



Success Story: Transitioning the USAID Okard Community Based Inclusive Development (CBID) Model to Local Authorities

The Community Based Inclusive Development (CBID) teams from Quality of Life Association (QLA) in Xieng Khouang and Association for Rural Mobilization and Improvement (ARMI) in Savannakhet have demonstrated unwavering dedication and impressive growth since the beginning of the project. Following nearly six years of CBID implementation in Kham and Xayphouthong Districts, supported by USAID Okard, this quarter marked a pivotal phase of transition of the CBID model's ownership to the local community and authorities.

During the first six years of the project, QLA and ARMI's contributions to the Okard project have been immense. They have worked to identify people with disabilities and connect them to essential services through the CBID Model's person centered case management process of screening village populations and identification of people in need, comprehensive needs assessment to determine support needs, person enabling CBID facilitators to develop personalized action plans that lead to referral to and provision of services including income generation activities, home-based modifications to improve accessibility, health and rehabilitation services including provision of assistive products, and psychosocial support from peers and CBID facilitators.

An important intervention of the CBID Model is the Income Generation Activities (IGA). IGAs provide opportunities for persons with disabilities to earn a living and support themselves and their families. QLA and ARMI CBID teams, together with the local authorities, conducted a series of comprehensive training sessions for community members to support every stage of the business lifecycle. These topics covered a wide spectrum of essential skills dependent on the type of business selected including how to raise and breed healthy animals, foraging, business planning, and household and personalized financial management training. The commitment of the Provincial Agriculture and Forestry Office and the District Agriculture and Forestry Office ensures the sustained and successful continuation of these IGAs within the community.

During the first six years of the USAID Okard project, more than 400 people in case management benefited from IGA across Kham District, Xieng Khouang province and Xayphouthong, Savannakhet province. QLA has contributed to 838 people receiving health and related rehabilitation services and ARMI has contributed to 570 people receiving health and related rehabilitation services. More broadly, QLA reached over 5,500 targeted beneficiaries and ARMI reached over 8,500 target beneficiaries to contribute to increased knowledge, skills, and awareness in their respective communities.

A defining milestone in this journey has been the successful transition of the CBID Model from external support to the stewardship of local authorities. This transition signifies a commitment to sustainability, ensuring that it continues long after the project's completion. Central to this transition is the creation of an extensive package of resources including a directory of relevant services,, a roster of dedicated volunteer veterinarians, and a network of peer supporters, and the necessary data so village authorities

can continue to support and provide guidance to people with disabilities and their families. This comprehensive toolkit empowers community members to access a multitude of essential services.

In conclusion, the CBID Model has been successful in improving the lives of persons with disabilities in Xieng Khouang and Savannakhet provinces through the immeasurable efforts of the QLA and ARMI teams. The transition of the CBID programs to the local government is an essential step towards sustainability and continued support for persons with disabilities in the communities.

“After my participation in the business plan development training with the Okard project to get ready and well equipped for starting my own business, I am so glad to receive the motorbike parts and other materials to develop my shop and provide good services to customers.”

- Mr. Nota’s caregiver from Hib Village, Kham District, Xieng Khouang Province. Nota is a USAID Okard beneficiary who has an intellectual impairment.



Photo 1: Forage training - planting *Stylosanthes guianensis* (one of flowering plant species) in four villages to be examples for other villages in XPT – Photo by ARMI

Photo 2: Household and Personalized Financial Management training in Xieng Khouang to support people with developing small business ventures to increase their household income. Photo by QLA

Photo 3: Oplavanh feeds her baby goats supported by USAID Okard- Photo by: ARMI

Photo 4: The cover of CBID Directory and essential contact with QR code to access materials-Photo by USAID Okard Communication.