



Humana People to People Laos Progress Report 2017

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Students at Na Hua Phu primary school have raised ducks and vegetable for their lunch meal



90% of HPP' project members are growing vegetables for own improved nutrition and sale



Construction of community wells in Ban Phameuang



Greetings from the Country Representative

It is a great pleasure to send my warm greetings to all the people in our projects, our valued development and government partners, and our dedicated project leaders.

2017 has been a year where Humana People to People, Laos has experienced great progress in our projects, and where we added to our activities by signing contracts with new partners, the EU and Global Fund.

The most important development has been created by the people, the thousands of mothers, fathers, children that have used the support and guidance we have provided to cut out new possibilities for a better life. HPP Laos believes that the struggle to escape poverty is only successfully carried out, when the poor themselves engage actively in changing their own fate. 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 the fight shoulder to shoulder with the poor to make sustainable changes that will make the world a better place for all its inhabitants.

In 2017 we closed 2 projects in Bolikhan and handed them over to the communities. Together with the families in Ban Bor, Ban Nahan Ban Phonieng and the Government we celebrated that the villages were named Model Health Villages, a lot of work that led to a great victory ! - In Ban Phameung the 660 members of Farmers' Clubs and the Agriculture extension workers from Bolikhan District have decided to continue the project without outside funding and move ahead with the sustainable development that has been started during the last 3 years.

We want to use the opportunity to thank our donors, the German Embassy, Lux Development, the Australian Embassy, GEF/SGP and Fundacion Pueblo para Pueblo, Planet Aid and Humana Second Hand Fundraising Projects for the continued financial support to the Lao people and our projects.

Warm greetings
Inger Damkjær



Who are we

Humana People to People, HPP Laos is an international NGO, that run activities in Bolikhan District of Bolikhamxay Province, Laos.

HPP Laos is implementing quality community-led projects in order to empower people with knowledge, skills and tools to improve their well-being in three sectors, namely Community Development, Health and Agriculture.

HPP Laos's work is based on the ethos of Solidary Humanism, which empowers people to drive their own development and ensures they lead in the decision making, implementation and the ongoing evaluation of the work.

HPP Laos is part of the international Humana People to People Movement, which has 32 member organizations in 42 countries in Africa, Asia, Central and South America, Europe and the USA.



What do we do

HPP Laos is working in the areas of health, disease control, training, water and sanitation, community development and agriculture. The organization employs 18 project leaders, of which 14 are Lao nationals. We work closely together with 50 Government staff at the Village, District and Provincial level. The projects benefited in 2017 roughly 11,000 people. Two new projects that will be implemented in 2018-2020 will reach an additional 60,000 people.

HPP Laos makes use of the programs developed by Humana People to People, which have been implemented among the Poor in three continents and shown proved impact for millions of people. HPP Laos works with both financial and technical partners in order to reach the highest impact. Individual programs are developed in close cooperation with partners where ideas and experiences are shared.

Each project is led by an experienced Project Leader, who again gets support from the national program and finance offices. The project staff live and work in the villages and mobilizes and trains community members to play an active part in their own development.



One of the new school toilets built by HPP and funded by Australian Embassy



All children under 5 in the Child Aid projects get 2 health check ups per year



Students from Nakam Primary school maintain their school garden every day



The children in Phameuang learn about the importance of hand washing



The project leader in Phameuang demonstrates how to cook on a Gasifier



A project member proudly shows her newly built goat house

The project members work together to build a well for 25 families in Nahan village



Child Aid

Improving the lives of children under 5

Fight malnutrition and prevent stunting:

In 2011 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.

The project staff sign up people in the communities in Village Action Groups, that are encouraged, supported and organised to advance the situation for each of the member families in the village.

Sustainable change:

- Mothers of child bearing age increasingly use the local health centres during pregnancy and birth
- The families have been educated and trained to fight malnutrition and prevent stunting
- The health centres have immunized all the children
- The families understand the importance of sanitation, and more than 800 household toilets have been built
- All families have established or expanded their family garden to improve nutrition. 10 schools have established school gardens, where the children play an active role
- Many families have started income generating activities, like sale of vegetables at the local markets, production of clothes, breeding and sale of animals
- Three of the project villages were appointed Model Health Villages by the Provincial Government in 2017



Members of the Farmers' Clubs project in Ban Phadai have signed an agreement on the pass goat project

Farmers' Clubs

Income generation through agriculture

Increase food security and adopt climate-smart agricultural practices:

The first Farmers' Clubs project was implemented in 2015.

The idea of the project is to mobilize, organize and train farmers to improve their production and thereby increase the wellbeing of their families. The Farmers sign up as members in a Farmers' Clubs of 50-60 farmers, that with the help of the project leaders increase food security, enhance protection against lean seasons, diversify their crops, increase income from cash crops and adopt climate-smart agricultural practices. The farmers commit themselves to the club activities, and stick closely together at meetings and common actions. They learn from each other's experiences and drive development forward together.

During 2015-2017 significant progress and sustainable results have been achieved:

- Farmers have diversified the production in their fields and gardens and improved nutrition in their families
- Farmers get income from sale of pineapple, cassava, mushroom, rattan, small animals and goats
- Farmers have acquired modern knowledge and are practicing climate-smart agricultural practices
- Farmers have increased their yields by implementing System of Rice Intensification (SRI) methodology
- All farmers have improved their living standards and their families' well-being



A member of the Farmers' Clubs project in Ban Phameuang in his field.
The cabbage is grown organically and is sold at the local market

Empowering the farmer to drive his own development:

The Farmers' Clubs program works directly with farmers to increase yields, improve crop variation, raise product quality and develop simple and sustainable farming methods. It organizes and trains the farmers to collectively bargain for better seeds and transport prices and to market their crops more effectively.

Sustainable farming methods:

In the Farmers' Clubs, modern knowledge is acquired and used, results from year to year are recorded and analysed and new methods put into practice. Diversification is a priority. Traditionally the farmers used to rely on just the production of rice which is a threat to the families' food security. If the harvest fails, or the yield is too low, food gets scarce and the family suffers. Even if the harvest is good and the farmers have enough to eat, lack of diversification causes the daily meals to lack protein, vitamins and minerals. Apart from rice, the Farmers' Clubs members grow 3-4 crops, vegetables, herbs, maize, cassava, and various fruits. They practice intercropping with peanuts and taro to provide nutrients and improve the soil by adding nitrogen and also preventing insects.

More projects in 2018:

Based on encouraging experiences since 2015, HPP Laos sees the Farmers' Clubs concept as an essential strategy in the Laotian rural community members' quest to escape poverty. As such, a team of experienced project leaders have started to prepare for a large expansion of Farmers' Clubs in other provinces in the near future.

Climate change project

The Household Biomass Gasifier:

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 for production and use of charcoal has large environmental impacts.

Partnership with GEF/SGP:

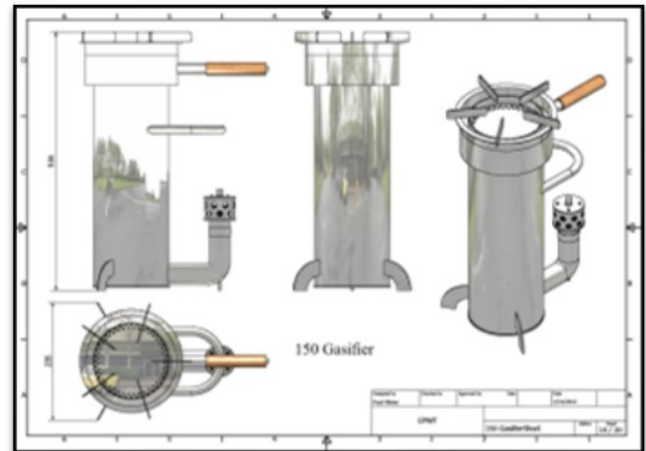
HPP Laos has formed a partnership with one of the Farmers' Clubs that has registered as a local CBO, and secured a small grant from GEF/SGP in 2017 to buy 200 household Biomass Gasifiers from a Vietnamese inventor and train the families to use them.

Smoke free kitchens:

The gasifiers are fueled with rice husk, a waste product from the Rice harvest, that every rice 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.

A biproduct of the gasification is biochar, that the families use to improve the effect of compost and manure in their gardens.

The project that was in operation for 9 months, was enthusiastically met by the 200 families. They have participated actively to take as much advantage as possible from the project, and to agitate for a smoke free kitchen and use of rice husk instead of wood and charcoal.



Drawing of the stainless steel Gasifier, which 200 families in Phameuang are now using every day.



All the families have built an enclosure around their Gasifier for protection, as it gets very hot when in use

Pass-on-goat project

With Funds from the German Embassy HPP Laos has supported and trained families in Ban Phadai, Ban Phamueng, Ban Phonnieng and Ban Phonsai to raise and breed goats commercially, improving nutrition and income generation for the families. Initially 25 families received 90 goats, under the condition that they would:

- Pass on 2 kids of the second offspring to other families
- Build a safe house for the goats by their own means
- Plant fodder crops in a fenced area sufficient to feed the goats
- Be trained in commercial goat raising practices
- Take care that the goats get the required vaccinations

The second generation of goat breeders passed on 2 kids to the third generation, and the flock of goats expanded to more than 800 during a few years while additional goats were sold and generated much needed income.

The farmers have been actively pursuing their chance to improve food security and wealth and to share their newfound knowledge with the community at large.



25 families received 90 goats as pass-on-loan. After 3 years 60 families own more than 800 goats, and additional goats have been sold for profit



The TC-TB project

Active TB Case finding

Raise awareness, screen and refer suspected TB patients for testing:

The project was started early on in 2018 and will last until 2020.

Funding was provided by Global Fund in 2017 through the National TB Center.

The objective is to raise awareness in 90 rural communities in Bolikhamxay about Tuberculosis, to identify suspected cases of TB through screening, and refer them to be tested in the health centers for final diagnosis.

From door to door:

A team of HPP Field Officers together with Health Center volunteers have started working in the first of two districts. People are invited for awareness meetings, and the Field Officers go from door to door to screen people in villages that are suspected for high prevalence of Tuberculosis.

90,000 people will be reached. 40,000 people will be screened.

The Field Officers will support the diagnosed TB Patients throughout the period of treatment by organizing TRIOs of their families and peers to ensure that they adhere to the treatment until total recovery. Field officers train the patients in nutrition sensitive activities and TRIOs help patients to establish and maintain. The aim is to boost and strengthen the patients' immune system for a quicker recovery.

Rationale:

- Authorities recognize that TB prevalence in Laos might be much higher than the statistics show
- Historically few resources has been allocated to identification of TB cases from donors and authorities
- Many people in rural areas have poor access to health clinics, and even grave TB cases are often not discovered and diagnosed
- Often TB patients are diagnosed randomly at hospitals, and often too late
- Families and neighbors are at great risk to be infected by undiagnosed TB patients
- Too many TB patients don't adhere to the treatment and have no support during recovery
- Most Health Centre staff are in need of training to recognize and discover TB cases

Total control of Tuberculosis:

HPP Laos' TC-TB project is people-centered and integrated; an essential approach is to act as a catalyst for coordinated efforts among people to control and get rid of the disease.

Our approach builds on the experiences from several successful HIV/AIDS and TB interventions by members of the Humana Movement world wide. As in all HPP Laos projects the Field Officers live in the villages, gain the trust of people and seek active collaboration with and complicity from community members.

Main figures

- 18 project leaders, 14 of which are Laotians that are locally recruited
- Close cooperation with 50 Government staff in the villages, Districts and Provinces
- 28,000 people in 19 villages have benefited from the project activities
- 60,000 additional people will be reached in 2018
- 1,000 members in Farmers' Clubs in 2017 - 5,000 members in 2018
- 4,000 families organized in the Child Aid Village Action Groups from 2011 to 2017
- 800 household toilets built in 2016-2017
- 25 families received 90 goats; now 60 families own more than 800 goats and sold additional goats for profit
- 3 villages graduated to the Government's Model Health Village standard
- 80% of women in the project area is using the public health service
- 10 school gardens have been implemented and are maintained by the children and teachers; they add valuable nutrients to the children's diet every day
- 100 farmers have implemented the SRI method and increased their rice production
- 4 villages have re-established the broken down community water supply system



- ★ Child Aid 2011-2017
- ★ Farmers' Clubs 2015-2017
- ★ Farmers' Clubs 2018-2020
- ★ TC-TB 2018-2020

Projects 2011-2018:

Community Development:

- Child Aid in 19 villages in Pakxan and Bolikhan Districts, Bolikhamxay Province

Farmers' Clubs:

- 3 Farmers' Clubs in 2 villages in Bolikhan District, Bolikhamxay Province
- 20 Farmers' Clubs in 6 districts in Khammouane

Disease control and Health:

- 1 TC-TB project, 90 villages, 90,000 people reached, 40,000 people screened for tuberculosis

About Humana People to People

Humana People to People is a network of 30 organizations engaged in international solidarity, cooperation and development in Africa, Asia, the Americas and Europe. Our development work is rooted in a commitment to fight alongside the poor in a collective process that supports the people to make changes, improve their lives and solve their problems. 14 million people were reached in 2017.

We believe that poverty can be overcome through coordinated communitywide approaches, which combine education, adult literacy, improved livelihoods, increased production, health, women empowerment and environment protection.

With the base for the struggle being the poor engaged in changing their own fate, we join forces with them, with governments, progressive forces nationally and internationally in a collective effort to transform and in the long run erase the existing conditions of the poor.



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