

# Progress Report 2021

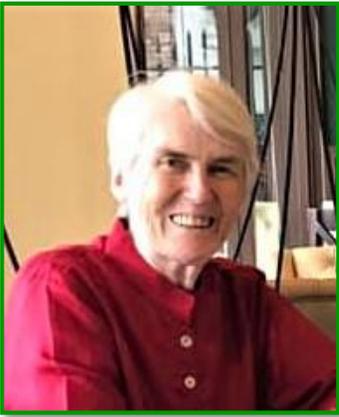






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## Greetings from the Country Representative

As we celebrate the great results of our joint efforts in 2021, I wish to extend my warm greetings to all the people in our projects, our valued partners in development, Government partners, and our dedicated volunteers and project leaders.

2021 has been a year where Humana People to People and Humana Fundación Pueblo para Pueblo experienced great progress in our projects. We have successfully completed the Food security and Nutrition project in Khammouan Province in partnership with Health Poverty Action, Khamouane Province and the European Union. We have completed the first 3 years' contract with National TB Center under Ministry of Health, funded by Global Fund.

In partnership with Expertise France L'initiative and in a consortium with CHlas, we have added two more provinces to our contribution to the End TB Strategy in Laos. The HOPE project funded by Gilead Sciences and the Clean Energy and Environment project funded by GEF SGP has ended in 2021.

Three new projects have started in 2021, Mitigating the Impact of Covid-19 funded by Asian Development Bank, Farmers' Clubs Khammouan, funded by Czech Republic and the Federation HPP, and the Treeplanting and Forest Reserve Protection project funded by World Wildlife Foundation.

I want to thank all our partners and stakeholders for the results we have achieved together. Not least because of the funds that has made it possible to create great changes that have affected thousands of people's lives.

At a moment like this I wish to stress that the most important development has been created by the people, the thousands of farmers, mothers, fathers, children and community volunteers that have used the support and guidance we have provided to cut out new possibilities for a better life for themselves, their families and communities. We believe that the struggle to escape poverty is only successfully carried out, when people themselves engage actively in changing their fate and that of their fellow community members. We believe in collaboration, in collective efforts, and in solidarity – at the community level and between people, governments and progressive forces.

We are committed to fight alongside the poor to make sustainable changes that will make the world a better place for us all.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read 'Gitte Hector'. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Gitte Hector, Country Representative

# Introduction



**We work alongside the poor and join forces with them.**

**When people are at the center of their own development in an organized collective process, sustainable change can be made.**

# Our projects



**Total Control of TB Oudomxay**



**Clean Cooking and Environment**



**Total Control of TB Bolikhamxay**



**HOPE, Improve the quality of life for PLWH**



**Mitigating the Impact of Covid-19**



**Treeplanting and Protection of Forest Reserve**



**Farmers' Clubs Khammouane**



**When people go together and contribute with their time, work and a little money, the community can move mountains**

**With the Farmers' Clubs as the backbone, people join hands to improve their lives**

**We work alongside people and the government to prevent and eradicate infectious diseases**

**Positive outcomes depend on people themselves as the driving force**



**Our programs call for the community to engage in its own development**

**Income generation with marketing and sale is an important driver of economic development**

# Sustainable Agriculture, Environment and Food Security



**Small scale farmers are the frontline response to the world's environmental and social crisis**

**That is how important they are. When conditions allow for them to earn a living, they stay on the land, and they protect it. The land is the foundation for their livelihoods and their culture.**



# The Food Security and Nutrition Project

## Farmers' Clubs

### Farmers' Clubs improve climate resilience and nutrition

Humana FPP in a consortium with Health Poverty Action (HPA), and the Khammouane Provincial Health Office (PHO), has successfully completed the implementation of a Food Security and Nutrition project with 5,000 farmer families in 100 villages of Khammouane Province. The project was funded by the European Union, and has been extended in 2021-22 in two of the six districts with additional funding.

The Farmers' Clubs are the basic project structure through which activities are implemented. The overall objectives of Farmers' Clubs are to further sustainable and climate smart production, to improve families' nutrition through a balanced diet, to increase farmers' wealth and to create a crop surplus for sale.

In their groups, farmers learn how to increase their yields, diversify their crops, work together more effectively, bargain as a collective, and support each other. They meet once a fortnight to discuss progress and issues, and to receive training. Through close collaboration and new learning, the farmers make great progress.

The perspective is that Farmers' Clubs evolve to become self-sustaining in mutually supportive networks of farmers which last beyond project completion.



### Core activities include:

- Establishment of demonstration plots for crops farming and vegetable production (1 per Farmers' Club)
- Training on climate-smart agriculture and other sustainable agricultural practices
- Establishment of 10 seed banks
- Adoption of small-scale water systems for irrigation
- Training of Trainers on SRI methodologies
- Training in animal husbandry and set-up of animal pass-on-loan schemes
- Introduction of innovative techniques of food processing, preparation and storage
- Creation and training of 6 cooperatives (1 per district)

### 100 Farmers' Clubs in main figures

- ❖ 5,000 members engaged
- ❖ 500 Step-up farmers trained
- ❖ 500 Administrative committees formed
- ❖ 121 demonstration plots set up
- ❖ 16 types of vegetables and 7 types of fruit trees introduced and tested
- ❖ 4,155 home gardens established
- ❖ 102 village veterinary workers equipped and trained
- ❖ 4,332 farmers have received 17,964 animals as pass-on loan
- ❖ 109 village irrigation systems installed



The animal pass-on loan in the Farmers' Clubs project has been a great success. In all 100 villages a veterinary worker is trained and equipped so they can help the farmers to succeed with raising and breeding the animals they receive from the project.

The project has established 6 seed banks, one in each district aiming at easy access to higher quality seeds for everybody in the project. The extended project is focusing on securing sustainability through technical training and good management practices.

Farmers are trained and mobilized to increase income through marketing and sale of surplus produce



# Climate Change and the Environment



## Clean Cooking and the Environment

For the second time HPP Laos has formed a partnership with one of the Farmers' Clubs that is registered as a local CBO, and secured a small grant from GEF/SGP in 2020 to buy 100 household Biomass Gasifiers from a Vietnamese producer and train the families to use them. Now 300 families in the area are using them.

The gasifiers are fuelled with rice husk, a waste product from the rice harvest, that every farmer can store in abundance after the harvest. The husk does not burn but will gasify in a closed steel canister, that releases no smoke at all with great benefits to the women that would otherwise inhale smoke from the wood burning cookstoves every day.



## Treeplanting and Protection of Forest Reserve

In partnership with World Wildlife Foundation, we started a small treeplanting project in Khounkham District in 2022.

The project mobilises and organizes local farmers to contribute to the protection of Phouhai Protected Forest and secure regeneration of degraded forest in the wildlife corridor. Healthy forests are crucial for watersheds and water quality, including aquatic life, food and shelter for wildlife, soil protection, and erosion prevention, mitigation of flooding, and filtering runoff before entering waterways.

# Health and Disease prevention

**Our health programs begin with people not with the disease**

As in any other area of life, sustainable results within health rely on people as the key drivers in building and maintaining good health for all.

**With our Health projects** we respond to how people live their lives; we work alongside them to build and maintain good health in their communities and increase well being for all.





We raise awareness about tuberculosis in hundreds of rural communities. Field officers and health volunteers identify presumptive cases through screening and contact tracing, and refer them for testing at Health Centers and Clinics for professional diagnosis.

## Tuberculosis - the TB Active Case Finding projects a people-centred approach to disease control and prevention

The TB Active Case Finding projects are based on HPP's Total Control of TB (TC TB) concept. TC TB has been developed and tested throughout HPP countries worldwide. TC TB is based on close community mobilisation at the grass root level, and is centred on the idea that only people can liberate themselves from the illnesses. HPP Laos employ field staff that live and work in the villages. They arrange village meetings, when possible, and go from door to door to identify presumed TB patients and refer them to testing at the local clinics. The project team incorporates Village Health Workers in all activities and mobilises communities to support their TB affected peers through formation of TRIOs. TB patients and two family members or friends are trained in TB awareness and nutrition. TRIOs ensure daily medication intake of the patient. HPP Laos provides TRIOs with knowledge in and materials for vegetable gardening, animal raising and improved nutrition. Improved nutrition supports TB

patients' recovery and improves their overall health to decrease the risk of getting sick again. Funded by the Global Fund, HPP Laos completed a three-year project in December 2020, followed by a new three-year project (also with Global Fund) that started in 2021. Based on HPP Laos' successful approach and a solid partnership with Ministry of Health in Laos we signed yet another three-year contract with French Expertise L'Initiative in 2020. Together with our consortium partner CHlas a local Lao CSO, we now cover 3 provinces, and 22 districts with our program, and contributed to 600 notified TB cases in 2021 and the first two Quarters of 2022, which is 85% of the goal for the two years. The project has established TRIOs around all the patients to support adherence to treatment and increased health and wellbeing. And our projects play an increasingly important part in the efforts of the Ministry of Health in eradicating Tuberculosis in Laos before 2030.



**Our field staff travel to hundreds of remote communities. Field officers and village health volunteers identify presumptive cases through screening and contact tracing, and refer them for testing at Health Centers and Clinics for professional diagnosis.**

**We go from door to door in the remote villages to raise awareness about tuberculosis, so that people that suffers from the disease without knowing it, can be tested and cured**



# Hope – improve the quality of life for people living with HIV

The HOPE project started late 2020 and ended in 2021. Its goal was to mobilise 200 people that have been diagnosed with HIV to take their medicine, improve the quality of life and their well being. The project raised awareness about HIV in the villages to decrease the stigma, that keep the People Living with HIV (PLHIV) from being open about their disease. An important part of the project was to mobilise the PLHIV to boost their immune system, so they can live a long life. In Laos, ART, the medicine that HIV patients must take, is free of charge, but many patients live far away from a hospital where the medicine is administered, and cannot afford the travel costs.

The HOPE project engaged 40 volunteers to work alongside the PLHIV.

A TRIO of family and friends were formed around each patient. The TRIO's task was to support the PLHIV to live a healthy and positive life, adhere to the medicine, and control the disease.

220 PLHIV were reached and mobilised. TRIOs were formed around each of the patients, resulting in each of the them adhering to the medical treatment. The 220 patients received seeds and animals and were trained and supported to set up a home garden. All of the patients have boosted their immune system, and are now adhering to the medication.

We are grateful for the economic support from the US based pharmaceutical company Gilead Sciences who was funding the project.



# Community Development



HPP Laos' Community Development projects build on people's ability to face the challenges and move forward together.

In our projects we lend a hand to the disadvantaged in their daily struggle to safeguard a decent life for themselves and their family, while securing a healthy diet, clean water, sanitation, and a modest income that enable them to bring their children to school.

The projects support people to organize themselves in local, democratic structures, while building up the skills, knowledge and understanding they need to make changes together. The program train people to join hands to solve the community's challenges together and create sustainable solutions.

Our community development program contributes to the Government's policy towards poverty alleviation and its efforts to reduce malnutrition and stunting and maternal health and nutrition. It also aims at supporting the Government's school feeding program through the establishment of sustainable school gardens in every primary and secondary school in the country.

With the Village Action Group as the backbone and the main structure the development process and the decision-making is placed in the hands of the people.

The Village Action Group mobilizes the community members to identify their needs and take action together.

Local savings and lending clubs are often set up among the families, enabling them to make small investments to buy a few chicken, plant seeds in their garden, improve their house, or build a household toilet

The Village Action Group might take action to improve the community's clean water supply, to promote nutritious food and arrange for cooking demonstrations.

With the children's wellbeing on their mind the Village Action Group might build a playground together and organize the grand parents to lead a day care center for the small ones.

HPP Laos started its first Community Development project in 2011, and up to now 28,000 people in 19 villages have been mobilized and trained.



The local school garden is managed jointly by the teachers, the children and their parents. The children grow vegetables and raise animals, and enjoy cooking and eating their healthy and nutritious products together twice a week.



The Village Action Group is building a green house on communal land. The materials are sourced locally for free or at a small charge. The green house enables the community to grow vegetables also in the rainy season.



## Mitigating the Impact of Covid-19

### Background:

As a least developed country, Laos was hit hard during and after the Covid-19 pandemic. The country has been locked down from early 2020 to early 2022, and the economic activity has gone considerably down. At the same time, the country's already weak health system was challenged.

As always when disaster strikes, the brunt is born disproportionately by the disadvantaged, people living in remote, rural areas. Livelihood and income generation that was already threatened took a downwards turn. As did an already prevalent hygiene, nutrition and sanitation insecurity.

A special challenge to the families' livelihood was 300,000 migrant workers from Laos, that had to leave their workplaces in Thailand due to the pandemic.

To contribute to the mitigation of the impact of the pandemic, Asian Development Bank released a call for proposals in 2021 to CSOs in five of the hardest hit South East Asian countries including Laos. In a Consortium with two local CSOs, CHIAS and IWAA, HPP Laos won the call, and signed a contract with ADB in November 2021.

### Main objectives:

- 1) Community-based crisis prevention, mitigation and adaptation capacity increased
- 2) Economic support provided for livelihood support affected by Covid-19 provided

The project is located in 5 remote, rural communities in Khammouane Province. It aims at mobilising and organising people in the villages to increase protection against Covid-19 by improving hygiene, sanitation, nutrition and health in the community. The project specifically aims at improving livelihood and economic resilience for the former migrant workers of the communities that returned from Thailand due to the pandemic and are out of work. Small businesses are set up, and migrant workers are trained in the adequate skills. As almost all the unemployed belong to a family of small farmers, the project focuses on assisting the farmer family to expand their farm, diversify and increase productivity and income.

Thereby the project contributes to creating permanent jobs for the migrant workers, while also supporting increased income and food security for the families.



A survey and a community consultation has proven that many farmers and unemployed workers are interested and highly motivated to join the program.

We support unemployed former migrant workers to set up a workshop to sew inexpensive facemasks and other items of discarded clothes.  
 Another group of unemployed will set up a business for production of soap from local materials.  
 A third group will be trained as village health volunteers that will support the community's efforts towards improved Covid-19 protection. .



A group of unemployed will set up 145 WASH points in the communities. With the equipment provided, and the adequate skills training that is acquired, the project aims at the establishment of a sustainable small scale business opportunity for the workers.

## Partnerships

Humana People to People Laos is proud to work with a diverse range of partners and grateful for the support they give to our social development projects. Partnerships are a vital part of what we do and offer symbiotic relationships that help our projects to prosper. Whilst a partner often provides the necessary funding for a project, we contribute with knowledge about the needs on the ground and a close connection with the communities. We also provide the ideas, energy,

experience and resources to make things happen, with tried and trusted project concepts and processes ready to go. Partners include both national and local governments, foundations, the private sector, multilateral agencies and international organizations. We would like to thank all our partners for their continued support and commitment to work with the people on the ground, pursuing much needed development for positive, lasting change.



## The Federation Humana People to People

Humana People to People Laos is part of a global network of 29 organizations under the Federation for Associations connected to the International Humana People to People Movement, whose members are operating in Europe, Africa, Asia and the Americas. The Federation supports its members by delivering critical services within program development, project management and operation, and financial management.

**Humana**  
**People to People Laos**



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