

Progress Report 2024



**Humana
People to People Laos**







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Our projects



- ★ Farmers' Clubs for Migrant and Ethnic Women
- ★ Farmers' Clubs Phou Hin Boun
- ★ Farmers' Clubs Xaybouthong
- ★ Farmers' Clubs Mahaxay and Gnommalath
- ★ Farmers' Clubs for Health and Livelihoods
- ★ Total Control of TB Savannaketh



48 Employees



6 Project Units



**306,150
people
reached**

Thematic Areas



Community Development

- Forming Village Action Groups and building their capacity in income generating, food security, childcare, health, and climate change.
- Skills training of women and youth in literacy and entrepreneurial skills.
- Child Care centers and Youth Clubs.
- Campaigns to take care of the environment.



Sustainable Agriculture and Environment Protection

- Developing the capacity of small-scale farmers to increase agricultural production and market linkage.
- Support small-scale farmers to withstand and adapt to climate disasters and hazards.
- Organizing small-scale farmers to share farming knowledge and to build mutual support in communities.



Health and Disease Prevention

- TB community case finding and support.
- HIV awareness, care and support
- Nutrition support
- Maternal Health and Child Care.

Humana People to People Laos

Who we are

Humana People to People Laos is an international NGO with a representative office in Laos.

Humana People to People is an international federation working in 29 countries worldwide which goes back to 1977 with its first projects in Zimbabwe and Mozambique.

Humana People to People Laos is committed to work alongside the poor in a collective process that supports the people to make changes, improve their lives, and solve their problems.

We believe that poverty can be overcome through a coordinated, community-based approach which improved livelihoods, sustainable agriculture, health and disease prevention, increased production and income, education, women's empowerment, and environmental protection. With the base for the struggle being the poor engaged in changing their own fates, we join forces with them, with governments and progressive forces nationally and internationally in a collective effort to transform and in the long run erase the existing conditions of the poor.

Our work is based on the ethos of Solidary Humanism. We embrace the idea that people are at the center of their own development as the driving force, and that sustainable change is created through a collaborative process.

When people go together and engage in common actions, they find better ways.

When people are at the center of the decision-making processes and the implementation and evaluation of their work, they create development

What we do

Sustainable Agriculture and Environment

Small-scale farmers are the frontline fighters against the global climate and hunger crisis. They sustain their communities with resilient, local food systems but only if they can thrive on their land.

We empower smallholder farmers through Farmers' Clubs, community-led spaces where knowledge, sustainable practices, and collective solutions grow. Together, they adopt regenerative farming, boost food security, and build climate resilience.

We stand with those hardest hit by climate chaos, strengthening local resilience through capacity building, livelihood diversification, and grassroots alliances. When farmers flourish, the earth flourishes.

Community Development

Our Community Development programs empower people to drive change in their own lives. We work in disadvantaged communities to strengthen social cohesion, democratic participation, and collective progress.

Grassroots Action Groups like Village Action Groups in the Projects put decision-making directly in the hands of the people. Together, they identify local needs, plan and implement solutions, and build skills and leadership.

We believe real change lasts when communities own it. Our projects ensure sustainable impact, aligned with local priorities—because development works when people lead it.

Health and disease prevention

Our health programs start with people not with the disease because lasting change relies on people as the key drivers in building and maintaining good health for all.

We empower communities to make informed health choices while connecting them to the latest medical advances. Our approach is people-led, mobilizing communities to tackle disease through prevention and education, while strengthening local health systems in partnerships with clinics and local government departments.





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 and Environment



Small-scale farmers are the frontline response to the world's environmental and social crisis. That is how important they are.

When conditions allow them to earn a living, they remain 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 food security and nutrition

Humana People to People (HPP) and Health Poverty Action in close cooperation with Khammouane Province, successfully implemented a Food Security and Nutrition project reaching out to over 5,000 farmer families spread across 100 villages of Khammouane Province since 2021. The **European Union** was the primary funding partner, with additional contributions from other donors, helping to extend the Farmers' Clubs project until the end of 2024 with additional funding from smaller and larger partners. 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-resilient agricultural production, to improve families' nutrition through a balanced diet, to increase farmers' wealth, and to create a crop surplus for sale. 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.

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.

Several of the clubs have continued to join hands after the funding ceased. Many farmers successfully continued to run the demonstration plots as community gardens for joint income generation and continued other bi-weekly club activities, resulting in increased food security and nutrition in the families.



Smallholder farmers play a crucial role in establishing sustainable food systems locally, fighting hunger and malnutrition in their communities

Core activities include:

- Establishment of demonstration plots for crops farming and vegetable production (1 per Farmers' Club)
- Training on climate-resilient agriculture and other sustainable practices.
- Establishment of seed banks.
- Adoption of small-scale water systems for irrigation.
- Establishment of green houses for rainy season vegetable production.
- Establishment of fishponds.
- Training in animal husbandry and set-up of animal pass-on-loan schemes.
- Introduction of innovative techniques of food processing, preparation and storage.
- Increased value chain and access to markets
- Joint bargaining for cheaper and better agriculture inputs.
- Protecting biodiversity and forest cover.
- Creating new non-timber-forest products,
- In the Farmers' Clubs, members regularly engage in field visits to assess each farmer's progress.



We work alongside the smallholder farmers 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

Mr. Chantha's Story (Phonesad Village, 2019–Present)

"I learned to grow vegetables and raise animals. I received seeds and livestock, improving my family's nutrition and income through sales.

The village began with 3 goats, 40 chickens, and 40 ducks via a "pass-on-loan" system—families shared offspring until 40 goats reached 26 households, with plans to expand to 50 families.

Even after the project ended, villagers continued using the training, like feeding chickens with vegetable scraps to cut costs. The project brought unity, knowledge, and lasting change".



Protecting biodiversity and forests



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 implemented two tree-planting projects in Khounkham District, Khammouane Province in 2022-23.

The projects mobilised and organized 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 organized 160 Families 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%.

In 2024 we have signed a contract with **Darwin Initiative (UK-Aid)** to expand the project activities and the focus to include 600 families in 12 additional villages, plant a range of NTFPs like medicinal plants and market the plants to boost livelihoods, while assisting the Government to enforce regulations to stop illegal wildlife trade and deforestation.



Farmers hold the key – sustainable practices can end deforestation.

With the right support, training, finance, and policies, farmers can increase productivity without expanding into forests, protecting both nature and their future.



We train and organize farmer communities to protect the land, the forests, and rivers, use the groundwater efficiently, farm the land, adopt regenerative agricultural practices, and work with nature and not against it



Clean Cooking & the Environment

Most families in the rural areas of Laos 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.

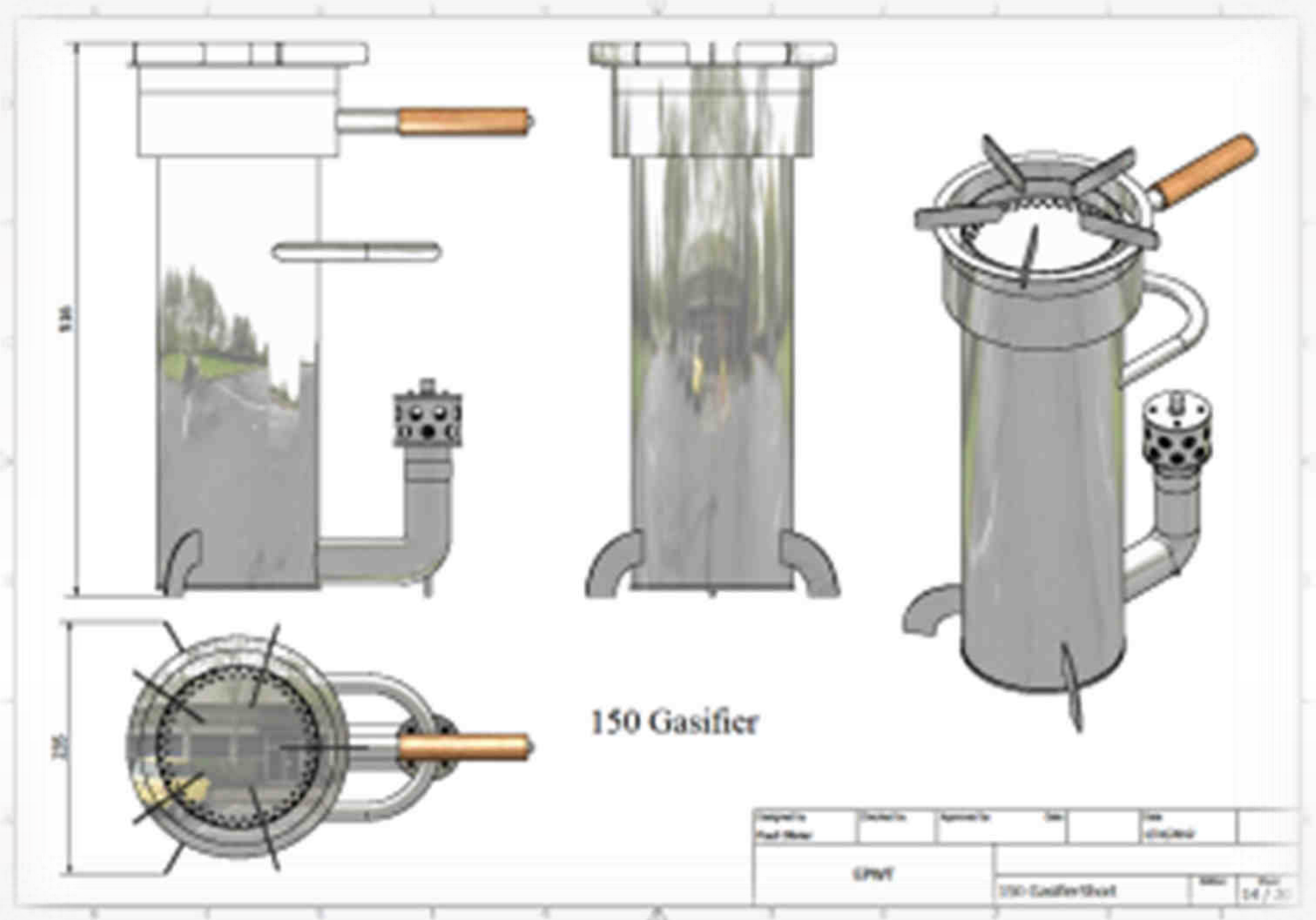
Since 2018, HPP Laos has introduced a household biomass gasifier to 760 families in Bolikhamxay and Khammouane Province and trained the families to use it.

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 bi-product of the gasification is biochar, that the families are trained to use for improve the effect of compost and manure in their gardens.

Funds have been provided by the Global Environment Fund, the EU, Canadian Fund for Local Initiatives and the Australian Embassy.

An important part of the program is to raise awareness in the communities about climate change and how the use of a household biomass gasifier can contribute to both mitigation and adaptation.



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 the well-being for all





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 employs 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 Expertise France, L'Initiative in 2020. The contract has been extended with a second phase from 2024-27 in Savannakhet Province.

All in all, HPP together with our consortium partner CHIAs, we covered 22 districts in 3 provinces from 2021-24 with our program.

Our projects play an increasingly important part in the efforts of the Ministry of Health in eradicating Tuberculosis in Laos before 2030.

**We go door-to-door
in remote villages
to raise awareness
about tuberculosis.
Our goal is to reach
all those
who may be
suffering from the
disease
without knowing it,
so they can get
tested, treated,
and cured.**



**Our dedicated field staff
travel to hundreds of
remote communities,
reaching those who need
it most.
Working closely with field
officers
and village health
volunteers,
We identify potential TB
cases through
active screening and
contact tracing.**



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



Project results TC TB, 2021-23:

TB patients notified and referred for testing:

HPP Laos' project team contributed to 671 notified TB cases .

People reached:

The project teams have reached 200,000 people and raised awareness about TB

Health Center staff and village health workers trained:

HPP Laos trained 695 health center staff and village health workers

Recognizing the importance of nutrition in recovery, the project provided TB patients with food packages containing essential vitamins and proteins. This helped them regain their strength and improved their response to treatment.



The TRIO – model for treatment care and support



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 and HIV patients' recovery, boost their immune system and supports improves their overall health to decrease the risk of getting sick again.

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



Nooth, her husband, and her older sister formed a TRIO. They were trained in TB awareness, nutrition, and the importance of treatment adherence. The TRIO's main task was to ensure that Nooth took her medication daily and followed her treatment plan.



Community Development

Income generation for former migrant workers and vulnerable women

During and after the COVID pandemic, 300,000 migrant workers from Laos had to leave their workplaces in Thailand. They returned to their villages in Laos where no workplaces were available.

With funding from ADB, HPP Laos trained, mobilised and organised some of these migrant workers in 5 rural communities in Khammouane Province. The project aimed at reintegrating them into their villages.

The projects' specifically focus was on improved livelihood and economic resilience for the former migrant workers. Small businesses were set up, and migrant workers were trained in the adequate skills. Farmer families were supported to expand, diversify and increase productivity and income.

In 2023, HPP Laos used the model to create income generating activities for vulnerable women. A project was set up and funded by **L'Oreal Fund for Women** in 10 additional villages that will continue until 2025 and later.

In 2024, the project was expanded with 250 women in 5 villages with funding from **Heineken**.





Maternal and Child Health and Nutrition

From the beginning, 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 were focused on health, nutrition, hygiene and sanitation and income generation.

With the support of the project, people formed Village Action Groups, that were 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 lessons from Child Aid are now integrated into the Farmers' Clubs projects in Khammouane.

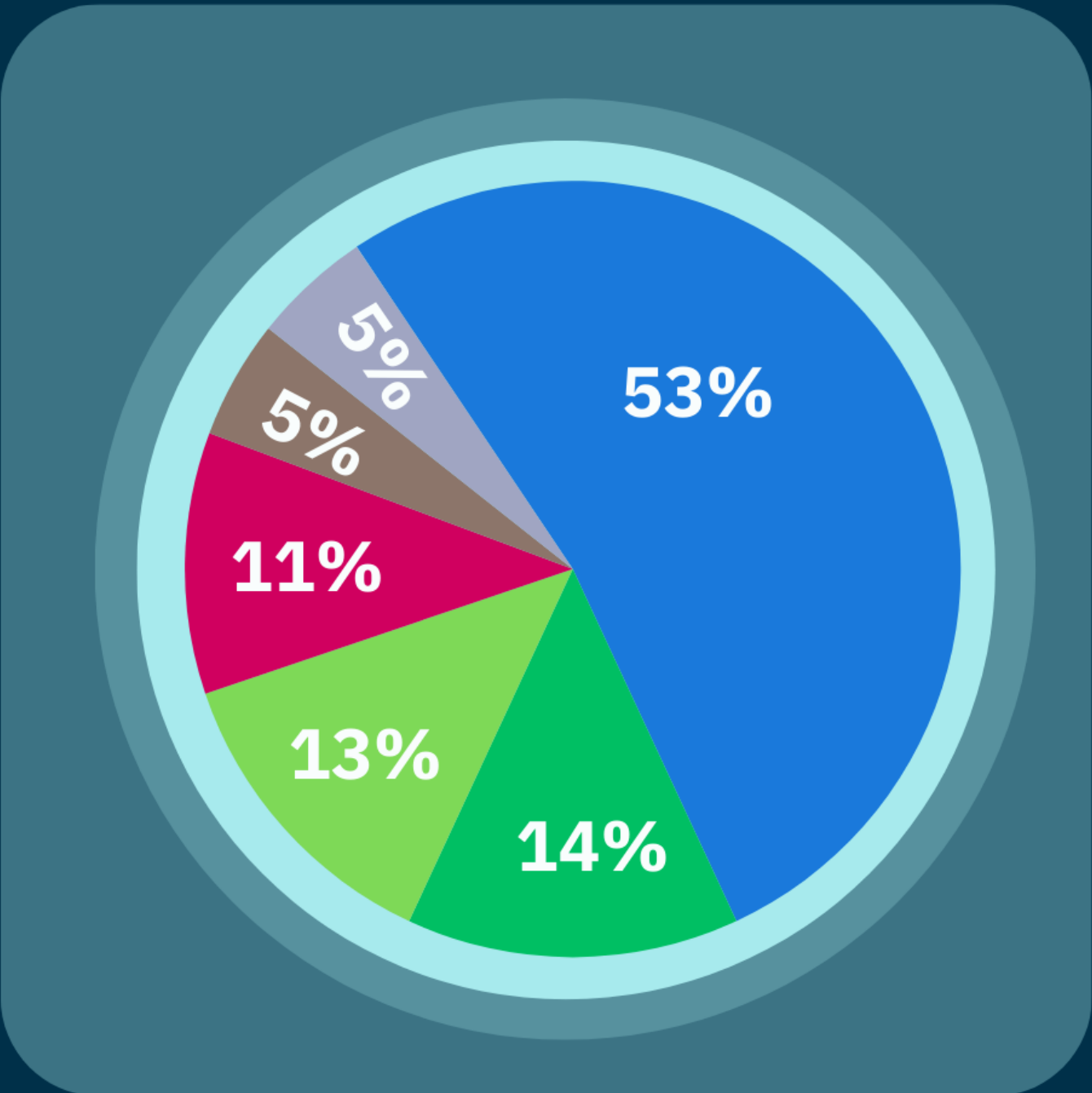
The project supports people to organize themselves in Village Action Groups to build up their skills and knowledge they need to make changes together

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

Financial Overview

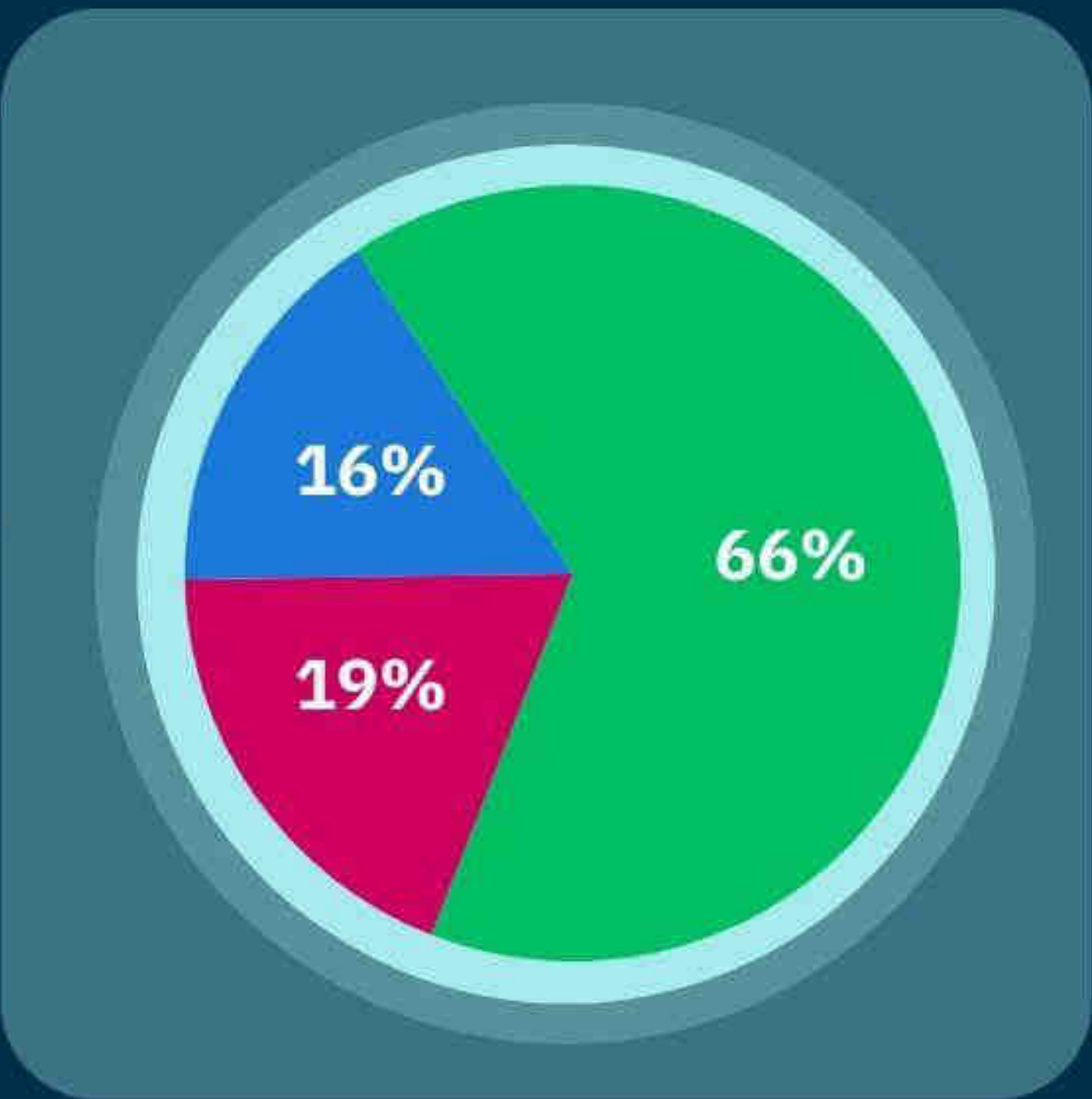
Sources of Funding

- The Federation Humana
People to People
- Expertise France
- Darwin Initiative
- Business Companies
- Embassies
- Global Fund



Expenditure of Funds

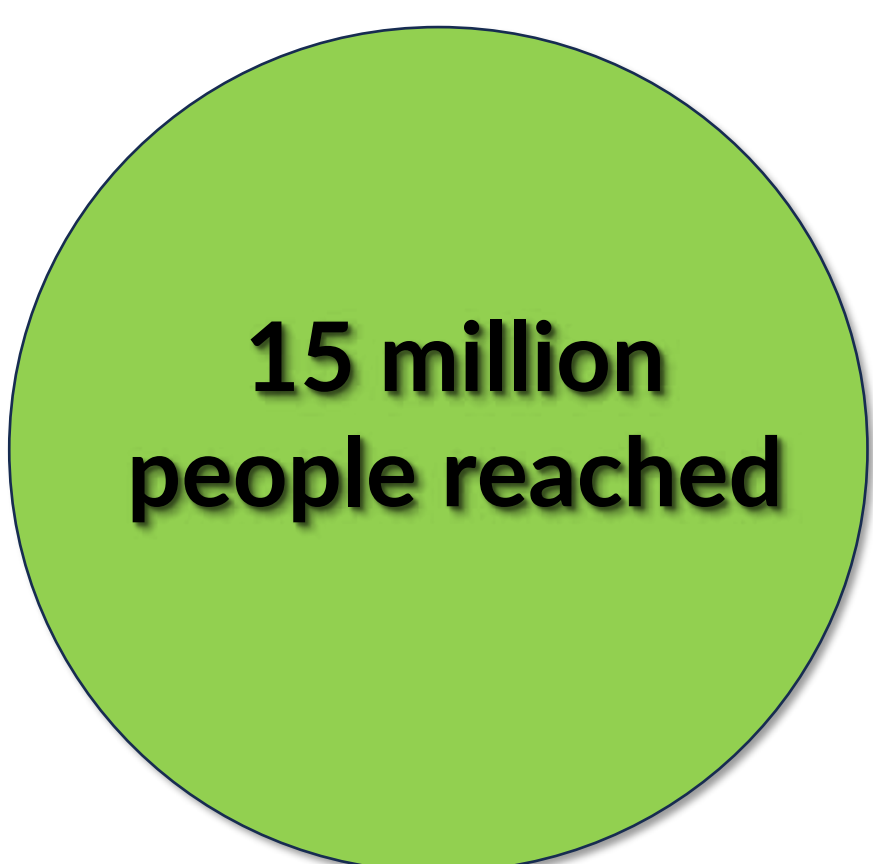
- Sustainable Agriculture
- Health and Disease
Prevention
- Community Development



The Federation Humana People to People

Our common agenda is to protect the planet, build communities and support people by connecting them with others, unleashing their potential for positive change and action. The Federation supports the members in delivering critical on-the-ground programmes across Africa, Asia, Europe, North America and South America. This support includes programme 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 and the Paris Agreement for Global Warming and Climate Change, creating lasting positive change in the process.



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.



Government
of Canada



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