



## LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

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### POPULATION

6.8 million inhabitants  
(World Bank 2013)

### LANGUAGES

Lao, Hmong, Khmu, French

### HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX

123 out of 187 (UNDP 2014)

### POPULATION LIVING ON LESS THAN \$1.25 / DAY

33.9% (UNICEF 2011)

### UNDER FIVE MORTALITY RATE

72‰ (UNICEF 2012)

### LIFE EXPECTANCY

68.3 years (UNDP 2014)

## DETECTION, INTERVENTION, & INTEGRATION OF CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

### A partnership between Humanity & Inclusion and the Children's Hospital in Lao PDR

Lao PDR has made significant progress in poverty alleviation and the main development challenge is ensuring that the economic growth benefits are evenly distributed and translated into inclusive and sustainable human development.

Although the Ministry of Health tackled maternal, newborn and child health, it has not made disability prevention or detection a prominent issue in its policies.

### PROJECT BACKGROUND AND NEEDS

Humanity & Inclusion initiated its Maternal & Child Health (MCH) interventions in 2008 in the southeastern part of the country before shifting its focus to the capital, Vientiane, in 2014.

- ▶ In the health facilities throughout Laos, and especially at Children's Hospital, the staff was not trained in early detection of childhood disabilities and lacked required equipment for early detection and play stimulation.
- ▶ The lack of screening protocol and case management prevents infants and young children with disabilities from receiving care as soon as possible.

## MAIN GOALS OF THE INITIAL PROJECT

The main goal of the project is to assure early detection, early intervention, and inclusion of infants and young children with disabilities.

- ▶ *Detection:* The Well Child Clinic of the Children's Hospital has integrated protocols for the detection and referral of children with impairments in their mainstream service provision.
- ▶ *Intervention:* The Children's Hospital's Child Development Clinic is established and provides rehabilitation/ stimulation to children with disabilities.
- ▶ *Participation:* Families of children with disabilities and disabled peoples' representative organizations are involved in the activities related to disability inclusive MCH & Child Development Programs.
- ▶ *Integration:* Targeted development stakeholders (INGOs) implement development programs that are inclusive of persons with disabilities.

## BENEFICIARIES (From August 2015-December 2016)

### DIRECT BENEFICIARIES

- ▶ Nearly 6,000 children (0-5 years) screened for impairment during routine immunization visits
- ▶ Nearly 400 children identified to have an impairment and received rehabilitative care adapted to their needs
- ▶ Over a dozen medical staff who demonstrate an increased understanding of pediatric impairment detection, intervention, and social inclusion

### INDIRECT BENEFICIARIES

- ▶ Nearly 400 families receiving direct training in home-based activities that can promote their child's development early
- ▶ Nearly two dozen parents participate in the Parent Network to support and learn from other parents of children with disabilities

## PROJECT EXPANSION, 2017-2018

- ▶ Screening and Early Detection
  - **Two hospitals integrate protocols** for the detection and referral of children with impairments
  - **Technical and financial support** provide appropriate disability screening and early detection instruments
  - **Training of medical staff** increase their capacity to carry out quality screening
- ▶ Referral and Early Intervention
  - Enable hospitals to **address appropriately the needs of babies with impairments and disabilities**
  - **Equipment and training** for hospitals to provide adequate basic rehabilitation, early play stimulation, and appropriate care
  - **Two hospitals** will have enhanced capacities to **provide rehabilitation and social services for children with disabilities**
- ▶ Targeted Reach
  - **15,000** newborns and infants will be **screened**
  - **700** newborns and children with impairments/disabilities will receive **early childhood development health and rehabilitation services**
  - **50** families of children with impairments/disabilities will benefit from **awareness sessions, training and/or support group activities**



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Suksavath is nine months old. His mother is worried because he seems to be developing more slowly than the other children. Does he have an impairment? The Child Development Clinic, opened through partnership with HI at the Children's Hospital in Vientiane (Laos), will help answer her question.



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This project facilitates and encourages interactions among parents of children with impairments through the Parent Network and Peer-to-Peer Support Groups



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Bouachanh Douangharath, 27 years old, owns a little food-stand in Nakhoui Village.

One year ago she gave birth to her first child. The baby girl brings great joy to the family. "I hope a lot of persons with disabilities get the same luck like me " she says

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## WHY Humanity & Inclusion?

- ▶ The Health Ministry of Lao does not currently give priority to disability prevention or the detection and treatment of impairments.
- ▶ Humanity & Inclusion has technical expertise in detecting disabilities and providing rehabilitation.
- ▶ Humanity & Inclusion has a long experience in Laos, beginning in 1986 when the organization launched its operations to assist victims of cluster munitions. HI has since developed several operations focusing on rural development, social and economic inclusion of people with disabilities, livelihoods, demining, and road safety.
- ▶ Humanity & Inclusion's Maternal and Child Health activities began in 2008 in the Southern provinces, the current project seeks to strengthen detection, intervention, referral networks, and social integration for children (birth to age 5) with impairments in the nation's capital.

## PROJECT FINANCIAL NEEDS

- ▶ The overall budget for 2018 is \$206k, funded mainly by Belgian DGD. The needs to continue the project for the next 2 years is of \$412k (\$206k per year)

## WHY DONATE? WHY IS YOUR DONATION IMPORTANT?

Your donation will allow us to ensure that infants and young children with impairments can be detected as soon as possible, after birth or during their regular medical visits, and receive individualized, family-centered rehabilitative care at Children's Hospital, Center of Medical Rehabilitation, Mahosot Hospital, and Mother & Newborn Hospital.

## PROJECT LOCATION



The project is implemented in **Vientiane capital's region.**

## PROJECT DURATION

- ▶ Until the 31<sup>st</sup> of December 2018

