

Humana People to People Laos

Progress Report 2022





Contents

HPP Laos Projects Map.....4

Thematic areas.....5

Introduction.....6

Sustainable Agriculture & Environment..... 8

 Farmers’ Clubs..... 8

 Treeplanting..... 11

 Clean cooking with Household Biomass Gasifiers....14

Health & Disease Prevention..... 15

 Tuberculosis.....16

 HIV/AIDS.....17

Community Development..... 18

 Mitigating the Impact of Covid-19..... 18

 Maternal and Child Health and Nutrition 20

Financial overview.....21

About the Federation Humana People to People.....22








Partnership in Development..... 23





Our projects



-  **Total Control of TB Oudomxay**
-  **Total Control of TB Bolikhamxay**
-  **HOPE Improve the quality of life for PLHIV**
-  **Treeplanting and Protection of Forest Reserve**
-  **Mitigating the Impact of COVID-19**
-  **Farmers' Clubs Khammouane**
-  **Clean Cooking and Environment**

Thematic Areas



Sustainable Agriculture and Environment

- Developing the capacity of small-scale farmers to increase agricultural production by adopting environmentally friendly and sustainable farming practices
- Support small-scale farmers to withstand and adapt to climate disasters and hazards and increase resilience
- Organizing small-scale farmers to share farming knowledge and to build mutual support in communities, clubs and associations
- Promoting improved value chains through processing of products and accessing markets.



Health and Disease Prevention

- Combatting and preventing the spread of tuberculosis through community mobilization and education and linkage to health care for remote populations
- Supporting the adoption of better health practices by equipping people with adequate knowledge, enabling them to take control of their own health and help save the lives of others
- Training and organizing people to fight the diseases and stay healthy
- Spreading knowledge about nutrition, especially in maternal and child health, family planning and water and sanitation and carry out actions at community level.



Community Development

- Forming Village Action Groups who are trained and supported to tackle the challenges of the community in a collective fashion.
- Starting skills and literacy training at community level and supporting people to establish small enterprises to boost their income.
- Carrying out campaigns to improve the community, e.g. carrying out small-scale health interventions, starting vegetable gardens to improve nutrition, initiating community campaigns to improve the village infrastructure



Introduction

Humana People to People Laos is an international NGO with a representative office in Laos. Through 2022, we have celebrated numerous actions alongside people, communities, government, partners and other stakeholders.

The Actions have had lasting impact on people's lives and have contributed to more development, greater wellbeing, increased economic possibilities, greater hope for the future.

Laos has experienced a year of economic hardship, due to the COVID-19 crisis and the immediately following inflation. As a result, many small businesses have had to close, and unemployment has increased, especially in rural areas, where people already struggled to lead a decent life.

The Government's firm management of the pandemic resulted in good control of the contamination in the country. But in the aftermath, the economic crisis hit Laos hard.

The continued climate crisis and its effects on poor people's safety and livelihood has added to the country's problems. Unpredictable onset of the rainy season, tropical storms, heavy rainfall with flooding and landslides during the rainy season of 2022 disrupted rural production yet again, and nutrition and income for rural

communities were gravely affected.

An important focus area for HPP Laos continues to be working alongside Lao farmer families to increase food production, expand available arable land for production, adapt sustainable farming methodologies to the changing climate, increase resilience to climate events, and increase value chain and access the markets.

An equally important focal point is to work with the people to improve health and well-being, and to join hands with them and with health authorities to prevent and detect contagious diseases like Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS and offer treatment and care.

As a third focal point, HPP Laos' Community Development projects build on people's ability to face the challenges and move forward together. The projects lend a hand to the people 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. In 2022 HPP Laos implemented 7 projects in partnership with our partners.

We thank all our valuable partners for the funds and the cooperation that have enabled us to create great changes that have affected thousands of people's lives.





Our projects build on people's ability to face the challenges and move forward together.

We support people to organize themselves in local democratic structures, while building the skills, knowledge and understanding of the challenges and taking action for change.



We train and organize farmer communities to protect the land, the forests and rivers, use the ground water efficiently, farm the land and adopt regenerative agricultural practices, and work with nature st it; while securing a modest income.



We join forces with people in their daily struggle to safeguard a healthy environment for themselves and their family, while securing a nutritious diet, free of diseases, with clean water and sanitation; while securing the foundation for the next generation.

Sustainable Agriculture & Environment



Fighting off Climate Change

We believe that small scale farmers are the frontline response to the world's environmental crisis and the social crisis that is derived therefrom.

Climate Change already has a severe impact on people's lives in Laos, and it will only be worse during the years to come. Small scale farmers are bearing the brunt.

HPP Laos is fighting alongside poor families in rural communities to increase their resilience against environmental shocks, help them adapt to the changing climate, protect their livelihoods and diversify their sources of income.

Climate Change is one of the most urgent calls of our time. We are building on the capacities of people to be well organized, adapt to and be resilient to its effects of the changing climate, climate disasters and hazards.

Small scale farmers are adversely affected by the economic hardship caused by the changing climate, and need support to overcome the problems they face. They are often left out of the economic development the country is making even though they contribute 16.5% to the economy and employ about 70% of its population.

We believe that small scale farmers are the frontline response to the world's environmental crisis and the social crisis that is derived therefrom.

HPP Laos is working alongside people, the communities and the government to mobilize and encourage the farmers to take development into their own hands.

We train them to protect the land, the forests and rivers, use the ground water efficiently, farm the land and adopt regenerative agricultural practices, and work with nature and not against it. We also train them to diversify their production to increase resilience, raise the value of their products and increase their income.

We believe that collectively organized small farmers, who are well trained and equipped to fight off climate change is better prepared to withstand the challenges of the future.



Farmers' Clubs in Khammouane

In Khammouane Province, Humana People to People has organized 5,000 farmers and their families in 6 districts and 100 villages Farmers' Clubs.

The overall objectives of Farmers' Clubs are to further sustainable and climate smart production. In their Clubs, 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.

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 seed banks
- Adoption of small-scale water systems for irrigation
- Training in animal husbandry and set-up of animal pass-on-loan schemes
- Establishment of green houses for rainy season vegetable production
- Introduction of innovative techniques of food processing, preparation and storage
- Creation and training of 6 cooperatives (1 per district)
- Increased value chain and access to markets
- Joint bargaining for cheaper and better agriculture inputs



Small scale farmers in Laos are often left out of the economic development the country is making.

We join forces with the farmers so they can fulfill their hopes and dreams for a better future. We support them to build a future where they can still live from their land and improve conditions for their families and communities.

Farmers' Clubs



The Farmers' Clubs meet every fortnight for training and field visit. Each farmer has an individual plan for the progress he or she wish to create during the project period. At the bi-weekly meetings the members discuss their plans and help each other solve possible problems and obstacles.



In 2022 members of Farmers' Clubs in Gnomalath and Mahaxay Districts raised 19 greenhouses with local materials. The greenhouse is an important addition to the members' goal of enhancing nutrition and income in their families, as it enables the farmers to grow vegetables in the rainy season.

Tree-planting and Forest Protection



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.

In partnership with World Wildlife Foundation (WWF) and International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), we have implemented two tree-planting projects in Khounkham District, Khammouane Province in 2022.

The projects mobilise and organize local farmers to contribute to the protection of Phouhai Protected Forest and secure regeneration of degraded forest in the wildlife corridor, soil protection, and erosion prevention, mitigation of flooding and filtering runoffs to waterways.

The projects have organized 160,000 people to plant and take care of 50,000 seedlings in nurseries, to plant the seeds out in the community forests and take care of the young trees until they are strong enough to thrive.

A part of the seedlings are local hardwood species, that will eventually grow into mature trees and create regenerated ecosystems and improve the habitat for wildlife.

Another part of the seedlings are rattan that provides Non Timber Forest Products like shoots that is a popular ingredient in traditional Lao diet, and eventually stems for handicraft and furniture.

Many rural families are adversely affected by loss of forest cover leading to increased flooding and mudslides during the rainy season. It takes its toll on production and livelihood. Therefore, HPP Laos includes tree-planting as an important element in all of our Farmers' Clubs projects.

The activity is countering widespread deforestation and aligns with the government's clearly expressed policy to increase the total forest cover from around 33% to 70%.







Clean Cooking & the Environment



Most families in the rural areas cook food in the close quarters of the household kitchen. They fuel the stove with chopped wood from the forest or with charcoal that is locally produced. This practice has great health risks, especially to the mothers and children that usually stay in the kitchen many hours every day. Additionally, the practice of chopping wood for fuel and production and use of charcoal has large environmental impacts.

In 2022, HPP Laos has secured funding from the Canadian Fund for Local Initiatives to buy household Biomass Gasifiers from a Vietnamese producer and train families to use them. Now 600 families 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.

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 go from door to door in remote villages to mobilize and educate people about tuberculosis, so that those that suffer from the disease without knowing it, can be tested and cured.





Total Control of TB – the TB Active Case Finding Projects – a people-centred approach to disease control and prevention

HPP Laos implemented two TB Active Case Finding projects in 2022 with funds from Global Fund and Expertise France L’Initiative, and in close partnership with the National TB Center under Ministry of Health. Both projects last 3 years. Together with our consortium partner CHIAs, a local Lao CSO, the project covers 3 provinces and 22 districts with our program. The 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 disease. 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. The project also secures much needed training of Health Center Staff and Village Health Workers.

Dr. Sakhon, National TB Center, Vientiane “Tuberculosis is hiding in the remote communities, so the support HPP Laos is providing is very important. We appreciate and respect the great effort your dedicated field officers are doing - from door to door, day in and day out.”



Project results TC TB:

TB patients notified and referred for testing:
 The project team contributed to 774 notified TB cases in 2021 and 2022, which is 110% of the goal for the two years.

People reached:
 In 2022 HPP’s project teams have reached 160,000 people and raised awareness about TB

Health Center staff and village health workers trained:
 The HPP trained 467 health center staff and village health workers



The TRIO -

Family based adherence support

A cornerstone in our health projects is a family-based system called a TRIO that support TB and HIV/AIDS patients in treatment and care of the contagious diseases.

In HPP Laos' TC TB and HOPE projects we help patients to form a TRIO.

The TRIO consist of the patient and two family members or friends. Its main task is to ensure daily medication intake of the patient and adherence to the treatment.

The TRIO is trained in TB or HIV/AIDS awareness and nutrition and is supported to carry out its tasks in the service of the patient.

HPP Laos provides the TRIOs with knowledge in and materials for vegetable gardening, animal raising and improved nutrition. Improved nutrition supports TB and HIV patients' recovery, boost their immune system and improves their overall health to decrease the risk of getting sick again.

The project is proud to say that close to all diagnosed patients have formed TRIOs to support adherence to treatment and increased health and wellbeing. Our projects play an increasingly important part in the efforts of the Ministry of Health in eradicating Tuberculosis in Laos before 2030.

The TRIOs are supported by Village Health Workers, attached to the program.

HOPE – Improve the quality of life for people living with HIV

The objective of the HOPE project is to mobilize people that have been diagnosed with HIV to adhere to their medication and improve the quality of life and wellbeing.

The project is raising awareness about HIV in communities with the aim of decreasing the stigma that keep people living with HIV from being open about their disease.

An important part of the project is to encourage people living with HIV 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 as many patients live far away from a hospital where the medicine is administered and cannot afford the travel costs, the project team organizes the transport.

A TRIO of family and friends is set up around every patient. The TRIOs task is to support the HIV positive people to live a healthy and positive life, adhere to the medicine, and control the disease.

The patients receive seeds and small livestock and are trained and supported to set up home gardens.

The project engages village Health Workers and volunteers to join forces with the TRIOs, so that positive changes are made.

In Laos, progress has been made towards the 2020 fast-track target, with 85% of the estimated 12,000 people living with HIV currently knowing their status. With the joint efforts of the Lao government, partners and civil society organisations, coverage of the services has been extended..

People living with HIV make essential contribution to the national and local response, working hand in hand with health service providers at 11 Antiretroviral Treatment sites to ensure that their peers get early treatment and good care and support.

Despite the achieved progress, challenges persist, with only 54% of the people living with HIV currently having access to treatment. Attention should also be drawn to the alarming increase in HIV prevalence among men who have sex with men from 1.7% in 2014 to 2.5% in 2017, while in Vientiane Capital this indicator stands at 7%.

“In every country, it is crucial that quality HIV prevention and treatment services reach everyone who needs them, leaving no one behind. Engaging communities is a key way of achieving this”, said Dr Mark Jacobs, WHO Representative to Laos.

Community-led organisations by and for people living with HIV can accelerate the country's progress on the path to ending AIDS, contributing to the sustainable and inclusive development for all people in Lao PDR.

Community Development



Mitigating the impact of Covid-19 and reintegrating former migrant workers

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 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. They returned to their villages in Laos where no workplaces were available.

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. Small businesses are set up, and migrant workers are trained in the adequate skills. Farmer families are supported to expand, diversify and increase productivity and income.

The results

- 43 former migrant workers have been trained to establish low-tech production of inexpensive soap of natural materials and set up a system for local marketing and sale
- 43 former migrant workers have been trained to set up production of face masks using recycled clothing
- 43 former migrant workers have been trained as village health workers, specifically leading awareness campaigns on prevention of Covid-19
- 43 former migrant have installed community WASH points and promoted handwashing and improved hygiene and sanitation in the villages
- 125 farmers have been trained and supported to increase and diversify their production with the aim that they can provide more workplaces in the family and increase income.





Maternal and Child Health and Nutrition

Fighting malnutrition and stunting:

Ten years ago, HPP Laos started its quest to improve life for the under 5 years' old children.

During the ensuing years 28,000 people in 19 villages have been mobilised and trained in Community development projects called Child Aid. The projects are focused on health, nutrition, hygiene and sanitation and income generation. With the support of the project, people form Village Action Groups, that are encouraged, supported and organised to advance the situation for each of the member families in the village.

The Child Aid project is focusing especially on building families' capacities to reduce malnutrition among pregnant women and children under 5 years.

The Village Action Groups work together to keep the village clean and to build water, sanitation and hygiene infrastructure with the aim of improving each family's health and well-being.

In our projects thousands of families have constructed inexpensive household toilets, mainly with locally procured materials.

The Child Aid project supports women to set up and operate a rotating childcare system in the village, and to establish an early childhood development program that prepares the children for entering primary school.

The project supports people to organize themselves in Village Action Groups to build up their skills and knowledge they need to make changes together.

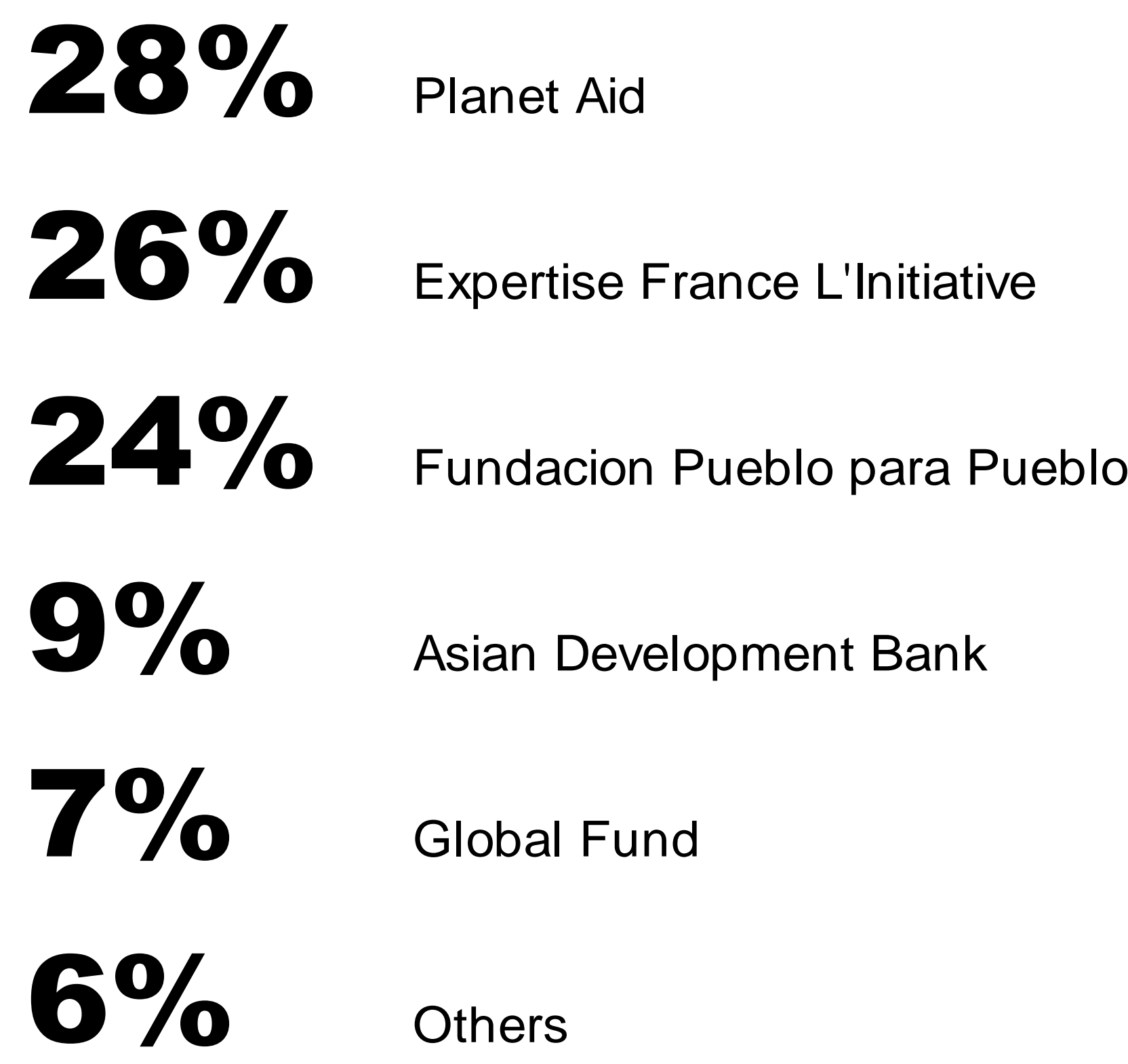
Every child deserves to live a healthy and active life free of malnutrition and stunting. During the first thousand days of their lives, they build the foundation for this.

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

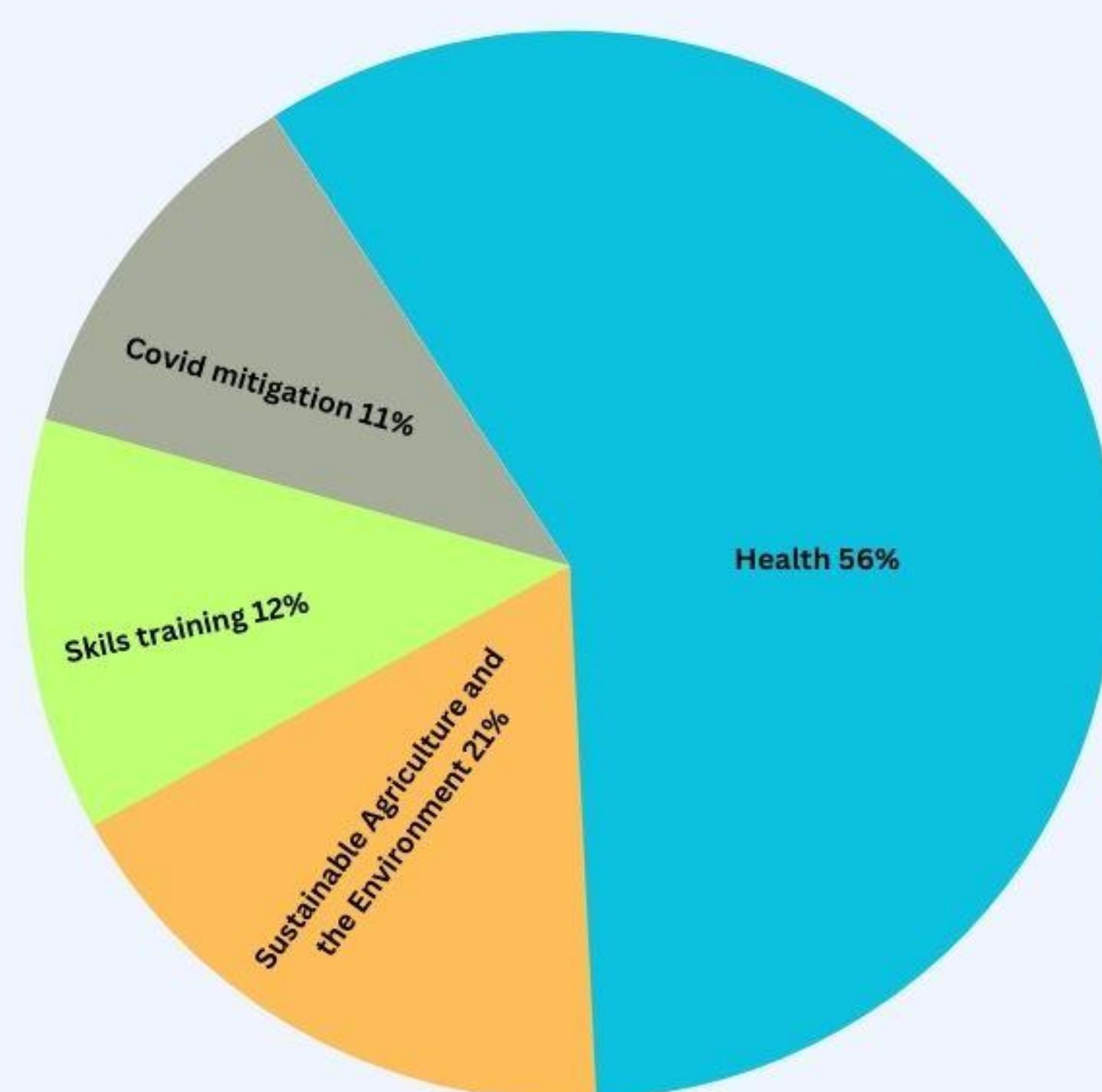


Financial Overview

Sources of Funding



Expenditure of funds



The Federation Humana People to People

HPP Laos is a part of a global network connected to the International Humana People to People Movement. It comprises 29 independent national member associations.

Our common agenda is to protect the planet, build communities and support people by connecting them with others in transformative programs, unleashing their potential for positive change and action.

The Federation supports the members in delivering critical on-the-ground programs across Africa, Asia, Europe, North America and South America. This support includes program development, project management and operations, financial management support and help

to promote our common agenda and gain influence through important relationships and partnerships. The activities of the Humana People to People movement are aligned with the UN 2030 Agenda. Together with the people in the communities and our numerous partners, we continue to stand by countries as they strive to meet the Sustainable Development Goals, creating lasting positive change in the process. In 2022, members and associates of the Federation Humana People to People worked in 46 countries at five continents. Together, we reached out to 16, 3 million people through activities within health, education, community development, agriculture and environment.



45 countries across 5 continents



1410 development projects



More than 16.3 million people reached

Partnership in Development

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.





Humana People to People



Khouvieng Road, Hom 2, Ban Beungkhayong, Vientiane Capital, Lao PDR
e: admin@hpp-laos.org – p: +856 20 225 43426 – w: hpp-laos.org – f: [hpplaos](http://hpplaos.org)