnership with World Education Australia and Village Focus International, implements the Resilient Livelihoods for the Poor (RLP) Project in Saravane Province, where there is a higher poverty rate (48.2%) than any other province in the country.

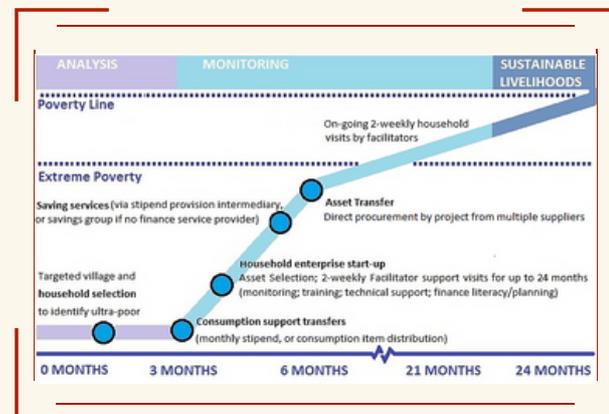


## The Resilient Livelihoods for the Poor Project:

Distributed micro-enterprise assets to **400** households, benefiting more than **2,000** people.

Conducted fortnightly coaching visits individually with all households in **23** villages.

RLP approach is based on graduation methodologies that are achieving significant impact in countries such as Bangladesh. As shown in the diagram, the 24-month process includes: selection of ultra-poor households through a comprehensive survey, consumption support transfers to a savings account (a monthly stipend of 115,000 LAK), asset selection and training for enterprise start-up, and 2-weekly facilitator support visits which include enterprise management coaching, household financial training, and enterprise monitoring.



## The Women's Entrepreneurial Centre Project:

World Education will establish the first-ever Women's Entrepreneurial Centre in Laos. The Centre will be located in Vientiane Capital, and it will foster the development of women-owned sustainable businesses.



# Health Disability Inclusion

The World Education Laos TEAM Project, funded by USAID, enables persons with disabilities, especially women and girls, to attain and maintain maximum independence to fully and equally participate in all aspects of life. For this project, World Education Laos uses a social, right-based model of disability and focuses on four main components: Training, Economic Empowerment, Assistive Technology, and Medical and Physical Rehabilitation. The four of these together allow the TEAM Project to take a comprehensive social approach to improving services and have a positive effect on the quality of life and social inclusion for persons with disabilities in Laos.

TEAM awards sub-grants to 15 local non-profit associations and international NGOs to implement projects that support the development of the rehabilitation and disability sector. The partners collaborate to enhance the overall impact of all activities and create an environment in which PwD are able to access a wider range of services. The TEAM project further works to strengthen the capacity of small partners to ensure organizational sustainability and increase the effectiveness of organizations and programs that serve persons with disabilities.



In addition, World Education Laos has created a standard National First Aid Curriculum for Village Health Volunteers approved by the Ministry of Health.

## The TEAM Project has:

Trained **2,199** individuals, including **204** Rehabilitation Service Personnel.

Increased the economic self-sufficiency of **870** people.

Provided **429** people with assistive technology.

Enabled **1,479** people to receive health-related rehabilitation services.

Screened **1,199** people for detection of impairment.



# 2016 Testimonies

**“I feel life is worth living, especially for the sake of my children...I can teach them to be good people and support my family by contributing to daily activities and chores. I enjoy socializing with neighbors every afternoon...and speaking with people in the community about how I overcame my difficult experiences.”**

*- Teuy, UXO survivor, Xieng Khouang Province*



**"I am so thankful that I could have the opportunity to play wheelchair basketball again with a proper sports wheelchair. I did not feel safe when I used to play with a regular wheelchair, because there was a high risk of injuries. I think persons with disabilities in other provinces do not have the chance to enjoy sports in their daily life."**

*- Ms. Pao, Vientiane Province*

# Contact Us



[wei@worlded.org](mailto:wei@worlded.org)  
<http://laos.worlded.org/>



[facebook.com/  
WELaoPDR](https://www.facebook.com/WELaoPDR)



+856-21-214-524



World Education Laos  
Phiawat Village  
Sisattanak District  
Vientiane, Laos