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ADRA

ADVENTIST DEVELOPMENT  
AND RELIEF AGENCY  
LAO PDR

*Annual Report 2014*







## *Message* FROM THE DIRECTOR

The year 2014 was marked by leadership changes in all senior officers. Although some of the changes were difficult, ADRA Lao has proved it is able to press forward with its mission and vision. In 2014, we had the opportunity and privilege to deliver positive changes in Lao PDR and continued to build our portfolio.

It is through the faithful partnership of our friends, stakeholders and donors that we are able to empower communities and change lives. Together with your support, we are not only meeting basic needs in Lao, but also continuing to improve quality of life by sustainable means, for entire communities.

**Thank you** for your support!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Luc Sabot', written in a cursive style.

Luc Sabot



Lao is a beautiful and mountainous country in Southeast Asia. Although it is landlocked, it is traversed by the Mekong River. Lao is known for its French colonial architecture, hill tribe settlements and Buddhist monasteries.

After independence from France in 1953, the country fell into turmoil; in 1975 the communist Pathet Lao seized power with help from North Vietnam.

Lao is one of the few remaining communist states. The economy is dominated by agriculture, mostly subsistence farming. The economy is hampered by poor roads, no railroad, and limited access to electricity.

## *Lao PDR*

LAND OF A MILLION ELEPHANTS



|             |                                  |
|-------------|----------------------------------|
| Capital:    | Vientiane                        |
| Population: | 6.9 M                            |
| Currency:   | LAK (referred to as Kip)         |
| Language:   | Lao and various ethnic languages |
| Religion:   | Buddhist, animist, and other     |

# *Changing the World, One Life at a Time*



**ADRA** is a global humanitarian organization of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, following Christ's example of being a voice for, serving, and partnering with those in need regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, political or religious affiliations.

**ADRA** Lao works with people in poverty and distress to create just and positive change through empowering partnerships and responsible action.

**ADRA** Lao PDR is a professional, learning organisation that embodies integrity & transparency. We reach out to the poor, marginalised & vulnerable, advocating their cause, achieving measurable & sustainable changes in lives & society.

# Project Summary

## PROJECT: ONWARD

Oudomxay Nutrition and  
WASH Advancement for  
Rural Development  
HOUN DISTRICT  
OUDOMXAY PROVINCE



## PROJECT: MMIDI

Mok Mai Integrated  
Development Initiative  
MOK MAI DISTRICT  
XIENKHXUANG PROVINCE

## ONWARD

FUNDED BY ADRA CANADA AND THE CANADIAN FOOD GRAIN BANK (CFGB)

This project is an integrated community development program focused on improving nutrition for 7,500 household members, including 3,560 women, particularly women of reproductive age and children under 5.

Oudomxay Province ranks as one of the lowest in Lao in regards to proper nutrition and access to clean water and sanitation. In an effort to overcome these dilemmas, the ONWARD project provided Training of Trainers support to the District Health Office staff so that they can adequately conduct nutrition awareness sessions in partnership with ADRA personnel to the targeted community participants.

## MMIDI

FUNDED BY ADRA AUSTRALIA AND AUSAID

This project implements work in various sectors on a community demand-driven model that enables the project to tailor activities to the exact needs of each community. In 2014 we focused our efforts on the marginalized ethnic Hmong district of Mok Mai.

Xiengkhuang province is situated in the central region of Lao, it is one of the poorest areas in the country with an overall poverty rate of 35%. In some of our target villages, it's much higher! Many suffer from health constraints, high infant mortality, low life expectancy, and poverty due to food and income insecurity.

# *Nutrition*

## EDUCATING COMMUNITIES FOR BETTER HEALTH

ADRA conducts hygiene, health, and nutrition training in communities chosen with the Lao PDR government to promote the health and growth of children. Some topics include: the national government 3 cleans status initiative, diarrheal prevention, eating a variety of healthy, nutritious food and the importance of breast-feeding.

After the training, we test the knowledge of village participants with an oral quiz. If villagers correctly answer the questions, ADRA provides participants with an award consisting of sanitation materials such as soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes and toilet brushes.

Village nutrition volunteers were identified and trained by a skilled medical doctor, who is the developer of the Linking Agriculture, Natural Resource Management with Nutrition (LANN) curriculum.



# Nutrition

## LANN (LINKING AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES WITH NUTRITION) APPROACH

ADRA helps villagers understand their nutritional situation, and provides them with the knowledge and skills to overcome their own nutritional deficiencies.

ADRA Lao conducted Linking Agriculture and Natural Resources with Nutrition (LANN) Training of Trainers (ToT) on various nutrition topics. This provides project staff, government counterparts and target village volunteers greater knowledge of nutrition in order to teach villagers the LANN model, theory of nutrition, and how to protect against malnutrition. The trainer divided all participants into groups and demonstrated methods of food preparation and different ways of teaching such as games.

Nutrition topics include: improving dietary habits, common preventable diseases, access to locally available nutritious food, overcoming nutrition taboos related to pre and post-natal care. In addition, ADRA Lao placed a particular focus on infant and young child feeding and care practices, including optimal breast-feeding, frequency of feeding and improved awareness on appropriate diversified complementary food options for infants.



# Nutrition

## ANTHROPOMETRIC MEASUREMENTS

ADRA conducted baseline surveys of caregivers with children under five. ADRA staff were trained by WFP staff to conduct anthropometric measurements on children under 5. We discovered that 10% of children surveyed had acute levels of malnutrition (wasting) and 58% of children were found to have stunted growth.

### Malnutrition Related Illnesses in Children Surveyed



**60%** reported malnutrition-related disease in the two weeks prior to the survey (diarrhea/fever/other)

**33%** reported a two-week history of diarrhea





# WASH

## PROVIDING CLEAN WATER

Water is a basic human right, yet many people in villages in Lao still lack access to clean water. ADRA not only addresses this issue by installing water systems, but also educates communities about sanitation and the fatal danger of waterborne diseases.

ADRA brings clean spring water from the Lao mountains into communities with Gravity Fed Systems (GFS). This is done utilizing a participatory construction process, where villagers provide labor and support while ADRA provides technical oversight and materials. ADRA also ensures there is a village water committee to enable the GFS to be maintained and sustainable for future generations.



# WASH

## TEACHING HYGIENE TECHNIQUES COMMUNITY LED TOTAL SANITATION - CLTS

Before ADRA, villagers would typically have to walk a minimum of 50 meters from their house to open defecate. This is especially hard for villagers during the rainy season. Women are particularly at risk, as most women have to defecate at night for privacy, which makes it not only inconvenient, but dangerous.

During community dialogue sessions, ADRA teaches community members the importance of safe and clean sanitation to improve health and to decrease diseases caused by open defecation.

ADRA uses the Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) approach that is promoted by the water and sanitation department of the Lao PDR government. ADRA gives the villagers sample latrine options so that they will be able to build cost-effective latrines according their available finances.

# Gender

## PROMOTING NON-BIASED GENDER ROLES

ADRA Lao coordinates training for the Lao Women's Union, key government counterparts and community stakeholders. ADRA contracted the Life Skills Development Association (LSDA) to conduct this training. This training helped to build general awareness about the importance of considering gender in project planning, implementation and monitoring.

The training focused on the following topics:

- Working as a team—gender roles and responsibilities
- Roles and responsibilities of male and females
- Leadership for the women
- Exchanging of knowledge between stakeholders

ADRA Lao mainstreams gender sensitive messages through all our training and projects by covering the crosscutting issues.



# Health

## TEACHING ABOUT HEALTHFUL LIVING AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

ADRA Lao's Public Health Care (PHC) model works to reduce child mortality and improve maternal health. ADRA helps support the integrated health system of the Lao PDR government by strengthening health systems and priority interventions.

The complete PHC model includes the following activity areas, with some activities being covered by strategic partnerships:

- Health promotion
- Water supply and sanitation
- Immunization and prevention and control of endemic diseases
- Improvements in quality/expansion of health facilities
- Maternal and Neonatal Child Health (MNCH) promotion
- Traditional Birth Attendant (TBA) capacity development



# *UXO Clearance*

## REMOVING UNEXPLODED ORDNANCE IN PREPARATION FOR WATER SYSTEMS

The impact of UXO's remains a challenge for Lao. From 1964 to 1973, the US dropped more than 2 million tons of ordnance on Lao during 580,000 bombing missions – that's equal to a planeload of bombs every 8 minutes, 24 hours a day, for 9 years. This makes Lao the most heavily bombed country per capita in history.

When digging for latrine septic tanks, and in order to bury pipelines from reservoirs to tap stands and for ADRA's gravity fed systems, ADRA utilizes a UXO clearance NGO to ensure that no bombs are in the area in which the villagers are digging. This is an extra expense, however it's necessary to avoid possible casualties.



# *Food Security*

## INSURING SUSTAINABLE FOOD PRODUCTION FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES

Through this sector, ADRA Lao enables target communities to adopt land-use and farming systems that will ensure sustainable local food security and income generation capacity at an adequate level. Our projects provide diversified agricultural training techniques to help improve the knowledge and abilities in cropping, livestock and Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs) for local farmers.

The food security sector is divided into 4 sections:

- Market oriented agriculture and cropping systems
- Livestock production and income generation
- Increased NTFP and improved natural resource management
- Capacity development for local government counterparts





# *Agriculture Food Security*

## TRAINING IN AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT - NRM

By using Natural Resource Management (NRM), ADRA focuses on expanding beyond reliance on just rice and corn. This includes production, access to and consumption of a wider range of nutritional food items which increases health and incomes.

Training provides practical techniques used immediately by villagers with yields and benefits easily seen and understood. Topics include:

- Harvesting and propagating Indigenous Micro-Organisms (IMOs)
- Building a compost pile
- Making bio-preparations for pest control and plant health
- Making an A-frame for finding contour
- Making a mulch pit for greywater use
- Planting a plant guild around a mulch pit for food production



*In this hands on training, villagers also made a mulch pit for greywater use with a plant guild around it for food production.*



## *Capacity Building*

TRAINING LOCAL STAFF AND GOVERNMENT  
COUNTERPARTS FOR BETTER SERVICE DELIVERY

### M&E WORKSHOP

This workshop involved all the staff that have a part in the monitoring, evaluation and learning module of ADRA Lao. We launched our new MEL system and taught it to all staff. The monitoring tools were introduced and tested with the staff. The monthly reporting template was also introduced and explained and it was shown how it links to Capturing the Community Voice (CCV) for beneficiary's feedback. This training provided practical training guidance and techniques for monitoring gender, nutrition, CLTS/WASH outcomes and approaches.

### PERMACULTURE WORKSHOP

This workshop implemented "Permaculture Techniques" training with a practical approach, including field visits. The approach was based upon some of the culturally relevant principles developed from the feasibility study. Government officials from the ministry of forestry and

agriculture were also present. As a result of this workshop a book called “Permaculture and Catalytic Capacity Building as Frameworks for Effective Climate Change Adaptation and Community-Based Natural Resource Management” was produced by Matthew K. Lynch of the Asia-Pacific Center for Regenerative Design and written for ADRA Lao.

## FINANCE WORKSHOP

This workshop provided finance systems support and training to ADRA Lao’s new finance team and field bookkeeping staff to help build a strong understanding of how the finance system works and how to sustain good financial management practice.

## STRATEGIC PLANNING AND POLICY WORKSHOP

In this workshop we shared and developed ADRA Lao’s strategic program focus with ADRA Australia. We did capacity assessment activities to determine areas where ADRA Lao can improve their country program and ADRA Australia can assist. ADRA Australia provided policy development, compliance advice, and strategic direction to help ensure ADRA Lao has appropriate and high quality policies across their administration, including the area of Child Protection.



*VIENTIANE WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS*



*HOUN DISTRICT WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS*



## *Ms. Pao's Greenhouse*

### AN MMIDI PROJECT BENEFICIARY

In the past, we have not always had enough income for our family. My husband and I are both farmers and we have 3 children. We have had many difficulties, like the lack of seeds and not being able to plant when the rainy season comes.

With the MMIDI project, we have been able to build and use a greenhouse for our garden. This is good for our family income because we can keep planting in any season, even if it's rainy or cold!

With this project we learned how to make a greenhouse and received materials so we could make our own.



I learned many new techniques for planting, how to make compost by myself, and to not use chemicals for growing vegetables. We were even given seeds, which was very helpful.

This greenhouse has allowed my family to produce more vegetables. This project has given us many benefits and has helped our family income. My dream is to expand my greenhouse from 1 to become 2 or 3 greenhouses one day!

ADRA, thanks a lot for helping us and thanks to the donors who supported this very good project!





## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION IN LAK

|  | <u>2014</u>          | <u>2013</u>          |
|--|----------------------|----------------------|
| <b>ASSETS</b>                              |                      |                      |
| <u>Current assets</u>                      |                      |                      |
| Cash and cash equivalents                  | 138,189,807          | 374,251,013          |
| Cash held for agency accounts              | 101,670,449          | 99,162,329           |
| Accounts receivable                        | 177,814,994          | 254,853,495          |
| Temporary investments - time deposits      | 1,030,849,534        | 966,153,425          |
| Inventory                                  | 3,141,633            | 3,371,751            |
| Prepaid expenses                           | 58,950,818           | 75,676,997           |
| Total current assets                       | <u>1,510,617,235</u> | <u>1,773,469,010</u> |
| <u>Furnishings, equipment and vehicles</u> | <u>163,104,958</u>   | <u>79,010,552</u>    |
| <u>Other Assets</u>                        |                      |                      |
| Long term investment - retirement fund     | <u>41,718,168</u>    | <u>83,055,956</u>    |
| Total assets                               | <u>1,715,440,361</u> | <u>1,935,535,518</u> |
| <b>LIABILITIES</b>                         |                      |                      |
| <u>Current liabilities</u>                 |                      |                      |
| Accounts payable                           | 63,773,812           | 81,509,723           |
| Agency accounts                            | 101,670,449          | 99,162,329           |
| Total current liabilities                  | <u>165,444,261</u>   | <u>180,672,052</u>   |
| <b>NET ASSETS</b>                          |                      |                      |
| Unallocated                                | 175,586              | 284,623,886          |
| Allocated                                  | <u>1,549,820,514</u> | <u>1,470,239,580</u> |
| Total net assets                           | <u>1,549,996,100</u> | <u>1,754,863,466</u> |
| Total liabilities and net assets           | <u>1,715,440,361</u> | <u>1,935,535,518</u> |

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITY IN LAK

|  |                      |                        |
|--|----------------------|------------------------|
| <b>Earned income</b>                       |                      |                        |
| Project overhead income                    | 30,389,103           | 22,582,744             |
| Rent income                                | 359,981,744          | 248,859,235            |
| Other income                               | 175,088,369          | 173,313,030            |
| Specific donations                         | 5,549,467            | -                      |
| Exchange gains - general                   | 17,232,691           | 27,019,645             |
| Total earned income                        | <u>588,241,374</u>   | <u>471,774,654</u>     |
| <b>Operating expenses</b>                  |                      |                        |
| Employee related expenses                  | 443,914,199          | 615,203,587            |
| Administrative and general expenses        | 364,137,034          | 429,437,193            |
| Exchange loss - general                    | 13,437,756           | 28,291,055             |
| Total operating expenses                   | <u>821,488,989</u>   | <u>1,072,931,835</u>   |
| Increase (decrease) from operations        | <u>(233,247,615)</u> | <u>(601,157,181)</u>   |
| Appropriations received                    | <u>28,930,249</u>    | <u>37,998,634</u>      |
| Increase (decrease) after appropriations   | <u>(204,317,366)</u> | <u>(563,158,547)</u>   |
| <b>CAPITAL</b>                             |                      |                        |
| Vehicle expense                            | <u>550,000</u>       | <u>-</u>               |
| Increase (decrease) after capital activity | <u>(204,867,366)</u> | <u>(563,158,547)</u>   |
| <b>Fund transfers</b>                      |                      |                        |
| From unallocated to allocated              | 80,130,934           | 1,248,889,168          |
| From allocated to unallocated              | <u>(80,130,934)</u>  | <u>(1,248,889,168)</u> |
| Net fund transfers                         | <u>-</u>             | <u>-</u>               |
| Increase (decrease) after fund transfers   | <u>(204,867,366)</u> | <u>(563,158,547)</u>   |
| Net increase (decrease) for the year       | <u>(204,867,366)</u> | <u>(563,158,547)</u>   |
| Net Assets, January 1                      | <u>1,754,863,466</u> | <u>2,318,022,013</u>   |
| Net Assets, December 31                    | <u>1,549,996,100</u> | <u>1,754,863,466</u>   |



# Partnerships

## A WORD OF THANKS

Without the support of our donors and partners, we would not have been able to accomplish the activities of 2014. Thank you for believing in ADRA Lao's work and partnering together for development in Lao.

THANK YOU!



# *National Office Staff*

We are thankful for all our staff's hard work this year. They have contributed to our mission and vision in 2014.

*Pictured below on staff retreat from left to right:*

Luc Sabot, Phimpouphet Pinkeo, Natalie Able,  
Scott Rawson, Moukmany Fongmany, Sengpor Lao,  
Kongpachanh Sikeo, Latdhavanh Kamvongsa,  
Chanthakho Panthakesone & Sayalath Kamala

Country Director - Luc Sabot  
Program Director - Scott Rawson  
Finance Officer - Kongpachanh Sikeo  
HR/Admin Officer - Latdhavanh Kamvongsa  
Program Officer - Chanthakho Panthakesone  
Monitoring/Evaluation Consultant - Natalie Able  
Senior Accountant - Moukmany Fongmany  
Monitoring and Evaluation - Sengpor Lao  
Procurement/Logistics - Sayalath Kamala  
Cook/Cleaner - Phimpouphet Pinkeo





# *ADRA Lao Board*

## 2014 BOARD MEMBERS

ADRA Lao would like to express a special thank you to our board members for making decisions that have created a bright future for our office and countless acts of kindness to show God's love to the people of Lao.

**CHAIR:** Joshua W. Mok

**SECRETARY:** Luc Sabot

**MEMBERS:** Saisana Oudomsap, Jannie Becker,  
Boonprany Vannady, Rachel Samphou  
and Khamsay Phetchareun.





UNIT 45, HOUSE 182 | P.O. Box 5000  
BAN PHONTHAN, XAYSETHA | VIENTIANE, LAOS  
EMAIL: INFO@ADRALAOS.ORG | PHONE: +856 (021) 264611 | 264612

[WWW.ADRALAOS.ORG](http://WWW.ADRALAOS.ORG)